

Subject: Forest Land-Satara

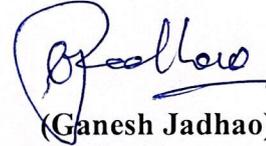
Diversion of area 112.25 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 at Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

PART - V

(To be filled up by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

1. Recommendation of the State Government

The proposal is recommended
vide Government letter
No.FLD-2022/C.R.81/F-10
Dated: 11.05.2022


(Ganesh Jadhao)

Under Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra

Place: Mumbai.

Date: 11.05.2022

Under Secretary
Revenue and Forests Department
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032

Government of Maharashtra

By Speed Post

No.FLD-2022/CR-81/F-10
Revenue and Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400 032.
Dated: 11.05.2022

To,
The Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Subject: Forest Land-Satara

Diversion of area 112.25 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 at Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

Sir,

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State, Nagpur has submitted Proposal for diversion of area 112.25 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 at Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

The details of forest land proposed for diversion are as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Taluka	Compt. No.	Gut.No.	Area (Ha.)	Area required for	Legal Status
1.	Mane Colony	Khandala	794	250	7.00	Gaothan	RF
			794	250	43.80	Agriculture	
2.	Bholi		794	362, 363	15.75		UF
3.	Dhangarwadi		793	389	45.70		
Total Forest Area					112.25		

2. Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the important protected area of the Maharashtra State, Which is located in / Western Ghat. Western Ghat area is considered among the top Bio-diversity hot spots of the world. Western Ghat area included in world heritage site by UNESCO'S world heritage committee on 1 July, 2015.

3. Govt. of Maharashtra has declared Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary under section 18 of Wildlife (Protection) Act-1972 for the purpose of protecting, propagating and development

of Wildlife there in and its environment. The total area of notified sanctuary is 423.55 sq. kms.

4. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 26- A of the said Act and of all other power enabling it in this behalf, the Government of Maharashtra hereby, on recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife and as per proposed by the enquiry officer excluded non forest areas of 14 villages and altered the boundaries of the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary and reconstituted the same with the area of 33530.41 Ha. (335.30 sq.km.)

5. The Maharashtra State Government has notified and area of 741.22 Sq. Km. of the Chandoli National Park (317.67 Sq. Km.) and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary (423.55 Sq. Km.) together as the Sahyadri Tiger Rreserve.

6. The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. These ranges form a common boundary between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa. This area rich evergreen, semi- evergreen & moist deciduous forest. These forest areas encompass several river valleys like Krishna, Koyna etc. It is the first Tiger Reserve of Western Maharashtra & 4th Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra spreading over two protected Areas those of the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary and Chandoli National Park.

7. The village Vele is situated in the core of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and is also situated within the area of KWLS. The central part of PA contains the Shivasagar Reservoir of Koyana River. As provided in the wildlife protection act and Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, the Collector has already enquired in to rights and concessions of the people and has also ascertained the willingness of the people to relocation. The village Vele has given voluntary consent and is ready for rehabilitation.

8. Human habitations are mostly been established in fertile lands with assured water supply. Such sites within the forest area are limited and therefore are ecologically significant. Flat grounds along major nullah can support revival of floral and faunal attributes and such attributes are completely lost, with the presence of intensive agricultural activities. Relocation in Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary have amply demonstrated the benefits of relocation, especially to wild herbivores and consequently to the whole ecosystem. Relocation of village Vele will make available an area of about 150.82 ha. of private land of 61 PAP's, and area of 206.27 ha. of private land, from remaining 74 PAP's directly by negotiation. 328.56 ha. of revenue land and also area of 1473.26 ha. of forest area will be free from human disturbance.

9. Relocation of Village Vele will get land mentioned in following table of 328.56 ha. of PAP's and Revenue Land and huge check of Forest Land of core zone will have been free from biotic in therefore of rehabilitation and cattle's of Vele village.

