



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE
 CHANGE**
 एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, गांधीनगर/ **Integrated Regional Office,**
Gandhinagar



ए वींग- 407 एवं 409, "अरण्य भवन", सी.एच.-3 सर्किल के समीप, सेक्टर-10 ए, गांधीनगर-382010 / A wing- 407 & 409,, "ARANYA BHAWAN", Near CH-3 Circle, Sector-10A, Gandhi Nagar-382010
 Email: iro.gandhingar-mefcc@gov.in

File No. 6-GJB101/2021-BHO

Dated: 24th January, 2022

To
 Additional Chief Secretary (Forests)
 Govt. of Gujarat
 Block No. 14, 8th Floor, New Sachivalaya
 Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

(Online Proposal No: FP/GJ/OFC/49946/2020)

Sub: Diversion of 0.0333 ha Section-4, Reserved & Wildlife Sanctuary area for Bharat Net Phase-II project implementation in Surendranagar District in favour of DGM (Project), Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Ltd., Gandhinagar.

Sir,

This refers to letter No. FCA-1021/1-04/21/S.F-185/F dated 23.11.2021 of the State Govt. of Gujarat on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The proposal was duly considered and approved by the Central Government for issuance of In-Principle/Stage-I approval. Therefore, the undersigned, on the behalf of the Central Government, conveys In-Principle Approval for diversion of 0.0333 ha Section-4, Reserved Forests & Wildlife Sanctuary area for Bharat Net Phase-II project implementation in Surendranagar District in favour of DGM (Project), Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Ltd., Gandhinagar subject to the following terms and conditions: -

A: Conditions which needs to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department:

1. 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 in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provisions for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
2. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the **0.0333 ha** forest area to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30/10/2002, 01/08/2003, 28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No. 5-1/1998-FC (Pt.II) dated 18/09/2003, as well as letter No. 5-2/2006-FC dated 03/10/2006 and 5-3/2007-FC dated 05/02/2009 & **5-3/2011-FC(Vol-1) dated 06.01.2022** in this regard.
3. The proposed optical fiber cable is passing through Wildass Wildlife Sanctuary, Dharangdhra. In this regard, required Wildlife Clearance from Standing Committee of

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 24/01/2022

Wildlife Board shall be obtained.

4. All the conditions stipulated by the CWLW, Govt. of Gujarat vide letter No. WLP/32/B/4641-43/2020-21 dated 19.11.2020 shall be strictly followed by the User Agency under supervision of State Forest Department.
5. 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.
6. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
7. The KML file of the area to be diverted and the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details, before issuing working permission towards linear projects or submitting compliance report for seeking Final/Stage-II approval, as the case may be.
8. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal.

B: Conditions which needs to be strictly 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 prior to Stage-II approval:

1. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. The Optical Fiber Cable shall be laid down 1.5 meter below the ground and after laying down of cable the ground will be leveled.
3. Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 1.00 ha de-graded forest land, Survey No. 144/pt, Village- Narali, Taluka- Dharangdhra, District- Surendra Nagar (minimum 100 saplings) at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and mono-culture of any species may be avoided.
4. No tree felling shall be involved in the implementation of this project.
5. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
6. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
7. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
8. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
9. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
10. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
11. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
12. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
13. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India.
14. The User Agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Integrated Regional Office, Gandhinagar by the end of March every year.
15. The User Agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this

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24/01/2022

- project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
16. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018.
17. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.
18. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

After receipt of compliance report on fulfillment of all of the above conditions from the State Government, proposal will be considered for Final/Stage-II approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The User Agency shall take up the work as per the guidelines in force and after ensuring that all necessary clearances for the entire stretch are in place. Working permission, if any issued, shall be intimated to IRO, Gandhinagar. Transfer of forest land shall not be effected till Final/Stage-II approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Further, it may also be noted that this **In-principle / Stage-I** approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this In-principle approval shall be revoked after five (05) years.

Sincerely,
24/01/2022
(Shrawan Kumar Verma)
DIG & RO, IRO Gandhinagar

Copy to:

1. The Inspector General of Forests (Central), ROHQ Division, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Indira paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003.
2. The APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Aranya Bhawan, Sector- 10A, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
3. The DGM (Project), Gujarat Fiber Grid Network Ltd., Block No. 1, 8Th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Sector- 11, Gandhinagar-382010, Gujarat.
4. Guard File.