

Remarks of the DDGF (Central) in regard to progress of the action on stipulated conditions based on monitoring reports of the DIGF in case of following projects

1. Diversion of 227.89 ha of forest land for Kulda OCP of M/s MCL.
2. Diversion of 149.50 ha of forest land for Basundhara (West OCP) of M/s MCL.

In the case of diversion of 227.89 ha of forest land for Kulda OCP of M/s MCL, the State Government may ensure that the deficiencies pointed out in the monitoring report are duly addressed, and a compliance report is submitted to the Regional Office for record.

Similarly, in the case of diversion of 149.50 ha of forest land for Basundhara (West OCP) of M/s MCL, the State Government may ensure that the deficiencies highlighted in the monitoring report are attended to, and the compliance report is submitted to the Regional Office for record.

Further, the observations made by the DIGF in Part VIII regarding the bridge constructed by the User Agency may be duly enquired into, and appropriate action, based on the enquiry report, may be initiated. An action taken report may also be submitted to the Regional Office for record.


(Dr. S. Senthil Kumar)

Dy. Director General of Forests (Central)

MONITORING OF THE ACTION ON STIPULATED CONDITIONS IN CASE OF PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE GOVT. OF INDIA UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980.

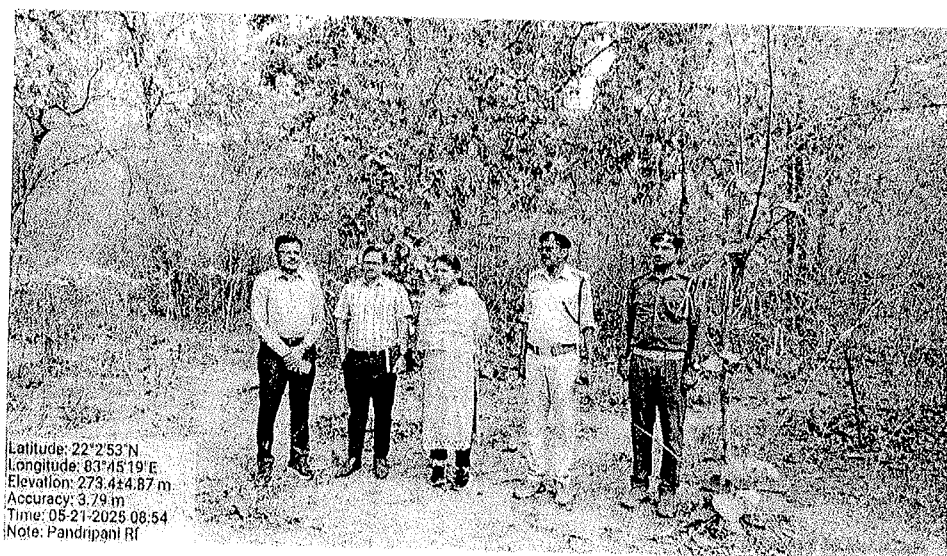
PART-I

The monitoring of the above project was carried out by the undersigned on 21.05.2025. The DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division and the officials of the user agency were present during the site inspection.

1.	Name/purpose of the proposal	Diversion of 227.89 ha of forest land (as against initially proposed 280.86 ha) for Kulda OCP of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Sundargarh district of Odisha
2.	No. and date of Govt. of India's letter according permission	8-176/1997-FC dated 8 th August, 2007
3.	Area permitted to be diverted (in ha.)	227.89 ha
4.	District and Forest Division	Sundargarh, Sundargarh Forest Division
5.	Area actually diverted (in ha.)	227.89 ha

PART- II (DETAILS OF COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION)

The DFO, Sundargarh reported that the user agency has deposited Rs.66,40,710/- towards compensatory afforestation. The compensatory afforestation has already been done in an area of 455.78 ha at Kumkani RF of Lepripara Range of Sundargarh Division. Photographs of visit of CA site is furnished below:



PART- III (PLANTING OF DWARF TREES IN CASE OF TRANSMISSION LINE)

Not applicable.

PART - IV (RECLAMATION OF THE AREA WORKED UNDER MINING/ QUARRYING)

The reclamation process under Kulda OCP is being carried out as per the approved mining plan in progressive manner. The plantation is being done by DFO, Sundargarh and is being monitored by the Forest Range Officer. The progress in the reclamation work is being

submitted to the Regional Office at a frequency of six months.

Year	Area	Number of plants	Location
2019-20	3.36	8400	Internal backfilled area + external OB dump
2020-21	5.23	13075	Internal backfilled area
2022-23	14.3	35780	Internal backfilled area
2023-24	22.4	56000	External OB dump

PART-V

(CONDITIONS STIPULATED BY THE GOVT. OF INDIA OTHER THAN MENTIONED ABOVE)

Sl. No.	Condition	Compliance
1	Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.	Complied.
2 (i)	Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department at the project cost.	As reported in Part-II above.
(ii)	Fencing, protection and generation of the safety zone area (7.5 meter strip all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area) shall be done at the project cost. Besides this, afforestation on degraded forest land, to be selected elsewhere measuring one and half times the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost.	<p>As reported by the DFO, a part of mine lease boundary including safety zone was covered by the concrete boundary wall and barbed wire fencing was done in some parts. However, regeneration was not good in rest part, because no maintenance of fencing was done. As per field observation, the natural regeneration in the Safety Zone maintained along the mine boundary.</p> <p>The plantation on degraded forest land measuring one and half times the safety zone (3.23 ha) has been taken up at Dhangergudi RF under Ujalpur Range of Sundargarh Division.</p>
(iii)	Wherever possible and technically feasible, the User Agency shall undertake afforestation measures in the blanks within the lease area, as well as along the roads outside the lease area	As reported by the user agency plantation has been taken in the blanks within the lease area and a nursery has also been constructed for meeting the needs of plantation in the mining lease area.

	diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.							
3	Following activities shall be undertaken by the State Forest Department at the project cost:							
(i)	Proper mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and chocking of streams shall be prepared and implemented.	As reported by user agency the total runoff generated over the overburden is collected back in the mine sump inside the mine which acts as settling ponds. This water is reused for dust suppression. The drains are regularly de-silted and maintained. 5.81 Km long garland drain with check dams have been constructed to channelize runoff from the dump to the ground water recharge pit. RCC retaining wall of length 604 meter has been constructed at the foot of external OB dump. Gabion wall of length 450 meter was constructed around internal dump.						
(ii)	Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds to arrest soil erosion.							
(iii)	Construction of check dams, retention/toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour.							
4	The period of diversion under this approval shall be twenty (20) years subject to possession of valid lease by the User Agency under the MMDR Act, 1957.	The user agency agreed to comply.						
5 (i)	The User Agency shall take up planting work on the static dumps during the advance mining operation.	The user agency reported that there is only one active external OB dump at present and reclamation of the same is under progress.						
(ii)	All the dumps shall be fully reclaimed by afforestation immediately after closure of the mine in the shortest possible period under supervision of the State Forest Department.	<p>As reported by the user agency all progressive reclamation is under progress in internal dump as well. All the dumps will be fully reclaimed after closure of the mine. The following area has been reclaimed.</p> <table><tr><td>Area of Internal Backfilled dump technically reclaimed till now</td><td>25.69 ha</td></tr><tr><td>Area of Internal Backfilled dump Biologically reclaimed till now</td><td>22.69 ha</td></tr><tr><td>Area of External OB dump biologically reclaimed.</td><td>33.18 ha</td></tr></table> <p>The DFO, Sundargarh reported that biological reclamation was done by plantation of suitable species on the internal dump, progressively in each year. The plantation over internal dump done in the year 2022-23 was visited. The growth was</p>	Area of Internal Backfilled dump technically reclaimed till now	25.69 ha	Area of Internal Backfilled dump Biologically reclaimed till now	22.69 ha	Area of External OB dump biologically reclaimed.	33.18 ha
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		generally good. Growth on the slopes was slightly less due to gully erosion.
6	Any tree felling shall be done only when it is absolutely necessary and unavoidable, and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.	As reported by the user agency tree felling has been done in 6 phases only when required, under strict supervision of DFO, Sundargarh. The tree felling work has been executed by the OFDC as per the work order given by the DFO, Sundargarh.
7	The user agency shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused.	Being complied.
8	Reclamation Plan shall be strictly implemented which shall be monitored regularly by the State Forest Department. The user agency shall submit progress of reclamation works to the State Forest Department and the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.	As reported in Part-IV above.
9	It shall be ensure that no labour camps are set up inside the forest area.	Reported to be complied.
10	The mining lease area shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, using four feet high RCC pillars, with each pillar inscribed with the serial number, forward and backward bearings and distance between two adjacent pillars.	Reported to be Complied.
11	The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.	Being complied.
12	The forest land thus diverted shall be non-transferable. Whenever and whatever extent of forest land is required by the User Agency, it shall be surrendered to the State Forest Department after proper rehabilitation under intimation to this Ministry.	As reported by the user agency the forest land of 8.52 ha has been processed for re-diversion for Basundhara Washery and Stage-I clearance has been obtained vide Ministry's letter No.8-176/1997-FC (Vol) dated 11.03.2019 and remaining forest area of 219.37 ha is only used for the purpose specified in the proposal.
13	Any other condition that CCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar may impose from time to time for protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area, shall also be applicable.	Assured to comply.

PART – VI

(CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE STATE GOVT. IN ADDITION TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA'S CONDITIONS AND OTHER STEPS TAKEN TO PRESERVE FOREST, WILDLIFE AND PREVENT SOIL EROSION ETC.

Nil

PART - VII (MONITORING)

1.	Whether any committee has been formed for monitoring of the action on conditions stipulated:	No
2.	If no, give reasons. If yes give:	Not known
3.	Details of the committee Reports of the Monitoring committee if any.	Nil

PART – VIII

1.	Abstract reports of inspection of Forest Officers, if any:	This mine is going to be exhausted in next 4 to five months. The mine surrender plan needs to be submitted to the State Government. The 227.89 ha of forest land needs to be reclaimed, restored and transferred back to the State Forest Department as per the provisions of the Adhiniyam. The non forest land of 279.55 ha could be designated as "OECM" as per MoEF&CC guidelines, 2022 which would ensure the restoration of eco-system services in the mined out area once the minerals are mined out and mine is exhausted and closed.
2.	Remarks of the DDGF (Central) in regard to progress of the action on stipulated conditions:	
3.	Effect of the project on forest and Wildlife:	

Padma Mahanti

(Dr. Padma Mahanti)
DIGF (Central)

