

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ  
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ  
ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ  
(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ

ಕಚೇರಿ  
Office of the  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ  
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E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-2K(GFL)/7/2022-FC  
Encl.: 3 sets of proposal hard copies

E-706517  
Date 29-06-2022

06-07

To,  
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government  
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department  
M.S. Building, Bengaluru – 560 001  
Sir,

**Sub:** Diversion of 1.9858 ha of forest land in 17 Villages in Uttara Kannada District (Dandeli Wildlife Division) for JIO Digital Fiber Underground OFC within the existing RoW in favour of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru.

**Proposal No. FP/KA/OFC/152519/2022**

**Ref:** 1. Online proposal [FORM-A PART-I] dated 20-02-2022 of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru and uploading of Acknowledgement on 26-03-2022 for having delivered hard copies of proposal to the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests and Deputy Commissioner  
2. This office online communication dated 30-03-2022 to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dandeli Wildlife Division for further processing of proposal  
3. Online submission of PART-II on 06-06-2022 by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dandeli Wildlife Division [Letter No. B4/Bhumi/FC/Jio/CR-1/2022-23/261 dated 06-06-2022]  
4. Online submission of PART-III on 20-06-2022 by Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle [Letter No. B2/GFL/Jio Digital Fiber/CR-15/2022-23 dated 18-06-2022]

1. Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, No.51, RMZ Icon, Palace Cross Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru [USER AGENCY] vide Ref (1) has submitted a proposal through FC web portal seeking approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Diversion of 1.9858 ha of forest land in 17 Villages in Uttara Kannada District (Dandeli Wildlife Division) for JIO Digital Fiber Underground OFC. After uploading of the Acknowledgement online by User Agency on 26-03-2022 for having delivered the hard copies of proposal to the



jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests and Deputy Commissioner, an online communication was made on 30-03-2022 by Nodal Officer vide Ref (2) to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dandeli Wildlife Division to process the proposal under FC Act and to submit the specific opinion through PART-II of the proposal.

2. **Location details and Component wise break up:** Location details of the forest land proposed for diversion are given below.

Division	Village		Sy No.	Forest extent proposed for diversion (ha)
Dandeli Wildlife Division	1	Avurli	7	0.0315
	2	Gundha	23,28,26,25,77,29, 7,8 & 9	0.177
	3	Chepra	10, 14, 17 & 19	0.1485
	4	Ambolli	137, 202, 122, 119, 158, 15a, 23 & 2	0.2115
	5	Bidoli	13	0.0765
	6	KTR	xxx	0.0645
	7	Nigundi	20, 18, 55, 56 & 21	0.1295
	8	Anashi	17, 168, 197, 27, 29, 30, 95, 92 & 8	0.2131
	9	Katheli	17	0.1185
	10	Godashitha	83	0.0825
	11	Nujji	76, 81, 97, 101, 106, 119 & 237	0.3325
	12	Badapholi	21	0.0612
	13	Gangoda	82	0.027
	14	Kalasyi	145	0.033
	15	Kumbarakoppa	1	0.04
	16	Kalabhavi	4	0.052
	17	Gutthi & Kegadala	2, 12, 14 & 21	0.187
<b>Total</b>				<b>1.9858</b>

The component wise breakup of the forest land proposed for diversion is given below.

Project Component		Forest Land requirement (ha)
1	Under Ground Optical Cable	1.9858
<b>Total</b>		<b>1.9858</b>



**DCF, Dandeli Wildlife Report:** The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dandeli Wildlife Division has inspected the project site on 07-05-2022 and vide Ref (3) has submitted the Site Inspection Report along with details of the site in PART-II of the proposal to Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle. Main features of the forest land proposed for diversion as per the DCF, Dandeli Wildlife Division report r/w reports of CCF, Kanara Circle and that of ICT Centre of Forest Department are as follows.

