

15.02.2023

To
The Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Chitradurga Division,
Chitradurga

Subject: Submission of CA-Scheme in Part-II 13(iv) in furtherance of Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/51389/2020 for Diversion of 9.5474 Ha of Forest Land in Hirekandavadi village Sy No.107 and Thanigehalli Villahe Sy No. 35, Beedirga Hobli, Holalkere Taluk and Dindadahalli Village Sy No. 18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District for establishment of Conveyor Project for Iron Ore Mine ML No.2677 in favour of M/s Vedanta Limited Chitradurga.

Ref: 1. Letter No. A6/FC/VEDANTA/CB/CR-03/2021-2022 dated 09/01/2023
2. Letter No. A5(1)MNG.CR.6/2018-19 dated 07/01/2023

Sir,

With reference to the above subject, we have received letter no. A6/FC/VEDANTA/CB/CR-03/2021-2022 from your office on 09/01/2023.

We would like to bring to your kind attention, that of the documents requested by the Prinicipal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Aranya Bhavan, Bengaluru as mentioned in above referred letters, the CA Scheme in Part-II 13 (iv) to be submitted by the Department with regard to the CA plantation to be raised in the identified forest land.

We humbly submit that the above mentioned CA Scheme in Part-II 13 (iv) to be uploaded with regard to the CA plantation must be furnished by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga itself as per the Minutes of meeting dated 13.08.2019 held under the Chairmanship of APCCF FC, the DCF Chitradurga to identify degraded forest land in Chitradurga division for the plantation. The excerpts of the minutes of meeting is produced below:

6. In case, of Conveyor proposal of M/s Vedanta Limited, the CA land is being proposed in BRT Tiger Reserve (without scope for CA planting due to existing vegetation) and therefore, the DCF Chitradurga needs to identify equivalent extent of degraded forest land having potential for planting 1000 plants/ha for CA purpose in Chitradurga Division, where the forest diversion is proposed. In such cases, the CA land information will be in two parts- (i) CA land information of BRT Tiger Reserve and (ii) CA land details of Chitradurga Division. The User Agency may assist in preparing the technical information like KML File, Geo-referenced Map, Topo Map, etc.

VEDANTA LIMITED

Sesa Goa Iron Ore, Karnataka No 15, SNS Chambers, 1st Floor, Sankey Road, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore – 560080. T: 08023612755 | www.sesagoaironore.com

Registered Office: Vedanta Limited, 1st Floor, 'C' wing, Unit 103, Corporate Avenue, Atul Projects, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400093, Maharashtra, India.

CIN: L13209MH1965PLC291394

In view of the above the degraded forest land to be identified by the O/o DCF Chitradurga and the CA scheme to be prepared accordingly. Any assistance in regard to preparation of Maps etc must be given to us (Vedanta) for plantation. You are therefore requested to submit the abovementioned information/documents for further action with regard to the processing of the proposal.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely



Meghna Ghosh

Chief External Relation Officer, Iron Ore Business, Karnataka

Enclosed:

1. Proceedings of the Minutes of Meeting 13.08.2019 under the Chairmanship of APCCF FC
2. CA Land suitability Certificate issued by DCF Chamrajnagar

Copy:

1. PCCF FC, Aaranya Bhawan, Bangalore
2. DCF & Director BRT, Chamrajnagar

Proceedings of the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation) in Meeting Hall, 8th Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Bengaluru on 13-08-2019 (12 Noon) to review the progress of submission of additional information sought by Government of India in connection with the forest diversion proposals for establishing Conveyor Belt Systems in compliance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 07-12-2017 in IA No. 247 in WP (Civil) No. 562/2009

[Ref: Meeting Notice No.KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MISC)/10/2018-FC dated 08-08-2019]

Present:

A. Forest Department:

1. Sri Jagmohan Sharma IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation) and Nodal officer (FCA)
2. Sri Anil Kumar Ratan IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation)
3. Sri S.S. Lingaraju IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle
4. Dr. Ramesh Kumar IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division
5. Sri K.B. Manjunath IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Division

B. User Agencies:

1. M/s Sandur Manganese & Iron Ore Ltd (SMIORE): Absent
2. M/s Vedanta Limited: Smt. Meghna Ghosh and Sri Jayavel G., Manager
3. M/s Veerabhadrapa Sangappa & Co (VESCO): Sri S. Mandal, Senior Manager
4. M/s B. Kumaragowda : Sri P. Sreenivasa Rao, General Manager
5. M/s Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Ltd (KSMCL): Sri Shankaralingaiah, Chief General Manager and Sri Rameshappa, Manager (L&E)

C. Special Invitee: Sri Prabhas Chandra Ray IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Managing Director, Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC)

