

Site Inspection Report of The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dharwad Division, Dharwad

On 29-06-2021 along with the Range Forest Officer Dharwad, Survey RFO and his staff and representatives of User Agency, I have inspected proposed site for Diversion of 0.66 hectre of Forest land in Kelgeri Village Sy No. 709/B, Dharwad Taluk and District for providing additional interconnectivity between the two ends of the arch shaped campus of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Dharwad in favour of Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Dharwad. The proposed diversion area fall under jurisdiction of Dharwad Range of Dharwad Forest Division.

During inspection of the proposed site for Diversion following points were observed.

The proposed site for diversion is situated at Kelgeri reserve forest. IIT is an arch shaped campus surrounded by other buildings, Kelgeri forest area (25.6ha) is a single fragmented area repeatedly prone to encroachment. So giving lease may be useful that avoids illegal entry/ Trespass.

G.P.S readings of 04 corners of the proposed area.

1. $15^{\circ} 29' 28.13''$	$74^{\circ} 56' 23.96''$	2. $15^{\circ} 29' 26.62''$	$74^{\circ} 56' 24.46''$
3. $15^{\circ} 29' 24.48''$	$74^{\circ} 56' 20.40''$	4. $15^{\circ} 29' 25.96''$	$74^{\circ} 56' 19.88''$

No Rare/endangered/RET/Unique Species are found in the proposed area.

No Wildlife/ Corridor activities are going in and around the proposed area.

Proposed area does not fall under any Archaeological/Heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monument of protected area.

Proposed area does not fall under any Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the protected area.

Already 16 feet kacha road for department purpose is present at the site, now the user agency is proposing for (48.2*137m)0.66ha that includes the existing kacha road.

Forest Department has taken up Acacia plantation at the site proposed for diversion during 2003-04 rains, removing encroachment.

Two 220KV Transmission Lines passing over the area where the user agency has applied for proposal which is overlapping with the present proposal

In response to your office letter no Dated 16/01/2021, the facts of the case as reported by RFO Dharwad and ACF Dharwad Sub-Division are stated here under

1. Why the existing connectivity of more than 100 mt at the narrowest point of the IIT campus on south is not sufficient and why a second connectivity is required?

As proposed by the UA, the IIT Campus, Dharwad is arch shaped campus area, wherein infrastructure of campus is being constructed in two blocks i.e Academic block and residential block. In between these two patches/blocks forest survey number of 709/B of Kelgeri village exists. To connect two blocks of IIT campus road is essential for the user agency. Proposed road along with the road on south acts as ring road along the periphery (compound wall) of the campus for easy transit of faculty and students between academic & residential block.

2. Diverting a Forest strip in the Present proposal will result in making the 25.6 ha of undiverted forest area an enclosure within IIT campus and thus virtually (Indirectly) diverting this additional forest area to IIT without recovery of any NPV and CA charges. It will also block the connectivity of the likely forest enclosure to the outside landscape and fragmentation of wildlife habitat in addition to access to forest staff for management of this forest enclosure.

The area with Survey no 709/B of Kelgeri Village is a small forest patch of 25.6 ha completely surrounded by agricultural land and KIADB industrial area (Even the proposed IIT campus land is KIADB-Industrial area land leased for IIT campus) which was repeatedly prone for encroachment by the surrounding villagers. Now a compound has been constructed, by IIT which has resolved the issue of encroachment by the surrounding villagers. Currently Acacia plantation exists in the location which can be extracted and a plantation of native trees can be done to enrich the biodiversity of the area. As it is a very small patch surrounded by private agricultural land and KIADB industrial area it does not block the connectivity of wildlife habitat.

3 The Geo-referenced map uploaded by user agency in item C (iv) shows a Transmission line passing over the forest area including the forest strip proposed for diversion in the instant proposal. Thus, there is an overlap of forest area proposed to be diverted in the instant proposal and the existing Transmission line corridor for another agency.

Part of survey no 709/B has already been diverted for transmission line proposal, details of which are mentioned below:

1. Range: DHARWAD,
2. Section: Mandihal,
3. Beat: CHIKKAMALIGAWAD

Details of the area already diverted for Transmission line:

Proposal Name: Diversion of 27.72ha of forest land for construction of 220kV Transmission line.

Line Name-"Hubballi Belgaum Narendra (Hubballi Second Stage) in the Dharwad District"

4. FSyno: KEDENETTI FSY: 709/B5. Extent of Forest survey no 709/B: 69 acre- 20 Gunta

Details of new proposal by IIT, Dharwad	Details of land already diverted for transmission line and the area it is overlapping with the new proposal by IIT, Dharwad
Width of Road: 48.2 m Length of of the Road: 137 m Proposed forest area to be diverted =48.2 mt* 137mt =6603.4mt sq =0.66ha	Length of 220 KV transmission line which is overlapping over the proposed road by IIT = 35 m Width of Road= 48.2 m Overlapping area of Transmission line and proposed road = 48.2m * 35m = 1687 mt sq = 0.16ha
The above area already diverted for transmission line overlaps over an area of 1687mt sq with new proposal by IIT.	

Along with the purpose to utilize the existing road, the user agency proposes to use the proposed land also for water supply, Underground drainage, Underground power cables, BMS lines etc. for connectivity between residential and academic zones. The existing road width is of 16 feet, now the user agency is asking for 48.2 width x 137 mt length which they propose to use for above mentioned purposes. This will lead to felling of 202 trees of Acacia Species.

Diversion of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum of requirements. Hence proposal may be recommended for the diversion of above said forest area for road in favour of Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Dharwad., as per the provisions prescribed in section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act-1980.

Place: Dharwad
Date : 29-06-2021

Deputy Coservator of Forests
Dharwad Division, Dharwad.