

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF  
FORESTS (HEAD OF FOREST FORCE), MAHARASHTRA  
STATE, NAGPUR**

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER  
First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.

Tel no. 0712-2556916 E-mail- [apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in](mailto:apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in)

No.:Desk-17/Nodal/S2/PID-45600/Gadchiroli/2302/2023-24

Nagpur – 440 001, Dated: 02/11/2023

To,

The Deputy Director General (Central)  
Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change,  
Regional Office, Ground Floor, East Wing,  
New Secretariat Building,  
Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001

Sub:- Proposal for diversion of 54.274 ha. of Reserved Forest and Protected Forest in favour of Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, National Highway Division, Gadchiroli for Up-gradation to 2/4 lane with paved shoulder configuration of Gadchiroli-Allapalli-Sironcha of NH-353 C from Gitali-Mosam-Zamela Nalla in Gadchiroli District in the State of Maharashtra.

Ref:- 1) The Government of India, MoEF& CC, Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur vide letter No. F.No.FC-III/MH-54/2022-NGP/12353, dated 12/10/2023.  
2) Office of Executive Engineer, National Highway Gadchiroli Division, vide letter dated 26/10/2023.  
3) Office Note of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife), Maharashtra State, dated 31.10.2023.

NHAI submitted the proposal for Diversion of 54.274 ha of forest land for up-gradation of NH353 C from Gitali- Mosam- ZamelaNalla in Gadchiroli District in the State of Maharashtra. The road in the instant proposal passes through area which is highly affected by LWE activities. Hence the said proposal is utmost important.

2.0 The proposed area 54.274 ha. to be diverted falls outside the ESZ of Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary & Pranhita Wildlife Sanctuary. The distance of the proposed area from Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary is 3.465 Km. The distance of the proposed area from the Pranhita Wildlife Sanctuary is 3.5 Km. However, this road is neither crossing National Park, Sanctuary nor any Eco-Sensitive Zone. It is totally outside Protected Area.

3.0 The Government of Maharashtra vide letter dated 19.12.2022 has submitted proposal to the Government of India, New Delhi. The IRO, Nagpur vide letter dated 30.01.2023 has sought compliance on 7 points.

4.0 Accordingly, Specific comments from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State were sought.

*The Specific comments the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State received vide Office Note No.401, dated 11/05/2023 are as under:-*

*“Tiger Corridor of Eastern Vidharbha Landscape published by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun reveals that Villages namely Shantigram, Rajpur Paich, Bori, Rampur Chak, Mahagaon Khurd, Cherapallidina, Khamancheru, Mosam (s) are included in the Tiger Corridor. Therefore, as per Section 38-O (1) of in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, it is necessary to take Wildlife Clearance in the matter. Accordingly, User Agency is directed to prepare and submit the proposal for Wildlife Clearance in the Prescribed Format through the proper channels and procedures to the Chief Wildlife Warden of Maharashtra State.”*

5.0 PCCF (HoFF) office vide letter dated 11/05/2023 has submitted compliance report regarding 7 points to Government of Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra further submitted query compliance to Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur on 13/09/2023.

6.0 It was communicated to this office vide letter under reference no.1 that the proposal was placed in 107<sup>th</sup> REC meeting dated 26/09/2023. The REC committee has decided to approve the proposal with following condition.

*“The User Agency shall obtain prior approval of the NBWL and a copy of the same shall be submitted to Regional Office, Nagpur, for Stage- I approval.”*

7.0 PCCF (HoFF) Office vide letter dated 25/10/2023 has communicated to CF(T) Gadchiroli that the User Agency shall obtain prior approval of the NBWL and a copy of the same shall be submitted to Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur, for Stage- I approval. The Chief Wildlife Warden & PCCF (WL) Maharashtra State vide office note under reference no. 3 communicated to that

*“The Tiger Corridor of EVL, the length of the road in the proposed area of forest land in the 8 villages, which appear to fall within the tiger corridor is 9.606 km and its area is 11.156 ha., the length of the road in the non-forest area is 12.687 km and its area is 14.494 ha. Also, length of corridor in Government land is 3.244 km and*

*area is 4.439 ha. That is, the total length of forest + non-forest+ Government land is 25.537 km and its area is 30.089 ha. Wildlife permission is required under Section 38-O (1) (g) of the Wildlife (Permission) Act, 1972.'*

8.0 The proposed area to be diverted falls under LWE area of Gadchiroli district and is for up gradation of existing highway which is serving as lifeline for law enforcement agencies. So, it is utmost important to start the execution of project at the earliest. The user agency shall apply for the wildlife clearance parallel to the ongoing forest clearance proposal. In earlier proposals too, considering the importance of the proposals, the Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur has granted Stage-I clearance even though the proposals were pending for wildlife clearance from NBWL, even working permission was also given by Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur excluding area falling in wildlife corridor.

Kindly, consider the request of user agency and grant the Stage-I approval as soon as possible.

Encl:- As above

*Star* 2/x/23

(Naresh Zurmure)

**Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer**

*Star* 2/x/23

**Copy submitted to the** Principal Secretary (Forests), Revenue and Forest Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai -32 for kind information.

Copy to Conservator of Forests (T), Gadchiroli for information and necessary action.

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forest, Allapalli Forest Division, Allapalli for information and necessary action.

Copy to the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Gadchiroli for information and necessary action.





## Forest Department

### O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State

Phone No.- 0712-2560953 Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) Maharashtra State

E-mail - pccfwlnp@mahaforest.gov.in Website - [www.mahaforest.gov.in](http://www.mahaforest.gov.in)

"Van Bhavan", 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440 001.

