

By online / E-mail.

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

To

Subrat Mahopatra, I.F.S.,  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
(Head of Forest Force)  
Forest Head Quarters Building,  
Guindy-Velachery Main Road,  
Guindy, Chennai - 15.

The Additional Chief Secretary to  
Government,  
Environment, Climate Change and  
Forests Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai 9.

Ref. No. TS3/2374/2022 Dated: 09.05.2023.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land of Ravathanallur Reserved Forests of Villupuram Forest Division for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur RF in Kallakuruchi District in favour of the Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, Construction and Maintenance Sankarapuram Sub division, Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District - Proposal forwarding off - Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Online application uploaded by the Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, C&M, Sankarapuram Sub Division, Kallakuruchi District - Proposal No. FP/TN/Road/151612/2022, dated 26.01.2022 and Re-submission of proposal on 23.03.2022 and 28.04.2022
- 2 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division on 02.07.2022
- 3 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle on 08.11.2022 and resubmission of proposal on 30.12.2022 and 02.03.2023 - C. No. D/921/2022, dated 07.11.2022, 30.12.2022 and 02.03.2023

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I wish to state that the Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, C&M, Sankarapuram Sub Division, Kallakuruchi District has uploaded forest clearance proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land in Ravathanallur RF for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur RF in Kallakuruchi District under proposal No. FP/TN/Road/151612/2022.



Brief details of the proposal are furnished below.

i) The User Agency has uploaded the proposal in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I - under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of fresh forest area for an area of 0.768 ha.

ii) Name and short narrative of the project for which forest land required reported as 'road expansion work by Highways Department, Construction and Maintenance, Sankarapuram Sub Division on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur RF in Kallakuruchi District'.

iii) The User Agency has reported that the area required in forest area is for 0.768 ha., and non-forest land required for the project reported as Zero ha.,

iv) The User Agency has proposed the forest area diversion for the project for a period of 99 years.

v) Name of the user agency reported as Highways Department, Construction and Maintenance Sankarapuram Sub Division, Kallakuruchi District and the incumbent officer of Assistant Divisional Engineer, C&M Sankarapuram Sub Division has submitted forest clearance proposal as person making application. Legal status of the User Agency reported as State Government.

vi) The User Agency has uploaded a copy of authorisation issued by the Divisional Engineer, Highways Construction and Maintenance Kallakuruchi Division to the project proponent to furnish online application for getting forest clearance.

vii) In the section of uploading details of proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Act for diversion of forest land for the project already submitted in the past reported as NIL

viii) Diversion of 0.768 ha of forest has been requested in Villupuram Forest Division area in erstwhile Villupuram District- presently area lies in Kallakuruchi District. Name of the village in which forest land requested has been reported as Ravathanallur.

ix) The User Agency has furnished the component wise breakup details of land required for the project as linear for 0.768 ha of forest land requested for diversion to the project.



x) Location map of the forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the proposed road alignment area marked in the map and Geo referenced map prepared along with GPS reading of the proposed linear stretch have been uploaded.

xi) Note containing justification for locating the project in forest area has been furnished. The User Agency has stated that this project is site specific, hence no alternative have been examined.

xii) The user agency has reported that permanent/ regular employment is likely to be generated for 10 persons and temporary employment likely to be generated to about 1500 numbers.

xiii) The User Agency has stated that this project does not involve displacement of people due to the project, cost-benefit analysis for the project is not required and this project not requires clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

xiv) The User Agency has stated that the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone and not located in a Scheduled area.

xv) The User Agency has stated that, the process for settlement of Rights under the Forest Rights Act 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted has been completed and uploaded a copy of certificate issued by the District Collector, Kallakuruchi in C. No. B8/5344/2021, dated 08.03.2022.

xvi) Under the section of details of land identified for compensatory afforestation, the User Agency has not furnished the details of compensatory Afforestation land to be provided to the Forest Department in lieu of diversion of forest land required for the work.

The user agency has stated that non-forest or revenue forest land is not required to be provided by the user agency and reason for this stated that not applicable.

xvii) In the additional information details section, following documents have been uploaded.

a) Area requirement details of the project.

Length 640m width 12.00m = area 0.768 ha

Existing road width – 5.50m

Expansion on each side @ 0.75m – 1.50m

Berm width on each side @ 2.50m – 5.00m

b) Form-A abstract of the project

c) Google earth map of the proposed forest diversion area.



d) GPS coordinates of the proposed diversion polygon area  
e) Certificate issued by the District Collector, Kallakuruchi about no alternate land other than forest land is available for the proposed road expansion work. (Ref No. B8/5344/2021, dated 08.03.2022)

f) EDS reply on no tree felling involved in the project.

g) Certificate and undertakings required for the project

(i) There is no catchment area treatment plan for the project (ii) User agency has not violated any provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, (iii) Certified that the road expansion work in the area is only possible as there is no other alternative feasible route available except this, (iv) Undertaking to bear compensatory afforestation, (v) undertaking to pay the Net Present Value of forest area (vi) undertaking to bear additional amount of Net Present value of forest area (vii) undertaking to bear the cost of felling of trees and transportation cost of the trees to be removed if any in the project area, (viii) undertaking to pay the cost for exploitation of trees if any available in the project area, (ix) undertaking to pay the cost towards lease rent and (x) certified that the forest land demanded for the project is barest minimum.

