

## **DUBARE ELEPHANT CAMP : PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

### **Short narrative of the proposal and project/scheme for which the forest land is required:**

The Project requires clearance for cottages set up by Jungle Lodges & Resorts Ltd. at Dubare Elephant Camp (Sy.No.1/1 of Chikkanellya Village, Virajapete Tq., Kodagu Dist.) for which 2.5 Hectares of forest land has been occupied. This project does not involve cutting of any trees.

### **Justification for locating the project in forest area:**

Dubare Elephant Camp, an ecotourism destination developed by Jungle Lodges & Resorts Ltd., is set up in the Dubare Reserve Forest. This Elephant Camp has been extremely popular with the tourists. More than 2,00,000 visitors have utilized the facilities of the Dubare Elephant Camp over a period of time. When they visit the elephant camp, they experience the elephant feeding, bathing etc. and in the process learn about elephants. The experience is being given by the Mahouts and Kawadis who are tribals living in the hamlet close to the elephant camp. JLR's camp (Dubare Elephant Camp) is in an area of 2.5 hectares. This camp helps to promote awareness on nature in general and elephants in particular. JLR also helps to create awareness on the forest eco-system and immense biodiversity that exists in these areas, helping in the conservation of Nature. Thus, the project by JLR only helps in creating ambassadors for conservation by using the non-consumptive resources of nature.

This is already a part of the Working Plan for the Madikeri Forest Division (2015-16 to 2024-25), Kodagu Forest Circle Chapter XIX Miscellaneous regulations 19.1.6 is reproduced below –

“Dubare Elephant Camp is situated on the bank of river Kaveri in Kushalnagar forest range. The extent of Dubare reserved forest is 4571.82 ha. Large number of tourists including foreigners visit the Dubare camp every year. This camp is 12 km away from Kushalnagar. There are 27 tamed elephants in this camp. Captured wild elephants are also tamed here. Tourists visit the camp daily to watch feeding, taming and bathing of the elephants in the camp. Elephant safari is also organised for visitors. The Jungle Lodges and Resorts, a public sector undertaking, organises boating and rafting the Kaveri River and also provides rooms for the visitors on advance booking. The local VFC namely, Ammale Grama Aranya Samiti is managing the Dubare Elephant Camp. Details regarding the number of visitors to Dubare and revenue realised from the camp from 2008-09 to 2014-15 are given below:

#### **Details of visitors and revenue realized from Dubare Elephant Camp”**

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of visitors</i>	<i>Amount (Rs.)</i>
2008-09	50724	23,19,308
2009-10	37363	19,42,010
2010-11	47487	26,38,680
2011-12	41811	34,56,250
2012-13	68544	33,48,186
2013-14	74268	33,00,588
2014-15	5000	62,97,600

This working plan has been approved by Govt. Of India vide letter no. F(C)A/11.6/28/WP/KAR/257 dt. 16.10.2017. Further, on the basis of this approval, the State Govt. has approved the Working Plan under section 2 of the FCA 1980 and Forest Policy 1988 vide letter no. GO. No. FEE190 FAP 2016 dt. 4.12.2017.