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NEWSLETTER

SUSTAINABLE CATCHMENT FOREST MANAGEMENT (SCATFORM) PROJECT



MESSAGE FROM CEO & PD

Continuing with our efforts to share about the various components of SCATFORM Project through our newsletter, we are sharing the details of Environmental and Social Management System to be implemented and monitored based on Environmental and Social Assessment Framework (ESMSF) of JICA.

This GRM is exclusively established for the purposes of SCATFORM project implementation and any complainant accessing this GRM with a grievance not connected with the Project shall be directed to concerned authorities for further necessary action.

The ESMF process will involve active engagement with stakeholders, including communities, groups, or individuals affected by proposed sub-project components and with other interested parties, through information disclosure, consultation, and informed participation in a manner proportionate to the risks to and impacts on affected communities as per ESMF/STFDPF.

I hope you will like this issue and appreciate the work the project is undertaking. Your feedback and suggestions on things related to project and about this newsletter are always welcome. Please do write to us.

Sd/-

Dr. Avinash M Kanfade, IFS
Chief Executive Officer & Project Director



Grievance Redressal Mechanism for SCATFORM Project

In the past newsletters, various components of SCATFORM project were briefly discussed. In this bulletin, Environmental and Social Consideration Framework will be discussed.

Tripura JICA Project (SCATFORM) is implemented in the forest areas through community institutions, which are run by the forest-dependent communities, like tribals & non-tribal who reside within forest fringe areas. So, the target groups for the Project are not only "Indigenous People" but also other "Forest Dwellers/Dependents".

As per Minutes of Discussion (MOD) of the Project, it is agreed that the Project is to establish Environmental and Social Management System based on Environmental and Social Assessment Framework (ESMSF) of JICA and Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependents Plan Framework (STFDPF).

Environmental and Social Consideration Framework (ESMF) has become mandatory for all JICA assisted projects.

The objectives of the ESMSF and STFDPF are summarized as:

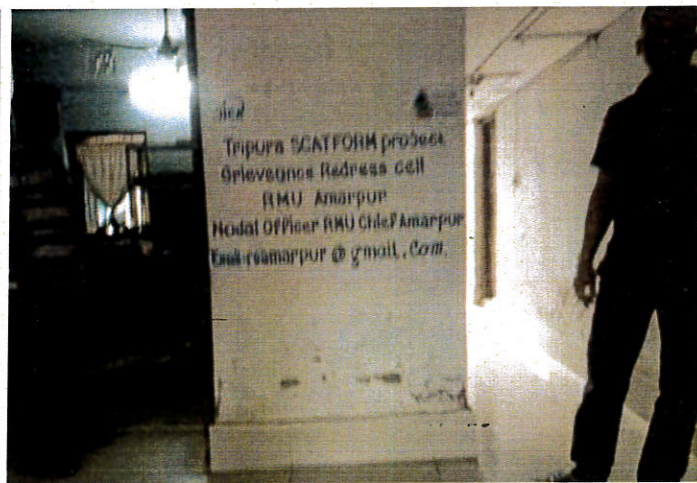
- 1) To provide a broad framework for the identification, management and monitoring of

potential environmental and social risks arising under the Project;

- 2) To enhance the Project's positive environmental and social impacts and avoid or otherwise mitigate associated negative impacts;
- 3) To ensure that the rights and needs of forest dependents and their communities affected by or involved in the Project, are respected and met in the design and implementation of project interventions; and
- 4) To ensure the protection of local ecosystems and environmental resources in the design and implementation of project interventions.

Fundamental principles adopted for grievance redressal:

- (i) The rights of all sub-project participants are respected, and their interests are protected.
- (ii) Concerns of sub-project participants arising from the project implementation process are adequately addressed and in a prompt and timely manner.
- (iii) Entitlements or livelihood support for sub-project participants are provided on time and following the relevant Government of India



and JICA safeguard policies and applicable legal framework.

- (iv) Project participants are aware of their rights to access and to realize access to grievance procedures free of charge.
- (v) The grievance mechanism is institutionalized in each sub-project village by the village council and Gram Panchayat.

1. Types of Grievances attended to by GRM:

A grievance is a concern or complaint raised by an individual or a group within communities affected by the sub-project implementation. Both concerns and complaints can result from either real or perceived impacts of a sub-project activity, and may be filed in the same manner and handled with the same procedure. Grievances may take the form of specific complaints about actual damages or injury, general concerns about project activities, incidents and impacts or perceived impacts. Based on the understanding of the project area and the stakeholders, an indicative list of the types of grievances have been identified for the Project, as can be seen below:-

Operational Guidelines:

Tier 1, RMU level GRC: Grievances are received

directly on-site by the designated site representative of RMU, i.e. Forest Range Officer who endeavor to resolve them satisfactorily, at the subproject level. The designated site representative informs the RMU Chief of these complaints and their outcomes. The Complaints Register are maintained by the RMU. On receipt of each complaint, the date, time, name and contact details of the complainant, and the nature of the complaint and corrective actions taken in response to the complaint in the Complaints register.

Appropriate signage is erected at the sites of all works providing the public with updated Project information and summarizing the GRM process, including contact details of the relevant nodal officer. Anyone willing may lodge a complaint, and the methods (in person, telephone, forms written in Bangla/ English, online forms) do not inhibit registering any complaint.

Tier 2: SDMU GRC: Under the Environmental and Social Safeguard, SDMU Chief is the Nodal Officer of the Sub Divisional Management Unit, Grievance Redressal Committee. If the RMU Chief is unable to resolve the grievance to the satisfaction of the affected persons, such grievance is forwarded to the SDMU for necessary redressal by Environmental and Social Safeguard SDMU Chief.

Tier 3: DMU GRC: If the SDMU Chief is unable to



resolve the grievance to the satisfaction of the affected persons, such grievance is forwarded to the DMU for necessary redressal by the DMU Chief.

Tier 4: Project Management Unit (PMU) Level

GRC: In case the NO (Environmental and Social Safeguard DMU Chief) GRC DMU is unable to resolve the grievance to the satisfaction of the complainant, such grievances are forwarded to the PMU for necessary redressal by Environment and Social Safeguard Manager of SCATFORM Project at the PMU. Complaints referred to the PMU are dealt with by the Director AFA.

In order to achieve sustainable development, the project's impact on the environment and society is assessed to avoid, minimize or compensate for those impact integrating these into the project itself. So, the Project is committed to ensure safeguard the environmental and social issues.

It is assumed that significant adverse environmental and social impact such as land acquisition, resettlement, which require EIA clearance, are not anticipated from the project intervention. SCATFORM falls under FI category, thus JICA reviews the adequacy of environmental and social requirements relevant to the Project, taking into account the type of subprojects being undertaken and the level of risk associated with the subprojects and the capacity of the Project to manage environmental and social risks and impacts. So, screening of the subprojects and categorization of project activities in each JFMCs / EDCs is carried out.

The ESMF process involves active engagement with stakeholders, including communities, groups, or individuals affected by proposed sub-project components and with other interested parties,

through information disclosure, consultation, and informed participation in a manner proportionate to the risks to and impacts on affected communities as per ESMF/STFDPF.

It also facilitates stakeholder engagement through enhanced consultation, participation and accountability. To meet the said objective, it is imperative to ensure that the ESMF and STFDPF guidelines are adhered to and implemented as per the mandate of the Project. To achieve this, personnel at each level of the Project, including the support staff and stakeholders need to be sensitized along with capacity development on ESMF and STFDPF.

It is also essential to educate the community-level organizations, particularly the JFMCs and EDCs on the relevant aspects of the ESMF and STFDPF.

Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) in DMU/SDMU/RMU level has to be established and proper signage (sign board etc.) is maintained. A complain register is also maintained in all levels of GRM and monthly meeting of GRM are organised. The DMU/SDMU/RMU send quarterly report to PMU in regard to ESMS.

If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the aggrieved party through this GRM, the complainant is free to take legal recourse, at his own cost. The decision of the Judiciary will be binding on the Project.

This GRM is exclusively established for the purposes of SCATFORM project implementation and any complainant accessing this GRM with a grievance not connected with the Project shall be directed to concerned authorities for further necessary action.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEWSLETTER

We request and encourage you to share your experiences under the Project. You can highlight activities and achievements of the Joint Forest Management Committee. We can also consider inspiring stories of individuals who are doing good work which needs to be shared with other people in the state. This will provide recognition to individuals and provide opportunities for other people to learn from the experiences. You can share your experiences with our field personnel / JFMC.

You can also write to us at : tripurajica@gmail.com

CEO & PD, Tripura SCATFORM Project, Prakriti Bhawan, Gandhigram, West Tripura 799012