

Site Inspection Report

I have inspected the proposed site on 29.06.2019. The area for diversion of forest land over an extent of 159.01 ha additional area of M/s, National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, Donimalai, Sandur, M.L.No. 1111, Sandur.

Details of proposed project is as below:-

Extent of area proposed:-

- a) Additional area proposed for mining is over an extent of 159.01 hectares,
- b) Though the proposed forest area is located adjoining to the already FC approved mining area, it is a fresh/virgin forest area with good canopy cover (canopy cover more than 0.5), having steep slope. Further, through tree enumeration from the sample plots (16 sample plots of 1.00 ha each), we counted *about 2642 trees* (which needs to be cut/cleared for project). Therefore, if we extrapolate this sample plot data, over 159.01 ha project area, we would arrive *about 26000 trees* (exact number will be known only after complete total enumeration of tree) which would leads to severe soil erosion and serious environmental damages. Therefore, FC approval for mining activities in this 159.01 ha, fresh forest area would negatively affect the local flora, fauna and other environmental resources. Therefore, this project should be considered only after expiry of ore from the already FC approved existing mines areas.
- c) About 13.58 ha area of the M/s. NMDC mining lease area as approved under MMDR act falls within 1 km of distance from Sri. Kumaraswamy temple (Archeologically Important Site). In this regard, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued direction to the State Government to constitute a committee to examine and recommend measures with respect to restriction of the mining activities, in the portion of mining leases falling with, in 1 km & upto 2 Kms, of archeologically important temples / sites in Karnataka vide its order in SLP No.20180/2010.

The Donimalai Forest Block in Sandur South Range declared as Section-04 of Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 and Notified vide Notification No. FFD-29, FAF-84, Dated: 28.02.1985. The Forest area falls under Eco class-III, Southern Dry Deciduous Forests.

The proposed forest land is not part of National Park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve and elephant corridor etc. Further, the proposed area is 23.52 km away from the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 23.54 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary, 13.63 km away from the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary and 9.76 kms away from Eco-sensitive zone of Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary.

Dated: 03.08.2019.
Place: Ballari


Deputy Conservator of Forests
Ballari Division, Ballari