

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXPERT TREE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
16.03.2020 AT 11.30 AM IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF  
FORESTS, BBMP, BENGALURU

PRESENT:

- |  |  |                           |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Sri I B Srivastava, IFS(Rtd).   |  | Chairman of the Committee |
| 2. Dr Muthu Kumar Arunachalam<br>(Scientist E, Plant Pathologist) IWST.                |  | Member                    |
| 3. Dr R Ganesan Ph.D,<br>Scientist, Botany & Ecology ATREE.                            |  | Member                    |
| 4. Sri Shivaramu<br>Assistant Conservator of Forests, BBMP.                            |  | Member - Secretary        |
| 5. Sri Ranganatha Swamy H S<br>Deputy Conservator of Forests.                          |  | Invitee                   |
| 6. Sri Siddaramappa IFS<br>Deputy Conservator of Forests,<br>Bangalore Urban Division. |  | Invitee                   |
| 7. Sri Venkatesh<br>Assistant Conservator of Forests,<br>Bangalore Urban Division.     |  | Invitee                   |

Sri Shivaramu, Member Secretary and Assistant Conservator of Forests, BBMP welcomed the Chairman, Members, Deputy Conservator of Forests BBMP, Officers and other Invitees present at the meeting.

It was brought to the notice of the Expert Tree Committee that the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka vide its order dated: 4.3.2020 in W.P 17841/2018 has formulated certain steps which have to be strictly adhered by BMRCL, Tree Committee and the Tree Officer.

In WP No. 17841/2018 (PIL) filed by Shri Dattatreya T. Devare and another Vs State of Karnataka and others, an order was passed by Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka on 23.04.2019 as under:

"The respondents are directed to constitute a Committee consisting of experts from the field of Environment, Science, Technology and Concerned fields.

The Expert Committee shall examine whether trees proposed to be felled could be saved by adopting any method. After exhausting all methods,

if it is found that it is impossible to save any trees, only then it shall be permissible to cut the trees.

It is expected of the Expert Committee to give its considered opinion to save the trees.”

Accordingly, the present Expert Committee was formed by Government of Karnataka as per GO No. FEE 4 /FAF 2019 dtd 01.08.2019.

The main objective of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976 envisages for the preservation of trees by regulating the felling of trees and for the planting of adequate number of trees to restore ecological balance. Section 8 of the Act places restriction on the felling of trees except with the previous permission of the Tree Officer. However, under Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka order dtd 04.03.2020 passed in the above Writ Petition, on the application filed by BMRCL seeking modification of earlier orders dtd 20.01.2020 and 27.01.2020 directing BMRCL not to implement the permissions given by the Tree Officers without the permission of the Court, this Committee is required to examine afresh the applications submitted by BMRCL, and submit its proceedings with its recommendations / directions to the Tree Officer, where upon the Tree Officer is required to pass fresh orders.

**The Hon'ble High Court order is reproduced below:**

“

- (i) We direct the fifth respondent to submit to the Special Committee a compilation of all the applications so far made by it for seeking permission under sub-section(2) of Section 8 of the said Act along with supporting documents which will include alignment of various parts of Metro Railway.
- (ii) The applications shall be considered afresh by the Special Committee.
- (iii) As observed earlier, the first consideration should be whether some of the trees can be saved while allowing construction of Metro Rail in accordance with the alignment which is already finalized.
- (iv) We are sure that the Special Committee shall keep it in mind the very object of enactment of the said Act.
- (v) We direct the Special Committee to examine all the applications as expeditiously as possible and submit the minutes of the meeting recording its recommendations to the concerned Tree Officer.
- (vi) Needless to add that the minutes of the meeting of the Special Committee must reflect application of mind by the members of the Special Committee to the question whether it is possible to save some of the trees. In terms of the recommendations as reflected from the minutes of the meeting, the concerned Tree Officer shall pass necessary orders in terms of Section 8 of the said Act.



- (vii) The copies of the minutes of the meeting of the Special Committee dealing with applications made by the fifth respondent and the orders passed by the Tree Officer on the said applications shall be uploaded in its entirety on the official website of BBMP. The intimation of the fact that the documents have been uploaded on the website shall be given to all the concerned parties to the petition within 24 hours from the time at which the information is uploaded. If the petitioners have any objection, they can always file appropriate applications before this Court for seeking necessary relief. The order passed by the Tree Officer shall not be acted upon for a period of 15 days from the date on which the same are uploaded on the website of BBMP.
- (viii) At this stage the fifth respondent submits that a direction may be issued to the Special committee to seek the assistance of the fifth respondent whenever it is necessary. If any clarification is required, the Special Committee is bound to seek the same from the fifth respondent;
- (ix) The Expert committee shall complete the said exercise as expeditiously as possible but within a maximum period of one month from today; ”

Accordingly pending/ fresh applications have been submitted by BMRCL vide their letter number-BMRCL/Env/2020/12002 dated 13-03-2020. In this context a Tree Expert Committee meeting was convened on 16.03.2020 by the Member-Secretary to discuss the subjects.

