

REPORT

Forest Clearance Proposal Number: [FP/KA/OFC/149527/2021]

Project: Jio Digital Fiber Underground OFC Cable from Karkala to Agumbe through Reserve Forest in various villages of Udupi and Shivamogga District.

User Agency: JIO DIGITAL FIBER PRIVATE LIMITED.

Introduction to the project:

The project is for Jio Digital Fiber Underground OFC Cable from Karkala to Agumbe through Reserve Forest in various villages of Udupi and Shivamogga District.

Ecology of Project Site:

Someshwara wildlife sanctuary is a contiguous, large stretch of low altitude wet evergreen and semi evergreen forest area that forms vital connecting links with Kudremukh National park and Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary at both the ends. The contiguous undisturbed forest areas of Someshwara wildlife sanctuary support the endangered, endemic primate Lion-tailed macaque (*Macaca silenus*). It is one of the very few habitats for critically endangered Malabar civet cat (*Viverra civettina*). It supports many species of arboreal mammals, small cats and also become treasure house for herpeto-fauna. It is the most preferred home for King Cobra (*Ophiophagus Hannah*). With its corridor connectivity and ideal habitat, Someshwara supports the spillover population of Tigers, leopards from Kudremukha and other areas. Someshwara wildlife sanctuary remains hotspot for rare, endangered and endemic medicinal plants & important bird area of Western Ghats. In recognition of the importance and outstanding universal values, Someshwara wildlife sanctuary along with Kudremukh National Park was declared as "World Heritage Site" by the UNESCO. The Agumbe Ghat of Someshwara wildlife sanctuary receives average rainfall of 8000 mm and it remains catchment for Seethanadhi, Swarna and Varahi rivers and many streams like Golihole and Narasipura which are originating from wildlife sanctuary.

Site Inspection Report and Impact of Project:

Site inspection was conducted by the undersigned along with ACF, RFO Hebri, field staff and representatives of the User Agency on 17.01.2022. As confirmed by the UA representatives present on the field during inspection, the required linear project area applied for under forest

conservation act, runs along the alignment of state highway (from point Bachappu [N13.45030,E75.01962] to point Kaikamba [N13.47559,E75.02699]) and then along the alignment of National Highway 169A (from Point Kaikamba [N13.47559,E75.02699] to point Agumbe [N13.50013,E75.88359]) within the used width limits of the said roads. Upon inspection it is found that the project does not require removal of any trees. Once the work is completed the area remains undisturbed and there are no lasting negative impacts of the project. The impacts are limited and restricted to the installation phase. Since the land required by the project (for laying optical fiber cable) is all along a public highway the impacts to forests is minimal. The UA shall ensure due care is given to keep all possible impacts or disturbance during the installation phase as minimal as possible.

Recommendation:

The project site falling within the jurisdiction of the Kudremukha wildlife division was inspected by the undersigned on 17/01/2022. The project will improve the mobile and internet connectivity of the region which is essential for its overall development. It is an important project with least impact on Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary. It is recommended that the forest land of extent 0.36 Ha (total length of 12km * 0.3m wide) may be diverted for the project. (Note: 12km extent is indicated after excluding the length of road that passes through enclosure revenue land).

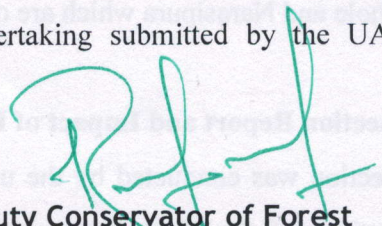
The following mitigation measures are proposed to protect the interest of wildlife during and after the execution of the project:

- 1.The work shall be restricted to day time hours i.e. between 6 AM to 6 PM
- 2.No structures shall be allowed for housing laborers engaged in the project activities for overnight stay at project site.
3. No rock breaking / blasting or use of explosives shall be allowed by the User Agency for project implementation.
4. User Agency shall not alter the alignment proposed at later stages as it will result in change in area under diversion.

The implementing agency shall abide by the conditions laid down by the forest officials in charge of the project area in the interest of protecting and minimizing disturbance to wildlife during the work phase and after completion of the project. Undertaking submitted by the UA during inspection is attached with this.

Place: Karkala

Date: 21/01/2022


Deputy Conservator of Forest
Kudremukha Wildlife Division
Karkala

JIO DIGITAL FIBRE PRIVATE LIMITED

CIN: U64200GJ2018PTC105652

No.51, RMZ Icon, Palace Cross Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore 560052

18th Jan 2022

To,
Deputy Conservator of Forest/Wild life warden,
Kudremukh,
Karkala.

Sub: Details of elements while executing the Optical fiber cable work.

Ref: The site inspection done by CCF Mangalore, DCF Karkala and Range Staff of Hebri Wildlife on 17-01-2022.

With reference to the above subject, the information sought by CCF Mangalore, DCF Karkala during their site inspection of laying of JIO OFC cable from Karkala to Agumbe are as follows:

1. We are executing the work through manual or HDD method and as per standards, policies and guidelines laid by the Forest Department and in the intervals of 100mtrs gap small pit will be made in order to lay the OFC cable by HDD Method and in inaccessible conditions like steep curves and slopes all along the agumbe ghat area manual work will be taken up.
2. Majority of the proposed work of laying of OFC cable will be done all along the Left side of the road as per the standards, policies and guidelines made by JIO Digital Fiber Private Limited But in the case of steep curves and slopes in Agumbe ghat area, it will be carried out with a slight variation in alignment of OFC cable.
3. We are not at all using any explosive materials (like blasting of the Hard rock etc.,) for laying the OFC cable for proposed stretch. But in extreme conditions OFC cable will be laid by GI clamping of Cable to the existing side walls of the road.
4. While executing the work, 2 Ducts and one cable material will be used.

Kindly consider our requisition.

Thanking you,

For Jio Digital Fiber Pvt Ltd.,



(V VBabu)

Authorised Signatory