

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS  
(HEAD OF FOREST FORCE), MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR**

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Sub:- Proposal for the diversion of area 112.25 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra.

No. : Desk-17/Nodal/Kolhapur/ID-12996(29)/2699/2021-22  
Nagpur – 440 001, Dated 15/03/2022

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Revenue & Forest Department,  
Mantralya, Mumbai – 400032

Proposal for the diversion of area 112.25 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra. The proposal has been initiated by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara. The non-forest area does not involve in this project. The site inspection report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara is enclosed on page no.21 to 22 and The site inspection report of the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur is enclosed on page no.23 to 24.

**2.0 The details of the forest land proposed for diversion are as under:-**

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Taluka	Compt. No.	Gut.No.	Area (Ha.)	Area required for	Legal Status
1.	Mane Colony	Khandala	794	250	7.00	Gaonthan	RF
			794	250	43.80	Agriculture	
2.	Bholi		794	362, 363	15.75		
3.	Dhangarwadi		793	389	45.70	UF	
<b>Total Forest Area</b>					<b>112.25</b>		

**3.0** Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the important protected area of the Maharashtra State, Which is located in / Western Ghat. Western Ghat area is considered among the top Bio-diversity hot spots of the world. Western Ghat area included in world heritage site by UNESCO'S world heritage committee on 1 July, 2015.

**4.0** Govt. of Maharashtra has declared Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary vide notification No. WLP – 1085 CR-588/(I) dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 1985 under section 18 of Wildlife (Protection) Act-1972 for the purpose of protecting, propagating and development of Wildlife there in and its environment. The total area of notified sanctuary is 423.55 sq.Kms.

**5.0** In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 26- A of the said Act and of all other power enabling it in this behalf, the Government of Maharashtra hereby, on recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife and as per proposed by the enquiry officer excluded non forest areas of 14 villages and altered the boundaries of the Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary and reconstituted the same with the area of 33530.41 Ha. (335.30 sq.km.)

**6.0** The Maharashtra State Government vide the notification No. WLP -1008/Pra. Kra.232/F-a, dated 5/1/2010 has notified an area of 741.22 Sq. Km. of the Chandoli National Park (317.67 Sq. Km.) and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary (423.55 Sq. Km.) together as the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

**7.0** The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. These ranges form a common boundary between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa. This area is rich evergreen, semi-evergreen & moist deciduous forest. These forest areas encompass several river valleys like Krishna, Koyna etc. It is the first Tiger Reserve of Western Maharashtra & 4<sup>th</sup> Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra spreading over two protected Areas those of the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary and Chandoli National Park.

**8.0** The village Vele is situated in the core of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and is also situated within the area of KWLS. The central part of PA contains the Shivasagar Reservoir of Koyana River. As provided in the wildlife protection act and Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, the Collector has already enquired into rights and concessions of the people and has also ascertained the willingness of the people to relocation. The village Vele has given voluntary consent and is ready for rehabilitation.

**9.0** Human habitations are mostly established in fertile lands with assured water supply. Such sites within the forest area are limited and therefore are ecologically significant. Flat grounds along major nullahs can support revival of floral and faunal attributes and such attributes are completely lost, with the presence of intensive agricultural activities. Relocation in Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary has amply demonstrated the benefits of relocation, especially to wild herbivores and consequently to the whole eco-system. Relocation of village Vele will make available an area of about 150.82 ha. of private land of 61 PAP's, and area of 206.27 ha. of private land, from remaining 74 PAP's directly by negotiation. 328.56 ha. of revenue land and also area of 1473.26 ha. of forest area will be free from human disturbance.

**10.0** Relocation of Village Vele will get land mentioned in following table of 328.56 ha. of PAP's and Revenue Land and huge check of Forest Land of core zone will have been free from biotic interference therefore of rehabilitation and cattle's of Vele village.

Sr. No.	Details	Number of PAP's	Land (Ha.)	Remarks
1	PAP's ready to relocation	61	150.82	Currently residing in the core Area
2	PAP's currently not residing in Vele Village	74	162.89	74 PAP's have not given consent for rehabilitation as they have presently migrated outside the core area. They are not resident to this village but their land belongs to Vele village, it is also needed to be acquired in due course of time
Total		135	313.71	--
3	Revenue Land	NA	328.56	--
Total Area			642.27	

**11.0** The Sankalan list of the Project Affected Person's (PAP's) of Vele village is sanctioned by District Collector, Satara. The total number of PAP's is 135 out of which 61 PAP's have given consent to be relocated at village Dhangarwadi, Mane Colony and Bholi. Tahsil - Khandala, Dist. Satara. The remaining 74 PAP's has not yet demanded rehabilitation, But they are already residing outside. The 61 PAP's are currently residing in the core area and are demanding for rehabilitation, urgently. They have requested to give priority to the persons who are currently residing in the core area. Other PAP's are already staying outside the core area in the nearby cities long back and they are not yet approached and demanded for rehabilitation, hence they would be rehabilitated at later stage. The PAP's of Vele Village have selected forest land of villages Dhangarwadi Mane Colony and Bholi. Tahsil- Khandala, Dist. Satara. The total area required for

Rehabilitation is 112.25 ha. which includes 94.20 ha. of agricultural land and 6.00 ha. for Gaathan and approximately 10 % area is considered as unsuitable land. Which makes the total required land for Rehabilitation to be 112.25 ha. Hence, proposal for diversion of 112.25 ha. RF land from villages Dhangarwadi, Mane Colony, and Bholi, Tahsil - Khandala, Dist.- Satara from the Gut No.s 389, 250, 362, 363 is prepared and submitted herewith.

