



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL  
DIRECTORATE OF FORESTS  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,  
SOUTH – EAST CIRCLE, WEST BENGAL

Aranya Bhawan, Block: LA-10A, Salt Lake City, Sector-III, Kol.-700 106  
E-mail: [ecfsewb@gmail.com](mailto:ecfsewb@gmail.com)



No. 2077/SEC/2M-10

Dated: 19-11-2018

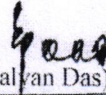
## Inspection Report

### Proposed sites:

1. Panuria Mouza (72.362 ha), Block Barabani, Gourandi Beat, Asansol Range, Durgapur Division, Paschim Bardhaman
2. Kantapahari Mouza (22.038 ha), Block Barabani, Gourandi Beat, Asansol Range, Durgapur Division, Paschim Bardhaman
3. Jamgram Mouza (15.059 ha), Block Barabani, Gourandi Beat, Asansol Range, Durgapur Division, Paschim Bardhaman

The site was jointly inspected by me with DFO and ADFO, Durgapur Division and Officers of West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd. on 30.10.2018. The site falls within the major forest area of Gourandi Beat, Asansol Range, Durgapur Division. It is evidently an example of a fragile ecosystem. Parts of both Natural Forest and Plantation exist here. The Natural Forest species includes Sal (*Shorea Robusta*), Mohul (*Madhuca longifolia*), Bahera (*Terminalia bellirica*), Haritaki (*Terminalia chebula*) and Neem (*Azadirachta indica*). But the area suffers from the unscrupulous activities of illegal coal mines and thus certain blank patches do exist within the area.

The diversion of this site can be considered only if suitable substitute land duly mutated in favour to the Forest Department along with funds for replenishing the substitute land with good quality of plantation and other ancillary funds for protection and maintenance are provided for the sake of the conservation of the environment in this fragile ecology. In my view, no matured indigenous (fruit bearing) species may be felled in the site in question. All roadsides should have one chain of plants.



(Kalyan Das)

Chief Conservator of Forests  
South East Circle, West Bengal

₹



Government of West Bengal  
Directorate of Forests  
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division.  
Aranyapally, Shashtri Avenue, Durgapur-12.  
E-mail- [dfodurgapur@yahoo.in](mailto:dfodurgapur@yahoo.in)  
Office Tel. / FAX- 0343-2999651



Memo No. 4026/8-

Dated, Durgapur, The 04/11/2022

To :: The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
&  
Chief Conservator of Forests,  
South-East Circle, West Bengal.

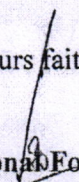
Sub. :: Compliance Report i.c.w. diversion of 109.459 Ha of Forest  
Land for Open Cast Mining Project at Gourandi ABC Coal  
Mine.

Ref. :: Govt. of India, MoEFCC's Letter No. 8-03/2019FC,  
Dated. 08.04.2022.

Sir,

With reference to the subject above the required information submitted by the West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd. i.c.w. diversion of 109.459 Ha of Forest Land for Open Cast Mining Project at Gourandi ABC Coal Mine as sought by the competent authority is hereby uploaded & duly recommended.

Yours faithfully

  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Durgapur Division



**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**DIRECTORATE OF FORESTS**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,**  
**SOUTH – EAST CIRCLE, WEST BENGAL**  
**WEBEL IT Park, (Phase-I), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, WEBEL Office (Near City Centre)**  
**Gandhi More, Durgapur-08. E-mail: ccfsewb@gmail.com**



**No: 3079/SEC/2M-10**

**Dated: 04.11.2022**

**To:** ✓ The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
& Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act, 1980  
West Bengal.

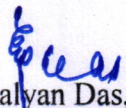
**Sub:** Recommendation Letter.

In compliance with the direction issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division) vide no: 8-03/2019FC dated 08.04.202, the required information/clarification on points raised vide point no (i) to (vi) have been furnished by the West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd vide no: MDTC/PM-5/144(F) (Pt.II)/2915 dated 17.10.2022.

Wildlife Conservation Plan has also been submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden vide this Office Memo no: 2405/WL//2M-33 (Pt-II)/2021 dated 16.08.2022.

This case is recommended provided the guidelines and conditions of the Competent Authority & prescribed norms of the Site Inspection Report (Submitted vide no. 2077/SEC/2M-10 dt.19/11/18) are observed.

**Encl:** As stated above.

  
(Kalyan Das, IFS)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
&  
Chief Conservator of Forests  
South-East Circle, WB





**WEST BENGAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT &  
TRADING CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)

CIN : U14219WB1973SGC028707  
Regd. Office : WBIDC Building, 3rd Floor  
DJ-10, Sector-II, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091  
Phone : 033-2359-0073  
Email : wbmtdctd@gmail.com  
Website : mdtdl.wb.gov.in

Memo No : MDTC/PM-5/144(F)(Pt.-II)/29/5

Date : 17.10.2022

To  
The Additional PCCF and Nodal Officer (FCA),  
Government of West Bengal  
Aranya Bhawan, Block - LA/10A, Salt Lake City,  
Sector - III, Kolkata - 700 106

Subject: Clarifications to the observations made by the Forest Advisory  
Committee in its meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 and subsequent  
meeting of the Sub- Committee held at Aranya Bhawan, Kolkata on  
06th May, 2022 in connection with FC Proposal of Gourangdih ABC  
Coal Mine.

Ref: File No. 8-03/2019FC dated 08.04.2022

Madam,

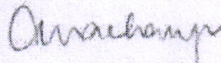
Kindly find attached the clarifications and compliance report in respect of the  
above referred observations of FAC, MoEFCC and subsequent meeting of the  
Sub- Committee held at Aranya Bhawan, Kolkata on 06th May, 2022 in  
connection with diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for Open Cast Mining  
Project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine.

You may kindly like to recommend the report to the MoEFCC, New Delhi for the  
purpose of obtaining Stage- I Forest Clearance of Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine  
Project

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Enclo: As stated above

  
General Manager (Projects)

**Clarifications to the observations made by the Forest Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 and subsequent meeting of the Sub- Committee held at Aranya Bhawan, Kolkata on 06th May, 2022 in connection with FC Proposal of Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine.**

**Ref: File No. 8-03/2019FC dated 08.04.2022**

**Observation (i):**

***Schedule-I species like Porcupine, Rock Python, Spectacled Cobra, etc. have been reported in the area. Comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State on the likely impact of the project on wildlife and mitigating measures, if any, required to be taken for the conservation and development of the wildlife be obtained and intimated to the Ministry.***

**Clarification (i):**

Vide Memo No. 896/WL/2M-33(Pt-II)/2021 dated 13.04.2021 of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal it has been clarified as follows;

1. There is no direct evidence of existence of Schedule -I species in the project and buffer area but it is learnt that regular rescue of Rock Python within 10 Km of the project site exists.
2. There is no Wildlife Sanctuary / National Park within 10 km area of the project site.

Copy of the said report of PCCF & CWLW is given at **Enclosure - 1** for reference.

Further, WBMDTCL hereby undertakes that it will comply with all directions, conservation plans etc. that may be stipulated by the Forest Department for conservation and development of wildlife and to mitigate the likely impact on wildlife of the Gourangdih ABC Coal Mining Project and make the requisite budgetary and logistics provisions throughout the life of project.

**Observation (ii):**

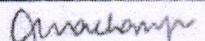
***Detailed purpose wise breakup of the forest land as well as non-forest land in commensuration with the land use proposed in the approved mining plan needs to be informed by the State.***

**Clarification (ii):**

**Details of Land usage:**

**Table : 1**

<b>Land Pattern</b>	<b>Total Area (ha)</b>	<b>Within Mining Lease Area (ha)</b>	<b>Outside Mining Lease Area (ha)</b>
Agricultural Land	48.43	48.43	Nil

  
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Fallow land (Danga)	44.07	44.07	Nil
Degraded land (Old quarry area)	61.316	61.316	Nil
Build up area	60.86	60.86	Nil
Water Body	15.44	15.44	Nil
Forest land (protected & jungle)	109.459*	109.459	Nil
Non agricultural land for colony	5.00	5.00	Nil
Non agricultural land for Rehabilitation	12.00	12.00	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>356.575</b>	<b>356.575</b>	<b>Nil</b>

