

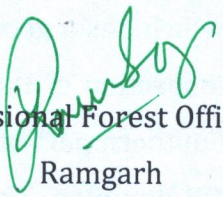
# Site Inspection Report

A proposal has been received by this office from M/s Central Coalfield Limited (CCL) under FC Act 1980 for diversion of 633.19 Ha of forest land for non-forestry purpose. The project envisages the use of forest land for Kotre Basantpur OCP for coal mining in Kotre, Basantpur and Pachanda villages in Ramgarh Forest Division. Out of total applied area, 497.86 ha is notified forest and rest 135.33 Ha is deemed forest. The site inspection of the forest land involved has been done on 01.12.2021. The details of site inspection and observation are as follows:-

- 1) The density of the vegetation is 0.6 and site quality is Eco class III
- 2) No protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments are located in the said project area.
- 3) The forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of National Park, Wildlife sanctuary and Biosphere/Tiger reserve.
- 4) There is movement of herd of elephants in villages located in and around the area proposed for diversion. Therefore, it is suggested that a comprehensive wildlife management plan should be prepared.
- 5) Kotre Basantpur block is located in the northern part of West Bokaro coal field. It was informed by M/s CCL that some part of the Overburden dump generated from mining needs to be dumped externally for which around 306.05 ha land of forest land will be required in northern part of Kotre Basantpur-Pachmo OCP (KBP OCP) lease area which has a good forest cover. From looking at the mining lease boundary and site inspection of the site, it was found that large area in Western, South Western and Southern part of Kotre Basantpur-Pachmo OCP lease area is open and is suitable for OB dumping. Therefore, M/s CCL should explore the possibility of OB dumping in open areas in West, South West and South of KBP OCP lease area in Basantpur, Pachanda, Ichakdih and Durukasmar villages so that OB dumping on forest land can be avoided.
- 6) CCL should also explore the possibility of OB dumping in nearby pits of CCL mines of Kedla OCP, Jharkhand OCP, Parej OCP and other coal blocks of CCL, initial dumping in Pachmo OCP lease area etc. for dumping of OB dump before starting the dumping on the forest land so that the rich biodiversity of the forest area could be preserved.



- 7) Removal of trees for open cast mining will definitely have adverse effect on the general ecosystem of the area with negative implications for moisture regime, microclimate, soil condition and regeneration of vegetation. These should be minimized and recompensated with progressive reclamation and re-vegetation of mined over areas and complete eco-restoration after closure of the mine.
- 8) There are numerous seasonal nalas emerging from the Hazaribagh plateau located north of the project area which flows mostly towards south and meet the Chutua Nala. Chutua Nala flows roughly west to east near the southern boundary of the block. As per the revised mining plan submitted by M/s CCL, diversion of nalas located within the project area will be done within project boundary. The tract of the project area and its immediate surrounding form the catchment area of Chutua Nala which finally drains into Bokaro river. Therefore, it is desirable to execute treatment of the catchment area of Chutua Nala in the vicinity of the project area covering appropriate nala stretch upstream and downstream as a compensating measure to offset the adverse impact of mining operation on hydrological regime. Therefore, soil and moisture conservation plan in the catchment area of Chutua Nala should be prepared and executed.
- 9) The large-scale relocation of people from the project area are potential for spurt of illicit activities of tree pilferage, manmade forest fire for collection of MFPs over large adjoining forest tracts. This would necessitate additional surveillance and monitoring of forest tracts in forest neighbourhood of the project area as safeguarding measures.

  
Divisional Forest Officer  
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