

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Core Committee on inventorization of Biodiversity resources of the Tripura JICA Project held in the Conference Hall of Aranya Bhavan at Pt. Nehru Complex, Agartala on the 30th January, 2010 at 4 P.M

The 10th meeting of the Core Committee constituted for inventorization of biodiversity resources under the Tripura JICA Project was held under its chairmanship in the Conference hall of Aranya Bhavan Agartala on the 30th January, 2010. The list of members present in the meeting is appended. There was no representative from the Zoology Department and Dishari in the meeting. The Member Secretary of the Core Committee welcomed the participants and briefed about the agenda which is convened to,

- (i) Review progress of the project component thus far
- (ii) Address issues related to financial requirement if any
- (iii) Circulate publication of the proceedings dt.25th July, 2008 of the Inception Workshop &
- (iv) Discuss problems and issues hampering progress of fieldwork (if any).

After detailed discussion, the following decisions emerged in the meeting,

- Dr B K Dutta, Principal Investigator, Department of Botany, Tripura University, informed that four sites have been completed since the last Quarterly Review Meeting. He further informed that all field personnel engaged for the Plants Inventorization exercise have been carrying out rigorous fieldwork for the last 7 days at Kalshi. He stated that progress of work is satisfactory. The only issue which concerned him most was the difficulty in identification of suitable candidate for the post of Field Assistant. Dr. Dutta further reported that all dues regarding the financial matters have been settled.
- Ms Swapna N, Research Associate, Dishari, informed that only two sites have been completed with respect to the mammals' survey, post the 1st Quarterly Review Meeting. She attributed the delay mainly to shortage of staff. She further informed that work is in progress smoothly with respect to wetland avifaunal survey and only a handful of sites remained which would be completed within the next quarter.

As far as the terrestrial avifauna survey is concerned no progress of work has however been made due to the absence of staff. In addition, she informed that an in-house meeting was convened in the office of the Chairman, Core Committee on the 4th of January, 2010. During the meeting it was brought to the notice that candidates for the mammal and bird inventorization exercise have not yet been finalized as most applicants are not willing to take up long term assignments.

In the light of this fact a decision was taken that applicants who are willing to participate even for a shorter period would be considered so that the works are carried out without any further delay. Thus more number of candidates can be taken in for shorter durations without any additional budgetary requirements. An advertisement seeking

candidates for shorter durations was accordingly placed on the website “devnetjobsindia.org” over a week ago and applications were received against this from 5 candidates from Kolkata who are willing to take up the survey of terrestrial avifauna and one candidate from Tamil Nadu who is willing to participate in the mammal inventorization exercise. The CVs received have been circulated amongst the Core Committee members for perusal and approval. The Core Committee members approved and signed the CVs individually after examination of the same.

- Research Associate, Dishari, informed that the mammal team would urgently require a camera as a personal camera being used hitherto had malfunctioned. A camera shall be purchased from the existing equipment budget sanctioned to Dishari.
- Mrs Pampa Battacharjee, Principal Investigator, College of Fisheries, informed all members that their team had completed the survey at 8 among the 10 assigned spots. The 2 spots that remained are Kurti Haur and Sattarmiar Haur, both located in North Tripura. She added that TA sanctioned to the team has been exhausted and contingency money is also exhausted. The P I reported that the team had to hire vehicles to reach spots located in remote areas, additional costs were incurred towards an awareness workshop for fishermen folk held by the team at Hurijala on the 18th Jan, 2010 and lastl the initial budgeting for this team was done with 7 sites in mind and not 10. Thus they require an additional amount of Rs 10000 towards TA to carry out fieldwork at the 2 remaining spots. It was also brought to notice that while budget for engaging PF was available for 9 months budget for field assistants was available only for 6 months and now as that period has ended an additional amount would be required towards the salary of field assistant for another month. However one field assistant would suffice instead of 2 for the completion of the remaining sites. Lastly PI informed that the result obtained from sampling during the dry season would not be appropriate and it may be better to sample at the remaining spots during the rainy season.
- Decision was taken that further surveys would not be carried out until the right season. PF shall be engaged for 8 instead of 9 months. Thus balance funds (one month salary of PF, remaining contingency money and money sanctioned towards literature) maybe utilized towards TA, contingency and holding of awareness camps. The issue can be addressed at a later point, if further shortage of funds is experienced at a later stage.
- ARPAN Society shall depute Dr. Shil who has been proposed to be engaged for socio-economic survey for an interview in the PMU on the 3rd February, 10 for eventual decision on his appointment.
- A revised ToR has been sent to Dr. S D Biju of Delhi University's for its participation but no response has been received so far. Herpetofauna inventorization can also be sought through an advertisement in the website, “devnetjobsindia.org” so that CVs of suitable candidates

could be ready in the event Delhi University declines participation in the inventorization project.

- To hasten up publications of the Project, the services of the Assistant Editor of the PMU shall be utilized and she would be requested to remain present in the meetings of the Core Committee.
- The next Quarterly Review Meeting would be held on the 19th of Feb, 2010 in the Botany Department of Tripura University and all Member Institutions are requested to remain present in the meeting with the latest information in this regard.

The meeting was concluded thanking all present.