

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ

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



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ

ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 003

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E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-2K(GFL)/8/2022-FC

Encl.: 3 sets of proposal hard copies

**E-706527**

Date 19-07-2022

To,

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

Sir,

**Sub:** Diversion of 2.2318 ha (*revised from 2.5723 Ha*) of forest land in 23 Villages in Haliyal, Uttara Kannada District (Haliyal Forest Division) for JIO Digital Fiber Underground OFC within the existing RoW in Supa-Kateli, Dandeli-Aruvali-Kulagi & Bommanahalli-Mavinakoppa in favour of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru

**Proposal No. FP/KA/OFC/152748/2022**

- Ref:**
1. Online proposal [FORM-A PART-I] dated 23-02-2022 of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru and uploading of Acknowledgement on 26-03-2022 for having delivered hard copies of proposal to the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests and Deputy Commissioner
  2. This office online communication dated 30-03-2022 to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Haliyal Division for further processing of proposal
  3. Online submission of PART-II on 30-03-2022 by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Haliyal Division [*Letter No. D1/GFL-281/OFC Cable/2022-23/480 dated 24-05-2022*]
  4. Online submission of PART-III by Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle [*Letter No. B2/GFL/Jio Digital Fiber/CR-13/2022-23 dated 25-05-2022*]

1. Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, No.51, RMZ Icon, Palace Cross Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru [USER AGENCY] vide Ref (1) has submitted a proposal through FC web portal seeking approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Diversion of 2.5723 ha of forest land in 23 Villages in Uttara Kannada District (Haliyal Forest Division)

for JIO Digital Fiber Underground OFC. The same was accepted by Nodal Officer (FCA) on 18-03-2022 for further processing. After uploading of the Acknowledgement online by User Agency on 26-03-2022 for having delivered the hard copies of proposal to the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests and Deputy Commissioner, an online communication was made on 30-03-2022 by Nodal Officer vide Ref (2) to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Haliyal Division to process the proposal under FC Act and to submit the specific opinion through PART-II of the proposal.

- 2. Location details and Component wise break up:** Location details of the forest land proposed for diversion are given below.

Division	Village		Sy No.	Forest extent proposed for diversion (ha)
Haliyal Division	1	Badakhanashirada	6,7,9 & 12	0.072
	2	Gaveguli	106 & 120	0.261
	3	Pradhani	14	0.09
	4	Sanghale - Sangave	6,13,32 & 61a	0.1275
	5	Hudage	88	0.135
	6	Badgunda	7	0.0305
	7	Ambeli	138,247,248,249,253, 254,255,256,257 & 2	0.1698
	8	Biroda	37 & 130	0.1792
	9	Bapeli	11 & 42	0.0822
	10	Amarade	8	0.0167
	11	Joida	50,130,146 & 147	0.0989
	12	Devulli	15	0.0585
	13	Chapoli	134a,146 & 187	0.12
	14	Katheli	17,82,133 & 137	0.1325
	15	Kumbarakopp	1	0.049
	16	Kulagi	12	0.051
	17	Bommanahalli	10 & 11	0.092
	18	Adigera	7	0.058
	19	Bhaghavathi	6,7,8,9 & 14	0.071
	20	Beemanahalli	1	0.063
	21	Machyapura	1	0.108
	22	Thattigere	10,12,49 & 65	0.098
	23	Mavinakoppa	2 & 13	0.068
	<b>Total</b>			<b>2.2318</b>

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

Project Component		Forest Land requirement (ha)
1	Under Ground Optical Cable within the existing RoW (trench width 0.3 mtr and depth 1.65 mtr)	2.2318
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.2318</b>

3. **DCF, Haliyal Report:** The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Haliyal Division has inspected the project site on 16-05-2022 & 17-05-2022 and vide Ref (3) has submitted the Site Inspection Report along with details of the site in PART-II of the proposal to the Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle. Main features of the forest land proposed for diversion as per the DCF, Haliyal Division report r/w reports of CF, Kanara Circle and that of ICT Centre of Forest Department are as follows.
- The forest land proposed for diversion is in general landscape of Eco-class I (Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests/ Tropical Semi Evergreen Forests/ Topical Moist Deciduous Forests) with 100% Canopy Density (Very Dense Forest).
  - As per Item 4(ii) of PART-II, there are no trees to be felled on the forest land proposed for diversion.
  - Major wild animals found in and around the project area include Spotted Deers, Hornbills, Rabbits, Bonnet Macaque, Leopard, Tiger, sambar, sloth bear & others.
  - The forest land proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor but the part of the forest area forms the Wildlife Migration Corridor. However, the OFC is laid under ground within the existing RoW, the project doesn't affect wildlife movement.
  - There are no Protected/ Archaeological/ Heritage Sites/ Defence establishments located in the proposed area.
  - The forest area proposed for diversion is the bare minimum and unavoidable.
  - There is no violation reported under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
4. **CCF, Kanara Circle Report:** The Chief Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle has inspected the proposed area personally on 17-05-2022 and has vide Ref (4) has submitted Site Inspection Report in PART-III online. Agreeing with the recommendation made by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Haliyal Division, the Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle has also recommended the proposal with a condition that the agency have to establish the forest and wildlife display boards instead of the company pillars along the road.
5. **Net Present Value (NPV):** As per the Para 3.5, serial No.4 of the FC Guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide letter F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28-03-2019, the proposal is for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable within the existing RoW (trench size not more than two meter in depth and one meter in width) is exempted from the Net Present Value (NPV).


