

Specific Recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Maharashtra State (Head of Forest Force) Maharashtra State, Nagpur with  
regards to acceptance or otherwise of the proposal supported by reasons.

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

Sr. No	Item work purpose	Name of Village	Survey & Gut No.	Compt. No	Length (MTR)	Width (MTR)	Area (in ha)	Legal Status
1	Property boundary wall	Vihirgaon	402 & 376	173	1120	0.254	0.0284	Reserved Forest
2	Road				2020	7.5	1.515	
3	GSE Parking				40	90	0.360	
4	Run way Strip				300	25	0.750	
5	Isolated parking position				140	90	1.260	
6	Perimeter Gate				50	5	0.025	
7	Resa				308.6	70	2.1602	
8	Blast pad paved surface				60	45	0.270	
9	Apron				108	104	1.1232	
10	Other related infrastructure & open space				765.16	500	38.2580	
	<b>[A] Total forest area</b>						<b>45.750</b>	
1	Property boundary wall	Murti	112/3A	593	700	0.254	0.018	Protected Forest
2	Road				960	7.5	0.720	
3	Run way Strip				250	25	0.625	
4	Drain				1110	3.05	0.33855	
5	Operation Boundary Wall				750	0.254	0.01905	
6	Other related infrastructure & open space				522.2	500	26.110	
	<b>[B] Total forest area</b>						<b>27.830</b>	
7	Property boundary wall	Murti	112/3A	200	200	0.254	0.005	Reserved Forest
8	Road				30	7.5	0.023	
9	Drain				190	3.04	0.058	
10	Other related Infrastructure & open space				224.9	70	1.574	
	<b>[C] Total forest area</b>						<b>1.660</b>	
	<b>Grand Total [A+B+C]</b>						<b>75.240</b>	



3.00 The proposal has been initiated by the Authorized Officer, M.A.D.C. Ltd for seeking approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposed proposal for development of the Greenfield Airport at Village Vihirgaon and Murti Tahsil Rajura District Chandrapur aims to accelerate the Industrial growth and facilitate the transportation to and fro to important parts of the Country. The total non forest involved in the project is 216.19 ha. The B:C ratio for the project is 2.5042. Development of the project shall have the following benefit:-

- Socio-Economic standards of locals in the region will be improved due to increased employment opportunities emanating out of the project.
- The project will have tremendous boost to the local and the regional economy benefiting population over 2 lakhs.
- Ample commercial opportunities will become available for economic development in the Chnadrapur District through ancillary services and cottage industries.
- The project will reduce the distance over connecting the Road to the existing Greenfield Airport.

4.00 The Project is administratively approved vide Government of Maharashtra, General Administration Department vide letter No.MADC-1217/C.No.255/28-A,dt.21/12/2018. The total non forest area involved in the project is 216.19 ha. This project is demarcated on Survey of India Top sheet No. 47G/II and the forest area lies within Latitude and Longitude is A] N-17°17'3.29" to E-73°40'32.28" B] N-17°17'3.08" to E-73°41'3.83" C] N-17°16'45.35" to E-73°41'22.09" D] N-17°16'37.77" to E-73°41'9.37" E] N-17°16'45.71" to E-73°40'57.11" F] N-17°16'46.76" to E-73°40'39.58" G] N-17°17'3.1" to E-73°41'1.22" H] N-17°17'16.95" to E-73°41'10.77" I] N-17°17'13.47" to E-73°41'12.96" J] N-17°17'9.09" to E-73°41'13.94" K] N-17°17'9.26" to E-73°41'11.25" L] N-17°17'6.63" to E-73°41'3.65" M] N-17°17'7.6" to E-73°41'0.21" and N] N-17°17'20.31" to E-73°41'8.66". The site inspection report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Central Chanda Forest Division, Chandrapur is enclosed on page no.69 to 68.

**5.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur has certified that:-**

- no suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is minimum.
- the area belongs to Eco-value class-III and having density is 0.5
- there are 3817 trees of various species involved in implementation of the Project. The Girth wise break up is as under:-

Total tree felling						
0-30	31-60 cm	61-90 cm	91-120 cm	121-150 cm	Above 150 cm	Total
28	2425	900	241	155	68	3817

- the area involved in the project does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve etc.



