



**STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HOFF  
PLOT NO.GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR  
BHUBANESWAR-751023**

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No. / 9F (MG) -35/2021  
Dated, Bhubaneswar the August'2022

From

Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act)  
O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

To

**The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)**  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (F.C. Division)  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi-110003

**Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 349.709 ha forest land in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for Siarmal OCP of Mahalaxmi Area in Sundargarh District (Odisha) - Submission of Stage-I compliance - regarding.**

Ref: F.No.8-25/2021-FC dated 21.04.2022 of Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC), Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.

Sir,

In reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi has accorded '**in-principle**' approval vide letter under reference for non-forestry use of 349.709 ha forest land in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for Siarmal OCP of Mahalaxmi Area in Sundargarh District (Odisha) subject to fulfilment of twelve (12) nos. of conditions in Condition-(A) and nineteen (19) nos. of conditions in Condition-(B) stipulated therein respectively. The User Agency has complied all the conditions imposed by Govt. of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi. The point wise compliance basing on the reports of the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division and RCCF, Rourkela Circle are as follows:-

**A. Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department and compliance is to be submitted prior to Stage-II approval.**

**1. Compensatory Afforestation**

- i. *The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required on the CA land, shall be deposited in State CAMPA account, through e-challan, by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works schedule for subsequent years;*



**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that forest land applied for diversion is 349.709 ha. which includes Safety Zone of 3.93 ha. So, compensatory afforestation needs to be done over an area of 691.558 ha  $\{(349.709 \text{ ha} - 3.93 \text{ ha}) \times 2\}$  of degraded forest land.

The scheme for Compensatory Afforestation over 691.558 ha. (effective area 581 ha.) of degraded forest land identified in Satparlia RF of Sundargarh Division with a total financial outlay of Rs.11,79,54,700/- at the prevailing wage rate of Rs.326/- per man day with 10 years maintenance and another scheme for Compensatory Afforestation over 111.000 ha. of degraded forest land identified in Jamkhani RF under Gopalpur Range of Sundargarh Division with a total financial outlay of Rs.1,54,13,200/- at the prevailing wage rate of Rs.326/- per man day. The above CA Scheme has been approved by the Chief Conservator of Forests (FD & NO, FC Act) and the copy of the approved financial outlay are enclosed as **Annexure-I (D) & (E)**. The CA Scheme have been prepared to plant indigenous species.

Accordingly, the DFO, Sundargarh Division vide his office letter No.2523/4F(MISC.) /2022 dated 09/05/2022 (**enclosed as Annexure-I**) have raised the demand for payment of approved cost of Compensatory Afforestation of Rs.11,79,54,700/- & Rs.1,54,13,200/- and the User Agency had paid a sum of Rs.13,33,67,900/- towards the cost of Compensatory Afforestation out of total deposit of Rs.65,04,30,880/- (Rupees sixty five crore four lakh thirty thousand eight hundred eighty) only in the State Specific Account, Odisha CAMPA A/c No.150825832796370 of Union Bank Of India, IFSC Code.UBIN0903710 on 09.06.2022 online in Parivesh portal through RTGS mode vide UTR No.SBIN222160788520 which includes Rs.13,33,67,900/- (Rs.11,79,54,700/- + Rs.1,54,13,200/-) towards the cost of compensatory afforestation.

The copy of the e-challan generated through Parivesh portal and the computer-generated e-payment statement is enclosed as **Annexure I (A) & I (B)** respectively.

Further, the User Agency has also submitted an undertaking as **Annexure I (C)** to pay the appropriate anticipated increase cost for works scheduled for subsequent years duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division.

- ii. *The KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details prior to Stage II approval;*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has intimated that the KML files & requisite details of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the SSWLCP area can only be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal after Stage-II as per the provisions in the portal.



Further, the User agency has submitted the screenshot images while uploading the required documents which are enclosed as **Annexure II**.

