

**MINUTES OF 62nd MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, DEHRADUN
HELD ON 30th NOVEMBER, 2021**

The 62nd meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Integrated Regional Office Dehradun was held on 30th November, 2021 under the Chairmanship of Shri. Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun to discuss FCA proposals pertaining to states of Uttarakhand.

Following official/non-official members & the special invitees were present in the meeting either in person or through video conferencing.

| S.No. | Name | Designation |
|-------|--|---------------------|
| 01 | Shri Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF | Chairman |
| 02 | Dr. R. S. Bisht, Retd. IFS | Non-official Member |
| 03 | Prof. S. D. Bhardwaj | Non-official Member |
| 04 | Smt Meera Iyer, IFS, DIGF (C), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun. | Member |
| 05 | Shri T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun. | Member |
| 06 | Dr. Kapil Joshi, IFS, APCCF-cum- Nodal Officer (UK) | Special Invitee |
| 07 | Representatives of the User Agencies and state forest departments | |

At the outset, the Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the members present in the meeting or connected through Video-Conference.

Following proposals seeking diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose pertaining to the state of Uttarakhand were discussed in detail and the case wise decision taken by REC is as under:



Agenda Item No. 01: Diversion of 9.053 ha of forest land for widening / improvement of Nandprayag Ghat Motor Road under the declaration number 797/2017 and 182/2021 of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, in favour of PWD within the jurisdiction of Badrinath Forest Division ,Gopeshwar, District Chamoli, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/143929/2021).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 9.053 ha of forest land for widening / improvement of Nandprayag Ghat Motor Road under the declaration number 797/2017 and 182/2021 of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The committee noted that 1212 trees and 146 saplings are proposed to be affected in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The committee was apprised that the proposal was also discussed in REC meeting held on 29.10.2021. wherein the REC decided to defer the proposal and desired following documents/ information / clarifications from the State Government:

- i. Justification for the width of the proposed road or the proposal be prepared as per the norms of IRC and submit the revised proposal accordingly.
- ii. The administrative approval of the existing road on which widening is proposed may please be submitted.
- iii. The drawing (mentioning the width of different parts of the road) of the project may also be submitted.

The committee was apprised that the reply to the points raised by the REC has been submitted by the State Government vide letter dt. 26-11-2021, in which the complete reply on observation no (iii) has not been provided.

The concerned DFO presented the project through the video conferencing and the user agency gave a brief of the proposal in the meeting. The user agency replied to the observation raised by the committee in meeting regarding the width of the road. It was informed that the road has been constructed already in the year 1964 taking 6 m width in forest land and 9 m width in non-forest land and there is requirement of additional 6 m in forest land and 3 m in non-forest land for widening the road to make it a one and a half lane road.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land with additional condition to submit the revised CA scheme as per the current rates and information about the width of existing road in different patches.

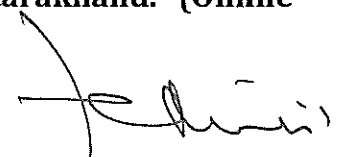
Agenda Item No.02: Diversion of 0.958 ha of forest land for construction of Sanbend San Syund to Saterakhal Motor road, in favour of Irrigation Division within the jurisdiction of Rudraprayag Forest Division, District Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/119756/2021)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 0.958 ha of forest land for construction of Sanbend San Syund to Saterakhal Motor road. The committee noted that 32 trees and 3 saplings are proposed to be affected in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, it is noted that there is violation of FCA which has been reported by the State Government. The committee also noted that the case was discussed in the REC meeting held on 29.10.2021, wherein the REC decided to defer the proposal and required that the violations should be analyzed in detail and specific actions that are required as per the guidelines should be placed before the REC in the next meeting. The concerned user agency presented the project before the committee through video conferencing.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land with following additional condition(s):

1. The plantation scheme of 1916 saplings may please be submitted.
2. The user agency will deposit the penal NPV as per the guidelines.

Agenda Item No.03: Diversion of 5.6 ha of forest Land in favour of PMGSY for construction of Dabarkot to Kuthar Motor Road stage I within the jurisdiction of Upper Yamuna, Barkot Forest Division Distt. Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/123014/2021)



Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.6 of Forest Land for construction of Dabarkot to Kuthar Motor Road. The committee noted that 275 trees including 66 saplings are proposed to be affected in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The concerned user agency presented the proposal before the committee. It was noted that out of total 275 trees, only 207 trees in 6 m width will actually be felled. The committee was apprised that the CA area is having 2 ha Moderately Dense Forest as per the DSS analysis but as per the KML file it was seen that the area is open but land slide appeared to have been happened in the area.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land subject to fulfillment of following point:

1. The DFO is required to conduct a site visit of the CA area and submit the report regarding the suitability of the plantation in the area.

Agenda Item No.04: Diversion of 5.60 ha of forest land for construction of Lachair to Katyani Motor Road, in favour of PWD within the jurisdiction of Pthoragarh Forest Division, District Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/41149/2019)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.60 ha of forest land for construction of Lachair to Katyani Motor Road. The committee noted that 74 trees are proposed to be affected in the project. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, it was noted that there is no violation of FCA in the area proposed for diversion. The committee was apprised that the case was also discussed in the REC meeting held on 29.12.2020, wherein the REC decided to defer the proposal and State Government was asked to withdraw the

proposal so that the User Agency will upload the revised proposal up to village 'Katiyani' after getting the administrative approval for the same.

