

By e-mail / By RPAD

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARMENT

From
Tmt.R.Padmawathe, IFS.,
Conservator of Forests
and Field Director ,
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger
Reserve,
Madurai - 2.

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force)
Chennai - 32.

C.No.9102/2022/D1, Dated: 17.03.2023

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - SMTR,
Madurai- Ramanathapuram Forest Division - Proposal
for diversion of 28.6132 ha of forest land for the
restoration of Rail connectivity between Rameswaram
and Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram Reserved Forests -
[FP/TN/Rail/152033/2022] - Online - Proposal
Report submission -further details called for -
Report submission of -Reg.

- Ref: 1) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Letter
No.TS4/8098/2022, Dated; 12.092022.
- 2) Conservator of Forests and Field Director
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve,
Madurai,ref No9102/2022/D1, Dt:14.02.2023 and
21.02.2023.
- 3) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Letter
No.TS4/8098/2022, Dated; 01.03.2023.
- 4) District Forest Officer, Ramanathapuram Division,
Ramanathapuram C.No.3984/2021/AD dt.15.03.23

With reference to the above subject, I submit herewith the
additional details called for the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Chennai reference 3rd cited duly received the District Forest Officer
Ramanathapuram the details are furnished as detailed below .

1)	Whether the user agency has been informed to obtain permission for felling of spontaneous trees from the supreme Court of India.	Yes, In this regard The District Forest Officer Ramanathapuram has informed the user agency vide ref No: 3984/2022/AD,Dated.04.11.2022 and 06.03.2023. In this regard,an undertaking has given by the user agency. (copy enclosed)
2)	Whether the Wildlife Mitigation Plan has been prepared and sent to the PCCF & CWLW for approval.	No,In this regard, The user agency has given an undertaking that necessary Mitigation Plan shall be the undertaking certificate submitted by the user agency enclosed herewith.
3	Whether the User agency has applied for Wildlife Clearance from NBWL as per GoI, MoEF&CC, WL division, New Delhi F.No. 6-30/2019/WL (Part) dt. 24.02.2023.	The User Agency has not applied for Wildlife Clearance from NBWL as per GoI, MoEF&CC, WL division, New Delhi F.No. 6-30/2019/WL (Part) dt. 24.02.2023. This proposed site is located outside the ESZ of Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.

Further, the revised site inspection report and Part III of the proposal, ie Recommendation enclosed herewith.

This is for kind information and necessary action.

Encl: As stated above

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-R.Padmawathe,
Conservator of Forests and Field Director,
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve,
Madurai

/T.C.B.O/

S. G. G. G. G. G.
Senior Draughting Officer
17/03/23

Revised Site Inspection report of Conservator of Forests and Field Director, SMTR, Madurai regarding diversion of 28.6132 ha of Forest land for the restoration of Rail connectivity between Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram Reserved Forests by the Deputy Chief Engineer IV, Arasaradi Madurai of Ramanathapuram Forest Division.

The forest area proposed for the restoration of Rail connectivity between Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram Reserved Forests in Ramanathapuram Forest Division was inspected by me along with the Forest Range Officer, Rameswaram Range on 10.11.2022 and 02.02.2023.

The extent of forest area proposed for diversion is 28.6132 ha. in Survey numbers 1026/354, 1026/5A, 1026/364, 1026/363, 1043, 1044/3, 1050, 1120 and 1063 of Rameswaram village of Rameswaram Taluk in Ramanathapuram District. The forest land proposed for diversion is located within the Coastal Regulation Zone and Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve and also located outside Eco Sensitive Zone of Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.


It is observed that the alignment of proposed Railway track is done temporarily with small stones between Pamban to Mukundarayan Chathram in S.No.1026/354 of Rameswaram village at Malligai nagar. Spontaneous growth of *Azadirachtra indica*, *Zizyphus mauritiana*, *Lannea coromandelica* and *Cassine glauca* were seen and other planted species found are *Casuarina* spp. *Eucalyptus*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Borassus flabellifer* and *Ficus religiosa*.

The Railway line crosses the marine lagoon mudflat areas, turtle nesting beaches, especially near Dhanuskodi. These marine lagoon and mudflats are important bird areas and habitat for migratory waterfowl especially Greater Flamingo.

The area proposed for railway track lies adjacent to the notified Sea Turtle nesting sites. The major fauna sighted during the inspection are Peafowl, Black napped hare, Common Sand boa, Brahminy Kite, Terns and Gulls. A wildlife mitigation plan needs to be given by the Railway Authorities to minimize the impact of the project on feeding and nesting sites of birds habitat of Sea Turtles, Migratory waterfowl and other lagoon and Marine species etc.

Considering the importance of the proposed connectivity, the proposal for the diversion of forest land (28.6132 Ha) for restoration of Rail connectivity between Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram Reserved Forests is recommended subject to the following conditions as the area is a fragile island.

- a) Wildlife mitigation plan must be prepared and approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The plan shall be funded by the User Agency. The plan must be made operational before the commencement of the project.
- b) A plan for Restoration of natural vegetation by Removal of invasive species and plantation of suitable dry evergreen species or Palmyra etc. should be taken up at the cost of user agency.


Conservator of Forests and Field Director,
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve,
Madurai.


12/3/23


17/10/22

Revised PART - III

[to be filled by concerned Conservator of Forests and Field Director]

17.	Whether site, where the forest land involved is located has been inspected by concerned Conservator of Forests and Field Director (Yes / No) if yes, the date of inspection & observations made in form of inspection note to be enclosed.	: Yes, Inspected by the Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Madurai on 10.11.2022 and 02.03.2023 and site inspection report enclosed.
18.	Whether the concerned Conservator of Forests and Field Director agree with the information given in Part B and the recommendation of District Forest Officer.	: Yes
19.	Specific Recommendation of concerned Conservator of Forests and Field Director for acceptance	: The forest land proposed for diversion is located within the Coastal Regulation Zone and Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve and also located outside Eco Sensitive Zone of Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park. The proposed Railway line crosses through Rameswaram RF. The Railway line also crosses the marine lagoon and mudflat areas. These marine lagoon and mudflats are important birds area and habitat for migratory birds especially Flamingoes. The proposed Railway connectivity will benefit to the devotees and tourists, to travel from Rameswaram to Dhanuskodi. The project is recommended subject to the condition that necessary mitigation plan and restoration plan must be prepared at the cost of user agency.

Signature :

Name : R.Padmawathe, IFS,

Office Seal :

Date :17.03.2023

Place: Madurai.



