

**MINUTES OF THE 48th MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED
COMMITTEE OF REGIONAL OFFICE, NORTH CENTRAL ZONE, DEHRADUN
HELD ON 24 JULY, 2020**

The 48th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Regional Office (North Central Zone) Dehradun was held on 24 July, 2020 in the Meeting Room of the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun under the Chairmanship of Shri. Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Regional Office, Dehradun.

Following official non-official members & the special invitees were present in the meeting either physically or through video conferencing.

S.No.	Name	Designation
01	Shri. Pankaj Agrawal, IFS, Addl. PCCF, Regional Office, Dehradun.	Chairman
02	Dr. R B S Rawat, Retd. IFS	Non-official Member
03	Dr. R. S. Bisht, Retd. IFS	Non-official Member (through video conferencing)
04	Prof. S. D. Bhardwaj	Non-official Member (through video conferencing)
05	Shri T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C), Regional Office, Dehradun.	Member
06	Shri D. J. K. Sharma, IFS	APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (UK)
07	Shri Rajesh J. Ekka, IFS	APCCF (FCA), Nodal Officer (HP) (through video conferencing)
08	Representatives of the User Agencies	

Following proposals seeking diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose pertaining to the state of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand were discussed in detail and the case wise decision taken by REC is as under:

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Agenda Item No. 01: Diversion of 7.929 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of road from Koil to Bashla (Kms. 0/00 to 14/800), within the jurisdiction of Ani Forest Division, Distt. Kullu, Himachal Pradesh. (Online proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/26515/2017)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 7.929 ha of forest land for the construction of road from Koil to Bashla (Kms. 0/00 to 14/800). The committee was apprised that 225 trees are proposed to be felled. 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.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land.

Agenda Item No. 02: Diversion of 15.94 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of Mud Road (Kms. 0/000 to 28/430) within the jurisdiction of WL Division Spiti, Distt. Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/36476/2018)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 15.94 ha of forest land for the construction of Mud Road (Kms. 0/000 to 28/430). The committee noted that no tree felling is involved in the proposal. It is to be noted that the forest land proposed for diversion forms a part of Protected Area and rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion area and a clearance of NBWL dt. 14.09.2017 has already been taken in this regard. It is also noted that there is a violation of FCA for 9.75 ha area (in year 1998) has been reported by the State Government. During the meeting the State Nodal Officer and the representative from the HPPWD, were present through video conferencing and apprised to the committee members that the proposed alignment is justified in view of the fact that this alignment will provide indirect benefit to 17 villages also by shortening the distance to District Head Quarter at Kaza by 97 km and especially during the winter month when the area remained unconnected for about 3 months due to adverse climate condition and non-presence of such all weather road in the area. The members of the REC committee also observed that the area proposed for CA lies above the tree line zone and is, therefore, not suitable for plantation activity. Therefore, the State Government needs to replace this area with some other suitable area. Further, the REC also recommended to re-assess the rate of raising plantation by the State & do necessary corrections.



After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land subject to submission of following documents/clarifications:

1. State Government may submit the comments of CWLW on requirement of animal passage plan, if any.
2. State Government may submit the calculation of Penal NPV in view of guideline para-1.21 by incorporating Interest rate 12% from the year of violation to till date.
3. State Government may provide the Cost benefit analysis as per prescribed formats quantifying all parameters.
4. State Government may revise the CA area and select some other area suitable for raising plantation. The State Government may also review the rate of CA per ha as in this case @ Rs 15.44 lac per hectare appears significantly high. Necessary correction in this regard is required from the State Govt.

Agenda Item No. 03: Diversion of 8.0678 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Friend Him Energies, C/o Near Happy Sr. School, Jial Road, Gurdaspur-143521 for the construction of Siul-iv-SHEP (4MW), within the jurisdiction of Churah Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. (Online proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/35437/2018)

The Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 8.0678 ha of forest land for the construction of Siul-iv-SHEP (4MW). The committee noted that 118 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. In respect of the point whether the proposal forms part of a National park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. comments of CWLW has been submitted with the proposal. It is also noted that 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. The committee was apprised that wrong KML file of CA area is uploaded that needs to be replaced by the correct area which is proposed over waste land as per guidelines para 2.4 (iii).