**12.0** As per para 1.15 of Handbook issued vide Government of India's letter dated 28/03/2019, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted complete justification for locating the project in the forest area to prove the project is site-specific as under:-

Land is not available in any command area of Irrigation Projects in Satara districts. There is no sufficient land available from "Gairan" or "Revenue waste land" in possession of Revenue department. Even in forests, it is not available in a continuous patch of land at a stretch that can accommodate all 61 PAP's, at one location. Also we are getting more non-forest land (435.07 ha.) than the total forest land (112.25 ha.) proposed to be diverted.

**13.0** Following documents as prescribed in Government Circular, Revenue and Forest Department No.FLD-1081/2041/(A)/F-3, dated 20/03/1982 and according to Government of India's instructions issued from time to time are enclosed in three copies.

13.1 Prescribed form dated 10/01/2003.

13.2 Certificate regarding minimum demand of forest land for the project,

13.3 Area Statement,

13.4 Index map in suitable scale,

**14.0** The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that:-

14.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is the lowest minimum.

14.2 The area belongs to Eco class-III, Open forest having density is below 0.4.

14.3 The Project involves felling of total 2918 number of trees. The Girth wise abstract is as under:-

Tree Girth in Cm.						
0-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	(>150)cm	Total
671	1931	274	38	3	1	2918

14.4 The proposed area does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve.

14.5 The Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance.

14.6 There is no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

14.7 The Proposed project is not within 10 kms from the Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park.

14.8 The non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of the application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under the interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.

**15.0** Government of India vide letter dated 3/12/2018 of F.No.11-43/2013-FC has issued guidelines regarding compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006. As per these guidelines:-

**'Accordingly, it is clarified that within the time period stipulated for compliance of Stage-I condition, Deputy Commissioner shall complete the process of compliance of FRA (including forwarding its findings to be concerned CF), hence for the purpose of the MoEF & CC, as per the provisions under the Forest**

**(Conservation) amendment rules, 2016 the compliance under FRA is not required for consideration of in-principle approval. This has to be furnished by the State Government for consideration of the proposal by the Ministry for final approval'**

Hence the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that FRA certificate of Collector Satara has been applied and the same will be submitted on receipt from the Collector Satara, before Stage-2 and we are promising you to submit it before Stage-2 clearance.

**16.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted the undertaking that:-**

16.1 As per the guideline of the Central Government dt. 20/05/2019 & dt. 06/01/2022 there is exemption from payment of Net Present Value (NPV) and cost of Compensatory Afforestation in the said proposal.

16.2 Agrees to defray the cost of felling of trees.

17.0 The KML file of the forest land proposed for diversion is enclosed and placed in the file at the top.

18.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara and the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur have recommended the proposal for diversion of 112.25 ha. of forest land.

19.0 Nodal officer on 03/12/2021 had requested the Chief Wildlife Warden to offer their remarks in accordance with the Central Government's guideline dated 20/05/2019 for the said proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden vide office note No.Desk-23(2)/WL/Survey /C.R.132(Nodal)/3104/2021-22, dated 02/03/2022 has conveyed his remarks as follows:-

"After rehabilitation of 61 families out of total 135 families in village Vele, Tq. Jawali, District-Satara, the total area acquired is 150.82 Ha. and for rehabilitation of these 61 families area to be disforested is 112.25 Ha. The area acquired is more than the area to be disforested therefore this office agrees with the Proposal."

**20.0 In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section-2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:-**

20.1 Legal status of the forest land diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve shall cease to be forest land.

20.2 User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.

20.3 Land vacated in the protected area due to relocation of Village shall be developed as per approved Wildlife Management Plan/NTCA guideline/CWLW.

20.4 No fragmentation of forests should take place due to the relocation project.

20.5 The boundary of the diverted land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.

20.6 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.

20.7 The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.

20.8 Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F.No.11-42/2017-FC, dt. 29/01/2018.

20.9 Any other condition that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.

**21.0** It is therefore, requested that Government of India may kindly be moved for approving the Proposal for the diversion of area 112.25 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra. under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Encl.:- Proposal 2 copies

 15/3/22

(Naresh Zurmure)

**Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer**

Copy forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur for information.

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara for information.

**PART -IV**

**(To be filled by Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)**

(Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks)

Sub.- Proposal for the diversion of area 112.25 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra. The proposal has been initiated by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara.

The details of forest land proposed for diversion is as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Taluka	Compt. No.	Gut.No.	Area (Ha.)	Area required for	Legal Status
1.	Mane Colony	Khandala	794	250	7.00	Gaonthan	RF
			794	250	43.80	Agriculture	
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3.	Dhangarwadi		793	389	45.70		
<b>Total Forest Area</b>					<b>112.25</b>		

*Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), M. S. Nagpur is attached on page no.*

  
15/3/22

**(Naresh Zurmure)  
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer**

Date: 15/03/2022  
Place: Nagpur

**Proposal for the diversion of area 112.25 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra.**

**Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State with regard to acceptance or otherwise of the proposed supported by reasons.**

Proposal for the diversion of area 112.25 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra. The proposal has been initiated by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara. The non-forest area does not involve in this project. The site inspection report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara is enclosed on page no.21 to 22 and The site inspection report of the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur is enclosed on page no.23 to 24.

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Total Area			642.27	

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**12.0** The PAP's of Vele Village have selected forest land of villages Dhangarwadi Mane Colony and Bholi. Tahsil- Khandala, Dist. Satara. The total area required for Rehabilitation is 112.25 ha. which includes 94.20 ha. of agricultural land and 6.00 ha. for Gaothan and approximately 10 % area is considered as unsuitable land. Which makes the total required land for Rehabilitation to be 112.25 ha. Hence, proposal for diversion of 112.25 ha. RF land from villages Dhangarwadi, Mane Colony, and Bholi, Tahsil - Khandala, Dist.- Satara from the Gut No.s 389, 250, 362, 363 is prepared and submitted herewith.

**13.0** As per para 1.15 of Handbook issued vide Government of India's letter dated 28/03/2019, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted complete justification for locating the project in the forest area to prove the project is site-specific as under:-

Land is not available in any command area of Irrigation Projects in Satara districts. There is no sufficient land available from "Gairan" or "Revenue waste land" in possession of Revenue department. Even in forests, it is not available in a continuous patch of land at a stretch that can accommodate all 61 PAP's, at one location. Also we are getting more non-forest land (435.07 ha.) than the total forest land (112.25 ha.) proposed to be diverted.

**14.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that:-**

- 14.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is the lowest minimum. (PPN-38)
- 14.2 The area belongs to Eco class-III, Open forest having density is below 0.4. (PPN-23)
- 14.3 The Project involves felling of total 2918 number of trees. The Girth wise abstract is as under:- (PPN-57)

Tree Girth in Cm.						
0-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	(>150)cm	Total
671	1931	274	38	3	1	2918

- 14.4 The proposed area does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve. (PPN-48)
- 14.5 The Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance. (PPN-47)
- 14.6 There is no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. (PPN-42)
- 14.7 The Proposed project is not within 10 kms from the Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park. (PPN-21)
- 14.8 The non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of the application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under the interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996. (PPN-46)
- 15.0 Government of India vide letter dated 3/12/2018 of F.No.11-43/2013-FC has issued guidelines regarding compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006. As per these guidelines:-

**'Accordingly, it is clarified that within the time period stipulated for compliance of Stage-I condition, Deputy Commissioner shall complete the process of compliance of FRA (including forwarding its findings to be concerned CF), hence for the purpose of the MoEF & CC, as per the provisions under the Forest (Conservation) amendment rules, 2016 the compliance under FRA is not required for consideration of in-principle approval. This has to be furnished by the State Government for consideration of the proposal by the Ministry for final approval'**

Hence the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that FRA certificate of Collector Satara has been applied and the same will be submitted on receipt from the Collector Satara, before Stage-2 and we are promising you to submit it before Stage-2 clearance.

**16.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted the undertaking that:-**

- 16.1 As per the guideline of the Central Government dt. 20/05/2019 & dt. 06/01/2022 there is exemption from payment of Net Present Value (NPV) and cost of Compensatory Afforestation in the said proposal.
- 16.2 Agrees to defray the cost of felling of trees. (PPN-55)
- 17.0 The KML file of the forest land proposed for diversion is enclosed and placed in the file at the top.
- 18.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara and the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur have recommended the proposal for diversion of 112.25 ha. of forest land. (PPN-14 to 18)

19.0 Nodal officer on 03/12/2021 had requested the Chief Wildlife Warden to offer their remarks in accordance with the Central Government's guideline dated 20/05/2019 for the said proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden vide office note No.Desk-23(2)/WL/Survey /C.R.132(Nodal)/3104/2021-22, dated 02/03/2022 has conveyed his remarks as follows:-

"After rehabilitation of 61 families out of total 135 families in village Vele, Tq. Jawali, District-Satara, the total area acquired is 150.82 Ha. and for rehabilitation of these 61 families area to be disforested is 112.25 Ha. The area acquired is more than the area to be disforested therefore this office agrees with the Proposal."

20.0 **In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section-2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-**

20.1 Legal status of the forest land diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve shall cease to be forest land.

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20.8 Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F.No.11-42/2017-FC, dt. 29/01/2018.

20.9 Any other condition that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.

  
(Y.L.P.Rao)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
(Head of Forest Force),  
Maharashtra State, Nagpur