

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT**  
**on**  
**INSPECTION OF PROPOSED CA LAND ALLOTTED AGAINST PROPOSED**  
**DIVERSION OF 315.74 HA AOLAMENDHA PROJECT IN THE STATE OF**  
**MAHARASHTRA UNDER THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980.**

**Name of the Inspecting Officer-** C. B. Tashildar, IFS, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

**Officials from the User Agency:-**Shri Jitendra B. Turkhede, Executive Engineer, Asolamendha Project Renovation Dn, 1, Mul, Dist. Chandarpur, Shri Maskawar, Sub Divisional Engineer, Asolamendha Project, Sub Dn, Saoli

**Officials from the Forest Department:** None.

**Date of Site Inspection:** 12/06/2024

**Background:**

- Proposal No. FP/MH/IRRIG/39591/2019 involving diversion of 315.74 ha of forest land for renovation of existing Asolamendha Irrigation Project was inspected by the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur on 14/11/2023. The inspection report (**Annexure 1**) was submitted to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi for further consideration.
- It was recommended in the site inspection report that *"The non-forest land identified for the compensatory afforestation is situated in the periphery of Bemla Reservoir in Yavatmal District. It is a single patch of 315.74 ha surrounded by agricultural fields and water body. It does not fit in the criteria laid down vide MoEF&CC's clarification dated 13/07/2022. Therefore it needs to be heavily fenced to ensure its protection and survival from biotic pressure. It is submitted for further consideration"*
- Now, vide letter dated 17/05/2024 and 11/06/2024, the Regional Office, Nagpur has been directed to revisit the area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation, examine its suitability and furnish clear recommendations.

**About Bemla Reservoir and CA land:**


Compensatory Afforestation land of 315.74 ha for Asolamendha Project is given around the submergence of Bembla project. Bembla project was initially designed for 322 Mm<sup>3</sup> water storage with irrigable area of 40170 ha. Subsequently as per the Govt. letter dated 31/03/2009, it was stated that the dependability of Bembla project was reduced to 45.81%. Accordingly, Bembla project plan was revised and both the storage and irrigable area were reduced to 204 Mm<sup>3</sup> and 38850 ha respectively. Due to reduction in the storage capacity of Bembla reservoir, the FRL of the project was reduced from 269.5 m to 268 m and therefore the submergence area was reduced.

Accordingly, the Govt. of Maharashtra issued letter dated 12/09/2018 (**Annexure 2**) in which it was mentioned in point no. 5 that due to the reduction in the FRL of the project **2635 ha** land became excess and further instructed to properly utilise this excess land for CA and Social forestry.

**Site Inspection and observations:**

The site was inspected on 12/06/2024. Following observations were made:

Sr. No.	Observation	Remarks
1	The proposed CA land does not fit in the criteria laid down vide MoEF&CC's clarification dated 13/07/2022- that it is neither in vicinity of the project nor in the vicinity of existing forest area, and hence may not be suitable from management point of view.	The User Agency submitted that 2635 ha of land was available as a result of reduction of FRL of Bemla reservoir. The Govt of Maharashtra has specifically reserved this land for the purpose of afforestation (attached as Annexure 2). The land is very fertile and fit for plantation. Availability of such huge land bank (non-forest land) for undertaking CA should be considered positively in relaxation to the clarification dated 13/07/2022.
2	The proposed CA land is surrounded by the water body on one side and agricultural fields on another side. Hence it is vulnerable to submergence and biotic pressure.	It is submitted by the User Agency that submergence area remains far away from the FRL of the reservoir. The proposed CA land lies beyond FRL line. Hence there is no question of its submergence. A map has been created showing FRL line in red color and boundary of proposed CA in green color (Attached as <b>Annexure 3</b> )  As far as biotic pressure is concerned, the area can be heavily fenced from all sides. A provision for the same has been made in the CA scheme, wherein a fund of 7.3 crores has been reserved for inter-linked chain fencing.
3	The proposed CA land is currently being put to seasonal agricultural use by local people. Hence the CA land may not be made available free of all encumbrances.	The User Agency submitted that the land is under the ownership and possession of the Irrigation Dept, Govt of Maharashtra as evident from the land records. An undertaking has been given by the concerned Executive Engineer that the said land shall be made available to the Forest Department free of all encumbrances. The undertaking is attached as <b>Annexure 4</b> .

