

**Office of the Deputy Conservator
of Forests, Karwar Division
Kajubhag, M.G. Road
Karwar – 581301
Karnataka**



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Email : karwardcf@gmail.com

No: B4/GFL/FCA/CR-12/2019-20

Dated: 01-12-2025

To,

Chief Conservator of Forests,
Kanara Circle,
Sirsi.

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 8.80388 ha. of forest land in Arga Village F.Sy.No.52A of Baad Hobli, Karwar Taluk, Uttar Kannada district for establishing stone quarry, and its approach road, dumping yard in favour of M/S Ramshree Construction Company, Kodibag, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District.

- Ref:1) Government of India, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi letter No:KRC/1352/ 2022/BAN dated: 27-06-2025. (EDS query)
- 2) Government of Karnataka letter No:FEF10FFM 2022 (e) dated: 16-04-2025 (EDS reply), 21-07-2025 (communication of GOI EDS query).
- 3) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Letter No.A5(2) GFL/CR.-35/2013-14.F-office File No.KFD/HOFF/A5-2(GFL)42/2020-FC Dated:04-08-2025.
- 4) Your Letter No.B2/GFL/Quarry/CR-17/2021-22 dated:05-08-2025.
- 5) This office letter even No: 23-09-2025. (Transfer of EDS query)

With reference to the subject cited above, the Government of India has sought certain additional information through EDS queries as per reference (1). The Government of Karnataka, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and you have communicated these requirements to this office vide references (2), (3) and (4). Subsequently, this office has forwarded the same to the user agency and the field officers vide reference (5).

The user agency has furnished the additional information sought by the Government of India, and the field officers have also submitted the required details.

Accordingly, after verification of the submissions received, the consolidated additional information is submitted herewith for onward transmission to the Government of India.

1	Comments of the State Government on the matter that PCCF & Nodal Officer in his report has stated that only 2 ha out of the proposed area should be used for quarrying.	The observations furnished by the PCCF (HOFF) and the PCCF (Forest Conservation) & Nodal Officer (FCA), including the recommendation that quarrying activities be confined to 2 hectares within the proposed area, are respectfully placed for consideration of the competent authority while taking an appropriate decision on the proposal.
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2	<p>The copy of the Government guidelines which state that no quarrying within 200m from NH shall be submitted.</p>	<p>As per EDS we sought guidelines from Senior geologist, Department of Mines and Geology Uttara Kannada District, and they replied as under as per their letter no gabhui/ukji/mahithi/2025-26/2430 dated:14-11-2025.</p> <p>General conditions of Quarrying lease and license. “No person shall carry on or allow to carry on any quarrying operations within a distance of fifty meters if no blasting is involved (and one hundred meters if control blasting is involved) and two hundred meters if blasting is involved from the boundary of any railway line, reservoir, tank bund, canal or other public works and public structures or any public road, or building. The holder of a quarrying lease or license shall also abide by such conditions as the Competent Authority may impose to carry on quarrying operations in the vicinity of the aforesaid building or places. No quarrying within 200 m from NH and any public structure. Quarry proposed area not having any structures within 200 meters, hence proposal may be considered” (copy of the said letter enclosed for reference).</p> <p>The proposed quarry site is more than 200 m from the National Highway – 66, hence question of no quarrying within 200 meter does not arise.</p>
3	<p>Since NFL is also involved in the proposal, the Labour shed and dumping area has been proposed over forest land. The State Govt. shall explore the possibility to relocate these activities to NFL and modified proposal may be submitted.</p>	<p>The user agency has stated that the Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka, has advised that the quarry area and dumping yard be located adjacent to each other for operational convenience and effective monitoring. Accordingly, the layout has been revised and submitted after inspection by the Department of Mines & Geology.</p> <p>It is further stated that the extent of private land (NFL) is limited and located at a considerable distance from the quarry site, which would increase production costs and lead to additional environmental impacts due to vehicle movement. The user agency has also indicated that the NFL land is uneven and unsuitable for storing quarry materials or for installation of power and DG-related infrastructure. Based on these considerations, the locations for the dumping yard, storage of quarry materials, and installation of power-related equipment have been proposed within the forest land, which is nearer to the National Highway and facilitates ease of service and connectivity.</p> <p>The user agency has also submitted that relocating the labour shed and dumping yard would necessitate modification of the already approved quarry plan.</p>

