

Operational guideline for formation and management of watershed association & watershed committee under Catchment Area Treatment Plan of Odisha

Definition of Watershed Association:

Watershed Association is an independent, formal, democratic "Watershed based community institution" comprising all inhabitants of a watershed (Microwatershed-MWS for DPR purposes) constituted for the development/management of watershed development programme.

Formation of WA:

After the initial rapport building and community sensitization process, the PIA will organize a watershed level meeting. The PIA, will mobilize community members for the formation of a WA for participating in the Project based upon the assessment of community willingness. The committee may be registered as a Society under the Society Act 1860. Every WA shall have a unique name (based on the main drainage channel, name of major village, or any other name on which all members agree).

WA Membership:

There would be three types of membership of the WA.

- I. General: All adults of the watershed are eligible to become members of the WA.
- II. Nominated: These members would be nominated by either WA General Body or by the Project Implementing Agency. Such members will not have voting right, usually people like local school teacher, representative of other NGO working in that area, local health worker, Anganwadi worker, line department officers, can be considered for such membership.
- III. *Ex-officio*: PIA or his representative will be act as ex. officio members of the WA. These members shall not have voting right.

General Body of Watershed:

General Body of watershed is called as watershed association which comprise of all the general members, nominated members, and ex-officio members.

Executive Committee:

Executive Committee of watershed association is called as Watershed Committee (WC) which shall comprises of elected representative of WA, and ex-officio / nominated members. One watershed committee will be constituted for each micro watershed area. **WC should have elected members, Ex-officio members & nominated members but in decision making process only elected members would have voting rights. However, in the meeting, views of all the members would be recorded and considered.**

The Watershed Committee (WC) will comprise of at least 10 members, half of the members shall be representatives of SHGs and User Groups, SC/ST community, women and landless persons in the

village. One member of the WMT shall also be represented in the Watershed Committee (WC). While making nominations, it may be ensured *that the Committee has at least one-third representation of women*. There should be adequate representation of members from the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes as well as landless dwellers.

The composition of WC, as follows,

President/Chairman	1	Elected/Selected in WA
Secretary	1	Elected/Selected in WA
Members	10-12	Elected/Selected in WA
-members from users group (4-5)		
-SHG representation (3-4)		
Ward members/PRI members (all villages)		Ex. officio members
Watershed Management Team member (1)		Ex. officio members
Line Department personnel/others		Nominated

The WC will be responsible to manage day-to-day activities of WA, to take decisions and implementation of such decisions as may be authorized by the GB of watershed association, and shall act as the intermediary between WA and CATP represented by the SNU/PMU. Before holding General Body Meeting for constitution of WC of Watershed Association(WA), and after constitution of watershed committee a letter of intimation should be sent to the Gram Panchayat for records and information.

One micro water shed (MWS) area might be covering more than one village, covering part or full Reserved Forests (RF) also.

Similarly, some village level organisation (VLO) with its committee for the whole village might have been also constituted and would be functioning for community development purposes. They may be Sub Committee of Gram Sabha/ Palli Sabha, Village Development Committee(VDC), Gaon Kalyan Samiti(GKS), Forest Rights Committee(FRC), Vana Surakhya Samiti (VSS), Biodiversity Heritage Committee (BHC) and others. It would be prudent to utilise the strengths and constitution of functioning committee of Village for Watershed Committee to both synergise developments with participation and to avoid proliferations of Committees to have a cohesive participation.

In the following scenario, following actions for constitution of Watershed Committee of a Watershed Association of a Microwatershed are to be guided :



VSS existing :

- (i) If Micro watershed comprises of only one village with a functional VSS, in such cases, the executive body of the VSS shall be remodelled/ reorganised to add the required number of additional members as shown below for organizational identity and orientation to act as a Watershed Committee simultaneously. Following members are to be added :
- (a) If 11 elected members of VSS in its Executive Committee do not represent User Groups of Watershed area resources including those having certain entitlements like Forest Rights/Usufruct sharing rights, Self Help Groups (SHG) with their collective action on their own resources or external resources, & landless persons, the deficient groups representatives upto 6 in number are to be added for WC.
 - (b) In case they are represented in 11 members elected to EC of VSS, it is only to be seen that WC has one third members from women.
- (ii) If Microwatershed comprises of more than one VSS and additional village, the Executive Committee(s) of VSSs shall become part of Watershed Committee in total and would jointly elect a President/ Chairman of Watershed Association and place the same in GB for approval/ ratification. Subsequent to this, they would add following members as representative of each VSS/ Village from GB meeting :
- (a) If elected members of VSSs in its Executive Committee do not represent User Groups of Watershed area resources including those having certain entitlements like Forest Rights/Usufruct sharing rights, Self Help Groups (SHG) with their collective action on their own resources or external resources, & landless persons, the deficient groups representatives upto 6 in number are to be added for WC.
 - (b) In case they are represented in 11 members elected to EC of VSS, it is only to be seen that WC has one third members from women.

Only forest existing :

- (iii) Micro watersheds having only forest area can implement the entire programme through the existing adjacent VSS (remodelled to WC as mentioned above for existing VSS) or Watershed Committee with a separate account and other books of accounts as decided by the PIA of the cluster for effective implementation. Where not feasible,

