भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
उप — कार्यालय,
अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक,
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
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File No. FC- MISC./04/2023/IROCH-RPR/ 1529

Date:-02/12/2023

To
The Dy. Director General (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
Regional Office,
Ground Fllor, East Wing, New Secretatiat building,
Civil line, Nagpur-440001.

Sub: Diversion of additional 43.942 ha of revenue forest land for expansion of Kusmunda opencast coal mine of M/s SECL for coal mining in Korba district of Chhatisgarh—reg.

Ref: MoEF&CC, FC-Division, New Delhi, letter No. 8-08/2018-FC (Pt) dated 01/09/2023.

Sir.

On the above subject and reference it is submitted that inspection of the area proposed for diversion was carried out on 24/11/23. The CA land was inspected on 1/11/23 and 2/11/23. Combined site inspection report is enclosed herewith for perusal and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

(Chaturbhuja Behera, IFS) Inspector General of Forests.

(Encl: as stated)

### 2. ITEM-WISE BREAK-UP DETAILS OF THE FOREST LAND PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION.

The representatives of the User Agency have informed that part land of Revenue Forest land shall be used for mining (21.439 Ha)& part of the Revenue Forest land shall be used for safety zone & afforestation purposes (22.503 Ha). Only 21.439 Ha land out of 43.942 ha is required for mining. The User Agency has already been carrying out mining in their lease area and has already full infrastructure setup for carrying out mining and no new area is required for setting up infrastructure facilities. The detail of existing land use of Kusmunda Mine is as under:

	Particulars	Tenancy land (Ha)	Forest land (Ha)	Government Land (Ha)				Grand
S No.				Grazing Land	Waste Land	Water Body	Total	Total (Ha)
1	Quarry area	668.374	54.00	98.408	0.00	14.092	112.50	834.874
2	Area for Top Soil in quarry	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
3	External dump	239.00	3.00	80.00	0.00	3.00	83.00	325.00
4	Infrastructure, etc	75.173	59.461	142.00	0.00	8.00	150.00	284.634
5	Roads	5.00	0.00	2.517	0.00	0.00	2.517	7.517
6	Residential Colony	7.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	39.00
7	R & R site	19.05	49.00	0.00	0.00	0.95	0.95	69.00
8	Explosive magazine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Safety Zone	29.00	10.50	50.30	0.00	3.00	53.30	92.80
Total	Land (in Ha)	1045.597	205.961	373.225	0.00	31.042	404.267	1655.825

The detail of proposed land use of Kusmunda Mine is as under:

s.	Dumoco	Forest la	nd (Ha)	Non-Forest	Total Land
N.	Purpose	Previous Proposal	Instant Proposal	land (Ha)	(in ha)
1	Area to be excavated	54.00	21.439	1524.561	1600.00
2	Storage for Top soil	0.00	0.00	3.00	3.00
3	Overburden/Dumps	3.00	0.00	322.00	325.00
4	Mineral storage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Infrastructure (W/Shop, Admin. Building)	59.461	0.00	240.539	300.00
6	Roads	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
7	Green Belt	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
8	Rehabilitation Site (outside mine)	49.00	0.00	81.00	130
9	Colony (outside mine)	30.00	0.00	10.25	40.25
10	Safety Zone	10.50	22.45	120.05	153
11	Other specific (future mining)	0.00	0.053	420.64	420.693
	TOTAL	205.961	43.942	2742.04	2991.943

### EFFECT OF REMOVAL OF TREES ON THE GENERAL ECOSYSTEM IN THE AREA

Representatives of User Agency have informed that during submission of the application the total Project affected trees were 1449 in numbers out of which most of the trees will remain intact as mining will not be carried out in whole part of the revenue forest land. The representative of the User Agency has informed that in addition to the normal CA they have plans to undertake extensive plantation in revenue forest land in consultation with the local villagers.

