



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS
& CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office
Ground Floor, East Wing
New Secretariat Building
Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001
apccfcentral-ngp-mef@gov.in

F.No. FC-III/MH-50/2022-NGP /10338

Date: 25th September, 2022

✓ To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Marg
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400032.

Sub: Diversion of 111.7321 ha of forest land in favour of National Highway Authority of India, Thane for Development of Vadodara Mumbai Expressway (Phase-II SPUR) from Km0+000 to Km 79+783 in Thane District in the State of Maharashtra- regarding.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer Government of Maharashtra's letter no. FLD-2022/CR-184/F-10 dated 25.07.2022 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/Thane/ID-13133(75)/809/2022-23 dated 05.07.2022 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/Thane/ID-13133(75)/1337/2021-22 dated 29.08.2022 forwarding additional information as sought vide this office letter of even number dated 25.08.2022 and to say that the said proposal has been examined in the Integrated Regional Office in light of the relevant provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Guidelines issued thereunder and approved by the Regional Empowered Committee constituted under Section- 4 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, Maharashtra and on the basis of the approval of the proposal by the Regional Empowered Committee, the Central Government hereby accords 'in-principle' approval under Section- 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 111.7321 ha of forest land in favour of National Highway Authority of India, Thane for Development of Vadodara Mumbai Expressway (Phase-II SPUR) from Km0+000 to Km 79+783 in Thane District in the State of Maharashtra subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. **Compensatory afforestation**
 - a) Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over be taken up by the Forest Department over 225.00 ha degraded forest land in Shahapur Forest Division as per following details at the cost of the User Agency:

Area (ha.)	Compt. No.	Range	Village	Round	Beat	Taluka
25.00	647	Vihigaon	Umbravane	Kasara	Umbravane	Shahapur
20.00	638	Vihigaon	Umbravane	Kasara	Umbravane	Shahapur
30.00	624	Washala	Sakadbav	Sakadbav	Sakadbav	Shahapur
25.00	240	Washala	Kothare	Sakadbav	Kothare	Shahapur
25.00	657	Washala	Veluk	Pachivara	Veluk	Shahapur
20.00	89	Dolkhamb	Gandulwad	Sakurli	Gandulwad	Shahapur
15.00	343	Dolkhamb	Sakurli	Sakurli	Sakurli	Shahapur
20.00	585	Khardi	Dapur	Dapur	Dapur	Shahapur
25.00	684	Shahapur	Atgaon	-	Atgaon	Shahapur
20.00	119	Dhasai	Gegaon	Ansoli	Gegaon	Shahapur
225.00	Total					

As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species along with 10% RET species of Shahapur Forest Division shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. At least three water bodies in compartment no 624, two in each compartment no 647, 638, 240, 657, 89, 585, 684 & 119 and one in compartment no 343 shall be constructed in the form of tank/ stop dams etc if the same are not available in the area or in nearby vicinity. Further, if existing tank/ stop dams are available and needs desilting/ repair, same shall be carried out to meet the water requirement of wild animals throughout the year;

- b) For protection from encroachment and better management of the CA plantation; the fencing shall be done from the compartment boundary;
- iii. The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
- iv. **NPV:**
 - a) The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the 111.7321 ha forest area to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30/10/2002, 01/08/2003, 28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No. 5-1/1998-FC (Pt.II) dated 18/09/2003, as well as letter No. 5-2/2006-FC dated 03/10/2006 and 5-3/2007-FC dated 05/02/2009 in this regard;
 - b) Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
- v. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- vi. 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/>);
- vii. State Government, Maharashtra/ Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra shall ensure settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (No. 2 of 2007) before issuing an order for handing over of forest land to the User Agency as per Rule- 9 (6) (b) (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2002 dated 28.06.2022;
- viii. To improve the Forest/ Tree cover and to reduce pollution in the State, as mandated in National Forest Policy, 1988 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 respectively, the User Agency with involvement of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC's) and in consultation with local DCF shall raise at least 75,000 seedlings of forestry species along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local for 10 years. At least 50% of seedlings shall be planted in the vicinity of project area and remaining 50% of seedlings shall be distributed among villagers as per choice of villagers. The concerned JFMC's shall maintain record of plantation/ seedling distribution to villagers;
- ix. All small patches of forest up to 5 ha left over due to bifurcation of forest patches by constructing the road shall be restored by planting suitable native species by the State Forest Department at the cost of User Agency. A Forest Conservation Plan in this regard shall be prepared and submitted to the IRO, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.
- x. State Forest Department shall undertake avenue plantation of 8 feet tall plants as per IRC norms at the cost of User Agency all along the alignment.
- xi. Approval of SBWL/ NBWL shall be obtained by the User Agency.

- xii. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
- xiii. The overburden shall not be dumped outside the width of the road. The muck generated in the tunnelling and earth cuttings will be disposed of at the designated dumping sites outside the forest area;
- xiv. Inside the Eco-sensitive Zone only control blasting as permissible shall be permitted that too under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xvi. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xvii. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xviii. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xix. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xx. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
- xxi. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xxii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
- xxiii. 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;
- xxiv. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xxv. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

After receipt of a report on the compliance of conditions no iii, iv (a), v, vi, ix, and undertakings, duly authenticated by the competent authority in the State Government, in respect of all other conditions, from the State Government, formal approval will be considered in this regard under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

This issues with the approval of DDGF (C)/ Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office (WCZ), MoEF & CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,

(N.K. Dimri)

Technical Officer (Gr. I)

Copy to:

- i. The IGF (RoHQ), MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi- 110003.
- ii. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iii. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iv. User agency.
- v. Guard file.

(N.K. Dimri)

Technical Officer (Gr. I)