



FC Technical FAQ

1. What is the procedure for grant of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980?

Ans. 1. The Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 (FC Rules) provides the procedure to obtain prior approval of Central Government under section-2 of the FC Act.

2. As per the FC Rules, every user agency, who wants to use forest land for non-forest purpose, after examining all feasible alternatives, prepares the proposal in the format prescribed in the FC Rules and submits it to the concerned nodal officer authorized in this behalf by the State Government, along with requisite information and documents complete in all respects well in advance of taking any non-forest activity on the forest land.

3. Proposals received from the user agencies are examined in the state Government at various levels, from Divisional Forest Officer to the State Government.

4. State Government, after being satisfied that the proposal requires prior approval under the FC Act sends the proposals along with its specific comments and justification for diversion of forest land, to the Central Government.
5. The proposals involving upto forty hectares of forest land and all proposals involving diversion of forest land for linear projects such as roads, railway lines, transmission lines, pipelines etc., irrespective of area of forest land involved, are sent to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) located at Chandigarh, Lucknow, Bhopal, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Shillong, Ranchi, Dehradun, Chennai and Nagpur.
6. The proposals involving forest land of more than forty hectares, except those involving diversion of forest land for linear projects, such as roads, railway lines, transmission lines, pipelines etc. irrespective of area of forest land involved, are sent by the State Government to the Secretary to the Government of India, MoEFCC, with a copy of the proposal (with complete enclosures) to the concerned Regional Office of the MoEFCC.
7. As per the FC Rules, prior approval of central government under the FC Act is given in two stages. In 1st stage, the proposal is agreed to in principle in which usually the conditions relating to transfer, mutation and declaration as RF/PF under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 of non-forest land, wherever required, for compensatory afforestation, funds for raising compensatory afforestation thereof, realization of Net Present Value (NPV) are stipulated and after receipt of compliance report from the State Government in respect of the stipulated conditions, formal approval under the FC Act is issued. The in-principle agreement and formal approval under the FC Act are commonly referred to as stage-I and stage-II approval under the FC Act respectively.
8. In respect of proposals involving up to 40 hectares of forest land received by the Regional Office, the Head of the concerned Regional Office is competent to either agrees in-principle or reject, all proposals involving forest land up to 5 hectares, except the proposals for regularization of encroachments mining (including renewal of mining leases) and hydel projects.
9. Regional Empowered Committee (REC) constituted at each Regional Office of the MoEFCC under Chairmanship of the Head of the Regional Office, and having two officials of the Regional Office and three non-official experts in forestry and allied disciplines as members, is competent to either agrees in-principle or reject, all proposals involving diversion of forest area above 5 hectares and up to 40 except the proposals for regularization of encroachments mining (including renewal of mining leases) and hydel projects, and all proposals for diversion of more than 5 hectares of forest land for linear projects, irrespective of area of forest land involved. Representatives of concerned State/ UT, one each from the Revenue and Forests Departments are also invited to attend meeting of the REC in examination of the proposals.
10. Proposals involving upto forty hectares of forest land for mining, regularization of encroachments and hydel projects are referred to the REC for advice. While tendering advice, the REC may also suggest any condition or restrictions on the use of any forest land for any non-forest purpose, which in its opinion, would minimize adverse environmental impact.

11. The Central Government, after considering the advice of the REC and after such further enquiry as it may consider necessary, grant in-principle approval to the proposal with appropriate mitigative measures or reject the same.

12. Every proposal involving more than 40 hectares of forest land, except those relating to linear projects, along with site inspection report (in case of proposals involving renewal of lease or involving more than 100 hectares of forest land), are referred by the Central Government to the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted under Chairmanship of Director General of Forests and Special Secretary and having Addl. Director General of Forest (Forest Conservation), Inspector General of Forest (Forest Conservation), Additional Commissioner (Soil Conservation), and three non-official experts in forestry and allied discipline, as members.

13. While tendering advice, FAC may also suggest any condition or restrictions on the use of any forest land for any non-forest purpose, which in its opinion, would minimize adverse environmental impact.

14. The Central Government, after considering the advice of the FAC and after such further enquiry as it may consider necessary, grant approval to the proposal with appropriate mitigative measures or reject the same.

2. How many forms in FC ?

Ans. There are five forms in FC:-

Form -A (Part I):- Diversion of forest land.

Form-B (Part I):- Renewal of lease on forest land.

Form-C (Part I):- For seeking prior approval for exploration and survey.

Form-D (Part I):- Signing of lease (section 2(iii)) on forest land.

Form-E (Part I):- Re-diversion i) land use change ii) laying of overhead /Under ground OFC/drinking water pipeline/slurry pipeline/electric cable/ CNG/PNG/within ROW

scenario2 Detail - (SW No.: SW/121762/2023) Engage ACO with Project

PUNJAB

Applied On : 06/03/2023

CAF/119282/2023
Applicant : RASHMI SINGH Edit CAF ^

Apply Project Clearance Select Application Form

Forest Clearance Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land Apply

Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land
Form-B (Part-I): Renewal of Lease on Forest Land
Form-C (Part-I): For seeking prior approval for Exploration & Survey
Form-D (Part-I): Signing of Lease (section 2(iii)) on Forest Land
Form-E (Part-I): Re-Diversion (i) Land Use Change (ii) Laying of Overhead/ Under Ground OFC/ drinking water pipeline/ slurry pipeline/ electric cable/ CNG/PNG within RoW

Proposal No.	State	Status	Date of Submission
FP/PB/ROAD/421239/2023	PUNJAB	Pending at UA for Compliance Report	06/03/2023

[View History](#)

3. How many approving authority involved in different Forest clearance of a proposal ?

Ans. There are 3 approving authority in the Forest clearance :-

1. State Government.
2. Ministry.
3. IRO.

4. Is all the FC proposals go through the same work flow?

Ans. No, depending on the scenario it will process through the specified work flow.

5. How many scenario's are in the FC proposal submission?

Ans. There are 8 scenario's available in the FC proposal submission . Detail given below:-

Scenario	Threshold	Applicability	Final Approving Authority	Remarks
Scenario 1	<= 1 Ha (for Government UA*)	Development Initiatives (15** Categories)	State Govt (State Secretary – Forest)	• General Approval

Stage I:

1. Registration by User Agency
2. Application in FC specific Forms in Part-I
3. Scrutiny & Recommendation by DFO in Part -II
4. Recommendation by Nodal Officer in Part-III
5. Recommendation by State Secretary in Part-IV
6. Grant of In-Principal (Stage-I) clearance

Stage II:

1. Submission of compliance to Stage-I conditions including CA by User Agency
2. Scrutiny and recommendation by CF/CCF
3. Recommendation by Nodal Officer
4. Recommendation by PCCF
5. Compliance forwarded to State Secretary by Nodal Officer
6. State Secretary verifies the compliance
7. State Secretary generates Final (Stage II) clearance letter

Forest Clearance Schematic Flow:

Jurisdiction Scenario	Threshold	Applicability	Final Approving Authority	Remarks
Scenario 1(a)	>0 Ha.	Right of Way	State level (Nodal officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Scrutiny through PSC • Flow is bounded up to Nodal Officer (it may go up to State Govt.)

Approval:

1. Registration by User Agency
2. Application in FC-specific Forms in Part-I
3. Scrutiny & Recommendation by DFO in Part -II
4. Recommendation by Nodal Officer in Part-III, and provide the required approval (if State Government authorized NO to grant approval)
5. Recommendation by State Secretary in Part-IV and grant his approval

Jurisdiction Scenario	Threshold	Applicability	Final Approving Authority	Remarks
Scenario 2	> 5 Ha. and <= 40 Ha.	All except Linear mining, encroachment/ de-reservation and violation projects	IRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the recommendation of REC Scrutiny through PSC
	> 5 Ha.	Linear projects and OFC involving diversion	IRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the recommendation of REC Scrutiny through PSC
	>0 Ha.	Canopy density of Forest land up to 0.7	IRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the recommendation of REC Scrutiny through PSC (in case of area > 5 Ha)

Stage I:

1. Registration by User Agency
2. Application in FC specific Forms in Part-I
3. Scrutiny & Acceptance of proposal by PSC
4. Recommendation by DFO in Part-III
5. CF will submit his SIR in case the area is >40 ha
6. Nodal Officer will submit his SIR in case the area is >100 ha
7. Appraisal and Recommendation by PSC
8. Recommendation by Nodal Officer in Part-III
9. Recommendation by State Secretary in Part-IV
10. Appraisal of proposal by REC
11. Grant of In-Principal (Stage I) clearance by IRO Head

Stage II:

1. Submission of compliance to Stage-I conditions including CA by User Agency
2. Scrutiny and recommendation by CF/CCF
3. Recommendation by Nodal Officer
4. Recommendation by PCCF
5. State Government forward the Compliance to IRO
6. technical Officer verifies the compliance
7. Grant of Final (Stage II) clearance by IRO Head

Jurisdiction Scenario	Threshold	Applicability	Final Approving Authority	Remarks
Scenario 3	>0 Ha.	Canopy density of Forest land up to 0.7	IRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the recommendation of REC No Scrutiny through PSC (in case of area < 5 Ha)

Stage I:

1. Registration by User Agency
2. Application in FC-specific Forms in Part-I
3. Scrutiny & Recommendation by DFO in Part -II
4. Recommendation by Nodal Officer in Part-III
5. Recommendation by State Secretary in Part-IV
6. Appraisal of the proposal by REC
7. Grant of In-Principal (Stage I) clearance by IRO Head

Stage II:

1. Submission of compliance to Stage-I conditions including CA by User Agency
2. Scrutiny and recommendation by CF/CCF
3. Recommendation by Nodal Officer
4. Recommendation by PCCF
5. State Government forward the Compliance to IRO
6. Technical Officer verifies the compliance
7. Grant of Final (Stage II) clearance by IRO Head

Jurisdiction Scenario	Threshold	Applicability	Final Approving Authority	Remarks
Scenario 4	0 to <= 5 Ha.	All except mining, encroachment/ de-reservation and violation projects and OFC involving diversion	IRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without the recommendation of REC No Scrutiny through PSC

Stage I:

1. Registration by User Agency
2. Application in FC-specific Forms in Part-I
3. Scrutiny & Recommendation by DFO in Part -II
4. Recommendation by Nodal Officer in Part-III
5. Recommendation by State Secretary in Part-IV
6. Grant of In-Principal (Stage I) clearance by IRO Head

Stage II:

1. Submission of compliance to Stage-I conditions including CA by User Agency
2. Scrutiny and recommendation by CF/CCF
3. Recommendation by Nodal Officer
4. Recommendation by PCCF
5. State Government forward the Compliance to IRO
6. Technical Officer verifies the compliance
7. Grant of Final (Stage II) clearance by IRO Head

Jurisdiction Scenario	Threshold	Applicability	Final Approving Authority	Remarks
Scenario 5	> 40Ha.	All projects except Linear	MEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With site inspection by IRO (mining and de-reservation) • Based on the recommendation of FAC • Scrutiny through PSC
	> 5 Ha.	Mining, Encroachment, de-reservation and violation,	MEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With site inspection by IRO • Based on the recommendation of FAC • Scrutiny through PSC

Stage I:

1. Registration by User Agency
2. Application in FC-specific Forms in Part-I
3. Scrutiny & Acceptance of the proposal by PSC
4. Recommendation by DFO in Part-III
5. CF will submit his SIR in case the area is >40 ha
6. Nodal Officer will submit his SIR in case the area is >100 ha
7. Appraisal and Recommendation by PSC
8. Recommendation by Nodal Officer in Part-III
9. Recommendation by State Secretary in Part-IV
10. Submission of SIR by IRO
11. Appraisal of the proposal by FAC
12. Grant of In-Principal (Stage I) clearance by Minister

Stage II:

8. Submission of compliance to Stage-I conditions including CA by User Agency
9. Scrutiny and recommendation by CF/CCF
10. Recommendation by Nodal Officer
11. Recommendation by PCCF
12. State Government forward the Compliance to Ministry (HQ)
13. Technical Officer verifies the compliance
14. Grant of Final (Stage II) clearance by IGF

Jurisdiction Scenario	Threshold	Applicability	Final Approving Authority	Remarks
Scenario6	>0 Ha.	Canopy density of Forest land > 0.7	MEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the recommendation of FAC Scrutiny through PSC (in case of area > 5 Ha)

Stage I:

1. Registration by User Agency
2. Application in FC-specific Forms in Part-I
3. Scrutiny & Acceptance of the proposal by PSC
4. Recommendation by DFO in Part-III
5. CF will submit his SIR in case the area is >40 ha
6. Nodal Officer will submit his SIR in case the area is >100 ha
7. Appraisal and Recommendation by PSC
8. Recommendation by Nodal Officer in Part-III
9. Recommendation by State Secretary in Part-IV
10. Appraisal of the proposal by FAC
11. Grant of In-Principal (Stage I) clearance by Minister

Stage II:

1. Submission of compliance to Stage-I conditions including CA by User Agency
2. Scrutiny and recommendation by CF/CCF
3. Recommendation by Nodal Officer
4. Recommendation by PCCF
5. State Government forward the Compliance to Ministry (HQ)
6. Technical Officer verifies the compliance
7. Grant of Final (Stage II) clearance by IGF

Jurisdiction Scenario	Threshold	Applicability	Final Approving Authority	Remarks
Scenario 7	<= 5 Ha.	Encroachment, de-reservation, Mining and violation	MEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With site inspection by IRO • Based on the recommendation of FAC • No Scrutiny through PSC

Stage I:

1. Registration by User Agency
2. Application in FC-specific Forms in Part-I
3. Scrutiny & Recommendation by DFO in Part -II
4. Recommendation by Nodal Officer in Part-III
5. Recommendation by State Secretary in Part-IV
6. Submission of SIR by IRO
7. Appraisal of the proposal by FAC
8. Grant of In-Principal (Stage I) clearance by Minister

Stage II:

1. Submission of compliance to Stage-I conditions including CA by User Agency
2. Scrutiny and recommendation by CF/CCF
3. Recommendation by Nodal Officer
4. Recommendation by PCCF
5. State Government forward the Compliance to Ministry (HQ)
6. Technical Officer verifies the compliance
7. Grant of Final (Stage II) clearance by IGF

Jurisdiction Scenario	Threshold	Applicability	Final Approving Authority	Remarks
Scenario 8	>0 Ha.	Canopy density of Forest land > 0.7	MEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the recommendation of FAC No Scrutiny through PSC (in case of area < 5 Ha)

Stage I:

1. Registration by User Agency
2. Application in FC-specific Forms in Part-I
3. Scrutiny & Recommendation by DFO in Part -II
4. Recommendation by Nodal Officer in Part-III
5. Recommendation by State Secretary in Part-IV
6. Appraisal of the proposal by FAC
7. Grant of In-Principal (Stage I) clearance by Minister

Stage II:

1. Submission of compliance to Stage-I conditions including CA by User Agency
2. Scrutiny and recommendation by CF/CCF
3. Recommendation by Nodal Officer
4. Recommendation by PCCF
5. State Government forward the Compliance to Ministry (HQ)
6. Technical Officer verifies the compliance
7. Grant of Final (Stage II) clearance by IGF

7. What is the flow of the payment in FC proposal submission?

Ans. The flow for the payment is given below:-