#### 7. BACKGROUND NOTE ON THE PROPOSAL

The User Agency has proposed to enhance production of coal from the Existing Mine Leasehold of Kusmunda Mine from 1655.825 Ha to 2991.943 ha at the same capacity of 50 MTPA (Normative)/ 62.50 MTPA (Peak). Earlier, the User Agency has been accorded post-facto in-principle Stage-I FC approval by the MoEF&CC(FC Division) on 26.04.2018 for diversion/ regularisation of 402.966 ha Revenue Forest Land which includes 205.961 ha of Kusmunda Mine & 197.005 ha of Laxman Mine. User Agency has informed that Production from Laxman Mine has stopped its operations from 31.03.2013 & will be subsequently merged with Gevra Mine. Subsequently, the User Agency has been accorded approval for enhancing production level of Kusmunda Mine from 40 MTPA to 50 MTPA (Normative)/ 62.50 MTPA (Peak) in a Mine Leasehold Area of 1655.825 Haby MoEF&CC on 10.01.2020 (IA Division). So far, the user Agency has realized the peak production level of 43.051 MTPA in FY 2022-23.

During the current phase of enhancement of Mine Leasehold Area to 2991.943 Ha, the User Agency needs an additional area of 1359.99 ha which includes 43.942 ha of Revenue Forest land. Out of the total 43.942 ha of Revenue Forest land, User Agency has informed that part land of Revenue Forest land shall be used for mining (21.439 Ha) & part of the Revenue Forest land shall be used for safety zone & afforestation purposes (22.503 Ha).

The representative of the User Agency have also informed that currently 670.19 MT of mineable reserve are available in the Kusmunda lease area of 2991.943 ha (as on 01.04.2023) Given the peak production level of 62.50 MTPA the life of the mine is 14 years.

Detail of forest existing clearance obtained by the User Agency in the past is given as under:

Area (in Ha)	Stage I FC issued vide letter no. & date	Validity Period of earlier FC Granted
205.961	Stage-I Forestry Clearance for Diversion of 402.966 ha (which includes 205.961 ha of Revenue Forest Land of Kusmunda OCP + 197.005 ha of Revenue Forest Land of Laxman OCP) for mining of coal in favour of SECL in Korba District of Chhattisgarh granted by MOEF&CC, Government of India; New Delhi vide letter no. F. No. 8-08/2018-FC dated 26th April, 2018.	NA

#### 8. Compensatory Afforestation

Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over degraded forest land, double in extent (87.884 ha) to the forest area proposed for diversion, in Compartment No. P-100(Range-Salhewara) & P-135 (Range-Gandai), Sub-Division Gandai, Division Khairagarh & P265, Range & Sub-Division Sahaspur-Lohara, Division Kawardha.



9. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.

No, DCF concerned in Part-II has certified that no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been committed by the User Agency. However, it was observed during the inspection that most of the area of Revenue Forest land proposed for diversion is under encroachment. Agricultural fields were observed in the area proposed for diversion. It was also observed that some part of private power plant was encroaching some revenue forest land in Sonpuri village. The representatives of the User Agency have informed that encroachment in Revenue Land will be subsequently removed after survey & distribution of compensation. Some Industrial infrastructure was observed in kml of Revenue Forest Land of Gevra village during site inspection, it was clarified by the User Agency that industrial structure observed is located on to adjacent 402.966 Ha Revenue Forest Land, and the anomaly observed is due to shifting of kml file. A stabilized external dump is located in this patch. Settlements exist in about 30 to 40 % of the patch, which are to be removed as per R & R policy.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Details are furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by trans-locating outsets in and around the said forest.

Yes. Rehabilitation of PAPs is proposed in 10 villages as informed by the User Agency. Total 6712 families will be affected in the project. The representative from the User Agency have clarified that only some rehabilitation is required from Gevra village in the area of 43.942 of Revenue Forest land. It was also informed that rehabilitation, as per Government of Chhattisgarh's R&R policy is already going on in lieu of private/tenancy land, being acquired by the User Agency for the enhancement of their production. However, given the fact that most of the area is under encroachment, it was informed by the User Agency that encroachment in Revenue Land under will be subsequently removed after survey & distribution of compensation. An exercise would be undertaken by them to assess the eligible claimant if any and if the need be eligible claimant will be rehabilitated as per the R&R policy of the State Government of Chhattisgarh.

