

TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Dr. V. Naganathan, I.F.S.,  
Chief Conservator of Forests and  
Field Director,  
Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve,  
Erode-4.

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(HoD),  
Chennai-15.

C. No. D / 9334 / 2017, dated 07-01-2019.

Sir,

Sub : Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve Circle, Erode / Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve Division, Sathyamangalam – Proposal for diversion of 35.80 ha. of forest land in Guthiyalathur Reserved Forests of Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Division for Kanakkampalayam Tank Scheme in Erode District – Online submission of proposal by the User Agency – Public Works Department represented by Assistant Executive Engineer, Project Planning and Design Sub Division, PWD, Gobichettipalayam, Erode District Pin Code 638476 – regarding.

Ref : 1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests letter No.TS3/37319/2017, dated 26-11-2018, 17-12-2018 and 31-12-2018.

2. Government Letter No.23339/FR.10/2018-1, dt.31-12-2018.

\* \* \*

With reference to above, I submit that in the first reference cited the details of Part III of Form-A has been uploaded today and a copy of the same is enclosed herewith.

In addition to my first inspection report, on 05-11-2018 revised details were submitted as follows :-

1. It was earlier felt that all the trees need to be maintained as such without felling. But in the recent discussion, it was mentioned by the Public Works Department (PWD) that for carrying out bund formation work, they need to remove the existing trees along the bund numbering to 1,400 and 118 trees along the Canal, which cannot be saved from felling. There are 4,121 trees numbered in water holding area of the tank, which can be saved to maintain the vegetation of the area.

2. It is indicated by the User Agency that around 45,000 cubic metre of earth will be taken from the water holding area to form the bund for the proposed tank. The User Agency has identified few areas with good soil to excavate the assessed quantity of soil. It is felt that such excavation in the wild forest area for making bunds may be avoided in the water holding area to maintain the tank close to a natural water body, to enable better maintenance of available biodiversity in the area. By doing so, we can save all the 4,121 trees identified within the water catchment area, without any loss. The soil requirement for formation of bund shall be mobilized from the nearby PWD tanks located in the village tank area, wherein regular de-silting work is being done.

I recommend that this tank scheme may be accepted and approved for implementation with mentioned conditions.

This is for favour of kind information.

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*  
07/01/2019  
for Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director,  
Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Erode.

Encl.:-  
As above.

*[Signature]*  
2/1/19

**PART - III**

**(To be filled by the concerned Conservator of Forests)**

Location of the Project / Scheme		
1)	Whether site, where the forest land involved is located, has been inspected by the concerned Conservator of Forests (Yes / No). If yes, the date of inspection and observations made in the form of inspection note to be enclosed.	Yes 27-10-18, 05-11-18 Copy enclosed separately
2)	Whether the concerned Conservator of Forests agree with the information given in Part-B and the recommendations of Deputy Conservator of Forests	Yes Agreed
3)	Specific recommendation of the concerned Conservator of Forests for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with detailed reasons.	<p>The proposed site for diversion of forests land in Guthiyalathur RF and the proposed tank scheme is 88.46 acres or 35.80 Ha was inspected by me on 27-10-18, 05-11-18.</p> <p>I agree with the points of the District Forest Officer, Sathyamangalam for other details and convinced that this scheme would help the nearby villagers to improve their livelihood earnings through agriculture.</p> <p>Hence I recommended that this tank scheme may be accepted and approved for implementation.</p>

  
Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director,  
Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Erode.

*Yes*  
*26/12/18*

**Site inspection report of Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director,  
Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Erode.**

**(For the Forest Land to be diverted under F.C.A)**

A proposal has been received by this office from the Assistant Executive Engineer, Irrigation Sub-division, Gobichettipalayam for diversion (under FCA 1980) of 35.80 ha. forest land for non-forestry purpose. The Kanakkampalayam Tank Scheme is proposed across jungle stream which originates near Madapatti Hill village in the midst of Guthiyalathur Reserve Forest land and flows in the Southern direction for about 13.60 kms. and joins with the Bhavani river finally. The Stream at the proposed site has got a catchment area of 20.30 sq. km. or 7.93 sq. miles, which lies in Guthiyalathur Reserve Forest area. The capacity of the proposed tank is 28.75 mcft. per filling. Assuming 1½ fillings, the total annual storage works out to 43.12 mcft. The total reserve forest land acquisition in Guthiyalathur Reserve Forest for water spread, bund, canals of the proposed tank scheme is 88.46 acres or 35.80 hectares. The proposal was uploaded by the User Agency vide No.FP/TN/IRRIG/25052/2017 on 10-10-2017.

