

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

..... RESPONDENTS

List of Documents

S. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Counter affidavit on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi and Regional Office, Bengaluru i.e. Respondent No. 5 and 6	1 – 6
2.	A true copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the REC (Annexure – I)	7 - 11
3.	A true copy of the Stage – I (In – Principle) approval letter (Annexure – II)	12 - 15
4.	A true copy of the Stage – II approval letter (Annexure – III)	16 – 19

K. Suryanarayana 21/1/26
Dr. Kuna. suryanarayana,
Counsel for MOEF&CC

**IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ), CHENNAI
IN
APPEAL NO. 36 OF 2025 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

**ARANYA PARISARA MADHU HAVAMANA BADALAVANE
SANGHA APPELLANT**

VERSUS

**STATE OF KARNATAKA AND OTHERS
.....RESPONDENTS**

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE NEW DELHI AND
REGIONAL OFFICE, BENGALURU i.e. RESPONDENT NO. 5 AND 6**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

I, Praneetha Paul, Daughter of C. Itty Paul, aged about 49 years, currently working as Deputy Inspector General of Forest (Central) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office, Bengaluru, (herein after referred as MoEF&CC) do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:

1. That, I have read and understood the contents of the present Affidavit, the contents thereof are true, and no part of it is false, and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.


Praneetha Paul
 Dy. Inspector General of Forest(C)
 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
 Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan
 14th Floor, E&F Wings, Bengaluru - 560 034.

PRELIMINARY SUBMISSIONS:

2. That, the instant appeal has been filed *inter-alia* against the permission for felling of trees granted by Respondent No. 4 on 24.01.2025 for construction of 400 KV Quad D/C Transmission Line by M/s Udupi Kasargod Transmission Line Limited in Badagamijaru, Tenka Edapdhavu, Tenka Mijaru, Vitlamudnuru, Vitla, Veerakhamba and ananthady villages in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

3. It is humbly submitted that 'land' is a subject matter of the State Government. The forest areas and the legal boundaries thereof are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government. That, being the repository of the land records, State Government has the primary responsibility to determine status of any parcel of land, giving due regards to gazette notifications, provisions under State and Central Acts and concerned judgements and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The State Government has to determine any violation of the provisions of the Central and State laws.
4. It is humbly submitted that, prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, [erstwhile the 'Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980'] (hereinafter referred to as "Van Adhiniyam, 1980") is required for carrying out any


Praneetha Paul

Dy. Inspector General of Forest(C)
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non-forest activity on forest land. Any contravention of the above provision would amount to a violation of Van Adhiniyam, 1980 and attract the penal provisions in it.

5. It is humbly submitted that the proposals for diversion of forest land recommended by the State Government are considered under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 on case to case basis, meticulously scrutinizing the requirement of forest land and its impact on the flora and fauna of the area. The approval for use of bare minimum forest land is accorded in case it is unavoidable and it is done after taking abundant precautions with necessary mitigation measures which include the land for compensatory afforestation, payment of NPV, cost for raising compensatory afforestation, soil conservation plan and wildlife management plan, if required and various other measures.
6. It is humbly submitted that, the Government of Karnataka vide letter dated 28.09.2022 submitted a proposal to the Regional Office Bengaluru of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 31.079 ha of forest land in Badagamijaru, Tenka Edapdhavu, Tenka


Praneetha Paul
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Mijaru, Vitlamudnuru, Vitla, Veerakhamba and Ananthady villages in Dakshina Kannada District.

7. The said proposal was placed before the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) constituted under erstwhile Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003.
8. After meticulous examination of the proposal, the REC recommended the proposal for grant of Stage I Approval with conditions.
9. Accordingly, based on the recommendations of the REC and with the approval of the competent authority, the Regional Office Bengaluru vide letter dated 27.10.2022 accorded the Stage I/In- principle approval with certain conditions. (True Copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the REC and Stage-I approval letter is annexed as **Annexure I and II respectively**).
10. It is humbly submitted that, the sub rule 10 of rule 10 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, states as follows:

"The State Government or the Union territory Administration, if so desire, after obtaining the 'In-principle' approval of linear proposal and deposition of compensatory levies such as compensatory afforestation and Net Present Value and cost of mitigation plans such as of the Wildlife Management Plan and Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, as applicable, mutation/notification of the land identified for raising


Praneetha Paul
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compensatory afforestation as Protected Forest under Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927) or local forest Act and compliance of other statutes including the Schedule Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), may grant 'working permission' for the commencement of project work before grant of 'Final' approval."

11. It is humbly submitted that the State Government vide letter dated 03.11.2025 submitted the Compliance report on the conditions stipulated in Stage-I/in-principle approval to the Regional Office, Bengaluru and sought Stage-II/Final Approval. That, upon receipt of the satisfactory compliance report from by the State Government and with the approval of the competent authority, the Regional Office Bengaluru vide letter dated 07.11.2025 accorded the Stage-II approval / Final Approval. (True Copy of the Stage II Approval is annexed as **"Annexure III"**)
12. It is humbly submitted that the identification of a status of a parcel of land has to be done by the concerned State Government as per the statutory laws of the State Government. The statutory power of the Central Government is limited to granting prior approval for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes. It is the prerogative of the State Government to issue final diversion order and permit felling of trees. The State Government has to ensure that the felling of trees is being


Praneetha Paul

Dy. Inspector General of Forest(C)
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan
IVth Floor, E&F Wings, Bengaluru - 560 034.

undertaken in accordance with the prior approval accorded by the Central Government on the proposal of the State Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

13. That, the answering respondent reserves the right to file additional information before the Hon'ble Tribunal, if required till *pendente-lite*.

14. That, in view of the afore-mentioned facts and circumstances, this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased to pass appropriate order(s)/directions as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the interest of justice.


DEPONENT
Praneetha Paul
 Dy. Inspector General of Forest(C)
 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
 Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan
 IVth Floor, E&F Wings, Bengaluru - 560 034.

Verification

Verified at Bengaluru on this 5th Day of January 2026, that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge based on the official record maintained in the daily course of its business, no part of this affidavit is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.


DEPONENT
Praneetha Paul
 Dy. Inspector General of Forest(C)
 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
 Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan
 IVth Floor, E&F Wings, Bengaluru - 560 034.

MINUTES OF THE **SIXTY FIFTH** MEETING OF REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, BENGALURU HELD ON **21/10/2022** IN THE OFFICE OF REGIONAL OFFICER, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE, INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE, KENDRIYA SADAN, KORAMANGALA, BENGALURU.

The list of members who participated in the **Sixty Fifth** meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of IRO, Bengaluru is enclosed as Annexure-1.

The Member Secretary extended warm welcome to the Chairman, Members of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC), Nodal Officer (FCA), Karnataka Forest Department and representative of the user agency. The REC examined the following proposals and the decisions of the REC in respect of the proposals are as under:-

FC PROPOSAL: -

State: KERALA & KARNATAKA

Agenda No.1 & 2:

Diversion of 17.073 ha. of forest land in Karadukka Reserve Forest in Kasargod Forest Division for construction of 400 KV Quad D/C Udupi-Kasargode Transmission Line in favour of M/s. Udupi Kasargode Transmission Limited.

Diversion of 31.079 ha. (revised from 22.585 ha) of forest land in Badagamijaru, Tenka Edapadhavu, Tenka Mijaru, Vitlamudnuru, Vitla, Veerakhamba and Ananthady villages in Dakshina Kannada District (Mangaluru and Kundapura Forest Divisions) for construction of 400 KV Quad D/C Transmission Line in favour of M/s. Udupi Kasargode Transmission Ltd, F-1, Mira Corporate Suites, Mathura Road, Ishwar Nagar, New Delhi.

AS

Decision:

REC decided to consider both the proposals listed in Agenda item 1 & 2 together as they are part of the same continuous project in two different states, in terms of guidelines. REC heard the technical details such as elevation profile, location of towers, enhancement of tower height to sag and minimize tree felling etc. The project proponent assured that the tree felling shall be limited to the barest minimum required for the project and the same shall not exceed 40% of the total enumerated trees under the transmission line corridor. The Nodal Officer, Kerala informed that the process of transfer of identified revenue land for CA i.e., Land for Land is under correspondence with Revenue Department and the same will be completed before Stage-II approval.

REC also deliberated on the various representations received from local farmers/associations. REC observed that the issues raised in the representations largely pertain to non-forest land, falling in the domain of State Government to take a view and address. The State government was appraised with copies of the representations so received and their participation was solicited to present their views on the representation. But the officers from State Government were not available during project deliberation. REC after detailed deliberation decided to approve the project subject to the special/ additional conditions like: -

1. Tree felling may be limited to 40% of the trees enumerated for the entire project in the forest area.
2. Breaking of land and tree felling in the Right of Way for the transmission line area may be restricted to minimum technical requirement.
3. No additional forest area shall be used for access and other ancillary activities and all such activities be restricted to the diverted area.
4. The User Agency shall furnish an irrevocable undertaking that the proposed alignment of Udupi-Kasargode Transmission Line is final and in any case it shall not be changed, to the State Forest Department before felling of trees and breaking up of land in the forest area.

5. The User Agency and State Government shall ensure strict compliance of all the orders and directions of the Courts/Tribunals related to the proposal.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA:-

State: KARNATAKA

Agenda No.3:

Diversion of 47.91 ha. of forest land in 13 villages in Shivamogga and Davanagere Districts, Shivamogga and Sagara Divisions for construction of Shivamogga-Shikaripura New BG Railway line in favour of the Deputy Chief Engineer, South Western Railway Construction.

Decision:

REC examined the proposal and heard the officers of South Western Railway, the project proponent. REC after detailed deliberation decided to approve the project subject to the special/ additional conditions like:-

- i. The State Government shall ensure that all the rights and claims under RoFR Act are settled and FRA Certificate is certified by the competent authority before giving working permission.
- ii. About 2.12 ha of CA land was found to be already planted and hence the State Government shall arrange and intimate additional degraded forest land to that extent for taking up plantation, before Stage-II.
- iii. User agency shall implement the mitigation measures approved by Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka including recent direction MoEF&CC and Ministry of Railways on sensitive stretches to mitigate rail/wildlife conflict.

Agenda No.4:

Modification of condition no.13 (relating to strip plantation) in the Stage-I approval for Diversion of 84.853 ha. (93.568) of forest land for improvement of National Highway No.4A from KM. 0.00 to KM 84.400 in Belgaum, Khanapur, Gunji & Ramanagar By-Pass in favour of General Manager (Tech) & Project Director, NHAI, Dharwad.

Decision:

REC deliberated on the request made by the User Agency and also heard the representative of User Agency, i.e., PIU, NHAI, Dharwad. REC desired that the User Agency prepare an alternative plan to ameliorate and protect the adjacent vegetation by appropriate SMC and protection works in consultation with the Forest Department and submit the same through the Nodal Officer, Karnataka for further consideration.

The meeting ended with a formal vote of thanks.

Confirmed by e-mail

Suhas Jagannath Godse
(Member)

Confirmed by e-mail

Anant Hegde Ashisar
(Member)

SJG

M.K. Shambhu
Deputy Inspector General of
Forests (Central)
(Member)

B.N.

B.N.Anjan Kumar
Assistant Inspector General of
Forests (Central)
Member Secretary

[Signature]

P. Subramanyam
Deputy Director General of Forests (Central)
(Chairperson)

Annexure-1

List of members who participated in the **Sixty Fifth** meeting of **Regional Empowered Committee of Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru** held on **21/10/2022** office of the Regional Officer, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bengaluru.

Sl.No.	Name, Designation & Address		
(1)	Shri. P. Subramanyam, Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru.	---	Chairman
(2)	Shri. Suhas Jagannath Godse, House No.525 A, Vodlem Bhat, Near Pandurang Temple, Vodle Bhat, Taleigao, P.O. Caranzalem, Tiswadi, Goa.	---	Member
(3)	Shri. Anant Hegde Ashisar, Village Ashisar, PO Bhairumbe, Tehsil-Sirsi, Uttara Kannada.	---	Member
(4)	Shri. M.K. Shambhu, I.F.S Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru.		Member
(5)	Shri. B.N.Anjan Kumar, I.F.S Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru.	---	Member Secretary
(6)	Shri. Vijay Sharma, IFS PCCF (FC) & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Karnataka.	---	Special Invitee
(7)	Shri. Rajesh Ravindran, IFS, APCCF (FC) & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Kerala.	---	Special Invitee





सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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

समन्वित क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय

INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE
Kendriya Sadan, IVth Floor, E & F
Wings, 17th Main Road,
IInd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore –
560 034.

Tel.No.080-25635905, E.Mail:
rosz.bng-mef@nic.in



BY SPEED POST

F.No.4-KRC1378/2022-BAN/ 846

Dated the 26th October, 2022

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka,
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi,
Bangalore – 560 001.

Subject: Diversion of 31.079 ha. (revised from 22.585 ha) of forest land in Badagamijaru, Tenka Edapadhavu, Tenka Mijaru, Vitlamudnuru, Vitla, Veerakhamba and Ananthady villages in Dakshina Kannada District (Mangaluru and Kundapura Forest Divisions) for construction of 400 KV Quad D/C Transmission Line in favour of M/s. Udupi Kasargode Transmission Ltd, F-1, Mira Corporate Suites, Mathura Road, Ishwar Nagar, New Delhi.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FEE 89 FLL 2022 (e) dated 28/09/2022 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section '2' of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above project.

The proposal was examined by the Regional Empowered Committee constituted under sub-rule (1) of rule 4A of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 in its meeting held on 21/10/2022.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the approval of the Regional Empowered Committee, **in-principle approval /Stage-I clearance** of the Central Government is hereby granted for diversion of **31.079 ha.** of forest land in Badagamijaru, Tenka Edapadhavu, Tenka Mijaru, Vitlamudnuru, Vitla, Veerakhamba and Ananthady villages in Dakshina Kannada District (Mangaluru and Kundapura Forest Divisions) for construction of 400 KV Quad D/C Transmission Line in favour of M/s. Udupi Kasargode Transmission Ltd, F-1, Mira Corporate Suites, Mathura Road, Ishwar Nagar, New Delhi, subject to the following conditions:-

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A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department.

1. The User Agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal, as per the guideline issued by Ministry vide letter No.5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 06/01/2022. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal into CAMPA account of the State Concerned.
2. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the Compensatory Afforestation over 62.2 ha. of degraded forest land identified in Chikkaballapura Forest Division i.e. 12.2 ha. in Udugirinallapanahalli village, Sy.No.37, Narasimhadevarabetta V Block, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Mandikal Hobli, Gudibande Range and 50 ha. in Chinchinahalli village, Sy.No.17, Narasimhadevarabetta V Block, Gauribidanur taluk, D Palya Hobli, Gudibande range, Chikkaballapura District at the current wage rate, in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The scheme may include demarcation of degraded forest land using appropriate fencing with provision for anticipated cost of increase for works scheduled for subsequent years. The CA will be maintained for 10 years.
3. Tree felling may be limited to 40% of the trees enumerated for the entire project in the forest area, as assured by the Project Proponent.
4. Breaking of land and tree felling in the Right of Way for the transmission line area may be restricted to the minimum and as per the technical requirement.
5. The trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
6. The User Agency shall furnish an irrevocable undertaking that the proposed alignment of Udupi-Kasargode Transmission Line is final and in any case it shall not be changed, to the State Forest Department before felling of trees and breaking up of land in the forest area.
7. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
8. The KML file of the forest area diverted and CA area shall be uploaded in the e-green watch portal with all requisite details and same shall be submitted along with compliance report.
9. The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in it's letter No. 11-9/1998-FC dated 3rd August 2009 read with 05.07.2013 with necessary enclosures, in support thereof.
10. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
11. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
12. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

B: Conditions which need to be strictly complied on field after handing

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over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over double the extent of degraded forest land within three years from the date of Stage –II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency and at least 1000 plants per hectare shall be planted over identified degraded forest land. If it is not possible to plant so many saplings in the area identified for CA, the balance saplings will be planted in any other forests as per prescriptions of approved working plan with provision for ten years on subsequent maintenance.
3. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
4. No additional forest area shall be used for access and other ancillary activities and all such activities be restricted to the diverted area.
5. The User Agency and State Government shall ensure strict compliance of all the orders and directions of the Courts/Tribunals related to the proposal.
6. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
7. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
8. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
9. The user agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on upper conductor of transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits.
10. The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012-FC dated 05/05/2014 & 19/11/2014.
11. The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under transmission line for execution of the said scheme to the State Forest Department.
12. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
13. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 31.079 ha.
14. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
15. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
16. User Agency shall obtain the Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
17. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
18. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forest in the surrounding area.
19. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect

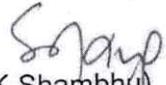
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- of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore by the end of March every year.
20. The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
21. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Working permission, if any issued, shall be intimated to IRO, Bengaluru. Transfer of forest land shall not be effected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Further, it may also be noted that this in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval shall be revoked after 5 years.

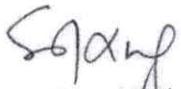
Yours faithfully,


(M.K.Shambhu)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Agni Wing, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) /Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
4. M/s. Udupi Kasargode Transmission Ltd, F-1, Mira Corporate Suites, Mathura Road, Ishwar Nagar, New Delhi -110 065.
5. Guard file.


