



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS
& CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office
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F.No. FC-I/MH-227/2021-NGP /10518

Date: 31.10.2022

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
HutatmaRajguruChowk
Madam Cama Marg
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400032.

Sub: Diversion of 0.9286 ha of Forest land in favour of CIDCO for construction of Rope Suspension Bridge (Skywalk) connecting Hurricane Point and Goreghat point at Chikhaldara Hill Station Municipal Council, Taluka- Chikhaldara, District- Amaravati in the state of Maharashtra- regarding.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra letter no. FLD-2021/CR-39/F-10 dated 15.03.2021 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/ID- /509/2020-21 dated 18.09.2020 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, '**in-principle**' approval was accorded by the Central Government vide its letter of even number dated 19.01.2022. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra has now submitted a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval and requested the State Government to grant final approval to the proposal.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of compliance report submitted by the Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra vide his letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/Amravati/ID-12708/278/2022-2023 dated 04.05.2022 and letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/Amravati/ID-12708/1518/2022-23 dated 19.09.2022 forwarding additional information as sought vide this office letter of even number dated 30.06.2022, the Central Government hereby accords '**final approval**' under Section- 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.9286 ha of Forest land in favour of CIDCO for construction of Rope Suspension Bridge (Skywalk) connecting Hurricane Point and Goreghat point at Chikhaldara Hill Station Municipal Council, Taluka- Chikhaldara, District- Amaravati in the state of Maharashtra subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. **Compensatory afforestation**
 - a) Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 1 ha degraded Forest Land in Compt no. 28 at Village- Lawada, Taluka- Gaganbawada, District- Amravati at the cost of the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species along with 10% RET species of Amravati District shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be

avoided. At least one water body shall be constructed in the form of tank/ stop dams etc if the same are not available in the area or in nearby vicinity;


- iii. The site specific wildlife management plan as submitted to IRO, Nagpur shall be implemented;
- iv. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- v. The State Government, Maharashtra/ Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra shall ensure settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (No. 2 of 2007) before issuing an order for handing over of forest land to the User Agency as per Rule- 9 (6) (b) (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 dated 28.06.2022;
- vi. The User Agency shall obtain the Wildlife Clearance from SBWL/NBWL and User Agency in consultation with the State Government shall ensure strict compliance of recommendation of SBWL/NBWL at the project cost;
- vii. To improve the Forest/ Tree cover and to reduce pollution in the State, as mandated in National Forest Policy, 1988 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 respectively, the User Agency with involvement of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC's) and in consultation with local DCF shall raise at least 2,000 seedlings of forestry species along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local for 10 years. At least 50% of seedlings shall be planted in the vicinity of project area and remaining 50% of seedlings shall be distributed among villagers as per choice of villagers. The concerned JFMC's shall maintain record of plantation/ seedling distribution to villagers;
- viii. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
- ix. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- x. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xi. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xii. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xiii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xiv. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
- xv. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xvi. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;



- xvii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018;
- xviii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;


This issues with the approval of DDGF(C)/ Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,


(C.B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)

Copy to:

1. The IGF (RoHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi- 110003.
2. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
4. User Agency.
5. Guard File.


(C.B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)