

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003.

Dated: 24th 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 Vhirgaon 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 15.11.2022 on the above cited subject. In this regard following shortcomings have been observed in the information submitted by the State Govt.:

- i. The copy of undertaking from the User Agency to adhere to and bear the cost of all the mitigation measures suggested by WII, Dehradun has not been submitted.
- ii. The KML files of all alternatives examined along with the justification for selecting the present proposed forest area has not been submitted.
- iii. The state govt has intimated that the cost of plantation already raised on the area proposed for diversion will be incurred/reimbursed by the User agency. A copy of undertaking from the User Agency in this regard shall be submitted.
- iv. The copy of justification in view of adjoining Nagpur Airport which is 158 km from proposed diversion site is incomplete as the Annexure-A mentioned in the Annexure-XIII submitted by the State Government has not been found enclosed.
- v. The State Government has stated that as per report submitted by the User Agency generally for air strip A320 aircraft requires run way strip of 3000 meters and total area required is approximately 400 ha. However, in this proposed airport, area involved is 339.94 ha and forest area involved is 63.54 ha. However, the copy of the said report of the User Agency has not been found enclosed.
- vi. As per the component wise area statement a tabular detail of different components has been given wherein it has been reported that 54.242 ha will be used for other related infrastructure (Air Strip, Terminal). The details/breakup of the said area requirement for different components like Air Strip and Terminal etc shall be submitted.
- vii. The copy of Geo-referenced land use map of the project area involved in the instant proposal has not been submitted.
- viii. The copy of R&R plan along with the undertaking from the user agency for rehabilitation shall be submitted.
- ix. As per DSS analysis it has been found that:

- A. The area of Revised KML file of one CA patch namely Compartment No 154, Village Sumthana, Range: Rajura was examined and it has been observed that Plantation work was carried out within the above said CA patch as per Satellite imagery data. The same shall be examined and kml file of suitable area shall be submitted along with CA scheme.
- B. Out of 6 patches proposed over DFL to compensate the plants/ ha of Non-Forest land (NFL), the other two patches in Compt. No. 46 of Village Punaguda (Navegaon) and in Compt. No. 158 of Village Chunala contain encroachments and plantation works respectively as informed previously. Therefore the same needs to be revised.

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.