The concerned user agency presented the proposal through video conferencing. It was informed by the user agency that the administrative approval has been received for 12 Km length for the proposed road while the village 'Katiyani' is around 2.5 Km beyond the end point of the proposed road. Because the further 2.5 Km stretch does not contain forest land therefore a separate administrative approval for this 2.50 Km is asked from the concerned authorities. Further, elaborated by the project proponent that the block headquarters and other Government structures are located in village 'Katiyani', therefore the proposed alignment is important. The committee further asked the user agency for the presentation of the proposed road and to show the location of the village 'Katiyani' and block headquarter, etc. on KML file to which the user agency remained unanswered. Similar information was sought by the REC during the previous meeting but the user agency was not able to provide the require details. It appears that the user agency was unprepared this time too, which shows the carelessness on the part of user agency. Further, the committee noticed that there are existing road network in the area for which no clarification is provided by the concerned DFO and the User Agency.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee deferred the proposal and desired the State Government to submit clarification/ documents/ information on following points:

1. The proposed road beyond village 'Serad' is not justified as the villages located at the end are already seem connected. The State Govt may submit the justification in this regard.
2. Location of village 'Katiyani' is required to be marked in the KML file along with other Government structures such as schools, block head quarter, etc.
3. It was seen that the CA area has been inspected by the Range Officer. State Govt may submit the CA site inspection report of the concerned DFO.
4. State Govt is requested to submit the CA scheme on the prevailing rates duly countersigned by the concerned DFO.



5. It was also seen that the CA area is mentioned as 10.8 ha instead of 11.20 ha at para 13 in Part-II, which is required to be corrected.
6. The concerned DFO and user agency are required to be prepared with the presentation in the next meeting.

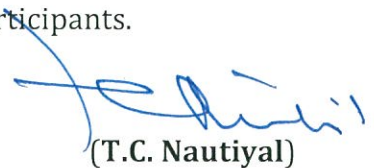
Agenda Item No.05: Diversion of 129.002 ha of forest Land for Sumna Point (8 km Point) Laphthal Topidunga Border Road in favour of 21 BRTF, within the jurisdiction of Nandadevi National Park, Joshimath Forest Division and Pithoragarh Forest Division, Distt. Chamoli and Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/121613/2021).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 129.002 ha of forest Land for Sumna Point (8 km Point) Laphthal Topidunga Border Road in favour of 21 BRTF. The committee noted that 15 trees (Betula utilis- *Bhojpatra*) including 10 saplings are proposed to be affected in the project. It was noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The concerned user agency joined the meeting through video conferencing and presented the proposal before the committee jointly with the DFO, Nandadevi National Park, Joshimath Forest Division who was present in the meeting in person. The committee was apprised that as per the guidelines of the ministry the Site Inspection of the proposal has already been carried out by this office. The committee was apprised that this proposal is of high importance as this is a border road. The committee noted that the trees that are standing at such elevation are of high importance. Therefore, the DFO was asked to minimize the felling and explore the possibility to transplant these trees to some other suitable location. The DFO informed that all possibility to save the trees will be carried out during the construction of the road and if felling is unavoidable of any tree, the same will be transplanted.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land with following additional conditions:

1. The State Govt. will minimize the felling of trees as much as possible and try to find the way for transplanting at the cost of User Agency.
2. Plantation of the high altitude trees/ shrub like sea buckthorn species along the proposed alignment may also be taken up.

The meeting ended with thanks to the members and other participants.



(T.C. Nautiyal)

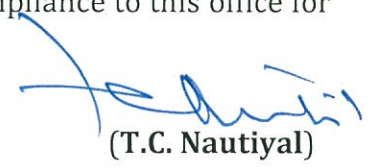
DIGF-cum-Member, REC

File. No.: RO-DDN/REC/1-2014/VOL-5/ 1122

Dated: 3 December, 2021

Distribution:

1. Dr. R. S. Bisht, Retd. IFS (Member, REC), Green Street, Uttaranchal colony, Gas Godam Road, Kusum Kheda, Haldwani-263 139 (Uttarakhand)
2. Dr. S. D. Bhardwaj, (Member, REC), 33-Sai Niwas, Scientist Colony, Post Office Shanti, Tehsil & Distt. Solan- 173 212 (Himachal Pradesh). Email: shrwander@yahoo.co.in
3. Smt Meera Iyer, IFS, DIGF (C) (Member REC), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.
4. Shri T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C) (Member REC), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.
5. The Additional Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Uttarakhand, 4 Subhash Road, Dehradun.
6. The Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation, Uttarakhand, Indira Nagar, Forest Colony, Dehradun for information. He is requested to take action on the decisions taken in the REC meeting (Project wise) & ensure submission of compliance to this office for further necessary action.



(T.C. Nautiyal)

DIGF-cum-Member, REC

