

Government of Maharashtra

By Speed Post

No.FLD-2022/CR-129/F-10

Revenue and Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400 032.

Dated: 09.06.2022

To,

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

Subject: Forest Land-Satara

Proposal for the disforestation of area 76.17 ha. Reserved Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Malharpeth, Sonaichiwadi, Marulhaveli & Girewadi, Tal. Patan, Dist.Satara for rehabilitation of Village Kolane, Tal.Patan, Dist.Satara from Chandoli National Park of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve.

Madam,

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State, Nagpur has submitted proposal for the disforestation of area 76.17 ha. Reserved Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Malharpeth, Sonaichiwadi, Marulhaveli & Girewadi, Tal. Patan, Dist.Satara for rehabilitation of Village Kolane, Tal.Patan, Dist.Satara from Chandoli National Park of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. The proposal has been initiated by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara. The non-forest area does not involve in this project.

2. The details of proposed forest land are as under:-

Sr. No.	Location	Com No.	Gat No.	Land Available ha.	No. of PAPs	Land for agriculture ha.	Area required for houses	Gaothan Area ha.	Unsuitable land ha.	Total Area Required ha.
1	Malharpeth	448	811	7.86	48	65.60	25900 sq. mtrs. 2.60 ha.	5.26	2.71	76.17
2	Sonaichiwadi	-	226	52.00						
3	Marul Haveli	507	1067	10.49						
			1566	2.71						
4	Girewadi	449	101/1	3.11						
Total				76.17	48	65.60	2.60	5.26	2.71	76.17

3. Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is the first Tiger Reserve of Western Maharashtra and 4th Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra State spreading over two protected areas ie. Koyna WLS and Chandoli NP and its

adjoining area of 1165.57 sq.kms area. STR is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. STR is northern most tiger habitat in western ghats protected by declaring it as Tiger Reserve on 5th Jan, 2010.

4. It is one of the World Heritage Sites from Western Ghat declared by UNESCO. STR is highly important for conservation due to its unparalleled biodiversity & endemism of species of flora & fauna. Hence it is part of one of the Biodiversity Hotspot. Koyna WLS is declared as "Important Bird Area" by Birdlife International. Forest area near Navja village is declared as "Medicinal Plant Conservation Area" by FRLHT, Bangalore. These areas constitute rich evergreen, semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests.

5. The area is spread over 4 districts namely, Satara (Mahabaleshvar, Medha, Satara & Patantahasils), Sangli (Shairala tahasil), Kolhapur (Shahuvadi tahasil) and Ratnagiri (Sangameshvar, Khed tahasils).

Name of Protected Area	Core Area (Sq.Km)	Buffer Area (Sq.Km)	Total Area (Sq.Km)
Chandoli National Park	313.84	3.83	317.67
Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary	286.28	123.27	423.55
Area Outside PA	-	424.34	423.34
STR Total Area	600.12	565.45	1165.57

6. The Northern Western Ghats extends from Dang in Gujarat to Dandeli in Karnataka. This range however is fragmented at many locations owing to human habitation hindering the movement of tigers and other such large mammals. However, these fragments do provide essential cover to extant species here. Tigers have also been reported previously to range and move around in this stretch, but camera trap records within the limits of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve dates back to 2011 & 2018.

7. Govt. of Maharashtra has declared Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary vide notification No. WLP-1085 CR-588/(I) dated 16th September, 1985 under section 18 of Wildlife (Protection) Act- 1972 for the purpose of protecting, propagating and development of Wildlife therein and its environment. The total area of notified sanctuary is 308.17 sq. kms. Then it is upgraded as Chandoli National Park adding one village Amboli of Kolhapur District and notified total area of 317.67 sq.kms vide Government of Maharashtra notification dated 14 May, 2004. This area is notified as part of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve on 5th January, 2010.

8. As provided in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1864 the concerning Collectors has already enquired into rights and concessions of the inhabitants and has also ascertained the willingness of the people to relocation. The status of rehabilitation of 33 villages from Chandoli National Park is as follows:

- **Villages relocated by Irrigation Dept.:**

Dist. Sangli : Shiddheswar, Ambole, Bhogiv, Devare, Konoli, Javali (Part), Aloli (Part), Petlond (Part), Takale (Part), Zolambi (Part), Khundlapur (Part), Nandoli (Part), Chandoli Bk. (Part)

Dist. Kolhapur: Durgewadi, Karade, Wadihudumb, Amboli, Sonarli (Part), Tambave (Part).

- **Villages relocated by Forest dept. :**

Dist. Sangli (during 1997 to 1999): Rundiv, Jaoli, ChandoliKd., Gave, Lotiv, Nivale, Aloli Dhangarwada, Vetti, Petlond Dhangarwada, Takale, Zolambi, Nandoli, Khundlapur, Chandoli Bk.

Dist. Kolhapur (during 1998 to 1999): Chandel, Dhakale, Nivale, Tanali, Sonarli Paiki Dhangarwada, Tambave Paiki Kulyachiwadi.

Dist. Ratnagiri (during 2000 to 2012): Gothane

- **Village under enquiry :** Village Amboli dist. Kolhapur was not included in the Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary, it is added in Chandoli National Park by notification dt.14.05.2014. Total population in this village is rehabilitated by Irrigation dept in 1977 due to Warana Irrigation Project; only land above submergence is under enquiry.

