

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 231.33 hectare of forest land in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) for establishment of Bio-diversity Park under Capital City Infrastructure Development Projects in Nidumukkala Forest Block, Guntur Division & District of Andhra Pradesh. (Online Proposal no. FP/AP/Others/30278/2017) Reg.

- The Principal Secretary to Government of Andhra Pradesh, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (Section. II) vide their letter No. 61/Section. II/2018 dated 11.01.2018 which was received in this office on 12.04.2018 for obtaining prior approval of the Central Govt. under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 231.33 hectare of forest land in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) for establishment of Bio-diversity Park under Capital City Infrastructure Development Projects in Nidumukkala Forest Block, Guntur Division & District of Andhra Pradesh.
- Details indicated in the proposal submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh vide letter dated 11.01.2018 are as below:

FACT SHEET

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| 1. | Name of the Proposal | Diversion of 231.33 hectare of forest land in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) for establishment of Bio-diversity Park under Capital City Infrastructure Development Projects in Nidumukkala Forest Block, Guntur Division & District of Andhra Pradesh. |
| 2. | Location: | |
| | State | Andhra Pradesh. |
| | District | Guntur |
| 3. | Detail of user agency | |
| | Name of the user agency | Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority and Capital Authority |
| | Nature of user agency | State Government. |
| 4. | Particular of Forests | |
| i. | Name of Forest Division | Guntur Forest Division. |
| ii. | Area of Forest land proposed for Diversion (in Ha.) | 231.33 Hectares. |
| iii. | Legal Status of Forest land | Notified as Reserve Forest under Section 16 of Madras Forest Act (Act-V of 1882) vide notification No190, Dt.20.04.1894 |
| iv. | Density of Vegetation | Density: 0.2 to 0.4 Eco Class : IV |
| v. | Shape of Forest Land proposed to be diverted | Hybrid |
| 5. | Maps | |
| i. | Differential GPS map of the area proposed for diversion | At page no. 58/c |
| ii. | Differential GPS map of the area identified for raising CA | Not given |

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|------|--|---|
| iii. | Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area proposed for diversion | Pg. 57/c. |
| iv. | Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area identified for CA | At page no. 25/c |
| v. | Land use plan | At page no. 101/c |
| vi. | Forest Cover map | Not Given |
| vii. | Authenticated DGPS maps for Non-forest land and forest land proposed for diversion. | |
| 6. | Vegetation | |
| i. | Species-wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees. | Available at page no. 113-114/c |
| ii. | Density | 0.2 |
| iii. | Number of trees to be felled | 14,975 |
| iv. | Working plan prescription for the forest land proposed for diversion. | Degraded Forest improvement circle |
| 7. | Vulnerability of area to soil erosion | Area is not vulnerable to erosion in view of existing vegetation cover. The vulnerability for erosion is minimum. |
| 8. | Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest | 0.00 Km |
| 9. | Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if so, the details of the area the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed) | No |
| 10. | Whether any rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area if so, details thereof. | No |
| 11. | Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required. | No |
| 12. | Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency in col.2 of Part-I is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined. | Yes, as per the certification furnished by the user agency and the information furnished in part I of the proposal, the alignment through RF is unavoidable from the technical feasibility point of view and is the barest minimum required for this Project. |
| 13. | Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/ No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still under progress. | No, work has been carried out in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. |
| 14. | Shape file / KML file CA and diversion land. | Yes, DSS report is placed (F/X). |
| 15. | Details of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme: | |

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| i. | Details of non-forest area/ degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch. | CA site suitability certificate is attached at page no. 26-27/c |
| ii. | Map showing non-forest/ degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries. | At page no. 25/c |
| iii. | Detailed compensatory Afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing Agency, time schedule, cost structure etc. | The CA scheme for 231.33 ha of Non-forest land proposed to be taken – up in Markapur Forest Division of Revenue Mandal Ardhavedu, village Maguturu from 2017-18 to 2026-27 in lieu of diversion of 231.33 hectare of forest land in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) for establishment of Bio-diversity Park under Capital City Infrastructure Development Projects in Nidumukkala Forest Block, Guntur Division & District of Andhra Pradesh. The CA scheme is available at (28-56/c) . The Divisional Forest Officer is also field inspection Note on compensatory Afforestation Area for Diversion of Forest Land in Markapur and the same is available at (Pg. 20-25/c) . However, the approved CA Scheme has not been submitted by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. |
| iv. | Total financial outlay for compensatory Afforestation scheme. | Rs.1080 lakhs |
| v. | Certificate from competent authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory Afforestation and from management point of view. To be signed by the concerned Deputy Conservatory of Forests. | Pg 26-27/c. |
| 16. | Documentary evidence in support of settlement of rights in accordance with the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted enclosed. | The District Collector, Guntur, Government of Andhra Pradesh has issued a FRA certificate vide his letter No. 3281/2015 dated 23.04.2016 (Pg. 63/c) diversion of 231.33 hectare of forest land in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) for establishment of Bio-diversity Park under Capital City Infrastructure Development Projects in Nidumukkala Forest Block, Guntur Division & District of Andhra Pradesh. Documentary evidences in support of settlements of rights under the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been submitted (Pg. 65-68/c) . |
| 17. | Site Inspection Report of the Divisional Forest Officer in compliance to the | The copy of the Site Inspection Report inspect by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle on |

