

INSPECTION REPORT

The site inspection for **the diversion of 15.394 Ha of forest land** for construction of **Netaji Subas Chandra Bose University of Excellence at Chakung, West Sikkim**, was conducted on 19th August 2021 by a team of Forest & Environment and Education Department (User Agency) officials.

The details of the team members are as follows;

Forest and Environment Department			Education Department (User Agency)		
SN	Name	Designation	SN	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. Karma Legshey D., IFS	CF (T)	1.	Mr. C. K. Pradhan	Addl. Chief Engineer
2.	Mrs. Thenmozhi V, IFS	DFO (HQ)	2.	Mr. Ramesh C. Chettri	Div. Engineer
3.	Ms. Nisha Subba, SFS	DFO (WL) West	3.	Mr. Prajwal Thapa	Asst. Engineer
4.	Ms. Bindiya Subba, SFS	ACF (T) Soreng	4.	Mr. Passang Sherpa	Jr. Engineer
5.	Mr. Binod Chettri & staff	RO (T) Soreng			
6.	Mr. Ashish Lama & staff	RO (Barsey WLS)			

- Based on discussions at the site during the visit, the observations, are as follows;

1. The project covers total area of 25.23 Ha of which **15.394 is Goucharan forest land**, 3.896 Ha is other Govt. land and 5.940 Ha is private land.
2. The forest land affected is under jurisdiction of the Soreng Territorial Range of the West Territorial Forest division.
3. The "Goucharan" forest are basically set aside by the State Government for the purpose of grazing of cattle of the adjoining villages, however in this area plantation of exotics such as Dhuppi (*Cryptomeria japonica*), Kashmir Dhuppi (*Cupasis kashmiriana*) were raised. Presently, due to rapid urbanization and development, requirement of both grazing and timber/firewood has now reduced.
4. **Flora:** The forests predominantly comprises of exotics such as Dhuppi (*Cryptomeria japonica*), Kashmir Dhuppi (*Cupasis kashmiriana*) interspersed with indigenous species like Katus (*Castanopsis tribuloides*), Chilawne (*Schima wallichii*), Mawa (*Engelhardtia spicata*) etc.
5. **Fauna:** Herbivores, snakes, Khalej pheasants with leopard sightings have been reported in the area. Hence, increase in Man-Animal conflict anticipated especially during construction phase.
6. The plinth area of civil structures proposed to be constructed within the forest land is about 17% i.e. 2.622 Ha out of the proposed 15.394 Ha with the felling of trees to be restricted to the barest minimum possible.
7. Adequate and appropriate sites for muck disposal have been provided.

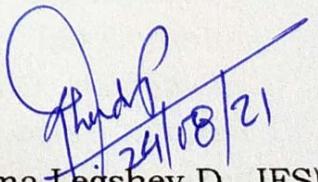
➤ **Recommendations/Suggestions:**

1. Creation of nurseries specifically for indigenous and climate resilient species such as *Quercus* spp., *Castanopsis* spp., *Rhododendron* spp., etc.
2. Strict compliance for measures to control forest fires including dousing of all fires at project site.
3. Segregation of solid waste into bio-degradable and non-biodegradable at project site and strict compliance against dumping of waste in open spaces, establishing a mechanism for transporting inorganic waste out of the project site to the nearest recycling facility on a regular basis.
4. Sensitization for all engaged project staff and construction labour regarding biodiversity and illegal wildlife activities.
5. Ensure felling of trees is restricted to the barest minimum.
6. Strengthening of frontline staff to ensure that –
 - a. Muck dumping and disposal of vehicular effluents in designated areas only.
 - b. Monitoring for detection of any illegal activities to prevent forest offences by the labour/ project staff engaged at the site.
 - c. Deployment of environment friendly equipment / generators.
 - d. No damage to any natural wetland or water body during the construction.
7. Installation of signages signifying the code of conduct and important biodiversity of the areas, at strategic locations.
8. To ensure compliance of above measures **Biodiversity Conservation and Management Plan (BMP) amounting to Rs. 300 Lakhs** and **Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) amounting to Rs. 300 Lakhs** in addition to the CAMPA, NPV, etc as per Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) rules is proposed at annexure.

Hence, the forest related cost for diversion is estimated to amount of ₹ 978.79 lakhs with details as follows;

- i. NPV - ₹ 247.14 lakhs
- ii. CA - ₹ 131.65 lakhs
- iii. BMP - ₹ 300.00 lakhs
- iv. WMP - ₹ 300.00 lakhs

Total - ₹ 978.79 lakhs


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