- 5.5 proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.
- 5.6 there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- 5.7 the proposed area for the project is beyond 10 km from the boundary of the protected area. (The distance of wildlife sanctuary i.e. Chaprala WLS is 32.00 Km).
- 5.8 the non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of 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 interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.
- 5.9 Alternative non forest land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation over 76.06 ha. in private area Gut No.69/7,69/10, Pt.69/11 of Village Pachambe, Tal. Sangameshwar, Dist. Ratnagiri is contiguous and suitable for management purpose. It is also free from encroachment and encumbrances.

However as the tree cover is more than 60% in this area, afforestation works cannot be taken in this area as the area already has tree cover. However, the proposed land is acceptable as per Government of Maharashtra letter dt.27/08/2014 as the area is included in the proposed Eco-Sensitive Zone of Sahiyadri Tiger Reserve. In accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF & CC vide letter No.F.No.11-423/2011-FD, dt.02/04/2019 compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 75.50 degraded forest land elsewhere in compartment No.39,186 & 446 Village Warzadi, Rupapeth & Umari Dist. Chandrapur and it is contiguous, suitable for afforestation and management purpose and it is free from encroachment and encumbrances.

**6.00 The User Agency has submitted an undertaking that:-**

- 6.1 to defray the cost of compensatory afforestation.
- 6.2 to defray the cost of Net Present Value of the forest land proposed under diversion.
- 6.3 Government of India vide letter No.11-43/2013-FC, dt.3/12/2018 has issued guidelines regarding compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Right) 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 user agency has given an undertaking regarding the compliance under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 stating that it has been applied and is under process and shall be submitted before in-principle approval.

- 7.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and Chief Conservator of Forest (T), Chandrapur have recommended the proposal for diversion of 75.240 ha. of forest land.



- 8.00 The comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Maharashtra State, Nagpur regarding said proposal are as follows-
- 8.01 The CCF Chandrapur has mentioned in his site inspection report that the forest area proposed for diversion is important from the wildlife point of view and that Tigers, Sloth bear and other herbivorous animal move through the area. He has further mentioned that the site is at a distance of 32 kms from the Chaprala Sanctuary and 38 kms from the boundary of the buffer zone of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.
- 8.02 He has also pointed out that the proposed site is part of the **Tiger Corridor Grid No. 248** as per the Wildlife Institute of India's report on Tiger Corridors of the **Eastern Vidarbha Landscape**.
- 8.03 The total number of trees to be felled in the forest area required for the project is 3817 out of which the trees above 60cms girth are 1317.
- 8.04 **MADC** had desired that a wildlife study around the proposed site be done and **MADC** entered into an MoU with **Wildlife Institute of India**, Dehradun for a wildlife study with the following objectives:-
- 1) *Evaluate the location of the proposed Greenfield Airport with respect to tiger reserve, eco-sensitive zone, tiger bearing areas and corridors,*
  - 2) *Evaluate the roads to and from the proposed Airport with respects to impact on wildlife and connectivity.*
  - 3) *Identify threatened and Scheduled species as per IUCN and WPA*
  - 4) *Evaluate occupancy of threatened and scheduled mammal species as per IUCN and WPA.*
- 8.05 The WII Dehradun has submitted its report to **MADC** on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- 8.06 Salient points brought out in the report area as follows :
- 8.07 The Eastern Vidarbha Landscape (EVL) is well known for tiger conservation and a significant tiger population of Maharashtra is in this landscape. The proposed site lies within the tiger corridor connecting EVL with other tiger areas in Maharashtra and Telangana. The EVL provides connecting links between Central and Southern Indian tiger populations.
- 8.08 The Proposed GAMV is in the plains surrounded by the forest areas and falls within the probable corridor between Rajura and Kothari forest ranges of Central Chandrapur Division which further connect the Kawal Tiger Reserve in Telengana.
- 8.09 The forest patch size and its spatial configuration are known to affect long term conservation strategies of species, especially in human dominated landscapes. The majority of the dense to moderately dense forest patches in this landscape are less than 5sq. kms and a viable population can only be managed in this landscape by establishing connectivity among these patches. Besides the TATR in this landscape, the conservation of other forest areas such as of Rajura and Kothari is essential for facilitating the movement of tigers to Kawal TR in Telangana and requires strict protection.
- 8.10 The present site is ecologically significant because of the presence of Tigers apart from other animals of the region like Leopards, Wolf, Wild Dog, Sloth bear, Four horned antelope, Chinkara, Panagolin etc.
- 8.11 Habitat connectivity increases the viability of a population.
- 8.12 The Proposed kanharagon Sanctuary which harbours approx. 15 tigers lies in the Kothari Range.




