

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 783.275 ha of forest land consisting of 643.095 ha of RF in Chhendipada & Kankurupal Reserved Forest and 140.180 ha of Village Forest land in Chhendipada Range of Angul Division for Naini Coal Block (Open Cast) under Angul District Odisha of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.

1. State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. 10F(Con)123/19-229/F&E dated 04.01.2020. submitted a proposal for diversion of 783.275 ha of forest land consisting of 643.095 ha of RF in Chhendipada&Kankurupal Reserved Forest and 140.180 ha of Village Forest land in Chhendipada Range of Angul Division for Naini Coal Block (Open Cast) under Angul District Odisha of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.
2. Details indicated in the proposal submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh dated 04.01.2020 are as below:

FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Proposal for diversion of 783.275 ha of forest land consisting of 643.095 ha of RF in Chhendipada & Kankurupal Reserved Forest and 140.180 ha of Village Forest land in Chhendipada Range of Angul Division for Naini Coal Block (Open Cast) under Angul District Odisha of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.
2.	Location:	
(i)	State	Orissa
(ii)	District	Angul
(iii)	Category	Mining
(iv)	Total period for which the forest land is proposed to be diverted (in year).	40 years
3.	Detail of user agency	
(i)	Name of the user agency	Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.
(ii)	Nature of user agency	Central PSU
4.	Particular of Forests	
(i)	Name of Forest Division	Angul Forest Division
(ii)	Area of Forest land proposed for Diversion	783.275 Ha.
(iii)	Legal Status of Forest land	Reserved Forest = 643.095 Ha. Revenue Forest = 15.017 ha DLC Forest = 125.163 ha Total = 783.275 ha
(iv)	Density of Vegetation	Area = 783.275 Ha. Density = 0.4 Eco class = 1
5.	Maps	

i.	Differential GPS map of the area proposed for diversion	Given with the proposal
ii.	Differential GPS map of the area identified for raising CA	
iii.	Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area proposed for diversion	
iv.	Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area identified for CA	
v.	Land use plan	
vi.	Forest Cover map	
6.	Vegetation	
i.	Species-wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees.	Details of Species – wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees are available with the proposal.
ii.	Density	0.4
iii.	Number of trees to be felled	DFO,Angul has given a list of tree enumeration of Naini Coal Block of 106536 nos whereas RCCF,Angul in his SIR indicated that 106209 Nos. of trees have been enumerated for felling .
iv.	Working plan prescription for the forest land proposed for diversion.	Not provided with the proposal.
7.	Vulnerability of area to soil erosion	Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest
8.	Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion;	Elephant, barking Deer, Indian Hare, Indian Pea Fowl, Blue Jay, Egrets, Kingfisher & Drongo etc.
9.	Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest.	The proposed site is Reserve Forest & Revenue Forest.
10.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if so, the details of the area the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	No
11.	Whether any rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area if so, details thereof.	<p>Details list of Floara found in the area is given and the details of of Fauna mentioned in SIR of DFO as below:</p> <p>Fauna:Elephant, Barking deer, Indian Hare.</p> <p>Birds:Indian pea fowl,Blue jay, Egerets, kingfisher, Drongo.</p> <p>It is also mentioned in SIR that the movement of elephant is noticed in northern & southern part of lease area, if the area is mined out,the surrounding villages will be impacted more.So detail Mitigation plan has to be prepared for avoiding Man-animal conflict in future and for providing safe passage of elephants</p>

