

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 110003,
Dated:27-01-2026

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Karnataka,
Bengaluru.

Sub: Proposal for ex-post facto approval for diversion of 96.868 hectare of forest land outside Mining Lease area (M.L. No.2396) of Donimlalai (DM) Block Forest (Near Narsinghap Village) in favour of Executive Director, M/s NMDC Limited, Donimalai Township, Sandur Taluk, Ballari, Karnataka. (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/Others/17464/2016) –reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. No.FEE 71 FFM 2022 (e) dated 07.11.2022 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal by the Advisory Committee, constituted under Section-3 of the said Adhinyam, '*in-principle*' approval to the proposal under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 was accorded vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 21.11.2023 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the '*in-principle*' approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter No. FEE 71 FFM 2022 (e) dated 11.11.2025, final approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, for ex-post facto approval for diversion of 96.868 hectare of forest land outside Mining Lease area (M.L. No.2396) of Donimlalai (DM) Block Forest (Near Narsinghap Village) in favour of Executive Director, M/s NMDC Limited, Donimalai Township, Sandur Taluk, Ballari, Karnataka, subject to following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The State Gov. Shall ensure that the identified non-forest land of 235.648 ha which has already been transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department, will be notified as PF under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act. 1927 or under the relevant Section (s) of the local Forest Act, as the case may be, before handing over the forest land to the UA;
- iii. The State Government shall ensure that compensatory afforestation shall be raised over 96.868 ha of degraded forest land being diverted within three

years from the date of issue of Stage –II approval and maintained thereafter as per approved plan by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency.

- iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the identified CA land, shall be done from the funds already deposited with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
- v. The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- vi. The State Government shall ensure the implementation of the protection and management plan which have already been prepared w.r.t 138.778 Ha of interlocked forest land from the funds already deposited by User Agency;
- vii. Considering the fragmented nature of the interlocked forest area (i.e., 138.778 Ha) and vulnerability of the forest from incidence of forest fires, M/s NMDC shall be involved in the fire management in these forest patches during summer season. The protection and management of these interlocked forest patches will primarily be done by the forest department with the assistance of M/s. NMDC Limited whenever required;
- viii. The State Govt. shall ensure the implementations of Integrated Wildlife Management plan, in the surrounding of the forest area proposed for diversion from the funds already provided by the user agency.
- ix. The State Government shall ensure that details of the finalized WLMP, SMC Plan and disposition of monies, payment of deficit amount, etc. shall be approved by the competent authority and concurred by the concerned IRO of the Ministry within a period of one year from the date of deposit of the said amount.
- x. State Government shall ensure that under no circumstances, implementation of such mitigating measures envisaged in WLMP should be delayed beyond a period of 2 years from the date of issue of final approval under the Adhinyam to ensure commencement of rejuvenation of ecosystem services lost from the forest area allowed for non-forestry use of forest land at the earliest possible time.
- xi. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- xii. Compensatory levies for this project, if any, to be realized in future from the User Agency, shall be deposited to into the account of CAMPA of the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in>);
- xiii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure that trees should be felled in phased manner as per requirement in the approved Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;
- xxi. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have

- been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
- xxii. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;
 - xxiii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
 - xxiv. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
 - xxv. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;
 - xxvi. The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
 - xxvii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
 - xxviii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
 - xxix. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigation measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding areas;
 - xxx. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, with the approval of competent authority, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
 - xxxi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and this Ministry by the end of March every year;
 - xxxii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'Stage-I/In-principle' approval letter of even no. dated 21.11.2023 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, for the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006, before handing over the forest land to the user agency;
 - xxxiii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para

1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC (Pt.) dated 29.12.2023;

- xxxiv. The State Govt. after receiving the '*Final approval*' of the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and after fulfillment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion of forest land.

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
2. DDGF (Central), Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bengaluru.
3. PCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Divisions, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.