

**MINUTES OF 8<sup>th</sup> MEETING of REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, SHIMLA**

**HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Integrated Regional Office Shimla was held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 under the Chairmanship of Shri Satya Prakash Negi, IFS, Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla to discuss FCA proposals pertaining to Himachal Pradesh State.

Following official/non-official members and Special Invitee were present in the meeting either in person or through video conferencing.

S. no.	Name	Designation
01	Shri Satya Prakash Negi, IFS, Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla.	Chairman
02	Dr. R. S. Bisht, Retd. IFS	Non-official Member
03	Prof. S. D. Bhardwaj	Non-official Member
04	Shri T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C), Integrated Regional Office, Shimla.	Member Secretary
05	Smt. Richa Banchta, HFS HPSFD	DFO (FCA)
06	Dr. Yogesh Gairola, Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun.	Technical Officer (Special Invitee)
07	Sh. Joginder Kumar, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Technical Officer (i/c)
08	Sh. Ajay Kumar, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Technical Officer (i/c)
09	Sh. Aman Kumar, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla	Technical Officer (on contract)
10	Representatives of the User Agencies and State Forest department	---

At the outset, the Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the members present in the meeting in-person as well as connected through Video-Conference. Following proposals seeking diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose pertaining to the state of Himachal Pradesh were discussed in detail and the case-wise decision taken by REC are as under:

**Agenda item no. 1: Diversion of 66.6288 ha of forest land in favour of BRO, 108, RCC (GREF) C/O 56 APO for widening/ improvement of road Sumdo-Kaza-Gramphoo from existing 76+340 to Km 134+940 (Design Km 76+300 to Km 133+000) within the jurisdiction of WL division Lahaul-Spiti (Online proposal no:- FP/HP/DEF/117063/2020)**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 66.6288 ha of forest land for the widening/ improvement of road Sumdo-Kaza-Gramphoo from existing 76+340 to Km 134+940 (Design Km 76+300 to Km 133+000) within the jurisdiction of WL division Lahaul-Spiti. The committee noted that there is no tree involved in the proposal. It has been submitted by the State Government that the proposed road is within the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve and a portion of the road is touching the ESZ of Kibber WLS and many important flora and fauna are distributed in the area. No violation of FCA has been reported in the proposal. Representative of User Agency and DFO, Spiti Wildlife Division were present in the meeting physically and through video-conferencing respectively. The following points were discussed in meeting:-

1. The committee noted that 300 m portion of the road is within the ESZ of Kibber WLS. Regarding this, the State Government and the User Agency has submitted that the present proposal is for widening of existing road. Also, the User Agency has earmarked a provision of **Rs. 19 lakhs** for construction of wall along the portion of the road touching the boundary of ESZ. Regarding the portions of the road inside ESZ of Kibber WLS comments of the CWLW has been provided and submitted that the proposed widening/improvement of existing road will not impose adverse effect on flora and fauna during execution and on its completion.
2. As per Nodal Officer (FCA), a sum of Rs. 61.57 lakh (including 19 lakhs for construction of wall around ESZ) will be deposited by User Agency for Soil and Moisture Conservation and Wildlife Management. However, as per MoEF&CC letter vide file no. FC-11/43/2021-FC dated 07.06.2022, the State Government is required to submit the Wild Life Management Plan and Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan along with detail cost of its implementation, 'or' the lump sum amount of 2% and 0.5% respectively of the total project cost. Therefore, lump sum amount of Rs. 61.57 Lakh as submitted by Nodal Officer (FCA) which is to be deposited by User Agency may change as per latest directions of MoEF&CC, dated 07.06.2022.






