

**MINUTES OF THE FORTNIGHTLY REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETING
HELD ON 29th MAY, 2023**

The Fortnightly Regional Coordination Meeting (FRCM) was held on 29th May 2023 at 03:00 PM in the conference room of the Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Shri Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF to discuss the pending proposals.

Following officers were present in the meeting either in person or through video conferencing: -

Sl.No.	Name	Designation
01	Shri. Pankaj Agrawal, IFS	Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, IRO, Dehradun
02	Shri Gajendra Prakash Narwane	AIGF, IRO, Dehradun
03	Dr. Yogesh Gairola	Technical Officer, IRO, Dehradun
04	Shri. Sunny Goel	Technical Officer, IRO, Dehradun
Following invitees joined the meeting		
05	Shri. S.S.Rasaily, IFS	APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Uttarakhand
06	DFO, Uttarkashi (through VC)	
07	DFO, Gangotri National Park Division (through VC)	
08	DFO, Badrinath Forest Division (through VC)	
09	SDO, Kedarnath Wild Life Forest Division	
09	Representatives of the User Agency	

At the outset, APCCF, IRO, MoEFCC, Dehradun welcomed all for the meeting and following proposals which were identified by the IRO were discussed in the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 01: Diversion of 3.318 ha of forest Land for construction of Bayana to Syaba motor road motor road in favour of PMGSY (Irrigation Division), within the jurisdiction of Uttarkashi Forest Division, District Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/ 29432/2017)

The proposal was discussed in detail with the DFO, Uttarkashi and the project proponent. It was noted that the Stage-I approval has already been accorded in the proposal vide letter dt. 26.06.2018. However, it was discovered that illegal muck dumping had taken place in the project. Subsequently, the case was discussed in the REC meeting held on 25.03.2021 and a penalty was imposed on the user agency for this act. Further various observations regarding this matter have been made by this office from time to time.

During the meeting the DFO reported that the violations namely; irregular muck dumping, carrying out the work after suspension of the Stage I approval and change in alignment as per the KML file uploaded with the proposal have been reported. The DFO brought to the notice of the committee that action has been taken as per the provisions of IFA, 1927 regarding the irregular muck dumping. Regarding the deviation in the alignment it was submitted by the DFO that the road work has taken place on the original alignment on which land was demarcated and trees were enumerated. However, an erroneous KML file had been uploaded earlier with the proposal. Further the DFO apprised that while the Stage-I approval was revoked, a bridge construction work was carried out on the site which was under BRIDCUL and a penalty on BRIDCUL has been imposed for the same. The user agency informed in the meeting that the case is required to be discussed in the BESZ, Monitoring Committee meeting.

After the discussion, it was decided that the State Government would be requested to submit the information/ documents/ clarification/ justification on the following points: -

1. With respect to the violations related to IFA and FCA as detected in the two reports submitted to the BESZ in this regard, the concerned DFO is required to submit the point wise violation and action taken report as per the relevant provisions of IFA 1927 and FCA, 1980.
2. State Government is required to provide documents related to the work order/ working permission given to BRIDCUL/ PMGSY for the construction of the bridge.

Agenda Item No. 02: Diversion of 31.76 ha of forest land for construction of Mendi to Tsangchokla Road (length of 17.61 Km) in favour of BRO, within the jurisdiction of Gangotri National Park Division, District Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/36212/2018)

The proposal was discussed in detail with the User Agency and the concerned DFO. It was noted that after the discussion in the REC meeting held on 24.09.2020, Stage-I approval was granted in the proposal via letter dated 30.09.2020. It was apprised that the proposal pertains to the construction of a strategically important road, and compliance with the Stage-I approval was received nearly two years later, through a letter dated 08.08.2022, which still had a few shortcomings. This office has sent an observation on the compliance report via letter dated 06.10.2022, reply to which is still awaited.

A detailed discussion on the issues raised in the EDS was conducted during the meeting. All the observations were related to the proposed CA area, which is situated in Uttarkashi Forest Division. The KML file was reviewed in the meeting, and both the DFOs (DFO Uttarkashi and DFO Gangotri National Park) were briefed about the strategic importance of the proposed road.

It is observed that the proposal of such a high National importance has been delayed just for the want of a suitable CA area, the selection of which should have been expeditiously done by the concerned DFO. The State Government should take suitable action in this regard. After the discussion, it was decided to request the State Government to promptly submit a reply to this office EDS letter dt. 06.10.2022, which includes following points:

1. State Government is requested to submit the CA scheme of Rs. 1,29,57,825/- as per the amount deposited in CAMPA.
2. In compliance to condition No. 3 (b), SIR of RFO has been quoted. However as per the condition no. 3 (b) stipulated in the Stage-I approval an undertaking of the DFO mentioning that the proposed CA has not been proposed for plantation under any other proposal is required.
3. In compliance to condition No. 7, the Site Inspection Report of RFO for CA area has been forwarded again. Further, the name of CA area does not match the proposed area. Furthermore, the name of the proposal is also not mentioned correctly. It appears that a very casual approach has been taken while providing information to this office, which is not appropriate when dealing with a defense proposal. It is again requested to submit the CA area Site Inspection Report carried

out by DFO himself along with the recent photographs of site at the earliest to avoid any further delay.

Agenda Item No. 03: Diversion of 30.39 ha of forest land for construction of Sumla to Thagla 1 Road (length of 16.85 Km) in favour of BRO, within the jurisdiction of Gangotri National Park Division, District Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand (FP/UK/ROAD/36218/2018)

The proposal was discussed in detail with the User Agency and the concerned DFO. It was noted that after the discussion in the REC meeting held on 24.09.2020, Stage-I approval was granted in the proposal via letter dated 29.09.2020. It was apprised that the proposal pertains to the construction of a strategically important road, and compliance with the Stage-I approval was received nearly two years later, through a letter dated 08.08.2022, which still had a few shortcomings. This office has sent an observation on the compliance report via letter dated 06.10.2022, reply to which is still awaited.

A detailed discussion on the issues raised in the EDS was conducted during the meeting. All the observations were related to the proposed CA area, which is situated in Uttarkashi Forest Division. The KML file was reviewed in the meeting, and both the DFOs were briefed about the strategic importance of the proposed road. It was also noted from the KML file that the proposed road intersects the China border (boundary of China). In response, the user agency informed that the China border has been shifted in the KML file, and the alignment of the proposed road shown in the KML file is correct.

It is observed that the proposal of such a high National importance has been delayed just for the want of a suitable CA area, the selection of which should have been expeditiously done by the concerned DFO. The State Government should take suitable action in this regard. Following the discussion, it was decided to request the State Government to promptly submit a reply to EDS letter dated 06.10.2022, which includes the following points:

- 1- State Government is requested to submit the CA scheme of Rs.1,23,98,876/- as per the amount deposited in CAMPA.
- 2- In compliance to condition No. 3 (b), SIR of DFO has been quoted. However as per the condition no. 3 (b) stipulated in the Stage-I approval an undertaking of the DFO mentioning that the proposed CA has not been proposed for plantation under any other proposal is required.
- 3- In compliance to condition No. 7, it is requested to submit Site Inspection

Report of each CA area separately, carried out by the DFO, along with photographs of sites at the earliest.

Agenda Item No. 04: Diversion of 0.861 ha of forest Land for construction of Sumalta to Koladungri Motor Road in favour of PWD, within the jurisdiction of Badrinath Forest Division, Gopeshwar, District Chamoli, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/146204/2021)

The proposal was discussed in detail with the Project Proponent and the concerned DFO. It was noted that the case was also discussed in the FRCM held on 25.11.2022. Although a reply was submitted in this response, it appears that the proposal was not assessed according to the decision taken in the FRCM. During the meeting, the KML file was reviewed, and it was observed that the village is already near the existing road. If further connectivity to the village is still necessary, the State Government may propose a road from the northern side of the village, requiring lesser dense forest and affecting lesser number of trees. However, the user agency has provided a justification that the farmers are unwilling to give their land in that stretch, which could not be an acceptable justification for fragmenting the dense forest.

After the discussion, it was decided that the State Government, if required, may submit the revise proposal from northern side of the village as the proposed alignment is not found to be acceptable.

Agenda Item No. 05: Diversion of 2.51 ha of forest Land for construction of Udamanda to Talla-Bingarh-Khoonigaad-Kumeda Motor Road in Block Pokhari in District Chamoli under State Sector in favour of PWD, within the jurisdiction of Kedarnath Wild Life Division, Gopeshwar, District Chamoli Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/ 41083/2019)

The proposal was discussed in detail along with the concerned DFO. The KML file was reviewed in the meeting and it was noted that there are three beneficiary villages marked viz. Bingad, Khunigadand and Udamanda in the KML file. Village Bingad and Udamanda are clearly seen connected with the existing roads and connectivity to only Khunigad 'Tok' having only a few houses is required. Other villages which are proposed to be benefitted were not marked on the KML file. Also, no other habitation is visible on KML near the proposed road.

After a detailed discussion, it was decided that considering the facts mentioned above, the DFO is requested to visit the site and submit the detailed report covering the aspects such as details of the already existing roads, status of connectivity of the villages, population details of villages and feasible possible alternates to provide connectivity to only those villages which are not connected with any motor road so far.

Agenda Item No. 06: Diversion of 5.3 ha of forest Land for construction of Bansoli motor road to Kunungra- Kimdhar- Seragad Gunar Motor Road in favour of PWD, within the jurisdiction of Badrinath Forest Division, Gopeshwar, District Chamoli Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/ 125264/2021)

The proposal was discussed in detail with the User Agency and the concerned DFO. During the meeting the KML file was reviewed, and it was observed that five beneficiary villages viz. Talai Dungra kund, Badsoli walli, Badsoli palli, Bingad and Syan Kishanpur are marked in the KML file. Out of the 5 villages marked the villages Badsoli walli, Badsoli palli and Syan Kishanpur are already connected with the existing roads. The user agency informed that population of village Dungra is around 130 and it requires connectivity. However, on the perusal of the KML file only two to three houses are visible in the marked village on KML.

After a detailed discussion, it was decided that considering the facts mentioned above the DFO is requested to visit the site and submit the detailed report covering the aspects such as details of the already existing roads, status of connectivity of the villages, population details of villages and feasible possible alternates to provide connectivity to only those villages which are not connected with any motor road so far.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Anaswari 10/06/2023
(Gajendra Prakash Narwane)
Assistant Inspector General of Forest

File No.: IRO-DDN/FRCM/01/2022/ 294

Dated: 01/06/ 2023

Distribution:

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests), Government of Uttarakhand, 4-Subhash Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
2. The APCCF & Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Indira Nagar Forest Colony, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Anaswari
(Gajendra Prakash Narwane)
Assistant Inspector General of Forest