



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
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No. 17522 /9F (MG) – 12/2023
Dated, Bhubaneswar the 20th August 2025

To

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests
Government of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road
Aliganj, New Delhi-110003

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour M/s Raga Tradecon Pvt. Ltd. for non-forestry use of 66.242 ha. (including 2.09 ha. safety zone) of forest land for Mining of Iron Ore within Netrabandha Pahar (West) Iron Ore Block in villages Baldihi and Sanua under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh Odisha- Stage-I approval regarding.

Ref:- Letter F. No.8-14/2023-FC dated 21.12.2024 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi

Sir,

In reference to the above mentioned subject, it is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi have accorded 'Stage-I/in-principle' approval vide Letter F. No.8-14/2023-FC dated 21.12.2024 for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2(1) (ii) of Van (Sarankshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour M/s Raga Tradecon Pvt. Ltd. for non-forestry use of 66.242 ha. (including 2.09 ha. safety zone) of forest land for Mining of Iron Ore within Netrabandha Pahar (West) Iron Ore Block in villages Baldihi and Sanua under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh Odisha subject to fulfillment of 43 nos. of conditions imposed therein. The point wise compliance based on the reports of the DFO, Bonai Forest Division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle are as follows:-

Condition No.1:- The legal status of forest land proposed for diversion 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 Forest Division that the legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion shall remain unchanged which is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

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 an extent of 66.25 ha. of non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation has been identified in village Mahupada under Koira Tahasil of Banki Range of Rourkela Forest Division in Sundargarh District. Further, an area of 73.462 ha. of degraded forest land has been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation in Mahulpada RF under Kuliposh Range of Bonai Forest Division. Besides, an area of 2.00 ha. of degraded forest land has been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation in Chudia RF under Rajgangpur Range of Rourkela Forest Division.

The C.A. Scheme has been approved for ₹2,45,57,600/- and the Addl. Comp. Affn. Scheme over 73.462 ha. has been approved for ₹2,98,11,500/- and also Addl. Comp. Affn. Scheme over 2.00 ha. has been approved for ₹19,39,600/- by the PCCF (FD & NO FC Act), Bhubaneswar vide Memo No.23606 dt.26.11.2024.

The User Agency has deposited a sum of Rs.10,26,52,000/- which inter alia includes the cost of C.A. in Non-Forest Land over 66.25 Ha amounting to Rs.2,45,57,600/-, Additional C.A over 73.462 ha amounting to Rs.2,98,11,500/- and Addl. CA over 2.00 ha of degraded forest land amounting to Rs.19,39,600/- through e-portal in A/C No.1508258153549644 on 19.02.2025 vide UTR No. YESBR52025021954700682.

Thus as per the report of the DFO, Bonai Division, the User Agency has deposited a sum of ₹5,63,08,700/- (₹2,45,57,600/- (+) ₹2,98,11,500/- (+) ₹19,39,600/-) towards the cost of Compensatory Afforestation and Addl. CA through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 19.2.2025. The copy of payment details is enclosed as **Annexure-2 Series**.

(b) The 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 Tahasildar, Koira has intimated vide his Letter dated 29.01.2025 that the Collector, Sundargarh has sanctioned the alienation of non-forest land identified over 66.25 ha in Village Mahupada under Koira Tahsil in favour of Forest Department vide sanction order No.10940/II-48/2024 dated 30.11.2024. The non-forest Govt. land identified in village Mahupada under Koira Tahasil for Compensatory Afforestation has been mutated in favour of State Forest Department by the

Tahasildar, Koira which is enclosed as **Annexure-3**. The draft notification proposal for declaration of PF under Section-33 of Orissa Forest Act, 1972 has been forwarded to the Govt. of Odisha, FE&CC Department vide this office Memo No.16559 dated 06.08.2025 which is enclosed as **Annexure-3A**.

(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 as mentioned in the CA Scheme, deposit of the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars is not required to be done by the User Agency as the said works had been taken up by them (UA) in consultation with the Range Officer concerned.

