



भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS
& CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office
Ground Floor, East Wing
New Secretariat Building
Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001
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F.No. FC-I/MH-227/2021-NGP / 9173

Date: 19th January, 2022

✓ To,

The Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
HutatmaRajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Marg
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400032.

Sub: Diversion of 0.9286 ha of Forest land in favour of CIDCO for construction of Rope Suspension Bridge (Skywalk) connecting Hurricane Point and Goreghat point at Chikhaldara Hill Station Municipal Council, Taluka- Chikhaldara, District- Amaravati in the state of Maharashtra - regarding.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-2021/CR-39/F-10 dated 15.03.2021 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra letter No. Desk-17/NC/II/ID-509/2020-21 dated 18.09.2020 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/Amravati/ID-12708(38)/2022/2021-22 dated 11.01.2022 forwarding additional information as sought by this Office vide letter of even number dated 15.06.2021 and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Regional Office (WCZ) in light of relevant provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Guidelines issued there under.

After careful examination of the proposal and on the basis of the recommendation of State Government, Maharashtra, the Central Government hereby accords '**in-principle**' approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.9286 ha of Forest land in favour of CIDCO for construction of Rope Suspension Bridge (Skywalk) connecting Hurricane Point and Goreghat point at Chikhaldara Hill Station Municipal Council, Taluka- Chikhaldara, District- Amaravati in the state of Maharashtra subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. **Compensatory afforestation:**
 - a. Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 1 ha degraded Forest Land in Compt no. 28 at Village – Lawada, Tehsil- Gaganbawada, Dist- Amravati at the cost of the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species along with 10% RET species of Amravati District shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. At least one water body shall be constructed in the form of tank/ stop dams etc if the same are not available in the area or in nearby vicinity;
- iii. The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;

iv. **NPV:**

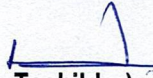
- a. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the 0.9286 ha. forest area to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30/10/2002, 01/08/2003, 28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No. 5-1/1998-FC (Pt.II) dated 18/09/2003, as well as letter No. 5-2/2006-FC dated 03/10/2006 and 5-3/2007-FC dated 05/02/2009 in this regard;
- b. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
- v. The site specific wildlife management plan as submitted to IRO, Nagpur shall be implemented and an amount of 48,60,000/- INR shall be deposited in the account of CAMPA for same;
- vi. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- vii. All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through **e-portal** (<https://parivesh.nic.in>);
- viii. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector. The original certificate issued by District Collector, Amravati shall be submitted with documentary evidences in the form of copies of the resolutions of the concerned Forest Rights Committee(s), Gram Sabha(s), proceedings of Sub-Division Level Committee(s) and District Level Committee;
- ix. The User Agency shall obtain the Wildlife Clearance from SBWL/NBWL and User Agency in consultation with the State Government shall ensure strict compliance of recommendation of SBWL/NBWL at the project cost;
- x. To improve the Forest/ Tree cover and to reduce pollution, as mandated in National Forest Policy, 1988 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 respectively, the User Agency shall develop a separate nursery at one or more places to raise at least 2,000 seedlings of forestry species along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local for 10 years. At least 50% of seedlings shall be planted by User Agency in the vicinity of project area including forest area and for hand holding with local people residing in vicinity of proposed area, User Agency shall voluntary distribute remaining 50% of seedlings as per choice of villagers free of cost. A compliance report including species wise details of seedlings raised, location of plantation area and details of villagers whom seedlings have been distributed need to be prepared every six month and submitted to Regional Office of MoEF&CC;
- xi. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
- xii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xiii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xiv. 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;
- xv. 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;
- xvi. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xvii. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;

- xviii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xix. 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;
- xx. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018;
- xxi. 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;
- xxii. *The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).*

After receipt of a report on the compliance of conditions no iii, iv (a), v, vii, viii and undertakings, duly authenticated by the competent authority in the State Government, in respect of all other conditions, from the State Government, formal approval will be considered in this regard under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

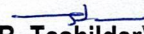
This issues with the approval of DDGF (Central)/ RO, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,


(C.B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)

Copy to:

- i. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- ii. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iii. User agency.
- iv. Guard file.


(C.B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)