



**STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
BHUBANESWAR-751023**

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No. 11965 /9F (MG) – 4/2023
Dated, Bhubaneswar the 13th June' 2024

From

Sri Susanta Nanda, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act)
O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

To

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (F.C. Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval under Section 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd for non-forestry use of 156.978 ha of forest land (147.803 ha in Bonai Forest Division & 9.175 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division) for Iron Ore Mining and ancillary activities within Jumka Pathriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block under Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha– Stage-I compliance regarding.

Ref:- Letter No. 8-08/2023-FC dated 28.11.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Sir,

In reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi has accorded Stage-I/In-principle approval vide letter No. 8-08/2023-FC dated 28.11.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, MoEF& CC, New Delhi for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 in favour of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. for non-forestry use of 156.978 ha of forest land (147.803 ha in Bonai Forest Division & 9.175 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division) for Iron Ore Mining and ancillary activities within Jumka Pathriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block under Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha subject to fulfilment of 33 nos. of conditions stipulated therein. The point wise compliance basing on the report of the DFO, Bonai & Keonjhar Forest Division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle are as follows:-

Condition No.(1): Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai & Keonjhar Forest Division that legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged, which are enclosed as **Annexure – I (1) & II (1)**.

Condition No.(2): Compensatory Afforestation:

- a. *The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation as per the approved CA Scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the scheme for Compensatory Afforestation over an area of 156.978 ha. of Non forest land identified in village Deri Under Banspal Tahasil of Keonjhar district in BJP Range of Keonjhar Forest division in lieu of the forest land proposed for diversion in respect of the above project has been prepared. The Collector, Keonjhar has allotted 147.8030 ha and 9.1750 ha of non-forest Govt. land in village Deri vide Memo No.1868 & 1872 dated 26.05.2022 respectively. The CA scheme has been approved by the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) as per approved one-time cost norm with a total financial outlay of Rs.3,16,01,200/- with 10 years maintenance and the approval copy is enclosed as **Annexure-III Series**.

Further, in order to accommodate the balance number of seedlings, Additional Compensatory Afforestation Scheme over an area of 189.722 ha of Degraded Forest Land has been identified in Jadipada RF under Keonjhar and Patna Range of Keonjhar Forest Division which was also approved by the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) as per the one-time cost norm with the total financial outlay of Rs.5,57,79,500/- with 10 years maintenance and the approval copy is enclosed as **Annexure-III Series**.

As per the demand raised by the DFO, Keonjhar Division vide his Memo No. 13832 dated 08.12.2023, the User Agency has deposited the cost of both the aforesaid schemes amounting to Rs.8,73,80,700/- (Rs.3,16,01,200/- + Rs.5,57,79,500/-) through RTGS vide UTR No.CNRBR52023123070695506 dated 30.12.2023 in Orissa CAMPA Account. The demand letter of DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, allotment letter of Collector, Keonjhar and payment details are enclosed as **Annexure-III series**.

b. *The Govt. non-forest land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation shall be notified by the State Government as RF under Section-4 or PF under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section (s) of the local Forest Act, as the case may be, before the Stage-II approval;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Non-forest Govt. land over 156.978 ha identified for compensatory afforestation in village Deri under Banspal Tahasil of Keonjhar District has been mutated and transferred in favour of the Forest Deptt. and declared as "Deri-A Protected Forest" under Section-33 of the Odisha Forest Act, 1972 vide Notification No. FE-DIV-FLD-0017-2017-2023-{10F-Cons)-12/2023}-5563/FE &CC dated 15.03.2024 of Forest Environment & Climate Change Department (FE&CC), Govt. of Odisha. The copy of RoRs and PF Notification are enclosed as **Annexure-IV Series & V.**

c. *The cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the identified CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Non-forest Govt. land for Compensatory afforestation has been identified in village Deri over 156.978 ha under Banspal Tahasil of Keonjhar Forest Division of Keonjhar district and for Additional Compensatory Afforestation, Degraded Forest land has been identified in Jadipada RF over 189.722 ha under Keonjhar & Patna Range. The said lands have been demarcated in the field by posting RCC pillars. The CA & Addl. CA Schemes have been prepared with 10 years maintenance. The said schemes include planting of indigenous species like; Jamun (*Syzigium cumini*), Kuruma (*Adina cordifolia*), Dhaura (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Sisoo (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Gamhari (*Gmelina arborea*), Amla (*Embllica officinalis*), Karanja (*Pongamia pinnata*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Panasa (*Artocarpus intigrifolia*) etc. with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.

