

OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF FOREST FORCE),

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MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR
ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER, MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR,
First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.

Tel no. (0712) 2530166, 2556916, Fax no. (0712) 2550675 E-mail- apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in

No. Desk-17/Nodal/S1/ID-141097/2025-26/1054
Nagpur - 440 001, Date : 05/08/2025

To,
The Chief Conservator of Forests (T),
Thane

Sub:- Diversion of 9.9249 ha. Forest land in favour of National Highway Division, Pen-Raigad for rehabilitation and up-gradation of existing highway to 2 lane/4 lane with paved shoulder under configuration from Pen-Khopoli-Mahad (Km.00+000 to Km 33+328) Section of NH-166 D (Pen-Khopoli-Mahad) Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Basis in Raigad District in the State of Maharashtra-reg.

Ref:- The Government of India, MoEF & CC, Regional Office, Nagpur's vide letter No. F.No.FC-II/MH-229/2023-NGP/14540, dated 31/07/2025. .

Your attention is drawn to the letters under reference. In this context, the Government of India, MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Nagpur has informed to identify suitable Non-Forest land for Compensatory Afforestation and to submit the requisite supporting documents namely, the map, CA scheme, KML file and sit suitability certificate. The copy of the same is enclosed herewith for needful action.

It is therefore requested to obtain compliance of the shortcoming from the user agency and submit with all relevant documents in English to this office for consideration of the Ministry.

Encl:- As above

(Naresh Zurmure)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer

Copy submitted to the Additional Chief Secretary (Forests), Revenue & Forest Department., Mantralaya, Mumbai -32 for information.

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag Forest Division, Alibag for information and necessary action.

Copy to the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Pen, District. Raigad, Pen-402107 for information and necessary action.

Desk-10/FCA/CR-28/22-23/ 181 /25-26

Thane- 400 603 Date - 22/08/2025

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag for information and necessary action.

Copy to the Project Authority, Executive Engineer National Highway Division Pen, Dist. Raigad, Pen-402107 for information and necessary action.

Encl. :- As Stated.

(Roshan Rathod)

Divisional Forest Officer(V.),Thane
office of the Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Thane.



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional Office, Ground Floor, East Wing,
New Secretariat Building Civil Lines,
Nagpur – 440001,
apccfcetral-ngp-mef@gov.in



F.No. FC-II/MH-229/2023-NGP/ 14540

Date: 31.07.2025

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
HutatmaRajguru Chowk
Madame Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai– 400032.

Subject: Diversion of 9.9249 ha. forest land in favour of National Highway Division, Pen- Raigad for rehabilitation and up- gradation of existing highway to 2 lane/ 4 lane with paved shoulder under configuration from Pen-Khopoli-Mahad (Km.00+000 to Km 33-328) section of NH-166 D (Pen- Khopoli-Mahad) Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Basis in Raigad district in the State of Maharashtra- regarding.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, it is informed that the instant proposal was considered during the 112th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) held on 06-02-2024. After detailed examination, the Committee decided to defer the proposal as the State Government had proposed Degraded Forest Land (DFL) for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) instead of Non-Forest Land (NFL), as required under the revised guidelines. The Committee further decided that the proposal would be reconsidered upon receipt of details of the identified Non-Forest Land along with supporting documents such as the map, CA scheme, KML file, site suitability certificate, etc., through the online portal. This decision was communicated to the State Government by the Regional Office, Nagpur, vide letter dated 14-02-2024.

Subsequently, the Nodal Officer, vide letter dated 21-07-2025, informed that as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Forest Conservation Division, Government of India, dated 17-03-2025, the requirement of Non-Forest Land for CA has been relaxed for Central Government projects. Accordingly, the User Agency has requested that the proposal be considered under the provision of CA over double the extent of Degraded Forest Land.

The reply from the State Government has been examined. As per

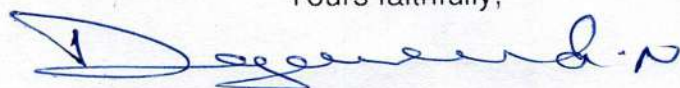
the details available in the online application and the documents submitted, the name and designation of the applicant are Executive Engineer, Office of the Executive Engineer, NH Pen Division, Pen. The legal status of the User Agency is that of a State Government entity.

As per the Ministry's guidelines dated 17-12-2024, the provision for undertaking CA over Degraded Forest Land in lieu of Non-Forest Land is applicable only to Central Government agencies and their Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), such as NHAI, MoRTH, NHIDCL, etc. No such relaxation has been extended to State Government departments or agencies, except in the case of coal mining projects implemented by State Government agencies. Therefore, the justification provided by the State Government is not found to be in order.

In light of the above, and as per the Ministry's guidelines dated 17-12-2024, the State Government is once again requested to direct the User Agency to identify suitable Non-Forest Land for Compensatory Afforestation and to submit the requisite supporting documents—namely, the map, CA scheme, KML file, and site suitability certificate—for further consideration of the proposal under the VSSA, 1980.

This issued with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,



(Dayananda.N)

Technical Officer (Forestry) 31/07/24

Copy to:

1. The IGF (RoHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi- 110003 for **information please**
2. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. User agency.
4. Guard file.



(Dayananda.N)

Technical Officer (Forestry) 31/07/24