



अण्डमान तथा निकोबार द्वीपसमूह समन्वित विकास निगम लिमिटेड
(सरकारी उपक्रम)

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
(A Government undertaking)

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Minutes of the 4th Monitoring Committee meeting to oversee the implementation of biodiversity related matters, held at 3.00 pm on 07.11.2025 under the Chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) at Van Sadan, Department of Environment & Forests, Haddo, Sri Vijaya Puram, A & N Islands, in connection with holistic development of Great Nicobar Island in respect of Environmental & CRZ clearance of Integrated Development of ICTT, Township and Gas and Solar based power plant in Great Nicobar Island.

List of persons attended the meeting is enclosed at **Annexure – I**.

At the outset, the Chairman, PCCF (WL) welcomed the members of the monitoring committee to oversee the implementation of biodiversity related conditions stipulated in the Environmental & CRZ clearance accorded for the project "Integrated Development of ICTT, Township and Solar Based Power Plant in Great Nicobar Island". The Chief Conservator of Forests, a detailed presentation, briefing on the each conservation plans prepared by various institutes. The presentation covered the following aspects of each conservation proposals:

- Objectives of the conservation proposals/plans.
- The expected outcomes.
- Output/quantitative assessment parameters.
- Physical and financial progress.

The following issues were discussed and decisions taken:

1. Botanical Survey of India (BSI)

- The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) informed that the documentation of flora, including native and endemic species has been completed and an expenditure of Rs. 0.01 crore has been incurred till date out of Rs. 1.10 crore released by ANIIDCO during 2024-25.
- BSI also informed that 50% of the sanctioned amount will be spent by March-2026 towards implementation of the plans.
- BSI shall submit the progress report of the ongoing survey to ANIIDCO by February 2026.

[Signature]

- ANIIDCO shall take necessary steps for allotment of land to BSI and making provision in the Master Plan of GNI for the establishment of Hi-Tech Conservatories.

2. Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) informed that manpower has been engaged and survey equipment has been procured for the conservations & management of coral reefs and for intertidal marine fauna proposals. The field survey for study of Intertidal Fauna has been completed at Galathea Bay, Joginder Nagar, Campbell Bay, Laxmi Nagar, Indira Point, and Shastri Nagar and an expenditure of Rs. 2.57 crore has been incurred till date out of Rs. 23.76 crore released by ANIIDCO during 2024-25.
- ZSI has identified four new translocation sites on the west coast of Great Nicobar Islands and undertake the translocation of coral colonies and Giant Clams from the project impact area as per EC & CRZ clearance conditions prior to commencement of project works.
- ZSI will maintain systematic data on translocated colonies with GPS tags to each colony to monitor its survival.
- With reference to the studies on Inter tidal fauna, ZSI has identified the area during their preliminary survey in the field and they are yet to lay the Grid in the area. A total of 9 locations (10 Grids in each location) have been proposed in their study. It is insisted for judicious use of manpower for the study.
- ZSI will obtain necessary approval under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 before handling any Schedule-I species (coral colonies and Giant Clams). The collection of samples will also require necessary approval from the competent authority.

3. Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) informed that:
 - Manpower has been engaged for various wildlife monitoring activities.
 - During the recent survey, a total of 282 tracks in which 131 nests were observed including 114 Leatherback turtle nests. An expenditure of Rs. 7.42 crore has been made out of Rs. 9.22 crore released by ANIIDCO during 2024-25.
 - In order to prepare conservation plan for saltwater crocodiles, essential surveys and ecological data are being collected and monitoring systems have



been established, with an expenditure of Rs. 2.07 crore out of Rs. 4.67 crore released by ANIIDCO during 2024-25.

- For the Nicobar Megapode, 74 key nesting and mound locations have been identified, with an expenditure of Rs. 1.01 crore out of Rs. 1.98 crore released by ANIIDCO during 2024-25.
- WII will communicate to ANIIDCO regarding the land requirement for establishing a rescue and rehabilitation centre for turtle and crocodile.

4. Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History(SACON)

- The Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) informed that:
 - Intensive field surveys are ongoing, with two field stations established in Great Nicobar Island for Nicobar Megapode studies, incurring an expenditure of Rs. 1.32 crore till date out of Rs. 12.745 crore released by ANIIDCO during 2024-25.
 - A field station has been established at Campbell Bay for Nicobar Long-tailed Macaque research, with an expenditure of Rs. 0.70 crore to date out of Rs. 5.108 crore released by ANIIDCO during 2024-25.
 - The pilot survey on endemic and tree-cavity nesting birds has been completed in Great Nicobar Island, including eight replicates for road kill assessment, with an expenditure of Rs. 0.55 crore till date out of Rs. 3.528 crore released by ANIIDCO during 2024-25.
 - The pilot survey on Coconut Crab is currently in progress, with an expenditure of Rs. 0.18 crore to date out of Rs. 1.858 crore released by ANIIDCO during 2024-25.
- SACON will communicate to ANIIDCO regarding the land requirement for a rescue centre for rehabilitation of birds and their chicks during felling operations.
- ANIIDCO is asked to share the Shapefile/maps of the phase wise projects with SACON for establishment of field stations and to give emphasis on initial work area.
- The field stations are being established by SACON for each project, however, as per the EC condition, research stations with office space & accommodation facilities to be set up in Campbell Bay. Therefore, ANIIDCO to expedite setting up of research station in Campbell Bay as per the EC condition.



5. Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)

- The Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) informed that five rivers have been mapped, and manpower has been engaged, with an expenditure of Rs. 2.39 crore till date out of Rs. 14.72 crore released by ANIIDCO during 2024-25.
- IIFM to share the LiDAR data with all other research Institutes to facilitate effective implementation of the conservation plans.

6. Forest

- ANIIDCO to expedite release of funds to Forest Department to facilitate the initiation of essential field studies and monitoring related to the conservation plans.

The Monitoring committee constitution has to be revised as one member has expired and another member has communicated about his unwillingness to continue as a member of the Committee. ANIIDCO has to take necessary action in reconstitution of the Monitoring Committee.

7. Shri Deepak Apte, Biodiversity Expert, made the following observations/suggestions:

- SACON has to give priority to include geo-tagging of endemic tree-cavity nesting locations as part of the implementation process.
- ZSI is asked to map the impact layers for the proposed capital dredging and breakwater sites and accordingly develop the impact matrix so that the location remains the same for collection of data during the entire project period
- ZSI is asked to prioritise sampling in the portions of the proposed project area that fall within the CRZ stretch.
- Satellite tagging of turtles should be prioritised in order to track the movement of these turtles before the commencement of the projects.
- Satellite tagging of Nicobar Megapode by WII and banding of Nicobar Megapode by SACON should be simultaneously to avoid double capturing and reduce the time.

8. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, made the following observations/suggestions:

- ANIIDCO to expedite handing over of research stations/units to the research institutes i.e. WII as per the EC & CRZ conditions.



- The permission for entry into the Project area (including the Tribal Pass) has to be obtained by the Research Institutes. Hence, the Research Institutes are asked to expedite the process for obtaining the requisite permission.
- The collection of samples or handling of animals which are under Schedule -I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1973 can only be done after obtaining approval from the Competent Authority. The Research Institutes are asked to submit the details under Section 12 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

9. Based on the detailed discussions the Chairman reiterated the following decisions:

- In order to reduce the cost, time and for effective use of manpower, it is decided to merge some of the projects. The proposal regarding conservation of Nicobar Megapode may be merged as the same work is undertaken by SACON and WII which are same institute. The Director (WII) will be communicated in this regard to take a decision of merging these two projects related to Nicobar Megapode.
- Further it is also opined that conservation of Long Tailed Macaque and Coconut Crab to be merged to reduce the cost, time and for effective use of human resource as both proposals involve similar nature of work. The Director, WII will be communicated in this regard to take a decision keeping the expenditure in view.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.


24/12/2025

(K. Sunder Babu)
Manager (Projects)

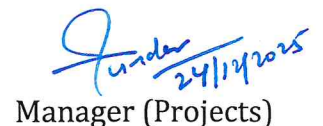
F. No. 1-1834/ANIIDCO/Projects/2025-26/ 4736
E-file no. 18835

Dated: 24th December 2025

To,
All the members of the Monitoring Committee

Copy to:

1. PS to Chief Secretary, A & N Administration for kind information of Chief Secretary please.
2. PS to PCCF (WL), Department of Environment & Forests, Haddo, Sri Vijaya Puram, A & N islands for kind information of PCCF (WL), Department of Environment & Forests please.
3. PS to Managing Director, ANIIDCO for kind information of Managing Director please.
4. PS to Executive Director (GNI), ANIIDCO for kind information of Executive Director (GNI), please.


24/12/2025
Manager (Projects)

List of persons attended the meeting held on 07.11.2025

Through VC

1. Shri. Ravi Kant, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Nicobar Division.
2. Shri Keshav Narendra Singh, DANICS, Asst. Commissioner, Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar Island
3. Dr. Deepak Apte, Biodiversity Expert.
4. Dr. GVM Gupta, Scientist, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Chennai.
5. Dr. Sherine Cubelio, Scientist, Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Kochi.
6. Shri L. Gopinath, Senior Research Officer, NITI Aayog, New Delhi.
7. Dr. Nehru Prabhakaran, Scientist, WII.
8. Dr. Honnavalli N. Kumara, Scientist, SACON.
9. Dr. J. Jayanthi, Scientist, BSI, Kolkata.
10. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist, ZSI, Kolkata.
11. Dr. Advait Edgaongar, Scientist, IIFM, Bhopal.

At Department of Environment & Forests, Sri Vijaya Puram, A & N Islands

1. Shri. Dinesh Kannan, Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF), Department of Environment & Forests.
2. Shri. P.K. Paul, Conservator of Forest (WL), Department of Environment & Forests.
3. Shri. Amarendra K Singh, ACF (WL), Department of Environment & Forests.
4. Dr. Manchi Shirish. Principal Scientist, SACON.
5. Shri. K. Sunder Babu, Manager (Projects), ANIIDCO.
6. Shri. Omprakash Kumar, Consultant (Environmental Planner), ANIIDCO.
7. Ms. Akila. R, Young Professional (Environmental Planner), ANIIDCO.