

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF RO, SZ, BANGALORE HELD ON 28.04.2015 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ADDL. P.C.C.F. (CENTRAL) MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE, REGIONAL OFFICE (SOUTHERN ZONE), KENDRIYA SADAN, KORAMANGALA, BANGALORE.

The second meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee of RO, SZ, Bangalore was held on 28.04.2015 in the office of the Addl. P.C.C.F. (Central) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Regional Office (Southern Zone), Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bangalore and the following members attended the meeting:-

- (1) Shri Amarnatha Shetty, I.F.S.,
Addl. P.C.C.F. (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Regional Office (Southern Zone), Bangalore ... Chairman
- (2) Shri S.M. Somashekar, I.F.S
Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Regional Office (Southern Zone), Bangalore ... Member
- (3) Shri Suhas Jagannath Godse,
House No.525 A, Vodlem Bhat,
Near Pandurang Temple, Vodle Bhat,
Taleigao, P.O. Caranzalem,
Tiswadi, Goa. ... Member
- (4) Shri A.N. Yellappa Reddy,
House No.9/c, 1st A Main, 14th B Cross,
5th Block, IAS Officers Colony,
6th Sector, HSR Layout,
Bangalore – 560 102, Karnataka ... Member
- (5) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
/Nodal Officer (FCA),
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka,
Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram,
Bangalore – 560 003. ... Special Invitee
- (6) Smt. R. Padmawathe, I.F.S
Deputy Conservator of Forests (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Regional Office (Southern Zone), Bangalore ... Member Secretary



Initiating the discussion, the Chairperson extended warm welcome to the Members of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC). The REC examined following four proposals and the recommendations of REC are recorded in respect of each proposal, as under:-

- (1) Diversion of 1.78 ha. (including 0.50 ha. already diverted) forest land in Padukonaje village, Sy.No.78/IP, Marpady RF, Mangaluru Taluk, Kundapura Division for building stone metal quarry in favour of Padma Crushers.

The Regional Empowered Committee noted the following facts of the proposal:-

- (i) The Government of Karnataka vide letter No.FEE 12 FFM 2015 dated 31/03/2015 has submitted a proposal for diversion of 1.78 ha. (including 0.50 ha. already diverted) forest land in Padukonaje village, Sy.No.78/IP, Marpady RF, Mangaluru Taluk, Kundapura Division for building stone metal quarry in favour of Padma Crushers.
- (ii) The Government of Karnataka during November 2008, had furnished a proposal for diversion of 0.5 ha. of forest land in Sy.No.78/I, Marpady RF in Moodbidri Range, Mangaluru Taluk, Kundapura Division for building stone metal quarry in favour of Shri Aithappa Alva, Padma Crushers. The said proposal was approved by Central Government under F(C) Act, 1980 vide letter no. 4- KRB 551/2008- BAN/ dated 2/11/2010 for a period of 10 years.
- (iii) As per the present proposal, the User Agency has utilized an additional 1.28 ha. of forest land for quarrying, approach road and for dumping the material. Therefore, the State Government has proposed diversion of 1.78 ha. of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for a period of 10 years w.e.f. 02.11.2010 (i.e., from the date of original approval).
- (iv) The PCCF, Karnataka has recommended the proposal for approval subject to the following specific conditions apart from other usual conditions:-
- (i) The Usual Agency shall have to produce copy of quarrying lease/license granted by the Department of Mines & Geology to an extent of 0.70 ha.

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- (ii) The Usual Agency shall not carry out quarrying in the remaining 0.58 ha. area which shall be utilized only for dumping of material and approach.
- (iii) The Usual Agency shall have to clear all dues, as assessed by the Department of Mines & Geology pertaining to the quantity of material removed from the additional area used for quarrying and furnish no dues certificate.
- (iv) The User Agency shall have to clear the Forest Development Tax dues, with regard to the quantity removed from the additional area used for quarrying.
- (v) The forest land proposed for diversion is rocky and falls under Eco-Class II (Open Forest) category.
- (vi) There are no trees existing in the proposed area for diversion.
- (vii) The forest area requested for does not form part of any Sanctuary /National park, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc.
- (viii) No rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna are reported in the proposed area.
- (ix) No archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.
- (x) The User Agency has utilised the excess area i.e., 1.28 ha. without obtaining FC approval. The RFO has filed FIR against the User Agency vide FOC No. 41/14 - 15, FIR No. 037653 dated 16/09/2014.
- (xi) The User agency has identified non-forest land (patta land) to an extent of 1.78 Ha. in Sy. 68/8, 68/2A, 68/1, 68/7, 68/6B, 124/1B & IC of Kabbinala village, Karkala Taluk of Udupi District for raising Compensatory Afforestation. The identified area is adjacent to Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary and is having natural tree growth. The area is reported to be suitable for plantation under eco-restoration model of afforestation.



- (xii) As per MoEF&CC, New Delhi's guidelines letter No.8-25/2010-FC dated 12/07/2012, approval under the Act for diversion of forest land located within the mining lease, including the forest land located in Safety Zone should be obtained before execution of mining lease in favour of User Agency. The safety zone area is not indicated in the proposal. Therefore, the forest area proposed to be diverted needs to be revised accordingly.

The Regional Empowered Committee considered the proposal submitted by State Government. It was observed that the safety zone for mining operation as required as per Govt. of India letter No.8-25/2010-FC dated 12/07/2012 is not provided in the proposal. This is required for considering the proposal and accordingly it was decided to request the State Government to revise the proposal accordingly and re-submit with the sketch clearly showing the safety zone area. It was also decided that the State Government should report the current status of the forest offence case registered against the User Agency.

- (2) Diversion of 23.10 ha. (Revised from 18.15 ha) of forest land in Shimoga Division for construction of 110 KV tap line from existing down graded 110 KV V3 line near Kumdumallige to proposed 110/11 KV sub station Konandur in Thirthahalli taluk, in favour of KPTCL.

The Regional Empowered Committee noted the following facts of the proposal:-

- (i) The Government of Karnataka vide letter No.FEE 68 FGL 08 dated 28/09/2011 had submitted a proposal for diversion of 23.10 ha. (Revised from 18.15 ha) of forest land in Shimoga Division for construction of 110 KV tap line from existing down graded 110 KV V3 line near Kumdumallige to proposed 110/11 KV sub station Konandur in Thirthahalli taluk, in favour of KPTCL.
- (ii) Earlier, the Government of Karnataka vide their letter dated 30/07/2008 had submitted a proposal for diversion of 18.15 ha. of forest land in Shimoga Division for construction of 110 KV tap line from existing down-graded 110 KV V3 line near Kumdumallige to proposed 110/11 KV sub-station Konandur in Thirthahalli taluk, in favour of KPTCL for approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The said proposal was accorded in-

principle approval (Stage-I) by Regional Office, Bangalore after obtaining the approval of competent authority.

- (iii) The State Government while furnishing the compliance report vide letter dated 28/09/2011 had also sought approval for 4.95 ha. of additional forest land which was earlier considered as revenue land. It was reported that initially only 18.15 ha. of forest land has been proposed for diversion; but later on as per the Departmental Survey, the actual requirement of area turned out to be 23.10 ha. Hence, the User Agency had submitted a fresh proposal for diversion of 23.10 ha. including the additional area of 4.95 ha. of forest land. The break-up of area required for different survey numbers as per the original proposal and revised proposal is as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Forest (SF/MF)	Extent of forest area required in Ha.	
		As per original proposal	As per revised proposal
1	Heggar gudda (SF)	2.2	4.18
2	Bandya (MF)	3.3	3.30
3	Virupapura RF	----	1.65
4	Beluve Hariharapura (MF)	2.2	2.20
5	Hulusale (MF)	2.2	2.20
6	Agasadi (MF)	3.85	3.85
7	Jambetalluru (MF)	4.4	5.72
	Total:	18.15	23.10

- (iv) This proposal was considered in the SAG meeting held on 03/11/2011 and SAG recommended the proposal for approval in public interest and SAG's recommendations were forwarded to MoEF, New Delhi for approval of competent authority. However, MoEF&CC, New Delhi has sought certain clarifications regarding compliance of conditions of Stage-I approval for 18.15 ha., encroachment of forest area, etc.
- (v) The User Agency vide letter dated 06/12/2014 had furnished RoFR compliance certificate as per MoEF guidelines.
- (vi) The State Government vide their letter dated 27/10/2014 and 07/03/2015 has furnished the required information. The State Government has reported that there is encroachment of 3 acres forest land next to the proposed alignment.



- (vii) As per the proposal, there are 1825 trees and 150 bamboos are to be felled. The main species available in the area are – *Acacia auriculiformis*, *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Artocarpus integrifolia*, *Terminalia paniculata*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Eugenia caryophylla*, *Terminalia bellerica*, etc.
- (viii) The forest area requested for does not form part of any Sanctuary /National park, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc.
- (ix) No rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna are reported in the proposed area.
- (x) No archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.
- (xi) No Violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has taken place in the area proposed for diversion.
- (xii) The User Agency has identified double the extent in degraded forest land for raising CA.

The Regional Empowered Committee considered the proposal submitted by State Government. Since the project is in larger public interest and to augment power supply in the region, REC decided to approve the proposal with usual conditions. The User Agency shall engage fire watchers along the forest land used during fire season. The height of the power line to be drawn through the forest area shall be increased by 2 meters.

Accordingly, the Regional Office, Bangalore will issue in-principle (Stage-I) approval for the above proposal.

- (3) Diversion of 1.5383 ha. deemed 'forest' land with private ownership in Sy. No. 146/57 A1 E1 of Neriya village in Belthangady Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District for establishment of 24 MW Mini Hydel Scheme in favour of M/s SLV Power Private Ltd.

The Regional Empowered Committee noted the following facts of the proposal:-



