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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF  
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No. 1559 /9F (MG) – 372/2021  
Dated, Bhubaneswar the 21<sup>st</sup> January' 2025

To

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (FC)  
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 non-forestry use of 417.073 ha & Re-diversion (Change of land use) of 171.774 ha forest land in respect of Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari Opencast Project of Lakhanpur area in District Jharsuguda in Odisha of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited – Stage-I compliance regarding.**

Ref:- Letter No. 8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 27.12.2023 of Scientist 'D', 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. 8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 27.12.2023 of Scientist 'D', Govt. of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for non-forestry use of 417.073 ha & Re-diversion (Change of land use) of 171.774 ha forest land in respect of Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari Opencast Project of Lakhanpur area in Jharsuguda District in Odisha subject to fulfilment of 36 nos. of conditions stipulated therein. The point wise compliance based on the report of the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest division and RCCF, Sambalpur Circle are as follows:-

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

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency as furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that the legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged, which is enclosed as **Annexure-1**.

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**Condition No. (2): Status of the court cases booked against the MCL shall be provided.**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that OR case No.113 of 96/97, OR case No.120 of 97/98, OR case No.125 of 97/98, OR case No.17 of 1999/2000, OR case No.118 of 1999/2000 of Belpahar Range have been booked against the MCL authorities at that time. As per the available records of this office, no prosecution report has been filed in the court and the reason for the same is unknown as per the available records.

Jharsuguda Forest Division has been created after reorganization of Forest Department with effect from 1st October, 2003 and the Division was earlier then named as Sambalpur (North) Division. Subsequently, the Division has been renamed as Jharsuguda Division with Headquarters at Jharsuguda in 2013. However, the prosecution report will be filed in the court in future after obtaining of relevant records from the Divisional Forest Officer, Sambalpur Forest Division.

**Condition No. (3): 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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that an area of 417.073 ha of non-forest Govt. land has been identified for Compensatory Afforestation in Sudanga Village under BJP Range of Keonjhar Forest Division against Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari OCP and the CA scheme has been approved by the PCCF (FD & NO) FC Act for Rs.10,83,57,300 at the wage rate of Rs.352/- per MD with 10 years maintenance and the User Agency has deposited the said amount vide UTR No.SBINR52024033012541257 dt.30.03.2024 as per the demand raised by the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division vide letter No.2313/6F-Mining-49/2016, dt.14.03.2024. Further, the CA Scheme has been revised at the current wage rate of Rs.452/- per MD for Rs.17,87,47,300/- and the User Agency has deposited the differential amount of Rs.7,03,90,000/- vide UTR No.SBIN524362686803 dated 27.12.2024. The copy of the demand Letter and Transaction slip are enclosed in **Annexure-2 Series**.

Further, an area of 100 ha has been identified in Chaitra RF under Kuchinda Wildlife Range of Bamra Wildlife Division for Additional Compensatory Afforestation in ANR mode @ 500 Seedlings per ha with 18 months old seedlings to accommodate the balance seedlings. The ACA scheme has been approved by the PCCF (FD & NO) FC Act for Rs.3,11,70,800/- at the wage rate of Rs.450/- per MD with 10 years maintenance and the User Agency has deposited the said amount vide UTR No.SBINR52024101856085465 dt.30.03.2024

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as per the demand raised by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division vide letter No.5172/4F-(Misc.) Dated:23.09.2024. The copy of the demand Letter and Transaction slip are enclosed in **Annexure-3 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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation has been alienated in favour of State Forest Department and the said copy of RoR is enclosed as **Annexure-4**. The proposal for notification as PF has been forwarded to Govt. of Odisha, FE & CC Department vide this office Memo No.536 dated 07.01.2025, which is enclosed as **Annexure-5**.

**(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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the demarcation and erection of permanent pillars have been completed in identified CA land as per the approved CA scheme and maintenance cost for a period of 10 years has been included in the CA scheme of non-Forest CA land identified in Keonjhar Division and Degraded Forest land for Addl. CA in Bamra Wildlife Division. The approved schemes include Afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years. Further, both the CA & Addl. CA schemes have been enclosed as **Annexure- 6(A) & Annexure- 6(B)** respectively.

