



भारत सरकार

Government of India

पर्यावरण वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय Integrated Regional Office

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SPEED Post

No. FC/IRO-HYD/SIR-01/2022/98

Date: 01.03.2023

To

✓ The Addl. Director General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change,
Govt. of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110003.

(Kind attention: Dr. Dheeraj Mittal, AIGF)

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 281.9302 ha of forest land in Nagarjunasagar Wildlife and Achampet wildlife forest divisions under Nalgonda and Nagarkurnool Districts respectively in favour of Chief Engineer, NSP & AMRSLBC Project, Hyderabad for construction of Dindi Balancing Reservoir - reg. (Online proposal No.FP/TG/IRRIG/29008/2017).


Ref: Ministry's Letter No. 8-39/2022-FC, Dated 24th January, 2023.

Sir,

With reference to Ministry's letter cited above, please find enclosed herewith the site inspection report on the proposal of Dindi Balancing Reservoir along with enclosures for kind information and necessary action please.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,


01/03/2023

(Dr. G. Trinadh Kumar), IFS
Inspector General of Forests (Central)



SITE INSPECTION REPORT IN RESPECT OF PROPOSAL FOR SEEKING PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT UNDER SECTION 2 (ii) OF THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980 FOR NON-FORESTRY USE OF 281.9302 HA OF FOREST LAND IN NAGARJUNASAGAR WILDLIFE AND ACHAMPET WILDLIFE FOREST DIVISIONS UNDER NALGONDA AND NAGARKURNOOL DISTRICTS RESPECTIVELY IN FAVOUR OF CHIEF ENGINEER, NSP & AMRSLBC PROJECT, HYDERABAD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DINDI BALANCING RESERVOIR (ONLINE PROPOSAL NO.FP/TG/IRRIG/29008/2017).

Vide letter No 8-39/2022-FC dated 24.01.2023 MoEF&CC requested the IRO, Hyderabad to inspect the forest area proposed for diversion along with the identified C A sites pertaining to the above project. As per the instructions, the site inspection of the above project was carried out by the undersigned from 07.02.2023 to 08.02.2023 along with the User Agency represented by Executive Engineer, DE, Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Amrabad Tiger Reserve, DFO, Nalgonda and DFO, Achampet and their respective field staff.

Brief Facts of the project proposal:

1. Division wise forest land proposed for diversion:

The Forest Division wise forest area proposed for diversion is as follows:

Nagarjuna Sagar -WLM Division	-	251.9498 ha
Achampet -WLM Division	-	29.9804 ha
Total	-	281.9302 ha

2. Purpose-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:

The purpose-wise breakup of the total forest land is as follows:

Sl No	Name of the District	Name of the Forest Division	Name of the Reserve Forest	Extent of Area (in ha)	Extent of area falling in Core Area of Amrabad IR (ha)		Extent of area falling in Buffer area of Amrabad IR (ha)		Extent of area falling in LSZ of Amrabad IR (ha)	
					For submergence	For roads	For submergence	For roads	For submergence	For roads
1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	7a	7b	8a	8b
1	Nalgonda	Nagarjuna Sagar WL	Nidgul	251.9498	193.8587	6.3475	0	0	48.0835	3.6601
2	Nagarkurnool	Achampet	Ghanpur	29.9804	0	0	17.4152	5.628	6.2606	0.6767
		Total		281.9302	200.2062		23.0432		58.6808	

3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:

Major part of the forest land proposed for diversion gets submerged once the Dindi

Balancing Reservoir is constructed Thus the proposed forest land is for submergence and for laying of roads.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates:

As reported, the cost of the project is estimated as Rs 2813.00 Crores approximately

5. Wildlife:

The forest area proposed for diversion in the present proposal is part of Amrabad Tiger Reserve (Core and Buffer). This forest is reported to host faunal species like Leopard, Sloth Bear, Wild dogs, Wild boar, Monitor Lizard, avifauna, serpentine and lizards etc.

