

12. Division/District profile as on 31st March 2020 Forest Conservation Act, 1980:-

- a) Geographical area of the district: **116600 Ha**
- b) Forest area of the district:- **86473 Ha**
- c) Forest cover of the district: **77390 Ha**
(as per FSI report – 2019)
- d) Total forest area diverted since 1980 with number of cases: **62 cases**
Area:- (169.065 Ha)
- e) Total Compensatory afforestation stipulated in the District/Division since 1980 on (date) 31st March 2020:
 - i) Forest land including Penal Compensatory Afforestation: **247.759 Ha**
 - ii) Non Forest Land : **7.782 Ha**
255.541
- f) Progress of Compensatory Afforestation till date on (date) 31st March 2020:
 - i) Forest Land : **195.605 Ha**
 - ii) Non-Forest Land: **7.782 Ha**
Total : 203.387 Ha

13. Specific recommendations of the DCF for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with reasons:

The proposal is recommended on the grounds, that it would connect the State Highway of NDP road at Km 1st to Soreng via Zoom. It shall benefit the villages of Middle Gelling, Lepcha Gaon, Bhimsing Gaon, providing easy access to the Sub-Divisional Offices and District Headquarter at Soreng. It would also promote marketing for organic agriculture produces in the form of potatoes, ginger, maize and also boost dairy supply. The project involves the barest minimum of forest land. The diversion of Forest Land is recommended for approval subject to conditions laid by the State and Central Government and removal of minimum number of tree and poles wherever found to be absolutely unavoidable.

The forest land diverted will not be used for any other purpose other than the reason for which it is diverted.

- a. The status of the land will always remain as forest land
- b. Labour camp, storing of materials shall not be allowed in the forest land other than the diverted land.
- c. The trees falling within the diverted shall not fell without prior approval of the forest department.
- d. No firewood shall be used by the labourers. The user agency shall provide kerosene/LPG or other eco-friendly alternatives.
- e. During the execution of the project, every care should be taken to ensure proper disposal of excavated soil /stone/boulders. No rolling down of soil/stone/boulders in the forest land is permitted. Cut and fill method to be strictly adopted.
- f. No quarry shall be allowed inside the forest land. The User agency shall make payments for all building materials like sand, loose stone, stone chips etc.
- g. Any damage of forest crops/ wildlife in the non-diverted land shall be compensated by the user agency.
- h. Strict measures should be taken to protect the saplings planted under State Green Mission Programme of the government.
- i. No debris will be thrown in the forest area and river.
- j. If within the five years of the proposal the user agency is unable to obtain approval, the project will be deemed De-novo.

(Tel Bahadur Gurung)
Divisional Forest Officer
West Terai Division

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