

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನಮುಖ್ಯಅರಣ್ಯಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
(ಅರಣ್ಯಪಡೆಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರಕಚೇರಿ

Office of the
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)



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Old File No. A5(1)/MNG/CR-9/2018-19

E-61838

E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-1(MNG)/1/2018-FC

Date -03-2025

Enclosure:

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Forests, Environment and Ecology Department
M.S. Building, Bengaluru - 560 001

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 14.8457 hectare of forest land for Downhill Pipe Conveyor Belt (from ML No.2296 to Sushilanagar system railway siding) of Ramanamalai Iron Ores Mine in favour of M/s. Veerabhadrappe & Sangappa and Company (VESCO) in RM Block, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District in the State of Karnataka.

Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/35480/2018

- Ref:**
1. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru letter F.No. 8-95/1994FC(VOL.) dated 15-10-2019 [*Stage-I approval*]
 2. This office letter of even number dated 07-12-2024 [*submission of compliance report to stipulate conditions mentioned in Stage-I approval dated 15-10-2019*]
 3. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 01 FFM 2025 (e) dated 01-01-2025 [*addressed to this office seeking approved Wildlife Mitigation Plan & SMC Plan*]
 4. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division), New Delhi letter F.No. 11/43/2021-FC dated 07-06-2022 [*guidelines reg Charging of an lump sum amount of the project cost towards the cost of implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan and lump sum amount of the project cost towards the cost of implementation of Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan –reg*]
 5. M/s Veerabhadrappe & Sangappa and Company, Ballari District letter No. VESCO/RIOM/PCCF/C. brlt/661/24-25 dated 10-03-2025 [*request to forward the compliance report to GoI for Stage-II approval*]

The Government of India vide Ref (1) letter dated 15-10-2019 have accorded 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval for the above proposal subject to fulfilment of certain conditions stipulated therein.

Accordingly, the condition-wise Compliance Report was submitted by this office vide Ref (2) seeking Stage-II approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the Government of Karnataka.

In response, the Government of Karnataka vide Ref (3) letter dated 01-01-2025 has raised the EDS Query seeking to submit the Wildlife Management Plan and f Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division), New Delhi on dated 07-06-2022, point no. i, ii & iii has been stated as below.

"i. The State Government should submit Wildlife Management Plan, along with detail cost of its implementation into the account of CAMPA along with the Stage-I compliance. However, in cases where it is not possible for the State to submit the compliance due to delay in preparation of such plan, a lump sum quantum of following amount may be realized from the User agency and submitted along with the Stage I Compliance:

a. 2% of total project cost towards the cost of implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan and/or 0.5% of the project cost towards the cost of implementation of Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, as the File No.FC-11/43/2021-FC case may be, shall be charged from the user agency and deposited into the account of CAMPA and the same may be intimated to the MoEF&CC for the purpose of obtaining approval under the FC Act, 1980.

b. The provisions provided in the WLMP or SMC Plan shall be approved by the competent authority in the State and accordingly, the deficit amount, if any, from the money already realized to the tune of 2% and/or 0.5% of project cost, shall be paid by the user agency, and same shall be deposit in the CAMPA account prior to actual working on the Forest area.

*ii. The State Government shall ensure that details of the finalized WLMP, SMC Plan and disposition of monies, payment of deficit amount, etc. shall be intimated to and concurred by the concerned IRO of the Ministry **before actual breaking/Non forestry use of the forest land.** (i.e., before handing over the land for non-forestry use)*

iii. State Government shall ensure that under no circumstances, implementation of such mitigating measures envisaged in WLMP and SMC or other similar Plans/Schemes should be delayed beyond a period of 2 years to ensure commencement of rejuvenation of ecosystem services lost from the forest area allowed for non-forestry use of forest land at the earliest possible time"

Accordingly, the User Agency has paid an amount of Rs.99,47,035/- i.e., 2% of total project cost towards the cost of implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan and Rs.24,86,757/- i.e., 0.5% of the project cost towards the cost of implementation of Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan. Total Rs. 1,24,33,792/- vide e-office challan dated

21-11-2024 and the payment details has been submitted by the user agency vide letter dated 27-11-2024, which has already been submitted with the compliance.

Since, the user agency has already remitted the cost towards the cost of implementation of the Wildlife Management Plan and the cost of implementation of Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, as per the above guidelines the Central Government may accord final approval. However, the State Government shall ensure that details of the finalized WLMP, SMC Plan and disposition of monies, payment of deficit amount, etc. shall be intimated to the concerned IRO of the Ministry before handing over the forest land for non-forestry purpose.

Further, M/s Veerabhadrapa Sangappa & Company (VESCO) vide Ref (5) has requested to move the compliance report to the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval to the Government of India for accordance offstage-II approval as per the MoEF & CC guidelines due to possibility of delay in preparation of the WLMP and SMC Plan. *(Copy enclosed)*

In view of the above, it is submitted that the matter may be moved to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division), New Delhi for accordance of Stage-II Approval.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation) & Nodal Officer (FCA)

1. Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Ballari Circle, Ballari for information and necessary action.
2. Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ballari Division, Ballari for information.
3. M/s Veerabhadrapa Sangappa & Company (VESCO), No.2/138, VESCO House, Ballari Road, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District – 583 119 for information.