

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: 23rd April, 2023

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Forest, Ecology and Environment, Department
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 160.4 ha. of forest land in Sy. No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti Village, Sy. No.128,129 and 130 of Chakrageri Village and Sy. No.3 and 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 the M/s. Greenko Solar Energy Private Limited, Bangaluru, Karnataka State (Online Proposal No.FP/KA/HYD/37723/2018). -reg.,

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 57 FFM 2021 (e) dated 17.03.2023 and IRO letter dt 05.04.2023 on the above mentioned subject forwarding the site inspection report of the newly identified CA land. After examination of the proposal for Change of CA land, the Ministry observed the following shortcomings:

- i. In the Site Inspection Report w.r.t the area 45.95 ha in village Kundacheri it was mentioned that the private area with Sy.No.1/10 measuring 204.42 acres belonging to Smt. Nagaratnam's husband, K.H.Muniyappa (mentioned as N L Shruthi w/o M. Narasimhamurthy in RTC) is next to the proposed areas and shares a common boundary with Sy.No.1/9. Also RFO, Bhagamandala, vide letter no.81/V.A.A/B.V/2020-21 dated 5/6/2020 has mentioned boundary issues in Sy. No 1/10. Discussion with the field staff of Kodagu revealed that the owner of Sy.No 1/10 has requested for a joint survey of his area boundary. Hence, boundary discrepancies between Sy.No 1/10 and Sy.No.1/9 exists and needs to be sorted out. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to offer its comments.
- ii. In the Site Inspection Report w.r.t the area 45.95 ha in village Kundacheri it was mentioned that the RTC of Survey No. 1/5, 1/7 and 1/9, encumbrances in the form of loan taken by the owners from Vijaya Bank, Gonikoppa was noted in all the three RTC's. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to offer its comments.
- iii. In the Site Inspection Report w.r.t the area 45.95 ha in village Kundacheri it was mentioned that Revenue records (Village FOR 19), Jamabandhi of 1911,

shows that tenural classification of the Sy.No 1/7, 1/9 and 1/5 are" Redeemed Coffee area Malai". In all the three RTC's (valid from 16/8/2017), the land tenure is mentioned as "Redeemed Sagu Land." As the tenure system in Coorg is highly complicated, it is not clear if "Redeemed Sagu Land" can be alienated or not. Hence an irrevocable certificate may be obtained from the Government of Karnataka mentioning that "Redeemed Sagu Lands" can be alienated. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the required certificate.

- iv. In the Site Inspection Report w.r.t the area 32.15 ha in village Sannapulikotu it was mentioned that the RTC of Sy.no 84/2 and Sy.no 84/7, no encumbrances were found. In both the RTC's, the type of land tenure mentioned is "Redeemed Sagu Lands". As the tenure system in Coorg is highly complicated, it is not clear if "Redeemed Sagu Lands" can be alienated or not. Hence an irrevocable certificate may be obtained from the Government of Karnataka mentioning that "Redeemed Sagu Lands" can be alienated. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the required certificate.
- v. In the Site Inspection Report w.r.t the area 32.15 ha in village Sannapulikotu it was mentioned that Geo-referenced map of the proposed site (Sy.no 84/2 and Sy.no 84/7) along with the latitude and longitude, duly attested by the DRFO cum Surveyor, RFO and ACF Bhagmandala is attached with the proposal. A certificate may be obtained from the User Agency and the Government of Karnataka, to ensure that there are no boundary disputes with adjacent land owners. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to submit the required certificate.
- vi. The State Govt. is requested to submit the Certificate stating that CA land newly proposed is free from all encumbrances. Further a solid structure was observed on the high resolution google earth image in the newly identified CA land in Sannapulikotu Village. In this regard the State government is requested to offer its comments.
- vii. The State Government is requested to submit the KML files of the balance CA area i.e. 88.90 ha. out of 160 ha NFL earlier identified.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information/clarification/documents as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
2. The Nodal Officer, (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore, MoEF&CC -**is requested to provide its comments as per para 2 (iii) of this Ministry's guideline dt 13.07.2022 and submit report with clear recommendations.**
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.