

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 1100 03,

Dated: 19th December, 2022

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest and Wildlife,
Government of Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 136.8623 ha. of RF Forest Land for shifting of Thrissur Zoo from Thrissur to Puthoor at Pattikkad Forest Range, Thrissur Forest Division, Kerala. -regarding. (Online Proposal No. FP/KL/Others/36775/2018).

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Kerala's letter No. C2/126/2018/F&WLD dated 26th November, 2018 on the above mentioned subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of 136.8623 ha. of RF Forest Land for shifting of Thrissur Zoo from Thrissur to Puthoor at Pattikkad Forest Range, Thrissur Forest Division, Kerala, was sought in accordance with Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, **In-principle approval /Stage-I clearance** for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 13.02.2019 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Kerala vide their letter No.C2/126/2018/F&WLD dated 02nd January, 2020 and letter No. FWLD-C2/126/2018-FWLD dated 19.10.2022, the **Final approval/Stage – II Clearance** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 136.8623 ha. of RF Forest Land for shifting of Thrissur Zoo from Thrissur to Puthoor at Pattikkad Forest Range, Thrissur Forest Division, Kerala, subject to the following conditions: -

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land to user agency by the State Govt.:

- i. The State Govt. shall ensure the complete compliance on FRA, 2006;
- ii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and any relevant permission/clearance from CZA if required;
- iii. The KML files of the area to be diverted and the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details prior to Stage II

approval;

- iv. The State Govt. shall ensure that land under the existing Zoo is handed over to the forest department before shifting the existing zoo on the forest land being diverted;

B: Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Govt.:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The Compensatory Afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over double the degraded i.e. 41.06 ha of DFL at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. With provision for ten years on subsequent maintenance;
- iii. Permanent diversion under non -forestry use shall not be more than 15 per cent of the total area sought for diversion;
- iv. The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and transfer the same to the NA, CAMPA under intimation to this Ministry;
- v. The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government;
- vi. The User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- vii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- viii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
- ix. No labour camps shall be set up inside the forest area. Labour management plan should be implement with emphasis that no labour camp be set up in the close vicinity of the eco-fragile and sensitive areas;
- x. The 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;
- xi. No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused;
- xii. 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;
- xiii. 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;
- xiv. 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;
- xv. The State Govt. shall ensure that the Compliance report of this approval is uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

- xvi. The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.21 of comprehensive guidelines issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28th March, 2019;
- xvii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency; and
- xviii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 13.02.2019 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully,

X Mittal
(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bangalore.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading