

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
(HEAD OF FOREST FORCE), MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR
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Sub:- Proposal for the diversion of 46.06 ha. reserved forest under section 2 (ii) of the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for disforestation of forest land Village Bopegaon Tal. Wai, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Deur, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara in Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Maharashtra.

No. : Desk-17/Nodal/Kolhapur/ID-12922(28)/2591/2021-22
Nagpur - 440 001, Dated - 3/03/2022

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralya, Mumbai - 400032

The proposal is for diversion of 46.06 ha. reserved forest under section 2 (ii) of the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for disforestation of forest land Village Bopegaon Tal. Wai, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Deur, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara in Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Maharashtra. The proposal has been initiated by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara.

2.0 The details of the forest land proposed for diversion are as under:-

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Village Name	Taluka	District	Item of work /Purpose	Gat No.	Compt.No.	Area in Ha.	Legal Status
Bopegaon	Wai	Satara	Area for Gaonthan	771p	42	6.00	Reserved Forest
			Area for agriculture	712,771p		40.6	
			Total forest land area required for this project				

3.0 Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the important Protected areas of Maharashtra State, Which is located in the Western Ghat. Western Ghat area is considered among the top biodiversity hot spots of the world. Koyana Wildlife was included in the world heritage site by UNESCO'S world heritage committee on 1 July 2012.

4.0 Govt. of Maharashtra has declared Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary vide notification No. WLP-1085 CR-588/(I) dated 16 September 1985 under section 18 of Wildlife (Protection) Act-1972 for the purpose of protecting, propagating and developing Wildlife therein and its environment. The total area of the notified sanctuary is 423.55 Sq.Km.

5.0 In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 26- A of the said Act and of all other power enabling it on this behalf, the Government of Maharashtra hereby, on the recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife and as per proposed by the enquiry officer excluded non-forest areas of 14 villages and altered the boundaries of the Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary and reconstituted the same with the area of 33530.41 Ha. (335.30 sq.km.) by notification dated 14 October 2019.

6.0 The Maharashtra State Government vide the notification No. WLP -1008/Pra. Kra.232/F-a, dated 5/1/2010 has notified and area of 741.22 sq. Km. of the Chandoli National Park (317.67 sq. Km.) and Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary (423.55 sq. Km.) together as the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

7.0 The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. This area is rich, evergreen, semi-evergreen & moist deciduous forest. These forest areas encompass several river valleys like Krishna, Koyana, Warna, etc. It is the first Tiger Reserve of Western Maharashtra & 4 th Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra spreading over two protected areas ie, Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary and Chandoli National Park.

8.0 The central part of PA contains the Shivasagar Reservoir of the Koyna River. As provided in the wildlife protection act and Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, the Collector has already enquired into rights and concessions of the people and has also ascertained the willingness of the people to relocate. The village Deur has given voluntary consent and is ready for rehabilitation.

9.0 Human habitation is mostly been established in fertile lands with an assured water supply. Such sites within the forest area are limited and therefore are ecologically significant. Flat grounds along major nalas can support the revival of floral and faunal attributes and such attributes are completely lost, with the presence of intensive agricultural attributes. Relocation in Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary has amply demonstrated the benefits of relocation, especially to wild herbivores and consequently to the whole eco-system. Relocation of village Deur will make available an area of about 23.17 ha. of private land and 119.71 ha. of revenue land and also area of 1425.45 ha. of Forest area will be free from human interference.

10.0 The project affected persons of Deur Village have selected Forest Land of Village Bopegaon, Tal. Wai, Dist. Satara. The project affected persons require 36.40 ha. of agricultural land and 6 ha. for gaonthan and additional approximate 10 % unsuitable land which makes the total required land to be 46.06 ha. The area of 46.06 ha. of village Bopegaon has been proposed for rehabilitation. The Consent letter of the project affected persons of village Deur that the proposed site in the forest land of Village Bopegaon is suitable for their rehabilitation is enclosed in the proposal file on page no.96.

11.0 Project Resettlement Plan (District - Satara) Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary

Name of Affected village	No. of Affected Total persons	Land to be allocated As per Sankalan Register	Name of the village at which Resettlement is proposed					No. of PAPS LAND to be Allotted	Land to be Allotted in ha.
			Relocated at Village	Proposed Agriculture Land (Ha.)	Unsuitable Land (P.K.)* (Ha.)	Proposed Resettlement Gaonthan (Ha.)	Proposed Total Land (Ha.)		
Deur	28	36.40	Bopegaon	36.40	3.66	6.00	46.06	28	46.06

12.0 As per para 1.15 of Handbook issued vide Government of India's letter dated 28/03/2019, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted complete justification for locating the project in the forest area to prove the project is site-specific as under:-

Land is not available in any command area of Irrigation Projects in the Satara and Satara districts. There is no sufficient land available from "Gairan" or "Revenue wasteland" in possession of the Revenue department. Even in forests, it is not available in a continuous patch of land at a stretch that can accommodate all 28 PAPs at one location.

13.0 Following documents as prescribed in Government Circular, Revenue and Forest Department No.FLD-1081/2041/(A)/F-3, dated 20/03/1982 and according to Government of India's instructions issued from time to time are enclosed in three copies.