#### 11. Reclamation Plan

The representatives of the User Agency have informed that reclamation of the mined out area will be undertaken as per the approved Progressive Mine closure Plan. A copy of the samehas been submitted along with the proposal. During the inspection the User Agency has informed that 363.581 ha has been reclaimed biologically while an area of 709.821 ha has been reclaimed technically up to 30/09/2023. Details of area excavated so far and area reclaimed, as per detail made available by the User Agency, is given as under:

### STATUS OF TECHNICAL & BIOLOGICAL LAND RECLAMATION DETAILS AS ON 30.09.2023

Particulars of the	Approved EMP Capacity (MTY)	С	50 MTPA
lease area			(Normative)/ 62.50
			MTPA (Peak)
	Total area of the lease (Ha)		1655.825
	Total quarriable area of the project as per approved EMP(Ha)		1600.00
	Void to be left at the closure of the project as per EMP(Ha)		355.00



project will also provide 4130 nos. of direct and about 16400 nos. of indirect employment opportunities to the local people. The project will also enhance the economic development of the region. It is informed by the representative of the User Agency that the project activities will directly or indirectly improve physical infrastructure (like road and rail network, bridges, telecommunication), social infrastructure (like educational facilities, medical facilities, women and child welfare facilities, water supply and sanitary facilities, banking facilities, training and skill development facilities, employment opportunities), Central and state Exchequer, helps Nation in Energy self-sufficiency, Green cover and Water reserves. This will help the locals including the SC/ST population in the villages around the mine.

16. Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural /religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in the areas proposed for diversion.

The land being diverted has no socio-cultural /religious value. A certificate to this effect has also been submitted by the DCFs concerned.

#### 17. Situation w.r.t. any P.A.

It is indicated in the proposal that land proposed for diversion is located beyond a distance of 10 km from the boundary of any PAs. The DCF concerned has submitted in Part-II that no National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, Wildlife Migration Corridor etc., is located within 10 Km. from boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion. Nearest PA is Achanakmar Tiger Reserve which is located at a distance of about 100 km from the area proposed for diversion.

#### 18. Any other information relating to the project.

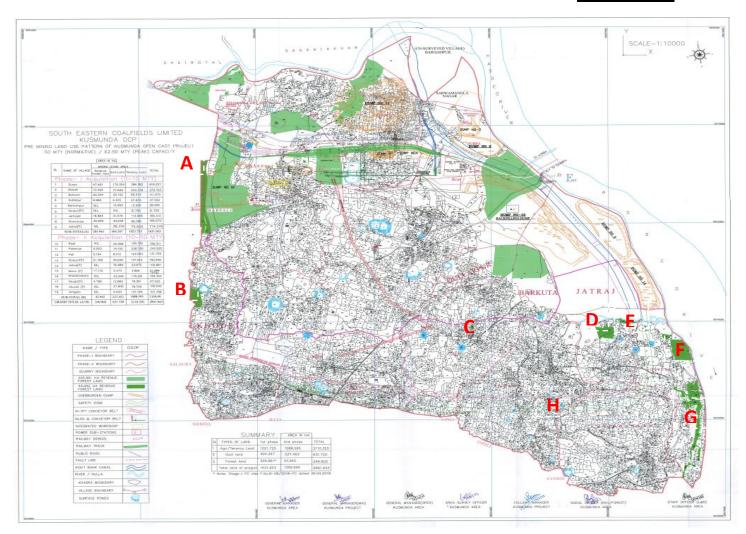
- i. The safety zone of only 7 km along the lease boundary, which needs to be completed as per the guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC in this regard.
- ii. Mined out forest area should be reclaimed as per the mining closure plan and should be handed over back to the State Forest Department.
- iii. Surrounding area of the mining lease has ample scope of plantation. User agency should undertake afforestation activities in consultation with the Forest Department and locals for greening the surrounding villages and reduce pollution.
- iv. Encroachment from the lease area of the User Agency should be evicted. The evicted claimants should be rehabilitated as per the R&R policy of the State Government of Chhattisgarh in consonance with the National R&R policy.
- v. The catchment area should be implemented as made in the proposal earliest.
- vi. The Wildlife Conservation & Avifaunal Management Plan approved by PCCF (Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation) should be implemented for protection, conservation and development of wildlife in the area.

