

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 27th January, 2023

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Environment & Forests,
Government of Rajasthan,
Jaipur

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 406.678 ha (out of the originally proposed 466.592 ha.) of forest land in favour of Airport Authority of India Kota for Construction of New Green Field Airport Kota, District-Bundi in the State of Rajasthan.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Rajasthan's letter No. P.1 (33) VAN/2022 dated 01/04/2022 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that the proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, and its acceptance by the competent authority in this Ministry, ***In-principle approval/Stage-I Clearance*** of the Central Government is hereby granted for diversion of 406.678 ha (out of the originally proposed 466.592 ha.) of forest land in favour of Airport Authority of India Kota for Construction of New Green Field Airport Kota, District-Bundi in the State of Rajasthan subject to fulfilment of 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:

- i. The State Government shall not use more than 33.408 ha forest land (an area equivalent to the Non-forest land involved in the proposal) for commercial city side development.
- ii. The revised layout plan indicating different components shall be submitted keeping in view the condition no A(i).
- iii. The proposed area is within the default ESZ of the Chambal Ghariyal WLS and within the Buffer zone of Ramgarh-Vishdhari Tiger Reserve. It has been intimated that the proposal for exclusion of the proposed area from Buffer Zone of Tiger Reserve is under consideration. The State Govt. shall therefore submit a copy of the Wildlife clearance in case of Wildlife Sanctuary and the

- notification excluding the proposed area from the Buffer zone of Tiger Reserve.
- iv. The State Govt. shall rectify the discrepancy in digital boundary of the forest land of the concerned area and submit the correct digital boundary to FSI, Dehradun for updating the same on DSS portal.
 - v. The provision for removal of *Prosopis juliflora* and *Lantana* shall be incorporated wherever necessary in CA plantations.
 - vi. The KML/shape files along with the area details of the existing and proposed new alignment of the transmission line shall be submitted.
 - 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 by the user agency. The Compensatory Afforestation 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.
 - viii. The KML files of diverted area and the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details;
 - ix. The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal in accordance with the MoEF&CC's guidelines dated 6.01.2022 read with guidelines dated 19.01.2022.
 - x. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
 - xi. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in the account of National Authority only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). Amount deposited through other modes will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
 - xii. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

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 Compensatory Afforestation over the identified degraded forest land of 933.18 ha in 13 patches in various locations spread in Dabi and Hindoli Ranges of Bundi Division, Rajasthan shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency. As far as practicable a mixture of local indigenous species will be planted and monoculture of a species has to be avoided.
- iii. In order to save the forest land from encroachment, the State Govt. shall take necessary action/steps to construct boundary wall for the two fragmented patches of forest land (i.e. 33.5 ha. and 137.01 ha.) on the Northern side of the proposed area.
- iv. 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.

- v. 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.
- vi. The forest land shall be used exclusively for the purpose of operation of the airport as per the approved land use plan/layout plan.
- vii. The state Government will ensure complete compliance of Forest Right Act 2006.
- viii. 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;
- ix. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- x. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- xi. 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;
- xii. Any other condition that the concerned Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, with prior approval of competent authority, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xiii. 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
- xiv. 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,

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal CCF & (HoFF), Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC, Jaipur, Rajasthan;

3. The Nodal Officer(FCA), O/o the PCCF, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.