d. *The compensatory afforestation over non-forest land, equal in extent to the forest land being diverted i.e. 156.978 ha and over 183.722 Ha degraded forest land for balance seedlings shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost within three years from the date of grant of Stage - II approval;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that on receipt of funds from CAMPA, the compensatory afforestation over 156.978 ha of non-forest land identified in village Deri under Banspal Tahasil of Keonjhar district, equal in extent to the forest land being diverted i.e. 156.978 ha and over 189.722 Ha of degraded forest land identified in

Jadipada under Keonjhar & Patna Range of Keonjhar Forest division to accommodate the balance seedlings shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the approved cost within three years from the date of grant of Stage - II approval.

- e. User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forest (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 meter from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF&CC before Stage-II Clearance;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for undertaking Gap Planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forest (having crown density less than 0.40) submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela for ₹2,64,48,000/- at the wage rate of ₹352.00 per MD vide office Memo No.168 dt.16.1.2024 and the copy of approved Scheme along with letter of the RCCF, Rourkela are enclosed as **Annexure-VI & VII**. In the above context, the DFO, Keonjhar Division has reported that the said scheme will be implemented by the User Agency at the project cost in a phased manner. Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai & Keonjhar Forest Division, to implement the Scheme which are enclosed as **Annexure-I (2e) and II (2)**.

Condition No. (3): NPV

- a. The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 06.01.2022 read with 22.03.2022 through online portal of CAMPA account of the State Concerned;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the demand raised by the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division vide letter No.9394 dated 11.12.2023 & Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division vide letter No.13826 dated 08.12.2023, the user agency has deposited an amount of Rs.22,55,25,583/-(Rs.21,23,44,136/- for Bonai Forest Division + Rs.1,31,81,447/- for Keonjhar Division) towards cost of Net Present Value (NPV) for 156.978 ha @Rs.14,36,670/- per ha with Eco-value class-I and canopy density 0.6 of forest land through RTGS vide UTR No.CNRBR52023121469610872 dated 14.12.2023 in Orissa CAMPA Account. The copies of demand letters of DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Division, the payment details are enclosed as **Annexure-VIII series**.

- b. *At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;*

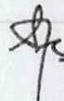
Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Division and DFO, Keonjhar Division to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India which are enclosed as **Annexure-I (3b)** and **II (3)**.

Condition No. (4): *Since a holistic proposal indicating the ancillary facilities i.e; road and transmission line was not submitted by the State Government and the proposal for the road and transmission are applied for by the User Agency and under process, the same can be processed by the Regional Office but final approval will be given after grant of final approval in the instant case. Further, the State government shall submit only holistic proposals in future including all linear and ancillary proposals w.r.t main proposal in future.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that as per the DFO, Keonjhar & Bonai Divisions, the proposals for 11 KV Transmission line and the approach road to Jumka Pathriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block are ancillary proposals which have been granted Stage-I approvals vide Letter No.5-ORB589/2023-BHU dt.22.12.2023 & No.5-ORC627/2024-BHU dt.25.01.2024 of GoI, MoEF &CC respectively by the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar after grant of Stage-I approval in respect of the instant proposal i.e. Jumka Pathriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block by MoEF & CC, New Delhi vide No.8-08/2023-FC dt.28.11.2023. However the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai to this effect that they shall submit only the holistic proposals future including all linear and ancillary proposals with reference to the main proposal against this condition. The undertaking is enclosed as **Annexure-I (4)**.

