

**MINUTES OF THE 49th MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED
COMMITTEE OF REGIONAL OFFICE, NORTH CENTRAL ZONE, DEHRADUN
HELD ON 26 AUGUST, 2020**

The 49th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of the Regional Office (North Central Zone) Dehradun was held on 26 August, 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
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 Shashi Shankar, IFS, AIGF, Regional Office, Dehradun.	Member Secretary
07	Shri D. J. K. Sharma, IFS	APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (UK)
08	Shri Rajesh J. Ekka, IFS	APCCF (FCA), Nodal Officer (HP) (through video conferencing)
09	Representatives of the User Agencies	

At the outset, the Chairman of the Committee welcomed all the members present in the meeting or connected through video-conference.

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 7.72 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of link road from Salooni to Kilod (Kms. 0/00 to 13/0), within the jurisdiction of Churah Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, H.P (online no. FP/HP/ROAD/22033/2016).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 7.72 ha of forest land for the construction of link road from Salooni to Kilod (Kms. 0/00 to 13/00). The committee was apprised that 623 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. The committee was informed that the observations in case have been conveyed vide this office EDS letter dated 31/07/2020. During the meeting the State Nodal Officer and the representative from the HPPWD, were present through video conferencing and apprised the committee members about the requirement of the construction of the road and non-viability of alternate route suggested by committee through ridge top. The members of the REC committee observed that the number of trees proposed to be felled in the project is huge and the site is needed to be inspected once again by DFO considering this aspect in view.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to defer the proposal to next meeting and desired that the State Govt. may be requested to submit the following documents/information / clarifications:

1. State Government is required to submit the revised inspection report of the area to be carried out by the DFO in view of the fact that has been conveyed vide this office EDS dt. 31.07.2020 in order to reduce the felling proposed in the proposal.
2. State Government may provide the correct botanical scientific names of species proposed to be felled in the proposal.
3. State Government may submit the revised CA scheme prepared on the current rate norms in the State (preferably site-specific detailed CA plan be furnished).

Agenda Item No. 02: Diversion of 56.36 ha of forest land (48.39 ha open surface area 7.97 ha tunnel) in favour of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited Chandigarh, 1st Floor, Railway Recruitment Board Building, Railway Colony, near Chandigarh Station, for the construction of Bhanupali-Bilaspur-Beri, New Rail line Part-II, i.e., From Kms 23.900 to 38.300, within the jurisdiction of Bilaspur, Distt. Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No.- FP/HP/RAIL/41781/2019)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 56.36 ha of forest land (48.39 ha open surface area 7.97 ha tunnel) for the construction of Bhanupali-Bilaspur-Beri, New Rail line Part-II, i.e., From Kms 23.900 to 38.300 [i.e. 14.40 Km which includes 3.173 Km length in open surface (which includes 1.018 Km for bridge) and 10.687 Km length in underground area (tunnel)]. The committee was apprised that 12096 trees (including 4637 saplings, 86 bamboo clumps and 7373 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. 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 mentioning that sufficient passage plan have already been provide in the proposal and if required on later stage the User Agency will construct the same. A certificate to that effect has been submitted with the proposal. No violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The User Agency has given the detailed presentation of the project before the REC. The committee was informed that as per the DSS analysis of the CA area proposed in the proposal, 14 ha in patches 9, 10 and 12 still found in Moderately Dense Forest hence, not suitable for CA. The DFO, Bilaspur was also present through VC and informed to the REC that the proposal is having sufficient provisions for animal passage and if there is need to construct any passage in near future, the User Agency will construct the same. The affidavit has also been provided in this regard.

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

1. State Government may re-visit the area proposed for CA in Patch 09, 10 & 12 and if the density of these patches is more than 0.4 then they should replace these patches with some other suitable area of 14 ha for CA.

2. The REC clarified that if there is any future requirement envisaged of animal passage plan, the State Government has to work out the same right now because construction of passage at later stage (after the rail track becomes operational) would be tedious and may give rise to conflicts.

Agenda Item No. 03: Diversion of 1.0987 ha of forest land in favour of National Highway Authority of India Piu Shimla proposal for Diversion Additional Forest land of for four Laning of Solan to Kaithlight section of NH-22 (now NH-05) at RD KM 112.000 within the jurisdiction of Solan Forest Division, Distt. Solan, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/45384/2020).

The Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 1.0987 ha of forest land in favour of National Highway Authority of India Piu Shimla proposal for Diversion Additional Forest land of for four Laning of Solan to Kaithlight section of NH-22 (now NH-05) at RD KM 112.000. The User Agency informed the committee that on earlier proposal for 65.5 ha, four lanning of Parvanu to Shogi, Km 67 to Km 129, was approved on 03/12/2015 by the MoEF&CC, Delhi. However, a small patch of 1.0987 ha was left out as it was categorized as non-forest land, by mistake, in the earlier proposal. The committee was apprised that 422 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. The representative of the User Agency presented the proposal before the committee.

