

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Raod, Aliganj
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 10th August, 2022

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)

Government of Uttarakhand

Dehradun

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 87.0815 ha of forest land for "Expansion of the Jolly Grant Airport" under Forest Division and District Dehradun of the State of Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/Others/44884/2020)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the APCCF & Nodal Officer, Uttarakhand's letter No. 20/FP/UK/OTHERS/44884/2020 dated 02.07.2022 wherein addl. information has been submitted by the State. After scrutiny of the additional information the following shortcomings have been observed:

1. It has been mentioned in the certificate of the Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand that no non-forest land or Civil Soyam land is available in the State of Uttarakhand for carrying out CA in case of instant proposal. However, as per PCCF letter dated 10.06.2022 (**copy enclosed**) it has been reported that 12,351 ha of non-notified forest land exists in the State. The certificate may therefore be examined in view of above fact and necessary action for selection of CA sites be taken by the State Govt. accordingly.
2. IRO Dehradun has submitted Site inspection report(SIR) vide letter dated 29.06.2022 (**copy enclosed**). As per the SIR, the KML files provided are at variance with the areas taken up for plantation in the field. Moreover, IRO has also reported certain other issues in the Compensatory Afforestation. The State Govt. shall provide the requisite information to the IRO as required and also furnish comments on the issue raised in the SIR to this Ministry. The KML file of the DFLs where plantations were done and 100% verification of the same by the IRO shall be provided.
3. The adjoining areas which may be used for other ancillary facilities for expansion of the airport have been marked on the map (**copy enclosed**). The State Government is requested to explore the possibility of using these areas instead of forest land.
4. As per the Parivesh Portal following components have been proposed under Column B (2.4) of Part-I:

Details of the activity	Area (in ha)
Development of Dehradun Airport	49.6725
Parking Stand	3.1616
New ATC Tower	14.4224
Proposed Runway	19.825
Total Area	87.0815

However, as per the Airport Authority of India letter No. भाविप्रा/देहरादून/सिविल/2020 dated 10.11.2020 following components have been proposed in the 49.6725 ha:

S. No.	Name of the activity
1	Construction of isolation Bay
2	Extension of Runway.
3	Construction of RESA.
4	Installation of LLZ.
5	Construction of ATC Tower.
6	Construction of perimeter Road.
7	Construction of new terminal Building along with Apron.
8	Construction of Cargo Terminal along with cargo Apron.
9	Construction of MRO facility along with Apron.
10	Development of Runway Strip

The above components have not been given with bifurcation of the area, due to which it is difficult to know that how much area is required for which activity. Moreover there is repetition of activities and the runway has been mentioned at multiple locations. The exact component wise breakup of the proposed area along with the KML file is therefore required to be submitted.

5. Present status of the case in the Hon'ble High Court of Nainital regarding de-notification of Elephant Reserve shall also be submitted.
6. The detail land use of 62.111 hectare of land available with Airport authority shall be provided.
7. Initial plan submitted in 2002 and land use proposed in 70 ha area diverted shall be submitted. Whether air strip was part of the initial plan or not. If not what for the 70 ha of land was proposed and whether same land use is existing at present or not. The same may be clarified.
8. Complete analysis of compliance of the Stage-II given in 2003 and CA carried out against the land transferred be submitted.
9. Justification of taking area in Elephant Reserve and ESZ of Rajaji Tiger Reserve and comments of CWLW in this regard be provided.

The State Govt is therefore requested to do the needful and submit requisite information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Encl: As above

Sd/
(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
2. APCCf cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
3. User Agency.
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.



कार्यालय प्रमुख वन संरक्षक (HoFF), उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून।

Email id:-ccfadmin-forest-uk@nic.in Ph.No. 0135-2741461, 2746934, Fax-2741630, 2741462

पत्रांक रब - 1305 / 32-4 देहरादून: दिनांक 16, जून, 2021

सेवा में,

सहायक महानिदेशक (वन),
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय,
भारत सरकार, इन्दिरा पर्यावरण भवन,
अलीगंज जोरबाग रोड़,
नई दिल्ली।

विषय :- **Information on Recorded Forest Area (RFA) in the State/UTs.**

संदर्भ :- आपका पत्रांक FC-11/81/2021 दिनांक 20 मार्च 2021।

महोदय,

आपके उपरोक्त विषयक संदर्भित पत्र के कम में मांगी गयी वांछित सूचना कार्यालय अपर प्रमुख वन संरक्षक, नियोजन एवं वित्तीय प्रबन्धन, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा उपलब्ध करायी गयी है, जिसे निम्नानुसार निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर प्रेषित किया जा रहा है :-

SI. No.	Recorded Forest Area (RFA) categories		Area in ha.
1	Notified Forests (Notified under IFA, 1927 or any other state/local law)	Reserved Forests	2654700
2		Protected Forests	15402
3		Village Forests*	973056
4		Other non-classified forests	144451
5		Total area under notified forests (i.e. 1+2+3+4)	3787609
6	Total RFA (excluding notified forests as above)**		12351
7	Total area under forest (i.e.5+6)		3799960

* Civil & Soyam forests and Forest Panchayats as Village Forests

* Private Forests (Municipal and cantonment etc.)

