

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Subrat Mohapatra, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force)
Forest Head Quarters Building,
Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Guindy,
Chennai-15.

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to
Government,
Environment, Climate Change and
Forests Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/22890/2022 Dated: 28.07.2023.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of 0.186 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division comprising T.Edaiyar RF (0.049 ha), Thiruvonnainallur RF (0.034 ha), Iruvelpattu RF (0.103 ha) of Ulundhurpet Range at 12 locations for Construction and reconstruction of dilapidated head sluice, bed dam, retaining wall and culvert in Malattar Channel Malattar Channel across Malattar River bed forest area for supplying water to Tirukoilur and Ulundurpet Taluk tanks in Villupuram District in favour of the Executive Engineer, PWD, WRD, Lower Pennaiyar Basin Division, Villupuram i - Proposal forwarding - Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Online forest clearance proposal uploaded by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, WRD, Lower Pennaiyar Basin Division, Villupuram - Proposal No. FP/TN/IRRIG/ 51078/2020, dated 25.10.2020 and re-submission of proposal on 22.01.2021 and 29.07.2022.
- 2 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division on 06.06.2023
- 3 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle on 23.06.2023 and resubmission of proposal on 14.07.2023

I wish to state that, the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, WRD, Lower Pennaiyar Basin Division, Villupuram has uploaded online forest clearance proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.186 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division comprising T.Edaiyar RF (0.049 ha), Thiruvonnainallur RF (0.034 ha), Iruvelpattu RF (0.103 ha) of Ulundhurpet Range at 12 locations for Construction and reconstruction of dilapidated

head sluice, bed dam, retaining wall and culvert in Malattar Channel Malattar Channel across Malattar River bed forest area for supplying water to Tirukoilur and Ulundurpet Taluk tanks in Villupuram District under proposal No. FP/TN/Irrig/51078/2020.

1) Brief details of the project are given below.

i) The User Agency has uploaded the proposal in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I - under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of fresh forest area.

ii) Name of the project in which forest land required reported as, reconstruction of dilapidated head sluice, bed dam, retaining wall and culvert in Malattar Channel for supplying water to Tirukoilur and Ulundurpet Taluk tanks in Villupuram District.

iii) In the short narrative of the proposal for which forest land is required, the User Agency has stated that diversion of forest area is required for Construction and reconstruction works of dilapidated Head Sluice, Bed dam, Retaining wall and Culverts in Malattar Channel across Malattar River bed forest area for water supply to tanks in Tirukoilur and Villupuram taluks of Villupuram District.

iv) The User Agency has reported that area required in forest area is for 0.186 ha., and non-forest land required for the project is 'Zero' ha.,

v) The User Agency has proposed the forest area diversion for the project for a period of 50 years.

vi) On behalf of User Agency- Executive Engineer, Water Resource Department, Villupuram, the present incumbent Officer of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, WRD, Lower Pennaiyar Basin Division, Villupuram has uploaded the proposal in the prescribed format. Legal status of the User Agency is State Government (Department).

vii) In the section of uploading details of proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Act, proposal for diversion of forest land for the project already submitted in the past reported for an approach under FP/TN/Approach/120323/2021 has been furnished.

viii) Diversion of 0.186 ha of forest has been requested in Villupuram Forest Division of Villupuram District.

ix) Village wise break up of project reported as follows.

a) Arasur - 0.103 ha

b) Thiruvannainallur - 0.018 ha

c) Mazhavarayanur	- 0.016 ha
d) Sirumadurai	- 0.035 ha
e) Idayar	- 0.014 ha
Total	- 0.186 ha

ix) The User Agency has furnished the component wise breakup details of land required for the project.

Sl No	Component	Forest area in ha
1	Construction of Bed Dam @ LS 24600m	0.078
2	Construction of South Malattar H/S @ LS 24400m	0.013
3	Construction of Sirugrammam H/S @ LS 24300m	0.012
4	Proposed Retaining wall @ LS 17100 m	0.006
5	Reconstruction of Existing Kannarampattu H/S @ LS 16800m	0.012
6	Reconstruction of Existing culvert (Thiruvonnainal)	0.01
7	Proposed Retaining wall @ LS 15650 m	0.006
8	Reconstruction of Existing Emappur H/S @ LS 13490	0.01
9	Reconstruction of Existing culvert (Mandabam	0.015
10	Construction of Mazhavarayanur H/s @ LS 13200m	0.01
11	Proposed Retaining wall @ LS 10910 m	0.006
12	Repairs to Existing Drop No. 3 @ LS 10910m	0.008
	Total	0.186

x) Location map of the forest lands proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth, scanned copy of portion of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of forest lands proposed to be diverted marked in the map and scanned copy of Geo referenced location details of the forest land proposed to be diverted in the google earth along Geo-co-ordinates in the map have been uploaded.

xi) Note containing justification for locating the project in forest area has been uploaded.

xii) The User Agency has stated that, this project is likely to generate permanent/regular employment for 10 persons and temporary employment for 350 persons.

xiii) The User Agency has stated that this project does not involve displacement of people due to the project.

xiv) The User Agency has stated that cost-benefit analysis for the project is not required, this project not requires clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone, this project or a part thereof is not located in a Scheduled area.

xv) The User Agency has stated that, the process for settlement of Rights under the Forest Rights Act 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted has been completed and uploaded a copy of certificate issued by the District Collector, Villupuram in Lr No. 30167/2020, dated 07.01.2021 has been uploaded.

xvi) Under the section of details of land identified for compensatory afforestation, the User Agency has reported that area of non-forest land is not required to be provided by the user agency for raising compensatory afforestation

xvii) Details on Hydel/Irrigation/Multipurpose project provided by the user agency as follows.

i) Irrigated power generation capacity of the project is 'Zero' MW.

ii) Total command area of the project is 'Zero' ha

xviii) In the additional information details section, following details/ certificates/ undertaking have been uploaded.

i) Bed dam drawing

ii) Drop drawing.

iii) Head sluice drawing.

iv) Google earth map on location of areas

v) Certificate issued by the District Collector, Villupuram in letter No. B10/30167/2020, dated 07.01.2021 that no alternate Government/vacant lands available for the proposed works in forest area.

vi) Area requirement details for the project

vii) DGPS reading of the proposed forest diversion areas.

viii) Certificates and undertakings for the project

a) Certified that there is no catchment area treatment plan in the approved plan.

b) Certified that the user agency has not violated any provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

c) Certified that proposed reconstruction and construction works proposed is only possible as there is no other alternative feasible area available except this.

d) Undertaking to deposit the cost of raising compensatory afforestation / Penal Compensatory Afforestation / Maintenance of Plantation / Protection of plantation for the proposed diversion of forest land as fixed by the Forest Department.

e) Undertaking for the payment of Net Present Value of the proposed diversion of forest land as per the value fixed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

f) Undertaking for the payment of additional amount of Net Present Value of the proposed diversion of forest land as per the value fixed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

g) Undertaking to pay the cost along with any escalation for cutting and transportation of trees if any available in the project area as fixed by the Forest Department.

h) Undertaking to pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest department at the time of sanction along with any escalation in future for the forest land to be diverted of the above project.

i) Certified that the forest area demanded for the work is the barest minimum.

2) The District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has forwarded the proposal along with Site Inspection report and recommendation of the proposal to the Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle on 08.06.2023 and resubmitted the proposal on 08.06.2023, 12.06.2023, 16.06.2023 and 13.07.2023.

Details furnished in the Part-II of Form A by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division is furnished below.

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.186 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forests.

As per the site inspection report and recommendation of the project uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division, 0.049 ha lies in T. Edaiyar RF, 0.034 ha lies in Thiruvennainallur RF, 0.103 ha lies in Iruvelpattu RF of Ulundurpet range in Villupuram Forest Division.

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 2 and Eco class of forest area is two.

iii) In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer has reported the species wise and girth class wise enumeration of trees in the area is ZERO.

iv) Vulnerability of the forest area to erosion reported as there is no vulnerability of forest soil erosion.

v) The District Forest Officer has reported that, spotted deer, monkey, Wild boar, Peacock etc., are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.

The forest area proposed for diversion is not part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion. There is no rare/endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

vi) There is no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

vii) Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.

viii) The District Forest Officer has reported that no work in violation of the Act or guidelines issued under the Act has been carried out by the user agency.

ix) For the proposed diversion of 0.186 ha of forest land for the project, the District Forest Officer has not proposed any compensatory afforestation scheme and reported that, as per the guidelines issued in Government of India, MoEF&CC Ir No. FC0-11/118/2021-FC, dated 13.06.2023, the compensatory afforestation proposed is withdrawn.

x) In the site inspection report and recommendation of the proposal, the District Forest Officer has stated the following.

a) This proposal is for diversion of 0.186 ha of forest land in T.Edaiyar RF (0.049 ha), Thiruvannainallur RF (0.034 ha), Iruvelpattu RF (0.103 ha) of Ulundhurpet Range at 12 locations inspected on 01.03.2023 and 17.05.2023. The proposal for diversion of 0.186 ha of forest land located are series of structures falling in the river course and same is an irrigation project involving construction and reconstruction of structures and total area for which diversion is sought for 0.186 ha only.

b) It is a Government Project and construction and reconstruction works of dilapidated Head Sluice, Bed Dam, Retaining wall and Culvert in Malattar Channel across Malattar River bed forest area will fulfill the water supply to tanks in Tirukoilur

and Villupuram taluks of Villupuram Districts. Since water supply is basic need to the public, this project is considered essential. There is no tree felling in the alignment. It does not fall in the Elephant corridor.

