

Reply to be made in Part-III (As per EDS of FP/AS/THE/499/2015 Point No. iii)

1) **The Total Area of the Protected Area to be mentioned in A-4 (i) & A-4 (iii): 45.468 Sq. Km. and ESZ Area is 251.03 Sq. Km. As per Govt. notification.**

2) **Conservation value of the Protected Area:** Protected areas (PAs) represent a fundamental tool in nature conservation policies, their main purpose, often achieved, being to conserve local to regional biodiversity, particularly the characteristic of threatened species, habitats and ecosystems. Often, PAs are the only remaining safe sites for species' populations, whose existence relies on PA performance. **The Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary** thus plays an important role to protect Floral diversity of about 57 Tree species, 34 species of small trees, 42 species of shrub, 18 species of under shrubs, 58 species of Herbs, 27 species of grasses, 11 species of epiphytes and 27 species of ferns and allies. The Sanctuary supports the diverse faunal diversity including 20 species of mammals, 13 species of amphibians, 10 species of reptiles, 109 species of avifauna, 3 species of insects and 76 species of Butterflies.

However, the Convention on Biological Diversity predominantly relates to the PA surface area, stating: "By 2022, at least 200 ha of terrestrial areas are conserved through effectively and equitably managed plantation. There is thus a risk of naively focusing on the upcoming projects and the amount of area to be diverted, but it is also to be considered for the purpose of exempted category without neglecting biodiversity protection.

3) **Area Diverted / Identified from the NP / WLS / ESZ for development and other purpose since its notification:** 1 (One) number of diversion proposal is under process by the State USER AGENCY, AEGCL under Haltugaon Forest Division for "132 KV S/C Transmission line from Salakati Grid S/S to APM (Jogighopa)" at Nadangiri Hill RF (Now inside the ESZ of Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary). The total Area Proposed to be Diverted is 1.9413 HA.

4) **Impact Due to the Diversion of area for the use of land for the Project:** Does not arise as the said project is already established way-before the notification of Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary and it is under notified ESZ of Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary.

5) **Whether the project proponents have ever committed Violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 or Forest Conservation Act, 1980:** The Project was established in the Year 1981. After elaborate scrutiny of available record found under the Wildlife Division, Kokrajhar, the undersigned have not found any violation activity done by the current user agency although it is requested to cross verify all the record (Old & New) to look into the matter of violation of FCA, 1980 if any.

Date: 4th April, 2023

Place: Kokrajhar

Signature:

Name:

Designation:



(Jayanta Kr. Brahma, AFS)

Divisional Forest Officer
Wildlife Division, Kokrajhar
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