

## TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From  
Thiru.S.Prabhu,IFS,  
District Forest Officer,  
Dindigul Forest Division,  
Dindigul-624 004.

To  
The Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Dindigul Circle,  
Dindigul.

**C.No. 6434/2019/D1 dated: 09.09.2021**

Sir,

Sub: Forest - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Dindigul and Trichy Circle / Dindigul Division - Proposal for diversion of 3.708 Ha. of Natham to Thuvarankurichi (NH-785 extension) traverse through Natham tehsil of Dindigul District and Marungapuri Tehsil of Trichy District - Online proposal submission by the User Agency i.e, National Highways Authority of India, Dindigul - Regarding.

- Ref: 1) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD), Chennai C.No.TS4/52452/2018 dated:19.04.2021.  
2) Chief Conservator of Forests, Dindigul C.No.6310/2019/D1 dated:22.07.2021.  
3) District Forest Officer, Dindigul C.No.6434/2019/D1 dated:06.07.2021.

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I submit that, the query raised by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai in the reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited above is submitted to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Dindigul in the reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited above is as follows:-

- a) In Form A Part - II of the proposal; the DFO, Dindigul Forest Division has reported that no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna are found in the area, but in the inspection report of DFO as well as CF, it is reported the presence of Slender Loris an endangered species in the RF and to improve the habitat of the species, estimate for raising, Thirugukalli improve the habitat of the species, estimate for raising Thirugukalli (Euphorbia Sps) and Kiluvai (Commiphoracaudata) fodder plantations to the Slender loris**

**existing in the area of 5 Ha. each with cost of 19.15 & 19.36 Lakhs has been proposed. Hence, comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden on impact of the project on such endangered species and appropriate mitigation measures required (as per WII guidelines for linear projects) if any; may be submitted and also Part-II of the proposal need to be modified mentioning the presence of Slender loris an endangered species.**

**Status:**

During the inspection of District Forest Officer it was reported that there was sighting of Slender loris around the Chinnayampatti RF which is of total 253.03 Ha out of which 3.708 Ha is proposed for fourway extension. In order to improve the habitat of the species , estimate for raising Thirugukalli (Euphorbia Sps) and Kiluvai (Commiphora caudate) fodder plantations to the Slender loris existing in the area of 5 Ha each with cost of Rs.19.15 & 19.36 Lakhs has been proposed.

The CCF, Dindigul Circle has requested the DFO, Dindigul vide letter dtd,18.6.20 to prepare a detailed study to assess the existence of Slender loris population and its migration on the proposed area to be diverted and to determine potential impacts of the four way road extension work on the immediate environment and associated fauna and flora, accordingly an expert namely SEED TRUST, Dindigul has been requested to study the same.

Subsequently, an expert of Slender loris, SEEDS Trust, Dindigul has conducted Faunal Field Survey during the month of July - August 2021 and reported that there is no direct or indirect sighting of Slender loris or any other endangered species in the vicinity i.e., around 1Km radius of the proposed site in Chinnayampatty Reserve Forest but there are direct and indirect sightings of mammals like Black napped Hare, Wild Boar, etc.,

### **Mitigation Measures :**

The project executing authority may be requested to provide necessary following mitigation measures such as:-

1. In order to improve the habitat of the Slender loris, estimate for raising Thirugukalli (Euphorbia Sps) and Kiluvai (Commiphora caudate) fodder plantations to the Slender loris existing in the area of 5 Ha each with cost of Rs.19.15 Lakhs & Rs. 19.36 Lakhs has been proposed.
2. The project involves felling Of 783 trees in the proposed area including 455 nos. of spontaneous trees, for Compensatory Afforestation for 8 ha of degraded forest area, an abstract estimate for an amount of Rs.96.93 lakhs for raising and planting of 8000 Nos. seedlings @ 1000 Nos. seedlings/Ha including 10 years maintenance are proposed.
3. Providing fencing on either side of NH boundary with a minimum length of 1.00 Km in each side by covering the reserve forest land to be diverted from Chain age 50+691 to 51+309 (618m length).
4. Necessary Speed Controlling measures to be implemented.
5. Necessary sign boards to be erected.
6. Information boards, such as "No sound Horn please" etc., to be erected.

