

Site Inspection Report

Date of Inspection: 04.02.2016

Background note on the Proposal

The Kooranur Bridge is a project of Highways Department involving Construction of Bridge at Km.0/4 of Kooranur road across Malattar River in Gramam Reserve Forest, Ulunthurpettai range of Viluppuram Division. The project proposal submitted by Divisional Engineer, Highways, NABARD & Rural Roads, Cuddalore aims at constructing a bridge on the existing causeway to permit uninterrupted communication and transportation to the public of Kooranur, Thenmangalam and Gramam Village during heavy floods as flow increases to 2.5m in rainy season. Since, the project is carried out on the existing causeway and road, alternate alignment does not arise. It is informed by the project authorities that, during the execution of the project a diversion road will be laid nearby which is also part of the proposal and the same will be dismantled upon completion of the bridge work.

Legal Status and Area Details

The Kooranur road connects the Gramam and Kooranur village and passes across the Gramam RF, Ulunthurpettai range, Viluppuram Division. There lies an existing road with a cause way. The Construction of the bridge starts at about 246m from the RF boundary. The project involves a bridge of 240m length and 12m width along with a diversion road of 240m length and 10m width, thus measuring to an area of 0.528 ha ($240\text{m} \times 22\text{m} = 5280\text{m}^2$) in one patch. Thus, a total area of 0.528 ha is proposed for diversion for the construction of the bridge. It is necessary to quote that there exist a right of way for public and cattle on the Kooranur road to a length of 486.6m on the eastern side and 485.6m on the western side and to a width of 14m on the Kooranur village side and 11.8m on the Gramam village side (Govt.Lr.No.50871/FR III/86-8, Forests & Fisheries, 05.06.1987).

Wildlife and Vegetation

The RF is a Southern Tropical Dry thorn Forests, 6AC1 and is a riverine area with sparse vegetation and includes wild animals' viz., Jackal, Mongoose and Pythons. There is one tree of *Dalbergia sissoo* at the south west boundary of the road and falls within the proposed area. The user agency informed that felling of the tree does not arise. The user agency has not yet started the work in the reserve forest area and hence, there is no violation of Forest Conservation act, 1980.

AS/2016
District Forest Officer
Viluppuram Division
Viluppuram