

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ  
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ  
(ಅರಣ್ಯಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ  
Office of  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)



ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ  
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Old File No. A5(2).GFL.CR-27/2018-19  
E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-2(GFL)/66/2018-FC

E-69609  
Date 14-01-2022

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government  
Forests, Ecology & Environment Department  
M.S. Building, Bengaluru-560 001

Sir

**Sub:** Diversion of 160.4 hectare of forest land in Sy. No.138 and 146 of Karlakatti village, Sy No. 128, 129 and 130 of Chakrageri village and Sy No. 3 and 4 of Kagihal village, Savadatti (Saundatti) Taluk, Belagavi District (Ghataprabha Division, Gokak) for construction of Standalone Pumped Storage Component of Saundatti Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) in favour of the M/s Greenko Solar Energy Private Limited, Bengaluru.

**Proposal No. FP/KA/HYD/37723/2018 [FORM-A]**

- Ref:**
1. This office letter of even number dated 16-08-2021 [seeking Stage-I approval], 09-12-2021[communication of EDS query to Field Officers and UserAgency]
  2. Government of Karnataka letter No. FEE 57 FLL 2021 dated 03-17-11-2021 [seeking Stage-I approval], 03-12-2021 [Communication of GOI EDS query].
  3. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi letter F.No. 8-29/2021-FC dated 01-12-2021 [EDS query]
  4. M/s Greenko Solar Energy Private Ltd, Bengaluru letter No IREP-Saundatti/FDP-ADS/21113 dated 13-12-2021 [reply submitted to this office]
  5. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Division, Gokak letter No. B2/Land/Greenko/FC/20-21/2021-22 dated 18-12-2021 [reply submitted to Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle]
  6. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bidar Division, letter No. KFD-BDRD0A5(SY)/7/2022 dated 11-01-2022 [DFL details submitted to Chief Conservator of Forests, Kalburgi Circle and copy marked to this office]
  7. Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle letter No.A7/LND/FC/DClne/BGK/CR-5/2014-15 dated 24-12-2021 [reply submitted to this office]
  8. Conservator of Forests, Kalburgi Circle, letter No.

A4/FC/Fo.land/clearance/pa ha/CR-21/2021-22 dated 12-01-2022  
[DFL details submitted to this office]

With reference to the above subject, this office vide Ref (1) has submitted the above mentioned proposal to Government of Karnataka seeking 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Accordingly, Government of Karnataka vide Ref (2) letter dated 17-11-2021 has forwarded the proposal to Government of India.

In response, the Government of India vide Ref (3) has raised EDS query seeking clarification and information on four points. The Government of Karnataka vide Ref (2) letter dated 03-12-2021 was communicated the same.

Accordingly, this office vide Ref (1) letter dated 09-12-2021 has communicated the Government of India EDS query to User Agency and Field officers.

In response, User Agency vide Ref (3) has submitted the information to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Division, Gokak. who, after verification, vide Ref (5) has submitted the same to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle and who has, in turn vide Ref (5) has submitted it to this office. Based on the reports obtained from the User Agency and Field officers, the information is as follows.

GOI EDS query dated 01-12-2021	Reply
1 The State Govt. is requested to offer the comments on the points raised by the CF in his Site visit report i.e. "there is one old temple by name Sogal Someshwar Temple and one water falls within an aerial distance of 3 KM from the proposed project boundary."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Sogal Someshwar Temple is situated at a distance of 3 km from the proposed project boundry. The said waterfalls has a total catchment area of around 7.5 sq km. Out of this around 0.44 sq km is overlapping with the area proposed for upper reservoir of the project.</li></ul>
2 The DCF in his site inspection report has raised an issue regarding displaced people of Malaprabha Project. It was informed that as per the available records wherein as per the Govt of Karnataka Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The total forest area in Karlakatti Sy No.146 is 445 acres and 7 guntas. Out of this, around 72 acres is granted to displaced persons of Malaprabha Project. However the said land has not been denotified and the ownership of the land continues as a Forest Department.</li><li>• Now, the total requirement for the project is around 120 acres (48.37ha) in Sy. No. 146, out of these 15.35 acres of land is under occupied by displaced persons</li></ul>

No.RD453FGL 69 dated 18.10.1969 about 1020 Acres have been allotted to displaced persons of Malaprabha Project under Kagihal forest under various Survey No's. Out of 1020 acres, about 72 acres have been allotted for displaced persons in forest Sy.No.146 (total land in Sy. No.146-445 acres). As per the Forest Diversion proposed of User Agency, about 120 acres (48.37 ha) i.e. part of land falling under Forest Sy.No.146 is required by the user agency for project development. It is pertinent to highlight by the DCF that the land under Forest Sy.No.146 is still under Forest as per the forest records and the same has not been de-notified. In this regard, the State Govt. is requested to offer the comments on the issued raised by the DCF in his Site Inspection Report and the current status of the land (i.e. 48.37 ha of Sy. no. 146) proposed for diversion may be forwarded to this Ministry.

and the rest with the forest department.