- a. The forest land proposed for diversion is in general landscape of Eco-class I (Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests/ Tropical Semi Evergreen Forests/ Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests) with >0.9 Canopy Density (Very Dense Forest). [Note: The entry made in Item 4(i) of PART-II may be read accordingly.]
- b. As per Item 4(ii) of PART-II, there are no trees to be felled on the forest land proposed for diversion.
- c. Major wild animals found in and around the project area include Tiger, Leopard, Wild dog, Elephant, Sambar, barking deer, Spotted deer among others. [Note: The entry made in Item 8(i) of PART-II may be read accordingly.]
- d. The list of highly threatened and endemic species includes Black panther (melanistic leopard), King cobra, Malabar pied hornbill, Ceylon frogmouth, Wroughton's free tailed bat (*Otomops wroughtom*), Theobald's Bat (*Taphozous theobaldi*) are present in the forest area proposed for diversion.
- e. As per Item 8 (ii) of PART-II, the forest land proposed for diversion falls in the Anshi – Dandeli National Park / Kali Tiger Reserve.
- f. There are no Protected/ Archeological/ Heritage Sites/ Defence establishments located in the proposed area.
- g. The forest area proposed for diversion is the bare minimum and unavoidable.
- h. There is no violation reported under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The DCF, Dandeli Wildlife Division in his recommendations has further stated that this is an important project with minimal impact on Anshi National Park and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary except for the section from Amboli-Anshi. The proposed section from Amboli-Anshi a stretch of 14 Km along the Ulavi-Anshi road may be realigned along SH 146 as this area forms one of the undisturbed patch of forest within Anshi National Park with few hamlets that are under various stages of village relocation. The extent of forest land proposed for diversion in this section in the villages Amboli, Bidoli, KTR, Nigundi and Anshi is 0.6165 Hectares. It would be in the long-term interest of conservation of Anshi National Park that



this stretch of proposal is realigned to follow the alignment of SH 146 along Ulavi Kumbharwada road. Taking the OFC cable along this route would help to connect many more settlements and will require less forest area to be diverted within Anshi National Park. In view of this, the section of the project along Anshi-Ulavi road (from Amboli to Anshi) requiring diversion of forest land to an extent of 0.6165 Ha is not recommended for diversion. The remaining part of the proposal requiring diversion of forest land to an extent of 1.3693 Ha is recommended.

4. **CCF, Kanara Circle Report:** The Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle, Sirsi has inspected the project site personally on 16-05-2022 and vide Ref (4) has submitted the Site Inspection Report in PART-III online. In his recommendation letter has mentioned that the User Agency has stated that "the alternate route suggested by the Director, Kali Tiger Reserve, Dandeli has been examined by the JIO Technical Team opined that the alternate route indicated along the SH-146 may be considered as additional span with new proposal after getting all necessary approval but not as alternate to proposed route along SH-146. The Anshi-Dandeli span decided by technical expert team after considering the overall connectivity of the achieve last mile connectivity. Anshi is the location which is designed in the network as Nodal Point where three routes (Supa-Anshi, Anshi-Dandeli and Virje-Anshi) will converge and provide protection paths for error free network. To establish the connectivity between Anshi to Dandeli the proposed route is must technically to meet designed length of section for supporting equipment. Laying of underground OFC along the road with in the right of way (ROW) width of the road is one-time activity and do not cause any perceptible change in the forest land or biodiversity there on. Hence it is requested to consider the route proposed in the proposal for forest clearance under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 with additional mitigation measures if any in the interest of establishing better connectivity to the remote areas of the State".

Further, Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle states that in the present proposal the diversion of 1.9858 ha of forest land for JIO Digital Fiber Underground OFC Cable laying in forest area along the road side in Supa-Anshi and Dandeli-Anshi in Kali Tiger reserve, the laying of underground OFC along the road within the ROW of the existing road is a one time activity and does not involve cutting of any tree, a pit is made at 100 meters interval through Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method and OFC is pulled and hence there is no digging of trench all along.

In light of the above, the Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle has recommended the whole proposal in the interest of establishing better connectivity to the remote areas of the state with additional mitigation measures and establishing wildlife display boards instead of the company pillars all along the road.



5. **Net Present Value (NPV):** The User Agency is required to pay ten times of the normal Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land proposed for diversion in National Parks as per Para 3 of the FC Guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide letter F.No. 5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 06-01-2022. **The User Agency has submitted an Undertaking dated 15-02-2022 to pay the charges towards Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land proposed for diversion.**

6. **Compensatory Afforestation (CA):** In accordance with the provisions of para 2.5 (b) of the the FC Guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28-03-2019, the proposal is for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable within the existing RoW is exempted from the requirement of providing the non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation purpose and the Compensatory Afforestation can be raised and maintained at the cost of User Agency on degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area proposed for diversion. Accordingly, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dandeli Wildlife has identified the following degraded forest land parcels in Haliyal Division.

