

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
(FOR THE FOREST LAND PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION UNDER FC ACT)

Project: Construction of Holongi Airport

Forest Area Proposed for Diversion under Sonitpur East Division: 2.604 ha

A proposal (Ref. No. FP/AS/Others/150085/2021) has been received by this office from the Airport Authority of India for diversion of 2.604 ha of forest land for non-forestry purpose under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. The proposal has been received in Sonitpur East Division through online mode of MoEF&CC PARIVESH portal on 24/12/2021. The project envisaged the use of forest land for construction of Holongi airport. A joint inspection has been carried out by the undersigned along with representative of Airport Authority of India Sri. Rajeshwar Gautam & others on 25/12/2021 as per the guidelines of FC Act.

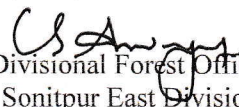
Upon inspection of the site, it was found that the proposed forest land required by the user agency falls under Gohpur Reserve Forest. The requirement of forest land proposed by the user agency is unavoidable for the project.

The salient features of the forest area proposed for diversion as found during site inspection are as follows:

- There are no known rare/ endangered species of flora or fauna present in the forest area proposed for diversion.
- There are no protected archeological/ heritage sites located in the proposed forest area.
- There are no plantation raised by this division in the forest area proposed for diversion.
- The proposed area is devoid of dense tree cover and the entire area is under human habitation.
- The user agency has not violated any provision of FC Act and no work has been started in the proposed area without the necessary clearance.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL

The setting up of a domestic Greenfield Airport at Holongi, Arunachal Pradesh is Government of India project and it is located at the boundary between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. 667 acres of land falling in Arunachal Pradesh has been already handed over to Airport Authority of India by Arunachal Pradesh. In order to meet the operational requirements to fulfill the norms of DGCA, the wall needs to be straightened and the existing village road needs to be realigned, for which an additional land of 2.604 ha in Gohpur Reserve Forest in Assam is needed. Therefore, in order to facilitate the construction of the airport at Holongi, the diversion of the forest land which is barest minimum required as above is recommended for acceptance.


Divisional Forest Officer
Sonitpur East Division
Biswanath Chariali