भवदीय

(राजीव भरतरी)
प्रमुख वन संरक्षक (HoFF),
उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून।

संख्या रब - 1305 / 32 - 4 तददिनांकित।

प्रतिलिपि:- 1. अनु सचिव वन एवं पर्यावरण, उत्तराखण्ड शासन, अनुभाग-2 को उनके संदर्भित पत्र संख्या-920/X-2-2021-07(1)2021 दिनांक 31 मार्च 2021 के कम में सूचनार्थ प्रेषित।

O/Copy
Gm
50.

(राजीव भरतरी)
प्रमुख वन संरक्षक (HoFF),
उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून।

Area which can be used for proposed expansion



भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
मंत्रालय
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, देहरादून
25 सुभाष रोड, देहरादून-248001
दूरभाष: 0135-2650809
फैक्स-0135-2653010
ईमेल- moef.ddn@gov.in



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST &
CLIMATE CHANGE
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, DEHRADUN
25 SUBASH ROAD, DEHRADUN-248001
PHONE- 0135-2650809
FAX- 0135-2653010
Email- moef.ddn@gov.in

File No.:- RO-DDN/Tour/DIG(F)/8-2021/459

Dated: 29-06-2022

To,

Shri Charan Jeet Singh, Scientist 'D',
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003.

Sub.: Proposal involving diversion of 87.0815 hectare of forest land for "Expansion of the Jolly Grant Airport" under Dehradun Forest Division and district Dehradun, Uttarakhand (FP/UK/OTHERS/44884/2020)


Ref.: Letter No. 8-19/2020-FC dt. 24-01-2022 of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (FC Division), Government of India, New Delhi.

Sir,

With reference to your letter mentioned above on the subject cited above, please find enclosed herewith the Site Inspection Report for your information and further necessary action please.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,


(T.C. Nautiyal)
DIGF (C)

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, DEHRADUN IN RESPECT OF PROPOSAL INVOLVING DIVERSION OF 87.0815 HECTARE OF FOREST LAND FOR “EXPANSION OF THE JOLLY GRANT AIRPORT” UNDER DEHRADUN FOREST DIVISION AND DISTRICT DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND (FP/UK/OTHERS/44884/2020).

Name of the Inspecting Officer – Shri. T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIG(F), Integrated Regional Office Dehradun, MoEF&CC, GoI.

As per the directions of MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Site inspection of the above mentioned proposal was carried out on 22.06.2022 with the officials of State Forest Department and representatives of the User Agency. The following Officers were present during the inspection:

Official(s) from the State Forest Department Uttarakhand

1. Shri Nitishmani Tripathi DFO, Dehradun Forest Division
2. Shri N.L.Dobhal, Forest Range Officer
3. Shri. G. Singh Rawat, Dy. Forest Range Officer
4. Shri. Ahsan Ali, Surveyor
5. Ms. Yukta Mishra, SDM Doiwala
6. Shri. Md. Shadab Shams, Tehsildar
7. Ms. Manju Verma, Patwari, Jolly Grant
8. Shri. Manoj Mishra, Patwari, Athurwala

Officials from User Agency:

1. Shri Rajeev Kumar Singh, Manager (Technical), Airport Authority of India.
2. Shri Rajeev Singh, Representative of Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, Government of Uttarakhand.

BACKGROUND NOTE ON THE PROPOSAL

Jolly Grant Airstrip came into existence somewhere in 1974 when a small airstrip over 11.425 hectare was constructed taking land from village Athurwala and Jolly Grant. The breakup of land recorded as per SDM Rishikesh letter No. 1260/ST/2012 dt. 18/02/2012 in the name of Airport Authority of India (AAI) and its source is as follows:

S. No.	Name of Village/ Original Owner	Land acquired for AAI (in hectares)
1	Athurwala	19.856
2	Jolly Grant	30.830
3	Forest Land	70.000
4	Land already available with AAI	11.425
Total		132.111

The relevant notifications for acquiring land of Athurwala village and Jolly Grant village are enclosed. The total land recorded in the name of AAI is 132.111 hectare. Thus, beyond 70 hectares of forest land diverted in 2003, the AAI has 62.111 hectare of revenue land in its name.

The proposal for expansion of the airstrip was taken up in 2002 when a proposal was submitted to MoEF&CC for diversion of 70 hectares of forest land for the purpose. The MoEF&CC granted approval vide letter No. 8-110/2002-FC dated 17/02/2003. In 2003 the Google imagery of the airport was as follows:

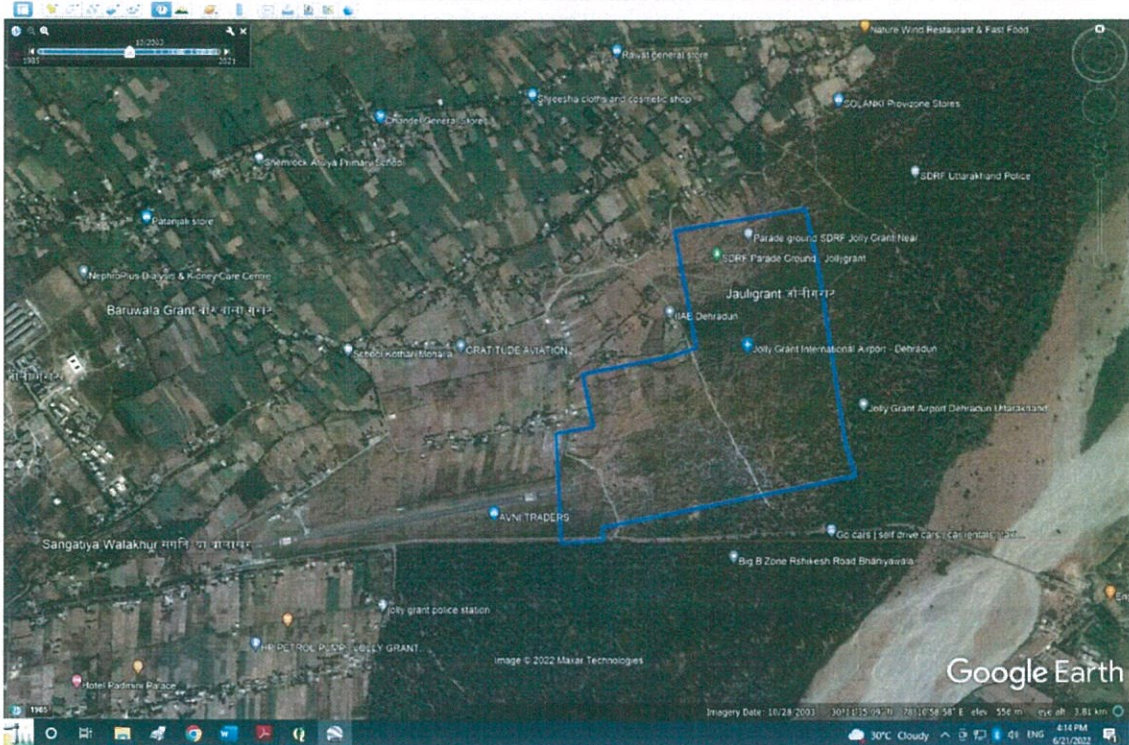


Plate:1- Existing air-strip on the revenue land and Forest land diverted (Blue) in 2003

It is clear from the image that the earlier existing airstrip was not part of the 70 hectares of forest land diverted in 2003. Therefore, the KML file submitted by the State with the proposal no. FP/UK/OTHERS/44884/2020 as previously submitted boundary of forest land does not seem to be correct and the revised boundary of diverted forest land as marked in the photograph below can be authenticated by the old sketch map which was submitted with the proposal in 2002.

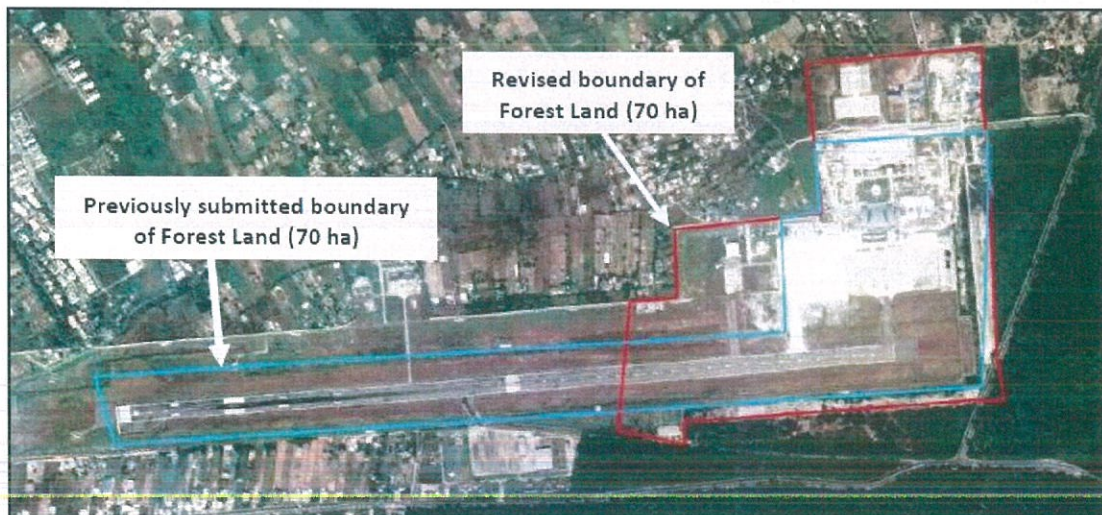


Plate:2- The KML file (Cyan) submitted by the State along with the current proposal

For the sake of clear understanding, the 70 hectare area diverted for airport in 2003 and the 87.0815 hectare area proposed to be diverted now are depicted in the photograph below on 2003 google earth imagery.

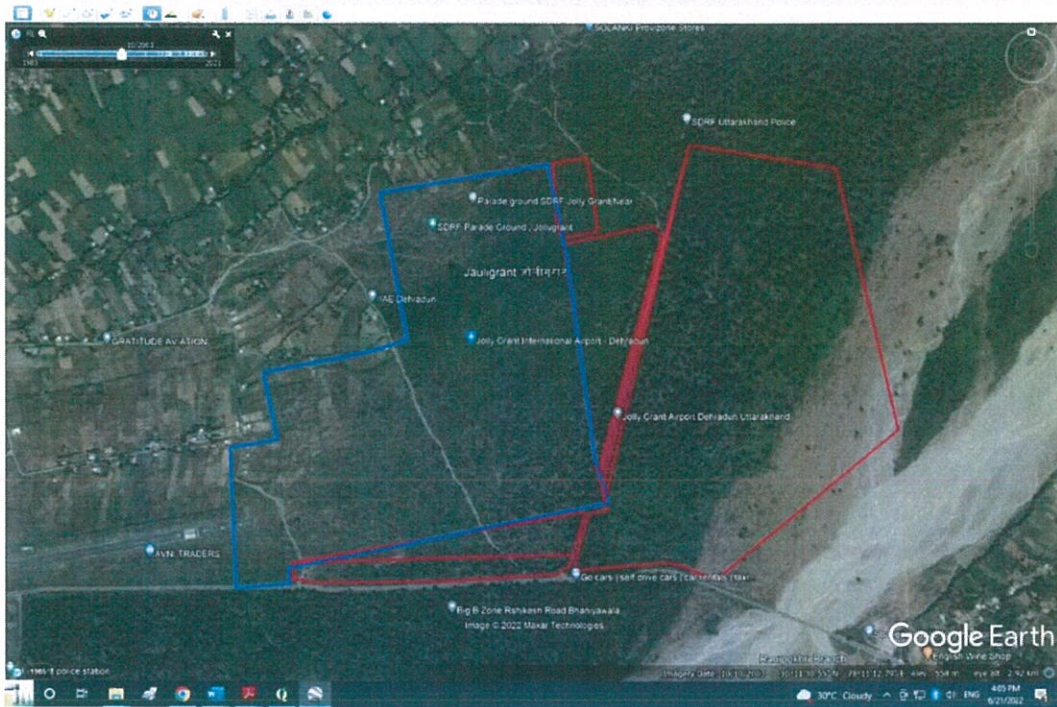


Plate:3-Forest land diverted (Blue) and existing air-strip in 2003 along with 87 ha additional forest land (Red) demanded by the state now.

The area diverted in 2003 and the area proposed to be diverted now are also marked on 2021 google earth imagery which is reproduced below.



Plate:4-Forest land diverted (Blue) and existing air-strip in 2021 along with 87 ha additional forest land (Red) demanded by the state

The area was inspected along with the representatives of District Magistrate, Forest Department, UCADA and Airport Authority of India was carried out on 22/06/2022 and a comprehensive location along with all the KML files is reproduced as follows.

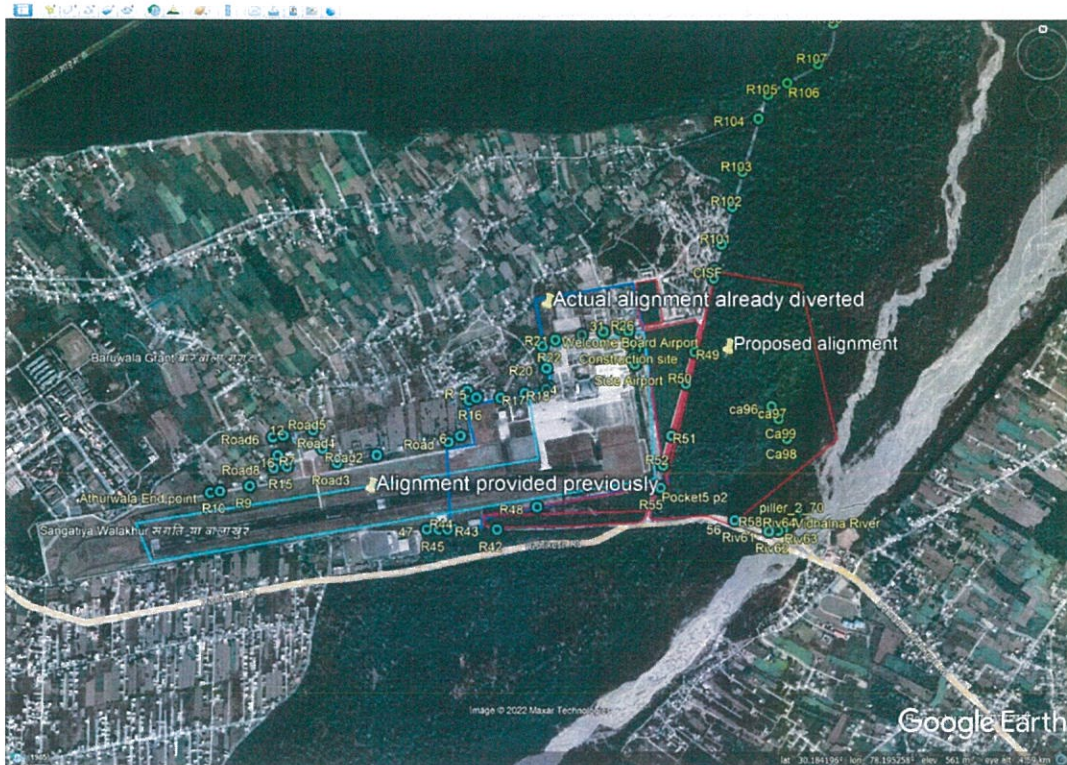


Plate:5-Green dots represents the GPS locations of the different features collected from the field during inspection on 22/06/2022.

