

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forests Force), Maharashtra State

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer,

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By E-mail / Speed Post

No.Desk-17/Nodal/Kolhapur/(29)/ID-12996/12-78 /2022-23

Nagpur - 440 001, Date: 22/08/2022

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests), Revenue & Forest Department, Mantralya, Mumbai -400032

- Sub:- Proposal for the diversion of area 112.25 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra. (Online No.FP/MH/REHAB/144503/2021)-regarding.
- **Ref:** 1. Government of India, MoEF&CC (FC Division), New Delhi letter dated 31/05/2022 of File No.8-07/2022-FC.
 - 2. The Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur letter No.D-6/NC/Rehab/Vele/ID-12966/2022-23/485, dated 10/08/2022.

Sir.

Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division), New Delhi vide letter under reference No.1 had sought compliance on 13 points. Accordingly, the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur vide letter under reference No.2 has submitted the compliance of shortcoming in this regard to this office. The compliance report as desired by the Government of India vide letter dated 31/05/2022 is submitted as under:-

Sr. No.	Points	Compliance report			
i	The Nodal Officer has not provided his own specific recommendation for the proposal in Part -IV of the proposal.	Revised Part-IV including the specific recommendation of the Nodal Officer for the proposal is enclosed herewith as Annexure-10 .			
ii	As per DSS analysis, the calculated forest area for diversion is found to be 114.873 ha. Instead of 112.25 ha as per proposal. Therefore, the correct KML file of 112.25 ha. shall be submitted.	The correct KML file of 112.25 ha. in C.D. is enclosed herewith as Annexure 1A . KML includes the following items: -Polygon no.1:- Proposed Road for MIDC, Proposal under FCA 1980 in process. Polygon no. 2:-Canal already approved under FCA 1980. Polygon no. 3: - Existing Road as per toposheet surveyed on 1888.89. Polygon no. 4. Area for Rehabilitation i) Gaothan ii) Agricultural land Polygon no. 1, 2 & 3 are within polygon No. 4. Area of Polygon no. 1, 2 & 3 has been deleted. Polygon No, 4 has been corrected and found to be 112.25 ha. (Kindly refer Map attached as Annexure - 1)			
iii	The KML file of the forest village 'Vele' which is proposed to be re-located from the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary shall be submitted/uploaded.	The KML file of the forest village 'Vele' which is proposed to be re-located from the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary submitted in C.D. is enclosed herewith as Annexure 1A .			
iv	Project report mentions that the total area of notified Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary is 423.55 sq.km. Out of which non forest	The project report mentions that the total area of notified Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary is 423.55 sq. km. Out of which non-forest area of 14 villages has been excluded, the boundaries of the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary have been altered and the same has			

