

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Dehradun for renewal of Collection of Minor Minerals from 628.8 ha forest land of Song River 1, 2, 3 and Jakhan 1, 2 for 10 years under Dehradun Forest Division, Uttarakhand regarding (Online proposal no. FP/UK/MIN/38285/2019)**

1. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India had accorded approval for diversion of **1325 ha** of forest land for collection of boulder, bajri, sand etc. vide letter No. **8-62/1999-FC** dated **26 May 2009** for a period of 10 (Ten) years. The lease period of the mining has expired on **25.10.2019**.
2. After expiring the lease period of above mining, the State Government of Uttarakhand vide their vide letter no.971/X-4-19/2(51)/2019 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019 submitted a Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Dehradun for renewal of Collection of Minor Minerals from 628.8 ha forest land of Song River 1, 2, 3 and Jakhan 1, 2 for next 10 years.
3. The Ministry's vide letter of even number dated **04.11.2019** requested to the Regional Office, Dehradun to carry out the site inspection of the area proposed for diversion. The Regional Office vide their letter Number FP/UK/MIN/38285/2019/1894 dated **29<sup>th</sup> November, 2019** submitted the site inspection report of the proposed area.
4. The facts related to the proposal as contained in the proposal submitted by the State Government of Uttarakhand and in the site inspection report submitted by the Regional Office, Dehradun are given below in the form of fact sheet:

**FACT SHEET**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Name of the Proposal</b>	<b>Proposal for renewal of Collection of Minor Minerals from 628.8 ha forest land of Song River 1, 2, 3 and Jakhan 1, 2 for 10 years</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Online Proposal No.</b>	<b>FP/UK/MIN/38285/2019</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	
(i)	State	Uttarakhand.
(ii)	District	Dehradun.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Detail of user agency</b>	
(i)	Name of the user agency	Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Dehradun
(ii)	Nature of user agency	State Government
(iii)	Category	Mining
(iv)	Total period for which the forest land is proposed to be diverted (in year)	10 years
<b>5.</b>	<b>Particular of Forests</b>	
(i)	Name of Forest Division	Dehradun
(ii)	Proposed area of forest land	628.8 hectare
(iii)	Legal Status of Forest land	Reserved Forest
(iv)	Density of Vegetation	Density = 0.2 Eco class = 5
<b>6.</b>	<b>Maps</b>	
(i)	Differential GPS map of the area proposed for diversion	Given and uploaded
(ii)	Differential GPS map of the area identified for raising CA	NA
(iii)	Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area proposed for diversion	Given and uploaded
(iv)	Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area identified for CA	NA
(v)	Land use plan	Not given.
(vi)	Forest Cover map	Not given.

7.	Vegetation	
(i)	Species-wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees.	Not Applicable.
(ii)	Density	0.2
(iii)	Number of trees proposed for removal	Not Applicable.
8.	Vulnerability of area to soil erosion	The proposed area is riverbed and erosion is caused meanderings of river during the rainy season causing erosion.
9.	Working plan prescription for the forest land proposed for diversion.	Not applicable
10.	Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest (in Km.)	0.2 km
11.	Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion:	Langoors, wild pigs, leopards etc.
12.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if so, the details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	Yes, <b>Details and comments on the impact of Project on such areas:</b> The project deals with hand picking of riverbed material hence it will not cause much significant impact on wildlife. Further the wildlife habitat improvement works will be carried out through extensive afforestation and soil moisture conservation activities in the buffer areas.
13.	Whether any rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area if so, details thereof.	No
14.	Whether the forest land proposed for diversion is located within eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of the protected Area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 ( Note: in case, ESZ of a Protected Area should be treated as ESZ):	Yes. <b>Details of Protected Area and comments on the Impact of Project on the ESZ:</b> The project deals with hand picking of river bed material hence it will not cause much significant impact on wildlife. Further the wildlife habitat improvement works will be carried out the through extensive afforestation and soil moisture conservation activities in the buffer areas.
15.	Whether any national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc., is located within 1 Km. from boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion:	Yes, <b>Details and comments on the impact of Project on such areas:</b> The Project deals with hand picking of river bed material hence it will not cause much significant impact on wildlife. Further the wildlife habitat improvement works will be carried out through extensive afforestation and soil moisture conservation activities in the buffer areas.
16.	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.
17.	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.
18.	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.
19.	Details of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme:	
(i)	Details of non-forest area/ degraded forest area identified for compensatory	Not applicable, due to renewal proposal.

