



**FOREST DIVERSION PROPOSAL FOR CONSRUCTION OF  
CONVEYOR CORRIDOR FROM POTTANGI BAUXITE MINE TO  
ALUMINA REFINERY AT DAMANJODI UNDER POTTANGI TAHASIL,  
KORAPUT DISTRICT BY  
M/s. NALCO**

Aluminum plays an important role in terms of infrastructural needs of the country and also a frontline foreign exchange earner metal for the country, which is extracted from Bauxite. Discovery of East Coast Bauxite Deposits in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh during 1976-79 increased the Bauxite resources of the country to more than 2 million tonnes and India occupied 5<sup>th</sup> place in the World. Country's Bauxite production is around 16 million tons per year out of which Odisha's share is 30%. Requirement of the Bauxite for the existing Aluminum Industries of the Country is much more than the Bauxite being produced. Thus, development of East Coast Bauxite deposit is essential to meet the present and future requirement of Aluminum industries.

**2. Company Profile:**

M/s. NALCO, is a company incorporated in 1981, a premier Navaratna Public Sector Enterprise under administrative control of Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India in the field of Alumina/Aluminum having integrated multi-location facility of Bauxite mining, Alumina Refinery, Aluminum Smelting, Power generation and Port. At present, the company is mining 6.825lakh TPA Bauxite ore, has 2.10lakh TPA alumina refining capacity at Damanjodi, 4.60lakh TPA capacity of aluminum smelting and 1200MW Captive Power Plant at Angul in Odisha. As the alumina/aluminum is major source of foreign exchange earner, Govt. of india has set a goal to increase the production of alumina/aluminum and M/s. NALCO has to play a major role to achieve this goal.

To meet the increasing demand of alumina/aluminum from both external and internal markets, M/s. NALCO is planning to increase its refinery capacity by setting up 5<sup>th</sup>.Stream Alumina Refinery having one MTPA capacity at Damanjodi adjacent to its existing streams of refineries. The production of 1MTPA Alumina, M/s. NALCO needs additional 3.5MTPA Bauxite ore and to cater this additional demand of 3.5MTPA of ore, M/s. NALCO will source it from its Pottangi Bauxite Mine.

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### **3. Details of Mining Lease:**

Department of Steel & Mines, Govt. of Odisha vide its letter no. 5734, dated 12.07.2016 granted Mining Lease over 1783.04Ha. land in favor of M/s. NALCO under Pottangi Tahsil of Koraput District for a period of 50 years. Subsequently, M/s. NALCO requested for reduction of the Mining Lease area from 1738.04Ha. to 697.979Ha. vide its letter no. CMD/269, dated 30.10.2017. The said proposal of M/s. NALCO has been duly recommended by the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India in suppression of its earlier notification and reserved an area of 697.979 Ha. under Section 17A(1A) of MMDR Act, 1957, for undertaking prospecting or mining operation by M/s NALCO. Accordingly, Department of Steel and Mines, Govt. of Odisha considering the request of M/s. NALCO, Govt. of Odisha reduced the allotted Mining Lease area of Pottangi Bauxite Mines from 1738.04Ha. to 697.979Ha. and notify the same in its letter no. 3794/SM, dated 14.05.2018 infavour of M/s. NALCO.

The Pottangi Bauxite mine is situated over Serubandhaparbat, which is coming within Pottangi P.R.F. and Galigabeda P.R.F. under Semiliguda Forest Range of Koraput Forest Division. The Mining Lease area is located on Survey of India Toposheet No. 65J/14. The lease is bounded by latitude 18°34'32" to 18°37'3" and longitude 82°56'25" to 82°59'49". The lease is coming under Pottangi Tahsil of Koraput district, Odisha. The lease area can be approached from National Highways (NH-43) connecting Vizag to Raipur at a distance of 1.5km from the southern boundary of Mining Lease area.

