## ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ (ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 003. Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003 Telephone: 080 2334 6472 Email: apccffc@gmail.com

Old File No:A5(1).MNG.CR-15/2015-16 E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/31/2019-FC Encl: **E-79014** Date 25-05-2023

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government Forests, Environment and Ecology Department M.S. Building, Bengaluru - 560 001

Sir,

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 53.67 ha. (Originally proposed 75.92 ha of forest land) of forest land (near M.L. No.2396 of NMDC) in Donimalai (DM) forest Block, Sandur, Taluk, Ballari District for construction of new Screening Plant-II, Two Tailing dams (I & II) and laying of Water pipe line in favour of NMDC limited. Donimalai Township, Sandur, Taluk, Ballari District

## Online Proposal No. FP/KA/Others/14576/2015 [Stage-I approved]

- **Ref:** 1. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, (Forest Conservation Division), New Delhi letter 8-17/2021-FC dated 06-03-2023 [Stage-I approval]
  - 2. This office letter of even number dated 15-03-2023 [seeking Condition-wise compliance from User Agency-and Field officers]
  - 3. M/s NMDC, Donimai, Sandur, Ballari District letter DNM/ENV/Stage-I Comp 53.67/2023/2602 dated 23-05-2023 [compliance report in respect of conditions of Stage-I approval]
  - 4. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division letter No. M1/MNG/NMDC/M.L.No.1111/2018-19 dated 25-05-2023 [Compliance Report in respect of conditions of Stage-I approval]

The Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide Ref (1) has accorded 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval diversion of 53.67 ha. (Originally proposed 75.92 ha of forest land) of forest land (near M.L. No.2396 of NMDC) in Donimalai (DM) forest Block, Sandur, Taluk, Ballari District for construction of new Screening Plant-II, One Tailing dam and laying of Water pipe line in favour of NMDC limited. Donimalai Township, Sandur, Taluk, Ballari District under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to certain conditions stipulated therein.

Now, the complete compliance to the conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval received from the field officers (ref-4) based on the report received from the field officers and compliance submitted by the user agency, the status of condition-wise compliance to the Stage-I approval is given as below.

SL	Conditions stipulated in Stage-	Status of the Compliance
No.	I approval dated 06-03-2023	

- A Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department and compliance is to be submitted prior to Stage-II approval
- 1) 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 user agency. The CA will maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous appropriate species with provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years, into account of National Authority, CAMPA managed by the State Govt.;

The User Agency has paid an amount of Rs. 19,77,75,410/-) for raising 107.34 ha, [twice the diverted land (i.e, 53.67 ha x 2 =107.34 ha)] in degraded forest land. Which also includes the survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars charges for provided non-forest land for CA purpose (i.e, 56.58 ha + 19.348 ha) vide e-office challan dated 25-04-2023 for Rs. 19,77,75,410/-[Included in total amount of Rs. 29,46,57,105/-].

Copy of Payment Page Print taken from FC Web portal is enclosed ANNEXURE-4

The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal in accordance with the MoEF&CC's guidelines dated 06.01.2022 read the guidelines dated 19.01.2022 into the account National Authority, CAMPA managed by the State Government.

The User Agency has paid an amount of Rs. 6,59,38,425/- for 53.67 ha @ 12,28,590/- towards NPV charges to Ad-hoc CAMPA through e-payment portal vide e-office challan 25-04-2023 for Rs. 6,59,38,425/- [Included in total amount of Rs. 29,46,57,105/-].

Copy of Payment Page Print taken from FC Web portal is enclosed ANNEXURE-4

The State Govt. shall impose a penalty of five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest till the deposit is made from the year 2015 as penalty for violation of FCA 1980 (i.e., 2.57 Ha area under violation) as proposed by the State Government.

The User Agency has paid an amount of Rs. 3,09,43,270/- for violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (i.e., for 2.57 Ha area under violation) at penalty of five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest till the deposit is made from the year 2015 to Ad-hoc CAMPA through e-payment portal vide e-office challan 25-04-2023 for Rs. 3,09,43,270/- [Included in total amount of Rs. 29, 46, 57, 105/-1.

The details of payment done for 2.57 Ha is given below:

S.No	Particulars	Details
1	Area under violation	2.57 Ha
2	NPV charges	Rs.12,28,590/- per Ha
3	Penalty of 5 times of NPV charges	Rs.1,57,87,381.50
4	12% simple interest con Rs.1,57,87,382/	harges from 2015-16

		<u></u>	001016	D 10.04.496.00
		a	2015-16	Rs.18,94,486.00
	İ	b	2016-17	Rs.18,94,486.00
		c	2017-18	Rs.18,94,486.00
		d	2018-19	Rs.18,94,486.00
		e	2019-20	Rs.18,94,486.00
		f	2020-21	Rs.18,94,486.00
		g	2021-22	Rs.18,94,486.00
		h	2022-23	Rs.18,94,486.00
			Total interest	Rs,1,51,55,888.00
		5	Total including	Rs.3,09,43,270.00
		6	penalty amount  Total amount paid	Rs.3,09,43,270.00
		0	into Karnataka	143.5,07,45,270.00
			CAMPA AC on	
			25/4/2023.	
4)	The Non-Forest land shall be	The U	Jser Agency being a	Central Government
	transferred and mutated in favor	agency	is governed under Par	a $2.5(i)(1)$ of the latest
	of Forest Department and		uidelines communicate	
	notified as Reserved	India,	Ministry of Environmer	nt, Forests and Climate
	Forest/Protected Forest prior to	Chang	e, New Delhi vide F.N	lo. 5-2/2017-FC dated
	Stage-II approval. A copy of the	28-03-2019 and hence the CA can be raised at the cost of User Agency on degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area proposed for diversion. Even then, the User Agency has identified CA land in Sy No. 295 of Appenahalli Village, Kudligi Taluk,		
•	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 State Forest Act as	Vijaya	nagara District over a	n extent of 56.572 Ha
	the case may be, will be	and in	1 Sy.No.432 of Kasaj	pura Village, Kudligi
	submitted by the State Govt.	t. Taluk, Vijayanagara District over an extent of 19.348 Ha. The same land has been transferred and		
	prior to final/Stage-II approval.			
		mutated in the name of Forest Department.		
 		Howe	ver, as per DCF letter	dated 25-05-2023 the
		Notifi	cation of Reserved For	est/Protected Forest of
		1	d area is under process	
5)	The land identified for the		Jser Agency has agree	
3)	purpose of CA shall be clearly		ion and the map is encl	
	depicted on a Survey of India	1		
	topo sheet of 1:50,000 scale.			
		(F) F	NOTE D. U. S. D. S. S.	:1- Def (1) has stated
6)	The KML files of diverted area			vide Ref (4) has stated
	and the CA areas (both NFL &	1		
	DFL) shall be uploaded on the e-			ort) in e-green watch
	green watch portal with all	portal	is under process.	
	requisite details prior to Stage-II			
	approval.	The	Han Aganar has m	ada ahova mantionad
7)				as made above mentioned
	realized from the User Agency		ent towards Compensa	
	under the project shall be		PA through e-payment	
	transferred/deposited, through e-		lyment Page taken fro	om re wed foital is
	challan, in to the account of	encio	sed as Annexure-4.	
	National Authority, CAMPA			
	pertaining to the State concerned	1		
	through e-portal			
	(https://parivesh.nic.in/).			ALLE ALE TALEST ALE TO THE TALE ALE THE TALE

8)	State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence, along with compliance of Stage-I approval, as prescribed by this Ministry's letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (Pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof.	of RoFR Compliance Certificate in FORM-II (for Nonlinear/Hybrid Projects) issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Ballari District vide letter No. Rev/Mining/F.R.A/93/2017-18 dated 13-09-2019, enclosed as <b>Annexure-5</b> .
9)	The complete result	COI.
7)	The complete compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/);	The complete compliance report is uploaded along with all the supporting documents & undertakings on e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in).
В	Conditions which need to be str	ictly complied on field after handing over of forest
<b>D</b>	land to the user agency by the S	tate Forest Department but the compliance in form
	of undertaking snall be submitte	d prior to Stage-II approval:
1.	Legal status of the diverted forest	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the
	land shall remain unchanged.	condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this
2.	The cost of C.D. C. 1. 17	regard. which is enclosed as Annexure-6.
2.	The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the
	with the State Forest	condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this
ļ	Department.	regard which is enclosed as Annexure-7.
3.		The DCF, Ballari Division has agreed to comply
	degraded forest land, double in extent to the forest land being diverted, shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost within three years from the date of grant of Stage - II approval.	with the condition vide Ref (4).
4.	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.	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this regard. which is enclosed as <b>Annexure-8</b> .
5.	Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO.	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this regard. which is enclosed as <b>Annexure-9</b> .
6.	identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this regard. which is enclosed as <b>Annexure-10</b> . Further, the DCF, Ballari Vide Ref (4) latter dated 25-05-2023 has stated that he will verify the possibility of translocation of maximum number of

unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department. trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable

The User Agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other waterbodies with GPS coordinates located within five km from the mine lease boundary. This list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/waterbodies. A detailed approved plan for desilting of identified ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF&CC before Stage-II approval.

The User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and has stated that the NMDC has undertaken survey for identification of existing village tanks and other water bodies within 5 km from the proposed Screening Plant-II area. The list of village tanks/ water bodies along with distance and direction and GPS Co-ordinates is given below.

Water tank /	Dista	Direc	GPS Co-
water body	nce in Km	tion	ordinates
Water tank-1 Bhujangnagar a village	4.502	NW	15°05'00.9449 " 76°34'22.2355
Water tank-2 Bhujangnagar a village	3.821	NW	76°34'12.7445
Water tank-3 Akashnagar camp	1.664	SW	15°03'36.6723 "76°35'18.3387
Water tank-4 Narsapura village	1.060	SW	15°02'55.3134 " 76°36'14.4164
Water tank-5 Narsapura village	1.342	SW	15°02'50.4290 "76°36'05.7415
Water tank-6 Navalatti village	4.119	SE	15°01'24.4305 "76°37'46.8397
Water tank-7 Ubbalgandi village	4.558	SE	15°02'59.3492 "76°39'11.1313

NMDC will regularly undertake desilting of the above water tanks and water bodies if required, so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such water bodies. A detailed plan for desilting of identified ponds and water bodies will be prepared in consultation with Forest Department.

In this connection, undertaking has been enclosed as **Annexure-11**. The list of village tanks/ water bodies along with distance, direction & GPS co-ordinates is given below and shown in **Annexure-11A**.

8.	The Heer Assess 1 11	P33
	with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner.	condition and has stated that the forest land for which Stage-I FC obtained for diversion of 53.67Ha is meant for Construction of stand-alone Screening and beneficiation plant—II and not for mining purpose. Once the life of the screening plant is completed NMDC shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, the Screening Plant-II area. Further, the user agency has submitted the undertaking which is enclosed as Annexure-12
9.	forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under.	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and has stated that the construction of Screening Plan-II over 53.67 Ha is not a part of any Mining Lease area. The proposed site is located outside the existing Mining lease of Donimalai. The ML of Donimalai (ML No.2396) is valid upto
10	The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.	The User Agency has not submitted the Environmental Clearance for this proposal. However, the User Agency in their compliance has stated that the expert appraisal committee (EAC), MoEF&CC during its meeting held on 08th-09th June, 2017 has recommended the proposal for grant of Environmental clearance subject to obtaining Stage-1 Forest clearance (Annexure-14A). Since, Satge-1 FC is obtained, the Environmental Clearance shall be issued by MoEF&CC. In this regard, the user agency has submitted the undertaking to obtain Environmental Clearance from MoEF&CC is submitted which is enclosed as Annexure-14B.
11.	No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this regard, which is enclosed as <b>Annexure-15</b> .
	The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates.	The User Agency has demarcated the diverted forest land on ground by erecting four feet high RCC pillars each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates. The photo graphs showing erection of boundary pillars is enclosed in <b>Annexure-16</b> .  The undertaking stating erection of boundary pillars has been completed is enclosed as <b>Annexure-17</b> .

	The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this regard. which is enclosed as Annexure-18.
	The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this regard. which is enclosed as <b>Annexure-19</b> .
15.	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this regard. which is enclosed as <b>Annexure-20</b> .
16.	The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.	The DCF, Ballari Division vide letter dated 25-05-2023 has stated that he will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area in regular basis.
17.	The 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.	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this regard. which is enclosed as <b>Annexure-10</b> .  Further, the DCF, Ballari Division vide letter dated 25-05-2023 has stated that he will verify 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.
18	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 shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency.	The User Agency has agreed to comply with the condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this regard, which is enclosed as <b>Annexure 21</b> .
19		condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this regard. which is enclosed as <b>Annexure-22</b> .

The user agency shall comply all The User Agency has agreed to comply with the the provisions of the all Acts, condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, regard. which is enclosed as Annexure-23. 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; and 21 Violation of any of these The User Agency has agreed to comply with the conditions will amount condition and has submitted an Undertaking in this to violation of Forest(Conservation) regard. which is enclosed as Annexure-24. Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines Forest (Conservation)Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

Under the above circumstances, it is requested to move the matter with the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi to consider according the final (Stage-II) approval for FC renewal involving diversion of 53.67 ha. (Originally proposed 75.92 ha of forest land) of forest land (near M.L. No.2396 of NMDC) in Donimalai (DM) forest Block, Sandur, Taluk, Ballari District for construction of new Screening Plant-II, Tailing dam and laying of Water pipe line in favour of NMDC limited. Donimalai Township, Sandur, Taluk, Ballari District under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for a period co-terminus with the mining lease granted under MMDR Act.

The relevant documents in 3 sets are submitted here with for kind perusal and further action. The present status of the proposal obtained from the web-portal is also appended for necessary action.

Yours Faithfully,

(VIJAY SHARMA IFS)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)

- Copy to the Monitoring Committee, (Appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India), Department of Mines and Geology, No. 49, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Khanija Bhavan, R.C Road, Banaglore-560001 for information and requested to provide the information with respect to the above Condition No. A-9 to this office for further submission and processing of the proposal.
- 2. Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari for information and necessary action.
- 3. Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari for information.
- 4. Copy to M/s NMDC, Limited, Donimalai Iron Ore Mine, Donimalai Township, Ballari District 583 118 for information.