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BY E-MAIL

**OFFICE OF THE FIELD DIRECTOR, SIMILIPAL TIGER RESERVE
-CUM - REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, BARIPADA**

Phone No-(06792) 259126, Fax-256705 E-mail : rccfbaripada@gmail.com

Memo No. 2578 /3F-80/2022
Dated, Baripada the 12th July, 2021.

To

The Conservator of Forests(ET)
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(Wildlife)
& Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

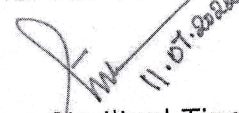
Sub:-

Diversion of balance forest land of 746.3325 ha including 11.8305 ha for safety zone (excluding 95.60 ha of Pre-1980 broken up forest land already diverted and 4.467 ha of forest land being proposed for diversion in separate proposal for mining infrastructure of Daitari ML) within total forest land of 846.3995 ha located within approved mining lease area of 1018.3085 ha for Iron Ore Mining in Daitari Mining Lease in Cuttack Forest Division of Jajpur District and Keonjhar(WL) Division of Keonjhar District, Odisha of M/s OMC Ltd. during mining lease period as extended under the amended provision of MMDR Act.

Ref:

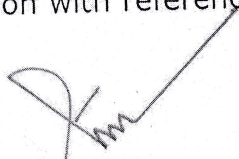
Your Memo No.5610/CWLW-FDWC-FD-0034-2022, dt.20.06.2022 and memo no.2212, dt.23.06.2022 of DFO, Keonjhar(WL) Division.

In inviting a reference to your afore cited memo on the captioned subject, the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar(WL) Division vide his memo no.2211, dt.23.06.2022 addressed to this office with copy forwarded to you in his next memo of even date, I am to inform you that the suggestions made by ICFRE are based on research and factual data analysis with regular field visits by Scientists and Researchers of ICFRE and WII, Dehradun jointly with OMC and local forest officials. The suggestions and recommendations have been outcome of series of discussions and review at field level and found quite adequate, hence, the views given by the DFO, Keonjhar(WL) Division may please be accepted for further action at your end.


I/c Field Director Similipal Tiger Reserve
-Cum-Regional CCF, Baripada.

Memo No. 2579 /Date. 12.07.2022

Copy forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act.), O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of information and necessary action with reference to memo no.2310, dt.06.07.2022 of DFO, Keonjhar(WL) Division.


I/c Field Director Similipal Tiger Reserve
-Cum-Regional CCF, Baripada

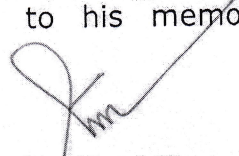
o/c

Sent through e-mail on 12.07.2022 at 3.51 pm.

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Memo No. 2580 /Date. 12.07.2022

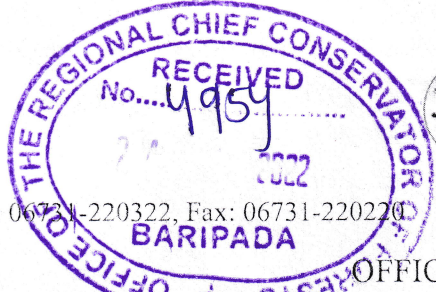
Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar(WL) Division for information and necessary action with reference to his memo no.2311, dt.06.07.2022.



I/c Field Director Similipal Tiger Reserve
-Cum-Regional CCF, Baripada

Received a copy.
13/07/2022
P.C. Padhi
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OFFICE OF THE
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, KEONJHAR WILDLIFE DIVISION,
ANANDAPUR.

Memo No. 2 Dated, Anandapur the 23rd June' 2022.

3F
24/6/22

To,

The Field Director STR cum Regional Chief Conservator of Forests
Baripada.

Sub: Diversion of balance forest land of 746.3325 ha including 11.8305 ha for safetyzone (excluding 95.60 ha Pre-1980 broken up forest land already diverted and 4.467 ha of forest land being proposed for diversion in separate proposal for mining infrastructure of Daitari ML) within total forest land of 846.3995 ha located within approved Mining Lease area of 1018.3085 ha for Iron Ore Mining in Daitari Mining Lease in Cuttack Forest Division of Jajpur District and Keonjhar (WL) Division of Keonjhar District, Odisha of OMC Ltd. during Mining Lease period as extended under the Amendment provision MMDR Act..

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Ref: - Copy in Memo No. 5610 Dated 20/06/2022 of the PCCF Wildlife Odisha, Bhubaneswar to you.

In inviting kind reference to the above cited memo on the captioned subject, it is to inform that, the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) held on 26.07.2018 considered the proposal placed by the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) from State Forest Department vide letter No.10F(Cons)-210/2015-16637/F&E dated 19.09.2015 and 10F(Cons)-37/2018-10150/F&E dated 01.05.2018 for diversion of balance forest land of 746.3325 ha including 11.8305 ha for safety zone (excluding 95.60 ha of pre-1980 broken up forest land already diverted and 4.467 ha of forest land for infrastructure). The FAC after deliberation, considering the pristine forest (having 2.7 lakhs of trees) having rich biodiversity value that serve as a crucial tiger corridor interlinking Similipal Tiger Reserve and Satakosia Tiger Reserve as observed in the Decision Support System (DSS) decided to have full knowledge of the mineable reserve under already opened up area and proximity with the two-tiger reserve. Therefore, FAC recommended MoEF&CC to conduct a study "To assess mineable reserve, duration for the extraction of Iron ore from already opened up area, environmental stability, comparative statement of environmental loss & benefit accrued and possible technological intervention without disturbing the green cover in Daitari Iron Ore Mine Lease of Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMCL)", through Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).

