

COMPREHENSIVE CATCHMENT AREA TREATMENT PLANS

Himachal Pradesh has a vast potential of hydro power and has identified more than 23000 MW of hydro power potential in the state. Being a clean energy source the Government of HP is making efforts to harness this vast potential. However, the promotion of hydro sector should be environmentally sustainable. To address various environmental issues arising out of construction of hydroelectric projects, Himachal Pradesh Forest Department has formulated Comprehensive Catchment Area Treatment Plans (CCPs) for all the four major river basins viz. Satluj, Ravi, Chenab and Beas in the State. Although, so far, Project specific CAT Plans have been formulated for all the Hydro-electric Projects having more than 10 MW capacity, yet, a river basin being one natural, ecological, watershed unit cannot have fragmented prescriptions. Hence adopting a holistic perspective and integrated approach is desirable. The basin level CAT Plan addresses the need of the total catchment area, in a scenario of unconstrained outlay, to make it stable in so far as the soil and moisture retention is concerned, whereas a project level CAT Plan is focused on the immediate catchment of the project. These Comprehensive and basin wide CAT Plans would emphasize on a holistic and integrated treatment of the catchments giving due recognition to different land usages and optimal utilisation of available resources as also for upliftment of livelihoods and socio-economic status of the basin as a whole. It would prioritize the micro watersheds based on the given set of indicators with erosion intensity and silt production potential having the highest weightage. The CCP-wise detail is as under:-

1. Comprehensive CAT Plan of Satluj River Basin:

The CCP of Satluj River basin covers an area of 20000 KM² upstream of Koldam. The treatment plan has been prepared after detailed analysis of the current situation of the catchment. It envisages an expenditure of Rs. 1440 crore on various treatment measures, over a period of ten years, to reduce the silt load in the streams catering to these projects and bring the ecology of the catchment on a sound footing.

2. Comprehensive CAT Plan of Chenab River Basin:

The CCP of Chenab river basin covers an area of 7878.97 KM² from the origin of Chenab River in HP to the confluence of Sansari Nala with Chenab at the border of HP and J&K. The length of river in HP is 260 KMs. The CCP stands finalized. It covers 172 micro watersheds and its total cost is Rs. 458.22 crore.

3. Comprehensive CAT Plan of Ravi River Basin:

The CCP of Ravi river basin covers an area of 5450 KM² in Himachal Pradesh. The CCP stands finalized. It covers 256 micro watersheds and its total cost is Rs. 748 crore, against which the anticipated availability of funds over the next 10 years has been estimated to be Rs. 446.17 crore. There is a gap of Rs. 302 crore between the cost of CCP and the availability of funds, which the department would endeavour to meet up by tapping other funding sources.

4. Comprehensive CAT Plan of Beas River Basin:

The CCP of Beas river basin covers area from the origin of Beas river in HP upto Pandoh Dam. It covers 222 micro watersheds. The CCP is under the process of finalization and is expected to be finalized shortly.