

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ROURKELA CIRCLE

1.	Name of the Project	Proposal for diversion of 303.066 ha of Forest Land including 66.126 ha of Non-Forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980 involved in the mining lease area over 464.00 ha within Bamebari Iron & Manganese Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd in Keonjhar district, Odisha. (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/ 20095/2016, State Sl. No. OR-059/2016 dtd. 01.07.2016)
2.	Name of the District/ Division	Keonjhar District / Keonjhar Division
3.	Date of Inspection	03.12.2021
4.	Name and Designation of Inspecting Officer	Dr. Arun Kumar Mishra, IFS Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle
5.	Name and Designation of other Officers ,who attended the inspection including the representative of User Agency	1) Dhanraj H.D., IFS Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Division. 3) Sri Sanjib Kumar Rout, Dy.RO, Champua Range 4) Sri Anirudha Panda, Forester, Joda Section 5) Sri Nilam Mahanta, Forest Guard, Joda & Jurudi Beat <u>Representative of the User Agency</u> 1) Sri Aswini Prasad Mohanty, RE, Bhubaneswar 2) Sri Sabyasachy Mishra, Head, MPP 3) Sri Smruti Ranjan Pani, Sr. Manager (L&L) 4) Sri Anubhab Mishra, Manager (L&L) 5) Sri Srikanta Ku. Dash, Sr. Cad. Surveyor Bamebari Iron & Mn. Mines of M/s TATA Steel Ltd.
6.	Legal Status of Forest land with area proposed for diversion	Reserved Forest - 115.308 Khesera Forest - 48.893 DLC Forest - 72.739 Non-Forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980 - 66.126 Total - 303.066 ha
7.	If area required for diversion has been demarcated on the ground:	Yes

8. Item wise break up of forest land proposed for diversion.

Sl. No.	Pattern of Utilization	Broken up Non-forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.80	Virgin Non-forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.80	Total Non-forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.80	Total Virgin Forest land	Total Forest land and Non-Forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.80
1	Mining	2.390	7.842	10.232	127.911	138.143
2	Storing Mineral / Top soil	5.000	2.313	7.313	26.523	33.836
3	Dumping of Over Burden	8.554	4.730	13.284	51.371	64.655
4	Plant, workshop, Storing Tools & Machineries	0.319	2.540	2.859	2.071	4.93

5	Construction of Building, Power Station, Workshop	3.242	0.000	3.242	0	3.242
6	Township & Housing Colony	19.465	0.000	19.465	0	19.465
7	Construction of Road, Ropeway & Rly Line	3.453	1.974	5.427	3.839	9.266
8	Magazine	0.000	0.000	0.000	0	0
Sub Total		42.423	19.399	61.822	211.715	273.537
9	Safety Zone	0.476	2.161	2.637	22.128	24.765
10	Green Belt	0.000	1.667	1.667	0.000	1.667
11	Safety Zone involved in approved land	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.097	3.097
Grand Total		42.899	23.227	66.126	236.940	303.066
9.	Condition of vegetation and type of forest in applied area	<p>As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the prevailing vegetation in the forest land proposed for diversion includes Sal and Sal associates. The geological formation of this area is quite suitable for growth of Sal. Sal constitutes around 70 to 75% of the top canopy.</p> <p>As per the report of the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the floral species found in the applied Forest land are viz. <i>Tectona grandis</i>, <i>Dalbergia sisoo</i>, <i>Gmelina arborea</i>, <i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i>, <i>Adina cordifolia</i>, <i>Shorea robusta</i>, <i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>, <i>Syzygium cumini</i>, <i>Artocarpus integrifolia</i>, <i>Mangifera indica</i>, <i>Bridelia retusa</i>, <i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i> & Misc Species. The DFO, Keonjhar Division has reported that the forest land applied for diversion is situated in Thakurani & Siddhamath Reserved Forest. The prevailing vegetation is categorized under the group 3C/C2e(iii) Moist Peninsular Valley Sal, Eco Value Class-I, Canopy density varying from 0.2 to 0.8. The average density is about 0.6.</p>				
10.	Position of Wildlife in general	<p>As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the applied forest land involved Thakurani & Siddhamath Reserved Forest. is the dwelling habitat for bear, barking deer, hyena, porcupine and etc. Movement of wild Elephant is observed within 5 KM distance from the Mining Lease boundary. The applied site falls under Elephant Habitat Zone- 2 as per the book titled Remote Sensing Application for characterization of elephant habitat and corridor in Odisha and parts of Bihar published by ORSAC in September, 1999.</p>				
11.	Whether the applied area is involved with any eco sensitive Zone/ National Park/ Sanctuary	<p>The applied area does not involve any Eco-Sensitive Zone / National Park / Sanctuary .</p>				
12	Number of trees to be felled and its impact on the eco-system	<p>As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, there are 17956 Nos. of sound trees, 5155 Nos. of unsound trees and 13834 nos. of poles below 30 cm girth enumerated inside the proposed diversion area of 303.066 ha. The species wise and diameter class wise abstract of enumerated trees is enclosed as Annexure- XXV of DP.</p>				