On 27-10-2018, I inspected the site. A team of officers comprising the District Forest Officer and Deputy Director, Sathyamangalam; the Assistant Executive Engineer, Irrigation Sub-division, Gobichettipalayam; the Assistant Engineer, Vaniputhur Section, the Assistant Engineer, Irrigation Section, Gobichettipalayam; the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Forest Protection Squad, Erode and the Forest Range Officer, T.N. Palayam accompanied me during the field inspection. I walked the entire circumference of the proposed site and found that it has more wild vegetation growth in the area proposed for Kanakkampalayam Tank Scheme. The area is mainly dominated by the Southern Tropical Dry Thorn Forest intermittently, the growth of riverain vegetation was also found, dominated by *Terminalia arjuna* tree. The area is regularly used by the wild animals like Elephant, Spotted Deer, Sambar, Wild Boar, Leopard etc. There are two streams flowing within the site identified for tank scheme and it was having flowing water during the inspection. The indirect evidences seen in the area proved that there is regular movement of herbivores in the area.

After covering the entire circumference of the proposed area by seeing all the points marked in the Map submitted, it was suggested to the User Agency that the area marked need to be surveyed again to confirm the correctness of area calculated with the use of GPS equipment. Based on the direction, the Public Works Department team carried out a joint inspection along with the Forest Range Officer on 01-11-2018 and ascertained that the area is 35.80 ha. after completion of survey following Compass and Chain method.

As the area has more natural vegetation, it is not advisable to carry out felling in the area, which is frequently used by wild animals. It was also understood that the streams in the area will have water only through rainy season, which will be around three to four months in a year. Under such circumstances, in most part of the year, the tank will not be having water to its full capacity. Therefore it is recommended that no felling shall be allowed in the water holding area and the existing vegetation can be maintained as such. Even after construction of tank, if a small portion of the area is under inundation, the standing snag trees will help some *Avi fauna* as nesting and roosting sites.

I agree with the points of the District Forest Officer for other details and convinced that this scheme would help the nearby villagers to improve their livelihood earnings through agriculture. Hence I recommend that this tank scheme may be accepted and approved for implementation. The Compensatory Land for this scheme has already been identified by the District Forest Officers in S.F.No.2144/2017 of Bargur "A" village in Anthiyur Taluk of Erode District and as it has been identified to be a suitable site as per the report of the District Forest Officers, A Rehabilitation Plan should be submitted by the District Forest Officer, to upgrade the status of compensatory land by incorporating all the required activities to make it into a forest.

In addition to the site inspection report submitted on 05-11-2018, the following points are to be given importance as they have strong impact in the use of proposed project area.

1. It was earlier felt that all the trees need to be maintained as such without felling. But in the recent discussion, it was mentioned by the Public Works Department (PWD) that for carrying out bund formation work, they need to remove the existing trees along the bund numbering to 1,400 and 118 trees along the Canal, which cannot be saved from felling. There are 4,121 trees numbered in water holding area of the tank, which can be saved to maintain the vegetation of the area.
2. It is indicated by the User Agency that around 45,000 cubic metre of earth will be taken from the water holding area to form the bund for the proposed tank. The User Agency has identified few areas with good soil to excavate the assessed quantity of soil. It is felt that such excavation in the wild forest area for making bunds may be avoided in the water holding area to maintain the tank close to a natural water body, to enable better maintenance of available biodiversity in the area. By doing so, we can save all the 4,121 trees identified within the water catchment area, without any loss. The soil requirement for formation of bund shall be mobilized from the nearby PWD tanks located in the village tank area, wherein regular de-silting work is being done.
3. The Wildlife Action Plan and Mitigation Plans are required to be approved and funded to ensure proper restoration efforts in the surrounds of the project area, as well as Compensatory Afforestation area. The rehabilitation plan for addressing the Compensatory Afforestation area with a budget of Rs.6,99,20,000/- need to be approved for ensuring better habitat improvement activities in Compensatory Afforestation area. It would also be a feasible idea to maintain a Village Forest and Tank Management Committee at the beneficiary village level with a minimum Corpus of Rs.10 lakhs and Livelihood / Asset Creation Fund of Rs.20 lakhs to ensure better co-operation of public towards forest and tank conservation.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director,  
Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Erode.