



**ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE  
& FOREST(FR.10) DEPARTMENT,  
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI 9.**

**Letter No: 6324/FR10./2022- 1, dated.04.05.2022**

From  
Tmt.Supriya Sahu, IAS.,  
Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

To

✓ The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central),  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Integrated Regional Office,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Additional Office Block for GPOA,  
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 006. (w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Mudumalai Tiger Reserve / Nilgiris Forest Division –Diversion of 0.33 ha of forest land in Arambbi Reserved Forests for formation of road to combined court complex at Udagamandalam in Nilgiris District in favour of District Court, Udagamandalam, The Nilgiris District – Regarding

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, letter No.TS3/49400/2020, dated.11.04.2022.

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In the reference cited, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that the CAO, District Court, Udagamandalam, The Nilgiris District has uploaded online forest clearance proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.33 ha of forest land in Arambbi Reserved Forests for formation of road to combined court complex at Udagamandalam in Nilgiris District.

2. In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer, Nilgiris Forest Division has furnished the following particulars:-

- i. The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.33 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forest area.
- ii. Name of the forest land is "Aramby Addition II Reserved Forests" and extent of area proposed for diversion is 0.33 ha
- iii. Density of the forest area is 0.15 and Eco class of forest area is One.
- iv. Species-wise girth-class wise enumeration of trees, 69 trees (pine) are available in the proposed forest diversion area.

3. In the site inspection report, District Forest Officer, Nilgiris Forest Division has furnished the following particulars:-

- i. It was reported that 69 Pinus trees standing on the proposed area, which were planted by Research Range of Forest Genetics Division of Coimbatore Circle

- during the year 1968. There is no spontaneous tree growth in the proposed site.
- ii. The above area is under the control of Nilgiris Forest Division, hence No Objection Certificate from the Forest Genetics Division of Coimbatore is not required.
  - iii. On vulnerability of the forest land to erosion, slope grading of the site in question is less than 33%, therefore forest area will not be affected by the soil erosion..
  - iv. The entire Nilgiris Forest Division is coming under Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, but there would be no negative impact anticipated in lieu of this project kind of impact.
  - v. Forest area proposed for diversion is not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion
  - vi. Black napped hare, wild boar, sambar deer, grey mongoose are present in and around the forest area proposed for diversion. There is no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
  - vii. There is no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument located in the area.
  - viii. Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out.
  - ix. Proposed forest diversion area is 0.33 ha and 69 standing trees available in the area has to be removed.

4. The District Forest Officer, Nilgiris Forest Division has proposed compensatory afforestation scheme for planting 10 times of trees to be cut in the project area by planting of 690 saplings in 3.07 ha of degraded forest area identified in the Wenlockdown RF. Land suitability certificate for the CA scheme has also obtained. Compensatory Afforestation scheme cost estimate for the project proposal is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Description	Amount (in Rs)
1	Compensatory Afforestation scheme cost for planting of 690 saplings with 10 year maintenance	13,42,503
2	Providing chain link fence around the plantation area to peripheral boundary of 756m	21,91,000
3	Providing RCC compound wall around the Aramby RF to a length of 250m	21,04,000
	Grand total	56,37,503

5. The District Forest Officer, Nilgiris Forest Division has proposed providing chain link fencing around the plantation area to peripheral boundary of 756m and reported that providing chain link fence around the plantation area of degraded forest land measuring 3.07 ha over an length of 760 meters with the height of 1.80 meters is highly essential to protect the saplings from wild animals like Indian Guar, Wild boar, Sambar deer, Barking deer etc., The Chain link fence will be removed after the saplings grow more than 3 meters height. In the proposed forest diversion area, it has proposed for RCC compound wall around the Aramby RF to a length of 250 meters to protect the forest area from trespassing and protection.



6. The District Forest Officer, Nilgiris Forest Division has reported that location of the forest land proposed for carry out compensatory afforestation scheme in kml file of google earth, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of forest land, Scanned copy of Geo referenced location details and GPS co-ordinates of the proposed CA area have been uploaded and CA scheme has been proposed in Wenlockdown Reserved Forest.

7. In the site inspection report of the project proposal, the District Forest Officer, Nilgiris Forest Division has reported the following:-

- a. The area of the proposed project has been inspected on 21.09.2021. The proposed project forming an access road on the eastern boundary of the combined court complex at Udagamandalam through the forest land for a length of 220m and width of 15m over an extent of 0.3298 ha in Old SF No 37/15/2 New T.S No. A/9/9 of Udagamandalam West, Udagamandalam Taluk of Aramby Addition II Reserved Forest.
- b. During the field inspection, observed that 69 pinus trees standing in the proposed area which were planted by Research Range of Forest Genetics Division of Coimbatore Circle during the year 1968. There is no spontaneous tree growth in the proposed site. Small wild animals like wild boar, Black napped hare, grey mongoose etc movement is recorded in the proposed area. The proposed project have minimal disturbance to wildlife since proposed road will be adjoining to new court complex. However necessary precautions shall be taken to minimize the disturbance to wildlife and prevent human-wildlife conflict.

