

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ROURKELA CIRCLE

1.	Name of the Project	Diversion of 349.709 ha of forest land for the Siarmal OCP of Mahalaxmi Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/32796/2018, State Sl. No. OR-061/2019 dated 07.09.2019)
2.	Name of the District/ Division	Sundargarh District / Sundargarh Division
3.	Date of Inspection	29.06.2021
4.	Name and Designation of Inspecting Officer	Dr. Arun Kumar Mishra, IFS Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle
5.	Name and Designation of other Officers ,who attended the inspection including the representative of User Agency	1. Sri Mirase P. Devidas, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh Division 2. Sri Paramananda Badnayak, RO, Gopalpur Range. 3. Sri Lingaraj Naik, Forester, Gopalpur Section. 4. Sri Sushil Kerketta, Forest Guard, Gopalpur <u>Representative of the User Agency</u> 1) Sanjay Kumar Jha, GM, Mahalaxmi Area of MCL 2) Satish Ch. Tripathi, Project Officer, Siarmal OCP. 3) Raji Joshua, S.O.(Env.& Forest), Siarmal OCP. 4) Prabhakar Pandey, Surveyor, Siarmal OCP. 5) Goutam Choudhary, Revenue Inspector, Siarmal.
6.	Legal Status of Forest land with area proposed for diversion	349.709 ha of Revenue Forest land has been proposed for diversion.
7.	If area required for diversion has been demarcated on the ground:	Yes
8. Item wise break up of forest land proposed for diversion.		
Purpose		Revenue Forest in (Ha.)
Total in (Ha.)		
Mining		260.769
Safety zone (7.5 meter strip inside the mining lease boundary)		3.930
Embankment, OB, Blasting zone and others		85.010
Total		349.709
9.	Condition of vegetation and type of forest in applied area	The floral species found in the applied forest area are viz Saguana (Tectona grandis), Char (Buchanania lanzan), Dhaura (Anogeissus latifolia), Neem (Azadirachta indica), Sal (Shorea robusta), Sunari (Cassia fistula), Bel (Aegle marmelos), Mahul (Madhuca indica), Kusum (Schleichera oleosa), Bamboo (Dendrocalamus strictus) and Misc Species. The DFO, Sundargarh Division has reported that the Eco Value Class has been treated as "Eco Value Class - III" based on the forest type 5B-C2-DS1-Dry Deciduous Forests and the average canopy density has been considered to be 0.4 based on prevailing forest growth.

10.	Position of Wildlife in general	As reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division, wild animals such as Hyaena (<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>), Porcupine(<i>Hystrix Indica</i>), Spotted Deer(<i>Axis axis</i>), Rhesus Monkey(<i>Macaca mulatta</i>), Wild Boar(<i>Sus scrufa</i>), Barking Deer(<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>), Sloth Bear(<i>Melursus ursinus ursinus</i>), Jackal(<i>Canis aureus</i>), Indian Hare(<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>), and Mongoose(<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>) are seen in the forest land. Bird like common doves(<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>), mynas(<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>), Jungle crow(<i>Corvus splendens</i>), Indian cuckoo(<i>Eudynamis scolopaceous</i>), etc are seen. Common reptiles and lizards like Common krait (<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>), rat snakes(<i>Ptyas mucosus</i>), common garden lizards(<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>) etc are seen in this area.
11.	Whether the applied area is involved with any eco sensitive Zone/ National Park/ Sanctuary	The applied area does not does not involve any Eco-Sensitive Zone / National Park / Sanctuary as reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division.
12	Number of trees to be felled and its impact on the eco-system	As reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division, 59,744 nos. (Forest-24414 (+) Non-forest-35330 nos.) of trees may be required to be felled, which will have adverse impact on the ecosystem.
13.	Details of broken up area and reclamation done, if any (Mining Cases)	Nil
14.	Position of displacement of people and adequacy of rehabilitation ,if any	As per R&R Plan enclosed with the DP 2593 Nos. of families will be affected due this project. The R & R Plan submitted by the User Agency is enclosed at Page No.279 to 285/DP . Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking at Page No.286/DP to the effect that they have sought for approval of the R&R Plan from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India and the same would be submitted by them as soon as it is obtained
15.	Position of rare and endangered species available or importance of area from archaeological point of view.	No rare and endangered species are available in the forest area applied for diversion and there is no archaeologically important monument situated in the area as reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division.
16.	Non-Forest land used in the Project and non-forest land selected for Comp. Afforestation, if included in the DLC report or not	Nil as reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division vide his Site Inspection Report Dtd.04.06.2021.

17.	Suitability of the identified non forest area for Compensatory Afforestation	As reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division, 691.558 ha of degraded forest land has been identified in Satparlia RF under Sundargarh Range of Sundargarh Division and the scheme for raising Compensatory Afforestation at the prevailing wage rate of Rs. 311.00 per MD with a maintenance period of ten years in ANR model has been prepared by him which is enclosed at Page No.180 to 196/DP.
18.	Violation of FC Act, if any, and action taken thereon	No violation under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been noticed.


 30/6/2019
 Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
 Rourkela Circle