

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 160 ha. of Forest land for relocation of forest village Karmajhiri in Seoni District under Pench Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone in the State of Madhya Pradesh -regarding.

Part A

1. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) and Nodal Officer, FCA, Government of Madhya Pradesh vide letter No. F-5/891/2020/10-11/2397 dated 30th July, 2020 submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, as per the provisions contained in Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 160 ha. of Forest land for relocation of forest village Karmajhiri in Seoni District under Pench Tiger Reserve's Buffer Zone in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Details of proposal FP/MP/FVC/39952/2019 are available on PARIVESH portal.
2. Details of the proposal submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh are as under:

FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Proposal for diversion of 160 ha. of Forest land for relocation of forest village Karmajhiri in Seoni District under Pench Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone in the State of Madhya Pradesh
2.	Location:	
(i)	State	Madhya Pradesh.
(ii)	District	Seoni.
(iii)	Category	Relocation of forest village.
(iv)	Total period for which the forest land is proposed to be diverted (in year).	99 The said details has been mentioned by the user agency in Part-I of proposal.
3.	Detail of user agency	
(i)	Name of the user agency	Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh.
(ii)	Nature of user agency	State Forest Department.
4.	Particular of Forests	
(i)	Name of Forest Division	Seoni South Territorial Division
(ii)	Area of Forest land proposed for Diversion	160.00 Ha.
(iii)	Legal Status of Forest land	Reserved Forest = 160.00 Ha.
(iv)	Density of Vegetation	Area = 160.00 Ha. Density = 0.4 Eco class = 3
5.	Maps	
	i. Differential GPS map of the area proposed for diversion	Provided with the proposal.
	ii. Differential GPS map of the area identified for raising CA	Not Applicable.
	iii. Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area proposed for diversion	Provided with the proposal.

	iv. Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area identified for CA	Not Applicable.
	v. Land use plan	Details provided with the proposal.
	vi. Forest Cover map	Not given.
6.	Vegetation	
	i. Species-wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees.	Details of Species – wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees are available with the proposal.
	ii. Density	0.4
	iii. Number of trees to be felled	13,901 As per enumeration list submitted in part II of the proposal.
	iv. Working plan prescription for the forest land proposed for diversion.	Not provided with the proposal.
7.	Vulnerability of area to soil erosion	The area is not Vulnerable to erosion as per part II of the proposal.
8.	Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion;	As per part II of the proposal, the following wildlife was found in the proposed forest area for diversion- Fox, Sloth bear, Rhesus macaque.
9.	Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest.	Zero As reported by the DFO in part-II of the proposal.
10.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if so, the details of the area the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	It has been mentioned in the Part-II of the proposal, that the proposed site is not within 1km of any protected area. Further the comments from NTCA have also incorporated this. However the DSS analysis and the Site inspection report submitted by Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal vide letter dated 16.02.2021 states that the proposed site is within 1 km of the Buffer Zone of Pench Tiger Reserve.
11.	Whether any rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area if so, details thereof.	No
12.	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
13.	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 As per the details mentioned on part II of the proposal.
14.	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 As per the details mentioned on part II of the proposal.

15.	Details of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme:	
	i. Details of non-forest area/ degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch.	-Not Applicable-
	ii. Map showing non-forest/ degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.	-Not Applicable-
	iii. Detailed compensatory Afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing Agency, time schedule, cost structure etc.	-Not Applicable-
	iv. Total financial outlay for compensatory Afforestation scheme.	-Not Applicable-
	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.	-Not Applicable-
16.	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.	<p>The District Collector, Seoni, Government of Madhya Pradesh has issued a FRA certificate vide his letter No. 8046 dated 29.01.2021 certifying the information in respect of all clauses of the MoEF's advisory dated 05.07.2013 i.e. diversion of 160.00 ha. forest land for facilities managed by the Government and safeguarding the rights of Primitive Tribal Group and Pre-Agricultural Communities as required under the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, discussion on the proposal in meeting of concerned Gram Sabha (s) maintaining the prescribed quorum, etc.</p> <p>Documentary evidence in support of settlements of rights under the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has not been given.</p>
17.	Site Inspection Report of the Divisional Forest Officer.	<p>The Site Inspection Report carried out by the Divisional Forest Officer, Seoni South, Madhya Pradesh, is enclosed with the proposal.</p> <p>Specific recommendation of the DFO:</p> <p>For free wildlife movement in the nearby area of Karmajhiri. So, Karmajhiri villagers may be translocated to</p>

		other forest area that is Compartment No. R-436, R-437 of Jogiwada Beat, Range Rukhad.
18.	Whether the project requires environment clearance.	No As per the details mentioned on part I of the proposal.
19.	Status of Wildlife clearance.	Not applicable.
	Catchment Area Treatment Plan.	Not applicable.
21.	Rehabilitation of Ousteas	As per R& R Plan submitted by State Government it is reported 136 Number of ST families only will be rehabilitated.
	Number of SC Families	
	Number of ST families	
	Number of Backward Families	
	Copies of R&R Plan	
22.	Cost Benefit Analysis	No As per the details mentioned on part I of the proposal.
23.	Total Cost of the project	Rs. 1360/- Lakhs As per the details mentioned on part I of the proposal.
25.	Employment Potential	No As per the details mentioned on part I of the proposal.
26.	Undertakings to bear the cost of CA and NPV	Not applicable.
28.	Recommendation with Specific conditions, (if any)	
	DFO	Specific recommendation of DFO: For free wildlife movement in the nearby area of Karmajhiri. So, Karmajhiri villagers may be translocated to other forest area that is Compartment No. R-436, R-437 of Jogiwada Beat, Range Rukhad. Recommended.
	CCF	Recommended.
	APCCF/ Nodal Officer (FCA)	Recommended.
	State Govt.	Recommended.

3. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) and Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, State Government of Madhya Pradesh vide letter -5/891/2020/10-11/2397 dated 02.12.2020 submitted following additional information pertaining to the proposal (**Copy enclosed**):

I. Clarification regarding the Site which is being relocated from Pench Tiger Reserve.

4. The KML file of proposed diversion area has been examined by the DSS cell of FC Division and following is observed:

- i. Proposed forest land for relocation falls under Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh State.
- ii. Calculated area of the proposed forest land is found 159.26 ha.
- iii. Proposed area for relocation is falling within 1 km radius of the Pench Tiger Reserve.
- iv. Proposed area is falling in High Conservation Value(HCV) zone as per Decision Rule 1 (falling within 1 km buffer of Pench Tiger Reserve) and Not in High Conservation Value(HCV) zone based on Decision rule 2.
- v. Out of total forest area proposed for relocation, 87 ha is classified as open forest, 43 ha. as scrub and 29 ha. of land as Non -Forest in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2019) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2017-2018.
- vi. Old Plantation is visible in some parts of the proposed forest land.

Part-B

The Site Inspection Report has been received from Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal vide their letter dated 16.02.2021 wherein following is as under:

Observations of AIGF, IRO, Bhopal:

- i. The proposal attracts Para 3.5 (Sl. No.2) (page no. 55) and Para 12.8 (page no. 89) of FCA Handbook 2019 as the project is for the relocation of the Karmajhari Forest Village from Buffer area of the Pench National Park.
- ii. The information was sought from IRO, Bhopal vide letter no. 11/01/2021 (A-I) and State Govt. reply dt, 18/01/2021 (A-II) (handed over during site inspection) is attached.
- iii. The U.A. needs to submit the justification for the area to be vacated by the relocating people where in the peoples are leaving i.e. houses and shades and the land under cultivation or under common uses which is barren along with the KML file and area sought for diversion.
- iv. The Karmajhari Village area to be used for grass land development and herbivores. In the event of approval of this project, grass land development will be followed by presence of carnivores. Thus, the place Karmajhari must not be developed / promoted for stay and guest house purpose on commercial grounds. All establishments for stay shall be closed.
- v. The vacated village area and the forest compartment will be included in the Pench National Park.

Recommendations of DDGF (C), IRO, Bhopal:

In view of the details mentioned in the site inspection report of AIGF(C), the Undersigned recommends the proposal for the diversion of 160 Ha. of Forest Land for Relocation of Forest Village Kannajhiri in Seoni District under Pench Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone in The State of Madhya Pradesh under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 on following conditions:

- i. The proposal attracts Para 35 (Sl. No.2) (Page no. 55) and Para 12.8 (Page no. 89) of FCA Handbook 2019 as the project is for the relocation of the Karmajhari Forest. Village from Buffer area of the Pench National Park.
- ii. The forest village compartment area shall be included in the Pench National Park and notified accordingly.

Part-C

The Comments of NTCA for proposed diversion of 160 ha forest land for relocation of forest village Karmajhiri in Senoi District under Pench Tiger Reserve Buffer zone were requested wherein following has been submitted by NTCA:

- A. The instant land diversion proposal pertains to relocation of forest village Karmajhiri from Buffer area of Pench Tiger Reserve (MP) to Rukhad Range South Seoni Division, Madhya Pradesh involving 160 ha of forest land.
- B. In reference to above land diversion proposal, an email was sent to Field Director, Pench TR, MP while requesting to provide following details in respect of the subject;
 - i. A map showing the present location of village while delineating Core, Buffer and Eco Sensitive Zone of Pench Tiger Reserve.
 - ii. An undertaking that the proposed site does not fall in any tiger habitat or tiger corridor while showing the same on map.
- C. Field Director, Pench TR, MP vide his letter No. 1319 dated 24.02.2021 along with relevant maps has informed that the proposed area in Seoni Forest Division does not fall in any Tiger Corridor. Further, while going through the details of proposal, following facts are also observed;

- i. The proposed site does not fall in National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor and Wildlife Migration Corridor etc.
- ii. The proposed area is not within 1 Km of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor and Wildlife Migration Corridor etc.
- iii. The proposed land diversion is not located within any Eco Sensitive Zone of any Protected Area (National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary).
- iv. In view of above, it is observed that the area proposed to be recovered by relocation of forest village Karmajhiri will be converted into wildlife habitat in Buffer area of Pench Tiger Reserve, MP. Therefore, the relocation of Karmajhiri village in Pench TR, MP to Rukhad Range South Seoni Division, Madhya Pradesh may be recommended. It is further suggested that after the relocation of village, the reclaimed area shall be made part of Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.

Though it has been mentioned in the Part-II of the proposal, that the proposed site is not within 1km of any protected area, however the DSS analysis and the Site inspection report submitted by Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal vide letter dated 16.02.2021 states that the proposed site is within 1 km of the Buffer Zone of Pench Tiger Reserve.

In view of the above facts related to the proposal, the proposal is submitted before the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), for consideration.
