

Forest Clearance under Two Years of NDA

1. Forestland diversion for major development sectors

- In the past two years (June 2014 until April 2016), the MoEF&CC has allowed about 47,473 hectares (ha) of forestland diversion including in-principle (Stage I) and final Stage II) clearances (*see Table 3: Forest clearances granted to major sectors*).
- Among these, mining accounts for highest share of forestland diversion, about 29 per cent. This is followed by total diversion for power sector (combining hydro power, wind power, thermal power and transmission lines) accounting for about 25.5 per cent.

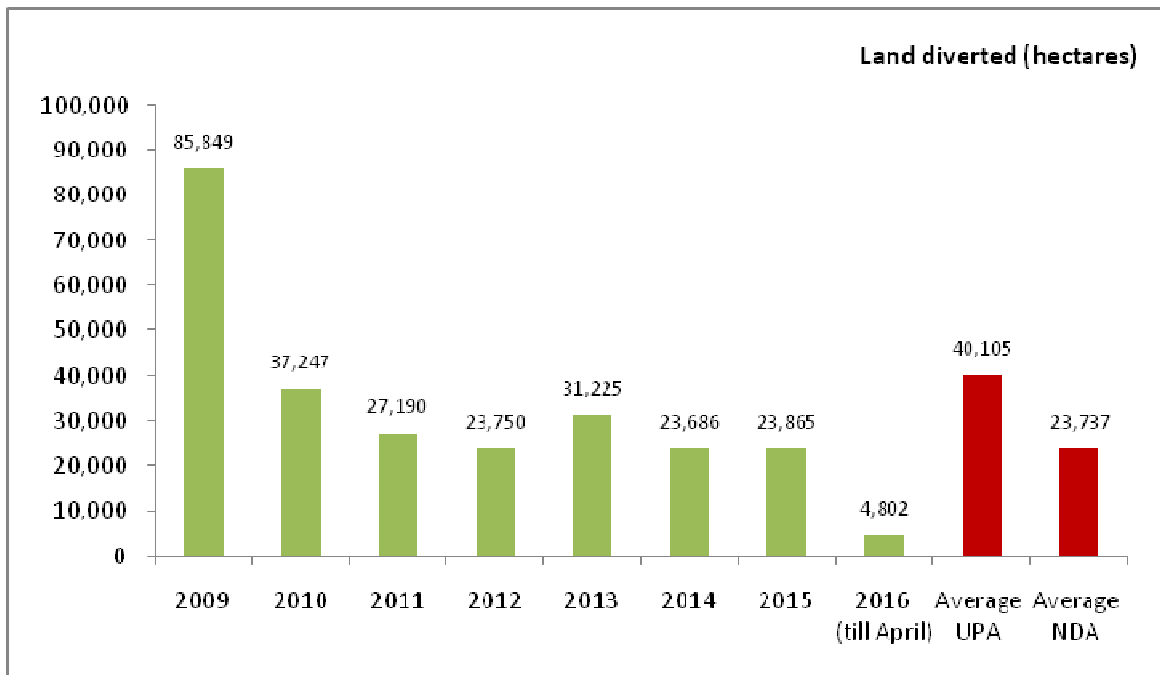
Table 3: Forest clearances granted to major sector (June 2014 till April 2016)

Sectors	No. of clearances final	Land diverted (ha)	No. of clearances in principle	Land diverted (ha)	Total no. clearances	Land diverted (ha)
Mining	49	9668.01	39	4045.42	88	13713.43
Transmission Line	87	2052.77	60	2130.79	147	4183.56
Thermal Power	5	2071.38	0	0	5	2071.38
Wind Power	3	101.76	7	432.26	10	534.02
Hydro Power	5	481.91	7	4825	12	5306.91
Irrigation	25	2219.03	26	2695.12	51	4914.16
Railway	14	490.35	24	1639.27	38	2129.62
Road	113	1807.13	138	2374.82	251	4181.95
Defence	1	180	3	3898.69	4	4078.69
Industry	27	67.527	8	0.92	35	68.45
Borehole	1	5	1	1457.33	2	1462.33
Prospecting						
Dispensary/ Hospital	4	41.895	1	0.02	5	41.92
Drinking Water	9	72.86	6	21.28	15	94.14
Rehabilitation	9	1208.78	0	0	9	1208.78
School	3	0.488	1	22.08	4	22.57
Others	381	2208.46	234	1252.89	615	3461.35
TOTAL	736	22677.3	555	24795.89	1291	47473.25

2. UPA vs. NDA

Average pace of forestland diversion remains low under the UPA Government: Going by the available data as obtained during the UPA and the NDA times, it appears that the average rate of forestland diversion has been significantly low under the NDA term (*see Figure 3: Forestland diversion: UPA vs. NDA*).

Figure 3: Forestland diversions: UPA vs. NDA*
(Yearly average for UPA: period 2009- May 2014; and NDA: June 2014- April 2016)



* The total forestland diversion includes both in-principle and final approvals, as a breakup was not available for majority of the UPA term at that time