3) Details furnished in the Part-II of Form A by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division is furnished below.

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forests.

As per the site inspection report and recommendation of the project uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division, name of the forest land reported as Ravathanallur RF.

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.2 and Eco class of forest area is five.

iii) In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer has reported the species wise and girth class wise enumeration of trees in the area of 16 trees.

iv) On the vulnerability of the forest area to erosion reported as the proposed site is undulating plain interspersed with hillock and thus prone to soil erosion.

v) The District Forest Officer has reported that Spotted deer, Jackal, wild boar, black naped hare are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.



The forest area proposed for diversion is not part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion. There is no rare/ endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

vi) There is no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

vii) Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.

viii) The District Forest Officer has reported that no work in violation of the Act or guidelines issued under the Act has been carried out by user agency.

ix) For the proposed diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land in Ravathanallur RF for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu pudur road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur village, compensatory afforestation has been proposed in 1.54 ha of degraded forest area in Thagarai RF by planting of 1536 number of misc. seedlings along with maintenance of plantation over a period of 10 year period at a cost of Rs. 19,48,382/- and furnished the cost estimate of the CA scheme and area marked in the Survey of India topo sheet and surveyed sketch of the proposed CA area in geo-referenced map. Site suitability certificate of the CA area has also been furnished by the District Forest Officer.

x) In the site inspection report and recommendation of the proposal, the District Forest Officer has stated the following.

a) This proposal is for diversion of 0.768 Ha of forest land for road widening work on Vellimalai Moolakkadu Pudur between Pakkam and Ravatanallur village across Ravathanallur RF and the area inspected on 30.05.2022. There are 16 number of trees which are coming in the alignment and these trees planted as avenue trees by the Forest Department. It does not fall in the Elephant corridor. Diversion of forest area involved for 640m length and 12 m width including the road existing portion.

b) Further, in the EDS reply, the District Forest Officer, Villupuram has reported that this road was formed by the Highways Department prior to 1980 and maintained by them. As per the RF notification, there is no right of way allowed.



The user agency has furnished the forest area diversion proposal for the entire width including the present road portion, road expansion width proposed and berm portion.

xi) In the recommendation of the project proposal, the District Forest Officer has reported that it is public project, The project is very useful to effective function of the public transport and hence recommended.

4) The Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle has inspected the area on 09.07.2022 and recommended the project proposal involving diversion of forest land of 0.768 ha.

5) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 99 years. The District Forest Officer, Villupuram has recommended the project for the year 2022 and the Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle has recommended the diversion of forest area for a period of 25 years.

The District Forest Officer has reported that it is an existing State Highway Road. Hence diversion of forest land has been recommended for 50 years.

6) State Government may accord diversion of forest land of less than one hectare in each case for non- forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for creation of critical development and security related infrastructure of Government Departments under the general approval of Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines. Construction and widening of road is one of the work allowed under general approval list.

7) Based on the recommendation made by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division and Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle, proposal received for diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land with Carriage way @ 7.00m width and berm width @ 2.50 m on either side for 640m length road lies in forest land of Ravathanallur Reserved Forests of Villupuram Forest Division for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur RF in Kallakuruchi District seeking approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, Construction and Maintenance Sankarapuram Sub division, Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District is furnished to the Government for consideration of the Government and following conditions is recommended for imposition of the project.



- i) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.
  - ii) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at their cost.
  - iii) The user agency has to pay the cost towards compensatory afforestation scheme over an extent of 1.54 ha of degraded forest area as per the Compensatory afforestation scheme including maintenance for a period of 10 years.
  - iv) The User Agency has to pay the Net Present Value of proposed forests diversion area as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India /Government of India.
  - v) The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.
  - vi) Amount of Compensatory afforestation scheme, Net Present Value of diverted forest area under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)
  - vii) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards annual lease rent for the forest area diversion period as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.
  - viii) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 0.768 ha for with a length of 640 m and width of 12.0m (7.00m carriage way and 2.50 m berm-shoulder on either side) in Ravathanallur RF.
  - ix) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under any circumstances be transferred to any other agencies/department or person without prior approval.
  - x) Period of lease can be fifty (50) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.
- 8) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act)/ Nodal Officer of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu.



9) I request that the proposal may be considered and approval may be issued for diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land with Carriage way @ 7.00m width and berm width @ 2.50 m on either side for 640m length road lies in forest land of Ravathanallur Reserved Forests of Villupuram Forest Division for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur RF in Kallakuruchi District seeking approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of the Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, Construction and Maintenance Sankarapuram Sub division, Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District for a period of 50 years.

Yours faithfully

 10/05/2023

For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

6  
10/05/2023



PART - IV

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

Name of the work : Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land of Ravathanallur Reserved Forests of Villupuram Forest Division for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur RF in Kallakuruchi District in favour of the Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, Construction and Maintenance Sankarapuram Sub division, Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District - Proposal No. FP/TN/Road/151612/2022

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

Recommended

V. Karunapriya  
5/5/23

Signature :

Name-Designation : Tmt. V. Karunapriya, I.F.S.,  
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation Act), O/o the Principal Chief  
Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Chennai.

Date : 05-05-2023

Place: Chennai-32.