

Site Inspection Report

Subject: -Diversion of 160.40 ha of forest land for construction of 1260MW Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti IREP being Development by Greenko Solar Energy Private Ltd., (GSEPL)

[Proposal No.FP/KA/HYD/37723/ 2018.]

The proposed project location is approximately 85 kms away by road from Belagavi District Head Quarters.

I have inspected the Project site on 12.04.2021 along with the User Agency represented by Sri Praveen Devaiah, Sri Madhu and others from Greenko, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ramdurg Sub Division; RFO Saundatti; DRFO, Sogal; Forest Guards and staff and found the following.

The area proposed for diversion falls in Compartment no. 42, 43 (Forest Sy No 138, 146) of Karlakatti beat, Sogal section in Karlakatti Village; Compartment no. 89, 90, 91 (Forest Sy No 128, 129, 130) of Karlakatti beat, Sogal section in Chakrageri Village and Compartment no. 4 & 53 (Forest Sy No 3&4) of Karlakatti beat, Sogal section in Kagihal Village all together, comprising to an extent of 160.40 Ha in Saundatti Range of Ghataprabha forest Division of Belagavi Dist. in Karnataka State.

The User Agency have informed that area proposed for diversion involves construction of Upper reservoir, Pen stock, Pressure shaft, Power house, Switch yard, Tail race out fall, Audit to Pressure shaft and Approach roads.

The following GPS Co-ordinates have been noted during my field visit to the proposed project area at different locations and they are being

<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
15.86191	74.99190
15.85587	75.00666
15.85826	75.00828
15.85735	74.99871

During my site inspection, the following are the observations:

The selection of site where the project, proposed for construction of upper reservoir, is a relatively flat land on the top of the hill covered with small trees

of naturally grown species and department raised plantations. Some soil and moisture conservation works being taken up by the Dept in the proposed area. The area proposed for pen stock and pressure shaft is on the slope side of the hill with natural scrub forests, denuded and rocky area facing towards Remukasagar reservoir.

The Vegetation found in the proposed diversion consists of natural species like Mashwal (*Chloroxylon swietenia*), Tugli (*Albizia amara*), Dindal (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Halagatti (*Wrightia tintoria*), Kakke (*Cassia fistula*), Bevu (*Azadirachta indica*), Banni (*Prosopis cineraria*), Bellari jali (*Prosopis juliflora*), Pachari (*Dalbergia lanceolaria*) etc.

The plain portion of the top of the hill needs tree cutting activity and the slope portion of the hill do not involve any tree cutting activity due to Scrub jungle, denuded area and rocky patch.

Density of the proposed forest area is 0.25 and falls under Eco-Class III Open Forest type.

The area proposed for Diversion is not a part of any National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary, Bio-Sphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor and does not consist of any Archeological/Heritage site and Defense Establishment or any other important monuments.

No rare/endangered/Unique species of flora and fauna are found in the proposed diverted forest land.

In the proposed forest area, no work in violation of Forest Conservation Act has been carried out by the User Agency.

Apart from above, with regard to comments offered by preceding DFO, the following points are highlighted hereinunder

With regard to the issue of displaced people of Malaprabha Project, I have perused the available records wherein as per the Govt of Karnataka Order No RD 453 FGL 69 dated 18.10.1969, about 1020 acres have been allotted to displaced persons of Malaprabha Project under Kagihal forest under various survey no's. Out of 1020 acres, about 72 acres have been allotted for displaced persons in Forest Sy.No 146 (total land in Sy.No 146 -445 acres). As per the Forest Diversion proposal of User Agency, about 120 acres (48.37 Ha) i.e part of land falling under Forest Sy.No 146 is required by the User Agency for project development. It is pertinent to highlight that land under Forest Sy. No 146 is still under Forest as per the forest records and the same has not been de-notified.

As per the User Agency, No family is being fully displaced in the proposed project. Only partial land holding is being affected for which detailed compensation package has been prepared in the EIA/EMP report, which was duly approved by MoEF & CC while recommending the Project for Environmental Clearance.


In view of the above, as the land which is required for the project under Forest Sy.No 146 is still recorded as forest land as per the records and further, User Agency undertakes to Pay NPV for the diverted land and since there is no displacement involved in the Project except partial land acquisition which shall be suitably compensated to the land owners by the User Agency. Hence, there is no issue of resettlement of people due to this Project.

Further with regard to reports of Indian Grey Wolf:

In pursuant to the directions of CCF, Belgaum, 5 Camera traps were installed at different locations in the proposed diversion area and monitored the area between 30-03-2021 to 5-04-2021 to collect evidence of Wildlife in the proposed area for diversion. Peacocks, Wild cats, Wild rabbits wererecorded in the camera traps. Presence of Indian Grey Wolves are not recorded in these photos. RFO Savadatti vide letter No 115 dated 25-08-2020 through ACF, Ramdurg letter dated 07-04-2021 have reported these observations in their report. Further, report from Yakkundi veterinary hospital vide letter dated 26-03-2021 has been obtained wherein no attack on the domestic animals by the wild animals since last five years have been reported and also certificate by the local police station vide letter dated 26-03-2021 stated that no cases of attacking on domestic animals by wild animals for the last five years have been obtained and submitted by the Range Forest Officer, Savadatti range in their report. Range Forest Officer, Savadatti also reported vide letter dated 06-04-2021 through ACF, Ramdurg vide letter dated 09-04-2021 that while conducting animal census and patrolling in that area, they have not seen any Indian Grey Wolf and also general public have not complained of any damage caused by wild wolf. During interaction with the locals by RFO during their regular patrolling, no incidents of wolf in that area were reported by the local villagers.

In furtherance to the findings in the report of RFO, Saundatti; I have inspected the area on 12-04-2021 along with Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ramdurg Sub Division; RFO Saundatti; DRFO, Sogal; Forest Guards and staff and found that the area is plain land and encroached area is evicted from encroachers and planted with Acacia and eucalyptus plantations. Upon complete perambulating of the proposed diversion area, there were no signs of Indian Grey Wolf such as pug marks, scats or sightings.

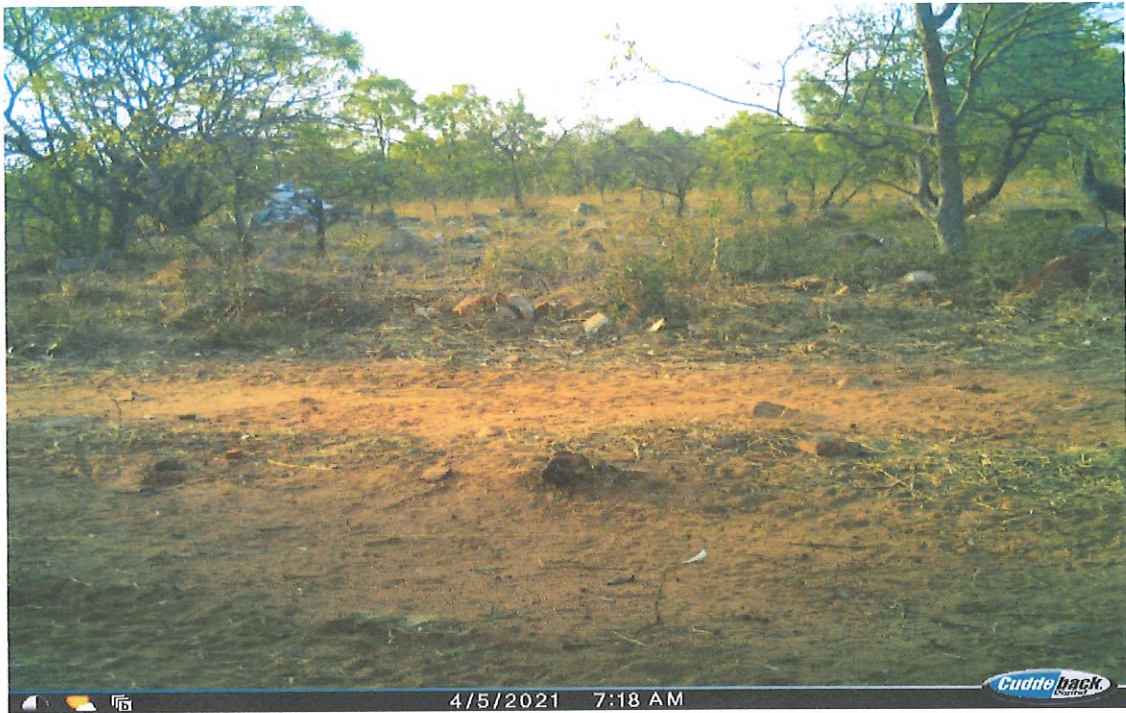
Considering all the above-mentioned observations, it is found that there is no signs of Indian Grey Wolf presence in the area proposed for diversion and the area does not form habitant for Indian Grey Wolf.


(Ashok Patil)

Deputy Conservator of forests
Ghataprabha Division, Gokak

Camera Trap-Photos







Site Inspection Photos





