



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

[E-mail: nodal.pccfhoff@odisha.gov.in / nodal.pccfodisha@gmail.com]

No. 18984 /9F(MG)-04/2023
Dated, Bhubaneswar, the 21st September, 2023

From

Shri Susanta Nanda, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

To

Dr. Surabhi Rai, IFS
Deputy Inspector General of Forests
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Forest Conservation Division, New Delhi.
E.mail: surabhi.rai76@gov.in

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. for non-forestry use of 156.978 ha of forest land (147.803 ha in Bonai Forest Division & 9.175 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division) for Iron Ore Mining and ancillary activities within Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block under Forest Division and District Sundargarh and Keonjhar of Odisha State – reg. (Online Proposal No.FP/OR/MIN/150048/2021)

Madam,

With reference to Office Memorandum No.8-08/2023-FC dated 01.09.2023 of Govt. of India, MoEF&CC, it is to inform you that the sub-committee constituted vide above Office Memorandum, inspected the Jumka Pathiriposhi Iron Ore Mining Lease area of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. on 05.09.2023.

The report of the sub-committee is enclosed herewith for further necessary action at your level.

Yours faithfully


Encl: As above.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

P.T.O.

Memo No. 18985 /Dt. 21-09-2023

Copy forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of information.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 18986 /Dt. 21-09-2023


Copy forwarded to the Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar for information.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. 18987 /Dt. 21-09-2023

Copy forwarded for information to:

1. Shri Manoj Pant, Non-Official member of the Advisory Committee
2. Shri A.T. Mishra, DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC, RO, Bhubaneswar
3. Shri Susanta Nanda, PCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Odisha
4. Dr. Dheeraj Mital, AIGF, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

FIELD INSPECITON REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF DIVERSION 156.978 HA OF FOREST LAND (147.803 HA IN BONAI FOREST DIVISION & 9.175 HA IN KEONJHAR FOREST DIVISION) IN RESPECT OF JUMKA PATHIRIPOSHI PAHAR IRON ORE BLOCK OF M/S RUNGTA MINES LTD. OF BONAI FOREST DIVISION AND KEONJHAR FOREST DIVISION UNDER SUNDARGARH AND KEONJHAR DISTRICT.

As per the decision of the FAC meeting held on 21.08.2023, a sub-committee was constituted which shall visit the area proposed for diversion and examine the proposal holistically, and give recommendations in view of the area being in High Conservation Zone as per Decision Rule 1 and 2 of DSS, and human animal conflict situation. As per extant Rules and guidelines a comprehensive proposal, including the road and transmission line was required to be submitted, whereas the State has mentioned that separate proposals are being submitted for road and transmission line. The committee shall therefore also examine the necessity and justification of the separate proposals for road and transmission line.

The sub-committee is consisting of the following members.

- i) Shri Manoj Pant, Non-Official Member of Advisory Committee
- ii) Shri A.T. Mishra, DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC, RO, Bhubaneswar
- iii) Shri Sushant Nanda, PCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Odisha
- iv) Dr. Dheeraj Mittal, AIGF, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

The joint committee visited the site on 05.09.2023 along with RCCF, Rourkela, DFO, Keonjhar and DFO, Bonai. The committee made a thorough inspection of the site and went through the document made available by the DFO, Bonai and DFO, Keonjhar. The Committee discussed elaborately with the RCCF, DFO of both the divisions and also the User Agency.

The present proposal is for mining of iron ore over 158.509 Ha, where in 156.978 ha is forest land. As per the site inspection report of the DFO and Keonjhar Division, the canopy density has been reported as 0.6. As per the DSS analysis it was found that 101 ha has been kept in the Inviolable zone.