**(D) The compensatory afforestation over non-forest land, equal in extent to the forest land being diverted i.e. 417.073 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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the land for Compensatory Afforestation Scheme over non-forest Govt. land, equal in extent to the forest land being diverted i.e. 417.073 ha has been identified in Keonjhar Forest Division and an amount of Rs.17,87,47,300/- has been deposited by the user agency. The Demand Letter and deposit slip are enclosed as **Annexure-2 Series**. An undertaking in compliance to this condition from the DFO, Keonjhar Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-6(C)**.

**(E) Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half times 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**

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*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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that a scheme for afforestation of one and a half times the area of forest land under safety zone identified in Amkhaman Sagarpali RF over 37.0 ha (24.095 ha x 1.5 = 36.1425 ha Say, 37.0 ha) of Belpahar Forest Range under Jharsuguda Forest Division has been approved by the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle for Rs.2,48,80,485/-. The UA has deposited Rs.2,48,80,485 (Part payment of Rs.13,99,12,985/-) vide UTR No. SBINR5202411186327055 dated 18.11.2024 in CAMPA as per demand raised vide letter 6354/4F(Misc.) Dated:13.09.2024 of DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division. The scheme along with demand letter and deposit slip are enclosed as **Annexure-7 & 7A.**

*(F) User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that a scheme for gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 meter from outer perimeter of the mining lease has been approved by the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle for Rs.11,50,32,500/- and deposited in CAMPA account by the UA (Part payment of Rs.13,99,12,985/-) vide UTR No. SBINR5202411186327055 dated 18.11.2024 as per demand raised vide letter 6354/4F(Misc.) dated 13.09.2024 of DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division. The detailed scheme along with the demand letter and deposit slip are enclosed as **Annexure-8 & 8A.**

*(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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the soil and moisture conservation activities in the proposed CA area as per site requirement has been approved in the CA scheme of Non-Forest Govt. land identified in Keonjhar Forest Division for CA and Degraded Forest land for ACA in Bamra Wildlife Division for an amount of Rs. 17,87,47,300/- for CA and Rs.3,11,70,800/- for ACA respectively and the same has been deposited by the User Agency. Further if any additional cost raised as per site requirement the appropriate amount will be deposited by the UA. The UA has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division to that effect which is enclosed as **Annexure-9.**

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**Condition No. (4): 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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the Net Present Value (eco-value class-III, density of vegetation 0.55) amounting of Rs.51,24,11,717 for an area of 417.073 ha has been deposited by the User Agency in CAMPA Account as per the demand letter issued vide No.310/4F(Misc.) dated 12.01.2024 by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division. The UA has deposited above amount vide UTR No.SBINR52024013098929729 dated 30.01.2024. The demand letter and deposit slip are enclosed as **Annexure-10 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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that the user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, which is enclosed as **Annexure-11**.

*(C) The penalty for reported violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest till the deposit is made. The required admissible 8-280/1989-FC Vol. I/61084/2023 amount shall be paid by the UA.*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the Penal NPV for reported violation area, amounting to Rs.16,66,27,381/- has been demanded by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division vide letter No.2415/4F(Misc.) dated 18.04.2024 for payment. The UA has deposited the said Penal NPV vide UTR No. SBINR52024062531324387 dated 25.06.2024. The demand letter and deposit slip are enclosed as **Annexure-12 Series**.

**Condition No. (5):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that all the funds have been deposited in CAMPA account through e-challan by user agency.

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The statement of funds towards payment of compensatory levies deposited by the user agency has been shown in prescribed CAMPA format duly signed by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division and countersigned by the Addl. PCCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act), which is enclosed as **Annexure-55**.

***Condition No. (6): 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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the Stage-II clearance is needed for uploading the KML files of diverted area, the CA & ACA areas, the proposed SMC treatment & 1.5 times safety zone area on the e-Green watch portal. The screenshot of corresponding page of e-greenwatch portal is enclosed as **Annexure-13**. Further, the soft copy of the KML file is enclosed with compliance in the shape of pendrive. All the KML file will be uploaded in e-Greenwatch Portal after the Stage-II approval.

