

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

Project: Diversion of 22.6036 Ha of Forest Land for 132 kV D/C Kalebira-Simdega Transmission Line.

Location: Simdega Forest Division, Simdega District, Jharkhand.

1. Project Overview & Land Classification

The proposal involves the construction of a 16.42 km long transmission line with a total footprint of 44.334 Ha. Right-of-Way (RoW): Fixed at 27 meters in strict accordance with MoEF&CC guidelines for 132 kV transmission lines.

2. Ecological & Floral Assessment

The proposed alignment traverses an undulating terrain marked by hillocks and seasonal nalas.

Canopy Density: Estimated at 0.4.

Floral Composition: The crop is dominated by *Shorea robusta* (Sal) across all diameter classes (0 cm to >150 cm), indicating a healthy forest with robust natural regeneration.

Associated Species: Presence of Asan, Bija, Harra, Dhawra, Jamun, Sidha, Kend, and Mahua was recorded.

Conservation Status: No rare or endangered floral species were observed within the RoW. However, the alignment intersects the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary (at Biru and Bhawarpahar).

3. Wildlife Dynamics & Mitigation Measures

The inspection confirmed the presence of Sloth Bear, Golden Jackal, Indian Fox, and Wild Boar. The area is also part of an occasional movement corridor for the Asiatic Elephant, with a documented history of human-wildlife conflict in nearby villages.

To mitigate these risks, the following biological and technical conditions are proposed:

A. Habitat Integration (Dwarf Tree Plantation)

To facilitate the integration and continuity of the local habitat surrounding the proposed project, it is recommended that dwarf trees and indigenous shrubs be planted within the Right of Way (ROW) wherever technically feasible. This measure aims to maintain ecological connectivity while ensuring that the vegetation height remains within safe limits to prevent interference with the transmission lines.

B. Vertical Clearance for Elephant Safety

The User Agency must strictly adhere to the statutory safety standards for vertical clearance of transmission lines. Given the presence of wildlife in the area, the ground clearance must be maintained at a height sufficient to ensure that elephants moving through the landscape cannot come into contact with the live wires or be at risk of an electric shock, even when extending their trunks.

4. Mandatory Compliance Directives

Wildlife Conservation Plan: A site-specific plan focused on human-elephant and human-sloth bear conflict must be vetted by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

ESZ Protocol: All activities within the Palkot WLS ESZ must comply with notified guidelines and obtain clearance from the Monitoring Committee.

Muck Disposal: No debris from tower foundations shall be discharged into seasonal nalas; disposal must happen at pre-approved non-forest sites.

Tree Felling: Felling must be restricted to the absolute minimum. Pollarding and pruning should be the preferred method for maintaining safety clearances

- Dwarf tree plantation within the ROW
of transmission line

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Conservator of Forests,
Territorial Circle, Gumla