

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
(HEAD OF FOREST FORCE), MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER, MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR,
First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.

Tel no. (0712) 2530166, 2556916, Fax no. (0712) 2550675 E-mail- apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in

Sub:- Proposal for the diversion of area 227.90 ha. Reserved Forest Land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Bahule, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara and Village Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi and Gosavewadi, Tal. Karad, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Male, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara from Chandoli National Park of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra.

No. : Desk-17/Nodal/Kolhapur/ID-12995(29)/2782/2021-22
Nagpur – 440 001, Dated 25/03/2022

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralya, Mumbai – 400032

Proposal for the diversion of area 227.90 ha. Reserved Forest Land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Bahule, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara and Village Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi and Gosavewadi, Tal. Karad, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Male, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara from Chandoli National Park of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra. The proposal has been initiated by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara. The non-forest area does not involve in this project. The site inspection report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara is enclosed on page no.22 to 24 and The site inspection report of the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur is enclosed on page no.24A to 24C.

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

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Taluka	District	Compt. No.	Gut.No.	Area (Ha.)	Area required for / Purpose	Legal Status	
1	Bahule	Patan	Satara	509,510	346	106.9	Agriculture	RF	
						6.00			
2	Kharade	Karad		653		314	9.15		Gaonthan
3	Helegaon					1187b	32.85		
4	Hanbarwadi			130	49				
5	Gosavewadi				95,117	24	Agriculture		
Area Total						227.90			

3.0 Chandoli National Park which is a part of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is one of the important Protected areas of the Maharashtra State, which is located in Western Ghats. Western Ghats area is considered among the top ten Bio-diversity hot spots of the world. Chandoli National Park is included in world heritage site by UNESCO'S world heritage committee on 1 July 2012. Govt. of Maharashtra has declared Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary vide notification No. WLP-1085 CR-588/(I) dated 16th September 1985 under section 18 of Wildlife (Protection) Act- 1972 for the purpose of protecting, propagating and development of Wildlife therein and its environment. The total area of notified sanctuary is 308.17 sq. kms. Then it is upgraded as Chandoli National Park adding one village Amboli of Kolhapur District and notified total area of 316.67 sq.kms vide Government of Maharashtra notification dated 14 May 2004. Area is notified as part of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve on 5th January 2010.

4.0 The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. These ranges forms a common boundary between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa. These areas constitute rich evergreen, semi-evergreen & moist deciduous forest. These forest areas encompasses Warana river valley. It is the first Tiger Reserve of Western Maharashtra & 4th Tiger Reserve of

Maharashtra State spreading over two protected Areas, those of the Chandoli National Park and Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of 741.22 sq.km. and adjoining area in the landscape 424.35 sq.kms, total of 1165.57 sq.km. The area is spread over 4 districts namely, Satara, Satara, Kolhapur and Ratnagiri.

5.0 The area is located in the Northern ranges of Western Ghats called Sahyadris. The Buffer area as per notification dt. 21.08.2012 admeasuring 565.45 sq. kms. is spread over the geographic area of 4 districts of Maharashtra state and covers 1 village in Sangli district, 9 villages in Kolhapur district, 66 villages in Satara district and 4 villages in Ratnagiri district.

6.0 As provided in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1864 the concerning Collectors had already enquired into rights and concessions of the inhabitants and has also ascertained the willingness of the people to relocation. The status of rehabilitation of 33 villages from Chandoli National Park is as follows:

• **Villages relocated during 1979 to 1994 due to Warana Project by Irrigation Dept. :**

Dist. Sangli : Ambole, Bhogiv, Devare, Konoli, Shiddheswar, Aloli (Part), Petlond (Part), Khundlapur (Part), Chandoli Bk. (Part)

Dist. Kolhapur : Durgewadi, Karade, Wadihudumb, Amboli, Sonarli (Part), Tambave (Part).

- **Villages under enquiry :** Village Amboli dist. Kolhapur is added in National Park notification. Total population is rehabilitated by Irrigation dept due to Warana project, only open land above submergence is under enquiry.

• **Villages relocated due to Chandoli National Park by Forest dept. :**

Dist. Sangli (during 1997 to 1999): Rundiv, Jaoli, Chandoli Kd., Gave, Lotiv, Nivale, Vetti, Takale, Zolambi, Nandoli, Aloli Dhangarwada, Petlond Dhangarwada.

