

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 1100 03
Dated: 12th July, 2022

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Ecology and Environment Department,
Government of Karnataka,
Bengaluru.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 160.4 ha. of forest land in Sy. No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti Village, Sy. No.128,129 and 130 of Chakrageri Village and Sy. No.3 and 4 of Kagihal Village, Savadatti (Saundatti) Taluk, Belagavi District (Ghataprabha Division Gokak) for construction of Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) in favour of the M/s. Greenko Solar Energy Private Limited, Bengaluru, Karnataka State (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/HYD/37723/2018). -regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Karnataka's letter No. FEE 57 FLL 2021 (e) dated 17th November, 2021 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the Government of Karnataka and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, the Central Government hereby agrees to accord *stage-I/In-principle* approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 160.4 ha. of forest land in Sy. No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti Village, Sy. No.128,129 and 130 of Chakrageri Village and Sy. No.3 and 4 of Kagihal Village, Savadatti (Saundatti) Taluk, Belagavi District (Ghataprabha Division Gokak) for construction of Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) in favour of the M/s. Greenko Solar Energy Private Limited, Bengaluru, Karnataka State, subject to the following conditions:-

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department and compliance is to be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

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- i. The User Agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted (i.e. 160.4 ha of forest land) under this proposal, as per this Ministry's issued vide letters dated 06.01.2022 and 22.03.2022. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal into National Authority CAMPA account of the State Concerned;
- ii. *The State Government is requested to submit the Study report about the impact on Aquatic faunal species of the reservoir due to the project before the grant of Stage-II approval;*
- iii. *A joint survey of all the proposed 5 survey numbers for CA plantation be carried out with the help of Revenue & Forest Department in presence of the legal stakeholders to finalize the net area of the plantation free from all encumbrances. Illegal encroachments, if any, identified after the joint demarcation should be evicted as per the laws in force;*
- iv. *The proposed CA land (both NFL and DFL), as identified by the State Forest Department should be notified as either PF or RF by the State Government prior to Stage-II approval;*
- v. The non-forest land proposed for CA shall be transferred and mutated in the name of Forest Department and notified as RF/PF prior to Stage-II approval. A copy of the original notification declaring the non-forest land under Section 4 or Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the State Forest Act as the case may be, will be submitted by the State Government prior to Stage-II approval;
- vi. The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India topo sheet of 1:50,000 scale;
- vii. The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited through online e-portal into the CAMPA account in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
- viii. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
- ix. The copy of approved CATplan , if applicable shall be submitted in accordance to this Ministry's guidelines issued and commensurate funds shall be deposited in the account of National Authority, CAMPA through on-line portal;
- x. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
- xi. State Government shall complete the settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence, as prescribed by this Ministry's letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (Pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof;
- xii. The correct and complete KML files of diverted area and the CA areas shall be uploaded on the E-green watch portal with all requisite details;

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B: Conditions which need to be complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted and compliance is to be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The Forest land will be handed over only after required non-forest land for the project is handed over by the user agency;
- iii. *Existing natural regeneration of local species should be encouraged by way of singling and promoting the growth of promising shoots;*
- iv. *Planting of tall plants, watering and fencing to the plantation shall be carried out to protect the plantation in future from various biotic pressure including possible illegal encroachments. The maintenance of the plantation should be done accordingly as per the model approved by the State Government;*
- v. The Compensatory Afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over NFL/DFL at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. With provision for ten years on subsequent maintenance;
- vi. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
- vii. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Dept;
- viii. The user agency shall carry out muck disposal at pre-designated sites in such a manner so as to avoid rolling down;
- ix. The dumping area for a muck disposal shall be stabilized and reclaimed by planting suitable species by the user agency at the cost of project under the supervision of State Forest Department. Retaining walls and terracing shall be carried out to hold the dumping material in the place. Stabilization and reclamation of such dumping sites shall be completed before handing over the same to the State Forest Department in a time bound manner as per plan;
- x. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that the trees available between full reservoir level (FRL) and FRL-4 meters are not felled;
- xi. The user agency shall undertake afforestation along with periphery of the reservoir;
- xii. The user agency shall provide free water for forestry related projects;
- xiii. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- xiv. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the

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- provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- xv.No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- xvi.The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
- xvii.No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xviii.The forest area shall be used for the purpose of which it is granted. The total forest land utilized for the project shall not exceed i.e. 160.4 ha;
- xix.The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xx.The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- xxi.No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be cause;
- xxii.The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- xxiii.The Forest Clearance will be for a period co-terminus with the lease period specified in the lease agreement. The State govt. will submit the lease agreement documents specified in the lease agreement;
- xxiv.The User Agency shall implement the R&R plan as per the R&R policy of State Govt. in Consonance with national R&R policy, Govt. of India before the commencement of the project work. The said R&R plan will be monitored by the State Govt./IRO of MoEF&CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones, if applicable;
- xxv.The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
- xxvi.The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xxvii.Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency;
- xxviii.The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Integrated

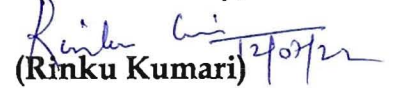
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Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
xxix. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project; and

xxx. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019;

After receipt of compliance report on fulfillment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,


(Rinku Kumari)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru.
3. The Nodal Office (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading.