



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
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BY E-MAIL

F.No.4-KRA1323/2021-BAN
Dated the 28th March, 2022

To

The Inspector General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110 003.

Subject: Diversion of 160.4 ha. of forest land in Sy.No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti village, Sy.No.128, 129 & 130 of Chakrageri village and Sy.No.3 & 4 of Kagihal village, Savadatti (Saundatti) Taluk, Belagavi District (Ghataprabha Division Gokak) for construction of Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) in favour of M/s. Greenko Solar Energy Private Ltd, Bengaluru (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/HYD/37723/2018) -reg.

Sir,

With reference to e-mail received from Ministry on 23/03/2022, I am directed to inform that the degraded forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation was inspected by the undersigned on 25/03/2022. Accordingly, the site inspection report is enclosed for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

(B.N.Anjan Kumar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Encl: As above.

Copy to:

1. The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. Shri. Jiju S, Technical Officer, FC Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.

(B.N.Anjan Kumar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Site inspection Report of Land identified for Compensatory Afforestation in relation to Diversion of 160.4 ha of forest land Ghataprabha Forest Division of Belagavi district for Construction of Standalone pumped storage component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project in favor of M/s Greenko Solar energy Private limited.

A detailed site inspection report was submitted to MoEF & CC with respect to 161 ha of CA land identified in 16 survey numbers (116, 117, 123 to 131, 134 to 136, 148 and 149) of Dabka village and survey number 57 in Chimagoan village of Aurad Taluk of Bidar district. Since the identified CA land has presence of endangered bird species of Lesser Florican and as the birds are actively breeding in this area, as per the recommendations of DFO, Bidar, it was reported in the earlier site inspection report to maintain the CA land as grassland, by providing protection and without planting any trees so as to ensure availability of nesting and breeding areas for endangered Lesser Florican species.

Degraded forest land in an extent of 161 ha of Sy. No 82 in Karakanalli was identified by the DFO for the purpose of taking up tree plantation at the rate of 1000 plants per hectare, as per the CA norms. Since this site was already having considerable tree cover, it was reported in the earlier site inspection report that the degraded forest land identified for planting of trees cannot accommodate requisite number 1000 seedlings per hectare and further it was recommended that the State Government may be requested to identify suitable degraded land for raising CA plantation.

Now Karnataka Forest department has proposed the land in the following new survey numbers for the purpose of raising CA plantations. The details of the identified land are given below

Block	Location Name	Village	Survey no	Total area as per RTC (ha)	Gross area (ha)	Net area (ha)
I	Meenkera Bemakkheda UCF	Meenkera	199	77.98	112	60
		Bemakkheda	611	155.85		
II	Bemalkheda	Bemalkheda	538/1	116.16	80	80
	Changlera UCF	Changlera	128/1	32.08		
III	Bemalkheda UCF	Bemalkheda	521	27.80	27.8	25
Total					165	

The land identified in the above-mentioned survey numbers, for raising CA plantations was the revenue land the ownership of which was transferred to Forest Department between 1995 to 2004. As per Record of Rights, Tenancy and Crops (RTC), the extent of land under each survey number is given in the above table. The land is identified as Unclassed Forest as it is to be notified as either reserve Forest or protected forest. Within this above-mentioned survey numbers, the revenue department has further allotted land to several private people during

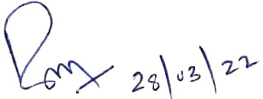
different period of time. Thus, there variation in the extent of land mentioned in the RTC and the actual extent of land in the field.

Now for the purpose of raising CA plantation, the forest department has demarcated a net extent of 165 ha of area in three blocks within the above-mentioned survey numbers, by excluding all the private holdings. The demarcation has been done based on the GPS survey. The extent of area under each block and the details of the survey numbers from which the blocks are carved out are given in the above table.

The Topography of the identified area is ranging from moderately sloping to flat surface. Most of the area comprise of laterite or murram soil type with very shallow soil depth. But there are certain patches with good soil depth also. About 50 percent of the area in Block I is having good vegetation cover this block comprised of eucalyptus and Cashew plantations that were raised previously. Thus, only the intermittent open areas in an extent of 60 ha as been identified for planting in the form of gap planting or ANR. The vegetation cover in block II and Block III is almost nil or very sparse. There are very few solitary trees in these blocks which have come up naturally wherever the soil condition is good. Thus, it is proposed to plant entire area of 80 ha and 25 ha respectively. The vegetation density of the identified areas is less than 0.4 and the CA plantation in lieu of forest land diverted for this project, can be taken up in this area as per the F(C)A guidelines.

However, availability of soil moisture is the main limiting factor as the rainfall in these areas is very poor especially during summers. Since the summer temperature in these areas will reach up to 38°C, conservation of soil moisture and ensuring regular supply of water from tanker other external sources at least for the first three years is very crucial for establishment of successful plantation in these areas. Further it is necessary to plant only tall seedlings raised in bigger size nursery containers so as to facilitate successful establishment of the seedlings.

Before taking up the plantation activity, the area has to be properly surveyed jointly by the staff of revenue department and the Forest department. After the demarcation and excluding the private land, the entire area on which the plantation has to be raised should be properly fenced at the cost of user agency. Since there is change in CA land, the forest department should prepare and submit a revised CA scheme as per the edaphic and climatic conditions of the newly identified area. Provision should be made in the CA scheme for raising tall seedlings in bigger size nursery containers, fencing the entire plantation area, provision for watering the planted seedlings especially during summer months, by means of supply of water from tanker any other external sources and to take up soil moisture conservation measures.

 28/03/22

(B.N. Anjan Kumar)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)