

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
APPEAL NO.36 OF 2025 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Aranya Parisara Madhu Havamana
Badalavane Sangha

...Appellant

VERSUS

State of Karnataka and Others

...Respondent(s)

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Date: 02.12.2025

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REPORT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 4

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. The instant report is being filed pursuant to the orders dated 25.06.2025 and 01.08.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the subject case.
2. It is submitted that for the Udupi-Kasaragod 400 kV transmission line, the user agency, *i.e.* Respondent No. 7 herein had submitted a proposal on the Parivesh-1 portal under proposal number FP/TRANS/115396/2020 dated 18.12.2020, seeking clearance for diversion of forest land.
3. The proposal was examined by the Nodal Officer and approved on 15.04.2021. As per the proposal, the transmission line passes through 4.806 km in Mangaluru division and 1.950 km in Kundapur

division – a total of 6.756 km. For this, the User Agency sought diversion of 22.111 hectares of forest land in Mangaluru Forest Division (Puttur Range – 1.467 ha, Bantwal Range– 17.149 ha, Mangaluru Range – 3.495 ha) and 8.96 hectares in Moodbidri Range, Kundapur Division – totalling 31.071 hectares of forest land.

4. The proposal identified 8,145 trees in the forest area for felling. The Government of India, vide Stage-1 approval dated 27.10.2022 (letter dated 22.11.2022 by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) & Nodal Officer, Bengaluru), restricted tree felling to 40% of the identified trees.
5. Accordingly, the user agency was permitted to fell 3,258 trees. As per Stage-1 conditions, the user agency was directed to pay:
 - Net Present Value (NPV): ₹3,52,84,513/-
 - Compensatory Afforestation (CA): ₹11,41,99,200/-
 - Total: ₹14,94,83,713/-
6. Demand notice was issued on 06.12.2022. Additionally, a demand for tree felling charges of ₹29,59,700/- was issued on 05.09.2024. The user agency has paid all the required amounts. For raising dwarf species plantations, the user agency was directed on 29.08.2024 to pay ₹1,60,30,475/-, which has been duly paid. As per Government of

India order dated 16.01.2023, the user agency was required to pay 2% of the project cost towards Wildlife Management Plan and 0.5% towards Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan.

7. Accordingly, the user agency has deposited on 11.12.2024:
 - Wildlife Management Plan: ₹28,17,038/-
 - Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan: ₹7,04,259/-
 - Total: ₹35,21,297/-
8. The user agency has also submitted a compliance report confirming adherence to Stage-1 conditions, including limiting tree felling to 40%, and furnished an undertaking letter. This office, on 06.08.2024, sought directions from the PCCF & Nodal Officer (Bengaluru), to issue a work order to the user agency along with the compliance report.
9. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (Bengaluru), vide letter dated 28.08.2024, directed that this office should issue the work order as per the Forest (Conservation) Act. Accordingly, the work order was issued to the user agency on 03.10.2024.
10. On 06.01.2025, the Range Forest Officer (RFO), Bantwal, and on 07.01.2025, the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Mangaluru,

submitted reports stating that, of the 7,601 trees identified in the Bantwal Range, 40% felling restriction would allow only 3,040 trees; out of this, permission could be given for felling 2,560 trees. On 10.01.2025, the user agency requested tree felling permission for construction of 8 towers in Bantwal Range reserve forest. After field inspections by the RFO (16.01.2025) and ACF (23.01.2025), a proposal was submitted to allow felling of 580 trees.

11. Based on examination, permission for felling 576 trees with conditions was granted on 24.01.2025. As per this felling order, felling was carried out timber and firewood obtained from all 576 trees were transported to Central Timber Depot as per the transportation order issued on 20.02.2025 and 24.02.2025.
12. Additionally, the user agency has undertaken, by letter, that out of the 8,145 trees identified in the project, only 2,603 trees (32%) are actually being felled for the entire project in Mangaluru Division.
13. It is thus humbly submitted that the felling of trees was already complete as of February, 2025, while the instant Appeal has only been filed in April, 2025, with a delay of 40 days. It is thus submitted that the instant Appeal is hence infructuous. Further, the felling of

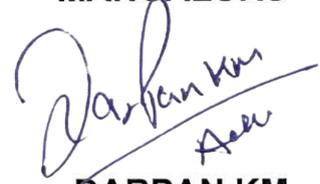
trees has been carried out strictly as per law. Owing to the same, it is
humbly prayed that the Appeal may be dismissed.

for 

Deputy Conservator of Forests
Mangalore Division, MANGALORE

DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
MANGALURU

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Date: 02.12.2025