



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 meeting of the Monitoring Committee to oversee the implementation of biodiversity related matters, held at 3.00 pm on 16.04.2025 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 project proponent, ANIIDCO, informed that MHA, vide order dated 12.12.2024, sanctioned an amount of Rs. 88.69 crore towards first-year expenditure for wildlife conservation plans, setting up a special medical unit, etc. Accordingly, as on date, Rs. 81.55 crore has been released to various institutes and the APWD. Out of this, Rs. 80.16 crore has been released to research institutes viz WII, ZSI, BSI, SACON, and IIFM for implementing the proposed wildlife conservation plans. A detailed statement showing the release of fund is enclosed at **Annexure-II.**

In this regard, all the research institutes made presentations on the status, action plans/actions taken for the implementation of the wildlife conservation plan, and their plans for utilization of the funds released. The submissions made by respective Research Institutes are as under:

1. Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

- An amount of Rs. 15.87 crore has been released to WII for undertaking conservation plans for Leatherback Sea Turtle, Nicobar Megapode and Saltwater Crocodile.
- WII informed that recruitment for most of the research positions was completed by 31 March 2025. The selected candidates have joined from 15 April 2025, and field work will be initiated in the first week of May 2025.

- The procurement of equipment is in progress and is expected to be completed by June/July 2025, after which satellite tagging will take place within the first year itself.

2. Botanical Survey of India (BSI)

- An amount of Rs. 1.10 crore has been released to BSI for conservation of native flora and monitoring of non-invasive and invasive plant species and their impact.
- BSI submitted that staff recruitment will be completed by May 2025, and fieldwork will be conducted between April - September 2025, with one site selected at the Dhanikhari Experimental Botanic Garden-cum-Arboretum (BSI), Sri Vijaya Puram, and another to be identified in Great Nicobar Island in coordination with ANFD.
- An amount of Rs. 24,000 has been spent on advertisements and approximately 50-60% of the total funds is expected to be utilized over the next 6 months.
- BSI submitted that after completing preliminary field surveys and data collection, a draft conservation plan will be prepared by October 2025 and the final plan by December 2025, covering native flora conservation, including priority and invasive species.

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

- An amount of Rs. 24.71 crore has been released to SACON for implementing the conservation plans towards Bird Hazard Risk Assessment Study for the proposed international airport, Nicobar Megapode, Long tailed Macaque, Endemic & tree cavity birds and Coconut Crab.
- SACON informed that recruitment of manpower, procurement of equipment, and preliminary surveys will be conducted in April-May 2025.

4. Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)

- An amount of Rs. 14.72 crore has been released to IIFM for undertaking coastal and marine biodiversity management plan.
- IIFM informed that the recruitment of manpower and procurement of equipment, software and LiDAR imagery has been initiated and will be completed by May 2025.
- First reconnaissance field trip has been planned in May 2025

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

- i. EC & CRZ clearance for the project has been granted based on the conservation plan already submitted as part of EAC submission. Sufficient data is already available for the Research Institutes to finalise and implement the conservation plans. All the Institutes have to initiate ground activity for which funds have been released for implementing the conservation plans.
- ii. The area falling under Phase-1 of the GNI project to be taken up on priority.
- iii. Adjoining beaches of proposed ICTT project will also have to be monitored on priority.
- iv. Proposed road alignment and wildlife corridors, as stipulated in the EC & CRZ clearance, have also to be accounted for as part of implementation of wildlife conservation plans.

6. Shri G.V.M. Gupta, Director, Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), suggested that interlinkages between conservation action/measure to be developed, as the marine and terrestrial environments are interdependent, based on which a detailed action and necessary linkages can be derived.

7. Dr. Ajit Kumar Shashany, Director, National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), suggested that each institute should provide regular progress reports on their respective conservation plans and also recommended integrating all species-centric conservation plans at the beginning of the project.

8. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) has requested IIFM, Bhopal to share the LIDAR data with all the Research Institutes for better implementation of the conservation plans.

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

1) WII, BSI, ZSI, SACON & IIFM to submit presentation incorporating the following details:

- Activity wise plan clearly indicating the physical and financial targets for implementation of the conservation plans.
- Concrete monitoring parameters to be indicated specifying the physical/financial targets for monitoring.
- Timeline for preparation of conservation plan.

2) Meeting with each research Institute has to be fixed within 15 days to understand the detailed action plan to avoid duplicacy of the works.

- 3) ANIIDCO, in consultation with the Forest Department, to issue letter to all the Research Institutes, for submitting details on activity-wise plans, corresponding fund utilization, monitoring parameters and the timeline for preparing conservation plans.


(Saji Samuel)
14/5/2025

Senior Manager (Projects)

F. No. 1-1834/ANIIDCO/Projects/2025-26/556.
E- Comp. No. 18835

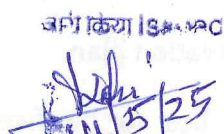
Dated: 14th April 2025
May

To,

1. Shri Keshav Narendra Singh, Asst. Commissioner, Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar Island
2. Dr. Deepak Apte, Biodiversity Expert
3. Dr. Virendra R. Tiwari, Director, WII & SACON, Dehradun.
4. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, Kolkata
5. Dr. A.A. Mao, Director, BSI, Kolkata
6. Dr. Ravi Chandran, Director, IIFM, Bhopal
7. Shri. Dinesh Kannan, Chief Conservator of Forest, Sri Vijaya Puram.
8. Dr. Ajit Kumar Shashany, Director, CSIR - National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.
9. Dr. GVM Gupta, Director, Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi.
10. Dr. D.V. Rao, Marine Biodiversity Expert, Hyderabad
11. Dr. P.K. Mathur, Terrestrial Biodiversity Expert, Dehradun
12. Shri L. Gopinath, Senior Research Officer, Niti Aayog, New Delhi
13. Dr. J. Antony Johnson, Scientist, WII, Dehradun
14. Dr. Nehru Prabhakaran, Scientist, WII, Dehradun
15. Dr. Honnavalli N. Kumara, Scientist, SACON
16. Dr. C. Sivaperumen, Scientist, ZSI, Kolkata
17. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist, ZSI, Kolkata
18. Dr. J. Jayanthi, Scientist, BSI, Kolkata
19. Dr. Advait Edgaongar, Scientist, IIFM, Bhopal

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.


