

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

(ಅರಣ್ಯಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ

Office of  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)



ಅರಣ್ಯಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ

ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 003

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Encl: 3 sets proposals

E-69609

Date 13-08-2021

16

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government  
Forest, Environment and Ecology Department  
M.S. Building, Bengaluru - 560 001

Sir,

**Sub:** Diversion of 160.4 hectare of forest land in Sy No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti village, Sy No. 128, 129 and 130 of Chakrageri village and Sy No. 3 and 4 of Kagihal village, Savadatti (Saundatti) Taluk, Belagavi District (Ghataprabha Division, Gokak) for construction of Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) in favour of the M/s Greenko Solar Energy Private Limited, Bengaluru.

**Proposal No. FP/KA/HYD/37723/2018/[FORM-A]**

- Ref:**
1. Online proposal [FORM-A PART-I] dated 03-06-2019 (re submitted)of M/s Greenko Solar Energy Private Ltd, Hyderabad r/w Acknowledgement uploaded online on 19-06-2019 by User Agency for having delivered the hard copy proposal to jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests and Deputy Commissioner.
  2. This office online communication dated 26-06-2019 to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Division, Gokak for further processing of proposal.
  3. Online submission of PART-II on 22-04-2021 by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Division, Gokak [letter No. B2/Land/Greenko/FC/2021-22dated 23-04-2021]
  4. Online submission of PART-III on 18-05-2021 by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle [letter No.A7/LND/GREENKO/GKK/CR-/2021-22 dated 26-05-2021]

5. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, (IA.I Division), New Delhi letter No.j-12011/14/2018.IA.I(R) dated 04-12-2020 [Environment clearance]
6. Government of Karnataka order No.CI 83 SPI 2018 Bengaluru dated 12-03-2018 [allocation of land and Water]

1. The M/s Greenko Solar Energy Private Ltd, Bengaluru[**USER AGENCY**] vide Ref (1) has submitted an online proposal [FORM-A PART-I] through FC web portal seeking approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 160.4 hectare of forest land in Sy No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti village, Sy No. 128, 129 and 130 of Chakrageri village and Sy No. 3 and 4 of Kagihal village, Savadatti (Saundatti) Taluk, Belagavi District (Ghataprabha Division, Gokak) for construction of Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) in favour of the M/s Greenko Solar Energy Private Limited, Hyderabad. After uploading of Acknowledgement on 19-06-2019 by User Agency for having delivered the hard copies of the proposal to jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests and Deputy Commissioner, an online communication was made by the Nodal Officer (FCA) vide Ref (2) to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Division, Gokak to process the proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to submit specific opinion / recommendation.

2. **Location details and Component-wise breakup of forest land requirement:** The details of the location of forest land and component wise requirement are given below.

District, Taluk, Hobli, Village	Village	Sy No.	Forest extent proposed for diversion (ha)	Legal status of land
Belagavi District, Saundatti Taluk, Saundatti & Murugodu Hobli	Karlakatti	138	14.75	Reserved Forest
		146	48.37	
	Chakrageri	128	33.06	
		129	4.18	
		130	9.09	
	Kagihal	3	1.38	
		4	49.57	
	<b>Total</b>			

The component wise breakup of the forest land proposed for diversion is given below.

SI No	Project Component	Forest Land requirement (ha)
1	Upper Reservoir	128.58
2	Penstock	5.79
3	Pressure shaft	5.84
4	Power House, Switch yard & Tailrace outfall inclu	12.93
5	Adit to pressure shaft	0.73
6	Approach road to all other project components	6.53
<b>Total</b>		<b>160.4</b>

**3. Report of DCF, Ghataprabha Division, Gokak:** The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Division, Gokak has inspected the site on 12-04-2021 and vide Ref (3) has submitted his report along with Site Inspection Report in PART-II to Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle. Main features of the proposal based on the reports of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Division, Gokak r/w report of Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle and that of ICT Centre of Forest Department are summarized below.

- a. The forest land proposed for diversion on hill side rocky portion of the project site is hard soil, denuded and receiving poor rainfall hence not vulnerable to soil erosion.
- b. The forest land proposed for diversion is in general landscape of Eco-class-III (Tropical Dry deciduous forest) with a Canopy Density of up to 0.25 (Open Forest).
- c. As per Item 4(ii) of PART-II, there are 5086 trees in different girth classes. Main tree species include *Ficus religiosa*, *Acacia auriciloformis*, *Terminaliachebula*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, *Cassia fistula*, *Terminaliatomentosa*, *Holoptelia integrifolia*, *Albezzia amara*, *Diasporus melanoxylon*, *Ixoraparviflora*, *Phyllanthusemblica*, *Pongamiapinnata*, *Semecarpusanacardium*, *Pterocarpus marsupium* and others.
- d. Main wild animals reported in and around the project area include Hyena, Monitor Lizard, Reptiles, Porcupine, Indian Hare, Common Mongoose etc., and various birds.

