



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
FORESTS AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
FOREST SECRETARIAT, DEORALI, GANGTOK-737 102**

Email: fca.sikkim@gmail.com

Ref. No. 1964/FCA/F&ED/1010.....

Dated: 27/03/2023

To,

✓ The Inspector General of Forest –cum- Nodal Officer,
Integrated Regional Office,
Ministry of Env. Forests & Climate Change,
Government of India,
IB-198, Sector-III, Salt Lake City,
Kolkata –700106.

SUB: Proposal diversion of 0.1985 Ha of forest land for construction of Kali Darshan Yatra (Footpath) at Gadi Central Pandam, Gangtok district of Sikkim by Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Govt. of Sikkim - reply to Addl. Information reg.

(Proposal No: FP/SK/OTHERS/141542/2021

Madam,

This is with reference to letter No. IRO/KOL/SK/Others/141542/2021/408 dated 22nd September, 2022, please find enclosed herewith the reply to the additional information sought for the aforesaid proposal as under:

| Sl.no | Additional information sought | Reply to Addl. information |
|-------|---|--|
| i. | Present status of the proposed footpath is not clear. What type of construction proposed in Footpath? | As informed by the User Agency, the existing track through which the people from Gadi Village travel to the temple is at a rough terrain and risky to cross due to existing high cliff. Proposed footpath shall be made of eco-friendly materials i, e stone and earth. Cement shall only be used bare minimum, for stability of footpath and safety of the pilgrims. As per information received from the User Agency existing pathway passes through difficult terrain and poses risk to tracker. Proposed footpath will be made of user friendly material that will not affect the drainage line. |
| ii. | Details of required area calculation along with layout map of the proposed footpath needs to be uploaded. | Area: 397m (length) x 5m (width) = 1985 sqm or 0.1985 ha or 0.49 acre. (Layout map enclosed) |
| iii. | Details of alternate routes explored and reasons for their rejection. | As informed by the User Agency, alternatives were explored, however due to steep gradient there is no other alternative route possible. |
| iv. | Since it is a non-site-specific project, justification establishing its inescapability for locating the project in forest area needs to be submitted. | As informed by the User Agency, Nishani Kali temple is a popular pilgrimage destination visited by locals and tourist throughout the year. The temple lies at the hill of Gadi giving a beautiful scenic view to the visitors thus requisite infrastructure facilitating the visitors is to boost both pilgrimage and rural tourism in the region. The temple is located within the forest area, an alternative route without the requirement of diversion of forest land could not be established. However, the proposed footpath is aligned in such a way that minimum forest land is required for connectivity. |

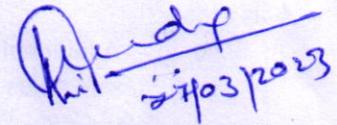


**Brijendra Swaroop, IFS
APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA)
Forest & Environment Department
Govt. of Sikkim**

| | | |
|------|--|--|
| v. | Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion is mentioned as Reserved Forest in forwarding letter whereas it is mentioned as Khasmal by concerned DFO. It needs to be cleared. | Legal status of the forest land is Khasmal (Protected Forest). It is clearly shown on Toposheet map and Part-II details of the concerned DFO. |
| vi. | Compensatory afforestation proposed over 0.1985 ha degraded forest land by State Forest Department where as concerned DFO proposed over 1 ha degraded Forest land. It needs to be cleared. | Since, Compensatory Afforestation in 0.397 ha involves plantation of only 400 saplings but to ensure minimum 1 ha CA to compensate the loss of forest is proposed. |
| vii. | Proposed tree felling is mentioned nil in some places and 6 no. poles proposed for felling in some places. It may be cleared. | As per enumeration list 6 nos of poles (03 nos Asare, 02 nos Mauwa and 01 no Gingane) are falling in the proposed alignment. |

Hence, in consideration of the additional information furnished above, you are requested to accord In-Principal approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, please.

Yours sincerely,



(Brijendra Swaroop, IFS),
APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA).

