Specific Recommendations of District Forest Officer

The proposal No.FP/TR/REHAB/142361/2021 for diversion of 10.05 ha of forest land for settlement of Bru Migrants of Mouja-Kulai RF in favour of SDM, Ambassa under Dhalai District.

Recommended with the following conditions:-

- 1. The damage to the forest during construction activities should be minimal and also without affecting the adjacent patches of plantation/Forests.
- 2. The user agency should provide income Generation Activities for livelihood of nearby villagers.
- 3. Part of the area proposed for diversion are prone to soil erosion, so if needed, the User Agency should bear the expenditure incurred for soil stabilization measures and also to avoid the soil erosion and landslides during construction.
- 4. There is significant and endangered species of wildlife like Leopard Cat, Slow Loris, Indian Python, Jungle cat, Himalayan Masked Palm Civet, Large Indian Civet, Small Indian Civet, Common Palm Civet, Himalayan yellow throated Marten, Indian Porcupine, Red Jungle fowl, wild pig etc. and also different bird and butterfly species present in the area. The area has richness of NTFP, ground orchid and medicinal plants. So, the User Agency should give focus on conserving the wildlife and medicinal plants present in this area.
- 5. Therefore, I recommended that User Agency should contribute Rs. 40 lakh for purchase of fully customised animal rescue van, Rs. 10 lakh for procurement of wildlife monitoring equipments, Rs. 30 lakh for ex-situ conservation of NTFP and local endangered medicinal plants, Rs. 25 lakh for ex-situ conservation of Orchid, Fern species and ex-situ/in-situ conservation of Butterfly.
- 6. The proposed area is an older plantation area and will be involved lot of extraction of timber departmentally, so the user agency should contribute Rs. 40 lakh for establishment of permanent Depot for keeping the timber so that timber cannot get decay immediately.
- 7. The area is very much vulnerable to illegal felling of valuable timber and prone to encroachment, so for strengthening of protection measure User Agency should contribute Rs.15 lakh for purchasing one patrolling vehicle and Rs. 30 lakh for chain link fencing for protection of the area.
- 8. There will be lot of pressure on adjacent forest/plantation area for firewood collection by the Bru-resettlement families in the area, so for minimising the pressure on forest plantation, the user agency should either provide Gass-Chulas & Cylinders to each household of resettlement family or to contribute Rs. 45 lakh.

[Amit Debbarma, IFS] District Forest Officer Dhalai District, Ambassa

District Forest Officer, Dhalai District, Ambassa.