

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT**

Memo No. 21867 /FE&CC, Date 12/11/24
FE-DIV-FLD-0033-2024/ 10F (Cons)-23/2024

Copy of Government of India, MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide Letter No.8-07/2024-FC dtd.07.11.2024 on the matter of proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 134.69 ha of forest land for expansion of Kulda Open Cast Coal Mining Project of Basundhara Area of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Sundargarh District under Sundargarh Forest Division (Proposal No.FP/OR/MIN/50293/2020) forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha for kind information and necessary action.

It is requested to please furnish the required information directly to the Ministry under intimation to this Department.

d
12/11/2024
OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 21868 /FE&CC Date 12/11/24

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha/ Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FD&NO, FC Act), O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha for information and necessary action.

d
12/11/2024
OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 21869 /FE&CC Date 12/11/24

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle/ Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh Forest Division for information and necessary action.

d
12/11/2024
OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 21870 /FE&CC Date 12/11/24

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to Steel & Mines Department/ Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department/ Member Secretary, SPCB, Odisha/ Collector, Sundargarh for information and necessary action.

d
12/11/2024
OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 21871 /FE&CC Date 12/11/24

Copy with copy of enclosure forwarded to the Chief Manager Mines, O/o the Project Officer, Kulda OCP, Basundhara Area, MCL, Sundargarh, Odisha-770076 for information and necessary action.

d
12/11/2024
OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government



26040/FE/24
08.11.2024**File No.: 8-07/2024-FC**

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated:07-11-2024

To

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

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 134.69 ha of forest land for expansion of Kulda Open Cast Coal Mining Project of Basundhara Area of Mahanandi Coalfields Limited in Sundargarh District under Sundargarh Forest Division (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/50293/2020)

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the PCCF (Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act). vide letter No. dated 20827/9F (MG)-49/2023 dated 18.10.2024 for submitted the additional information on the proposal mentioned in above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that after examination of the proposal the following shortcoming has been observed in the instant proposal:

- As per the proposal the lease area is mentioned as 921.35 ha however, as per DSS analysis the area of Kulda OCP lease (including additional area) is found 831.885 ha. The state shall examine and submit the correct area details and correct KML file of the lease area is required to be submitted.
- After the examination of the reply of point (iii) (a) of the Ministry's observation dated 11.06.2024 it has been observed that the Ministry has accorded earlier approval vide letter dated 08.08.2007 for diversion of 227.86 ha. (as against initially proposed 280.86 ha) for Kulda OCP. Later the Ministry has accorded 29.41 ha of forest land (20.89 ha fresh area and 8.52 ha of land for re-diversion out of already diverted forest area of 227.89 ha for Kulda OCP of MCL) for construction of Basundhara Coal Washery (10 MTY). In this regard as per the record available with the Ministry, the total forest area of Kudla OCP will be $(227.89 - 8.52 = 219.37 + 134.69$ ha for current proposal and $20.89\text{ha} + 8.52$ ha for washery) which comes out to be 383.47. However, the State Govt. has informed that the total forest area is 354.06 ha. This needs clarification.

Dy Sec (Div)
08/11/2024
SO (Div)
KDM
08/11/2024
Asoc DM
08/11/2024

- iii. Further, the details of 20.89 ha has not been provided by the State Govt. The KML file of 20.89 and 8.52 ha and CA area against the said proposal is also required to be submitted.
- iv. Further, a report on the compliance of the conditions stipulated in all the past approvals is required to be submitted after verification from RO.
- v. After the analysis of the KML file of the proposed forest land it has been observed that habitation, cultivation land, mined out area and road is visible in the proposed revenue forest patches. In this regard the comments of the State Government shall be provided along with action report as applicable.
- vi. KML file of earlier diverted 227.89 ha forest land and safety zone is required to be submitted.
- vii. Revenue Forest patch nos. 2264, 2235, 2233, 2217 and 2188 are falling outside the lease boundary and their total area is found 1.671 ha. This needs clarification and corrective action is to be taken accordingly.
- viii. As per the analysis on DSS, the area proposed for CA namely Patch 2 (56.5 ha) and Patch 3 (131.545 ha) is having density more than 0.4. Out of 56.5 ha area, 51.0 ha in Patch 2 and out of 131.545 ha, 65.0 ha area in patch 3 (total 116 ha) is found as MDF. Therefore the revised CA area is required to be submitted with all requisite details for plantations.
- ix. After the analysis of the KML file of the proposed CA land it has been observed that road is passing through patch no. 3 & 4. Further, encroachment in the form of cultivation land, habitation, man-made water body is visible in patch no.1 and plantation in patch no.3 (during year 2022). In this regard the comments of the State Government shall be provided (**DSS report is enclosed for reference**).