Sr. No.	Details	Number of PAP's	Land (Ha.)	Remarks
1	PAP's ready to relocation	61	150.82	Currently residing in the core Area

2	PAP's currently not residing in Vele Village	74	162.89	74 PAP's have not given consent for rehabilitation as they have presently migrated outside the core area. They are not resident to this village but their land belongs to Vele village, it is also needed to be acquired in due course of time
Total		135	313.71	--
3	Revenue Land	NA	328.56	--
Total Area			642.27	

10. The Sankalan list of the Project Affected Person's (PAP's) of Vele village is sanctioned by District Collector, Satara. The total number of PAP's is 135 out of which 61 PAP's have given consent to be relocated at village Dhangarwadi, Mane Colony and Bholi. Tahsil - Khandala, Dist. Satara. The remaining 74 PAP's has not yet demanded rehabilitation, But they are already residing outside. The 61 PAP's are currently residing in the core area and are demanding for rehabilitation,urgently. They have requested to give priority to the persons who are currently residing in the core area. Other PAP's are already staying outside the core area in the nearby cities long back and they are not yet approached and demanded for rehabilitation, hence they would be rehabilitate at later stage. The PAP's of Vele Village have selected forest land of villages Dhangarwadi Mane Colony and Bholi. Tahsil- Khandala, Dist.Satara. The total area required for Rehabilitation is 112.25 ha. which includes 94.20 ha. of agricultural land and 6.00 ha. for Gaothan and approximately 10 % area is considered as unsuitable land. Which makes the total required land for Rehabilitation to be 112.25 ha. Hence, proposal for diversion of 112.25 ha. RF land from villages Dhangarwadi, Mane Colony, and Bholi, Tahsil - Khandala, Dist.- Satara from the Gut No.s 389, 250, 362, 363 is submitted.

11. Land is not available in any command area of Irrigation Projects in Satara districts. There is no sufficient land available from "Gairan" or "Revenue waste land" in possession of Revenue department. Even in forests, it is not available in a continuous patch of land at a stretch that can accommodate all 61 PAP's, at one location. Also we are getting more non-forest land (435.07 ha.) than the total forest land (112.25 ha.) proposed to be diverted.

12. **The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara has certified that:-**

- 12.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is the lowest minimum.
- 12.2 The area belongs to Eco class-III, Open forest having density is below 0.4.
- 12.3 The Project involves felling of total 2918 number of trees. The Girth wise abstract is as under:-

Tree Girth in Cm.						Total
0-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	(>150) cm	
671	1931	274	38	3	1	2918

12.4 The proposed area does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve.

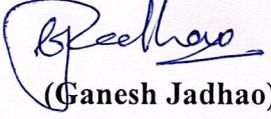
- 12.5 The Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance.
- 12.6 There is no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- 12.7 The Proposed project is not within 10 kms from the Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park.
- 12.8 Government of India vide guideline dated 20/05/2019 has directed that the payment of NPV and cost of CA may be exempted in all such cases of voluntary relocation/rehabilitation of families from the protected areas undertaken within the forest land. Accordingly, The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has given an undertaking that Net Present Value and Cost of Compensatory Afforestation is not applicable for this project.
- 12.9 Agrees to defray the cost of felling of trees.
- 12.10 To submit necessary compliance under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
13. **Remarks of Chief Wildlife Warden are as under:-**

After rehabilitation of 61 families out of total 135 families in village Vele, Tq. Jawali, District-Satara, the total area acquired is 150.82 Ha. and for rehabilitation of these 61 families area to be disforested is 112.25 Ha. The area acquired is more than the area to be disforested therefore this office agrees with the Proposal.
14. **In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-**
 - 14.1 Legal status of the forest land diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve shall cease to be forest land. If there is any requirement of Hon'ble Apex Court's permission, User Agency shall obtain it.
 - 14.2 User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
 - 14.3 Land vacated in the protected area due to relocation of Village shall be developed as per approved Wildlife Management Plan/NTCA guideline/CWLW.
 - 14.4 No fragmentation of forests should take place due to the relocation project.
 - 14.5 The boundary of the diverted land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
 - 14.6 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
 - 14.7 The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.
 - 14.8 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.
 - 14.9 Any other condition that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and

development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above

15. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur has recommended the proposal under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. His specific recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.

It is therefore requested that the matter may kindly be placed before the Government of India and kindly be moved for approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.


(Ganesh Jadhao)

Under Secretary to the
Government of Maharashtra

Encl: A) Set of case papers

B) The following documents are enclosed:-

1. Prescribed form as per Rules.
2. Area Statement
3. Brief note of the project
4. Site Inspection Report.
5. Certificate in Part V.

Copy:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Nagpur
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & C.E.O, Maha-CAMPA, Nagpur
3. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Nagpur with reference to his letter No.Desk-17/Nodal/Kolhapur/ID-12996(29)/2699/2021-22, Dt.15.03.2022
4. Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur
5. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara
6. Select File (F-10)