

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TREE EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28.04.2020 AT 11.30 AM IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, BBMP BENGALURU IN RESPECT OF PENDING TREE CLEARANCE APPLICATIONS OF BMRCL

PRESENT:

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

Sri Govindaraju V, Member- Secretary, Tree Expert Committee and Assistant Conservator Of Forests BBMP, Bangalore welcomed the Chairman, Members of the Committee, Officers and all Invitees present at the meeting.

With reference to the directions dated 4.3.2020 of Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka dated 04.03.2020, the Committee reviewed the pending applications submitted by BMRCL vide their letter number-BMRCL/Env/2020/12002 dated 13-03-2020 and as decided in the Tree Expert Committee meeting held on 16-03-2020 at BBMP office to revisit and re-inspect the sites on 18.3.2020 , pertaining to Reach-6 Underground Metro Line Packages, which were already inspected once by the Tree Expert Committee on 22.11.2019, the site re inspection report for this revisit on 18.3.2020 was placed before the Committee for perusal and deliberations.

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The gist of the report for the site revisit and re-inspection done on 18.03.2020 is as under :

Action taken report by Tree Expert Committee as per order dated 04.03.2020 of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in W.P.1781/2018 to re-examine the applications of BMRCL Metro Project across Bangalore City

With reference to the above-cited direction from Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, to explore the possibilities of saving more trees, the Tree Expert Committee with the guidance of Chairman, discussed with the BMRCL authorities about adjustments in alignment of the project for saving more trees on the site. The presentation of the BMRCL plan and the field site visit convinced us that change in alignment will not be possible and therefore taking in to consideration the existing alignment, the exercise of re visit to various BMRCL project locations was executed by the Chairman, and Members of Tree Expert Committee along with DCF, BBMP and Representatives of BMRCL on 18.03.2020 and the observations are provided in the table.

1. Jayanagar Fire Station:

Observation and status:

Status prior to revisit 18.03.2020		Status Report during revisit on 18/03/2020	Remarks by Tree Expert Committee
Total no. of trees enumerated in the BMRCL project locations by Forest Dept., BBMP as on 22/11/2019	No. of trees identified by Tree Expert Committee/ Forest Dept. to be saved / translocated, as on 22/11/2019 and after subsequent discussions and deliberations.		
104 trees	<p>31 trees to be saved by means of retention / translocation. [2 trees close to the compound wall of the Regional Fire Office to be retained. 23 enumerated trees and 6 un numbered trees were to be translocated.]</p> <p>[12 Trees within Jayanagar fire station premises for translocation</p>	<p>2 trees un numbered were to be retained (Mango & Jack) and 23 trees enumerated trees have to be translocated along with 6 sub adults species which are un numbered also to be translocated. Balance 81 Trees which are unfit for translocation are to be felled.</p> <p>Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained Trees - 02 (un numbered) To be Translocated-06 (Un numbered) Tree to be Translocated- 23(32,33,34,36,37,55,56,6,7,8,46,51, 64,65,72,76,5,15,58,61,62,63 & 67) Trees to be felled - 81 Nos <p>4 trees (2 trees of Bannerghatta road side RHS, 2 trees within Jayanagar fire</p>	<p>Total number of trees to be saved by way of retention are 2 un numbered trees and by translocation 29 trees [23 trees enumerated & 06 trees un numbered] Balance 81 enumerate</p>

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	<p>02 Trees within Karmikara Bhavan premises for translocation</p> <p>09 Trees (04 LHS & 05 RHS) along Bannerghatta road side for translocation]</p> <p><i>Trees within Oracle and Dharmavaram college premises were not fit for saving either on-site or translocation.</i></p>	<p><i>station premises) were translocated to nearby ground in Jayanagar fire station, as per DCF, BBMP order dated 04/12/2019 and 21/12/2019 under the recommendations / directions of Tree Expert Committee.</i></p>	<p><i>d trees to be felled.</i></p>
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2. Vellara Metro Station:

Observation and status:

Status prior to revisit 18.03.2020	to	Status Report during revisit on 18/03/2020	Remarks by Tree Expert Committee
<p>Total no. of trees enumerated in the BMRCL project locations by Forest Dept., BBMP as on 22/11/2019</p>	<p>No. of trees identified by Tree Expert Committee/ Forest Dept. to be saved / translocated, as on 22/11/2019 and after subsequent discussions and deliberations.</p>		
<p>40 trees</p>	<p>10 trees are to be translocated i.e., tree No. 15, 18, 21, 22, 24, 31, 35, 36, 37 & 37 A (single tree) and one Spathodia (un numbered).</p>	<p>Tree no. 31 had been saved by way of retention as per DCF, BBMP order – corrigendum DCF/PR – 1580/2019-2020 dated 07/01/2020.</p> <p>Trees to be translocated – 09 [08 enumerated and 01 tree unnumbered]</p> <p>On recommendations / directions of Tree Expert Committee, Tree Nos 15, 18, 21, 22, 24 and 35 were translocated to nearby Rashtriya Military School ground and balance 03 trees are yet to be translocated [tree Nos 36, 37 &</p>	<p><i>Total numbers of trees to be saved by way of retention is one tree and by way of translocation are 09, [08 trees enumerated and 01 tree un numbered] Balance 31 enumerated trees were to be felled out of which 09 trees have been felled and the</i></p>

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		one unnumbered]. Tree Nos 19, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 had been felled (as on 07/01/2020) as per DCF, BBMP order dated 04/12/2019 and 21/12/2019 and 31.12.2019.	<i>remaining 22 trees to be felled.</i>
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3. M.G Road station:

Observation and status:

Status prior to revisit 18.03.2020		Status Report during revisit on 18/03/2020	Remarks by Tree Expert Committee
Total no. of trees enumerated in the BMRCL project locations by Forest Dept., BBMP as on 22/11/2019	No. of trees identified by Tree Expert Committee/ Forest Dept. to be saved / translocated, as on 22/11/2019 and after subsequent discussions and deliberations.		
72 trees	17 trees [14 trees enumerated and 03 trees un numbered] were to be translocated, i.e., tree Nos 2, 7, 53, 64, 23 and Thespesia (1 no., which is sub-adult and not numbered) 11, 14, 24, 30, 32, 40, 45, 47, 48 and Mahogani (2 Nos of sub-adult which were not numbered).	17 trees [14 trees enumerated and 03 trees un numbered] i.e tree Nos 2, 7, 53, 64, 23, Thespesia (1 no., which is sub-adult and not numbered), 11, 14, 24, 30, 32, 40, 45, 47, 48 and Mahogani (2 nos sub-adult which were not numbered) were saved by way of translocation to nearby Parade ground, and 28 trees (tree Nos 25, 26, 28, 22, 21, 20, 18, 19, 43, 63, 38, 52, 33, 51, 50, 49, 46, 44, 42, 41, 39, 36, 37, 35, 34, 31, 29 and 27) were felled as per DCF, BBMP order dated 04/12/2019 21/12/2019 and 31.12.2019, as per recommendation / direction of the Tree Expert Committee.	<i>Total numbers of trees saved by way of translocation were 17 [14 trees enumerated and 03 trees un numbered] Balance 58 enumerated trees were to be felled out of which 28 trees have been felled and remaining 30 enumerated trees to be felled.</i>

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4. Shivaji Nagar station:
Observation and status:

Status prior to revisit 18.03.2020		Status Report during revisit on 18/03/2020	Remarks by Tree Expert Committee
Total no. of trees enumerated in the BMRCL project locations by Forest Dept., BBMP as on 22/11/2019	No. of trees identified by Tree Expert Committee/ Forest Dept. to be saved / translocated, as on 22/11/2019 and after subsequent discussions and deliberations.		
16 trees	12 trees [11 enumerated trees and 01 un numbered] were to be translocated, i.e., tree Nos 1, 15, and 16 (<i>Markhamialutea</i>), 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12, plus one un numbered	12 trees [Tree Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 15 & 16 and one un numbered tree] were saved by way of translocation to nearby BBMP School ground, and 5 trees (tree nos 7, 8, 9, 13 & 14) were felled as per DCF, BBMP order dated 04/12/2019, 21/12/2019 and 31.12.2019, on recommendation / direction of the Tree Expert Committee.	<i>Total numbers of trees saved by way of translocation were 12 [11 enumerated trees and 01 un numbered] Remaining 05 trees have been felled as per order.</i>