The observations of the committee are as below:

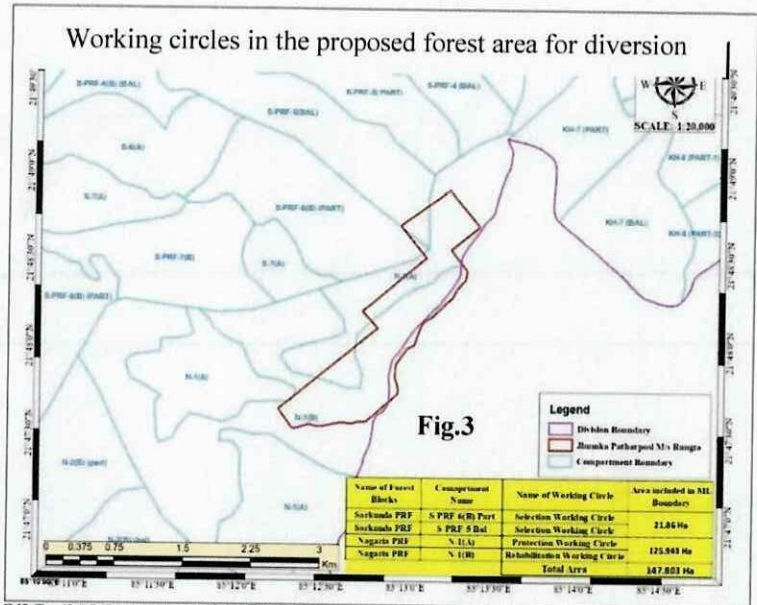
Soil and Topography:

The soil of this proposed site is largely lateritic with poor soil depth. Erosion has exposed laterite rocks in some place. The proposed site consists of both precipitous slopes as well as leveled grounds.



Vegetation:

The forest of the site is classified as Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest as per Champion Seth's clarification. The predominant species is Sal (*Shorea robusta*). The growth of Sal trees in most of the areas were not good with clean bole. There were associates of Sal like Kasi (*Bridelia retusa*), Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), Kendu (*Diasporus melanoxylon*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Sidha (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), Char (*Buchanania lanjan*), Kumbhi (*Careya arborea*) etc.



Young coppice shoots of Sal and pruned regeneration of Sal in blanks were observed. *Holorrinna spp*, *Parthenium spp*, *Ageratum spp* etc were found in the lower canopy. During inspection, it was found that major part of the site is moderately dense forest with patches of very dense forest as well as blanks. As per the current working plan made available by the DFO, Bonai the forest of the proposed site has been kept in the following Working Circle (Fig.3).

Selection Working Circle	:	21.860 Ha
Protection Working Circle & Rehabilitation Working Circle	:	125.943 Ha
Total		147.803 Ha

Thus, from the present working plan of Bonai Forest Division, it is evident that the most part of the proposed site i.e. 125.943 Ha has been kept under Protection and Rehabilitation Working Circle. The compartment history provided by DFO, Bonai is in Annexure-II.



Fig-4



Fig-5

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Wildlife :

The proposed site is not a part of any National Park, Sanctuary, Eco-Sensitive Zone or Elephant corridor. The committee wanted to know from DFO, Bonai and Keonjhar on the major wildlife of the area particularly elephant and sloth bear. The DFO, Bonai reported that in the last 5 years there are issues related to man-animal conflict (Details provided as per **Annexure-I**).

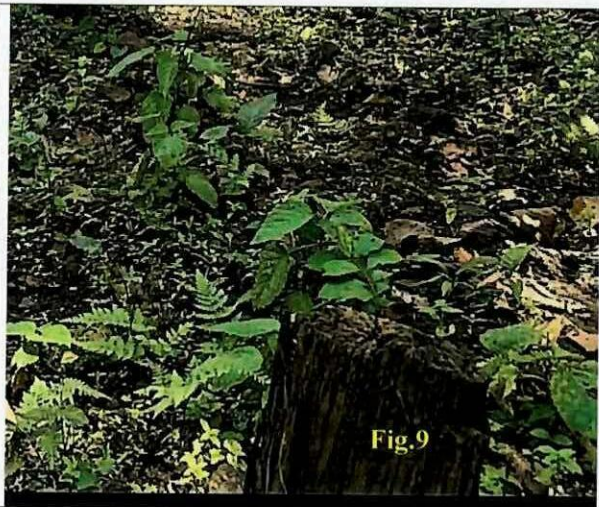
Last Five Years Human Wildlife Conflict details in 10 Km. Impact Zone of Influence of Jhumka Pathriposhi Iron Mines M/s Rungta Pvt. Ltd.		
Bonai Forest Division		Keonjhar Forest Division
Human Death due to Elephant Attack	3	2
Human Death due to other Wildlife Attack	Nil	Nil
Elephant Death	1	Nil
Any other Wildlife Death	Nil	Nil

The DFO, Koenjhar and Bonai stated that to address the man-animal conflict, Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan has been prepared and approved by PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha for Rs.8.75 Crores vide Memo No. 4749 Dt. 15.04.2023 over a period of 5 years. The same is enclosed as **Annexure-II**. Similarly, a comprehensive wildlife management plan covering the entire forest area of Bonai and Keonjhar Division to mitigate human wild animal conflict is under implementation. The User Agency has to pay Rs.82,000 per ha for the entire block area of 158.509 ha for the same.

The User Agency has submitted undertaking to bear the cost of both the conservation plans.

Anthropogenic Pressure:

Some anthropogenic interferences were observed in this area. There is a road going inside the proposed area which is being used by the people. There are few villages in and around the proposed site. In a patch of about 0.3 Ha shifting cultivation was found. Old stumps of about 5 to 10 years were found which indicate that there are felling of few trees in the past. However, no fresh felling of trees observed.



There is a mine in the name of Kolmanga-Jaldih-Sidimba-Tantigram (KJST) of M/s S. N. Mohanty close to the proposed area.

Separate proposal for lease and non-lease area

The linear proposals for road and transmission line are in the non lease area comprising of forest, private and Govt. non-forest land. The concerned officials insist for in-principle approval of the mining lease, so, that they will give NOC to the User Agency for filing of diversion proposal and for use of the Govt. land, subject to necessary clearance. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha present also endorsed that after in-principle approval of the mining lease, Govt. forest, Govt. non-forest lands are provided for further processing. The Committee found that statement made by the user agency and Nodal Officer is logical.

NEERI has reported that in view of limited iron ore mining activity in Mayurbhanj and Jajpur district, the major iron producing areas that need special attention are Joda-Barbil (Keonjhar District) and Koira section (Sundargarh district). The proposed site is in the Koira section.

From the above observation made during field inspection and document made available by the DFO, Bonai Division the committee is of opinion that diversion of forest land in this proposed Jumka-Pathiriposhi Pahar for iron ore mining can be considered under the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(Manoj Pant)
Non-Official Member
Advisory Committee

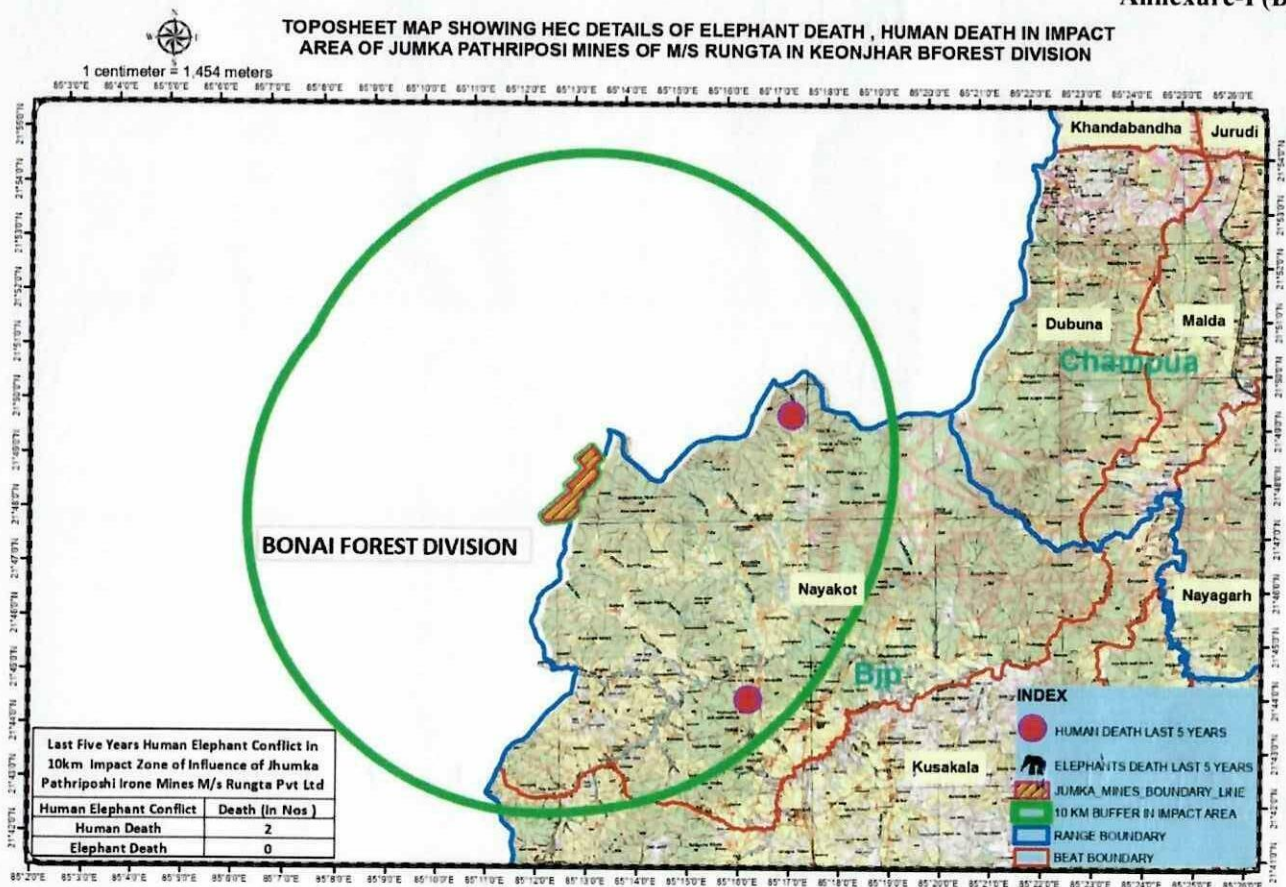
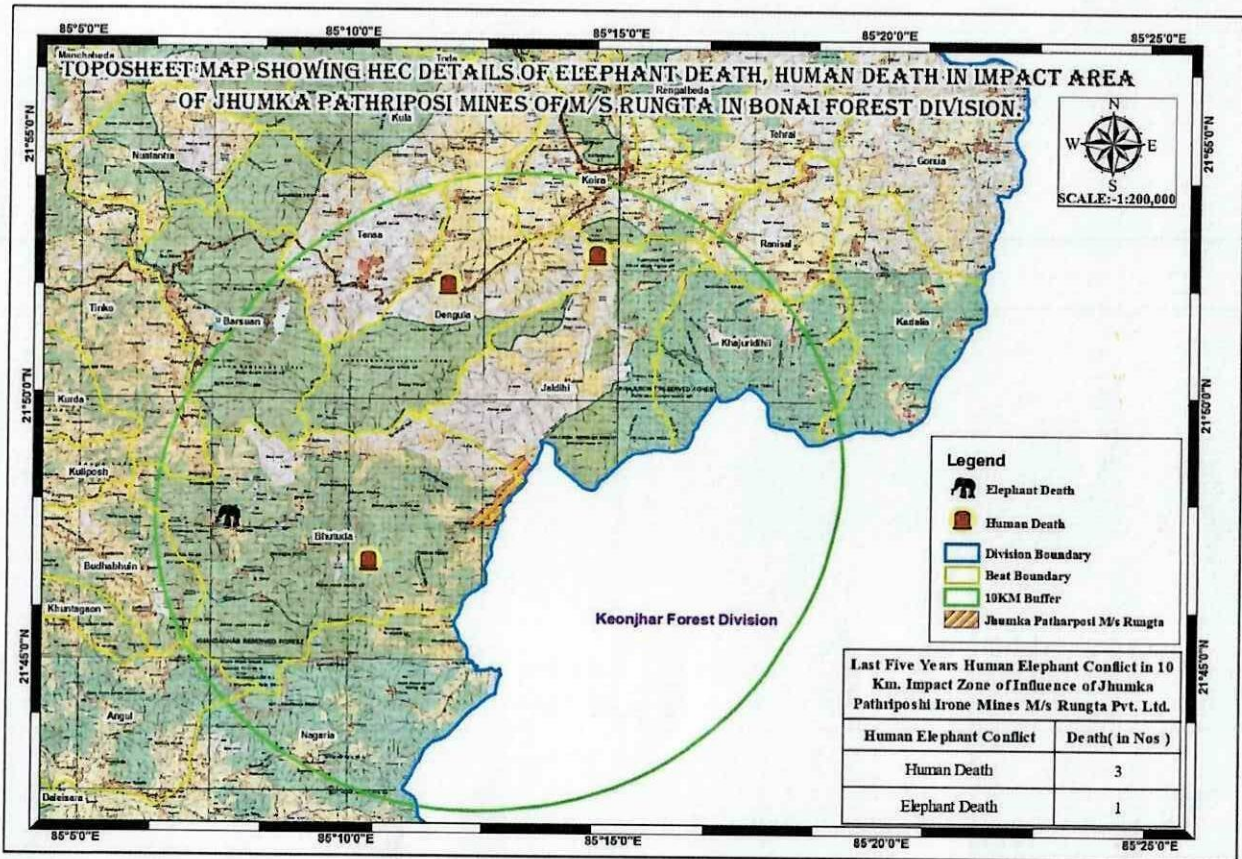
(Sushant Nanda)
PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA)
Govt. of Odisha

(A.T. Mishra)
DDGF (Central)
RO, MoEF & CC,
Bhubaneswar

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)
AIGF, MoEF & CC,
New Delhi

(Deemed to be approved w.r.t. email dt sept 18, 2018 of NO 700)

SPC



Signature



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WILDLIFE)
& CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN, ODISHA

Government of Odisha, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department

PRAKRUTI BHAWAN, PLOT NO.1459, SAHEED NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR- 751007

Phone: 0674-2602250, Website: www.wildlife.odisha.gov.in, Email: odishawildlife@gmail.com

No. 475 / CWLW-FDWC-FD-0055-2022
Bhubaneswar, Dated the 15 April, 2023

To

M/s Rungta Mines Ltd.
At/PO- Barbil
Dist.- Keonjhar

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 156.978 ha of forest land (147.803 ha in Bonai Forest Division & 9.175 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division) in respect of Jumka Pathiriposhi Pahar Iron Ore Block of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. of Bonai Forest Division & Keonjhar forest Division under Sundargarh & Keonjhar District - Approval of Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan

Sir,

I am directed to convey the approval of PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha for the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan at financial outlay of ₹875.40 lakh (Rupees eight crore seventy-five lakh forty thousand) only as per the details of activities mentioned in Chapter-4 and 5 of the Plan in compliance to the ToR under Environmental Clearance and conditional recommendation by State Government under Forest Clearance.

(a)	In project impact area in Bonai Division	₹715.80 lakh
(b)	In project impact area in Keonjhar Division	₹159.60 lakh
Total:		₹875.40 lakh

A sum of ₹875.40 lakh (Rupees eight crore seventy-five lakh forty thousand) only shall be deposited in State CAMPA fund only through e-portal () for implementation of various activities within the project impact area by the Forest Department through concerned DFOs.

2. Activities in the project area as per Chapter-4 & 5 of the Plan will be executed by the project proponent under the guidance of DFO, Bonai Division.

3. The Plan period is five years and will be revisited by concerned DFOs at least one year before expiry of its implementation. The User Agency will bear the cost of such Plan on its approval. Further, the User Agency will bear additional cost, if any, towards enhancement of wage rate and escalation of price of materials at the time of implementation of this Plan. In case of any deviation, it will be dealt as per law for violations of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

Yours faithfully

15/04/2023

Conservator of Forests (ET)

Encl: Copy of approved SSWLCP

P.T.O.



Memo No. 6752 /dt 15/04/2023

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to the -

1. OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government of Odisha, FE&CC Department, Bhubaneswar with reference to Memo No.4134/FE&CC dt 03.03.2023
2. PCCF (FD & NO, FC Act), O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
3. Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Rourkela Circle alongwith copy of the approved SSWLCP with reference to his office Memo No.637 dt 23.02.2023 and Memo No.1039 dt 28.03.2023
4. Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai/ Keonjhar Division alongwith copy of the approved SSWLCP

(Signature) 15/04/2023

Conservator of Forests (ET)

Compartment History of Compt. No.N-I (a) & N-I (b) of Nagaria PRF.

1. Name of PRF : Nagaria PRF (Total area : 7,709.429 Ha.)
2. Govt. Notification No. and date : No. 76649/15 dt 24.11.1973
3. Compartment area : N-I (a) : 370.000 Ha.
N I (b) : 406.750 Ha.
4. Map reference : 73G/1/SE

5. Position of Compt. No.N-I (a)

The P.R.F. block was included in the revised Working Plan of Bonai Division prepared for the period from 1997-98 to 2016-17 for the 1st time.

In the said Plan, Compt. No.N-I (a) having an area of 370.00 Ha. was included under Protection Working Circle. No management of area is taken up as there was moratorium of felling of trees from 1992-93 to 2004-05.

The said area has been included in Protection Working Circle in the revised Working Plan of Bonai Division prepared for 10 years from 2021-22 to 2030-31.

The area has been included in Coupe No.I & II of Nagaria Protection Series which was due for working during 2021-22 and 2022-23.

6. Position of Compt. No.N-I (b)

The area (406.750 Ha.) was included in the Rehabilitation-cum-Plantation Working Circle in the previous Plan prepared for 20 years from 1997-98 to 2016-17.

In the present Plan, the area has been included in the Rehabilitation Working Circle Management of the area is to be taken up as coupe No.I, II & III during 2021-22 to 2023-24.


Divisional Forest Officer
Bonai Division



Compartment History of Compt. No.S-5 (bal) & S-6 (b) of Sarkunda PRF.

1. Name of PRF : Sarkunda PRF (Total area : 6,434.641 Ha)
2. Govt. Notification No. and date : No 4033/15 dt.18.01.1974
3. Compartment area : S-5 (bal) : 233.940 Ha.
S-6 (b) : 274.858 Ha.
4. Map reference : 73G/1/SE

5. Position of Compt. No.S-5 (bal)

The P.R.F. block was included in the revised Working Plan of Bonai Division prepared for 20 years from 1997-98 to 2016-17 for the 1st time.

In the said Plan, the Compartment was included in Selection Working Circle as Coupe No.VI due for working during 2002-03. But no working taken up due to moratorium of felling of trees in the state during the period from 1992-93 to 2004-05.

The said area has been included in the Selection Working Circle during revision of the Plan from 2021-22 to 2030-31 and due for working as coupe No.I during 2021-22 of Sarkunda Felling Series.

In total, 224 trees in Compt. No.S-5 (Part) and S-5 (bal) (total 385.815 Ha.) was marked and the OFDC Ltd. have completed working during 2021-22 during the extension period.