Brijendra Swaroop, IFS
APCCF, Env. & S.C., SBFP,
SF, Plng, M&E.
Forests & Environment Department
Government of Sikkim.

Copy for kind information to:

1. The Secretary, F&ED
2. The Secretary-cum-PCE,
Tourism & Civil Aviation Department,
Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok
3. CF (Territorial), Gangtok
4. File
5. Guard file.



Brijendra Swaroop, IFS
APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA)
Forest & Environment Department
Govt. of Sikkim

RR No: 23
28/1/23



59
FCA Cell Forests, Env. & W.L. Muz/F
Letter No: 709
Received Dt: 30/1/23
Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
GANGTOK TERRITORIAL DIVISION
FORESTS AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
P.S. Road, Gangtok -737101.

No. 680...../GD/T

Date: 19/1/2023

To, ?
The CF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA)
Forest and Environment Department,
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok

JD (CFCA)
28/01/23

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 0.1985 ha of forest land for construction of Kali Darshan Yatra (Footpath) at Gadi Central Pandam, Gangtok district of Sikkim by Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Govt of Sikkim- Addl. Information reg.

Sir,

With reference to letter No.1964/FCA/F& ED/686 dated 8.11.2022, Please find enclosed herewith the additional information and requisite documents.

| Sl.no | Questions. | Answers:- |
|-------|---|--|
| i. | Legal status of the Forest land proposed for diversion is mentioned as Reserved Forrest in forwarding letter whereas it is mentioned as Khasmal by concerned DFO. It needs to be cleared. | Legal status of the Forest land is Khasmal. It clearly shown on Toposheet map and Part II Details of concerned DFO. |
| ii. | Compensatory Afforestation proposed over 0.1985 ha degraded forest land by State Forest Department where as concerned DFO proposed over 1 ha degraded forest land . It needs to be cleared. | Compensatory Afforestation for the proposed site is 1 ha (as per the verbal guidelines issued by Forest Department. |
| iii. | Proposed tree felling is mentioned nil in some places and 6 no. poles proposed for felling in some places. It may be cleared. | Mistakenly entered. Total Mixed Poles = 06 nos (03 nos. of Asare 01 nos of Gingane & 02 nos of Mauwa) within the proposed site. |

Submitted for favour of further and necessary action please.

