


Cost Benefit Analysis Guidelines for forest land diversion-2017

Guidelines for concluding cost-benefit analysis for projects Involving forest diversion

- (i) While considering proposal for diversion of forest land for non-forestry use, it is essential that ecological and environmental losses and eco-economic distress caused to the people who are displaced are weighted against economic and social gains.
- (ii) Whenever the forest land is involved in the development projects, the cost of ecosystem services and fragmentation of habitat of wildlife and economic distress caused to people dependent on forests and the cost of settlement of people dependent on forest should also be added as the cost of forest diversion in addition to the standard project cost which would have been incurred by the user agencies without involvement of forest land while conducting the cost benefit analysis of the project. Similarly the benefits from the project accruing due to diversion of forest land and used in the project should also be accounted for in the benefits component in addition to the standard benefits of the project which would have been accrued without involvement of forest land while conducting the cost benefit analysis and determining the benefit and cost ratio (BC ratio).
- (iii) The cost of compensatory afforestation and its maintenance in future and soil & moisture conservation at present discounted value and future benefits from such compensatory forestation accruing over next 50 years monetized and discounted to the present value should be included as cost- and benefits respectively of compensatory afforestation while conducting the cost benefit analysis and determining the benefit and cost ratio (BC ratio).
- (iv) Table-A lists the details the types of projects involving forest land for which cost- benefit analysis will be required Table-B lists the parameters according to which the cost aspect of forest land diverted for the development projects will be determined, while Table-C lists the parameters for assessing the benefits accruing to the project using of forest land.
- (v) A cost-benefit analysis as above should accompany the proposals sent to the Central Government for forest clearance under the Forest Conservation Act.


Executive Engineer
P.W.D.N.H. Division
Ambikapur (C.G.)


D.F.O.
Surguja Division
Ambikapur


दिवेकानन्द झा
(भा.व.से.)
वन मण्डल अधिकारी
बलरामपुर वन मण्डल, बलरामपुर


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Table-A: Cases under which a cost-benefit analysis for forest diversion are required

No.	Nature of Proposal	Applicable/ Not Applicable	Remarks
1	All categories of proposals involving forest land upto 20 hectares in plains and upto 5 hectare in hills	Not applicable	These proposals may be considered on a case to case basis and value judgment
2	Proposal for defence installation purposes and oil prospecting (prospecting only)	Not applicable	
3	Habitation, establishment of industrial units, tourist lodges complex and other building construction.	Not applicable	
4	All other proposals involving forestland more than 20 hectares in plains and more than 5 hectares in hills including roads, transmission lines, minor, medium and major irrigation projects, hydro projects, mining activity, railway lines, location specific installations centers, TV towers etc.	Applicable	These are cases where a cost-benefit analysis is necessary to determine when diverting the forest land to non-forest use in the overall public interest.


Executive Engineer
P.W.D.N.H. Division
Ambikapur (C.G.)


D.F.O.
Surguja Division
Ambikapur


विवेकानन्द झा
(भा.व.से.)
वन मण्डलाधिकारी
बलरामपुर दन मण्डल, बलरामपुर


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Table-B: Estimation of cost of forest diversion

No.	Parameter s	Remark s
1	Ecosystem services losses due to proposed forest diversion	Economic value of loss of eco-system services due to diversion of forests shall be the net present value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted as prescribed by the Central Government (MoEF& CC). Note: In case of National Parks the NPV shall be ten (10) times the normal NPV and in case of Wildlife Sanctuary the NPV shall be five (5) times the normal NPV or otherwise prescribed by the ministry or any other competent authority.
2	Loss of animal husbandry productivity, including loss of fodder.	Nil
3	Cost of human resettlement	Nil
4	Loss of public facilities and administrative infrastructure (Roads, Building, Schools, Dispensaries, Electric lines, Railways etc.) on forest land, which would require forest land if these facilities were diverted due to this project	No loss of public facilities is taking place and no administrative infrastructure (Roads, Building, Schools, Dispensaries, Electric lines, Railways etc.) will be destroyed.
5	Environment losses erosion effect on hydrological cycle, wildlife, habitation, micro climatic ratting of ecological balances.	$92.455 \times 803000 = 72,241,365$ (722.413 Lac.)
6	Suffering of austeas	Nil
7	Habitat Fragmentation Cost	Nil
8	Compensatory afforestation and soil & moisture conservation cost	The actual cost of compensatory afforestation and soil & moisture conservation and its maintenance in future at present discounted value.


Executive Engineer
P.W.D.N.H. Division
Ambikapur (C.G.)



D.F.O.
Surguja Division
Ambikapur


विवेकानन्द झा
(भा.व.से.)
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बलरामपुर वन मण्डल, बलरामपुर

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Table-C: Existing guidelines for estimating benefits of forest-diversion in CBA

No.	Parameters	Remarks
1	Increase in productively attribute to the specific project	Mobility is difficult and time taking in mountainous region. The productivity of the commercial and industrial activities for which transportation shall take place. Besides it will increase the tourism.
2	Benefits to economy due to the specific project	The project will yield significant economic benefit to the state. Construction o road will lead to much better connectivity, which will play significant role in improving the socio-economic condition of the people of the state in any folds.
3	No. of population benefited due to specific project	Entire population i.e. 722.413 Lakh (Balrampur) souls shall be benefited from the project
4	Economic benefits due to of direct and indirect employment due to the Specific project.	Approximate 110000 man days of temporary employment will be generated for the construction Period of 24 months.
5	Economic benefits due to compensatory afforestation	The compensatory afforestation amount will be deposited to forest department. There will be various employment generated for execution as well as Maintenance of the CA work.


Executive Engineer
P.W.D.N.H. Division
Ambikapur (C.G.)


D.F.O.
Surguja Division
Ambikapur


डिप्लेकमन्द झा
(भा. व. से.)
वन मण्डलाधिकारी
बलरामपुर वन मण्डल, बलरामपुर


Note-1: Net Present value (NPV) of environment and ecosystem services loss: The concept of Net Present value of the forest land diverted is a scientific method of calculating the environmental cost and other losses caused due to diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. The NPV represents the net value of various ecosystem services and other environmental services in monetary terms which the forest would have provided if the forest would not have been diverted.

Note-2: Possession value of forest land diverted:

The forest land diverted for the project such as irrigation, hydropower, railways, roads, wind, and transmission lines and mining e.t.c are unlikely to be returned and remains in possession of the user agencies. Therefore 30% of the net present value (NPV) of forest land diverted or market rate of adjoining area in the district should be added as a cost component as "possession value of forest land" in addition to the environmental costs due to loss of forests.


Executive Engineer
P.W.D.N.H. Division
Ambikapur (C.G.)


D.F.O.
Surguja Division
Ambikapur


विवेकानन्द झा
(भा.व.से.)
वन मण्डलाधिकारी
बलरामपुर वन मण्डल, बलरामपुर