2. *The user agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal in accordance with the MoEF & CC's guidelines dated 6.01.2022 read with guidelines dated 19.01.2022:*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency was demanded the cost of Net Present Value of **349.709 ha.** of forest land proposed for diversion of **Rs.42,96,48,980.00** vide DFOs letter No. 2683/4F(MISC)/2022 dated 21.05.2022 (already enclosed as **Annexure III**) as follows:-

Area of diversion	Density	Eco-Value Class	Rate of NPV per ha	Total amount due in Rs.	Total amount paid in Rs.
349.709 ha Revenue Forest	0.4	III	12,28,590	42,96,48,980/-	42,96,48,980/-

The User Agency has paid a sum of Rs.65,04,30,880/- (Rupees sixty five crore four lakh thirty thousand eight hundred eighty) only in the State Specific Account, Odisha CAMPA A/c No.150825832796370 of Union Bank Of India, IFSC Code UBIN0903710 on 09.06.2022 online in Parivesh portal through RTGS mode vide UTR No.SBIN222160788520 which includes Rs.42,96,48,980.00 towards the NPV of 349.709 ha. of Revenue Forest Land.

Further, the copy of the e-challan generated through Parivesh portal and the computer-generated e-payment statements which are enclosed as **Annexure I (A) & I (B)** respectively.

3. *Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project, shall be transferred/ deposited through E-challan, into the account of CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal(<http://parivesh.nic.in/>):*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that all the Compensatory levies realized from the User Agency under the project, have been transferred/ deposited through e-challan, into the account of CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<http://parivesh.nic.in/>).The details of the following amounts deposited by the user agency are furnished below:-



Sl. No.	Type of deposit {NPV /CA /TWMP Others (specify)}	Whether by RTGS/ BD/DD/ NEFT (Specify)	UTR/DD No./BD No.	Amount deposited (Rs.)	Date of deposit	Name of Bank from which amount transferred to account CAF	Bank Account of CAF managed by CAMPA in which fund deposited	Deposited with
1.	NPV	Online through Parivesh portal	SBIN2221 60788520	42,96,48,980/- out of deposit of Rs.65,04,30,880/-	09.06.2022	SBI	ORISSA CAMPA SB A/c No.15081258 32796370 of Union Bank of India, New Delhi	State Specific CAMPA
2.	CA	Online through Parivesh portal	SBIN2221 60788520	11,79,54,700/- + Rs.1,54,13,200/- Total 13,33,67,900/- out of deposit of Rs.65,04,30,880/-	09.06.2022	SBI	ORISSA CAMPA SB A/c No.15081258 32796370 of Union Bank of India, New Delhi	State Specific CAMPA
3.	SSWLCP	Online through Parivesh portal	SBIN2221 60788520	8,74,14,000/- out of deposit of Rs.65,04,30,880/-	09.06.2022	SBI	ORISSA CAMPA SB A/c No.15082642 0956862 Union Bank of India, Lodhi Road, New Delhi	State Specific CAMPA
4.	SMC	Online through Parivesh portal	SBINR52 02207259 6043074	6,12,09,030/- out of total deposit of Rs.9,38,55,100/-	26.07.2022	SBI	ORISSA CAMPA SB A/c No.15082583 2796988 of Union Bank of India, Lodhi Road, New Delhi	State Specific CAMPA
5.	1.5 times SZ (5.895 ha)	Online through Parivesh portal	SBINR52 02207259 6043074	35,28,210/- out of total deposit of Rs.9,38,55,100/-	26.07.2022	SBI	ORISSA CAMPA SB A/c No.15082125 832796370 of Union Bank of India, Lodhi Road, New Delhi	State Specific CAMPA
6	Gap Planting and SMC in degraded forest land (canopy density below 0.4)	Online through Parivesh portal	SBINR52 02207259 6043074	2,91,17,860/- total deposit of Rs.9,38,55,100/-	26.07.2022	SBI	ORISSA CAMPA SB A/c No.15082583 2796988 of Union Bank of India, Lodhi Road, New Delhi	State Specific CAMPA

The details of compensatory levies deposited by M/s MCL duly signed by the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division and countersigned by the CCF(FD & NO, FC Act) in the prescribed format is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXIX**.



- 4. Following activities, as per approved plan/ schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department. Approved scheme/plan shall be submitted to the Ministry along with compliance of Stage-I approval:**
- i. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved plan in consultation with the State Forest Department.**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a scheme has been prepared by the User Agency in consultation with DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division for taking up mitigating measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams over an area of 20 ha. within mine lease boundary. The scheme has been duly approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle, Rourkela Circle vide his Memo No.2265/3F-761/2022 dated 16.07.22 (copy enclosed as **Annexure-IV**) with a financial outlay of Rs.8,19,150/- (**Rupees eight lakh nineteen thousand one hundred fifty**) only.

The copy of the approved scheme for mitigative measures to be taken up to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams is enclosed as **Annexure-IV (A)**.

Further, the User Agency has intimated that the implementation of the proposed measures would be done by consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division. An undertaking to this effect furnished by the User Agency, duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division is enclosed as **Annexure-IV (B)**

- ii. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme:**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a scheme in accordance with the mine plan and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion over 409.99 ha. of backfilled area within the mined-out area in a cumulative phased manner has been prepared by the User Agency in consultation with DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division which has been duly approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle with financial outlay of **Rs.16,02,02,610/- (Rupees Sixteen Crore Two Lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred Ten only)** vide his Memo No.2265/3F-761/2022 dated 16.07.22 (copy already enclosed as **Annexure-IV**).

The copy of the above approved scheme for planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-V**.

Further, the implementation of the proposed measures will be done by the user agency in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division. An undertaking to this effect furnished by the User Agency, duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division is enclosed as **Annexure V (A)**.



**iii. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme.**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a scheme in accordance with the approved mining plan and Environment Management Plan of the project for construction of check dam, retention / toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour have been prepared and duly approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle vide his Memo No.2265/3F-761/2022 dated 16.07.22 (**copy already enclosed as Annexure-IV**) for Rs.2,54,38,910/- (Rupees two crore fifty-four lakh thirty eight thousand nine hundred ten) only.

The copy of the above approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-VI**.

Further, the implementation of the proposed measures will be done by the user agency in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division. An undertaking to this effect furnished by the User Agency, duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division is enclosed as **Annexure VI (A)**.

**iv. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/ benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°, and**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a scheme in accordance with the approved mining plan and Environment Management Plan of the project for the stabilization of the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28° has been prepared which has been duly approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle vide his Memo No.2265/3F-761/2022 dated 16.07.22 (**copy already enclosed as Annexure-IV**) for Rs. 1,04,09,570/- (Rupees one crore four lakh nine thousand five hundred seventy) only.

The copy of the above approved scheme is enclosed as **Annexure-VII**.

Further, the implementation of the proposed measures will be done by the user agency in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division. An undertaking to this effect furnished by the User Agency, duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division is enclosed as **Annexure VII (A)**.

**v. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the topsoil management plan.**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a scheme in accordance with the approved mining plan and Environment Management Plan of the project for top soil management to ensure 'no damage' to the top soil with strict adherence to the top soil management plan over 20 ha (2 nos. of temporary locations) has been prepared by the User Agency which has been duly approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle vide his Memo No. 2265/3F-761/2022 dated 16.07.22(**copy already enclosed as Annexure-IV**) for Rs.4,01,600/-(Rupees four lakh one thousand six hundred) only.



The copy of the above approved scheme which is enclosed as **Annexure-VIII**.

Further, the implementation of the proposed measures will be done by the user agency in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division. An undertaking to this effect furnished by the User Agency, duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division is enclosed as **Annexure VIII (A)**.

**5. Chhattajor nallah located in the area has been proposed to be straightened by the user agency. Also, a number of mines are operational in the area which may cause threat to hydrological regime viz. Basundhara River and its rivulets, therefore, a study on hydrological regimes of the area will be undertaken in consultation with the Water Resource Department and the same shall be submitted along with considered opinion of Water Resource Department of the State on the proposed straightening of Chhattajor nallah and proposed mitigating measures before Stage-II approval:**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that, the User Agency has intimated that they (Siarmal Open Cast Coal Mining Project of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited) have engaged a consultant namely M/s Kalinga Commercial Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar on 13.05.2022 to study the hydrological regime of the area. **Chhattajor Nallah located in the area will not be straightened by the user agency. And the study of the hydrological regime has been undertaken towards the protection of the Basundhara River and its rivulets.** As stated by the User Agency, the consultant has already completed the field survey of the study area and preparing the Study Report. The report will elaborate the details of the study conducted by field surveys and plan and vision to develop an integrated approach for the protection of the Basundhara River on the proposed mining in the area along with cost estimates for execution of the plan and the consultant is expected to submit the report by 13.08.2022.

