



OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER: CUTTACK FOREST DIVISION
AT: - GHATAKULA, NUAPADA, CUTTACK 753010

Tel:- 0671-2957611 FAX: - 0671-2347611 Email:- dfo.cuttack@odisha.gov.in

No 4276/5F(Forest Diversion) 03/2018

Dated, Cuttack the 29 th June, 2022

To

The Regional Chief Conservator of Forest,
Angul Circle, Angul.

Sub:- Proposal for non-forestry use of balance forest land of 746.3325 ha including 11.8305 ha zone 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 Daitary ML) within total forest land of 846.3995 ha located within approved Mining Lease area of 1018.3085 ha for Iron Ore Mining in Daitary 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- Submission of compliance regarding .

Ref: - Memo No.12532 dt.2406.2022 of CCF (FD & NO, FC Act).

In inviting kind reference to the above cited memo on the captioned subject, it is to inform you 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 dt.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 dt.28.09.2018 requested ICFRE to conduct the study. Further, ICFRE keeping in view the Similipal Tiger Reserve, 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 "Final 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 of 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 aforesaid 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 follows:

"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,

In the general recommendation at point number 7.3.2, it has been 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 as providing 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 salviifolium, Annona squamosa, Bombax ceiba, Cochlospermum religiosum, Erythrina suberosa, Ficus bengalensis, Ficus religiosa, Ficus racemosa, Maduca longifolia var. latifolia, Syzygium cumini, Ziziphus mauritiana, etc., are recommended to be planted in the disturbed areas where restoration is suggested through Afforestation.”

This Division was actively associated throughout 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 the outcomes of series of discussion and review at field level and found quite adequate. Hence, no further suggestions or comments in this regard are required to offer at the juncture on the above report by this field division.

This is for kind information and necessary action.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Cuttack Forest Division

Memo No. 4217 dt. 29.06.2022

Copy submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 5609 dt. 20.06.2022.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Cuttack Forest Division.

Memo No. 4218 dt. 29.06.2022

Copy forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests, (FD & NO, FC Act.), O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 12531 dt. 24.06.2022.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Cuttack Forest Division.

Memo No. 4219 dt. 29.06.2022

Copy forwarded to the Addl. General Manager (Geo), OMC Ltd., OMC House, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Cuttack Forest Division.