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

1. State Government may submit the comments of CWLW on requirement of animal passage plan, if any.
2. State Government may review the specie's scientific names and provide girth class wise enumeration list of trees proposed to be felled in the proposal.

Agenda Item No. 04: Diversion of 4.326 ha of forest land in favour of HPSEB Ltd. for the construction of Sai Kothi-I HEP (15 MW) within the jurisdiction of Churah Forest Division, Distt. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. (Online proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/37347/2018)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 4.326 ha of forest land for the construction of Sai Kothi-I HEP (15 MW). The committee was apprised that 257 trees including 120 saplings 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. The REC was informed that the reply of this office EDS dt. 31.07.2020 has been furnished online on 21.08.2020 by the State Government. The representative of the project proponent has informed to the committee members that the CAT plan is already approved for the whole catchment of Ravi basin and 2.5% of the project cost has been charged by the State Government and is found to be deposited in CAT Plan sub-head.

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 fulfillment of following conditions:

1. The State Government may review the CA scheme as the proposed rate for CA is Rs. 1.15 lakh/ha which appears very less. The rate needs to be verified by the State Government and provide revised CA scheme if needed (preferably a site specific CA plan must be prepared).

Agenda Item No. 05: Diversion of 0.3688 ha of forest land in favour of M/s New Dhauladhar Hydro Project for the construction of 1 MW Baner HEP within the jurisdiction of Palampur Forest Division, Distt. Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. (Online proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/37693/2018)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 0.3688 ha of forest land for the construction of 1 MW Baner HEP. The committee noted that only one tree is 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. The area proposed for diversion is within 10 km from nearest Protected Area. Therefore, the comments of CWLW have been submitted with the proposal.

Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. Regarding issue of chainage Rs. 290 per plant for plantation, the REC was informed by the Nodal Officer via VC which this is rate for block Plantation that is accepted by the committee.

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.

As an additional agenda two cases pertaining to the State of HP have also been discussed as under:-

Agenda Item No. 06: Diversion of 4.6546 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of Hiun to Nagah road via Mundal, Kanda, Chambi, Batewari and Dhar (Kms 0/00 to 7/160), within the jurisdiction of Chopal Forest Division, Distt. Shimla, H.P (online no. FP/HP/ROAD/33160/2018)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 4.6546 ha of forest land for the construction of Hiun to Nagah road via Mundal, Kanda, Chambi, Batewari and Dhar (Kms 0/00 to 7/160). The committee noted that 274 trees including 57 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. The area proposed for diversion is within 10 km from nearest Protected Area. Therefore, the comments of CWLW have been submitted with the proposal. Further, no violation of FCA has been reported by the State Government. The committee was informed that the observations in the case is conveyed vide EDS letter dt. 31.07.2020, vide which justification was required to be presented before the committee. The project proponent has presented the case before REC through VC with the Nodal Officer, HP.

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

1. The State Government may verify the rate of CA scheme which is @ Rs.2.37 lakh per ha and submit the revised scheme as per current rate, if needed (site specific CA plan be given).
2. State Government may submit the technical justification mentioning that the construction of the bridge from the other side is not feasible as explained during the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 07: Diversion of 4.5 ha of forest land in favour of HPPWD, for construction of link road to village Madhana to Fandi Bodiwala via Janglot (Kms 8/200 to Kms. 15/700), within the jurisdiction of Paonta Forest Division, Distt. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh. (Online proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/24433/2017)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 4.5 ha of forest land for construction of link road to village Madhana to Fandi Bodiwala via Janglot (Kms 8/200 to Kms. 15/700). The committee noted that 856 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. The committee was informed that this office vide EDS letter dt. 31.07.2020 it has been informed that the State Government was required to present the case in REC meeting showing detailed examination of alternatives and existing road network in the area. The representative of the User Agency presented the proposal through video conferencing.

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/ information / clarifications:

1. State Government is required to submit the detailed justification of the requirement of road as explained during the meeting.
2. State Government may submit the dia-class wise tree enumeration list mentioning the number of trees proposed to be felled and not to be felled separately.

UTTARAKHAND

Agenda Item No. 08: Diversion of 8.105 ha of forest land for construction of motor road from km 47 of Kapkot-Tejam motor road to Siri, Bageshwar in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Bageshwar Forest Division, District Bageshwar, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/29592/2017)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 8.105 ha of forest land for construction of motor road from km 47 of Kapkot-Tejam motor road to Siri, Bageshwar. The committee noted that 263 trees including 49 saplings are proposed to be felled in the project. The forest land proposed for diversion is not a part of any Protected Area. No 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.

Agenda Item No. 09: Diversion of 6.5525 ha of forest land for construction of Bhararisain to Parwadi link Motor road in favour of Rural Development Department, within the jurisdiction of Kedarnath Wild Life Division, Gopeshwar Forest Division, District Chamoli, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/38362/2019)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 6.5525 ha of forest land for construction of Bhararisain to Parwadi link Motor road. The committee noted that 1333 trees including 603 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.

