## RECOMMENDATION OF NODAL OFFICER

The forest area proposed for lease comprises of 138.81 ha Protected Forests of Bokna PF.

The proposed area consists of virgin and dense Sal Forests of density 0.4 - 0.7. The terrain is largely hilly with moderate to steep slopes and prone to erosion. The proposed areas are very rich in flora and fauna and ecologically very sensitive. The forest type is Tropical Moist deciduous Peninsular Sal Forests and largely classified as Eco Class - I

The proposed forest is part of Singhbhum Elephant Reserve and support a wide variety of other wild animal species population.

In this case Stage-I clearance for diversion has not been granted by GOI. Letter no. 8-35/2008-FC(pt) dated 21/01/2015 of GOI states, "... in view of the remarks of Hon'ble Justice M.B. Shah Commission and action taken thereupon by this Ministry, EC and FC (both Stage-I and Stage-II) to new mines for which mining lease has not been executed and consequently the mining activities have not started so far, will not be accorded till completion of the carrying capacity study. Now, therefore, the compliance report submitted by the State Government in the instant proposal shall be kept in abeyance till carrying capacity study is concluded and appropriate action thereupon is taken by the Ministry."

A Committee of Specialists was constituted by the State Govt. vide notification no. वन्यप्राणी—09/2010—3296/व0प0 dated 27/08/2011 to prepare Integrated Wildlife Management Plan for West Singhbhum District and the prescriptions made in that Management Plan are very much relevant for these (proposed) forests too.

The comments of the then Nodal officer (Conservation Act) given in letter no. - 648 dated 26/08/2009 of this office are also relevant. (A scanned copy of this letter has been uploaded under Additional Information).

Thus based on the status of forests, as mentioned above, recommendations of this office submitted vide letter no. 648 dated 26/08/2009 and keeping in view the Carrying Capacity report and the Integrated Wildlife Management Plan prepared for the area under Consideration, the MoEFCC, GOI may take appropriate decision in this regard.

PCCF-cum-Executive Director, Wasteland Development Board, Jharkhand, Ranchi.