



ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ



ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಕೆನರಾ ವೃತ್ತ, ಶಿರಸಿ - 581 402
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, KANARA CIRCLE, SIRSI-581402.
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No: B2/GFL/CR-4/2021-22

Date: 02/04/2026

To,

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)
Aranya Bhavan, Malleshwaram
Bengaluru-03

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 0.4928 ha., of forest land in Forest Sy.No. 215A1A of Arav village, Gopshitta Range, Karwar Division, in favour of Sri.Rajesh R. Naik, Proprietor, Sairam Enterprises, Gaongeri, Post: Majali,, Karwar taluk, Uttar Kannada District for building stone quarry and approach road reg.

- Ref:1. Govt. of India's letter dated: 23-08-2025
2. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Wildlife, Bengaluru's letter No:APCCF(WL)/D/CR-28/2020-21, E-1933036 dated: 10-10-2025
 3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer, (VSESA) Bengaluru's letter No:KFD/HoFF/A5-2 (QRY)/5/2020-FC, E-293081 dated: 13-10-2025
 4. This office letter dated: 18-10-2025
 5. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar division, Karwar letter No: B4/FCA/QRY/CR-25/2017-18 dated:31.03.2026.
 6. Sri. Rajesh R. Naik, Proprietor, Sairam Enterprises, Gaongeri, Post: Majali,, Karwar's letter dated:02-12-2025

With reference to the above, the Government of India has raised EDS queries regarding the proposal for diversion of 0.4928 ha of forest land in Forest Sy. No. 215A1A of Arav village, Gopshitta Range, Karwar Division, in favour of Sri Rajesh R. Naik, Proprietor, Sairam Enterprises, Gaongeri, Post: Majali, Karwar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District, for building stone quarry and approach road, as cited at reference (1). Further, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Bengaluru, vide letter cited at reference (2), has requested submission of specific details in view of the fact that the proposed diversion area is located at an approximate aerial distance of 3.57 km from Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary.

In this regard, the User Agency has uploaded replies to the EDS queries raised by the Government of India in the **PARIVESH portal**, and the same have been verified and submitted by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar division is as under.

Sl. No.	Observations	Reply
i	<p>As per the State Government, a temporary working permission was given by the then Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle vide letter dated 20-12-1994. The State shall provide a detailed action taken report on the breaking of forest land without prior approval of the Government of India.</p>	<p>As per the records available with the State Government, temporary working permission was granted by the then Conservator of Forests, Kanara Circle, vide letter dated 20-12-1994. The matter pertains to a period prior to the present administrative setup and is more than three decades old.</p> <p>Due to the lapse of considerable time and the fact that the officers concerned with the issuance of the said permission have since retired, detailed records required for furnishing an Action Taken Report regarding the breaking of forest land without prior approval of the Government of India are not readily available.</p> <p>However, the available historical records have been examined, and no further specific information could be traced in this regard for submission to the Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Hence, the same may kindly be considered.</p>
ii	<p>The State shall provide proper justification of opening a new mine in compliance of Para 7.8 of Chapter 7 of the Consolidated guidelines, 2023 pertaining to general guidelines for mining proposal</p>	<p>The User Agency has stated that the earlier quarry in Sy. No. 215A/1A of Arav village was operated temporarily with permission from the then Deputy Conservator of Forests and that there is a significant requirement for quarrying material in and around Karwar due to prevailing sandy and marshy soil conditions and ongoing Government and local infrastructure works. The User Agency has further stated that precautionary measures as per the Consolidated Guidelines, 2023 will be</p>

		<p>followed, and that no forest colony, National Highway, or State Highway exists within 2 km of the proposed quarry area. It is also informed that no crusher/processing unit is proposed within forest land and that dumping of overburden and establishment of labour facilities will be carried out in private land outside the proposed forest area.</p> <p>However, the justification furnished by the User Agency does not specifically address the availability or non-availability of alternative sources of quarry material outside forest land, as envisaged under Para 7.8 of Chapter 7 of the Consolidated Guidelines, 2023.</p> <p>In view of the above, the justification submitted by the User Agency submitting to competent authority while examining the proposal further.</p>
iii	<p>The proposed forest area falls under Not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 1. However, as per Decision Rule 2, out of 2 GRIDS (size: 1km x 1km) one GRID is having score more than 70. Moreover, the major part of the proposed forest area falls in the GRID which is having score more than 70 which is a GRID with High Conservation Value (DSS Report Enclosed). In this regard the comments of the State Govt. shall be provided.</p>	<p>In this regard, it is submitted that the proposed quarry area does not form part of any notified protected area and eco-sensitive zone, or any other legally designated wildlife habitat of critical ecological significance. The site is located deep inside forest area and is reported to be associated with site-specific ecological sensitivity such as nesting grounds, endemic species habitat and critical wildlife movement paths as per available records.</p> <p>Further, the proposal pertains to a limited extent of area and does not involve establishment of crusher units, processing plants, or other permanent infrastructure within the forest area.</p> <p>Hence, although part of the proposed area falls within a grid having DSS score greater than 70 under Decision Rule 2, no site-specific high conservation attributes</p>

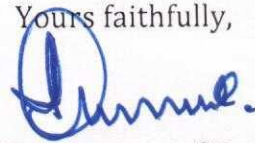
		have been observed in the proposed area based on field-level verification and available records.
iv	The details of the Safety zone along the mining area is not available. The same shall be provided. Revised KML may be submitted in this regard.	<p>The User Agency has proposed to maintain a 7.5-meter-wide safety zone along the boundary inside the proposed lease area, in accordance with the guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.</p> <p>The revised KML file, incorporating the details of the safety zone along the mining area, has been uploaded in the PARIVESH portal for kind reference and consideration.</p>
v	The proposed forest area for diversion is located at an approx. aerial distance of 3.57 km from Cotigaon Wildlife Sanctuary (Goa). The comments of the CWLW Karnataka from the conservation point of view shall be provided.	<p>The proposed forest area for diversion is located at an approximate aerial distance of 3.57 km from Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary. However, the User Agency has not submitted the Wildlife Mitigation Plan as required for assessing the likely impacts on wildlife habitat, movement of animals, and measures proposed for minimization of disturbance to the nearby protected area.</p> <p>The User Agency has submitted the Environment Management and Mitigation Plan. However, a specific Wildlife Mitigation Plan has not been separately addressed in the submission. It is therefore requested that the concerned authorities may kindly ensure incorporation of the Wildlife Mitigation Plan as part of the proposal.</p>
vi	The area proposed for diversion is less than 1 ha and therefore CA is not F.No.4-KRB 1396/2022-BAN I/129271/2025 applicable. However, as per the Rule 13 (5) of the Consolidated Guidelines 2023, an undertaking that a plantation of minimum no. of 100 plants shall be carried out needs to be submitted by the State Government.	In compliance with Rule 13(5) of the Consolidated Guidelines, 2023, the User Agency has furnished the required undertaking for carrying out plantation of a minimum of 100 plants. The same is enclosed as Annexure-I for kind reference and consideration by the Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Further, the proposed quarry area is located deep inside the forest and a significant portion of the area falls within a grid identified with comparatively higher conservation value as per the DSS analysis. Further, the justification furnished for opening a new quarry in forest land, as required under the provisions of the Consolidated Guidelines, 2023, is general in nature and does not clearly establish the non-availability of alternative sources outside forest areas.

Considering the ecological sensitivity of the surrounding forest landscape and the location of the proposed site within interior forest areas, the proposal may be examined with due caution at the appropriate level while taking a decision in the matter.

Therefore, vide ref(5) the report submitted by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karwar division as mentioned above is further submitted for your kind perusal and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,



Chief Conservator of Forests,
Kanara Circle, Sirsi.