12.	Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required.	No
13.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency in col.2 of Part-I is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	Unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.
14.	Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/ No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still under progress.	No
15.	Details of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme:	
i.	Details of non-forest area/ degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch.	The detailed CA Scheme for CA is given and placed in file .The land identified in lieu of proposed diversion of forest land is as given below: 1.600 ha degraded forest land identify in Tikhari RF of Muribahal Range of Bolangir Division 2.2.1083 ha degraded forest land identified in Bankumundi RF-542 ha & Gouda Dei RF-641 ha of Boudh Range of Boudh Division.
ii.	Map showing non-forest/ degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.	
iii.	Detailed compensatory Afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing Agency, time schedule, cost structure etc.	
iv.	Total financial outlay for compensatory Afforestation scheme.	Rs. 293555090 Lakhs [Boudh Division Rs..18,20,85,000/- and Bolangir Division Rs.11,14,70,090]
v.	Certificate from competent authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory Afforestation and from management point of view. To be signed by the concerned Deputy Conservatory of Forests.	Certificates for land suitability for plantation and free from encroachment and encumbrances have been furnished by the concerned DFO, Bolangir Division and Boudh Division.
16.	Documentary evidence in support of settlement of rights in accordance with the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted enclosed.	The FRA certificate for an area of 783.275 ha has been issued by the Collector, Angul and placed in file . The proceedings of the District Level Committee(DLCC),Sub-district Level Committee(SDLC) etc. are furnished and placed in file.

17.	Site Inspection Report of the Divisional Forest Officer	The site visited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Angul and placed in file.
18.	Whether the project requires environment clearance.	Yes
19.	Status of Wildlife clearance.	Not applicable.
20.	Catchment Area Treatment Plan	Not applicable.
21.	Total command area of the project	Not applicable
22.	Rehabilitation of Oustee	-No-
	Number of SC Families	
	Number of ST families	
	Number of Backward Families	
	Copies of R&R Plan	
23.	Cost Benefit Analysis	1:32.57
24.	Total Cost of the project	100000 Lakhs
25.	Employment Potential	Regular Employment = 1200 persons Temporary Employment=216000 (Number of person-days).
26.	Undertakings to bear the cost of CA and NPV	Given
27.	Profile of the District / Department / Dewas Division.	
	Geographical Area of the Dist.	637500 Ha.
	Total Forest Area	271682 Ha.
	Total area diverted since 1980	4157.67 ha. Number of case - 54
	Forest land including penal CA (in ha.)	2437.81 ha
	Progress of compensatory afforestation as on (date) 28.02.2018	
	a. Forest land (in ha.)	1339.43 ha
	b. Non-forest land (in ha.)	953.90 ha

28.	Recommendation with Specific conditions, (if any)	
	DFO	Recommended for acceptance.
	RCCF	Recommended for acceptance subject to implementation site specific wildlife conservation plan by the user agency at project cost.
	PCCF/ Nodal Officer (FCA)	Recommended.
	State Govt.	Recommended.

3. **Site Inspection Report:** The Ministry vide its letter dated 23.01.2020 requested the concern Regional Office to carry out SIR of instant proposl. The Site Inspection Report (SIR) of this proposal was forwarded by RO,Bhubaneswar vide their letter No.5-ORA404/2020-BHU dated 21.02.2020 The SIR was carried out by Sh. R.K. Samal, Dy.Inspector General (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. The report is as reproduced below:

i. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion

Legal status	Area in Ha.
Revenue forest	15.017
DLC forest	125.163
Chhendipada RF	634.457
Kakurpal RF	8.638
Total	783.275

ii. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion (in ha.):

S.No.	Particulars	Forest land in Ha.
1	Quarry area	645.158
2	Safe barriers including drainage, roads, transmission lines, etc.	98.057
3	CHP/Washery and service buildings	40.060
	Total area:	783.275

- iii. **Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:** No residential Building proposed for construction on forest land. Only some service buildings are proposed to be constructed
- iv. **Total cost of the project at present rates:** The total cost of the project is Rs. 1,000 crores.
- v. **Wildlife:**

Where forest area project for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not: The applied area does not form party of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve. Movement of wild elephants is often witnessed in the northern and southern part of lease area. So, detail mitigation plan has to be prepared for avoiding man animal conflict in future and for providing safe passage of elephants. As reported the whole area on both sides of State High Way no 63 up to Deogarh Division has coal reserves and many coalmines will come up in future. Therefore, for passage of elephants form south Athmallik/ Angul division to Deogarh an elephant under pass on SH-63 is highly required to be constructed. Otherwise this may lead to death of elephant

due to road accidents or the elephants will be confined to different areas without a good Range for their movement.

