



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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F.No.4-APA067/2018-CHN/ (68)
Date 22nd October, 2018

To,

The Additional Director General of Forests (FC),
Ministry Of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road,
Aliganj, New Delhi 110003.

Subject: Forwarding of Site Inspection Reports on eight APCRDA proposals-reg

Reference: Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Forest
Conservation Division, letter No 8-23/2018-FC dated 10.10.2018

Sir,

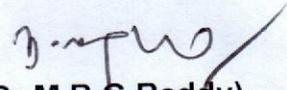
The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Forest Conservation Division vide letter No 8-23/2018-FC dated 10.10.2018 has requested this office to carryout filed inspection of forest areas proposed for diversion under eight projects of the APCRDA and to furnish site inspection report to the Ministry, New Delhi.

The Forest lands proposed for diversion under the eight proposals of the APCRDA and two of non-forest areas identified for compensatory afforestation were inspected by Shri.D Sathiyan, Conservator of Forests (Central) of this office. The site inspection report is enclosed herewith for perusal and for further necessary action.

The undersigned agrees with the recommendations of Shri.D.Sathiyan, Conservator of Forests (Central). Consideration of these proposals may involve making suitable relaxations in the existing guidelines which may be decided upon by the competent authority in the first place. Subsequently, the eight proposals may be taken up for further scrutiny in the light of the recommendations made in the respective site inspection report.

Yours Faithfully,

Encl: As above


(Dr.M.R.G.Reddy)
Additional PCCF (Central)

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT (SIR) ON THE PROPOSED DIVERSION OF FOREST
LANDS IN RESPECT OF 8 (EIGHT) PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE 'ANDHRA
PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY' (APCRDA),
VIJAYWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH UNDER THE 'CAPITAL CITY
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS' IN A.P. CAPITAL REGION.**

1. Background:

- 1.1. The 'Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority Act 2014' (APCRDA Act) has come into force with effect from the 30th day of December 2014. This is an act to provide for the declaration of the new capital area for the State of Andhra Pradesh and establishment of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority for the purposes of planning, co-ordination, execution, supervision, financing, funding, promoting and securing the planned development of the capital region development area, undertaking construction of the new capital region, undertaking construction of the new capital for the State of Andhra Pradesh, managing and supervising urban services in the new capital area and for matters ancillary thereto. As per the APCRDA Act, the Capital Region was notified with an area of 8603 sq.kms. (which includes Reserve Forest area of 407.96 sq. kms. falling in Krishna and Guntur Districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- 1.2. Section 94 (4) of the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act 2014 provides that "*The Central Government shall facilitate creation of a new capital for the successor State of Andhra Pradesh, if considered necessary, by de-notifying degraded forest land*". However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh decided to propose diversion of forest land as per the requirement for Capital City Infrastructure works instead of going for de-notification. Accordingly, the Government vide letter No 5446 /Sec.II /2014 dated 05.09.2015 submitted a proposal for diversion of 19,256.8 ha of forest land to be utilized for development of the Capital City for the State of Andhra Pradesh, in Guntur and Krishna Districts. Subsequently, the State Government vide letter No 5446 /Section-II/ 2014 dated 25.04.2016 has submitted a revised proposal for diversion of 12,444.89 ha.

- 1.3. The MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide letter 8-24/2015-FC dated 20.09.2017 has accorded Stage I (In-principle) approval for diversion of 2087.09 ha (i.e. 251.77 ha in Tadepalli RF and 1835.32 ha in Venkatayapalem RF for establishment of Armed Forces Training Institute and facilities etc. Further, the Ministry has requested the State Government to come up with separate proposals, component wise or in cluster of components in due course as per their priority in accordance with the FCA guidelines.
- 1.4. Meanwhile, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in Original Application No. 171 of 2015 (M.A Nos. 510/2015, 1148/2015 & 1108/2016); Appeal No. 148/2015 (M.A Nos. 1325/2015 & 1326/2015); Appeal No. 05/2016 (M.A Nos. 56/2016 & 64/2016) And Appeal No. 24 of 2016 (M.A No. 399/2016), has passed its order on 17-11-2017 and one of the directions contained therein is that:

'the Capital city has 251 acres of forest land which should be preserved as green lungs of the city and not to be diverted for non-forestry uses or even for uses like parks or recreational activities & deprive the capital of the ecosystem services which a natural forest provides as opposed to plantation forests'.

As such, the above order of the NGT has stopped the diversion proceedings in respect of the 251.77 ha Tadepalli RF.

- 1.5. Subsequently, the APCRDA has submitted the following 8 proposals seeking diversion of forest land for various purposes under the FC Act;

Sl. No	Name of the proposal	Area (ha)
1.	Diversion of 123.82 ha of forest land in Mothadaka Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Science City under capital city infrastructure projects in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.	123.82
2.	Diversion of 250.08 ha of forest land in Kondaveedu Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of Forest Academy, IIF&CC, Head Quarters of APFD, APFDC, APPCB and NGC under capital city infrastructure projects	250.08

	in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh	
3.	Diversion of 371.80 ha of forest land in Karlapudi Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of E-5 Park under capital city infrastructure projects in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.	371.80
4.	Diversion of 434.85 ha of forest land in Kondaveedu Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of Integrated Institutional Complex under capital city infrastructure projects in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh	434.85
5.	Diversion of 118.3 ha of forest land in Pedamaddur Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of Eco Tourist Village under capital city infrastructure projects in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh	118.30
6.	Diversion of 150.84 ha of forest land in Kondaveedu Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of EcoTheme Park under capital city infrastructure projects in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.	150.84
7.	Diversion of 231.33 ha of forest land in Nidumukkala Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of Bio Diversity Park under capital city infrastructure projects in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh	231.33
8.	Diversion of 1625.53 ha of forest land in Venkatayapalem Extn 1 & Extn 8 Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of Aerospace, Precision Engineering Innovation & Research and Green Mobility Park under capital city infrastructure projects in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.	1625.53

1.6. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division) vide letter No 8-23/2018-FC dated 10.10.2018 has requested the Regional Office, Chennai to inspect the above eight proposal sites and to furnish reports.

1.7. Accordingly, as per the direction of the APCCF(C), the above mentioned project sites were inspected by the undersigned along with the State Forest Department Officials and representatives from the User Agency during the period 17.09.2018 to 19.09.2018. Before proceeding for field inspection, the User Agency has made a detailed power point presentation on all the proposals.

2. **Site Inspection Report (SIR) on the Forest lands proposed for diversion in respect of the 8 proposals:**

The project wise Site Inspection Report in respect of the forest lands proposed for diversion under the 8 proposals are enclosed as **Annexure–A to H** in the same order as mentioned in the above table.

Google images & photographs of the above 8 project sites are enclosed in **Annexure –I**.

3. **Site Inspection Report (SIR) on the non-forest lands identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA);**

The site inspection report on the non-forest lands identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) in respect of the two CA sites inspected are given in **Annexure – J** along with photographs.

The Site Inspection Report (SIR), as above, is submitted.

Encl: Annexures A to J.

Date: 22.10.2018


(D. Sathiyam),
Conservator of Forests (Central),
Regional Office, Chennai.

Proposal No: FP/AP/Others/30247/2017

Annexure- A

Proposal Name: Diversion of 123.82 ha of forest land in Mothadaka Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of 'Science City' under 'capital city infrastructure projects' in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.

1. Basic details of the proposal:

As per the proposal, the APCRDA seeks diversion of **123.82 Ha** forest land for the establishment of Science City under the Capital City Infrastructure projects. The land use proposed therein is as mentioned in the Table given below. The area proposed for diversion is a hillock with medium to steep slopes and has an elevation of 145 m. The area has Dry Deciduous Scrub Forests of canopy density of 0.2-0.4. Tree species like *Albizzia amara*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Grevia rotandifolia*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Acacia latronum*, *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Gyrocarpus jacquini* and *Prosopis juliflora* are recorded in the area. Wild boars are reported to be present in the proposed area. As reported by the DFO, Guntur Division, the area proposed for diversion is included in the 'Degraded Forest Improvement Working Circle' as per the working plan prescription and falls in Eco class IV. The APCRDA officials have informed that the area proposed for diversion falls within the re-notified boundaries of the 'Capital Region'.

Table: The Area statement as reported in the proposal is as follows:

S.No	Land use	Area in Ha
01	Climate Change Theater	6.60
02	Dinosaurs Park	10.95
03	Earth Exploration Hall	9.27
04	Energy park	6.11
05	Fun science	6.72
06	Laser Theatre	8.43
07	Maritime Center	0.95
08	Science of Sports	5.79
09	Space Theater and Digital Planetarium	6.88
10	Virtual reality	10.51
11	Water Pool	1.47
12	Administration	0.85
13	Roads	29.93
14	Common open spaces & Green Areas	16.44
15	Utilities	2.91
	Total	123.82

Note: It is reported in the proposal that an area of 41 ha, which is 55% of the area proposed for activities mentioned in SI No 1 to 12 above, will be retained as open spaces in addition to the 16.44 ha of area proposed for common open spaces & green areas.

2. Concept plan furnished in the proposal:



DM

3. Observations on the proposal documents:

- 3.1. Going by the activities proposed in the proposal, the project is non-site specific; however, as per the justification provided by the APCRDA in the proposal, the project site has been selected after examination of alternatives.
- 3.2. The User Agency has provided breakup of the forest area proposed for diversion in a broad thematic manner and indicated the overall quantum of open spaces and green areas in percentage terms. However, the proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. For example, an area of 10.51 ha area is proposed for 'virtual Reality' but no further details on sub-components have been provided.
- 3.3. During discussions with the User Agency, it emerged that the land use planning process for the proposed area has not been completed/frozen yet and the sub component wise details, etc will be finalised only in future, which means the requirements indicated in the current proposal may change.

4. Observations made during site visit:

- 4.1. The forest area of 123.82 ha proposed for diversion in Mothadaka RF under Guntur Range and Guntur Division, is a hillock of huge rocks and has sparsely distributed scrubs with a canopy density of 0.1- 0.2. The hillock has medium slopes with rocky portions. The area proposed for diversion is easily accessible by road and it is surrounded by revenue/agricultural lands and human habitations. Mothadaka RF is one of the series of hillocks that lie in 'south to North' direction in this area. It has Nidumukkala RF on its south and Karlapudi RF on its north, both of them have been proposed for diversion separately. The proposed diversion area has a maximum elevation of around 734 ft MSL, as per google earth.
- 4.2. As per the layout plan furnished by the user agency, a main road is proposed at the middle of the longitudinal axis of the hillock through its top, besides a network of roads. It appears that some project components including roads have been proposed without considering the relief/slope of the hillock. The User Agency may need to clarify on this.
- 4.3. As per the layout, most of the project components including roads are falling on rocky areas which would require huge hill cutting. The User Agency has not provided any information on the actual area which requires hill cutting/quarrying and the quantum of materials expected to be extracted. The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.



5. Suggestions/Recommendations:

- 5.1. The proposal is non-site specific and involves construction of lot of infrastructures including a network of roads on a hillock, which is expected to require huge hill cutting. The proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. It is learnt from the User Agency that as per the project design, various project components will have to be executed by different agencies / departments. This will amount to transfer / sublet the diverted forest area, for which prior approval of the Gol is required in each case. Hence, **consideration of this proposal may require making enabling modifications in the existing FC guidelines in the first place if deemed fit**, which needs to be decided by the competent authority.
- 5.2. If the proposal is taken up for further consideration, since the forest area required for the project does not appear to be the barest minimum the User Agency may be directed to rationalize the actual area required by leaving out the rocky areas requiring huge hill cutting and also the areas proposed for residential accommodations, hostels and commercial buildings. The infrastructures for residential, commercial buildings, hostels, dormitories, etc, if any, shall be shifted to outside the forest area and the layout plan needs to be changed accordingly.
 - 5.2.1. The State Government may be asked to submit a revised lay out plan on a digital elevation platform depicting all component land uses and open/green spaces along with a detailed report on the quantum of stone materials to be extracted for execution of the project; The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.
 - 5.2.2. For each of the thematic zones proposed, the final certified land use indicating further breakup of the forest land required, sub-component wise and clearly depicting the area to be kept as open space and green areas under each component may be sought for from the State Government, unless the requirement is relaxed by the competent authority.
 - 5.2.3. Subject to satisfactory compliance by the User Agency to the above conditions, the proposal may be considered thereafter by the FAC for appropriate decision.
- 5.3. In the event of the project being given approval by the Gol, the following conditions, among others, may be stipulated, if deemed fit;
 - a. the User Agency shall submit an under taking not to use the area earmarked for the open & Green spaces for any other purpose;
 - b. Chain link fencing or Wall along the boundary of the forest area proposed for diversion shall be constructed at the project cost to prevent encroachment;
 - c. The hill slopes shall be protected by the User Agency from erosion by undertaking structural as well as planting interventions wherever required.

- d. The User Agency shall arrange to meet the energy requirement of the project components by promoting Solar Energy and other green energy sources to the maximum extent possible.
- e. The User Agency shall not alter the natural course of streams in the proposed area and shall undertake to strengthen its banks both structurally and by planting trees.
- f. The State Government shall form a monitoring committee headed by an officer of sufficient seniority in the Forest Department along with a representative from the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC, *etc.*



No: FP/AP/Others/30168/2017

Proposal Name: Diversion of 250.08 ha of forest land in Kondaveedu Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of Forest Academy, IIF&CC, Head Quarters of APFD, APFDC, APPCB and NGC under 'capital city infrastructure projects' in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.

1. Basic details of the proposal:

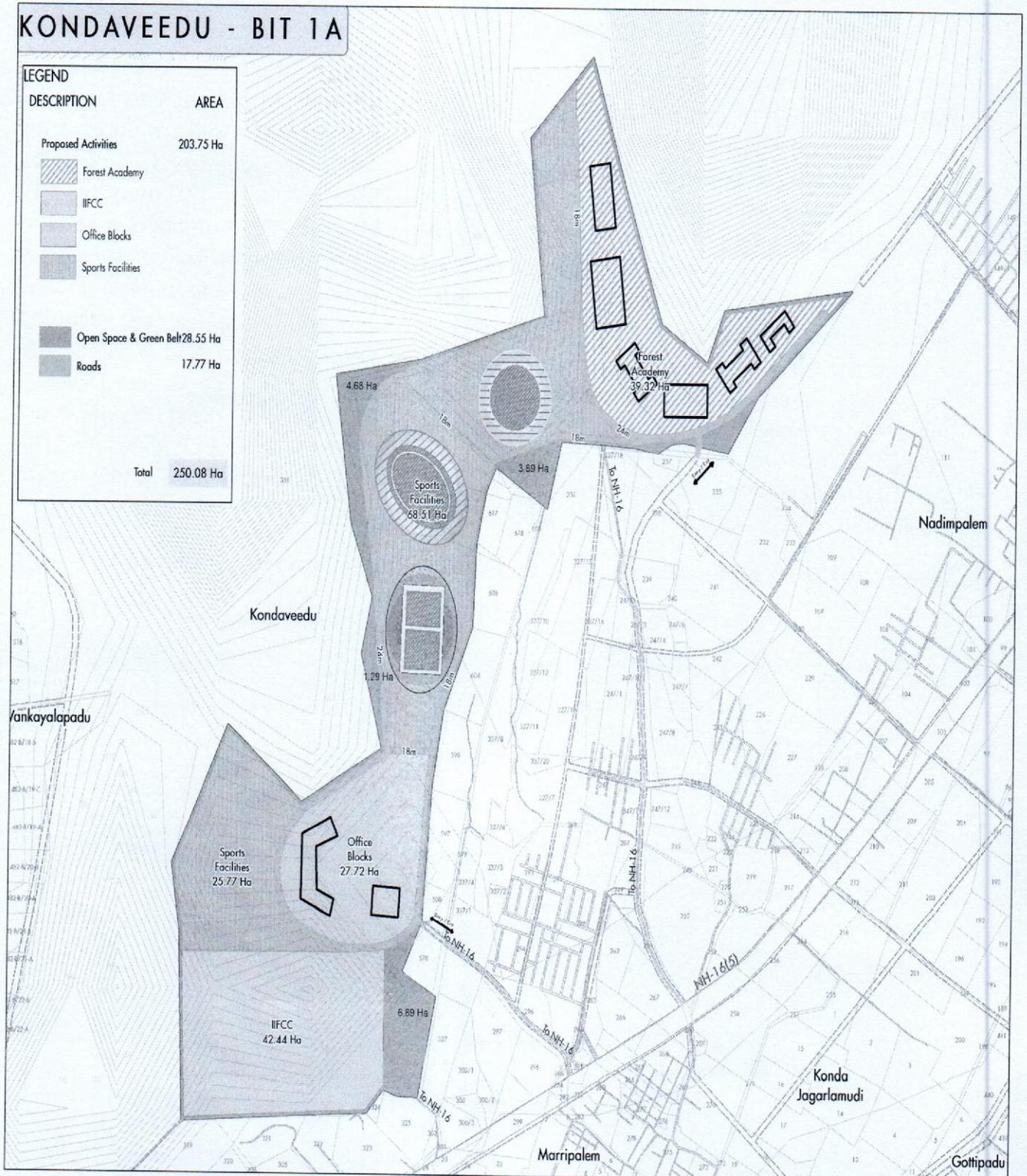
As per the proposal, the APCRDA seeks diversion of **250.08 ha** forest land for the establishment of infrastructure for the institutions mentioned above. The land use proposed therein is as mentioned in the Table given below. The area proposed for diversion is part of a continuous stretch of hillocks with steep slopes and huge rocks and as reported, with a maximum contour level difference of 320 m. The area has Dry Thorny Scrub Forests of canopy density of 0.2 and some growth of Bamboo is seen in flat areas. Tree species like *Morinda citrifolia*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Zizyphus xylopyrus*, *Gyrocarpus jacquini*, *Manilkara hexandra*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Albizia amara*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Euphorbia* sps and *Grewia rotundifolia* are recorded in and around Kondaveedu. Wildlife like Wildboar, Hare, Python and Peafowl are reported to be present in the proposed area. As reported by the DFO, Guntur Division, the area proposed for diversion is included in the 'Degraded Forest Improvement Working Circle' as per the working plan prescription and falls in Eco class IV. The APCRDA officials have informed that the area proposed for diversion falls within the re-notified boundaries of the 'Capital Region'.

Table: The Area statement as reported in the proposal area is as follows:

SI No	Land use	Area (Ha)
1	Forest Academy	39.32
2	IIFCC	42.44
3	Office Blocks	27.72
4	Sports facilities	94.28
5	Roads	17.77
6	Common Green & Open spaces	28.55
	Total	250.08

Note: It is reported in the proposal that an area of 91.692 ha, which is 45% of the area proposed for activities mentioned in SI No 1 to 4 above, will be retained as open spaces in addition to the 28.55 ha of area proposed for open spaces & green areas.

2. Concept plan furnished in the proposal:



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3. Observations on the proposal documents:

- 3.1. Going by the activities proposed in the proposal, the project is non-site specific; however, as per the justification provided by the APCRDA in the proposal, the project site has been selected after examination of alternatives.
- 3.2. It is seen that another proposal for diversion of 434.85 ha of forest land in kondaveedu Forest Block (Bit IB) has been submitted by the same User Agency where the forest land proposed for diversion is contiguous to the one covered under the present proposal.
- 3.3. The User Agency has provided breakup of the forest area proposed for diversion in a broad thematic manner and indicated the overall quantum of open spaces and green areas in percentage terms. However, the proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. For example, an area of 39.31 ha area is proposed for 'Forest Academy' but no further details of sub-components have been provided, including corresponding open spaces.
- 3.4. In the proposal, no area has been earmarked for 'Utilities' as in other proposals.
- 3.5. During discussions with the User Agency, it emerged that the land use planning process for the proposed area has not been finalized yet and the sub component wise details, etc will be worked out only in future, which means the requirements indicated in the current proposal may be subject to change. It is also learnt from the AP Forest Department officials that the Department has recently requested the State Government to revise the requirement of forest land for the said 'Forest Academy' from 39.31 ha to 100 ha on which the decision of the State Government is awaited. In short, the land use planning for the area sought to be diverted has not been frozen yet.

4. Observations made during site visit:

- 4.1. The 250.08 ha forest area proposed for diversion consists of hillocks characterized by huge sheet rocks, its lower elevation interspersed by small a stream and the area has sparse dry thorny scrubs having a canopy density of 0.2. As observed in the field, the Kondaveedu Forest Block contains a series of hillocks lying in a North easterly direction and parallel to the nearby major Road (Guntur-Narasarapet). These hillocks generally have steep slopes with rocky portions. The area proposed for diversion (Bit 1A) covers a part of these hillocks including the rocky portions, facing the revenue lands and the said road while on the other side we have the remaining RF portion. The proposed diversion area has a maximum elevation of around 487 ft MSL, as per google earth.
- 4.2. As per the layout plan furnished by the User Agency, establishment of infrastructure for the IIF&CC has been proposed at a site where a hillock of huge

sheet rock stands now. Similarly, as per the lay out plan, sports facilities and the Forest academy are also falling on rocky hillock portions requiring huge hill cutting. However the proposal is silent on the requirement of cutting the hill. The User Agency has not provided any information on the actual area which requires hill cutting/quarrying and the quantum of materials expected to be extracted. The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.

5. Suggestions/Recommendations:

- 5.1. The proposal is non-site specific and in its present form involves construction of some of the proposed infrastructures on the hill slopes, which is expected to require hill cutting. The proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. It is learnt from the User Agency that as per the project design, various project components will have to be executed by different agencies / departments. This will amount to transfer / sublet the diverted forest area, for which prior approval of the GoI is required in each case. Hence, **consideration of this proposal may require making enabling modifications in the existing FC guidelines in the first place if deemed fit**, which needs to be decided by the competent authority.
- 5.2. However, though it is a non-site specific project, since the proposal is for establishment of infrastructure for the institutions mentioned in the proposal which are directly and indirectly connected with the administration of forests and environment, the proposal may be taken up for favourable consideration by relaxing the provisions as mentioned above, if deemed fit.
- 5.3. **If the proposal is taken up for further consideration**, since the forest area required for the project does not appear to be the barest minimum, the User Agency may be directed to rationalize the actual area required by leaving out the rocky areas requiring huge hill cutting and also the areas proposed for residential accommodations, hostels and commercial buildings. The infrastructures for residential, commercial buildings, hostels, dormitories, etc shall be shifted to outside the forest area and the layout plan needs to be changed accordingly.
- 5.3.1. The State Government may be asked to submit a revised lay out plan on a digital elevation platform depicting all component land uses and open/green spaces along with a detailed report on the quantum of stone materials to be extracted for execution of the project; The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.



- 5.3.2. For each of the thematic zones proposed, the final certified land use indicating further breakup of the forest land required, sub-component wise and clearly depicting the area to be kept as open space and green areas under each component may be sought for from the State Government, unless the requirement is relaxed by the competent authority.
- 5.3.3. Subject to satisfactory compliance by the User Agency to the above conditions, the proposal may thereafter be considered by the FAC for appropriate decision.
- 5.4. In the event of the project being given approval by the GoI, the following conditions may be stipulated, if deemed fit;
- a. the User Agency shall submit an under taking not to use the area earmarked for the open & Green spaces for any other purpose;
 - b. Chain link fencing or Wall along the boundary of the forest area proposed for diversion shall be constructed at the project cost to prevent encroachment;
 - c. The hill slopes shall be protected by the User Agency from erosion by undertaking structural as well as planting interventions wherever required.
 - d. The User Agency shall arrange to meet the energy requirement of the project components by promoting Solar Energy and other green energy sources to the maximum extent possible.
 - e. The SG shall form a monitoring committee headed by an officer of sufficient seniority along with a representative from the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC.
 - f. The State Government shall form a monitoring committee headed by an officer of sufficient seniority in the Forest Department along with a representative from the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC, etc .



Proposal No: FP/AP/Others/30133/2017

Annexure- C

Proposal Name: Diversion of 371.80 ha of forest land in Karlapudi Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of 'E-5 Park' under 'capital city infrastructure projects' in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.

1. Basic details of the proposal:

As per the proposal, the APCRDA seeks diversion of **371.80 Ha** forest land for the establishment of a 'Five Elements Park' under the Capital City Infrastructure projects. The land use proposed therein is as mentioned in the Table given below. The area proposed for diversion, falling in Compartment no 123&124 of Endroy beat, Mangalagiri section of Guntur Range and Guntur Division, is a hillock with varying slopes and has Dry Thorny Scrub Forests of canopy density of 0.2-0.3. Tree species like *Albizia amara*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Grevia rotandifolia*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Manilkara hexandra*, *Gyrocarpus jacquini*, *Zyzyphus xylopyrus* and *Prosopis juliflora* are recorded in the area. No major wildlife is reported to be present in the proposed area. As reported by the DFO, Guntur Division, the area proposed for diversion is included in the 'Degraded Forest Improvement Working Circle' as per the working plan prescription and falls in Eco class IV. The APCRDA officials have informed that the area proposed for diversion falls within the re-notified boundaries of the 'Capital Region'.

Table: The Area statement as reported in the proposal is as follows:

S.No	Land use	Area in Ha
01	Cultural Heritage Theme 01- Water	90.25
02	Cultural Theme 02- Sky	27.01
03	Cultural Theme 03- Earth	19.82
04	Cultural Theme 04- Air	32.20
05	Cultural Theme 05- Fire	34.94
06	Research & Academy Blocks	17.86
07	Entrance Plaza & Admin Block	11.94
08	Hostels & Dormitories	10.55
09	Roads	81.90
10	Common Open Spaces & Green Areas	42.15
11	Utilities	3.21
	Total	371.80



3. Observations on the proposal documents:

- 3.1. Going by the activities proposed in the proposal, the project is non-site specific; however, as per the justification provided by the APCRDA in the proposal, the project site has been selected after examination of alternatives.
- 3.2. The User Agency has provided breakup of the forest area proposed for diversion in a broad thematic manner and indicated the overall quantum of open spaces and green areas in percentage terms. However, the proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. For example, an area of 90.25 ha is proposed for the theme 'Water' but no further break-up or finer details have been given. The actual area required for each sub-component as well as the open space within it has not been reported.
- 3.3. During discussions with the User Agency, it emerged that the land use planning process for the proposed area has not been completed yet and the sub component wise details, etc will be worked out only in future, which means the requirements indicated in the current proposal may be subject to change.

4. Observations made during site visit:

- 4.1. The forest area of 370.81 ha proposed for diversion under Compartment no 123 & 124 of Endroy beat, Mangalagiri section of Guntur Range and Guntur Division, is a hillock with huge rocks and boulders. This area has sparsely distributed vegetation with a canopy density of 0.2- 0.3. The hillock has varying slopes and rocky portions. The area proposed for diversion is easily accessible by road and it is surrounded by revenue/agricultural lands and human habitations. This hillock is one of the series of hillocks that lie in a general south to North direction in this area. It has Mothadaka hillock on its south and Paddamaduru hillock on its north; both of them have been proposed for diversion separately. The proposed diversion area has a maximum elevation of around 728 ft MSL, as per google earth.
- 4.2. As per the layout plan, some areas have been earmarked for 'Food and Fun Zone', and 'Parking Lots', but these details are not reflected in the break-up of area required as given in the table form in the proposal. The User Agency may be asked to clarify on the above.
- 4.3. As per the proposal, an area of 10.55 ha is proposed for 'Hostels & Dormitories' though diversion of forest lands for such purposes is specifically discouraged.
- 4.4. As per the layout plan furnished by the user agency, a main road is proposed at the middle of the longitudinal axis of the hillock through its top, besides a network of roads. It appears that the road network has been proposed without considering the relief/slope of the hillock. The User Agency may need to clarify on this.

- 4.5. As per the layout, most of the project components including roads are falling on rocky areas which would require huge hill cutting. The User Agency has not provided any information on the actual area which requires hill cutting/quarrying and the quantum of materials expected to be extracted. The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.

5. Suggestions/Recommendations:

- 5.1. The proposal is non-site specific and involves construction of lot of infrastructures including a network of roads on a hillock, which is expected to require huge hill cutting. The proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. It is learnt from the User Agency that as per the project design, various project components will have to be executed by different agencies / departments. This will amount to transfer / sublet the diverted forest area, for which prior approval of the GoI is required in each case. Hence, **consideration of this proposal may require making enabling modifications in the existing FC guidelines in the first place**, which needs to be decided by the competent authority.
- 5.2. If the proposal is taken up for further consideration, since the forest area required for the project does not appear to be the barest minimum, the User Agency may be directed to rationalize the actual area required by leaving out the rocky areas requiring huge hill cutting and also the areas proposed for residential accommodations, hostels and commercial buildings. The infrastructures for residential, commercial buildings, hostels, dormitories, etc shall be shifted to outside the forest area and the layout plan needs to be changed accordingly.
- 5.2.1. The State Government may be asked to submit a revised lay out plan on a digital elevation platform depicting all component land uses and open/green spaces along with a detailed report on the quantum of stone materials to be extracted for execution of the project; The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.
- 5.2.2. For each of the thematic zones proposed, further breakup of the forest land required, sub-component wise and clearly depicting the area to be kept as open space and green areas under each component may be sought for from the State Government, unless the requirement is relaxed by the competent authority.



