

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 of Reserved Forest land in favour of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZL) for development of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Industrial Park at Village Siracha, Navinal, Dhrub, Mundra, Baroi, Gorasama, Luni and Bhadreshwar, Tehsil Mundra, District Kutch, Gujarat (Online Proposal No. FP/GJ/IND/17613/2004) – Compliance report for 235.46 ha (Phase-I) – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Gujarat letter No. FCA-1014/10-11/14/S.F.-66/F dated 21.01.2026, received in this Ministry vide e-mail dated 28.01.2026, submitting compliance of Stage-I approval dated 16.11.2018 in respect of the above-mentioned proposal. The compliance report has been examined in the Ministry. The following observations are conveyed for clarification and necessary action:

1. **Delay in submission of compliance:**The compliance of Stage-I conditions, issued vide letter dated 16.11.2018, has been submitted after a lapse of nearly seven years. The State Government is requested to furnish a detailed and cogent justification explaining the delay, particularly in view of the five-year validity period of Stage-I approval.
2. **Phase-wise submission of compliance:**Justification may be provided for submitting compliance in a phase-wise manner instead of for the entire approved area in one instance.
3. **Development of 100 m shelter belt/green belt (Condition No. vii):**Clarification is required as to whether the 100 m shelter belt/green belt will be developed in the forest areas falling within the sea-front survey numbers, namely:
 - i. Mundra (Survey No. 141/P)
 - ii. Baroi (Survey No. 207/P)
 - iii. Gorasama (Survey No. 52/1)
 - iv. Luni (Survey No. 468/P)
 - v. Bhadreshwar (Survey No. 733/P)

The State Government shall submit applicable norms/guidelines along with a separate map indicating the proposed 100 m shelter belt/green belt in the above villages.

4. **Observation of User Agency (Condition No. ix):**The State Government shall submit its comments indicating whether it concurs with the observations made by the User Agency, along with supporting documents.
 5. **Communication from Gujarat Maritime Board (Condition No. x):** A supporting letter communication from the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) may be furnished in compliance of the said condition.
 6. **Exchange of 122 ha Non-Forest Land (Condition No. xi):**It may be clarified whether exchange of 122 ha of non-forest land in Village Zarapara has resulted in any change in the project land use. Further, the reasons for such exchange have not been recorded and may be provided.
 7. **Applicability of earlier lease agreement (Conditions No. xii & xxix):** Clarification is required as to whether the lease agreement dated 25.11.2009 for transfer of 1840 ha shall apply to the present proposal under the same terms and conditions.
 8. **Compensatory Afforestation – Equivalent NFL (Condition No. xvii):**The State Government may furnish justification for proposing equivalent non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) instead of double the forest land being diverted, as stipulated in the Stage-I approval.
 9. **Detailed CA Scheme (Condition No. xix):**A detailed CA scheme at current wage rates, site suitability certificate, and KML files for the proposed diversion of 235.46 ha (Phase-I) may be submitted.
 10. **Number of saplings for CA:** As per Stage-I approval dated 16.11.2018, CA was to be undertaken at the rate of 1,000 saplings per hectare over 3,154.00 ha (total 31,54,000 saplings). The State has now proposed 235.46 ha of equivalent non-forest land for CA in the first phase. It may be clarified whether plantation at the prescribed rate (1,000 saplings per hectare) will be carried out over the proposed 235.46 ha, and how the balance number of saplings will be accommodated. If required, details of degraded forest land proposed for the remaining plantation may also be furnished.
 11. **Certificate from Nodal Officer (Condition No. xxi):** A certificate from the Nodal Officer confirming that the CA land is suitable, free from encroachments, and devoid of any other encumbrances may be submitted.
- In view of the above, the requisite information/documents may kindly be furnished at the earliest to enable further examination of the proposal in this 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.