  
(C. B. Tashildar)  
AIGF (Central)

**Proposal No. FP/MH/IRRIG/39591/2019**

**Recommendation by the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.**

Upon perusal of the observations and remarks made by the inspecting officer, it is recommended that:

1. As a result of reduction of FRL of Bemla reservoir, a land bank of 2635 ha (non-forest land) has been made available by the Government of Maharashtra for the purpose of CA and social forestry. Such an opportunity should be fully utilized. But the Govt of Maharashtra has reserved this land bank only for the CA of irrigation projects. Out of 2635 ha, 315.74 ha has been proposed for Asolamendha project. Since the frequency of diversion of forest land for irrigation projects is less, the said land bank may take longer time to come under the possession of Forest Department, during which encroachments by local people may not be ruled out. It was also learnt from the sources of the State Government that the said reservoir is under consideration of declaration as a Bird Sanctuary. Therefore, 315.74 ha land may be accepted in relaxation to the clarification dated 13/07/2022 and remaining land bank may either be made available for all diversion projects or the Govt of Maharashtra may propose accredited compensatory afforestation under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 and mutate the entire land bank in favour of the Forest Department.
2. The proposed CA land is far away from the FRL line because of which the possibility of its submergence is minimal. Further, since the proposed land is surrounded by agricultural fields, it may be heavily fenced, which is already provisioned in the CA scheme.
3. The proposed CA land has been found to be put to seasonal agricultural use by the local people. Therefore, the proposed land should be made available free of all encumbrances as per the undertaking furnished by the State Government.

Considering the above, the proposed CA land may be accepted.

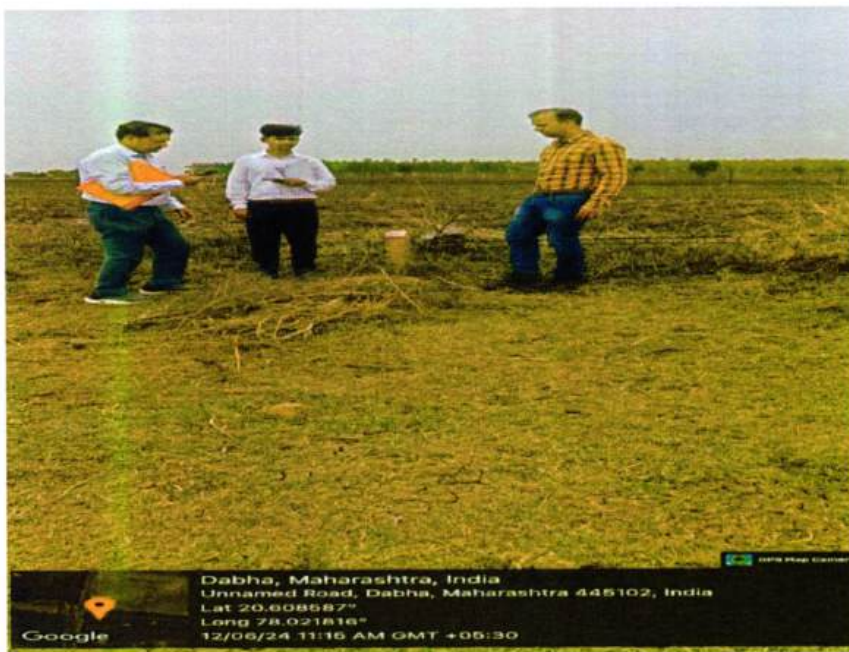
  
(Dr. V. George Jenner)  
DDGF (Central),

Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

Photographs



Land Acquisition pillar serving as a boundary of proposed CA land.



FRL pillar. The proposed CA land lies between the FRL pillar and land acquisition pillar

SUB:

Site inspection of Asolamendha Project in the state of Maharashtra under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The forest diversion proposal No. FP/MH/IRRIg/39591/2019 was received in this office for site inspection. Accordingly, the site inspection was carried out on 14/11/2023 and the SIR thereof is submitted for recommendation and approval.

DDG/F(c)

ATC(FE)

16/11/23

15/11/23  
ATC(FE)

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF ASOLAMENDHA PROJECT IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA UNDER THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980.**

**Name of the Inspecting Officer-** C. B. Tashildar, IFS, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

**Officials from the State Forest Department:-**

1. Shri Babu Yele, DFO, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur,
2. Shri Rajurkar, RFO, Chandrapur

**Officials from the User Agency:-**

1. Shri Jitendra B. Turkhede, Executive Engineer, Asolamendha Project Renovation Dn, 1, Mul, Dist. Chandrapur,
2. Shri Maskawar, Sub Divisional Engineer, Asolamendha Project Renovation Sub Dn, Saoli.

**Date of site Inspection:** 14/11/2023.

**A) Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:** Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion is as below

Sr. No.	Division	Forest Land (ha.)	Legal Status
1	Central Chanda	19.788	Protected Forest
2	Central Chanda	0.75	Zudpi jungle
3	Bramhapuri	91.36	Reserved Forest
4	Bramhapuri	66.64	Protected Forest
5	Bramhapuri	8.66	Zudpi jungle
6	Bramhapuri	2.2	Unclassed Forests
7	Chandrapur	49.37	Reserved Forest
8	Chandrapur	58.532	Protected Forest
9	Chandrapur	18.438	Unclassed Forests
<b>Total</b>		<b>315.738</b>	

**B) Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:**

Component wise breakup			
S.no	Component	Forest Land(ha.)	Non-Forest Land(ha.)
1	CANAL AND NETWORK SYSTEM	72.47	99.08
2	Submergence	243.27	529.68
<b>Total</b>		<b>315.74</b>	<b>628.76</b>

**C) Wildlife: Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:** As per the State Government, the forest area proposed for diversion does not fall under any wildlife sanctuary, Eco sensitive zone and Protected area. The CCF Chandrapur Circle, Chandrapur in his Site Inspection Report and Part III, has mentioned that the proposed area is

important from wildlife point of view and also reported the presence and movement of Tiger & Leopard in proposed forest land. Further he has mentioned in his comments that the Wildlife Mitigation measures are required in case the area is diverted. Therefore Wild life Clearance proposal was prepared and submitted to State Wild life Board for approval. **It is to be noted that out of 315.74 ha forest area proposed for diversion, 267.33 ha area has been moved for clearance from NBWL.** The User agency has prepared the Wildlife Mitigation Measures plan for Diversion of 315.74 Ha. As per the decision of the State Wild Life Board in its meeting held on 16/10/2023, a three member Committee under the Chairmanship of CCF, Chandrapur was constituted vide letter of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wild Life), Govt. of Maharashtra dated 23/10/2023. Three member Committee visited the Asolamendha Project dated 28/10/2023 and gave suggestions in addition to the Wild Life Mitigation Plan submitted by User Agency. After submission of the report the Wild life proposal will be submitted to National Board for Wild Life for final Clearance.

