

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 27th August, 2020

To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram.

Sub: Proposal for Regularization of 1970.041 ha. of forest land under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in Pathanamthitta District of Kerala. Reg
Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Kerala letter no. FWLD-C1/208/2019-FWLD dated 02/04/2020 on the above mentioned subject requesting Regularization of 1970.041 ha. of forest land under Section 2 of forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in Pathanamthitta District of Kerala. In this regard, it is informed that after examination of the proposal following shortcomings were observed:

- i. The State Government has not provided the KML file of the identified land for Compensatory Afforestation.
- ii. As per the CA scheme submitted instead of equivalent Non-Forest land the State Government has proposed only 1994 ha of Degraded forest land in Pathanamthitta and Kollam District. Reasons or justification of the same shall be submitted.
- iii. Some of the documents submitted with the proposal are in vernacular language. The State govt. may submit the English translation of the same.
- iv. The proposal for regularization of encroachment is based on the decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court on 20.03.2009, whereas the proposal has been submitted after a lapse of about 11 years. Cogent reason for inordinate delay in this matter shall needs clarification from the State Government.
- v. As per the details provided in the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court total 10,000 ha of encroached forest land was allowed for unauthorized occupants, this proposal is having extent 1,970 ha only. Therefore, the State Govt. is asked to provide the details/ status of the remaining 8,030 ha of forest land regarding its regularization and if regularization has already been carried out details of approval may be provide.
- vi. As per the DSS report, Attathodu site partially falling in Periyar WLS and many other land parcels of Ranni division is falling within 10 km radius of Periyar WLS. Comments of Chief Wildlife Warden may be provided in this matter, as well as, status of approval/clearance from the Standing Committee of NBWL.
- vii. As per the DSS report, the proposed forest land for regularization of encroachment consists of 3 ha. of land classified as very dense forest, 866 ha. as moderately dense forest. In this regard State Government may re-look into

the matter since almost 50% of the total area is falling in MDF.
viii.Any court direction/order concerning this matter, that has been issued subsequent to order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2009 regarding de-reservation of 10,000 ha.

In view of above the State Government is requested to kindly furnish the above-mentioned information at the earliest to this Ministry for further processing of the proposal under FCA 1980.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(Brijendra Swaroop)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests

Email: dyceo-ncampa@nic.in

Tel: 011- 24695355

Copy To:

1. The PCCF(HoFF), Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
2. The DDGF (C), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.