

I/484064/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT
JANATA BHAWAN, DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6**

eCF No.221381/102

Dated Dispur, the March, 2024

To : The Deputy Inspector General of Forests(C),
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Sub office, Guwahati,
4th Floor, Housefed Building,
G.S Road, Rukminigaon, Guwahati-781022

Sub : Forest diversion proposal of 36.92 Ha. of forest land for up-gradation of Chapaguri to Amteka (Bhutan Border) Road in Manas Reserved Forest under Chirang Division, Kajalgaon by Assam PWRD - reg.

Ref : Government of India letter F. No 3-AS C/139/2022/GHY/4131-32 dated 05.07.2023.

Sir,

In inviting reference to your letter on the subject cited above, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the letter No. FG.27/FCA/Proposal Road/Assam PWRD dated 29.02.2024, along with its enclosures, received from the Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer (FC Act), Assam, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Assam, which is self explanatory, for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Enclo : As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment and Forest Department

Memo eCF No.221381/102-A
Copy to:-

Dated Dispur, the March, 2024

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Assam,
Panjabari, Guwahati-37.

e-signed
Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment and Forest Department

See (No)

385
02 MAR 2024

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND
HEAD OF FOREST FORCE, ASSAM
ARANYA BHAWAN, PANJABARI, GUWAHATI-37**

Email: adlpccf.nodal@gmail.com

Dated 29.02.2024

No. FG.27/FCA/Proposal Road/Assam PWRD

To,

✓ The Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Environment and Forest Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6.

Sub: **Proposal for diversion of 36.92 Ha. of forest land for up-gradation of Chapaguri to Amteka (Bhutan Boarder) Road in Manas Reserved Forest under Chirang Division, Kajalgaon by Assam PWRD.**

Ref: Government of India letter No. 3-AS C/139/2022/GHY/4131-32 dated 05.07.2023.

Sir,

With reference to the above, I am enclosing herewith the minutes of 78th meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife vide letter under reference, the committee has recommended the proposal for diversion of 36.92 Ha. of forest land for up-gradation of Chapaguri to Amteka (Bhutan Boarder) Road in Manas Reserved Forest under Chirang Division, Kajalgaon by Assam PWRD.

The above-mentioned information may kindly be sent to the Government of India, MoEF&CC, Sub Office, Guwahati (Under Regional Office, Shillong), Guwahati accordingly.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. C Muthukumaravel, IFS)

Chief Conservator of Forests &
Nodal Officer (FC Act), Assam

O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Head of Forest Force, Assam

Copy to: -

1. The Divisional Forest Officer, Chirang Division, Kajalgaon for information.
2. The AEE & OSD, PWRD, EAP, Assam, Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-781025 for information.

Chief Conservator of Forests &
Nodal Officer (FC Act), Assam
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Head of Forest Force, Assam

SO(Sr)
0203-24
✓

F.No.WL-6/33/2024-WL

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Wildlife Division)

2nd Floor, Vayu Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110003.

Date: 28th Feb, 2024

To,

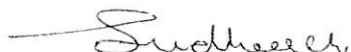
All Members
Standing Committee of NBWL

Sub: Minutes of 78th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life-reg.

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the Minutes of 78th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on **22nd Feb, 2024** under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

Yours faithfully,


(**Dr. Sudheer Chintalapati**)
Scientist 'E'
Email: adwl-mefcc@gov.in

Encl: As above

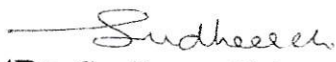
Distribution:

1. Secretary, MoEF & CC
2. DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
3. ADGF (WL), MOEF&CC
4. ADGF (FC), MoEF&CC
5. Member Secretary, NTCA
6. Director/IGF, PE Division, MoEF&CC
7. Director, WII, Dehradun
8. Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar
9. Dr. R. Sukumar, Member, NBWL
10. Dr. H.S. Singh, Member, NBWL
11. Secretary, Environment, Forest, Science and Technology Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MoEF&CC
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS, EF&CC
3. PPS to Secretary, MoEF & CC
4. PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
5. PSO to Addl. DGF (WL)/PPS to IGF (WL)
6. **The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary Forest Department**, Assam/Arunachal Pradesh/Andhra Pradesh /Haryana / Himachal Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh/ Odisha / Maharashtra /Tamil Nadu/Uttarakhand /Uttar Pradesh./ Kerala/Goa/West Bengal/ Rajasthan/Gujarat.
7. **The Chief Wild Life Warden**, Assam/Arunachal Pradesh/Andhra Pradesh /Haryana / Himachal Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh/ Odisha / Maharashtra /Tamil Nadu/Uttarakhand /Uttar Pradesh./ Kerala/Goa/West Bengal/ Rajasthan/Gujarat.
8. **The PCCF and HoFF**, Government of Assam/Arunachal Pradesh/Andhra Pradesh /Haryana / Himachal Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh/ Odisha / Maharashtra /Tamil Nadu/Uttarakhand /Uttar Pradesh. / Kerala/Goa/West Bengal/ Rajasthan/Gujarat.

Copy also to: Sr. Technical Director, NIC with a request to upload the minutes of the meeting on PARIVESH Portal.


(Dr. Sudheer Chintalapati)
Scientist 'E'
Email: adwl-mefcc@gov.in

MINUTES OF THE 78th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILD LIFE HELD ON 22nd FEBRUARY, 2024

The 78th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life was held on 22nd February, 2024 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. The list of participants is placed at **Annexure-I**.

The Member Secretary welcomed the participants to the meeting and informed about the number and type of proposals that were to be taken for discussion in the meeting. He then requested Deputy Inspector General of Forests (WL) to initiate discussions on the Agenda Items.

