

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

1. **Name of the Project** Proposal for diversion of 746.3325 ha. forest land for Iron Ore mining in respect of Daitari Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Ltd. under Keonjhar Wildlife Division & Cuttack Forest Division. (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/9112/2015).
2. **Name of the District/Division** Keonjhar District /Keonjhar(WL) Division.
3. **Date of Inspection** 24 .04.2015
4. **Name and Designation of Inspecting Officer** Shri Lingaraj Otta,IFS
Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle, Rourkela.
5. **Name and Designation of other Officers ,who attend the Inspection including representative of User Agency .**
 - 1.Sri Sangram Keshari Behera, IFS,
Divisional Forest Officer,
Keonjhar Wildlife Division,Anandpur.
 - 2.Sri Saroj Kumar Mahakud,OFS,
ACF I/C Brahmanipal Range.
 3. Sri Dilleswar Behera,OFS,
RO I/c Daitari Section.
 - 4.Sri Nabakishore Naik,Forester,Brahmanipal
Section
 - 5.(i)Sri Sibanarayan Patro,R.M.,
Daitari Mines,OMC Ltd.
(ii) Sri Birendra Kumar Panda , Manager
(Geology) Daitari Mines,OMC Ltd..
(iii) Sri Purnachandra Padhi, Asst. Manager
(Survey), Daitari Mines, OMC Ltd.
6. **Legal Status of Forest land with area proposed for diversion.**

In Keonjhar(WL) Division:
Rebna R.F.- 499.3579 ha.
Gramya Jungle- 53.7080 ha.
Total: 553.0659 ha.
(Including 8.7915 ha. of Safety Zone)
7. **If area required for diversion has been demarcated on the ground** Yes.

- 8 **The item-wise break up of forest land proposed for diversion is as follows:**

Sl. No.	Item	Forest area in ha.			
		Rebana RF	Daitari PF	Gramya Jungle	Total
i)	Mining	383.1188	Nil	18.5965	401.7153
ii)	Dumping	16.0229	Nil	34.5754	50.5983
iii)	Magazine & its Safety zone	91.9608	Nil	Nil	91.9608
iv)	Safety zone	8.2554	Nil	0.5361	8.7915
	Total	499.3579	Nil	53.7080	553.0659

9. **Condition of vegetation and Type of forest in applied area.**

The vegetation of the site applied for diversion consists of very dense forest with a canopy density ranging between 0.8 to 1.0 . This stretch of land consists of almost virgin forest. The type of forests seen in this area belongs to the following groups as per Champion and Seth classification of the forest types of India:

 1. 3C/C2e(iii) Moist Peninsular Valley Sal.
 2. 2. 5B/C2 Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest.
 3. E4 Lateritic Semi Evergreen Forest.
 4. 5B/C1c Dry Peninsular Sal Forest.

Tree Species which are commonly noticed in this area are Sal(*Shorea robusta*), Piasal(*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Gambhar(*Gmelina arborea*), Kangara (*Xylia xylocarpa*), Asan (*Terminalisa tomentosa*), Jamu (*Syzygium cumini*), Kurum(*Adina cordifolia*), Dhaura(*Anogeissus latifolia*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Panasa(*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Sirisha(*Albizia lebbek*), Kasi (*Bridelia retusa*), Neem(*Azadirachta indica*), Kendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) etc. Sal (*Shorea robusta*) is the predominant species.
10. **Position of Wild life in general**

In Rebena RF there is presence of wild animals like Indian Elephant(*Elephas maximus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Mouse deer(*Trangulus meminna*), Ratel (*Mellivora capensis*), Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Pangolin (*Manis crapsicaudata*) , Jackal (*Canis aureus linnaeus*), Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntak*), Sambar(*Cervus unicolor*), Peafowl(*Pavo cristatus*), King Cobra (*Ophiophagos hannah*), Russel's viper (*Vipera ruselli*), Hill Myna(*Gracula religiosa*), Indian soft-shelled turtle(*Lissemys punctata punctata*), Large Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*) etc. are seen in the applied area. However, this area was supporting Royal Bengal Tigers in the past. The last confirmed presence of Tigers in this area was in the year 1997.
11. **Whether the applied area is involved with any eco sensitive Zone/National Park/Sanctuary**

The area does not form part of any National Park /Sanctuary /Biosphere reserve. However, this area was supporting Royal Bengal Tigers in the recent past. The last confirmed presence of Tigers in this area was in the year 1997.

Recently, National Tiger Conservation Authority has proposed a Tiger corridor interlinking Similipal Tiger Reserve & Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Odisha which is essential for long term Tiger/ Wildlife conservation in our country. Field verification of the proposed corridor is going on. The area proposed for forest diversion comes within the proposed Tiger corridor.

12. **Number of trees to be felled and its impact on the system**

As per Sample enumeration, 1,65,869 trees are present in the area proposed for diversion (Extrapolated from the enumeration of trees in 38 sample plots of 2.0 ha. each totaling 22,793 nos.), which are required to be felled. The impact of felling of such large number of trees if taken at a single point of time will be severe which can be minimized by phase wise felling of the trees as and when required,

13. **Details of broken up area and reclamation done, if any (Mining cases)**

Item	Forest in ha.		
	Rebana RF	Gramya Jungle	Total
Mining	27.064	Nil	27.064
Dumping	4.22	Nil	4.22
Ore stacking & processing	13.50	Nil	13.50
Camp office, workshop etc.	5.50	Nil	5.50
Road	8.97	Nil	8.97
Total:	59.254	Nil	59.254

As claimed by the User Agency, no reclamation has been done so far due to existence of mineral.

14. **Position of displacement of people and adequacy of rehabilitation, if any**

The project does not involve displacement of people.

15. **Position of rare and endangered species available or importance of area from archeological point of view.**

Detailed description of species diversity has been provided earlier at Serial No.10. The applied area has no importance from archaeological point of view. However, the User Agency is advised to obtain NOC from Competent Authority of Archeological Survey of India in this regard.

16. **Non-Forest land used in the Project and non-forest land selected for Comp. Afforestation, if included in the DLC report or not.**

The site for Compensatory Afforestation has been identified over 717.853 ha in village Tebhakalam & 16.649 ha. in village Barkauri under Thuamul Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandi South Forest Division .

17. **Suitability of the identified non forest area for Compensatory Afforestation.**

Non- forest land has been identified in Kalahandi South Division for Compensatory Afforestation.

18. **Violation of FC Act, if any, and
action taken thereon**

The DFO,Keonjhar(WL) Division has reported that upon scrutiny of the High resolution satellite image provided by the User Agency, it was noticed that, a big patch of Gramya Jungle was found without vegetative cover, which was abnormal considering the dense canopy of the adjacent forest. The area was adjacent to village Talapada. During field inspection of the DFO,Keonjhar(WL) Division the area was verified in detail and approximately 28.67 ha. of Gramya Jungle coming within the lease hold area was found to be Podu/ Jhoom/ Shifting cultivation ravaged. As per the said report of the DFO, Keonjhar(WL) Division GPS readings of that area was taken and it was cross verified in Google Earth imagery using timeline feature. The Google Earth image dated 16.04.2010 corroborated the above findings. This is a violation of Forest (Conservation) Act,'1980 as Podu/ Jhoom/ Shifting cultivation within the lease hold area is a non-forestry activity.The DFO,Keonjhar(WL) Division has also reported that the matter is under investigation .

During the site inspection by the undersigned on 24.04.2015 , the said patch of Gramya Jungle was also inspected and through local enquiry it was ascertained that the area was used for Podu cultivation by the adjoining villagers.

d 16/5/14
Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle,Rourkela.