

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Project Tiger & Elephant Division

F. No. 4-1(56)/2023-PT

Dated: 21st February, 2024

To,

The Pay & Accounts Officer,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
New Delhi.


Sub: Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Tiger & Elephant' Administrative Approval for funds release to Government of West Bengal, during 2023-24 - 2nd installment - reg.

Sir,


In continuation of this office letters No. 4-1(56)/2023-PT dated 28.08.2023, I am directed to convey the sanction of the President to the payment and release of an amount of **Rs. 262.897 Lakhs (Rupees Two Hundred Sixty Two Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Only)** being the 2nd installment to **Buxa and Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, West Bengal** under Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Project Tiger as Grants-in-aid to the Government of **West Bengal** during the current financial year 2023-24, as per **Annexure**.

2. The grants-in-aid will be regulated in accordance with the provisions contained in the memorandum of the Centrally Sponsored Project Tiger Scheme. The Grants-in-Aid is also subject to the Chapter 9 of the General Financial Rules 2017, as amended from time to time, read with the Government of India's decision incorporated there-under, and any other guidelines which may be issued in this regard, and in particular to the following conditions:-

- i. All relevant information and documents/certificates as required under GFR 209(I) have been received.
- ii. The pattern of assistance of rules governing such grants-in-aid have received the approval of the Ministry of Finance, as required under Government of India decision No. (1) under DFPR-Rules 20.
- iii. Terms and conditions of the service of the employees employed under the **Project Tiger and Elephant Scheme** are not higher than those applicable to similar categories of employees of Central Government and where it is not in accordance with above, the relaxation of Ministry of Finance have been obtained for such discrepancies as required under GFR 230(12)(I).
- iv. Assets acquired wholly or substantially out of Government Grants shall not be disposed off without obtaining the prior approval of the sanctioning authority of Grants-in-aid.
- v. The **Government of West Bengal** agrees to make reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or OBC in the posts or services under its control on the lines indicated by Govt. of India.


हेमन्त सिंह / HEMANT SINGH
सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक (बाघ एवं हाथी परियोजना)
Assistant Inspector (Tiger & Elephant)
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली / Govt. of India, New Delhi

- vi. The accounts of the **Project Tiger and Elephant Scheme** shall be audited by C&AG or by any person authorized by him on his behalf in accordance with the provisions laid down in Section 14 of the C&AG (DPC) Act, 1971 as amended from time to time.
- vii. The accounts of the **Project Tiger and Elephant Scheme** shall be open for inspection by the sanctioning authority and audit, both by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India under the provision of C&AG (DPC) Act, 1971 and internal audit party by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry whenever it is called upon.
- viii. The Utilization Certificate against the earlier funds released under Grants-in-aid have been received and accepted by the competent authority.
- ix. Government of **West Bengal** in respect of **Project Tiger and Elephant Scheme** may furnish their performance-cum-achievement report on or before 31.03.2024.
- x. **Tiger/Elephant Reserves** will spend Grants-in-aid exclusively in pursuance of the objectives envisaged in rules/memorandum of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Tiger & Elephant' and for the purpose it is being sanctioned.
- xi. Grants-in-aid to **Government of West Bengal** is subject to the Economy Instructions issued from time to time by the Ministry of Finance or by the Competent Authority.
- xii. Grants-in-aid shall be utilized before the end of the current financial year 2022-23 and unspent balance, if any, will be refunded by **Government of West Bengal** to the **Govt. of India**.
- xiii. Government of **West Bengal** in respect of **Project Tiger and Elephant Scheme** will maintain a separate account and will present their annual accounts in the standard format as required under GFR 230(5).
- xiv. Grants-in-aid shall be utilized for **Buxa and Sundarban Tiger Reserve** strictly as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, acting through the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Field Director (**Buxa and Sundarban Tiger Reserve**) and **Government of West Bengal**.
- xv. Monitorable outcomes on the item of works contained in the sanction letter both in physical and financial terms are required to be furnished in the monthly report regularly. Compliance status on Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding is required before submission of additional or ensuing year's Annual Plan of Operation (APO).
- xvi. The expenditure should be limited to the amount released and in no case should be done in anticipation of further release by the Ministry.
- xvii. The payments of daily wagers should be done through account transfer / account payee Cheques only duly linked with Aadhar Number.
- xviii. It may please be ensured that there is no duplication of nature and items of work being proposed in the same area under the **Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger and Elephant** and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Eco-development and IDWH Schemes etc.


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सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक (बाघ एवं हाथी परियोजना)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Project Tiger & Elephant)
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
Govt. of India, New Delhi
B-1 Wing, 7th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110009

