



Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Dharwad Circle, Dharwad.
Forest Campus, Near K. C. Park, P.B Road, Dharwad-580008.

No. A1/GFL/B/S.G.M/Jalligeri/CR- 1/2020-21.

Date: - -2020.

Site-Inspection Report

Sub: Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/42366/2019 Diversion of 39.90 Ha (39.70 Ha Mining lease and 0.20 Ha Approach Road) of forest land in Sy. No.45, 49 & 50 of Jalligeri Village, Kasaba Hobli, Shirahatti Taluka, Gadag District for establishing of Sangli Gold Mine in favour of Ramagad Minerals & Mining Limited, Hospet, Bellary District.

Ref : 1) Letter No: A4/GFL/FC/RMML/Mining /39.899 Ha/ CR-09/2020-21/1834
Dated: 04-12-2020 of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Gadag Division, Gadag.

2) Site Inspection & Recommendation letter Dated: 28.01.2017 &
Dated: 14-12-2018 of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Gadag Division, Gadag

With reference to the above subject Deputy Conservator of Forests, Territorial Division, Gadag under reference no. (1) has forwarded the proposal for diversion of forest land in Sy. No.45, 49 & 50 of Jalligeri Village, (Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary) Kasaba Hobli, Shirahatti Taluka, Gadag District, under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for establishing of Sangli Gold Mine in favour of Ramagad Minerals & Mining Limited, Hospet, Bellary District **along with Part II report** as per Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

The total proposed forest land for diversion for mining purpose is **39.9 Ha**. It was inspected by me on **22nd December 2020** along with Deputy Conservator of Forests, Territorial Division, Gadag, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Territorial Division, Gadag, Range Forest Officer, Shiratti and other staff.

The whole area is a valuable bio-diversity repository crucial for conservation of wildlife peculiar to the Deccan plateau dry scrub forest with very good potential. It is also an important watershed for the surrounding agricultural tracts which are dependent on rain water runoff for their basic needs. It is to be noted that more than the removal of ore in the actual area applied for, the accompanying disturbances due to road construction, movement of vehicles, noise and dust pollution and disruption of drainage due to blasting etc., will be greater peril to the eco-system.

The existence of flora-fauna and avian species as listed in the report submitted by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Gadag are dependent on micro climate provided by Kappatagudda. These species of the area suggest that this area is ecologically 'rich', 'valuable', 'unique', and 'irreplaceable'. This proposed project may negatively affect the catchment and watershed of the landscape. Further, by virtue of their biological richness, they are potentially of high value to Human societies, help in maintaining the ecological stability of the area and are significant in conserving biological diversity. The uniqueness of the services they offer to human societies are precious.

Images from various sources like camera traps and individual observations of field staff during patrolling reveal the active presence of good number of wild fauna both herbivorous and carnivorous including species mentioned in schedule - I of Wild Life Protection Act 1972 like Blackbuck, Indian wolf, Leopard, Four horned Antelope, etc., species mentioned in schedule-II like Rhesus macaque, Chameleon etc., and species mentioned in schedule-III like Spotted deer and Hyena. Other than these species there are good number of Amphibians and Reptiles as well as good number of birds including schedule - I like Peafowl, Hornbills found in these areas. This fragile Eco-system is also home to a variety of Butterflies, Moths, Beetles and other beneficial insects which bestow their contribution to the survival of the mankind in form of pollination and maintaining the balance of the Eco-system.

Field inspections reveal that there is a stratified distribution of animals across the slopes of the Kappathgudda, which is readily observed here. On top of the hillocks four horned antelopes are found. On middle slopes Chinkaras can be seen and on foot of the hillock, Black bucks are seen often. This fact supports the stability of the ecosystem and the food web present in pristine Kappathgudda.

The valley which the proposed area drains has been given due importance by declaring it a Medicinal Plant Development Area (MPDA) before being declared as Kappathgudda Wildlife Sanctuary. A preliminary survey has revealed the existence of endangered flora like *Dolichandrone crispae*, a medicinal plant, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, small pocket of *Dalbergia latifolia*, profused natural regeneration of Sandal, *Aegle marmelos*, *Gardenia gummiifera*, *Abrus precatorius*, *Butea superba*, *Lettsomia elliptica*, *Moullava spicata*, *Hemideguas indicus* and *Mimosa pudica*.

Various non-forestry activities in the area may lead to fragmentation of habitat which is dangerous to the food web and ecosystem stability of the Kappathgudda. Because of this fragmentation much more cases of man-animal conflict may arise and it may lead to straying of wild life like leopards, wolves & hyenas into surrounding human habitat.

The whole landscape is catchment area for Gadag and its surrounding villages and a source of water for the local populace. Moisture conservation activities taken up in the area

under various schemes are not only beneficial for the rise in the groundwater level and water retention capacity of the area. The green cover suppresses soil erosion which is likely to happen if the area is denuded. The area forms the ridge line of Kappathgudda hills which has been the catchment for the drainage of Shirahatti and Mundaragi Taluks of the Gadag District. Dambal and Hirewaddatti minor irrigation tanks which are the lifelines of this locality entirely depend on Kappathagudda Wildlife Sanctuary for their water source which is likely to deplete if soil binding vegetation will be removed from the surrounding area.

The part of proposed mining project lying in the Kappathagudda Wildlife Sanctuary as notified in FEE57FWL2019 Dated:16.05.2019 may alter/destroy or disturb present ecological setup both in physical and biological levels which may not be possible to restore later at any cost. The perils, consequences and ecological losses as explained in reference letter are genuine and acceptable. The other parts of the project also lie in the ESZ.

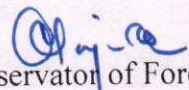
This proposed project no.FP/KA/MIN/42366/2019 earlier submitted as FP/KA/MIN/26675/2017 was recommended for **rejection** under reference no. (2) by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Territorial Division, Gadag.

Under the reference no (1), Deputy Conservator of Forests, Territorial Division, Gadag expressed **negative impact** of this project on flora-fauna, groundwater, watershed-landscape, native medicinal plant species,etc., considering all the above elements in order to conserve the natural resources and maintain ecological balance, this proposed project is recommended for **REJECTION**.

The proposed site is ecologically **highly vulnerable** for commercial activities and Once again it is reiterated that such activities/projects should be barred /rejected in the future.

Date: - -2020

Place : Dharwad.


Chief Conservator of Forests,
Dharwad Circle, Dharwad.

12/01/2021