- e. There are no other rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna reported in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.
  - f. The forest land proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor/ Wildlife Migration Corridor, etc.
  - g. There are no Protected/ Archaeological/ Heritage sites or Defence establishments or important monuments in the area.
  - h. There is no violation reported under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
  - i. The requirement of forest land for the project is bare minimum and unavoidable.
4. **CCF, Belagavi Circle Report:** The Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle has inspected the site on 03-05-2021 and has agreed with the report of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Division, Gokak. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle vide Ref (4) has submitted his report in PART-III and has also recommended the proposal.
5. **Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) and Nodal Officer (FCA) Field Inspection Report:** The area was inspected by me along with the Chief Conservator of Forests Belgaum, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Gokak and Staff on 26-06-2021. During inspection representative of the User Agency was also present. Inspected Karlakatti, Chakrageri, and Kagihal villages of Soudatthi Range of Ghataprabha taluk where the proposal for construction of 1260 MW standalone pump storage project is proposed by M/s Green Co Solar Energy Limited over 160.40 ha of forest land is proposed. The forest land proposed for diversion is Reserve Forest in nature. This parcel of land is approximately 45 to 50 Km from Belgaum. The forest land asked for diversion is hilly in nature but at the top surface is flat. This is characteristic feature of hillocks of Belgavi district.

The soil is lateritic in nature. The area is predominantly having scrub forest and major species are Terminalia chebula, Azadirachta indica, Liaenea coromandalica, Ixora parriflora, Phylanthus emblica, Fiacourtia ramontchi, Pongamia pinnata, , Cassia fistula, Semicarpus anncardium, Wrightia finctoria, Terminalia alate, Chloroxylon alata, Soyamidia febrifuga, Diospyros Melanoxylon, Hardwickia, Dhobinut etc. In past area is planted with Eucalyptus, Pongamia etc . 2 years back trenches are dug for water conservation purpose. It is informed by local staff that area is frequented by Fox , Hynea , Rabbits . Deers.

The project is designed to lift the water from Renuka Sagar Reservoir through the pipeline and store it at the top of the hillock by constructing embankment. The stored

water will flow down through penstock to generate the electricity as explained by the User Agency the electricity generated will be purchased by HESCOM / KPTCL for the stabilization of the grid and to provide power during peak hours. The location is selected by the User Agency stated that the mainly because they will get proximity to the Renuka Sagar Reservoir and sufficient head which will help them to generate the power.

During the discussion with the User Agency I gathered that they are yet to get clearance / approvals from the concerned departments of the State such as Water Resource Department who has to spare the water for the project, Energy department who has to purchase the power generated by the project and Environment department who has to see compliance of the various environmental parameter. Subsequently, User Agency handed over some documents which are annexed with my note.

The diversion of the forest land for establishing the project may be considered by the Government and forest land so diverted may be handed over to the project proponent only after getting necessary approvals from the Government departments such as Water Resources, Energy, Environment and Other statutory authorities. The Diversion of the project may be conditional that is unless all the required approvals are obtain the forest land shall not be handed over to the project authorities.

6. **Condition of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force):** The User Agency shall provide 5 vehicles (Jcep) to the Belagavi Circle for monitoring of the project by field officers.
7. **Net Present Value (NPV):** The User Agency is required to pay the Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land proposed for diversion as per Para 3.1 to 3.4 of the FC Guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28-03-2019. **The User Agency has submitted an Undertaking agreeing to pay the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land proposed for diversion.**
8. **Compensatory Afforestation (CA):** The User Agency is required to provide an equivalent extent of suitable non-forest land in accordance with FC guidelines. Further, as per Government of Karnataka Order No. FEE 88 FLL 2016 dated 31-08-2016 pertaining to FC proposals of private User Agencies, such CA land needs to be a private land either as forest enclosure or adjoining an existing forest area in man-animal conflict zone. In addition, the User Agency is also required to pay the CA charges as per prevailing rates. Accordingly, the User Agency has identified an extent of 160.4 ha of non-forest land in Dhabaka village, (381.18 acres in Sy No. 136, 116, 117, 124, 125, 126, 123, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 134,135,148,149 and Chimagaon village.17.00 acres in Sy No. 57) in Dhabaka Hobli, Aurad Taluk, Bidar District. The

