

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
DHARWAD CIRCLE**

(Dates of Inspection: 01.12.2015 and 22.03.2016)

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 0.5404 ha of forest land in Sy no. 151, 154, 155, 181 of Irani Village, Ranebennur taluk, for construction of Aqueduct for Dy-2 under UTP Main Canal in favour of Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur

Ref: Deputy Conservator of Forests, Haveri Forest Division, Haveri, letter no. A5/GFL/ Tu.Me.Yo./ Irani/15-16/1942 dated 17.03.2016

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Before dwelling upon the actual Site Inspection report, it is worth mentioning that the present Project proposal submitted by the USER AGENCY is in continuation with another three such proposals with Project Codes- (i) FP/KA/IRRIG/15454/2015 (for 0.9436 ha RF land in Kudrihal & Medleri villages), (ii) FP/KA/IRRIG/15471/2015 (for 0.21 ha RF land in Yaklashpur village) and (iii) FP/KA/IRRIG/15470/2015 (for 0.9499 ha RF land in Airani or Irani village) submitted already for diversion of total 2.1035 ha Reserved Forest land in Ranebennur Wildlife Sanctuary to the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Sub Division, Ranebennur (which is also a part of Dharwad Circle and is adjoining to Haveri Territorial Forest Division). The project involves (i) construction of aqueduct in most part, (ii) excavation of canal in about 320 m length), and (iii) renovation of an existing canal in the RF land. Opinion from wildlife angle on all these three proposals has been already submitted by the undersigned, vide letter no. A1/GFL/UTP/Canal/CR-12/2015-16 dated 05.02.2016, to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka, for further action. A copy is enclosed herewith.

New works in the entire project submitted by the USER AGENCY consists of three (3) distinct linear patches – all of them lying within the Ranebennur Wildlife Sanctuary, even though a small part of the third length, though a part of Ranebennur Wildlife Sanctuary, is administered by the adjoining Haveri Territorial Forest Division (*present proposal*).

For unknown reasons, the USER AGENCY has now submitted a separate (fourth) proposal with Project Code: FP/KA/IRRIG/17555/2016 dated 16.01.2016 for diversion of 0.5404 ha RF land which is presently under administration of Haveri Territorial Forest Division. However, the RF land involved in present proposal is already a part / subject matter of the above mentioned third proposal with Project Code- FP/KA/IRRIG/15470/2015 (for 0.9499 ha RF land in Airani or Irani village) and hence the present proposal appears to be inconsequential and unnecessary.

The delineation of the Territorial part of the RF and the Sanctuary limits (which is also a RF) is only approximate owing to the fact that the Sanctuary Notification gives the old Eucalyptus plantations (which are not possible to delineate with precision) as the reference points for the Sanctuary boundary limits and not the survey numbers or any other permanent features in Airani part of the RF. As a result, there is no clear cut demarcation of the boundary between the Sanctuary and Territorial forest in this patch and the internal demarcation is only approximate. As a matter of fact, a comparison of the Survey of India

Topo Sheet, the Satellite Imagery and the existing old Eucalytus plantations suggests that the territorial forest staff have been administering a part of the Sanctuary itself, assuming it to be outside Sanctuary, which does not appear to be true. Because of the aforesaid reasons, all the above three earlier proposals have been recommended as a single proposal treating them entirely as the Ranebennur Wildlife Sanctuary parts for all practical purposes.

Following documents are submitted along with:

1. Copy of the Reserved Forest Notification for Airani Village (Gazette dated 13-06-1895)
2. Copy of the Government of Karnataka Notification Ranebennur Wildlife Sanctuary (No.58 PWL.74 dated 17-06-1974)
3. Google Image showing the location of the project in three parts
4. Google Image showing the location of proposed RF land in Airani Village along with the existing old canal renovated by the USER AGENCY as part of present project (for which no FC clearance has been obtained earlier)

SITE INSPECTION REPORT:

