

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

(Pakri Barwadih North-West Quarry (PB-A) Coal Block of M/s NTPC Ltd– 331.198 Ha)

The present proposal for diversion involves 331.198 Ha of forest land out of which 306.36Ha is Protected Forest and the rest GM Jungle Jhari. The compact forest proposed for diversion is in a single patch and spread across 7 PFs namely Beltu PF, Bariatha PF, Basariya PF, Nawadih PF, Sirma PF, Jabra PF, and Kandaber PF.

Inspection was conducted on 17th October, 2019 in the presence of AGM (mining) and other officials of NTPC. The location of this project is besides the 1026.438 Ha of forest previously diverted towards NTPC Pakri-Barwadih Coal Mining, the forest patch proposed for diversion is in continuity with larger forest landscape spread across kandaber, Itij, Nagri, Darikalan and Chepakalan Mauzas. The forest is very rich in floral composition and the predominant species is sal (*Shorea robusta*) along with the associated species like Kendu (*Diaspyros melanoxylon*), Khair (*Acacia catechu*), *Syzigium Cumini*, Mahua (*Madhuca indica*), Bamboo, Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), *Boswellia serrata* etc. The forest floor is dominated by herbs and shrubs of medicinal importance like, *Asparagus racemosus*, Sarpagandha, vitex negundo, wild turmeric, Ban tulsī, *Indigofera Pulchella*, etc. The fauna reported in the area include Striped Hyena (Hyena), Spotted deer, Nilgai, Common mongoose, Leopard and Asiatic Elephant apart from other reptiles and amphibians. The average canopy density of the forest patch proposed for diversion is 0.8. Moreover, it is pertinent to mention here that the above forest patch is part of the continuous stretch of forest, which is also part of the catchment area. Many perennial springs and streams originate in this forest and drain into Khorra nallah and provide water security to the people living downstreams. (The important perennial streams include Jamuniatari, Lotharabe, Galgalia, Sungari, Ladladi & Bagahi).

Deforestation of this patch would disturb the hydraulic region of soil in the area, hence proper care would be taken to preserve these streams originating in this part of the forest. The entire area is undulating and highly vulnerable to soil erosion.

During inspection indirect evidence of Asian Elephant was seen and on enquiry the villagers of Sirma informed that two Elephants were seen a day before and some crops were also damaged. the same was reported by the Range Forest Officer, Barkagaon. This is corollary to the previous reports, that Elephants were found occasionally crisscross in the area occasionally.

The entire patch of 306.36 Ha. of forest land proposed for diversion is in a single compact patch, rich in floral and faunal diversity, from a forester's perspective it is a good and healthy forest with fair amount of degradation on the fringes. If possible underground mining may be insisted upon.



**Divisional Forest Officer
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