

Site Inspection Report

Proposal No : FP/JH/FVC/46701/2020

Name of Proposal : Diversion of forest land of Polpol Kalan PF of Kundri Range, Medininagar forest division of relocation of Kujrum, Latu and other villages from Palamau Tiger Reserve, Daltonganj, Jharkhand

Area applied for diversion : 133.64 Hectares

Date of site inspection : 02-09-2021

Members of Inspection team :

1. Sri Kumar Ashish, CF, Medininagar Circle
2. Sri Mukesh Kumar, Dy. Director, South Division, Palamau Tiger Reserve, Medininagar,
3. Sri Ramsurat Prasad, ACF, Medininagar Forest Division
4. Sri Ayush Kumar, Forest Guard, Medininagar Forest Division
5. Sri Ramsreshtha Kumar, Forest Guard, Medininagar Forest Division
6. Sri Nihal Kumar Singh, Amin, South Division, Palamau Tiger Reserve, Medininagar

Basic Information

The proposal has been submitted by Dy. Director, South Division, Palamau Tiger Reserve, Medininagar for diversion of 133.44 Ha of forest land for resettlement of villages from Tiger Reserve. The Tiger Conservation Plan of Palamau Tiger Reserve mandates for resettlement of villages from the core area to create an inviolate area inside Palamau Tiger Reserve. The area vacated after resettlement of villages are intended to be developed into grasslands.

The diversion proposal has been submitted in Polpol P.F. of Kundri Range.

Findings of Inspection

The proposed site is situated along SH-09 Bhusar to Mahuadanr. It is adjacent to river Auranga. Proposed site falls under Open Forest category. There are open patches with sporadic Palash (*Butea monosperma*), Chakundi (*Senna siamea*) and Semal (*Bombax ceiba*). Other major tree species found are Khair (*Acacia catechu*), Chilbil (*Holoptelia integrifolia*), Babul (*Acacia nilotica*). Canopy density falls is 0.25.

Proposed area is situated close to Palamau Wildlife Sanctuary. It has presence of commonly found wildlife such as Indian fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*), Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*) etc. The proposed area for diversion does not have any rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna.

The site is located near intersection of NH-39 and Sh-09. Hence, it is having good connectivity with district headquarters of Palamau and Latehar. No protected

archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

Additional Information about villages to be relocated

A site inspection was carried out by CF, Medininagar on 02.09.2021 to ascertain the extent of land to be vacated after relocation with Dy. Director, South Division, Palamau Tiger Reserve. Two forest villages, Kujrum and Latu are proposed to be resettled out of Tiger Reserve. Both these villages are located currently at the heart of Tiger Reserve. Two resettlement sites Polpol and Lai-Pailapathal have been chosen voluntarily.

Currently, villagers of Kujrum and Latu are using forest land for homestead, agricultural and ancillary activities. More than 300 ha of core area is being used by people of these villages for various purposes. This area will be freed from human disturbance once these villages are resettled. The area vacated after resettlement is to be developed as grass land for wild animals. Both the villages, Kujrum and Latu have large sized ponds which was, as informed, used by wild animals but now are being used by villagers. Surrounding forests are used for collection of fuelwood, holding meetings, marriage functions, sports field, storing fodder etc.

It was also found that the villagers were devoid of basic facilities of road, electricity, schools and hospital due to being located inside core area of TR. Resettling them closer to town will benefit both wildlife and people. The proposal is recommended as the area vacated (300 ha.) is more than area applied for diversion (299.64 Ha.) and as per guidelines of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India.

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Conservator of Forests
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