- 8.13 The reconnaissance survey indicates that the tigers use the water streams around the proposed site for crossing over between the 2 Reserve forests of Rajura and Kothari Range.
- 8.14 Occupancy analysis indicates that both the forests of Rajura and Kothari have a very high potential habitat for wild herbivores and carnivores.
- 8.15 The proposed airport would have a boundary wall surrounding the entire barrier of 4 kms in the corridor connecting the 2 RF's of Kothari and Rajura.
- 8.16 Other adverse factors affecting normal behavior and breeding of animals would be artificial night lights, high levels of sound as the aircrafts land.
- 8.17 The inevitable expansion of the road connecting the Chandrapur City which would also lead to further fragmentation, increase animal mortality barrier effect.
- 8.18 Associated development around the airport and the adverse impacts thereof.
- 8.19 Increased Human Animal Conflict as more and more area gets occupied and the corridors are affected.
- 8.20 **The first recommendation of the report is that given the wildlife value of the area and its importance of connecting corridors, the present site may or shall NOT be considered for the construction of the proposed Greenfield airport at Murti Village, Chandrapur.**
- 8.21 The report further mentions that incase there is no alternative site for the proposed airport mitigation measures as suggested need to be considered.
- 8.22 Having considered the comments of the CCF (T), Chandrapur and the report of the **WII the CWLW has offered following remarks-**
- 8.22.01 The Proposed site occupies an important corridor in the EVL and would certainly affect the dispersal of the Tigers, both northwards and southwards as although the forest area required for the proposed projects is 75.24 Ha, the Non Forest Area required is 216.19 ha, thus the project would actually require 291.43 Ha of land which falls in the Tiger Corridor.
- 8.22.02 The proposed site is at a distance of 39 kms from an existing airport at Chandrapur which is being sparingly used. The Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport at Nagpur is less than 150 kms from Chandrapur city and it takes less than 2 hours to reach Chandrapur from Nagpur airport. These 2 facts should also be kept in mind while taking a decision on the proposal.
- 8.22.03 The original survey for improving better connectivity was to expand the existing airport at Chandrapur but it has been shelved as there is heavy industrialization in the surrounding area and due to unavailability of land and hence this proposal for a Greenfield airport is being considered.
- 8.22.04 The population of tigers in Chandrapur District has increased substantially in the past few years and the number has reached in excess of 200 tigers which is more than half of the State's total number.
- 8.22.05 The increasing number of human deaths due to tiger encounters is a cause of great concern and all out efforts need to be made to protect the dispersal corridors so that there is easy movement of tigers out of the District into adjoining areas.
- 8.22.06 In view of the benefits that seem to be accruing due to the project for the local population in terms of the number of employment opportunities, the trade off between the protection of the corridor to be disrupted if the project comes through and the benefits proposed, weighs heavily in favour of protection of the corridor.



- 9.00 The User Agency vide letter dated 03/08/2020 has given undertaking to accept the mitigation measures suggested by the WII.
- (A) The User Agency has further brought to the notice that-
- (i) AAI has explored the scope for expansion of existing airport and found that expansion is not possible.
- (ii) AAI has finalized the present location.
- (B) Certificate state that no alternative non forest land is available for this purpose.
- (C) The User Agency has agreed to comply with the recommendations of WII regarding mitigation measures.
- (D) CWLW, MS has given his remarks. as stated in para 8.22 above.
- 10.00 **In view of this, the proposal is submitted for consideration under the section -2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions: -**
- 10.1 The legal status of the forest land required will remain unchanged.
- 10.2 Compensatory Afforestation:-**
- a) Compensatory Afforestation over 75.50 ha. degraded forest land in compartment No.39,186 & 446 Village Warzadi, Lawada, Rupapeth & Umari Dist.Chandrapur at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided.
- b) The non forest land shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department. Thereafter it shall be notified u/s 4 of the IFA, 1927. The boundary of the non forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost by erecting four feet reinforced concrete pillars, distance from pillars to pillars and GPs co-ordinates;
- 10.3 The user agency will defray the cost of Net Present Value of 75.240 ha. of forest land as per the latest guidelines of the Government of India.
- 10.4 The user agency will defray the additional cost of Net Present Value of forest land as per the latest guidelines of Government of India.
- 10.5 The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the Compensatory Afforestation, at the current wage rate, to the State Forest Department. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
- 10.6 The non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of the Stage-II clearance.
- 10.7 Wherever possible and technically feasible, the user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall undertake by involving local community the afforestation measures within the area diverted under this approval at the project cost.
- 10.8 The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act,1986, if required.
- 10.9 No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- 10.10 The user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labours and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- 10.11 The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar.



