

**File No. 8-04/2016-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)**

**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: As per E-sign**

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Department of Forest & Environment
Government of Gujarat
Gandhinagar

Subject: Diversion of 1576.81 ha Reserved Forest land in favour of APSEZL for development of SEZ and Industrial Park at Mundra, District Kutch, Gujarat – Examination of compliance report for 247.4272 ha (Phase-I).

Sir,

Kindly refer to the Government of Gujarat's letter dated 15.10.2025 (received through RO, Gandhinagar on 14.01.2026) forwarding the compliance report of Stage-I approval dated 16.11.2018 for diversion of 1576.81 ha of Reserved Forest land in favour of APSEZL. The compliance report for diversion of 247.4272 ha (Phase-I) has been examined in the Ministry. The following observations require clarification and supporting documents:

1. **Delay in submission:** The compliance of Stage-I conditions has been submitted nearly seven years after grant of approval. A detailed justification for this delay (beyond five years) may be furnished.
2. **Phase-wise submission:** Justification may be provided for submitting compliance in a phased manner instead of for the entire approved area.
3. **100 m Shelter/Green Belt (Condition vii):** Clarify whether a 100-meter shelter/green belt will be developed in sea-facing forest areas at Mundra (141/P), Baroi (207/P), Gorasama (52/1), Luni (468/P) and Bhadreswar (733/P). Applicable norms/guidelines and a separate map indicating the proposed belt may be submitted.
4. **Condition (ix):** State Government's comments on the observations of the User Agency, with supporting documents, may be provided.
5. **Condition (x):** Supporting communication from Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) may be submitted.
6. **Condition (xi):** Clarify whether exchange of 122 ha non-forest land in village Zarapara has altered the project land-use. Reasons for such exchange may also be recorded.
7. **Conditions (xii) & (xxix):** Clarify whether the lease agreement dated 25.11.2009 for 1840 ha will apply to the present proposal on the same terms and conditions.
8. **Condition (xvii):** Provide reasons for proposing equivalent non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) instead of double the forest land as required under Stage-I approval.
9. **Condition (xix):** Submit a detailed CA scheme at current wage rates, site suitability certificate, and KML files for diversion of 247.4272 ha (Phase-I).
10. **CA Plantation Density:** Stage-I approval required CA over 3,154 ha at 1,000 saplings per hectare (31,54,000 plants). Clarify whether 1,000 saplings per hectare will be planted over 247.4272 ha in Phase-I and indicate arrangements for planting the balance seedlings (including requirement of degraded forest land, if any).
11. **Condition (xxi):** Submit a certificate from the Nodal Officer confirming that

CA land is suitable, free from encroachment, and free of all encumbrances.

12. **Condition (xxv):** Justify deposit of CA cost for Soil and Moisture Conservation over 54.85 ha instead of the entire 154.29 ha CA land.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to furnish the requisite clarifications and documents at the earliest to enable further examination of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Prashant Rajagopal)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.
2. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.
3. The Inspector General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Gandhinagar.
4. The User Agency.
5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.