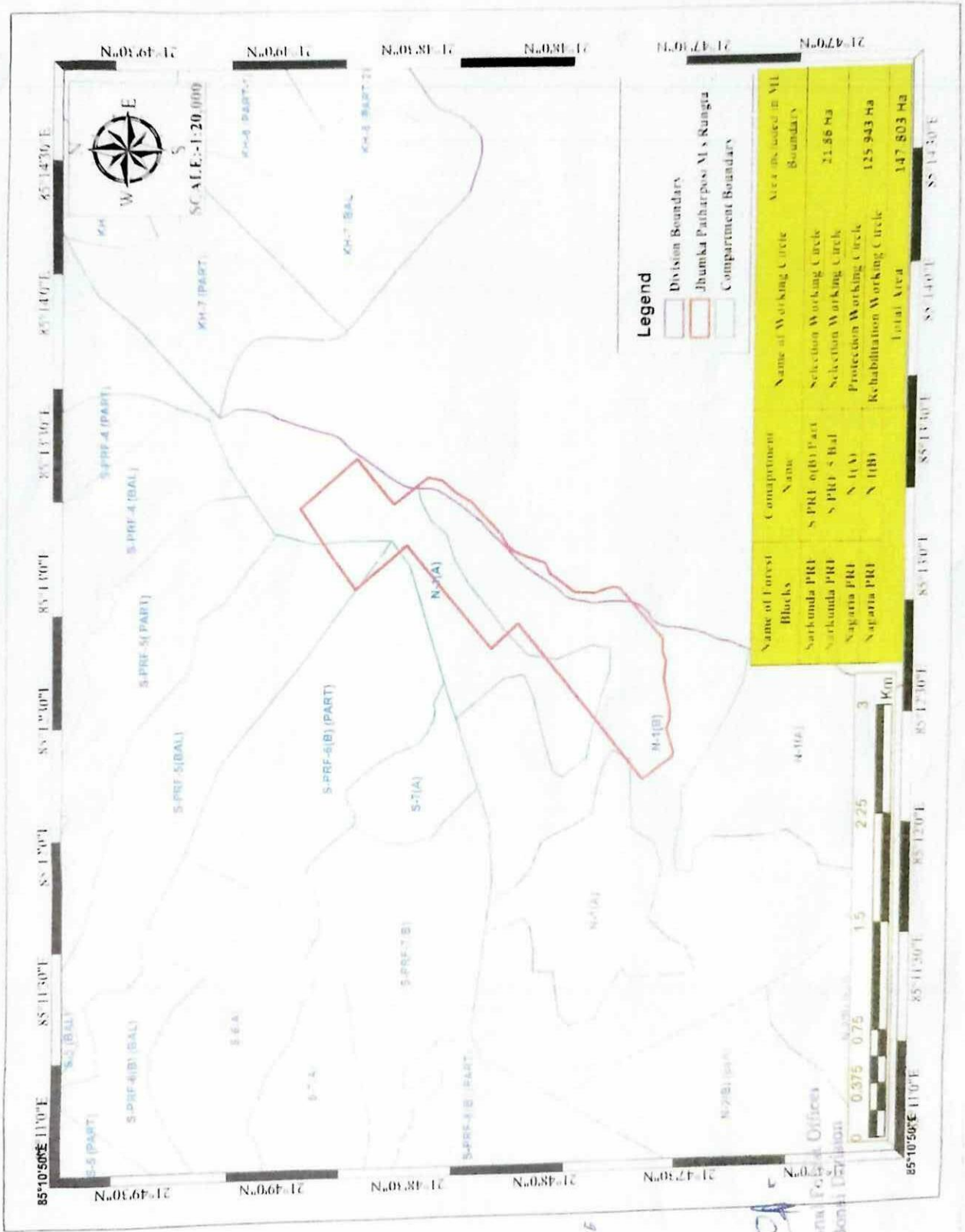
6. Position of Compt. No.S-6 (b)

The area was included as Coupe No.VII in Sarkunda PRF felling series due for working during 2003-04. But no working taken up due to moratorium of felling of trees in the state during the period from 1992-93 to 2004-05.

