

**MINUTES OF THE FORTNIGHTLY REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETING
HELD ON 26th JUNE, 2023**

The Fortnightly Regional Coordination Meeting (FRCM) was held on 26th June 2023 at 03:30 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, Tons Forest Division, Purola (through VC)	
07	DFO, Uttarkashi Division (through VC)	
08	DFO, Almora Forest Division (through VC)	
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 1.814 ha of forest Land for construction of Bhadrasu Ramalgaon Motor Road Km. 2 to Nitusha village Motor Road in Block Mori, in favour of PWD, within the jurisdiction of Tons Forest Division, Purola, District Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/40721/2019)

The proposal was discussed in detail with the concerned DFO and the project proponent. It was apprised that the KML file for this proposal is exactly the same as the one uploaded under proposal number FP/UK/ROAD/38778/2019, which pertains to the diversion of 0.613 hectares of forest land. However, there were differences in the name, area, and tree enumeration details between the two proposals. The DFO informed that the incorrect KML has been mistakenly uploaded for this proposal and the corrected KML file has been sent through e-mail and shall be uploaded in Part I online.

During the meeting, the KML file received via email was examined. It was observed that the proposed road passes through a densely forested area, connecting an isolated village where only a few scattered houses are visible. The User Agency was questioned about the necessity of proposed 7m wide road; proposed alignment passing through dense forest and the correctness of the beneficiary population figures provided with the proposal.

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

1. The DFO shall carry out site inspection and assess:
 - a. the population which shall be benefitted by the proposed road.
 - b. Appropriate alternative and width of the single-lane road as per the prevailing norms so as to reduce the requirement of forest land and the number of trees affected.
 - c. The status of the proposed land and the status of the land on which scattered houses are located, as seen on the KML.
2. Correct KML file shall be submitted in online Part I.

Agenda Item No. 02: Diversion of 1.5225 ha of forest land for construction of Chinyalisaur-Jogath motor road to Gorun motor road in Block Chinyalisaur in favour of PWD, within the jurisdiction of Uttarkashi Forest Division, District Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/ 41009/2019)

The proposal was discussed with the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), but the user agency was absent from the meeting. During the meeting, the KML file was reviewed, and it was observed that there are already existing roads on both sides of the proposed road alignment. However, due to the absence of the user agency, a detailed discussion could not take place.

It was decided that the State Government would be requested to inform the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD) about the user agency's absence from the meeting. This absence indicates a lack of seriousness on the part of the user agency. The user agency should make a detailed presentation during next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 03: Diversion of 0.135 ha of forest land for construction of Suri to Bhumiya Mandir Motor Road from Kakrighat-shitalakhet motor road (length of 1.65 Km) in favour of PWD, within the jurisdiction of Almora Forest Division, District Almora, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/ 148116/2021)

The proposal was thoroughly discussed with the User Agency and the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). The KML file of the proposal was examined and it was observed that a section of the proposed road at starting point passes through forest area, despite availability of non-forest land in the vicinity. The User Agency explained that the road's length is 2 kilometers and only around 150 meters of forest land is required. Further the non-forest land is used by the locals for commercial purpose and hence they are unwilling to provide the same for road construction. However, this explanation was not found to be justified as non-forest land is noticed to be available for the portion of the road beyond 150m.

The user agency requested to let them review the proposal once again in view of avoiding forest area where non-forest land is available. It was also apprised that an EDS letter covering observation in this regard has also been sent vide this office letter dt. 16.06.2023, reply to which is awaited.

After the discussion, it was decided that the State Government would be requested to submit the reply to this office EDS letter dt. 16.06.2023 and user agency shall review the proposal again with a view of avoiding forest area by utilizing the non-forest land.

Agenda Item No. 04: Diversion of 3.325 ha of forest Land for construction of Thala Bhayari Bhitakote motor road in favour of PWD, within the jurisdiction of Almora Forest Division, District Almora, Uttarakhand. (FP/UK/ROAD/ 9401/2015)

The proposal was discussed in detail with the Project Proponent and the concerned DFO. It was noted that the proposal is almost eight years old and the reply to this office EDS letter dated 14.03.2019 was received after four years vide State Government letter dt. 22.05.2023. However, the reply was scrutinized and another EDS letter highlighting the observations was sent vide this office vide letter dt. 09.06.2023.

During the meeting, the KML file of the proposed road was reviewed. It was noted that out of the total 11 polygons representing beneficiary villages, six polygons were already connected by existing roads. The user agency did not seem to possess clear information about these new roads but mentioned that they were constructed by the villagers.

Additionally, considering the fact that the proposal is more than eight years old, it was observed that significant changes might have occurred in the current condition of the road network and the trees in the area. Therefore, it is necessary to reassess the actual requirement of the proposal. The KML file of the CA area was also examined in the meeting and it was pointed out that a portion of the area proposed for CA is landslide-prone and does not appear to be suitable for plantation.

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

1. State Government is requested to submit the justification for submitting the reply after a 4 year delay.
2. State Government is requested to submit the reply to this office EDS letter dated 09.06.2023.
3. Since the proposal is considerably old, the DFO is requested to visit the site and re-assess the proposal, taking into account the current number of trees,

villages already connected by the existing road network, and information regarding approvals and violations of the Indian Forest Act (IFA) and Forest Conservation Act (FCA) for the already constructed roads in the area.

4. As the proposed CA area appears to be slide prone, the DFO is requested to re-assess the same and submit detailed suitability report.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Gajendra Narwane
(Gajendra Prakash Narwane)
Assistant Inspector General of Forest

File No.: IRO-DDN/FRCM/01/2022/435

Dated: 30/06/2023

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.

Gajendra Narwane 30/06/2023
(Gajendra Prakash Narwane)
Assistant Inspector General of Forest

