



भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण ,वनएवंजलवायुपरिवर्तनमंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE
CHANGE



Integrated Regional Office,
1st & 2nd floor, HEPC Building, No.34, Cathedral Garden
Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034, Tel.No.044-2822
2325

E.Mail: roefccc@gmail.com

F.No.4-TNB011/2017-CHN/

Date 30th July, 2021

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To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment & Forests Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.

**Subject: Diversion of 0.88 ha of forest land in Tirunelveli Circle /
Kanniyakumari Forest Division for four laning of NH-47 B Nagercoil
to Kavalkinaru in favour of Project Director, NHAI PIU,
Kanniyakumari -Reg**

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No.21555/FR.10/2016-5 dated 13.03.2017 and online proposal No. FP/TN/ROAD/9818/2015, seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project. The project was accorded in-principle approval (Stage-I) by the Central Government vide letter of even number dated 20.07.2016. The State Government vide letter No. 21555/FR.10/2016-17 dated 01.02.2019, 04.05.2021 has reported compliance to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's approval (*Stage-II*) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.88 ha of forest land in Tirunelveli Circle / Kanniyakumari Forest Division for four laning of NH-47 B Nagercoil to Kavalkinaru in favour of the Project Director, NHAI PIU, Kanniyakumari for a period of 20 years, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) As recommended by the Standing Committee of NBWL, the State Forest Department shall carry out plantation and maintenance of **100 saplings (indigenous species)** for every tree to be felled in the diverted forest area at the cost of the user agency in the degraded forest area. **The details of the degraded forest area i.e. map along with DGPS co-ordinates of the exact location where in plantation to be carried out shall be furnished within three months from the date of issuing of Stage II approval without fail.**

(iii) The Project Proponent shall contribute under Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) in the interest of Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary and for improving local livelihood and social development;

(iv) Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from User Agency;

(v) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;

(vi) The user agency shall provide fire wood preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling;

(vii) Disturbance shall be kept minimum by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it shall be the responsibility of the user agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;

(viii) The UA shall construct retaining walls and check walls wherever required by consulting the DFO concerned, at the project cost;

(ix) The construction of culverts/bridges, if any, over the natural streams/rivers/canals shall be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise to water-logging, and also does not hamper movement of wild animals;

(x) The user agency shall raise Strip/ Avenue plantations on both sides and at the central verge of the road at the project cost with maintenance of 7-10 years;

(xi) The User Agency shall endeavor to avoid felling of trees as far as possible that exists on the forest land proposed to be utilized. Wherever necessary, the trees shall be felled only under the strict supervision of the DFO concerned;

(xii) Wherever feasible the State Forest Department shall carry out translocation of trees at the cost of user agency;

(xiii) Roadside cuttings and fillings which require engineering support shall be provided as per the instructions of the DFO concerned so as to stabilize the soil;

(xiv) The dug out material / overburden shall be dumped outside the forest area. No storage of any material shall be done in the forest area proposed;

- (xv) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- (xvi) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **0.88 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
- (xvii) State Government and the user agency shall implement mitigation measures and other conditions as recommended by the Standing Committee of NBWL vide Ministry's letter No. 6-26/2018/WL dated 19.04.2018 at the project cost;
- (xviii) The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xix) User agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- (xx) Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer (Central) Integrated Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency;
- (xxi) The Progress of the Compensatory Afforestation under the jurisdiction of the Kanyakumari Forest Division shall be monitored by the Circle Head and a copy of such monitoring report shall be forwarded to the Integrated Regional Office;
- (xxii) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the user agency is liable for penal action as provisions of rules /guidelines made under FCA, 1980.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015.

2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015
3. The Project Director, PIU, National Highway Authority of India, Nagercoil 314E, K.P. Road, Parvathipuram, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu- 629003
4. Guard File.

Sd/-
(K.Karthikeyan)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by
KARTHIKEYAN K

Date: 2021.07.30 14:47:02 IST