In pursuance to the directions of the Hon'ble High Court and priority ascertained by BMRCL, it was decided in the meeting that the Tree Committee shall re-examine and re-visit the following BMRCL project areas falling within the jurisdictional BBMP limits on the dates mentioned below.

Sl No	Place	Date
01	BMRCL Metro Project, M.G.Road	18.03.2020
02	BMRCL Metro Project : Cantonment	18.03.2020
03	BMRCL Metro Project : Pottery Town	18.03.2020
04	BMRCL Metro Project : Shivajingara	18.03.2020
05	BMRCL Metro Project : Vellara junction	18.03.2020
06	BMRCL Metro Project : Jayangara Fire Station to Dairy Circle	18.03.2020
07	BMRCL Metro Project, Kadugodi Forest Sy No.1 K.R.Puram Range	21.03.2020
08	BMRCL Metro Project, in U.M Kaval Forest Sy No 38, Kaggalipura Range	21.03.2020

**I. BSF Parade Ground at Yelahanka:**

The Members of the Tree Committee during the course of their field inspection held on 22.11.2019 had directed that the trees to be saved should be marked properly and



list of such trees earmarked for saving should be submitted. But it is regret to note that no action has been taken in this regard.

Regarding translocation of trees, it was informed to the Tree Committee that translocation works pertaining to 17 number of trees have already been completed. Only one Phoenix tree is to be translocated. Further the Committee directed that documents regarding post care management of the translocated trees should be prepared and kept ready. The subject was further posted for next meeting [proposal is for 105 trees].

#### **II. KMF Yelahanka Mother Dairy at Yelahanka :**

The Committee directed that completion report of 10 Teak trees translocated along with photographs of the translocated trees should be submitted during next meeting for further action. [proposal is for 31 trees].

#### **III. Anantapura Raja Kaluve Area of Yelahanka (Executive Engineer, Yalahanka Zone, BBMP) :-**

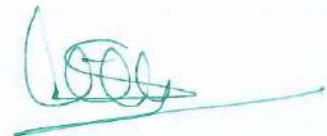
As the number of trees proposed to be felled is more than 50, it was decided that the public notice has to be issued as per Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976.

Since the trees are standing on Raja Kaluve i.e. BBMP land and the DCF, BBMP has been handling this issue, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bangalore Urban Division, opined that felling of trees in this area can to be dealt by DCF, BBMP.

Regarding the show Cause Notice served by the DCF on the directions of the Tree Committee, it was brought to the notice of the Committee by the Dy.RFO that since the Project Authorities were not keen on implementing the project because of some budgetary allocation issue, the spot inspection was not carried out. The Committee directed that the entire proposal after duly observing mandatory procedure. be put forth before the Committee [Proposal is for 131 trees.]

#### **IV. Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Energy and Development in Yelahaka Zone:-**

As per the orders of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HOFF) vide letter no: B5/KPT/CR-60/14-15 dated: 20.2.2020, this proposal has to be forwarded to the Deputy Conservator of Forests Bangalore Urban Division for further processing and needful action [Proposal is for 238 Nilgiri trees].





**V. BMRCL Project: Construction of elevated structures at Benaganahalli Lake Bund (viaduct and stations):-**

As the area consists of Rose wood trees (Beete trees) and Beete trees are declared as State property, a separate procedure has been laid down in KFD to manage such trees. Therefore this case has to be forwarded to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bangalore ,Urban Division , for needful action as per Karnataka Forest Act and Rules. [Proposal is for 49 trees].

**VI. Widening and improvements of Sarjapura Road from Outer Ring Road near Iblur junction up to BBMP limits near Chikkakannahalli by Executive Engineer, BBMP:-**

As the number of tree proposed to be felled is more than 50, it was decided that public notice has to be issued as per Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976 [Proposal is for 131 trees].

**VII. Jayamahal Road (white topping) 4 trees:-**

The Committee decided to visit the spot to examine as to how many trees can be saved and then take necessary action.

**VIII. Construction of Signal Free Corridor at Suranjandas Road, Wind Tunnel Junction:-**

The Executive Engineer, BBMP, explained that the trees on one side of the road have been saved and retained at the spot. The list of those trees has to be obtained by the DCF. At the time of field inspection by Tree Committee Members, the Members had directed for translocation of 7 trees but in the proceedings by over sight, only 6 trees were mentioned.

Hence the Committee directed that tree number 17, i.e., Peltophorum species which was left out in the proceedings must also be included for translocation [proposal is for 32 trees].

**IX. Matters pertaining to Bangalore Urban Division:-**

**I. BMRCL Project:- Kadugodi Sy.No.1: K.R.Puram Range :**

**The proposal is as follows**

(a) Number of trees proposed to be saved/retained -64

(b) Number of trees proposed for translocation - 59

(c) Number of trees proposed to be felled -116

After discussions the Committee decided to re visit the spot on 21.03.2020 as per the direction dated: 04.03.2020 of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka. [Proposal is for 239 trees].

**II. BMRCL Project:- U M Kaval (Sy.No.38: ) (123 trees) Kaggalipura Range)**

**The proposal is as follows**

(a) Number of trees proposed for translocation - 24

(b) Number of trees proposed to be felled - 99

After discussions the Committee decided to re visit the spot on 21.03.2020 as per the direction dated: 04.03.2020 of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka. [Proposal is for 123 trees].

**III. Road Widening Project:- N H 209, Kaggalipura (416 Trees)**

**IV. KSHIP-3 Package IC Project: Nice Road to Magadi Road (1481 trees)**

**KRDCL Road Widening Project:**

- V. K.R.Puram Range: Beskamanahalli to NH4
- VI. Kenchugaranahalli, Harohalli & Uraganahalli to Jigani(Right side) Anekal Zone:
- VII. Kenchugaranahalli, Harohalli & Uraganahalli to Jigani(left side) Anekal Zone:
- VIII. Bannerugattha (NH -87) to Jigani, Harohalli to Indalavadi through SH-34 Besthamanahlli (Right side) Anekal Zone
- IX. Bannerugattha (NH -87) to Jigani, Harohalli to Indalavadi through SH-34 Besthamanahlli (Left side) Anekal Zone
- X. Nelamangala (NH-04)- Madure-Byata-Rajanukunte, Tippasandra and M.V Solar road, Bangalore and Yelahanka Zone:
- XI. Bestamanahalli NH-34 to Chainige, Attibele Sarjapura SH-35 to Chainige, Sarjapura to Hegondanahalli SH 35
- XII. Kannamangala cross-Hosakote road, NH -4 to Chainige , Kachamaranahalli to Gunjuru
- XIII. Budigere cross -Singanahalli-Milanahalli NH 209 , Yelahanka Range

In respect of proposals at Sl.No III to XIII, of IX – Matters pertaining to BANGALORE URBAN DIVISION, as the area falls outside the jurisdiction of BBMP limits and the Government of Karnataka has already issued a Corrigendum vide number



ಅಪರೀ 41 ಎಫ್‌ಎಫ್ 2019 dated: 16.01.2020, these proposals may be discussed and decided at the level of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bangalore Urban Division, Bangalore . The Expert Tree Committee directed the Member Secretary and the Assistant Conservator of Forests, BBMP to inform the concerned DCF, Bangalore Urban Division accordingly.

**XIV. NH-07 Road Widening : Air force road, Yelahanka**

The concerned file and documents were not placed before the Committee for discussions. Hence it was decided that the files/documents be placed before the Committee during next meeting for deliberations [Proposal is for 246 trees].

**XV. Bettarahalli Grama Sy.No 37/3, Bidarahalli hobli, Bangalore East:-**

As the proposal involved Rosewood trees (Beete trees) which is considered as Sate property and a separate procedure has been laid out in KFD for the management of Beete trees, the matter can be forwarded to the DCF, Bangalore Urban Division for necessary action as per Karnataka Forest Act and Rules [Proposal is for 73 trees ].

The Tree Committee emphasized that in respect of trees to be translocated, regular inspection of the process of translocation should be conducted and post care management of the trees translocated must be undertaken by the Forest Staff of BBMP. Further in lieu of one tree removed, 10 saplings to be planted at suitable places and it should be ensured that the greenery of Bengaluru City is enhanced through proper maintenance of saplings/trees under all circumstances.

  
Member Secretary and  
Assistant Conservator of Forests,  
BBMP