As reported by the DFO, Bonai Division, an extent of 66.25 ha. of Non-Forest land has been identified for Compensatory Afforestation in village Mahupada under Koira Tahasil of Banki Range of Rourkela Forest Division of Sundargarh District. Further, an area of 73.462 ha. of degraded forest land has been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation in Mahulpada RF under Kuliposh Range of Bonai Forest Division. Besides, an area of 2.00 ha. of degraded forest land has been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation in Chudia RF under Rajgangpur Range of Rourkela Forest Division. All the above schemes will be maintained for 10 years each by the respective DFOs. The schemes have been prepared with provision of 10 years maintenance of plantation and the said schemes include afforestation of indigenous species 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. 66.242 ha 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 an extent of 66.25 ha. of non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation has been identified in village Mahupada under Koira Tahasil of Banki Range of Rourkela Forest Division of Sundargarh District. Further, an area of 73.462 ha. of degraded forest land has been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation in Mahulpada RF under Kuliposh Range of Bonai Forest Division. Besides, an area of 2.00 ha. of degraded forest land has been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation in Chudia RF under Rajgangpur Range of Rourkela Forest Division.

The approved CA over 66.25 ha. and Addl. CA scheme over 2.00 ha. will be implemented and maintained by the Divisional Forest Officer, Rourkela Forest Division. Further,

Addl. CA scheme over 73.462 ha. will be implemented and maintained by the Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai Forest Division within 3 years from the date of grant of Stage-II approval on receipt of necessary funds for the same from the PCCF, Odisha.

(e) Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and half time the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost under the supervisions of the State Forest Department and afforestation will be done within three years from the date of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter 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 an area of 3.20 ha. of degraded forest land measuring 1.5 times of the area under Safety Zone has been identified in Nagaria PRF and the Scheme for afforestation for ₹51,61,300/- has been approved by RCCF, Rourkela Circle and the scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-4**. Further, the User Agency has deposited a total sum of ₹ 10,26,52,000/- which inter alia includes ₹51,61,300/- towards the cost of 1.5 times Safety Zone afforestation. **(Copy already enclosed as Annexure-2).**

(f) 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 Gap Plantation and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forest (having crown density less than 0.40) submitted by the User Agency through the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹1,21,49,100/- and communicated vide Memo No.745 dt.20.02.2024 which is enclosed as **Annexure-5**. The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-6**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Division to implement the Scheme which is enclosed as **Annexure-7**.

(g) 25% of the CA cost additionally will be spent towards soil and moisture conservation activities in the proposed CA area as per site requirement and deposited in CAF.

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that an amount of ₹21,70,414/- of 25% of CA cost towards soil and moisture conservation activities in the proposed CA area has been deposited through online on 19.02.2025. The payment receipt of ₹10,26,52,000/- consist of payments made towards 25% of CA cost (₹21,70,414/-). The copy of payment details is already enclosed as **Annexure-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 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 total forest land involved in the mining lease is 66.242 ha. and demand was raised vide his Office Letter No.6952 dt.11.09.2023 of DFO, Bonai Forest Division to pay ₹9,51,67,894.00 (66.242 X ₹14,36,670/-) towards Net Present Value (NPV). Accordingly, the User Agency has deposited ₹9,51,67,894/- towards NPV through online on 18.9.2023 in favour of ORRISA CAMPA Account No. 1508258153576234 vide UTR No. YESBR52023091898893017. The payment details in this regard have been enclosed as **Annexure-8 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 submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above conditions which is enclosed as **Annexure-9**.

Condition No.4:- *The CA area has been provided over 64.152 ha. NFL; therefore, the State Govt. shall ensure that the equivalent non-forest land to the extent of the forest land being diverted will be provided. Details of the NFL along with the KML will be provided at the time of the submission of the compliance of the Stage-I.*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a revised CA scheme has been prepared over 66.25 ha. of Non-Forest land identified in village Mahupada under Koira Tahasil of Banki Range of Rourkela Forest Division of Sundargarh District. Further, an area of 73.462 ha. of degraded forest land has been identified Additional Compensatory Afforestation in Mahulpada RF under Kuliposh Range of Bonai Forest Division. Besides, an area of 2.00 ha. of degraded forest land has been identified for Additional Compensatory Afforestation in Chudia RF under Rajgangpur Range of Rourkela Forest Division for accommodating the balance nos. of seedlings .

The Scheme for Compensatory Afforestation over 66.25 ha. of non-forest land is enclosed as **Annexure-9-A** and the KML file of the said CA land has been provided in a Pen Drive.

Condition No.5:- *Transportation of ore shall be as per the recommendation in the report submitted by CSIR-NEERI.*

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 Forest Division that they will implement the conditions for transportation of ore as per the report submitted by CSIR-NEERI which is enclosed as **Annexure-10**. Further, the User Agency has submitted the Plan for Transportation of Ore which is enclosed as **Annexure-10A**.