Wild fauna like Elephant, Barking Deer, Indian Hare and birds like Indian Pea Fowl, Blue Jay, Egrets, Kingfisher, Drongo, etc. are noticed in the area.

- vi. **Vegetation:** The applied area comes under Tropical Moist Deciduous forest. The said forest has been put under Eco-Value-Class-I with density 0.4. The forest comprises of Acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*), Bahada (*Terminalia belerica*), Varavajykua (*Delbergiapaniculata*), Bheru (*Chloroxylonswietenia*), Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptushybrid*), Ghurudu (*Gardenia gummifera*), Gohira (*Acacia leucophloea*), Sal (*Shorearobusta*), Sirisa (*Aalbizziaprocera*), sunari (*Cassia fistula*), Teak (*Tectonagrandis*), Tentuli (*Tamarindusindica*), Chakunda (*Cassia siamea*), etc.

a. **Total number of trees to be felled.**

In Chhendipada RF around 1,05,092 number of trees to be felled, in Revenue forest 1087 number of trees and in non-forest area around 327 number of trees to be felled.

Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

Felling of the trees from the forest area will induce soil erosion. Tree felling should be done in a phased manner.

b. **Important species:**

The forest comprises of Acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*), Bahada (*Terminalia belerica*), Barabakulia (*Delbergia paniculata*), Bheru (*chloroxylon swietenia*), Bhuincha (*Flacourtia jangomos*), Chara (*Buchananialanzan*), Dhaura (*Anogeissus latifolia*), Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptushybrid*), Ghurudu (*Gardenia gummifera*), Gohira (*Acacia leucophloea*), karada (*Cleistanthus collinus*), Khaira (*Acacia catechu*), Mahul (*Madhuca indica*), Mai (*Lannea coromandalica*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Rohini (*Soymida febrifuga*), Sal (*Shore robusta*), Sirisa (*Aalbizzia procera*), Sunari (*Cassia fistula*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Tentuli (*Tamarindus indica*), Chakunda (*Cassia siamea*), etc.

Number of trees of girth below 60 cm.

74,932

Number of trees of girth above 60 cm.

31,248

- vii. **Background note on the proposal:** The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., (SCCL) is a Govt. Company jointly owned by Govt. of Telengana and Govt. of India. The Naini Coal mine is opencast project and located in Chhendipada Tahasil of Angul District of Odisha. The total requirement of land for the project is 912.799 ha. out of which 643.095 ha. is reserved forest land and 140.180 ha. village forest land. The balance is non-forest land. The present application is for diversion of 783.275 ha. of forest land. This coalfield is south-extremity of the lower Gondwana basins within Mahanadi valley. The Naini coal block is located within latitude 21° 03' N to 21° 05' 23" N and longitude 84° 52' 56" to 84° 55' 17" E of Chhendipada Tahasil under Angul district.

The proposal for diversion of 783.275 ha. of forest land in Chhednipada Range of Angul division for Naini Coal Block (Opencast) under Angul district of Odisha involves total land of 912.799 ha. comprising of 783.275 ha. forest land.

viii. Compensatory afforestation:

MoEF&CC, Govt. of India vide letter No. 11-423/2011-FC dated 31.01.2013 has accorded status of Central Public Sector Unit to M/s SCCL for purpose of creation of compensatory afforestation in respect of the proposal seeking prior approval of Central Govt. in accordance with Section-2 of FC Act, 1980 for diversion of the forest land for coal mining and allied activities to be received by the Ministry in future.

Therefore, 1566.55 ha. (783.275 ha.X2) of degraded forest land has been proposed for diversion of 783.275 ha. of forest land. An area of 1683.00 ha of degraded forest land comprising of 1083.00 ha. of degraded forest land (Bankamundi RF 542 ha. +Goudadei RF 541.00 ha) in Boudh forest division and 600.00 ha. degraded forest land in Tikhari RF of Bolangir forest division have been identified for compensatory afforestation.

