

ಪ್ರಧಾನಮುಖ್ಯಅರಣ್ಯಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

(ಅರಣ್ಯಪಡೆಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರಕಡೆಗೆ

Office of the  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

ಅರಣ್ಯಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ

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Encl....

E-63998

Date 24-07-2023

25

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government  
Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment  
M. S. Building, Bengaluru

Sir,

**Sub:** Diversion of 9.5474 hectare of forest land in Hirekandavadi Village Sy No. 107 and Thanigehalli village Sy No. 35, Beedurga Hobli, Holalakere Taluk and Dinadadahalli village Sy No. 18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District for establishment of Approach Road, Loading Area and Conveyor Pipeline for Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2677 in favour of M/s Vedanta Limited, Chitradurga

**Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/51389/2020 [FORM-A]**

- Ref:**
1. Online (FORM A PART-I) proposal dated 05-08-2021 (resubmitted) by M/s Vedanta Limited r/w uploading of Acknowledgement on 07-09-2021 for having delivered the hard copies of proposal to jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests and Deputy Commissioner
  2. This office online communication dated 13-09-2021 to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Division for further processing of proposal r/w letter dated 07-01-2023[EDS query]
  3. Online submission of PART-II on 13-09-2021 by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Division [Letter No. A6/FC/Vedanta/CB/CR-03/2021-22 dated 27-05-2022] r/w letter dated 05-06-2023 [EDS reply]
  4. Online submission of PART-III on 15-12-2022 by Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle [Letter No.MI/MNG/Conveyor-Belt/CR-4/2018-19(Vedanta) dated 15-12-2022] r/w letter dated 30-06-2023 [EDS reply]

1. M/s Vedanta Limited, Chitradurga [User Agency] has (re)submitted an online proposal (FORM-A PART-I) on 21/01/2020 through FC web portal for seeking approval for diversion of 9.5474 hectare of forest land in Hirekandavadi Village

Sy No. 107 and Thanigehalli village Sy No. 35, Beedurga Hobli, Holalakere Taluk and Dinadadahalli village Sy No. 18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District for establishment of Approach Road, Loading Area and Conveyor Pipeline for Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2677 under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After uploading of Acknowledgement on 07-09-2021 by User Agency on FC web portal for having delivered the hard copies of the proposal to jurisdictional Deputy Conservator of Forests and Deputy Commissioner, an online communication was made by the Nodal Officer (FCA) vide Ref (2) to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Division to process the said proposal further and to submit specific opinion / recommendation.

2. **Location details and component-wise breakup of forest land:** The location and component-wise breakup of forest land required for the project are as under.

District, Taluk, Hobli	Village	Sy No.	Forest extent proposed for diversion (ha)	Status of forest land
Chitradurga, Holalakere, Beedurga	Hirekandavadi	107	3.791	* Nirthadi Reserve Forest
	Thanigehalli	35	4.642	
Chitradurga, Chitradurga, Hireguntanuru	Dindadahalli	18	1.114	
<b>Total</b>			<b>9.547</b>	

\* Government Notification No. G-7807-FT-158-38-2 dated 11-02-1939

Component-wise breakup of the forest land required for the project is given below.

Village	Sy No.	Components	Length (m)	Width (m)	Forest extent proposed for diversion (ha)
Hirekandavadi	107	Conveyor Pipeline	1829	20	3.658
		Approach Road	89	15	0.133
Thanigehalli	35	Conveyor Pipeline	945	20	1.891
		Loading Area	550	50	2.751
Dindadahalli	18	Conveyor Pipeline	557	20	1.114
<b>Total</b>					<b>9.547</b>

3. **DCF, Chitradurga Division Report:** The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Division has inspected the site on 26-05-2022 and vide Ref (3) has submitted his report along with Site Inspection Report in PART-II to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari. Main features of the proposal based on the reports of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Division and Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle and also that of ICT Centre of the Forest Department are given below.

