

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 14th December, 2022

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Government of Uttarakhand
Dehradun

Sub: Renewal of diversion of forest land of 1497 ha of forest land in favour of Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Mining Division, Haldwani for collection of Minor Minerals from Gaula River in Haldwani and Terai East Forest Divisions, District Nainital (Uttarakhand) (Online proposal no. FP/UK/MIN/149754/2021) – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Uttarakhand's letter No. 1066/FP/UK/MIN/154581/2022 dated 19.10.2022 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and inform that on examination of the additional information in the Ministry, the following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. The State/UA has applied for the renewal of diversion of forest land for next 10 years, however, the mining plan has been approved upto February 2023 only. Further, the State has informed that the mining plan is under process for approval for 5 years. In this regard, the approved mining plan for commensurate time period is required to be provided.
- ii. KML files of the CA area measuring 250.0 ha and 173.65 ha have not been submitted, which may be provided.
- iii. As per the DSS analysis Dogadi Block Plot-1B (12 ha), Dogadi block Plot-1c (30 ha) and Dogadi I Beat, Plot No. 1 B (9 ha) are partially falling on the river bed. Therefore the Correct KML file of these CA areas may be provided.
- iv. Some of the CA sites are found overlapping. These CA sites are (1) Chinni 14 Plot-1 (10 ha), and Chini 14, Plot 2(10 ha), (2) Dogadi Block Plot-1B (12 ha) and Dogadi I Beat, Plot No. 1 B (9 ha). Correct KML file may be provided.
- v. Cost Benefit Analysis has not been submitted as per the format prescribed in the FCA, Handbook of guidelines dated 28.03.2019.
- vi. The State Govt has provided the survival percentage of various CA plantations which varies from 5-96%. The reasons/justification for the low survival percentage may be specified. Further, the IRO has carried out the Site Inspection of CA sites in this case and it has been observed that as per the report of IRO(copy enclosed) the area of Kot Kharra S.No. 81-77 is 16.0 ha whereas the state has mentioned the same to be 14.0 ha only, which may be looked into and corrected.
- vii. As per the condition no. (ix) of the previous approval the State Government was required to constitute a committee to review annually the status of compliance of the stipulated conditions and issue appropriate direction

to the user agency in case of any deviation as well as any hazard due to non- removal of minor minerals from the protected corridor. The collection of minor minerals after 31st day of January in a year was to be allowed only after receipt of certificate from the Monitoring Committee that the conditions, stipulated in the approval accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the instructions issued by the Monitoring Committee have satisfactory been complied in collection of the minor minerals during the previous calendar year". The copy of notification of the said committee and action taken reports of the committee may be provided.

Yours sincerely

**Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Asst. Inspector General of Forests**

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun
2. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun
3. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of the FC Division for uploading on the PARIVESH portal.