



The Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
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Minutes of the Meeting

The 2nd meeting of the Executive Committee of Ladakh CAMPA, in accordance with the provision of Section 19 (2) of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016, was held under the Chairmanship Sh. Sajjad Hussain Mufti (IFS), Chief Conservator of Forests on 16th April 2024 at Ladakh Pollution Control Committee Office, Skara, Leh.

The following are the agenda points which were discussed during the meeting:

- a) Agenda No. 1: Achievements under CAMPA APO 2023-24
- b) Agenda No. 2: Spillover activities from CAMPA APO 2023-24
- c) Agenda No. 3: Proposed CAMPA APO 2024-25

In this regard, the following members of the Executive Committee attended the meeting:

- i. Dr. Safdar Ali, Director, Accounts and Treasuries, Department of Finance, UT Ladakh
- ii. Dr Tahir Hussain, Director, Rural Development Department, UT Ladakh (online)
- iii. Mr. Tsewang Phunchok, Director, Horticulture, UT Ladakh
- iv. Mr. Ifthikar Hussain, JK Accounts Service, PAO, Kargil
- v. Mr. Konchok Gyalson, Deputy Director, Department of Planning, Development, and Monitoring, UT Ladakh
- vi. Mr. Sonam Nurboo, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Leh
- vii. Mr. Thinless Dawa, Chief Agriculture Officer, Leh
- viii. Mr. Junaid Amin, District Panchayat Officer, Leh
- ix. Mr. Rehmatullah Bhat, District Panchayat Officer, Kargil
- x. Dr Tsewang Namgyal, Executive Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust, Leh (online)
- xi. Mr. Ghulam Mohd., Director, Ladakh Centre for Peace & Sustainable Development, Kargil (online)

Other attendees from the Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department

- xii. Mr. Dhawan Kumar Rawat, Wildlife Warden, Leh
- xiii. Mrs. Suman Beniwal, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Headquarters
- xiv. Mr. Feroz Chaket, Divisional Forest Officer, Leh (online)
- xv. Mr. Raza Ali Abidi, Wildlife Warden, Kargil
- xvi. Mr. Shakeel Ahmad, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Leh
- xvii. Mr. Mohd. Iliyas, RFO, Zaskar
- xviii. Mr. Niyaz Ali, RFO, Sankoo

The meeting commenced with the Chairperson, Sh. Sajjad Hussain Mufti, extending a warm welcome to all the attending members and providing an overview of CAMPA Ladakh. In his opening address, the Chairperson addressed the issue of fund allocation, noting that last year

marked the first instance of CAMPA funds being allocated to Ladakh. He acknowledged that the allocation came late in the financial year, leading to challenges in effective fund utilization. He further emphasized the importance of timely fund allocation, and stressed the need to prevent such delays to ensure optimal and efficient fund utilization. Moving forward, the Chairperson proceeded to agenda items of the meeting, which are detailed as below:

Agenda No. 1: Achievements under CAMPA APO 2023-24

1) The Chairperson provided an overview of the achievements under CAMPA 2023-24 to the executive committee members, highlighting a total expenditure of 65.66%, as indicated in the table below. However, it was noted that the majority of the expenditure was incurred by the Leh Wildlife Division on crucial procurements such as chain-link fencing, solar water heaters, and wildlife huts, which is yet to be distributed after modal code of conduct is lifted. In contrast, the expenditure by the Kargil Wildlife Division, Leh Forest Division, and Kargil Forest Division remained minimal, largely due to reasons previously stated.

S. No.	Division	Approved Budget (in Lakhs)	Expenditure (in Lakhs)	Percentage
1	Wildlife Division, Leh	4690.525	3845.13399	81.97%
2	Wildlife Division, Kargil	505.73	1.00	0.19%
3	Forest Division, Leh	379.312	93.198	24.57%
4	Forest Division, Kargil	4690.525	30.00	6.39%
	TOTAL	6044.797	3969.33199	65.66%

This agenda item was for the information of the committee.