		<p>The matter may be examined by the competent authority, and further action may be taken as deemed appropriate.</p>
4	<p>Justification for minimum use of forest land for approach road shall be provided.</p>	<p>As per the inspection reports of the Range Forest Officer and Assistant Conservator of Forests, the approach roads marked as Approach Road-1, Approach Road-3, and Approach Road-5 are old existing roads connecting the earlier quarry area to the Malki land, with widths ranging from 4.5 m to 5.5 m. Approach Road-6 is also an existing road connecting the Malki land to the National Highway, having a width of 6.5 m to 7.0 m. Similarly, Approach Road-7 is an existing road linking Approach Road-3 to the quarry material storage location.”</p> <p>“Approach Road-4 is the only newly proposed road, connecting Approach Road-3 to the newly identified quarry area. This stretch includes approximately 200 m with a gradient of 15-20%, followed by about 100 m with a gradient of 25-30%, and a remaining stretch of roughly 50 m with a milder slope. The proposed area supports wildlife movement, including wild pigs, hares, porcupines, leopards, and sambar. The area also contains various vegetation and 1,382 trees as per the marking list submitted.”</p> <p>“The user agency has stated that out of the seven approach roads indicated, six are existing roads already in use, and only one new road (Approach Road-4) is required to provide access to the proposed quarry site located within forest land. After considering the field conditions and operational requirements, the user agency has justified that the total forest area proposed for approach roads has been restricted to a bare minimum extent of 0.81618 ha.”</p> <p>“Based on the reports of the field officers and the justification furnished by the user agency, it is observed that except for Approach Road-4, all other roads included in the proposal are old existing roads that are presently being used. Though these existing roads have been included in the diversion proposal, they form the essential access network required for the functioning of the quarry project. Hence, the requirement of forest land for approach roads appears to be the minimum necessary.</p>
5	<p>Over mining leases of stone quarrying granted in the vicinity of the project along with their KML may be submitted along with details</p>	<p>The details of stone quarry leases granted in the vicinity of the proposed quarry site are furnished below, along with the corresponding KML files.</p>

sought in EDS no.1 of RO regarding points raised in Para 7.8 of the consolidated guidelines may be submitted by the State Government.

1. Within approximately 400 meters from the proposed quarry site, an existing quarry lease in favour of M/s Ramshree Construction Company, Kodibag, Karwar, is located in Arga Forest Sy. No. 52A1A over an extent of 0.494 ha. This area was diverted for stone quarrying as per Stage-II approval of the Government of India vide No. 4-KRB-754/2010-BAN/1531 dated 13-07-2012 and Government of Karnataka order No. FEI-160-FM-2010 dated 13-08-2021. At present, this quarry is not operational. A renewal proposal has been submitted by the user agency and is under process; approval has not yet been accorded.

As per the user agency, this quarry is situated adjacent to NH-66 (Panvel Kanyakumari). The six-laning work on this highway has commenced from Kanyakumari to Mangalore, and upon extension of the six-laning towards the Mangalore Panvel stretch, issues relating to maintenance of safe distance from the National Highway may arise. This may restrict future quarrying operations irrespective of the remaining lease period.

2. Within approximately 4000 meters from the proposed quarry site, another existing quarry pertaining to the Seabird Project is located, wherein 24.50 ha of forest land in Aligadda Hill, Sy. No. 142 A.A of Kodar Village, Uttara Kannada District, was diverted for quarrying purposes in favour of the Deputy Director General, Project Seabird Phase-IIA. This diversion was approved vide Government of India letter No. 4-KRC-1116/2017-BAN/868 dated 20-10-2017. The quarry is presently operational. The KML files of both quarry areas are enclosed.

The above information is submitted in response to the observations regarding the requirement of providing details of mining leases in the vicinity of the project, as well as the clarification sought under EDS No. 1 relating to Para 7.8 of the Consolidated Guidelines.

Points raised in para 7.8 of consolidated guidelines:

It is noted that most of the requirements have already been addressed in the submitted quarry plan. For any

remaining points, the user agency has expressed its willingness to comply with the stipulated conditions. These conditions, wherever applicable, may be incorporated in the final diversion approval order.

Based on the observations and information made available, it is noted that there is substantial demand for stone material for ongoing and upcoming developmental works in the coastal region, while the availability of non-forest land for quarrying remains limited in the district. The applicant firm is a registered contractor with various government agencies, and the proposed site does not fall within any notified Eco-Sensitive Zone. The details provided by the user agency have been duly examined during the field inspection.

Accordingly, the information furnished by the user agency and the field observations have been documented in this report. The proposal is therefore submitted to the competent authority for examination and further orders.

Based on the field observations and the records available, the proposal for diversion of 8.80388 hectares of forest land in Survey No. 52A of Arga Village, Karwar Taluk, may be placed before the competent authority for further examination. The competent authority may take an appropriate view, keeping in consideration the ecological sensitivities of the area, previous approvals granted in the region, and the relevant provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Karwar Division, Karwar

Copy to the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Karwar Sub-division, Karwar and Range Forest Officer, Karwar for information.

