

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**  
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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,**  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 110003  
**Dated: September, 2023**

To,

**The Dy. DGF (Central),**  
Regional Office,  
MoEF&CC, Bhopal.

**Subject: Diversion of 2272.05 ha forest land for construction of Morand - Ganjal Irrigation Project located in Hoshangabad, Betul, Harda and Khandwa Districts of Madhya Pradesh State in favour of M/s Narmada Valley Development Authority (Online No. FP/MP/IRRIG/36231/2018) – regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-3/16/2018/10-11/1667 dated 26.04.2023 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and to request that the Regional Office, Bhopal of this Ministry shall carryout the inspection of the forest land proposed for diversion, sites identified for compensatory afforestation (CA) and submit a detailed site inspection report (SIR) to this Ministry for further necessary action.

In addition, it is informed that the Ministry vide letter of even no. dated 19.09.2023 (**Copy enclosed**) has sought clarification/information from the State Government in view of proposed diversion land and CA land. The said clarification along with recommendations of RO regarding suitability of the proposed CA areas shall also be submitted.

Yours sincerely,

**Encl: As Above**

**Signed by Surabhi Rai**  
(Dr. Surabhi Rai)  
**Deputy Inspector General of Forests**  
Date: 28-09-2023 07:05:29  
Reason: Approved

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

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To,

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
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**Subject: Diversion of 2272.05 ha forest land for construction of Morand - Ganjal Irrigation Project located in Hoshangabad, Betul, Harda and Khandwa Districts of Madhya Pradesh State in favour of M/s Narmada Valley Development Authority (Online No. FP/MP/IRRIG/36231/2018) – regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Land Management) and Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Madhya Pradesh letter no. F-3/16/2018/10-11/3669 dated 16.08.2023 received via email dated 12.09.2023 along with relevant enclosures on the above cited subject forwarding the required information. The examination of the said information has revealed that:

- i. A detailed report along with justification as to why the project cannot be located in non-forest area has not been submitted.
- ii. The detail of the alternative sites examined along with KML files has not been submitted.
- iii. The plan along with details for further distribution of water to end users has not been submitted.
- iv. The CAT plan was prepared in the year 2014 and cost estimated for the implementation of CAT plan was estimated Rs 1944.26 Lakhs. Now, in the year 2023 the State Govt. approved the CAT plan which was prepared in the year 2014 with reduced financial outlay of Rs. 1781.62/- Lakhs. This needs clarification.
- v. The detail of revised proposal of 2250.05 ha along with KML files has not been submitted.
- vi. The comment of the Chief Wildlife Warden along with availability of alternative wildlife corridors in order to mitigate the detrimental effects of submergence of proposed forest land has not been submitted.
- vii. The Cost Benefit analysis shows that the cost of proposed forest land has not been calculated as per the revised NPV rates vide Ministry letter dated 06.01.2022. Moreover, details about deriving the benefits of forest diversion in monetary terms has not been mentioned in the Cost-Benefit analysis.
- viii. The KML files of the phase-wise and components wise activities proposed to be carried in the forest land proposed for diversion. Moreover, correction in the KML files of the proposed forest land located under different forest divisions has not been carried out.
- ix. The State Govt. has not clarified that whether such lands proposed for CA does not comes in the ambit of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and justify these lands as NFL.
- x. The approved CA scheme along with site suitability certificates from the concerned DFO has not been submitted.
- xi. The State Govt. has uploaded the KML file of Non-forest land involved in the project on the PARIVESH. However, its calculated area is found 1299.887 ha instead of 1277.694

ha as mentioned in the Part-I of the online proposal.

- xii. The State Govt. has not submitted the justification for proposed CA area which are not free from encumbrances as per the observations from DSS analysis. Also the State Govt. has not submitted the comment that is there any requirement for rehabilitation & resettlement of people from the identified CA lands.
- xiii. A detailed plan to protect the identified CA land from encroachment in future has not been submitted.
- xiv. The KML files indicating proposed components over the Forest as well as the Non-forest land along with the KML files and Map showing the phase wise activities proposed to be carried out over the forest as well as the Non-forest land involved in the project needs submission.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above-mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal within one week of receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by Surabhi Rai

(Date: 20-09-2023) 07:07:13

Deputy Inspector General of Forests  
Reason: Approved

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
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