### **4. Brief Description of the Project:**

M/s. NALCO as a part of its future expansion program, is planning to set up 5th Stream Alumina Refinery at Damanjodi adjacent to existing Streams of Alumina Refineries, with a capacity of 1.0 MTPA sourcing the ore from Pottangi Bauxite deposit. Pottangi Bauxite Mine is approximately 25 km away from proposed Alumina Refinery at Damanjodi and for transportation of bauxite from mine to Refinery, Overland Conveyor System is to be established as per the proper feasibility study. The conveyor system includes conveyor belt along with maintenance road, power transmission line, water pipeline etc. To facilitate these things on an average 69mt. width corridor is suggested by M/s. IPICOL (vide its letter no. CGM/SLNA/PBMNK/424/22 dated 24.08.2022) against the 100mt. width proposed by M/s. NALCO. Category wise proposed by NALCO and suggested by IPICOL is furnished below:

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Sl._No.	Category/ Item	Width Proposed by NALCO (in meter)	Width suggested by IPICOL (in meter)
1	Conveyor Belt	30	30 (provided adequate justification has to be submitted by EIL) - Project Report of EIL
2	Green Belt on both sides of corridor	10+10	3+3
3	33KV Power Transmission Line	20	15
4	Road, Divider & Drain on both sides	20	15
5	Water Pipeline	10	3
<b>Total Width</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>69</b>

The letter from IPICOL is attached as **Annexure-XV**

For finding of suitable route, three alternative routes were examined by detail recognition survey. The suitable route for establishment of conveyor corridor was finalized accordingly

#### **5. Justification for locating the project in forest land:**

With the proposed expansion of 1MTPA refinery capacity by establishing a new refinery adjacent to its existing refineries at Damanjodi, 3.5MTPA bauxite ore need to be transported from the mine to refinery by long distance conveyor belt as it is not suitable to transport the ore by any other mode of transportation. Also, for uninterrupted working of the belt to feed the refinery needs a dedicated 33KV DC power transmission line and for regular maintenance of the system a road is planned along the corridor. The forest land coming within the selected corridor exists in scattered patches/plots and hence, it is not possible to avoid the forest areas for construction of the over land conveyor corridor system.

All the feasible options have been explored to connect the mine to the refinery without encountering forest land by conveyor corridor. It is observed that the forest land could not be avoided completely for construction of the corridor system. Hence, a corridor alignment is selected involving least amount of forest land to be involved in the proposed conveyor corridor.

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For selection of the most suitable conveyor corridor three alignments have been examined and Route-I is considered most suitable with minimum use of forest land.

The following three alternative routes for conveyor corridor including the selected corridor have been shown in Survey of India **Toposheet No.E44L2**. The co-ordinates of all the three corridors are mentioned below:

ALTERNATE ROUTE-1				
LOCATION	EASTING	NORTHING	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
START	705557.202	2058527.894	82°56'53.58048"	18°36'27.43452"
END	700599.710	2076281.048	82°54'10.94760"	18°46'06.47328"

ALTERNATE ROUTE-2				
LOCATION	EASTING	NORTHING	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
START	705547.636	2058423.517	82°56'53.21580"	18°36'24.04368"
END	700599.710	2076281.048	82°54'10.94760"	18°46'06.47328"

PROPOSED CONVEYOR LINE-3				
LOCATION	EASTING	NORTHING	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
START	706235.653	2058909.392	82°57'16.86096"	18°36'39.60036"
END	700599.710	2076281.048	82°54'10.94760"	18°46'06.47328"

Brief comparative observation of three alternate corridors surveyed to select most suitable corridor for construction purpose:

Selected corridor- Route-I:

The corridor passes through less vegetated area and least no. of trees need to be felled down within the corridor.

Most part of the corridor is accessible through existing road, so easier to transport workforce, construction material & machineries to construction sites.

The gradient of the corridor site is suitable for safe construction.

Forest area involvement is minimum i.e. 41.297Ha.

Length of the corridor is 18.5km .

Alternate Corridor- Route-II:

Topography is rugged, difficult to approach & not suitable for construction.

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More number of approach roads need to the proposed sites for construction and involve more forest areas.

Gradient of the corridor site is very steep & hence, technically i.e. from both practical and economical point of view not viable for construction. /

Forest area involvement is 75.178Ha.

Length of the corridor is 18.803km

#### Alternate Corridor- Route-III:

Topography is rugged, difficult to approach & not suitable for construction.