AGENDA ITEM No.1

78.1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 77th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 5th January, 2024

The Standing Committee was informed that the 77th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life was held on 30th January, 2024. The minutes of the meeting were circulated vide letter WL-6/16/2024-WL dated 7th Feb, 2024 amongst all the members.

The Standing Committee was informed that the Ministry did not receive comments from any of the members.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to confirm the minutes of 77th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 30th January, 2024.

AGENDA ITEM NO 2

Policy, court Matter etc.

78.2.1 Implementation of the provisions of the Eco-Sensitive Zone.

The Standing Committee was informed that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India notifies Eco-Sensitive Zones around the Protected Areas under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The ministry issues notification and regulates developmental activities within ESZ as per the direction of the Apex Court. The notification of an ESZ contains various provisions but none of them are implemented on the ground. Some of the important provisions in the notifications are:

(i) Preparation of the Zonal Master Plan for the Eco-Sensitive Zone: Normally ignored by the nodal agency and state governments as Zonal Master Plan is normally not prepared.

(ii) Availability of resources for implementing an action plan in the ESZ for development, restoration and conservation of habitats in benefits of people and wildlife.

annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

- 78.3.6** Proposal for use of 68.338 ha of land (36.92 ha forest land and 31.418 ha of non-forest land) from buffer zone of Manas Tiger Reserve for upgradation of Chapaguri to Amteka (Bhutan Border) Road, Assam.

WL/AS/ROAD/436945/2023

The Standing Committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 68.338 ha of land (36.92 ha forest land and 31.418 ha of non-forestland) from buffer zone of Manas Tiger Reserve for upgradation of Chapaguri to Amteka (Bhutan Border) Road, Assam.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, the State Board for Wild Life and the State Government. It has been mentioned in the project proposal that there is no record of significant wild animals movement in the project area and hence no separate animal passage plan has been submitted.

The NTCA has also recommended the project proposal. The NTCA has indicated that there is no presence of tiger and endangered large mammals in the vicinity of the project site.

The Chairman mentioned that the project would provide connectivity till the Bhutan border and therefore it is very important.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to approve the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. No adverse impact shall be caused to the wild animals and their habitat during construction.
2. 2% amount of the proportionate project cost in the project proposal area shall be deposited as Corpus fund for Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation and conservation & management of wildlife.
3. User Agency, in consultation with the Forest Department, shall construct speed breakers / rumble strips and install warning signboards at areas sensitive for wildlife crossings.
4. Construction materials shall be procured from outside the Tiger Reserve. Construction debris shall be disposed away from the Tiger Reserve by the User Agency.
5. The alignment of the road and construction activities shall not disrupt any natural water channel.
6. Chief Wild Life Warden, Assam shall monitor the compliance of the conditions stipulated in this report at various phases of project implementation.
7. An annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions shall be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an

annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

- 78.3.6** Proposal for use of 68.338 ha of land (36.92 ha forest land and 31.418 ha of non-forest land) from buffer zone of Manas Tiger Reserve for upgradation of Chapaguri to Amteka (Bhutan Border) Road, Assam.

WL/AS/ROAD/436945/2023

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4. Construction materials shall be procured from outside the Tiger Reserve. Construction debris shall be disposed away from the Tiger Reserve by the User Agency.
5. The alignment of the road and construction activities shall not disrupt any natural water channel.
6. Chief Wild Life Warden, Assam shall monitor the compliance of the conditions stipulated in this report at various phases of project implementation.
7. An annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions shall be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an

annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

- 78.3.7** Proposal for use of 0.28 ha for installation of 14 mobile towers each requiring 0.02 ha of land in Core Zone (9 towers) and Buffer Zone (5 towers) of Achanakmar Tiger Reserve Area, Mungeli district, Chhattisgarh for 4G saturation project.

WL/CG/CommPost/444354/2023

The Standing Committee was informed that the proposal is for use of 0.28 ha for installation of 14 mobile towers each requiring 0.02 ha of land in Core Zone (9 towers) and Buffer Zone (5 towers) of Achanakmar Tiger Reserve Area, Mungeli district, Chhattisgarh for 4G saturation project.

The proposal has been recommended by Chief Wild Life Warden, the State Board for Wild Life and the State Government. The NTCA has not recommended the installation of 9 towers proposed inside core zone of the Tiger Reserve and recommended installation of 5 towers in the buffer zone of the Tiger Reserve.

The Chairman mentioned that there won't be any alternate available and there is requirement of communication network in the naxal affected area. Therefore, the Standing Committee may go with the recommendations of the NTCA.

Dr. H. S. Singh agreed with the views expressed by the Chairman.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided not to approve the installation of 9 mobile towers proposed in the core zone. The Standing Committee decided to approve the installation of 5 mobile towers proposed in the Buffer Zone subject to the following conditions:

1. The User Agency shall submit the following to the Chief Wild Life Warden for issuance of permit for executing the project:
 - a. An undertaking from the concerned District Magistrate indicating non-availability of alternate revenue/private lands;
 - b. Drawings/sketch indicating the location of various components of the proposals within the required land;
 - c. A plan for the movement of equipment and men for erection of towers and their maintenance;
 - d. Plan for usage of solar power for operation of mobile towers; and
 - e. Undertaking from the User Agency that the call data records of suspected persons for contravention of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 shall be provided when requested by the officer not below the rank of Deputy Conservator Forests having jurisdiction over the area.
2. To prevent overlapping of high radiation fields, new towers should not be installed within a radius of one kilometre of the existing towers.