

Site Inspection report of Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, SMTR, Madurai regarding for diversion of 1.8798 Ha. of forest land for road upgradation works in Varusanadu (via) Thummakundu - Valiparai road (0/0 - 9/720) section in Kadamalaikundu - Mylandumparai Panchayat Union Aundipatti Taluk in Theni District.

The proposed road for upgradation works in Varusanadu - Via Thummakundu Valiparai Road (0/0 - 9/720 Km) section in Kadamalaikundu - Mylandumparai Panchayat Union, Aundipatti Taluk in Theni district for diversion of forest lands in Mylandumparai Bit 39 RL, Mylandumparai Bit 47 RL (Mylandumparai village) and Megamalai RF (Megamalai village) of Megamalai Division was inspected by me along with Deputy Director, Megamalai and the Forest Range Officers, Gandamanur and Varusanadu Ranges on 24.07.2024 and 21.12.2024.

The total areas proposed for diversion is 1.8798 ha. The road is an existing bitumen road in the forest and non-forest land. The road is laid in Thummakundu Village Panchayat of Kadamalai - Mylandumparai Panchayat Union and falls partly in Megamalai Revenue village and partly in Mylandumparai Revenue Village of Aundipatti Taluk in Theni district, Tamil Nadu. The portion of the road in Mylandumparai Bit 39 RL and Mylandumparai Bit 47 RL are declared as Buffer Zone of the Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve. The other part of the road falls in Megamalai RF which is declared as Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve. Though Megamalai RF is spread over the core and buffer zone of the tiger reserve, this part of the RF where the road falls is in core zone of the tiger reserve.

The user agency had applied for the upgradation of the road as per the right of way in Megamalai RF Notification for a length of 2352.2 metres and width of 8 metres; thus, totalling to 1.88 hectares i.e., $2352.2 \times 8 = 1.88176$ Sq.m. or 1.8818 ha. But, the road falls in Mylandumparai Bit 39 and Bit 47 RLs as mentioned in Sl.No.3 to 5 which was confirmed in the survey conducted by Forest Settlement Officer, Bodi. Hence, the proposed road falls in three Forest Blocks. During the inspection, the total length and width is

measured as 3759.6 meters and 5 meters respectively which included a 50 cm berm on both sides and therefore a total of 1.8798 ha. or 18798 sq.m. is recommended for diversion as it is for public utility and improves the road communication from the villages to towns like Kadamalaikundu benefiting the public living in this area.

Lionel
21/12/24

Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director,
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21/12/24