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| | conditions stipulated in the col. 7 (xi, xii) 8 and 9 previous approval. | 17.12.2017 (Pg. 135-136/c). And SIR inspect by the DFO, Guntur Division is available at (Pg. 116-118/c). |
| 18. | Whether the project requires environment clearance | Not given |
| 19. | Status of Wildlife Clearance. | It is reported by the User agency in online application of Part-I under Colum I (i), the Wildlife Clearance has not been required in this project. However, The DFO, Guntur has also been reported in Part-II the wildlife movement has been seen in the proposed area. Hence, the wild life clearance is required before Stage-II approval. |
| 20. | Catchment Area Treatment Plan | Not applicable |
| | Rehabilitation of Oustee | No |
| | Number of SC Families | |
| | Number of ST families | |
| | Number of Backward Families | |
| 21. | Copies of R&R Plan | Not applicable |
| 22. | Cost Benefit Analysis | Not given |
| 23. | Total Cost of the project | Rs. 44970.4 lacs |
| 24. | Employment Potential | Yes Permanent/Regular Employment (Number of persons): 10000 Temporary Employment (Number of person-days): 100000 |
| 25. | Undertakings to bear the cost of CA and NPV | Pg. 77-79/c. |
| 26. | Profile of the District /Division. | |
| (i) | Geographical Area of the District | 11,391.00 Sq. km. |
| (ii) | Total Forest Area | 1,661.43 Sq.Km |
| (iii) | Total area diverted since 1980 | Area 1137.355 ha Number of case - 28 |
| (iv) | Total area proposed for afforested since 1980 | Degraded forest land 591.945 ha Non-forest land 68.382 ha |
| (v) | Total area afforested since 31.03.2017 | Degraded forest land 591.945 ha Non-forest land 68.382 ha |
| 27. | Recommendation with Specific conditions, (if any) | |
| | DFO | Recommended (Pg. 134/c). |
| | CF | Recommended (Pg. 134/c). |
| | PCCF/ Nodal Officer (FCA) | Recommended (Pg. 137/c). |
| | State Govt. | Recommended (Pg. 138/c). |

3. The Ministry has already granted the approval for diversion of 2087.09 ha (Tadapalli: 251.77 ha as this area falls in the proposed capital city and Venkatayapalem RF 1835 ha. for establishment of Armed Forces Training Institute and facilities such as State Police, establishment, Greyhounds., Water Survival Training Facility, Military Station, Central Prison, Railway Academy, CRPF etc. for security reasons) of forest lands (Revised proposal was for 12444.89 ha.) in Krishna and Guntur Divisions & Districts of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of Andhra Pradesh Capital vide this Ministry's letter No. F. No. 8-24/2015-FC dated 20th September, 2017 (F/Z).

4. At point 4 of Chapter 2 of the Handbook of Guidelines, it is clearly mentioned that:- (F/X)

Diversion for non-site specific projects:- A large number of proposals for diversion of forest land for non-site specific projects like industries, construction of residential colonies, institutes, disposal of fly ash, rehabilitation of displaced persons, etc. are received by the Central Government. Attention is drawn to items 1 (iv) and 8 of the Form "A" in which the proposal is to be submitted by the State Government. In these columns, justification for locating the project in the forest area giving details of the alternatives examined and reasons for their rejection has to be furnished. Normally, there should not be any justification for locating non site-specific projects on forest land. Therefore, the State Government should scrutinize the alternatives in more details and must give complete justification establishing its in-escapability for locating the project in forest area".