Agenda Item No. 10: Diversion of 8.22 ha of forest land for construction of Ungiya Sorag Motor Road in favour of PMGSY, within the jurisdiction of Bageshwar Forest Division, District Bageshwar, Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/ROAD/15167/2015).

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 8.22 ha of forest land for construction of Ungiya Sorag Motor Road. The committee noted that in total there are 1569 trees 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. The committee was informed that as per the DSS analysis of the proposed CA area, 2 ha VDF and 8 ha MDF.

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 inspection report of CA area done by the DFO clarifying whether the proposed CA area is suitable for raising CA (suitability certificate should explicitly mention this aspect).
2. State Government may submit the tree enumeration list as per the details provided online at para 4 in Part II.

Agenda Item No. 11: Diversion of 9.397 ha of forest land for the construction of Tankul 12 MW Small Hydro Project in favour of UJVN Limited within the jurisdiction of Pithoragarh Forest Division, Distt. Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. (Online proposal No. FP/UK/HYD/42080/2019)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 9.397 ha of forest land for the construction of Tankul 12 MW Small Hydro Project. The committee noted that 232 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. The committee was apprised that 5 ha area was found in dense forest in previously allotted CA land. Subsequently, 5 ha area was proposed by the State government in lieu of the area falling in dense forest. On the DSS analysis of this patch of 5 ha area the complete area found in Moderately Dense Forest (MDF) which is considered as not suitable for raising CA. The User Agency explained the requirement of the project before the committee.

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 fulfillment of following condition:

- 1- State Government should replace this area falling in MDF with some other suitable area for CA ensuring that no VDF/ MDF falls in that area.

Agenda Item No. 12: Diversion of 24.317 ha of forest land in favour of SJVN Limited, for construction of Jakhol Sankri Hydro Electric Project (44 MW), within the jurisdiction of Govind wildlife & National Park, Purola and Tons, Purola Forest Division, Distt. Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. (Online proposal No. FP/UK/HYD/22889/2016)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 24.317 ha of forest land in favour of SJVN Limited, for construction of Jakhol Sankri Hydro Electric Project (44 MW). It was noted that the case was discussed in the REC meeting dated

30.09.2019 and the committee decided to defer the case with 13 points of observation. The committee noted that 1530 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, in respect of violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, yes is mentioned which needs to be corrected. The User Agency presented the project before the committee.

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 fulfillment of following conditions:

1. State Government may mention correct information regarding violation of FCA at para 12 of Part II.
2. State Government may upload the details of area proposed for CA viz. geo-referenced digital map, SoI toposheet map, KML file, CA scheme and CA site suitability certificate.

Agenda Item No. 13: Diversion of 10.00 ha of forest land for the construction of Headquarter for Border Security Force in favour of Border Security Force within the jurisdiction of Dehradun Forest Division, Distt. Dehradun, Uttarakhand. (Online proposal No. FP/UK/DEF/12497/2015)

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 10.00 ha of forest land for the construction of Headquarter for Border Security Force. The committee noted that 856 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. The committee was informed that the same objection was raised vide this office EDS dated 13.07.2016, 06.11.2017 & 25.06.2020 and the State Government every time forwarded the proposal without examination. Therefore, it was required that the concerned DFO should present the case with a detailed presentation. Though the representative from the User Agency was present in the meeting but the committee was not satisfied as it could not be presented with complete details before the REC.

After detailed discussion on various aspects of the proposal, the REC decided to defer the proposal to next meeting and desired that the State Govt. may be requested to submit the following documents/information/clarifications:

1. It is seen that the KML file of area proposed for CA is found uploaded in place of the area proposed for diversion. State Government may upload the KML file of area proposed for diversion at para C in Part I.
2. It is seen that the shape of the CA area as shown in KML file is not matching with the shape as shown in the digital map. State Government may upload the KML file and maps of CA area matching the shape of the polygon in each file.
3. CA site suitability inspection report carried out by RFO is found submitted. The DFO is required to inspect the area personally and submit the CA site suitability inspection report by himself.

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


(Shashi Shankar)

AIGF-cum-Member Secretary, REC

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Dated: 31 August, 2020

Distribution:

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2. Dr. R. S. Bisht, Retd. IFS (Member, REC), Green Street, Uttaranchal colony, Gas Godam Road, Kusum Kheda, Haldwani-263 139 (Uttarakhand)
3. Dr. S. D. Bhardwaj, (Member, REC), 33-Sai Niwas, Scientist Colony, Post Office Shanti, Tehsil & Distt. Solan- 173 212 (Himachal Pradesh). Email: shrwander@yahoo.co.in
4. Shri T. C. Nautiyal, IFS, DIGF (C) (Member REC), Regional Office, Dehradun.
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.


(Shashi Shankar)

AIGF-cum-Member Secretary, REC

