

Site Inspection Report of Dy. Conservator of Forests

CASTELROCK - KULEM RAILWAY DOUBLING PROJECT: DIVERSION OF 7.018 HA FOREST AREA IN COLLEM RANGE, NORTH GOA DIVISION

The area proposed for clearance under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Castelrock - Kulem Railway Doubling project is located in Collem Village of Dharbandora Taluka, South Goa District, North Goa Forest Division, Goa State has been inspected by the undersigned on 24/07/2019.

Total forest area required for the said project is 7.018 ha which passes through Unclassed Forest area in Collem Village, Collem Range, North Goa Forest Division. The survey number wise detail of the forest area is as follows:

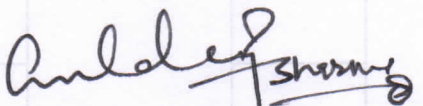
Sr. No.	Village	Survey Number	Area	Legal status	Remarks
1	Collem	59	0.480	Unclassed Forest	Area is in Eco sensitive Zone of Bhagwan Mahavir National Park and also an Eco Sensitive Area (ESA) of Western Ghats.
2		66/1	1.938		
3		66/2	4.600		
		Total	7.018		

The said forest area is having plain terrain with dense tree vegetation. The area is mostly plain and part of it is slopy. However the soil strata is stabilized and therefore not prone to soil erosion. The area appears to be frequented by wild animals like Indian Gaur, Wild Boar, Hare, Leopard, snakes & avifauna such as Peacock and Jungle Fowl, though no direct sightings was noticed at the time of site inspection. Although the area falls in the Eco sensitive Zone of Bhagwan Mahavir National Park and also lies in Eco Sensitive Area of Western Ghat, but since there is already railway track existing in the area and the project is for doubling of the track, there shall not be major impact on the wildlife of the area.

Enumeration of trees has been carried out within the forest land proposed for diversion and the total number of trees is found to be 643 nos. Tree species like *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Terminalia paniculata*, *Pongara baduranga*, *Acacia auriculformis*, *Anacardium occidentale*, *Terminalia bellerica*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Carea arborea*, *Holarneana antidysentrica*, *Bahunia lanza*, *Tecona grandis*, *Artocarpus integrifolia*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Xylia xylocarpa* & Misc. are found. The overall average canopy density of the area is about 0.7. No violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has occurred in the proposed forest area for diversion.

The project aims at doubling of existing Castelrock - Kulem SWR Track as a part of Hospet-Tinaighat-Castelrock-Kulem-Vasco Railway Doubling Project. The existing single line from Hospet-Vasco was laid in Year 1900 and connects Iron Ore mining/Industrial Area to Marmugao Port Trust in Vasco. Due to Industrial growth and growth of tourists, the existing single Railway line capacity is saturated. To meet the increasing demand and future growth, the existing railway single line is proposed to be doubled, hence this proposal.

Recommendations: Since the requirement of Forest land is bare minimum and the project being site specific with no alternate available, the diversion of 7.018 ha of Forest area is recommended to the user agency.


Kuldeep Sharma, IFS

Dy. Conservator of Forest
North Goa Division

Date: 24/07/2019

Place: Ponda- Goa