

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: August, 2023

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Gujarat,
Gandhi Nagar.

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 598.2427 ha. forest land for Methala Bandhara Irrigation Project near village Methala in Talaja Taluka in Bhavnagar District of Gujarat State (Online No. FP/GJ/IRRIG/44298/2020) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Gujarat letter No. ED/FLP/e-file/6/2023/1095/F dated 21.07.2023 on the above cited subject forwarding the required information. After examining the said information, the following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. The satellite imagery of the proposed Non Forest Land for Compensatory Afforestation revealed that some part of the CA land is falling in the river and the presence of water ponds within the boundary of the proposed area has also been observed. This needs clarification and revision of CA areas accordingly if required.
- ii. The revenue record/documentary evidence indicating that the area identified for Compensatory Afforestation is Non-forest land has not been submitted, which is required to be done.
- iii. In the CA Scheme, the following shortcomings have been observed:
 - a. The CA Scheme is submitted in two parts. The reasons/justification for the same needs submission.
 - b. The number of plants proposed to be raised on the CA land is not uniform, as per the CA scheme in one patch comprising 300 ha area only 480 seedlings per ha. have been proposed whereas in another patch comprising 298.247 ha area, 2500 seedlings per ha. have been proposed. The huge variation in the number of seedlings per hectare i.e. 480 and 2500 needs to be examined by the State Govt. and a justification in this regard shall be submitted. As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry a minimum of 1000 plants (tree species) per ha are required to be planted for Compensatory Afforestation..
 - c. The CA scheme for the proposed 300 ha area reads at few points as degraded area and a few points as non-forest area. Therefore, the CA scheme shall be submitted for proposed non forest land.
 - d. Further, the copy of undertaking from the user agency to bear the cost of CA shall be submitted. The Cost Benefit ratio has not been derived in the Cost-Benefit analysis report and cost on the parameters such as Animal husbandry productivity, Compensatory Afforestation, increase in productivity etc. have not been calculated as required under relevant guidelines, which needs submission.
- iv. The Cost Benefit ratio has not been derived in the Cost-Benefit analysis report and cost on the parameters such as Animal husbandry productivity, Compensatory Afforestation, increase in productivity etc. have not been calculated as required under relevant guidelines, which needs submission.

- v. The State Govt. reported that dam like structure observed in the satellite imagery is an earthen bund constructed by the local villagers in the revenue area. Keeping this in view, the complete KML boundary of submergence area including 1111 Ha Non-forest land (NFL) involved in the instant project needs submission.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by

Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 16-08-2023 15:01:30

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Gujarat, Gandhi Nagar;
2. The Dy. IGF, Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Gandhi Nagar;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Gujarat, Gandhi Nagar;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.