Agenda No. 2: Spillover from CAMPA 2023-24

1) The Chairperson, building upon earlier discussions, emphasized that an amount of Rs. 1435.952 Lakhs from the FY 2023-24, as indicated in the below table, could be utilized during the FY 2024-25 by keeping pending activities under the spillover head for approval by the Steering Committee of Ladakh and National CAMPA. Dr. Safdar Ali, Director of Accounts and Treasuries, sought clarification on whether revalidation was necessary for this amount. The Chairperson clarified that approval of the spillover activities by the Ministry would suffice, and revalidation was not required.

S. No.	Division	Spillover Budget (in Lakhs)
1	Wildlife Division, Leh	390.00
2	Wildlife Division, Kargil	383.60
3	Forest Division, Leh	283.562
4	Forest Division, Kargil	411.21
5	6 (a) (iv) – Salary/ Remuneration	2.77
	TOTAL	1471.142

2) Continuing the discussion, Mr. Sonam Norboo, ADDC Leh, raised concerns regarding the urgency of fencing the natural patches of Juniper trees, particularly in the Dha Bema region, under the Assisted Natural Regeneration initiative. The Chairperson informed that activities

pertaining to fencing of natural patches of Juniper trees are already included in the current APOs of Ladakh CAMPA.

Spillover of Rs. 1435.952 lakhs from FY 2023-24 to the FY 2024-25 was approved by the executive committee of Ladakh CAMPA.

Agenda No. 3: Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) CAMPA 2024-25

1) The Chairperson put forward the below budget proposal of Rs. 3377.50 under CAMPA 2024-25 for various divisions of the Forest and Wildlife Departments:

S. No.	Division	Proposed Budget (in Lakhs)
1	Wildlife Division, Leh	1558.25
2	Wildlife Division, Kargil	267.00
3	Forest Division, Leh	1075.03
4	Forest Division, Kargil	293.25
5	6 (a) (iv) – Salary/ Remuneration	63.97
6	6 (b) (ii) – Office Expense	20.00
7	5 (2) (m) - PBR	100.00
	TOTAL	3377.50

2) In response, the Director of Accounts and Treasuries inquired about the comparatively low budget allocation for the Kargil divisions. The Chairperson clarified that there was no strict ceiling on the budget allocation and that the proposed figures were based on the divisions' own proposals under CAMPA, following a bottom-up approach.

3) Mrs. Suman Beniwal, DCF headquarters, further explained that the proposed budget reflects the allocations suggested by the divisions themselves. Additionally, the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) highlighted the constraints of land availability for plantations in the Kargil region, which contributed to the lower budget proposed under the Kargil Forest Division.

4) The Chairperson addressed public misconceptions regarding uneven budget distribution, emphasizing that the proposed budget allocations were determined by factors such as the extent of protected areas within each division, land availability for CAMPA activities, and the capacity of the concerned departments in utilizing the allocated funds.

5) Mr. Thinless Dawa, Chief Agriculture Officer, Leh, recommended including Pasture Development in the Changthang Landscape under this year's Annual Plan of Operations (APO). He highlighted the significant threat posed by the Wild Ass (Kiang) to the pasturelands of the Changthang landscape, explaining how their grazing habits adversely affect the growth of pasture seeds, crucial for other livestock. He proposed several measures, including seeding in alternative patches and fencing of pasture areas near human settlements, to mitigate this human-wildlife conflict. In response, the Chairperson instructed both the Wildlife Wardens to identify the pasturelands affected and collaborate with relevant departments and organizations working on this issue. Additionally, he also directed to propose a substantial budget under CAMPA 2024-25 to address the concerns raised by Mr. Dawa and to implement the proposed mitigation measures effectively.

6) Another concern raised by the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Leh pertained to the drying of Willow Trees in the Leh area, emphasizing the urgency of addressing the issue promptly. He highlighted that the Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) Shimla conducted a survey or research on this matter, but the outcomes of these efforts remain unknown. In response, the Chairperson reassured the CAO Leh that budgetary provisions would be allocated to address this issue, upon receiving the report from HFRI Shimla, indicating a commitment to resolving the matter effectively.

7) Mr. Tsewang Phunchok, Director, Horticulture brought up the escalating issue of pest control, noting its annual increase. He proposed increasing the budget for pest control activities in both Leh and Kargil districts and suggested exploring the feasibility of incorporating organic methods for pest control. In response to this concern, the Chairperson reassured that sufficient budget has already been allocated for pest control measures in both the current and revalidated APOs.

8) Dr. Tsewang Namgail, Executive Director of SLC-IT Leh, expressed concerns about the potential increase in tourism in Hanle and emphasized the importance of protecting the eco-sensitive areas, which serve as habitats for Pallas's Cats and Tibetan Sand Foxes. He also highlighted the necessity of regulating tourist visits to Umling La. Dr. Namgail suggested installing signboards along the routes to these areas and training of local youths for this purpose. In response, the Chairperson reassured Dr. Namgail that both components—installation of signages and training of local individuals—are already included in the proposed Annual Plan of Operations (APOs).

9) Mr. Rehmatullah Bhat, DPO, Kargil highlighted the issue of Brown Bear tourism in Drass and the importance of mitigating tourist interference with the natural habitat of these bears. He proposed installing signage to clearly delineate rules and regulations for Brown Bear tourism. In response, the Chairperson directed the Wildlife Warden of Kargil to propose sufficient funds under CAMPA for the installation of such signage, thereby ensuring the protection of the Brown Bear habitat while promoting responsible tourism practices.

10) After incorporating the suggestions, as mentioned above, the revised budget of the CAMPA APOs are as below:

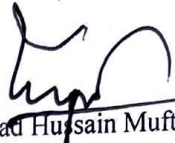
S. No.	Division	Proposed Budget (in Lakhs)
1	Wildlife Division, Leh	1604.25
2	Wildlife Division, Kargil	347.00
3	Forest Division, Leh	1075.03
4	Forest Division, Kargil	293.25
5	6 (a) (iv) – Salary/ Remuneration	63.97
6	6 (b) (ii) – Office Expense	20.00
7	5 (2) (m) - PBR	100.00
	TOTAL	3503.50

11) Dr. Safdar Ali and Dr. Tsewang Namgyal appreciated the Annual Plan of Operations (APOs), acknowledging the focus of proposed APOs on forest and wildlife conservation. Similarly, Mr. Konchok Gyalsen expressed appreciation for the APOs, observing that there are no duplication of activities from the SDP scheme.

12) Finally, the Chairperson requested for cooperation from Rural Development Department regarding operationalisation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and preparation of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). Director RDD expressed wholehearted support and commitment to this endeavour.

Resulting from the discussions above, the CAMPA APOs were approved by the Executive Committee of Ladakh CAMPA.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by the Chairperson.


(Sajjad Hussain Mufti IFS) 2.5.24
Chief Conservator of Forests/
CEO, Ladakh CAMPA
Union Territory of Ladakh

No.: CCFL/2024-25/230-44

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Copy for information:

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2. Commissioner/ Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, UT Ladakh
3. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, UT Ladakh
4. Director, Accounts and Treasuries, Department of Finance, UT Ladakh
5. Director, Rural Development Department, UT Ladakh
6. Director, Horticulture, UT Ladakh
7. Pay and Accounts Officer, Kargil
8. Deputy Director, Department of Planning, Development and Monitoring, UT Ladakh
9. Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Leh
10. Chief Agriculture Officer, Leh
11. District Panchayat Officer, Leh & Kargil
12. Wildlife Warden, Leh & Kargil
13. Divisional Forest Officer, Leh & Kargil
14. Executive Director, Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust, Leh
15. Director, Ladakh Centre for Peace & Sustainable Development, Kargil