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish information, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

Signed by Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 07-11-2024 17:34:54

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

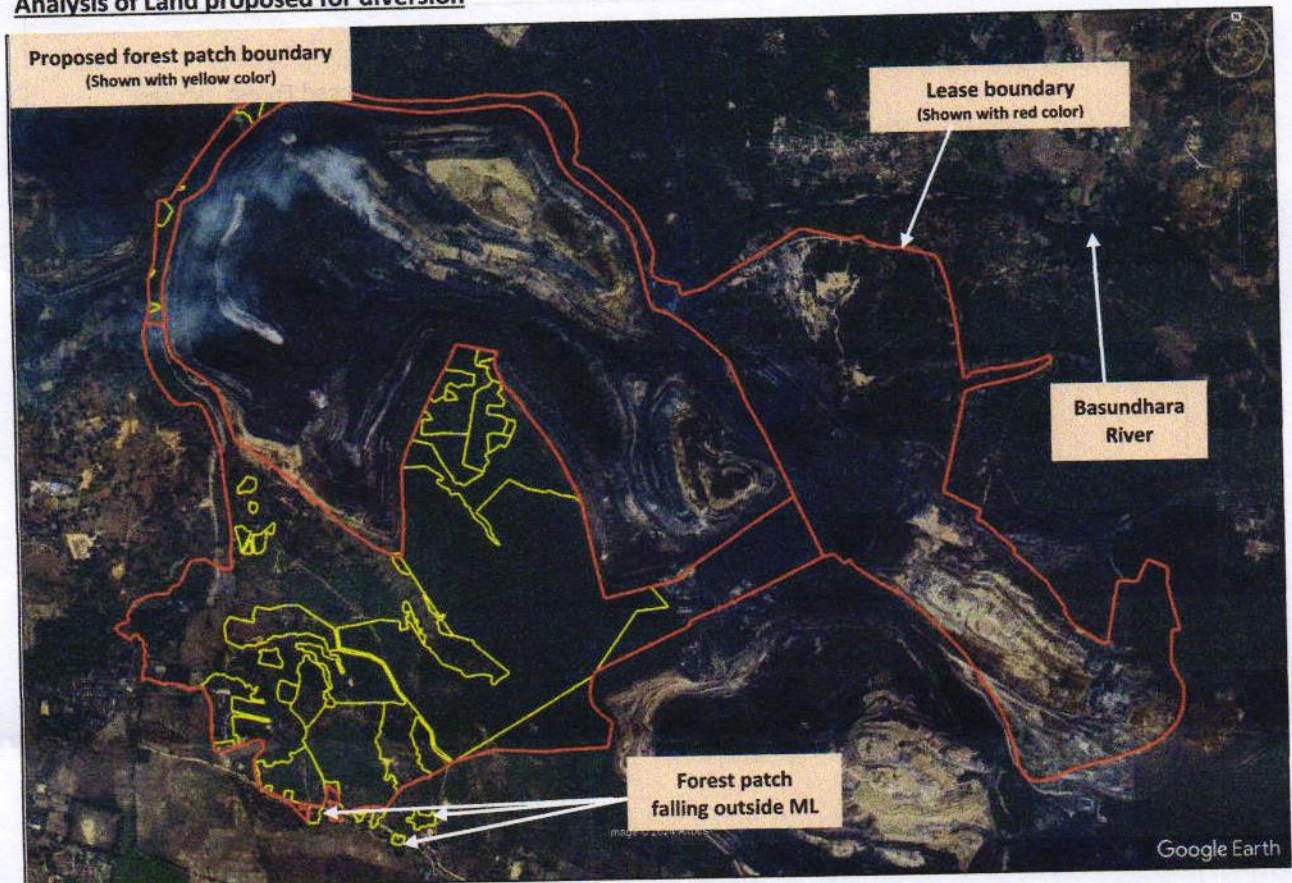
Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar-**with a request to provide the monitoring report of the conditions stipulated in the past approvals wrt Kulda OCP.**
3. Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