been reconstituted with and area of 335.30 sq. km. Therefore, area of 14 villages has been the KML file of Kovna Wildlife Sanctuary (335.30 sq. km) excluded, the boundaries of the along with its Core area in C.D. is enclosed herewith as Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary have been altered and the same has Annexure 1A. been reconstituted with and area of 335.30 sq. km. Therefore, the KML file of Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary (335.30 sq. km) along with its Core area is required to be submitted. High-resolution satellite imagery Many forest land (patches) were scrutinized for settlement of proposed project affected persons (PAP's) of shows that the plantations and pre-plantation operations have village Vele. Most of the forest land patches were unsuitable for agriculture so consent has not been given by PAP's, but the said been carried out within the patch of 112.25 ha. is a continuous patch of which terrain is village Dhangarwadi, Bholi and comparatively leveled also located near a water canal and has colony Mane proposed for better soil depth so consent has been given by PAP's. The land diversion. This needs was suitable for plantation so plantation activities were carried clarification. out on the said patch as per the description given below. Expenditure Village Gat No. Year of Area Plantation (in Ha.) (in Rs.) Bholi 362,363 2018 (4th) 1407367/-10 7084841/-25 Mane Colony 250 2018 (4th) 10 2592672/-Dhanagarwadi 389 2019 (3rd) Though most of the above expenses are going to be unfruitful due to lack of alternate suitable land with potential irrigation facilities compel us to divert the land which is under plantation. Another considerable point is that it is going to save expenses of leveling of land and bringing it under irrigation which is otherwise to be born up by the department. The complete DGPS Map of forest land sought for diversion The complete DGPS map of uploaded on PARIVESH is enclosed herewith as Annexure -1. forest land sought for diversion uploaded shall be PARIVESH. The CCF, Kolhapur in his Site This proposal is for rehabilitation of Vele village from Koyna WLS. Hence revised site inspection report is submitted Inspection Report has mentioned herewith as Annexure -2. that the proposal is rehabilitation of Vele village from Chandoli National Park whereas the DCF, Satara in its Report has Site Inspection mentioned that the same is for Male village from Chandoli National Park. This needs clarification. This Village is Relocated from Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary. The DCF and CCF in their site viii inspection have reports mentioned that the village is being relocated from Chandoli National Park, whereas proposal is for relocation from Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary. This needs clarification. Village Vele proposed for rehabilitation is within the core of The State Govt. shall certify that the Village proposed to be STR and Koyna WLS. Map and notification showing Vele village well within core of STR and Koyna WLS are submitted relocated is within the core of a herewith as Annexures 3A & 3B. National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary.

x The State Govt. shall ensure that the proposal fulfills all the conditions laid down in the Ministry's guidelines dated 20.05.2019.

The Proposal fulfills all the conditions laid down in the Ministry's Guidelines dated 20.05.2019. Details as per Guidelines –

- a) Resettlement/relocation within the boundaries of the notified forest land be considered only if suitable non-forest land is not available within the vicinity of the protected area from where the relocation is proposed. Certificate of non-availability of non-forest land within the vicinity of the protected area is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-4**.
- b) The District Collector concerned shall furnish to the NTCA a certificate of non-availability of land suitable for relocation of the villages located within the Protected Area and Tiger Reserves before any proposal of relocation within the forest is approved. Required certificate is furnished by District Collector, Satara and it is enclosed herewith as Annexure- 4.
- c) The land identified for relocation/rehabilitation should not result in fragmentation of the forest/wildlife habitat. Certificate is furnished by Deputy Conservator of Forest, Satara about land identified for relocation/rehabilitation is not result in fragmentation of the forest/wildlife habitat is enclosed herewith as Annexure- 5.
- d) The relocation activity shall be undertaken solely as a process of consolidation of the wildlife habitat. Such Certificate is furnished by Deputy Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve Kolhapur at Karad and it is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-6.**
- e) The relocation shall be undertaken only along the fringes of the forest such that all facilities to the resettled families can be provided without recourse to further diversion of forest land for providing infrastructure. Such Certificate is furnished by the Deputy Conservator of Forest Satara and it is enclosed herewith as **Annexure** -7.
- f) The land/villages within the forest which have been vacated shall be brought under the protected area network through enabling notification under the Wildlife Protection Act after extinguishing all the existing rights over the vacated land. Such undertaking is furnished by Deputy Director, Sahyadri Tiger Reserve Kolhapur at Karad and it is enclosed herewith as **Annexure 8**.
- g) The extent of land de-reserved / de-notified for resettlement shall not be more than the extent vacated by the settlers in the core area. Such Certificate is furnished by Deputy Conservator of Forest Satara and it is enclosed herewith as **Annexure 9**.
- h) The payment of NPV and cost of CA may be exempted in all such cases of voluntary relocation/rehabilitation of families from the protected areas undertaken within the forest land. Already exempted by GOI Letter no. 5-3/2011-FC (VOL-I) dated 6 Jan. 2022.

The State Govt. has reported that an area of 150.82 ha will be made available after rehabilitation of village Vele whereas the DCF, Satara has reported that and area of 435.07 ha will be made available after rehabilitation of

After rehabilitation of Village Vele 642.27 ha. non-forest will be made available to the forest department. Details are given in Point no. xii.

