

Subject: Forest Land-Amravati.

Diversion of 0.9286 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Rope Suspension Bridge (Skywalk) connecting Hurricane Point and Goreghat Point at Chikhaldara Hill Station Municipal Council, Tal. Chikhaldara, Dist. Amravati.

PART - V

(To be filled up by the Secretary Incharge 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-2021/CR-39/F-10
Dated: 15.03.2021

apt
15/03/2021
(Arvind Apte)

Chief Conservator of Forests (Mantralaya)

Arvind Apte

Chief Conservator of Forests (Mantralaya)
Revenue and Forests Department
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400032

Place: Mumbai.

Date: 15.03.2021

Government of Maharashtra

By Speed Post

No.FLD-2021/CR-39/F-10
Revenue and Forest Department,
Madame Cama Road,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032.
Dated: 15.03.2021

To,
Regional Officer (Central),
Integrated Regional Office,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Government of India, Nagpur-440 001.

Subject: Forest Land-Amravati.

Diversion of 0.9286 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Rope Suspension Bridge (Skywalk) connecting Hurricane Point and Goreghat Point at Chikhaldara Hill Station Municipal Council, Tal. Chikhaldara, Dist. Amravati.

Sir,

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur has submitted the proposal for diversion of 0.9286 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Rope Suspension Bridge (Skywalk) connecting Hurricane Point and Goreghat Point at Chikhaldara Hill Station Municipal Council, Tal. Chikhaldara, Dist. Amravati.

2. The details of forest land proposed for diversion is as given below: -

Sr. No	Item work purpose	Name of Village	Survey No./Compt No.	Length (MTR)	Width (MTR)	Area (in Sqm.)	Area (in ha)	Legal Status
1	Main pylon no.P1 Hurricane Point	Municipal Council, Chikhaldara Tal.	29	17.50	5.00	87.50	0.0088	Reserve Forest
2	Main anchor 2 Goraght Point 2	Chikhaldara District Amravati	29	12.00	8.25	99.00	0.0099	
3	Wind anchor 2 Hurricane Point		29	4.00	5.00	20.00	0.0020	
4	Wind anchor 2 Hurricane Point		29	4.00	5.00	20.00	0.0020	
5	Wind anchor 1 Goraght Point		29	4.00	5.00	20.00	0.0020	

6	Wind anchor 2 Goraght Point		29	4.00	5.00	20.00	0.0020
7	Skywalk platform		29	380.000	2.350	893.00	0.0893
8	Area under wind ropes R1 over forest land		29	0	0	4270.27	0.4270
9	Area under wind ropes R2 over forest land		29	0	0	3856.49	0.3856
Total Forest Area (in ha)						9286.260	0.9286

3. The proposal has been initiated by the Executive Engineer, CIDCO, SPA Chikhaldara Tourist Information Center for seeking approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard purpose of construction of Rope Suspension Bridge (Skywalk) is giving emphasis on development of tourist spot by providing infrastructure and facilities to attract domestic, national and international tourists in Chikhaldara Hill Station, rich in biodiversity and scenic beauty is one of the major attraction of tourists. Providing Skywalk of State of art has been proposed to attract more tourist. Construction of Skywalk to connect strategic location through a pedestrian Skywalk will involve some of the forest land location required for wind anchors and area under the bridge.

The Project is administratively approved by the Government of Maharashtra, Urban Development Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai vide notification dt.09/01/2008.

4. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, East Melghat Forest Division, Chikhaldara has certified that:-

- 4.1 no suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is minimum.
- 4.2 the area belongs to Eco-value class-III comes under Southern Tropical "Dry Forests" and Constitutes Very Dense Forest.
- 4.3 there are 7 trees of various species and trees are involved in implementation of the Project.
- 4.4 the area involved in the project does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve etc.

"However, As per the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notification dt.27/12/2016 the area is lies within buffer zone of Melghat Tiger Reserve. In this regard the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Melghat Tiger Reserve, Amravati vide his letter No.Desk-2/TRP/Survey/FCA-1980/Project/1204, dt.03/02/2020 has offered remarks that the said area is included in the buffer zone of Melghat Tiger Reserve."

- 4.5 Having considered the comments of the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Melghat Tiger Reserve, the CWLW has offered the following comments:-

'This file is regarding the forest clearance to the proposal. Forest clearance is recommended subject to SBWL/NBWL clearance as the project falls under the buffer area of Melghat Tiger Reserve'.

- 4.6 proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance.
- 4.7 there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- 4.8 the non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.
- 4.9 and proposed compensatory afforestation area over 1.00 ha. degraded forest land in compartment No.28 Village Lawada, Dist.Amravati in Jamli Wild life Range and it is contiguous, suitable for afforestation and management purpose and it is free from encroachment and an encumbrances.

5. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking-

- 5.1 to defray the cost of compensatory afforestation.
- 5.2 to defray the cost of Net Present Value of the forest land proposed under diversion.
6. The Collector, Amravati has issued certificate under Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dweller's (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 issued vide their letters No. IC/FRA/101/19,dt.03/01/2019 prescribed format Form- I as per Government of India guidelines dated 5/7/2013.
7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his specific recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. His specific recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.
8. In the circumstances explained in the aforesaid paragraphs and enclosures, the State Government recommends that the said forest land may be allowed to be diverted on the conditions proposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur.

The matter may kindly be placed before the Government of India for its approval under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, be obtained and communicated to this Government.

Arvind Apte
(15/03/2024)

(Arvind Apte)

Chief Conservator of Forests (Mantralaya)

Encl: A) Set of case papers

B) The following documents are enclosed:-

1. Prescribed form as per Rules.
2. Certificate regarding minimum demand for forest land for the project
3. Area Statement
4. Commitment from the Applicant for defraying the cost of compensatory plantation.
5. An undertaking of Project Authority for Net Present Value.
6. Brief note of the project from the project authority
7. Map of proposed land for Compensatory Afforestation
8. Site Inspection Report.
9. Certificate that there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
10. Certificate in Part V.

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretary, Tribal Development Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Maharashtra State, Nagpur.
3. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State Nagpur with reference to his letter No.Desk-17/NC/I/ID-509/2020-21, Dt.18.09.2020.
4. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & C.E.O, Maha-CAMPA, Nagpur.
5. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Melghat Tiger Reserve, Amravati.
6. Deputy Conservator of Forests, East Melghat Forest Division, Chikhaldara
7. Executive Engineer, CIDCO, SPA Chikhaldara Tourist Information Center, Chikhaldara.
8. Select File F-10.