

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 110003,

Dated: 28th October, 2021

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Change in land use pattern in respect of diversion of 865.276 ha of forest land out of 947.046 ha. of ML area for mining of Iron Ore in favour of M/s Sarda Mines Pvt. Ltd in village Syabali, Balita and Thakuirani RF in district Keonjhar of state Odisha – application for permission to carry out mining operations by the user agency over 617.108 ha of forest land out of 865.276 ha of already diverted forest Land-Approval of changed land use pattern- reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0035-2021-16379/F&E dated 15.09.2021, **received** on 29.09.2021, on the above subject forwarding additional information as sought by the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 15.04.2021 and to inform that examination of the said information in the Ministry revealed the following:

- i. DSS analysis of the shape/KML files of degraded forest land identified for raising penal CA revealed 111 ha as MDF (DSS report enclosed), 19 ha of land as OF and remaining 71 ha of land as non-wooded category. Therefore, suitability of 111 ha needs to be revisited by the State. Further, suitability certificate of RCCF, Rourkela, stated to be submitted at Annexure-V, has not been received along with the compliance.
- ii. Specific comments of the State on the submission made by the user agency regarding surrendering of forest area only after termination of the lease, in compliance to condition no. 10 of Stage-I approval, may be submitted.
- iii. Whether decisions of the Hon'ble JFMC, Barbil has been challenged by the State Government?

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit information on the above to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

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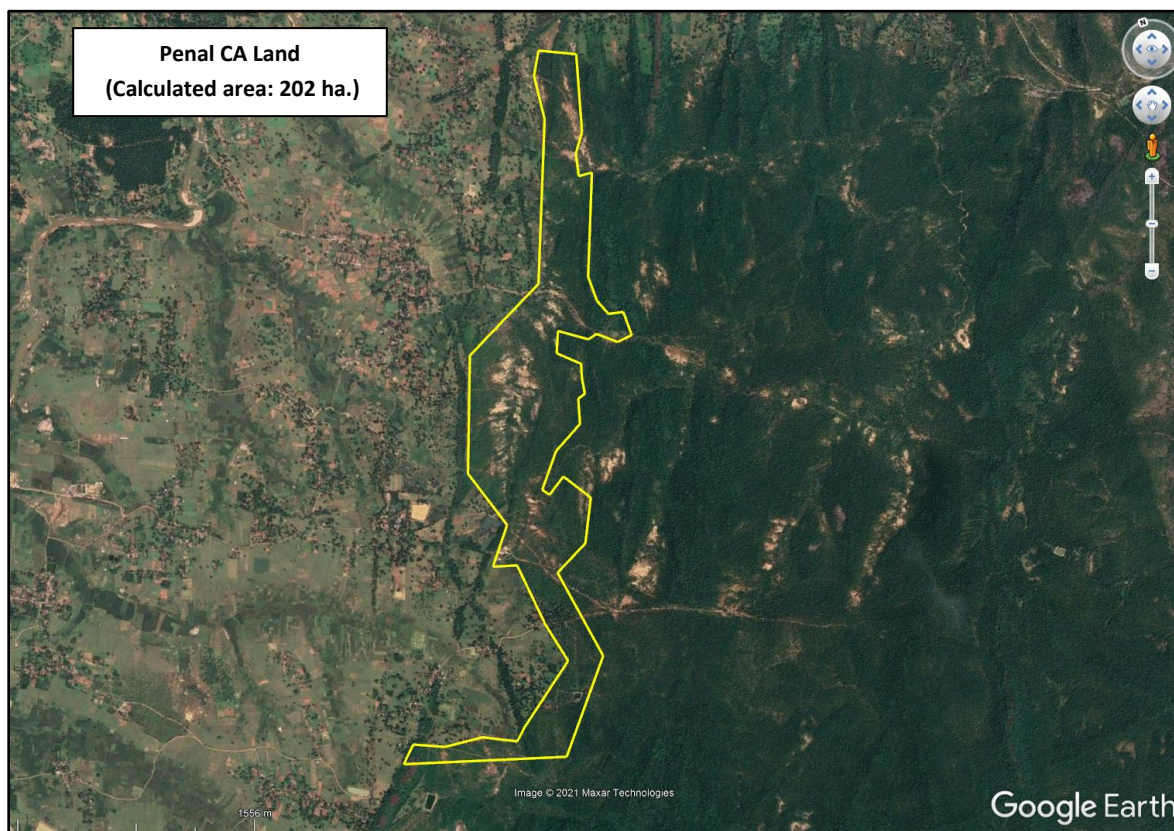
1. PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar
2. Regional Office, Integrated Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar
3. The Nodal Officer, Office of the PCCF, Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency

5. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
6. Guard File

Proposal: DIVERSION OF 865.276 HECTARES OF FOREST LAND OUT OF 947.046 HA. OF ML AREA FOR MINING OF IRON ORE IN FAVOUR OF M/S SARDA MINES PVT. LTD. IN VILLAGE SAYABALI, BALITA AND THAKURANI RF IN KEONJHAR DISTRICT OF ORISSA- APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT MINING OPERATIONS BY THE USER AGENCY OVER 617.108 HECTARES OF FOREST LAND OUT OF 865.276 HECTARES OF ALREADY DIVERTED FOREST LAND- APPROVAL OF CHANGED LAND USE PATTERN.

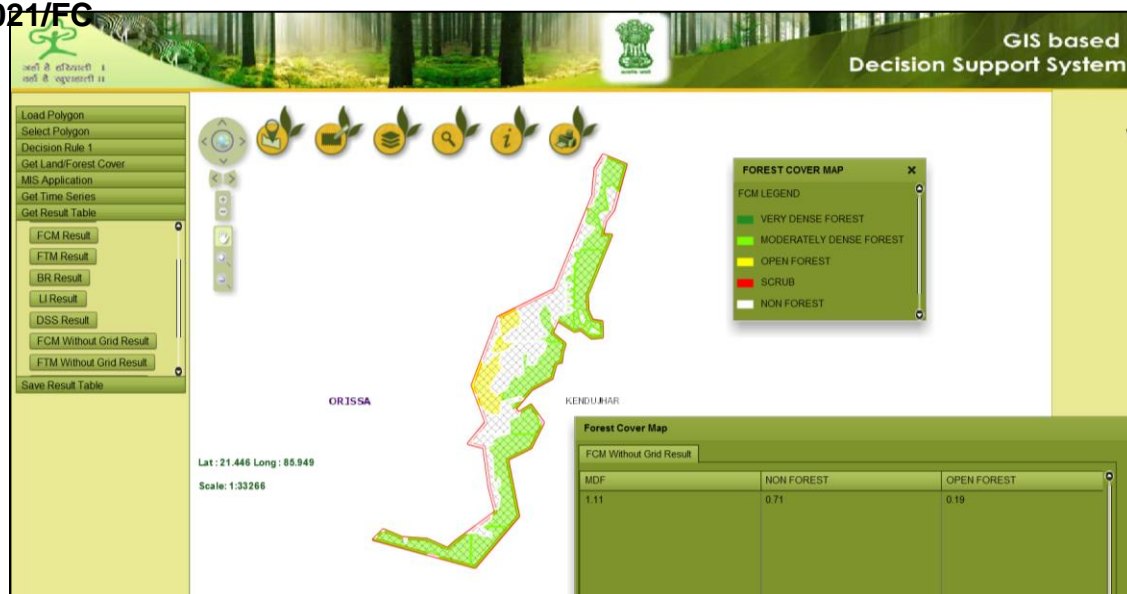
Land proposed for Penal Compensatory Afforestation (CA)

1. Proposed area for CA falls under Atei RF, Keonjhar district of Odisha State and its calculated area is found 202 ha.



2. Observation based on Google Earth: no encroachment is visible in the proposed forest area. A small man-made water body of approx. area 0.27 ha is present.
3. **Forest Cover:** Out of total area proposed for penal CA, 111 ha of land is classified as Moderately Dense Forest, 19 ha of land as Open forest and remaining 71 ha of land as Non-Forest (land without tree cover) in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2019) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2017-2018.
4. As per the site suitability certificate given by Forest Range Officer (Ghatgaon Range), the proposed Penal CA land has canopy density less than 0.4 and the site is suitable for ANR with Gap plantation (@200 seedlings per hectare).

538338/2021/FC



Submitted for your kind consideration.

Shivani Sood
STA, DSS Cell