



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय /  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, देहरादून /  
Regional Office, Dehradun



25 सुभाष रोड, देहरादून-248001/ 25 SUBHASH ROAD, DEHRADUN-248001  
दूरभाष/ PHONE-0135-2650809, ईमेल/ E-mail-moef.ddn@gov.in

File No.:- FP/UK/MIN/60921/2020/ 1022

Dated:- 07/11/2023

To,

**Shri Suneet Bhardwaj,**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forest.  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,  
Government of India,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003.

**Sub.:** Proposal for seeking prior approval under section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use of 150 ha of forest land for mining of minor minerals from Kosi-Dabka Part -2 river from reserve forest in favour of Uttarakhand Van Vikas Nigam, Mining Division Ramnagar under Tarai West Forest Division, Ramnagar, District Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/MIN/60921/2020)-reg.

**Ref.:** Letter No. 8-30/2021-FC dated 16 February, 2023 of MoEF&CC, (FC Division), New Delhi.

Sir,

With reference to your letter mentioned above on the subject cited above, please find enclosed herewith the Site Inspection Report for your information and further necessary action please.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Dr. Yogesh Gairola)

Technical Officer (Forestry)

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT BY THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE DEHRADUN FOR PROPOSAL INVOLVING DIVERSION OF 150.00 HA OF FOREST LAND IN FAVOUR OF UTTARAKHAND VAN VIKAS NIGAM, MINING DIVISION RAMNAGAR FOR EXTRACTION OF SUB MINERALS/ RBM FROM KOSI-DABKA PART -2 RESERVE FOREST ON TARAI WEST FOREST DIVISION, RAMNAGAR.**

**Name of the Inspecting Officer –**

Site inspection the above-mentioned proposal was carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 with the officials of State Forest Department and representatives of the User Agency. Further, the inspection of proposed CA sites is carried out on 31<sup>st</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2023 in the Narendra Nagar Forest Division, District Tehri Garhwal. The following Officers were present during the inspection:

**Officers/Staff from the State Forest Department**

1. Shri P.C. Arya, Divisional Forest Officer, Tarai West Forest Division
2. Shri Pradeep Kumar Dhaulakhandi, SDO Ramnagar Sub Division
3. Shri Devendra Singh Rajwar, Range Officer, Ramnagar Range
4. Shri Magan Lal, Forester, Jwalaban Section
5. Shri Ved Prakash, Forest Guard, Jwalaban Beat.
6. Shri Om Prakash, Forester, Narendra Nagar Forest Division
7. Shri Pratap Singh, Forest Guard, Narendra Nagar Forest Division

**Officer staff from the User Agency**

1. Shri. Ashok Kumar, DLM Khanan, UKVVN
2. Shri. Trilok Singh Martolia, Section Officer Dabka
3. Shri Diwan Singh Rawat, Section Officer Kosi

1. **Legal Status of the Forest Land Proposed for Diversion** The entire area i.e. 150.00 hectares is in Reserve Forest Land.

**Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.**

The forest area proposed for diversion propose the construction of various components in the project as mentioned below:

S.no	Component	Forest Land(ha.)	Non-Forest Land(ha.)
1	Jwalabn Block (for Mining)	150.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>150.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Brief description of the area**

- i. Name of River:- Kosi Dabka Part-02 (150.00 New Proposal)
- ii. Mining area:- Leaving 25 percent of 150.00 hectares on both sides, the remaining net mineable area is 75.00 hectares.
- iii. Forest Clearance (FC) – The proposal was submitted for approval under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 on the online web portal of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India. Formerly by the Central Government raised the objections. At present, objection has been raised again by the MoEF&CC, Government of India's letter No. File

No-8-30/2021-FC / dated 16 February 2023. The response to which has been prepared and sent by the project proponent.