Although, the User Agency has submitted an Undertaking dated 15-02-2022 to pay the charges towards Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land proposed for diversion.


6. **Compensatory Afforestation (CA):** In accordance with the guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. FC-11/165//2019-FC dated 27-07-2020, the proposal is for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable within the existing RoW (trench size not more than two meter in depth and one meter in width) is exempted from the Compensatory Afforestation purpose. Although, the User Agency has furnished an Undertaking dated 15-02-2022 to pay the applicable Compensatory Afforestation (CA) charges.
7. **Status of RoFR compliance:** With regard to compliance of the provisions of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act 2006 and Rules 2008, the User Agency has not obtained and furnished the requisite **Certificate in FORM-I (for 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 to obtain the required RoFR certificate and submit a copy.**
8. **Additional Information:** User Agency submitted the proposal for diversion of 2.5723 ha forest land in 26 Villages. But, after the field verification by DCF, Haliyal Division, only 23 villages are pertaining to Haliyal Division and rest 3 Villages namely Kalamada (0.093 Ha), Avurali (0.15 Ha) & Amade (0.0975 Ha) which makes the total extent 0.3405 Ha falls in the Dandeli Wildlife Division. Accordingly, DCF, Haliyal Division and CF, Kanara Circle has recommended only for 2.2318 Ha of forest land pertaining to Haliyal Division only.

Under the above circumstances and agreeing with recommendations of the field officers, it is requested to consider the proposal for according in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 2.2318 ha (revised from 2.5723 Ha) of forest land in 23 Villages in Haliyal, Uttara Kannada District (Haliyal Forest Division) for JIO Digital Fiber Underground OFC within the existing RoW (trench width 0.3 mtr and depth 1.65 mtr) in Supa-Kateli, Dandeli-Aruvali-Kulagi & Bommanahalli-Mavinakoppa in favour of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru for a period of Twenty (20) years subject to production of RoFR Certificate in FORM-I (for linear projects) and further subject to the conditions appended in Annexure 'A'.

The hard copy of the proposal along with the relevant documents in 3 sets is submitted herewith for further needful.

Yours Faithfully

  
(Raj Kishore Singh IFS) 19/2  
Principal Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

  
ರವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ  
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-2-2022

S-000


**Copy to the:**

1. Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle Sirsi for information.
2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Haliyal Division for information.
3. Deputy General Manager, Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, No.51, RMZ Icon, Palace Cross Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru for information and with the request to obtain the **RoFR certificate in FORM-I (for 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.**



## ANNEXURE 'A'

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged and it shall continue to be the forest land.
2. The User Agency shall pay the applicable Net Present Value (NPV), Compensatory Afforestation (CA) charges, cost of extraction of trees (if required in future), 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 User Agency shall provide the signages of appropriate size and kind all along the road within forest limits for creating awareness about forest, Wildlife and Environment issues among general public and the road users at project cost in consultation with the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests.
5. The lessee shall not sub-lease, mortgage & hypothecate the forest area.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. No residential or commercial buildings shall be permitted in the forest area proposed for diversion.
9. No crushing / breaking of stones or labour camp shall be allowed inside forest area and all waste / debris generated shall be scientifically disposed off outside the forest area.
10. Any damage to forest area because of implementation of the project shall be compensated by the Lessee. The extent of damage shall be assessed by the jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests/ Conservator of Forests.
11. The Lessee shall ensure that no avoidable harm is caused to the fauna and flora in and around the proposed area.
12. No change in Land Use Plan shall be done unless prior approval of Government of India under FC Act is obtained.
13. 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 Conservator of Forests and/or Deputy Conservator of Forests concerned are authorized to take necessary action in this regard.
14. The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to any other clearances necessary under the prevailing statutes.
15. The User Agency shall also abide by other conditions those may be imposed by the Government of India, Government of Karnataka and Principal Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) before or after the approval.

  
(Raj Kishore Singh IFS)  
Principal Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) 9/2





**PART – IV**

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal 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><i>(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.)</i></p>	<p><b>Recommended for diversion of 2.2318 ha (revised from 2.5723 Ha) of forest land in 23 Villages in Haliyal, Uttara Kannada District (Haliyal Forest Division) for JIO Digital Fiber Underground OFC within the existing RoW in Supa-Kateli, Dandeli-Aruvali-Kulagi &amp; Bommanahalli-Mavinakoppa in favour of Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Bengaluru for a period of Twenty (20) years subject to production of RoFR Certificate in FORM-I (for linear projects) and further subject to the conditions appended in Annexure 'A'.</b></p> <p><b>Proposal No. FP/KA/OFC/152748/2022</b></p>
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Signature:

Name:

Designation:

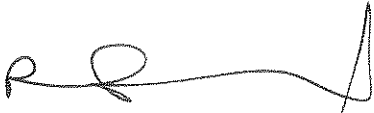
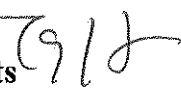
  
(Vijay Sharma, IFS)

**Principal Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)**

Signature:

Name:

Designation:

  
(Raj Kishore Singh, IFS)  
  
**Principal Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)**

N.D.O. No. 26/2022-23

(Official Seal)

Dated: 19/07/2022