3) The Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle inspected the area on 22.06.2023 and remarked that the proposal is useful to the local farmers, hence it is recommended.

4) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 50 years. The District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division and Conservator of Forest, Villupuram Circle have recommended the project for 25 years period.

Proposed forest area diversion is for water supply to the tanks in the area, hence the proposal is recommended for a period of 50 years.

5) State Government may accord diversion of forest land of less than one hectare in each case for non-forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for creation of critical development and security related infrastructure of Government Departments under the general approval of Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines. Minor irrigation canal allowed under general approval list. The user agency has submitted forest clearance proposal under the category of Irrigation.

6) Based on the recommendation made by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division and Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle, proposal received for diversion of 0.186 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division comprising T.Edaiyar RF (0.049 ha), Thiruvonnainallur RF (0.034 ha), Iruvelpattu RF (0.103 ha) of Ulundhurpet Range at 12 locations for Construction and reconstruction of dilapidated head sluice, bed dam, retaining wall and culvert in Malattar Channel Malattar Channel across Malattar River bed forest area for supplying water to Tirukoilur and Ulundurpet Taluk tanks in Villupuram District seeking approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the Executive Engineer, PWD, WRD, Lower Pennaiyar Basin Division, Villupuram may be furnished to the Government for consideration of the proposal and to issue Stage-I in-principle approval for the project and the following conditions may be recommended for imposition of the project.

i) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.

ii) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at the project sites at their cost.

iii) The User Agency has to pay the Net Present Value of proposed forests diversion area which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India /Government of India.

iv) The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.

v) Amount of Net Present Value of diverted forest area under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)

vi) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards annual lease rent for the forest area diversion period as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.

vii) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 0.186 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division comprising T.Edaiyar RF (0.049 ha), Thiruvannainallur RF (0.034 ha), Iruvelpattu RF (0.103 ha)

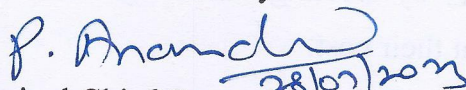
viii) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under any circumstances be transferred to any other agencies/ department or person without prior approval.

ix) Period of lease can be fifty (50) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

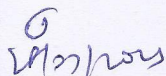
7) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) / Nodal Officer of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu.

8) I request that the proposal may be considered and Stage-I in-principle approval may be accorded for diversion of 0.186 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division comprising T.Edaiyar RF (0.049 ha), Thiruvannainallur RF (0.034 ha), Iruvelpattu RF (0.103 ha) of Ulundhurpet Range at 12 locations for Construction and reconstruction of dilapidated head sluice, bed dam, retaining wall and culvert in Malattar Channel Malattar Channel across Malattar River bed forest area for carrying water to Tirukoilur and Ulundurpet Taluk tanks for irrigation in Villupuram District in favour of the Executive Engineer, PWD, WRD, Lower Pennaiyar Basin Division, Villupuram for a period of 50 years.

Yours faithfully



For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)



PART - IV

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

Name of the work : Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of 0.186 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division comprising T.Edaiyar RF (0.049 ha), Thiruvannainallur RF (0.034 ha), Iruvelpattu RF (0.103 ha) of Ulundhurpet Range at 12 locations for Construction and reconstruction of dilapidated head sluice, bed dam, retaining wall and culvert in Malattar Channel Malattar Channel across Malattar River bed forest area for supplying water to Tirukoilur and Ulundurpet Taluk tanks in Villupuram District in favour of the Executive Engineer, PWD, WRD, Lower Pennaiyar Basin Division, Villupuram - Proposal No. FP/TN/Irrig/51078/2020

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks
	(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon)

Recommended

V. Karunapriya
27/7/23

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Signature :

Name Designation : Tmt. V. Karunapriya, I.F.S.,
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation Act), O/o the Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Chennai.

Date : 27 -07-2023

Place: Chennai-32.