

SITE INSPECTION REPORT
(SLV Power Project – dated 19-12-2014)

The proposed Aniyur Mini Hydel project with a unit capacity of 24 MW power generation is located in the village limits of Neriya of Belthangadi Taluka of Dakshina Kannada district.

The proposed site is a private land called Banjara Estate. As per RTC it is under the ownership of Y. Moideen Kunhi. In the Revised Expert Committee report this area (1270.83 ha) is categorised as Private Forest under deemed Forests category. At present the area is being cultivated with rubber, cardamom and cocoa. Leaving these cultivated patches rest of the area is under forest cover. Though the area under forest is not notified as private forest, due to its characteristics is categorized as deemed forest. The proposed site is about 430 meters from Charmadi Kanappadi Reserve Forest and 110 meters from Baluru Reserve forest of Chikmagalur Division. The proposed site is at a distance of 7.6 kms from Kuduremukha National park hence falls within default Eco Sensitive Zone.

The forest bears similar characteristics to that of Charmadi- Kanappadi Reserve forest. To ascertain the floral diversity Sample plots were laid. The sample plot details indicated presence *Veteria indica*, *Dipterocarpus indicus*, *Myristica dactyloides*, *Macaranga peltata*, *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*, *Psychotria flavida*, *Caryota urens*, *Hopea glabra*, *Ixora brancheata* and other herb species.

The project is proposed across Aniyur stream that flows in to this estate from Balur Reserve Forest.

I visited the proposed site on 19.12.2014. The project authorities, Sri Madhusudan and Sri Raghavendra Rao and Range Forest Officer, Belthangadi and his staff were present. The weir proposed to be built across the stream is approximately 50 meters length with top width of 1.5 meters and height at the deepest point is 8 meters, which averages to 5 meters. In the weir construction area and the area to be sub merged which is around 50 meters length upstream from the weir, a total of 22 trees have been marked for removal. However, the trees, which do not cause any impediment to the construction of the weir, need not be removed. Thus, the trees numbered, as **01, 06, 08 and 10** in the marking list should be retained. The project authorities were also agreeable to the suggestion.

To reach the weir point, there is already an existing road. No trees are marked for cutting in this stretch. The total length of the pipe line from weir point

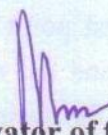
to power house is 2.3 Km. The pipe line proposed to be laid is of 2.8 meters dia and it will be laid in a trench of 3.5 meters width and maximum depth of 5 meters to keep of the gradient. Thus for laying pipeline the project authorities have marked 6 meters corridor to avoid the growth of roots in to the trench. Trees falling in the corridor are marked for removal. However, to keep the tree removal to the bear minimum necessity, the trees numbered as 66, 70, 76, 77, 87, 93, 118, 119, 171, 182, 183, 191, 192, 203, 204, 206, 227 and 228 in the marking list need not be cut.

It was also seen that the Project authorities have identified certain existing open areas for stocking the building materials. Hence they are not proposing to remove any trees for this purpose. During my inspection at few points I saw some Hume pipes and building material being stocked. Upon enquiry with project authorities it was clarified that they have been stocked to repair of the existing road, which leads to localities like Banjaru male and Aniyuru hamlets.

I also visited the site where powerhouse is going to be built. I was told the site identified is acquired by KAIDB for SLV power project (12 acres). There is no tree cutting involved in this site. The approximate area to be utilized for power house is 0.09 ha. The rest of the acquired area is identified for Compensatory afforestation. Though this area is not an open land, enrichment planting can be taken up.

At a distance of 150 meters from the site of powerhouse, a weir built by Prasanna Power projects exists. From this weir at an approximate distance of 1 Km, the powerhouse of Prasanna Power project exists. (Commissioned in 2009).

As the proposed site is a private Forest (Deemed Forest), and as per the report of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mangalore division, I am of the opinion that the project may be considered for approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 subject to other necessary clearances required if necessary.


20/12/2014
Chief Conservator of forests,
Mangalore circle,
Mangalore