

RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SRIVILLIPUTHUR - MEGAMALAI TIGER RESERVE (SMTR), SRIVILLIPUTHUR

I inspected the area proposed for diversion on 09.02.2022 along with Forest Range Officer, Saptur; Forester (Saptur section) and one forest guard (Mallapuram beat). The area requested by user agency for laying of optical fibre cable (OFC) along the road side from Muthalamparai Village to Mallapuram Village through Mallapuram beat forest area in Saptur Reserved Forest for a length of 6.23 Km.

1. ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE PROPOSED SITE FOR DIVERSION

- a. Part of Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve
- b. Part of Agasthiyar Biosphere Landscape
- c. Part of elephant reserve No. 7
- d. Erstwhile Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary

2. AREA DESCRIPTION AND ITS IMPORTANCE

The entire project falls inside the Mallapuram beat of Saptur RF all along Mallapuram – Mayiladumparai road for which right is admitted as per government letter number G.O. (Ms) No. 14 dated 08.02.2021. The road passes through the buffer area of the Tiger which involves both Sanctuary and non-sanctuary area. The OFC passes through Sanctuary area for a distance of 4.3 km and in non-sanctuary area for remaining 0.7 km (Map 1). Several minor seasonal streams cross the road and there are some huge rocks are also present in some places (Table 2). The proposed site has several endangered wildlife species (Table 1).

Table 1. List of important fauna found in Mallapuram beat

Sl. no	Species	Schedule in Wildlife Protection Act	IUCN conservation Status
1.	Grizzled Giant Squirrel	Schedule I (Part I)	Vulnerable
2.	Common Langur	Schedule II (part I)	Least concern
3.	Leopard	Schedule I (Part I)	Vulnerable
4.	Slender Loris	Schedule I (Part I)	Endangered
5.	Indian Gaur	Schedule I (Part I)	Vulnerable
6.	Sambar	Schedule III	Vulnerable
7.	Chital	Schedule III	Least concern
8.	Jungle Cat	Schedule II (Part I)	Not applicable
9.	Small Indian Civet	Schedule II (Part I)	Least concern
10.	Common Plam Civet	Schedule II (Part I)	Least concern

11.	Brown Palm Civet	Schedule II (Part I)	Least concern
12.	Common Mongoose	Schedule II (Part I)	Least concern
13.	Sloth Bear	Schedule I (Part I)	Vulnerable
14.	Ruddy mongoose	Schedule II (Part I)	Least concern
15.	Wild pig	Schedule III	Least concern
16.	Indian Pangolin	Schedule I (Part I)	Endangered
17.	Star tortoise	Schedule IV	Vulnerable
18.	Indian Porcupine	Schedule IV	Least concern
19.	Monitor Lizard	Schedule I	Least concern
20.	Changeable hawk eagle	Schedule I (Part III)	Least concerned
21.	Serpent eagle	Schedule I (Part III)	Least concerned
22.	Eagle owl	Schedule IV	Least concerned
23.	Jungle owlet	Schedule I (Part III)	Least concerned
24.	Peafowl	Schedule I (Part III)	Least concern
25.	Grey jungle fowl	Schedule II (Part II)	Least concern
26.	Spectacled cobra	Schedule II (Part II)	Least concern
27.	Rat snake	Schedule II (Part II)	Least concern
28.	Indian krait	Schedule IV	Least concern

3. GENERAL REMARKS

The site proposed for laying OFC is home for several endangered species as mentioned above (Table 1). However, damaged caused to flora and fauna is very minimal as the project is proposed along the road from Muthalamparai Village to Mallapuram Village through Saptur Reserved Forest. This will enable transportation of equipment to lay OFC through the road and also facilitate easy operation and maintenance in future. The project site doesn't have any important monuments which has archaeological importance/ heritage site/ defence establishment etc.

4. LEGAL PROVISIONS

- As per Ministry of Environment and Forests Wildlife Division, New Delhi letter number F.No: 6-10/2011 WL dated 19.12.2012, it is mandatory to obtain approval of Standing Committee of NBWL for any activities falling inside Tiger Reserve.
- The project requires Forest clearance under Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- According to Hand book of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Forest conservation rules, 2003(guidelines and clarifications) published by Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, 2019 Chapter 2, paragraph 2.5(i) (b) CA shall be raised and maintained at the cost of user agency on degraded forest land twice in extent of forest area diverted in the case of laying optical fiber lines.

Hence, after carefully considering the impact of the project on local biodiversity, the project recommended for Wild Life Clearance under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Forest Clearance under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