More no. of approach roads need to be constructed for transportation of construction material & machineries to construction site

Due to level of difference and turnings, it is very difficult to transport machineries/ construction materials to the construction site.

Forest area involvement is 79.707Ha.

Length of the corridor is 21.189km

After taking all the above facts into consideration, the most suitable route for corridor system is selected as it covers least length i.e. 18.5km and involves least extent of forest area i.e. 41.297Ha. Also, the selected route for over land conveyor corridor is not passing through any settlement. Hence, does not need any rehabilitation process. All the three corridors surveyed including the selected corridor shown on Toposheet is enclosed as **Plate - 4**.

#### 6. Cost involved in the Project:

Capital Cost estimate out to Rs. 1285.85 Crores.

Financial Results are tabulated as below:

Item Description	Cost in Crores
Capex	1285.85
Operating Cost	193.82

#### 7. Employment likely to be generated by the Project:

Permanent Employee - 51

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Temporary Employee - 100

### **8 . Land Involved in the Project:**

The proposed overland Conveyor Corridor System (includes Conveyor Belt corridor, Maintenance road, water Pipe line and 33KV DC Power Transmission line) to transport Bauxite ore from its Pottangi mines to Alumina Refinery at Damanjodi will pass through Koraput, Semiliguda and Potangi Tahasils, and parts in Jungle Block under Semiliguda and Pottangi Forest Range. Total land involved in the proposed corridor works out to 130.862Ha. However, IDCO has allowed to acquire 310.00Ac. land for the project (as suggested to decrease the width of the corridor from 100m to 69m) vide its letter no. CGM/SLNA/PBMNK/424/22 dated 24.08.2022 (enclosed as **Annexure-XV**).

Total land involved in the proposed corridor includes **41.297Ha**. Forest land and **89.565Ha**. Non-forest land. The Non-forest land includes **42.871Ha**. government land and rest **46.694Ha**. private land. The village & Jungle wise breakup of the total land involved in this project is furnished below:

SL No.	FOREST DIVISION	TAHASIL NAME	VILLAGE NAME	FOREST LAND (IN Ha.)			NON-FOREST LAND (IN Ha)			TOTAL LAND IN Ha.
				REVENUE FOREST	JUNGLE BLOCK	TOTAL	GOVT	PRIVATE	TOTAL	
1	Koraput	Koraput	Damanjodi	0.000	0.000	0.000	5.281	0.000	5.281	5.281
2			Marichamala	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.660	17.002	20.662	20.662
3			Sindhipar	0.000	0.000	0.000	5.739	0.000	5.739	5.739
4		Semiliguda	Aligan	0.751	0.000	0.751	19.553	5.313	24.866	25.617
5			Charanguli	0.117	0.000	0.117	0.000	2.203	2.203	2.320
6			Jamukota	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.149	2.872	4.021	4.021
7			Mania	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.278	9.276	9.554	9.554
8			Marla	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.364	1.767	6.131	6.131
9			Sorisapadar	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.862	6.765	7.627	7.627
10			Bhitarkota	0.457	0.000	0.457	1.985	1.496	3.481	3.938
11			Jungle Block	0.000	29.037	29.037	0.000	0.000	0.000	29.037
12			Pottangi	Jungle Block	0.000	10.935	10.935	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL				1.325	39.972	41.297	42.871	46.694	89.565	130.862

### **9. Forest land:**

As per application, within the proposed Conveyor corridor total Forest land involved is 41.297Ha., out of which 1.325Ha. comes under Revenue Forest category in Semiliguda Tahasil, and 39.972Ha. in Jungle Blocks, coming under Semiliguda and Pottangi Forest Ranges. The authenticated land schedule showing forest lands involved in the project corridor is submitted along with the certificate from the user agency that this is the barest minimum of forest land

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involved in the project which is also counter signed by the D.F.O.-cum- Wildlife Warden, Koraput Forest Division (enclosed as **Annexure-IV**).

