

To,
The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Ballari Circle, Ballari

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 9.5474 Ha of forest land in Hirekandavadi village Sy No. 107 and Thanigehalli Village Sy No. 35, B-Durga Hobli, Holalkere Taluk and Dindadahalli village Sy No. 18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District for establishment of Conveyor Project for Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2677 in favor of M/s Vedanta Limited, Chitradurga. (Proposal No. FP/KA/MIN/51389/ 2020) [FORM-A].

- Ref: 1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA), Aranya Bhavan, Bengaluru online communication to this office Dated: 07-09-2021.
2. Letter No.RFO/HLK/KIOCL/2020-21/45 dated:10-05-2022 of Range forest officer, Holalkere Range, Holalkere.
3. Letter No.ACF/CTA/Thainigehalli/CR/2022-23 dated:25-05-2022 of Assistant Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Sub Division, Chitradurga.

With reference to the above subject, M/s Vedantha Ltd., has submitted a proposal through web portal mode for diversion of 9.5474 Ha of forest land in Hirekandavadi village Sy No. 107 and Thanigehalli Village Sy No. 35, B-Durga Hobli, Holalkere Taluk and Dindadahalli village Sy No. 18, Hireguntanuru Hobli, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District for establishment of Conveyor Project for Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2677 for approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Accordingly, a communication through online was received to process the said proposal and to submit specific opinion vide ref (1).

The Range Forest officer, Holalkere Holalkere Range, Holalkere and the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Sub-division, Chitradurga have visited above subject proposal site was inspected with reference to the maps and other documents has submitted report vide letter ref (1) and (3).

Further, the undersigned visited the project site on 26-05-2022 verified the documents with reference to the proposal. The observations as follows.

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Component wise breakup	Village	Sy No.	Extent in Ha	Status of Forest land
Establishment of Conveyor Project for Iron Ore Mine ML No. 2677 to railway siding.	Hirekandavadi	107	3.791	Nirthadi Reserve Forest in Holalkere Range
	Thanigehalli	35	4.642	
	Dindadahalli	18	1.114	
	Total		9.547	
	Dindadahalli	20	0.034	Non Forest land
	Grand Total		9.5814	

1. Proposed area is the bare minimum and unavoidable.
2. Proposed forest area falls under Eco-class-III. Southern tropical scrub Jungle.
3. Trees is required to be felled. Includes the species, Santalam album, Stereospermum persohatum, cassia fistula, Soymida febrifuga, Acacia species Thorny Species etc., with canopy density less than 20%, height less than 6meters. Santalam album is Predominantly growing in the proposed area atleast 25% of flora is covered with Santalam album.
4. Major wild animals found in the area include Sloth bear, Leopard, Wild boar, porcupine, Peacock, reptiles, birds, Hare etc.,
5. The proposed area does not form part of any declared National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve and Tiger reserve or Elephant corridor.
6. The project does not fall under the Eco-Sensitive Zone of Jogimatti Wildlife Sanctuary.
7. There are no protected/archaeological/heritage sites/defence/ establishment located in the proposed area.
8. The forest area is open forest and prone for erosion and Fire.
9. There is no violation reported under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Under the above circumstances and agreeing with recommendation it is requested to move the proposal with the Government of Karnataka and Government of India for 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to conditions.

The Part-II particulars along with the relevant document in 5 sets are submitted herewith for kind perusal and further action.

Yours faithfully,

Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Chitradurga division, Chitradurga.