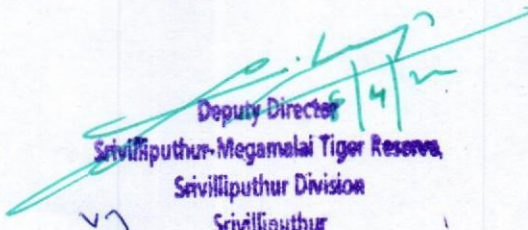
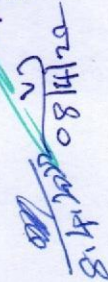
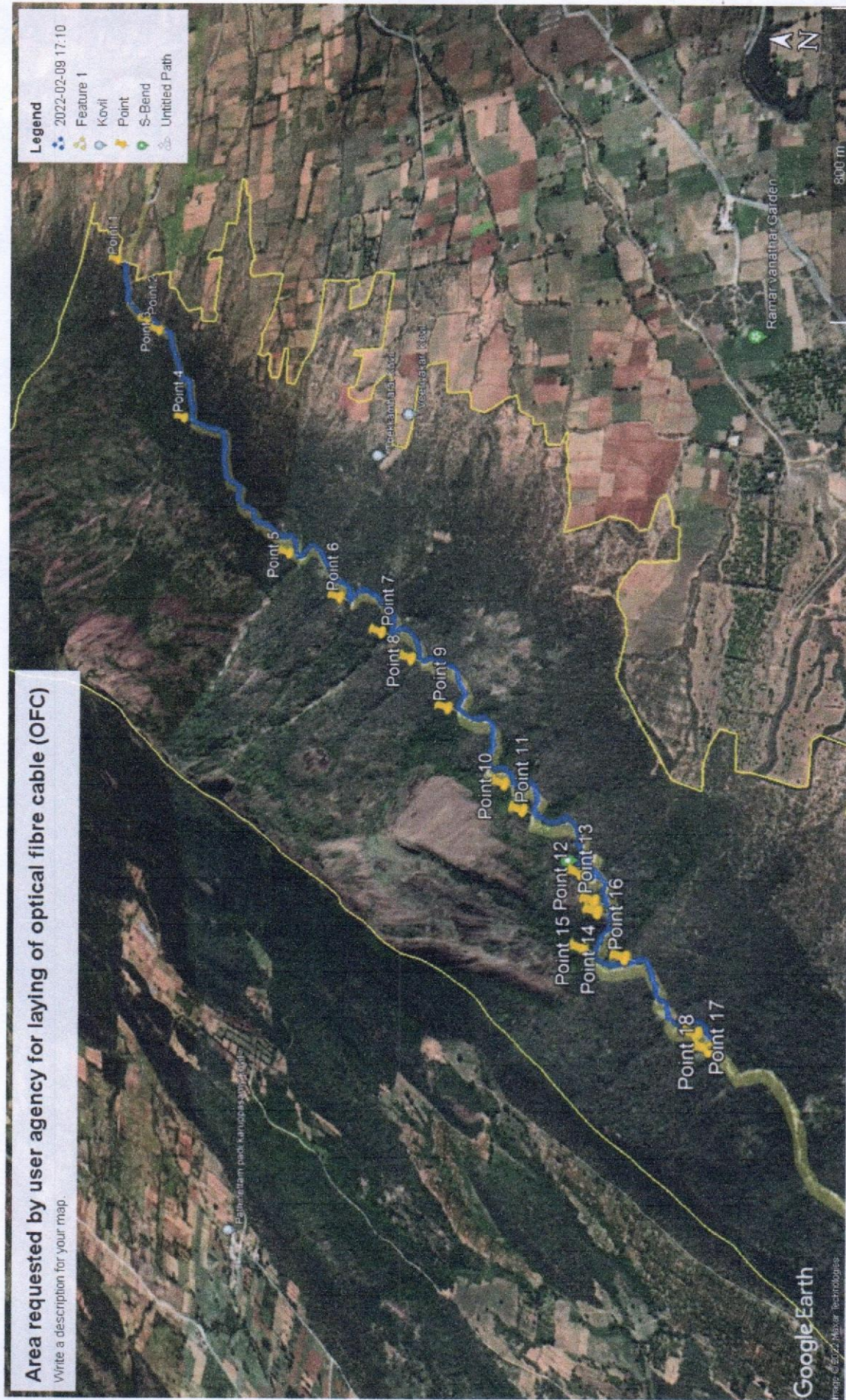

Deputy Director
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8.4.2022 08/4/22

Table 2: Details of the site inspected and its important descriptions

Name	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude	Date and Time	Descriptions
Point 1	9.828963	77.63934	264	2022-02-09T17:10:59.563+0530	Starting point
Point 2	9.826757	77.63673	276	2022-02-09T17:17:40.408+0530	Small stream
Point 3	9.825964	77.63625	285	2022-02-09T17:19:51.097+0530	Stream
Point 4	9.823817	77.63285	296	2022-02-09T17:26:59.878+0530	stream crosses over road
Point 5	9.817412	77.62798	345	2022-02-09T17:40:56.171+0530	Stream passes over road
Point 6	9.814889	77.62661	356	2022-02-09T17:47:29.098+0530	Stream crosses
Point 7	9.813041	77.62563	379	2022-02-09T17:53:10.836+0530	stream crossing
Point 8	9.811174	77.62492	385	2022-02-09T17:56:11.358+0530	stream crossing
Point 9	9.810114	77.62365	408	2022-02-09T18:00:37.573+0530	stream crossing
Point 10	9.807948	77.6218	414	2022-02-09T18:08:58.555+0530	Stream crossing
Point 11	9.807277	77.62119	426	2022-02-09T18:11:55.089+0530	Rock
Point 12	9.805442	77.61982	394	2022-02-09T18:18:12.491+0530	S bend
Point 13	9.80502	77.61919	399	2022-02-09T18:22:04.542+0530	End of sanctuary area
Point 14	9.804909	77.61894	390	2022-02-09T18:24:00.182+0530	Rock
Point 15	9.805223	77.61794	402	2022-02-09T18:27:01.811+0530	stream crossing
Point 16	9.803983	77.618	420	2022-02-09T18:29:45.138+0530	stream crossing
Point 17	9.801844	77.61668	426	2022-02-09T18:35:34.745+0530	Stream crossing
Point 18	9.801508	77.61641	432	2022-02-09T18:40:49.720+0530	End point


 08/11/22
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Map 1: Map showing area requested by user agency for laying optical fibre cable (OFC)

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