

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

1. Name of the Project :- Proposal for diversion of 401.7824 ha. of additional forest land including 7.2807 ha. of Safety Zone within applied RML area over 618.576 ha. within Gandhamardan (Block-A) Iron Ore Mining by M/s OMC Ltd. in Keonjhar district (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/13031/2015, State Sl. No. OR-046/2015)
2. Name of the District / Division :- Keonjhar District / Keonjhar Division.
3. Date of Inspection :- **28 .08.2015**
4. Name and designation of Inspecting Officer :- Sri Lingaraj Otta, IFS,
Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle, Rourkela.
5. Name and Designation of other officers who attended the inspection including representative of User Agency. :-
 1. Sri Rohita Kumar Lenka, IFS,
Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division
 2. Sri Prashanta Kumar Pattnaik, Range Officer, BJP Range.
 3. Sri Abhiram Sahoo, RM, Gandhamardan Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Ltd.
 4. Sri Ambika Prasad Mohapatra, Manager (Mining)
Gandhamardan Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Ltd.
 5. Sri Arabinda Behera, Dy. Manager (F&E),
Gandhamardan Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Ltd.
 6. Sri Niranjana Panda, Dy. Manager (Survey),
Gandhamardan Iron Ore Mines of M/s OMC Ltd.
6. Legal Status of forest land with area proposed for diversion :-

Virgin PRF	- 352.0807 ha.
Virgin VF	- 26.2217 ha.
<u>Pre-1980 broken up forest land</u>	<u>- 23.48 ha.</u>
Total:	-401.7824 ha.
7. If the area required for diversion has been demarcated on the ground :- Yes, the area required for diversion has been demarcated by RCC pillars and duly numbered.

8. Item-wise break-up of forest land proposed for diversion.

The item-wise break-up of forest land proposed for diversion is as follows;

Sl No.	Purpose of Utilization	Forest Area in ha (Virgin)		Forest Area in ha (Pre-80 Broken)		Total
		P.R.F.	V.F.	P.R.F.	V.F.	
1	Mining	306.2866	12.3715	19.51	-	338.1681
2	Dumping of overburden	3.5016	-	3.97	-	7.4716
3	Stacking of ore	0.4280	4.3597	-	-	4.7877
4	Sub-grade ore stacking	11.1385	-	-	-	11.1385
5	Processing and stacking	24.9305	3.9962	-	-	28.9267
6	Housing/Colony	-	-	-	-	-
7	Safety Zone area for Magazine (3.0 MT capacity).	4.0091	-	-	-	4.0091
8	Safety Zone of the Mining Lease.	1.7864	5.4943	-	-	7.2807
Total		352.0807	26.2217	23.48	-	401.7824

9. Condition of vegetation and type of forest in applied area

:- The applied forest land is a part of Gandhmadan PRF which comes under the type 3C/C_{2c}(ii) Moist Peninsular Low Level Sal forest type under Champion & Seth classification with canopy density 0.3 to 0.4 and site quality-IV . The prevailing vegetation consists of Sal and its associates like Bija (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Asan(*Terminalia alata*), Anla (*Emblia officinalis*), Kasi(*Bridelia retusa*), Gambhar (*Gmelina arborea*), Karada(*Cleistanthus collinus*), Kumbhi(*Careya arborea*) and Kendu (*Diospyrus melanoxylon*) etc. The main climbers associated with Sal (*Shorea robusta*)in these areas are Atundi (*Combretum decandrum*), Latapalash (*Butea superb*), Siali(*Bauhinia vahlii*), *Smilax tetraphylla* etc. The important grass species are Sinkula(*Heteropogon contortus*), *Aplida mutica*, *Dicanthium carricosum*, *Duba*(*Cynodon dactylon*), *Chrysopogon aciculatus* etc.

10. Position of Wildlife in general

:- No rare or endangered flora& fauna is noticed in this area but however, movement of mega fauna like elephant is often noticed in the fringe area. The area comes under the elephant habitat zone- 2 of ORSAC, Bhubaneswar.

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, Wild Life Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve. It also does not come under any wild life corridor. But, movement of wild elephants are often noticed in the fringe area.
12. Number of trees to be felled and its impact on the eco-system :- Total 86,100 Nos. of trees and 1804 nos. of Poles (approx) is to be felled in the virgin forest land. In addition, 1491 nos. of trees and 250 nos. of Poles are to be felled from broken-up forest land. The probability of soil erosion is likely to increase following felling on the undulating topography of the applied area.
13. Details of broken-up area and reclamation done, if any. (Mining cases) :- The total forest land involved in the mining lease is 519.7472 ha. The forest land broken prior to 1980 is 64.7242 ha (57.3327 ha PRF and 7.3915 ha Village Forest). The lessee has obtained in-principle approval under Sec-2(ii) of FC Act, 1980 vide F. No. 8-105/2006-FC dated.17.02.2009 of MoEF, Govt. of India over 117.9648 ha (Virgin PRF-76.7206 ha + Pre-80 broken up- 41.2442 ha). Now, the lessee has proposed for diversion for the balance forest land over 401.7824 ha which includes Virgin PRF- 352.0807 ha, Virgin VF- 26.2217 ha and 23.48 ha pre-1980 broken up forest land. Earlier mined out area has not been reclaimed.
14. Position of displacement of people and adequacy of rehabilitation, if any :- No
15. Position of rare and endangered species available or importance of area from archaeological point of view. :- No rare or endangered species are available in the applied area .The area is not important from archaeological point of view.
16. Non-forest land used in the project, and non-forest land selected for Comp. Affn. is included in the D.L.C. report or not. :- Non-forest Govt. land to the tune of 329.7743 ha **(519.7472 ha – 64.7274 ha –117.9648 ha- 7.2807 ha)** has been identified and allotted over an area of 329.811 ha. in village Khamarpadar under Thuamulrampur Tahasil vide letter No.737/Rev dt.30.04.2013 of Collector, Kalahandi for raising Compensatory Afforestation.

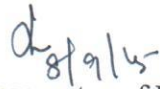
17. Suitability of the identified non-forest land / degraded forest land for Compensatory Afforestation. :- The suitability certificate duly authenticated by forest and Revenue authorities towards Compensatory Afforestation over 329.811 ha. in village Khamarpadar under Thuamulrampur Tahasil of Kalahandi District has been enclosed to the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme.
18. Violation of F.C. Act., if any, :- **Violation.**
- i. Illegal dumping of ores on forest land (Gandhamardan PRF) extracted from adjoining lease Block- B in the lease hold area of Block- A of dimension 200 mt x 150 mt x 40 mt (approx.- 3.00 ha) at the common boundary with GPS location.
Latitude : N 21 ° 37' 04.5"
Longitude : E 85 ° 30' 47.2"
 - ii. 2 ha. offorest land (Gandhamardan PRF) has been illegally used for road in Block- A without approval in violation of the F.C. Act, 1980.

Action taken.

- i. Show Cause notice has been issued to the Regional Manager, Gandhamardan Iron Ore Mines, M/s. OMC Ltd. vide letter No. 9513 dated 19.12.2011 of DFO, Keonjhar Division.
- ii. OR case No. 23^{BJ} of 2015-16 has been booked. Action is being taken for sanction and submission of prosecution in the Hon'ble Court of SDJM, Keonjhar.

Present status

- i. Removal of dump from the OB dump site in Block- A is under progress as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide their order dated 16.04.2012 (Copy enclosed) and subsequent direction of Steel and Mines Department, Govt. of Odisha (Copy enclosed).
- ii. The lessee has represented and submitted a proposal for use of the road under question which is under consideration at the level of MoEF & CC, Govt. of India.


Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle, Rourkela.