

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER**  
**RAMANATHAPURAM FOR DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND FOR**  
**RESTORATION OF RAILWAY CONNECTIVITY FROM**  
**RAMESWARAM TO DHANUSHKODI**

The site, proposed for diversion of forest for restoring railway connectivity between Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi, has been inspected on 29.10.2022, 24.12.2022 & 26.12.2022.

Total area proposed by diversion is 28.61.32 Ha. The proposed area falls in Survey No 1026/354, 1026/5A, 1026/364, 1026/363, 1043, 1044-3, 1050, 1120 and 1063. The area of operation is close to Bird habitat. The forest land proposed for diversion is located within Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve and Coastal Regulation Zone. Also, the proposed diversion area is located within 10 km of Gulf of Mannar National Park.

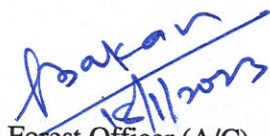
It is observed that proposed railway line crosses Rameswaram RF. The railway line also crosses the marine lagoon and mudflat areas. These marine lagoon and mudflats are important bird areas and habitat for migratory bird. The area is also adjacent to the notified sea turtle nesting sites. There is fauna such as Peacock, Black Napped Hare, Sand Boa, Brahminy kite etc., and marine species in the nearby Sea. There is also flora such as palmyra, Casuarina, Azadirachta indica and few thorny forest species.

It is observed that all due precaution to be taken to avoid any side effect from the Railway operation on Bird feeding and nesting sites. There must be a wildlife mitigation plan to deal with the monitoring of the habitat of Sea Turtles, Migratory Birds, other lagoon and Marine species etc.

The proposed railway connectivity will help tourists to travel from Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi. This connectivity will help crores of tourists travelling Rameswaram every year.

Considering the importance of the proposed connectivity, the proposal, for the diversion of forest land(28.61.32 Ha) for restoring railway connectivity between Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi, is recommended with the following conditions:

1. Wildlife Mitigation Plan must be prepared and approved by PCCF and CWLW of Tamil Nadu. The Plan shall be funded by the User Agency. The plan must be made operational before the start of the project.
2. Connectivity with Forest Watch Tower and other forest facilities, inside the forest, should not be disturbed due to new railway line.

  
District Forest Officer (A/C),  
Ramanathapuram