No:- D-23(2)/Survey/C.N.11(Nodal)/ **3462** /2023-24,

Dated **31** /10/2023

#### Office Note

Sub:- Diversion of 54.274 ha. of Reserved Forest and Protected Forest in favour of Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, National Highway Division, Gadchiroli for Up-gradation to 2/4 lane with paved shoulder configuration of Gadchiroli- Allapalli- Sironcha of NH-353 C from Gitali-Mosam-Zamela Nalla in Gadchiroli District in the State of Maharashtra-regarding.

Ref:- 1. Your office letter No. Desk-17/Nodal/Gadchiroli//ID-12987/369/2023-24, dated 08/05/2023.

2. This office letter No. D-23(2)/Survey/C.N.11(Nodal)/401/23-24, dated 11/05/2023.

3. Your office letter No. Desk-17/SI/PID-119248/Gadchiroli/2023-24/2248, dated 27/10/2023.

In the matter referred to in the letter dated 30/01/2023 from the Central Government, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Nagpur, there is an issue pertaining to proposal regarding 54.274 ha. Question is whether the reference proposed area in letter in tiger corridor or not? Feedback is requested in this regard.

Accordingly, as scrutinized at this level in the atlas of Eastern Vidarbha Landscape prepared by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, the following villages appear to fall within the corridor.

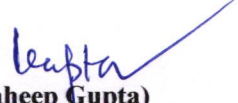
The details of the 8 villages in terms of length, width and area as per the records are as follows:

Village	Taluka	Forest Area			Non Forest Area (pvt)			Govt. land			EVL Status
		Length in meter	Width in meter	Area in ha.	Length in meter	Width in meter	Area in ha.	Length in meter	Width in meter	Area in ha.	
Shantigram	Mulchera	1784.598	33	1.963	2959.287	418	3.255	1105.846	77	1.823	Low
Rajpur Paich	Aheri	2151.568	330	2.667	1055.012	132	1.475	130.374	66	0.224	Low
Bori	Aheri	00.00	0	0.00	413.813	66	0.455	37.847	33	0.042	Low
Rampur Chak	Aheri	927.620	22	1.020	2017.623	99	2.219	0.00	0.00	0.00	Low
Mahagaon Khurd	Aheri	680.882	44	1.000	452.817	33	0.498	94.69	22	0.208	Low
Cherapallidina	Aheri	1878.960	66	2.106	232.333	44	0.480	0.00	0.00	0.00	Low
Khamancheru	Aheri	1141.283	77	1.255	4208.813	330	4.630	210.400	44	0.244	Low
Mosam (s)	Aheri	1041.104	44	1.145	1347.073	99	1.482	1664.451	176	1.898	Low
<b>Total</b>		<b>9606.015</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>11.156</b>	<b>12686.771</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>14.494</b>	<b>3243.608</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>4.439</b>	

As per the above details, Tiger Corridor of EVL, the length of the road in the proposed area of forest land in the above 8 villages is 9.606 km and its area is 11.156 ha., the length of the

road in the non-forest area is 12.687 km and its area is 14.494 ha. Also, length of corridor in Government land is 3.244 km as area is 4.439 ha. That is, the total length of forest + non-forest+ Government land is 25.537 km and its area is 30.089 ha. Wildlife permission is required under Section 38-O (1) (g) of the Wildlife (Permission) Act, 1972.

You should inform the project agency to submit the proposal for wildlife recognition in the prescribed format.

  
(Maheep Gupta)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife),  
Maharashtra State

To,

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
& Nodal officer, M.S. Nagpur.



Office of Executive Engineer  
National Highway Division Gadchiroli

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Outward No.: - 2371 /P.O.-II/Tech/2023

Dt: - 26/10/2023

To,

The Nodal Officer &  
APCCF, Forest Department,  
Nagpur.

Subject: - Grant of permission for diversion of 54.247 Ha of Forest land under FCA

Reference: - 1. R E C held on date 26/09/2023.

It is submitted that a proposal for diversion of 54.247 Ha was placed before REC on 26.09.2023. The matter was deliberated in the previous REC and in the above REC, it was approved by all the members. All the members had signed the minutes of the meeting accordingly but surprisingly the minutes as received from IRO state that the REC approves the FCA proposal with the condition that the approval of NBWL be taken before according to Stage-1 clearance.

It is submitted that the proposal as submitted for approval to REC was for forest and non-forest areas after deleting the length of the project in the Eco-sensitive zone of Chaprala W L S, as suggested by Hon'ble Principle Secretary (Revenue & Forests). The REC asked for the comments of PCCF wildlife as regards to the proximity of the chappals and Pranhita WLS. The PCCF wildlife informed that 8 villages outside ESZ of Chaprala WLS but on the project highway are mentioned in the Eastern Vidarbha Landscape Tiger corridor.

On studying the Eastern Vidarbha Landscape Tiger corridor report it is seen that the grids of size 10 km x 10 km are considered in the report but no further details of the corridor are seen. In the absence of any specific details such as the length of the road affected, the geo-coordinates of the road cutting across the Tiger corridors, the intensity of the Tiger footfalls, etc, this office is not able to decide on the exact action to be taken for the preparation of proposals.

It is therefore requested to arrange to provide the geo-coordinates of the affected project length or suggest mitigation measures, according to the tiger footfalls, so that action can be taken accordingly.

(V. M. Mishra)  
Executive Engineer  
National Highway Division  
Gadchiroli

Copy to: -

- 1) Principal Secretary of Revenue and Forests for information.
- 2) Chief Engineer & Regional Officer, MoRTH, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Konkan Bhavan, Navi Mumbai for information, please.
- 3) Chief Engineer, National Highway (PWD), Konkan Bhavan, Navi Mumbai for information, please.
- 4) Superintending Engineer, National Highway Circle, Nagpur, For the information, please.