



**Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forests Force),
Maharashtra State.**

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer,

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By E-mail / Speed Post

No.Desk-17/ **FCA-S1 / PJD - 98655 / Kolhapur / 299**
Nagpur - 440 001, Date: **23** /01/2024

To,

**The Deputy Director General (Central),
Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change,
Regional Office, Ground Floor,
East Wing, New Secretariat Building,
Civil Lines, Nagpur-01.**

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 3.7835 ha. reserved forest under the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for of Village Kumbharoshi, Jawali, Haroshi and Malkampeth, Tal. Mahabaleshwar, Dist. Satara for Mahapratap Ropeway Mahabaleshwar in the State of Maharashtra.

Ref: 1) GoI, MOEF&CC, Regional Office (WCZ), Nagpur letter F.No.FC-I/MH-358 / 2023-NGP/12395, Dated 31/10/2023.
2) The Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur letter No.D-6/Nosel/Satara/ Ropeway/1611, Dt. 12/01/2024.

Sir,

The Government of India, MoEF&CC, Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur vide letter under reference No.1 has raised 08 points.

Accordingly, the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur vide letter under reference No.2 has submitted the compliance reports on 08 points to this office. The compliance report on 08 points as desired by the Government of India vide letter dated 31/10/2023 is being submitted as under:

Sr. No.	Query	Compliance
i	The Proposal has not been forwarded to Regional Office, Nagpur in Parivesh portal. The Proposal is still showing as pending at CF/CCF Level (as on 17.10.2023 at 11.25 hrs) The same needs to be forwarded to Regional Office, Nagpur.	The proposal is at the level of Nodal Officer in Parivesh Portal & will be submitted to IRO, Nagpur through State Government for further consideration.
ii	Name of the Signing Authority, Signature and date of submission is not mentioned in Part I	As per the Compliance submitted by Deputy Conservator of Forest (T), Satara and Forwarded

	submitted by the User Agency. Revised Part I mentioning name of the signing Authority, Signature and date of submission needs to be submitted.	by Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur mentioned that the User Agency has Submitted the revised Part I and it is attached herewith as Annexure-I.
iii	Compensatory Afforestation scheme is submitted only for 7 year. As per section 2.8 (ii) (e) of the guidelines, CA Scheme should be submitted for 10 years. Therefore, revised CA Scheme proposed to be carried out in 3.80 ha degraded forest land in Gut. No.233/3, Compartment No. 821, At village Nirgudi, Taluka Phaltan, Dist. Satara for 10 years along with suitability certificate, Differential GPS map and KML file shall be submitted.	As per the Compliance submitted by Deputy Conservator of Forest (T), Satara and Forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur mentioned that the Revised Compensatory Afforestation scheme, suitability certificate, Differential GPS map and KML file is submitted here with as Annexure-II.
iv	Maps of area proposed for diversion viz. Differential GPS map, Index Map / Soltoposheet on 1:50000 scale, project layout map, 10 Km radius map showing PA's village map, Protected area distance map and alternative map is not submitted along with the proposal. All maps certified by DCF concerned needs to be submitted.	As per the Compliance submitted by Deputy Conservator of Forest (T), Satara and Forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur mentioned that All Maps are attached herewith as Annexure-III.
v	Chief Conservator of Forest (T) Kolhapur has not recommended the proposal stating that the proposal is coming in Mahabaleshwar Panchgani Eco-Sensitive region. Justification from State Government for sending such proposal needs to be submitted.	As per the Compliance submitted by Deputy Conservator of Forest (T), Satara and Forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur mentioned that the after scrutinizing the proposal and considering the recent reports from Deputy Conservator of Forests (T), Satara and User Agency, Chief Conservator of Forest (T), Kolhapur has now recommended the proposal subject to approval by High Level Monitoring Committee (HLMC) constituted for Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani Region Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ). Revised Part-III is attached herewith as Annexure-III A
vi	Part IV and Specific recommendation of PCCF (HoFF) is not submitted along with the proposal. The same needs to be submitted.	Part IV and Specific recommendation of PCCF (HoFF) is submitted herewith as Annexure-VI.
vii	Girth wise complete enumeration list of trees proposed to be felled in the proposal is not submitted along with the proposal. The same needs to be submitted.	As per the Compliance submitted by Deputy Conservator of Forest (T), Satara and Forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur mentioned that the Girth wise complete enumeration list of trees attached herewith Annexure-IV.
viii	Details of employment potential in terms of man day of skilled, semiskilled and unskilled persons on permanent (direct and indirect) and temporary (direct and indirect) basis have not been provided. The same needs to be submitted.	As per the Compliance submitted by Deputy Conservator of Forest (T), Satara and Forwarded by Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur mentioned that the details of employment potential in terms of mandays of skilled, semiskilled and unskilled persons attached herewith Annexure-V.