District	Village	Sy No.	Extent of Degraded Forest Land (ha)
Uttara Kannada	Belavatgi	138	4
Total			4

The Compensatory Afforestation land details in form of KML files, Topo-maps, Geo-referenced maps, CA Schemes and CA Site Certificates have been uploaded at Item 13 of PART-II (Dandeli Wildlife Division). Further, **the User Agency has furnished an Undertaking to pay the applicable Compensatory Afforestation (CA) charges.**

7. **Status of RoFR compliance:** With regard to compliance of the provisions of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act 2006 and Rules 2008, the User Agency has not obtained and furnished the requisite **Certificate in FORM-I (for Linear projects)** issued by the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner as per Annexure II of the FC Guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28-03-2019. Accordingly, **the User Agency is being informed to obtain the required RoFR certificate and submit a copy.**

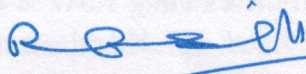
8. **Wild life clearance:** As the project area lies in Anshi – Dandeli National Park / Kali Tiger Reserve, the User Agency is required to obtain wildlife clearance for the project from the State Board for Wild Life. The User Agency has already applied for seeking wildlife clearance vide proposal No. FP/KA/OFC/152519/2022. At present, the Wildlife proposal is pending at Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka



Under the above circumstances and agreeing with recommendations of the Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle, Sirsi, it is requested to consider the proposal for according in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 1.9858 ha of forest land in 17 Villages in Uttara Kannada District (Dandeli Wildlife Division) for JIO Digital Fiber Underground OFC within the existing RoW in favour of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru for a period of Twenty (20) years subject to production of RoFR Certificate in FORM-I (for linear projects) and further subject to the conditions appended in Annexure 'A'.

The hard copy of the proposal along with the relevant documents in 3 sets is submitted herewith for further needful.

Yours Faithfully

  
(Raj Kishore Singh IFS)  
Principal Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

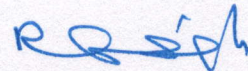
**Copy to the:**

1. Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle Sirsi for information.
2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dandeli Wildlife Division for information.
3. Deputy General Manager, Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, No.51, RMZ Icon, Palace Cross Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru for information and with the request to obtain the **RoFR certificate in FORM-I (for Linear projects) issued by the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner as per Annexure II of the FC Guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28-03-2019.**



## ANNEXURE 'A'

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged and it shall continue to be the forest land.
2. The User Agency shall pay the applicable Net Present Value (NPV), Compensatory Afforestation (CA) charges, cost of extraction of trees (if required in future), land lease rent and any other levies as per the conditions of approval.
3. The User Agency shall demarcate the lease area in the manner specified at the time of approval at its own cost.
4. The User Agency shall provide the signages of appropriate size and kind all along the road within forest limits for creating awareness about forest, Wildlife and Environment issues among general public and the road users at project cost in consultation with the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests.
5. The lessee shall not sub-lease, mortgage & hypothecate the forest area.
6. The leased out area should be used for the purpose for which it is granted. In case, the land is not used for the stipulated purpose within two years or when it is no longer needed for the stipulated purpose, the area would stand resumed to the Forest Department.
7. The application for renewal of the lease in the prescribed form and manner shall be submitted at least six months prior to the expiry of forest lease. In case, no renewal is sought, the Lessee shall hand over the lease.
8. No residential or commercial buildings shall be permitted in the forest area proposed for diversion.
9. No crushing / breaking of stones or labour camp shall be allowed inside forest area and all waste / debris generated shall be scientifically disposed off outside the forest area.
10. Any damage to forest area because of implementation of the project shall be compensated by the Lessee. The extent of damage shall be assessed by the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests.
11. The Lessee shall ensure that no avoidable harm is caused to the fauna and flora in and around the proposed area.
12. No change in Land Use Plan shall be done unless prior approval of Government of India under FC Act is obtained.
13. In case, any violation of the provisions of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 & Rules, 1969 or other relevant Acts/Rules is reported during the lease period, the lease will be liable for forfeiture under Section 82 of Karnataka Forest Act, 1963. The Conservator of Forests and/or Deputy Conservator of Forests concerned are authorized to take necessary action in this regard.
14. The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to any other clearances necessary under the prevailing statutes.
15. The User Agency shall also abide by other conditions those may be imposed by the Government of India, Government of Karnataka and Principal Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) before or after the approval.



(Raj Kishore Singh IFS)  
Principal Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

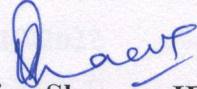


**PART - IV**

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

Detailed opinion & specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks.  <i>(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon.)</i>	Recommended for diversion of 1.9858 ha of forest land in 17 Villages in Uttara Kannada District (Dandeli Wildlife Division) for JIO Digital Fiber Underground OFC within the existing RoW in favour of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru for a period of Twenty (20) years subject to production of RoFR Certificate in FORM-I (for linear projects) and further subject to the conditions appended in Annexure 'A'.  Proposal No. FP/KA/OFC/152519/2022
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Signature:



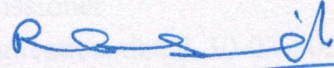
Name:

(Vijay Sharma, IFS)

Designation:

Principal Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)

Signature:



Name:

(Raj Kishore Singh, IFS)

6-7-22

Designation:

Principal Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

N.D.O. No. 22/2022-23

(Official Seal)

Dated: 06/07/2022