Out of two patches in Boudh Division the Goudadei patch contains 22 Ha. MDF as per DSS analysis and Tikhari RF in Bolangir Forest Division containing 35 ha of MDF, Balance areas are either open forest or non-forest Therefore more areas have been proposed for CA (requirement is 1566.55 ha but proposed is 1683.00 ha).

The three patches in both the divisions were visited and it has been observed that the areas may not require planting of 800 seedling in ANR model due to presence of existing regeneration and tree species with less canopy cover. Therefore, new degraded forest areas may be identified to plant the balance seedlings and their location, co-ordinate details may be intimated by State Forest Department to Regional Office for records.

- a. **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:**Yes. Suitability certificate has been given by DFOs.
 - b. **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:**Yes.
 - c. **Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:**No.
 - d. **Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:**3 patches, Patches are compact.
 - e. **Map with detail:**Enclosed in the proposal.
 - f. **Total financial outlay:**Cost of Compensatory afforestation over 1061.00 ha of plantable degraded forest land under Boudh Forest Division is Rs. 14,77,61500/-Cost of compensatory afforestation over 600 ha. with plantable area of 565 ha. of degraded forest and identified in Bolangir forest Division is Rs. 7,92,46,600/-
- ix. **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.
 - x. **Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:**No. The project does not involve displacement of any human habitation.
 - xi. **Reclamation plan:**Enclosed in the proposal.

Details and financials allocation:

- xii. **Details on catchment and command area under the project:**NA

Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:NA

- xiii. **Cost benefit ratio:**The cost benefit ratio comes to 1:32.57.
- xiv. **Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest/State Government:**Recommended.
- xv. **Recommendations of Dy. Director General of Forest (Central) along with detailed reasons:**Singereni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) is a Government Company jointly owned by Govt. of Telangana and Govt. of India. MoEF&CC, Govt. of India has accorded status of Central PSU to M/s SCCL for purpose of creation of compensatory afforestation in respect of the proposal seeking prior approval of Central Govt. under Section-2 of FC Act, 1980 for diversion of the forest land for coal mining and allied activities. Naini coal block is an opencast project and located in Chhendipada Tahasil of Angul district of Odisha. Out of the total area of 912.799 ha., 783.275 ha. is forest land. The area is not a part of national park, biosphere reserve and wildlife sanctuary. The area is mostly open forest except in very small portion of plantations and banks of small streams where areas contain medium density forest. The project is site specific and cannot be shifted elsewhere. As the company has agreed to pay the dues for compensatory afforestation, NPV, site specific wildlife plan and regional wildlife management plan to compensate the ill effects of mining which can be managed to a great extent without much damage to the surrounding natural environment.

Considering the facts above the project is hereby recommended for consideration.

- xvi. **Dy. Inspector General of Forests shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:** This is a mining project and it is specific.
- xvii. **Utility of the project:**

Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the Project:

As reported the project is likely to generate direct employment of about 1062 persons in addition to indirect employment during the mining operations.

xviii.

- a. **Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value:** No, the land being diverted has no socio-cultural/ religious value.
- b. **Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:**No, there is absence of any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests in the areas proposed for diversion.
- c. **Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique ecosystem:**No, the land under diversion does not form part of any unique ecosystem.

- xix. **Situation with respect to any Protected Area:**The boundary of the project is approx. 30Km from Boundary of Satkosia Tiger Reserve. Proposed Similipal-Satkosia Tiger Corridor is about 8.12 Km on the north side of the proposed project (DSS report enclosed).
- xx. **Any other information relating to the project:**The proposed project is for mining of coal for electricity generation by a joint venture company of State and Central Government. It is site specific project. The economy of the region will improve due to the project. The proposal may be considered for diversion of forest land proposed for non-forestry purpose with safeguard conditions for mining project;

- 4. After examination of the proposal, Ministry vide its letter dated 17.04.2020 requested the State Government to furnish information/clarification on the certain points.
- 5. Now, Government of Odisha vide their letter no. 15534/9F(MG) 380/2019 Dated 04.09.2020 submitted their reply in response to Ministry letter dated 17.04.2020. Details are as under:

S. N	Observation made by MoEF&CC	Reply from the State Government								
<p>Point (i)</p>	<p>With regard to proposed CA towards instant proposal, the following observation are made:</p> <p>a. An area of 1683.00 ha of degraded forest land instead of admissible 1566.55 ha (783.275 ha X 2) of degraded forest land has been proposed in lieu of proposed diversion of 783.275 ha of forest land. Thus, an additional area of 116.45 ha (1683 ha - 1566.55 ha) degraded forest land has been indentified for CA purpose. Exact Degraded forest area should be identified and KML file of the same be submitted accordingly. However, out of total proposed degraded forest land of 1683.00 ha, 57.0 ha (22 ha in Goudadei RF, Boudh Forest Division and 35 ha in Tikhari RF, Balangir Forest Division) is MDF which is not suitable and admissible for CA purpose in accordance with guideline issued by this Ministry.</p> <p>b. RO in Site Inspection Report (SIR) mentioned that the proposed CA areas do not require planting of 800 seedlings in ANR model due to presence of existing regeneration and tree species with some canopy cover. The observation shall be analyzed and comments may be furnished accordingly.</p> <p>c. As per Google earth imagery, Plantation activities in the following area in past have been carried out in one CA patch namely Goudadei RF under Boudh Range:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="293 1465 751 1644"> <thead> <tr> <th>Plantation location</th> <th>Approx. area (in Ha.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Site-1</td> <td>6.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Site-2</td> <td>3.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>9.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>As above, Goudadei RF patch of 541.0 ha identified for CA, wherein an area of 9.8 ha is showing planted earlier. Same need to be checked and report in this regards shall be submitted.</p>	Plantation location	Approx. area (in Ha.)	Site-1	6.6	Site-2	3.2	Total	9.8	<p>In this regard, the PCCF(FD&NO,FC Act),Govt of Odisha informed that the DFO Balangir and Boudh Forest Division have reported that the MoEF & CC, Government of India vide letter F. No.11-423/2011-FC dated 31.01.2013 has accorded status of Central Public Sector Unit to M/s SCCL for the purpose of creation of Compensatory Afforestation in respect of the proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for Coal Mining and allied activities. As per Para-2.5 (i) (f) of Handbook of guideline and clarifications on the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 issued vide letter F.No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019, CA shall be raised and maintained at the cost of user agency on degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area diverted. Therefore, 1566.55 ha (783.275 ha X 2) or 1567.0 ha of degraded forest land is required in lieu of diversion of 783 .275 ha of forest land of this project.</p> <p>The proposal involves diversion of 783.275 ha of forest land in Angul Forest Division. As degraded forest land with canopy density less than 0.4 is not available in Angul Forest Division, an area of 1683.0 ha of degraded forest land comprising of 1083.0 ha of degraded forest land (Bankamundi RF 542.0 ha + Goudadei RF 541.0 ha) in Boudh Forest Division and 600.0 ha degraded forest land in Tikhari RF of Balangir Forest Division had been identified for Compensatory Afforestation for Naini Coal Block (Open Cast) under Angul District Odisha of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.</p> <p>The Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi has observed that the identified CA area is more than the required area and has directed that the CA area should be the exact required area i.e., 1566.55 ha or 1567.0 ha.</p> <p>The Gol, MoEF & CC, New Delhi has observed that 35.0 ha of land is MDF out of 600.0 ha of degraded forest land identified in Tikhari RF of Balangir Forest Division. The DFO Balangir Forest Division has reported that after excluding 35.0 ha of MDF, the balance area is</p>
Plantation location	Approx. area (in Ha.)									
Site-1	6.6									
Site-2	3.2									
Total	9.8									

Based on the above observations, the State Government is requested to review the proposed sites for CA towards instant proposal and to exclude 57.0 ha MDF and 9.8 ha of earlier planted area from proposed CA. The revised admissible CA land, alongwith a certificate from the state Government that no afforestation work has been taken up in the proposed CA site under any scheme/plan in the past, may be furnished to this Ministry for further action.

now coming under open forest category as per DSS analysis and 800 plants per ha can be accommodated in the area. Therefore, the revised admissible CA area identified in Tikhari RF of Balangir Division is 565.0 ha (600.0 ha - 35.0 ha MDF).