Chaturbhuja Behera, IFS

Inspector General of Forests.

July 12/23

#### **Annexure: I**



S.	Particulars of	Revenue Forests	Patch
No.	components	land (Ha)	
1.	Gevra	17.119	A
2.	Khodri	4.796	В
3.	Pali	0.194	С
4.	Sonpuri	21.780	D-G
5.	Padaniya	0.053	Н
	Total	43.942	

<u>Site A (Gevra):</u> The site has a stabilized dump and plantation of SECL. Besides, around 30-40 % area is encroached. A construction was seen in the north side of the patch as per the kml, which the SECL authorities pointed out the kml has got shifted slightly and the area was diverted in the previous proposal.

<u>Site B</u>: It is a blank area, with hardly any vegetation except a few trees of Mohua and Kusum. It is free from encroachment.

<u>Site C</u>: The area is very a small patch within the revenue area and is free from encroachment.

<u>Site D-G</u>: The patches are spread and very irregular. These are close to the mining lease boundary and near to Hosdeo river. The User agency pointed out that mining may not be done in near future in these patches. All the patches are mostly open with shrubs and occasional trees. They patches have been partially encroached for cultivation. Towards the southern boundary, the area is occupied by Swastik Industries who has been allotted the land by the State Government. The User agency pointed out that the industry will vacate the land when required for mining purpose.

Fig. Revenue Map of Proposed Land for Diversion



<u>Satellite map of Proposed area in (A.) Gevra (17.119 Ha) and (B.) Khodri village (4.796 Ha) of Revenue</u>
<u>Forest for Diversion</u>





Photographs of site A (17.119 ha)





Photohraphs of Khodri village, Site B (4.796 Ha) of Revenue Forest for Diversion



<u>Setailatte map of Proposed area in Village (C). Pali (0.194 Ha), Village (H). Padaniya (0.053 Ha) and Village (D-G) Sonpur area 21.780 Ha</u>

#### Photographs of Village Sonpur area 21.780 Ha (patch D-G)











# SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF CA SITES PERTAINING TO DIVESRSION ADDITIONAL 43.942 HA OF FOREST LAND KUSHMUNDA OC EXPANSION PROJECT OF M/S SOUTH ESTERN COALFIELD LIMITED FOR COAL MINING IN KIRBA DISTRICT OF CHHATTISGARH –REG

CA sites were inspected on 01.11.2023 and 02.11.2023 by Sh. Mr.Chiranjivi Sinha, Consultant (Forest), Sub-office, Raipur in presence of following officials.

#### A. Khairagarh Forest Division:-

- 1. Smt. PushpalataTandan ,IFS Divisional Forest Officer ,Khairagarh Forest Division
- 2. ShriSaleem Mohammad Qureshi, Range Forest Officer, Gandai Range, Khairagarh Forest Division.
- 3. ShriVikashhirawar, Deputy Ranger, Gandai Range, Khairagarh Forest Division.
- 4. Shri Chandra shekhar Verma, Deputy Ranger, Gandai Range, Khairagarh Forest Division.
- 5. ShriSudesh Kumar Ujjawane , Deputy Ranger, Salhewara Range , Khairagarh Forest Division

#### B. Kawardha Forest Division:-

- 6. Shri Anil Kumar Sahu, SFS, Sahaspur, Lohara Sub Division, Kawardha Forest Division.
- 7. ShriAnuragverma, Range Forest Officer, SahaspurLohara Range, Kawardha Forest Division.
- 8. Smt. SangitaLakra, RA, SahaspurLohara Range, Kawardha Forest Division.

