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No: B4/GFL/FCA/SR-11/2011-12/2024-25 | 1125

Dated: 17-07-2025.

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To,

Conservator of Forests,

Kanara Circle,

Sirsi.

Sir,

SUB: Re-diversion of 2.469 hectares of forest land in Hattikeri Village, Survey No. 10A1A1A, Belekeri Hobli, Ankola Taluk, Uttara Kannada District, Karwar Division for establishing a Toll Plaza with amenities (shifting from existing location at CH.117+900 to CH.131+200) in Geo-Karnataka Border and Kundapur Section of NH-66 Project Seabird Project (Primary User Agency) in favour of Project Director, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) project Implementation Unit (PIU), Mangalore Project Director, Mangalore(Secondary User Agency) - regarding.

**Proposal No : FP/KA/ROAD/33150/2018(FORM-A)**

- REF:1) Govt. of India letter No: F.No. 4 KRB 1249/2020-BAN/780 dated: 07-10-2022, 4 KRB 1249/2020-BAN/267 dated:02-05-2023 and 4 KRB 1249/2020-BAN/117 dated:26-09-2023
- 2) Govt. of Karnataka's letter No:FEE 41 FLL 2020(c) dated:30-09-2023, FEE 41 FLL 2024(E) 5620, Dated : 04-05-2024 and 24-01-2025
- 3) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Conservation) & Nodal Officer,(FCA) Bangalore's letter No:KFD/ HOFF/ A52K (GFL)/18/ 07-01-2025 and 01-03-2025
- 4) This office letters dated:18-01-2023,17-02-2023,13-06-2023,and 12-12-2023
- 5) Deputy Director General (PI), Project Seabird, Karwar's letter No. SB/K/NH66/Toll Plaza dated: 13-02-2023
- 6) Your office letter No:B2/GFL/NH-66/CR-14/2019-20/764 dated: 13-06-2025
- 7) Range Forest Officer, Ankola's letter No.434/2025-26dated: 02-07-2025
- 8) Asst. Conservator of Forests, Ankola Sub-division No:ACF/AN/2025-26/ 449 dated: 02-07-2025

With reference to the subject cited above, the following is submitted for kind information and necessary action:

The Project Director, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Mangalore, has submitted a proposal seeking re-diversion of 2.469 ha. of forest land in Sy. No. 10A1A1A, Hattikeri Village, Ankola Taluk, originally diverted for the Seabird Project (Naval Base), for the construction of a Toll Plaza with amenities:

The Government of India, vide letter dated 07-10-2022 (reference 1), informed that the proposal was examined by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) in its meeting held on 28-09-2022. The REC observed that the case involved violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and that the

action taken report submitted by the State Government on 18-09-2021 was incomplete and unsatisfactory. The REC, therefore, directed the State Government to submit a detailed action taken report, including the names of the officials responsible for the violation.

In compliance, the Project Director, NHAI (PIU, Mangalore) furnished names of officials from AECOM Asia Company Ltd., in association with Rodic Consultant Pvt. Ltd., appointed by NHAI on behalf of the MoRTH, Government of India, for supervision and monitoring of the works. The details of officials i.e. team leader/engineers are as under. This was reported to the Government vide this office letter dated 17-02-2023 (reference 4).

Sl. No.	Name	Position	Company
1	Kiran S. Vishwaroop	Team leader cum Senior Highway Engineer	Rodic Consultant Pvt. Ltd.
2	Anil Kumar Singh	Resident cum Highway Engineer-1	
3	Devaraj B.C.	Resident cum Highway Engineer-2	AECOM Asia Company Limited.

Subsequently, the Government of Karnataka, vide letter dated 24-01-2025 (reference 2), communicated that submission of names of private agency staff alone was not acceptable and directed that complete details of all officials responsible for violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 be furnished. Further, as per directions contained in reference (4), legal action was to be initiated, and an action taken report submitted.

Accordingly, a case has been registered as per FOC No. 07/2025-26 by the Range Forest Officer, Ankola, against the Project Director, NHAI (PIU, Mangalore), for the illegal construction of a Toll Plaza in Sy. No. 10A1A1A, Hattikeri Village, Ankola Taluk, under Sections 24(g), 24(gg), and 64A of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963.

It is further submitted that the Project Director, NHAI, is directly responsible for the construction of the Toll Plaza without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government, which constitutes a clear violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

Additionally, the Seabird Authority is equally liable for violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as the said 2.469 ha. of forest land forms part of the leased forest area under its custody which has been transferred to NHAI by conveying meeting between Seabird and NHAI Officers vide letter cited at reference (5) of Deputy Director General (PI), Project Seabird, Karwar. Copy enclosed.

The Forest Department Officials are not responsible for the said violation since the said land under custody of Seabird authorities and they are not allowing forest officials frequently without obtaining prior permission from Seabird authorities.

The above is submitted for your kind information and further necessary action in the matter.



Yours faithfully,

Deputy Conservator of Forests,  
Karwar Division, Karwar.

Copy submitted to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA), Aranya Bhavan, Malleshwaram, Bengalurur.