- iv. Mining Plan - Executive body for 05 years from the year 2023 to the year 2028 has got approved the mining plan by Geology and Mining Unit, Haldwani's vide letter no. 1262/उ०ख०/भू०खनि०ई०/मा०प्लान/कोसी दाबका भाग-02 /2023-24 dated 23 June 2023.
- v. Environmental Clearance (EC) - Regional Manager (प०क्षे०), Ramnagar has been appointed a consultant for Environmental Clearance (EC) from whose level action is being taken to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC).
- vi. According to the survey by the Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC), Dehradun, a target of 1283 lakh tonnes and 5,74,291.57 cubic meters has been set in the approved mining plan for Kosi Dabka Part-02 river in the month of December 2021.
- vii. Since the area is outside the aerial distance of 10 km from the boundary of Corbett National Park, No Objection Certificate (N.O.C) from N.B.W.L. is not needed.
- viii. Depth: The maximum depth of 3.00 m has been shown in the mining plan approved by Geology and Mining Unit, Haldwani's letter no. 1262/उ०ख०/भू०खनि०ई०/मा०प्लान/कोसी दाबका भाग-02 /2023-24 dated 23 June 2023

**2. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof.**

No, proposal does not involve building construction.

**3. Total cost of the project at present rates.**

Rs. 12893.54 lakhs

**4. Wildlife**

**I. Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not?**

The representative from the Forest Department has informed that the proposed area is populated with human habitation on the one side of the river bank and not important from wildlife point of view. However, during the visit of the area few species of migratory birds are seen in clusters due to which it appears that during the season of September to November this area can also be explored for temporary habitats of migratory birds. This needs attention and appropriate R&D from the concerned division of the State Forest Department.

- II. **Whether forms part of national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc. : No**
- III. **Whether the forest land proposed for diversion is located within eco-sensitive zone(ESZ) of the Protected Area notified under Wildlife(Protection) Act,1972 (Note: In case, ESZ of a Protected Area is not notified,then,10kms distance from boundary of the Protected Area should be treated as ESZ): No**
- IV. **Whether any national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc., is located within 1 Km. from boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion : No**
- V. **Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area : Subject to detailed study.**

**5. Vegetation:-**

The density of the area proposed for diversion is 0.4 in the Ramnagar Range of Tarai West Forest Division. No tree felling is involved in the proposal.

**6. Background note on the proposal:-** Kosi-Dabka Part-2 is a fresh land transfer proposal under FC Act. In past years and present time, Uttarakhand Van Vikas Nigam, Mining Division, Ramnagar has successfully running Kosi and Dabka river Part-I mining lease.

**7. Compensatory afforestation:**

**i. Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not.**

Following Compensatory Afforestation (CA) areas proposed against above diversion were inspected by the undersigned:

1. **Baunth-2 (50 ha):** The area in DSS analysis has shown presence of 8.0 ha VDF and 29.00 ha MDF out of total proposed 50.00 ha. but during the field visit no VDF is observed in the identified compartment but it seems that the selected area is unable to achieve the target of planting 50,000 trees @ 1000 trees per hectare. Hence the proposed area in the same compartment should be increased by approximately 40.00 ha so that the target of planting 50000 trees can be achieved.
2. **Mindath-3 (70 ha):** The area is found suitable during field visit for planting trees @ 1000 trees per hectare.
3. **Lachmoli-1 (45 ha):** The area is found suitable during field visit for planting trees @ 1000 trees per hectare.
4. **Koligarh-2 (15 ha):** The area is found suitable during the field visit for planting trees @ 1000 trees per hectare.
5. **Tyuna-1,2 (30 ha):** The area in DSS analysis has shown presence of 5.0 ha MDF out of total proposed 30.00 ha. and during the field visit it is observed that the selected area is unable to achieve the target of planting 30,000 trees @ 1000 trees per hectare. Hence the proposed area in the same compartment should be increased by approximately 10.00 ha so that the target of planting 30,000 trees can be achieved. This is suitable zone for planting Oak and Rhododendron species therefore plantation scheme may accommodate these species preferably.
6. **Bauth-1 (40 ha):** The area in DSS analysis has shown presence of 7.0 ha MDF out of total proposed 40.00 ha. and during the field visit it is observed that the selected area is unable to achieve the target of planting 30,000 trees @ 1000 trees per hectare. Hence the proposed area in the same compartment should be increased by approximately 10.00 ha so that the target of planting 40,000 trees can be achieved.
7. **Maroda-2,3,4,5 (50 ha):** The area in DSS analysis has shown presence of 19.0 ha VDF and 33.00 ha MDF out of total proposed 50.00 ha. The same has been observed during the field visit. Further it is also seen that most of the area in this compartment is already been planted under various schemes in the State like *Namami Gange* etc. This is recommended to replace this area with some other suitable area for plantation so that the target of planting 50,000 trees can be achieved.

ii. Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachments/ other encumbrances.

Yes, CA land is free from encroachments/ other encumbrances.

iii. Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/ Archaeological point of view.

CA land is not important from Religious/ archeological point of view.

iv. Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not.

Total number of CA patches area 7 and they are compact and details of patches are as follows:-

S.No.	Name of CA Patches	Area (ha.)
1	Tiyuna Plot No. 1, 2	30.00
2	Bouth Plot No. 1	40.00
3	Bouth Plot No. 2	50.00
4	Midanth Plot No. 3	70.00
5	Laxmoli Plot No. 1	45.00
6	Marora Plot No. 2, 3, 4, 5	50.00
7	Koligard Plot No. 2	15.00
Total area		300.00

8. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.

No.

9. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Detail be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by trans-locating outsees in and around the said forest.

No.

10. Any other information relating to the project.

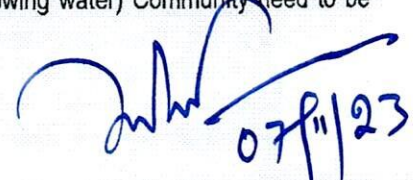
- i. This is informed that the extraction of the RBM will be carried out by UKFDC which will be regulated through electronically controlled gates at five locations for the subjected river beds of Kosi-Dabka. It is however seen that the area is surrounded at one side by the habitations and network of roads crisscrossed through the forest and therefore prone to illegal mining which cannot be ruled out.
- ii. Since the state has not been able to control mining beyond diverted forest area in Kosi river and has extensively given mining *pattas* over revenue land to the land owners who are supplying RBM in the market at half the rate offered by UFDC, it is recommended that the state may be asked whether it is desirable to explore and open fresh areas for mining lease in the Kosi-Dabka river. The state may however be advised to carry out appropriate river training in the centre of the river so that there is no scope for flooding in the adjoining forest or village area.

- iii. This has also been observed that UKFDC has not been achieved the expected targets from its previous leases in the area so prior giving permissions for new sites for mining the requisite detail as per the provisions in the handbook Para 7.8 which says that "whenever a proposal for fresh mining is submitted, a brief profile of the lessee should be submitted giving details of their existing mining leases in the State with their capacity of production, the present level of average annual production, location of these pits and the status of reclamation of forest land that are exhausted minerals. Along with this, the State Govt should also submit details of all other mining leases for that particular mineral with their capacity and average annual production and projected future requirements. They should fully justify the necessity of opening new mining leases for that particular mineral" be asked to submit to the Ministry.
- iv. The Compensatory Afforestation against the safety zone area (i.e. 1.5 times of safety zone area on degraded forest land) has not been provided by the State Government.
- v. As mentioned few species of migratory birds shown their presence in the site during visit, which underscores the ecological significance of this location. These birds rely on our region as a stopover point during their long and arduous journeys, seeking shelter and sustenance. This is suggested that a feasibility study and consultation with experts in ornithologist need to be conducted for the area and allowing the collection of RBM may be allowed accordingly.

  
(Dr. Yogesh Gairola) 6/11/23  
Technical Officer (Forestry)

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS  
(CENTRAL), REGIONAL OFFICE DEHRADUN, MoEF&CC, DEHRADUN.**

From Google imagery it is observed that the proposed diversion stretches up to 7 kms with a maximum of width of 400 meters coring the running water of the river. As far as point 4(V) regarding rare/ endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area of the site inspection report is concerned, information/data of this vast stretch of Lotic (Fresh Flowing water) Community need to be inspected/surveyed by some wetland/lotic community expert.



**(Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj)**

Deputy Director General of Forests (C)

**डॉ. जी. एस. भारद्वाज/Dr. G.S. Bhardwaj**  
उप वन महानिदेशक (केंद्रीय)/Dy. Director General of Forests (Central)  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/Integrated Regional Office  
चण्डीगढ़/ Chandigarh