

## Site Inspection Report

I have inspected the proposed site on **29.06.2019** and **25.09.2019** for diversion of 484.0733 ha of forest land in favour of M/s. Kudremukh Iron Ore Company limited (KIOCL) Limited, Bengaluru.

The Proposed forest land for diversion is located in Swamymalai Forest Block, Section-4 Notified area vide Notification No. FFD-29, FAF-84, Dated: 28.02.1985 in Sandur Taluk, Bellary District, Karnataka.

The proposed forest land is not part of National Park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, etc. However, proposed area is 19.22 km distance from the Daroji sloth Bear Sanctuary and 17.52 kms distance from Eco-sensitive zone area of Daroji sloth Bear Sanctuary. Further, the proposed project area is 14.04 kms distance from the Gudekote sloth Bear Sanctuary and 10.29 kms distance from Eco-sensitive zone area of Gudekote sloth Bear Sanctuary.

From the field verification and enumeration of trees, it was found that around **99,330 trees** which needs to be felled/cut for this mining activity. Felling of around **99,330 trees** would negatively affect the local flora, fauna and other environmental resources. *Therefore, FC approval for new mining activities in this 484.0733 ha fresh virgin forest area would leads to severe soil erosion, destruction of streams/water resources and thus causes serious environmental damages.*

This new mining project in the **484.0733 ha fresh virgin forest area** would destroy the local streams, change the local weather pattern and may lead to ecosystem imbalance. *Therefore, this new mining proposal in the fresh forest area would ultimately endanger the water security and/or livelihood security of the local people.*

As per the meeting held on 28-03-2016 under the Chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Bengaluru, **it was decided not to grant approvals for new mining lease in the fresh forest areas.** (Copy enclosed). *So, recommending / approval of mining in the fresh forest area would under mines the decision of Karnataka forest department.*

Currently, the production capacity of all the existing mines (59 'A' & 'B' category mines, 26 'C' category mines and 14 mines whose 'R&R' plan is yet to be approved) is calculated as **53.599 MMT**, which far exceeds the **28 MMT** Maximum Permissible Annual Production (MPAP) limit fixed for the 'A' & 'B' category mines of Bellary district (According to Hon'ble Supreme Court of India Judgement dated 14.12.2017, in the Samaj Parivartana Samudaya & Ors. Vs State of Karnataka & Ors.). *Therefore, before expiring the existing opened-up mining blocks, recommending and approving new mining lease in the fresh or virgin forest area is not justiciable and would cause serious and irreparable damage to the forest/nature/environment.*

Therefore, this project should not be accepted or considered for approval under Forest Conservation Act 1980.

  
Deputy Conservator of Forests,  
Ballari Division, Ballari

Dated :10.10.2019  
Place: Ballari.