Thanking You,

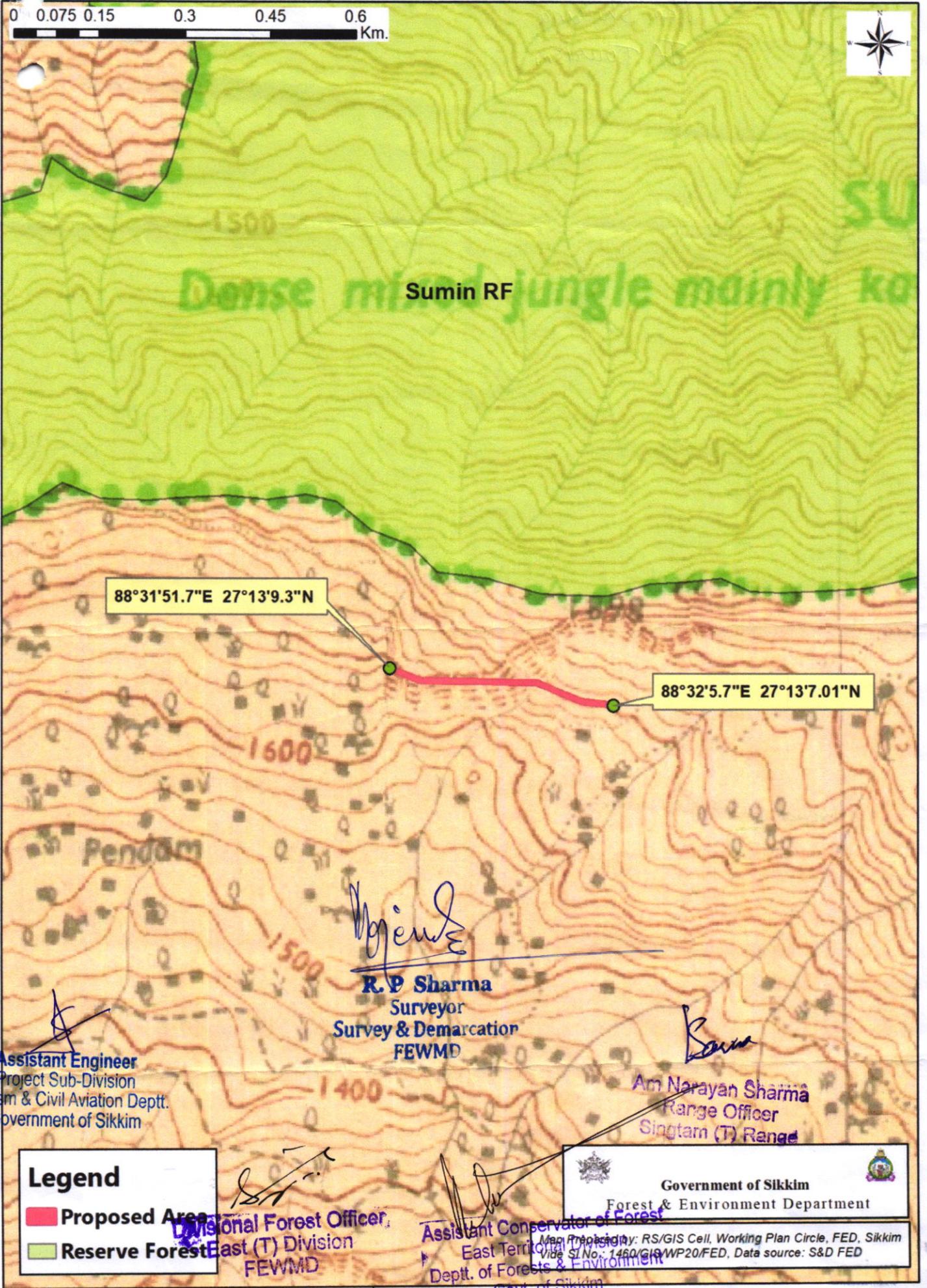
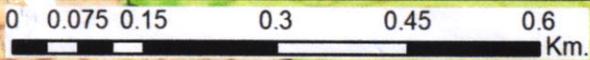
Yours Faithfully

Divisional Forest Officer
Gangtok Territorial Division
Smita Shilal
Divisional Forest Officer
Gangtok Territorial Division
Forest & Environment Deptt.
Govt. of Sikkim



(B/FCA)
PKS Exam and
process
June
LDC-2
Shaps
31/1/23
30/1/23

MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION AREA OF 0.1985 HA. OF GOVT. KHAMMAL FOR CONST. OF KASHI DARSHAN YATRA (FOOTPATH) BY TOURISM DEPTT. AT GADI UNDER SINGTAM(T) RANGE, EAST SIKKIM



88°31'51.7"E 27°13'9.3"N

88°32'5.7"E 27°13'7.01"N

R.P Sharma
R. P Sharma
 Surveyor
 Survey & Demarcation
 FEWMD

[Signature]
Assistant Engineer
 Project Sub-Division
 Tourism & Civil Aviation Deptt.
 Government of Sikkim

[Signature]
Am Narayan Sharma
 Range Officer
 Singtam (T) Range

Legend
Proposed Area
Reserve Forest

[Signature]
Divisional Forest Officer,
 East (T) Division
 FEWMD

[Signature]
Assistant Conservator of Forest
 East Territorial Division
 Deptt. of Forests & Environment
 Govt. of Sikkim

Government of Sikkim
 Forest & Environment Department

Map Prepared by: RS/GIS Cell, Working Plan Circle, FED, Sikkim
 Vide SI No.: 1460/GISWP20/FED, Data source: S&D FED

88°32'0"E