



भारतसरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण ,वनएवंजलवायुपरिवर्तनमंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE  
CHANGE



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F.No.4-TNC043/2019-CHN/  
Date 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2022

1146

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Environment & Forests Department,  
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009

**Subject: Diversion of 5.42 ha of forest land in Magimandalam Reserved Forests of Vellore Forest Division for Construction of 4-Lane Bangalore-Chennai Expressway by the National Highways Authority of India- Reg.**

Madam,

Please refer to the State Government letter Nos. 14924/FR 10/2017-10 dated 20.06.2019, 14924/FR.10/2017-15 dated 25.02.2021 and online proposal No.FP/TN/ROAD/8238/2014 seeking prior approval of the Government of India in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project. The project was accorded in-principle approval (Stage-I) by the Central Government vide letter dated 13.05.2021. The State Government have reported compliance vide letter dated 17.10.2022 (received on 20.10.2022) to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval;

After careful consideration of the compliance report submitted by the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's approval (*Stage-II*) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of **5.42 ha** of forest land in Magimandalam Reserved Forests of Vellore Forest Division for Construction of 4-Lane Bangalore-Chennai Expressway by the National Highways Authority of India for a period of 30 years, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at the cost of User Agency;
- (iii) The State Forest Department shall carry out Compensatory Afforestation and its maintenance (CA) in the degraded forest area identified over an extent of **10.84 ha in Ammoor RF of Arcot Range in Vellore Division** from the amount already been realized from the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided;

- (iv) Approved CA area and CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;**
- (v) Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) 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 Forest Department from the User Agency;**
- (vi) The approved wildlife mitigation measures plan shall be implemented by the State Forest Department / User Agency from the amount already been realized from the User Agency;**
- (vii) Underneath passages at appropriate places with dimension as suggested and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden may be constructed at the cost of the User Agency, to ensure safe movement of wildlife and to minimize the wildlife accidents;**
- (viii) Warning signs about the animal movement are to be displayed at vintage places and speed regulations shall be imposed, based on the wildlife population in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.**
- (ix) The State Forest Department shall carryout translocation of trees wherever feasible at the cost of the User Agency;**
- (x) The State Forest Department / the User Agency shall strictly comply with the conditions recommended by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Central Empowered Committee (CEC);**
- (xi) State Forest Department shall plant appropriate numbers of red sanders seedlings in the nearby forest area from the amount which was already realized from the User Agency;**
- (xii) The UA shall seek prior approval of GoI for any change in layout plan, if any;**
- (xiii) The User Agency shall construct retaining walls and check walls wherever required, by consulting the DFO concerned, at the project cost;**
- (xiv) Construction of culverts/bridges, if any, over the natural streams/rivers / canals shall be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise to water-logging, and also does not hamper movement of wild animals;**
- (xv) Mitigation measures to prevent soil erosion may be carried out by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO concerned.**



- (xvi) Roadside cuttings and fillings which require engineering support shall be provided as per the instructions of the DFO concerned so as to stabilize the soil;
- (xvii) The dug out material / overburden shall be dumped outside the forest area. Storage of any material shall not be done in the forest area proposed;
- (xviii) No labour camp shall be established inside the forest area; Disturbance shall be kept minimum by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it shall be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
- (xix) 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.
- (xx) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- (xxi) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **5.42 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
- (xxii) The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xxiii) The User Agency and the State Forest Department shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines and court orders for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- (xxiv) Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer (Central) of Integrated Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;
- (xxv) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the provisions made under rules / guidelines issued under FCA, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
3. Inspector General of Forests (Central), MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003 **for information;**
4. The National Highway Authority of India PIU Krishnagiri, Door No. 259/1, Salem Main Road, Near KAKC Petrol Bunk Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu-635001. [kri@nhai.org](mailto:kri@nhai.org) , [piubangalore@nhai.org](mailto:piubangalore@nhai.org)
5. Guard file.

Sd/-

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)