

Site Inspection Report of Divisional Forest Officer, Mankulam (for the Forest land to be diverted under FCA)

Name of Project : Assessment of Global environmental changes in Sahyadri.  
Proposal No : FP/KL/Others/45009/2020  
Area applied : 0.04 Ha

A proposal has been received by this office for a Project "Assessment of Global Environmental Changes in Sahyadri" of National center of Earth Science, Akkulam Thiruvananthapuram, (User Energy) which requires diversion of 0.04 Ha of Forest Land (Under FCA- 1980) for non- forestry purpose.

This Project envisages the use of forest land for the construction of "Geo environmental observatory", which will serve as a primary data source of several hydrological, geological, agronomical and climate change studies, in the high - altitude region of Periyar river basin, at Sankhumalai, Munnar.


As per the plans submitted, the Geo Environmental Observatory", shortly known as GEPBs, will consist of an array of field instruments to monitor various climatic, hydrological and geochemical parameters. The user agency purposes to install these instruments in an area of 20m x 20m (0.04 Ha) protected by fencing. The instruments proposed to be installed does not pose any danger to wild animals, habitats or the ecology of region, if properly protected by fencing and maintained regularly, which shall be ensured by the user agency.

The site inspection of the land involved in the proposal has been done by me on dated 19/11/2020, 06/02/2021 and 24/02/2021. On inspection of the site, it is found that the land required by the user agency is a forest area and grassland measuring 0.04 ha, as specified by the user agency. The user agency informed about the selection of this particular site for the observatory as an undisturbed peak with grassland with minimum animal movement and disturbance, and so this location provides the best suitable point for the proposed GEOBs as per the user agency.

This makes the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in col. 2 of part-I is unavoidable and is barest minimum required for the project.

The proposed site is within 100m of a Police repeater station situated in the revenue land of KDHP ownership, and beyond which at a distance of around 200 meters, the Eravikulam National Park is situated. The Eravikulam National park is one of the last habitats for the endangered NilgiriTahr, which has considerable and viable population as conservation efforts area presently undertaken. The area is situated in proximity to shoal patches which has various rare species of Strobilanthes genus. The proposed project requires only 0.04 Ha for the installation of various instruments.



  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Mankulam