

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 31st May, 2022

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mantralaya, Mumbai

Sub: Diversion of 112.25 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 at 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, Maharashtra State (Online No. FP/MH/REHAB/144503/2021) – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-2022/CR-81/F-10 dated 11.05.2022 on the above cited subject. In this regard following shortcomings have been observed in the information submitted by the State Govt.:

- i. The Nodal Officer has not provided his own specific recommendation for the proposal in Part-IV of the proposal.
- 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.
- iii. The KML file of the forest village ' Vele ' which is proposed to be re-located from the Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary shall be submitted/uploaded.
- iv. Project report mentions that the total area of notified Koyana wildlife sanctuary is 423.55 sq kms. Out of which non forest area of 14 villages has been excluded, the boundaries of the Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary have been altered and the same has been reconstituted with an area of 335.30 sq Km. Therefore, the KML file of Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary (335.30 sq. Km) along with its Core area is required to be submitted.
- v. High-resolution satellite imagery shows that the plantations and pre-plantation operations have been carried out within the village Dhangarwadi, Bhoali and Mane colony proposed for diversion. This needs clarification.
- vi. The complete DGPS map of forest land sought for diversion shall be uploaded on PARIVESH.
- vii. The CCF, Kolhapur in his Site Inspection Report has mentioned that the proposal is for rehabilitation of Vele village from Chandoli National Park whereas the DCF, Satara in its Site Inspection Report has mentioned that the same is for Male village from Chandoli National Park. This needs clarification.
- viii. The DCF and CCF in their site inspection reports have mentioned that the village is

being relocated from Chandoli National Park, whereas the proposal is for relocation from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary. This needs clarification.

- ix. The state govt shall certify that the Village proposed to be relocated is within the core of a 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.
- xi. 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 an area of 435.07 ha will be made available after rehabilitation of village Vele. This needs clarification.
- xii. The basis of calculation of the total area getting vacated has not been provided, which is required to be given.
- xiii. The State Govt shall clarify whether the proposed relocation of villagers will make the total area under the village inviolate or not.

2. It is therefore requested that the information on shortcomings, as indicated above, may be submitted for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Department of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEFCC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.