The CA map duly authenticated by DFO Balangir Division and the KML/Shape file of CA land in CD form are given.

The DFO Balangir Forest Division has furnished a certificate that no plantation has been carried out in the past over the identified area. The copy of the certificate at Point (C) of memo No.2447 dated 19.06.2020 of DFO Balangir Forest Division is enclosed as **Annexure-3**(Pg.1049-1050/ToC).

The compensatory afforestation scheme has been prepared by DFO Balangir Division for taking up ANR with gap plantation@ 800 plants per ha over 565.0 ha of degraded forest land identified in Tikhari RF of Balangir Forest Division with 10 years maintenance alongwith provision of vegetative fencing around the plantation which is enclosed as **Annexure-4**.

The revised financial outlay of compensatory afforestation scheme over 565.0 ha of degraded forest land identified in Tikhari RF in Balangir Forest Division has been technically approved by PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) for Rs.8,05,47,500/- at the current wage rate of Rs.303.40 per MD which is enclosed as **Annexure-4A**.

Further, the Gol, MoEF & CC, New Delhi has observed that 541.0 ha of CA land identified earlier in Goudadei RF under **Boudh Forest Division** contains 22.0 ha MDF which is not suitable and admissible for compensatory afforestation in accordance with guidelines issued by Gol, MoEF & CC, New Delhi and plantation activities has been carried out over a patch of 9.8 ha within 541.0 ha identified for CA in Goudadei RF.

As reported by DFO Boudh Forest Division after excluding 22.0 ha MDF area and 9.8 ha of plantation area from 541.0 ha of CA land identified earlier in Goudadei RF and taking into consideration

about presence of existing regeneration and tree species with some canopy cover, an area of 460.0 ha in Goudadei RF is included in the compensatory afforestation area which can accommodate 800 Plants/ ha. Therefore, the total revised admissible CA area identified in Boudh Forest Division is 1002.0 ha (Bankamundi RF 542.0 ha + Goudadei RF 460.0 ha). The CA area of 1002.0 ha is now coming under open forest category as per DSS analysis.

The geo-referenced digitized map of CA area over 542.0 ha degraded forest land in Bankamundi RF of Boudh Forest Division duly authenticated by DFO Boudh Forest Division and the KML / Shape file of CA land in CD form are given.

The geo-referenced digital map of CA area over 460.0 ha of degraded forest land in Goudadei RF of Boudh Forest Division duly authenticated by DFO Boudh Forest Division and the KML/ Shape file of CA land are provided.

The DFO Boudh Forest Division has furnished a certificate that no plantation has been carried out in the past over the revised identified area. The copy of the certificate at Point (C) of memo No.2939 dated 08.07.2020 of DFO Boudh Forest Division is enclosed as **Annexure-8**.

A compensatory afforestation scheme has been prepared by DFO Boudh Forest Division for taking up ANR with gap plantation @ 800 plants per ha over 1002.0 ha (542.0 ha in Bankamundi RF + 460.0 ha in Goudadei RF) of degraded forest land with 10 years maintenance alongwith vegetative fencing around the plantation and provision of soil conservation measures like LBCD (Loose Boulder Check Dam) & staggered trenches which is enclosed as **Annexure-9**

The financial outlay of the compensatory afforestation scheme over 1002.0 ha of degraded forest land identified in Bankamundi RF (542.0 ha) & Goudadei RF (460.0 ha) under Boudh Forest Division has been technically approved by PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act) for Rs.15,24,42,700/- at the current wage rate of Rs.303.40 per manday which is enclosed as **Annexure-10**.