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal to Govt. of India for diversion of forest land subject to submission of following documents/information:


1. State Government may provide the Cost benefit analysis as per prescribed formats quantifying all parameters.

2. State Government may upload the details of correct area proposed for CA along with KML file of CA area in online portal as well as in hard copy.

Agenda Item No. 04: Diversion of 0.5375 ha of forest land (instead of 0.6478 ha earlier 0.7389 ha) in favour of M/s Baragarh Hydro Power Co. Private Limited for construction of 2.5 MW Lower Aleo SHEP, within the jurisdiction of Kullu Forest Division, Distt. Kullu, Himachal Pradesh.

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 0.5375 ha of forest land (instead of 0.6478 ha earlier 0.7389 ha) for construction of 2.5 MW Lower Aleo Small Hydro Electric Project. The committee was apprised that violation of FCA for 0.121 ha area has been reported by the State Government for which penalty provisions have already been made as per guidelines para 1.21 (iv). The committee was also apprised that the case already stand approved for area 0.7389 ha vide this office letter dt. 16.05.2014 with felling permission of 128 trees and CA over 2.064 ha. The CA and NPV deposited in this case considering RoW 15 m while the area diverted only 0.7389 ha after considering RoW 5.6 m. The project is already been installed and CA already been done.

The revised proposal vide letter dt. 29.08.2018 has been submitted by the State Govt. for area 0.6478 ha after change in layout and land use pattern after direction of Hon'ble High Court of Shimla in the matter CWP No. 171-2018 vide dt. 12.03.2018. The case was earlier discussed in the REC meeting dt. 30.09.2019 in which the REC decided to recommend the proposal to Government of India for approval of change in layout use pattern with revised area of 0.6478 ha. After getting comments on discrepancy over area requirement from MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide letter dt. 10.01.2020, the State government was asked to re-confirm the actual area requirement. The State Government vide letter dt. 06.06.2020 has intimated that the actual area occupied by the project proponent is 0.5375 ha and out of earlier recommended area of 0.6478 ha, the rest 0.1103 ha area is now not required for the project. Therefore vide this office letter dt. 01.07.2020 it has been asked from the state to submit a certificate that the rest of the area is in possession of Forest Department.



After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal to Govt. of India for approval with revised area of 0.5375 ha subject to submission of the certificate from the State Government that the rest of the area which is not been occupied by the project proponent is in possession of the State Forest Department.

Agenda Item No. 05: Diversion of 0.8521 ha of forest land in favour of Hydro Projects, VPO Shayamnagar, Distt, Kangra for the construction of Leond IV (0.5 MW) Small Hydro Project, within the jurisdiction of Dharamshala Forest Division, Distt. Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/42927/2019)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 0.8521 ha of forest land for the construction of Leond IV (0.5 MW) Small Hydro Project. The committee noted that 34 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. 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.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal to Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for approval subject to submission of following document:

1. State Government is required to submit the approval of competent authority regarding enhanced capacity from 0.3 MW to 0.5 MW.

UTTARAKHAND

Agenda Item No. 06: Diversion of 5.969 ha of forest land for land slide treatment and muck dumping for Rehabilitation and Upgradation to 2 lane with paved shoulder configuration from existing Km 122.00 (Dharasu Bend) to Km 147.230 (Silkyara Bend) Design chainage 0.00 to Km 24.30) of NH-94 in favour of MoRTH within the jurisdiction of Uttarkashi Forest Division, Distt. Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/36902/2018).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 5.969 ha of forest land for land slide treatment and muck dumping for Rehabilitation and Upgradation to 2 lane with paved shoulder configuration from existing Km 122.00 (Dharasu Bend) to Km 147.230 (Silkyara Bend) Design chainage 0.00 to Km 24.30 of NH-94. The committee noted that 154 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. The forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area. Rare and endangered species of flora and fauna have been reported in the area proposed for diversion by the DFO. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land with the following additional conditions:

1. State Government is required to provide the details of related proposal at para B in Part I.
2. In the SIR, DFO has mentioned that swell factor has not been calculation in MDP. State Government may submit the Muck Disposal Plan duly authenticated by DFO providing the details of muck likely to be generated, muck proposed to be utilized, balance muck for disposal at identified muck disposal sites, swell factor and muck already disposed at the muck disposal sites identified in the approved proposal. The carrying capacity of the Muck Dumping sites proposed along with safety measure and rehabilitation/ eco-restoration plan and distance from river, if any is also required to be intimated.
3. REC directed that the User Agency should also follow the recommendation of HPC (constituted as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 08-08-2019).
4. Revised Site Inspection Report of DFO as submitted and discussed in the meeting is required to be uploaded online at para 15 of Part II.

Agenda Item No. 07: Diversion of 13.9475 ha forest land for widening geometric improvement and up-gradation of existing road to 2-lane/2-lane with paved shoulders configuration including Treatment of Gholteer Landslide on NH-07 (Old NH-58) from Km 368.000 to Km 384.400 in favour MORTH (NHIDCI) within the jurisdiction of Rudraprayag Forest Division, District Rudrapraya, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/39181/2019).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 13.9475 ha forest land for widening geometric improvement and up-gradation of existing road to 2-lane/2-lane with paved shoulders configuration including Treatment of Gholteer Landslide on NH-07 (Old NH-58) from Km 368.000 to Km 384.400. The committee noted that 433 trees including 62 sapling are proposed to be felled in the project. 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.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land with the following additional conditions:

1. As per the DSS analysis, 8 ha VDF & 2 ha MDF found in CA area Patch-I. State Govt. will replace this with some other suitable area. The revised KML file, maps, CA scheme and CA site suitability will be uploaded online in part II.
2. Total length of the road proposed for widening comes to 16.40 km (i.e. km 368.00 to km 384.400), out of which 5.0176 km road is shown in forest land (975m in RF and 5001 m in civil soyam land). State Govt. may clarify the situation about balance length of 10.424 km whether it falls in private land or otherwise.
3. In para-4(i) of Part-II density is mentioned as 0.5 but 31 trees per ha do not account for 0.5 density. State Govt. will correct the same in online para 4(i) part II and accordingly will change the NPV calculation sheet.
4. The details of engineering measures to be taken for retaining the muck in position i.e. retaining wall, terracing etc. as well as eco restoration/rehabilitation plan for muck dumping yards has not been submitted with the Muck disposal plan. State Government may submit the Muck Disposal Plan duly authenticated by DFO providing the details of muck likely to be generated, muck proposed to be utilized, balance muck for disposal at identified muck disposal sited, swell factor etc. The carrying capacity of the Muck Dumping sites proposed along with safety measure and rehabilitation eco-restoration plan and distance from river is also required to be intimated.

Agenda Item No. 08: Diversion of 7.7295 ha for widening and strengthening of existing road from Km 384.400 to Km 399.00 of NH-07 (Old NH-58) in favour of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways within the jurisdiction of Kedarnath Wildlife Forest Division, District Chamoli, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/39274/2019).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 7.7295 ha for widening and strengthening of existing road from Km 384.400 to Km 399.00 of NH-07 (Old NH-58). The committee noted that in total there are 239 trees including 121 saplings that are proposed to be felled in the project. 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.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land with the following additional conditions:

1. State Government may submit the Muck Disposal Plan duly authenticated by DFO providing the details of muck likely to be generated, muck proposed to be utilized, balance muck for disposal at identified muck disposal sites, swell factor etc.. The carrying capacity of the Muck Dumping sites proposed along with safety measure and rehabilitation/ eco-restoration plan and distance from river is also required to be intimated.