13.	Details of broken up area and reclamation done, if any (Mining Cases)	<p>As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, an area over 85.029 ha forest land was broken up prior to 25.10.1980 and an area of 12.487 ha has been broken up after 1980. Further, an area of 42.423 ha of non-forest land recorded as forest as on 25.10.1980 in Govt. record has also been broken up prior to 10.03.2015 within Bamebari Iron & Mn. Mines.</p> <p>As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, in consonance to the approved Review of Mining Plan 2,900 Nos of saplings has been planted over an area of 1.20 ha for the block year 2020-21. Further, the concurrent reclamation by back filling of exhausted quarry is being carried out since 1st Apr'2010 as per approved Review of Mining Plan. The same is continuing and an area measuring 14.70 ha have been back filled up to 2020-2021. The afforestation over the area back filled, would be taken up by the U.A once the said area is matured. In addition, a phased reclamation plan has been prepared in respect of the forest and non-forest land recorded as Forest as on 25.10.1980 submitted for diversion and the said plan is enclosed vide Annexure-IV/DP. The reclamation will be taken up in respect of the applied forest land on approval of the scheme.</p>
14.	Position of displacement of people and adequacy of rehabilitation ,if any	As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the project does not involve displacement of any human habitation. Therefore, Re-settlement and Rehabilitation plan is not insisted upon.
15.	Position of rare and endangered species available or importance of area from archaeological point of view.	No rare or endangered species is available in the applied area for diversion, but movement of wild Elephants seen within 5.00 Km of the ML area. There is no archaeologically important monument situated in the area as reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division.
16.	Non-Forest land used in the Project and non-forest land selected for Comp. Afforestation, if included in the DLC report or not.	As per report of DFO, Dhenkanal Division and DLC report of DFO, Keonjhar Division, the Non-forest land selected for Compensatory Afforestation in Keonjhar and Dhenkanal district are not included in the DLC report.
17.	Suitability of the identified non forest area for Compensatory Afforestation	As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, Non-forest land required for Compensatory Afforestation for diversion of 303.066 ha of Forest Land under Sec 2(ii) under FC Act, 1980, will be met from the identified and allotted non-forest Govt. land over 160.419 out of allotted area of 209.419 ha in Village Tamanga under Telkoi Tahasil, 49.00 Ha of Non-Forest Land in Village- Sudanga under Bansapal Tahasil of Keonjhar District and 66.126 ha in village Asanabahali under Kankadahad Tahasil of Dhenkanal Division in Dhenkanal District in favour of Bamebari Iron and Mn. Mines of M/s Tata Steel Ltd. vide letter No. 2181/Rev dt. 26.09.2015, Letter No. 1837 dated 24.09.2020 of Collector & DM, Keonjhar and Letter No. 1185 dated 20.07.2016 of Deputy Collector, Revenue, Dhenkanal for raising Compensatory Afforestation. The copy of the allotment letter is enclosed as Annexure-XX Series/DP . Further, for the seedlings of 203060 nos. that cannot be accommodated in the allotted non-forest Govt. land for Compensatory Afforestation land, Compensatory Afforestation scheme over 254.00 ha of degraded forest land identified in Masinabilla RF under Ghatagaon Forest Range of Keonjhar Division at the prevailing wage rate @

