



भारतसरकार
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE
 CHANGE
 Integrated Regional Office, Chennai.
 1st Floor Additional Office Block for GPOA, Shastri
 Bhawan,
 Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai -600 006
 E-mail: ro.moefccc@gov.in/roefccc1@gmail.com



F.No.4-TNC067/2020-CHN/1015

Date 21st October, 2021

To

The Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
 Environment & Forests Department,
 Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.

Subject: Renewal of lease for diversion of 40 ha of forest land for Vainu Bappu Observatory in Kavalur Indian Institute of Astrophysics in Jawadi Hills, Tirupathur Forest Division, Vellore District in favour of the Administrative Officer, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore- Reg

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter Nos.16671/FR.10/2019-4 dated 07.09.2020, 16671/FR.10/2019-9 dated 20.09.2021 and online proposal No. FP/TN/Others/37766/2018 seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section'2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project.

After careful consideration of the proposal and recommendation of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC), I am hereby directed to convey Central Government's in-principle (*Stage-I*) approval under Section'2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Renewal of lease for diversion of 40 ha of forest land for Vainu Bappu Observatory in Kavalur Indian Institute of Astrophysics in Jawadi Hills, Tirupathur Forest Division of Vellore District in favour of the Administrative Officer, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, for a period of 40 years with effect from 05.09.2012, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) The total forest area diverted under this proposal is 40 ha or 100 acres, whereas the actual forest area under the possession of the User Agency is about **10 acres** only. The User Agency is required to carry out extensive plantation of indigenous species as recommended by the FAC in the

remaining forest land under the control of the institute (*i.e. 90 acres*) and State Forest Department shall extend support in selection of indigenous species and monitor to ensure successful implementation; The State Forest Dept. shall prepare a CA scheme for the above planting. In case it is not possible to plant at the rate of minimum of 400 plants per ha on the forest land, then the balance plants shall be planted on nearby degraded forest land as per working plan prescriptions. The CA scheme in this regard shall be prepared and submitted before final approval.

- (iii) As per the decision of the FAC, NPV shall be charged for the area over an extent of 10 acres or 2.50 ha (out of 40 ha forest area diverted). Since, the User Agency has already deposited an amount of 50 lakhs towards NPV in the year 2011, same shall be adjusted and if any amount is due to be repaid to the user agency, that amount may be utilized by the State Forest Department for the purpose of conservation of nearby forest area without repayment of excess NPV if any due to the UA;
- (iv) Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from User Agency. User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
- (v) The User Agency **shall not carry out any kind of non forestry activity in the remaining area i.e. 90 acres**, and shall protect and manage this forest area of 90 acres at the project cost and state forest department shall visit institute regularly and manage the forest cover in the said area;
- (vi) The State Forest Department shall prepare suitable wildlife mitigative plan and SMC plan and implement at the project cost;
- (vii) Complete enumeration list of trees existing within the 40 ha of area especially sandal trees and its protection plan shall be submitted to the Integrated Regional Office, Chennai;
- (viii) All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- (ix) The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

- (x) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xi) The total forest area to be utilized for the project shall not exceed **40.00 ha (including 90 acres of forest covered area wherein no non forestry activity is permitted)** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
- (xii) User agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- (xiii) Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer, IRO, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency;
- (xiv) Compliance report on the above conditions shall be processed and submitted through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- (xv) UA shall submit renewal proposal before six month from the date of expiry of forest diversion period with the State Government;
- (xvi) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the user agency is liable for penal action as per the provisions of Rules / Guidelines made under FCA, 1980.

After receipt of the compliance report on above mentioned conditions, the proposal will be considered for final approval. This in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years. In the event of non compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval will be revoked as per the provisions of rules / guidelines made under FCA, 1980.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-
(K.Karthikeyan)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

File No.4-TNC067/2020-CHN

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015.
2. The PCCF &Chief Wildlife Warden/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015
3. Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Block II, Koramangala, Bangalore Urban, Karnataka-560034. shripathi.k@iap.res.in
4. Guard file.

Sd/-

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)