

Site Inspection Report of Dy. Conservator of Forests

North Goa Forest Division, Ponda

Diversion of 69.41 ha Forest land for construction of 400 kV D/C Xeldem-Mapusa Transmission Line under North Goa Forest Division in Goa State

1. The Forest area proposed for diversion under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of 400 kV D/C Xeldem-Mapusa Transmission Line under North Goa Forest Division in Goa State is located in following Forest Ranges and survey numbers:

Range Name	Village Name	Survey No	Area (in Ha)	Total No. of trees	Legal Status of Land	Remarks
Collem	Sangod	21/2	1.15	240	Govt. Forest	Unclassed Forest
		20	2.39	913	Private Forest	Private Forest
		19	1.69	661	Govt. Forest	PRF
	Sancordem	11	6.92	1346	Govt. Forest	RF
		33	0.17	23	Private Forest	Private Forest
		29	2.42	454	Private Forest	Private Forest
		40 part 3	5.03	468	Govt. Forest	PRF
		40 Part 1		982	Govt. Forest	PRF
		40 Part2		68	Govt. Forest	PRF
		93	6.35	1270	Govt. Forest	PRF
	Dharbandora	39	4.69	542	Govt. Forest	PRF
		23	9.36	2897	Govt. Forest	PRF
		28	1.8	207	Govt. Forest	PRF
Ponda	Melauli	40	1.13	367	Govt. Forest	Unclassed Forest
		40 Part	0.67	269	Govt. Forest	Unclassed Forest
		42	1.28	520	Govt. Forest	Unclassed Forest
		43	1.17	337	Govt. Forest	Unclassed Forest
	Conquerim	29	0.45	89	Private Forest	Private Forest
		25 Part	12.48	2285	Govt. Forest	RF
		25		2414	Govt. Forest	RF
		21	0.08	0	Govt. Forest	RF
		20	0.55	96	Govt. Forest	RF
		188	0.34	35	Govt. Forest	PRF
	Usgaon	27	3.6	468	Govt. Forest	PRF
	Ganjem	11	3.78	978	Govt. Forest	PRF
Panaji	Thivim/Bardaz	404	0.79	178	Private Forest	Private Forest
		403	0.73	193	Private Forest	Private Forest
		405	0.39	114	Private Forest	Private Forest
		RF	20.03	6141		
		PRF	36.64	8576		
		UF	5.40	1733		
		Private Forest	7.34	1964		
		Total Forest Area	69.41	18414		

2. The sites have been inspected by the undersigned on 29/10/2018 and 02/11/2018.

3. Total forest area required for the said project is 69.41 ha. which has hilly as well as plain terrain with dense tree vegetation. Part of the proposed area is having steep gradient and vulnerable to soil erosion and the plain part of it is not vulnerable to soil erosion.
4. The area appears to be frequented by wild animals like Indian Gaur, Leopard, Wild Boar, Sambar Deer, Jungle Hare, snakes & avifauna, though no direct sightings was noticed at the time of site inspections.
5. Entire stretch of forest area along the proposed alignment is having dense & uniform tree vegetation. Tree species like *Xylia xylocarpa*, *Terminalia crenulata*, *T. bellerica*, *Mangifera indica*, *Tectona grandis* etc. are found. The overall average canopy density of the area is about 0.7. No violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has occurred in the proposed forest area proposed for diversion. A total of 18,414 trees have been enumerated to be falling in the 45 m corridor marked by the user agency as of now, however it has been informed by user agency that out of these 18,414 trees only those trees which will be coming within the plinth area of the proposed 40 Tension towers (Including angle and suspension tower) will be felled and other trees shall be trimmed as per requirement if they are obstructing the transmission line. The exact number of trees required to be felled will be known during course of time. Therefore at hilly tracts where there are chances of soil erosion same shall be minimal due to retention of existing trees.
6. Part of the area proposed for diversion is also within the Eco Sensitive Zone of Bondla WLS.
7. Part of the proposal (7.34 ha) also passes through Private Forest areas, wherein User agency has submitted that the actual owners of these land shall be compensated during the construction period as per Indian Electricity Act, 2003. It is pertinent to mention here that the proposal for Diversion of the Private Forest areas accordingly has been taken into consideration for NOC from Forest department's point of view; however any litigation arising out of any dispute from actual owners/tenants of these private properties, shall be sole responsibility of the user agency. The forest department shall not be held responsible for any such dispute.
8. The project aims at construction of 400 kV D/C Xeldem-Mapusa is an additional feed to Goa State to meet arising power deficit through present network system. At present demand of Goa is mainly catered through Mapusa 3x315 MVA, 400/220 kV substation, which gets feed from Kolhapur 400 kV substation through a 400 kV D/c line. Goa system is also connected with Maharashtra and Karnataka through 220 kV lines. To supply the projected power requirement of Goa with reliability, an additional 400 kV in feed to Goa was required. Although it has been ensured by the User Agency that the incurred forest area should be minimum & unavoidable.

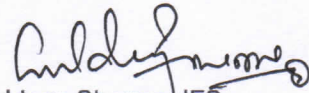
Recommendations: User agency has examined 3 different routes to confirm the forest area is minimum & unavoidable from generating to terminating end of this transmission line. Details & comparative statement of all 3 alternate routes are shown in Part I. Due to presence of dense forest along with Bondla wildlife sanctuary, all possible efforts have been made to avoid the Wild life sanctuary area, which has resulted in increasing the length of line by approximately 6 kms. In spite of all efforts Eco-sensitive zone of Bondla wild life sanctuary could not be avoided fully.

In view of all above, it is concluded that best possible efforts have been made to minimize involvement of forest land. Further for the part of proposal which is passing through Private Forest Area, user agency has committed to compensate the actual owner/s during the construction period as per Indian Electricity Act, 2003.

Since the requirement of Forest land is bare minimum and unavoidable and considering the importance of power requirement of the people of Goa in future, the diversion of 69.41 ha of Forest area is recommended to the user agency.

Date: 27/11/2018

Place: Ponda- Goa



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Dy. Conservator of Forest
North Goa Division