The motive of the above referred guideline is that the forest is a natural resource and a complete ecosystem in itself and once ecosystem is disturbed and forest land is diverted, the same cannot be restored to its original glory. Therefore the forest land shall be diverted only for those activities which are site-specific whose value is more than the ecosystem services of forest ecosystem and cannot be done elsewhere in the interest of development needs of the society. The development of Industrial corridor on forest land is certainly non site specific and can be developed on non-forest land.

5. The proposal has also been examined on DSS in FC Division. Report of the same may kindly be seen at F/Y.

6. The forest land proposed to be diverted has been inspected by Shri D. Sathiyam, Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional office (South Eastern Zone), Chennai. Additional information furnished in the inspection report submitted by the Regional Office (South Eastern Zone), Chennai vide their letter No. 4-APA067/2018-CHN/1681 dated 22nd October, 2018 (Pg. 139-154/c) are as below-

7. Background:

7.1 The 'Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority Act 2014' (APCRDA Act) has come into force with effect from the 30th day of December 2014. This is an act to provide for the declaration of the new capital area for the State of Andhra Pradesh and establishment of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority for the purposes of planning, co-ordination, execution, supervision, financing, funding, promoting and securing the planned development of the capital region development area, undertaking construction of the new capital region, undertaking construction of the new capital for the State of Andhra Pradesh, managing and supervising urban services in the new capital area and for matters ancillary thereto. As per the APCRDA Act, the Capital Region was notified with an area of 8603 sq.kms. (which includes Reserve Forest area of 407.96 sq. kms. falling in Krishna and Guntur Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

7.2 Section 94 (4) of the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act 2014 provides that "*The Central Government shall facilitate creation of a new capital for the successor State of Andhra Pradesh, if considered necessary, by de-notifying degraded forest land*". However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh decided to propose diversion of forest land as per the requirement for Capital City Infrastructure works instead of going for de-notification. Accordingly, the Government vide letter No

5446 /Sec.II /2014 dated 05.09.2015 submitted a proposal for diversion of 19,256.8 ha of forest land to be utilized for development of the Capital City for the State of Andhra Pradesh, in Guntur and Krishna Districts. Subsequently, the State Government vide letter No 5446 /Section-II/ 2014 dated 25.04.2016 has submitted a revised proposal for diversion of 12,444.89 ha.

7.3 The MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide letter 8-24/2015-FC dated 20.09.2017 has accorded Stage I (In-principle) approval for diversion of 2087.09 ha (i.e. 251.77 ha in Tadepalli RF and 1835.32 ha in Venkatayapalem RF for establishment of Armed Forces Training Institute and facilities etc. Further, the Ministry has requested the State Government to come up with separate proposals, component wise or in cluster of components in due course as per their priority in accordance with the FCA guidelines.

7.4 Meanwhile, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in Original Application No. 171 of 2015 (M.A Nos. 510/2015, 1148/2015 & 1108/2016); Appeal No. 148/2015 (M.A Nos. 1325/2015 & 1326/2015); Appeal No. 05/2016 (M.A Nos. 56/2016 & 64/2016) And Appeal No. 24 of 2016 (M.A No. 399/2016), has passed its order on 17-11-2017 and one of the directions contained therein is that:

'the Capital city has 251 acres of forest land which should be preserved as green lungs of the city and not to be diverted for non-forestry uses or even for uses like parks or recreational activities & deprive the capital of the ecosystem services which a natural forest provides as opposed to plantation forests'.

As such, the above order of the NGT has stopped the diversion proceedings in respect of the 251.77 ha Tadepalli RF.

7.5 The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division) vide letter No 8-23/2018-FC dated 10.10.2018 has requested the Regional Office, Chennai to inspect the above eight proposal sites and to furnish reports.

Accordingly, as per the direction of the APCCF(C), the above mentioned project sites were inspected by CF(Central), RO Chennai along with the State Forest Department Officials and representatives from the User Agency during the period 17.09.2018 to 19.09.2018. Before proceeding for field inspection, the User Agency has made a detailed power point presentation on all the proposals.

