

Recommendation Note

Details of Project

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| 1. Name | Magadh Railway Siding |
| 2. Proposal No. | FP/JH/RAIL/47332/2020 |
| 3. Forest Land applied for diversion | 121.29 Ha (17.01 Ha in Chatra South Divn.) |
| 4. User Agency | Central Coalfields Limited |

The proposal has been submitted for diversion of 121.29 Ha of forest land (Notified Forest land: 88.18 Ha, GMJJ Forest Land: 33.11 Ha) out of which 17.01 Ha of forest land (all notified forest land of Kundi PF and Kurlonga PF) falls in Chatra South Forest division. The diversion is proposed for construction of railway siding for evacuation of Coal. The proposal includes construction of Railway siding, Silo, CHP, Belt conveyor, Culvert & Bridges, Green belt, Road, Infrastructure etc.

The siding would take-off near Bukru station of the Proposed Arterial (Tori-Shivpur Hazaribagh) Railway Siding at a distance of about 28 Km from Tori Station. The length of the proposed alignment taking off from Bukuru station of main Arterial railway siding line to the Magadh OCP is about 08 Km.

The forest proposed for diversion consists mainly young Sal (*Shorea robusta*) crop majorly of 0-30 cm dia. and was found to have very good sal regeneration. Apart from Sal, other Sal associates such as Rori (*Mallotus philipensis*), Karanj (*Pongamia pinnata*) etc. with Mahua (*Madhuca indica*) are common in the area. Both Kundi and Kurlonga PF are kept under Rehabilitation and Soil Conservation Working Circle in the Working Plan of Chatra South Forest division. Density was found to be 0.5-0.6.

It was observed that User Agency had already broken and land and embankment was made on about 0.25 Ha of notified forest land. A forest offence has been registered accordingly under Indian Forest Act, 1927.


The presence of Asian Elephants has been reported in the nearby areas and there has been a rise in man-animal conflicts in surrounding areas. It is, therefore, recommended to mandate a Site-specific Wildlife Management Plan. It was also observed that after construction of the siding, a small patch of forest land with healthy Sal vegetation will be constricted due to construction of bulb, which will eventually rendered inaccessible for wildlife, unless a dedicated culverts of appropriate sizes are provided for habitat contiguity. Hence at least two underpasses/ culverts are also proposed to be constructed (leaving the floor of underpasses in natural condition/ unmetalled) for movement of wildlife.

The area was found to be highly prone to erosion. Hence a Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan is necessary to recoup the area.

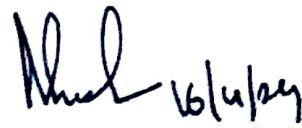
No rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna could be found as the area has already been broken.

No protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

User agency has explored two alternatives apart from proposed alignment, and the proposed alignment was found to be most feasible as the other alternatives were found to be bearing coal, having greater area of forest patch involved and greater environmental impact


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compared to the proposed alignment. Hence, the forest land diversion with proposed alignment is recommended subject to mitigative measures.



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