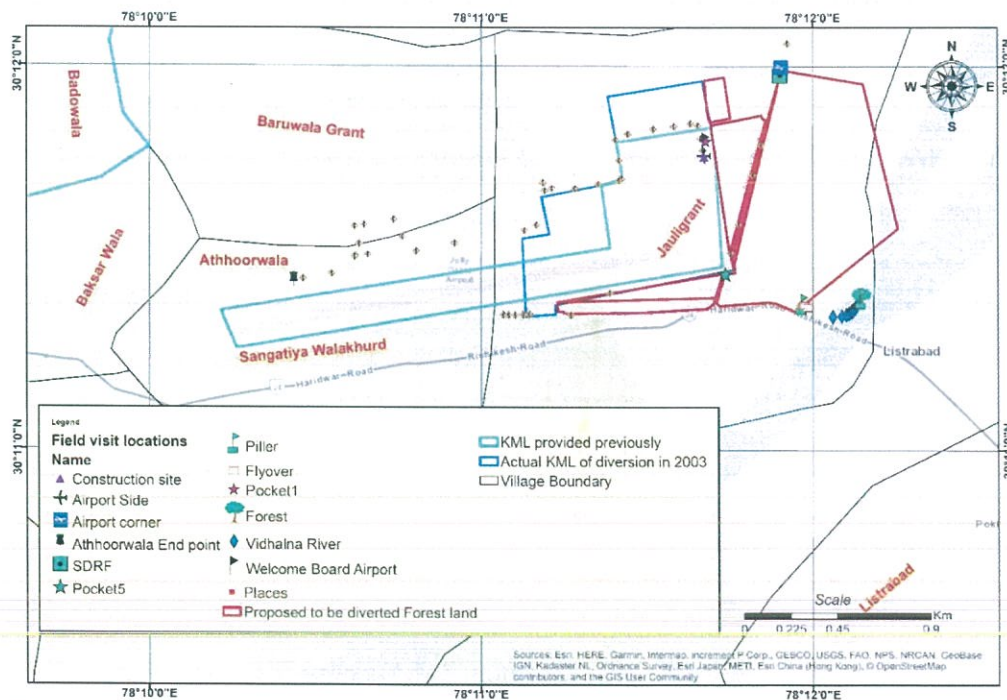


Plate:6- Map showing location of villages along with the KML files discussed above.

Findings:

From the above maps and field visit, it is clear that the airstrip was located over a land parcel of 11.425 hectare prior to 1980 and the forest land was used in 2003 for expansion of the airstrip and construction of airport. Therefore, the KML file at Plate: 2 (in cyan colour) is not correct. The KML file shown in red colour matches with the original sketch submitted by the State in the year 2002 along with the diversion proposal of 70 hectares of forest land.

MONITORING OF COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION AREAS

The Compensatory afforestation against diversion of 70 hectares of forest land was taken up in Dehradun Forest Division over following compartments:

S.No.	CA site / Compartment	Range	Given Area (in ha)	Calculated Area (in ha)
1	Arcadia	Asharodi	10	10.02
2	Arcadia_3	Asharodi	10	10.01
3	Bhaniyawala-2b	Barkot	10	9.94
4	Jankhan-1	Barkot	10	10.02
5	Doonga_2	Lachchiwala	10	10.24
6	Vanvah-1_(II)	Lachchiwala	10	10.11
7	Vanvah-1_(II)	Lachchiwala	10	10.11
8	Saharan_1b	Malhan	10	10.01
9	Veerbhadra	Rishikesh	10	10.01
10	Lalpani-2	Rishikesh	10	10
11	Lambi_Rau_39b	Thano	10	10.06
12	Song-3	Thano	10	10.06
13	Song-4	Thano	10	10.22
14	Vidhalana-01	Thano	10	10.07
Total			140	140.88

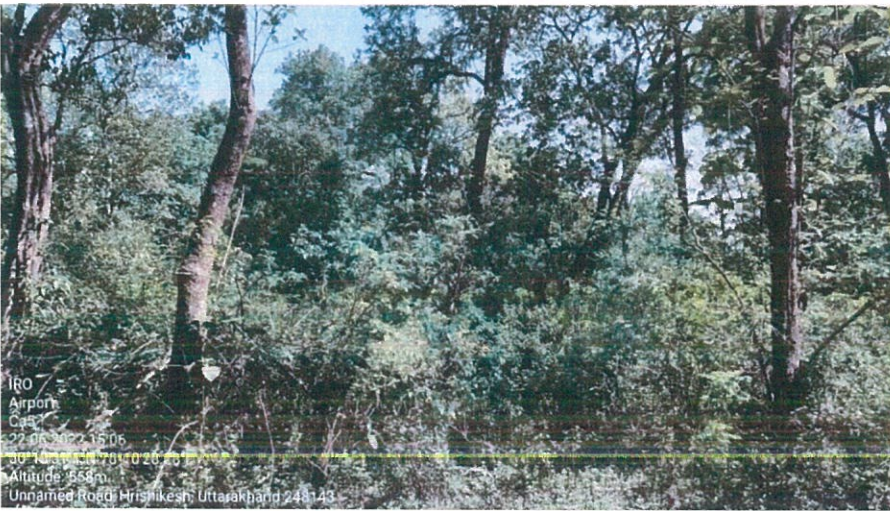
(A) Following compensatory afforestation areas were inspected on 22-06-2022:

- (1) **Song 3 (10 hectare), Thano Range:** The plantation area is on the left bank of song river as per plantation journal 20,000 seedlings were planted in the year 2003 and the main species planted were Kanju, Khair, Gutel, Jamun, Bahera, Bamboo, Sheesham, etc. As per the records, the plantation success was 76% in 2005 and 22% in 2021. It was however seen that the major planted species available on ground was Teak with a few Bamboo and Sheesham trees here and there. A photograph of the plantation area is as follows.



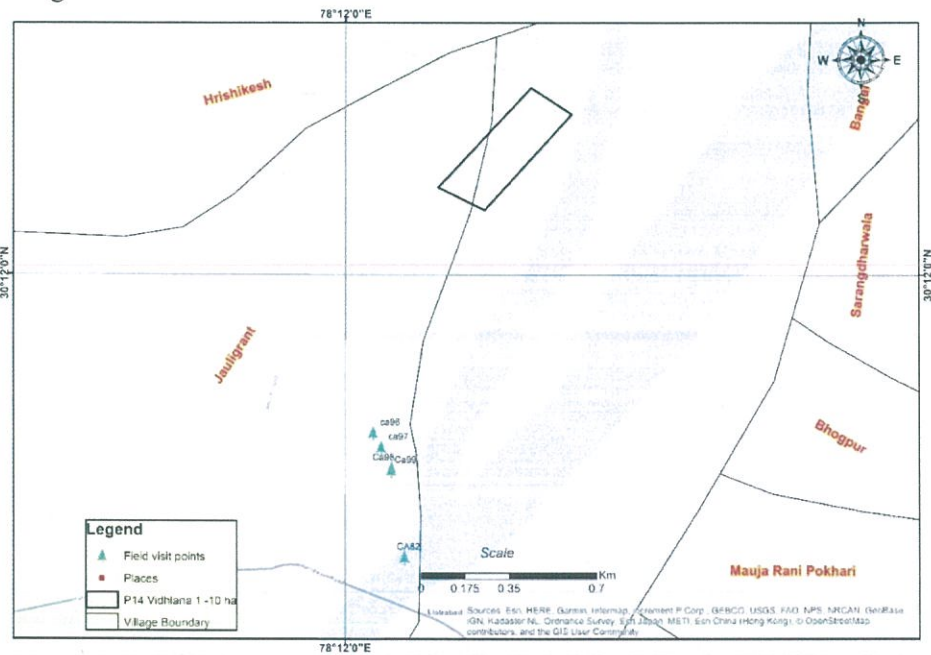
It is evident from the field inspection that perhaps the CA plantation taken up against diversion of 70 hectare of forest land for airport has failed and no records have been maintained after year 2005 in the plantation journal. It is however possible that the state has replanted the entire area with Teak subsequent to the earlier CA plantation carried out in 2003 under some other scheme for which no records were available with the Range Officer who was available during inspection.

- (2) **Lambirau 39b (10 hectare), Thano Range:** The area was taken up in 2003-04 and species *viz.* Amla, Kanju, Kanakchampa, Jamun, Tun, Bahera, Bamboo, Siras, Khair, etc were planted. In all 20,000 saplings were planted. As per plantation journal, the survival rate in December 2005 was 69%, thereafter no record has been maintained but after instructions from this office the survival percentage recorded in December 2021 is 24%. Location of the plantation area is as follows.



It is evident from the above field photographs and on ground inspection that the forest floor was fully covered with lantana and a few trees could be seen standing here and there most of which appeared to be naturally grown. There was no sign of successful plantation. When asked about how they have arrived at 22% survival as recorded in the plantation journal in December 2021, no satisfactory reply could be obtained.

(3) Vidhalna 1 (10 hectare), Thano Range: The plantation was carried out in the year 2003-04 and species *viz.* Sheesham, Khair, Tun, Kanju, Sagwan, Amla, Siras, Bahera and Kachnar were planted. In all 20,000 saplings were planted. A map showing the area is given below.



It is evident from above map that the KML file provided by the State Forest Department was not found correct and the location of Vidhalna 1 was falling far outside the KML. It was informed that the field visit points marked in the map are part of Vidhalna 1 compartment. A few photographs of the plantation area are reproduced as follows.

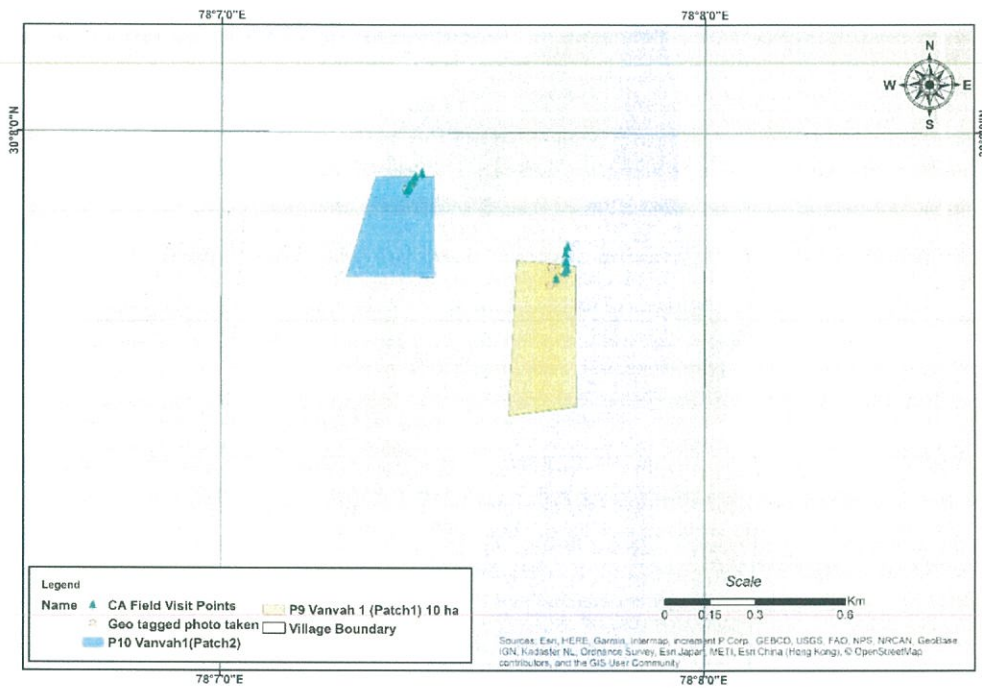




It was seen in the field that the trees growing in the plantation area are mainly Knju and Jhingan but from the plantation journal it is seen that Jheengan was not planted at all and other major species like Tun, Sagwan and Sheesham could not be seen whereas they were planted in large numbers. As per the plantation journal, the survival percentage in 2005 was 66% and in December 2021 it was 23% which was not found to be correct by any standard because there were sufficient number of trees standing to make density above 40% but the predominant species planted during plantation were not seen. From the above, it is concluded that the trees are growing on the CA plot shown by the Range Officer but those may not be necessarily linked to CA plantation carried out in 2003-04. The records related to plantation journal are not updated at all.

(B) Following CA areas were inspected by the AIGF, IRO Dehradun on 28-06-2022:

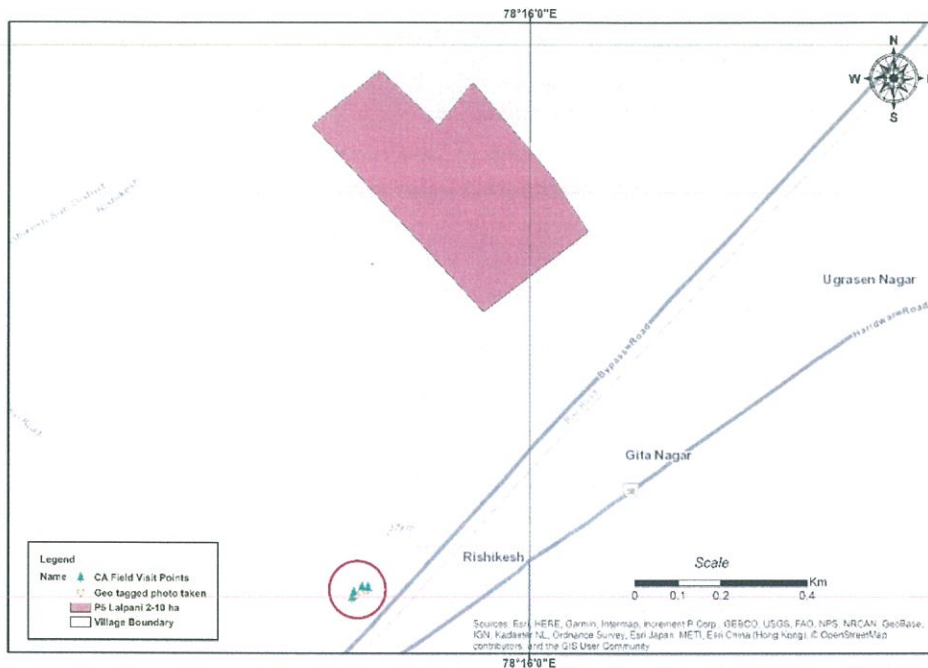
(1) **Vanvah I (10 hectare), Lachchiwala Range:** The area was taken up in 2003-04 and species *viz.* Khair, Sheesham, Tun, Jamun, Bahera, Siras, Bamboo, etc. were planted. In all 20,000 saplings were planted. As per plantation journal, the survival rate in December 2005 was 90% which came down to 33% in December 2021. Map showing location of the plantation area is as follows.



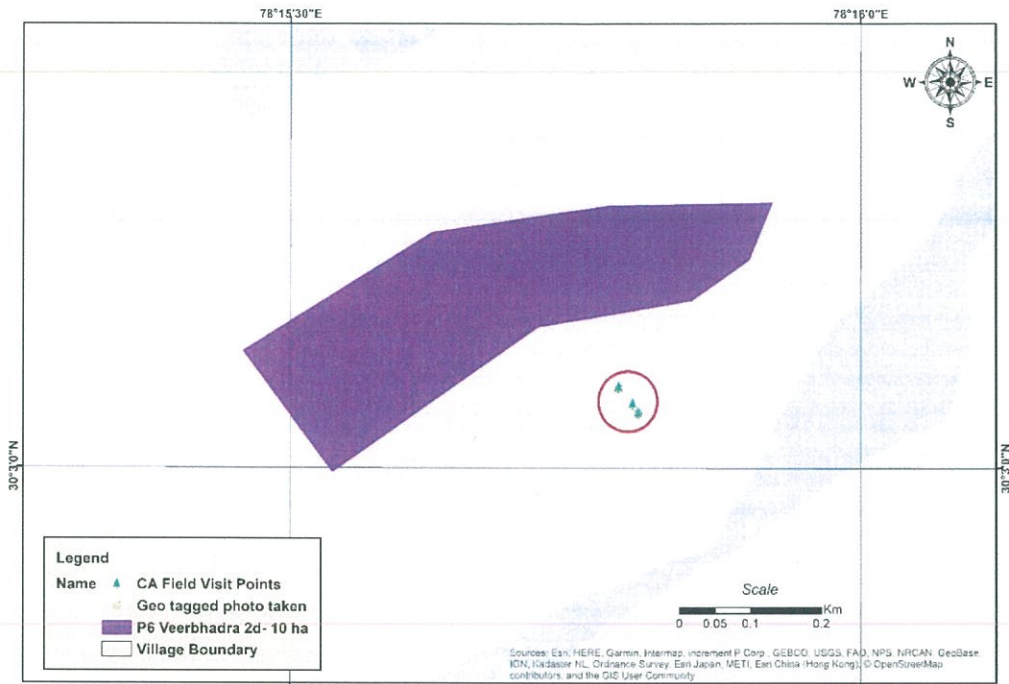
It was seen during the site inspection that the profuse regeneration of *Dalbergia sissoo* (Sheesham) was there and the survival percentage of *Dalbergia sissoo* is satisfactory. A field photograph showing the plantation area is as follows.



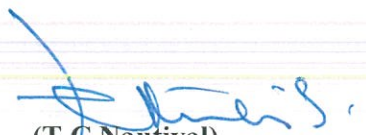
- (2) **Laalpani Comptt. No. 2 (10 Hectare), Rishikesh Range:** The area was taken up in 2003-04 and species *viz.* Khair, Sheesham, Jamun, Bamboo, etc. were planted. In all 20,000 saplings were planted. It was observed that the KML map of the plantation area submitted by the division did not match with the plantation area shown in the field. The location of the KML provided and the actual plantation shown during inspection are plotted in the map below.



(3) **Veerbhadra Comptt. No. 2 d (10 Hectare), Rishikesh Range:** The area was taken up in 2003-04 and species *viz.* Sheesham, Siras, Bahera, Amla, Jamun, Bamboo, Gutel, etc. were planted. In all 20,000 saplings were planted. It was observed that the KML map of the plantation area submitted by the division did not match with the plantation area shown in the field. The location of the KML provided and the actual plantation shown during inspection are plotted in the map below.

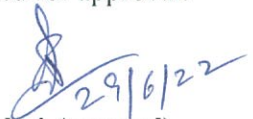


Since, the KML submitted by the Dehradun Forest Division appear to be incorrect in majority of the plots, it will be requested that correct KML may be submitted by the division again so that there is no confusion in the identification of CA area during field inspection in future. The division will also be requested to suitably count the survival percentage of plants and recorded in the plantation journal for the inspection. In the meantime, since the proposal is awaiting site inspection report we may submit the factual report to the ministry.


 (T.C.Nautiyal)
 Dy. Inspector General of Forest

**COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL
CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (CENTRAL), INTEGRATED REGIONAL
OFFICE, MEF&CC, DEHRADUN.**

Expansion of Jolly Grant Airport is a strategically important proposal. As directed by MoEF&CC, officer of this office has carried out the site inspection. The status of forest land diverted in past has been clarified and no FC violation has been noticed. As regards compensatory afforestation carried out against diversion of 70 hectares of forest land in 2003, extensive field visits have been carried out by DIG(F)/AIG(F) and the detailed report is submitted. It is however seen that there is some mismatch in the KML file submitted by the division and the CA site shown in the field. This office will follow up the inspection of CA areas after getting corrected KML files. The proposal is however recommended for approval.


(Pankaj Agrawal)
Addl. PCCF