	Afforestation, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch.	
(ii)	Map showing non-forest/ degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.	
(iii)	Detailed compensatory Afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing Agency, time schedule, cost structure etc.	
(iv)	Total financial outlay for compensatory Afforestation scheme.	
(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.	
20.	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.	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 has been submitted with the Gram Sabha resolutions.
21.	Site Inspection Report of the Divisional Forest Officer in compliance to the conditions stipulated in the col. 7 (xi, xii) 8 and 9 previous approval.	The Site Inspection Report carried out by the Divisional Forest Officer, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, copy of the same is attached.
22.	Whether the project requires environment clearance	The EC has been obtained by the user agency from the MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.
23.	Catchment Area Treatment Plan	Not applicable.
24.	Rehabilitation of Oustee	
(i)	Number of SC Families	No
(ii)	Number of ST families	
(iii)	Number of Backward Families	
(iv)	Copies of R&R Plan	Not applicable
25.	Cost Benefit Analysis	3.50
26.	Total Cost of the project (in lakhs)	₹9672.1112
27.	Employment Potential	Temporary = 18900000
28.	Undertakings to bear the cost of CA and NPV	The User Agency has given an undertaking to bear the cost of CA & NPV.
29.	Profile of the District / Department / Dehradun Division.	
(i)	Geographical Area of the Dist.	3,08,800 ha
(ii)	Total Forest Area	211691 ha.
(iii)	Total area diverted since 1980	Area 21426.29 ha Number of case - 503
(iv)	Total area proposed for afforested since 1980	Degraded forestland ----- ha. Penal CA over Forest land 6632.55 ha. Non-forest land ---- ha
(v)	Total area afforested since 1980 as on 27.03.2019	Degraded forest land ---- ha Forest land 4764.8022 ha. Non-forest land 868.521 ha.
30.	<b>Recommendation with Specific conditions, (if any)</b>	
(i)	DFO	Recommended
(ii)	CF	Recommended
(iii)	PCCF/ Nodal Officer (FCA)	Recommended
(iv)	State Govt.	Recommended

5. The user agency has given the purpose-wise breakup of the proposed forest land:-

S. No.	District	Details of the Area (in ha.)	Area (in ha.)
i.	Dehradun	Song river – 1 under the Thano Range.	202.00
ii.		Song river – 1 under the Thano Range.	136.85
iii.		Song river – 3 under the Lachiwala Range.	93.50
iv.		Jakhan river – 1 under the Thano Range.	99.95
v.		Jakhan river – 2 under the Badkoat Range.	96.50
		<b>Total</b>	<b>628.80</b>

6. This proposal alongwith SIR carried out by IRO Dehradun was discussed in the FAC meeting held on **19.12.2019**.

7. FAC after thorough deliberations and discussions, observed that the proposal of 1325 ha of forest land has been approved under Section -2 of FC Act, 1980 for collection of minor minerals in past for 10 years. The State Government has not submitted the history of mined out area in past and the reason for submitting the proposal for the reduced area of 628.8 ha. There is no study available for any possible adverse effect of such mining on the flow of the river. In view of the above, FAC deferred the proposal with following directions:

- The State Government shall conduct a study to ascertain the impact of such mining in upstream and downstream. The study shall come out with clear recommendation as how such mining is useful in maintaining the natural flow of the river and health of adjoining forest. It should cover the impact of mining in the area in last 10 years. The study may correlate satellite imageries of last 10 years. It may also be ascertained that how much loose boulders and sand can be collected for the purpose of mining every year. The study may be conducted through a recognized institute of repute.
- It may be clarified that if the mining lease has been revised for 696.2 ha or not. The status of remaining forest area may be clarified. (1325-628.8 = 696.2 ha).
- KML file of CA area, as applicable be provided.

8. The above observations were communicated to the State Government of Uttarakhand vide this Ministry's letter dated **07.01.2020**.

9. The State Government of Uttarakhand vide their letter No.381/FP/UK/MIN/38285/2019 dated **07<sup>th</sup> August, 2020** has forwarded point wise information in response to this Ministry's letter dated **07.01.2020** the same is given as under:

S. No.	Observations raised by the MoEF & CC dated 07.01.2020	Reply submitted by the State Govt. dated 07.08.2020.
1.	The State Government shall conduct a study to ascertain the impact of such mining in upstream and downstream. The study shall come out with clear recommendation as how such mining is useful in maintaining the natural flow of the river and health of adjoining forest. It should cover the impact of mining in the area in last 10 years. The study may correlate satellite imageries of last 10 years. It may also be ascertained that how much loose boulders and sand can be collected for the purpose of mining every year. The study may be conducted through a recognized institute of repute.	In this regard the State Government informed that the Divisional logging Manager (Mining) of UKFDC vide his letter No. 210 dated 28.06.2020 has informed to the DFO, Dehradun that the State Government has conducted a morphological study of all proposed rivers to ascertain the impact of such mining in upstream and downstream by Indian Institute of Central Soil Water Conservation, Dehradun in paragraph 3 of page No1 4 of this study report clearly mention that" It has been observed in almost all the stream bed under the study that the parameter of the bed of extraction remained the same but the area has decreased to some extent over time. This is due to regeneration of vegetation in the left over 25% of area which will help in protecting the banks from erosion.  Similarly, a Study has been conducted by the same Institute to assess the amount of extractable riverbed material from river Song 1,2 & 3 and Jakhan 1 & 2 at Dehradun from the year 2020-2021. The report has recommended volume of extraction from various rivers are as under:-

		River Name	Recommended volume of extraction in Cum.	Report on page No.
2.	It may be clarified that if the mining lease has been revised for 696.2 ha or not. The status of remaining forest area may be clarified. (1325-628.8 = 696.2 ha).	Song 1	4, 29, 787.21	41
3.	KML file of CA area, as applicable be provided.	Song 2	1,76, 663.34	51
		Song 3	2,45,444.52	58
		Jakhan 1	1,99,074.58	65
		Jakhan 2	87,716.31	82

10. As per the observation of the DSS cell that CA area found 1095.64 ha instead of 1325.0 ha. The KML file of the CA area has again asked from the Govt. of UK on **09.09.2020**.

11. Now, the Government of Uttarakhand vide their letter No. 1450/FP/UK/MIN/38285/2019 dated 20.09.2020 has submitted their reply.

- 12.** In their reply the Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of UK has informed that the clarification regarding issuance of FC Clearance under Section-2 of FC Act, 1980 of renewal of collection of Minor Minerals from 628.8 ha forest land of Song River 1, 2, 3 and Jakhan 1, 2 for 10 years under Dehradun Forest Division, Uttarakhand is a renewal and not a fresh case. Therefore, in the instant case fresh CA is not required as per para-2.4 (iv) of Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 (Guidelines & Clarifications). The detail explanation/clarification is attached in this regard with recommendation as provided by the DFO, Dehradun for issuance of FC Clearance under section- 2 of FC Act, 1980.
- 13.** Further, he has also informed that the Wildlife Clearance for this proposal has already been forwarded to NBWL by the State Government on dated 3rd Oct, 2020.
- 14.** As per the report submitted by the DFO Dehradun, the year wise details of the CA carried out are as given below:

<b>Year of plantation</b>	<b>Area (in ha)</b>
2015-16	52.0
2016-17	150
2017-18	300
2018-19	311
2019-20	300
2020-21	212
<b>Total</b>	<b>1325</b>

- 15.** In view of the above, it is proposed that the proposal along with additional information received from the Government of Uttarakhand, may be placed before the Forest Advisory Committee in its forthcoming meeting scheduled to be held on **22.12.2020** for its examination and appropriate recommendations.

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