#### C. Officials from the User Agency:

- 9. Shri Prashant Jadhav ,Retd. IFS, Senior Advisor(Env./Forest) ,SECL
- 10. Shri Siddhartha Sharma ,Nodal Officer (Env./Forest) SECL, Kusmunda

### D. Legal Status of the forest land proposed for CA Plantation and computed area by GIS

S.N	Division	Forest Land (Ha.)	PF/RF
1	Kawardha	40.00 ha	PF- P/265
2	Khairagarh	26.185 ha	PF- P/135
3		08.313 ha	PF- P/100
4		13.386 ha	PF- P/100
total		87.884 ha	

## Computed GIS Area Stastistics as per Shapefile of Proposed Land for Diversion of 43.943ha for Open Cast Coal Mine in Kusmunda area in Katghora Forest Range of Korba Forest Division, in favor of S.E.C.L. Kusmunda Area, District: Korba (C.G.)

forest land to be diverted Under FCA 1980 as per DGPS Survey

SN	PATCH ID	DIVISION/RANGE	VILLAGE	LAND TYPE	KHASRA	GIS AREA (in ha.)
1	0	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	431/1	0.975
2	1	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	591	2.023
3	2	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	519	1.862
4	3	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	KHODRI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	40/P	4.796
5	4	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	27/1	5.561
6	5	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	491	0.619
7	6	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	PALI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	204	0.194
8	7	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	PADANIYA	REVENUE FOREST LAND	532	0.053
9	8	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	636	0.081
10	9	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	574	0.465
11	10	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	631	0.486
12	11	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	587	0.223
13	12	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	370/1	3.525
14	13	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	447	4.707
15	14	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	GEVRA	REVENUE FOREST LAND	1184	1.166
16	15	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	446/3	0.299
17	16	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	294	0.898
18	17	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	GEVRA	REVENUE FOREST LAND	1182P	15.953
19	18	KATGHORA/KATGHORA	SONPURI	REVENUE FOREST LAND	446/2	0.057
	TOTAL AREA					

#### 1. Compartment No.-P265(PF), Area is 40.00, Range-Sahaspur-Lohara, Division- Kawardha

- 1. Area is Protected Forest; Compartment No.-P265, Range-Sahaspur-Lohara, Division-Kawardha, Site quality series IV-A, Site Density 0.4, Type of Proposed Work –Irrigated Mixed Plantation Work.
- 2. The area is undulating and hilly, mostly open and degraded. Species such as Landia, Saja (Terminaliatomentosa), Mahua (*Madhuka indica*), Arjuna (*Terminalia arjuna*), Karra (*Cleistanthus colinus*), Amaltash(*Cassia fistula*), Teak(*Tectona grandis*) were found in the area. Area is infested with weeds like Van Tulsi (*Ocimum gratissimum*), Lantana, Parthenium etc.
- 3. The area is prone to encroachment. About 1.10 ha Forest land were found to be encroached in three different places).
- 4. Biotic pressure was observed in the area and is evident from girdling of trees and presence of abundant cow dung. The site is near of village about 500 m from a village. A perennial nala was also found in selected area, where the area is prone to soil erosion. No DGPS Survey pillars were found. However, the area was verified by using GPS locations.
- 5. The area is found suitable for plantation; however, necessary steps needs to be taken up for protection against encroachment and biotic pressure.

