- a. The forest land proposed for diversion is adjoining to the mining area and there is a possibility of the open dumps sliding into the forest. The User Agency is



required to take up soil erosion control measures all along the proposed project adjoining area

- b. The forest land proposed for diversion is in general landscape of Eco-class-III (Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests) with Open Forest (canopy density <0.4)
  - c. As per Item 4(ii) of PART-II, there are 7860 trees in various Girth classes in the proposed forest land for diversion. Main species include *Santalum album*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Casurina equisetifolia*, *Acacia catechu*, *Terminalia catappa*, *Eucalyptus spp.*, *Terminalia bellirica*, *Legestroemia speciose*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Diospyros montana*, *Tectona grandis*, *Accaica suma*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Dalbergia paniculata*, *Cassia siamea*, *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Ixora parviflora*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Albizia lebbeck*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Grewia abutilifolia*, *Madhuca longifolia*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Cassia fistula*, *Gmelin arborea*, *Gardenia gummifera*, *Bambusa bambos*, *Anona squamosa*, *Grevia robusta*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Garuga pinnata*, *Anacardium occidentale*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Ficus racemose*, *Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Albizia odoratissima*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Hardwickia binata*, *Albizia lebbeck*, *Aegle marmelos* and *Simarouba glauca* etc., among others.
  - d. Major wild animals present in and around the project area include the Leopard, Sloth bear, Hare, Wild Boar, Indian porcupine, Monitor lizard, Peafowl and Birds among others.
  - e. There are no other rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna reported in the forest land proposed for diversion.
  - f. The forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor/ Wildlife Migration Corridor, etc.
  - g. The forest land proposed for diversion is not located within Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of any Protected Area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - h. There are no National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor/ Wildlife Migration Corridor, etc., located within one kilometre from boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion
  - i. There are no Protected/ Archaeological/ Heritage Sites or Defence Establishments or important monuments in the area.
  - j. There is no violation reported under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
  - k. The requirement of forest land for the project is bare minimum and unavoidable.
4. **CCF Ballari Circle Report:** The Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle has not inspected the site personally. However, agreeing with the recommendation made by the DCF, Chitradurga Division, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle has also recommended the proposal. Specific comments of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle are mentioned in Item 15 & 16 of PART-II/III of the proposal cited at Ref (4) above.
5. **Net Present Value (NPV):** The User Agency is required to pay the Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land proposed for diversion as per Para 3.1 to 3.4 of the FC Guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28-03-

2019, the User Agency will be required to pay the applicable charges as per the order issued vide the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division), New Delhi letter F.No. 5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 06-01-2022 (*guidelines regarding revised rates of NPV*), dated 19-01-2022 (*regarding proposals applicable for revised rate of NPV*) and dated 22-03-2022 (*regarding proposals applicable for revised rate of NPV*). The User Agency has uploaded/submitted an Undertaking agreeing to pay the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land proposed for diversion.


6. **Compensatory Afforestation (CA):** The User Agency is required to provide an equivalent extent of suitable (private) non-forest land for CA purpose in accordance with FC guidelines r/w Government of Karnataka Order No. FEE 88 FLL 2016 dated 31-08-2016 and also to pay the CA charges as per prevailing rates. Accordingly, the User Agency has identified an extent of 9.972 Ha non-forest (Private) land in Sy No. 960, 961, 962, 963, 967, 968, 969 and 970 of Maddur Village, Agara Hobli, Yelandur Taluk, Chamarajanagara District for CA purpose. The User Agency has uploaded the MoU/sale deed between the User Agency and land owners for purchasing of land to reserves for CA purpose. The process of mutation and formal transfer of the said land is underway. The Deputy Conservator of Forests and Director BRT Tiger Reserve, Chamarajanagara Division has inspected the said land on 24-03-2021 and has issued CA Land Suitability Certificate dated 24-03-2021. As the said land cannot support the required number (1000) of CA plants per hectare, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Division has identified an extent of 19.094 hectare of degraded forest land in Kamarakaval Forest, Nerlahalli Village Sy No. 84, Molakalmuru Hobli, Molakalmuru Taluk, Chitradurga District to plant the remaining number of plants. The CA related documents (*Ca suitability, CA Scheme, kml file in CA, Topo Map, Geo-referenced Map with GPS reading of all corners*) are enclosed herewith. They have also been uploaded online in PART-I/II of the proposal. The User Agency has also submitted an Undertaking to pay the Compensatory Afforestation charges.
7. **Status of RoFR compliance:** With regard to compliance of the provisions of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act 2006 and Rules 2008, the User Agency has not furnished the requisite Certificate in FORM-I (for Linear projects) issued by the jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner as per Annexure II of the FC Guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28-03-2019. Accordingly, the User Agency is being informed again to obtain the said certificate in prescribed format and submit a copy.
8. Further, it is to submit that the Hon'ble Supreme Court in judgment dated 21-03-2017 (copy enclosed) passed in IA No. 247 & other IAs in Writ Petition Civil No. 562/2009 have approved construction of conveyor belt system, railway sidings and railway sub-lines as the most significant step towards controlling the environmental pollution that has persisted on account of open movement of iron ore by road.