Accordingly, MoEF&CC vide letter P.No. 8-28/2015-FC dated 28th September 2018 requested ICFRE to conduct the study. Further, ICFRE keeping in view the Similipal Tiger Reserve -

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Satakosia Tiger Reserve and its proximity to the mine lease area approached the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for wildlife part, and compiled the report received, Dehradun from WII into this report.

In the report the expert group from ICFRE have recommended an area of 405.26 Ha as "Finally ICFRE suggested area based on the feasibility study" which includes 95.60 Ha (Broken up area) which is already diverted forest land. Hence if "ICFRE suggested area" gets approved, then there will be around 309.66 Ha of area against original proposal of 746.3325 Ha to be effected and hence will less impact the region.

The experts have accepted the holistic measures adopted in approved site specific wildlife management plan for habitat protection in the impact area of the above project which is mentioned at point number 7.3.1.2 as

"The abundance and diversity of animal species is largely dependent on the availability of suitable habitats and characteristic vegetation cover on which they depend for their various biological needs. The approved Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for Daitari iron ore mine with a total financial outlay of Rs. 2,410.015 Lakhs as on 16.08.2018 holistically dealt with the measures required for conservation of wildlife in Keonjhar Wildlife Division and Cuttack Forest Division. In addition, following are the specific recommendations for appropriate implementation to achieve additional safeguards to enhance the habitats for wildlife forms." The above site specific wildlife management plan is already being implemented since 2019.

In point No. 7.3.1.1, the report mentions about the conservation of Terrestrial flora as followingly:

"The Mining Lease Area (MLA) and its buffer zone is very important in view of its phytogeography and occurrence of Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) plant species. A total of 28 RET plant species were reported from the entire area i.e., both in core and buffer areas. The RET plants are having conservation importance needs to be rehabilitated appropriately (In-situ conservation) within their natural habitat prior to initiation of mining and its allied activities in the proposed area." A specific additional site specific plan may be required to be incorporated in the approved site specific wildlife management plan to implement the conservation of Terrestrial RET flora.

Besides these, there are additional recommendations provided in point number 7.3.1.3 as mentioned in following ,

□ *The 11 km long conveyer belt that starts from Hill Top pit to Baliparbat Stockyard and passes through both the Talapada and Baliparbat beats of Keonjhar Wildlife Division hampers the free movement of wildlife in the forest corridor connecting the Similipal and Satkosia Tiger Reserves. It is therefore recommended to raise the height of the conveyer belt to five to six meters from the ground to facilitate the movement of large herbivores, particularly Asian elephants.*

□ *The Cement Concrete Road (Ghat Road) between the Hill Top mining pit and Baliparbat Stockyard is provided on either side with RCC high wall barrier (curb wall). This high wall barrier of a considerable length is likely to hinder wildlife movement. Hence, height of the curb wall has to be reduced to less than 60 cm for facilitating the movement of wild animals in the forest. It is, however, recommended to be kept as a rubble wall (Gabion structure), instead of RCC wall, as it*

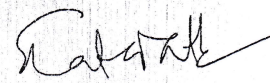
was existing before. Further construction of concrete roads in forest areas within the mining lease should be reduced to minimum for avoiding the likely impacts on wildlife movement "These recommendations have to be implemented by the User Agency for safe movement of wildlife movement

In the general recommendation at point number 7.3.2, it has recommended for habitat for birds through addition of vegetation, in following manner, which is implementable by the User Agency in disturbed area.

" In order to encourage as well provide habitat for local birds that act as agents of some of the very important ecosystem provisioning services like seed dispersal, pollination, pest control, etc., suitable fruit bearing host trees such as Alangium salvifolium, Annona squamosa, Bombax ceiba, Cochlospermum religiosum, Erythrina suberosu, Ficus benghalensis, Ficus religiosa, Ficus racemosa, Maduca longifolia var. latifolia, Syzygium cumini, Ziziphus mauritiana, etc., is recommended to be planted in the disturbed areas where restoration is suggested through afforestation. "

This Division was actively associated through out the study by both the premier institutes and took part in regular round up meetings in intervals. The suggestions made by ICFRE are based on research and factual data analysis with regular field visits by Scientists and Researchers of ICFRE and WII, Dehradun, jointly with OMC and local forest officials. The suggestions and recommendations have been outcome of series of discussion and review at field level and found quite adequate. Hence no further suggestions or comments in this regard are there to offer on the above report by this field division.

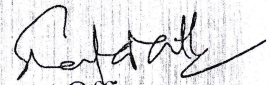
This is for kind information and necessary action.



Divisional Forest Officer,
Keonjhar Wildlife Division,
Anandapur.

Memo No. 2212 Dated, Anandapur the 23rd June' 2022.

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlfie Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar with reference to his memo No. 5609 dtd.20/06/2022.



Divisional Forest Officer,
Keonjhar Wildlife Division,
Anandapur.