14/5/25
प्रेषक
अनिडको लिमिटेड
Despatcher
ANIIDCO LTD


Senior Manager (Projects)

List of persons attended the meeting held on 16.04.2025

Through VC

1. Dr. Deepak Apte, Biodiversity Expert
2. Dr. Ajit Kumar Shashany, Director, CSIR – National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.
3. Dr. GVM Gupta, Director, Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi.
4. Dr. D.V. Rao, Marine Biodiversity Expert, Hyderabad
5. Shri L. Gopinath, Senior Research Officer, Niti Aayog, New Delhi
6. Dr. Nehru Prabhakaran, Scientist, WII
7. Dr. Honnavalli N. Kumara, Scientist, SACON
8. Dr. J. Jayanthi, Scientist, BSI, Kolkata
9. Dr. Advait Edgaongar, Scientist, IIFM, Bhopal
10. Shri. Mohd Pervaiz, General Manager (Projects), ANIIDCO.

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

1. Shri. Dinesh Kannan, Chief Conservator of Forest, Department of Environment & Forests.
2. Shri. Saji Samuel, Senior Manager (Projects), ANIIDCO.
3. Shri. Omprakash Kumar, Consultant (Environmental Planner), ANIIDCO.
4. Ms. Akila. R, Consultant (Environmental Planner), ANIIDCO.

Annexure - II

RECEIPT AND PAYMENT DETAILS

Sl. No.	Institute/ Department	Plan/Proposal	Sanctioned vide letter dt. 12.12.2024	Amount released	Remarks/ payment details (Rs in crores)
1.	WII	Conservation and long-term monitoring of Leatherback Sea Turtle	9.22	9.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment released on 30.01.2025 : Rs. 15.72 Payment released on 10.03.2025 : <u>Rs. 00.13</u> Payment released on 10.03.2025 : <u>Rs. 00.02</u> Total : <u>Rs. 15.87</u>
		Movement ecology and population connectivity of the endemic Nicobar	1.98	1.98	
		Conservation & Management Plan of Salt Water Crocodile	4.67	4.67	
		Total	15.87	15.87	
2.	SACON	Conservation of Nicobar Megapode	12.75	12.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment released on 31.03.2023 : Rs. 00.02 Payment released on 30.01.2025 : Rs. 24.48 Payment released on 10.03.2025 : <u>Rs. 00.21</u> Total : <u>Rs. 24.71</u>
		Conservation Plan for Long-tailed Macaque	5.11	5.11	
		Conservation Plan for endemic and tree cavity	3.53	3.53	
		Conservation Plan for Coconut Crab	1.86	1.86	
		Bird Hazard Risk Assessment Study for	1.47	1.47	
		Biodiversity Management Plan for Airport	-	-	
		Total	24.71	24.71	
3.	BSI	Conservation of Native Flora & monitoring of non-native and invasive plant species and their impact	1.10	1.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment released on 31.03.2023 : Rs. 0.02 Payment released on 03.02.2025 : Rs. 1.07 Payment released on 10.03.2025 : Rs. 0.01 Total : <u>Rs. 1.10</u>
4.	ZSI	Conservation and Management of Coral Reefs	16.74	16.74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment released on 31.03.2023 : Rs. 00.02 Payment released on 30.01.2025 : Rs. 23.53 Payment released on 10.03.2025 : <u>Rs. 00.21</u> Total : <u>Rs. 23.76</u>
		Conservation and Management Plan for Intertidal Marine Fauna	7.02	7.02	
		Total	23.76	23.76	
5.	IIFM	Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Management Plan	14.72	14.72	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment released on 03.02.2025 : Rs. 14.59 Payment released on 10.03.2025 : <u>Rs. 00.13</u> Total : <u>Rs. 14.72</u>
6.	Forest Department	Conservation and restoration plan of Mangrove	0.58	0.00	Fund available for payment Rs. 3,44,00,000
		Zero predation plan of sea turtles	0.86	0.00	

Sl. No.	Institute/ Department	Plan/Proposal	Sanctioned vide letter dt. 12.12.2024	Amount released	Remarks/ payment details (Rs in crores)
		Forest Department cost towards complete oversee of conservation plans of various institutes are as under: a. WII: Rs. 0.60 b. SACON: Rs. 0.25 c. BSI: Rs. 0.25 d. ZSI: Rs. 0.60 e. IIFM: Rs. 0.30	2.00	0.00	
Total			3.44	0.00	
Total payable towards wildlife conservation plans (1+2+3+4+5+6)=A			83.60	80.16	Balance available Rs. 3,44,00,000
7.	Health Department	Setting up of Special Medical Unit	2.58	0.00	Fund available for payment Rs. 2,58,00,000
8.	APWD	Setting up of research station/units	2.51	1.39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment released on 18.02.2025:Rs. 0.7975568 Payment released on 04.03.2025:Rs. 0.5897806 Total : <u>Rs. 1.3873374</u> Fund available for payment Rs. 1,12,26,626
Total (7+8)=B			5.09	1.39	Balance available Rs. 3,70,26,626
Grand Total (A+B)			88.69	81.55	Total Balance available Rs. 7,14,26,626