File No.: 8-07/2024-FC

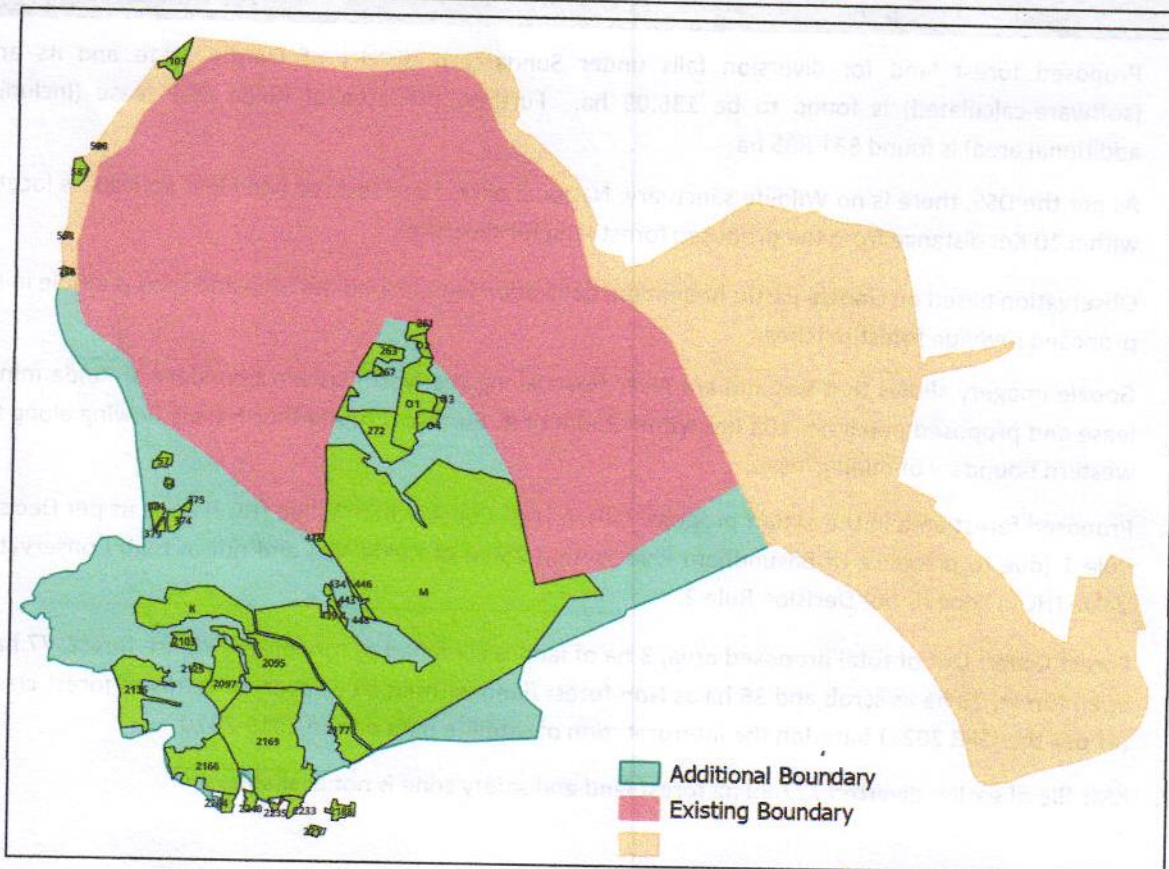
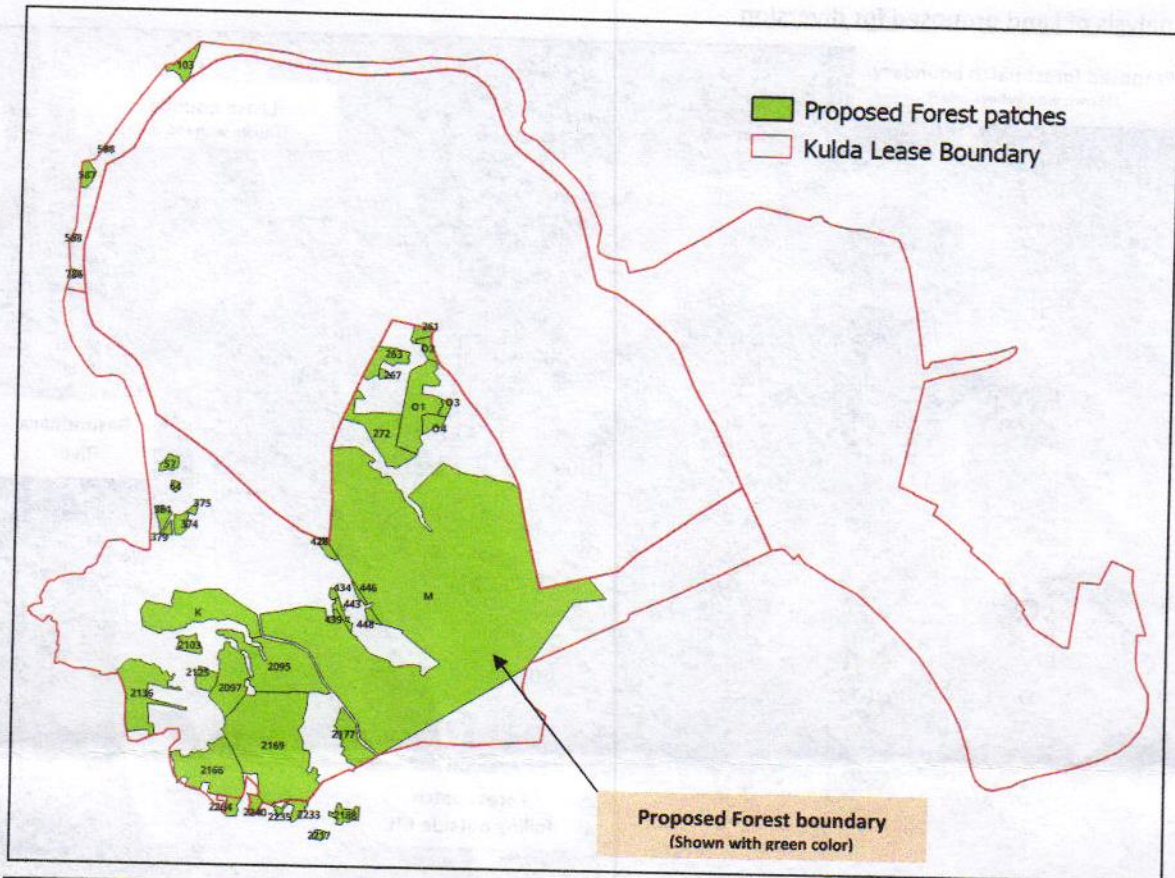
Proposal: Diversion of 134.69 ha of forest land for Kulda Expansion OCP.

Analysis of Land proposed for diversion



1. Proposed forest land for diversion falls under Sundargarh district of Odisha State and its area (software-calculated) is found to be 135.09 ha. Further, the area of Kulda OCP lease (including additional area) is found 831.885 ha.
2. As per the DSS, there is no Wildlife sanctuary, National park, Tiger reserve and Tiger corridor is located within 10 Km distance from the proposed forest land for diversion.
3. Observation based on Google Earth: habitation, cultivation land, mined out area and road is visible in the proposed revenue forest patches.
4. Google imagery shows that Basundhara River flows along the Northeastern boundary of Kulda mining lease and proposed patch no. 103 lies within 250m of it. Further, Chhata Jhor Nala is flowing along the western boundary of mining lease.
5. Proposed forest area in the extant proposal falls in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 1 (due to presence of Basundhara River within 250m of Kulda ML) and not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 2.
6. **Forest Cover:** Out of total proposed area, 3 ha of land is classified as moderately dense forest, 77 ha as open forest, 23 ha as scrub and 36 ha as Non-forest (land without tree cover) in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019-2020.
7. KML file of earlier diverted 227.89 ha forest land and safety zone is not available.

8. Revenue Forest patch no. 2264, 2235, 2233, 2217 and 2188 is falling outside the lease boundary and their total area is found 1.671 ha.
9. Forest area proposed in the extent proposal comprises of 42 patches. Map showing forest patches is attaches below for reference:

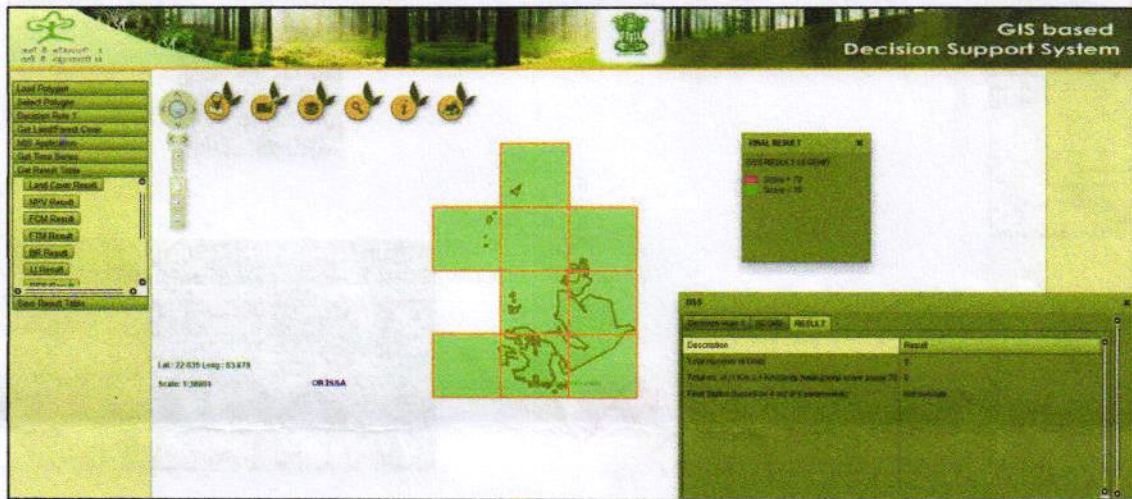


Decision Rule 1:

Whether forms part of:

- a. Hydrological Layer:
 - i. Major River: Yes (Basundhara River)
 - ii. Wetland (Area more than 10 ha.): N/A
 - iii. Water bodies (irrigation/Hydropower/water storage): N/A
- b. Very Dense Forest patch (>1 sq km): N/A
- c. Remnant Forest Type: N/A
- d. Protected area/Tiger Reserves/Tiger corridors: N/A

Decision Rule 2 (Grid selection based on without 50% rule):



DESCRIPTION	RESULT
Total Number of Grids	9
Total no. of (1 Km X 1 Km) Grids having total score above 70	0
Final Status (based on 4 parameters)	Not In High Conservation Value Zone Or Not Inviolate

GRIDID	SCORE FCM	SCORE FTM	SCORE BR	SCORE LANDSCAPE	AGGREGATE SCORE
2044020	4.29	3.83	32.95	26.38	16.86
2046019	7.67	10.02	0	18.35	9.01
2046020	1.55	9.21	6.96	17.67	8.85
2046021	2.19	15.25	30.75	22.2	17.6
2048021	33.11	72.5	72.45	17.23	48.82
2050017	2.25	0	0	21.93	6.04
2050019	40.43	49.45	48.1	21.27	39.81
2050018	6.01	13.52	9.98	19.92	12.36
2048020	11.49	21.48	9.59	14.83	14.35
2044020	4.29	3.83	32.95	26.38	16.86

Forest Cover Map:

In terms of standards followed in ISFR 2021 (interpretation of satellite data period 2019-2020) regarding density classes:

- I. Very Dense Forest (Canopy density 70% & above): 0 ha.
- II. Moderately dense Forest (canopy density 40-70%): 3 ha.
- III. Open Forest (canopy density 10-40%): 77 ha.
- IV. Scrub: 23 ha.
- V. Non-Forest: 36 ha.



Forest Type Map: 5/DS1 Dry Deciduous Scrub: 20 ha, 5B/C1 c Dry Peninsular Sal Forest: 31 ha, 5B/C2 Northern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest: 43 ha and Non Forest: 44 ha.

