



Government of Maharashtra
Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur
 Raman Mala, Tarabai Park, Kolhapur - 416003

Office - 0231/2653632,
 E-mail ID -
 ccftkolhapur@mahaforest.gov.in
 ccftkolhapur@gmail.com

By Speed post

No. D-6/Nocell/Kolp./Reab./Disf./24-25/1256
 Kolhapur - 416003, 2/01/2025

To,
 Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
 and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur.

Sub: - De-reservation of 318.04 ha. forest land for distribution of agriculture purpose to PAPs from 7 Villages from Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra State (FP/MH/REHAB/151541/2022) - regarding.

- Ref:** -1. Letter, Dated 8.03.2024, from GOI, MOEF&CC, (FC Division), New Delhi.
 2. Letter No. D-17/FCA-51/PID-151541/Kolhapur/3381, Dated 13.03.2024 from APCCF & Nodal office.
 3. This office letter D-6/Nocell/Kolp./Disforest/23-24/8060, Dated 21.03.2024
 4. Letter No.A/Nosel/2024-25/1143, Dated 19.12.2024 from DCF Kolhapur

GOI, MoEF&CC, (FC Division), New Delhi vide letter dated 21.03.2024 raised few queries. DCF Kolhapur vide reference 4 submitted the query compliance, as shown below -

Sr. No.	Query	Query compliance
i	The State Govt. has submitted present proposal for diversion of 318.04 ha forest land. However, area of uploaded KML file is 340.925 ha. Further total 22 forest patches have been proposed for diversion through instant proposal This needs clarification and the correct KML file needs to be uploaded on PARIVESH.	The correct KML file for the diversion of forest land admeasuring area of 318.04 ha is prepared and uploaded as required on Parivesh Portal. The correct KML file is enclosed herewith in CD.
ii	The DCF, Kolhapur has furnished a certificate that no wildlife sanctuary national park is located within 5 Km distance from the area proposed for diversion. However as per the DSS analysis (copy enclosed), one forest patch proposed for diversion is located at a distance of 3.02 Km from the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. The comments of chief wildlife warden in the instant proposal shall therefore be submitted.	The area proposed for diversion of forest land in the village Valur lies within 5 Km from the Chandoli National Park. However, it is outside ESZ area of Chandoli National Park or Sahyadri Tiger Reserve, as mentioned in draft ESZ report. Also, there is already human habitation/Wadi/Vasti adjoining the area proposed.
iii	The State Govt. has reported that total 865 number of people in 7 Villages (6) Village in Shahuwadi Taluka, District Kolhapur and 1 Village in Sangmeshwar Taluka District Ratnagiri) are affected due to	KML file of 1592.04 ha land of 7 villages acquired lying inside Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary has been uploaded on Parivesh Portal. The KML file is enclosed herewith in CD.

	relocation of these seven Villages from Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary and total 1592.04 ha private land of these villages have been included in the Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary. However, Village wise KML file of 1592.04 ha acquired land under Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary has not been uploaded on PARIVESH	
iv	Upon examination of the DGPS map of proposed forest patches for diversion. it is learnt that the proposed forest land has been identified in such a manner that bigger forest patches will be segregated into small forest patch and will be prone to future encroachment. The justification for proposing this area for relocation in view of above shall be submitted.	The area proposed for diversion against relocation is selected/accepted by the affected people after site visit. However, we have tried to reduce such small patches prone to be encroached. We also hereby undertake to take utmost care that such encroachment will not take place.
v	The State Govt. shall certify that the Village's which are proposed to be relocated located are within the core of a National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary. The details in this regard needs submission.	Villages proposed to be relocated viz. Chandel, Nivale, Sonarli, Tambave, Tanali, Dhakale and Gothane lies inside core area of Chandoli National Park. The map depicting the core area of Chandoli National Park is being attached for your perusal. Annexure-I.
vi	The State Govt shall clarify whether the 1592.04 ha private land which was acquired under the Chandoli National Park has become inviolate or not and whether the said land (1592.04 ha) has been transferred and mutated in the name of the forest department and notified as protected forest/RF under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 or the State specific laws.	The private land area of 1592.04 ha which was acquired under has been included in the Chandoli National Park. Further process of mutation/Notification is under process. The same will be done before the said land is distributed to the beneficiaries.
vii	The State Govt. shall ensure that the proposal fulfills all the conditions laid down in the Para 12.8, Chapter-12 of the Consolidated guidelines & clarification issued by the Ministry on 29.12.2023 under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. A point-wise status/detail for each condition shall be submitted.	The point wise status/details for each condition as per para 12.8 Chapter-12 of the Consolidated guidelines & clarification issued by the Ministry on 29.12.2023 under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is attached as Annexure-II.
viii	Breakup showing the Private, revenue land or other category of land acquired under 7 Villages comprising an area of 1592.04 ha shall be submitted.	The land acquired under 7 villages admeasuring 1592.04 ha is entirely private land only. Village wise Gat No wise list is enclosed herewith. Annexure-III
ix	The basis of calculation of the total area vacated within the Chandoli National Park has not been provided, which is required to be given.	The area proposed for relocation from the Chandoli National Park is considered for private land only enclosed same as above.

