

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 847.17 Ha of forest land for construction of 1856 MW Sawalkot HE Project in Udhampur, Batote, Ramban and Mahore Mahore Forest Divisions.

Conservator of Forests, East/ West/Chenab Circles/DFOs of Udaipur, Batote, Ramban and Mahore Forest Divisions have recommended the proposal for diversion of 847.17 Ha of forest land for construction of 1856 MW Sawalkot HE Project, under the provisions of the F.C.Act.

This proposal has been processed in PARIVESH 1.0. The detail of the proposal is given as under:

1.	Proposal No:	FP/JK/HYD/150591/2021																	
2.	User Agency/Applicant	NHPC LMITED																	
3.	Compartment no.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Division</th><th>District</th><th>Compartments</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Batote</td><td>Ramban</td><td>31, 36, 40/Btt, 51, 52b, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58/G, 61, 62,69,70, 72, 73, 49/G</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mahore</td><td>Reasi</td><td>74/Ar</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ramban</td><td>Ramban</td><td>73/Ar, 52/Ar, 51, 50, 46, 45, 41/B, 39/R, 40, 45, 47, Gair mum</td></tr> <tr> <td>Udhampur</td><td>Udhampur</td><td>71/P, 53a/P</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Division	District	Compartments	Batote	Ramban	31, 36, 40/Btt, 51, 52b, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58/G, 61, 62,69,70, 72, 73, 49/G	Mahore	Reasi	74/Ar	Ramban	Ramban	73/Ar, 52/Ar, 51, 50, 46, 45, 41/B, 39/R, 40, 45, 47, Gair mum	Udhampur	Udhampur	71/P, 53a/P
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Udhampur	Udhampur	71/P, 53a/P																	
5.	Objective	Hydro Electric Project to generate 1856 MW Electricity.																	
6.	Salient Features of the project:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Division</th><th>Compartments</th><th>Forest area (in Ha)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Batote</td><td>31, 36, 40/Btt, 51, 52b, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58/G, 61, 62,69,70, 72, 73, 49/G</td><td>285.54</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mahore</td><td>74/Ar</td><td>39.6</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ramban</td><td>73/Ar, 52/Ar, 51, 50, 46, 45, 44, 7, 1/Ar, 1/B, 39/R, 40, 45, 47, Gair mumkin jhad</td><td>332.28</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Division	Compartments	Forest area (in Ha)	Batote	31, 36, 40/Btt, 51, 52b, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58/G, 61, 62,69,70, 72, 73, 49/G	285.54	Mahore	74/Ar	39.6	Ramban	73/Ar, 52/Ar, 51, 50, 46, 45, 44, 7, 1/Ar, 1/B, 39/R, 40, 45, 47, Gair mumkin jhad	332.28			
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	Udhampur	71/P, 53a/P	189.75	
	Total		847.17	

Detail of trees:				
	Division	No. of trees (31 and above girth)	No. of saplings (0-30 cm)	Total
7.	Batote	101180	598820	700000
	Mahore	112	644	756
	Ramban	158824	385234	544058
	Udhampur	562	43657	44219
	Total	260678	1028355	1289033

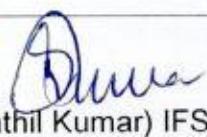
8.	a	Whether the forest land proposed to be used for non-forest purpose forms part of a natural reserve, national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve or forms part of the habitat of any endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna or any area lying in severely eroded catchment.	No
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Compensatory Afforestation (CA):			
Division	CA amount	Remarks	
Batote	2061.16 lacs	Technical approval to CA by Pr.CCF (HoFF) on degraded forest land as proposed by CCF/CF/DFO	
Mahore	294.87 lacs	Approval to CA Plan by CCF Jammu	
Ramban	1785.965 lacs	Technical approval to CA by Pr.CCF (HoFF) on degraded forest land as proposed by CCF/CF/DFO	
Udhampur	1454.339 lacs	Technical approval to CA by Pr.CCF (HoFF) on degraded forest land as proposed by CCF/CF/DFO	

	Summary of Amount (in Rs) to be deposited by the User Agency:				
10.	Division	CA amount	NPV	Extraction charges	
	Batote	20,61, 16 000	389042433	As per bill issued by JKFDCL/DFO concerned	
	Mahore	294,87 000	39806316		
	Ramban	17,85,96500	46,37,30,270		
	Udhampur	14,54,33900	24,53,18,288		
11.	CAT Plan: Approval to CAT plan has been accorded by the Pr.CCF & HoFF J&K				
12.	Recognition and vesting of Forest Rights in accordance with Scheduled Tribe and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Right Act, 2006): The User agency requested the Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, for issuance of FRA certificate.				
13.	Competent Authority for Grant of approval: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> J&K Government, if agreed in principal to the proposal, may forward to the Regional Office, MoEF & CC Chandigarh . Stage-II (final approval) shall be granted by MoEF & CC, New Delhi after fulfillment of the terms and conditions imposed in Stage-I approval, including receipt of payment from user agency. 				