- 10.12 The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- 10.13 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- 10.14 The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
- 10.15 No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
- 10.16 Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Government.
- 10.17 The User Agency shall undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department, if required and a plan on the same to be submitted.
- 10.18 The User Agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project.
- 10.19 The User Agency shall implement the mitigation measures as suggested by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun vide their letter no.WII/AE&CB/BH/MAD/2019/01/2020-01,dt.19/01/2020.
- 10.20 The user agency shall obtain the certificate of the Collector, Chandrapur under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 after Stage I approval.
- 10.21 All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and guidelines shall be complied with by the user agency.

  
(Dr. N Rambabu)  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)  
Maharashtra State, Nagpur



**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 diversion of 75.24 ha. forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for development of Green Field Airport at village Vihirgaon and Murti, Taluka.Rajura of District Chandrapur in the State of Maharashtra. (FP/MH/Road/25848/2017). The details of land proposed for diversion is as under-

Sr. No	Item work purpose	Name of Village	Survey & Gut No.	Compt. No	Length (MTR)	Width (MTR)	Area (in ha)	Legal Status
1	Property boundary wall	Vihirgaon	402 & 376	173	1120	0.254	0.0284	Reserved Forest
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10	Other related Infrastructure & open space				224.9	70	1.574	
	<b>[C] Total forest area</b>						<b>1.660</b>	
	<b>Grand Total [A+B+C]</b>						<b>75.240</b>	

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

  
 (Sanjeev Gaur)  
 Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
 & Nodal Officer

Date: 30/08/2020  
Place: Nagpur



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

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER, MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR,

First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.

Tel no. (0712) 2530166, 2556916, Fax no. (0712) 2550675 E-mail- [apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in](mailto:apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in)

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No. : Desk-17/NC/I/ID- / ~~380~~ 397/20-21

Nagpur - 440 001, Dated :- 20/08/2020

To,  
The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Revenue and Forest Department,  
Mantralaya, Mumbai -32

The Authorized Officer, M.A.D.C. Ltd submitted proposal for diversion of 75.24 ha. forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for development of Green Field Airport at village Vihirgaon and Murti, Taluka.Rajura of District Chandrapur in the State of Maharashtra. The details of forest land proposed for diversion is as given below: -

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(111)

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4.00 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 two copies.

4.1 Prescribed form dated 10/01/2003.

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

4.3 Area Statement,

4.4 Index map in suitable scale,

**5.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur has certified that:-**

5.1 no suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is minimum.

5.2 the area belongs to Eco-value class-III and having density is 0.5

5.3 there are 3817 trees of various species involved in implementation of the Project. The Girth wise break up is as under:-

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5.4 the area involved in the project does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve etc.

5.5 proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.

5.6 there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

5.7 the proposed area for the project is beyond 10 km from the boundary of the protected area. (The distance of wildlife sanctuary i.e. Chaprara WLS is 32.00 Km).

5.8 the non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of 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 interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.

5.9 Alternative non forest land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation over 76.06 ha. in private area Gut No.69/7,69/10, Pt.69/11 of Village Pachambe, Tal. Sangameshwar, Dist. Ratnagiri is contiguous and suitable for management purpose. It is also free from encroachment and encumbrances.

However as the tree cover is more than 60% in this area, afforestation works cannot be taken in this area as the area already has tree cover. However, the proposed land is acceptable as per Government of Maharashtra letter dt.27/08/2014 as the area is



included in the proposed Eco-Sensitive Zone of Sahiyadri Tiger Reserve. In accordance with the guidelines issued by MoEF & CC vide letter No.F.No.11-423/2011-FD, dt.02/04/2019 compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 75.50 degraded forest land elsewhere in compartment No.39,186 & 446 Village Warzadi, Rupapeth & Umari Dist. Chandrapur and it is contiguous, suitable for afforestation and management purpose and it is free from encroachment and encumbrances.

6.00 **The User Agency has submitted an undertaking that:-**

- 6.1 to defray the cost of compensatory afforestation.
- 6.2 to defray the cost of Net Present Value of the forest land proposed under diversion.
- 6.3 Government of India vide letter No.11-43/2013-FC, dt.3/12/2018 has issued guidelines regarding compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Right) 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 user agency has given an undertaking regarding the compliance under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 stating that it has been applied and is under process and shall be submitted before in-principle approval.