8. Basic details of the proposal

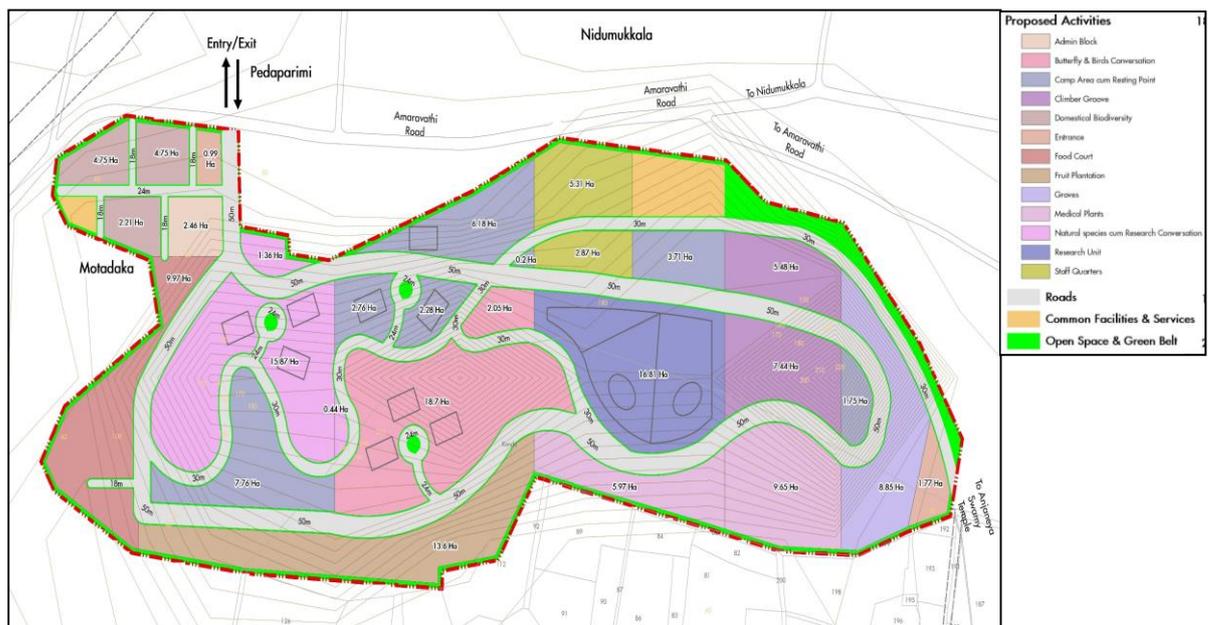
As per the proposal, the APCRDA seeks diversion of **231.33 Ha** forest land for the establishment of a 'Bio-Diversity Park' under the Capital City Infrastructure projects. The land use proposed therein is as mentioned in the Table given below. The area proposed for diversion is a hillock with varying slopes and has Dry Deciduous Thorny Scrub Forests of canopy density of 0.2-0.3. Tree species like *Albizia amara*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Grevia rotandifolia*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Manilkara hexandra*, *Gyrocarpus jacquini*, *Zyzyphus xylopyrus* and *Prosopis juliflora* are recorded in the area. Spotted deer & Wild boar are reported to be present here. As reported by the DFO, Guntur Division, the area proposed for diversion is included in the 'Degraded Forest Improvement Working Circle' as per the working plan prescription and falls in Eco class IV. The APCRDA officials have informed that the area proposed for diversion falls within the re-notified boundaries of the 'Capital Region'.

Table: The Area statement as reported in the proposal is as follows:

| S. No. | Land use | Area in Ha. |
|--------|---|---------------|
| 01 | Butterfly & Birds Conversation | 20.75 |
| 02 | Camp Area cum Resting Point | 24.63 |
| 03 | Climber groove | 12.90 |
| 04 | Domestic Biodiversity | 6.97 |
| 05 | Fruit Plantation | 13.60 |
| 06 | Groves | 8.85 |
| 07 | Medical Plants | 15.62 |
| 08 | Natural species cum Research Conservation | 17.67 |
| 09 | Admin | 2.46 |
| 10 | Research Unit | 16.81 |
| 11 | Entrance | 2.77 |
| 12 | Food Court | 9.97 |
| 13 | Staff Quarters (Hostels) | 8.18 |
| 14 | Roads | 46.24 |
| 15 | Common Open Spaces & Green Areas | 19.12 |
| 16 | Utilities | 4.79 |
| | Total | 231.33 |

Note: It is reported in the proposal that an area of 88.65 ha, which is 55% of the area proposed for activities mentioned in SI No 1 to 13 above, will be retained as open spaces in addition to the 19.12 ha of area proposed for common open spaces & green areas.