The User Agency has also intimated that the report so prepared by the consultant will be submitted by the User Agency to Water Resources Department, Govt. of Odisha for obtaining their considered opinion in compliance of the above condition of MoEF & CC, Govt. of India. As per the User Agency, the opinion of Water Resources Department, Govt. of Odisha is likely to be obtained by 15.09.2022 and an undertaking to the effect that the Study Report along with considered opinion of Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha will be submitted to the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India by 15.09.2022 which is enclosed as **Annexure-IX** duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division.

Further, the User Agency has also intimated that the undertaking mentions that the execution of the activities will be carried out as per the Study Report along with considered opinion of Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha, at project cost by Siarmal Open Cast Coal Mining Project of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.



**6. A Soil & Moisture Conservation (SMC) work plan to mitigate the impact of the proposed mining activity on the local rivulets (nallah) shall be prepared by the user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department and the same shall be submitted along with the Stage-I compliance. Cost of implementation of the provisions of the said plan will be deposited into the CAMPA and the same shall be intimated to the Ministry before Stage-II approval:**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a scheme through CMPDI (Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited) has been prepared by the User Agency for soil & moisture conservation (SMC) work plan over 357 ha of Jamkani Reserved Forest of Gopalpur Range of Sundargarh Forest Division which has been duly approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle vide his Memo No.2265/3F-761/2022 dated 16.07.22(copy already enclosed as Annexure-IV) for Rs.6,12,09,030/- (Rupees six crore twelve Lakh nine thousand thirty) only.

Further, as per demand raised by DFO, Sundargarh vide letter no.4597/4F(MISC)/2022 dated 18.07.2022 (enclosed as Annexure-X), the User Agency has made a payment of Rs.9,38,55,100/- (Rupees Nine Crores thirty-eight lakh fifty-five thousand and one hundred) only in the State Specific Account, Odisha CAMPA A/c No. 150825832796988 of Union Bank of India, IFSC Code.UBIN0996335 on 26.07.2022 online in Parivesh portal through RTGS mode vide UTR No.SBINR52022072596043074 which includes **Rs.6,12,09,030/-** towards soil and moisture Conservation (SMC) work plan to mitigate the impact of the proposed mining activity on the local rivulets (Nallah).

The copy of the e-challan generated through Parivesh portal with NEFT transaction detail, and payment status image on Parivesh portal as **Annexure X (A) & X (B)** respectively.

The User Agency has furnished copy of the approved soil & moisture conservation (SMC) work plan& plates as **Annexure X (C) and Annexure X (D separate volume)** respectively.

**7. User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 meter from outer perimeter of the mining lease. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF & CC before Stage-II clearance:**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a scheme for gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.4), located in the area within 100 meters from outer perimeter of the mining lease boundary over 60 ha in Garjanjore R.F. of Gopalpur Range of Sundargarh Forest Division has been prepared which has been duly approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle vide his Memo No.2265/3F-761/2022 dated 16.07.22 (copy already enclosed as Annexure-IV) for **Rs.2,91,17,860.00 (Rupees Two Crore Ninety-One Lakh Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty only).**



Further, as per demand raised by DFO, Sundargarh vide letter no.4597/4F(MISC)/2022 dated 18.07.2022 (**enclosed as Annexure-X**), the User Agency has made payment of Rs.2,91,17,860/- out of total deposit of Rs.9,38,55,100/- (Rupees Nine Crores thirty-eight lakh fifty-five thousand and one hundred) only in the State Specific Account, Odisha CAMPA A/c No.150825832796988 of Union Bank of India, IFSC Code.UBIN0996335 on 26.07.2022 online in Parivesh portal through RTGS mode vide UTR No.SBINR52022072596043074 towards scheme for gap planting and moisture conservation to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests located in the area within 100 m from outer perimeter of the mining lease.