***Condition No.(7): 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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that a scheme for mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream has been prepared and duly approved by the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle with a financial outlay of Rs.90,90,10,908/-. The scheme has been enclosed as **Annexure-14**. In this regard, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-15**.

***(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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that a 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 has been prepared and duly approved by the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle with a financial outlay of Rs.44,94,686.40. The scheme has been enclosed as **Annexure-16**. In this regard, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-17**.

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***(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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that a scheme for Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour has been prepared and duly approved by the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle with a financial outlay of Rs.12,30,00,000/-. The scheme has been enclosed as **Annexure-18**. In this regard, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-19**.

***(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°; and***

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that a scheme to Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching has been prepared and duly approved by the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle. The scheme has been enclosed as **Annexure-20**. In this regard, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-21**.

**Condition No.(8)**

***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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that demarcation of safety zone (7.5-meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), by erecting RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates, has been completed by the user agency. The photographs for the compliance have been enclosed as **Annexure-22**. Further, demarcation of Safety Zone by barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department will be undertaken. In this regard, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-23**.

***(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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda

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Forest Division that the boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, shall be properly fenced, which is enclosed as **Annexure-24**.

**(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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and shall 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, which is enclosed as **Annexure-25**.

**(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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that the State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms, which is enclosed as **Annexure-26**.

**Condition No. (9): 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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the one scheme has been prepared for top soil management which has been approved by him vide Memo No.3369 dated 21.12.2024 and appropriate measures prescribed in the approved scheme will be carried out. The scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-27**. In this regard, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-27 (A)**.

**Condition No.(10): 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 desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such 8-280/1989-FCVol. I/61084/2023 tanks/water bodies. A detailed approved plan for desilting 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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that a scheme for desilting of identified 48 Nos. of ponds and water bodies in 20 Nos. of villages has been prepared by the UA in consultation with this Department and duly approved by the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle with a financial outlay of Rs.37,65,31,716.70, which is enclosed as

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**Annexure-28.** In this regard, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-28 (A)**.

**Condition No.(11):** *The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department, which is enclosed as **Annexure-29**.

**Condition No.(12):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that the trees shall be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Mining Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO, which is enclosed as **Annexure-30**.

**Condition No.(13):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that afforestation of the non-mineralized virgin forest land within the mining area shall be taken up at project cost, which is enclosed as **Annexure-31**.

**Condition No. (14):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that they 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, which is enclosed as **Annexure-32**.

**Condition No. (15):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the Site-specific Wildlife Management Plan based on land scape management has been approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, BBSR for an amount of Rs.3250.72 lakhs, out of which Rs.3109.384 lakhs is to be deposited by user agency in CAMPA account and Rs.141.336 lakhs is to be deposited in the Wildlife Odisha. Hence, the User Agency has deposited Rs.3109.384 vide UTR No.SBINR52024083045046430 dated 30.08.2024 and Rs.141.336 lakhs in the account of the Wildlife Odisha vide UTR No.SBINR5202408304504234 dated 30.08.2024 as per the demand of the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division vide his letter No.4523/4F(Misc.) dated:12.08.2024. The Demand Letter and deposit slips are enclosed as **Annexure-33**. The Site-specific Wildlife Management Plan is enclosed as **Annexure-33(A)**.

**Condition No.(16):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that as per G.S.R 869 (E) dated 29.11.2023 of consolidated Guidelines and Clarification issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 Clause 11 (Final approval of the proposal), Sub clause 7 they will submit the FRA certificate, 2006, which is enclosed as **Annexure-34**.

**Condition No.(17):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the scheme for Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & CWLW, Odisha which includes the plans for alternate habitat/ home for avifauna. In this regard, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-35**.

**Condition No. (18):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that the project authority will 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, which is enclosed as **Annexure-36**.

**Condition No. (19):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that the 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, which is enclosed as **Annexure-37**.