The said area has been included in Coupe No.II in Sarkunda PRF felling series due for working 2022-23 in the revised Plan prepared for 10 years from 2021-22 to 2030-31. In total, 94 trees (6.b (part), 6.b (bal) and S.7 (b) were marked and handed over to OFDC Ltd. for working vide DL No.32 of 2022-23. The OFDC Ltd. have not taken delivery of the coupe for working due to objection of the local people on the plea of PESA Act.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Bonai Division

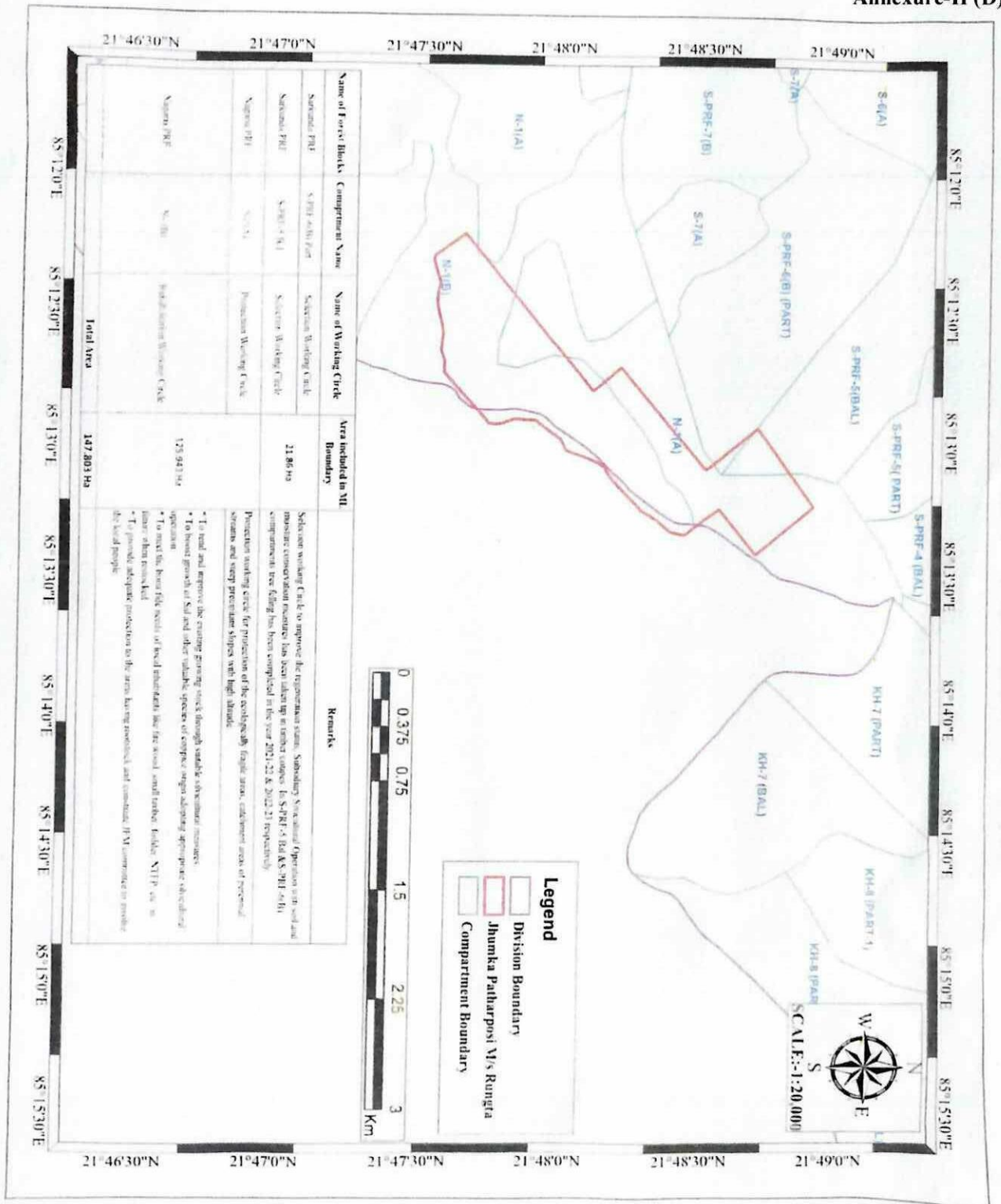




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12/1/15

Divisional Forest Officer
Boni Division



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