Dt: 06-04-2024

Place: JAMMU


 (S. Senthil Kumar) IFS
 Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests
 & Nodal Officer (FCA)
 06/4/24

Form-A (Part-IV)

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

Title of the Project: **Proposal for diversion of 847.17 Ha of forest land for construction of 1856 MW Sawalkot HE Project in Udhampur, Batote, Ramban and Mahore Mahore Forest Divisions**

Proposal No. FP/JK/HYD/150591/2021

The project is recommended for approval by the competent authority for diversion of **847.17 Ha** of forest land for the proposed project.

Dt: 06-04-2024

Place: Jammu


(S. Senthil Kumar) IFS
Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer (FCA)

06/04/24



J&K FOREST DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PROJECT OFFICER, MFP PROJECT JAMMU
Email: (projectofficermfp@gmail.com) Fax 0191-2565411

Sub:- Minutes of the Project Screening Committee (PSC) meeting held on 14- 02-2024 at 12.00 Noon under the chairmanship of Sh. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Addl. Pr. CCF & Nodal Officer (FCA) J&K in FRMC building, Narwal to review the Part II of Forest land diversion proposal titled construction of Sawalkote HEP 1856 MM proposal No FP/JK/Hyd/ 150591/2021.

Ref:-Meeting Notice issued under No. 1411-22/PO/MFP/2023-24 dated 13.02.2014

The following officers were present in the meeting: -

1. Conservator of Forests, East Circle Jammu.
2. Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle Doda.
3. Conservator of Forests, West Circle, Rajouri
4. Divisional Forest Officer, Batote / Ramban.
5. Representative of DFO Mahore / Udhampur.
6. Representatives of User Agency.

The committee members agreed with the Compensatory Afforestation proposed in the degraded forest land since the proposal was submitted under FCA Rule 2022 in Parivesh I.

The committee members reviewed the catchment area treatment plan submitted by the project proponent of the Sawalkote Hydro-Electric Project. The Project proponent made a presentation of the CAT Plan. On conclusion of the presentation, Nodal officer informed that the CAT Plan has been reviewed by PCCF & HoFF on 31-01-2024 and he had raised certain observations as detailed below: -

Observation of PCCF & HoFF

1. The plan does not have a map depicting the project area, the watershed and the tributaries in the watershed. These need to be incorporated.
2. Direct and indirect free flowing drainage areas should be clearly delineated and described and depicted in the map. This includes the identification of rivers and tributaries within the reservoir boundaries.
3. It is imperative to incorporate actual Google Earth maps or terrain maps.
4. The plan had been prepared as submitted by the project proponent using satellite imagery and GIS tools. No ground truthing has been carried out. It was suggested to utilize drones for imaging and ground truthing by way of physical visits, discussions with local communities and forest department staff is essential for improving quality.
5. The plan has been made on Severe and Very severe category soil erosion indexed areas. These areas might have been treated already by the forest department and all these areas may not be available for CAT Plan treatment. It was directed that moderate erosion

prone areas should also be considered wherever the severe and very severe areas have been treated. This will be known while ground trotting or microplanning. The implementing agency therefore should be left to treat moderate erosion prone areas too in addition to Severe and very severe as per ground reality. This condition should be made part of the CAT Plan proposal.

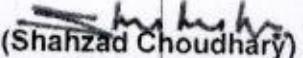
6. The four-strand barbed wire fencing proposed in the CAT Plan is not effective. The Project proponent will recast the plan with 5 stranded barbed wire fencing with two cross wires. The tariff is already available in the Schedule of rates.
7. Since the schedule of rates is quite old, the project proponent should allow for escalation of the cost against the indexed year.
8. The terrain being hilly, CAT Plan should include 75% of the planting in the trenches of 3.5 m and 25 % in pits.
9. The establishment cost of new nursery should be revised to Rs 10 lakhs per nursery and upgrading of existing nursery should be at 4-5 lakhs per nursery.
10. The planting programme should have 50% polybagged plants and 50% naked roots. Preference should be given to indigenous, large seeded species.
11. The CAT Plan should provide for one Watch and ward for every 15 ha of treatment site.
12. Wherever possible, the treatment should include water harvesting structures to hold water for recharging the water table, provide water to nursery demand and also during firefighting operations.
13. The CAT Plan shall also address socioeconomic aspects including creation of bridle paths, creation of livelihood activities, and other entry point activities to garner the support of local community.
14. Implementing fire protection measures should be inherent in all treatments
15. Procurement of field vehicles, utility vehicles for mobility as well as for monitoring purposes at both headquarters and field officer levels should be incorporated in the plan.
16. Provision should be made in the plan for creating project management unit with experts in forestry, soil, and wildlife, along with support infrastructure.