Condition No. (5): *Total no of the trees affected will be enumerated and report will be submitted at the time of the compliance. With regard to the illegal felling and shifting cultivation observed at the project site, committee shall be constituted by the State Government under an officer not below the rank of APCCF level to enquire the matter and take appropriate action. A report shall be submitted to the Ministry in this regard.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that as per the sample plot enumeration over the entire forest area of 156.978 ha involved in Jumka – Pathriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block (147.803 ha. in Bonai Forest Division and 9.175 ha. in Keonjhar Forest Division), 36342 nos. trees above 30cm girth and 6368 nos. poles below 30 cm girth have been enumerated. The trees will be felled in a phased manner as per the approved mining plan with prior permission of the Divisional Forest Officers concerned.



Further, with regard to the illegal felling and shifting cultivation observed at the project site, a committee under the Chairmanship of the CCF(Nodal) comprising of RCCF Rourkela & DCF-1(Nodal) as its members and the DFO Bonai Divisions its member convenor was constituted vide Office Order No.306. Dtd. 11-03-2024. of the PCCF (FD &NO, FC Act) and the committee has inspected the site on 04.04.2024. The report of the committee in this regard is enclosed as **Annexure-IX**.

Condition No.(6): As per the recommendation of the NEERI report the State Government shall explore the possibility for transportation of iron ore through conveyor belt and take a reasoned decision.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Division and DFO, Keonjhar Division, to abide by the above conditions and shall explore the possibility for transportation of iron ore through conveyor belt and take a reasoned decision as per recommendation of the NEERI report. The undertakings are enclosed as **Annexure-I(6) & II (5)**.

Condition No. (7): The State Government shall ensure that the rate of RWLMP/SSWCP which was revised by the State Govt. vide letter dated 05.12.2018, will be further revised in view of the factors such as wage rates and inflation etc. and accordingly the revised Wildlife Management Plans having long term mitigation strategy, plan and monitoring mechanism with respect to Human-elephant conflict in the landscape, duly approved by the CWLW will be submitted at the time of compliance.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the DFO, Bonai Division has raised demand vide letter No.9394 dated 11.12.2023 towards RWLMP @ 82000/ha and the User Agency has deposited a sum of ₹ 1,21,19,846/- towards cost of RWLMP pertaining to the project area over 147.803 ha. coming under Bonai Forest Division through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 21.12.2023 vide UTR No.CNRBR52023122170107374 as per challan dated 19.12.2023. The copy of demand letter of DFO, Bonai and payment details is enclosed as **Annexure-VIII & Annexure-X**.

Further, the DFO, Keonjhar Division has raised demand vide letter No.14164 dated 19.12.2023 and the User Agency has deposited a sum of ₹ 8,77,892/- towards cost of RWLMP pertaining to the project area over 10.706 ha coming under Keonjhar Forest Division through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 27.12.2023 vide UTR No.CNRBR52023122770446315 as per challan dated 26.12.2023. The copy of demand letter of DFO, Bonai and payment details is enclosed as **Annexure-XI series**.

Thus, the User Agency has deposited ₹1,29,97,738/- (Rs.1,21,19,846/- + Rs.8,77,892/-) towards RWMP over the entire Block area of 158.509 ha.

Besides, in the meantime, the rate of Regional Wildlife Management Plan fund has been enhanced from ₹82,000/- to ₹1,03,100/- per ha. vide Letter No.FE-DIV-MISC-0036-2021-1183 / FE&CC dated 19.01.2024 of the FE & CC Department, Govt. of Odisha and copy of this letter is enclosed as **Annexure-XII**.

Furthermore, as reported by the RCCF, Rourkela, a composite Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan addressing the long term mitigation strategies plan and monitoring mechanism with respect to wild animals and specially Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) in the region has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW vide Memo No. 4751 Dtd. 15.04.2023 and revised scheme vide Memo No.4707 dated 25.04.2024 in respect of Jumka-Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block including the ancillary proposals viz. 11KV transmission line and approach road for ore transportation for a financial outlay of ₹904.44 Lakhs for implementation of activities in the zone of influence in both Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Divisions.

Accordingly, the User Agency has deposited ₹9,04,44,000/- towards cost of the said Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 09.05.2024 vide UTR. NO.CNRBR52024050879953412 as per Challan dated 08.05.2024. The copies of approved SSWLCP, demand letter of the DFO, Bonai Division and payment details are enclosed as **Annexure-XIII series**.