	Village Vele. This needs clarification.				
xii			Details	Number of PAP's	Land
3	total area getting vacated has not	No.	DADI 1 (1		(Ha.)
	been provided, which is required	1.	PAP's ready to relocation	61	150.82
	to be given.	2.	PAP's currently not residing in Vele Village (62) and 12	74	162.89
			PAP's willing to settle in		
			Alibaug division.		
			Total PAPs	135	313.71
		3.	Revenue Land	Nil	328.56
			Total		642.27
		4.	Forest Land	Nil	1473.26
			Grand Total		2115.53
xiii	The State Govt. shall clarify	Villag	ge "Vele" proposed for relocation	has 135 PAI	P's as per the
	whether the proposed relocation	list pi	repared by Revenue Department	t. Out of 13	5 PAP's, 62
	of villagers will make the total		are already residing out of Ve		
	area under the village inviolate or		their consent for relocation in Ra		
	not.		sal is for the remaining 61 villag		
			evoid of any people and inviolate		

The compliance report as submitted above may kindly be forwarded to the Central Government for further consideration of the proposal.

Encl.: As above in two copies.

(Naresh Zurmure)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer

Copy forwarded for information to:-

- 1. The Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur
- 2. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara.

PART -IV

(To be filled by Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)

(Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks)

Sub.:- Proposal for the diversion of area 112.25 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra. The proposal has been initiated by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara.

The details of forest land proposed for diversion is as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Taluka	Compt.	Gut.No.	Area (Ha.)	Area required for	Legal Status
	. Mane Colony	Khandala	794	250	7.00	Gaonthan	RF
1.			794	250	43.80	Agriculture	
2.	Bholi		794	362, 363	15.75		
3.	Dhangarwadi		793	389	45.70		UF
		4	Total For	est Area	112.25		

Specific recommendation of the undersigned:- The proposal is recommended as rehabilitation of Village Vele from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve will help to make the core area inviolate, which will definitely aid in Wildlife Conservation.

Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), M. S. Nagpur is attached herewith.

(Naresh Zurmure)
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer

Date: 27 / 08 / 2022 Place: Nagpur

Proposal for the diversion of area 112.25 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation)
Act, 1980 of Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara
for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife
Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra.

Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State with regard to acceptance or otherwise of the proposed supported by reasons.

Proposal for the diversion of area 112.25 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Mane Colony, Bholi & Dhangarwadi, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve of the State of Maharashtra. The proposal has been initiated by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara. The non-forest area does not involve in this project. The site inspection report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara is enclosed on page no.21 to 22 and The site inspection report of the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur is enclosed on page no.23 to 24.

2.0 The details of the forest land proposed for diversion are as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Taluka	Compt.	Gut.No.	Area (Ha.)	Area required for	Legal Status
_			794	250	7.00	Gaonthan	
1.	Mane Colony	701 1.1	794	250	43.80		RF
2.	Bholi	Khandala	794	362, 363	15.75	Agriculture	
3.	Dhangarwadi		793	389	45.70		UF
		•	Total For	rest Area	112.25		