Dist. Kolhapur (during 1998 to 1999): Chandel, Dhakale, Nivale, Tanali, Sonarli Paiki Dhangarwada, Tambave Paiki Kulyachiwadi.

Dist. Ratnagiri (during 2000 to 2012): Gothane

• **Villages to be relocated due to Chandoli National Park by Forest dept:**

Sr. No.	Name of Village	No. of PAP's	Required land for rehabilitation Ha.	Proposed Location	Remarks
1	Male	140	227.90	Bahule, Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi and Gosavewadi, Dist. Satara	Included in this proposal
2	Kolane	79	108.00	Killechindragad Dist Sangli and Sonaichiwadi and Malharpeth, Dist. Satara.	Proposal is to be submitted
3	Patharpunj	106	193.00	Yet to be decided by PAP's	Proposal is to be submitted
4	Khundlapur Paiki Dhangarwada	72	105.00	Yetgaon dist. Sangli	Proposal is submitted by DCF Sangli
5	Chandoli Bk. Paiki Janaiwadi	14	30.00	Yet to be decided by PAP's	Sankalan is not finalized, figures are approximate Proposal is to be submitted
Total----->		411	663.900		

7.0 Human in-habitations are mostly been established in fertile lands with assured water supply. Such sites within the forest area are limited and therefore are ecologically significant. Flat grounds along major nalas can support revival floral and faunal attributes and such attributes are completely lost, with the presence of intensive agricultural attributes. Relocation in Chandoli National Park have amply demonstrated the benefits of relocation, especially to wild herbivores and consequently to the whole eco-system. Relocation of village Male will make available an area of

261.88 ha. of private agriculture land along as compensatory land for this project. Also an area of 257.61 ha. of revenue waste land and 1141.15 ha. of forest land will be free from human interference.

8.0 Out of 140 projects affected persons/ Khatedars of Male Village, 20 Khatedars accorded consent to Option-I with 10 lakh package. Remaining 120 Khatedars accorded consent to Option-II of land to land and Gaonthan rehabilitation. Out of this one group of 58 Khatedars selected forest land at Bahule, Tahsil Patan and another group of 62 Khatedars selected forest land at Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi and Gosavewadi, Tahsil Karad for rehabilitation. Reasons to relocate one village at two different places includes unavailability of continuous patch of land at a stretch that can accommodate all 120 project affected persons / Khatedars who opted Option-II and also willingness and personal choices of two groups in selection of sites. Thus establishment of two gaonthans at Bahule and Kharade - Helgaon became unavoidable.

Details of land requirement are as follows :-

Sr. No.	Location	No. of Khatedars	Land for agriculture	Gaonthan Area	Unsuitable land in-between	Total Area Required
1.	Bahule	58	95.90 ha.	6.00 ha.	11.00 ha.	112.90 ha.
2.	Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi, Gosavewadi	62	95.60 ha.	9.15 ha.	10.25 ha.	115.00 ha.
Total --->		120	191.50 ha.	15.15 ha.	21.25 ha.	227.90 ha.

Total 227.90 ha. area is proposed for diversion which includes the area as below :-

Sr. No.	Name of village	Forest gat no.	Area in ha
1	Bahule	346	112.90
2	Kharade	314	9.15
3	Helgaon	1187b	32.85
4	Hanbarwadi	130	49.00
5	Gosavewadi	95	16.00
6	Gosavewadi	117	8.00
Total ----->			227.90

9.0 Hence, the proposal for diversion of 112.90 ha. reserve forest land from Bahule forest gat no. 346 and 9.15 ha. reserve forest land from Kharade forest gat no. 314, 32.85 ha. reserve forest land from Helgaon forest gat no.1187b, 49.00 ha reserve forest land from Hanbarwadi forest gat no. 130 and 24.00 ha reserve forest land from Gosavewadi forest gat no. 95, 117 is submitted.

10.0 As per para 1.15 of Handbook issued vide Government of India's letter dated 28/03/2019, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted complete justification for locating the project in the forest area to prove the project is site-specific as under:-

'Land is not available in any command area of Irrigation Projects in Satara districts. There is no sufficient land available from "Gairan" or "Revenue waste land" in possession of Revenue department. Even in forests, it is not available in a continuous patch of land at a stretch that can accommodate all 120 PAP's, at one location. Also we are getting more non-forest land (519.49 ha.) than the total forest land (227.90 ha.) proposed to be diverted.'

11.0 Following documents as prescribed in Government Circular, Revenue and Forest Department No.FLD-1081/2041/(A)/F-3, dated 20/03/1982 and according to Government of India's instructions issued from time to time are enclosed in three copies.

11.1 Prescribed form dated 10/01/2003.

- 11.2 Certificate regarding minimum demand of forest land for the project,
 11.3 Area Statement,
 11.4 Index map in suitable scale,

12.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that:-

- 12.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is the lowest minimum.
 12.2 Density of site wise varies from 0.4 to 0.8 (Mixed plantation area).
 12.3 The Project involves felling of total 38738 number of trees. The Girth wise abstract is as under:-

Tree Girth in Cm.						
0-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	(>150)cm	Total
9045	24780	4608	283	18	4	38738

- 12.4 The proposed area does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve.
 12.5 The Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance.
 12.6 There is no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
 12.7 The Proposed project is not within 10 kms from the Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park.
 12.8 The non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of the application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under the interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.
 13.0 Government of India vide letter dated 3/12/2018 of F.No.11-43/2013-FC has issued guidelines regarding compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006. As per these guidelines:-

'Accordingly, it is clarified that within the time period stipulated for compliance of Stage-I condition, Deputy Commissioner shall complete the process of compliance of FRA (including forwarding its findings to be concerned CF), hence for the purpose of the MoEF & CC, as per the provisions under the Forest (Conservation) amendment rules, 2016 the compliance under FRA is not required for consideration of in-principle approval. This has to be furnished by the State Government for consideration of the proposal by the Ministry for final approval'

Hence the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that FRA certificate of Collector Satara has been applied and the same will be submitted on receipt from the Collector Satara, before Stage-2 clearance for the proposal, as per MoEF Guideline F.No.11-43/2013-FCD, dated 03/12/2018. We are bounded to submit FRA certificate before Stage-2 and we are promising you to submit it before Stage-2 clearance.

14.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted the undertaking that:-

- 14.1 As per the guideline of the Central Government dt. 20/05/2019 & dt. 06/01/2022 there is exemption from payment of Net Present Value (NPV) and cost of Compensatory Afforestation in the said proposal.
 14.2 Agrees to defray the cost of felling of trees.
 15.0 The KML file of the forest land proposed for diversion is enclosed and placed in the file at the top.
 16.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara and the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur have recommended the proposal for diversion of 227.90 ha. of forest land.
 17.0 Nodal officer on 18/02/2022 had requested the Chief Wildlife Warden to offer their remarks in accordance with the Central Government's guideline dated 20/05/2019 for the said proposal. The

Chief Wildlife Warden vide office note No.Desk-23(2)/WL/Survey /C.R.194(Nodal)/3226/2021-22, dated 10/03/2022 has conveyed his remarks as follows:-

“Following area would be acquired due to rehabilitation of Village Male.

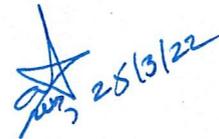
Name of Village	Area to be acquired after rehabilitation.			
	Private Area (Ha.)	Forest Area (Ha.)	Revenue Area (Ha.)	Total Area (Ha.)
Male	261.87	1141.15	257.61	1660.63

As per the details given above, the area to be disforested as per proposal of disforestation is 227.90 Ha. and in lieu of this, 1660.63 Ha. land will be acquired and therefore approval to the proposal of disforestation has been accorded.”

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

- 18.1 Legal status of the forest land diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of Village Male, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara from Chandoli National Park of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve shall cease to be forest land.
- 18.2 User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- 18.3 Land vacated in the protected area due to relocation of Village shall be developed as per approved Wildlife Management Plan/NTCA guideline/CWLW.
- 18.4 No fragmentation of forests should take place due to the relocation project.
- 18.5 The boundary of the diverted land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- 18.6 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- 18.7 The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.
- 18.8 Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F.No.11-42/2017-FC, dt. 29/01/2018.
- 18.9 Any other condition that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.

Encl. :- Proposal 2 copies

 25/3/22

(Naresh Zurmure)
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer

Copy forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Kolhapur for information.

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara for information.

PART –IV

**(To be filled by Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)**

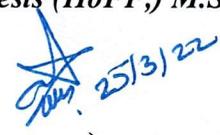
(Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks)

Sub.:- Proposal for the diversion of area 227.90 ha. Reserved Forest Land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Bahule, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara and Village Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi and Gosavewadi, Tal. Karad, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Male, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara from Chandoli National Park of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra.

The details of forest land proposed for diversion is as under-

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Taluka	District	Compt. No.	Gut.No.	Area (Ha.)	Area required for / Purpose	Legal Status
1	Bahule	Patan	Satara	509,510	346	106.9 6.00	Agriculture	RF
2	Kharade	Karad		653	314	9.15	Gaonthan	
3	Helegaon				1187b	32.85	Agriculture	
4	Hanbarwadi				130	49		
5	Gosavewadi				95,117	24		
Area Total						227.90		

Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF.) M.S. Nagpur is attached on page no.


25/3/22

**(Naresh Zurmure)
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer**

Date: 25/03/2022
Place: Nagpur

Proposal for the diversion of area 227.90 ha. Reserved Forest Land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Bahule, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara and Village Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi and Gosavewadi, Tal. Karad, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Male, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara from Chandoli National Park of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra.

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

Proposal for the diversion of area 227.90 ha. Reserved Forest Land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Bahule, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara and Village Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi and Gosavewadi, Tal. Karad, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Male, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara from Chandoli National Park of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra. The proposal has been initiated by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara. The non-forest area does not involve in this project. The site inspection report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara is enclosed on page no.22 to 24 and The site inspection report of the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur is enclosed on page no.24A to 24C.

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

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Taluka	District	Compt. No.	Gut.No.	Area (Ha.)	Area required for / Purpose	Legal Status	
1	Bahule	Patan	Satara	509,510	346	106.9	Agriculture	RF	
						6.00			
2	Kharade	Karad		653		314	9.15		
3	Helegaon					1187b	32.85		
4	Hanbarwadi					130	49		
5	Gosavewadi			95,117	24		Agriculture		
Area Total						227.90			

3.0 Chandoli National Park which is a part of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is one of the important Protected areas of the Maharashtra State, which is located in Western Ghats. Western Ghats area is considered among the top ten Bio-diversity hot spots of the world. Chandoli National Park is included in world heritage site by UNESCO'S world heritage committee on 1 July 2012. Govt. of Maharashtra has declared Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary vide notification No. WLP-1085 CR-588/(I) dated 16th September 1985 under section 18 of Wildlife (Protection) Act- 1972 for the purpose of protecting, propagating and development of Wildlife therein and its environment. The total area of notified sanctuary is 308.17 sq. kms. Then it is upgraded as Chandoli National Park adding one village Amboli of Kolhapur District and notified total area of 316.67 sq.kms vide Government of Maharashtra notification dated 14 May 2004. Area is notified as part of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve on 5th January 2010.

4.0 The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. These ranges forms a common boundary between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa. These areas constitute rich evergreen, semi-evergreen & moist deciduous forest. These forest areas encompasses Warana river valley. It is the first Tiger Reserve of Western Maharashtra & 4th Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra State spreading over two protected Areas, those of the Chandoli National Park and Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of 741.22 sq.km. and adjoining area in the landscape 424.35 sq.kms, total of 1165.57 sq.km. The area is spread over 4 districts namely, Satara, Satara, Kolhapur and Ratnagiri.

5.0 The area is located in the Northern ranges of Western Ghats called Sahyadris. The Buffer area as per notification dt. 21.08.2012 admeasuring 565.45 sq. kms. is spread over the geographic area of 4 districts of Maharashtra state and covers 1 village in Sangli district, 9 villages in Kolhapur district, 66 villages in Satara district and 4 villages in Ratnagiri district.