x	The State Govt. has reported that, against 1592.04 ha private land acquired under Chandoli National Park, 753.97 ha forest land is required to be allotted to 865 No. of person/families. Further, the State Govt. had previously submitted forest diversion proposal comprising 215.42 ha & 63.091 ha respectively and instant proposal is for diversion of 318.04 ha forest land for Agriculture purpose. Therefore, details indicating Village's relocated to be relocated, Number of person/families rehabilitated/to be rehabilitated, purpose of forest diversion proposal etc. in all the above-mentioned proposals shall be submitted.	The details including villages to be relocated, number of persons/families rehabilitated/to be rehabilitated, purpose of forest diversion proposal etc. as required is attached herewith. Annexure-IV.
xi	The State Govt. has reported that, an area of 753.97 ha forest land is required to rehabilitate 865 number of person/families for which forest diversion proposals comprising an area of 596.551 ha (215.42 ha + 63.091 ha+ 318.04 ha) forest land have been submitted till now. However, reason behind submission of forest diversion proposal in piecemeal under Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is not clear. A justification for the same shall be submitted.	The process of relocation of the affected people for the purpose of rehabilitation is complex. Decision of forest land for rehabilitation/relocation requires selection/acceptance by the affected people. While the process is going on, the land for diversion which was selected/accepted by the people was necessitated to be finalized, though partially for the diversion purpose. Hence the diversion proposal is being submitted in phased manner.
xii	The State Govt. has reported that 32 Villages spread over four districts namely Kolhapur, Kolhapur, Satara & Ratnagiri have been included in the notified area of P.A. ie. Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary out of which 8 Villages have been submerged. Therefore, details of land required to rehabilitate and PAP's already rehabilitated under various schemes of these 8 Villages shall be submitted.	The eight Villages already relocated under the Submergence area of the Warana dam was done by the Warana Irrigation project. The details of these 8 Villages are not available/related to this office. These 8 Villages relocated by Warana irrigation project is different from the 7 Villages for which the diversion is proposed.
xiii	Present status of 14 Villages of Kolhapur District and 3 Villages of Satara District shall be submitted along with relevant details of area vacated and allotted to them	Present status of 14 villages of Kolhapur District and 3 Villages of Satara District along with relevant details of area vacated and allotted to them is attached herewith. Annexure - V(A,B,C)
xiv	It has been mentioned that some of the Villages were relocated at the time of creation/notification of the Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park, which indicates that the rights would have already been settled at that time. The justification for the present proposal in view of the same need's submission.	Some of the villages were relocated at the time of creation/notification of the Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park. The rights of relocated people were settled at that time as accepted by them. However, some of the Villages/affected people did not accept the rights/settlement norms offered to them at that time. Hence the requirement of multiple proposals.

xv	Some Villages have been shown to be relocated due to submergence of the area due to creation of Warana Irrigation Project. The state Govt. shall clarify whether these villages have also been shown as eligible for voluntary relocation, and if so, then justification for the same shall be submitted.	Some Villages have been relocated due to submerge of the area due to construction of Warana Irrigation Project. It is to clarify that these Villages are different from the eight Villages relocated by Warana Irrigation Project.
xvi	The district Collector concerned shall furnish a certificate of non-availability of land suitable for the Villages located within the protected area and Tiger Reserves.	The certificate of non-availability of land by District Collector suitable for the Villages/affected people to be relocated within the protected area and Tiger reserved is being attached herewith. Annexure – VI.
xvii	Once the Villages have been relocated in the past, the detailed justification for allocating the forest land for agriculture at this stage is required to be submitted by the State.	Affected people in 7 Villages which have been relocated are required to be rehabilitated as per the Maharashtra project affected persons rehabilitation Act, 1999 and Government of Maharashtra GR dated 17th July, 2000 issued for Villages relocated from sanctuary/National Park. As per the guidelines the PAP's were supposed to be given alternate agricultural land either forest land/revenue land in nearby area where they were relocated. The land to be given was decided based on this said policy, since then no agricultural land has been given to all 865 PAP's due to non-availability of suitable land. It is Justified to divert 318.04 ha. Forest land for agricultural purpose against the land acquired inside Chandoli National Park. Copy of 17th July, 2000 GR is enclosed.

Encl: As ab

(R.M.Ramanujam)
**Chief Conservator of Forests (T),
Kolhapur.**

Copy submitted to: CF & Field Director, STR, Kolhapur for information & necessary action.
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