**Condition No. (20):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that for prevention of fall of wild animals into mining pit, a fencing shall be provided to the open pit area, which is enclosed as **Annexure-38**.

**Condition No. (21):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that the angle of repose in OB dumps shall be maintained to ensure stability and safety, which is enclosed as **Annexure-39**.

**Condition No. (22):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that vetiver grass shall be planted at the lower reaches of the dump to bind the

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soil and prevent soil erosion giving better stability to the dump, which is enclosed as **Annexure-40**.

**Condition No.(23):** *The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due 8-280/1989-FCVol. I/61084/2023 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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking to that effect duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-41**.

**Condition No. (24):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that they 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, which is enclosed as **Annexure-42**.

**Condition No. (25):** *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 and the Rules framed there-under;*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that 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) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under, which is enclosed as **Annexure-43**.

**Condition No. (26):** *The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;*

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**Compliance:** In compliance to the above condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted the certificate of Environmental Clearance issued vide File No.IA-J-11015/15/2019-IA-II(M) of Govt. of India, MoEF & CC dated 15.01.2024. The certificate of Environment Clearance, which is enclosed as **Annexure-44**.

**Condition No. (27):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division 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, which is enclosed as **Annexure-45**.

**Condition No. (28):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone have 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. The details pertaining to Safety Zone, Mining Lease Boundary etc. are enclosed as **Annexure-46**. In this regard, the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-46 (A)**.

**Condition No. (29):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that 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, which is enclosed as **Annexure-47**.

**Condition No. (30):** *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;*

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**Compliance:** In compliance to the above condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division 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, which is enclosed as **Annexure-48**.

**Condition No. (31):** *No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused, which is enclosed as **Annexure-49**.

**Condition No. (32):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division 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, which is enclosed as **Annexure-50**.

**Condition No. (33):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division to abide by 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, which is enclosed as **Annexure-51**.

**Condition No. (34):** *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 condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division that they shall comply all the provisions of 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, which is enclosed as **Annexure-52**.

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**Condition No. (35):** *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 8-280/1989-FCVol. I/61084/2023 dated 28.03.2019.*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur 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 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 8-280/1989-FCVol. I/61084/2023 dated 28.03.2019, which is enclosed as **Annexure-53**.

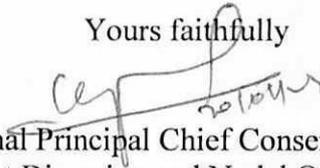
**Condition No. (36):** *The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above condition, the RCCF, Sambalpur Circle has reported that the compliance report has been uploaded in e-portal and an undertaking in this regard furnished by the User Agency duly countersigned by the DFO, Jharsuguda Forest Division, which is enclosed as **Annexure-54**.

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 Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for non-forestry use of 417.073 ha & Re-diversion (Change of land use) of 171.774 ha forest land in respect of Integrated Lakhanpur-Belpahar-Lilari Opencast Project of Lakhanpur area in District Jharsuguda in Odisha.

**Encl: Compliance in one set**

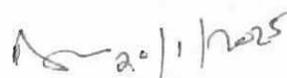
Yours faithfully

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

Memo No. 1560

/Dt. 21.01.2025

Copy 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. 8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 27.12.2023 of Scientist 'D', GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

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Memo No. 1561 /Dt. 21.01.2025

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 letter No. 8-280/1989-FC(Vol) dated 27.12.2023 of Scientist 'D', GoI, MoEF & CC (FC Division), New Delhi.

**Encl: Compliance in one set**

Memo No. 1562 /Dt. 21.01.2025

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Sambalpur Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 96 dated 13.01.2025.

Na 20/1/2025  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 1563 /Dt. 21.01.2025

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Jharsuguda Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 97 dated 13.01.2025 of RCCF, Sambalpur Circle.

Na 20/1/2025  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)

Memo No. 1564 /Dt. 21.01.2025

Copy forwarded to the General Manager, Lakhanpur area, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Po-Bandhabahal Colony, Dist-Jharsuguda for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 98 dated 13.01.2025 of RCCF, Sambalpur Circle.

Na 20/1/2025  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal)