

Site Inspection Report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Central Forest Division, Manipur for the proposed diversion of Construction of Irrigation canal at Heingang Leikha Chingjil, Heingang Reserve Forest.

The proposed diversion of 0.027 ha forest area was inspected by the Divisional Forest Officer, Central Forest Division on 23rd November, 2019 and found that the proposed site is situated at the boundary of the Heingang Reserved Forest under the Sadar East Forest Range of Central Forest Division. The said forest land proposed for diversion is situated at 24°52'44.979"N 93°56'37.744"E (beginning point) and 24°52'41.367"N 93°56'29.486"E (end point)

Density is about 10% and Forest Type is Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests which is classified as Eco-Class 1 in the order dated 28/3/2008 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed in WP (C) No. 202/1995. *Quercus sps*, *Schima wallichii* (Usoi), *Toona ciliate* (Tairen), *Pinus khasiana* (Uchan) etc are main species found in the adjoining forest area.

The site does not form any part of Protected Area Network i.e National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Conservation Reserve or Community Reserve. Barking deer is commonly reported to have found in the area. As the proposed diversion site is located at the periphery/boundary of the RF, the diversion is not likely to affect animals' movement in the RF.

The inner wall of the irrigation canal will form the boundary of the Reserved Forest after the construction and the said wall shall be at a steep slope of about 70% to 80% joining the hill range in contiguity. The steep wall shall be devoid of vegetation and hence, prone to erosion. It shall be a necessity to have concrete re-enforcement on this wall to prevent landslip and soil erosion.

The User Agency has violated Section 26 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Section 2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 by initiating digging of the canal at the boundary of the Reserve Forest area. The Range Officer, Sadar East Forest Range had taken up forest offense cases and the process of construction is currently on halt.

Imphal, the 23rd November, 2019


(R.K. Amarjit Singh)
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