9. Concept plan furnished in the proposal:



10. Observations on the proposal documents:

- 10.1 Going by the activities proposed in the proposal, the project is non-site specific; however, as per the justification provided by the APCRDA in the proposal, the project site has been selected after examination of alternatives.
- 10.2 The User Agency has provided breakup of the forest area proposed for diversion in a broad thematic manner and indicated the overall quantum of open spaces and green areas in percentage terms. However, the proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use

and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. For example, an area of 20.75 ha is proposed for the theme 'Butterfly & Birds Conservation' but no further break-up or finer details have been given. The actual area required for each sub-component as well as the open space within it has not been reported.

- 10.3** During discussions with the User Agency, it emerged that the land use planning process for the proposed area has not been completed yet and the sub component wise details, etc will be worked out only in future, which means the requirements indicated in the current proposal may be subject to change.

11. Observations made during site visit:

- 11.1** The forest area of 231.33 ha proposed for diversion under Compartment no 126 of Nidumukkala forest block under Guntur Range and Guntur Division, is a hillock with huge rocks and boulders. This area has sparsely distributed vegetation with a canopy density of 0.2- 0.3. The area proposed for diversion is easily accessible by road and it is surrounded by revenue/agricultural lands and human habitations. This hillock is one of the series of hillocks that lie in a general south to North direction in this area. It has Mothadaka hillock on its north which has been proposed for diversion separately. The proposed diversion area has a maximum elevation of around 695 ft MSL, as per google earth.
- 11.2** As per the proposal, an area of 24.66 ha is proposed for 'Camp area cum resting Point'; 9.97 ha for 'Food Court'; another 8.18 ha is proposed for 'staff quarters/ hostels' though diversion of forest lands for such purposes is specifically discouraged.
- 11.3** As per the layout plan furnished by the user agency, a network of roads covering 46.24 ha is proposed on the hillock. It appears that the road network has been proposed without considering the relief/slope of the hillock. The User Agency may need to clarify on this.
- 11.4** As per the layout, most of the project components including roads are falling on rocky areas which would require huge hill cutting. The User Agency has not provided any information on the actual area which requires hill cutting/quarrying and the quantum of materials expected to be extracted. The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.

12. Suggestions/Recommendations:

- 12.1** The proposal is non-site specific and involves construction of lot of infrastructures including a network of roads on a hillock, which is expected to require huge hill cutting. The proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. It is learnt from the User Agency that as per the project design, various project components will have to be executed by different agencies / departments. This will amount to transfer / sublet the diverted forest area, for which prior approval of the GoI is required in each case. Hence, **consideration of this proposal may require making enabling modifications in the existing FC guidelines in the first place if deemed fit**, which needs to be decided by the competent authority.
- 12.2** However, though it is a non-site specific project, since the proposal is for establishment of a 'Bio diversity Park' on an otherwise rocky hillock, the proposal may be taken up for favourable consideration by relaxing the provisions, if deemed fit, notwithstanding the incongruity and inherent difficulties in executing the planned activities on a rocky hillock.
- 12.3** If the proposal is taken up for further consideration, since the forest area required for the project does not appear to be the barest minimum, the User Agency may be directed to rationalize the actual area required by leaving out the rocky areas requiring huge hill cutting and also the areas proposed for residential accommodations, staff quarters, hostels, camp sites and resting places and commercial

buildings. The above mentioned infrastructures shall be shifted to outside the forest area and the layout plan needs to be changed accordingly.

12.3.1 The State Government may be asked to submit a revised lay out plan on a digital elevation platform depicting all component land uses and open/green spaces along with a detailed report on the quantum of stone materials to be extracted for execution of the project; The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.

12.3.2 For each of the thematic zones proposed, further breakup of the forest land, sub-component wise and clearly depicting the area to be kept as open space and green areas under each component may be sought for from the State Government, unless the requirement is relaxed by the competent authority.

12.3.3 It appears that an area of 3.00 ha where a central nursery including infrastructure like Bore well, pipeline and water tanks at present has been included in the area proposed for diversion. It shall be excluded.

12.3.4 Subject to satisfactory compliance by the User Agency to the above conditions, the proposal may thereafter be considered by the FAC for appropriate decision.

12.4 In the event of the project being given approval by the GoI, since the proposal is for establishment of a Biodiversity Park, preferably, the User Agency may be directed to execute the project and to manage it subsequently, through the Forest Department of Andhra Pradesh.