8. In the recommendation of the project proposal, the District Forest Officer, Nilgiris Forest Division has proposed certain conditions for the timely execution of project and safe guard the forest areas.

9. The Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle has reported that, the project area is less than 40 ha and hence the need of inspection of area does not arise.

10. In the recommendation of the project, the Conservator of Forests has reported that, the project site is situated within the Aramby RF. The proposed area to combined court complex at Kakkathope, Udagamandalam is a vital requirement for the general public and staff working in the Court. The project will have very minimum negative impact on forest and wildlife. There is no other alternative non-forest land is available for this project. The forest land of 0.33 ha required for this project is the bare minimum. Hence the proposal recommended subject to the conditions stipulated by the District Forest Officer in his recommendation.

11. The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of NIL years. The District Forest Officer, Nilgiris Forest Division has not specified the time frame for forest area diversion. However, the Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle has recommended the forest area diversion period for a period of twenty year. Normally forest area diversion proposals are recommended for a period of 20 years for the road diversion proposals. Based on the recommendation made by the Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle, diversion of forest area for formation of access road to Combined Court complex at Udagamandalam through Aramby RF is recommended for a period of 20 years.

12. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that as per the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi letter in File No.7-2/2021-ROHQ(Pt), dated 22.012.2021, physical copies (hard copies) of



the documents of the proposal or related document thereof, need not be insisted for processing the proposal, henceforth. Hence the forest clearance proposal has been forwarded to the Government through web portal.

13. The proposal is also recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest (Conservation) Act / Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

14. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has also stated that, State Government has been empowered to accord General approval for diversion of forest area for the development of critical public utility and welfare projects undertaken by the Government such as Construction/widening of roads including approach road to roadside establishments, Drinking water, etc., subject to the following conditions:-

- (a) Area not more than one hectare, in each case.
- (b) The area shall not involve felling of more than 50 trees per/ha. In case the area to be diverted is less than 1 ha, then permissible tree felling limit, within the area to be diverted, shall be worked out proportionately. In any case, if the number of trees to be felled is less than 10, irrespective of the area to be diverted, within the limit of 1 ha, general approval will be applicable.

15. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has further stated that, in this proposal, forest area involved for the project is 0.33 ha and felling of trees involved is 69 trees. Based on the guidelines stated at para 17 (b) above the approval of this proposal has to be obtained from the Government of India.

16. Based on the recommendation of the District Forest Officer, Nilgiris Forest Division, the Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle and the Nodal Officer (FCA), the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the proposal for diversion of 0.33 ha of forest land in Arambi Reserved Forests for formation of road to combined court complex at Udagamandalam in Nilgiris District in favour of CAO, District Court, Udagamandalam, The Nilgiris District for a period of 20 years under section 2 of F(C) Act 1980 subject to the following conditions and requested to forward the same to Government of India for obtaining the concurrence.

- a) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.
- b) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at their cost.
- c) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards Compensatory afforestation scheme including protection and maintenance of plantation area and cost towards protection measures of the proposed forest diversion area as proposed by the District Forest Officer.
- d) The User Agency has to pay the amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- e) The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.
- f) Amount towards Compensatory afforestation scheme including protection and maintenance of plantation, Protection measures of proposed forest diversion

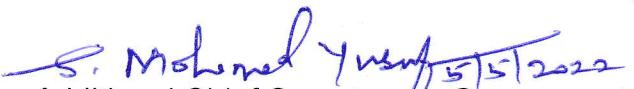
area, Net Present Value of forest area under the project shall be transferred / deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)

- g) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards annual lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.
- h) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 0.33 ha comprising the forest area to a length of 220m and 15.00m width.
- i) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under any circumstances be transferred to any other agencies/department or person without prior approval.
- j) Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forests and wildlife.
- k) Period of lease can be twenty (20) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

17. The Government after careful examination have decided to accept the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for diversion of 0.33 ha of forest land in Arambi Reserved Forests for formation of road to combined court complex at Udagamandalam in Nilgiris District in favour of CAO, District Court, Udagamandalam, The Nilgiris District for a period of 20 years under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to forward the same to Government of India for concurrence.

18. I am, therefore to request you to kindly obtain the concurrence of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and communicate the same to this Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

  
for Additional Chief Secretary to Government

Copy to:-

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
(Head Forest Force)  
Chennai- 15.

The CAO, District Court, Udagamandalam,  
The Nilgiris District.



**PART – V**

(To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

Proposal for diversion of 0.33 ha of forest land in Arambi Reserved Forests Mudumalai Tiger Reserve / Nilgiris Forest Division for formation of road to combined court complex at Udagamandalam in Nilgiris District in favour of District Court, Udagamandalam, The Nilgiris District for a period of 20 years under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

18. Recommendation of the State Government

*Recommended*

(Adverse comments made by any officer or authority in Part-B or Part – C or Part – D above should be specifically commented upon)

Date : *05*.05.2022

Place : Chennai-9.

*P. Balakrishnan*  
Signature *05/05/2022*

Name & Designation  
(Official Seal)

**Deputy Secretary to Government  
Environment, Climate Change  
and Forest Department  
Secretariat, Chennai - 9.**