3. The Committee was appraised that components like bridges/culverts have not been included in component wise breakup and the same are required to be updated in the Part I.
4. Committee apprised that as per User Agency, the Existing RoW (ERoW) exists before 1980 and the copy of record of its existence before 1980 has been furnished by Nodal Officer (FCA).
5. The Project Proponent elaborated to the committee that the area proposed for diversion includes the area of existing road. The total width of the road is 18m which includes the width of existing road. The detailed RoW (existing) and RoW (additional) of the road along with segment wise area calculation shall be provided. The UA has agreed to provide the same to the IRO Shimla.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to accord In-Principle (Stage-I) approval subject to submission of documents/clarification/information on following points:*

1. The components like bridges/culverts have not been included in component wise breakup. The same shall be included in the component wise break up given at para B 2.4 in Part I.
2. A geo-referenced map of diversion area with correct geo-coordinates duly authenticated by the concerned is required to be submitted.
3. The chainage-wise calculation of the area proposed for diversion showing details of exiting RoW and the proposed RoW, required in addition for the widening be provided to IRO Shimla.
4. As per MoEF&CC letter vide file no. FC-11/43/2021-FC dated 07.06.2022, the State Government is required to submit the Wildlife Management Plan and Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan along with detail cost of its implementation. However, in case, where it is not possible for the State to submit the compliance due to delay in preparation of such Plans, an undertaking to pay the lump sum amount of 0.5% of the project cost for Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan and 2% of the project cost for Wildlife Management Plan shall be submitted by the User Agency.
5. The area of the proposed widening is falling within the ESZ of Kibber WLS, therefore the recommendation of the said monitoring committee may also be furnished to IRO Shimla along with the comments that the activity conforms the provisions made in the Zonal Master Plan for the Sanctuary.



6. *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife* (2016) compiled by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, shall be considered and precise locations of these passages can be decided by the Project Proponent in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden of Himachal Pradesh Forest Department for this project.

Further, condition for submission of FRA Certificate along with all prescribed annexures before Stage-II (final) approval may be imposed while issuing Stage-I approval by IRO, Shimla.

**Agenda item no.2: Diversion of 48.8089 ha of forest land in favour BRO 108 RCC (GREF) 56 APO for widening /improvement of road Sumdo-Kaza-Gramphoo from existing KM 134+940 to 161+740 with net length 26.800 kms. (Design length 24.850 Km), within the jurisdiction of Spiti Wildlife Division at Kaza, Distt. Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh(Online Proposal No. FP/HP/DEF/117805/2020)**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 48.8089 ha of forest land for the widening /improvement of road Sumdo-Kaza-Gramphoo from existing KM 134+940 to 161+740 with net length 26.800 kms within the jurisdiction of Spiti Wildlife Division at Kaza, Lahaul-Spiti. The Committee noted that no tree is proposed to be affected in the proposal. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is having 02 km alignment falling on outer boundary of ESZ of Chandertal WLS and many rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. Representative of User Agency and DFO, Spiti Wildlife Division present in the meeting physically and through video-conferencing respectively.

The discussion on following points has been carried out:

1. The Committee noted that FRA Certificate is not submitted, however undertaking for submission of FRA Certificate before Stage-II approval has been furnished by User Agency.
2. The Geo-Coordinates mentioned in the Geo-referenced map of Diversion Area are incorrect.
3. DFO, Spiti Wildlife Division has submitted that area proposed for CA is a wasteland under HP Govt. notification, 1952, and is not notified under IFA, 1927.
4. Committee noted that in web-portal, legal status of Diversion Area(DA) is mentioned as Unclassed Forest, however Nodal Officer (FCA) has submitted that whole area under Spiti





Wildlife Division is UPF. DFO, Spiti Wildlife Division has submitted that this mismatching of legal status shall be rectified.