In view of the above, it is requested that the Government of India, MoEF&CC, Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur may kindly grant approval under section-2 (ii) of Forest Conservation Act, 1980, at the earliest.

Encl: As above



(Shailesh G. Tembhurnikar)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force),
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

Copy Submitted to the Principal Secretary (Forests), Revenue & Forest Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai for information.

Copy forwarded for information to:

1. The Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur.
2. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara.
3. Chief Executive Officer, SAIO INFRA, Kolhapur.

PART -IV

(To be filled by the Nodal Officer or the 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.: The proposal is diversion of 3.7835 ha. reserved forest under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Mahapratap Ropeway Mahabaleshwar Village Kumbharoshi, Jawali, Haroshi and Malcampeth, Tal. Mahabaleshwar, Dist. Satara in the State of Maharashtra.

The details of forest land proposed for diversion are as under:

Sr.No.	Particular	Compt. No.	Survey No.	L x W (mts)	Area in Forest (ha.)
1	Malcampeth (Keshta M'swar)				
i	Upper Terminal Station (UTS) in forest	78	206	60 x 18	0.108
ii	Tower-1	78	206	10 x 10 (No. 01)	0.01
iii	Ropeway corridor	78	206	04 x 10	0.004
2	Haroshi				
i	Ropeway Corridor in Forest land	101	20	1071 x 10	1.071
ii	Tower in Forest land-04	101	20	10 x 10	0.04
3	Jawali				
i	Ropeway Corridor in Forest land	101	80	50 x 10	0.05
		101	40, 41	703 x 10	0.703
ii	Tower in Forest land-02	101	40, 41	10 x 10	0.02
4	Kumbharoshi				
i	Lower Terminal Station (LTS)	96	49	30 x 60	0.18
ii	Ropeway Corridor in Forest land	96	49, 23	1479 x 10	1.479
iii	Tower in Forest land-07	96	49, 23	10 x 10	0.07
iv	Approach road	96	49	48 x 10	0.0485
			Total		3.7835

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


(Naresh Zurmure)

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer

Date: 23/01/2024

Place: Nagpur

Proposal for diversion of 3.7835 ha. reserved forest under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Mahapratap Ropeway Mahableshwar Village Kumbharoshi, Jawali, Haroshi and Malcampeth, Tal. Mahabaleshwar, Dist. Satara in the State of Maharashtra. (FP/MH/OTHERS/38655/2019)

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

The proposal is for diversion of 3.7835 ha. reserved forest under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Mahapratap Ropeway Mahableshwar Village Kumbharoshi, Jawali, Haroshi and Malcampeth, Tal. Mahabaleshwar, Dist. Satara in the State of Maharashtra.

2.0 The details of the forest land proposed for diversion are as under:- (PPN-10)

Sr.No.	Particular	Compt. No.	Survey No.	L x W (mts)	Area in Forest (ha.)
1	Malcampeth (Keshta M'swar)				
i	Upper Terminal Station (UTS) in forest	78	206	60 x 18	0.108
ii	Tower-1	78	206	10 x 10 (No. 01)	0.01
iii	Ropeway corridor	78	206	04 x 10	0.004
2	Haroshi				
i	Ropeway Corridor in Forest land	101	20	1071 x 10	1.071
ii	Tower in Forest land-04	101	20	10 x 10	0.04
3	Jawali				
i	Ropeway Corridor in Forest land	101	80	50 x 10	0.05
		101	40, 41	703 x 10	0.703
ii	Tower in Forest land-02	101	40, 41	10 x 10	0.02
4	Kumbharoshi				
i	Lower Terminal Station (LTS)	96	49	30 x 60	0.18
ii	Ropeway Corridor in Forest land	96	49, 23	1479 x 10	1.479
iii	Tower in Forest land-07	96	49, 23	10 x 10	0.07
iv	Approach road	96	49	48 x 10	0.0485
	Total				3.7835

3.0 Mahabaleshwar is most popular tourist destination and hill station in Maharashtra. Around 15 lack tourists shall visit Mahabaleshwar each year. Pratapgad fort is a mountain fort built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The fort Pratapgad and Jawali basin (valley surrounding pratapgad) are the place of Pratapgad fort is a mountain fort built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The fort Pratapgad and Jawali basin (valley surrounding pratapgad) are the place of immense importance being witnessed historical landmark battle between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj & Afzal Khan. The Bhavani Temple, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Statue, Afzal Khan Tomb are the places of interest, heritage & nature lovers can spend hours together exploring this splendid place surrounded by luxuriant greenery. Visitors can also enjoy spectacular view of wide Konkan coast.

- 3.1 Such a luring place is just 24.00 K.M. away from popular tourist destination Mahabaleshwar, but main constrain is that it take more than one hour to reach Pratapgad from Mahabaleshwar being total ghat section & narrow road. Also there is insufficient place for vehicle parking at Pratapgad. At present around 5.00 lack visitors visit Pratapgad every year.
- 3.2 However the proposed project area is under Mahabaleshwar-Panchagani Eco-sensitive zone area declared by GoI.
- 3.3 This cable car project offers best solution, the aerial distance is only 6.00 K.M. from Mahabaleshwar, which will save time, enhance tourism at Pratapgad. This cable car project will help to reduce carbon emission, vehicles traffic and this will be the exciting & memorable experience to the tourists visiting Mahabaleshwar & Pratapgad. This project will help in generating direct & indirect employment. (PPN-25, 26 & 30)
- 3.4 The proposed Aerial Tourist Ropeway shall be developed at Mahabaleshwar, District Satara, Maharashtra from village Javali to Pratapgad Fort and Village Javali to Lodwick point by M/s Saio infra. M/s. Saio infra is a Partnership reg. company incorporated under the Companies Act. 2013 for implementation and operation of proposed project at Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra in order to promote tourism & modal shift to transit and reduction in traffic congestion in the region. The proposed system to be installed will be Monocable Detachable Gondola System. The Project is a 5589 metre long Aerial Tourist Ropeway, covering an area of 3.7835 ha including three terminal stations, ropeway corridor and activities and proposed infrastructure. The proposed ropeway shall be developed from Malcampeth (Mahabaleshwar) to Pratapgad.
- 3.5 The Total Non-forest land involved in the project is 2.052 ha. (PPN-5 & 35) The site inspection report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara is enclosed on (PPN-24 to 27)
- 4.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that:-**
- 4.1 The area belongs to Dense Forest, Eco value class-III and having density of forest is 0.6 to 0.8 (PPN-25)
- 4.3 No suitable alternate non-forest land is available and the forest land required is barest minimum. (PPN-53)
- 4.4 There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act-1980. (PPN-56)
- 4.5 Proposed Compensatory Afforestation over 3.80 ha degraded Forest land on Forest Gut. No.233/3, Compt.No.821 at Village Nirgudi, Tal. Phaltan, Dist. Satara is suitable for afforestation and management purpose, also it is free from encroachment and encumbrances. (PPN-57)
- 4.6 Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance. (PPN-75)

- 4.7 The project is not included in the area of any National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary or Nature Reserve. (PPN-76)
- 4.8 There are 187 trees of various species is involved in the implementation of the Project. The Girth wise breakup is as under: (PPN-82)

Sr. No.	0-30 cm	31-60 cm.	61-90 cm.	91-120 cm.	121-150 cm.	above 150 cm.
1	64	95	22	5	1	0
Total	187					

- 4.9 The area involved in the project about away 18.98 km from the boundary of Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary. (PPN-83)
- 4.10 Certificate regarding alternatives examined for this liner project. (PPN-96 & 97)

Sr.No.	Alignment	Length (m.)		Area (ha.)		Total area (ha)
		Forest	Non-forest	Forest	Non-forest	
1	Proposed Alignment	3537.00	2052.00	3.537	2.052	5.589
2	1st Alignment	4006.98	2054.34	4.03	2.07	6.1
3	2nd Alignment	0.00	6802.22	0.00	21.04	21.04

In this proposal three alternatives have been examined in details and have come to conclusion that the proposed alternative mentioned at Sr. No.1 is most suitable it require minimum forest area.

