

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

Ref: MoEFCC's letter dated 30th November 2021, and approval by DDG, IRO Bhopal vide e-office dated 17th December 2021

The site inspection was carried out on 26th December with Assistant Director, STR, and on 27th of December with the Field Director, STR. All the four sites proposed for relocation, and the existing Village, Suplai, were visited.

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| | Title of the Project: | <p>Diversion of 339.80 ha of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for relocation of Village Suplai from Bori Sanctuary under Satpura Tiger Reserve, District Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh State - reg</p> <p>Proposals: (1)FP/MP/FVC/144001/2021 - 79.80 ha (2)FP/MP/FVC/140757/2021 - 100 ha (3)FP/MP/FVC/118466/2021 - 50 ha (4) FP/MP/FVC/118226/2021 - 110 ha</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total - 339.80 ha</p> |
| 1. | Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion: | <p><i>Protected Forest</i></p> <p>i. Compartment PF 273 - 79.80 ha, Pathral Beat Dundadeh Block, Sohagpur Range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For relocating 30 family units - This land is adjacent to the relocated villages of Sankai and Bori. There is an existing powerline /transmission line passing through this land. <p>ii. Compartment RF 225 Part 1 and Part 2 - 100 ha., North Bagda Beat, Bagda Block, Sohagpur Range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is proposed to relocate 45 family units on this land |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This land is adjacent to one rehabilitated village and a Revenue village. <p>iii. Compartment PF 179 – 50.00 ha – Tangna Beat, Khori Block, Itarsi Range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is proposed to relocate 20 family units here - On both sides of this site there are revenue villages. <p>iv. Compartment PF 174 – 110.00 ha – Golandoh Beat, Khori Block, Itarsi Range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is proposed to relocate 50 family units on this site. - This land is also adjacent to revenue lands. <p>The sites identified for relocation are all on the fringe of the Forest, and are adjacent to Revenue/Relocated Villages and are burdened by grazing pressure.</p> |
| 2. | Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion: | <p>It is proposed to utilize the forest land for agriculture @ 2 ha/family unit, housing, and related community facilities like school, water supply, electricity, etc. for the relocating population.</p> <p>Since the proposed sites are adjacent to existing villages, convergence of government schemes, and extension of civic amenities like electricity supply, irrigation and drinking water facilities, etc will all be easier.</p> |
| 3. | Whether proposal involves any construction of | Yes, since it is a relocating proposal. |

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| | buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof: | |
| 4. | Total cost of the project at present rates: | - |
| 5. | Wildlife: | <p>All the four sites are on the fringes and adjoining Village settlements and agricultural lands. It was apparent that these are subjected to grazing pressures.</p> <p>No wild animals were seen during the visit, but presence and occasional movement of bears, deer, wild boars, etc was mentioned.</p> |
| 6. | Vegetation: | <p>Eco Class 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 79.939 ha – Crown Density is about 0.4 ii. 100 ha. – Crown density is about 0.5. iii. 50 ha – Crown density is about 0.4. . iv. 110 ha – Crown density is about 0.5 <p>The canopy density varies from 0.3 to 0.6 in these sites. Teak is the dominant species along with its' associate species. Total of 34518 trees are found after enumeration as per the proposal, majority of which fall in Girth classes 31-60, 61-90 and 91-120.</p> <p>As per the proposal, fruit bearing trees, trees along the proposed roads, houses and fields will also be retained.</p> <p>During visit to already relocated villages enroute, it was seen that trees like Mahua, other fruit bearing trees, trees along the border of agricultural fields were retained.</p> |
| 7. | Background note on the proposal: | <p>This proposal is part of the ongoing process of relocating villages from inside the Satpura Tiger Reserve (STR) to outside and on the fringes of the forest areas, to create inviolate spaces for the wildlife. Till now 47 villages</p> |

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| | | <p>(from Core as well as Buffer, and Revenue as well as Forest villages) have been relocated from STR.</p> <p>The Village Suplai is located in the Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, which is buffer for the STR. It consists of 145 family units with a human population of about 692 and cattle population of about 1012. The entire population belongs to Tribal community as was confirmed during the site inspection. The area under occupation and use of the villagers is calculated based on the Forest Village Register maintained by the Forest Department, this being a Forest Village, which comes to 158.397 ha, and also taking into account the community use of the forest land, estimated at 260 ha, totaling 418 ha as was informed by the Field Director during the visit.</p> <p>On relocation of this entire village, for which consent has been given by the Villagers, the area will be inviolate and exclusively be available for Wildlife conservation.</p> <p>Relocation of Suplai Village is proposed in four different patches of Forest land located in Hoshangabad Territorial Forest Division in continuation and in proximity to either existing Revenue Villages or to the earlier relocated Villages.</p> |
| 8. | Compensatory afforestation: | Not applicable |
| 9. | Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned | No |

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| | officials: | |
| 10. | Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not: | No families or any structures were found on the land proposed for diversion. The process of settlement of rights under FRA, 2006 has been completed for all the four sites. |
| 11. | Reclamation Plan: | Not applicable |
| | Details and financial allocation: | - |
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| 12. | Details on catchment and command area under the project: | Not applicable |
| 13. | Cost benefit ratio: | - |
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| 14. | Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government: | The proposal is recommended by the State Government. |
| 15. | Recommendations of Regional Chief Conservator of Forests along with detailed reasons: | (Comments to be offered separately) |
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| 16. | Regional Chief Conservator of Forests shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land: | <p>The sites have been selected by the Park management on mutual discussion and agreement with the Suplai Villagers.</p> <p>Since these four sites are adjacent to existing Revenue/relocated Villages and are located on the fringe of forest, the relocation is expected to be successful.</p> |

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| 17. | Utility of the Project: | <p>As per the Field Director, STR, the project will facilitate availability of 418 ha land inside the Satpura Tiger Reserve for developing habitats for wild animals.</p> <p>During the field visit to Suplai village, wide spread agricultural practices and large number of cattle were seen, which would be impacting the wildlife and its habitat adversely.</p> <p>More importantly, the villagers themselves are deprived of easy access to amenities like health, electricity, etc and hence are keen to move out. The relocation will benefit the socio-economic progress and quality of life of the villagers.</p> <p>It will be win-win situation for the Forests/Wildlife and Villagers.</p> |
| 18. | Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value: | No specific historical importance |
| 19. | Situation w.r.t. any P.A. | Proposed area is not part of any protected area. |
| 20. | Any other information relating to the Project: | <p>i. The Supreme Court order dated 28.01.2019 states that “ despite the order of 13.11.2000, the MoEF is permitted to change the legal status of the forest land approved under the FC Act for relocation of these villages for the purpose of extending the boundary and for the rehabilitation of tribal people residing there”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This proposal fulfills both the purposes mentioned in the order.</p> <p>ii. This is a voluntary relocation proposal on mutually agreed terms and conditions. Interaction with villagers during the visit to Suplai Forest Village</p> |

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| | | <p>confirmed the eagerness of the villagers to move out at the earliest. They requested for early relocation.</p> <p>iii. Diversion is proposed for 99 years, perhaps by oversight. This is a proposal for permanent diversion and denotification of the forest land to Revenue land and then for issue of ownership title to relocated villagers.</p> <p>iv. In case of increase of population (in terms of Family Units) in the intervening period of processing this proposal, it is said by the FD that the additional units shall be compensated by Cash component so that no additional land is required for relocation.</p> <p>The STR management and the State of Madhya Pradesh have successfully demonstrated their expertise and sincerity in relocation of villages from STR in the past. The fact that the villagers of Suplai are eagerly waiting to be relocated reflects the success of earlier relocations.</p> <p>As informed by the FD, STR, this is the last remaining village in the Bori Wildlife Sanctuary.</p> <p><i>This proposal to relocate the Suplai village to the fringe forests is highly recommended as it benefits the wildlife as well as contributes immensely to the quality of life of the villagers.</i></p> |
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Signature

Name and Designation

of Inspecting Officer: Mahesh Kumar Shambhu
DIG, IRO, Bhopal

Date of Inspection: 26 & 27 December 2021

Photographs of Village Suplai (10 Photos)











Photographs of Site 1 - 79.80 ha in Sohagpur Range (6 Photos)





Adjoining areas are cultivated



Site number 2 – 100 ha in Sohagpur Range (3 Photos)





Site number 3 – 50 hain Itarsi Range (3 Photos)





Site number 4 -110 ha in Itarsi Range (4 Photos)







Recommendations of DDGF :

The Proposal for diversion of 339.80 ha of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for relocation of Village Suplai from Bori Sanctuary under Satpura Tiger Reserve, District Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh State is recommended for the following important reasons.

- i. The relocation of the Forest Village Suplai, being the last village in Bori Wildlife Sanctuary will free the Sanctuary from human and cattle pressure on the important wildlife habitat
- ii. The relocation of Village to fringe forest will uplift the villagers socio-economically and will help in earning the goodwill of the people, who belong to tribal and forest dwelling community.
- iii. The relocation of village to protected forest area is mutually agreed upon by the State Government and the people, and
- iv. The park management of Satpura tiger reserve has demonstrated its capability in relocation by successfully relocating about 47 villages in the past.

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SANTOSH TEWARI
(DDGF(C))