

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
JorBagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 1100 03,
Dated: 10th February, 2020

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forests and Environment,
Government of Gujarat,
Gandhinagar

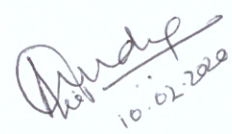
Sub: Diversion of 632.24 ha of forest land (429.90 ha Reserved Forest land in Rajkot District + 202.34 Reserved Forest land in Surendranagar District) for Development of Greenfield Airport at Rajkot in favour of Director of Civil Aviation, Government of Gujarat.-regarding.

Sir,

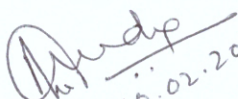
I am directed to refer to the State Government of Gujarat's letter No.FCA-1017/10-30/17/S.F-97/F dated 13th July, 2017 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the said Act, '*in-principle*' /*Stage -I* approval to the proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 19.09.2017 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.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government of Gujarat, vide their letter No. FCA-1017/10-30/17/S.F-97/F dated 01.08.2019, letter No.FCA/29-C/A/493-94/2019-20 dated 27.08.2019, letter No. FCA/T.29/C/A/800-01/2019-20 dated 16.12.2019 and letter no. FCA/29-C/A/959/2019-20 dated 06.02.2020, '**final approval**' (*Stage - 2*) of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section -2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 632.24 ha of forest land (429.90 ha Reserved Forest land in Rajkot District + 202.34 Reserved Forest land in Surendranagar District) for Development of Greenfield Airport at Rajkot in favour of Director of Civil Aviation, Government of Gujarat, subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. **The State Government shall ensure that no forest land is used for raising compensatory afforestation in lieu of non forestry use of forest land in this proposal.**
- iii. The State Government shall ensure that the minimum number of trees/plants/poles in any case not more than 2180 will be removed and the trees should be felled under

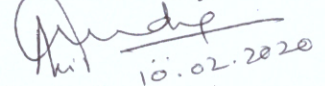

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- the strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- iv. The proposed forest land i.e. **632.24** ha. shall be handed over to the user agency only after, the required non-forest land for the project is acquired by the user agency;
 - v. The Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over **632.24** ha. non-forest land (367.08 ha. land in village-Kunathiya, Tehsil Abdasa District Kutch and 273.8774 ha. land in village-Bhachunda, Tehsil Abdasa District Kutch of Gujarat) at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species shall be avoided;
 - vi. The State Government shall declare non-forest land into RF under Section-4 or PF under Section-20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the local Forest Act, before the final approval of the proposal by the State Government;
 - vii. The State Government shall ensure that the forest land will be used for development of Airport and related ancillary activities only;
 - viii. 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;
 - ix. The State Govt. shall ensure that the Forest Clearance will be for a period specified in the lease agreement;
 - x. The user agency will abide by the applicable recommendations of the State Government including State Forest / Wildlife Departments;
 - xi. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency will protect and conserve the proposed diverted forest area, which is not in operational use, by way of plantation in blanks;
 - xii. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency take necessary measures to prevent fire hazards, fire extinguishers shall be provided as per the recommended scale during drilling and work-over operations;
 - xiii. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency prepare emergency response plan for effective implementation of fire prevention and protection. Persons employed shall be trained in the use of fire extinguishers. Regular fire drills shall be held for this purpose;
 - xiv. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency in consultation with the State Government will create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avi fauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Birds' nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
 - xv. Wherever possible and technically feasible, the User Agency shall implement afforestation measures along the roads within the area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost;
 - xvi. The State Government shall ensure that the assessment and settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act of all villages located in the vicinity with the details of alternate to be adopted shall be done within one year issue of Stage-II approval;
 - xvii. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector, before issue of final approval by the State Government;
 - xviii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the CA land shall be free from all seasonal and temporary encroachment and same shall be mutated in favour of forest department prior to Stage-II;
 - xix. The User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
 - xx. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;


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- xxi.No labour camps shall be set up inside the forest area. Labour management plan should be implement with emphasis that no labour camp be set up in the close vicinity of the eco-fragile and sensitive areas;
- xxii.Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xxiii.The State Government shall ensure that no commercial activities such as shopping mall, hotels, recreational centers etc. will be constructed. The forest land will be used exclusively for the purpose of operation of the airport as per the plan approved by the competent authority;
- xxiv.The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xxv.No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused;
- xxvi.The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xxvii.The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
- xxviii.The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
- xxix.The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.21 of comprehensive guidelines issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28th March, 2019;
- xxx.Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency;
- xxxi.The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval 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, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

Yours faithfully,



(Brijendra Swaroop)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservation of Forests & HoFF, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.
2. The Dy. Director General (Central), Regional Office (Western Zone), Bhopal.
3. The Nodal Officer, FCA O/o the PCCF, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF& CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.