- 5.2.3. It appears that an area of 3.00 ha where a central nursery including infrastructure like Bore well, pipeline, water tanks, 2 quarters exist at present has been included in the area proposed for diversion. It shall be excluded.
- 5.2.4. Subject to satisfactory compliance by the User Agency to the above conditions, the proposal may thereafter be considered by the FAC for appropriate decision.
- 5.3. In the event of the project being given approval by the Gol, the following conditions, among others, may be stipulated, if deemed fit;
- a. the User Agency shall submit an under taking not to use the area earmarked for the open & Green spaces for any other purpose;
 - b. Chain link fencing or Wall along the boundary of the forest area proposed for diversion shall be constructed at the project cost to prevent encroachment; giving priority to the areas located near human habitations.
 - c. The hill slopes shall be protected by the User Agency from erosion by undertaking structural as well as planting interventions wherever required.
 - d. The User Agency shall arrange to meet the energy requirement of the project components by promoting Solar Energy and other green energy sources to the maximum extent possible.
 - e. The User Agency shall not alter the natural course of streams in the proposed area and shall undertake to strengthen its banks both structurally and by planting trees.
 - f. The State Government shall form a monitoring committee headed by an officer of sufficient seniority in the Forest Department along with a representative from the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC, etc.



Proposal No: P/AP/Others/30365/2017

Annexure- D

Proposal Name: Diversion of 434.85 ha of forest land in Kondaveedu Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of Integrated Institutional Complex under capital city infrastructure projects in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.

1. Basic details of the proposal:

As per the proposal, the APCRDA seeks diversion of **434.85 Ha** forest land for the establishment of Integrated Institutional Complex under 'Capital City Infrastructure projects'. The land use proposed therein is as mentioned in the Table given below. The area proposed for diversion is a part of a continuous stretch of hillocks, generally with steep slopes and huge rocks and as reported has a maximum contour level difference of 320 m. The area has Dry Thorny Scrub Forests with a canopy density of 0.2. Tree species like *Morinda citrifolia*, *Gymnosporia montana*, *Acacia latronum*, *Zizyphus* sps, *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Manilkara hexandra*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Albizia amara*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Gyrocarpus jacquini* and *Grewia rotundifolia* are recorded in and around Kondaveedu. Wild boar, Hare, Python and Peafowl are reported to be present in the area. As reported by the DFO, Guntur Division, the area is included in the 'Degraded Forest Improvement Working Circle' as per the working plan prescription and falls in Eco class IV. The APCRDA officials have informed that area falls within the re-notified boundaries of the 'Capital Region'. The proposed forest land for diversion is contiguous to the of 250.08 ha forest area proposed for diversion in Kondaveedu Forest Block for the development of Forest Academy, IIF&CC, Head Quarters of APFD, APFDC, APPCB, NGC etc.

Table: The Area statement as reported in the proposal area is as follows:

S.No	Land use	Area in Ha
1	Academic Zone	27.540
2	Convention and Training Centers	97.940
3	Skill Development & Training center	144.440
4	Central Utilities	19.510
5	Central Park	28.810
6	Water Bodies	09.359
7	Roads	20.590
8	Common Green & Open Spaces	65.875
9	Utilities	21.550
Total		434.860



3. Observation in the proposal documents:

- 3.1. Going by the activities proposed in the proposal, the project is non-site specific; however, as per the justification provided by the APCRDA in the proposal, the project site has been selected after examination of alternatives.
- 3.2. It is seen that another proposal for diversion of 250.08 ha of forest land in kondaveedu Forest Block (Bit I A) has been submitted by the same User Agency where the forest land proposed for diversion is contiguous to the one covered under the present proposal.
- 3.3. The User Agency has provided breakup of the forest area proposed for diversion in a broad thematic manner and indicated the overall quantum of open spaces and green areas in percentage terms. However, the proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. For example, an area of 27.54 ha area is proposed for 'Academic Zone' but no further details of sub-components have been provided, including corresponding open spaces.
- 3.4. As per the layout plan, huge areas have been earmarked for 'Residential Apartments', 'Residential Zoning' and 'Retail Shopping Malls', diversion of forest lands for such purposes is specifically discouraged. More ever, these details are not reflected in the break-up of area required as given in the table form in the proposal. The User Agency may be asked to clarify on the above.
- 3.5. In the proposal, an area of 19.51ha has been proposed for 'Central Utilities' and another 21.55 ha has been proposed for 'Utilities'; However, both the terms are not explained in the proposal and no differentiation has been made out. Hence, further details and actual requirement for 'utilities' need to be ascertained from the User Agency;
- 3.6. During discussions with the User Agency, it emerged that the land use planning process for the area has not been finalised yet and the sub component wise details, etc will be worked out only in future, which means the requirements indicated in the current proposal are subject to change. In short, the land use planning for the area sought to be diverted has not been frozen yet.

4. Observation made during site visit:

- 4.1. The forest area of 434.85 ha proposed for diversion consists of hillocks with rocky boulders, valleys and undulated patches interspersed with streams and has sparsely distributed scrubs with a canopy density of 0.2. As observed in the field, the Kondaveedu Forest Block contains a series of hillocks lying in a North easterly direction and parallel to the nearby major Road (Guntur-Narasarapet). These hillocks generally have steep slopes with huge rocky portions. The area proposed for diversion (Bit 1B) covers a part of these hillocks including the rocky portions, facing the said road while on the other side we have the remaining RF

portion. The proposed diversion area has a maximum elevation of around 584 ft MSL as per google earth. Adjacent to the RF, plain revenue lands are available.

- 4.2. The proposed site consists of rocky hillocks, valleys and few small streams. The site has 2 rocky hillocks enclaved in it besides the rocky portions located in other parts. As per the layout plan furnished by the user agency, the 'academic zone' is proposed adjoining the proposed area for 'Forest academy' which is part of another proposal. As per the layout, areas earmarked for establishment of infrastructures for the 'Convention and Training Centers', 'Common Facilities & Services' and 'Academic Zone' are falling on rocky hillock areas which would require hill cutting to construct the proposed infrastructures. However the proposal is silent on the requirement of cutting the hill. The User Agency has not provided any information on the actual area which requires hill cutting/quarrying and the quantum of materials expected to be extracted. The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.

5. **Suggestions/Recommendations:**

- 5.1. The proposal is non-site specific and in its present form involves construction of some of the proposed infrastructures including roads on the hill slopes, which is expected to require hill cutting. The proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. It is learnt from the User Agency that as per the project design, various project components will have to be executed by different agencies / departments. This will amount to transfer / sublet the diverted forest area, for which prior approval of the Gol is required in each case. Hence, **consideration of this proposal may require making enabling modifications in the existing FC guidelines in the first place if deemed fit**, which needs to be decided by the competent authority.
- 5.2. If the proposal is taken up for further consideration, since the forest area required for the project does not appear to be the barest minimum, the User Agency may be directed to rationalize the actual area required by leaving out the rocky areas requiring hill cutting and also the areas proposed for residential accommodations, hostels and commercial buildings. The infrastructures for residential, commercial buildings, hostels, dormitories, etc, if any, shall be shifted to outside the forest area and the layout plan needs to be changed accordingly.
- 5.2.1. The State Government may be asked to submit a revised lay out plan on a digital elevation platform depicting all component land uses and open/green spaces along with a detailed report on the quantum of stone materials to be extracted for execution of the project; The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development

- and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.
- 5.2.2. For each of the thematic zones (like academic zone, etc) proposed, further breakup of the forest land required, sub-component wise and clearly depicting the area to be kept as open space and green areas under each component may be sought for from the State Government, unless the requirement is relaxed by the competent authority. Besides, clarification as mentioned in Para 3.5 above and further details on 'utilities' may be obtained from the UA.
- 5.2.3. Subject to satisfactory compliance by the User Agency to the above conditions, the proposal may thereafter be considered by the FAC for appropriate decision.
- 5.3. In the event of the project being given approval by the GoI, the following conditions, among others, may be stipulated, if deemed fit;
- a. the User Agency shall submit an under taking not to use the area earmarked for the open & Green spaces for any other purpose;
 - b. Chain link fencing or Wall along the boundary of the forest area proposed for diversion shall be constructed at the project cost, wherever required, to prevent encroachment;
 - c. The hill slopes shall be protected by the User Agency from erosion by undertaking structural as well as planting interventions wherever required.
 - d. The User Agency shall arrange to meet the energy requirement of the project components by promoting Solar Energy and other green energy sources to the maximum extent possible.
 - e. The User Agency shall not alter the natural course of streams in the proposed area and shall undertake to strengthen its banks both structurally and by planting trees.
 - f. The State Government shall form a monitoring committee headed by an officer of sufficient seniority in the Forest Department along with a representative from the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC, etc.



Proposal No: FP/AP/Others/30280/2017

Annexure- E

Proposal Name: Diversion of 118.3 ha of forest land in Pedamaddur Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of 'Eco Tourism Village' under 'capital city infrastructure projects' in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.

1. Basic details of the proposal:

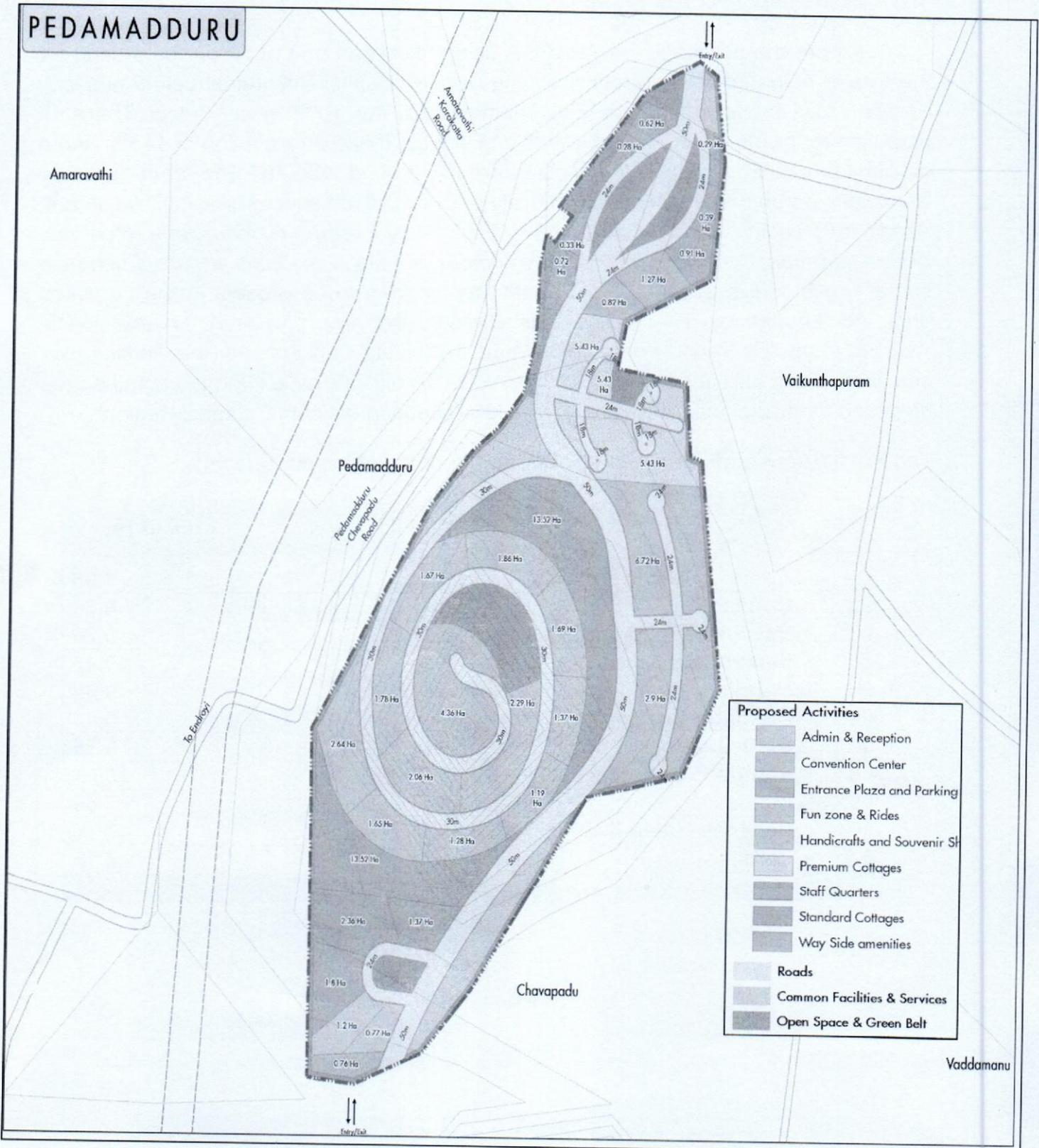
As per the proposal, the APCRDA seeks diversion of **118.30 ha** forest land for the establishment of an 'Eco-tourism Village' under 'Capital City Infrastructure projects'. The land use proposed therein is as mentioned in the Table given below. The area proposed for diversion is a hillock with steep slopes. It has an elevation of 145 m and a maximum recoded contour level difference of around 120 m. The area has Dry Deciduous Scrub Forests of canopy density of 0.1-0.2. Tree species like *Albizzia amara*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Grevia rotandifolia*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Gymnosporia Montana*, *Acacia latronum*, *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Gyrocarpus jacquini*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Euphorbia sps* are recorded in the area. Wild boars are reported to be present in the proposed area. As reported by the DFO, Guntur Division, the area proposed for diversion is included in the 'Degraded Forest Improvement Working Circle' as per the working plan prescription and falls in Eco class IV. The APCRDA officials have informed that the area proposed for diversion falls within the re-notified boundaries of the 'Capital Region'.

Table: The Area statement as reported in the proposal is as follows:

S.No	Landuse	Area in Ha
01	Admin & Reception	1.95
02	Convention Center	4.36
03	Entrance Plaza and Parking	0.76
04	Fun zone & Rides	19.47
05	Handicrafts and Souvenir Shop	9.62
06	Premium Cottages	5.43
07	Staff Quarters	3.55
08	Standard Cottages	19.05
09	Roads	27.69
10	Common Green & Open Spaces	19.26
11	Utilities	7.15
	Total	118.30

Note: It is reported in the proposal that an area of 35.31ha, which is 55% of the area proposed for activities mentioned in SI No 1 to 8 above, will be retained as open spaces in addition to the 19.26 ha of area proposed for common open spaces & green areas.

2. Concept plan furnished in the proposal:



3. Observations on the proposal documents:

- 3.1. Going by the activities proposed in the proposal, the project is non-site specific; however, as per the justification provided by the APCRDA in the proposal, the project site has been selected after examination of alternatives.
- 3.2. The User Agency has provided breakup of the forest area proposed for diversion in a broad thematic manner and indicated the overall quantum of open spaces and green areas in percentage terms. However, the proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. For example, an area of 19.47 ha area is proposed for 'Fun zones & Rides' but no further details of sub-components have been provided.
- 3.3. During discussions with the User Agency, it emerged that the land use planning process for the proposed area has not been completed yet and the sub component wise details, etc will be worked out only in future, which means the requirements indicated in the current proposal may undergo change. It is also learnt from the AP Forest Department officials that the Department has recently requested the State Government to revise the requirement of forest land for the said 'Forest Academy' from 39.31 ha to 100 ha on which the decision of the State Government is awaited. In short, the land use planning for the area sought to be diverted has not been frozen yet.
- 3.4. As per the layout plan, 5.43 ha has been earmarked for 'Premium Cottages', 9.62 ha for 'Handicraft & Souvenir Shop', 3.55 ha for 'Staff Quarters' and 19.05 ha for 'Standard Cottages' though diversion of forest lands for such purposes is specifically discouraged by the Ministry.

4. Observations made during site visit:

- 4.1. The forest area of 118.30 ha proposed for diversion, falling in Compartment No. 122 in Pedomadduru RF, Guntur Range and Guntur Division, is a hillock which has huge sheet rocks and boulders, a small valley and undulated patches and has sparsely distributed scrubs with a canopy density of 0.1- 0.2. The hillock has steep slopes and huge rocky portions. The area proposed for diversion is easily accessible by road. Pedomaddur RF is the northernmost of the series of hillocks that lie in a 'south to North' direction and located nearer to the Capital City area. It is surrounded on 3 sides by revenue/agricultural lands and a valley on its southern end between another hillock. The proposed diversion area has a maximum elevation of around 510 ft MSL, as per google earth.
- 4.2. As per the layout plan furnished by the user agency, a road is proposed around the hillock to reach the top. The road network covers about 25% of the area proposed for diversion. As mentioned in Para 3.4, an area of 36.65 ha has been proposed to accommodate residential and commercial buildings.

- 4.3. As per the layout, most of the infrastructures earmarked are falling on rocky areas which would require huge hill cutting, besides the construction of roads. The User Agency has not provided any information on the actual area which requires hill cutting/quarrying and the quantum of materials expected to be extracted. The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.
- 5. Suggestions/Recommendations:**
- 5.1. The proposal is non-site specific and in its present form involves construction of some of the proposed infrastructures including roads on the hill slopes, which is expected to require hill cutting. The proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. It is learnt from the User Agency that as per the project design, various project components will have to be executed by different agencies / departments. This will amount to transfer / sublet the diverted forest area, for which prior approval of the GoI is required in each case. Hence, **consideration of this proposal may require making enabling modifications in the existing FC guidelines in the first place if deemed fit**, which needs to be decided by the competent authority.
- 5.2. If the proposal is taken up for further consideration, since the forest area required for the project does not appear to be the barest minimum, the User Agency may be directed to rationalize the actual area required by leaving out the areas involving huge hill and the areas proposed for residential accommodations and commercial buildings and also to reduce the area under roads. Roads on the Rocky slopes to reach the top may be avoided by opting for a cable car system. Only temporary/ semi-permanent eco-friendly constructions shall be resorted to under the project. The infrastructures for residential, commercial buildings, hostels, dormitories, etc, if any, shall be shifted to outside the forest area and the layout plan needs to be changed accordingly.
- 5.2.1. The State Government may be asked to submit a revised lay out plan on a digital elevation platform depicting all component land uses and open/green spaces along with a detailed report on the quantum of stone materials to be extracted for execution of the project; The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component
- 5.2.2. For each of the activity proposed, breakup of the forest land sub-component wise and clearly depicting the area to be kept as open space and green areas under each component may be sought for from the State Government, unless the requirement is relaxed by the competent authority.

- 5.2.3. Subject to satisfactory compliance by the User Agency to the above conditions, the proposal may thereafter be considered by the FAC for appropriate decision.
- 5.3. Since the proposal is for establishment of infrastructure for the Eco-Tourism Village, preferably, the User Agency may be directed to execute the project and to manage it subsequently, through the Forest Department of Andhra Pradesh. Under the Forest Department, the area may be managed as a Community Based Eco-Tourism Programme with the involvement of the local community, adhering to the guidelines issued by the Gol on eco-tourism in full.
- 5.4. In the event of the project being given approval by the Gol, the following conditions may be stipulated, if deemed fit;
- i. The User Agency shall ensure that the Guidelines issued by the Gol on eco-tourism are adhered to in full and no activity in violation of the provisions of the FC Act/Rules/Guidelines takes place therein. Only temporary/ semi-permanent eco-friendly constructions shall be resorted to under the project.
 - ii. The User Agency shall submit an under taking not to use the area earmarked for the open & Green spaces for any other purpose;
 - iii. The User Agency shall arrange to meet the energy requirement of the project components by promoting Solar Energy and other green energy sources to the maximum extent possible.
 - iv. The hill slopes shall be protected by the User Agency from erosion by undertaking structural as well as planting interventions wherever required.
 - v. The State Government shall form a monitoring committee headed by an officer of sufficient seniority in the Forest Department along with a representative from the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC, *etc*



Proposal No: FP/AP/Others/30367/2017

Annexure- F

Proposal Name: Diversion of 150.84 ha of forest land in Kondavedu Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of 'Eco-Theme Park' under 'capital city infrastructure projects' in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.

1. Basic details of the proposal:

As per the proposal, the APCRDA seeks diversion of **150.84 Ha** forest land for the establishment of an 'Eco Theme Park' under the 'Capital City Infrastructure projects'. The land use proposed therein is as mentioned in the Table given below. The area proposed for diversion is the foot hills portion a hillock which has steep slopes. The area has Dry Thorny Scrub Forests of canopy density of 0.2-0.3 and bamboo is also seen in a small area. Tree species like *Albizzia amara*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Grevia rotandifolia*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Manilkara hexandra*, *Gyrocarpus jacquini*, *Zyzyphus xylopyrus* and *Prosopis juliflora* are recorded in the area. Wild boar, hare, python, peafowl etc are reported in the proposed area. As reported by the DFO, Guntur Division, the area proposed for diversion is included in the 'Degraded Forest Improvement Working Circle' as per the working plan prescription and falls in Eco class IV. The APCRDA officials have informed that the area proposed for diversion falls within the re-notified boundaries of the 'Capital Region'.

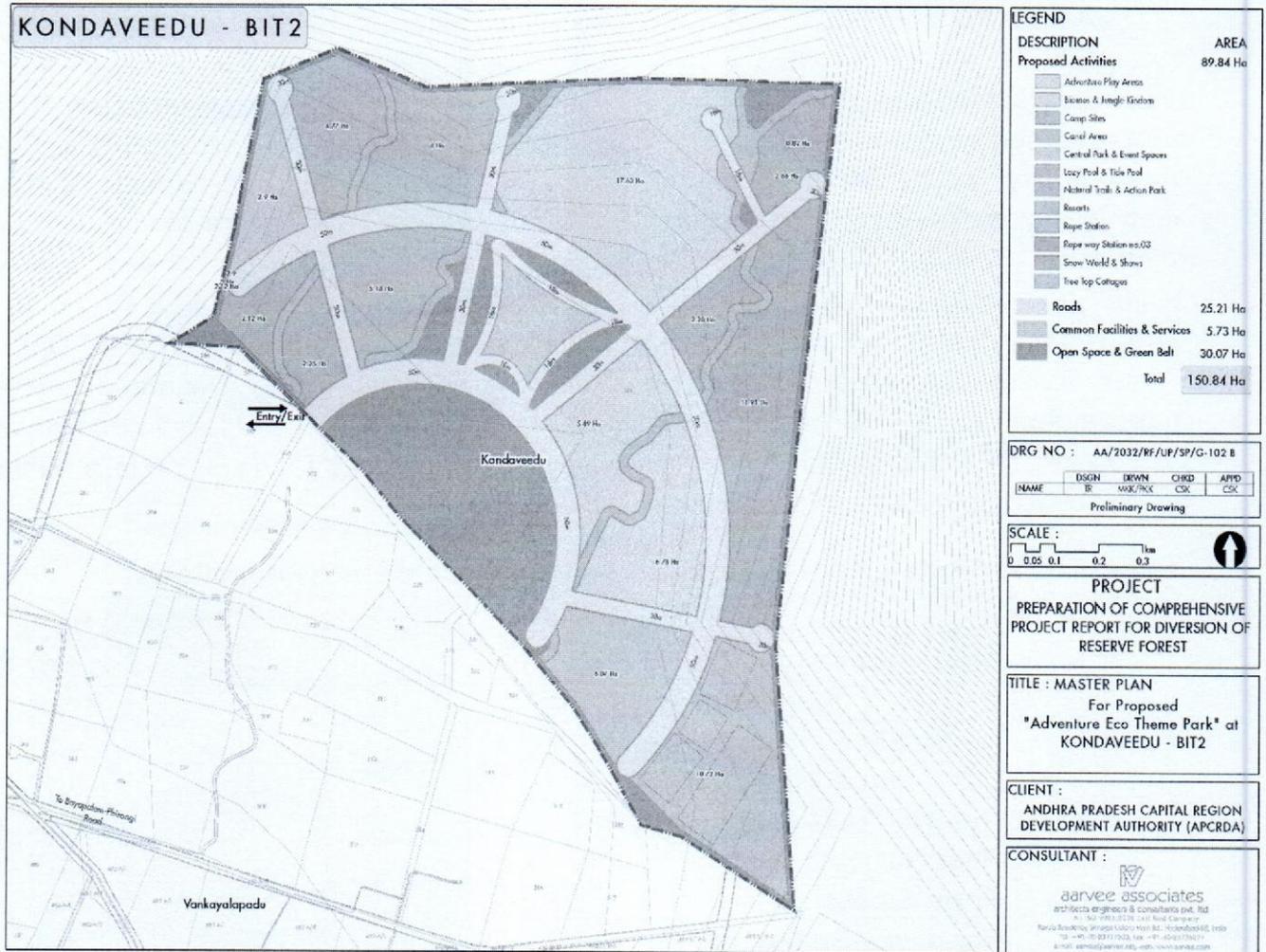
Table: The Area statement as reported in the proposal area is as follows:

S.No	Land use	Area in Ha
01	Adventure Play Areas	11.87
02	Biomes & Jungle Kingdom	17.63
03	Camp Sites	4.37
04	Lazy pool & Tide pool	5.18
05	Natural Trails & Action Park	10.77
06	Resorts	10.72
07	Rope Station	0.82
08	Rope way Station no.03	2.66
09	Snow World & Shows	14.18
10	Guest Rooms & Dormitories	6.07
11	Canal Area	5.57
12	Roads	25.21
13	Common Open Spaces & Green Areas	30.07
14	Utilities	5.73
	Total	150.84



Note: It is reported in the proposal that an area of 46.35 ha, which is 55% of the area proposed for activities mentioned in SI No 1 to 11 above, will be retained as open spaces in addition to the 30.07 ha of area proposed for common open spaces & green areas.

2. Concept plan furnished in the proposal:



3. Observations on the proposal documents:

- 3.1. Going by the activities proposed in the proposal, the project is non-site specific; however, as per the justification provided by the APCRDA in the proposal, the project site has been selected after examination of alternatives.
- 3.2. The User Agency has provided breakup of the forest area proposed for diversion in a broad thematic manner and indicated the overall quantum of open spaces and green areas in percentage terms. However, the proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the

Ah

quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution, if any. For example, an area of 11.87 ha is proposed for the theme 'Adventure play Areas' but no further break-up or finer details have been given. The actual area required for each sub-component as well as the open space within it has not been reported.

3.3. The component wise breakup reported in the concept lay out plan differs from the area statement given in the form of a table.

3.4. During discussions with the User Agency, it emerged that the land use planning process for the proposed area has not been completed yet and the sub component wise details, etc will be worked out only in future, which means the requirements indicated in the current proposal may be subject to change.

4. **Observations made during site visit:**

4.1. The forest area of 150.84 ha proposed for diversion, falling in kondaveedu RF of Guntur Range and Guntur Division, is the foothill part of hillocks. This area has sparsely distributed vegetation with a canopy density of 0.2- 0.3. This area is located behind the Kondaveedu Bit 1A & Bit 1B which have been proposed for diversion separately. It is bordered by revenue/agricultural lands on one side and the remaining part of the RF on the other sides. The proposed diversion area has a medium slope and a maximum elevation of around 276 ft MSL, as per google earth. There are 4 streams draining into this area from the hillocks.

4.2. As per the layout plan, some areas have been earmarked for 'Resorts' and 'Cottages', but these details are not reflected in the break-up of area required as given in the table form in the proposal. The User Agency may be asked to clarify & rectify the mismatch between the table and the lay out plan.

4.3. As per the proposal, an area of 4.37 ha is proposed for 'Camp sites & Hostels'; 10.72 ha and another 6.07 ha for 'Guest rooms & Dormitories' though diversion of forest lands for such purposes is specifically discouraged.

5. **Suggestions/ Recommendation:**

5.1. The proposal is non-site specific and in its present form involves construction of some of the proposed infrastructures on the hill slopes. The proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting, if any, involved in its execution. It is learnt from the User Agency that as per the project design, various project components will have to be executed by different agencies / departments. This will amount to transfer / sublet the diverted forest area, for which prior approval of the Gol is required in each case. Hence, **consideration of this proposal may require making enabling modifications in the existing FC guidelines in the first place if deemed fit**, which needs to be decided by the competent authority.



- 5.2. **If the proposal is taken up for further consideration**, since the forest area required for the project does not appear to be the barest minimum, the User Agency may be directed to rationalize the actual area required by reducing the areas earmarked for residential/ commercial buildings, Camp sites, Cottages, hostels, dormitories, etc which shall be shifted to outside the forest area and the layout plan needs to be changed accordingly.
- 5.2.1. For each of the thematic zones proposed, the final certified land use indicating further breakup of the forest land required, sub-component wise and clearly depicting the area to be kept as open space and green areas under each component may be sought for from the State Government, unless the requirement is relaxed by the competent authority.
- 5.2.2. Subject to satisfactory compliance by the User Agency to the above conditions, the proposal may thereafter be considered by the FAC for appropriate decision.
- 5.3. In the event of the project being given approval by the GoI, the following conditions, among others, may be stipulated, if deemed fit;
- a. the User Agency shall submit an undertaking not to use the area earmarked for the open & Green spaces for any other purpose;
 - b. Chain link fencing or Wall along the boundary of the forest area proposed for diversion, wherever required, shall be constructed at the project cost to prevent encroachment.
 - c. The hill slopes shall be protected by the User Agency from erosion by undertaking structural as well as planting interventions wherever required.
 - d. The User Agency shall arrange to meet the energy requirement of the project components by promoting Solar Energy and other green energy sources to the maximum extent possible.
 - e. The User Agency shall not alter the natural course of the streams in the proposed area and shall undertake to strengthen its banks both structurally and by planting trees.
 - f. The State Government shall form a monitoring committee headed by an officer of sufficient seniority in the Forest Department along with a representative from the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC, etc.



Proposal No: FP/AP/Others/30278/2017

Annexure- G

Proposal Name: Diversion of 231.33 ha of forest land in Nidumukkala Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of 'Bio Diversity Park' under 'capital city infrastructure projects' in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.

1. Basic details of the proposal:

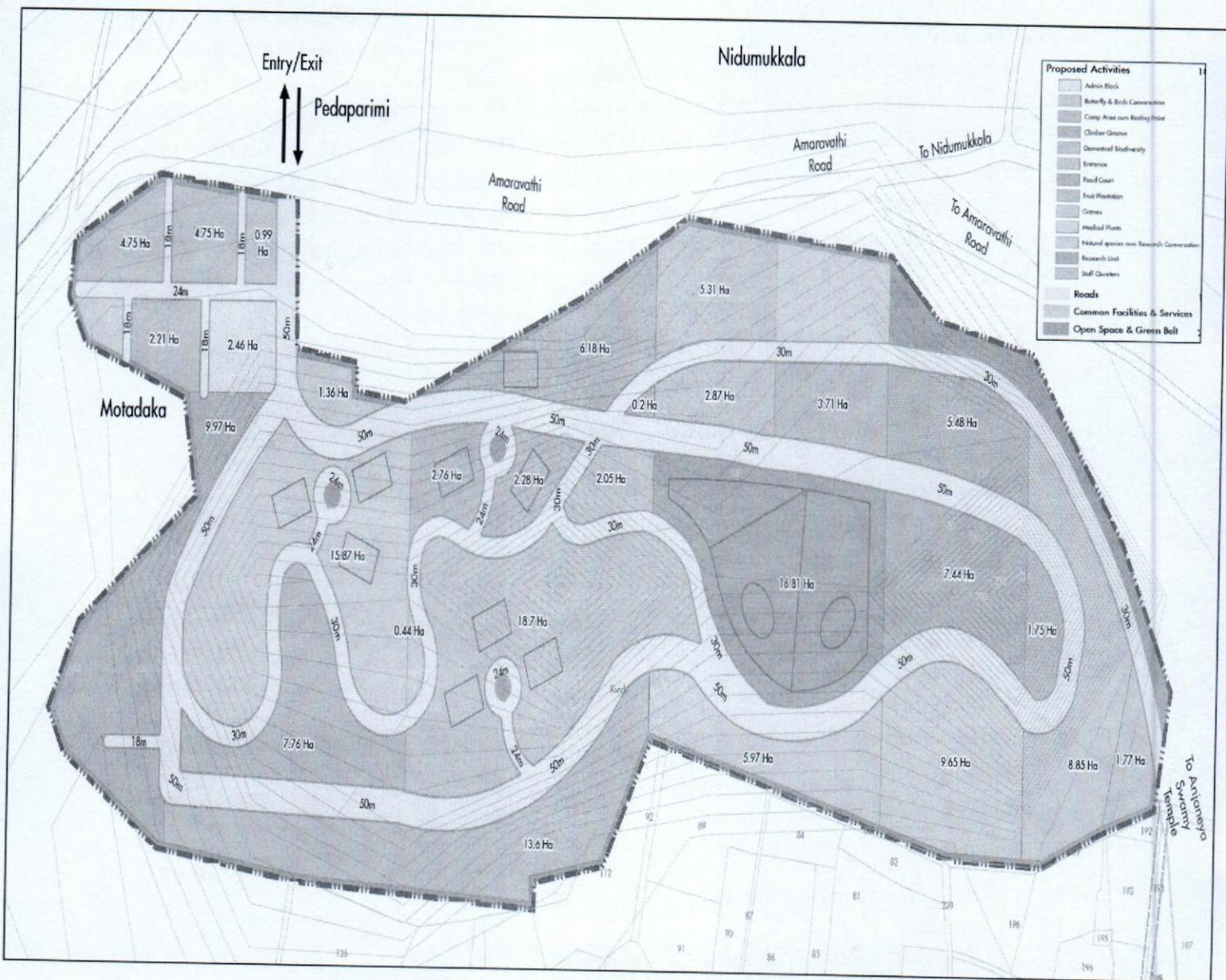
As per the proposal, the APCRDA seeks diversion of **231.33 Ha** forest land for the establishment of a 'Bio-Diversity Park' under the Capital City Infrastructure projects. The land use proposed therein is as mentioned in the Table given below. The area proposed for diversion is a hillock with varying slopes and has Dry Deciduous Thorny Scrub Forests of canopy density of 0.2-0.3. Tree species like *Albizzia amara*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Grevia rotandifolia*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Manilkara hexandra*, *Gyrocarpus jacquini*, *Zyzyphus xylopyrus* and *Prosopis juliflora* are recorded in the area. Spotted deer & Wild boar are reported to be present here. As reported by the DFO, Guntur Division, the area proposed for diversion is included in the 'Degraded Forest Improvement Working Circle' as per the working plan prescription and falls in Eco class IV. The APCRDA officials have informed that the area proposed for diversion falls within the re-notified boundaries of the 'Capital Region'.

Table: The Area statement as reported in the proposal is as follows:

S.No	Land use	Area in Ha
01	Butterfly & Birds Conversation	20.75
02	Camp Area cum Resting Point	24.63
03	Climber groove	12.90
04	Domestic Biodiversity	6.97
05	Fruit Plantation	13.60
06	Groves	8.85
07	Medical Plants	15.62
08	Natural species cum Research Conservation	17.67
09	Admin	2.46
10	Research Unit	16.81
11	Entrance	2.77
12	Food Court	9.97
13	Staff Quarters (Hostels)	8.18
14	Roads	46.24
15	Common Open Spaces & Green Areas	19.12
16	Utilities	4.79
	Total	231.33

Note: It is reported in the proposal that an area of 88.65 ha, which is 55% of the area proposed for activities mentioned in SI No 1 to 13 above, will be retained as open spaces in addition to the 19.12 ha of area proposed for common open spaces & green areas.

2. Concept plan furnished in the proposal:



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3. Observations on the proposal documents:

- 3.1. Going by the activities proposed in the proposal, the project is non-site specific; however, as per the justification provided by the APCRDA in the proposal, the project site has been selected after examination of alternatives.
- 3.2. The User Agency has provided breakup of the forest area proposed for diversion in a broad thematic manner and indicated the overall quantum of open spaces and green areas in percentage terms. However, the proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. For example, an area of 20.75 ha is proposed for the theme 'Butterfly & Birds Conservation' but no further break-up or finer details have been given. The actual area required for each sub-component as well as the open space within it has not been reported.
- 3.3. During discussions with the User Agency, it emerged that the land use planning process for the proposed area has not been completed yet and the sub component wise details, etc will be worked out only in future, which means the requirements indicated in the current proposal may be subject to change.

4. Observations made during site visit:

- 4.1. The forest area of 231.33 ha proposed for diversion under Compartment no 126 of Nidumukkala forest block under Guntur Range and Guntur Division, is a hillock with huge rocks and boulders. This area has sparsely distributed vegetation with a canopy density of 0.2- 0.3. The area proposed for diversion is easily accessible by road and it is surrounded by revenue/agricultural lands and human habitations. This hillock is one of the series of hillocks that lie in a general south to North direction in this area. It has Mothadaka hillock on its north which has been proposed for diversion separately. The proposed diversion area has a maximum elevation of around 695 ft MSL, as per google earth.
- 4.2. As per the proposal, an area of 24.66 ha is proposed for 'Camp area cum resting Point'; 9.97 ha for 'Food Court'; another 8.18 ha is proposed for 'staff quarters/ hostels' though diversion of forest lands for such purposes is specifically discouraged.
- 4.3. As per the layout plan furnished by the user agency, a network of roads covering 46.24 ha is proposed on the hillock. It appears that the road network has been proposed without considering the relief/slope of the hillock. The User Agency may need to clarify on this.
- 4.4. As per the layout, most of the project components including roads are falling on rocky areas which would require huge hill cutting. The User Agency has not provided any information on the actual area which requires hill cutting/quarrying and the quantum of materials expected to be extracted. The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or

Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.

5. Suggestions/Recommendations:

- 5.1. The proposal is non-site specific and involves construction of lot of infrastructures including a network of roads on a hillock, which is expected to require huge hill cutting. The proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on the quantum of hill cutting involved in its execution. It is learnt from the User Agency that as per the project design, various project components will have to be executed by different agencies / departments. This will amount to transfer / sublet the diverted forest area, for which prior approval of the GoI is required in each case. Hence, **consideration of this proposal may require making enabling modifications in the existing FC guidelines in the first place if deemed fit**, which needs to be decided by the competent authority.
- 5.2. However, though it is a non-site specific project, since the proposal is for establishment of a 'Bio diversity Park' on an otherwise rocky hillock, the proposal may be taken up for favourable consideration by relaxing the provisions, if deemed fit, notwithstanding the incongruity and inherent difficulties in executing the planned activities on a rocky hillock.
- 5.3. **If the proposal is taken up for further consideration**, since the forest area required for the project does not appear to be the barest minimum, the User Agency may be directed to rationalize the actual area required by leaving out the rocky areas requiring huge hill cutting and also the areas proposed for residential accommodations, staff quarters, hostels, camp sites and resting places and commercial buildings. The above mentioned infrastructures shall be shifted to outside the forest area and the layout plan needs to be changed accordingly.
 - 5.3.1. The State Government may be asked to submit a revised lay out plan on a digital elevation platform depicting all component land uses and open/green spaces along with a detailed report on the quantum of stone materials to be extracted for execution of the project; The provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) amendment Act, 2015, or Rules framed there under will have to be adhered to by the User Agency in respect of the mining/quarrying component.
 - 5.3.2. For each of the thematic zones proposed, further breakup of the forest land, sub-component wise and clearly depicting the area to be kept as open space and green areas under each component may be sought for from the State Government, unless the requirement is relaxed by the competent authority.
 - 5.3.3. It appears that an area of 3.00 ha where a central nursery including infrastructure like Bore well, pipeline and water tanks at present has been included in the area proposed for diversion. It shall be excluded.

- 5.3.4. Subject to satisfactory compliance by the User Agency to the above conditions, the proposal may thereafter be considered by the FAC for appropriate decision.
- 5.4. In the event of the project being given approval by the GoI, since the proposal is for establishment of a Biodiversity Park, preferably, the User Agency may be directed to execute the project and to manage it subsequently, through the Forest Department of Andhra Pradesh.
- 5.5. In the event of the project being given approval by the GoI, the following conditions, among others, may be stipulated, if deemed fit;
- a. the User Agency shall submit an under taking not to use the area earmarked for the open & Green spaces for any other purpose;
 - b. Chain link fencing or Wall along the boundary of the forest area proposed for diversion shall be constructed at the project cost to prevent encroachment; giving priority to the areas located near human habitations.
 - c. The hill slopes shall be protected by the User Agency from erosion by undertaking structural as well as planting interventions wherever required.
 - d. The User Agency shall arrange to meet the energy requirement of the project components by promoting Solar Energy and other green energy sources to the maximum extent possible.
 - e. The User Agency shall not alter the natural course of streams in the proposed area and shall undertake to strengthen its banks both structurally and by planting trees.
 - f. The State Government shall form a monitoring committee headed by an officer of sufficient seniority in the Forest Department along with a representative from the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC, etc.



Proposal No: FP/AP/Others/30218/2017

Annexure- H

Proposal Name: Diversion of 1625.53 ha of forest land in Venkatayapalem Extn 1 & Extn 8 Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for 'development of Aerospace, Precision Engineering Innovation & Research and Green Mobility Park' under 'capital city infrastructure projects' in AP Capital Region in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.