6.0 As provided in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1864 the concerning Collectors had already enquired into rights and concessions of the inhabitants and has also ascertained the willingness of the people to relocation. The status of rehabilitation of 33 villages from Chandoli National Park is as follows:

- **Villages relocated during 1979 to 1994 due to Warana Project by Irrigation Dept. :**
Dist. Sangli : Ambole, Bhogiv, Devare, Konoli, Shiddheswar, Aloli (Part), Petlond (Part), Khundlapur (Part), Chandoli Bk. (Part)
Dist. Kolhapur : Durgewadi, Karade, Wadihudumb, Amboli, Sonarli (Part), Tambave (Part).
- **Villages under enquiry :** Village Amboli dist. Kolhapur is added in National Park notification. Total population is rehabilitated by Irrigation dept due to Warana project, only open land above submergence is under enquiry.
- **Villages relocated due to Chandoli National Park by Forest dept. :**
Dist. Sangli (during 1997 to 1999): Rundiv, Jaoli, Chandoli Kd., Gave, Lotiv, Nivale, Vetti, Takale, Zolambi, Nandoli, Aloli Dhangarwada, Petlond Dhangarwada.
Dist. Kolhapur (during 1998 to 1999): Chandel, Dhakale, Nivale, Tanali, Sonarli Paiki Dhangarwada, Tambave Paiki Kulyachiwadi.
Dist. Ratnagiri (during 2000 to 2012): Gothane
- **Villages to be relocated due to Chandoli National Park by Forest dept:**

Sr. No.	Name of Village	No. of PAP's	Required land for rehabilitation Ha.	Proposed Location	Remarks
1	Male	140	227.90	Bahule, Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi and Gosavewadi, Dist. Satara	Included in this proposal
2	Kolane	79	108.00	Killemchindragad Dist Sangli and Sonaichiwadi and Malharpeth, Dist. Satara.	Proposal is to be submitted
3	Patharpunj	106	193.00	Yet to be decided by PAP's	Proposal is to be submitted
4	Khundlapur Paiki Dhangarwada	72	105.00	Yetgaon dist. Sangli	Proposal is submitted by DCF Sangli
5	Chandoli Bk. Paiki Janaiwadi	14	30.00	Yet to be decided by PAP's	Sankalan is not finalized, figures are approximate Proposal is to be submitted
Total----->		411	663.900		

7.0 Human in-habitations are mostly been established in fertile lands with assured water supply. Such sites within the forest area are limited and therefore are ecologically significant. Flat grounds along major nalas can support revival floral and faunal attributes and such attributes are completely

lost, with the presence of intensive agricultural attributes. Relocation in Chandoli National Park have amply demonstrated the benefits of relocation, especially to wild herbivores and consequently to the whole eco-system. Relocation of village Male will make available an area of 261.88 ha. of private agriculture land along as compensatory land for this project. Also an area of 257.61 ha. of revenue waste land and 1141.15 ha. of forest land will be free from human interference.

8.0 Out of 140 projects affected persons/ Khatedars of Male Village, 20 Khatedars accorded consent to Option-I with 10 lakh package. Remaining 120 Khatedars accorded consent to Option-II of land to land and Gaonthan rehabilitation. Out of this one group of 58 Khatedars selected forest land at Bahule, Tahsil Patan and another group of 62 Khatedars selected forest land at Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi and Gosavewadi, Tahsil Karad for rehabilitation. Reasons to relocate one village at two different places includes unavailability of continuous patch of land at a stretch that can accommodate all 120 project affected persons / Khatedars who opted Option-II and also willingness and personal choices of two groups in selection of sites. Thus establishment of two gaothans at Bahule and Kharade - Helgaon became unavoidable.

Details of land requirement are as follows :-

Sr. No.	Location	No. of Khatedars	Land for agriculture	Gaonthan Area	Unsuitable land in-between	Total Area Required
1.	Bahule	58	95.90 ha.	6.00 ha.	11.00 ha.	112.90 ha.
2.	Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi, Gosavewadi	62	95.60 ha.	9.15 ha.	10.25 ha.	115.00 ha.
Total --->		120	191.50 ha.	15.15 ha.	21.25 ha.	227.90 ha.

Total 227.90 ha. area is proposed for diversion which includes the area as below :-

Sr. No.	Name of village	Forest gat no.	Area in ha
1	Bahule	346	112.90
2	Kharade	314	9.15
3	Helgaon	1187b	32.85
4	Hanbarwadi	130	49.00
5	Gosavewadi	95	16.00
6	Gosavewadi	117	8.00
Total ----->			227.90

9.0 Hence, the proposal for diversion of 112.90 ha. reserve forest land from Bahule forest gat no. 346 and 9.15 ha. reserve forest land from Kharade forest gat no. 314, 32.85 ha. reserve forest land from Helgaon forest gat no.1187b, 49.00 ha reserve forest land from Hanbarwadi forest gat no. 130 and 24.00 ha reserve forest land from Gosavewadi forest gat no. 95, 117 is submitted.