- 3.0 Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the important protected area of the Maharashtra State, Which is located in / Western Ghat. Western Ghat area is considered among the top Bio-diversity hot spots of the world. Western Ghat area included in world heritage site by UNESCO'S world heritage committee on 1 July, 2015.
- 4.0 Govt. of Maharashtra has declared Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary vide notification No. WLP 1085 CR-588/(I) dated 16 th Suptember 1985 under section 18 of Wildlife (Protection) Act-1972 for the purpose of protecting, propagating and development of Wildlife there in and its environment. The total area of notified sanctuary is 423.55 sq.Kms.
- 5.0 In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 26- A of the said Act and of all other power enabling it in this behalf, the Government of Maharashtra hereby, on recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife and as per proposed by the enquiry officer excluded non forest areas of 14 villages and altered the boundaries of the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary and reconstituted the same with the area of 33530.41 Ha. (335.30 sq.km.)
- 6.0 The Maharashtra State Government vide the notification No. WLP -1008/Pra. Kra.232/F-a, dated 5/1/2010 has notified and area of 741.22 Sq. Km. of the Chandoli National Park (317.67 Sq. Km.) and Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary (423.55 Sq. Km.) together as the Sahyadri Tiger Rreserve.
- 7.0 The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve is located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. These ranges from a common boundary between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa. This area rich evergreen, semi- evergreen & moist deciduous forest. These forest areas encompass several river valleys like Krishna, Koyna etc. It is the first Tiger Reserve of Western Maharashtra & 4 th Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra spreading overt two protected Areas those of the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary and Chandoli National Park.
- **8.0** The village Vele is situated in the core of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and is also situated within the are of KWLS. The central part of PA contains the Shivasagar Reservoir of Koyana River. As provided in the wildlife protection act and Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, the Collector has already enquired in to rights and concessions of the people and has also ascertained the willingness of the people to relocation. The village Vele has given voluntary consent and is ready for rehabilitation.

9.0 Human habitations are mostly been established in fertile lands with assured water supply. Such sites within the forest area are limited and therefore are ecologically significant. Flat grounds along major nullah can support revival of floral and faunal attributes and such attributes are completely lost, with the presence of intensive agricultural activities. Relocation in Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary have amply demonstrated the benefits of relocation, especially to wild herbivores and consequently to the whole eco-system. Relocation of village Vele will make available an area of about 150.82 ha.of private land of 61 PAP's, and area of 206.27 ha.of private land, from remaining 74 PAP's directly by negotiation. 328.56 ha.of revenue land and also area of 1473.26 ha. of forest area will be free from human disturbance.

10.0 Relocation of Village Vele will get land maintioned in following table of 328.56 ha. of PAP's and Revenue Land and huge check of Forest Land of core zone will have been free from biotic in therefore of rehabilitation and cattle's of Vele village.

Sr. No.	Details	Number of PAP's	Land (Ha.)	Remarks
1	PAP's ready to relocation	61	150.82	Currently residing in the core Area
2	PAP's currently not residing in Vele Village	74	162.89	74 PAP's have not given consent for rehabilitation as they have presently migrated outside the core area. They are not resident to this village but their land belongs to Vele village, it is also needed tobe acquired in due course of time
	Total	135	313.71	
3	Revenue Land	NA	328.56	
	Total Area		642.27	

11.0 The Sankalan list of the Project Affected Person's (PAP's) of Vele village is sanctioned by District Collector, Satara. The total number of PAP's is 135 out of which 61 PAP's have given consent to be relocated at village Dhangarwadi, Mane Colony and Bholi. Tahsil - Khandala, Dist. Satara. The remaining 74 PAP's has not yet demanded rehabilitation, But they are already residing outside. The 61 PAP's are currently residing in the core area and are demanding for rehabilitation, urgently. They have requested to give priority to the persons who are currently residing in the core area. Other PAP's are already staying outside the core area in the nearby cities long back and they are not yet approached and demanded for rehabilitation, hence they would be rehabilitate at later stage.

12.0 The PAP's of Vele Village have selected forest land of villages Dhangarwadi Mane Colony and Bholi. Tahsil- Khandala, Dist.Satara. The total area required for Rehabilitation is 112.25 ha. which includes 94.20 ha. of agricultural land and 6.00 ha. for Gaothan and approximately 10 % area is considered as unsuitable land. Which makes the total required land for Rehabilitation to be 112.25 ha. Hence, proposal for diversion of 112.25 ha. RF land from villages Dhangarwadi, Mane Colony, and Bholi, Tahsil - Khandala, Dist.- Satara from the Gut No.s 389, 250, 362, 363 is prepared and submitted herewith.