In light of the facts stated above, it is requested to move the proposal with the Government of India for according 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval for diversion of 9.5474 hectare of forest land in Hirekandavadi Village Sy No. 107 and Thanigehalli village Sy No. 35, Beedurga Hobli, Holalakere Taluk and Dinadadahalli village Sy No. 18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District for establishment of Approach Road, Loading Area and Conveyor Pipeline for Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2677 in favour of M/s Vedanta Limited, Chitradurga for a period Co-terminus with the mining lease granted under MMDR Act, 1957 (as Amended) subject to production of FRA certificate and also subject to the conditions specified in Annexure 'A'.

The hard copy of the proposal along with the relevant documents in 3 sets is submitted herewith for further needful. The present status of the proposal obtained from the web-portal is also appended for necessary action.

Yours faithfully

  
(RAJIV RANJAN IFS)  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

**Copy to the:**

1. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari for information.
2. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Division, Chitradurga for information.
3. M/s Vedanta Limited, Sesa Goa Iron Ore, Megalahalli Office Complex, Megalahalli village, Bheemasamudra, Chitradurga – 577 520 for information and with a request to obtain and submit the FRA Certificate in FORM-I (for Linear Projects) as mentioned above at the earliest.

### ANNEXURE 'A'

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged and it shall continue to be as forest land.
2. The lessee shall pay lease rent as fixed by the Government from time to time.
3. The lease tenure shall be Co-terminus with the mining lease granted under MMDR Act, 1957 (as Amended).
4. The leased out area should be used for the purpose for which it is granted. In case the land is not used for the stipulated purpose within one year or when it is no longer needed for the stipulated purpose, the area shall be resumed back. The Chief Conservator of Forests / Deputy Conservator of Forests concerned is authorized to take necessary action in this regard.
5. In case any violations are committed by the user agency under the forest laws, the forest lease shall be liable for forfeiture under Section 82 of Karnataka Forest Act 1963.
6. No constructions other than formation of approach road shall be permitted in the proposed forest area.
7. The User Agency has to pay the Net Present Value (NPV) for forest land diverted.
8. The User Agency has to pay charges towards SMC works in the forest area of the proposed approach road to a width of 100 Mtrs on both sides along with avenue plantation of local species, to be taken up by the Karnataka Forest Department.
9. The User Agency shall ensure that there is no damage to the available fauna and other flora in and around the leased area. Any violation will be liable for action under relevant forest and any other laws.
10. No labour camp shall be established in the forest area.
11. All waste / debris generated shall be scientifically disposed off.
12. All precautions shall be taken to ensure fire- protection of the forest while executing the works.
13. Any damage to forest area due to such works shall be compensated by the User Agency. The extent of damage shall be assessed by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests.
14. The lessee shall not sub-lease, mortgage or hypothecate the forest area.
15. The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subject to the clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
16. The User Agency shall also abide by all the conditions imposed by Government of India, Government of Karnataka and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Head of Forest Force).



Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

**PART - IV**

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

Detailed opinion & specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks.

(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon).

**Recommended for diversion of 9.5474 hectare of forest land in Hirekandavadi Village Sy No. 107 and Thanigehalli village Sy No. 35, Beedurga Hobli, Holalakere Taluk and Dinadadahalli village Sy No. 18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District for establishment of Approach Road, Loading Area and Conveyor Pipeline for Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2677 in favour of M/s Vedanta Limited, Chitradurga for a period Co-terminus with the mining lease granted under MMDR Act, 1957 (as Amended) subject to production of FRA certificate and also subject to the conditions specified in Annexure 'A'.**

**Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/51389/2020 [FORM-A]**

Signature:

Name:

Designation:



**VIJAY SHARMA IFS**

**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation) and  
Nodal Officer (FCA)**

(Official Seal):

Counter signed by:

Name:

Designation:



**RAJIV RANJAN IFS**

**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)**

(Official Seal):

N.D.O. No: 16/2023-24

Date: 25-07-2023