#### D) Vegetation:

Abstract of Total Tree Enumeration											
Forest Division	FRL-1		FRL-2		FRL-4		Total Submergence	Canal		Total Canal	Total
	Below 60 cm	Above 60 cm	Below 60 cm	Above 60 cm	Below 60 cm	Above 60 cm		Below 60 cm	Above 60 cm		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bramhapuri Div.	21259	2275	29913	5113	8143	3329	70032	0	0	0	70032
Central Chanda Div	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1490	26	1516	1516
Chandrapur Div.	13106	4737	11657	4214	4382	1595	39691	3648	2337	5985	45676
<b>Total</b>	<b>34365</b>	<b>7012</b>	<b>41570</b>	<b>9327</b>	<b>12525</b>	<b>4924</b>	<b>109723</b>	<b>5138</b>	<b>2363</b>	<b>7501</b>	<b>117224</b>

Trees under FRL-4 are not required to be felled as per the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Forest Conservation Rules, 2003 (guidelines & Clarifications)- page no.107.

Trees existing between FRL and FRL-2, FRL-2 and FRL-4 will not be felled. They will come under submergence.

#### i. Details of total number of trees to be felled:

There are 7501 trees to be felled in the project. These trees come under canal and network system. The girth wise breakup is as under:

Name of Division	Below 60 cm	Above 60 cm	Total
Central Chanda Div	1490	26	1516
Chandrapur Div.	3648	2337	5985
<b>Total</b>	<b>5138</b>	<b>2363</b>	<b>7501</b>

ii. **Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:** To mitigate the effect on general Ecosystem if any, Forest Conservation plan is proposed by Forest Department amounting to Rs. 3.09 Cr. The User Agency has given undertaking to bear the expenses.

E) **Compensatory afforestation:** Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed on a single patch measuring 315.74 ha of Non-Forest Land around Bemla Reservoir, Yavatmal District, belonging to the Irrigation Department.

1. **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:** A Suitability Certificate of CA land has been given by the DCF Yavatmal. However, the proposed CA land does not fit into the criteria laid down vide MoEF&CC's clarification dated 13/07/2022. The proposed CA is not contiguous with existing forest area and is surrounded by agricultural fields. On one side it is surrounded by the reservoir. Thus, it is not suitable vis-à-vis future management and flood situations of the reservoir.
  2. **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachments/other encumbrances:** Yes, The land proposed for Compensatory afforestation is to be handed over to forest department free from all encroachment and the letter regarding this is given by owner of land, Executive Engineer, Bembla Project Yavatmal.
  3. **Whether land for compensatory a forestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:** No.
  4. **Land identified for raising compensatory a forestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:** Land identified is single continuous patch along the periphery of Bembla Project Reservoir.
  5. **Map with details:** Attached in the proposal.
  6. **Total financial outlay:** Compensatory afforestation scheme of Rs. 27.30 Cr. submitted is by DCF Yavatmal. Attached in the proposal.
- F) 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.** Proposal does not involve any violation. No-Violation certificate has been given by all three forest divisions, namely- 1) Chandrapur Forest Div. Chandrapur 2) Central Chanda Forest Div. Chandrapur 3) Bramhapuri Forest Div. Bramhapuri.
- G) Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by trans-locating outstees in and around the said forest:** As per the Representative of the User Agency, some villages in the non-forest area have been rehabilitated. No forest area is affected from the said rehabilitation.
- H) Reclamation Plan:** Nil
- I) Details on catchment and command area under the project:** Asolamendha Project was constructed in the British Era in 1914 with irrigation potential of 9919 ha. The catchment area of Asolamendha Project is 245.72 km<sup>2</sup>. The catchment lies in Saoli and Sidnewahi Talukas of Chandrapur district in Maharashtra State. The portions of the catchment area near of origin of various tributaries in their early length are hilly and are covered with agricultural land and forests. After the tributaries leave the hill slopes they enter a relatively plain area. In view of these large variations, the catchment area was required to be divided into various zones. The instant project aims at renovation of the existing project.  
Through renovation, the command area of Asolamendha Project is proposed to be increased to 43763 ha with irrigation potential of 54879 ha. The Command area lies in Saoli, Mul and Pombhurna Talukas of Chandrapur district in Maharashtra State benefitting 9440 families of 118 villages. (Catchment and command map is attached herewith).
- J) Cost benefit ratio:** The value of Benefit Cost ratio is 11.93. The renovation cost is less, while the benefits due to the said renovation are more. Attached in the proposal.
- K) Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/ State Government:** Recommended for approval vide Govt. of Maharashtra letter No.FLD 2022/C.R.291/F 10, dated 14.11.2022. Attached in the proposal.



**L) Recommendations of DDGF (Central) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur along with detail reasons:** Attached separately.

**M) Detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:** No alternative alignments have been proposed. Since it is proposed to renovate the existing project, there are no alternative routes/ alignments.

**N) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in areas proposed for diversion:**

Land being diverted has no socio-cultural/religious value and no sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in the proposed areas. The trees under FRL-4 are not required to be felled as per the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 & Forest Conservation rules,2003 (guidelines & Clarifications) at page no.107.

**O) Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area:** Forest area proposed for diversion does not fall under any wildlife sanctuary, Eco sensitive zone and Protected area.


**P) Any other information relating to the project:**

1. Photographs (attached).
- 2.

Sr. No.	Areas inspected	Remarks
1	Survey No. 30, RF Section-4, Bramhapuri Forest Division.	The Total area of the Survey No.30 is 6.02 ha out of which 0.67 ha required and there are total 182 trees in 0.67 ha land. Demarcation stone No.318 was observed near survey No. 30. The forest land is required for submergence area of Asolamendha Project.
2	Comp. No. 1626, PF, Bramhapuri Forest Division	The Total area of the Compartment No.1626 is 23.83 ha out of which 18.80 ha required and there are total 6513 trees in 18.80 ha land. Demarcation stone No.745 was observed near Compartment No. 1626. The forest land is required for submergence area of Asolamendha Project.
3	Compartment No. 140 & 141. Reserve Forest, Bramhapuri Forest Division	The Total area of the Compartment No.140 & 141 is 690.809 ha out of which 62.22 ha required and there are total 32784 trees in 62.22 ha land. Demarcation stone No.155 was observed near survey No. 140. The forest land is required for submergence area of Asolamendha Project.
4	Compartment No. 1663 PF under the jurisdiction of Chandrapur Forest Division.	The total area of the Compartment No.1663 is 7.28 ha out of which 0.72 ha is required for diversion. It is required for Canal Network of Asolamendha Project.
5	Compartment No. 1662 PF, Chandrapur Forest Division.	The total area of the Compartment No.1662 is 156.77 ha. out of which 1.26 ha is required to be diverted for canal network. There are total 450 trees in 1.26 ha land.

6	Compartment No. 1679, PF Chandrapur Forest Division.	Total area of the Compartment No.1679 is 105.34 ha out of which 6.51 ha required for canal network. There are total 1637 trees in 6.51 ha land.
7	Compartment No. 1565, PF, Chandrapur Forest Division.	The Total area of the Compartment No.1565 is 104.94 ha out of which 3.26 ha required for canal network. There are total 171 trees in 3.26 ha land.

3. Map showing catchment area, Old FRL, New FRL, FRL-4, FRL-2 has been attached.
4. Appx. 79 ha of forest land is under the management of Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra. The NOC has been obtained.
5. Since the forest areas proposed for diversion are in narrow strips and isolated patches, the KML files of the forest areas proposed for diversion need to be looked at in combination with the KML files of the compartments in order to get a complete picture.