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bidar Division has issued the Compensatory Afforestation land suitability Certificate dated 16-03-2020 for the said lands. The details of CA land in form of Topo Map, Geo-referenced Map with GPS readings of all corners and KML file have already been uploaded by the User Agency in PART-I of the proposal. Further, the CA Scheme and Compensatory Afforestation Suitability Certificate dated 16-03-2020 in the prescribed format and has once again uploaded the KML file, Topo Map, Geo-reference Map along with GPS readings of all corners in PART-II of the proposal. **The User Agency has also submitted an Undertaking agreeing to pay the Compensatory Afforestation charges.**

9. **Status of RoFR compliance:** In order to meet the requirement of the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Rules 2008 and the FC Guidelines, the User Agency has not obtained/ furnished the (copy of) requisite **RoFR Certificate in FORM-II (for Non-Linear projects)** issued by the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner as per Annexure II of the FC Guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28-03-2019. Accordingly, **the User Agency is being informed once again to obtain the said certificate in prescribed format and submit a copy.**
10. **Additional information:** The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Division Gokak and Chief Conservator of Forests Belagavi Circle have stated the issue of displaced people of Malaprabha Project. As per the Government of Karnataka Order No RD 453 FGL 69 dated 18-10-1969 about 1020 acres have been allotted to displaced persons of Malaprabha Project in 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 Proposed land by 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 bearing forest Sy No 146 is still under Forest as per the forest records and the same has not been de-notified. However, an extent of 35acres is being utilized by displaced persons of Malaprabha project but the copies of the Notification/disforest are not available in the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Gokak , working plan office and Chief Conservator of Forests Belagavi Circle and there is no mention about De-notification even in village forest registrar.
11. As per 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 Environment clearance.

**12. Status of User Agency in terms of Project cost, Means of Finance and Environment Clearance:** Government of Karnataka vide G.O. No. CI 83 SPI 2018 dated 12-03-2018 and 27-02-2019 has accorded in-principle approval to the **investment proposal** of M/s Greenko Solar Energy Pvt Ltd., to establish “Integrated Renewable Energy Project consisting of 1260 MW pumped storage Energy Project, 1000 MW Solar Power project and 400 MW Wind power project” with an investment of Rs. 11,790 crores and Rs. 2805 crores, generating employment to about 500 persons in 6000 acres of land at various Sy No.s of Karlkatti village, Belagavi District.

As per the EIA notification, 2006, the environmental public hearing was conducted by the Karnataka State Pollution control Board on 07-01-2019 adjacent to Mallur Electrical Sub-station, Karlakatti village, Yakkundi Panchayat, Saundatti Taluk, Belagavi District. Further, vide Ref (5) the Director, IA.I Division MOEF&CC has stated that upon consideration of the meetings held on 27-02-2019, 31-10-2019, 29-10-2020 and 29-10-2020 the Expert Appraisal Committee(EAC) has recommended the proposal for grant of Environment Clearance (EC). In this regard, he has requested the User Agency to submit a proposal for Stage-I Forest Clearance (FL:160.40 ha) to the Ministry prior to the grant of Environment Clearance within one year from the date of issue of the said letter.

**13. Status of User Agency in Water allocation:** As per the proceedings of the 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of State High level clearance committee held on 02-03-2018 for infrastructure support and approvals requested by the company for the project, the Government of Karnataka vide Ref (6) had sanctioned 1.00 TMC of non-consumptive water from Renuka Sagar reservoir by recirculation.

**14. Transmission line clearance:** As per User Agency two No.s 400 KV Quad Moose Double circuit Transmission lines of length 60 KMs would be used by the plant. One line will be connected to PGCIL Narendra 400 KV substation at Dharwad and other line will be connected to IREP CPSS for evacuation of generated power and for supply of power during pumping mode.

**15. Pollution Clearance:** As per the User Agency, consent for establishment (CFE) would be obtained from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, after obtaining Environment Clearance.

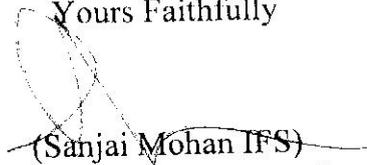
**16. Power purchase agreement:** As per the User Agency, Storage–Power tie up is expected in the next 3-4 months.

Under the above circumstances and agreeing with recommendation of the field officers, **it is requested to move the proposal to Government of India for according ‘in-principle’ (Stage-I) approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 160.4 hectare of forest land in Sy No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti village, Sy No. 128, 129 and 130 of Chakrageri village and Sy No. 3 and 4 of Kagihali**

village, Savadatti (Saundatti) Taluk, Belagavi District (Ghataprabha Division, Gokak) for construction of Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) in favour of the M/s Greenko Solar Energy Private Limited, Bengaluru for a period of twenty (20) years subject to submission of RoFR Compliance Certificate in FORM-II (for Non-Linear projects) and the conditions listed in Annexure 'A'.