The copy of the above approved scheme which is enclosed as **Annexure XI**. The user agency has also submitted an undertaking to pay appropriate anticipated increased cost duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division which is enclosed as **Annexure XI (A)**.

The User Agency has submitted a copy of the e-challan generated through Parivesh portal with NEFT transaction detail, and payment status image on Parivesh portal as **Annexure X (A) & X (B)** respectively.

**8. The user agency shall prepare a list of existing village tanks and other water bodies with GPS coordinates located within five km from the mine lease boundary. This list is to be duly verified by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. The User Agency shall regularly undertake desilting of these village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/ water bodies. A detailed approved plan for desilting of identified Ponds and water bodies to be prepared in consultation with forest department and shall be submitted to MoEF & CC before Stage-II approval:**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a scheme for de-silting of village tanks and other water bodies so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/ water bodies within 5 km from the mine lease boundary of Siarmal Opencast Project has been prepared by the User Agency, which has been approved by RCCF, Rourkela Circle vide his Memo No.2265/3F-761/2022 dated 16.07.2022 (**enclosed as Annexure IV**) for a financial outlay of **Rs.18,74,09,500.00** (Rupees Eighteen Crore Seventy-Four Lakh Nine Thousand Five Hundred only). The user agency will undertake the implementation of the provisions of the schemes in 10 years in consultation with State Forest Department. The location of the water bodies shown in Google earth map which is enclosed as **Annexure-XII (B)**.

The copy of the approved scheme, including the details of identified ponds/ village tanks/ water bodies and estimated cost for implementation for 10 years which is enclosed as **Annexure-XII**.

The User Agency has submitted an undertaking for implementation of the approved scheme duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division which is enclosed as **Annexure-XII (A)**. The location of village tanks proposed for de-siltation are shown in Google Earth image map which is enclosed as **Annexure-XII (B)**.



9. **Safety Zone Management:** *Following activities at project cost shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per the relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:*

- i. *User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of six feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with GPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that an area over 18.59 ha (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area) is demarcated for safety zone in the approved Mining Plan. The DGPS survey of mine lease boundary and safety zone boundary is done by ORSAC. The DGPS map of mine lease boundary and safety zone area is validated by vetting of ORSAC, Tahasildar and Divisional Forest Officer. The GPS coordinates so generated from the DGPS survey is inscribed on RCC pillars. All pillars bear Back Bearing, Forward Bearing, pillar numbers, etc. The RCC pillars of 338 nos. (SZ 1 - SZ 338) have been erected in accordance with the specifications, mentioned in the related guidelines stipulated in MoEF & CC. The DGPS surveyed maps of mine lease boundary and safety zone area are enclosed as **Annexure-XIII** and **XIII (A)** respectively. In the plantation scheme Chain Linked wire meshed fencing provision has been included. The KML file is also attached in the form of a soft compact disc.

- ii. *Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitations/roads should be properly fenced by the user agency;*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division to this effect that boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitations/roads will be properly fenced by the User Agency which is enclosed as **Annexure-XIV**.

- iii. *Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department;*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has intimated that an area over 18.59 ha (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area) has been demarcated for safety zone as per the approved Mine Plan and a scheme has been prepared for block plantation of 1600 plants/ ha. with 10 years maintenance over 18.59 ha. which has been duly approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle vide his Memo No.2265/3F-761/2022 dated 16.07.22 (copy already enclosed as **Annexure-IV**) for Rs.4,26,69,850.00 (Rupees four crore twenty-six lakh sixty-nine thousand eight hundred fifty) only.



Further, the copy of the approved scheme for fencing, protection and regeneration of safety zone area of 7.5 meter strip within the mining lease boundary over 18.59 ha, is enclosed as **Annexure-XV**.

Again, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking for implementation of the approved scheme at the project cost vide **Annexure-XV(A)** which is duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division.

