

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi - 110 003  
Dated: 29th March, 2021

To,  
The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Department of Forest and Environment,  
Government of Assam,  
Guwahati.

**Sub: Proposal for diversion of 238.00 hectares of forest land for Relocation of the Forest Village from Laika in Dibru-Saikhowa National Park to Paharpur and Namphai RF in Tinsukia District of Assam State. (Online proposal No-FP/AS/REHAB/120428/2021)-Reg.,**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Assam's letter No. FP/AS/REHAB/120428/2021 dated 27.01.2021 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 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 Assam 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 238.00 hectares of forest land for Relocation of the Forest Village from Laika in Dibru-Saikhowa National Park to Paharpur and Namphai RF in Tinsukia District of Assam 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 to be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:**

- i. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector;
- ii. The State Govt. shall submit the approved R&R Plan from the concerned authority;
- iii. State Govt. would carry out relocation, social economic analysis which would be submitted to this Ministry;
- iv. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- v. 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;

**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 prior to Stage-II approval:**

- i. The legal status of the diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for relocation/rehabilitation of villages from National Parks/Sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves shall ceases to be forest land;
- ii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- iii. The Land vacated in the protected area due to relocation of village shall be developed as per approved Wild Management Plan/NTCA guideline/CWLW;
- iv. State Forest Department at appropriate level shall be made part of the body responsible for preparing detailed layout plan of the village so as to ensure that as far as possible naturally growing trees are retained along the roads, in the school, other Government / public utility complexes around the boundaries of the village, as natural grove;
- v. Connectivity of the proposed residential site of the village to the metal road should be worked out in advance;
- vi. No, fragmentation of forests should take place due to the relocation project;
- vii. 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;
- viii. Felling of trees on the forest land being diverted shall be reduced to the bare minimum and the trees should be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- ix. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourers after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- x. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xi. 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;
- xii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be cause;
- xiii. The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- xiv. 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;
- xv. 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;

xvi. 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; and

xvii. 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.

After receipt of the report on compliance to the conditions stipulated in the paragraph-2 (A&B) above from the State Government, final/ stage-II approval for diversion of the said forest under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be issued by this Ministry. Transfer of the said forest land to the user agency shall not be affected by the State Government of Assam till final/stage-II approval for its diversion is issued by this Ministry.

Yours faithfully,  
Sd/-

**(Sandeep Sharma)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:-**

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