- xix. The cost estimates worked out by the Field Director should be based on approved schedule of rates of the State Government, with due approval of the competent authority.
- xx. Approval of the competent authority be obtained and acceptance of UC may be ensured by PD.
- xxi. The expenditure is incurred as per the allocation of funds.
- xxii. Payments are made by bank transfer and no cash payment is to be made.
- xxiii. Funds for POL / maintenance of vehicles would be admissible only for the vehicles purchased from CSS funds.
- xxiv. Funds will not be diverted for any item other than specified herein.
- xxv. Funds to be spent only on items approved in Tiger Conservation Plan (TCP)/CSS Guidelines.
- xxvi. Compensation for loss due to wildlife is to supplement the State Government fund as per the rules of State Government.
- xxvii. GFR is followed by implementing agency alongwith the economic instructions issued by Government of India from time to time.
- xxviii. Satellite photo with date and latitude and longitude nodes after completion of work depicting the work carried out before and after the work.
- xxix. Evidence of deposit of TDS/Service Tax in case of contract payment and CST in case of leviable goods are sent along with UC.
- xxx. In case of employment through contract, copy of PF & ESI contributions of employees shall be obtained wherever applicable.
- xxxi. All measurable outcome of this grant must be mentioned in the sanction order and UC is to be submitted as prescribed in GFR 2017 – Form GFR 12-C.
- xxxii. If the implementing agency does not use the fund for the purpose for which it was given, it has to refund the same with interest.
- xxxiii. There should not be any overlapping of activities under the projects with the activities of ongoing schemes under CSS/CS/State Government Scheme.
- xxxiv. The sanction order must mention measurable physical parameters and all measurable parameters are to be adhered to.
- xxxv. The fixed asset created out of this grant shall not be disposed off without concurrence of this Ministry.
- xxxvi. All guidelines under the project is to be followed scrupulously.
- xxxvii. The UC with physical progress report and satellite photo with physical deliverable with date and latitude – longitude coordinates before and after completion of work be obtained of each tiger reserve and uploaded on the website of the implementing agency as well as the Ministry for public access.



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सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक (बाघ एवं हाथी परियोजना)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Project Tiger & Elephant)
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
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- xxxviii. The measurable outcome under the project (quantified) in terms of number of tigers/ elephants in reserves, eco-tourism in tiger/ elephant reserves, %age decrease in man-animal conflict etc., may also be submitted in the progress report.
- xxxix. All labour payments strictly by Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- xl. The guidelines of Project Tiger and Elephant Scheme are followed by **Tiger/Elephant Reserves** and Expenditure Evaluation Report on the expenditure incurred vis-à-vis proposed activities and result achieved may be furnished.
3. As the annual budget of the Scheme is approved by the Central Government, the Government of **West Bengal** is not required to furnish bond and sureties, in accordance with the Ministry of Finance O.M. No. 14(1)-EII (A)/64 dated 23.06.1965.
4. The terms and conditions of the payment are as under:
- a. The grant is in accordance with the pattern of financial assistance approved by the Ministry of Finance.
- b. The grant sanctioned is subject to the adjustment on the basis of the terms and conditions approving the scheme.
5. No deviation from the approved items of expenditure as enumerated in the annexure shall be made without prior concurrence of the Government of India. The guidelines of National Tiger Conservation Authority should be fully adhered to. The Chief Wildlife Warden and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the State Government should be directed to ensure that the field works are in accordance with the Tiger Conservation Plan and the Annual Plan of Operation by the field inspections from time to time.
6. In accordance with the revised procedure, the Central Accounts Section, Reserve Bank of India, Nagpur, may kindly be advised to pass on credit to the books of the State Government of **West Bengal** under intimation to this Department.
7. The expenditure incurred is adjustable to the Demand No. 28 (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) under the following heads during the Financial Year 2023-24:

Scheme	Budget Head	Buxa TR	Sundarban TR	Project Elephant	Total
Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger & Elephant	3601.06.101.02.05.31 (Grant-in-Aid General)	38.15	143.994	35.217	217.361
Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger & Elephant	3601.06.789.02.05.31 (Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes)	4.76875	17.99925	0.00	22.768
Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger & Elephant	3601.06.796.02.05.31 (Tribal Area Sub Plan/STC)	4.76875	17.99925	0.00	22.768
	Total	47.6875	179.9925	35.217	262.897


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पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली / Govt. of India, New Delhi

8. This issues under the powers delegated to the Ministry and with the concurrence of Integrated Finance Division vide Unique Dy. No. 35/IFD/2024 dated 21.02.2024. **Compliance of all the guidelines/instructions regarding release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and monitoring utilization of funds released, Issued by Dept. of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) vide OM No 1(13)PFMS/FCD/ 2020 dated 23.03.2021 must be ensured.**

Yours faithfully,



(Hemant Singh)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (PT&E)

हेमन्त सिंह / HEMANT SINGH
सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक (बाघ एवं हाथी परियोजना)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Project Tiger & Elephant)
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
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Copy to:-

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi.
2. The Secretary (Forests), Govt. of West Bengal. A copy of the detailed sanction letter issued by the State Government in respect of this scheme for 2023-24 may kindly be furnished to this Ministry immediately.
3. The Secretary (Finance), Govt. of West Bengal.
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests / Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of West Bengal.
5. The Field Director, Buxa and Sundarban Tiger Reserve, West Bengal
6. The Accountant General, West Bengal.
7. The Director of Audit, Scientific Department, AGCR Building, IP Estate, New Delhi.
8. The IGF, PT&E, MoEF&CC, New Delhi/ Regional Office, Guwahati.
9. Forest Finance Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
10. Plan Finance Division (PF-II), Ministry of Finance, New Delhi.
11. Guard file/Spare copies.



(Hemant Singh)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (PT&E)

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**Annual Plan of Operation 2023-24
(2nd Installment)**

**Buxa and Sundarban Tiger Reserve,
West Bengal**

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Subject	Project Tiger			Total (Project Tiger & Elephant)
	Buxa TR	Sundarban TR	Project Elephant	
Total Cost of APO including State Share	326.56	1301.56	234.78	1862.90
Central Share	190.75	719.97	140.868	1051.588
1st installment release (25% Central Share)	47.6875	179.9925	35.217	262.897
Less unspent balance (previous year 2022-23)	2.00	0.00	1.21299	3.21299
Net 1st installment released (25% Central Share)	45.6875	179.9925	34.00401	259.68401
2 nd instalment release (25% Central Share)	47.6875	179.9925	35.217	262.897


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