

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
(FOR THE FOREST LAND PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION UNDER FC ACT)**

Project: Diversion of 0.0225 Ha. of Forest land for construction of Mobile tower under Universal Service Obligation Fund for Provision of Mobile Services at Ganeshbari Village

Forest Area Proposed for Diversion under Sonitpur East Division: 0.0225 ha

A proposal (FP/AS/Others/41945/2019) has been received by this office from the Bharti Airtel Assam for diversion of 0.225 ha of forest land for non-forestry purpose under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. The project envisaged the construction of mobile tower under USOF for Provision of Mobile Services. An inspection has been carried out by the undersigned on 21/02/2023 as per the guidelines of FC Act.

Upon inspection of the site, it was found that the proposed forest land required by the user agency falls under Biswanath Reserve Forest. The requirement of forest land proposed by the user agency is unavoidable for the project.

The salient features of the forest area proposed for diversion as found during site inspection are as follows:

- There are no known rare/ endangered species of flora or fauna present in the forest area proposed for diversion.
- There are no protected archeological/ heritage sites located in the proposed forest area.
- There are no plantation raised by this division in the forest area proposed for diversion.
- The proposed area is devoid of dense tree cover and the entire area is under human habitation.
- The user agency has not violated any provision of FC Act and no work has been started in the proposed area without the necessary clearance.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL

The construction of mobile tower in Ganeshbari village is aimed at improvement of mobile connectivity in various forest villages and FRA villages inside Biswanath RF. Therefore, in order to provide better connectivity to forest villagers and forest rights holders, the diversion of the forest land which is barest minimum required as above is recommended for acceptance.


Divisional Forest Officer
Sonitpur East Division
Biswanath Chariali