- iv. *Afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere measuring one and a half times the area under safety zone, shall also be done at the project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department. The degraded forest land (DLF) so selected will be informed to the MoEF & CC with shape files before Stage-II approval and afforestation will be done within three years from the date of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved plan in consultation with the State Forest Department; and*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a scheme has been prepared in consultation with the DFO, Sundargarh Division for afforestation on degraded forest land over 5.895 ha i.e., 1.5 times the area under safety zone (3.93 ha) selected in Garjanpahad RF of Gopalpur Range of Sundargarh Forest Division. which has been duly approved by the RCCF, Rourkela Circle vide his Memo No. 2265/3F-761/2022 dated 16.07.22 (copy already enclosed as **Annexure-IV**) for **Rs.35,28,210/- (Rupees thirty five lakh twenty eight thousand two hundred ten) only**.

Further, as per demand raised by the DFO, Sundargarh Division vide his letter No. 4597/4F(MISC)/2022 dated 18.07.2022 (enclosed as **Annexure-X**), the User Agency has made a payment of Rs.35,28,210/- out of total deposit of Rs.9,38,55,100/- (Rupees Nine Crores thirty-eight lakh fifty-five thousand and one hundred) only in the State Specific Account, Odisha CAMPA A/c No.150825832796988 of Union Bank of India, IFSC Code.UBIN0996335 on 26.07.2022 online in Parivesh portal through RTGS mode vide UTR No.SBINR52022072596043074 towards the cost for afforestation over 1.5 times of Safety Zone.

The copy of the approved scheme which is enclosed as **Annexure-XVI**.

Further, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking to pay additional appropriate increased cost while implementation vide **Annexure-XVI(A)** which is duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division.

The copy of the e-challan generated through Parivesh portal with NEFT transaction detail, and payment status image on Parivesh portal as **Annexure X (A) & X (B)** respectively.

- v. *The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;*



**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking vide **Annexure-XVII** that the safety zone will be maintained as per the prescribed norms which is duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division.

**9. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency will deposit the cost of tree felling with the State Forest Department. An undertaking to this effect has been submitted by the User Agency, duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division is enclosed as **Annexure-XVIII**.

**10. Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan to mitigate the impact of project on wildlife of the area shall be prepared by the State Government in consultation with the PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden of the state at project cost and an approved copy of the same along with detail of deposition of funds into the CAMPA account shall be submitted to the Ministry along with Stage -I compliance;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan is prepared which has been approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha vide letter No. **3958/CWLW-FDWC-FD-0127-2021, dated 07.05.2022 for Rs.8,74,14,000.00 (Rupees eight crore seventy four lakh fourteen thousand) only.**

The copy of the approved SSWLCP is enclosed as **Annexure-XIX**.

Further, as per demand raised by DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division vide his letter No. 2516/4F(MISC) 2022 Dt. 09.05.2022 (enclosed as **Annexure XIX-A**) the User Agency has made a payment of **Rs.65,04,30,880.00** (Rupees sixty five crore four lakh thirty thousand eight hundred eighty) only in the State Specific CAMPA Account, vide A/c No.150825832796370 of Union Bank Of India, IFSC Code.UBIN0903710 on 09.06.2022 online in Parivesh portal vide **UTR No.SBIN222160788520** which includes **Rs.8,74,14,000.00** towards Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan.

The copy of the e-challan generated through Parivesh portal and the computer-generated e-payment statement as **Annexure I (A) & I (B)** respectively.

**11. State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence, along with compliance of Stage-I approval, as prescribed by this Ministry's Letter No. 11-9/1998-FC(Pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof; and**



**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted a copy of the certificate of the Scheduled Tribe and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act 2006) over 349.709 ha. of forest land issued by the District Magistrate & Collector, Sundargarh vide order No.6217 dated 14.07.2021 along with all related documents which are enclosed as **Annexure-XX series**.

**12. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has intimated that the compliance report of Stage-I conditions complete in all aspects has been uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>), the screen image taken while uploading the compliance is enclosed as **Annexure-XX (A)**.

**A. Conditions which need to be complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval**

**1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that the legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion will remain unchanged which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXI**.

