

MOST URGENT/ TOP PRIORITY

GSIDC/Engg/Works/854/ 6387

22nd February 2021

To

The Dy. Conservator of Forest

Monitoring & Evaluation, Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
"Goa Van Bhawan", Forest Department,
Altinho, Panaji, Goa

Sir,

Sub *Request for grant of Final Approval (Stage -II) clearance for diversion of forest land for "Design and construction of bridge connecting Keri to Tiracol over river Tiracol including approaches in Tiracol Village of Pernem Taluka*

Ref: 1) Letter bearing no. 6-829-2020-21-FD/5475 dated 11th February 2021

Vide your letter cited at reference (1), above, you have forwarded letter dated 1st February 2021 received from the Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore. After going through the content of the said letter, the necessary clarification is furnished below:

1. The Order dated 26/02/2018 with respect to Writ Petition No. 121 of 2017 was passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa, when the construction of Bridge had already stopped based on the Order of Hon'ble NGT at that time.
2. Subsequently, the Hon'ble NGT vide Order dated 22/01/2020 has disposed the original application no. 33/2015(WZ) with a direction that the construction of Tiracol bridge may proceed after taking all due precautions in accordance with Law, particularly all the observations and recommendations of the NIOT. The said order of Hon'ble NGT is enclosed with this letter for your information. Hence it is clarified that the Hon'ble NGT has not passed any subsequent order after 22/01/2020 pertaining to stoppage of work.

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In view of the details furnished above, it is kindly requested to forward the same to the Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central) for grant of Stage -II (Final) Forest Clearance at the earliest.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully,



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(Harish Adconkar)
Managing Director

Encl: As above

Copy to:

1. **The Dy Conservator of Forests,
North Goa Division, Ponda - Goa**

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
(Through Video Conferencing)**

Original Application No. 33/2015 (WZ)

Goa Foundation

Applicant(s)

Versus

Goa State Environment Impact
Assessment Authority & Ors

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 22.01.2020

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.P. WANGDI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE MR. SIDDHANTA DAS, EXPERT MEMBER

Applicant(s): Ms. Swayamprabha holding for Mrs. Supriya
Dangare, Advocate for Applicant.

Respondent(s): Ms. Ruchira Gupta, Advocate for R-3
Mr. Milind M. Mahajan, Advocate for
Respondent No. 6

ORDER

1. This application challenges construction of Tiracol Bridge partly being erected on Querim beach in Goa on the ground that there is violation of CRZ Notification which requires prior approval of the MoEF&CC/SEIAA. According to the applicant, construction is in No Development Zones (NDZ) and no mitigation measures have been taken against possible adverse consequences on fishing.

2. Considering the above grievance, this Tribunal vide order dated 17.04.2015 sought response from concerned authorities and directed *status quo* as a result of which the construction has remained stopped. The Tribunal also

sought an expert report in the matter from National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai (NIOT).

3. Accordingly, report was filed by NIOT on 08.02.2016. However, the same is being considered today on account of repeated adjournments at the instance of one or the other party. Even today, adjournment is sought which is declined.
4. In substance, the report is that during construction mitigation measures need to be taken. The observations and recommendations are as follows:-

“Observations”

The analysis of long term data with satellite imageries indicate that pillar 6 is normally submerged in sandpit due to natural processes. However, occasionally there could be exposure of pillar 6 due to high fresh water discharge from the catchment.

The maximum anticipated depth at bridge pillar 6 is 0.8 m which may occur during high river discharge. The simulations were conducted to this worst case scenario for fair weather and monsoon conditions. Under the above condition, the effective area of obstruction at pillar no. 6 is 3.84 sq.m against the total cross sectional area channel 900 sq.m, which is not significant.

The simulation studies indicate no significant accretion during monsoon season. But during fair weather from October to April, an accretion of 10 to 20 m is noticed around the pillar location. The flow simulation with this condition indicates no significant changes in the water exchange between estuary and Open Ocean.

Recommendations

- *Increase in the elevation of pile cap by 1m above high flood level to allow natural movement of the sand.*
- *Monitoring of the morphological changes of sand spit at the bridge pillar no. 6 at closed internal to study the seasonal and long term variability.*
- *Monitoring the shoreline changes up to 2km on either side of the pillar no. 6, both in open coast as well as estuary.”*

5. Having regard to the fact that Tiracol Bridge may be a matter of public utility and the same can be constructed without any adverse damage to the environment, there is no justification to stop the same in absence of any illegality being shown.
6. Accordingly, we dispose of this application with a direction that the construction of Tiracol Bridge may proceed after taking all due precautions in accordance with law, particularly all the observation and recommendations of the NIOT.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

S.P. Wangdi, JM

Siddhanta Das, EM

January 22, 2020
O.A. No. 33/2015 (WZ)
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