



OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, KEONJHAR DIVISION

Phone No- 06766-254315, email ID- dfo.keonjhar@odisha.gov.in

Memo No. 7920 /Mining-195/2017
Dated, Keonjhar the 17th October, 2022

To

The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle

Sub:

Proposal for diversion of 42.608 Ha of forest land in favour of M/s TATA Steel BSL Limited for Iron Ore Mining in Kalmang West (Northern Part) in Keonjhar and Bonai Forest Division in Districts Keonjhar and Sundargarh (Odisha)- reg.

Ref:

1. Letter No. 8-13/2022-FC dt. 12.07.2022 of MoEF&CC Govt. of India.
2. Memo No. 13066/ F&E & CC dt. Dt. 25.07.2022 of State Govt. F&E Department.
3. Memo No. 15214 dt. 01.08.2022 of Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. Letter No. GM/OMQ/47/FY23 dt. 29.07.2022 of M/s TATA Steel BSL Ltd.

With reference to the aforementioned memo on the captioned subject, the point wise compliance report of the observations of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India dt. 12.07.2022 is furnished hereunder:-

1. There is occasional movement of elephants 1 Km away from the mine but within the impact area (Map). Elephants move from Gandhalpada of Bonai to Sidhamath and connecting Baitarani RF (Map). Within the impact area there are 9 Nos working & 11 Nos. non-working mines in Konjhar Division. There might be further increase in Man – Elephant conflict in the villages in the impact area. The details of crop damage, house damage, human death and elephant death in impact area for last 10 years is incorporated in the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan. Based on these conflicts & expected rise, mitigative measures are suggested (**Annexure-I**) and the same is added in Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan.

Baitarani & Sidhamath RF in the impact area are the habitat of elephant, in which sal and Bahunia is predominantly seen. However, there is biotic pressure on forest for firewood. Hence for habitat improvement plantation of ficus & other elephant food species along with water body is proposed. Moreover, one elephant squad & elephant tracker are proposed for elephant monitoring and forest protection along with Gaja Sathis”.

The two elephant deaths in impact area in last 10 years were due to natural cause and diseases. Hence, cattle immunization in peripheral villages (**Annexure-II**) and creation of salt lick is proposed (**Annexure-III**), to impart immunity to elephants which are increasingly exposed to inbreeding depression.

To avoid human death & elephant deaths due to Man-Elephant conflict, early warning system along with voice & text messages is proposed along with installation of portable cabins for elephant squad for elephant monitoring and giving prior information to villagers.

The detailed impact of the project on the elephant habitat & other schedule species reported in the area along with proposed mitigation measures has been reflected in the proposed Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan along with detailed financial forecast for implementation in the mining lease area as well as impact area. After approval of the scheme by the PCCF (WL)& CWLW, Odisha, Bhubaneswar work will be executed in the field.

2. In compliance to above, the user agency has intimated that the cost benefit ratio of the forest land proposed for diversion has been assessed separately for both the Keonjhar and Bonai Forest Division as 1:157.53 and 1:136.17 respectively. The total cost of forest diversion of Keonjhar Forest Division is assessed as Rs. 10,57,26,538/- and cost of Bonai Forest Division is assessed as Rs. 12,23,04,395/- as per the format prescribed vide MoEF & CC Guideline No. 7-69/2011-FC (pt) dated 1st August 2017. So, total cost for entire forest land over 42.608 ha is estimated to be Rs. 22,80,30,933/- (Rs. 22.803 Crore) and the benefit of the project is estimated at Rs. 1,66,552.31 Lakhs (Rs. 1665.5231 Crore) which would accrue due to mining of Iron ore mainly from the mineralized zone laying within the forest land. So, the overall Cost Benefit Ratio of the Project is now estimated to be 1:73.0396 (1: Rs. 1665.5231 Crore/ Rs. 22.803 Crore).
3. No mining operation or ancillary activities are undertaken in proposed diversion area in Keonjhar Division
 - The village road over 0.726 ha & 2.286 ha for infrastructure are coming under Bonai Division.
 - No violation has been observed in the safety zone area of 1.234 ha involved in Keonjhar Division.
4. Cultivation area relates to Bonai Division.
5. In compliance to above, the user agency has submitted the single consolidated KML file depicting the purpose wise break up of forest land as well as non-forest land, including the safety zone is enclosed in CD form.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Keonjhar Division.

Memo No. 7921 /Dated 17-10-2022

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Keonjhar Division.