Condition No.6:- A holistic transportation plan shall be prepared by the State Govt. aiming to have minimum impact in the landscape. The same shall be implemented. Transportation of ore should be as far as possible through common conveyor belt, slurry pipeline, railways, etc. Transportation of ore through road should be minimized in a time bound manner.

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 Forest Division that they shall carry out the transmission plan prepared by the State Govt., aiming to have minimum impact in the landscape which is enclosed as **Annexure-11**. Further, a holistic transportation plan for the mines located in the Netrabandha Pahar landscape of Keonjhar and Bonai Division in Keonjhar and Sundargarh District has been prepared and sent to GoI, MoEF & CC vide this office Letter No.12295 dated 06.06.2025 to consider the holistic plan. The letter is enclosed as **Annexure-11A**.

Condition No.7:- An Oversight Committee shall be constituted under the Chairmanship of the DDGF (Central) RO Bhubaneswar for 10 years who will monitor and review the compliance of the conditions stipulated in the approval for these five mines [namely- 1. Netrabandha Pahar iron Ore Block (area 112.621 ha, 2. Netrabandha Pahar (West) area 66.242 ha), 3. Laserda Pacheri Manganese & Iron Ore Block (area 94.351 ha), 4. Kalmang West (Northern Part) Block for Iron Ore Mines Iron Ore Block (Area 42.608 ha) and 5. Guali Opencast Iron Ore Mines (area 194.683 ha)] twice a year and submit their yearly report to this Ministry in the month of December. This Oversight Committee shall consist following members and logistics of this Committee shall be borne by State Government at the cost of UAs

- a) DDGF (Central) – Regional Office Bhubaneswar- Chairman.
- b) One Representative from IIFM Bhopal.
- c) One Representative from WII Dehradun.
- d) One Representative from ICFRE.
- e) One Representative from NEERI.
- f) One expert in Geology.
- g) Two other experts nominated by MoEF & CC.

The recommendation made by the said committee shall be considered by the Ministry and if agreed the same shall be binding on the UAs;

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 Forest Division that they will implement the condition recommended by the committee which is enclosed as **Annexure-12**.

Condition No.8:- *Integrated Regional Wildlife Conservation Plan shall be prepared for 10 years covering the forest Division of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Keonjhar Districts at the cost of UA. The works shall be executed as per APO and the regional plan shall have site / species specific wildlife sub plans / prescriptions.*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted a copy of the approved Regional Wildlife Management Plan (RWLMP) for 10 years from 2024-25 to 2033-34. The detailed annual plan of operation has been provided in Chapter-3 of the approved RWLMP. The copy of the approved Regional Wildlife Management Plan (RWLMP) is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-13**. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will implement the RWLMP for 10 years of the plan which is enclosed as **Annexure-13 A**.

Condition No.9:- *A Bio-diversity Conservation Plan for this entire landscape shall also be prepared by the State Govt. at the cost of UA.*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that demand was raised by the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Forest Division vide his Letter No.3792 dt.8.5.2024 to deposit the proportionate cost for an amount ₹3,70,923/- towards 50% of the total cost of consultancy in respect of Netrabandha Pahar West Iron Ore Mine in favour of Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal for "Preparation of Biodiversity Conservation Plan for the entire Landscape of Netrabandha Pahar".

The User Agency has deposited ₹3,70,923/- towards 50% of the total cost of consultancy in favour of Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal on 15.05.2024 vide Demand Draft No.018101 dt.15.05.2024 which is enclosed as **Annexure-14**.

The Biodiversity Conservation Plan for Netrabandha Pahar entire landscape has already been submitted to GoI, MoEF & CC vide this office Memo No.14693 dated 10.07.2025 which is enclosed as **Annexure-15**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition of the bio-diversity conservation plan, which is enclosed as **Annexure-15A**.

Condition No.10:- *Soil and moisture conservation measures shall be undertaken in and around 10 KM radius of the mining lease areas at project cost.*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a Scheme for Soil and Moisture Conservation within 10 km radius of mining lease areas submitted by the DFO, Bonai Division has been approved by RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹59,85,800/-. The approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-16**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-17**.

Condition No.11:- *The conditions stipulated in EC should be strictly implemented and monitored.*

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 Forest Division that they will abide by the above conditions which is enclosed as **Annexure-18**.

Condition No.12:- *Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred / deposited, through e-challan, into 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 funds received from the User Agency under the project have been transferred / deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). The CAMPA format showing the deposit of all compensatory levies duly signed by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division and countersigned by the Addl. PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) is enclosed as **Annexure-60**.

Condition No.13:- *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 with all requisite details prior to Stage-II approval;*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the KML file of the area to be diverted and the CA areas have been uploaded on the e-green watch portal.

Condition No.14:- *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 User Agency through the DFO, Bonai Division has been approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹1,29,16,400/- at the wage rate of ₹352.00 per MD vide Memo No.745 dt.20.02.2024 (Copy already attached as **Annexure-5**). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-19**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-20**.

(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 submitted by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹11,31,500/- at the wage rate of ₹352.00 per MD vide Memo No.745 dt.20.02.2024 (Copy already attached as Annexure-5). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-21**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-22**.

(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 User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle vide Memo No.745 dt.20.02.2024 (Copy already attached as Annexure-5). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-23**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-24**.

(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 User Agency through the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle vide Memo No.745 dt.20.02.2024 (Copy already attached as Annexure-5). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-25**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-26**.

Condition No.15 : 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 RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Range Officer, Koira has intimated vide his Memo No.220 dt.17.03.2025 that the UA has demarcated the safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along inner boundary of the mining lease area) for its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire. Provision for deploying adequate number of watchers has been included in the Safety Zone Scheme and the same will be implemented after grant of final approval. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-27**.

(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 has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-28**.

(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 safety zone over 2.992 Ha. of forest land submitted by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹1,66,74,500/-. The scheme will be implemented by the User Agency at the project cost in a phased manner. The scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-29**. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-29A**.

(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 has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above conditions which is enclosed as **Annexure-30**.

Condition No.16:- *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 User Agency through the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹34,35,200/- at the wage rate of ₹352.00 per MD vide Memo No.745 dt.20.2.2024 (Copy already attached as Annexure-5). The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as Annexure-31.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as Annexure-32.

Condition No.17:- *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 the Scheme for de-siltation of the village tank and other water bodies located within 5 Km from the mine lease boundary so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/ water bodies submitted by the User Agency in consultation with the DFO, Bonai Division has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for ₹1,08,06,400/- at the wage rate of ₹352.00 per MD vide Memo No.745 dt.20.02.2024 (Copy already attached as Annexure-5). The UA has identified 2 nos. of pond in village Kahjuridihi and Patamunda under Bonai Forest Division for de-siltation. The copy of approved Scheme is enclosed as Annexure-33.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as Annexure-34.

Condition No.18:- *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 Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as Annexure-35.

Condition No.19:- *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 duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as Annexure-36.

Condition No.20:- *The User Agency shall undertake that afforestation of the non-mineralized virgin forest land within the mining area shall be taken up at project cost.*

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 Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-37**.

Condition No.21:- *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 duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-38**.

Condition No.22:- *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 Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and the same has been approved by the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide his Memo No.13789 dt.22.12.2023 with a financial out of ₹403.06 Lakhs (Bonai Division-₹318.96 Lakhs + Keonjhar Division-84.10 Lakhs). Accordingly, the User Agency has deposited a sum of ₹10,26,52,000/- which includes ₹4,03,06,000/- towards the cost of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 19.2.2025 as per Challan dated 13.02.2025. The copy of payment details in this regard have been enclosed as **Annexure-2**.

A copy of the approved Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan is attached as **Annexure-39**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-39 A**.

Condition No.23:- *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 the Collector, Sundargarh has issued certificate under Forest Right Act, 2006 for the entire forest land over 66.242 ha. vide his Letter No.3799 dt.22.11.2022 which is enclosed as **Annexure-40**.

Condition No.24:- The User Agency shall undertake that User Agency and the State Forest Department shall create and maintain from funds to be provided by the User Agency alternate habitat/ home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project as per the plan duly approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and the Chief Wildlife Warden Odisha. Bird nests artificially made out of eco-friendly materials shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the Scheme for creation and maintenance of alternative habitat/home for avifauna has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden Odisha vide his Memo No.8584 dated 24.07.2024 with financial outlay of ₹ 8,76,000/-. A copy of the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-41.**

Further, the User Agency has deposited a sum of Rs.10,26,52,000/- which inter alia includes the above approved amount of ₹8,76,000/- through e-portal of MoEF & CC (<http://parivesh.nic.in>) on 19.2.2025. The copy of payment details in this regard have been enclosed as **Annexure-2.**

Condition No.25:- The User Agency shall undertake that the project authority needs to take up works for construction and cleaning of garland drains, stabilizing retaining walls, proper terracing of OB dumps and checking gully formation resulting in soil erosion.