The undersigned had inspected the above project sites on 01.12.2015 along with the ACF Wildlife Sub Division and other staff. Another inspection has been made on 22.03.2016 along with the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Haveri Territorial Forest Division, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Haveri Sub Division, Range Forest Officer, Ranebennur Range and other territorial Range staff. In this regard, the following site report is submitted with respect to the present proposal-

Airani RF block: A total of 1357 meter length of forest land [including 320 m for fresh canal construction and remaining for laying of 7 m wide (pier width) aqueduct] amounting to 0.950 ha has been proposed for diversion in all in Irani village. This figure is based on the third proposal submitted by the USER AGENCY mentioned above. The present proposal, i.e., 0.5404 ha RF land is a part of it.

Remarks: *Barring about 320 m canal construction (which will be a barrier to free movement of wild animals), remaining project work (which involves construction of aque-duct is not going to cause much damage to the forest and wildlife here, as the passage below the aque-duct will remain open for movement of wild animals and will not cause any more fragmentation of wildlife habitat.*

Additional remarks:

In addition to above proposed diversion of forest land as part of present proposal, the User Agency has also carried out/ is carrying out renovation work in old canals existing within legally notified RF lands (of Airani village), for which no FC clearance has been obtained in the past (as per the records available in the forest department). Further, a comparison of the Reserved Forest (RF) boundary as per the original RF Notification, Village Forest Map, the Project proposal submitted by the User Agency and the present field situation shows that some part of the RF land in Airani village is under cultivation by private individuals, many of whom have the revenue records in their favour. However it is also a fact that these RF lands have not been de-notified under the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963 yet (at least, there are no de-notification records traceable with the forest department), the renovation work in old canal located in some such lands already

done by the User Agency under the UTP has to be still considered a RF land for the purposes of the FC Act. The User Agency has not submitted any diversion proposal for such RF lands, where renovation work in existing canal has been done. Total extent of reserve forest land involved in Airani village limits is assessed below-

RF lands involved in implementation of Upper Tunga Project in Airani village of Ranebennur taluk (Haveri district) in present proposal submitted by USER AGENCY:

Name of Forest administrative Unit involved	Name of village	Sy No.	Extent of Reserve Forest land proposed to be diverted for the project	Extent (ha)	Extent in the FC proposal submitted by User Agency	Remarks
Haveri Territorial Forest Division	Airani	151, 181, 154, 155	(95 mtr + 222 mtr + 177 mtr + 278 mtr) x 7m width	0.5404 ha	0.5404 ha	Present proposal is already a part of total 0.950 ha RF land proposed for diversion in Project Code no. FP/KA/IRRIG/15470/2015
	Airani	329, 192, 193, 168	three patches of 1478 m, 1231 m & 2507 m lengths, i.e., total 5216 m x 7 m	3.651 ha	No proposal submitted	Renovation of existing canal in reserved forest parts which are not de-notified yet.

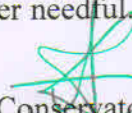
Conclusion:

In view of above, it is opined that

1. The entire project of the USER AGENCY is to be treated as **ONE PROJECT** (even though the USER AGENCY has submitted four (4) different FC proposals in all for unknown reasons (*three separate proposals for adjoining Ranebennur Wildlife Sanctuary earlier and the present one for Haveri Territorial Forest Division*). Present proposal is already a part of earlier three proposals submitted by the USER AGENCY, wildlife opinion about which has already been submitted to the Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka. However, the FC part is yet to come to the ACF, Wildlife Sub Division, Ranebennur, for further processing. Hence the present proposal (Project Code: FP/ KA/ IRRIG/ 17555/ 2016) appears to be inconsequential and not necessary.
2. the USER AGENCY may also be directed to submit the proposal for above mentioned 3.651 ha, through which the canal was constructed earlier and has been / is being renovated by the USER AGENCY now, to comply with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in toto.

With above remarks, the proposal is submitted for further needful.

Place: Dharwad
Date: 23.03.2016

 23/03/16
Chief Conservator of Forests
Dharwad Circle, Dharwad.