Condition No. (8): A green strip of 100 meters including safety zone of the approximately five hectares on the southern tip of the mining lease area will be kept intact as green belt for shelter, cover and movement of the wild life.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a green strip of 100 meters including safety zone of the approximately five hectares on the southern tip of the mining lease area will be kept intact as green belt for shelter, cover and movement of the wildlife. In this context, the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Division and DFO, Keonjhar Division, enclosed as **Annexure-I of (8) and II of (6)**. The Plan showing said green strip of 5.0 Ha. area along with its co-ordinates and land schedule has been authenticated by the Range Officer, Barsuan and countersigned by the DFO, Bonai which is enclosed as **Annexure-XIV**.

Condition No. (9): Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that all the compensatory levies deposited under this project have been transferred online in CAMPA account using e-payment module through web portal of MoEF & CC, GoI duly signed by the

1226

DFO, Bonai Division and Keonjhar Division and duly countersigned by the PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act). The details of funds deposited by the user agency through online in Orissa CAMPA Account has been furnished in prescribed CAMPA Format which are enclosed as **Annexure-XV (1) & XV (2)**.

Condition No. (10): The KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal along with GPS Ids and all other requisite details prior to Stage II approval;

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the said project proposal has not yet been listed in the E-green watch portal for which mapping has not been done. The KML files of the area to be diverted, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area will be uploaded on E-green watch portal when the said project is listed in the said portal as per report of the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Division.

Condition No. (11): Following activities, as per approved plan/ schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Approved scheme/plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with compliance of Stage-I approval:

- a. ***Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three years with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;***

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been approved for ₹2,47,67,600/- at the wage rate of ₹352.00 per MD vide this Memo No.168 dt.16.01.2024 (Copy already attached as **Annexure-VI**). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XVI**. Further, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Division and DFO, Keonjhar Division to implement the approved Scheme within a period of three years with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in consultation with the State Forest Department which are enclosed as **Annexure-I (11 a) and II (7)**.

- b. ***Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;***

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been approved by the RCCF, Rourkela for ₹14,97,100/- at the wage rate of ₹352.00



per MD vide this Memo No.168 dt.16.1.2024 (Copy already attached as **Annexure-IV**). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XVII**. Further, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Division and DFO, Keonjhar Division to implement the Scheme which are enclosed as **Annexure-I (11 b) & II (8)**.

c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for construction of check dams, retention / toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been approved by him with no budgetary provisions as it remains included in the scheme prepared in compliance with condition no.11(a) vide Memo No.168 dt.16.1.2024 (Copy already attached as **Annexure-IV**). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XVIII**. Further, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division to implement the Scheme which are enclosed as **Annexure-I (11 c) & II (9)**.

d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for Stabilization of the overburden dumps by appropriate grading / benching so as to ensure that the angle of repose at any given place is less than 28°, submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been approved by the RCCF, Rourkela with no budgetary provisions as it remains included in the scheme prepared in compliance with condition no. 11(a) vide this Memo No.168 dt.16.1.2024 (Copy already attached as **Annexure-IV**). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XIX**. Further, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division to implement the Scheme which are enclosed as **Annexure-I (11 d) & II (10)**.

Condition No. (12): Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:

- a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;**

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the DFO, Bonai Division has reported that the Range Officer, Barsuan has intimated vide his Memo No.218 dt.09.05.2024 (enclosed as **Annexure-XX**) that the boundary of safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along inner boundary of the mining lease area) has been demarcated by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates. The User Agency has committed that the regeneration and protection (fencing of safety zone) of the safety zone will be implemented as per the approved scheme at the project cost. The User Agency also committed to deploy adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the Forest Department.