  
**(C. B. Tashildar)** - 15/11/23  
 Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),  
 Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

**Proposal No. FP/MH/IRRIG/39591/2019**

**Recommendations of the DDGF (Central) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur along with detailed reasons:**

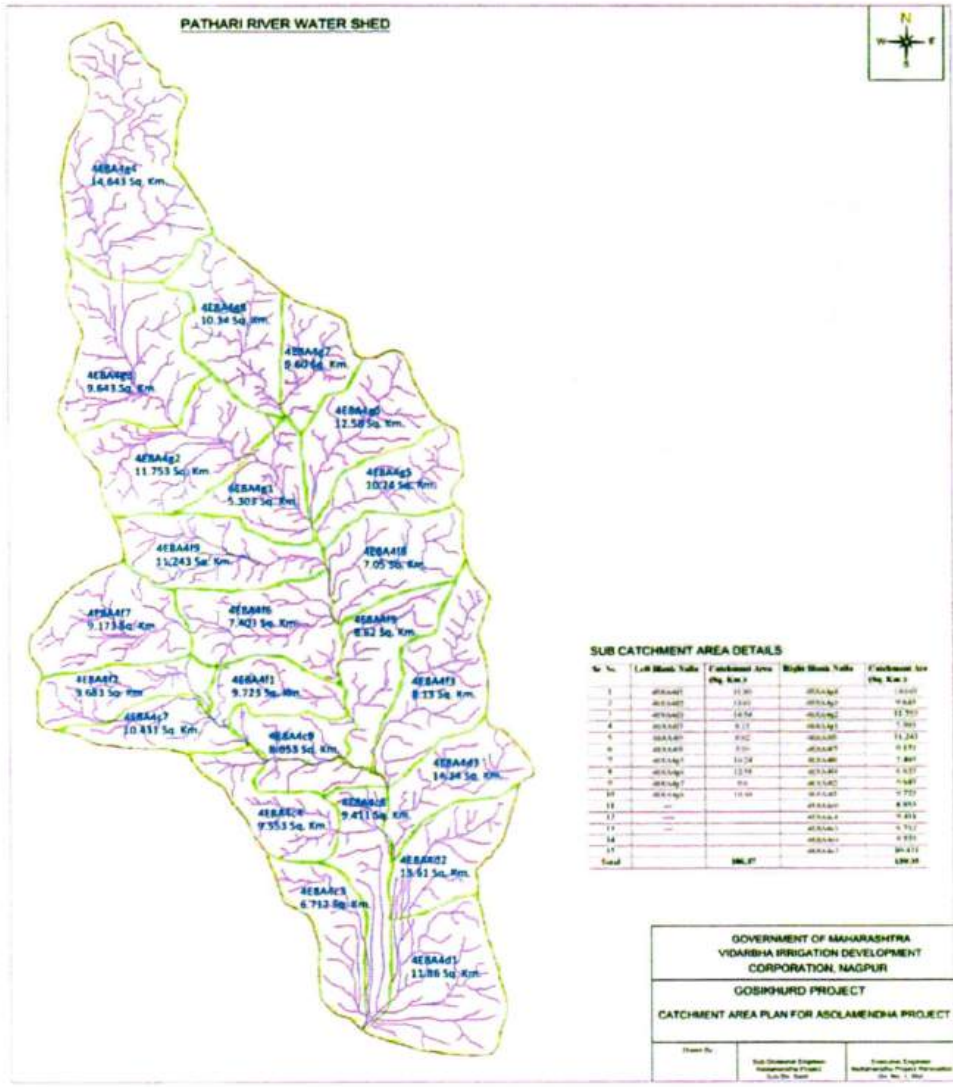
1. Asolamendha Renovation Project involves proposal for diversion of 315.74 ha forest area, out of which 267.33 ha forest area has been moved for clearance from the NBWL for corridor of animals including tiger.
2. It involves renovation of the British Era Irrigation Project, thereby aiming for increase in the irrigation potential from 9919 ha to 54879 ha.
3. Total 7501 trees are to cut only for the renovation of canal network. The trees in the submergence area are to be retained, which will eventually die out.

**The proposal is recommended considering the above points but subject to the following:**


1. The non-forest land identified for the compensatory afforestation is situated in the periphery of Bemla Reservoir in Yavatmal District. It is a single patch of 315.74 ha surrounded by agricultural fields and water body. It does not fit in the criteria laid down vide MoEF&CC's clarification dated 13/07/2022. Therefore it needs to be heavily fenced to ensure its protection and survival from biotic pressure. It is submitted for further consideration.

  
(P. Subramanyam)

DDGF (Central),  
Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur



  
 Junior Engineer

  
 Sub-Divisional Engineer  
 Asolamendha Project Renovation  
 Division, Saoli

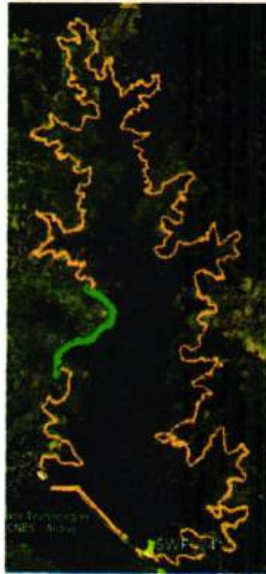
  
 Executive Engineer  
 Asolamendha Project Renovation  
 Division No. 1 Mul



## Diversion of 315.74 ha Forest land for Asolamendha Project (Gosikhurd National Project)



### Details of Trees in FRL to FRL - 4



#### Acquisition level = 217.25m

↑ Total No. of Trees : 41377  
↓ Below 60 cm girth : 34365  
↓ Above 60 cm girth : 7012

#### Proposed FRL = 216.5m

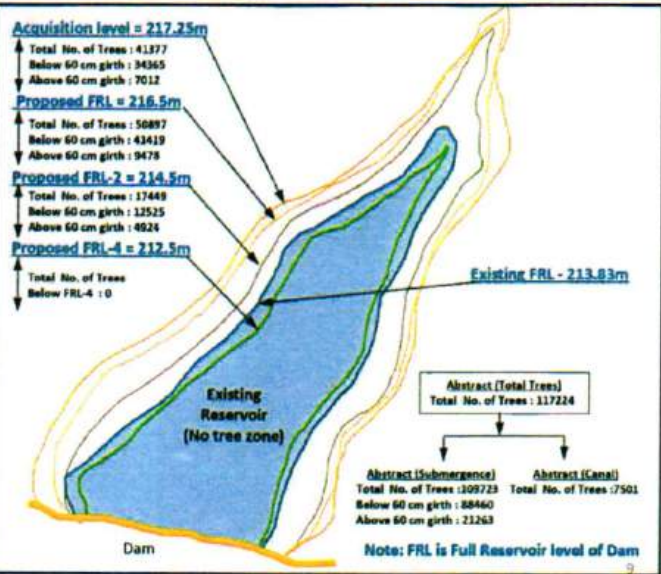
↑ Total No. of Trees : 50897  
↓ Below 60 cm girth : 43419  
↓ Above 60 cm girth : 9478

#### Proposed FRL-2 = 214.5m

↑ Total No. of Trees : 17448  
↓ Below 60 cm girth : 12525  
↓ Above 60 cm girth : 4924

#### Proposed FRL-4 = 212.5m

↑ Total No. of Trees :  
↓ Below FRL-4 : 0



Abstract (Total Trees)  
Total No. of Trees : 117224

Abstract (Submergence)  
Total No. of Trees : 109723  
Below 60 cm girth : 88460  
Above 60 cm girth : 21263

Abstract (Kanal)  
Total No. of Trees : 7501

Note: FRL is Full Reservoir level of Dam

Photographs





Latitude: 20.271709  
Longitude: 79.841647  
Elevation: 221.6313 m  
Accuracy: 3.6 m  
Time: 14-11-2023 12:01  
Note: अशोक तलाव वृद्धी क्षेत्र



Latitude: 20.271635  
Longitude: 79.841364  
Elevation: 231.7313 m  
Accuracy: 3.6 m  
Time: 14-11-2023 12:18  
Note: अशोक तलाव वृद्धी क्षेत्र

