

Site Inspection Report for the FCA proposal bearing Proposal No. FP/WB/MIN/43000/2019

Date of Inspection: 30.05.2022, 20.08.2022, 16.10.2022, 12.11.2022 & 01.05.2023.
Proposed Area of Forest Diversion (in Ha): 338.74

The proposal has been received from Director Mining, West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd for the diversion of 338.74 ha of forest land for the Open cast mining. Site inspection had been done by the undersigned on 30.05.2022, 20.08.2022, 16.10.2022, 12.11.2022 & 01.05.2023.

On inspection of the site, it is found that the land required by the User Agency is 338.74 hectares of forest land spread over 4 Mouzas namely Manohar, Saharjora, Ghutguria and Barapukhuria.

During the various field visits, it has been observed that the proposed forest land is rich in terms of biodiversity especially the flora. The habitat is also utilized by the Asian Elephants. Hence effort must be made to preserve the germplasm and an effort must be made to develop similar habitats in forest area in South Bengal through a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.

The proposed area has Dry Deciduous Forest having a predominance of Sal and associate species. Some of the important tree species recorded were Mohul, Asan, Pial, Arjun, Baheda, Amloki, Bel, Jam, Haritaki, Piasal etc. Besides the tree species, the area is also rich in shrubs and climber species. Although the proposed mining site lies at the north-western edge of the forest patch, there needs to be a proper fencing mechanism including bio fencing so that the impact of mining on the adjoining forest patch is minimized. During the site inspection, it has been observed that the proposed site and adjoining forest is prone to soil erosion. The advent of open cast mining would involve breaking up of land and removal of topsoil which might increase the vulnerability of the forest patch to soil erosion. The proposed site has presence of water

bodies. Hence a Comprehensive Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan should be prepared and implemented to ensure that the damage to remaining habitat is minimized.

Adequate consideration is needed in view of the fact that the proposed site is part of the adjoining forest patch that's utilized by Asian Elephants. Although the proposed site will not impact the migration route of elephants as it is the terminal point of Elephant migration, advent of open cast mining will affect the

existing habitat of elephants – through reduction of habitat size and consequent disturbance due to mining activity. Hence adequate measure is required in a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan in order to safeguard the remaining habitat in Barjora, to develop similar habitats in South Bengal and to take measures to mitigate Human-Elephant Conflict.

The User Agency has not violated the provisions of Forest Conservation Act, 1980. No work has commenced at the proposed site. The proposed project is **recommended** in the larger public interest.



Divisional Forest Officer,
Bankura (North) Division.