



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्

(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्था)

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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)



Vinay Kumar, IFS

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

Dated: .04.2025

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HoFF,
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha
Aranya Bhawan
Bhubaneswar-751013, Odisha

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

Sir,

This is to bring to your attention the critical observations made during the recent monitoring of eco-restoration blocks under the Green Credit Programme (GCP) in the forest divisions of Athagarh, Ghumsur South, Jeypore, Koraput, Kalahandi South, Angul, Keonjhar, and Baripada. Some issues, such as unsuitability of sites and lack of timely progress, have been noted, which need your direct intervention in ensuring compliance with the programme guidelines and timely execution of eco-restoration cum plantation activities.

Unsuitability of Selected Sites

Ecorestoration block reg. no. 1758 in the Athagarh Forest Division and reg. no. 71 in Keonjhar Forest Division, initially proposed for eco-restoration, was found unsuitable due to the presence of dense canopy cover. The Implementing Officers (DFOs) of respective divisions has identified alternative sites of the same sizes. To consider these alternative sites, the State Nodal Officer must submit a formal request, accompanied by a detailed report from the respective DFO justifying the proposed change. The GCP-Admin will also obtain consent from the concerned entity before approving any such change.

Encroachment Issues

The proposed ecorestoration site at the Kalahandi South Forest Division (Registration No. 58) has been readjusted within the same parcel of land due to encroachment by the local people. Due to this, the proposed KML has been modified a little. The readjustment will not impact the proposed plantation as per the IO and will eventually lead to rejuvenation of degraded land.

Significant delays in physical progress and updating same on the GCP Portal

Many divisions have not uploaded the digital cost estimates and progress of eco-restoration work on the GCP Portal. Additionally, fencing work activities remain incomplete at almost all sites. However, during the field visit, it was assured by the IO that the fencing

work shall be completed by the end of March 2025 for sites with registration numbers 1443, 67, 1588, 58, and 71 and by July 2025 for sites with registration numbers 36, 1819, 45, and 46.

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

- Ensure that all eco-restoration works are executed strictly on the sites represented by the approved polygons uploaded on the GCP Portal.
- Issue clear instructions to all concerned field officers that any unauthorized deviation from approved plans shall be considered non-compliance and may affect future fund disbursements.
- Initiate the necessary corrective actions, including submission of formal change requests wherever required, and complete pending works in a timely manner.
- Facilitate resolution of technical issues related to the GCP Portal to ensure timely uploading of site data and progress reports.
- Address residual encroachment and ensure readiness of sites prior to initiation of GCP activities.

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

Date: 23-04-2025

(Vinay Kumar)

Director, International Cooperation
ICFRE, Dehradun

Copy to:

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