The PSC members endorsed the observation of the PCCF & HoFF and also added that

1. Microplanning shall be done within first six months, with the support of experts. Provision for establishing the microplanning team should be a part of the Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) plan and the User Agency shall hire the experts.
2. Upgrading four existing nurseries at a cost of 4 to 5 lakhs and establishing four new nurseries.
3. Including the provision of B.A barbed wire fencing with five strands and two crisscross sections at the rate of 110/- per running foot.
4. Completing advance and creation work within the first four years, of project initiation, immediately after the microplanning and should follow by maintenance for 10 years.
5. Check dams have not been incorporated in the CAT Plan. It was insisted that small check dams (4-7 m long approx.) should be proposed in the drainage wherever required.

6. There should be provision for repairing of fencing every 5th year. Cost of repairing should be included in plan

The Project proponent was accordingly advised to revise the plan.


(Shahzad Choudhary) JKFS
Member Secretary
Project Screening Committee

FCA, J&K

No: 1443-54 /PO/MFP/2023-24

Dated: 20-02-2024

Copy submitted for information and necessary action to the:

1. Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests /Nodal Officer (FCA) J&K.
2. Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle, Doda.
3. Conservator of Forests, East Circle, Jammu.
4. Conservator of Forests, West Circle, Rajouri.
5. Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur.
6. Deputy Commissioner, Reasi.
7. Deputy Commissioner, Ramban.
8. Divisional Forest Officer, Udhampur.
9. Divisional Forest Officer, Batote.
10. Divisional Forest Officer, Ramban.
11. Divisional Forest Officer, Mahore.
12. Representative of User Agency.


Member Secretary
Project Screening Committee

FCA, J&K



J&K FOREST DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PROJECT OFFICER, MFP PROJECT JAMMU
Email: (projectofficermfp@gmail.com) Fax 0191-2565411

Sub: Minutes of the Project Screening committee (PSC) meeting held on 10-02-2024 at 3 P.M. under the chairmanship of Sh. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Addl. Pr. CCF & Nodal Officer (FCA) J&K Forest Department.

Ref: Meeting Notice issued under No. 1383-94/PO/MFP/2023-24 dated 10-02-2024.

To check the completeness of the Part-I of the forest clearance proposal bearing No. FP/JK/Hyd/150591/2021 titled "construction of Sawalkote HEP 1856 MM" Project Screening Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of **Sh. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS, Addl. Pr. CCF & Nodal Officer (FCA) J&K Forest Department** on 10-02-2024 at FRMC Narwal Jammu. The meeting held in hybrid mode. Following officers participated in the meeting.

1. Conservator of Forests, East Circle Jammu.
2. Conservator of Forests, West Circle Rajouri
3. Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle Doda.
4. Representative of the Deputy Commissioner Udhampur
5. Divisional Forest Officer Udhampur/Batote/Ramban/Mahore
6. Representative of the user agency.

It was informed to the committee that this proposal is uploaded on PARIVESH 1.0 and the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change vide communication dated 25th July, 2024 has conveyed that proposals submitted on PARVIESH 1.0 which are at various stages of processing on PARIVESH 1.0 may continue to be processed on PARIVESH 1.0. However, to adhere the procedures laid down in the Van (Sanrakshan Evar Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the minutes of the meeting of the Project Screening Committee may be attached.

In pursuance to the said guidelines, the Part-I of the proposal has been scrutinized by the committee and same found complete. The committee recommended to forward the proposal to the concerned DFOs for further processing.

Shahzad Choudhary
Shahzad Choudhary, JKFS
(Member Secretary)
Project Screening Committee
S (FCA) J&K

Dated 13-02-2024

No. 1400-07/P-107F

Copy submitted to the:

1. Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer (FCA) J&K
2. Conservator of Forests, East Circle Jammu.
3. Conservator of Forests, West Circle Rajouri
4. Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle Doda.
5. Deputy Commissioner Udhampur /Reasi /Ramban
6. Divisional Forest Officer Udhampur/Batote/Ramban/Mahore
7. Representative of the user agency.

Shahzad Choudhary
(Member Secretary)
Project Screening Committee
S (FCA) J&K