

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

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Sub:- Proposal for diversion of 374.75 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of Rantalodhi Village of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in compartment No.14-B, District, Chandrapur of the State of Maharashtra.

No. : Desk-17/NC/I/I.D-12741 /166/19-20

Nagpur - 440 001, Dated 25/9/2019

To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralya, Mumbai - 400032.

The Deputy Director (Core) Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Chandrapur has submitted the proposal for diversion of 374.75 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of Rantalodhi Village of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in compartment No.14-B, District, Chandrapur of the State of Maharashtra. The details of the forest land proposed for diversion are as under:-

Sr. No.	Item of Work	Village	District	Compt. No.	Area (in ha.)	Legal Status
1	Cultivation land 145 beneficiary 2.00 ha each	-	Chandrapur	14-B	290.00	Reserved Forest
2	Access for each farm land L.S				10.00	
3	Gaothan, Road (i) Plot to each beneficiary 145x0.0385=5.59 ha (ii) Approach road & internal road 2.41 ha (iii) School, Playground, PHC, Bus Stand etc L.S.8.00 ha (iv) Future expansion of village 4.00 ha				20.00	
4	Pasture land				19.75	
5	Village tank (civic amenities as per old village)				35.00	
Total Forest land					374.75	

The Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) area is surrounded by Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur. The Geographical area of TATR is 625.40 sq. km. and is spread over 4 Tahsils viz. Bhadrawati, Chimur, Sindewahi and Chandrapur. The TATR is rich in biodiversity with tiger as its flagship species. There are six villages in TATR namely Botezari, Kolsa, Palasgaon (Singru), Jamni, Navegaon (Ramdegi) and Rantalodhi which needed rehabilitation in order to provide inviolate space to tiger and other important species. Therefore, the State Government decided to rehabilitate all these villages outside TATR.

2.1 Accordingly, Botezari, Jamni, Navegaon, (Ramdegi), Kolsa (Part) villages have been already rehabilitated and shifted outside TATR in accordance with the approvals granted by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from time to time. Presently, the rehabilitation work of village Palasgaon (Singru) is presently going on in Comptt No. 11 of Warora Range of Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur in accordance with the approval granted by the Central Government vide letters dt.8/12/2016 and 21/8/2016.

2.2 Previously, the people of Rantalodhi had selected the Comptt. NO. 186 of Bramhapuri Forest Division, Bramhapuri near village Golabhuj for their rehabilitation. Accordingly, the Central Government vide letter F. No. 8-40/2001-FC dated 16/01/2002 had conveyed approval to the said proposal for diversion of 180 ha forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Thereafter, the people of Rantalodhi categorically denied for rehabilitation of their village Rantalodhi in Comptt. No. 186 of Bramhapuri Forest Division, Bramhapuri as there was no source of water and the area was found not suitable for establishing/constructing artificial tank for Irrigation/Cultivation.

2.3 Subsequently, the people of Rantalodhi have now selected the Comptt. No. 13 & 14-B in Warora Range of Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur and also submitted the resolution passed by the Gram Sabha stating that they are ready and expressed their willingness to rehabilitation in the said Comptt. No. 14B in Warora Range of Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur.

2.4 The people of village, Rantalodi to be Resettled are as per the following details:-

Sr. No	Particulars	Detail
1	Number of family	244
2	Number of persons	475
3	Number of land holder families	45
4	Number of landless families	199
5	Number of Tribal families	241
6	Number of non-tribal families	3
7	Number of cattle	325
8	Agriculture land in ha.	40.46 ha.
9	Land under cattle stand roads, nallahs etc.	12.25 ha.
10	Number of Reserve Forest compartments under heavy biotic pressures.	7 Comptt.
11	Approx area of above compartments under heavy biotic pressure	2800.00 ha.
12	Facilities available	
a	Primary School	Available
b	Drinking water well	2
c	Bore well	2
d	Dispensary	Nil
e	Samaj Mandir	Nil
f	Cremation Ground	Available
g	Anganwadi	Yes
h	Electricity supply	Available

2.5 Information about option chosen by Agricultures/ Landless of Rantalodhi Village in TATR-

Agricultural Families							Landless Families					
Total Families	Option-I Families	Option-II Families	Families given Option Total (2+3)	Beneficiaries above 18 years.			Option-I Families	Option-II Families	Total Families (8+9)	Beneficiaries above 18 years.		
				Option-I Beneficiaries	Option-II Beneficiaries	Total Beneficiaries (5+6)				Option-I Beneficiaries	Option-II Beneficiaries	Total Beneficiaries (11+12)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
45	19	26	45	24	51	75	30	40	70	26	28	54

Abstract

Total family under option-I (Col No.2,5,8,11)	Total family under option-II (Col No.3,6,9,12)	Total no of family
99	145	244

2.6 The objective behind assigning an area with the status of National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary is to ensure biotic interference-free area, wherein wild animals are not deprived of their habitat. Habitat is fully protected against exploitation, destruction, depriving wild animals of its habitat etc. (Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 section 35(5)(6)). In the area notified as Wildlife Sanctuary, people are to be prohibited from exploitation/removal of any wildlife of destruction/damage of habitat of wild animals or depriving any wild animal of its habitat (Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act).

2.7 As per the guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority of India (NTCA), the core areas of tiger reserve are to be kept inviolate. Consistent with this policy, rehabilitation of Rantalodhi village as per their choice in Compartment No. 14-B of Warora range would prove beneficial for tiger conservation in Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve landscape.

2.8 The Ministry of Environment and Forests vide letter dt.20/5/2019 has issued certain directions with respect to the relocation of the villages from National Park/Sanctuaries, subject to certain conditions mentioned therein. In this regard the Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State has offered his comments vide his letter dt.28/6/2019 with specific comments with respect to each conditions. The same is enclosed in the proposal.

2.9 The site inspection report of Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur and DFO, Chandrapur are enclosed on page no.149 & 121.

3.0 The Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that:-

- 3.1 the area belongs to Eco-value class-III and having density 0.3.
- 3.2 no alternate alignment is possible and the forest land required is the barest minimum.
- 3.3 the project involves felling of total 3716 number of trees for implementation of the project. The Girth class wise abstract is as given below:-

Cm					
31/60	61/90	91/120	121/150	Above 150	Total
1771	1559	301	56	29	3716

- 3.4 the proposed project is within 21.347 km zone from the boundary of the Protected Area.
- 3.5 there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- 3.6 the proposed area does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 3.7 the proposed project is not likely to affect monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.
- 3.8 the proposed area has been demarcated on the spot by fixing boundary stone around the area.
- 3.9 the non forest land is not covered under the proposal proposed for diversion.
- 4.0 the proposed project does not harbor any important fauna or flora and will not affect the wildlife in any manner.
- 4.1 As per the Government of India, New Delhi's letter No.8-34/2017-FC, dt.20/5/2019 there is exemption from payment of Net Present Value (NPV) and cost of compensatory afforestation in all such cases of voluntary relocation/rehabilitation of families from the protected areas undertaken within the forest land.

5.0 The user agency has submitted the certificates of Collector, Chandrapur certifying that:-

- 5.1 it has been tried and no suitable non forest land is available for the purpose issued vide letter No.Karya-4/RB-II/11/2019, dt.8/2/2019.
- 5.2 the proposed land is barest minimum demand issued vide letter No.Karya-4/RB-II/12/2019, dt.8/2/2019.

- 5.3 the process under Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dweller's (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 has been carried out issued vide letter No. Karya-4/RB-II/10/2019, dt.8/2/2019 as per Government of India in prescribed format vide letter dt.5/7/2013 in (Form- II).
- 6.0 The Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur and the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur Circle have recommended the proposal for diversion of 374.75 ha. of forest land.

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

- 7.1 The legal status of the land will change in accordance with directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dt. 28.01.2019, and the guidelines issued by Central Government vide letter No.8-34/2017-FC, dt.20/5/2019. Thereby, the status of forest lands involved for rehabilitation would be lands changed from forest land to revenue land.
- 7.2 No compensatory afforestation and payment of Net Present Value shall be insisted upon.
- 7.3 The approval will be subject to the condition that after relocation of villagers, the non-forest land proposed to be vacated by the villagers shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the Forest Department and shall be declared Reserved Forest u/s-4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.
- 7.4 No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
- 7.5 The diversion will be confined to an area of 374.75 ha only.
- 7.6 The village rehabilitation will be done as per established guidelines under the existing Acts and Government Resolutions for rehabilitation.
- 7.8 All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and guidelines shall be complied with by the user agency.

It is therefore, requested that Government of India may kindly be moved for approving the proposal for diversion of 374.75 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of Rantalodhi Village of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in compartment No.14-B, District, Chandrapur of the State of Maharashtra under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Encl. :- Proposal 2 copies

(Sanjeev Gaur)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer,

25/9/19

S.D. Wadhwa

25/9/2019

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial) Chandrapur for information.

Copy to DFO, Chandrapur for information.

Copy to Dy. Director TATR, Core, Chandrapur for information .