Inspection Note of SHRAWAN KUMAR VERMA IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, Kannur Dated 23.01.2018

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Journey from Kannur to Kanhangad Range and from there further journey, along with DFO Kasargod to Ranipuram Eco-centre. Started trekking from Eco-centre and trekked along with the Karnataka State Boundary and then toward the wireless station and Ranipuram Peak. Then trekked from Ranipuram Peak to NA Plantation EFL area and to the Achampara Road. Inspected the proposed road area for which, application was given by the Secretary, Panathady Grama Panchayath for seeking permission under Section 2 of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 connect tribal colony. There are around 20 Scheduled Tribe (ST) families staying in the area and the road will pass through Achampara Vested Forest of Kanhangad Range of Kasaragod Division. The total length of the Road is 64 M and 5 M width (Total area 0.0324 ha). This area is having one Nelli tree (Embelica) (55 cm GBH and 5m height), one Cashew Tree *(50 cm GBH and height 2.5 m), one Koonan Pala (58 cm GBH and 4m height) and one Bamboo containing 26 culms which has to be removed for constructing the road. This does not involve removal of any endangered species of flora and fauna. The forest land on either side consists of trees like Teak, Irul, Maruth, Bamboo and other species. The proposed area is linear stretch of Achampara Vested Forest. During inspection it was noticed that the boundary consolidation seen to be completed and cairns were seen intact along the boundary.

The requirement of forest land proposed for the road is necessary and is the bare minimum for construction to connect the tribal hamlet. As the user communities belong to scheduled tribe and they are residing on Revenue land and not on Forest land which does not fall under Forest Rights Act., 2006. Since it's not under Forest Rights Act, so it has to be diverted under Forest Conservation Act, 1980. In the view of the difficulty faced by the tribal, families and only 60 m through forest area. So it is recommended for clearance under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

RAWAN KUMAR VERMA, IFS Chief Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, Kannur