Agenda Item No. 09: Diversion of 40.8916 ha of forest land for widening and strengthening of existing road from Km 399.000 to Km 460.000 of NH-07 (Old NH-58) in favour of Road Transport and Highways within the jurisdiction Badrinath Forest Division, Dist. Chamoli, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/39349/2019)


Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 40.8916 ha of forest land for widening and strengthening of existing road from Km 399.000 to Km 460.000 of NH-07 (Old NH-58) .The committee noted that 3457 trees are proposed to be felled in the project. 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.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land with the following additional conditions:

- 1- As per DSS analysis of CA area, 14 ha area found in VDF and 41 ha in MDF. State Government may replace this area with some other suitable area for CA ensuring that no VDF/ MDF falls in that area.
- 2- State Government may upload/submit the Village Level Committee meeting proceedings for village Kuhaid.
- 3- REC noticed that only one page muck disposal plan found uploaded mentioning calculation of muck. State Government may submit the Muck Disposal Plan duly authenticated by DFO providing the details of muck likely to be generated, muck proposed to be utilized, balance muck for disposal at identified muck disposal sites, swell factor etc. The carrying capacity of the Muck Dumping sites proposed along with safety measure and rehabilitation/ eco-restoration plan and distance from river is also required to be intimated.
- 4- State Government may upload the NPV calculation sheet at online portal.

- 5- Total length of the road is 61.00 km (Km 399.00 to km 460.00) but widening of road is proposed over 23.562 km in forest land (i.e. RF & Civil Soyam). State Govt. may clarify the widening proposed over balance length and legal status of this balance area.
- 6- Abstract uploaded online showing details of project affected trees is not clear. The name of the area i.e. RF, Civil Soyam, Van Panchyat etc. is required to be mentioned in the abstract. State Government may also provide the correct scientific names of the trees at para-4 of Part II online.
- 7- One of the CA estimate(s) is prepared for 28.00 ha but the area of the RF comppts mentioned in CA estimate comes to 25.00 ha only. Perhaps the name of Navali-IV comppt. No. 1 b (area 3.00) has been dropped by mistake. State Government may do the needful in this regard.
- 8- The CA cost norms applied in the CA estimate of 16.00 ha of Ukhimath Range area different from the cost norms applied in other 3 estimates of 66.00 ha. State Government may submit/upload the CA estimate calculated as per the current cost norm.
- 9- Name of the Navali-IV comppt. No. 1 b is not mentioned in the CA site suitability certificate. State Government may submit/ upload the CA site suitability certificate for Navali-IV comppt. No. 1 b CA area.

Agenda Item No. 10: Diversion of 10.0237 forest land for Widening and Strengthening of Existing road to 2-Lane/2-lane with paved shoulders configuration on NH-07(Old NH-58) from Km. 460.00-Km. 468.00 in favour of MORTH (NHIDCL) within the jurisdiction of Nandadevi National Park, Joshimath Forest Division, Chamoli District, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/42658/2019)



Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 10.0237 forest land for Widening and Strengthening of Existing road to 2-Lane/2-lane with paved shoulders configuration on NH-07(Old NH-58) from Km. 460.00-Km. 468.00. The committee noted that 1349 trees including 311 saplings are proposed to be felled in the project. 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.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land with the following additional conditions:


1. As per DSS analysis of the CA area (received through e-mail), complete area found in MDF. State Government may submit the SIR of DFO verifying that the selected area is of less than 0.4 density and is suitable for CA and upload the KML file or if required select some other area suitable for CA and submit/ upload the KML file. CA site suitability certificate, CA scheme, geo-referenced map and SoI toposheet map of the selected CA at designated places.
2. Name of CA area not mentioned in CA scheme. Name of CA area mentioned in Part II para 13 and in CA site suitability certificate are different. State Government may submit clarification and provide/ upload correct documents.
3. Correct CA area is not mentioned in the Table at para-13. State Government may provide the detail of CA area at para-13 in Part II.
4. Name of CA site is mentioned as Dasholi Block Comptt. No. 4 in the CA site suitability certificate but the area appears to be located in Comptt. No. 4a in the SoI toposheet maps uploaded in additional information in Part-II. State Government may submit clarification
5. State Government may upload NPV calculation sheet in additional information.
6. C/B analysis is prepared taking NPV as 0.66 crore however, the same should be 89.91 lakh on the basis of details mentioned in part II. In the CA estimate CA cost is mentioned 67.90 lakh but cost of CA is mentioned as 63.00 lakh in Table-'B' in Cost benefit analysis. Moreover, all the parameters have not been quantified and not expressed in monetary terms. This is required to be reviewed and re-submitted. State Government may submit the Cost benefit analysis quantifying all the parameters with correct data.
7. REC noticed that only one page muck disposal plan found uploaded mentioning calculation of muck. State Government may submit the Muck Disposal Plan duly authenticated by DFO providing the details of muck likely to be generated, muck proposed to be utilized, balance muck for disposal at identified muck disposal sited, swell factor etc. The carrying capacity of the Muck Dumping sites proposed along with safety measure and rehabilitation/ eco-restoration plan and distance from river is also required to be intimated.
8. Total length of the road is 8.00 km (i.e. Km 460.00 to Km 468.00) but the proposal for diversion of forest land is submitted for 5.836 Km length only. State Govt. may clarify the situation about balance length whether it falls in private land or otherwise.

Agenda Item No. 11: Diversion of 6.83 ha for additional forest land of border road organization for land slide treatment from km 75.200 to km 75.400 and muck disposal for widening and strengthening of national highway no. 94 from km 59.420 (Dikholgaon) to km 65.000 (Dandasali Uttari) and from km 76.000 (Nakot Lagga Jaulangi) to km. 132.300 (Gojmer) in favour of BRO, Thirty Six Task Force within the jurisdiction of Tehri Forest Division, District Garhwal, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/45194/2020)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 6.83 ha for additional forest land of border road organization for land slide treatment from km 75.200 to km 75.400 and muck disposal for widening and strengthening of national highway no. 94 from km 59.420 (Dikholgaon) to km 65.000 (Dandasali Uttari) and from km 76.000 (Nakot Lagga Jaulangi) to km. 132.300 (Gojmer). The committee noted that 120 trees including 33 sapling are proposed to be felled in the project. 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.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to accord in-principle approval for diversion of forest land.

Agenda Item No. 12: Diversion of 8.788 ha of forest land for construction of Nagina-Kashipur section of NH-74 km 132.000 to km 175.000 in the state of Uttarakhand in favour of NH within the jurisdiction of Tarai West, Ramnagar Forest Division, District Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/8289/2014)




Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 8.788 ha of forest land for construction of Nagina-Kashipur section of NH-74 km 132.000 to km 175.000. The committee was apprised that the case has been placed in the earlier REC meeting dt. 10.03.2016 and recommended by the then REC committee and Stage-I approval was accorded in the case with felling of 1952 trees vide letter dt. 11.07.2016. The committee noted that the State Government informed that additional felling of 214 trees is required to be done in the proposal. It is to be 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.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal for additional felling of 214 trees, with the following additional conditions:

1. It is seen that CA area has been changed. KML files, geo-referenced maps and Sol toposheet maps of the revised CA area submitted but not found uploaded at para-13 of Part II. State Government may upload the KML files, geo-referenced maps and Sol toposheet maps of the revised CA area in para 13 of Part II.
2. State Government may ensure the disciplinary action against the officers/ staff responsible for the change in the CA area.
3. State Government may submit/ upload the geo-referenced and Sol toposheet maps duly authenticated by DFO.
4. State Government may submit revised NPV calculation sheet.
5. The State Government will review the rate of CA per hectare as in this proposal @ Rs.3.52.616/- per hectare appears significantly high. Necessary correction in this regard is required from the State Govt.


Agenda Item No. 13: Diversion of 64.748 ha of forest land for construction of Haridwar-Nagina Section of NH-74 from KM 0.000 to KM 30.000 in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand under NHDP-IV within the jurisdiction of Haridwar Forest Division, District Haridwar, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/7876/2014)



Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 64.748 ha of forest land for construction of Haridwar-Nagina Section of NH-74 from KM 0.000 to KM 30.000. The committee apprised that the case has been placed in the REC meeting dt. 22.07.2016 and recommended by the then REC committee. Stage-I approval has already been accorded in the proposal vide letter dt. 03.10.2016 and Stage-II approval vide letter dt. 07.04.2017 with felling permission of 14691 trees. In addition, as informed by the Nodal Officer, Uttarakhand, a part of Haridwar-Nagina section of NH-74 intersects the tiger corridor connecting the buffer area (in the Eastern part) of Rajaji Tiger Reserve, with the Jhilmil Jheel Conservation reserve, the State Government may also process the case for wildlife clearance, if required. It is also noted that 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.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the committee permitted the additional felling of 2406 trees.

Agenda Item No. 14: Diversion of 3.85 ha of missing link forest land for construction of Fatehpur- Belbasani- Naisela- Devidhura Bohragaon motor road (KM 10.700 to 12.700 & Km 15.00 to 18.500) in favour of Rural Development Department within the jurisdiction of Nainital Forest Division, District Nainital, Uttarakhand. (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/22139/2016)



Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 3.85 ha of missing link forest land for construction of Fatehpur- Belbasani- Naisela- Devidhura Bohragaon motor road. The committee was informed that Stage I approval has been accorded vide letter dt. 09.09.2010 & final approval accorded vide letter dt. 22.03.2012 for diversion of 16.87 ha area in the related proposal. But, State Government vide letter dated 22.09.2015 informed that 3.85 ha area had been mentioned in Ramnagar division which however falls in Nainital division and by mistake 319 trees falls in this area were not included in the proposal. In this response, this office vide letter dated 20.09.2016 directed to submit revise proposal. However, in the new proposal, it has been informed that there is no change in the alignment and the total area. The matter was also discussed in the REC meeting held on 30.09.2019. During the meeting, the User Agency were not able to put the facts before the REC in clear terms and it appeared that the proposal has been submitted for additional land of 3.85 ha. However, it has now been clarified by the State Government that there is no additional requirement of area as the alignment remains the same. It is only due to enumeration error, some area has been left out from counting of trees. Hence, Committee is of view that proposal may be considered for permitting additional felling of 319 trees with reference to the previously sanctioned proposal (offline no. 8B/ UCP/ 06/202/2009/FC) and the new proposal no. FP/UK/ROAD/22139/2016 may be withdrawn by the State Government. It is noted that the forest land proposed for diversion was 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.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC committee decided that State Govt. will withdraw the proposal no. FP/UK/ROAD/22139/2016 and an addendum may be issued for additional felling of 319 trees in Nainital Forest Division in the previously approved proposal (8B/UCP/06/202/2009/FC).

General Observations

1. The members of REC have raised concern over the issues related to high non-uniformity in the plantation cost of CA in the proposals submitted from the State of HP and Uttarakhand.
2. In most of the cases the scientific names of the tree species proposed to be felled is mentioned very casually in online portal at para 4 (ii).
3. Further the members desired that Uttarkhand and HP being the hilly states, every proposal should be accompanied with the detailed muck dumping plan and its rehabilitation and the forest department should ensure its proper execution.

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


(Pankaj Agrawal)
APCCF -cum-Chairman, REC

File. No. RO-DDN/REC/1-2014/VOL-4/ 764

Dated: 28 July, 2020

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5. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Uttarakhand, 4 Subhash Road, Dehradun.
6. Principal Secretary (Forest), Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Armsdale Building, Shimla.
7. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation, Uttarakhand, Indira Nagar, Forest Colony, Dehradun for information. He is requested to take action on the decisions taken in the REC meeting (Project wise) & ensure submission of compliance to this office for further necessary action.
8. 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) & ensure submission of compliance to this office for further necessary action.


(Pankaj Agrawal)
APCCF-cum-Chairman, REC