1. Basic details of the proposal:

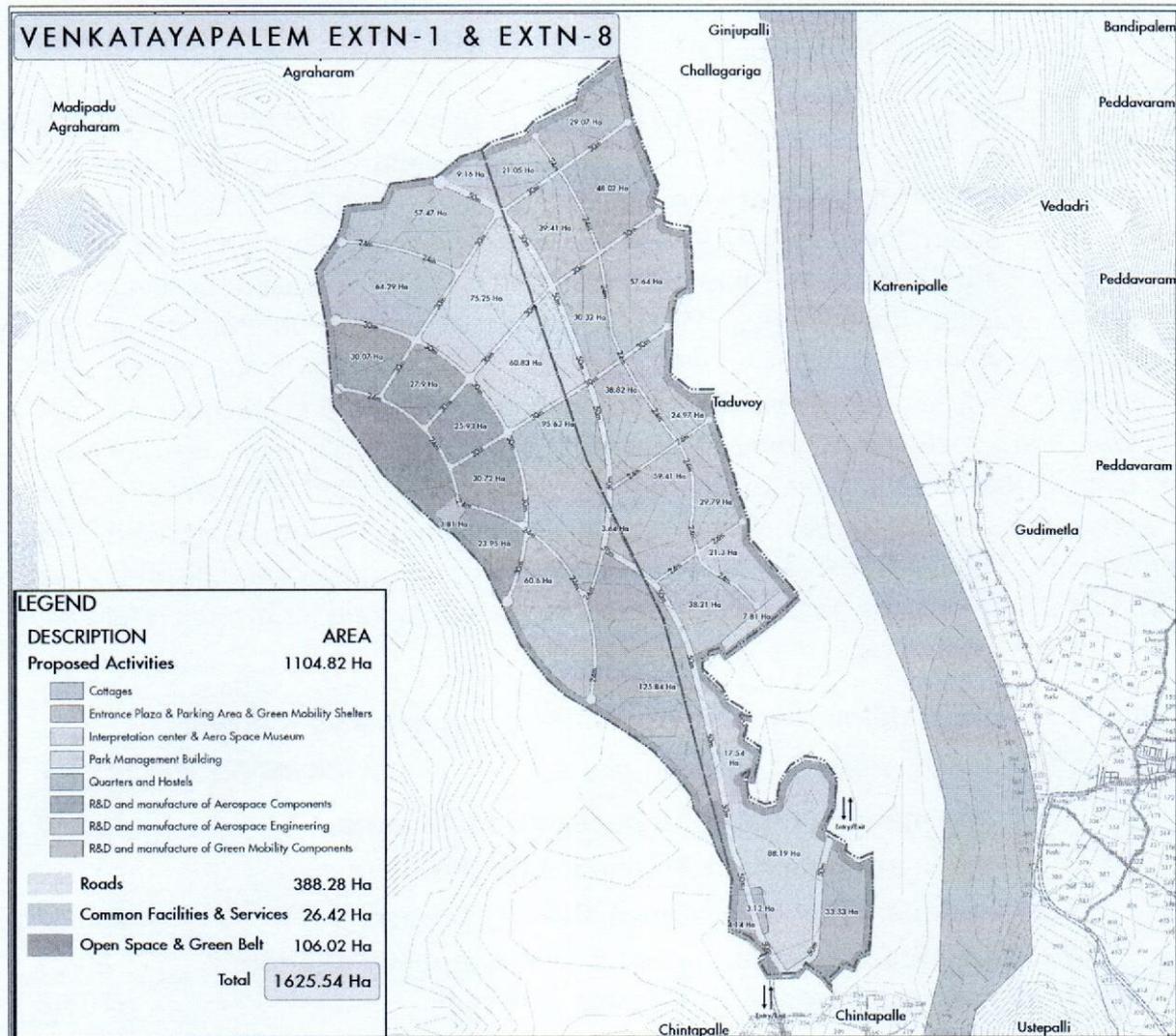
As per the proposal, the APCRDA seeks diversion of 1625.53 Ha (792.83 ha in Venkatayapalem Extn 1 & 832.70 ha in Venkatayapalem Extn 8) forest land for the development of 'Aerospace, Precision Engineering Innovation & Research and Green Mobility Park' under the Capital City Infrastructure projects. The land use proposed therein is as mentioned in the Table given below. The area proposed for diversion is a hillock with varying steep slopes and has Dry deciduous Scrub Forests of canopy density of 0.2-0.4. Tree species like *Albizzia amara*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Grevia rotandifolia*, *Carissa spinarum*, *Dodonia viscosa*, *Gyrocarpus jacquin*, *Zyzyphus xylopyrus* and *Prosopis juliflora* are recorded in the area. Wild boar, Hare, Peacock, Jungle fowl, etc are reported to be present here. As reported by the DFO, Guntur Division, the area proposed for diversion is included in the 'Degraded Forest Improvement Working Circle' as per the working plan prescription and falls in Eco class IV. The APCRDA officials have informed that the area proposed for diversion falls within the re-notified boundaries of the 'Capital Region'.

Table: The Area statement as reported in the proposal is as follows:

S.No	Land use	Area in Ha
01	R&D and manufacture of Aerospace Components	138.57
02	R&D and manufacture of Aerospace Engineering	281.80
03	R&D and manufacture of Green Mobility Components	230.87
04	Entrance Plaza & Parking Area & Green mobility shelters	40.59
05	Interpretation center & Aerospace Museum	136.08
06	Park Management Building	95.99
07	Cottages	112.40
08	Dormitories and Hostels	202.93
09	Common Green & Open spaces	219.85
10	Roads	118.46
11	Utilities	47.99
	Grand Total	1625.53

Note: It is reported in the proposal that an area of 557.65 ha, which is 45% of the area proposed for activities mentioned in SI No 1 to 8 above, will be retained as open spaces in addition to the 219.85 ha of area proposed for common open spaces & green areas.

2. Concept plan furnished in the proposal:



3. Observations on the proposal documents:

- 3.1. Going by the activities proposed in the proposal, the project is non-site specific; however, as per the justification provided by the APCRDA in the proposal, the project site has been selected after examination of alternatives.
- 3.2. The User Agency has provided breakup of the forest area proposed for diversion in a broad thematic manner and indicated the overall quantum of open spaces and green areas in percentage terms. However, the proposal does not have finer

details/break-up of the intended final certified land use and it is silent on quarrying if any of slates & quartzite, available at the site. For example, an area of 281.80 ha is proposed for the theme 'R&D and assembling of Aerospace components' but no further break-up or finer details have been given. The actual area required for each sub-component as well as the open space within it has not been reported.

- 3.3. The component wise breakup reported in the concept lay out plan differs from the area statement given in the form of a table in respect of roads, common facilities and open & green spaces.
- 3.4. During discussions with the User Agency, it emerged that the land use planning process for the proposed area has not been completed yet and the sub component wise details, etc will be worked out only in future, which means the requirements indicated in the current proposal may be subject to change.

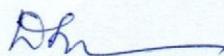
4. **Observations made during site visit:**

- 4.1. The forest area of 1625.53 ha proposed for diversion, falling in Compartment No.121 in Venkatapalem Extension RF 01 & 08 under Guntur Range and Guntur Division, is not a hilly area but the terrain is undulating. This area has dry deciduous scrub vegetation with a canopy density of 0.2-0.4. The DFO has recorded in his inspection report that the area has the climatic climax forest of the locality. This area. The proposed forest area lies in a North-south fashion parallel to river Krishna which flows at a distance of about 700 m. The area is bordered by revenue/agricultural lands on the side towards the river and the remaining part of the RF on the other side. The proposed diversion area has a very gentle slope and a maximum elevation of around 216 ft MSL, as per google earth. The area is reported to be under pressure of encroachment and one or two smaller pockets adjoining the agricultural lands appear to have been used in the past. The proposed site is reported to have **slates & quartzite** deposits. The road in existence here is said to be laid prior to 1980 and it is reported that this road will be widened as per requirement for the project in future.
- 4.2. As per the proposal, an area of 112.40 ha is proposed for 'Cottages' and 202.93 ha is proposed for 'Quarters and Hostels' though diversion of forest lands for such purposes is specifically discouraged.
- 4.3. The MoEF&CC, vide its letter No 8-24/2015-FC dated 20.09.2017 has conveyed In-principle approval for diversion of 1835.32 ha of forest area in **Venkatayapalem RF** for establishment of Armed Forces Training Institute and facilities such as State Police establishment, Greyhounds, Water survival Training Facility, Military Station, Central Prison, Railway Academy, CRPF etc for

security reasons. It was informed by the forest officials that the above area of 1853.32 ha is located adjacent to the area covered in the present proposal

5. **Suggestions/ Recommendation:**

- 5.1. The proposal is non-site specific and involves construction of various Defense Research related infrastructures. The proposal does not have finer details/break-up of the intended final certified land. It is learnt from the User Agency that as per the Capital Regions projects' design, various project components will have to be executed by different agencies / departments. This will amount to transfer / sublet the diverted forest area, for which prior approval of the GoI is required in each case. Hence, **consideration of this proposal may require making enabling modifications in the existing FC guidelines in the first place if deemed fit**, which needs to be decided by the competent authority.
- 5.2. However, though it is a non-site specific project, since the proposal is for establishment of Defense related research facilities and also in view of the fact that the area is adjacent to the area of 1835.32 ha of forest area in Venkatayapalem RF for which stage -1 FC was issued with by the Ministry for establishment of Defense and Police related Infrastructures as mentioned in Para 4.3. above, the proposal may be taken up for favourable consideration by relaxing the provisions as mentioned above, if deemed fit.
- 5.3. **If the proposal is taken up for further consideration**, since the forest area required for the project does not appear to be the barest minimum, the User Agency may be directed to rationalize the actual area required by reducing the areas earmarked for infrastructures for residential, commercial buildings, Camp sites, Cottages, hostels, dormitories, etc which shall be shifted to outside the forest area and the layout plan needs to be changed accordingly.
 - 5.3.1. The User Agency may be asked to clarify & rectify the mismatch in the proposal pointed out in Para 3.3 above.
 - 5.3.2. For each of the thematic zones proposed, further breakup of the forest land required, sub-component wise and clearly depicting the area to be kept as open space and green areas under each component may be sought for from the State Government, unless the requirement is relaxed by the competent authority.
 - 5.3.3. Subject to satisfactory compliance by the User Agency to the above conditions, the proposal may thereafter be considered by the FAC for appropriate decision.
- 5.4. In the event of the project being given approval by the GoI, the following conditions, among others, may be stipulated, if deemed fit;
 - a. the User Agency shall submit an under taking not to use the area earmarked for the open & Green spaces for any other purpose;
 - b. The natural water bodies in the area shall be protected and suitably strengthened.



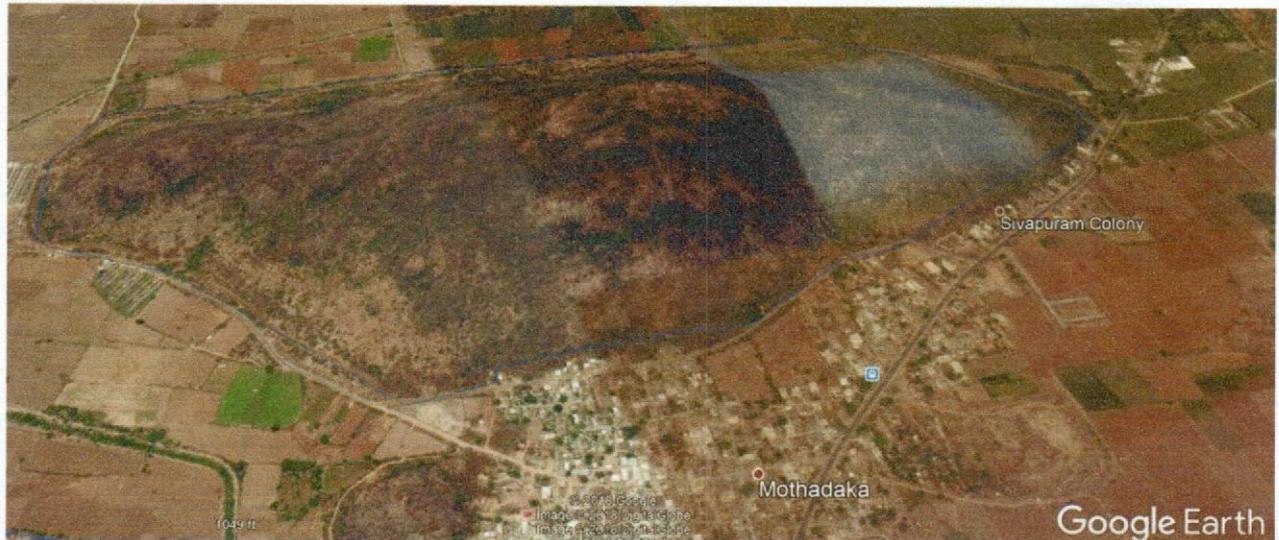
- c. Chain link fencing or Wall along the boundary of the forest area proposed for diversion shall be constructed, wherever required, at the project cost, to prevent encroachment.
- d. The User Agency shall arrange to meet the energy requirement of the project components by promoting Solar Energy and other green energy sources to the maximum extent possible.
- e. The State Government shall form a monitoring committee headed by an officer of sufficient seniority in the Forest Department along with a representative from the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC, etc .



ANNEXURE-I

**GOOGLE IMAGES & PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SITES PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION
UNDER THE 8 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE APCRDA**

1. **Proposed diversion of 123.82 ha of forest land in Mothadaka Forest Block
for setting up of Science City**



**Mothadaka RF in Endroy beat of Guntur Range of
Guntur Division**

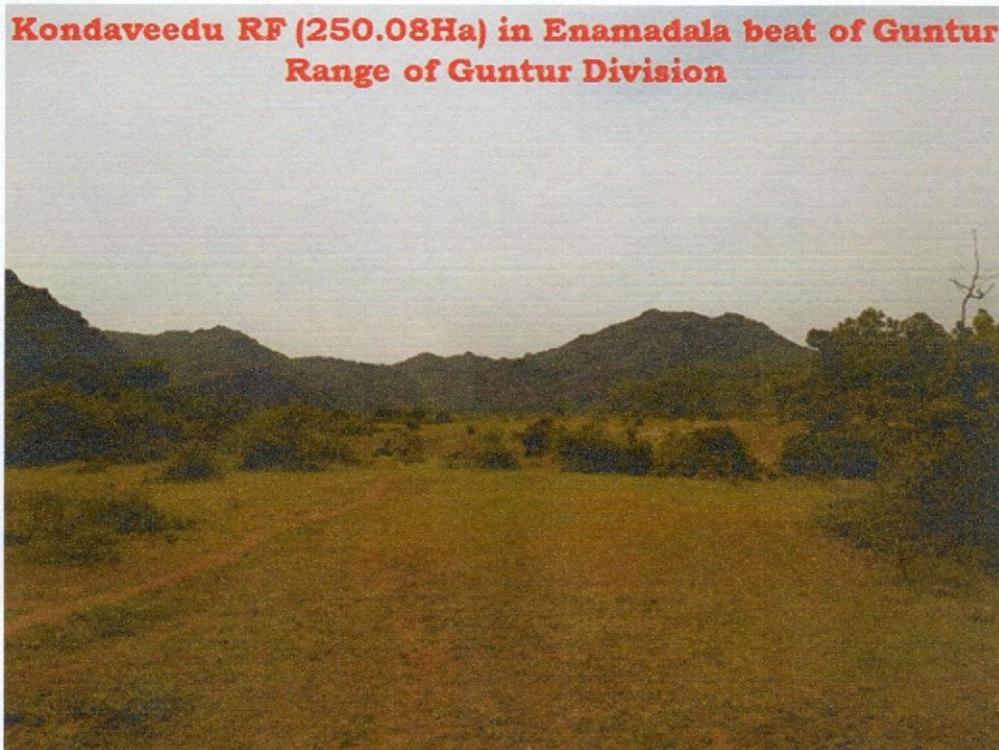


AK

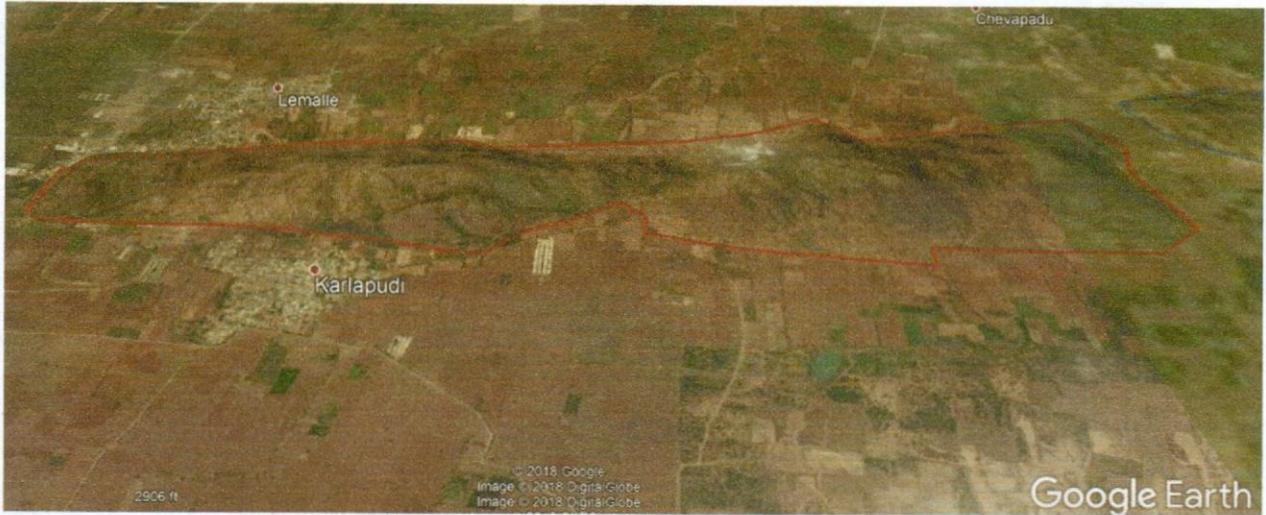
2. Proposed diversion of 250.08 ha of forest land in Kondaveedu Forest Block for development of Forest Academy, IIF&CC, Head Quarters of APFD, APFDC, APPCB and NGC



Kondaveedu RF (250.08Ha) in Enamadala beat of Guntur Range of Guntur Division



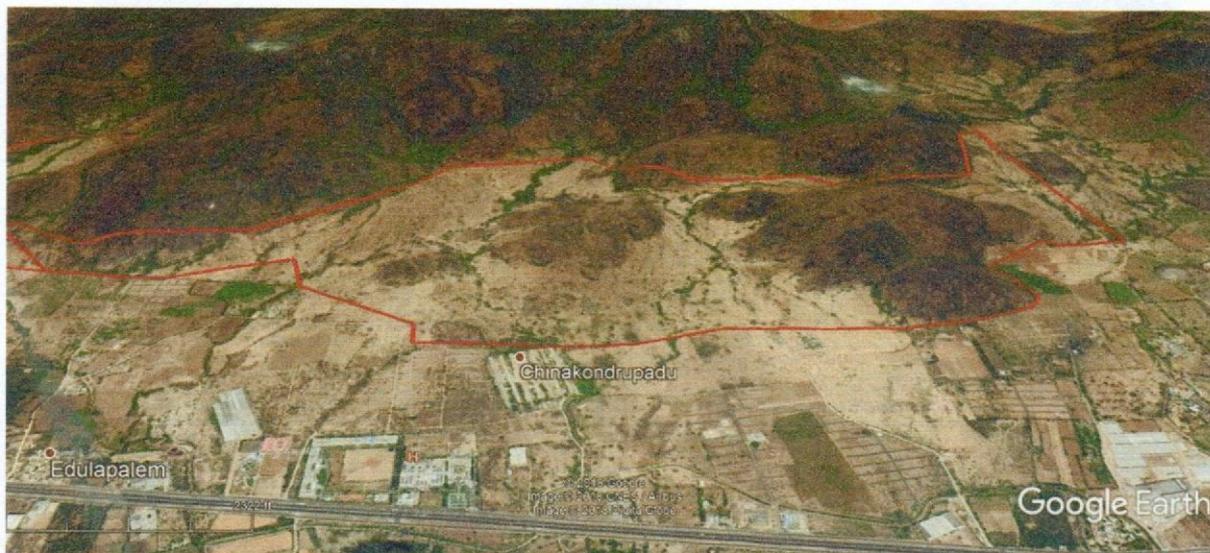
3. Proposed diversion of 371.80 ha of forest land in Karlapudi Forest for development of E-5 Park



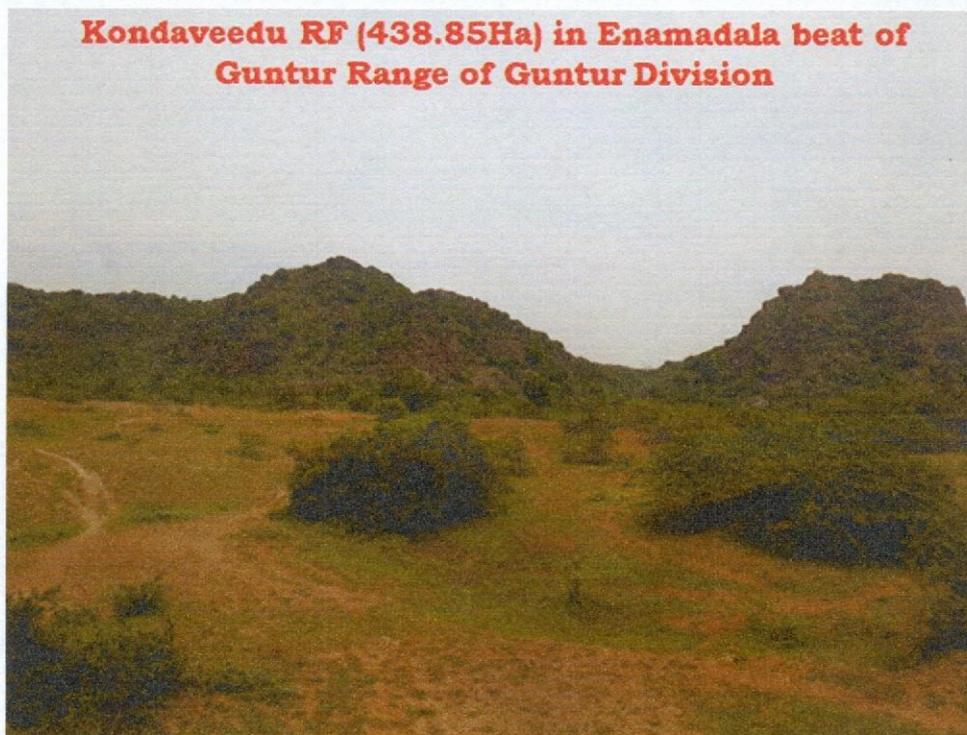
Karlapudi RF in Endroy beat of Guntur Range of Guntur Division



4. Proposed diversion of 434.85 ha of forest land in Kondaveedu Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of Integrated Institutional Complex.

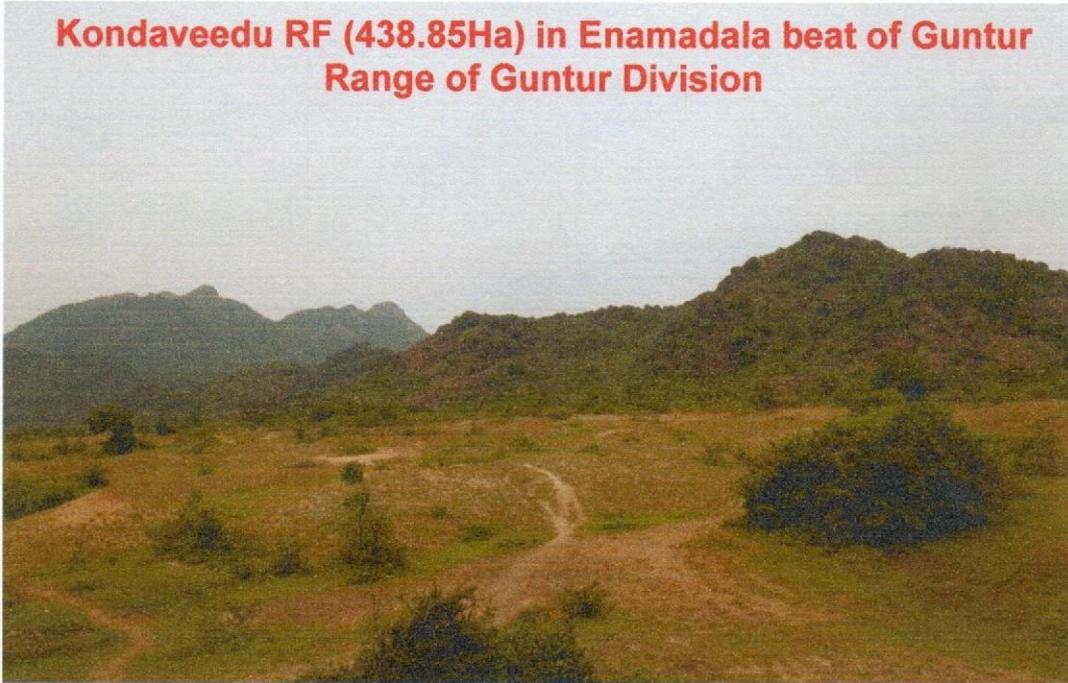


Kondaveedu RF (438.85Ha) in Enamadala beat of Guntur Range of Guntur Division



RB

**Kondaveedu RF (438.85Ha) in Enamadala beat of Guntur
Range of Guntur Division**



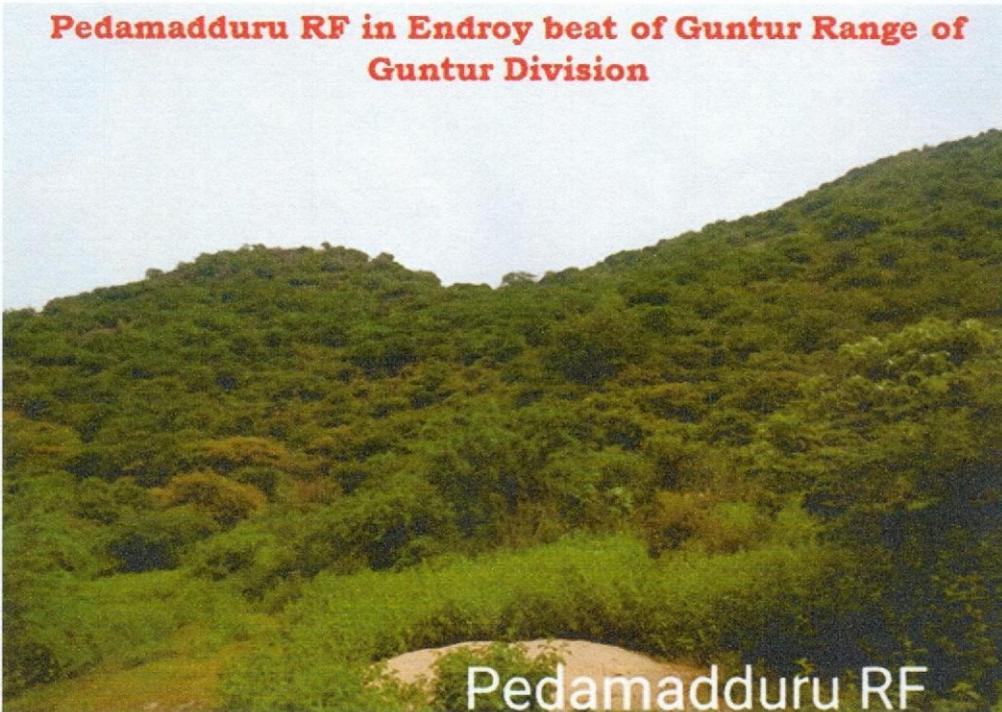
Signature

5. Proposed diversion of 118.3 ha of forest land in Pedamadduru Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of Eco Tourist Village

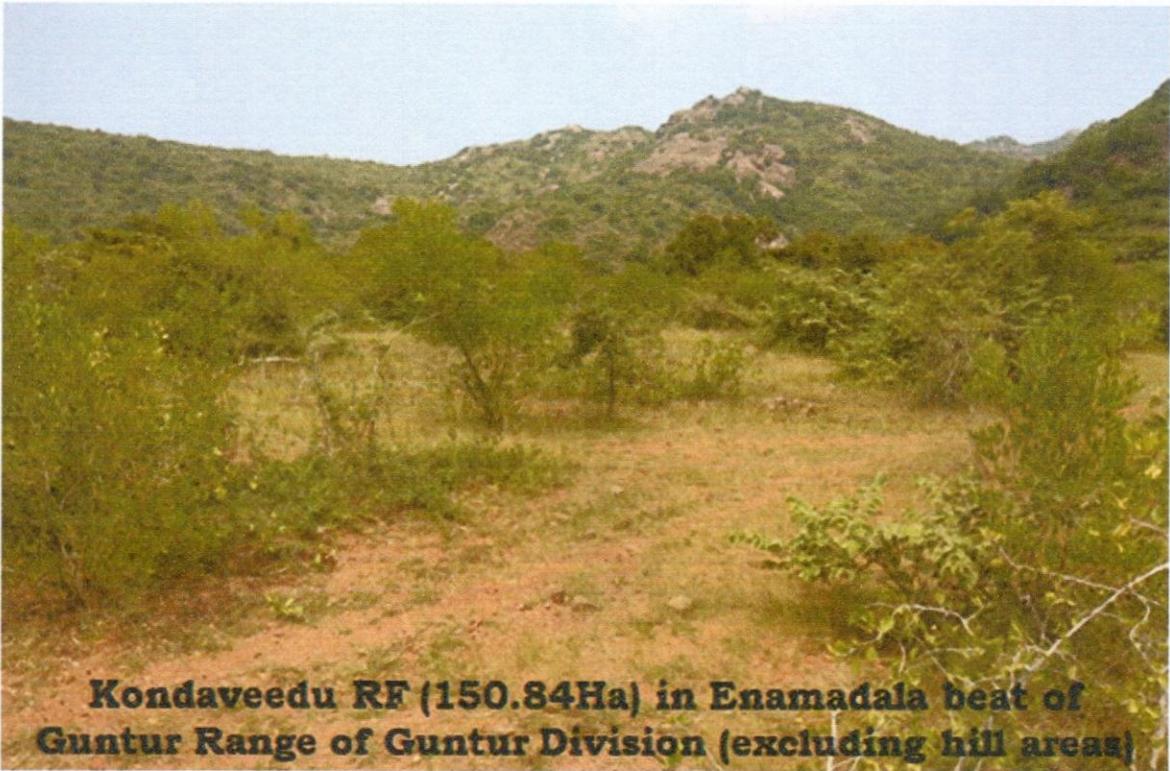
Pedamadduru RF in Endroy beat of Guntur Range of Guntur Division



Pedamadduru RF in Endroy beat of Guntur Range of Guntur Division

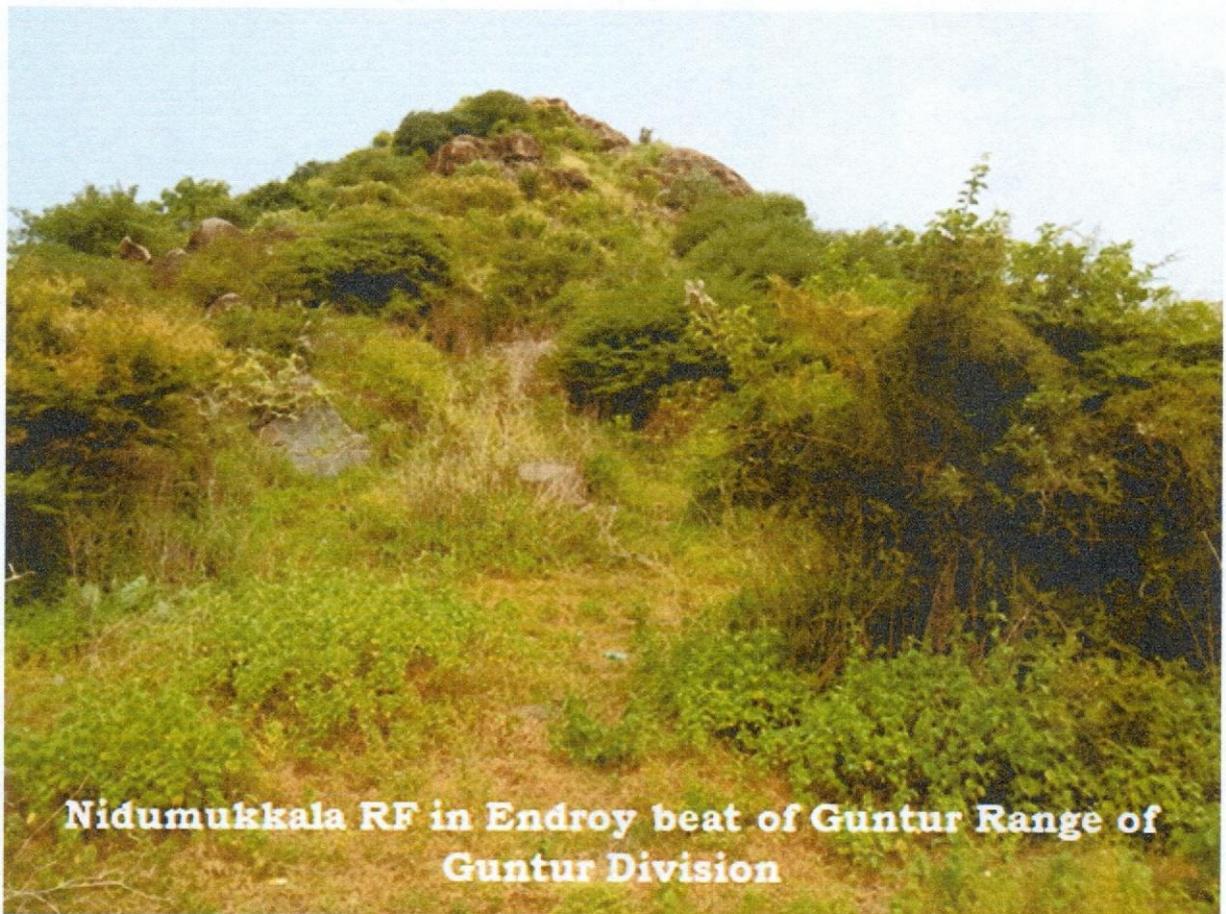
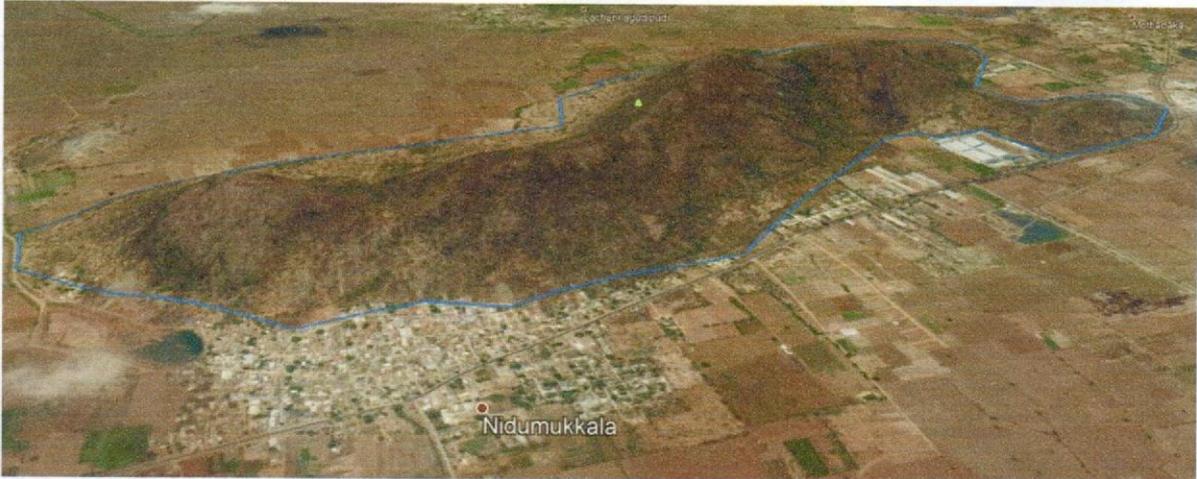


6. **Proposed diversion of 150.84 ha of forest land in Kondavedu Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of EcoTheme Park**

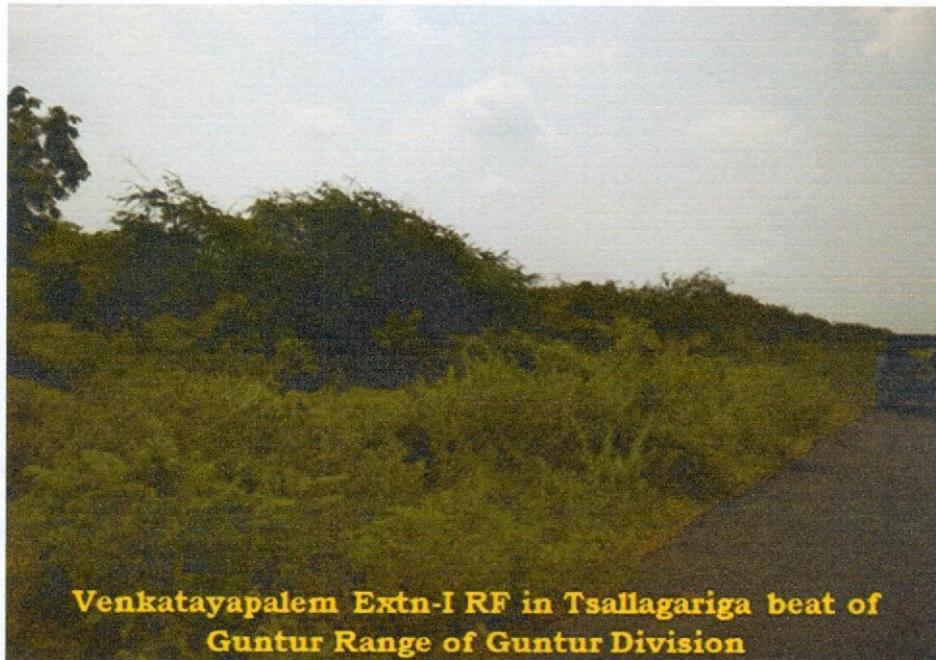


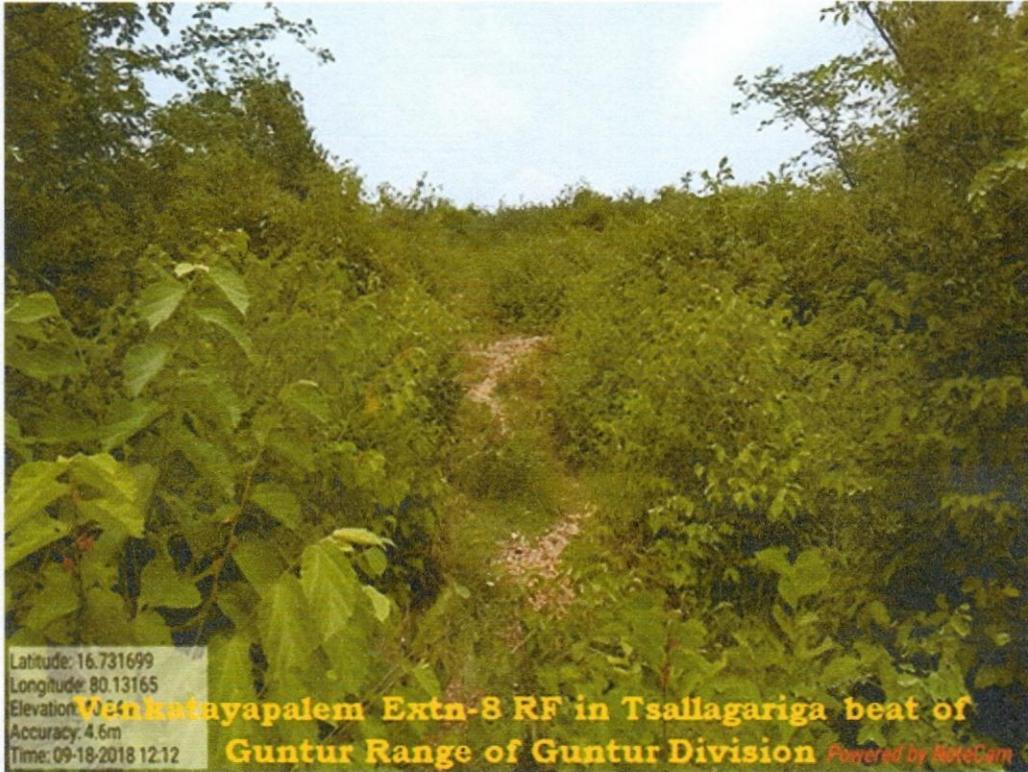
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7. **Proposed diversion of 231.33 ha of forest land in Nidumukkala Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of Bio Diversity Park**



8. **Proposed diversion of 1625.53 ha of forest land in Venkatayapalem Extn 1 & Extn 8 Forest Block in Guntur Forest Division & District of Andhra Pradesh for development of Aerospace, Precision Engineering Innovation & Research and Green Mobility Park**





**SITE INSPECTION REPORT (SIR) ON THE NON-FOREST LANDS
IDENTIFIED FOR COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION (CA)**

1. In lieu of the 3306.55 ha of forest lands proposed for diversion under the 8 proposals submitted by the APCRDA, Compensatory Afforestation over a non-forest area of 3520.58 ha (in 6 patches in 2 districts) has been proposed. The details are as follows:

Sl.No	District	Village	Survey No	Area in ha	Remarks
1.	Kadapa	Joukulpalli	260	1007.74	To be inspected
2.		Atloor	426, 754, 420, 58	1595.23	To be inspected
3.		Kotapadu	613	186	To be inspected
4.		Kudumaluru	401	211	To be inspected
5.	Prakasam	Magatur	118	470.04	Inspected
6.		Pothalpadu	1	50.57	inspected
Total				3520.58	

Out of the above, the undersigned has visited random points on the following 2 identified CA sites along with the State Forest Department Officials and representatives from the User Agency on 19.09.2018.

The observations on the two non-forest lands proposed for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) which were inspected by the undersigned, are as follows:

2. **Observations on Site No 1:** 50.57 ha non-forest area in Sy No 1 in Pothalapadu (Village), Tarlapadu (Mandal), Markapur (Range), Markapur (WL) Division.

The Non Forest area of **50.57 ha** is an isolated patch and not located adjacent to any Reserve Forests. The area has sandy loam soil which is full of stones and gravel. Access to the identified land is through other non-forest lands and parts of the identified CA land has been put to various uses by the local people including laying of water pipes, electric lines and for digging bore wells; this indicates the pressure of encroachment. As reported, huge biotic pressure has completely denuded the area to be a barren land now. Securing this isolated patch from possible encroachment and ensuring success of plantation will be difficult and costly. As such, **from a management point of view, the area may not be suitable for taking up compensatory afforestation.** Hence, the User Agency may be directed to find any other suitable non-forest land.



2.1. Google image & Photograph of the 50.57 ha non-forest area:



3. Observations on Site No 2: 470.04 Ha in Sy No 118 of Magatur Village, Arthaveedu Mandal in Nagulavaram section of Markapur Range.

The identified Non-Forest area of **470.04 ha** is of hilly terrain and situated adjacent to the Thurupukonda RF and Penusila RF on the Eastern side, Muthukur Beat on the northern side and Sri Peninsula Wildlife Sanctuary (Somasila back waters) on the western & Southern side. The soil type is reported to be red soil with stones and boulders.

This CA land is proposed as a compensatory Afforestation site in lieu of the 3 diversion proposals by APCRDA, i.e, 123.82 ha for 'science city; 118.30 ha for 'Éco-tourism Village' and another 227.92 ha for 'Biodiversity Park'.

On account of the site's advantage of being adjacent to the RF as well as a Protected Area, **this non-forest area is recommended** for undertaking compensatory afforestation, subject to the following conditions;

- a) Wherever required, soil shall be imported from outside for plantation purposes.
- b) CA area shall be fenced wherever required to prevent encroachment.
- c) Awareness Camps shall be organized among the public of the nearby villages regarding conversion of revenue land in to a forest area and on applicability the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- d) Concerned Circle Head shall monitor implementation of the CA and furnish detailed monitoring report to the Regional Office every year.

3.1. Google Image & Photograph of the 470.04 ha non-forest area:





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