KML image of proposed CA site Sahaspur Lohara (mentioned 2 encroachment points)



### $\hbox{$2$. Compartment No.-P-135(PF), Area is $26.185.00, Range-Salhewara , Division-Khairagarh } \\$

- 1. The area is a Protected Forest; Compartment No.-P135, Range-Salhewara, Division- Khairagarh, Proposed CA Area is 26.185 ha, Site quality series IV-b, Site Density less than 0.4, type of Proposed Work –Irrigated Mixed Plantation Work.
- 2. The area is mostly undulating, soil is lateritic. A perennial Nala flows near to the area, where soil erosion was observed. Trees Species such as Landia, Saja (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Mahua (*Madhuka indica*), Arjuna(*Terminalia arjuna*), Karra(*Cleistanthus colinus*), Amaltash(*Cassia fistula*), Teak(*Tectona grandis*) are found. Further, the area is infested with weeds.
- 3. The area is located on the side of the road and is adjacent to the revenue land on the other side, where biotic pressure is very high.
- **4.** Area is suitable for plantation. However, steps needs to be taken for protection against encroachment and biotic pressure.

### Photographs of Proposed CA site, Compartment No.-P-135(PF), Area is 26.185.00, Range-Salhewara, Division-Khairagarh







 $KML\ image\ of\ Compartment\ No.-P-135(PF),\ Area\ is\ 26.185.00,\ Range-Salhewara\ ,\ Division-\ Khairagarh$ 

#### 3. Compartment No.-P-100 (PF), Area is 13.386.ha Range-Gandai, Division-Khairagarh

- 1. Area is Protected Forest at compartment No.-P100, Forest circle –Jhumarkona (Achanakpur East), Range-Gandai, Division- Khairagarh, proposed CA Area is 13.386 ha, Site quality is IV-b, Site Density- 0.4, Type of Proposed Work –Irrigated Mixed Plantation Work.
- 2. The area is plain, soil is loamy and laterite. A perennial Nala was also found in selected area. In previous years (2020-2021) Soil Moisture Conservation work was done by the forest department.
- 3. Some trees Species present in the proposed area Such as Arjuna (*Terminalia arjuna*), Kaith (limonia acidisima) ,Karra (*Cleistanthus colinus*), Amaltash(*Casia fistula*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Bhirra (*Chloroxylon swietenia*), Palash(*Butia monosperma*)
- 4. The selected area is close to the Thakurtola- achankpur road (PMGSY), and is adjacent to the agriculture fields on one side. Biotic pressure is observed in the area.
- 5. Area is suitable for plantation and adequate blanks are available for the purpose. However, necessary measures need to be taken up against biotic pressure and possible encroachment.

### Photographs of proposed CA site Compartment No.-P-100 (PF), Area is 13.386 ha, Range- Gandai, Division- Khairagarh















#### Compartment No.-P-100 (PF), Area is 08.313ha Range-Gandai, Division-Khairagarh

- 1. Area is plain, soil quality is good and it is is loamy. A perennial nala was also found in selected area. Trees Species Such as Arjuna (*Terminalia arjuna*), Kaith (limonia acidisima) ,Karra (*Cleistanthus colinus*), Amaltash (*Casia fistula*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Bhirra (*Chloroxylon swietenia*), Palash(*Buteaa monosperma*) are found in the area. some areas at this proposed CA site, about 100 old teak plantations were found, which were not fully grown, reaching a height of about 50-centimeters.(According to the forest officer, this plantation is very old, but he does not know the exact year),
- 2. Site quality series is IV-b, vegetation density is 0.4. Irrigated Mixed Plantation has been proposed for CA plantation.
- 3. The selected area is close to Thakurtola- achankpur road. Agriculture fields are located on one side of the area. The area is encroached in many places for cultivation of millet (kodo). Large-scale biotic pressure is evident in the site. The department has to make the area from the encroachment for cultivation purpose and has to ensure adequate safeguard against biotic pressure..
- 4. This site is suitable for plantation, except that biotic pressure should be prevented.

### Photographs of proposed CA site Compartment No.-P-100 (PF), Area is 08.313 ha , Range-Gandai , Division- Khairagarh











(kml file of 8.313 ha in Compartment No.- P-100 (PF)