The hard copy of the proposal along with the relevant documents in 3 sets is submitted herewith for further needful. The present status (Timeline) of the proposal obtained from the web-portal is also appended for necessary action.

Yours Faithfully



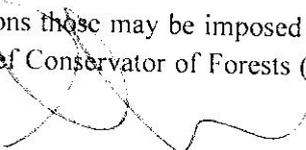
(Sanjai Mohan IFS)  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

**Copy to the:**

1. Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle, Belagavi for information.
2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Division, Gokak for information.
3. M/s Greenko Solar Energy Private Ltd, Ground floor, Prestige Khoday Tower, No.05, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru 560 001 for information and **with a request (i) to obtain RoFR Certificate in FORM-II (for Non-Linear projects) issued by the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner as per Annexure II of the FC Guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28-03-2019 (available on FC web portal) and submit the authenticated / attested copies at the earliest.**

## ANNEXURE - A

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged and it shall continue to be forest land.
2. The User Agency shall pay the applicable Net Present Value (NPV), Compensatory, Plantation cost of extraction of trees, land lease rent and any other levies as per the conditions of approval.
3. The User Agency shall demarcate the lease area in the manner specified at the time of approval at its own cost.
4. The lessee shall not sub-lease, mortgage and hypothecate the forest area.
5. The Lessee shall provide signages in appropriate dimensions and kind near the proposed Pumped storage component within forest limits for sensitization of general public towards the forest, wildlife and environmental issues in consultation with the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests.
6. The User Agency shall provide 5 vehicles (Jeep) to the Belagavi Circle for monitoring of the project by field officers.
7. The User Agency shall construct a 6 feet high compound wall around the project area to prevent the entry of wild animals into the project area and to avoid spreading of municipal waste inside the forest area.
8. The User Agency shall ensure that the Municipal Waste is not dumped inside any other forest area other than the diverted land.
9. The leased out area should be used for the purpose for which it is granted. In case the land is not used for the stipulated purpose within two years or when it is no longer needed for the stipulated purpose, the area would stand resumed to the Forest Department.
10. No change in Land Use Plan on forest land shall be done except with prior approval of Government of India under FC Act 1980.
11. The application for renewal of the lease in the prescribed form and manner shall be submitted at least six months prior to the expiry of forest lease. In case no renewal is sought, the Lessee shall hand over the lease.
12. No residential or commercial buildings shall be permitted in the forest area proposed for diversion.
13. No crushing / breaking of stones or labour camp shall be allowed on forest land and all waste / debris generated shall be scientifically disposed off outside the forest area.
14. Any damage to forest area because of implementation of the proposal shall be compensated by the Lessee. The extent of damage shall be assessed by the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests/ Chief Conservator of Forests.
15. The Lessee shall ensure that no avoidable harm is caused to the fauna and flora in and around the proposed area.
16. In case, any violation of the provisions of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 & Rules, 1969 or other relevant Acts/Rules is reported during the lease period, the lease will be liable for forfeiture under Section 82 of Karnataka Forest Act, 1963. The Chief Conservator of Forests / Deputy Conservator of Forests concerned are authorized to take necessary action in this regard.
17. The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to any other clearances necessary under the prevailing statutes.
18. The User Agency shall also abide by other conditions those may be imposed by the Government of India, Government of Karnataka and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) before or after the approval.

  
(Sanjai Mohan IFS)  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

PART - IV

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

<p>Detailed opinion &amp; specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks.</p>	<p>Recommended for moving the proposal to Government of India for according 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 160.4 hectare of forest land in Sy No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti village, Sy No. 128, 129 and 130 of Chakrageri village and Sy No. 3 and 4 of Kagihal village, Savadatti (Saundatti) Taluk, Belagavi District (Ghataprabha Division, Gokak) for construction of Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) in favour of the M/s Greenko Solar Energy Private Limited, Bengaluru for a period of twenty (20) years subject to submission of RoFR Compliance Certificate in FORM-II (for Non-Linear projects) and the conditions listed in Annexure 'A'.</p>
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(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon.)

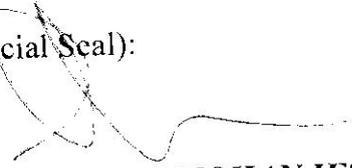
[Proposal No. FP/KA/HYD/37723/2018]

Signature:  
Name:  
Designation:

  
**RAJIV RANJAN IFS**  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation) and  
Nodal Officer (FCA)

(Official Seal):

Counter signed by :  
Name:  
Designation:

  
**SANJAI MOHAN IFS**  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

(Official Seal):

N.D.O. No: 21 /2021-22

Date: 16 -08-2021