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:

As per the DGPS authentication report issued by the PCCF's Office, out of 281 9302 ha, 200.2062 ha is falling in Core Area of Amrabad Tiger Reserve, 23.0432 ha is falling in Buffer Area of Amrabad Tiger Reserve & 58.6808 ha is falling in Eco Sensitive zone of Amrabad Tiger Reserve. Thus the forest area proposed for diversion is important from the wildlife point of view.

6. Vegetation:

The forest area proposed for diversion is having Southern Tropical Mixed Deciduous and open scrub type of forest. Tree species like *Albizia*, *Carissa*, *Wrightia tinctoria*, *Chloroxylon*, *Acacia sandra*, *Prosopis*, *Holoptelia*, *Sapindus*, *Neem* etc are found in the area. The area is mainly hilly with boulders and rocky soil surface. Tree growth is found to be stunted and devoid of tall trees. The canopy density ranges from 0.1 to 0.2 in the area. The Terrain is hilly and highly undulating and there is scope for soil erosion. A total of about 3967 number of trees have been enumerated in both the forest divisions which are existing in the proposed forest area for diversion. Majority of the trees enumerated are found to be less than 60 Cm Girth only.

(a) Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

The forest area proposed for diversion is going to be submerged after the completion of reservoir project. Thus, the forest area would be permanently lost for the terrestrial flora and fauna. As the road is proposed above the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) in hilly terrain, there is possibility of soil erosion in the area.

(b) Important species:

The forest area proposed for diversion is having mainly open scrub type of forest with tree species like *Albizia*, *Carissa*, *Chloroxylon*, *Acacia sandra*, *Prosopis*, *Holoptelia* etc. The soil is mainly hilly and rocky in nature with very limited soil depth.

(c) Number of trees of girth below 60 cm.

Number of trees of girth below 60cm are reported to be 1850 nos. in Achampet Forest Division and 1878 nos. in Nagarjunasgar WLM Division.

Number of trees of girth above 60 cm



Number of trees of girth above 60cm are reported to be 168 nos. in Achampet Forest Division and 71 nos. in Nagarjunasagar WLM Division

7. Background note on the proposal:


As per the information given by the project proponent, Dindi Balancing Reservoir is proposed with a gross capacity of 7.64 TMC in between two Tunnels across Dindi River.

- Tunnel-I for a length of 43.5 Km with 9 20 m dia crossing the Amrabad plateau with a maximum cover of about 500 m which opens into Dindi Valley (Obtained permission from Ministry of Environment & Forests, GoI vide letter No 8-73/93-FC dated 21 04 1994 and provided an amount of Rs.55 00 crores for rehabilitation of villages situated in core area and got WL clearance from Hon`ble Supreme Court accordingly. I A No 2059)
- Tunnel-II for a length of 7.121 Km with 8 758 m dia crossing the hill range between Dindi Valley and Peddavagu Valley. (Obtained permission from Ministry of Environment & Forests, GoI vide letter No 8-73/93-FC dated 21 04 1994 and provided an amount of Rs 55 00 crores for rehabilitation of villages situated in core area and got WL clearance from Hon'ble Supreme Court accordingly. I A No 2059)
- Open Channel from exit portal of Tunnel-II for a length of 25 Km to Join the common point of AMRP main canal (No forest land is involved)

8. Compensatory afforestation.

The User agency had identified non-forest land in Nalgonda District The details are as follows

Village and Mandal	Area(in ha.)	Khasra
Azmapur Village of PA Pally Mandal	56 7882	Sy No 336
Parwal village of Neredigommu Mandal	22 9628	Sy No 355
Parwal village of Neredigommu Mandal	31 4724	Sy No 388
Peddemunagala (1) village of Neredigommu mandal	97 8860	Sy No 201
Peddemunagala (2) village of Neredigommu mandal	16 2746	Sy No 201
Thimmapuram Village of Neredigommu Mandal	39 1086	Sy No 139
Thimmapuram Village of Neredigommu Mandal	26 0047	Sy No 147
Total	290.497	



- (a) **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:**

Non-forest land identified for compensatory afforestation by the user agency is located in seven patches. Out of which, the proposed CA lands in Ammapur village (56 7882 ha) and Timmapur village (39 1086 ha and 26 0047 ha) were inspected on 08 02 23 along with the representative of user agency and CF and DFO, Nalgonda.

The area is found to be rocky and hilly in nature with natural vegetation which is typically stunted in nature. It is not feasible to raise any successful CA plantation in these areas. Further, the user agency did not demarcate the non-forest patches proposed to be given to the Forest department for Compensatory afforestation. They were only able to show the tentative boundary of these 3 patches. On enquiry about the remaining 4 patches, it was informed that those areas are also not demarcated on the field. The NFL identified for CA purpose are not suitable for taking up CA plantation.

- (b) **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:**

The Collector & District Magistrate, Nalgonda has certified that the area of 290 497 ha, proposed for CA, are Government Revenue lands and are free from all encumbrances and encroachments.

- (c) **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:**

Not reported.

- (d) **Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:**

07 patches.

9. **Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:**

No work in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is reported and observed within the forest area proposed for diversion during the site inspection.

10. **Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:**

It is reported that as per the preliminary investigation, about 629 families are being displaced during implementation of the proposed project and located outside the Reserve Forest area. It is given to understand that no habitations exist within the forest area proposed for diversion in the instant proposal.



11. **Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:**

As reported, the Forest Divisional Officers, Nagarjunasagar and Achampet have prepared detailed CAT plan for an amount of Rs. 225.80119 Lakhs and 91.52483 Lakhs respectively to minimize the soil erosion, for protection of remnant blocks

12. **Cost benefit ratio:**

As reported, the Cost Benefit Ratio is 2.12

13. **Utility of the project:**

The proposal is a multipurpose project contemplated to provide drinking water to fluoride affected areas in Nalgonda district and to supply drinking water to Hyderabad city in addition to creating irrigation potential of 30 Lakh acres

14. **Situation with respect to any Protected Area:**

As per the DGPS authentication report issued by the PCCF's Office, out of 281 9302 ha, 200 2062 ha is falling in Core Area of Amrabad Tiger Reserve and 23.0432 ha is falling in Buffer Area of Amrabad Tiger Reserve & 58 6808 ha is falling in Eco-Sensitive zone of Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

15. **Observations of the Inspecting Officer { IGF (Central), IRO, Hyderabad }:**

The proposed forest area for diversion to an extent of 281 9302 ha is located in Nagarjunasagar Wildlife and Achampet Wildlife Forest divisions under Nalgonda and Nagarkurnool districts respectively. The proposal is for construction of Dindi Balancing Reservoir. The forest area proposed to be diverted is required for submergence (265 6180 ha) and for construction of roads (16.3122 ha). The proposal is for a multipurpose project contemplated to provide drinking water to fluoride affected areas in Nalgonda district and to supply drinking water to Hyderabad city in addition to create irrigation potential of 30 Lakh acres. Of the total forest area proposed for diversion, 251 9498 ha is falling in Nidgul RF of Nagarjunasagar WL division, Nalgonda district and remaining 29 9804 ha is falling in Ghanpur RF of Achampet division, Nagarkurnool district. 200.2062 ha is reported to be falling in core area and 23 0432 ha in Buffer area of Amrabad Tiger Reserve and 58 6808 ha is falling in Eco-sensitive zone of Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

During the site inspection, the representatives of the user agency as well as the Field forest officers were not able to show the exact boundary of the forest area proposed to be diverted for the above project. It was informed that they have conducted DGPS survey at the time of submission of the proposal and the station points were marked using paint on the existing rocks/boulders. However, the forest area was not demarcated by erecting suitable demarcation pillars. The user agency could not distinctly show the forest area required for submergence and road purposes. Though the user agency claimed that the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) is clearly demarcated, the same could not be inspected as the officials could not show the FRL boundary.




Non-forest land identified for compensatory afforestation by the user agency is located in seven patches. Out of which, the proposed C A. lands in Azmapur village (56.7882 ha) and Timmapur village (39.1086 ha and 26.0047 ha) were inspected on 08/02/23 along with the representative of user agency and CF and DFO, Nalgonda.

The area is found to be rocky and hilly in nature with natural vegetation which is typically stunted in nature. It is not feasible to raise any successful CA plantation in these areas. Further, the user agency did not demarcate the non-forest patches proposed to be given to the Forest department for Compensatory afforestation. They were only able to show the tentative boundary of these 3 patches. On enquiry about the remaining 4 patches, it was informed that those areas are also not demarcated on the field.

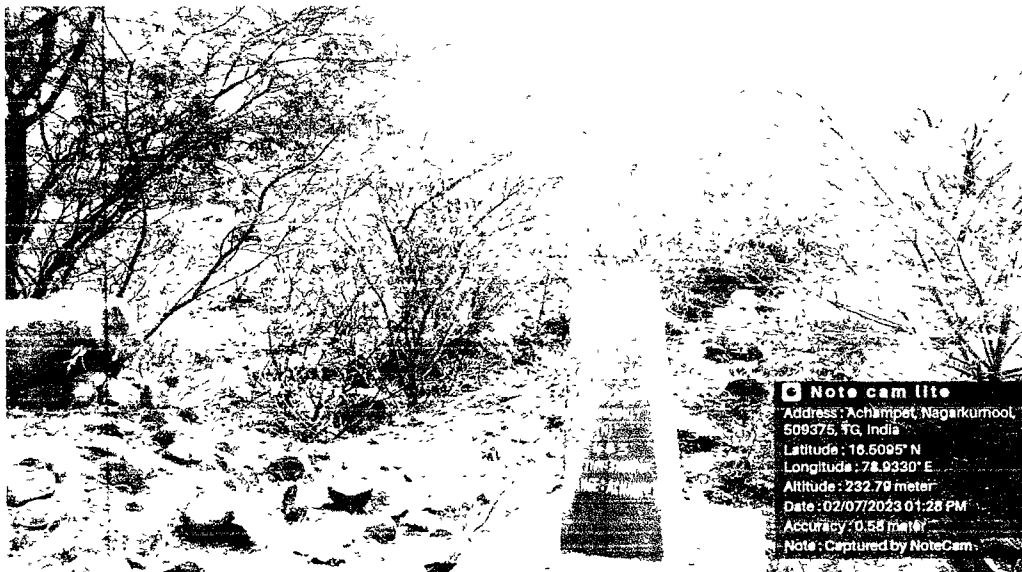
The dam portion of the Dindi Balancing Reservoir project located in non-forest area is partially completed (bund on one side and the dam portion).

The User agency could not show the exact boundary of the forest area proposed to be diverted and exact boundary of the non-forest area identified for CA purpose. In the absence of clear-cut demarcations of the forest land proposed to be diverted on the field, it is difficult to ascertain the extent of forest area that comes under the FRL of the proposed Reservoir project. The user agency along with the State Forest Department officials may conduct a fresh DGPS survey of the forest land that comes under the actual submergence as well as for making roads.

The photographs taken during the site inspection are enclosed as Annexure-I.


(Dr. G. Trinadh Kumar) 28/02/2023
IGF (Central)
IRO, Hyderabad

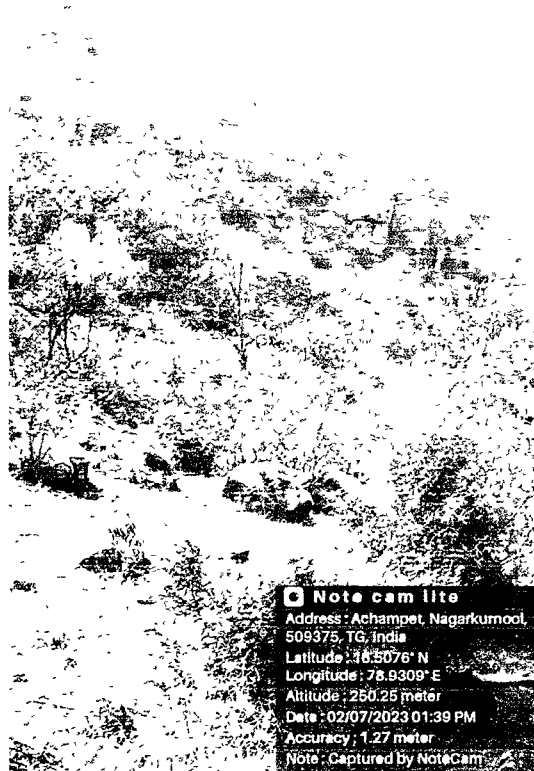
ANNEXURE - I



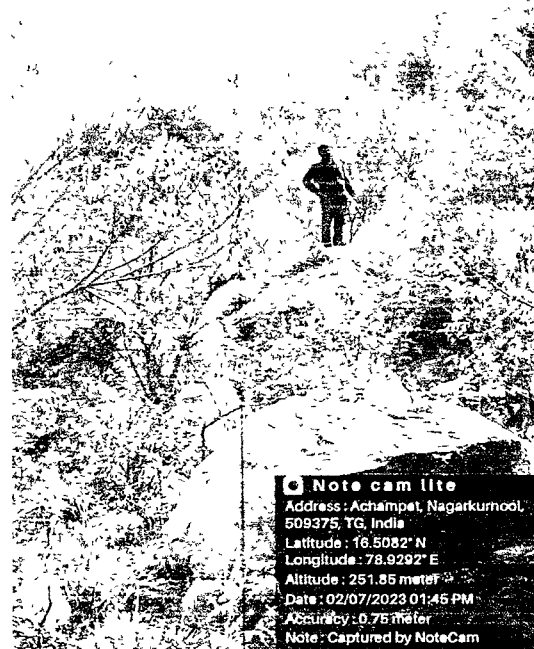
Forest area proposed to be diverted for Dindi Balancing Reservoir in Achampeta WLM Division



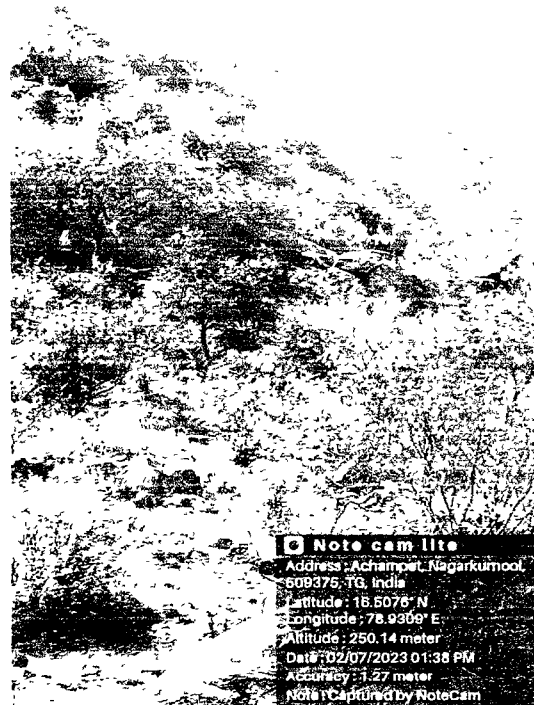
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Latitude : 16.5091° N
Longitude : 78.9330° E
Altitude : 239.17 meter
Date : 02/07/2023 01:25 PM
Accuracy : 1.98 meter
Note : Captured by NoteCam



Note cam lite
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509375, TG, India
Latitude : 16.5076° N
Longitude : 78.9309° E
Altitude : 250.25 meter
Date : 02/07/2023 01:39 PM
Accuracy : 1.27 meter
Note : Captured by NoteCam



Note cam lite
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509375, TG, India
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Longitude : 78.9292° E
Altitude : 251.85 meter
Date : 02/07/2023 01:45 PM
Accuracy : 0.75 meter
Note : Captured by NoteCam



Note cam lite
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509375, TG, India
Latitude : 16.5078° N
Longitude : 78.9306° E
Altitude : 250.14 meter
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Note : Captured by NoteCam

Forest area proposed to be diverted for Dindi Balancing Reservoir in Achampeta WLM Division



Forest area proposed to be diverted for Dindi Balancing Reservoir in Nagarjunasagar WLM Division



Forest area proposed to be diverted for Dindi Balancing Reservoir in Nagarjunasagar WLM Division