At the outset, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation) & Nodal officer (FCA) welcomed all and briefed on the present status of the processing of the six FC proposals involving diversion of forest land in Ballari and Chitradurga Divisions in connection with Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 07-12-2017 in IA No. 247 in WP (Civil) No. 562/2009. All these proposals have already been submitted to the Government of India seeking Stage-I approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In response, the Central Government has sought additional information in respect of all six proposals. Major requirement are (i) the details of alternative alignments (*non-forest and /or those requiring or lesser forest extent*) examined and reasons for their rejection (ii) CA land information (iii) status of compliance of the conditions of FC approval of the associated mining lease (iv) present status of associated mining lease along with copies of the Mining Lease and the FC Lease documents (iv) Shape file of the forest land proposed for diversion and (v) reply to the information sought by GOI in the past (*concerning M/s Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Ltd (KSMCL) ML No. 2629 & 2605*) and NOC from UA/State Govt for passing through M/s Janatakal Enterprises land and present status of mining lease of M/s Janatakal Enterprises (*concerning M/s Vedanta proposal*) and (vi) proposal for change of name of User Agency (*concerning M/s Vedanta Ltd and Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Ltd*).

The GOI query was communicated to the concerned User Agencies and the Field Officers with a request to submit the required information urgently. However, the information is yet to reach the Nodal Office. Considering the urgency of matter, it is imperative that a point wise reply in each case needs to be submitted initially by the User Agency to the Deputy Conservator of Forests concerned, who after due verification will submit the same to the Nodal Office through the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle. In order to expedite the process, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle needs to co-ordinate and closely supervise the action being taken at different levels.

Further, though the Nodal Officer has already requested the Government of India through the State Government for considering according Stage-I approval subject to compliance of the GOI

directions, the information is required to be submitted on priority in order to comply with the conditions of Stage-I approval.

Present status of the submission of information sought by Government of India in the following six proposals was reviewed and action plan decided in the meeting.

1. FP/KA/Others/31165/2018 (M/s SMIORE): 2.4314 ha
2. FP/KA/MIN/34838/2018 (M/s Vedanta Ltd): 7.978 ha
3. FP/KA/MIN/35480/2018 (M/s Veerabhadrapa Sangappa & Co.): 14.8457 ha
4. FP/KA/MIN/36226/2018 (M/s B. Kumaragowda): 19.206 ha
5. FP/KA/MIN/36390/2018 (Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Ltd): 16.676 ha
6. FP/KA/MIN/36386/2018 (Karnataka State Mineral Corporation Ltd): 19.898 ha

After a detailed discussion, the following decisions were taken to expedite submission of information by the User Agency and the Field officers.

1. The User Agency will submit a point-wise reply along with the relevant documents (in 7 of sets) on each issue raised by the Government of India to the Deputy Conservator of Forests concerned (Ballari/ Chitradurga), who after verification of the same and along with their inputs will submit a point-wise report to the Nodal office through the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle.
2. It was agreed that the User Agency will depute a responsible official well versed with the required information to the office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests who shall verify the information and then finalise the reply with technical inputs from the User Agency wherever required.
3. The CA land related information shall contain (i) KML file (ii) Topo Map (iii) Geo-referenced map (iv) GPS readings (*Datum: WGS 84; in Degree.decimals*) of all corner points tabulated on the Geo-referenced Map itself (v) Land ownership documents (vi) Encumbrance Certificate, Agreement with the land owner, etc., and (vii) CA Suitability Certificate in prescribed formats (viii) CA Scheme as per PARA 2.8 of the FC Guidelines and as per the prevailing rates.
4. CA Suitability Certificate shall be issued only after ascertaining the immediate adjacency (without gap) to an existing (preferably notified) forest area and also after ensuring that the proposed CA land in Private Party FC proposals is eligible under G.O. No. FEE 82 FLL 2016 dated 31-08-2016 of the Government of Karnataka.
5. In case, the CA land proposed by User Agency cannot support 1000 plants per hectare of planting, the balance plants can be proposed to be planted in the degraded forest land as per Working plan prescriptions in accordance with Para 2.4(vi) of the FC Guidelines.
6. In case, of Conveyor proposal of M/s Vedanta Limited, the CA land is being proposed in BRT Tiger Reserve (without scope for CA planting due to existing vegetation) and therefore, the DCF Chitradurga needs to identify equivalent extent of degraded forest land having potential for planting 1000 plants/ha for CA purpose in Chitradurga Division, where the forest diversion is proposed. In such cases, the CA land information will be in two parts- (i) CA land information of BRT Tiger Reserve and (ii) CA land details of Chitradurga Division. The User Agency may assist in preparing the technical information like KML File, Geo-referenced Map, Topo Map, etc.
7. Further, M/s Vedanta Limited may also submit an 'Undertaking' to the effect that, if the presently proposed CA land is found to be ineligible for land transfer, the company shall provide alternative CA land.
8. In order to expedite the examining of CA land suitability, the field inspection will be done by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, the Assistant Conservator of Forests and Range Forest Officer jointly. However, the GPS readings of proposed CA land corners

may be got inspected and verified well in advance. The User Agency shall ensure presence of its representative during the field verification.

9. The technical information like KML Files and Shape files will be submitted in the Compact Disc (*minimum 3 sets to reach the Nodal Office*).
10. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle shall coordinate and closely supervise the action being taken at different levels and also ensure that the required information (*in 3 sets*) reaches the Nodal Office within agreed time frame of two weeks.