The breakup of forest land involved in the project corridor is mentioned below:

Sl.No.	Forest Division	Name of Tahasil/ Forest Range	Jungle Block Area in Ha.	Revenue Forest Land in Ha.	Total Forest Land in Ha.
1	Koraput	Semiliguda	29.037	1.325	30.362
2		Potangi	10.935	0	10.935
Grand Total Forest Land Involved			39.972	1.325	41.297

DGPS surveyed maps showing forest areas proposed for diversion in this project duly authenticated by ORSAC (vide its letter no.2702 dated 08.06.2023) and further verified by the D.F.O.-cum-Wildlife Warden, Koraput Forest Division and concerned Tahasildars is enclosed as **Plate-7**. The KML and .shp files of the FDP are in CD form is also appended to the DP.

The forest land involved within the project corridor does not come under any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve or Elephant Reserve and their corridors. The map showing nearest National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve or Elephant Reserve and their corridors with distance from the proposed corridor is enclosed as **Plate-14**.

Also, no monument intended to be preserved from Archaeological point of view comes within the proposed conveyor corridor.

M/s. NALCO has submitted the proposal for diversion of **41.297Ha.** forest land coming within the proposed Conveyor Corridor System and the proposal is duly processed and recommended by the D.F.O.-cum-Wildlife Warden, Koraput Forest Division and the Regional Conservator of Forest, Koraput Circle has forwarded the same in duplicate for obtaining approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change, Government of India under Section-2 (ii) of Forest Conservation Act-1980.

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**10. List of MAPS:**

<b><u>LIST OF PLATES</u></b>			
<b>SI. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Document (s)</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Reference</b>
1	Conveyor Corridor System superimposed on Toposheet	1:50000	Plate - 1 & 2
2	Layout plan of the project site approved by competent authority.	1:8000	Plate -3
3	Alternative Route Map	1:50000	Plate - 4
4	Compensatory Afforestation Map (Toposheet & DGPS)	1:3960	Plate - 5 & 6
5	ORSAC authenticated DGPS Map	1:3960	Plate - 7 & 13
6	Map showing the distance of the Project area from the National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary, Tiger &Elephant Reserve and their corridors	1:1000000	Plate - 14

**11. Details of Flora & Fauna of the area:**

**Flora:** The tree species which are commonly noticed in the applied area as follows.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
1	Acacia	Vachellia nilotica
2	Amba	Mangifera indica
3	Bishnuchuda	Bauhinia racemosa
4	Saguan	Tectona grandis
5	Chakunda	Senna occidentalis
6	Karanja	Millettia pinnata

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7	Jamu	Syzygium cumini
8	Panasa	Artocarpus heterophyllus
9	Neem	Azadirachta indica
10	Salapa	Borassus flabellifer
11	Patas	Erythrocebus patas
12	Simili	Bombax ceiba
13	Tentuli	Tamarindus indica

**Fauna:** The following Wild fauna commonly seen in the applied area as follows:

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Mammals</b>		
1	Three Striped Squirrel	Funambulus palmarum
2	Common Hare	Lepus nigricollis
3	Rhesus monkey	Macaca mulatta
4	Common Langur	Presbytis entellus
5	House Rat	Rattus rattus
6	Indian wild boar	Sus scrofa
<b>Birds</b>		
1	Common myna	Acridotheres tristis
2	House crow	Corvus splendens
3	Golden backed Woodpecker	Dinopium benghalense

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4	Red vented bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer
5	Red collared dove	Streptopelia tranquebarica
<b>Reptiles</b>		
1	Common Krait	Bungarus caeruleus/Bfasciatus
2	Wall lizard	Hemidactylus prashadi
3	Indian Russell's viper	Vipera russelli
<b>Amphibians</b>		
1	Indian bull frog	Hoplobatrachus tigerinus
2	Tree Frog	Polypedates leucomystax

## **12. Tree Enumeration:**

Tree enumeration has been completed over an area of **130.862Ha.** involved in the project includes **1.325Ha.** Revenue forest area, **39.972Ha.** in Jungle Block and **89.565Ha.** non-forest area. Total **1511nos.** of trees has been enumerated in the project corridor of which **79nos.** of trees comes in Revenue forest area, **59nos.** trees in Jungle Block and **1373nos.** of trees in non-forest areas.

The authenticated tree enumeration report including abstract for both forest and non-forest land is enclosed as **Annexure-XIII.**

The Divisional Forest Officer, Koraput Forest Division reported after site inspection that total number of **138** sound and unsound trees standing on the applied forest area proposed for diversion over **41.297Ha.** Total **59nos.** of trees has been enumerated in Jungle Block over an area of **39.972Ha.** and **79nos.** of trees in Revenue forest area over **1.325Ha.**

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### **13. Rehabilitation & Resettlement:**

We are acquiring land through Industrial Development Corporation (IDCO). During allocation if any habitants found in the required area, they will be compensate in accordance with the Odisha Right to Fair Compensation & Rehabilitation Act-2013 of govt. of Odisha. Due attention has been given during selection of land having no habitation.

### **14. Compensatory Afforestation:**

The area to be raised under Compensatory Afforestation in degraded forest land is twice the extent of forest land proposed for diversion i.e. **41.297Ha.** within the corridor as per U/S 2(ii) of FC Act, 1980. The D.F.O.-cum-Wildlife Warden, Koraput Forest Division has identified and allotted degraded forest land over an area of **82.592Ha.** in Rabalpadu D.P.F. under Semiliguda Forest Range, Koraput District in favour of M/s. NALCO for the purpose of compensatory afforestation. The **letter no.5460 dated 28.08.2021** from the office of the D.F.O.-cum-Wildlife Warden, Koraput Forest Division with respect to allotment of land for the purpose is enclosed as **Annexure-XIV.**

The Compensatory Afforestation area has been surveyed and pillar posting has been completed in each corner point and maps has been prepared and authenticated by ORSAC subsequently vetted by concerned Tahasildar and the DFO. The maps of CA land enclosed as **Plate-6.**

The Compensatory Afforestation scheme will be prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer-cum-Wildlife Warden, Koraput Forest Division as per the approved cost norm at present wage rate (Rs.345.00/-). The Compensatory Afforestation cost will be borne by the User Agency and undertaking is enclosed as an **Annexure-XIV.**

### **15. Environmental Clearance:**

The application for ToR has been filled by M/s. NALCO to SEIAA (Category-B1), Odisha in 2017. SEAC in its meeting dated 30.05.2018 & 31.05.2018 recommended for ToR which was finally issued on 28.06.2018 and the TOR No. is J-11015/08/2018-IA.II(M) (copy of the ToR is enclosed as **Annexure-IX.**)

नेशनल एल्युमिनियम कम्पनी लिमिटेड  
(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)  
निगम कार्यालय

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(A Government of India Enterprise)

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#### **16. DGPS Maps of Forest Land Proposed for Diversion:**

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India in their letter no. F.No.11-9/98-FC, dated 08.07.2011 have issued guidelines that all applications seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose must be accompanied with Geo-referenced boundary in .shp (shape) file. In compliance to this guideline, the required Digital geo-referenced map of the project area duly authenticated by ORSAC and vetted by the Divisional Forest Officer-cum-Wildlife Warden, Koraput Forest Division and Tahasildars of Koraput, Semiliguda and Potangi Tahasils and the vetted maps are submitted (enclosed as **Plate No.-7 to 13**)

#### **Compliance of Govt. of India, MoEF & CC circular dated 03.08.2009/05.02.2013 on processing of the Forest Diversion Proposal as per provisions of the ST & other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**

In compliance to Govt. of India, MoEF & CC circulars vide F.No.-11-9/1998-FC(Pt.) dated 03.08.2009 and subsequent guidelines issued thereafter in matter of ensuring compliance to the provisions of the Schedule Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006; M/s. NALCO has submitted application to the Collector and District Magistrate, Koraput for issue of certificate under FRA 2006 and the same has been issued by the Collector and District Magistrate, Koraput vide letter no.3122/21 dated 11.11.2021, the copy of which is enclosed as **Annexure-X**

  
के.के. पंडा / K.K. PANDA  
प्राधिकृत हस्ताक्षर / Authorised Signatory  
नेशनल एल्युमिनियम कम्पनी लिमिटेड  
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