5. Committee apprised that as per Nodal Officer (FCA), 2Km stretch of proposed alignment is almost on the outer boundary of Eco Sensitive Zone of Chandertal Wildlife Sanctuary. Comments of CWLW are also not provided. However, as per the DSS analysis, the proposed area is at an aerial distance of 360 meters from the boundary of Chandertal WLS which reveals that proposed site is inside ESZ. Therefore, Committee is of the view that comments of CWLW is required.
6. Committee apprised that as per User Agency, the Existing RoW (ERoW) exists before 1980 and the copy of record of its existence before 1980 has been furnished by Nodal Officer (FCA).
7. The Project Proponent elaborated to the committee that the area proposed for diversion includes the area of existing road. The total width of the road is 18m which includes the width of existing road. The detailed RoW (existing) and RoW (additional) of the road along with segment wise area calculation shall be provided. The UA has agreed to provide the same to the IRO Shimla.
8. As per Nodal Officer (FCA), a sum of Rs. 68.72 lakh will be deposited by User Agency for Soil and Moisture Conservation and Wildlife Management. However, as per MoEF&CC letter vide file no. FC-11/43/2021-FC dated 07.06.2022, the State Government is required to submit the Wild Life Management Plan and Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan along with detail cost of its implementation, 'or' the lump sum amount of 2% and 0.5% respectively of the total project cost. Therefore, lump sum amount of Rs. 68.72 Lacs as submitted by Nodal Officer (FCA) which is to be deposited by User Agency may change as per latest directions of MoEF&CC, dated 07.06.2022.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to accord In-principle (Stage-I) approval subject to submission of documents/ clarification/ information on following points:*

1. A geo-referenced map of DA area with correct geo-coordinates duly authenticated by DFO, concerned is required to be submitted and uploaded as well.
2. The mismatch of legal status in web-portal and other documents shall be rectified.
3. DSS analysis reveals that the proposed project is falling inside the Eco- Sensitive Zone of Chandertal Wildlife Sanctuary; therefore, comments of CWLW are required to be

submitted. If the area proposed for widening is falling within the ESZ of Chandertal WLS the recommendation of the said monitoring committee may also be furnished to IRO Shimla along with the comments that the activity conforms to the provisions made in the Zonal Master Plan for the Sanctuary.

4. *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife* (2016) compiled by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, shall be considered and precise locations of these passages can be decided by the Project Proponent in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden of Himachal Pradesh Forest Department for this project.
5. The chainage-wise calculation of the area proposed for diversion showing details of exiting RoW and the proposed RoW required in addition for the widening be provided to IRO Shimla.
6. As per MoEF&CC letter vide file no. FC-11/43/2021-FC dated 07.06.2022, the State Government is required to submit the Wildlife Management Plan and Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan along with detail cost of its implementation. However, in case, where it is not possible for the State to submit the compliance due to delay in preparation of such Plans, an undertaking to pay the lump sum amount of 0.5% of the project cost for Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan and 2% of the project cost for Wildlife Management Plan shall be submitted by the User Agency.

Further, condition for submission of FRA Certificate along with all prescribed annexures before Stage-II (final) approval may be imposed while issuing Stage-I approval by IRO, Shimla.

**Agenda item no.3: Diversion of 0.7903 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Shiv Shakti Enterprises, Anurag Kutir, Lower Doharu Mohilla Ghuggar Tehsil Palampur & Distt. Kangra, H.P. for the construction of Lower Bhagair Small Hydro Project (1.00 MW) within the jurisdiction of Chamba Forest Division, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD /49792/2020).**

User Agency and DFO, Chamba were present in the meeting through Video-Conferencing. After detailed discussion on the proposal, the Committee observed that all the observations raised by REC of 15 March, 2022 are compiled by the State Government except below mentioned points:

1. The width of Transmission-cum-road component has been reduced from 07 m to 5.24 m. As per FCA Guidelines required RoW for 11 KV above ground T/I, RoW shall be 07 m. Committee is of the view that proposal should be revised as per FCA guidelines.
2. Committee was apprised by the User Agency that Transmission Line of the instant





proposal shall be above ground.

3. Regarding directions of MoEF&CC dated 13.05.2022, for HEPs of Himachal Pradesh, Committee observed that Small HEPs less than 10MW are not covered under CAT Plan. Therefore, queries on approved capacity of river/rivulet, progressive detail under comprehensive CAT Plan along with impacts of the SHEPs located in the landscape shall not to be imposed in the instant proposal.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to **defer the proposal** to the next REC meeting and desired to submit the following documents/clarifications:*

1. The State Government will revise the requirement of area for the component *Transmission Line* as per the norms prescribed in the Guideline Para 10.1 of the Handbook of FCA Guidelines.
2. The State Government may provide comments over the status of river basin study if, carried out for the river "Ravi". The details regarding total carrying capacity calculated for the Ravi Basin, harnessed and remained to be harnessed may also be furnished to the IRO Shimla.
3. The details of area (KML and Geo-referenced map) proposed for planting 1581 trees by way of CA may upload in online portal Part II at Para 13.

**Agenda item no. 4: Diversion of 0.9854 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Banni Hydro Projects, Village Khalana P.O Kunr Sub Tehsil Dharwala, District Chamba, H.P for the construction of Baraguna Small Hydro Project (1.50 MW) HEP, within the jurisdiction of Chamba Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/44517/2020).**

User Agency and DFO, Chamba were present in the meeting though Video-Conferencing. After detailed discussion on the proposal, the Committee observed that all the observations raised by REC of 15 March, 2022 are complied by State Government. The discussion on following points has been carried out:

1. The Committee apprised that the issue of unit of measurement "Karam" in Chamba District has been taken up with Ministry by Nodal Officer(FCA) on dated 07.04.2022, however final decision is still awaited from Ministry. In the extant proposal, width of underground cable is taken as 1.42 m (01 karam= 1.42 m) instead of 1.20 m for 33 KV (Double Circuit) underground as described in FCA guidelines. Therefore, Committee is of the view that State Government should take appropriate action to resort the universally accepted system



of land measurement units as desired by the Ministry vide OM dated 13.05.2022.

2. The Layout Plan showing all the components in distinct colours is not provided. The User Agency assured that they will upload the Layout Plan.
3. Regarding directions of MoEF&CC vide OM dated 13.05.2022, for HEPs of Himachal Pradesh, it has been submitted by Nodal Officer (FCA) that “there is no any HEP in upstream/downstream of the landscape of the project”. Committee also noted that Small HEPs less than 10MW are not covered under CAT Plan. Therefore, queries on approved capacity of river/rivulet, progressive detail under comprehensive CAT Plan along with impacts of the SHEPs located in the landscape shall not to be imposed in the instant proposal.
4. Committee noted that CA scheme of 1970 trees is proposed in the proposal. Since more than 1 ha area is required for planation of 1970 trees, therefore KML file along with Geo-referenced map of proposed CA area is required to be uploaded in the web-portal.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to **recommend** the proposal to MoEF&CC for approval subject to submission of documents/ clarification/ information on following points:*

1. The State Government should take appropriate action to resort the universally accepted system of Land measurement units instead of ‘Karam’ in Chamba District and Nodal Officer (FCA), HPFD and User Agency shall take up the matter of ‘Karam’ with Ministry separately for the extant proposal.
2. Also, the ‘Karam’ issue in width of transmission line in the extant proposal may be brought to the notice of MoEF&CC at the time of submission of proposal to MoEF&CC for appropriate decision at Ministry level by IRO, Shimla.
3. The User Agency shall submit and upload the Layout Plan showing all the components in distinct colours.
4. The State Government may provide comments over the status of river basin study if, carried out for the river “Ravi”. The details regarding total carrying capacity calculated for the Ravi Basin, harnessed and remained to be harnessed may also be furnished to the IRO Shimla.
5. The details of area (KML and Geo-referenced map) proposed for planting 1970 trees by way of CA may upload in online portal Part II at Para 13.





**Agenda item no.5: Diversion of 0.56 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Bhup Raj, Bhojnagar Bazar, Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi, H.P. for the construction of Dhanwan Small Hydro Project (1.00 MW) HEP within the jurisdiction of Jogindernagar Forest Division, Distt. Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/39107/2019).**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 0.56 ha forest land for the construction of Dhanwan Small Hydro Project (1.00 MW) HEP within the jurisdiction of Jogindernagar Forest Division, Distt. Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. The Committee noted that no tree is being affected in the project. As per Nodal Officer(FCA), HPFD, the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. However as per DSS analysis, the proposed project site falls inside Nargu Wildlife Sanctuary and polygon is found "Inviolable". Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The transmission is underground and above ground and power will be evacuated from Power House of Dhanwan HEP to tapping point near village-Batchar through 11KV. User Agency and DFO, Jogindernagar were present in the meeting through Video-Conferencing.

The discussion on following points has been carried out:

1. Committee noted that as per PCCF (CWLW) and DFO, Wildlife, aerial distance from nearest Nargu WLS is 05 km and from its notified Eco-Sensitive Zone is 04 km. However, as per DSS analysis, the proposed project site falls inside Nargu Wild Life and polygon is found "Inviolable". Committee is of the view that State Government should review the aerial distance properly and comments of Nodal Officer(FCA) in this regard may be obtained before forwarding the proposal to MoEF&CC. Also, during submission of proposal to MoEF&CC, the difference in aerial distance in DSS and as provided by PCCF (CWLW) and DFO concerned may be brought to the notice of MoEF&CC for appropriate decision at Ministry level.
2. User Agency has apprised the Committee that transmission shall be double circuit 11KV line, therefore width of underground Transmission Line (T/L) is taken as 600mm.
3. The Committee noted that RoW of above ground T/L is taken as 7.1 meter. However, as per FCA guidelines, RoW for 11 KV above ground T/L shall be 7.0 meters. It was informed by User Agency that this variation is due to "Karam" measurement unit. In the extant proposal, RoW of 05 karam has been taken which arrives to be 7.1 meters. User Agency



submitted that the 'Karam' issue shall be taken up with State Government and Competent Authority.

4. The Committee noted that the proposal is submitted for User Agency, M/s Bhup Raj. However, in the TEC, Project name is mentioned as M/s Shivganga Hydel Power project. User Agency submitted that document regarding change in the name of User Agency is under process and will be submitted soon.
5. The Layout Plan showing all the components in distinct colours is not provided. The User Agency assured that they will upload the Layout Plan.
6. Regarding directions of MoEF&CC dated 13.05.2022, for HEPs of Himachal Pradesh, it has been submitted by Nodal Officer (FCA) that "there is no any HEP in upstream/downstream of the landscape of the project". However, Committee apprised that there may be some projects in the landscape/at least around 10-20km surrounding the project site. User Agency assured that list of projects (if any), in nearby areas of the proposed project will be provided. Committee also noted that Small HEPs less than 10MW are not covered under CAT Plan. Therefore, queries on approved capacity of river/rivulet, progressive detail under comprehensive CAT Plan along with impacts of the SHEPs located in the landscape shall not to be imposed in the instant proposal.
7. Committee noted that CA scheme of 1120 trees is proposed in the proposal. Since more than 01 ha area is required for planation of 1120 trees, therefore KML file along with Geo-referenced map of proposed CA area is required to be uploaded in the web-portal.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the Committee decided to **recommend** the proposal to MoEF&CC for approval subject to submission of documents/ clarification/ information on following points:*

1. Since, as per DSS analysis, the proposed project site falls inside Nargu Wild Life and polygon is found "Inviolate", therefore State Government may review and re-verify the aerial distance of proposed site from Nargu WLS and its notified ESZ along with clarification for difference in the aerial distance in DSS analysis and as per the report provided by PCCF (CWLW) and DFO, WL.
2. The User Agency has submitted that Transmission Line is Double circuit. Therefore, certificate of the same may be provided.
3. The State Government should take appropriate action to resort the universally accepted system of Land measurement units instead of 'Karam' and Nodal Officer(FCA),HPFD and





User Agency shall take up the matter of 'Karam' with Ministry separately for the extant proposal.

