

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Nalanda Forest Division, Biharsharif, BiharSite Inspection report of DCFInspection Date :-03.10.2019

The Proposed road or project area is passing through protected Forest area of Ghorakatora Protected forest (in which Vishunpur (Giriyak)- Chakeya- Ghorakatora Road has been proposed) falls under jurisdiction of Rajgir Range. Ghorakatora Protected forest is notified as Protected Forest by Environment and Forest Department, Government of Bihar through vide Forest Notification No. F/LA/12/83-3266, dated 02 September, 1983 in which the present proposal for total about 0.3260 ha is submitted for diversion. The proposed area of 0.3260 ha has been visited by the undersigned along with survey team and verified the facts in proposed site.

- The proposed area involves diversion of 0.3260 ha in Nalanda Forest Division, Biharsharif. This is the barest minimum of forest land required for the instant project and has no other alternative to by-pass. Since this road has been utilized by the forest department as well as villagers throughout the period, the new alignment will required more forest land or agricultural land. The local people not agreed to change the existing alignment. Diversion of these forest land areas for this project (non forestry activity) may not much affect the local flora of the area. In fact this road will serve for the forest department also for easy and speedy movement towards the Ghorakatora PF.
- No other alternate alignment available to this department. This route will use minimum forest land in compare to other alternative route .
- The area of diversion of 0.3260 ha user agency requires forest land for diversion which is devoid of any trees , so the agency does not proposed for felling of any tree species . Since the user agency proposed for road construction of PCC road and strengthening of existing kaccha village road in which the portion of the forest land has to be required to complete the entire stretch of the village road.
- No endangered and rare tree/ species found in the proposed area. Density of Vegetation is approximately 0.1 for the purpose of NPV calculation. Small herb and shrubs are found in and around the proposed site. In some places the weeds and grass of grazing height also person present.
- The detail of forest land involved is as follows:

| Sl. No. | PF Name | GPS reading | Total Area (In Hec.) |
|---------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Ghorakatora Protected forest | A. 25.023623, 85.518369 B. 25.02208, 85.51717 C. 25.021718, 85.516301 | 1170 ft* 30 ft= 0.3260 Ha. |
| | | | 0.3260 |

- 0.3260 Ha of linear forest land is mainly required by the user agency to complete the project. No other alternative to the user agency to avoid this bare minimum land.

- Other than this alignment no other alignment available in-front of the project authorities due to natural landscape and actual status of forest land.
- So this present alignment is shortest and only available alignment for easy execution without any damage to forest area.
- The proposal forest land is part of Ghorakatora notified protected forest and falls within Protected Forest only. As per the final notification of the Eco sensitive Zone (S.O. 71(E) [10.01.2017] Final Notification declaring Eco Sensitive Zone around Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar) an area up to 3 km in all villages and up to 100 m in Nagar Panchayat, Rajgir, from the boundary of the protected area of the Rajgir WLS has been notified as an Eco-sensitive Zone. The proposed area is more than 3 km away from Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary which is not the part of ESZ.
- The undersigned is of opinion that the instant proposed project will no way affect the distribution or movement of any wild animal found in the areas where it is found. So far no such any cases of wildlife death reported in the in the proposed site. The crop raiding Nilgai is also present adjoining areas of the proposed road.
- Surveys carried out by TERI (2015) indicated that the nearby Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary is endowed with a diversity and abundance of wildlife characteristic of the area. There are 28 species of larger mammals, over 183 species of birds, 39 species of reptiles, 11 species of amphibians, 13 species of fishes, 51 species of butterflies and 6 species of scorpions.
- Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Neelgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Cheetal (*Axis axis*), Jungle fowl (*Gallus gallus murghi*), porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*), Monkey (*Macaca mulatta*), Jackal (*Canis aureus*) are the species of vital importance in Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajgir besides some of the endangered species like, Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Python (*Python molurus molurus*) etc. are also found in the Rajgir wild life Sanctuary.
- Generally the project area vulnerable to medium soil erosion due to intrinsic geological features of the substrate during rainy season.
- As per my knowledge, the enquiry report and as per field inspection no such protected archaeological/heritage site /monument located nearby area of the proposed project. but the Ordinance Factory, Rajgir boundary is situated approximately within the proximity of 1 km.
- The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in Col. No. 2 of Part – I is unavoidable and barest minimum of the project and only viable option.
- The area of diversion is below one ha. So, compensatory work actually will be carried out in the Rajgir - Giriyak to Hasanpur Bypass Road - 100 Iron Gabion plantation proposed in the 0.5 Km. both side of the road.
- The User Agency has not violated the prescribed provisions of the Forest conservation Act and Indian Forest Act at the time of inspection.
- This instant proposal for diversion of 0.3260 ha forest land may be approved with necessary conditions and directions.

(Dr. Nesamani K)
Deputy Conservator of Forest
Nalanda Forest Division, Bihar