**2. The compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land, double in extend to the forest land being diverted i.e., 712.477 ha shall be raised by the State Forest Department and at the project cost within three years from the date of grant of Stage-II approval;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has intimated that, forest land applied for diversion is 349.709 ha. which includes Safety Zone of 3.93 ha. So, compensatory afforestation needs to be done over an area of 691.558 ha  $\{(349.709 \text{ ha} - 3.93 \text{ ha}) \times 2\}$  of degraded forest land.

The scheme for Compensatory Afforestation over 691.558 ha. (effective area 581 ha.) of degraded forest land identified in Satparlia RF of Sundargarh Division with a total financial outlay of Rs.11,79,54,700/- at the prevailing wage rate of Rs.326/- per man day with 10 years maintenance and another scheme for Compensatory Afforestation over 111.000 ha. of degraded forest land identified in Jamkhani RF under Gopalpur Range of Sundargarh Division with a total financial outlay of Rs.1,54,13,200/- at the prevailing wage rate of Rs.326/- per man day have been approved by the Chief Conservator of Forests (FD & NO, FC Act) and the copy of the approved financial outlay are enclosed as **Annexure-I (D) & (E)**. The CA Scheme have been prepared to plant indigenous species.



Accordingly, the DFO, Sundargarh Division vide his office letter No.2523/4F(MISC.) /2022 dated 09/05/2022 (**enclosed as Annexure-I**) have raised the demand for payment of approved cost of Compensatory Afforestation of Rs.11,79,54,700/- & Rs.1,54,13,200/- and the User Agency had paid a sum of Rs.13,33,67,900/- towards the cost of Compensatory Afforestation out of total deposit of Rs.65,04,30,880/- (Rupees sixty five crore four lakh thirty thousand eight hundred eighty) only in the State Specific Account, Odisha CAMPA A/c No.150825832796370 of Union Bank Of India, IFSC Code.UBIN0903710 on 09.06.2022 online in Parivesh portal vide UTR No.SBIN222160788520 which includes Rs.13,33,67,900/- (Rs.11,79,54,700/- + Rs.1,54,13,200/-) towards the cost of compensatory afforestation.

The copy of the e-challan generated through Parivesh portal and the computer-generated e-payment statements which are enclosed as **Annexure I (A) & I (B)** respectively.

Further, the User Agency has also submitted an undertaking as **Annexure I (C)** to pay the appropriate anticipated increase cost for works scheduled for subsequent years. The undertaking is duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division.

**3. Boundaries of forest land of 5.256 ha. granted on patta, within the patch of 129 ha of degraded forest land proposed for CA, shall be demarcated and digitized and the same shall be submitted to the concerned IRO, along with digital Differential GPS map of 129 ha. The area shall be monitored regularly, on annual basis, to ensure no further encroachment beyond FRA patta land takes place in future;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has intimated that the DGPS survey has been conducted by an empanelled agency of ORSAC over boundaries of forest land of 5.256 ha. granted on patta, within the patch of 129 ha. of degraded forest land proposed for CA land in Jamkani Reserved Forest. The DGPS map so generated is authenticated by ORSAC, and vetted by the forest officials and the user agency.

Further, the User Agency has clarified that the generated DGPS map shows the surveyed area to be 5.448 ha., which is 0.192 ha. (3.652%) more than the surveyed area i.e. 5.256 ha.

As per the ORSAC's note in the submitted DGPS map, the DGPS survey map is correct with the confidence level up to 95%. So, the deviation of 0.192 ha. in the surveyed map is within the acceptable limit.

The copy of the DGPS map duly vetted by ORSAC and countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division is enclosed as **Annexure XXII** and soft copy of GPS coordinates of demarcated and digitalized area is in the form of a compact disc.



4. *At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Honorable Supreme Court of India;*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India which is enclosed as **Annexure- XXIII**.

5. *Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved mining plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that tree felling will be taken up strictly in phased manner as per the requirement in accordance with the approved mining plan with prior permission of the DFO, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXIV**.

6. *The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that they shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department which is enclosed as **Annexure- XXV**.

7. *The user agency shall undertake Mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved Mining Plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned regional office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concerned Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that they will undertake Mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area, which is enclosed as **Annexure- XXVI**.

