Site Inspection Report

Dates of Inspection: 19/09/2025

Officers present at the time of inspection: -

1. Dr. Yogesh Gairola, Technical Officer (Forests), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal. (Inspecting Officer)
2. Shri Prashant sakre SDO Basoda
3. Shri Brij Das Meena FRO Sironj
4. Miss Priyanka Bhandari, E.E., S.S.P.B.R. Division, Ganjbasoda.
5. Shri Kamlesh Kumar, S.D.O., W.R. Division, Sironj
6. Shri Aditya rawal, SE, W.R. Division, Sironj

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Title of the Project:</td><td colspan="2">Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion 70.88 ha Reserved land in Sironj Forest Division in favour of Water Resource Department for the Construction of Semalkhedi Teerth Minor Irrigation Project under Vidisha District of Madhya Pradesh State.
(Online No. FP/MP/IRRIG/30846/2017)</td></tr>
<tr><td>1.</td><td>Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:</td><td></td><td>Sironj Reserved Forest: 70.88 ha.</td></tr>
<tr><td>2.</td><td>Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:</td><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>No.</th><th>Purpose wise Breakup</th><th>Forest Division</th><th>Forest Comp. nos.</th><th>Area in (Ha)</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>Submergence</td><td rowspan="2">Sironj Division</td><td rowspan="2">PF-515, PF-517 & PF-518</td><td>69.58</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>Waste Weir</td><td>1.30</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Total</td><td>70.88</td></tr>
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</td></tr>
<tr><td>3.</td><td>Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:</td><td></td><td>No</td></tr>
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<tr><td>4.</td><td>Total cost of the Project at present rates:</td><td></td><td>4309.34 Lakhs</td></tr>
<tr><td>5.</td><td>Wildlife:</td><td></td><td>Nilgai, Jackal, hares, Monkeys, etc.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.</td><td>Vegetation:</td><td></td><td>Eco-Class: -3 and Canopy Density is 0.2 to 0.4.
The main species found in the area are as follows: -
i. Mangifera indica (Aam)
ii. Syzygium cumini (jamun)
iii. Azadirachta Indica (Neem)
iv. Tectona Grandis (Sagon)</td></tr>
<tr><td>7.</td><td>Background note on the proposal:</td><td></td><td>The Semalkhedi Teerth Irrigation Tank Project is proposed on the seasonal stream Bishankundi, a tributary of Betwa River, ultimately draining into the Yamuna. The project area falls within Sironj Forest Division, Vidisha District, and will provide irrigation to about 1240 ha across six villages. The region receives an average annual rainfall of 700–750 mm and has undulating terrain with low agricultural productivity, primarily supporting tribal populations. The proposed diversion area of 70.88 ha comprises the main dam, submergence area, waste weir, and canal, mostly within open forest of sparse vegetation. The submergence zone lies in the valley, submerging lower hill slopes with limited tree cover and no notified wildlife corridor. Vegetation mainly consists of dry deciduous and mixed teak forest types (5A/C1b and 5A/C3), as reflected in the DSS forest type map. Wildlife presence is low, typical of open forest ecosystems.

• The KML representing diversion area shows an extent of 100.16 ha as per GIS, slightly higher than the proposed 70.88 ha, due to boundary discrepancies in the working plan (2019–20 to 2028–29). On ground the boundary can not be ascertained as there is no pillars were found.
• The site lies 72.61 km aerially from Narsingarh Wildlife Sanctuary, and does not fall within any notified corridor or PA influence zone.
• The dam axis is between two hill ranges, and field verification revealed partial construction activity (~65 m within forest boundary).

The catchment area of the project spreads over 41.066 sq. km, and a Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan of ₹77.77 lakh has been prepared for approval. The project will enhance water retention, providing drinking water and irrigation benefits while improving the local ecology through sustained soil moisture and water availability for wildlife and cattle.</td></tr>
<tr><td>8.</td><td>Compensatory Afforestation:</td><td></td><td>The following details are provided in the proposals:
<table>
<tr><th>S.</th><th>District</th><th>Tehsil/Village</th><th>Khasra</th><th>Proposed Area (Ha)</th></tr>
</table></td></tr>
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No.			No.	
1	Vidisha	Sirnoj/Sanklon	4/3, 5/2, 1/1, 1/1min/2	35.52
2	Vidisha	Sirnoj/Dharmpur	48, 49	5.279
3	Vidisha	Sirnoj/Kanjikhedi	18/1, 228/1	30.081
Total				**70.88** (70880 plants is Proposed for plantation)

S. No.	Forest Division /Forest Range	Forest Block	Forest Compartment Nos.	Proposed Area (Ha)
1	Barwani	Mahendriyapni	RF-404	24.320
Total				(25000 plants is Proposed for plantation)

The proposed CA sites are located on **revenue land** situated on moderate to steep **hill slopes and undulating terrain**. The areas largely consist of **open to scrub forest** interspersed with **rocky outcrops**, shallow soil patches, and some natural regeneration pockets. The overall topography is suitable for soil and moisture conservation-based plantation, provided adequate site preparation and protection measures are incorporated.

1. Kanjikhedi (Kh. 18/1, 228/1) – 30.081 ha (DSS Area: 30.786 ha)

- **Observation (from DSS & field):** The DSS analysis indicates that about **12.84 ha** of this site is currently under **agricultural use**, with the remaining area being open or scrub forest. The site lies on a **hillock with sparse natural vegetation**, mainly Dry Teak and Dry Mixed Deciduous species. The Forest Department and Project Proponent has clarified that the agriculture use is temporary in nature by the project affected families in the area and site can be vacated at any time.
- **Suitability:** Moderate to high on upper slopes; agricultural portion needs reclamation before plantation.
- **Suggestions:**

1. Conduct **contour trenching** and **staggered pits** on slopes to retain moisture.
2. Use **native hardy species** such as *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Buchanania lanzan*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Cassia fistula*, and *Butea monosperma*.
3. Convert agricultural portions by soil working, adding compost, and fencing before planting.
4. Provision for a **jeepable approach path**, **solar-powered borewell irrigation**, and **watcher hut cum tower** should be made in the CA scheme.

2. Dharampur (Kh. 4/3, 5/2, 1/1, 1/1min2) – 5.279 ha (DSS Area: 5.272 ha)

- **Observation (from DSS & field):** The DSS report shows **open forest (0.04 sq km)** and minor water bodies. The site is relatively **gentle in slope**, with shallow soil and patches of regenerating vegetation.
- **Suitability:** High, given its accessibility and manageable size.
- **Suggestions:**
  1. Ideal for **demonstration block plantation** using mixed native species (*Tectona grandis*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Azadirachta indica*).
  2. Establish **water harvesting pits** and bunds across slope lines.
  3. Provide **live fencing** using *Agave americana* and *Jatropha curcas* to reduce browsing pressure.
  4. Could serve as a **nursery-cum-plantation model** for nearby sites.

3. Saklon (Kh. 48, 49) – 35.52 ha (DSS Area: 35.477 ha)

- **Observation (from DSS & field):** The area contains **Dry Teak and Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest** types with **moderate canopy density** (MDF: 0.12 sq km; OF: 0.19 sq km). Slope and aspect analysis suggest a good potential for vegetative recovery.
- **Suitability:** High, especially for soil and moisture retention-based plantation.
- **Suggestions:**
  1. Develop **continuous contour trenches (CCTs)** with septa at regular intervals, using excavated soil for mound formation.
  2. Plant *Ceasalpinia bonduc*, *Carissa carandas*, and *Acacia catechu* on the trench mounds for effective

			protection. 3. On steep slopes, adopt **seed ball / pitless plantation** using drought-resistant species (*Acacia leucophloea*, *Sterculia urens*). 4. Due to proximity to habitation and grazing, **chain link fencing** or **stone walling** is essential for protection.
9.	Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action Taken against the concerned officials:		NO
10.	Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:		No.
11.	Reclamation Plan: (If applicable, submit details and Financial allocation:		Not applicable.
12.	Details on catchment and command area under the project:		Catchment Area- 41.066 Sq km Command Area- 1240 ha
13.	Cost benefit ratio:		1 : 1.55 (As submitted in the proposal)
14.	Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:		Recommended
15.	Utility of the Project:		Project is important for nearby villages to meet drinking water and irrigation requirement of their farm lands. The tank water will boost irrigation, agriculture development and also create employment.

16.	Whether land being diverted has any sociocultural/religious value:		No.
17.	Situation w.r.t. Any P.A.		Proposed area is neither a part of any protected area nor it falls within 10 km of the nearest protected area.
18.	Any other information relating to the Project:		-
19.	**Specific comments/ observation of inspecting officer**		

Considering the site characteristics, project objectives, and ecological aspects, the following **recommendations and safeguards** are proposed:

1. **Boundary Verification:** During the visit to the diversion area this is observed that before commencing further in the project construction, the user agency shall revalidate the **forest boundary and dam axis alignment** using DGPS and geo-referenced KML under supervision of the local forest authorities because as per the digital boundaries available in the State Portal partial construction (dam axis) activity (~65 m within forest boundary) is seen in the area and there is no clear demarcation in the forest is seen on ground.
2. **Conservation Measures:**
    - The **Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan** of ₹77.77 lakh must be implemented in time-bound manner to minimize siltation.
    - The submergence fringe and exposed slopes shall be stabilized with **native soil-binding species**.
    - **Topsoil removal and reuse** during construction should be ensured for greenbelt development.
3. **Sites for Compensatory Afforestation:**

    - Each CA site should be demarcated with **GPS coordinates** and protected with fencing before plantation.
    - Construct **jeepable track and watch hut** for access and monitoring.
    - Execute **CCTs, staggered trenches, and gully plugging** before planting.
    - Use trench-excavated soil for mound planting of hardy species.
    - Follow **50:50 ratio** of timber-yielding and fruit/NTFP-bearing species.
    - Include species such as *Tectona grandis*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Madhuca longifolia*, and *Cassia fistula*.
    - Install **solar-powered borewell irrigation system** for watering during dry months.
    - Introduce **pollinator-supportive species** (*Calliandra calothyrsus*, *Moringa oleifera*).
    - Develop **small water holes** at lower contours to enhance wildlife use.
    - This is reported that only 50% area is suitable for raising the desired plantation, therefore **24.32 ha** area in degraded forest land (RF404) in **Barwani Forest Division** is also proposed to accommodate the rest of the plants, while during the visits to the sites it was observed that **although digging the pit manually may be a bit difficult but plantation can be done using machinery**.

			○ As per the DSS server and the Working Plan forest boundary (2019–20 to 2028–29) of Sironj Range, the proposed CA areas in **Saklon and Dharmapur** fall within the notified forest boundary, for which the Forest Officials and Project Authorities are reported that as per the **gazette** notification and **Demarcation Compartment Register (DCR)** the aforesaid khasra (s) are outside the forest boundaries. The necessary **certificates** in this regard be asked from the **Forest Department**.
20	Recommendations Of Regional Deputy Director General of Forests (C) along with detailed reasons:		The Semalkhedi Teerth Minor Irrigation Tank Project (FP/MP/IRRIG/30846/2017), which involves diversion of 70.88 hectares of forest land in the Sironj Forest Division, Vidisha District, Madhya Pradesh, has been inspected and evaluated by the Regional Office of MoEF&CC, Bhopal. Analysis based on KML data derived from the Working Plan (2019–20 to 2025) indicates that 100.16 hectares of the proposed project area fall under forest land. However, field verification could not confirm the exact boundary as demarcation pillars were not present. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites identified on non-forest land are not fully encumbrance-free, with significant portions currently under cultivation. Although the land is suitable for compensatory afforestation, it will require adequate protection from biotic interference, along with soil and water conservation measures. The proposal is **recommended for approval** of forest land diversion after **considering the above-mentioned observations**.
21.	Regional Head shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:		Since, the project is an engineering structure and the location of the same has been decided taking into consideration, the hydrogeological studies by the engineers, the project becomes site specific project.

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Senthil Kumar S
Date: 03-11-2025
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S. Senthil Kumar
Dy. Director General of Forests (C)
Regional Office, Bhopal

Photographs of Diversion/CA Area