The undertakings to this effect furnished by the user agency and duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division are enclosed as **Annexure-I (12 a) & II (11)**.

b. *Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency will abide by this condition that the boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency. In this context, the user agency has submitted undertakings duly countersigned by DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Division are enclosed as **Annexure-I (12 b) & II (12)**.

c. *Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for Fencing, Protection and Regeneration of the Safety Zone over 5.746 ha. (Forest-5.478 ha. + Non-forest-0.268 ha.) has been approved for ₹2,24,82,500/- vide Memo No.554 dt.15.02.2024. The copy of approved Scheme along with the letter are enclosed as **Annexure-XXI Series**. The Scheme will be implemented by the User Agency as per prescriptions of the approved Scheme. An undertaking to this effect has been furnished by the User Agency which has been duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Division which are enclosed as **Annexure-I (12 c) & II (13)**.

d. *The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency will maintain the safety zone as per prescribed norms. In this context, the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Division, enclosed as **Annexure-I (12 d) & II (14)**.

Condition No. (13): *No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for Top Soil Management submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been approved by him for ₹8,02,500/- at the wage rate of ₹352.00 per MD vide his Memo No.168 dt.16.1.2024 (Copy already attached as **Annexure-IV**). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XXII**. Further, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Division to implement the Scheme which is enclosed as **Annexure-I (13) & II (15)**.

Condition No. (14): *The User Agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS co-ordinates located within five km from the mine lease boundary. This list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The User Agency shall regularly undertake de-silting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/water bodies. A detailed approved plan for de-silting of identified ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF& CC before Stage-II approval;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that 4 nos. of ponds has been identified in village Jaladihi under Bonai Division and village Sudang, Tiriba, Kodakala in Keonjhar Division within 5 Km from the mine lease boundary and the scheme to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/ water bodies submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been approved by the RCCF, Rourkela for ₹2,03,20,700/- at the wage rate of ₹352.00 per MD vide his Memo No.168 dt.16.1.2024 (Copy already attached as **Annexure-IV**). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-XXIII**. Further, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking to implement the Scheme duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-I (14) & II (16)**.

Condition No. (15): *The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Division and Keonjhar Division to deposit the cost of felling of trees to the Forest Department before felling which are enclosed as **Annexure-I (15) & II (17)**.

Condition No. (16): *Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking that trees shall be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Division and Keonjhar Division, which are enclosed as **Annexure-I (16) & II (18)**.

1222

Condition No. (17): The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking to explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Division and Keonjhar Division, which are enclosed as **Annexure-I (17) & II (19).**

Condition No. (18): A Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan shall be prepared by the State Government in consultation with the PCCF (Wildlife) for the protection and conservation of wildlife of the area. A copy of approved Plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with the compliance of Stage-I approval. Entire cost of implementation of the provisions of the Wildlife Management Plan shall be deposited into the account of CAMPA of the State;

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a composite Site Specific Wild life Conservation Plan addressing the long term mitigation strategies, plan and monitoring mechanism with respect to wild animals and specially Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) in the region has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW vide his Memo No.4751 dated 15.04.2023 and revised plan vide Memo No.4707 dated 25.04.2024 in respect of Jumka-Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block including the ancillary proposals viz. 11KV transmission line and approach road for ore transportation for a financial outlay of ₹904.44 Lakhs for implementation of activities in the zone of influence in both Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Divisions.

Accordingly, the User Agency has deposited ₹9,04,44,000/- towards cost of the said Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 09.05.2024 vide UTR. NO.CNRBR52024050879953412 as per Challan dated 08.05.2024.

A copy of the approved Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan along with deposit slip are already enclosed as **Annexure-XIII Series.**

An undertaking to this effect furnished by the user agency and duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai & Keonjhar Division is enclosed at **SI No. 18 of Annexure-I & SI No.20 of Annexure-II.**

Condition No. (19): State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the *Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence, along with compliance of Stage-I approval, as prescribed by this Ministry's letter No. 11-9/1998-FC(Pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Certificate under Forest Right Act,2006 has been issued by the Collector, Sundargarh over 147.803 ha. of forest land vide his Letter No.3798 dt.22.11.2022 (**Annexure-XXIV**). Further, the Certificate under Forest Right Act,2006 has been issued by the Collector, Keonjhar over 9.175 ha. of forest land vide Letter No.26 dt.10.01.2023 (**Annexure-XXV**). Thus, Certificate for the entire forest area over 156.978 ha. has been issued under Forest Right Act,2006.