- 7.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Central Chanda Division, Chandrapur and Chief Conservator of Forest (T), Chandrapur have recommended the proposal for diversion of 75.240 ha. of forest land.
- 8.00 The comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Maharashtra State, Nagpur regarding said proposal are as follows-
- 8.01 The CCF Chandrapur has mentioned in his site inspection report that the forest area proposed for diversion is important from the wildlife point of view and that Tigers, Sloth bear and other herbivorous animal move through the area. He has further mentioned that the site is at a distance of 32 kms from the Chaprala Sanctuary and 38 kms from the boundary of the buffer zone of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.
- 8.02 He has also pointed out that the proposed site is part of the **Tiger Corridor Grid No. 248** as per the Wildlife Institute of India's report on Tiger Corridors of the **Eastern Vidarbha Landscape**.
- 8.03 The total number of trees to be felled in the forest area required for the project is 3817 out of which the trees above 60cms girth are 1317.



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- 8.04 **MADC** had desired that a wildlife study around the proposed site be done and **MADC** entered into an MoU with **Wildlife Institute of India**, Deharadun for a wildlife study with the following objectives:-
- 1) *Evaluate the location of the proposed Greenfield Airport with respect to tiger reserve, eco-sensitive zone, tiger bearing areas and corridors,*
  - 2) *Evaluate the roads to and from the proposed Airport with respects to impact on wildlife and connectivity.*
  - 3) *Identify threatened and Scheduled species as per IUCN and WPA*
  - 4) *Evaluate occupancy of threatened and scheduled mammal species as per IUCN and WPA.*
- 8.05 The WII Dehradun has submitted its report to **MADC** on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.
- 8.06 Salient points brought out in the report area as follows :
- 8.07 The Eastern Vidarbha Landscape (EVL) is well known for tiger conservation and a significant tiger population of Maharashtra is in this landscape. The proposed site lies within the tiger corridor connecting EVL with other tiger areas in Maharashtra and Telangana. The EVL provides connecting links between Central and Southern Indian tiger populations.
- 8.08 The Proposed GAMV is in the plains surrounded by the forest areas and falls within the probable corridor between Rajura and Kothari forest ranges of Central Chandrapur Division which further connect the Kawal Tiger Reserve in Telengana.
- 8.09 The forest patch size and its spatial configuration are known to affect long term conservation strategies of species, especially in human dominated landscapes. The majority of the dense to moderately dense forest patches in this landscape are less than 5sq. kms and a viable population can only be managed in this landscape by establishing connectivity among these patches. Besides the TATR in this landscape, the conservation of other forest areas such as of Rajura and Kothari is essential for facilitating the movement of tigers to Kawal TR in Telangana and requires strict protection.
- 8.10 The present site is ecologically significant because of the presence of Tigers apart from other animals of the region like Leopards, Wolf, Wild Dog, Sloth bear, Four horned antelope, Chinkara, Panagolin etc.
- 8.11 Habitat connectivity increases the viability of a population.
- 8.12 The Proposed kanharagon Sanctuary which harbours approx. 15 tigers lies in the Kothari Range.
- 8.13 The reconnaissance survey indicates that the tigers use the water streams around the proposed site for crossing over between the 2 Reserve forests of Rajura and Kothari Range.
- 8.14 Occupancy analysis indicates that both the forests of Rajura and Kothari have a very high potential habitat for wild herbivores and carnivores.
- 8.15 The proposed airport would have a boundary wall surrounding the entire barrier of 4 kms in the corridor connecting the 2 RF's of Kothari and Rajura.
- 8.16 Other adverse factors affecting normal behavior and breeding of animals would be artificial night lights, high levels of sound as the aircrafts land.



