

Site Inspection Report for the FCA proposal bearing acknowledgment

No: FP/JH/MIN/59823/2020

Date of Inspection: 20.01.2022, 04.04.2022 & 09.04.2022.

Proposed Area of Forest Diversion (in Ha): 455.1108

The proposal has been received from the General Manager/Project Head Pachwara South Coal Mine Project, Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited, Dumka for the diversion of 455.1108 Ha of Forest land for the Open Cast mining. The site inspection has been done by the undersigned on 20.01.2022, 04.04.2022 & 09.04.2022.

On inspection of the site, it is found that the land required by the User Agency is 455.1108 hectares of Forest land (Forest Notified under Section 4 of Indian Forest Act 1927.) spread in 03 Mouzas namely Chirudih, Kundapahari & Mahuldabar). The forest land as proposed by the User Agency is a forest land acquired under The Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 (20 of 1957).

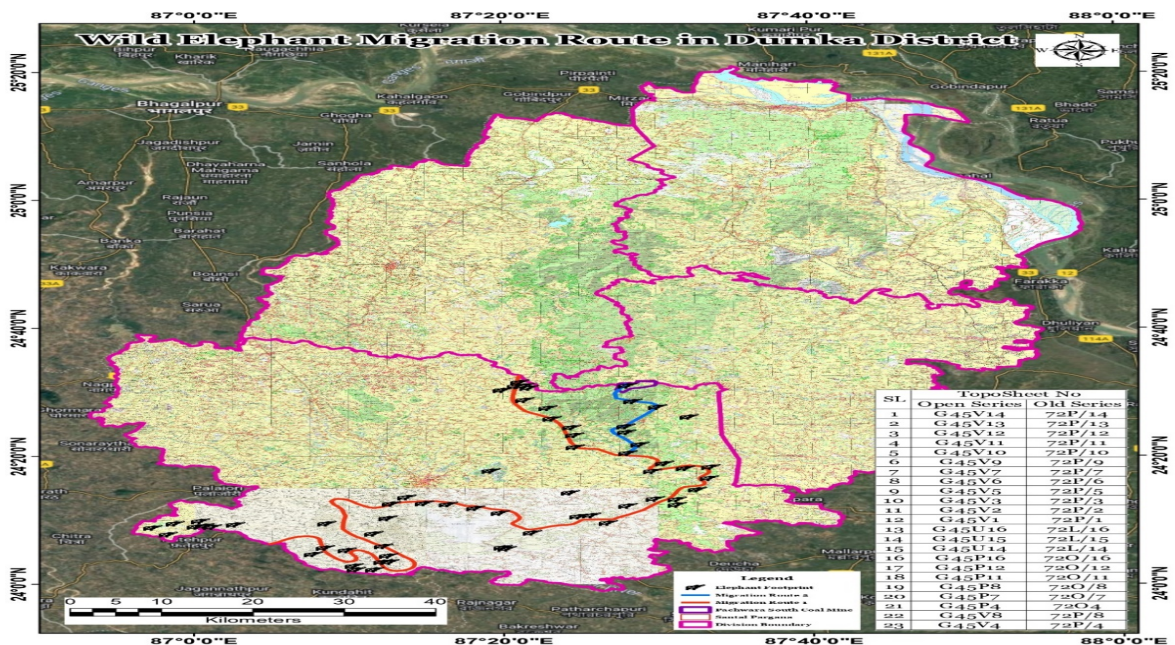
Under the provisions of this Act, the land is acquired for Government Companies only for coal mining and activities strictly incidental to mining purposes. For other requirements, like permanent infrastructure, offices, residence, etc. the land is acquired under L.A. Act, 1894.

Sl. No.	Village/Mouza	Thana	Thana No.	Plot No.	Area (In ha.)	Status of land
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Chirudih	Silangi	20	29, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 507, 510, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 663, 678, 679, 735, 742, 748,	107.7366	Forest Notified under Section 4 of Indian Forest Act 1927
2	Kundapahari	Silangi	19	10, 12, 15, 74, 79, 274, 509, 511, 517, 518, 641, 642, 644, 647, 648, 653, 11/P Old RF, 12/P Old RF	232.3204	
3	Mahuldabar	Silangi	18	4, 5, 6, 79, 10/P Old RF	115.0538	
Total: -					455.1108	