- **Villages yet to be relocated by Forest dept:**

Sr. No.	Name of Village	No. of PAP's	Required land for rehabilitation Ha.	Proposed Location	Remarks
1	Male	140	227.90	Bahule, Kharade, Helgaon, Hanbarwadi and Gosavewadi, Dist. Satara	Proposal is submitted by DCF Satara
2	Kolane	79	24.69	Kille Machindragad Dist. Sangli	Proposal under submission by DCF Sangli
			76.17	Malharpeth, Sonaichiawadi, Marul Haveli, Girewadi Dist. Satara.	Current Proposal
3	Patharpunj	106	230.05	Forest land at Dhanewadi, Yede, Tondoli and Upalewangi is selected by PAP's	Proposal under submission by DCF Sangli
4	Khundlapur Paiki Dhangarwada	72	105.00	Yetgaon dist. Sangli	Proposal is submitted for 105.00 ha by DCF Sangli
5	Chandoli Bk. PaikiJanaiwadi	10	25.00	Gairan land at Ghogaon Dist. Sangli is selected by PAP's	Sankalan is not finalized, figures are approximate
6	Ambole	01	--	No habitation	SDO enquiry undergoing
	Total	408	697.64		

9. Human in-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 nalas can support revival floral and faunal attributes and such attributes are completely lost, with the presence of intensive agricultural attributes. Relocation in Chandoli National Park have amply demonstrated the benefits of relocation, especially to wild herbivores and consequently to the whole eco-system. Relocation of village Kolane will make available an area of 128.89.90 ha. of private & 108.29.60 ha. of Revane land and also an area of 248.45.40 ha. of Forest area will be free from human interference.

10. The Collector Satara had prepared Sankalan Register of 79 project affected persons of Kolane Village, out of which 76 are Land holders and 3 are landless From this 7 PAPs accorded consent to Option-I with Rs 10 lakh package, remaining 72 PAPs accorded consent to Option-II of land to land and gaonthan rehabilitation. One group of 24 PAPs from this have selected two nearby patches of forest land 13.60 ha of Gat no. 380 of village Kille Machindragad and 11.09 ha of Gat no. 222 of village Lavanmachi of Walwa Tahsil, Dist, Sangli for Gaonthan and land for agriculture. Second group of remaining 48 PAPs have selected four patches of forest land, 07.86 ha of Gat no. 811 of village Malharpeth, 52.00 ha of Gat no. 226 of village Sonaichiwadi, 10.49 Ha. of Gat no. 1067 and 2.71 Ha. Gat no. 1566 of village Marul Haveli and 3.11 Ha. of Gat no. 101/1 of village Girewadi of Patan Tahsil, Dist, Satara.

Details of land requirement are as follows:-

Sr. No	Location	No. of PAPs	Land for agriculture ha. (as per sankalan register of	Area of plot for home	Gaothan Area ha.	Unsuitable land in between ha.	Total Area Required ha	Remarks
1.	Kille Machindragad, Lavanmachi Dist. Sangli	24	26.6	12025 sq.mt. 1.20 ha.	0.00	0.00	24.69	Requirement & Remaining land will be identic&fulfilled in adjoining area.
2	Sonaichiwadi, Marul Haveli, Girewadi, Malharpeth, Dist. Satara	48	65.60	25900 sq.mt 2.60 ha.	5.26	2.71	76.17	
Total		72	92.2	3.80	5.26	2.71	100.86	

11. Hence, the proposal for diversion of 76.17.00 ha. Reserve Forest land from gat no.811 of Malharpeth, gat no 226 of Sonaichiwadi, Gat no. 1067 and 1566 of Marul Haveli, Gat no 101/1 of Girewadi Tal Patan from Satara Forest Division is submitted.

12. As per para 1.15 of Handbook issued vide Government of India's letter dated 28/03/2019, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted complete justification for locating the project in the forest area to prove the project is site-specific as under:-

'The Project is in the larger interest of the nature conservation & hence for the rehabilitation of Village Kolanetahasil - Patan at Malharpeth, Girewadi, Marulhaveli & Sonaichiwadi Tal. - Patan, Dist. Satara. The topographical and geological situation the alignment given area verified by Dy. Conservator of Forest Satara and its Site Specific in nature. The implementing agency is Dy. Conservator of Forest Satara. Hence the proposal is categories as "Site Specific".

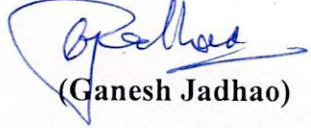
13. **The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara has certified that:-**

- 13.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is the lowest minimum.
- 13.2 Density and Eco-value class:- Density is above 0.4 (Mixed plantation area).
- 13.3 The Project involves felling of total 13779 number of trees. The Girth wise abstract is as under:-

Tree Girth in Cm.						
0-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	(>150)cm	Total
5310	7456	863	109	31	10	13779

- 13.4 The proposed area does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve.
- 13.5 The Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance.
- 13.6 There is no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- 13.7 The proposed forest area is beyond 10 kms from boundary of protected area i.e. away 20 km. from Chandoli National Park.
- 13.8 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara has certified that FRA certificate of Collector Satara has been applied and the same will be submitted on receipt from the Collector Satara, before Stage-II Clearance.
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 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/(29)/ID-13256/185/2022-23, Dt.25.04.2022
4. Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur
5. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara
6. Select File (F-10)

Sub: Forest Land-Satara

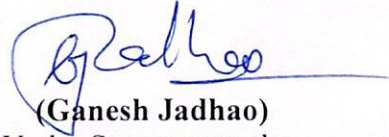
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PART - V

(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/ CR-129/F-10
Dated: 09/06/2022



(Ganesh Jadhao)
Under Secretary to the
Government of Maharashtra

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

Place: Mumbai

Date: 09/06/2022