5.0 The User Agency has submitted Undertaking / Certificate / Document:

- 5.1 Agreed to defray the cost of Compensatory Afforestation. (PPN-54)
- 5.2 Agreed to defray the cost of Net Present Value of the forest land proposed for diversion. (PPN-78)
- 5.3 There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act-1980. (PPN-55)
- 5.4 The project area is outside the Scheduled Tribal Area. (PPN 84)
- 5.5 Agreed to bear the cost of clearance removal of the vegetation growth from the forest land. (PPN-81)
- 5.6 The User Agency has submitted the undertaking that the Gram Panchayat resolution under FRA 2006 alongwith Stage-I Compliance. (PPN-158)
- 5.7 The User Agency has submitted undertaking that the approval for proposal in the meeting of H.L.M.C. after prior approval of the above proposal. (PPN-159)
- 6.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara have recommended the proposal for diversion of 3.7835 ha. of Reserved forest land. (PPN-27)
- 7.0 The Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur circle have recommended the proposal on following condition:
- The percentage of forest land to be actually utilized in the ground for erection of towers, upper and lower terminal station is 11.31%.

- ii. On analyzing the list of the trees to be felled, it is found that around 90% of trees enumerated have girth less than 60 cm. and average height 3-5 m.
- iii. User Agency has agreed to handover 3.80 ha at Village Chaturbet, Tal. Mahabaleshwar, Dist. Satara for Compensatory Afforestation. The said area falls in Mahabaleshwar-Panchagani Region Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ), and consists of more than 60% area under tree cover. In addition to it, DCF Satara suggested the User Agency to take Compensatory Afforestation in degraded forest land over an area of 3.80 ha at Village Nirgude, Tal. Phaltan, Dist. Satara. User Agency also agreed to take up C.A. in degraded forest land.
- iv. The project area doesn't fall in Protected Area or ESZ of the Protected Areas.
- v. The project area falls in Mahabaleshwar- Panchgani Region Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).
- vi. The project area falls in ESA of Western Ghat as per draft notification dated 6.07.2022.
- vii. The ropeway project may reduce the vehicular mode of transport significantly, which may result in a substantial reduction in carbon emissions.
- viii. The Aerial Ropeway Advisory Board has been constituted as per Bombay Aerial Ropeways Act 1955. The Board will scrutinize the ropeway proposal, submitted by the User Agency, along with the NOC obtained from various State/Central Govt. authorities and the board may or may not recommend to the State Govt. for final approval.

8.0 KML file of the proposed diverted area and CA area is kept in the file at the top.

9.0 **In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under the section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions:**

- 9.1 The legal status of the forest land required will remain unchanged.
- 9.2 Forest land will be handed over only after required non forest land for the project is handed over to the User Agency.

9.3 **Compensatory Afforestation**

- A. Proposed Compensatory Afforestation over 3.80 ha. degraded Forest land on Forest Gut. No.233/3, Compt. No.821 at Village Nirgudi, Tal. Phaltan, Dist. Satara is suitable for afforestation and management purpose, also it is free from encroachment and encumbrances. (PPN-57)
- B. The non forest land identified arising compensatory afforastaion shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State forest department before issue of the 'Final' approval under the Adhiniyam.
- C. 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 CA scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for Ten years;


D. The compensatory afforestation scheme, as approved, shall be implemented by the State Forest Department at the project cost within a period of three years from the date of grant of Final' approval;

9.4 **NPV:**

- a) The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the 3.7835 ha. forest area to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the Government of India guidelines dated 06/01/2022 and 19/01/2022.
 - b) Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
- 9.5 No felling of trees shall be undertaken blanks areas within the area being diverted if available shall be planted with suitable tree / shrubs species in consultation with state forest department.
- 9.6 No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- 9.7 All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal. (<http://parivesh.nic.in/>)
- 9.8 The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensure by way of prescribed certificate from the concern District Collector.
- 9.9 The User Agency shall obtain the Environment clearance as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
- 9.10 No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- 9.11 Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
- 9.12 The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- 9.13 No addition or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction material for execution of the project work.
- 9.14 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- 9.15 The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Government of India.
- 9.16 The forest personnel should be permitted to use of ropeway free of cost for their inspection in adjoining area.

- 9.17 The User Agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, who's nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nest 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;
- 9.18 Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.
- 9.19 The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)

Keeping in view the facts mentioned above, this proposal for diversion of 3.7835 ha. Reserved Forest under the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for of Village Kumbharoshi, Jawali, Haroshi and Malcampeth, Tal. Mahabaleshwar, Dist. Satara for Mahapratap Ropeway Mahabaleshwar in the State of Maharashtra is recommended.


(Shailesh G. Tembhurnikar)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force),
Maharashtra State, Nagpur.