

**Minutes of the First Meeting of the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) for Green Climate Fund (GCF) funded Project "Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities held on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 at 3.30 P.M. on Virtual platform in New Delhi-110003.**

The first meeting of the NPSC for the GCF funded coastal project was chaired by Shri Ravi S. Prasad, Additional Secretary (MoEFCC), and National Project Director. He welcomed all members of the Committee and other participants (List at Annexure-I).

The Chair, in his introductory remarks, highlighted the importance of this GCF funded project in the context of India's development and NDCs. He advised that the project should avoid duplication of activities and to take into account ongoing and planned activities under Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency (ENCORE) project which are being implemented by this Ministry. Similarly, other Ministries are also implementing activities including coastal protection and livelihood support in the coastal zone of India. In order to maximize the resource utilization and to achieve the desired objectives, it was advised to avoid duplication and overlapping.

In view of the above, he urged UNDP and State nodal/Executing Agencies to submit proposed activities to be undertaken to MoEFCC for examination and approval. This will ensure best outcome with limited resources.

The Chair also referred to the documents submitted by UNDP on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 regarding details of activities & expenditure undertaken under the project till date, Provisional allocation of funds for national and state activities and Work Plan for the year 2020-21 which are listed in the agenda for consideration of the Committee and informed that these will be examined in the Ministry and necessary approval will be communicated to UNDP.

The Chair then asked Dr. S. Satapathy, Senior Technical Adviser (GCF Project)/Dr. Subrata Bose, Director (CC) to initiate the proceedings on the Agenda items. Dr. S. Satapathy took up agenda items and requested Dr. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Country Director, UNDP, New Delhi, to make introductory remarks.

**Agenda item No.2: Brief Project Summary & Current project status**

Dr. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Country Director, mentioned about portfolio of UNDP and the importance of climate change, livelihood and community support with specific focus on gender in India. She suggested close collaboration between Ministry and UNDP for smooth implementation of the project and on all priority development activities in India.

Dr. Preeti Soni, UNDP, made a brief presentation providing information on project cost, period, objectives, output, expected outcome and the current status of the project. She also informed about suggested provisional sharing of fund received from GCF among three States and the progress made under the project. Presentation is at Annexure II.

### **Agenda No 3: Work Plan for financial year 2020-21 as per the Project Document keeping in view of the COVID Pandemic situation.**

Dr. Soni presented the Annual Work Plan for 2020-21. She informed, due to the onset of COVID-19 and lock down situation, the AWP has been revised including a few activities at national level with budget of USD 850,000. She also indicated that with input from States, an AWP for the period up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 will be prepared with an estimated budget outlay of USD 3.8 million. Based on progress, the second tranche of USD 9 million will be released by GCF in April 2021.

### **Agenda No 4: Strategies for project implementation**

**a) Andhra Pradesh:** Representatives of the Department of Environment, Forest, Science and Technology, Government of Andhra Pradesh, informed about nomination of Dr. Bhaskar Ramana Murthy, PCCF, as Nodal officer (State Project Director).

**b) Maharashtra:** Shri Virender Tiwari, APCCF, Chief of Mangrove Cell and State Project Director, Department of Revenue and Forests, at the outset pointed out that provisional allocation proposed under Agenda Item no.2 for Maharashtra may be revisited and provided the information on various initiatives taken by the Mangrove Cell. In respect of Annual Plan, he informed that, AWP for 2020-21 will be finalized on receipt of the information on GCF contribution for the State.

**c) Odisha:** Shri Suresh Pant, APCCF/Director (Environment), Department of Forests and Environment, Govt of Odisha, informed that a budget provision of Rs. 14.6 crore (State share is Rs. 13.0 crore and GCF grant is Rs. 1.6 crore.) has been made for the year 2020-21 and provided information on constitution of State Project Steering Committee, District and Landscape coordination arrangements. In respect of Annual Plan he informed that once the information on GCF contribution for Odisha is available, AWP for 2020-21 will be finalized.

### **Agenda 5&6: Suggestions from NPSC Members and other matters:**

**a) Prof. Dr. Ramesh Ramachandran,** Director, National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, informed that under ICZM programme, afforestation in 16000 hector of mangrove land and construction of 2000 shelter have been made. He also informed that Detailed Project Report has been prepared under ENCORE project for undertaking similar activities. Accordingly, he suggested to avoid duplication in the landscapes selected under this project

**b) Dr. Ramana Murthy,** Scientist representing Ministry of Earth Sciences, suggested the Project team needs to ensure synergy with the ICZMP project and other activities undertaken by Ministry of Earth Sciences and other Agencies on coastal zone of India. It was also suggested to take into account the ongoing Blue Carbon project to avoid possible duplications in the similar study proposed under this project.

**c) Mr. Benjamin Larroquette,** Senior Technical Adviser, Regional Office, UNDP, Bangkok, informed about the timely delivery and implementation of the project. He also informed that as per GCF guidelines efficient tracking of co-financing is an essential element. He suggested to have a Socio-environmental Safeguards Officer at the National level in the National Project Management Unit (NPMU).

**d)** Dr. S .Satapathy, informed that process has been initiated to hire an Consulting Firmfor establishment of National Project Management Unit (NPMU) for the Project in MoEFCCthroughCompetitive Bidding process; The proposed NPMU has both the provision of Environment and socio-economic aspects.

**e)Mr.J.P.Singh**,Director, National Water Mission, suggested consideration of sea level rise and impact of climate change on surface and ground water level in coastal zone of India.

**f)Ms.Vidya** (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare) informed that comments from the Ministry will be provided within a week.

#### **Agenda 7: Concluding Remarks including decisions:**

The Committee,after detailed discussion and inputs from the members, took the following decisions:

- a) All documents like progress reports, expenditure statements, proposal for activities, and papers/documents relevant to project implementation at national and state level shall have to be submitted by UNDP/NPMU and State governments to MoEFCC at least 15 days before of the scheduledmeeting for necessary examination and endorsement/approval;
- b) A Consultancy Firm will be engaged for establishment of National Project Management Unit (NPMU)for the Project forMoEFCC through Competitive Bidding process;
- c) The detailed documents relating to activities undertaken/initiated or to be initiated under the project till date, details of expenditure made,and Work Plan for the year 2020-21will be submitted by UNDP and to be examined in the light of ongoing and planned activities by SICOM/ICZM,in the Ministry and approval will be communicated.
- d) UNDP/NPMU/States to prepare concrete/detailed Multi-year plan of action for the project and submit for approval.
- e) Considering financial resource availability under project and need for the actions on ground at national and statelevel, activitiesare to be prioritized for execution;
- f) Project Document is to be circulated to all members within 7daysfor seeking comments on their respective areas of activities related to the project;
- g) UNDP and Dr.S.Satapathy to revisit the provisional allocation of GCF funds at national and state level (Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha) in consultation with Dr.V. Tiwari. The final proposal should be submitted to the Chair of NPSC for approval;
- h) The National and State Annual Work Plan (FY 2020-21) should be finalized by30<sup>th</sup> September,2020and submitted for approval of the Chair inter

seasonally. Later the same will be placed at the meeting of the NPSC for post facto approval;

- i) The Nodal Agency (Department of Environment, Forests, Science and Technology) of Andhra Pradesh is requested to expedite the process of nomination of Nodal Officer/State Project Director and Executing organization,
- j) The meeting of NPSC will be held at least once every quarter to take stock of the progress of implementation under the project at state and national level. Provisional Agenda and relevant papers are to be submitted at least 15 days before for circulation to all members for their perusal and comments.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and members.

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