

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

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

Dated: 5th July, 2022

To

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

Sub: Diversion of 46.06 ha Forest Land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of Village Bopegaon, Tal. Wai, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Deur, Tal. Jaoli, Dist. Satara from Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Maharashtra (Online No. FP/MH/REHAB/139268/2021) – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-2022/CR-87/F-10 dated 11.05.2022 on the above cited subject. In this regard following shortcomings have been observed in the proposal submitted by the State Govt.:

- i. The Chief Wildlife Warden has mentioned that for rehabilitation of this village a total of 46.06 ha forest land would be needed, however the land proposed to be acquired is 34.36 ha only. This needs clarification.
- ii. Nodal Officer has not provided his own specific recommendation for the proposal in Part-IV of the prescribed form.
- iii. The State Govt. has reported that an area of 2141.09 ha will be made available after rehabilitation of forest village 'Deur' whereas the DCF, Satara has reported that an area of 1579.07 ha will be made available after rehabilitation of village Deur. This needs clarification.
- iv. As per DSS analysis, the calculated area through KML file of the forest land proposed for diversion is 48.980 ha instead of 46.06 ha as per the proposal. Therefore, the correct KML file of the area proposed for diversion is required to be submitted.
- v. High-resolution satellite imagery shows that the plantations have been carried out within the forest land proposed for diversion. This needs clarification.
- vi. The KML file of the forest village 'Deur' which is proposed to be re-located from the Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary has not been submitted.
- vii. Project Note submitted with the proposal envisages that the total area of notified Koyana wildlife sanctuary was 423.55 sq Kms. On recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), the non forest area of 14 villages has been excluded. The boundaries of the Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary have therefore been altered with a total area of 335.30 sq Km. Keeping this in view, the KML file of Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary (335.30 sq. Km) along with its Core area is required to be submitted.
- viii. Examination of the DGPS map revealed that provision of road connectivity to the proposed forest land from the National Highway (NH)-4 has not been provided.

Therefore, it shall be clarified whether more forest land would be required for connecting the proposed forest land with existing Road/ Highway or not.

- ix. DGPS map shows that the Reserve forest land of Village-Bopegaon Gat no 711 has not been included in the instant proposal. As per latest satellite imagery, the Gat no 711 will become an isolated forest patch between the already existing agricultural land and the area proposed for diversion. This may lead to the degradation of this forest patch in future owing to human encumbrances and activities.
- x. The Survey of India (SoI) topo-sheet map of forest land proposed for diversion has not been uploaded on PARIVESH.
- xi. The satellite imagery shows the proposed forest area for diversion is having slightly undulating surface. The vulnerability of the forest area to erosion may therefore be examined.
- xii. The State Govt. shall certify that the Village proposed to be relocated is within the core of a National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary.
- xiii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the proposal fulfills all the conditions laid down in the Ministry's guidelines dated 20.05.2019.
- xiv. The State Govt. shall clarify whether the proposed relocation of villagers will make the total area under the village inviolate or not.
- xv. The project Note submitted is without the signatures of the authorities mentioned therein.
- xvi. The part-1 of the application form mentions that 40.01 ha area is required for agriculture, whereas the Project Note mentions that the area required for agriculture is 36.40 ha only which may be clarified. Further it has been mentioned that 10% of the land is unsuitable. The justification for including the same in the diversion proposal is also required to be provided.

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.