



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्था)
पो. ऑ. - न्यू फॉरेस्ट, देहरादून – 248006 (उत्तराखण्ड)
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH & EDUCATION
(An Autonomous body of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248006 (Uttarakhand)

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No. 01-11/2023-GCP/IC-ICFRE/

Dated: .04.2025

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HoFF,
Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Assam
Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari,
Guwahati-781037, Assam

Sub: Supervisory directions regarding observations and compliance issues in GCP
ecorestation activities-reg

Sir,

This is to bring to your attention the critical observations made during the recent monitoring of ecorestation blocks under the Green Credit Programme (GCP) in the forest divisions of **Kamrup West, Goalpara, and Western Assam Wildlife**. Several issues of non-compliance, procedural lapses, and lack of timely progress have been noted, which need your direct intervention in ensuring compliance with the programme guidelines and timely execution of ecorestation cum plantation activities. There is no financial progress in Kamrup West and Goalpara Forest Divisions. Detailed monitoring report is enclosed. The following issues merit your urgent attention:

Unsuitability of Selected Sites:

Two sites (Reg. no. 220 and 221) in Kamrup West Forest Division initially proposed for ecorestation were found to be unsuitable due to pre-existing land rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, rocky or steep terrain, or dense canopy cover. In these cases, no official communication is made with the GCP-Admin and also no alternate degraded forest lands were not identified or uploaded on the GCP Portal despite clear instructions.

Unapproved Changes in Plantation Models:

Deviations were observed from the approved plantation models. Specifically, proposals to substitute Assisted Regeneration (AR) plantations with lower-density bamboo plantations were found for all five sites in Goalpara Forest Division, despite the fact that such changes are not permissible under the sanctioned cost estimates. This raises serious concerns regarding financial integrity and compliance with GCP guidelines. These deviations have also been noted with concern by representatives of Oil India Ltd. and Coal India Ltd., who were present during the monitoring visits.

Incomplete Eviction and Encroachment:

While large-scale eviction drives were successfully carried out at several sites, one location (Reg. no. 241) continue to face issues of residual encroachment. These must be fully cleared before plantation activities can begin to ensure sustainability and avoid future land conflicts.

Technical and Administrative Delays:

Many divisions have not uploaded the digital cost estimates and progress of ecorestoration work on the GCP Portal. Additionally, fencing work and other preparatory activities remain incomplete at all sites of Goalpara and Kamrup West Divisions, further pushing back the plantation schedule.

Significant Fund Transfer Delays:

One of the most pressing issues has been the delay in fund disbursement. An amount of ₹12,42,94,905.00 (Twelve crore forty-two lakhs ninety-four thousand nine hundred and five only) was transferred to the State Nodal Officer's (SNO) account on 25 June 2024. However, the funds were not transferred to the respective Implementing Officers (DFOs) until March 2025, resulting in an eight-month delay. This severely disrupted the planned implementation timeline for the 2024–25 planting season.

In light of the above, the following actions are requested from your office:

- 1. Ensure Compliance:** Direct the concerned DFOs to strictly comply with GCP guidelines, especially regarding plantation types and cost estimates.
- 2. Monitor and Support:** Closely monitor progress and provide necessary support in identifying alternative sites where current blocks are not viable.
- 3. Expedite Portal Updates:** Facilitate resolution of technical issues related to the GCP Portal to ensure timely uploading of site data and progress reports.
- 4. Removal of residual encroachment:** Address residual encroachment and ensure readiness of sites prior to initiation of GCP activities.
- 5. Accountability:** Establish clear accountability mechanisms for delays and ensure corrective actions are taken where repeated non-compliance is observed.

The Green Credit Programme is a flagship initiative aimed at promoting ecological restoration of degraded forest land. Given the national importance of the programme, it is imperative that all participating divisions maintain strict adherence to technical, administrative, and financial norms as outlined under the scheme. Your immediate intervention is critical to maintaining the credibility and progress of GCP implementation in the region.

We request your kind attention and guidance on this matter and anticipate a comprehensive compliance report from your office at the earliest.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Encl: as above.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
VINAY KUMAR
(Vinay Kumar)
Date: 15-04-2025
10:46:50
Director, International Cooperation
ICFRE, Dehradun

Copy to:

1. The State Nodal Officer-GCP, State Forest Department, Assam.