

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST, HALIYAL

GOA-TAMNAR TRANSMISSION LINE FC PROJECT

On 18-10-2023, I along with Assistant Conservator of Forests, Alnavar Sub-Division, Range Forest Officer, Tinaighat and Jagalpete Range and field staff and officials of Goa Tamnar Transmission Line Project visited the field to inspect the proposed forest area for diversion of forest land for the project "Additional 400 KV feed to Goa State, additional system for power evacuation from generation project pooled at Raigarh (Tamnar) pool".

During the inspection following observation were made:

1. The proposed project is laying of 400 KV transmission line from existing power grid in Narendra in Dharwad District to Xeldem, in Goa.
2. The proposed forest for division for the project is 64.845 ha. (31.528 ha in Tinaighat range and 33.317 ha in Jagalpete Range)
3. The Proposed area comes under Eco-class-1 and is having 35445 no. of trees growth. (Estimated as per sample plot enumeration)
4. The proposed area is part of Reserved Forest.
5. Protected archaeological/heritage site /Defence establishments or other important monuments are not located at the proposed site.
6. There is no violation of Forest Conservation Act 1980, at the proposed location.
7. The reserve harbours rich flora and fauna. It includes tigers, leopard including black panthers, Dholes, Indian Gaur, Spotted Deers, Sambars, Palm civet cat, Malabar Gaint Squirrel, hornbills and diverse amphibians and reptiles. It also includes rich floristic diversity.
8. This region received about 8000 mm rainfall in the monsoon season of 2019 indicating high rainfall zone and highly fragile to soil erosion. The erosion is severe due to the steep topography.
9. There is already existing 220 KV KPTCL functional line from Ganeshgudi substation to Ponda substation which is about 23m width.
10. The Project will enable power exchange between western and southern grids.
11. The proposed GTTPL will help in strengthen the interstate transmission system.
12. It was opined that, the laying it 400 KV transmission line to essential to supply of power to Goa State for overall development and alignment in the limits of Haliyal division is largely in compliance with the directions of Hon'ble Supreme court order dated 07-04-2022.
13. The Project will be implemented in the areas of western ghats having fragile eco system and will lead to
 - a. Loss of forest habitat
 - b. Change in species composition
 - c. Change in abundance in faunal group

Thus, the following mitigation measures should be under taken to balance impact of the project.

Construction phase:

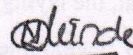
- Formation of canopy bridges at key locations (to be defined by forest department)
- Habitat disturbances to be kept at minimum by using existing trails for transportation of man, materials and machineries.
- Any vegetation clearance required should be limited to the minimum area, required for such passages
- Construction activity, man and material movement should be limited to the day time and early morning, late evening and night activity should be completely avoided to allow the unrestricted wildlife movement
- No night stay at construction site to be allowed and temporary and permanent shed should not be allowed at the construction site.

Operational phase:

- Conservation and propagation of medicinal and valuable flora beneath the ROW
- Installation of bird diverters on the conductor and perch rejectors on transmission tower along the transmission line corridor.
- Pre nest search before commencing any pruning and lopping
- Any routine and corrective maintenance should be undertaken only after prior permission of the forest department.
- Periodic review of condition of canopy bridges should be undertaken by user agency along with the forest department
- Structures to climb transmission towers should have a restriction guard to avoid access to arboreal species viz., Langur, lorries, giant squirrel, macaques etc.

In addition, protection measures like soil and moisture conservation structures like, contour trenches, gully checks, gabion structures, earthen embankment ponds, check dams shall be given and also during summer there are many chances of fire incidence from transmission lines to adjoining forests hence, fire protection measures like bush clearance, blowers, jackets, eye glasses, first aid kits, vehicle with hydraulic pressure water tanks, fire extinguishing balls/powder shall be made. Man-animal mitigation measures like creation of water holes, sign boards, solar fencing, watch towers and provision for raising dwarf plants all along under transmission line shall be made.

Hence after considering above observations, I recommend for the diversion of 68.834 ha. of forest area as per provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.



Deputy Conservator of Forests

Haliyal Division, Haliyal