Condition No. (20): The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concern Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking to operate mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area taking due care for reclamation of the mined out area in a phased manner as per the approved mining plan. Further, the User Agency will submit an annual report on status of reclamation to the concerned Department to this effect and furnish an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division are enclosed at **SI No.20 of Annexure-I** and **SI No.21 of Annexure-II** respectively.

Condition No. (21): The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re- grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking to comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner, duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division, which are enclosed at **SI No.21 of Annexure-I** and **SI No.22 of Annexure-II** respectively.

Condition No. (22): Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended time to time and the Rules framed there-under;



1220

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported the period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 and the rules framed there-under i.e. 50 years from the date of execution of mining lease.

Condition No. (23): *The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Environmental Clearance has been granted by SEIAA, Odisha vide File No.EC23B001OR118212 dated.02.12.2023 (**Annexure-XXVI**).

Condition No. (24): *No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas, duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division, which are enclosed at **SI No.24 of Annexure-I** and **SI No.23 of Annexure-II** respectively.

Condition No. (25): *The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Range Officer, Barsuan has intimated vide his Memo No.218 dt.9.5.2024 that the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone has already been demarcated on the ground at the project cost by erecting 4 feet high RCC pillars. Each pillar is inscribed with serial number, DGPS co-ordinates, and distance from pillar to pillar. The DFO, Keonjhar Division also reported that the above work already been done in the field. The list of boundary pillars along with co-ordinates with pillar to pillar distance is enclosed as **Annexure-XXVII**.

Condition No. (26): *The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking that the layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be allowed to be changed. The said undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and

DFO, Keonjhar Division are enclosed at **SI No.26 of Annexure-I** and **SI No.24 of Annexure-II** respectively.

Condition No. (27): *The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking that the forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government, duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division which are enclosed at **SI No.27 of Annexure-I** and **SI No.25 of Annexure-II** respectively.

Condition No. (28): *No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused, duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division, which are enclosed at **SI No.28 of Annexure-I** and **SI No.26 of Annexure-II** respectively.

Condition No. (29): *The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking that they shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to the Ministry by the end of March every year regularly, duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division, which are enclosed at **SI No.29 of Annexure-I** and **SI No.27 of Annexure-II** respectively.

Condition No. (30): *Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has submitted an undertaking that any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife, duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division, which are enclosed at **SI No.30 of Annexure-I** and **SI No.28 of Annexure-II** respectively.

Condition No. (31): *The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.*

2B

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project. In this context, the UA has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division, which is enclosed at **SI No.31 of Annexure-I** and **SI No.29 of Annexure-II** respectively.

Condition No. (32): *Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019. In this context, the UA has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division, which are enclosed at **SI No.32 of Annexure-I** and **SI No.30 of Annexure-II** respectively.

Condition No.(33): *The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency will upload the compliance report in e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). In this context, the UA has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar Division, enclosed at **SI No.33 of Annexure-I** and **SI No.31 of Annexure-II** respectively.

In view of the above, the compliance to the conditions imposed by the Government of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi is sent herewith for according final approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 in favour of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. for non-forestry use of 156.978 ha of forest land (147.803 ha in Bonai Forest Division & 9.175 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division) for Iron Ore Mining and ancillary activities within Jumka Pathriposhi Pahar Iron Opre Block under Bonai and Keonjhar Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

2A

Memo No. 11966 /Dt. 13-06-2024

Copy alongwith the compliance report forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF & CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Letter No.8-08/2023-FC dated 28.11.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Poo 13/06/2024

Deputy Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 11967 /Dt. 13-06-2024

Copy alongwith the compliance report forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Letter No.8-08/2023-FC dated 28.11.2023 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Poo 13/06/2024

Deputy Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 11968 /Dt. 13-06-2024

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.2400 dated 07.06.2024.

Poo 13/06/2024

Deputy Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 11969 /Dt. 13-06-2024

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division / Keonjhar Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.2401 (2) dated 07.06.2024 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

Poo 13/06/2024

Deputy Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 11970 /Dt. 13-06-2024

Copy forwarded to the Director, M/s Rungta Mines Ltd., At/Po: Barbil, Dist: Keonjhar-758035, Odisha for information and necessary action.

Poo 13/06/2024

Deputy Conservator of Forests (Nodal)