3	<p>As per DSS report the Solid structure, agriculture field and plantation near proposed approach road is visible. In this regard the State government is requested to Provide its comment on this issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presence of solid structure (petrol bunk), Banana plantation is found and this is included in the 15.35 acres of land under occupied by displaced person proposed for diversion for the project. There are agriculture fields both within and outside the above mentioned 15.35 acres (72 acres granted for displaced person).</li> </ul>
4	<p>The Nodal Officer (FCA) in his Site Inspection has informed that the User Agency has to seek NOC from the State Govt. departments such as Water Resources, Energy, Environment and Other Statutory Authorities. Further, it was also stated by Nodal officer that the diversion of the project may be conditional that is unless all the required approvals are obtain the forest land shall not be handed over to the project authorities. In this regard the User Agency shall submit an undertaking stating that they will obtain all the NOC from the concerned departments.</p>	<p>The User Agency has agreed to undertake that necessary Clearances/NOCs shall be obtained from the concerned departments as applicable before the start of construction of the project and submitted an Undertaking in this regard [ANNEXURE I]</p>

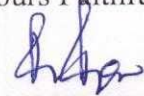
5	<p>As per the Site Suitability certificate submitted by the DFO it has been mentioned that the plantation as per this Ministry's guideline is not possible therefore the reaming plants will be planted in the Degraded Forest land (DFL). In this regard the KML file of the identified wrt DFL may be forwarded to this Ministry.</p>	<p>The Deputy Conservator of Forests Bidar Division has identified an extent of 165 ha of Degraded Forest land (DFL) in following 3 patches are as follows.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="726 324 1460 1142"> <thead> <tr> <th>Forest Division</th> <th>Name of the forest &amp; Block</th> <th>District Taluk &amp; Hobli</th> <th>Village</th> <th>Sy No</th> <th>Extent in Ha</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Bidar</td> <td rowspan="2">Meenkera &amp; Bemalkheda UCF</td> <td rowspan="2">Block-I</td> <td>Meenkera</td> <td rowspan="2">199 &amp; 611</td> <td rowspan="2">Net area for planting - 60 ha (Gross area-112 ha)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bemalkheda</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bemalkheda Changlera UCF</td> <td>Block-II</td> <td>Bemalkheda Changlera</td> <td>538/1 &amp; 128/1</td> <td>80 ha</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Bemalkheda UCF</td> <td>Block-III</td> <td>Bemalkheda</td> <td>521</td> <td>Net area for planting - 25 ha (Gross area-28 ha)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5" style="text-align: center;"><b>Total area of 3 Blocks</b></td> <td><b>Net area for planting - 165 ha (Gross area-220 ha)</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Accordingly, the proposed Degraded Forest land (DFL) KML file in CD are enclosed as [ANNEXURE II]</p>	Forest Division	Name of the forest & Block	District Taluk & Hobli	Village	Sy No	Extent in Ha	Bidar	Meenkera & Bemalkheda UCF	Block-I	Meenkera	199 & 611	Net area for planting - 60 ha (Gross area-112 ha)	Bemalkheda	Bemalkheda Changlera UCF	Block-II	Bemalkheda Changlera	538/1 & 128/1	80 ha		Bemalkheda UCF	Block-III	Bemalkheda	521	Net area for planting - 25 ha (Gross area-28 ha)	<b>Total area of 3 Blocks</b>					<b>Net area for planting - 165 ha (Gross area-220 ha)</b>
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6	<p>The State Government is requested to appraise Status of Approved Detail Project report (DPR) to this Ministry.</p>	<p>The User Agency had submitted the following information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per the provisions of DPR approval requisite pre-chapters i.e., Stage-I (Compendium) was submitted on 29-11-2019.</li> <li>Approval for Pre-DPR chapters like hydrological, power potential and construction material etc. have been obtained.</li> <li>After approval of relevant chapters/studies under stage-I (Compendium) which is currently under progress, formal submission of DPR shall be made to CEA/CWC for issuance of concurrence to the project.</li> <li>The copy of the User Agency letter dated 13-12-2021 addressed to this office enclosed as [ANNEXURE III]</li> </ul>																														

<p>7 The instant proposal is designated to lift the water from the Renuka Sagar Reservoir. In this regard the NOC from user agency of Renuka Sagar Reservoir has not been submitted by the user Agency. In this regards the state Govt. is requested to submit the same.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The copy of the User Agency letter dated 08-07-2021 addressed to this office for obtaining NOC's from concerned departments enclosed as [ANNEXURE IV]</li> </ul>
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In view of the above, it is requested to move the matter with the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi for seeking the (Stage-I) approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the project.

The relevant documents in 3 sets are submitted here with for kind perusal and further action. The present status of the proposal obtained from the web-portal is also appended for necessary action.

Yours Faithfully



Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)

1. Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests(s), Belagavi & Kalburgi Circles, for information
2. Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ghataprabha Division, Gokak for information.
3. Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bidar Division, Bidar for information.
4. M/s Greenko Solar Energy Private Ltd, Ground floor, Prestige Khoday Tower, No.05, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru 560 001 for information.