

FORM - 'A'

PART - II

(To be filled by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests)

State Serial No of Proposal

Location of the Project / Scheme:		Diversion of 159.01 ha Additional area (Originally 167.63 ha) area of forest land of M/s, National Minerals Development Corporation Limited, ML No.1111, Donimalai, Sandur.	
i.	State/Union Territory	:	Karnataka
ii.	District.	:	Bellary
iii.	Forest Division	:	Bellary Forest Division
iv.	Area of forest land proposed for diversion (in ha)	:	Over an Extent of 159.01 hectares (Initially 167.63 ha)
v	Legal status of forest	:	Reserved Forest
vi		:	The Donimalai Block Forest (D.M.) 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.
vii	Density of vegetation.	:	Eco class-III, Southern Dry Deciduous Forests.
	Species-wise (scientific names) and diameter class-wise enumeration of trees (to be enclosed. In case of irrigation / hydel projects enumeration at FRL, FRL-2 meter & FRL-4 meter also to be enclosed.)	:	Tree Enumeration list Enclosed.
viii	Brief note on vulnerability of the forest area to erosion.	:	About 159.01 ha proposed area is a fresh/virgin forest with good canopy cover and steep slope, which will be subjected to soil erosion due to mining. Hence, the user agency is required to take up soil & moisture Conservation works in proposed area.
ix.	Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest.	:	159.01 ha proposed area is a forest area (inside the forest area).
x	Whether forms part of National Park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, etc. (If so, the details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	:	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.
xi	Whether any rare/endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area- if so details thereof	:	The Flora and fauna observed in proposed area includes, Flora: <i>Acacia catechu</i> , <i>Albizia amara</i> , <i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> , <i>Cassia fistula</i> , <i>Carissa carandus</i> , <i>Dodonia viscosa</i> , <i>Boswellia serrata</i> and <i>crotalaria sandurensis</i> etc., Fauna: Leopard, Sloth Bear, Jackal, Hares, Peafowl, Wild pig, Grey partridge, Indian porcupine, Monitor lizard, four-horned antelope and Pangolin.

xii	Whether any protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required.	Some portion of the M/s. NMDC mining lease as approved under MMDR act falls within 1 km of distance from Sri. Kumaraswamy temple (Archeologically Important Site). The extent of lease area falling within 1 km of the Temple is 13.58 hectares. 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 lease area falling within 1 km & upto 2 Kms distance of archeologically important temples / sites in Karnataka vide its order in SLP No.20180/2010. In this case, the extent of 13.58 ha hectares mining lease portion falls in within 1 Km of Sri. Kumaraswamy Temple.
2.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in col. 2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	The requirement of Forest land is proposed by the user agency in column No.2 of part-I can be avoidable as, M/s NMDC limited having two working mine leases i.e. M.L.No.2396 (608 ha) & M.L.No. 1111 (341.24 in forest land 159.01 in Revenue land). This proposed area of 159.01 ha is additional area for M.L.No.1111. Therefore, before exhausting the ore in the already approved mining lease area (1111 & 2396), granting new and fresh forest area for mining is not justifiable. Further, there are 67 different categories of existing mines (all broken up area) available for auctioning or allotment or resumption (in addition to 32 currently working mines). Therefore, allotment of fresh forest area having very good canopy cover for mining before expiry of all the broken up forest area (existing mines in the forest area) is not justifiable.
3.	Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still in progress.	- No -
4.	Details of compensatory afforestation scheme: i) Details of non forest area/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch.	The user agency has identified C & D land in Sy.No.295 of Appanalli Village, Gudekote Hobli, Kudligi Taluk, Ballari District over an extent of 159.01 hectares. The entire (159.01 ha) area of this survey number is not suitable for afforestation. Only 6.07 ha (3.81%) area is suitable for afforestation and the remaining areas (152.94 ha) are rocky patches laying adjacent to the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary and falls within the Gudekote Eco-sensitive zone. The 152.94 ha area of Sy No.295 of Appanalli is rocky patches which are not suitable for afforestation may be used as buffer zone / wildlife corridor for the Gudekote Sloth Bear Sanctuary. Therefore, the CA amount may be used for afforestation in the degraded forest area and also to improve the wildlife habitat in the Sy.No.295 of Appanalli village in Gudekote wildlife range

ii)	Map showing non-forest/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.	:	Enclosed.
iii)	Detailed compensatory afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure, etc.	:	As per the CAMPA guidelines, the afforestation scheme is to be implemented. Datasheet is enclosed.
iv)	Total financial outlay for compensatory afforestation scheme.	:	Rs. 3,15,000 x 159.01 =Rs. 5,00,88,150/-
v)	Certificates from competent authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory afforestation and from management point of view. (To be signed by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests).	:	Suitability Certificate enclosed
5.	Site inspection report of the DCF (to be enclosed) especially highlighting facts asked in col. 7 (xi, xii), 8 and 9 above.	:	Site inspection report is enclosed.
6.	Division/District profile:		
i.	Geographical area of the district.	:	8420 Sq.K.M
ii.	Forest area of the district.	:	1349.53 Sq.K.M
iii.	Total forest area diverted since 1980 with number of cases.	:	6476.58 Ha and totally 91 cases covered
iv.	Total compensatory afforestation stipulated in the district/division since 1980 on (a) forest land including penal compensatory afforestation, (b) Non-forest land.	:	2342.49 Ha 4131.92 Ha
v.	Progress of compensatory afforestation as on (date) 31.03.2019 on (a) Forest land (b) Non-forest land.	:	2337.70 Ha 2728.00 Ha

7. Specific recommendations of the DCF for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal : with reasons.

The specific recommendation with regard to the proposal for diversion of 159.01 ha under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is as follows;

1) 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.

2) 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. Therefore in case of approval of FC proposal we have to exclude this 13.58 ha area which falling within the 1 km radius from the archeologically important Kumaraswamy temple.

Date : 03.08.2019.
Place : Bellary


Deputy Conservator of Forests
Ballari Division, Ballari