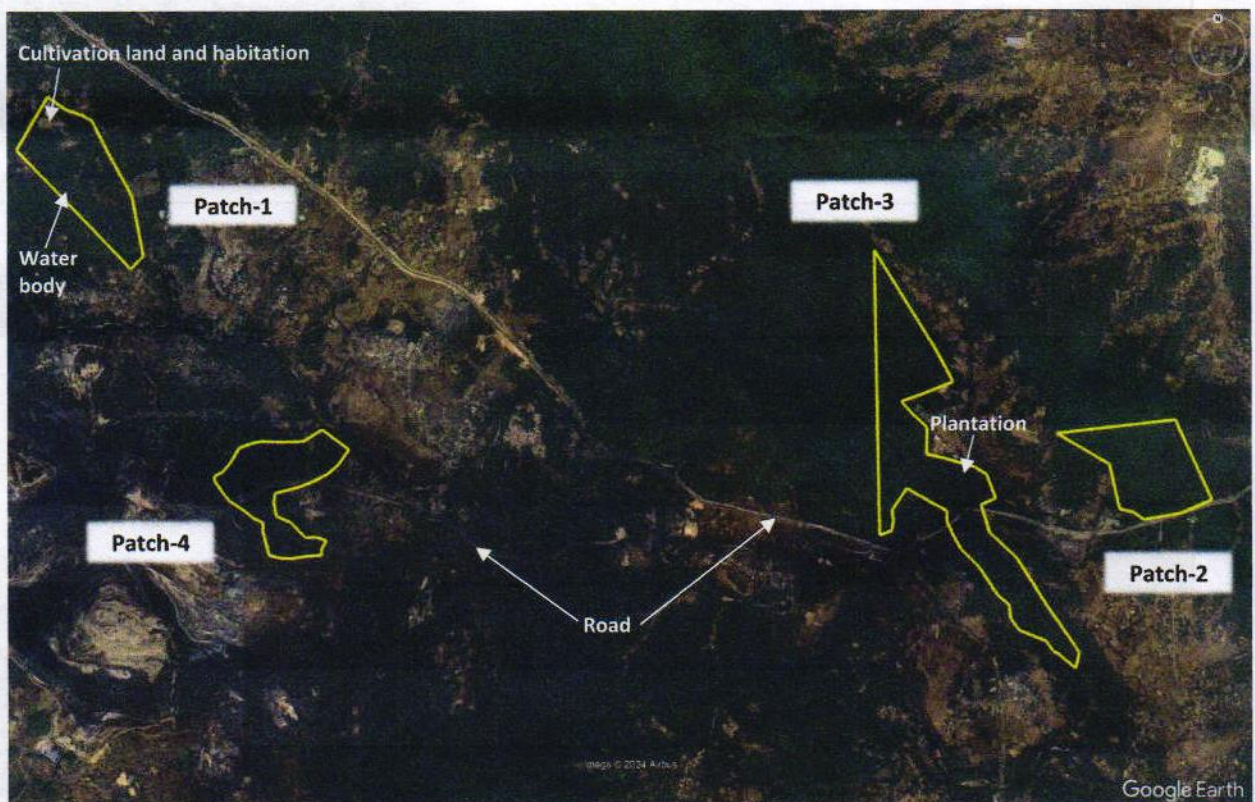


Biological richness: Non Forest: 60 ha and Medium: 79 ha.



Proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land

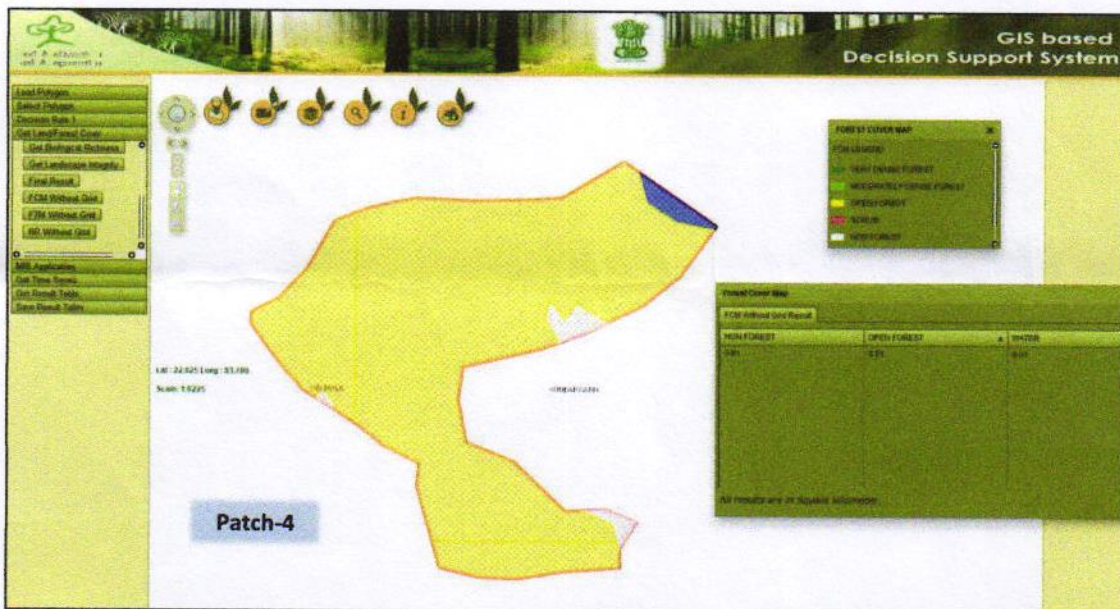
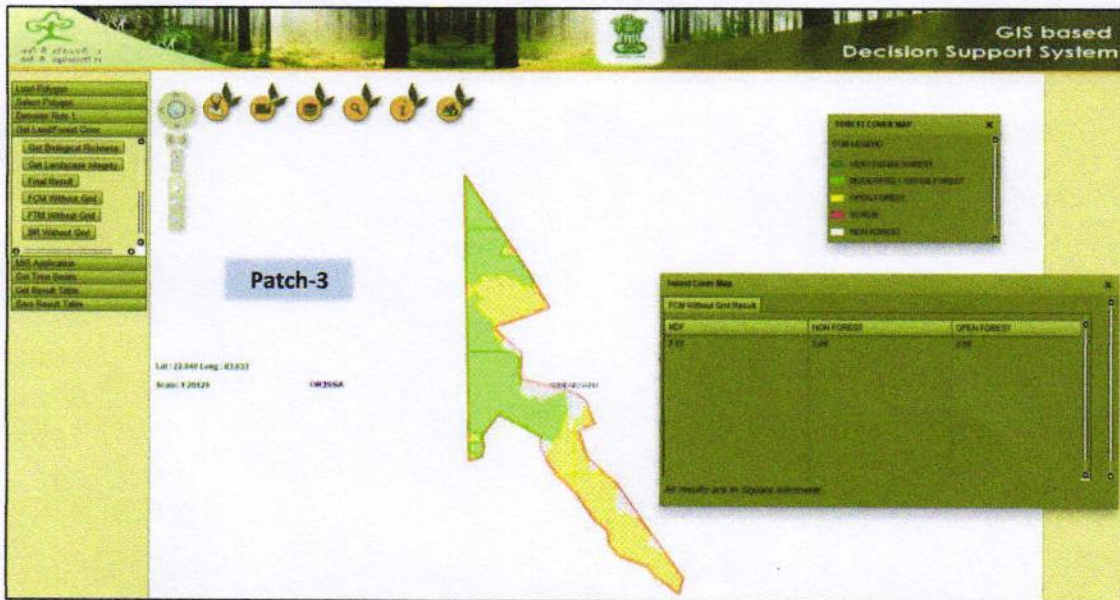
1. Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over degraded forest land (as per the Recorded Forest Area (RF/PF) boundary available in DSS) in four patches and its area (software-calculated) is found 305.593 ha.



2. Forest Cover: as per the ISFR 2021 based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019-2020. The density details of the proposed CA is given below:

S. No.	Name of CA site	RF Name	Map area (ha)	Software calculated area (ha)	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	Non-Forest
1	Patch -1	Pandripani	64.3	64.099	0	0	57	0	7
2	Patch -2		56.5	56.390	0	51	5	0	0
3	Patch -3		132	131.545	0	65	58	0	9
4	Patch -4	Sidarmunda	53.7	53.559	0	0	51	0	2
Total			306.5	305.593	0	116	171	0	18





3. Observation based on Google Earth imagery: road is passing through patch no. 3 & 4. Further, encroachment in the form of cultivation land, habitation, man-made water body is visible in patch no.1 and plantation in patch no.3 (during year 2022).

Submitted Please.

Shivani Sood
 STA, DSS Cell
 25.10.2024

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

100-100000

SS-100-100000