		<p>Hence, the total revised admissible CA land identified is 1567.0 ha comprising of 1002.0 ha of degraded forest land (Bankamundi RF 542.0 ha + Goudadei RF 460.0 ha) in Boudh Forest Division and 565.0 ha of degraded forest land in Tikhari RF of Balangir Forest Division for diversion of 783.275 ha of forest land for Naini Coal Block (Open Cast) under Angul District Odisha of M/s Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL).</p>
<p>Point (ii)</p>	<p>It is also observed that the whole area on both sides of State Highway No.63 upto Deogarh Division has coal reserves and many coal mines may come up in future and movement of wild elephants is often witnessed in the northern and southern part of lease area, as reported. In this regards, the comments of CWLW of State may be furnished.</p>	<p>In this regard, the PCCF(FD&NO,FC Act),Govt of Odisha informed that the comments of PCCF (WL & CWLW), Odisha furnished vide letter No.5850 dated 16.07.2020 (copy enclosed as Annexure-11: is furnished below:</p> <p>The elephant-rich Angul Forest Division has witnessed many man-animal conflicts due to fragmentation of dense forests owing to mining, industrialization and rapid urbanization. No mitigative measures are full proof enough to guarantee zero casualty to wild animals and collateral damage to human life and property.</p> <p>The DFO, Angul Forest Division in the Site Inspection Report has reported about the movement of elephants in northern and southern part of lease area apprehending man-animal conflicts in adjoining villages.</p> <p>To scale down the impact locally, the DFO, Angul Forest Division has recommended for implementation of a mitigative plan addressing the issues of minimizing the man-animal conflict and providing safe passage for elephants. The Regional CCF, Angul Circle in his memo No.2229 dated 13.07.2020 (copy enclosed as Annexure-12: has also endorsed the views of the DFO, Angul Forest Division.</p> <p>Besides this, as a large area of Chhendipada Range falls under coal bearing zone which would invite number of miner in future it would be better if Wildlife Institute of India/ Indian Institute of Science or some National Level Institute is asked to prepare a Comprehensive Elephant Management Plan to mitigate adverse impacts of coal mining on elephant population, their movements etc. for entire coal bearing belt encompassing areas of</p>

	Chhendipada, Kaniha, Jarpada Ranges of Angul Forest Division and Reamal Range of Deogarh Forest Division alongwith adjoining continuous forest areas. The cost of such plan can be apportioned among the coal mines as and when allotted in the area.
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4. The revised CA sites have been analysed by DSS Cell of FC Division and their report may kindly be seen at [Pg.1107-1111/ToC](#) . The major observations are as given below:

- i. After examination of revised KML files of CA site through GIS-DSS tool, it is learnt that the State Govt. of Odisha proposed the revised CA patches at the same locations and only altered the boundaries of earlier CA sites with a view to exclude the MDF and Plantation sites. However, still approx 3.66 Ha area of plantation site is included in the revised KML of Goud-Dei RF which is now proposed for CA.
- ii. Now as per DSS, the total area of revised CA land is found 1569 Ha which is twice in extent to the forest land proposed to be diverted.
- iii. Out of total 1569 ha area proposed for CA, 1276 ha. of land is having the canopy density of Open Forest and remaining 293 ha of land as Non-Forest (land devoid of tree cover) in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2019) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2017-2018.
- iv. It is imperative to mention here that, the State Govt. of Odisha did not furnish their comments on the observation made by this Ministry at point No. i (b) vide its letter of even number dated 17.04.2020 wherein *"the Regional office, Bhubaneswar in Site Inspection Report (SIR) mentioned that the proposed CA areas do not require planting of 800 seedlings in ANR model due to presence of existing regeneration and tree species with some canopy cover"*.

It is proposed that the above facts of the proposal may be placed before FAC in its forthcoming meeting scheduled to be held on 21.09.2020 for examination and appropriate recommendation please.