5. Cantonment station:
Observation and status:

Status prior to revisit 18.03.2020		Status Report during revisit on 18/03/2020	Remarks by Tree Expert Committee
Total no. of trees enumerated in the BMRCL project locations by Forest Dept., BBMP as on 22/11/2019	No. of trees identified by Tree Expert Committee/ Forest Dept. to be saved / translocated, as on 22/11/2019 and after subsequent discussions and deliberations.		
56 trees	28 trees were to be translocated, i.e., tree Nos 43, 44, 52, 53, 54, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13,	11 trees, i.e. 08, 10, 11, 12, 32, 34, 21, 29, 30, 31, 38 have been saved by way of translocation to Laksandra	<i>Total numbers of trees to be saved by way of translocation</i>

19/03/20

	14, 15, 17, 21, 22, 23, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 41, 55 and 56.	as per DCF, BBMP order dated 04/12/2019 and 21/12/2019, under recommendation / direction of Tree Expert Committee and balance 17 trees yet to be translocated [43, 44, 52, 53, 54, 5, 13, 14, 15, 17, 22, 23, 27, 37, 41, 55 and 56]. Further, 06 trees i.e. 45,46, 47, 48,49 & 50, have been felled as per DCF, BBMP order dtd 31.12.2019 and remaining 22 trees are to be felled (Tree Nos 01,02,03,04,06, 07,09, 16,18,19,20,24,25,26,28,33, 35, 36,39,40, 42 & 51)	<i>were 28 out of 56 trees enumerated.</i> At present 11 trees have been translocated and 17 trees yet to be translocated. Further 28 trees were to be felled, out of which 06 trees have been felled and 22 trees are to be felled.
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6. Pottery town station:

Observation and status:

Status prior to revisit 18.03.2020		Status Report during revisit on 18/03/2020	Remarks by Tree Expert Committee
Total no. of trees enumerated in the BMRCL project locations by Forest Dept., BBMP as on 22/11/2019	No. of trees identified by Tree Expert Committee/ Forest Dept. to be saved / translocated, as on 22/11/2019 and after subsequent discussions and deliberations.		
26 trees	16 trees were to be saved by way of translocation, i.e., tree Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 26, 19.	Action is yet to be taken by BMRCL. Trees to be translocated : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 26, 19. Trees to be felled: 7,8,15,17,20,21,22,23,24 & 25)	<i>Total numbers of trees to be saved by way of translocation were 16 out of 26 trees enumerated</i> Action is yet to be taken for translocation of trees. After that remaining trees to be felled.

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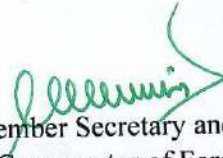
As per earlier directions of Tree Expert Committee, the Tree Officer in order to save the trees by means of translocation/ transplantation had issued orders dated: 04.12.2019 & 21.12.2019 and remaining trees felling order dated: 31.12.2019 to BMRCL, for Reach -6 Under Ground Metro Stations / Ramp. Accordingly, BMRCL had started implementing the orders and few trees were translocated and felled. However, on the orders dt 20.1.2020 of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, where in BMRCL was directed not to implement the tree clearance orders given by the Tree Officer, immediate action was taken and the activities related to of translocating/ felling were stopped by BMRCL. (Details of trees retained /translocated/felled have been enumerated in the above report).

During the course of inspection on 18.03.2020 some of the translocated and transplanted trees were observed by the Tree Expert Committee and the Members recommended for Cultural and Tending operations which have to be attended on regular basis for the trees translocated and transplanted so as to provide impetus to the said trees to establish in the new locality besides boosting the growth.

All sincere efforts were made to save the trees by means of retention and translocation. After due deliberations, the Tree Expert Committee has therefore taken decision and directed the Tree Officer to issue / grant permissions for retention / translocation and transplantation of trees to suitable places and then felling of remaining trees as a last resort to BMRCL besides simultaneously informing them to carry out planting of saplings in lieu of felling of trees at the ratio of 1:10 at suitable places. The details of Trees permitted for saving/translocation/felling has been listed in the above mentioned report of Tree Expert Committee.

Also, it was brought to the notice of Tree Expert Committee that BMRCL has already taken up the compensatory tree plantation activity at the ratio of 1:10 and the work is under progress at various locations within BBMP limits of Bengaluru.

The Committee stressed that in respect of trees to be translocated, regular inspection of the process of translocation should be conducted and transplanting should be done with close supervision of Forest Staff. Further regular post care management of the trees thus translocated must be undertaken by the Forest Staff of BBMP 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.