8. *The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc. in a timely manner.*



**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that they will comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other area which may be disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc., in a timely manner is enclosed as **Annexure-XXVII**.

**9. Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that the period of diversion of the 349.709 ha forest land under this proposal shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and the rules framed there-under as amended which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXVIII**.

**10. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental(Protection) Act, 1986, if required;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has submitted a copy of the Environment Clearance accorded in favour of Siarmal Open Cast Coal Mine Project, MCL by GoI, MoEF& CC vide their F. No.J-11015/230/2014-IA-II(M) Dtd.05.05.2022 which is enclosed as **Annexure- XXIX**.

**11. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that no labour camp will be constructed on the forest land and the labourers working at the site will be supplied with LPG, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXX**.

**12. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has intimated that the boundary of the diverted forest land, the mining lease and safety zone has already been demarcated with 338 nos. of 4 feet height RCC pillars, embedded two feet inside the soil and the specified information i.e. serial number, DGPS coordinates, front bearing and back bearing and distance from adjoining pillars have been inscribed on the pillars.



Further, the User Agency has also intimated that, the DGPS survey of mine lease boundary has been done by ORSAC (Odisha Space Application Centre), Bhubaneswar, the map so generated and validated by ORSAC, Tahsildar and DFO, Sundargarh Forest Division is enclosed as **Annexure-XIII**. The map of lease area showing different kinds of forest land using DGPS survey data and latitude and longitude of each pillar will be submitted before commencement of work on final forest clearance. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXI**.

**13. The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that is specified in the proposal;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that the layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land proposed for diversion shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the diversion proposal which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXII**.

**14. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that the forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXIII**.

**15. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining areas shall be caused by them, which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXIV**.

**16. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that they shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly which is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXV**.



- 17. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that they will comply with any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests and wildlife which is duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXVI**.

- 18. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project; and**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that they shall comply all the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXVII**.

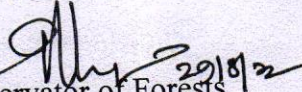
- 19. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of Comprehensive Guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.**

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the RCCF, Rourkela Circle has reported that the User Agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Sundargarh Division that they will not act in violation of any of the conditions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and comply with the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is enclosed as **Annexure-XXXVIII**.

In view of the above, the compliance to the conditions imposed by Government of India, MoEF & CC (Forest Conservation) Division, New Delhi is sent herewith for according final approval for non-forestry use of 349.709 ha forest land within total mining lease area of 2290.449 ha in favour of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for Siarmal OCP of Mahalaxmi Area in Sundargarh District (Odisha) under Section-2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

**Encl: Stage-I Compliance in one set**

Yours faithfully

  
Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

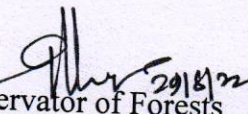


Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy alongwith one set of Stage-I compliance forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action.

**Encl: Stage-I Compliance in one set**

  
Chief Conservator of Forests

(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No.

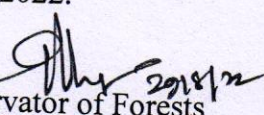
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29-08-2022 ✓

Copy along with one set of Stage-I compliance forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to FE&CC Department Letter No. 10F(Cons) 63/2021/7944/FE&CC dated 29.04.2022.

**Encl: Stage-I Compliance in one set**

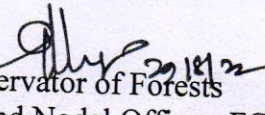
  
Chief Conservator of Forests

(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 2647 dated 12.08.2022.

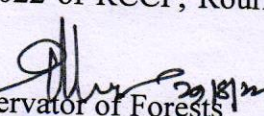
  
Chief Conservator of Forests

(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No.

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Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 2648 dated 12.08.2022 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

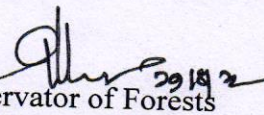
  
Chief Conservator of Forests

(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Project Officer, Mahalaxmi Area, MCL for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 2649 dated 12.08.2022 of RCCF, Rourkela Circle.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests

(Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)