13.1 Prescribed form dated 10/01/2003.

13.2 Certificate regarding minimum demand of forest land for the project.

13.3 Area Statement,

13.4 Index map in suitable scale,

14.0 **The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that:-**

14.1 No suitable alternate non-forest land is available and the forest land required is the lowest minimum.

14.2 The area belongs to Eco class-III dense forest having a density of is 0.6 to 0.8.

14.3 There are 4782 trees of various species and trees is involved in the implementation of the Project. The Girth wise break up is as under:-

Tree Girth in Cm.						
(0-30)	(31-60)	(61-90)	(91-120)	(121-150)	(>150)	Total
651	3858	247	18	4	4	4782

- 14.4 The area involved in the project does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve, etc.
- 14.5 Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance.
- 14.6 There is no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- 14.7 The proposed project area is beyond 10 km from the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 14.8 The proposed project area is outside the Scheduled Tribal Area.
- 14.9 No Rare or endangered unique species of flora and fauna are not found in the area proposed for diversion.
- 14.10 The proposed project does not involve any non-forest land.

15.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted undertaking that:-

- 15.1 Government of India vide guideline dated 03/12/2018 has directed regarding the compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006. As per these guidelines:-

'It is clarified that within the time period stipulated for compliance of Stage-I condition, Deputy Commissioner shall complete the process of compliance of FRA (including forwarding its findings to be concerned CF), hence for the purpose of the MoEF& CC, as per the provisions under the Forest (Conservation) amendment rules, 2016 the compliance under FRA is not required for consideration of in-principle approval. This has to be furnished by the State Government for consideration of the proposal by the Ministry for final approval'

Accordingly, The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satarahas given an undertaking regarding the compliance under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been applied and is under process and shall be submitted before final approval.

- 15.2 Government of India vide guideline dated 20/05/2019 has directed that the payment of NPV and cost of CA may be exempted in all such cases of voluntary relocation/rehabilitation of families from the protected areas undertaken within the forest land.

Accordingly, The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has given an undertaking that Net Present Value and Cost of Compensatory Afforestation is not applicable for this project.

- 15.3 Agrees to defray the cost of felling of trees.

- 16.0 The KML file of the forest land proposed for diversion is enclosed and placed in the file at the top.

- 17.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara and the Chief Conservator of Forest (T.) Kolhapur has recommended the said proposal.

- 18.0 Nodal officer on 17/08/2019 had requested the Chief Wildlife Warden to offer their remarks in accordance with the Government of India's guideline dated 20/05/2019 for the said proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden vide office note No.Desk-23(2)/WL/Survey /C.R.75/1429/2021-22, dated 17/09/2021 has sent his remarks are as under:-

'For rehabilitation of this village a total of 46.06 Ha. forest land is required and the land that would be acquired is 34.36 Ha. This means, as against the land to be acquired, 11.70 additional area would be required. Even though the guidelines of Central Government dt. 20/05/2019 states that the extent of land de-reserved/de-notified for resettlement shall not be more than the extent vacated by the settlers in the core area, taking into account the area of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, if the village Deur is rehabilitated, an area

of 2141.09 Ha. would become inviolate. Which will help in creating conducive wildlife habitat for appropriate wildlife management. Due to the rehabilitation of this village, the dependence of local people and their interference in the core area of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve shall be stopped. Therefore, even though the 34.36 Ha. area to be acquired is less as against the additional area of 11.70 Ha. required, the rehabilitation of the village is beneficial in view of wildlife protection and wildlife conservation.'

18.0 In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section-2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-

- 18.1 Legal status of the forest land diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of Village Deur, Tal. Jaoli, Dist.Satara in Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary shall cease to be forest land.
- 18.2 The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by the way of the prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- 18.3 User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- 18.4 Land vacated in the protected area due to relocation of Village shall be developed as per approved Wildlife Management Plan/NTCA guideline/CWLW.
- 18.5 No fragmentation of forests should take place due to the relocation project.
- 18.6 The boundary of the diverted land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- 18.7 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- 18.8 The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.
- 18.9 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.
- 18.10 Any other condition that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.

19.0 It is therefore, requested that Government of India may kindly be moved for approving the Proposal for the diversion of 46.06 ha. reserved forest under section 2 (ii) of the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for disforestation of forest land ^{at} Village Bopegaon Tal.Wai, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Deur, Tal. Jaoli, Dist.Satara in Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Maharashtra under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Encl. :- Proposal 2 copies



(Naresh Zurmure)
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Kolhapur for information.
Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara for information.

PART -IV

**(To be filled by Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)**

(Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks)

Sub.:- The proposal is for diversion of 46.06 ha. reserved forest under section 2 (ii) of the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for disforestation of forest land Village Bopegaon Tal. Wai, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Deur, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara in Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Maharashtra. The proposal has been initiated by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara.

The details of forest land proposed for diversion is as under-

Village Name	Taluka	District	Item of work /Purpose	Gat No.	Compt.No.	Area in Ha.	Legal Status
Bopegaon	Wai	Satara	Area for Gaonthan	771p	42	6.00	Reserved Forest
			Area for agriculture	712,771p		40.6	
			Total forest land area required for this project				

Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF,) M.S. Nagpur is attached on page no.


(Naresh Zurmure)

**Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer**

Date: 03/03/2022

Place: Nagpur

Proposal for the diversion of 46.06 ha. reserved forest under section 2 (ii) of the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for disforestation of forest land Village Bopegaon Tal. Wai, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Deur, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara in Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Maharashtra.

Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State with regard to acceptance or otherwise of the proposed supported by reasons.

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Accordingly, The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satarahas given an undertaking regarding the compliance under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been applied and is under process and shall be submitted before final approval.

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- 18.10 Any other condition that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.



(Y.L.P.Rao)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force),
Maharashtra State, Nagpur