Sri Prabhas Chandra Ray, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Managing Director, KMERC requested the User Agencies as well as the Field officers of the Forest Department to submit the required information on urgent basis, as the State Government needs to file an affidavit before Hon'ble Supreme Court on the matter soon.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all present in the meeting.



(Jagmohan Sharma, IFS)
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal officer (FCA)

No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MISC)/10/2018-FC

Date:21-08-2019

✓ Copy with complements to the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Managing Director, KMERC for information.

Copy for information and further necessary action to:

1. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari.
2. Conservator of Forests & Director, BRT Tiger Reserve, Chamarajanagar
3. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari.
4. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Division, Chitradurga.
5. M/s Sandur Manganese & Iron Ores Limited (ML No.2580), No. 1A & 2C, 'Redifice Signature', No. 6, Hospital Road, Shivaji Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 001.
6. M/s Vedanta Limited (ML No.2677), Megalahalli office complex, Bheemasamudra Post, Chitradurga Taluk & District.
7. M/s Veerabhadrapa Sangappa and Company (ML No.2296), No. 2/138, Ballari Road, Sandur - 583 119 Ballari District.
8. The Managing Director, M/s Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited (ML.Nos. 2605 & 2629) TTMC 'A' Block, 5th Floor, BMTC Building, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560 027.
9. Sri B.Kumaragowda (ML No.2516), Mining Contractors, No.125/B, L.B.Colony, Sandur - 583 119, Ballari District.

FORMAT-B
CA LAND SUITABILITY CERTIFICATE UNDER FCA 1980

[Cases where proposed non-forest CA land cannot support the prescribed planting density of 1000 plants per hectare and it is necessary to plant the balance number of plants in degraded forest land (<40% canopy density) as per working plan prescriptions in accordance with Government of India FC Guidelines F.No.11-423/2011-FC dated 08-11-2017]

In compliance of the procedure established for diversion of forestland for non-forest purpose through the forest Conservation Rules 2003 and Guidelines framed under Forest Conservation Act 1980, the following is Certificate.

1. The non-forest land parcel(s) [Table 1] Proposed by **M/s Vedanta limited** for raising compensatory afforestation (CS) in Forest land diversion proposal number **FP/KA/MIN/35676/2018** for diversion of **9.547** Hectare of forest land in **Chitradurga** division(s) has/have been inspected by me on 24-03-2021 (date).
2. The said non-forest CA land parcel(s) is/are suitable for raising compensatory afforestation in accordance with Government of India FC Guidelines F.No.11-423/2011-FC dated 08-11-2017 read with general FC Guidelines, and in case of Private Party User Agency, further as per Government of Karnataka Order No. FEE 82 FLL 2016 Dated 31-08-2016.
3. It is further reported that the said land parcel(s) has/have natural growth to major extent and therefore planting is not necessary. Moreover, there are high chances for damage of planted seedlings by herbivores like Elephant, Sambar deer, Spotted deer are observed in this area. However, the money reserved for plantation can be used to develop Grassland in the concerned parcel of land since, there is large herbivore population.
4. The KML file(s), Topo Map(s), Geo-referenced Map(s) & GPS readings of all corners of the proposed non-forest CA land parcel(s) have been uploaded by User Agency in PART-I of the proposal / are enclosed herewith.
5. The KML file(s), Topo Map(s), Geo-referenced Map(s) & GPS readings of all corners of the proposed degraded forest land parcel(s) are enclosed in PART-II.
6. Additional remarks, in any area is having wild animals so better to take compensatory afforestation in other division.
7. There is no double degraded government land in this area.

TABLE -1 (Non-Forest CA Land)

District, Taluk & Hobli	Village	Survey Number	Extent in A-G (Ha)	Plants/ha proposed to be planted	Remark about the adjacency of the proposed land parcel to a notified forest
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Chamarajanagar Yelandure Agara	Maddur	960, 961, 962, 963, 967, 968, 969, 970	0.940 (HA) 0.566 (HA) 0.991 (HA) 0.445 (HA) 0.819 (HA) 2.266 (HA) 1.497 (HA) 2.448 (HA)	-	The Proposed CA Land is sharing 25% or more border with the deemed forest area (Sy No. 943, Maddur village) under the control of BRT Tiger Reserve. The area is having some vegetation with some blank places But this area is having wild animals moment. Survival of planted seedlings is doubtful. So instead of planting it is better to use these blank areas as grasslands for herbivores such as Elephants, Sambar Deer, Spotted deer.
Total :			9.972 (HA)		

TABLE-2 (Degraded forest land where the balance number of plants are proposed to be planted in consonance with the working Plan Prescription)

Forest Division	Name of Forest	Forest block number	District, Taluk & Hobli	Village	Survey number	Extent in A-G (Ha)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Total :						

Place: Chamarajanagar
Date : 24-03-2021

[Signature]
Deputy Conservator of Forests and Director,
BRT Tiger Reserve, Chamarajanagar.