12.5 In the event of the project being given approval by the GoI, the following conditions, among others, may be stipulated, if deemed fit;

- a. the User Agency shall submit an under taking not to use the area earmarked for the open & Green spaces for any other purpose;
- b. Chain link fencing or Wall along the boundary of the forest area proposed for diversion shall be constructed at the project cost to prevent encroachment; giving priority to the areas located near human habitations.
- c. The hill slopes shall be protected by the User Agency from erosion by undertaking structural as well as planting interventions wherever required.
- d. The User Agency shall arrange to meet the energy requirement of the project components by promoting Solar Energy and other green energy sources to the maximum extent possible.
- e. The User Agency shall not alter the natural course of streams in the proposed area and shall undertake to strengthen its banks both structurally and by planting trees.

13. The State Government shall form a monitoring committee headed by an officer of sufficient seniority in the Forest Department along with a representative from the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC, etc.

14. SITE INSPECTION REPORT (SIR) ON THE NON-FOREST LANDS IDENTIFIED FOR COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION (CA)

- i. In lieu of the 3306.55 ha of forest lands proposed for diversion under the 8 proposals submitted by the APCRDA, Compensatory Afforestation over a non-forest area of 3520.58 ha (in 6 patches in 2 districts) has been proposed. The details are as follows:

| Sl.No | District | Village | Survey No | Area in ha | Remarks |
|-------|----------|-------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|
| 1. | Kadapa | Joukulpalli | 260 | 1007.74 | To be inspected |
| 2. | | Atloor | 426, 754, 420, 58 | 1595.23 | To be inspected |
| 3. | | Kotapadu | 613 | 186 | To be inspected |
| 4. | | Kudumaluru | 401 | 211 | To be inspected |
| 5. | Prakasam | Magatur | 118 | 470.04 | Inspected |

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------|---|----------------|-----------|
| 6. | Pothalpadu | 1 | 50.57 | inspected |
| Total | | | 3520.58 | |

Out of the above, the CF (Central). RO Chennai has visited random points on the following 2 identified CA sites along with the State Forest Department Officials and representatives from the User Agency on 19.09.2018.

The observations on the two non-forest lands proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) which were inspected by the undersigned, are as follows:

15. Observations on Site No 1: 50.57 ha non-forest area in Sy No 1 in Pothalapadu (Village), Tarlupadu (Mandal), Markapur (Range), Markapur (WL) Division.

The Non Forest area of **50.57 ha** is an isolated patch and not located adjacent to any Reserve Forests. The area has sandy loam soil which is full of stones and gravel. Access to the identified land is through other non-forest lands and parts of the identified CA land has been put to various uses by the local people including laying of water pipes, electric lines and for digging bore wells; this indicates the pressure of encroachment. As reported, huge biotic pressure has completely denuded the area to be a barren land now. Securing this isolated patch from possible encroachment and ensuring success of plantation will be difficult and costly. As such, **from a management point of view, the area may not be suitable for taking up compensatory afforestation.** Hence, the User Agency may be directed to find any other suitable non-forest land.

15.1. Google image & Photograph of the 50.57 ha non-forest area:





16. Observations on Site No 2: 470.04 Ha in Sy No 118 of Magatur Village, Arthaveedu Mandal in Nagulavaram section of Markapur Range.

The identified Non-Forest area of **470.04 ha** is of hilly terrain and situated adjacent to the Thurupukonda RF and Penusila RF on the Eastern side, Muthukur Beat on the northern side and Sri Peninsula Wildlife Sanctuary (Somasila back waters) on the western & Southern side. The soil type is reported to be red soil with stones and boulders.

This CA land is proposed as a compensatory Afforestation site in lieu of the 3 diversion proposals by APCRDA, i.e, 123.82 ha for ‘science city; 118.30 ha for ‘Éco-tourism Village’ and another 227.92 ha for ‘Biodiversity Park’.

On account of the site’s advantage of being adjacent to the RF as well as a Protected Area, **this non-forest area is recommended** for undertaking compensatory afforestation, subject to the following conditions;

- a) Wherever required, soil shall be imported from outside for plantation purposes.
- b) CA area shall be fenced wherever required to prevent encroachment.
- c) Awareness Camps shall be organized among the public of the nearby villages regarding conversion of revenue land in to a forest area and on applicability the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- d) Concerned Circle Head shall monitor implementation of the CA and furnish detailed monitoring report to the Regional Office every year.

16.1. Google Image & Photograph of the 470.04 ha non-forest area:





17. In view of above, the facts related to the proposal may be placed before FAC in its next meeting scheduled to be held on 15th November, 2018 for their examination and appropriate recommendation.
