

I/53803/2023



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

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BY SPEED POST

F.No.4-KRB1309/2021-BAN

Dated the 22nd September, 2023

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka,
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi,
Bangalore – 560 001.

Subject: Diversion of 4.206 ha. (revised from 3.61 ha.) of forest land in Chilandavadi RF, Chavarkal SF, Muguru SF, Ramadevara Betta SF and Bilikal SF for providing drinking water supply for Kodihalli and 298 habitations under DBOT in Kanakapura taluk of Ramanagara District in favour of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Ramanagara –reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FEE 53 FLL 2021 (e) dated 10/08/2021, 06/06/2022 and 28/08/2023 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section '2' of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above project.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, in-principle approval /Stage-I clearance of the Central Government is hereby granted for diversion of **4.206 ha.** of forest land in Chilandavadi RF, Chavarkal SF, Muguru SF, Ramadevara Betta SF and Bilikal SF for providing drinking water supply for Kodihalli and 298 habitations under DBOT in Kanakapura taluk of Ramanagara District in favour of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Ramanagara, subject to the following conditions:-

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department.

1. The User Agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal, as per the guideline issued by Ministry vide letter No.5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 06/01/2022. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal into CAMPA account of the State Concerned.
2. Equivalent extent of non-forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation i.e. in Sy.No. 13 of Veerasandra village, Uyyamballi Hobli of Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar District shall be transferred and mutated in favour of Forest Department. The Non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation shall be notified as RF/PF by the State Government before the Stage II Clearance. A copy of the

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original notification declaring the non-forest land under Section-4 or Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the local Forest Act as the case may be sent, to this Ministry for information and record and also uploaded in Parivesh portal as per Ministry's guidelines dated 09/06/2022.

3. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation over equivalent extent non forest land at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The scheme may include demarcation of non forest land using appropriate fencing with provision for anticipated cost of increase for works scheduled for subsequent years. The CA will be maintained for 10 years.
4. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
5. The 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.
6. The KML file of the forest area diverted and Compensatory Afforestation land shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal with all requisite details and same shall be submitted along with compliance report.
7. The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in it's letter No. 11-9/1998-FC dated 3rd August 2009 read with 05.07.2013 with necessary enclosures, in support thereof
8. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
9. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
10. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

B: Conditions which need to be strictly complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over an equal extent of non-forest forest land within three years from the date of Stage –II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency and at least 1000 plants per hectare shall be planted over identified non-forest forest land.
3. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
4. **The conditions stipulated by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its 73rd meeting held on 17th July, 2023 shall be strictly complied with.**
5. Tree felling shall be restricted to the barest minimum possible and under confirmation from the local forest officials.

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6. 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.
7. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land by the State Government.
8. No additional or new paths will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
9. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
10. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 4.206 ha.
11. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be leased /mortgaged /transferred or hypothecated to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
12. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
13. User Agency shall obtain the Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
14. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
15. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forest in the surrounding area.
16. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore by the end of March every year.
17. The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
18. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be effected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Further, it may also be noted that this in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval shall be revoked after 5 years.

Yours faithfully,

[Handwritten signature]
25/9/23
(Praneetha Paul)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Agni Wing, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) /Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka,

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Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.

4. The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Zilla Panchayat Office, Mysore Road, Ramanagara -562 159.
5. Guard file.

(Praneetha Paul)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

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