13.0 As per para 1.15 of Handbook issued vide Government of India's letter dated 28/03/2019, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted complete justification for locating the project in the forest area to prove the project is site-specific as under:-

Land is not available in any command area of Irrigation Projects in Satara districts. There is no sufficient land available from "Gairan" or "Revenue waste land" in possession of Revenue department. Even in forests, it is not available in a continuous patch of land at a stretch that can accommodate all 61 PAP's, at one location. Also we are getting more non-forest land (435.07 ha.) than the total forest land (112.25 ha.) proposed to be diverted.

14.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that:-

- 14.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is the lowest minimum. (PPN-38)
- 14.2 The area belongs to Eco class-III, Open forest having density is below 0.4. (PPN-23)
- 14.3 The Project involves felling of total 2918 number of trees. The Girth wise abstract is as under:- (PPN-57)

			Tree Girth in C	m.		
0-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	(>150)cm	Total
671	1931	274	38	3	1	2918

- 14.4 The proposed area does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve. (PPN-48)
- 14.5 The Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance. (PPN-47)
- 14.6 There is no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. (PPN-42)
- 14.7 The Proposed project is not within 10 kms from the Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park. (PPN-21)
- 14.8 The non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of the application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under the interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996. (PPN-46)
- 15.0 Government of India vide letter dated 3/12/2018 of F.No.11-43/2013-FC has issued guidelines regarding compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006. As per these guidelines:-

'Accordingly, it is clarified that within the time period stipulated for compliance of Stage-I condition, Deputy Commissioner shall complete the process of compliance of FRA (including forwarding its findings to be concerned CF), hence for the purpose of the MoEF & CC, as per the provisions under the Forest (Conservation) amendment rules, 2016 the compliance under FRA is not required for consideration of in-principle approval. This has to be furnished by the State Government for consideration of the proposal by the Ministry for final approval'

Hence the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has certified that FRA certificate of Collector Satara has been applied and the same will be submitted on receipt from the Collector Satara, before Stage-2 and we are promising you to submit it before Stage-2 clearance.

16.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara has submitted the undertaking that:-

- 16.1 As per the guideline of the Central Government dt. 20/05/2019 & dt. 06/01/2022 there is exemption from payment of Net Present Value (NPV) and cost of Compensatory Afforestation in the said proposal.
- 16.2 Agrees to defray the cost of felling of trees. (PPN-55)
- 17.0 The KML file of the forest land proposed for diversion is enclosed and placed in the file at the top.
- 18.0 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, Satara and the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Kolhapur have recommended the proposal for diversion of 112.25 ha. of forest land. (PPN-14 to 18)

19.0 Nodal officer on 03/12/2021 had requested the Chief Wildlife Warden to offer their remarks in accordance with the Central Government's guideline dated 20/05/2019 for the said proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden vide office note No.Desk-23(2)/WL/Survey /C.R.132(Nodal)/3104/2021-22, dated 02/03/2022 has conveyed his remarks as follows:-

"After rehabilitation of 61 families out of total 135 families in village Vele, Tq. Jawali, District-Satara, the total area acquired is 150.82 Ha. and for rehabilitation of these 61 families area to be disforested is 112.25 Ha. The area acquired is more than the area to be disforested therefore this office agrees with the Proposal."

- 20.0 In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section-2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-
- 20.1 Legal status of the forest land diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of Village Vele, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve shall cease to be forest land.
- 20.2 User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- 20.3 Land vacated in the protected area due to relocation of Village shall be developed as per approved Wildlife Management Plan/NTCA guideline/CWLW.
- 20.4 No fragmentation of forests should take place due to the relocation project.
- 20.5 The boundary of the diverted land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- 20.6 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- 20.7 The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.
- 20.8 Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F.No.11-42/2017-FC, dt. 29/01/2018.
- 20.9 Any other condition that Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife. The State Government shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.

(Y.L.P.Rao)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State, Nagpur