

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

The proposed site for diversion was inspected on 23/12/2022 by undersigned in the presence of representatives of the User Agency {Mr. Rajiv Kumar, AVP (Mining), Chakla Mine; Mr. Ram Gautam, AGM (Operation), Chakla Mine; Mr. Ravi Shankar (Counstant), Geotrax; Mr. Gopal Manna, Manager, Geotrax & others}; Mr. Rakesh Kumar, RFO, Chandwa and other forest officials.

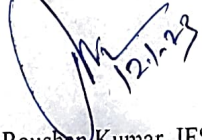
Referred points are detailed as below –

7. (xi) *Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area-if so details thereof- Yes {Asian Elephants (Endangered) are found in and around the project area. Habitat fragmentation caused by this project will impact the wildlife of this area specially for the mega fauna like Elephants.}*
- (xii) *Whether any protected archaeological/heritage site/defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details there of with NOC from competent authority, if required. - No*
8. *Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in col. 2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details alternatives examined. – Yes*
9. *Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials, whether work is violation is still in progress. – No*

Site Visit:-

The area proposed for diversion is 6.80 ha {Notified Forest land- 6.18 ha, Deemed forest land (GMJJ)- 0.62 ha} in Latehar Forest Division. Proposed project is related to the Chakla Coal mine allotted to Ms. Hindalco Industries Limited. Forest diversion proposal for the Chakla Coal Block is still pending and, in the meantime, User Agency has submitted this proposal for the Rail & Road pathway for transportation of coal from the mine. The proposed area falls in the forest area of Chakla PF and Bana PF. Predominate floral species are *Shorea robusta* (Sal), *Ficus Benghalensis* (Banyan), *Buchanania lanzan* (Piyar), *Dalbergia sissoo* (Shisham), *Ficus religiosa* (Peepal), *Syzygium cumini* (Jamun), *Gmelina arborea* (Gamhar), *Lannea grandis* (Genjan), *Madhuca latifolia* (Mahua). In and around the area proposed for diversion is rich in faunal diversity. Faunal species found in and around the project area are *Elephas maximus* (Elephant), *Hyaenidae* (Hyena), *Herpestidae* (Mongoose), *Felis chaus* (Wild Cat), *Sus scrofa* (Wild Boar), *Presbytis entellus* (Common Langur), *Muntiacus Muntjak* (Barking Deer), *Macaca mulatta* (Macaque Rhesus) etc. In and around Chakla forest area presence of herds of Elephants can be seen almost throughout the year. In recent time, regular reports of Human-Elephant conflicts is being reported from the area. The proposed Chakla Coal mine will get connected to the existing Rail line and Road with the help of this proposed Rail and Road line segments. As a result of this project forest of this area will further get fragmented and will adversely affect the roaming pattern of wildlife specially Elephant herds. This may further increase the existing Human-Elephant conflicts and losses due to these conflicts. Therefore, a comprehensive *Integrated Wildlife*

Management Plan is very much required. A small rivulet named Thakurjarwa passing through this area feeds Mahdonia (tributary of Damodar river which flows through the proposed Chakla Coal Block area). To minimize the impact of this Rail & Road project on the water regime of this area, a comprehensive *Soil & Moisture Conservation Plan* for the surrounding areas is necessary. Representatives of the User Agency informed during the site inspection that a good portion of this pathway will be *elevated* Road and Rail line. This if done properly can help in minimizing the fragmentation of habitat for wildlife. Working plan prescribe major part of the area proposed for diversion in Rehabilitation cum plantation working circle. The area is moderately prone to erosion. Average Vegetative density of the proposed area is around 0.6 to 0.7.


Raushan Kumar, IFS
Divisional Forest Officer
Latehar Forest Division

Raushan Kumar
IFS
Divisional Forest Officer
Latehar Forest Division, Latehar