		Rs. 315.00 per MD with a maintenance period of ten years under ANR with gap model @800 seedlings/ha has been prepared. Compensatory Afforestation scheme, prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar & Dhenkanal Division in respect of the aforementioned Non-forest land is enclosed herewith as Annexure- XXVIII series/DP
18.	Violation of FC Act, if any, and action taken thereon	<p>As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One old pit measuring an area of 0.84 ha is located within the DLC Forest land proposed for diversion within the Joribar Block of the Bamebari ML. 2. An area of 0.20 ha of DLC forest area proposed for diversion has been encroached by dumping of materials by a crusher unit operated by the third party within Joribar Block of the Bamebari ML. 3. One permanent shelter measuring an area of 0.03 ha is constructed in the DLC forest land proposed for diversion within Joribar Block of Bamebari Iron & Mn Mines. 4. An old rehabilitated dump measuring an area 5.95 ha in DLC Forest land proposed for diversion within Joribar Block of Bamebari Iron & Mn Mines. 5. A portion of the mineral reject dump measuring an area of 0.35 ha in DLC Forest land proposed for diversion within Joribar Block of Bamebari Iron & Mn Mines. 6. Excavation for mining over an area of 0.74 ha (0.51 ha + 0.23 ha) of DLC Forest land proposed for diversion of Joribar Block of Bamebari ML. 7. Establishment of dump & construction of road measuring an area 0.69 ha (0.59 ha + 0.10 ha) of DLC Forest land proposed for diversion within Joribar Block of Bamebari Iron & Mn Mines. 8. Construction of road measuring an area 0.42 ha (0.17 ha + 0.10 ha + 0.15 ha) DLC Forest land proposed for diversion within Joribar Block of Bamebari ML. 9. Excavation for mining over an area of 0.11 ha of Khesara Forest land proposed for diversion of Joribar Block of Bamebari Iron & Mn Mines. 10. Construction of road measuring an area of 0.14 ha (0.11 ha + 0.03 ha) is in the Khesara Forest land proposed for diversion within Joribar Block of Bamebari ML. 11. One old habitation exists prior to 1995 (approximately 20 years old), based with Google time series map measuring an area of 1.65 ha is located in the DLC Forest land proposed for diversion within the Bamebari Block of the Bamebari ML. <p>Details of broken up Sabik forest land prior to concept of Sabik Kissm land</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction of one old road measuring an area of 0.89 ha (0.84 ha + 0.05 ha) is located in the Sabik Forest land proposed for diversion within the Joribar Block of the Bamebari ML. 2. Twenty nos. of old human habitation exists (approximately 20 years old), of 4.74 ha is located in the Sabik Forest land proposed for diversion within the Joribar Block of the Bamebari ML. 3. Establishment of old dump (6.45 ha) & construction of old road (1.23 ha) is in the Sabik Forest land proposed for diversion within Bamebari Block of Bamebari Iron & Mn Mines. 4. Establishment of old dump (2.43 ha) is in the Sabik Forest land proposed for diversion within Bamebari Block of Bamebari Iron & Mn Mines.

		<p>5. One old pit has been established measuring an area of 1.32 (now reclaimed) ha is located within the Sabik Forest land proposed for diversion within the Bamebari Block of the Bamebari ML.</p> <p>6. Office Building at Bamebari Block measuring around 0.8 ha exists on Sabik Forest land.</p> <p>Action Taken</p> <p>As reported by the DFO, Keonjhar Division, the Collector, Keonjhar has been requested vide his office letter No. 8205 dtd. 17.11.2021 for taking necessary action as per prevailing Act & Rule for the DLC & Revenue Forest land.</p>
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Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle