

**F. No. 8-60/2018-FC**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi – 110003

**Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Maharashtra,  
Mumbai..

**Sub: Proposal for diversion of 121.83 ha of forests land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in Village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon, Sawali (B), Tal-Aundha (Nagnath), District-Hingoli Maharashtra.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FLD-2018/CR-222/F-10 dated 09.08.2018 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, *In-principle approval/Stage-I Clearance* of the Central Government is hereby granted for diversion of 121.83 ha of forests land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in Village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon, Sawali (B), Tal-Aundha (Nagnath), District-Hingoli Maharashtra subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Compensatory afforestation over the degraded forest land, twice in extent to the area of forest land proposed to be diverted shall be raised within three years from the issue of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter as per approved plan by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency;
- (iii) The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the **compensatory afforestation** 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 appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
- (iv) The User Agency shall transfer the funds for **the Net Present Value (NPV)** of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009 **through online portal** of CAMPA account of the State Concerned;
- (v) **No residential buildings shall be allowed on diverted forest land;**
- (vi) **The User Agency to bear the cost of erecting an effective fencing and a provision of sufficient nos. of fulltime chowkidars for protection of degraded forest area where compensatory afforestation is to be taken;**
- (vii) **State Government shall explore the feasibility to transplant young trees at the cost of user agency on the area decided by local DCF/CF. Thus user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;**
- (viii) **Adequate precautions shall be taken to safeguard the adjoining areas from explosives and it shall not be stored in the forest area;**
- (ix) **The User Agency shall not use the forest land for dumping the overburden;**
- (x) **The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the proposal;**
- (xi) **The User Agency will demarcate the proposed forest area as desired by Forest Department and provide retaining walls, breast walls for protection of human beings;**



- (xii) The User Agency shall ensure that no damage is caused to the wildlife in the area, due to this project;
- (xiii) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xiv) In the reports of PCCF(HoFF) & DFO, Hingoli and CCF, Aurangabad a discrepancy was observed with reference to total number trees to be felled. Therefore, the number of trees required to be felled/translocated shall be listed accurately prior to stage II;
- (xv) At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present 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;
- (xvi) User Agency should ensure that the Compensatory levies (CA cost, NPV, etc.) are deposited through challan generated online on web portal and deposited in appropriate bank online only. Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance;
- (xvii) The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India topo-sheet of 1:50,000 scale;
- (xviii) The user agency shall protect and conserve the proposed diverted forest area, which is not in operational use, by way of plantation in blanks;
- (xix) User agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- (xx) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (xxi) The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in terms 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 its letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof;
- (xxii) The user agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- (xxiii) Any other condition that the concern Regional Office of this Ministry with the approval of competent authority may stipulate in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and
- (xxiv) The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance for the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

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 affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Shrawan Kumar Verma)  
Dy. Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
2. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office (WZ), Nagpur.
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell.
6. Guard file.

  
(Shrawan Kumar Verma)  
Dy. Inspector General of Forests