

File No: 8-22/2024-FC (E-254407)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated:13-02-2026

To
The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar

Sub Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 87.520 ha of forest land for construction of Hidsing Irrigation Project including alternate Road in Angul Forest Division under Angul District by Executive Engineer, Cuttack Investigation Division, Cuttack of Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/20559/2016).

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2024-11966/FE&CC dated 05.07.2024 on the above mentioned subject for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and additional information submitted vide letter No. 9F (IRRIG)-349/2021 dated 18.08.2025 and vide letter No. 23453/9F (IRRIG) – 349/2021 dated 21.11.2025 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section - 3 of the aforesaid Adhiniyam.

2. After careful examination of the proposal of the Government of Odisha and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby accords '*in-principle*' approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 87.520 ha of forest land for construction of Hidsing Irrigation Project including alternate Road in Angul Forest Division under Angul District by Executive Engineer, Cuttack Investigation Division, Cuttack of Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the Compensatory Afforestation as per the approved CA Scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal;
3. The compensatory afforestation over 94.216 ha of non-forest land in village

Tanügola, Kadambinipur and Baradiha village under Pallahara Tahasil of Angul district in Deogarh Forest Division shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost and the afforestation works shall start within two years from the date of grant of Stage - II approval;

4. The non-forest land identified for raising CA shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of final approval;
5. The non-forest land shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department, OR shall be notified by the State Government as Protected forest under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant section(s) of the local Forest Act, before handing over the forest land to the user agency;
6. The additional compensatory afforestation over 140.743 ha of degraded forest land in Bega RF (80.002 ha), Lahada RF (36.741 ha) and Kapilash RF (24.00 ha) under Sadangi Range of Dhenkanal Forest Division shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency and the work of the afforestation shall start within two years from the date of the final approval;
7. The cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the identified CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
8. The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC (Pt.) dated 29.12.2023 through online portal of CAMPA account of the State Concerned;
9. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
10. *The User Agency and the State Forest Department shall ensure that Compensatory Afforestation sites are cleared of encroachments before the commencement of plantation activities.*
11. *Since the project area lies within the Mahanadi Elephant Reserve, and the Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Satkosia Tiger reserve, the State Government shall, at the cost of the User Agency and, in consultation with Wildlife Institute of India (WII), shall prepare and implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.*
12. *As the project area falls within an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ), the User Agency shall obtain the requisite wildlife clearance and comply with all conditions stipulated therein.*
13. *The User Agency shall maintain adequate water flow downstream of Bauli*

Nallah to sustain aquatic fauna.

14. *The approved Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan shall be implemented by the State Government at the cost of the User Agency.*
15. *The State Government shall ensure compliance with all provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021, including prescribed regulations for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the dam.*
16. *The approved Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan shall be implemented by the User Agency at its project cost;*
17. *The KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal with all requisite details before handing over the forest land to the User Agency;*
18. *The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;*
19. *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.*
20. *The User Agency shall implement the R&R Plan, if applicable, as per R&R policy of State Government in consonance with National R & R policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R plan shall be monitored by the State Govt./Regional Office of MoEF&CC;*
21. *The user agency shall undertake afforestation along the periphery of the reservoir and canals bank and maintain plantations with the State Forest Department (as applicable);*
22. *A Catchment Area Treatment Plan shall be prepared, and implemented by/or under the supervision of State Forest Department at the project cost, if applicable;*
23. *The user agency shall carry out muck disposal at per-designated sites in such a manner so as to avoid its rolling down;*
24. *The dumping area for 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 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;*
25. *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;*
26. *The User Agency shall consult organization(s) having experience in construction of roads in hilly areas to avoid frequent road blockade due to landslide etc. and shall provide breast walls and retaining walls wherever necessary;*
27. *The user agency shall provide free water for the forestry related projects;*
28. *The User agency will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department. A scheme of the same shall be submitted to the Regional Office along with the Stage-I compliance report;*

29. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
30. 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;
31. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, 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 coordinates;
32. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
33. 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;
34. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
35. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
36. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
37. 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;
38. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of consolidated guidelines of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC (Pt.) dated 29.12.2023;
39. The State Government, before issuing the final diversion order, shall ensure that the user agency has complied with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s), including compliance of Forest Rights Act, 2006, pertaining to this project, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
40. The compliance report shall be uploaded on **e-portal** (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

3. After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/
(Raja Ram Singh)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), State Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
2. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, State Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3. The Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
6. Guard File.