

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003.

Dated: 1st December, 2022

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mumbai.

Subject: Diversion of 315.74 ha forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Renovation of Asolamendha Irrigation Project in Division Bramhapuri, Central Chanda and Chandrapur Forest Division, Saoli, Mul and Pombhurna talukas of Chandrapur District in the State of Maharashtra (Online No. FP/MH/IRRIG/39591/2019) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra letter no. FLD-2022/CR-291/F-10 dated 14.11.2022 on the above cited subject. In this regard following shortcomings have been observed in the proposal submitted by the State Govt.:

- i. The CF in his Site Inspection Report has mentioned that the proposed area is important from wildlife point of view and also reported the presence and movement of Tiger & Leopard in proposed forest land. Further, as per DSS analysis, the Tadoba-Indravati Tiger Corridor is located at a distance of 3.60 Km. The comments of CWLW in this regard needs submission.
- ii. The CF in its Site Inspection Report has mentioned that the Wildlife Mitigation measures are required in case the area is diverted. In this regard the detail of mitigation measures required along with the undertaking from the user agency to bear the cost needs submission.
- iii. As per Site inspection report, the total number of trees to be felled is 117224, whereas the State Govt has intimated that only 7501 trees are required to be felled. This needs clarification
- iv. It has been mentioned that present proposal of 315.74 ha forest land involves 71.99 ha reserved forest managed by Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited. The copy of NoC from FDCM is required to be submitted.
- v. The approved copy of Catchment Area Treatment Plan as per provisions contained in Handbook of guidelines dated 28.03.2019 needs submission.
- vi. The State Govt. has not submitted the copy of revenue documents indicating that the

area proposed for CA is Non-forest land and free from all encumbrances.

- vii. As per DSS analysis, the calculated area (as per KML file) of forest land proposed for diversion is 365.336 ha instead of 315.74 ha as given in proposal. This needs clarification and uploading of correct KML file accordingly.
- viii. As per DSS analysis, it has been observed that at many places the forest patches sought for diversion under Chandrapur & Central Chanda Forest Division are away from the existing canal. Therefore the correct KML file as per proposal is required to be uploaded.
- ix. Satellite imagery shows the presence of Roads, Agriculture land and Plantation activities within the proposed forest area in Chandrapur and Central Chanda forest division. This needs clarification.
- x. Satellite imagery shows the widening of the canal has taken place around the year 2007 under the Chandrapur Forest Division and Central Chanda Forest Division. This needs clarification and necessary action in case violation of FCA, 1980 is involved.
- xi. Satellite imagery shows that the canal was constructed within forest patch comprising 0.42 ha area located under the Central Chanda forest division during 2018-19. The said forest patch is now sought for diversion. This needs clarification and necessary action in case violation of FCA, 1980 is involved.
- xii. The complete DGPS map and Survey of India toposheet map showing the forest land under diversion is not uploaded online. The State Govt. needs to upload the DGPS map showing the component wise utilization of forest land under diversion and the latest Survey of India topo-sheet map showing the proposed forest land for diversion on PARIVESH.
- xiii. The State Govt. has not provided the KML file of the Non-forest land (NFL) proposed for diversion in the instant proposal. The same is required to be provided.
- xiv. Satellite imagery shows the presence of Roads and Agriculture land within the proposed CA sites which indicate that the area is not free from all encumbrances. The State Govt shall ensure that the area free from all encumbrances is provided for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation.
- xv. The State Govt. shall upload the correct DGPS map and the Survey of India toposheet map showing the proposed CA site on PARIVESH portal as the maps uploaded at present are not in conformity with the KML file of the CA land.
- xvi. The Cost benefit analysis has not been submitted as per the prescribed format given in the Handbook of guidelines dated 28.03.2019.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely

**Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;

2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.