

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**  
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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,**  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,  
New Delhi – 110003.  
**Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**

**To**

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Maharashtra,  
Mumbai.

**Subject: Diversion of 63.540 ha forest land for development of Green Filed Airport at village Vihirgaon and Murti, Taluka Rajura of District Chandrapur in the State of Maharashtra (Online No. FP/MH/Others/42471/2019) - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra letter no. FLD-2022/C.R-272/F-10 dated 18.10.2022 on the above cited subject. In this regard following shortcomings have been observed in the proposal submitted by the State Govt.:

- i. In the Part-IV of the application form against the specific recommendation of the Nodal Officer/PCCF(HoFF) it has been mentioned that the specific recommendation of PCCF(HoFF) is attached, whereas as per attached letter dated 20.08.2020 which is also signed by the Nodal Officer, the proposal has been submitted to govt for consideration subject to certain conditions. However, the specific recommendation of the Nodal Officer or PCCF(HoFF) has not been found in the proposal.
- ii. The proposed area is part of a Tiger corridor. In the para 8.20 of the letter dated 20.08.2020, it has been mentioned that "*the first recommendation of the report prepared by Wildlife Institute of India is that given the wildlife value of the area and its importance of connecting corridors, the present site may or shall not be considered for the construction of the proposed Greenfield airport*". The justification for selecting the present site shall therefore be submitted.
- iii. The detail of the other alternatives examined and the reasons for their rejection have not been submitted. The State Government shall submit the details including KML files of all such alternatives examined along with the justification for selecting the present proposed forest area.
- iv. As per the remarks of CWLW given in the para 8.22 of the letter dated 20.08.2020 issued by the office of PCCF(HoFF), it has been mentioned that "*in view of the benefits that seem to be accruing due to the project for local population in terms of the number of employment opportunities, the trade off between the protection of the corridor to be disrupted if the project comes through and the benefits proposed, weighs heavily in favour of protection of the corridor*". The justification for recommendation

of the proposal in view of the above remarks of CWLW is therefore required to be submitted.

- v. The CCF, Chandrapur Circle in Site Inspection Report has informed that 10 ha of Teak Plantation raised in 2004 and 20 ha mix plantation is included within the proposed diversion. The State Government shall submit the detail of plantations including the schemes under which they have been taken up.
- vi. The existing Chandrapur Airport is just 39 Km away from proposed diversion site and the Nagpur Airport is 158 km from proposed diversion site. Therefore, the State Government shall submit detail justification for proposing new Airport involving forest land proposed site.
- vii. Project report mentions that the total requirement of land is 339.94 ha (including both forest as well as Non-forest land) and project will be implemented in two phases wherein Phase-I involves 63.54 ha forest land and 216.19 ha Non forest land. The remaining non-forest area of 48.57 ha is proposed to be utilized in Phase II. The State Government shall submit the reason for not utilizing the remaining 48.57 ha non-forest area in Phase-1 instead of proposed forest area.
- viii. Keeping in view the standard area requirements for the construction of Airports, the State Govt shall submit the justification that the bare minimum forest area is proposed for diversion.
- ix. The component wise breakup of the forest land involved has not been uploaded in the Part-1 on the PARIVESH which is required to be done. Further, in the letter dated 20.08.2020 of the office of PCCF(HoFF) a tabular statement of different component has been given wherein it has been provided that 38.25 ha, 26.11 ha and 1.54 ha in different villages will be used for *other related infrastructure and open space*. The details/break up regarding the said areas shall be provided.
- x. The project is located at a distance of around 1 km from Wardha river and its tributaries. The State Government shall examine this aspect from flood zone point of view and the mitigation measures required to be taken during construction phase.
- xi. The copy of the report prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India has not been submitted which is required to be done.
- xii. The Geo-referenced land use map of the project area involved in the instant proposal needs submission.
- xiii. The Status of declaration of ESZ around Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary needs submission.
- xiv. The user agency initially applied for diversion of 75.24 ha forest land. However the State Government has recommended only 63.540 ha forest land for diversion. Therefore, the same needs correction in online Part-I. The component wise breakup for both the forest land and non-forest is required to be corrected and uploaded accordingly.
- xv. As per DSS analysis, the Satellite imagery shows the presence of Plantation activities, Kaccha Road and encroachment for agriculture within the forest land sought for diversion. This needs clarification.
- xvi. DSS analysis shows the presence of encroachments in patches of DFL proposed for

planting the balance seedlings and in one patch namely CHUNALA plantation work has been done in the year 2015. Further, as per DSS analysis, 4 ha area in Jogapur is in the category of VDF. Therefore, the proposed DFL areas identified for planting the balance seedlings shall be revisited.

xvii. Details like village, compartment No. & area (ha) of the CA sites on the forest land are not matching with the details mentioned in online Part-II. The same shall be examined and corrected.

xviii. Relevant copy of note containing justification for locating the Project in forest land shall be uploaded online in Part -I of the application form.

xix. The copy of Cost Benefit Analysis and the recommendations of DFO, CF and Nodal Officer as submitted by State Government vide letter dated 18.10.2022 are not in conformity with that uploaded in online application form on PARIVESH portal. Therefore the correct documents shall be uploaded and provided to the Ministry.

xx. The correct SoI Toposheet Map, Geo-referenced Map, ML files and complete CA Scheme along with the site suitability certificates w.r.t proposed CA on degraded forest land shall be uploaded on PARIVESH portal.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely

**Sd/-  
(Suneet Bhardwaj)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.