Copy to the M/S Ramshree Constructions Company, Shri Ram Complex, Kodibag, Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District

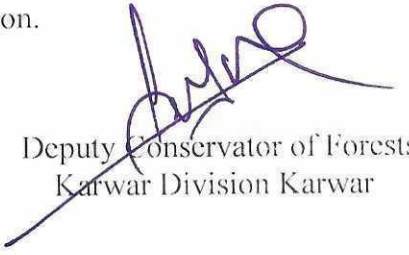
SITE INSPECTION REPORT

I, along with the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Karwar Sub-Division, the Range Forest Officer, Karwar, field staff, and representatives of the user agency, inspected the proposed diversion of 8.80388 hectares of forest land in Survey No. 52A of Arga Village, Baad Hobli, Karwar Taluk, falling under Karwar Range of Karwar Division, in favour of M/s Ramshree Construction Company, Kodibag, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District. The following observations were made during the site inspection:

1. A proposal has been submitted for diversion of 8.80388 hectares of forest land in Arga Village, Forest Survey No. 52A.
2. The proposed land is situated in Arga F. Sy. No. 52A within the jurisdiction of Karwar Range, Karwar Division.
3. The area falls within Reserved Forest limits and is classified as Eco-Class I.
4. The terrain is predominantly rocky and degraded in nature.
5. The proposed site supports notable wildlife presence, including leopard, hares, porcupine, wild boar, and various bird species.
6. The proposed area does not fall within any notified Eco-Sensitive Zone.
7. Within the proposed area, 1,382 trees have been enumerated, which would require felling for quarry-related activities.

In light of the foregoing field observations and the details available on record, the proposal seeking diversion of 8.80388 hectares of forest land in Arga F. Sy. No. 52A for the establishment of a stone quarry by M/s Ramshree Construction Company, Kodibag, Karwar, may be submitted to the competent authority for detailed scrutiny. The competent authority may assess the proposal on its merits, taking into account the ecological characteristics of the site, the extent of tree felling involved, the wildlife presence, and other regulatory considerations. The proposal may be evaluated in accordance with the statutory requirements and procedures laid down under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, as well as the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, before arriving at an appropriate decision.

Place: Karwar
Date: 24-11-2025

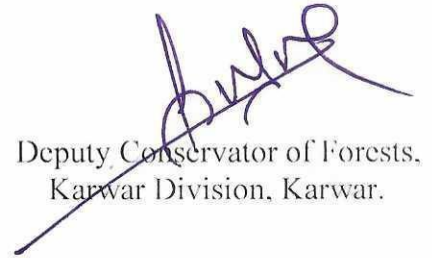

Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Karwar Division Karwar

SITE INSPECTION REPORT FOR WILD LIFE MITIGATION PLAN

During the site inspection of the proposed diversion of 8.80388 hectares of forest land in Survey No. 52A of Arga Village, Karwar Range, Karwar Division, in favour of M/s Ramshree Constructions Company, Kodibag, Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District, it was observed that a Wildlife Mitigation Plan has not been enclosed along with the proposal documents. Based on the field conditions, it is noted that the proposed quarry area supports movement of wildlife and therefore may require suitable mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts arising from quarry operations.

These observations are submitted for record and may be placed before the competent authority for consideration while processing the proposal further in accordance with applicable guidelines and statutory provisions.

Place: Karwar
Date: 24 -11-2025


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Karwar Division, Karwar.

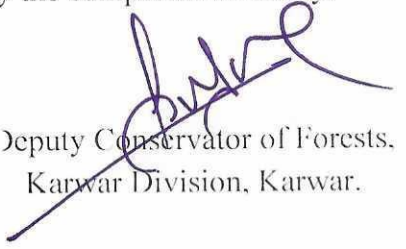
Recommendation

A proposal has been submitted by M/s Ramshree Constructions Company, Kodibag, Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District, seeking diversion of 8.80388 hectares of forest land in Survey No. 52A of Arga Village, situated within Karwar Range of Karwar Division, for establishment of a stone quarry. The site was inspected on 27-10-2025 by the undersigned, accompanied by the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Karwar Sub-Division, the Range Forest Officer, Karwar, field staff, and representatives of the user agency.

During the inspection, it was observed that the proposed area lies within Reserved Forest limits and is categorized as Eco-Class I. The terrain is predominantly rocky and degraded. The area supports the presence of wildlife such as leopard, hares, porcupine, wild boar, and various bird species. A total of 1,382 trees have been enumerated within the proposed site, and species-wise and diameter-class-wise details are enclosed for reference.

Based on the field observations and the documents available, the proposal for diversion of 8.80388 hectares of forest land in Survey No. 52A of Arga Village, Karwar Taluk, is submitted for further examination by the competent authority. The authority may take an appropriate view, keeping in consideration ecological attributes of the site, earlier approvals in the region, and the relevant provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

The complete proposal, along with the supporting documents, has been uploaded on the PARIVESH 2.0 Portal for kind perusal and necessary decision by the competent authority.


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Karwar Division, Karwar.