

Site Inspection Report for the Forest Diversion Proposal (Proposal No. FP/JH/MIN/147316/2021)

Inspection Conducted by:

Dileep Kumar Yadav (I.F.S.), Conservator of Forests, Medininagar Territorial Circle

Date of Inspection: 05-07-2024

Attendees:

- i. K. Chandra Sekhar, General Manager (Banhardi Coal Mine, PVUNL)
- ii. M. Chandra Segar, Additional General Manager (Banhardi Coal Mine, PVUNL)
- iii. Jibanendu Mohapatra, Deputy General Manager (Banhardi Coal Mine, PVUNL)
- iv. Nand Kumar Mahto, Range Forest Officer, Latehar/Chandwa
- v. Jai Jayendra, Forester In-charge of Area
- vi. Raghvendra, Anil Paswan, Sunil Kachhap, and Ramkishor Pathak, Forest Guards, Latehar Forest Division

Observations/Findings of the Field Inspection:

1. The Banhardi Coal block mining proposal encompasses an area of 1467.42 hectares. Of this, 952.10 hectares are non-forest land, while 515.32 hectares are forest land (497.02 hectares are notified forest land and 18.3 hectares are Jungle Jhari forest land, classified as deemed forest land).
2. The project area spans in 9 villages, namely Banhardi, Bari, Barwadih, Rampur, Surli, Tota, Ate, Jagaldaga & Sabano on forest and non-forest areas of Latehar & Chandwa forest ranges of Latehar Forest Division
3. The proposed block is not located within any protected area as per the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, nor is it part of any tiger reserves or Eco-Sensitive Zones of any National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries.
4. The terrain of the area is undulating and susceptible to soil erosion.
5. Local villagers and forest officials reported that species such as nilgai, barking deer, hyena etc. use the project area and its surroundings as their habitats.
6. Several streams (nalas) traverse through the expanse of the proposed project area and its neighboring environs. These vital waterways serve as a crucial resource for the local wildlife. The advent of mining operations is anticipated to exert a deleterious effect, significantly diminishing the water availability in these streams and thereby adversely impacting the water supply in addition to the habitat loss for the wild animals residing within and around the project vicinity.
7. The land proposed for the project is part of the catchment area of the Auranga River.
8. There are no archaeological or heritage sites present at the project location.
9. The user agency has not initiated any non-forestry activities on the proposed forest land.
10. The additional details are included in the field inspection report of the Divisional Forest Officer, Latehar Forest Division.



Dileep Kumar Yadav (I.F.S.)
Conservator of Forest
Territorial Circle, Medininagar