

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Gaya Forest Division, Gaya, BiharSite Inspection report of DCFInspection Date :-15.03.2020

The Proposed project area is passing through protected Forest area of Tetar Panchayat of Wazirganj Block and a separate segment in the hills of Abgila near Gaya town. The proposed area has been notified as Protected Forest for management purpose by Environment and Forest Department, Government of Bihar vide Notifications as mentioned below. Actual area proposed for diversion in the project is **98.05 Ha.** which has been visited by the undersigned along with survey team and verified the facts in proposed site. The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and barest minimum of the project.

The details of Forest Land involved in construction of reservoir are as follows:-

Sl.No.	Range	Location	Nature of land	Notification No.	Area (Ha)
1	Atri	Tetar	Protected Forest	C/PF 10148/52-25R Dated 02.01.1953	35.71
2	Atri	Bikaipur	Protected Forest	C/F 170/54-3412R Dated 09.08.1954	52.43
Total Area					88.14

The details of Forest Land involved in construction of Water Treatment Plant are as follows:-

Sl.No.	Range	Location	Nature of land	Notification No.	Area (Ha)
1	Gaya	Pehani	Pahad (पहाड़)	-	3.38
2	Gaya	Abgila	Protected Forest	C/F 170/54-3409R Dated 09.08.1954	6.53
Total Area					9.91

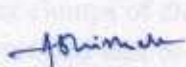
- The proposed location in Tetar and Bikaipur village, Block-Mohra, Range-Atri involves diversion of **88.14 Ha.** of Protected Forest for the construction of reservoir as part of Ganga Water Lift Scheme in a bid to provide drinking water to the water scarce cities of Rajgir, Gaya and Bodh Gaya which are prominent tourist places with high footfalls and high density of resident population and experience acute drinking water shortage in the months from April to July. There is presence of high density clumps of *Dendrocalamus Strictus* (Lathi Bans) on the hill slopes in the northern aspect and less density on other slopes. There is presence of Sal, Ken, Parmi and Palmyra species scattered along the foothills and valley area in the proposed site. In some of the places the weeds and grass and few miscellaneous shrubs are also present.

The second segments to be constructed in Abgila primarily for Water Treatment Plant has been selected due to the availability of pit of about 25 meters left over by stone excavation in this area. Also, being close to the city of Gaya it is ideal for Water Treatment Plant. There is presence of *Cassia Fistula* (Amaltas) and few trees of

Acacia Spp. Sheesham, Khair and Chakundi. The undergrowth is negligible due to rocky terrain and very poor soil depth.

These parts of the protected forest are the major area proposed for diversion to complete the project. This is bare minimum forest area required to construct the reservoir for Ganga Water Lift Scheme and Water Treatment Plant for Supply to the parched cities of Rajgir, Gaya and Bodh Gaya.

- Density of vegetation is approximately 0.2 based on ISFR 2019 report of FSI. It has been used for calculation of NPV purpose. Tree enumeration list has been verified and annexed as annexure-II
- 98.05 Hectares of protected forest area is proposed for diversion which is minimum requirement to execute the scheme.
- Generally the project area is vulnerable to **medium to high soil erosion** due to intrinsic geological features of the substrate during rainy season. Hence, any **soil work on the hills and along its ridges may lead to cascading landslide** along the hills slope which would destroy the dense vegetation of *Dendrocalamus Strictus* (Lathi Bans) and other miscellaneous species.
- The proposed project area is only notified Protected Forest and does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. and is approximately 21 Km. from nearest Rajgir Sanctuary.
- Nilgai is found naturally and freely distributed across the Gaya district in the farm lands. Animals like Jackal, Hare, Common Langur etc are found in the adjoining forest areas. Apart from that, local birds are abundant in the area. The undersigned is of the opinion that the instant proposed project will in no way affect the distribution or movement of any wild animal found in the areas where it is found.
- As per field inspection and information provided by the user agency, there is no record of any protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monument located in the area of the proposed project.
- The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in Col. No. 2 of Part - I is unavoidable and barest minimum of the project and is the only viable option due to natural barriers on three sides. **It will also lead to improved water regime in the nearby areas benefiting the adjoining forests, wild animals and people living in and around the forest areas.**
- The User Agency has not violated the prescribed provisions of the Forest conservation Act and Indian Forest Act at the time of inspection.


(Abhishek Kumar)
Deputy Conservator of Forest
Gaya Forest Division, Gaya