4. Also, the 'Karam' issue in width of transmission line in the extant proposal may be brought to the notice of MoEF&CC at the time of submission of proposal to MoEF&CC for appropriate decision at Ministry level by IRO, Shimla.
5. The User Agency shall submit relevant document regarding change in the name of User Agency from M/s Bhup Raj to M/s Shivganga Hydel Power project and amendment in online Part I at Para A-2 may be done accordingly.
6. The User Agency shall submit and upload the Layout Plan showing all the components in distinct colours.
7. The User Agency shall submit a detailed list of proposals approved/existing/proposed in the river basin area along with KML files/digital maps and their distance from nearest PA/ESZ and approved capacity of the river/rivulet.
8. The details of area (KML and Geo-referenced map) proposed for planting 1120 trees by way of CA may upload in online portal Part II at Para 13.
9. During submission of proposal to MoEF&CC, the difference of aerial distance from Nargu WLS in DSS analysis by IRO Shimla and as provided by PCCF (CWLW) and DFO concerned may be brought to the notice of MoEF&CC for appropriate decision at Ministry level by IRO, Shimla.

**Agenda Item no.06: Diversion of 0.0715 ha of forest land in favour of Matrivandna Sansthan, Dr. Hedegewar Bhawan Nabha, Shimla-4 for the construction of Matrivandna Sansthan Building, Shimla, HP, within the jurisdiction of Shimla (Urban) Forest Division, Distt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal no. FP/HP/Others/128199/2021).**

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 0.0715 ha forest land construction of Matrivandna Sansthan Building, Shimla, HP, within the jurisdiction of Shimla (Urban) Forest Division. The Committee noted that three trees are being affected in the proposal. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area and no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. CCF Shimla Circle and representative of User Agency were present in the meeting through video-conferencing and physically.



The discussion on following points has been carried out:

1. The Committee was apprised that the extant proposal was submitted by State Government on 14.07.2021 in IRO, Shimla. Since the proposal was not of direct significance to the general public and hence not a public utility project, therefore the proposal was rejected by IRO, Shimla on 23.07.2021 on the ground of merit. However, on the request of State Government vide letter dated 02.09.2021, the proposal was re-opened.
2. Committee noted that this is a non-site specific project, therefore as per Para 1.15 of FCA guideline as well as recent directions of MoEF &CC dated 24.01.2022 has categorically mentioned that non-site specific activities cannot be considered on forest land as rule. In this regard, State Government has submitted that there is no non-forest land available for this project. A certificate regarding non-availability of non- forest land issued by DC concerned has also been furnished.
3. Since this is a non-site specific project, alternates are required to be explored in the extant proposal.
4. As per the CCF Shimla and documents provided by Nodal Officer (FCA), this project will be beneficial to the general public, because User Agency has proposed Dispensary, Training/Meeting Hall, Printing press etc.
5. The extant project is located in the green/forest area of Shimla and involves felling of ecologically important Deodar species. Hon'ble NGT, Hon'ble High Court and Apex Court are very much concerned about the construction and felling of trees in green/forest area of Shimla. Therefore, Committee is of the view that User Agency shall explore suitable area for the project in outside Shimla area.
6. The FRA certificate has been provided, however all records of consultations and meetings with Gram Sabha (s) and FRC (s) are also required to be submitted. User Agency assured that same shall be submitted.
7. In hard copy, 03 trees are proposed for felling, however in online portal 04 trees (03 trees and 01 sapling) are mentioned. User Agency assured that same shall be rectified.





8. The proposed project is adjoining to the National Highway. Therefore, necessary NoC from NHAI is required. User Agency assured that same shall be rectified.
9. In Structural design of proposed building, "Dormitory" has been proposed and seems to be a 'residential' component. Committee is of the view that the same needs to be excluded from the proposal.
10. In Part-I para-B-2.1, name of the Forest Division is written as Shimla M.C. however, in Nodal Officer (FCA) letter dated 13.07.2021 name of the Forest Division is mentioned as Shimla (Urban) Forest Division. CCF, Shimla assured that same shall be rectified.
11. In component wise breakup, Part-I Para B-2.4 component, Matrivandana Sansthan Building Library etc. has been mentioned. Committee is of the view that in component wise break-up, all the proposed components and their respective areas are required to be mentioned. Also, Layout Plan showing, set back area, approach access, location of standing/proposed for felling trees and all component is required to be submitted.
12. Committee observed that a road has been proposed in the Layout Plan. However, it is not mentioned separately in Component-wise breakup. CCF, Shimla in this regard informed that the project site is adjacent to National Highway, therefore NoC from NHAI will be submitted. Committee is of the view that building cannot be adjacent to National Highway because as per National Highway policy, building shall be constructed after leaving mandatory required area. Therefore, approach access to the proposed building from National Highway is required to be included in the proposal and accordingly proposal be revised, if required.

*After detailed discussion on various aspects of proposal, Committee observed that there are no enough documents and clarifications provided by the Project Proponent signifying importance of the proposal in general public interest. Though the proposal can be considered as non-site specific project under the provisions of guideline para 1.15 of the Handbook of FCA Guidelines, however, there is no clarity in the FCA Guidelines for such type of proposals involving multiple activities like dispensary, library, skill development, printing press and meeting hall etc. proposed by non-governmental organization. Therefore, Committee decided to submit the proposal to MoEF&CC for further consideration and appropriate decision at*



*Ministry level. The Committee further desired that the State Government should submit the following documents/clarification to IRO, Shimla before forwarding the proposal to the Ministry:*

1. The area appears on higher side for the activities proposed in the project. Therefore, in view of the basic principle of the FCA 1980 and as per online Part II para 10 (i) the requirement of forest land proposed for diversion should be unavoidable and bare minimum for the project, the State Govt. may review and reduce the area accordingly.
2. Since this is a non-site specific project, therefore State Government may provide detailed justification for locating the project in the forest area giving details of the alternatives examined along with the reasons for their rejections. The State Government should scrutinize the alternatives in more details and must give complete justification establishing its inescapability for locating the project in forest area.
3. The extant project is located in the green/forest area of Shimla and involves felling of ecologically important Deodar species. Hon'ble NGT, Hon'ble High Court and Apex Court are very much concerned about the construction and felling of trees in green/forest area of Shimla. The necessary efforts are made to reduce the felling up to "Nil" in the project.
4. The FRA certificate has been provided, however all records of consultations and meetings with Gram Sabha (s) and FRC (s) of concerned village(s) are also required to be submitted.
5. In hard copy, 03 trees are proposed for felling, however in online portal 04 trees (03 trees and 01 sapling) are mentioned. The same may rectify in web-portal also.
6. The proposed project is adjoining to the National Highway. Therefore, necessary NoC from NHAI is required to be submitted.
7. In Structural design of proposed building, "Dormitory" has been proposed and it seems to be a 'residential' component. The same may be removed from the proposal and revised the component wise details and the layout accordingly.
8. In Part-I, Para-B-2.1, name of the Forest Division is written as Shimla M.C. However, in Nodal Officer (FCA) letter dated 13.07.2021 name of the Forest Division is mentioned as Shimla (Urban) Forest Division. The necessary correction of name of Forest Division shall be carried out in web-portal and in all documents as well.





9. The State Govt. has neither provided the detailed and clear component wise breakup in online Part I at Para 2.4 nor the layout Plan showing all components of the project including set back area, approach access, location of trees standing/ proposed for felling. These should clearly be mentioned and provided/uploaded.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and by the Chair to the members and other participants.

File. No.: 14-4/IRO/REC/2021/1/338

Dated: 24 June, 2022

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3. Shri T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C) (Member REC), Integrated Regional Office, Dehradun. (Email: tcnautiyal@gmail.com)
4. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Armsdale Building, Shimla. (Email: forestsecy-hp@nic.in)
5. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Talland, Shimla, H.P. for information. He is requested to take action on the decisions taken in the REC meeting (Project wise) and ensure submission of compliance to this office for further necessary action.



(T.C. Nautiyal)

DIGF-cum-Member Secretary, REC