- 8.17 The inevitable expansion of the road connecting the Chandrapur City which would also lead to further fragmentation, increase animal mortality barrier effect.
- 8.18 Associated development around the airport and the adverse impacts thereof.
- 8.19 Increased Human Animal Conflict as more and more area gets occupied and the corridors are affected.
- 8.20 **The first recommendation of the report is that given the wildlife value of the area and its importance of connecting corridors, the present site may or shall NOT be considered for the construction of the proposed Greenfield airport at Murti Village, Chandrapur.**
- 8.21 The report further mentions that incase there is no alternative site for the proposed airport mitigation measures as suggested need to be considered.
- 8.22 Having considered the comments of the CCF (T), Chandrapur and the report of the **WII the CWLW has offered following remarks-**
  - 8.22.01 The Proposed site occupies and important corridor in the EVL and would certainly affect the dispersal of the Tigers, both northwards and southwards as although the forest area required for the proposed projects is 75.24 Ha, the Non Forest Area required is 216.19 ha, thus the project would actually require 291.43 Ha of land which falls in the Tiger Corridor.
  - 8.22.02 The proposed site is at a distance of 39 kms from an existing airport at Chandrapur which is being sparingly used. The Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport at Nagpur is less than 150 kms from Chandrapur city and it takes less than 2 hours to reach Chandrapur from Nagpur airport. These 2 facts should also be kept in mind while taking a decision on the proposal.
  - 8.22.03 The original survey for improving better connectivity was to expand the existing airport at Chandrapur but it has been shelved as there is heavy industrialization in the surrounding area and due to unavailability of land and hence this proposal for a Greenfield airport is being considered.
  - 8.22.04 The population of tigers in Chandrapur District has increased substantially in the past few year and the number has reached in excess of 200 tigers which is more than half of the State's total number.
  - 8.22.05 The increasing number of human deaths due to tiger encounters is a cause of great concern and all out efforts need to be made to protect the dispersal corridors so that there is easy movement of tigers out of the District into adjoining areas.
  - 8.22.06 In view of the benefits that seem to be accruing due to the project for the local population in terms of the number of employment opportunities, the trade of between the protection of the corridor to be disrupted if the project comes through and the benefits proposed, weighs heavily in favour of protection of the corridor.
- 9.00 The User Agency vide letter dated 03/08/2020 has given undertaking to accept the mitigation measures suggested by the WII.
  - (A) The User Agency has further brought to the notice that-
    - (i) AAI has explored the scope for expansion of existing airport and found that expansion is not possible.



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- (ii) AAI has finalized the present location.
  - (B) Certificate state that no alternative non forest land is available for this purpose.
  - (C) The User Agency has agreed to comply with the recommendations of WII regarding mitigation measures.
  - (D) CWLW, MS has given his remarks. *as stated in para 8-22 above.*

**10.00 In view of this, the proposal is submitted for consideration under the section -2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions: –**

10.1 The legal status of the forest land required will remain unchanged.

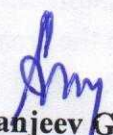
**10.2 Compensatory Afforestation:-**

- a) Compensatory Afforestation over 75.50 ha. degraded forest land in compartment No.39,186 & 446 Village Warzadi, Lawada, Rupapeth & Umari Dist.Chandrapur at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided.
  - b) The non forest land shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department. Thereafter it shall be notified u/s 4 of the IFA, 1927. The boundary of the non forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost by erecting four feet reinforced concrete pillars, distance from pillars to pillars and GPs co-ordinates;
- 10.3 The user agency will defray the cost of Net Present Value of 75.240 ha. of forest land as per the latest guidelines of the Government of India.
- 10.4 The user agency will defray the additional cost of Net Present Value of forest land as per the latest guidelines of Government of India.
- 10.5 The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the Compensatory Afforestation, at the current wage rate, to the State Forest Department. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
- 10.6 The non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of the Stage-II clearance.
- 10.7 Wherever possible and technically feasible, the user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall undertake by involving local community the afforestation measures within the area diverted under this approval at the project cost.
- 10.8 The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act,1986, if required.
- 10.9 No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- 10.10 The user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labours and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.



- 10.11 The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar.
- 10.12 The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- 10.13 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- 10.14 The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
- 10.15 No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
- 10.16 Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Government.
- 10.17 The User Agency shall undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department, if required and a plan on the same to be submitted.
- 10.18 The User Agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project.
- 10.19 The User Agency shall implement the mitigation measures as suggested by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun vide their letter no. WII/AE&CB/BH/MAD/2019/01/2020-01, dt. 19/01/2020.
- 10.20 The user agency shall obtain the certificate of the Collector, Chandrapur under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 after Stage I approval.
- 10.21 All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and guidelines shall be complied with by the user agency.
- 11.00 Proposal is submitted herewith for consideration.

Encl. :- Proposal 2 copies

  
(Sanjeev Gaur)  
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Chandrapur for information.

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Central Chanda Forest Division, Chandrapur for formation.

Copy to the Authorized Officer, M.A.D.C. Ltd for information.