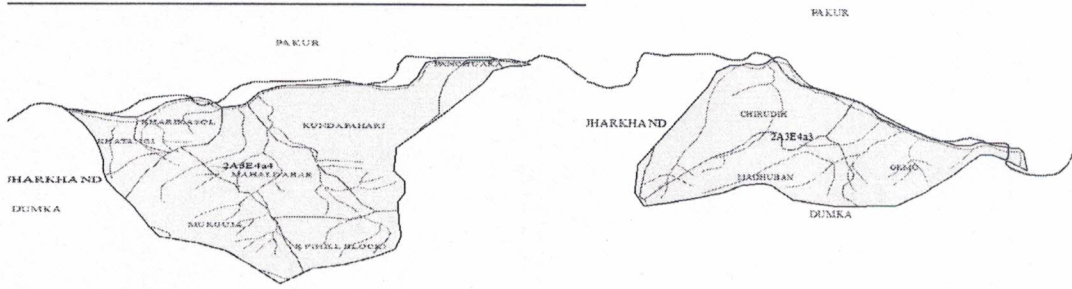
During the field visit of the proposed mining site in Chirudih, Kundapahari & Mahuldabar it has been observed that the forest area is very rich in terms of biodiversity both flora and fauna with an ecologically significant gene-pool was observed, thus efforts should be made to preserve the germplasm of the area by conducting proper biodiversity studies and ethnobotanical research before commencement of mining activities.

The proposed area has dense Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest vegetation with an average canopy density of 0.7 (Very Dense Forest) with Site Quality III, having a predominance of Shorea robusta/Sal and its associate species. Some of the important tree species recorded were Sal, Asan, Arjun, Karam, Kadam, Karanj, Chironji, Jamun, Mahua, Neem, Shisam, Khajoor, Mango, Kusum, Awla, Bhera, Kendu, etc. which also contribute to Forest based livelihood from NTFP collection and its value addition as well as Tassar Cultivation for indigenous communities.

Regarding occurrence of rare and endangered species in the proposed mining site, based on "the records available in the office of the Divisional Forest office and supplemented by the information collected during field visits, Migration Route Map of Wild Elephants has been prepared and annexed for reference. Apart from the elephants the proposed forest area known for the occurrence of unique invertebrates, avifauna and herpetofauna indicative of the species richness of the area.



During the site inspection it was observed that the proposed site was a part of the catchment area of Bansloi river (a tributary of river Ganga) and it's located on the right bank of Bansloi river. It was further observed that the existing coal mines of Pachwara Central (Panem), and Pachwara North (WBPDCCL) are located on the other side of Bansloi river in adjoining area of Pakur district in close proximity. A serious view must be taken in this regard, failing which the entire fragile ecosystem would be affected by the water crisis a few decades down the line. It was further observed that the water availability in Bansloi is enhanced only by the perennial streams arising from the forests of the area, it is to be emphasised due to the advent of open cast mining many perennial streams arising from the adjoining hills will be compromised in entirety. Hence, a **Comprehensive Bansloi Catchment Area Treatment Plan** from the perspective of Water Security, Ecological Restoration, Post-Reclamation, must be prepared and implemented to mitigate the adverse impacts of open cast mining.



During the site inspection, it was observed that the area proposed for forest diversion was prone to Soil erosion. The advent open-cast mining and associated activities would involve activities like breaking of land and removal of the earth in the area and beyond, thus the entire landscape will be further vulnerable to soil erosion and degradation. Therefore, a **Comprehensive Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan** should be prepared and implemented treating the entire landscape to ensure that the detrimental impact of opencast coal mining on the adjacent vast expanse of forests shall be minimized.

Inside the proposed diversion site two existing Plantation schemes are operational in Chirudih, Kundapahari (details enclosed). With the commencement of mining operations, the expenditure done in previous financial years in implementation of the Silviculture Operation Scheme won't be substantiated with desired outcomes. Hence it's recommended that the cost for the raising these two plantation should be ideally borne by the user agency as Additional Compensatory Afforestation.

क्र०	योजना का नाम	प्रक्षेत्र का नाम	वित्तीय वर्ष	स्थल का नाम	थाना/थाना नं०	क्षेत्रफल (हे० में)
1	2	3	4	5	6	8
1	सिल्वीकल्चरल ऑपरेशन	दुमका दामिन प्रक्षेत्र, काठीकुण्ड	2019-20	चिरुडीह	सिलंगी-20	50.00
2			2020-21	कुण्डापहाड़ी	सिलंगी-19	30.00

The User Agency has not violated the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and no work has been started at the site. The proposed project is recommended in the larger public interest.


 Divisional Forest Officer,
 Dumka Forest Division, Dumka.