10.0 As per para 1.15 of Handbook issued vide Government of India's letter dated 28/03/2019, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted complete justification for locating the project in the forest area to prove the project is site-specific as under:-

‘Land is not available in any command area of Irrigation Projects in Satara districts. There is no sufficient land available from “Gairan” or “Revenue waste land” in possession of Revenue department. Even in forests, it is not available in a continuous patch of land at a stretch that can

accommodate all 120 PAP's, at one location. Also we are getting more non-forest land (519.49 ha.) than the total forest land (227.90 ha.) proposed to be diverted.'

11.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that:-

- 11.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is the lowest minimum.
- 11.2 Density of site wise varies from 0.4 to 0.8 (Mixed plantation area).
- 11.3 The Project involves felling of total 38738 number of trees. The Girth wise abstract is as under:-

Tree Girth in Cm.						
0-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	(>150)cm	Total
9045	24780	4608	283	18	4	38738

- 11.4 The proposed area does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve.
- 11.5 The Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance.
- 11.6 There is no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- 11.7 The Proposed project is not within 10 kms from the Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park.
- 11.8 The non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of the application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under the interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.
- 12.0 Government of India vide letter dated 3/12/2018 of F.No.11-43/2013-FC has issued guidelines regarding compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006. As per these guidelines:-

'Accordingly, it is clarified that within the time period stipulated for compliance of Stage-I condition, Deputy Commissioner shall complete the process of compliance of FRA (including forwarding its findings to be concerned CF), hence for the purpose of the MoEF & CC, as per the provisions under the Forest (Conservation) amendment rules, 2016 the compliance under FRA is not required for consideration of in-principle approval. This has to be furnished by the State Government for consideration of the proposal by the Ministry for final approval'

Hence the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that FRA certificate of Collector Satara has been applied and the same will be submitted on receipt from the Collector Satara, before Stage-2 clearance for the proposal, as per MoEF Guideline F.No.11-43/2013-FCD, dated 03/12/2018. We are bounded to submit FRA certificate before Stage-2 and we are promising you to submit it before Stage-2 clearance.

13.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted the undertaking that:-

- 13.1 As per the guideline of the Central Government dt. 20/05/2019 & dt. 06/01/2022 there is exemption from payment of Net Present Value (NPV) and cost of Compensatory Afforestation in the said proposal.
- 13.2 Agrees to defray the cost of felling of trees.

- 14.0 The KML file of the forest land proposed for diversion is enclosed and placed in the file at the top.
- 15.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara and the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur have recommended the proposal for diversion of 227.90 ha. of forest land.
- 16.0 Nodal officer on 18/02/2022 had requested the Chief Wildlife Warden to offer their remarks in accordance with the Central Government's guideline dated 20/05/2019 for the said proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden vide office note No.Desk-23(2)/WL/Survey /C.R.194(Nodal)/3226/2021-22, dated 10/03/2022 has conveyed his remarks as follows:-

“Following area would be acquired due to rehabilitation of Village Male.

Name of Village	Area to be acquired after rehabilitation.			
	Private Area (Ha.)	Forest Area (Ha.)	Revenue Area (Ha.)	Total Area (Ha.)
Male	261.87	1141.15	257.61	1660.63

As per the details given above, the area to be disforested as per proposal of disforestation is 227.90 Ha. and in lieu of this, 1660.63 Ha. land will be acquired and therefore approval to the proposal of disforestation has been accorded.”

- 17.0 **In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section-2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-**
- 17.1 Legal status of the forest land diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of Village Male, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara from Chandoli National Park of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve shall cease to be forest land.
- 17.2 User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- 17.3 Land vacated in the protected area due to relocation of Village shall be developed as per approved Wildlife Management Plan/NTCA guideline/CWLW.
- 17.4 No fragmentation of forests should take place due to the relocation project.
- 17.5 The boundary of the diverted land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- 17.6 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- 17.7 The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.
- 17.8 Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F.No.11-42/2017-FC, dt. 29/01/2018.
- 17.9 Any other condition that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.


(Y.L.P.Rao)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force),
Maharashtra State, Nagpur