(M.K.Shambhu)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

O/c


27/10/2022

Annexure-III



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST &
 CLIMATE CHANGE**
 क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, REGIONAL OFFICE
**Kendriya Sadan, IVth Floor, E& F Wings, 17th
 Main Road, IInd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru**
**– 560 034. Tel.No.080-25635902, E.Mail:
 rosz.bng-mef@nic.in**

***BY SPEED POST***

F.No.4-KRC1378/2022-BAN/

Dated: 06th November, 2025

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka

Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
 M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi,
 Bangalore – 560 001.

Subject: Diversion of 31.079 ha. (revised from 22.585 ha) of forest land in Badagamijaru, Tenka Edapadhavu, Tenka Mijaru, Vitlamudnuru, Vitla, Veerakhamba and Ananthady villages in Dakshina Kannada District (Mangaluru and Kundapura Forest Divisions) for construction of 400 KV Quad D/C Transmission Line in favour of M/s. Udupi Kasargode Transmission Ltd, F-1, Mira Corporate Suites, Mathura Road, Ishwar Nagar, New Delhi. **(Online Proposal No. FP/KA/TRANS/115396/2020)**

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No. FEE 89 FLL 2022 (e) dated 28/09/2022 seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of the above project. The in-principle (Stage-I) approval to the project was accorded by the Central Government vide letter of even number dated 27th October, 2022. The State Government vide letter No. FEE 89 FLL 2022 (e) dated 03.11.2025 have reported compliance to the conditions stipulated by the Central Government in the in-principle approval.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am directed to convey Central Government's final approval **(Stage-II)** under Section '2(1)' of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of **31.079 ha.** (revised from 22.585 ha) of forest land in Badagamijaru, Tenka Edapadhavu, Tenka Mijaru, Vitlamudnuru, Vitla, Veerakhamba and Ananthady villages in Dakshina Kannada District (Mangaluru and Kundapura Forest Divisions) for construction of 400 KV Quad D/C Transmission Line in favour of M/s. Udupi Kasargode Transmission Ltd, F-1, Mira Corporate Suites, Mathura Road, Ishwar Nagar, New Delhi, subject to the following conditions:-

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
3. Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over an extent of 62.2 ha. of degraded forest land identified in Chikkaballapura Forest Division i.e. 12.2 ha. in Udugirinallapanahalli village, Sy.No.37, Narasimhadevarabetta V Block, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Mandikal Hobli, Gudibande Range and 50 ha. in Chinchenahalli village, Sy.No.17, Narasimhadevarabetta V Block, Gauribidanur taluk, D Palya Hobli, Gudibande range, Chikkaballapura District, within two years from the date of Stage –II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency and at least 1000 plants per hectare shall be planted over identified degraded forest land within two years of grant of final approval.
4. The State Government shall ensure that the KML file of the forest area diverted and CA area shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal with all requisite details.
5. The additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from User Agency and the same shall be transferred to the designated CAMPA Account.
6. Tree felling may be limited to 40% or less number of the trees than what has been enumerated for the entire project in the forest area.
7. User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
8. Breaking of land and tree felling in the Right of Way for the transmission line area may be restricted to minimum as per technical requirement.
9. The User Agency shall ensure that the proposed alignment of Udupi-Kasargode Transmission Line is final and in any case it shall not be changed, to the State Forest Department before felling of trees and breaking up of land in the forest area as per the undertaking furnished.
10. The user agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on upper conductor of transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits.
11. Plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in the right of way under the transmission line shall be taken up at the cost of the User Agency.
12. The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012-FC dated 05/05/2014 & 19/11/2014.
13. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
14. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
15. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
16. No additional forest area shall be used for access and other ancillary activities

- and all such activities be restricted to the diverted area.
17. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
 18. The forest area shall be used for the purpose for which it is granted. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 31.079 ha.
 19. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Government of India.
 20. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
 21. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
 22. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forest in the surrounding area.
 23. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru by the end of March every year.
 24. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, Bengaluru may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.
 25. The State Government and user agency shall comply the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT order & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
 26. The State Govt. shall ensure that the complete compliance of FRA 2006 as per the rule 11 (7) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023.
 27. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by

Praneet (Praneet Paul)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Date: 07-11-2023

16:59:16

Copy to:-

1. The Chief Executive Officer, National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, 4th Floor, Block No.3, CGO Complex, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ Division), Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Agni Wing, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560 003.
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (CAMPA), O/o PCCF (CAMPA), 1st Floor, Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th

Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560 003.

5. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (VSESA) /Nodal Officer (VSESA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560 003.
6. M/s. Udupi Kasargode Transmission Ltd, F-1, Mira Corporate Suites, Mathura Road, Ishwar Nagar, New Delhi -110 065.
7. Guard file.