**b) In the Kml file it is seen that the present proposal is deviating from the existing RoW / Road, hence the left-out area (of existing road) needs appropriate restoration provision in future if any; need to be included along with the proposal. Also, in the Kml file it is seen that, towards the Southern side some of tree growth area has been left out, it needs verification at ground.**

### **Status:**

In the KML file Revised KML file is enclosed. For this query, the User Agency has submitted the following undertaking for restoration of 163 m length of deviated area in forest land (Copy enclosed).



The report also says that scrub jungle which form the majority of the proposed development area are dominated by *Tamerindus indica* and accompanied by a variety of thorn tree species such as *Acacia leuchophloea*, *Acacia planifrons*, , *Albizia amara*, *Albizia odoratissima*, *Atalantia monophylla* etc., and detailed study report is enclosed herewith.

It is concluded that the Slender loris might have been migrated to nearby places of Chinnayampatty RF and other adjoining RF due to scarcity of Fodder and other disturbances.

In order to minimize the impacts of the four way road extension work on the immediate environment and associated flora and fauna especially on the habitat of Slender loris, the following mitigation measures are suggested:

**i) Precautions to be taken:**

1. During construction activities, wherever possible, work should be restricted to one area at a time. This will give smaller birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians an opportunity to move into undisturbed areas close to their natural habitat.
2. The entire site should be fenced or barrier to prior construction activities.
3. All temporary supply areas, litter and dumped material and rubble must be removed on completion of construction.
4. All alien invasive plant and tree species should be removed from the site to prevent further invasion.
5. Vegetation clearance should be restricted to the areas under construction allowing remaining animals opportunity to move away from the disturbance.
6. No animals should be intentionally killed or destroyed and poaching and hunting should not be permitted on the site.
7. Speed controller must be provided in the both edges of starting and ending of the reserve forest.
8. Sign boards must be erected for wildlife prone zone in both edges of reserve forest.
9. Animal crossing zone must be protected by barriers or fencing in this areas.

- i) The bituminous surface of deviated existing forest road portion and existing road embankment will be completely removed by NHAI and the surface will be maintained as natural forest portion. Also, the removed bituminous debris will be transported to non forest area as directed by Forest Department.
- ii) Good quality fertile soil / gravel will be refilled in the above area wherever the bituminous portion is removed.
- iii) The avenue will be planted by NHAI in the deviated portion and the number and type of species as directed by the Forest Department.
- iv) The avenue will be maintained by NHAI for the entire maintenance period of present contract or as per the direction of Forest Department.
- v) The fencing will be provided by NHAI as the traffic could not be entered into the deviated portion of existing forest road.
- vi) Also, NHAI gave an undertaking that, if any further mitigation measures proposed by the forest department for protecting the deviated portion will be taken up.

**Also in the KML file it is seen that, towards southern side some of the tree growth area has been left out, it needs verification at ground.**

**Status:**

For the said query, NHAI has clarified through their letter dtd 30/6/21 (**Copy Enclosed**), that the said left out area i.e. the area between the existing forest road and the proposed ROW will not be utilized by NHAI. The construction works will be carried out within the proposed ROW of 60 m and left out area as mentioned above will remain forest land only.

c) As per the inspection report of DFO total of 783 trees (455 spontaneous growth trees and 328 plantation trees) to be felled for the project, whereas in the Part - II of the proposal, 242 trees only mentioned in the tabular format. Hence complete enumeration list of trees needs to be updated in the online application.

**Status:**

In the FC Act 1980 website, in serial No.4(ii) only 13 species name is available, hence only 242 numbers of trees of the 13 species were uploaded electronically. Since balance species name list were not found in PARIVESH web portal due to technical issues, the entire list of 26 species name and 783 number of trees (Plantation - 328 Nos. and Spontaneous trees - 455 Nos.) were scanned and submitted as additional document in respect of Dindigul Forest Division (**Entire Tree list enclosed**).

d) Also, in order to fell the 455 spontaneous growth of trees; order from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India needs to be obtained and submitted.

**Status:**

User Agency has been instructed to approach the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and empowered committee for obtaining necessary permission with respect to felling of 455 numbers of spontaneous trees.

Hence, the proposal may be recommended for diversion of 3.708 Ha. of Chinnayampatty RF, Natham Range of Dindigul Forest Division for laying Natham to Thuvrankurichi (NH-785 extension) road.

This is for favour of kind information.

Encl : As stated above.,

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Yours faithfully,



District Forest Officer,  
Dindigul Division, Dindigul.

