

Sub: Diversion of 91.39 ha of forest land for infrastructure development etc. at Tungri in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh Indian Army (15 BN, Mahar Regiment).

1. The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh vide their letter no. FOR.3-122/CONS/2010/Pt-III dated 27.08.2011 submitted the above proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. Facts related to the proposal, as indicated in the State Government's letter dated 27.08.2011 are presented below in the form of fact sheet.

FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 91.39 ha (255.83 areas) of forest land for infrastructure development etc at Tungri in West Kameng Dist of AP by Indian Army (15 BN Mohar Regiment) reg.
2.	Location (i) State (ii) District	Arunachal Pradesh West Kameng
3.	Particulars of Forests: (i) Name of Forest Division (ii) Forest area involved (iii) Legal status/Sy.No. (iv) Map	Bomdila Forest Division 91.39 ha Unclassed State Forest (Eco Class VI) East Himalayan Mixed Coniferous Forest and East Himalayan Wet Temperate forest SOI topo sheet - Enclosed (Pg 9/c). DGPS map – not enclosed. Forest cover map – not enclosed.
4.	(i) Vegetation (ii) Density (iii) No. of trees affected	Fir, Sopa, Texas Quercus, Alnus, Lisi, Poplar, etc. (Pg 20-2/c) 0.75 32,460 trees
5.	Whether area is significant from wildlife point of view	The proposed divisions do not form part of National Park, Wild Life Sanctuary, Biosphere, Reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor etc.

6.	Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out.	No
7.	Employment generated	Employment will be generated in following terms: a. Recruitment in the Army as per the policy. b. Civil employees as per vacancy and according to the policy. c. Employment of casual labourers (preferably locals). d. Various contracts/tenders offered to civil agencies.
8.	Compensatory afforestation	
	(i) Details of non-forest area/degraded forest area identified for CA, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patches.	Land for CA over 91.00 ha is proposed in Ditchu RF under Anjaw Forest Division
	(ii) Map showing non-forest/degraded forest area identified for CA and adjoining forest boundaries.	Enclosed (pg 27/c).
	(iii) Detailed CA scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure, etc.	Enclosed (Pg 30-32/c).
	(iv) Total financial outlay for CA	Rs. 1,30,88,600/- only
	(v) Certificate from the competent authority regarding suitability of the area identified for CA and from management point of view.	Enclosed (Pg 26/c).
9.	Catchment area treatment plan	Not applicable
10.	Rehabilitation of Oustees a) Number of families involved b) Category of families c) Details of rehabilitation plan	Nil

	Compliance of Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006	Compliance of Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has not been submitted by the project proponent.
11.	Cost Benefit Ratio	NA since the area is being acquired for defense purpose.
12.	Recommendation: (i) DFO (ii) CF (iii) PCCF (iv) State Govt.	Recommended by all Yes Yes Yes Yes
13.	District Profile (i) Total Geographical area of the district (ii) Total Forest area/Divisional Forest area (iii) Total area diverted since 1980 (iv) Total CA stipulated since 1980 (Forest land including Penal CA). (v) Total CA done since 1980 (Non Forest land)	Area of West Kameng District- 7422 Sq. Km. 4264.95 Sq. Km area, of which reserve forest is 196.60 Sq.Km. a. Kameng Hydro Electric Project = 710.00 ha b. Laying of 132 KV S/C Trans. line from Bhalukpong to Nichiphupass = 53.67 ha c. Laying of 132 KV S/C Trans. line from Nichiphu Pass to Kimi = 67.50 ha d. Construction of alternate route to Tawang (from Debrabu Naga GG Sector) = <u>16.14 ha</u> Total = 847.31ha 417.5 ha of CA has been stipulated in the Division till date. Nil

3. Other Remarks:

- i. The proposal is for strategic infrastructure development in border areas of Kemeng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ii. Considering the operational and administrative requirement the proposed land is found suitable in all respects for accretion force in Gen Area Tungri between Namshu village and Chander village comprising of the Hill features.

- iii. The total cost of the project is Rs. 9, 13,93,401.00
 - iv. Land is free or un-habitated by locals and its acquisition will not cause any displacement.
 - v. A total of 32,460 trees/poles will be affected by the project beside other NTFPS.
 - vi. CA has been over 91.00 ha is proposed in Ditchu RF under Anjaw Forest Division.
 - vii. The State Government has recommended the proposal with the following condition:
 - a. The user agency shall pay the extraction cost of trees and NTFP to be felled/removed from the proposed diverted forest areas assessed by the Forest Department.
4. **The proposal has been considered by the FAC in its meeting held on 17th September, 2012 and the Committee, after examination of the proposal has desired information on following points:**
- i. The Committee had an apprehension that the area selected for compensatory afforestation may not be suitable for compensatory afforestation as it is at high altitudes. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that the area selected for compensatory afforestation should be verified again and revised proposal of compensatory afforestation, if required, be submitted by the State Government.
 - ii. The Committee desired a presentation from the project proponents regarding proposed use of the forest land and details of trees to be actually felled.
 - iii. The Committee decided that a sub-Committee of the FAC may visit and submit its report for further consideration of the Committee.
5. **Above recommendation of the FAC were communicated to the State Government, vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 3.10.2013. The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh vide their letter no. FOR. 9-50/Cons/2011/856 dated 20.6.2014 (Pg 32-34/c) has submitted the information as per the observation of the FAC. Summary of the same is given as under:**
- i. It is reported by the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh that DFO, Anjaw Forest Division, in pursuance to the recommendation of FAC, was requested verify the area again and assess its suitability for compensatory afforestation. The DFO vide his letter dated 10.06.2013 has informed that area selected for CA is suitable for raising CA despite high altitude. Further, the State Government has also mentioned that area in question has tree growth of *Pinus Murkussii* as dominant species of vegetation.

In view of the above, the State Government has requested this Ministry to accord approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the proposal.

Proposal is submitted for seeking further directions to submit the proposal before the FAC in its forthcoming meeting for its examination and appropriate recommendations.