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 Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-42.**

Condition No.26:- The User Agency shall undertake that plants which are having lowest translocation factor can be preferred under afforestation on the OB dumps and fruit trees to be avoided in planting during biological stabilization of OB dumps.

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 Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-43.**

Condition No.27:- The User Agency shall undertake that prevention of fall of wild animals into mining pit by fencing the open pit area.

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 Forest Division that they will take all precaution measures to prevent fall of wild animals into mining pit by fencing the open pit area which is enclosed as **Annexure-44.**

Condition No.28:- The User Agency shall undertake that the angle of repose in OB dumps to be maintained to ensure stability and safety.

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a Scheme for maintaining the angle of repose in OB dumps to ensure safety and stability, submitted by the User Agency through the DFO, Bonai has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle with no budgetary provision as it remains included in the scheme prepared in compliance with Condition No.14(a) above. Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-45**.

Condition No.29:- *The User Agency shall undertake that vetiver grass can be planted at the lower reaches of the dump to bind the soil and prevent soil erosion giving better stability to the dump.*

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that A Scheme to stabilize the over-burden dumps by appropriate grading / benching submitted by the User Agency through the DFO, Bonai has been technically approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle with no budgetary provision as it remains included in the scheme prepared in compliance with Condition No.14(a) above. Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-46**.

Condition No.30:- *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 duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above conditions which is enclosed as **Annexure-47**.

Condition No.31: *The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on regrassing, 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 duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-48**.

Condition No.32: 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;

Compliance: In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the period of diversion of forest land under this proposal will be co- terminus with the period of the mining lease as amended vide the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 and the Rules framed there under i.e 50 years from the date of execution of mining lease. Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division to implement the condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-49**.

Condition No.33: 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 the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India vide File No.462515/07-MIN/02/2024 dt.18.11.2024. The copy of the Environmental Clearance is enclosed as **Annexure-50**.

Condition No.34: 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 duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above conditions which is enclosed as **Annexure-51**.

Condition No.35: 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 boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, has been 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 by the User Agency. The details of forest pillars alongwith GPS co-ordinates etc are furnished with due countersignature of the DFO, Bonai Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-51A**.

Condition No.36: 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 duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-52**.

Condition No.37: *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 duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-53**.

Condition No.38: *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 duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused, which is enclosed as **Annexure-54**.

Condition No.39: *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 duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-55**.

Condition No.40: *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.*

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 Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-56**.

Condition No.41: *Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 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 the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-57**.

Condition No.42: *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 duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they will abide by the above condition which is enclosed as **Annexure-58**.

Condition No.43: 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 has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Bonai Forest Division that they shall upload the compliance report on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>), which is enclosed as **Annexure-59**.

In view of the above, the compliance to the conditions imposed by the GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi is sent herewith for according final approval of Central Government under Section-2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sarankshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour M/s Raga Tradecon Pvt. Ltd. for non-forestry use of 66.242 ha. (including 2.09 ha. safety zone) of forest land for Mining of Iron Ore within Netrabandha Pahar (West) Iron Ore Block in villages Baldihi and Sanua under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh Odisha.

Encl: Stage-I Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully

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

Memo No. 17523 / Dt. 20-08-2025

Copy forwarded to the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), GoI, MoEF& CC, Regional Office, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for information and necessary action with reference to Letter F. No.8-14/2023-FC dated 21.12.2024 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

18/8/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 17524 / Dt. 20-08-2025

Copy alongwith one set of Stage-I compliance forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action with reference to Letter F. No.8-14/2023-FC dated 21.12.2024 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, MoEF& CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

Encl: Stage-I Compliance in one set

18/8/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 17525 / Dt. 20-08-2025

Copy forwarded to the RCCF, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.2668 dated 22.05.2025.

18/8/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 17526 /Dt. 20-08-2025

Copy forwarded to the DFO, Bonai Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.2669 dated 22.05.2025 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

18/8/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 17527 /Dt. 20-08-2025

Copy forwarded to M/s Raga Tradecon Pvt. Ltd, 1st Floor, Shyam Residency, Flat No.101, Near Jharpada Jail, Bhubaneswar for information.

18/8/2025

Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)