



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Forest & Wildlife Department - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Diversion of 0.5949 ha of forest land for laying Optical Fiber Cable from Kattikulam to Kutta border, Thetturoad to Appapara - Stage I approval - Orders Issued - reg

FOREST & WILDLIFE (C) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.516/2022/F&WLD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 18-11-2022

Read Letter no. FC1-2267/2022 dated 04.11.2022 from the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Nodal Officer, Thiruvananthapuram.

ORDER

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer as per the letter read above has recommended and forwarded the proposal in Form A under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.5949 ha of forest land for laying Optical Fiber Cable from Kattikulam to Kutta border, Thetturoad to Appapara. Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited, Uttar Pradesh, is the user agency.

2. As per the site inspection reports, the project is for laying Optical Fibre Cable by trenching/HDD method and installation of Manhole for connecting telecommunication tower to enhance the connectivity and coverage and OFC redundancy connectivity in roads passing through the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. The segments in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary are Thetturoad to Pulivalmoola 4.60 Km (0.1380 ha), Begur to Naiketetty 7.64 Km (0.2292 ha) and Naiketetty to Kutta interstate border 3.13 Km (0.0939 ha). The total area required in Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is 0.4611 ha for the project.

3. There will not be any disturbance to the flora and fauna as the project involves laying of Optical Fiber Cable underground. The work is expected to result in providing better mobile connectivity to the remote villages, mainly the tribal colonies within and the Government offices, functioning therein. No trees are required to be felled for the

purpose. The requirement of forest land proposed by the User Agency is stated to be unavoidable and of the barest minimum.

4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Wayanad (North) has in his recommendation mentioned that the proposed cable is passing through the forest area from Irumpupalam to Begur Section (0.0759 ha) and Pulivalmoola to Appapara (0.0579 ha). Total length of cable trench is 4.45 km and the total area required in Wayanad (North) is 0.1338 ha. The trench is required to be properly closed after laying the cable to avoid any casualty. The work would result in providing last mile connectivity to the tribal colonies under Wayanad North Division and also facilitate connecting the field areas within forest that is experiencing acute man-animal conflict situation. The area required for diversion of forest land for laying Optical Fibre Cable through forest areas is 0.5949 ha (0.4611 + 0.1338).

5. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Northern Circle), Kannur, has reported that the proposed area is part of a major man-animal conflict zone and has recommended provisioning two 4 x 4 field vehicles by the User Agency towards addressing the conflict in the region and facilitate patrolling.

6. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Field Director, Palakkad has in his recommendation mentioned that the proposed area falls within Tholpetty Range under Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. The proposed optical fiber network will facilitate better internet connectivity to the remote villages and also to the various Government offices there about. On the face of it, the project does not adversely affect the flora and fauna of the area. The proposed area does not form part of any Archaeological/heritage site/defense establishment.

7. The forest clearance proposal is recommended by the Wildlife Warden, Wayanad, Divisional Forest Officer, Wayanad (North), Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Field Director, Palakkad & Chief Conservator of Forests (Northern Circle) Kannur.

8. The forest clearance proposal is uploaded in Union Ministry's website vide No. FP/KL/OFC/155484/2022 and due procedures have been completed.

9. In the circumstances, Government have examined the proposal under the general approval powers of the State Government vide 4.3 of F(C) Act, 1980 guidelines, and are pleased to accord Stage I (in-principle) approval subject to the following conditions and also to receipt of the wildlife clearance.

1. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. 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.
3. Additional amount of Net Present Value of the diverted forest land, if any becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to the effect that they will meet up the requirement as above within the time frame specified.
4. All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
5. Necessary certificates/ documents under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change vide letter No. 11-9/1998-FC(pt) dated 05.07.2013 shall be furnished before Stage-II clearance.
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 forest land.
8. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
9. The forest area shall be used only for the purpose for which it is granted. The total forest area utilized for this project shall not exceed 0.5949 ha.
10. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without the prior approval of Government of India.
11. The User Agency shall enter into an agreement with Wildlife Warden incorporating all the conditions imposed by the Central/State Government in this regard and lease rent as decided by the State may be remitted.
12. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
13. The User Agency shall apply for renewal after 10 years.
14. 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.

15. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change vide F.No.11-42/2017-FC dated 29/01/2018.

16. The User Agency shall provide for two 4x4 field vehicles for RRT under Tholpetty and Begur Range to facilitate securing the inspection path along the OFC alignment and in the surrounding areas as it happens to be a intense conflict zone on the man-animal front.

17. The User Agency shall provide free internet connectivity to the forest establishments to facilitate live surveillance and real time GIS analysis in the landscape aimed at reducing the conflict prevailing in the region.

(By order of the Governor)
RAJESH G R
JOINT SECRETARY

To:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Thiruvananthapuram.

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer,
Thiruvananthapuram.

Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Field Director, Palakkad,

Chief Conservator of Forests (Northern Circle) Kannur,

Wildlife Warden, Wayanad ,

Divisional Forest Officer, Wayanad (North)

Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited, Uttar Pradesh

The Principal Accountant General (A&E)/Audit, Thiruvananthapuram

I&PR (Web & New Media) Department

Stock File.

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer