

### **Compensatory Afforestation**

Compensatory Afforestation is one of the most important requirement/condition stipulated by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), govt. of India while approving proposal for diversion of forest land for non-forest use. The purpose of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is to compensate the loss of "Land by Land" and loss of "Trees by Trees". An area of 23.983 ha. Revenue forests under 16 villages of Dasapalla tahasil of Nayagarh district are required to be diverted for construction of 220 KV LILO line from existing Meramundali-Bhanjanagar (LOC 246-247).

The instant proposal is a **linear** one stretching over a length of about 31.426 KM with ROW 35 meter width and maximum sag & swing of conductors to be 4.6m passing through the revenue forests as narrated above.

Therefore, in pursuance to MoEF guideline and clarifications vide F. No. 5-2/2017-FC. Dt. 28.3.2019 this CA scheme is prepared based on "**special Provisions for CA for certain categories of project**", i.e. **para 2.5 (i) 'a' of the guideline**. Accordingly this CA scheme is being prepared on "degraded forest land twice the extent of forest area diverted". Total forest area proposed to be diverted is 23.983 ha. and therefore, CA can be raised in 23.983 ha.  $\times 2 = 47.966$  ha. or **48 ha.** of degraded forest land having canopy density below 40 percent.

Besides as it is a proposal for Transmission, the user agency also propose to prepare detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in the right of way under the transmission line in consultation with State Forest Deptt. at the time of compliance of Stage-I conditions of the instant proposal. Both CA and the above plantations can compensate the loss of forests by forests as per the guideline of CA.

In view of the above 48 ha. of degraded forest land have been identified at Bankamunda RF (Extension) in Gania Range of Nayagarh Division. The identified site have been inspected by RO/Fr., Gania and the user agency and demarcated in the field (Plate-I) by DGPS survey. A lump sum amount of Rs. 3,00,000/- has been provisioned in the scheme to post required size pillars inscribing pillar no., geo-coordinates etc. at the time taking up plantation in the field with reference to the coordinates furnished in the map.

In course of site inspection by the RO/Fr., Gania range with the assistance of team of Grow Green Consortium, consisting of Rtd. Forest Officers, it was ascertained that the site is suitable for ANR (Aided Natural Regeneration) with gap plantation of indigenous, drought hardly species. Gap plantation shall be taken up in gaps @ 200 plant/ha. on an average. The existing degraded vegetation shall be silviculturally tended including high stump cutting, singling of pollard shoots, climber cutting etc. as per Govt. approved cost norm.