Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi – 1100 03
Dated: 14-11-2025

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment,
Government of Karnataka
Bengaluru.

Subject: Proposal for change in land use of 150.89 ha. from already diverted 246.46 ha forest land in favour of Project Sea bird in Sy. No.7A1A1 of Nellurkanchinbail village, Belekeri Hobli, Ankola Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Karwar Forest Division) for construction of Naval/Civilian Airport. – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. ACS/FEE 144 /2024-25 dated 13.08.2024 and additional information provided vide letters dated 09.09.2025 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sarankshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The said proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee (AC) constituted by the Central Government under Section- 3 of the aforesaid Adhiniyam on 27.10.2025.

2. After careful examination of the proposal of the Government of Karnataka and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby accords ***'in-principle'*** approval under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sarankshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, for change in land use of 150.89 ha. from already diverted 246.46 ha forest land in favour of Project Sea bird in Sy. No.7A1A1 of Nellurkanchinbail village, Belekeri Hobli, Ankola Taluk, Uttara Kannada District (Karwar Forest Division) for construction of Naval/Civilian Airport subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
ii. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation as per the approved CA Scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal;
iii. The cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the identified CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The

scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;

iv. The compensatory afforestation over 302 ha of degraded forest land, shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost as per the approved CA Scheme and the works of the afforestation shall starts within two years from the date of issue of the final approval;

v. The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of 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(Pt) dated 29.12.2023 read with 22.03.2022 through online portal of CAMPA account of the State Concerned.

vi. 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;

vii. Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/);

viii. The KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details;

ix. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan;

x. The cost of felling of trees, if any, shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;

xi. Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;

xii. The User Agency shall implement the R&R Plan, if applicable, as per R&R policy of State Government in consonance with National R &R policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R plan shall be monitored by the State Govt./Regional Office of MoEF&CC.

xiii. No additional or new path shall be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;

xiv. The 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 as per the sub-rule (7) of Rule 11 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023;

xv. 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.

xvi. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;

xvii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.

xviii. 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;

xix. The boundary of the diverted forest land, 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;

xx. The layout plan of the 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;

xxi. 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;

xxii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;

xxiii. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;

xxiv. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and

xxv. The user agency shall comply 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, including complete compliance of the FRA, 2006, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

xxvi. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.61 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of Consolidated guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhihiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC (Pt.) dated 29.12.2023.

xxvii. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/).

3. After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhihiniyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
Sundar Sambamoorthi
Date: 14-11-2025
19:31:51

Sd/-
(S. Sundar)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
2. The DDG (C) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru.
3. The PCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (Sarankshan Evam Samvardhan), Government

of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.