*\*Note: After the allotment of the Block to WBMDTCL, reconciliation of the land schedule was undertaken. The change in forest area from 92.53 Ha, as mentioned in the Mining Plan, to 109.459 Ha is one of the results of reconciliation. Thus, WBMDTCL has proceeded with the updated land use details and accordingly forest clearance application has been submitted for 109.459 Ha. As per Rule 22E (3) (i) of the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2020 [Enclosure-2], this change in land type within lease area comes under 'minor changes' in the approved mining plan and does not require fresh approval of the mining plan.*

Component wise breakup of proposed land use of mining lease hold area is given as follows;

Table : 2

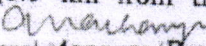
Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land(ha)	Non-Forest Land (ha)	Total (ha)
1	Quarry Area	91.434	121.83	213.264
2	External Dump	18.025	44.945	62.97
3	Infrastructure	0	9.5	9.5
4	Rehabilitation Colony	0	12	12
5	Workers Colony	0	5	5
6	Road	0	8	8
7	Others Including Safety Zone	0	45.841	45.841
	<b>Total</b>	<b>109.459</b>	<b>247.116</b>	<b>356.575</b>

**Observation (iii):**

*Adequacy of existing road infrastructure to accommodate the increased transportation of coal from the proposed mine and existing mines may be informed by the State supported with scientific and factual inputs.*

**Clarification (iii):**

Detailed report of the traffic density survey both in up and down direction at three locations namely Baradang (0.9 km from the proposed mine in S

  
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direction), Majandih (1.6 km from the proposed mine in NE direction) and Dharaspur (3.5 km from the proposed mine in WSW direction) conducted on 03-04/01/2018, 07-08/01/2018 and 10-11/01/2018, respectively is given at Enclosure-3. It will appear from the said report that the current road width is sufficient to sustain the present and additional traffic.

**Observation (iv):**

*Railway siding is reported to be located at distance of 20 km from the proposed mine, which is reported to be used by other mines also, therefore, possibility of evacuation of coal using common closed/piped conveyor corridor should also be explored to reduce pollution loads on the existing road infrastructure.*

**Clarification (iv):**

A detailed study for the Coal Evacuation System was conducted through our Transaction Advisor M/s KPMG International. The following railway sidings and railway stations were considered for this study;

Table : 3

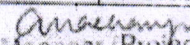
Sl. No.	Name	Distance from Coal Block	Type	Present usage and status
1	Barabani	21.20 km	Coal siding & station	ICML coal, active siding
2	Bonjemehari	15.40 km	Coal siding	ECL coal, active siding
3	Charanpur	19.30 km	Coal Siding	Tara East & West coal siding.
4	Chinchuria	15.20 km	Railway halt station	Only railway station, no siding

In this study, long distance conveyor system has been considered but ruled out due to the following points:

- Annual peak rated capacity of the mine is only 2.5 Mtpa.
- Conveyor length will be from 15 km to 20 km depending upon the siding.
- Tentative cost of the conveyor system CHP will be as follows:

Table : 4

Sl. No.	Name	Distance from Coal Block	Unit cost per meter	Expected cost (INR crores)
1	Barabani	21.20 km	4 lakh	848.00
2	Bonjemehari	15.40 km	4 lakh	616.00

  
 General Manager (Projects)  
 West Bengal Mineral Development  
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 Trading Corporation Limited

3	Charanpur	19.30 km	4 lakh	772.00
4	Chinchuria	15.20 km	4 lakh	768.01

- d. The cost of the long distance conveyor system appears to be very high compared to total coal production and it will more than double the initial investment requirement for the project.

**Observation (v):**

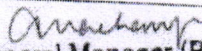
*As per detailed provided online, total area involved in the project is 356.575 ha, comprising of 247.116 ha of non-forest land and 109.459 ha of forest land. Corresponding detail of area mentioned in the approved Mining Plan are different wherein total area has been mentioned as 370 ha comprising of 92.53 ha of forest land and 277.47 ha of non-forest land. Discrepancy in the area needs to be rectified by the State and exact detail may be provided to the Ministry.*

**Clarification (v):**

370 Ha is the area of the coal block allocated by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India for Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine. Out of this allocated area, some portion (-78.52 Ha) in the middle (Block-B) was excluded from the mining plan as this area is heavily constructed and populated. Additionally 65.09 Ha was taken outside the Block Area for OB, infrastructure etc and thus the total "Project Area" envisaged in the Mining Plan is (370 - 78.52 + 65.09) = -356.57 Ha. Details are given in the table as follows:

Table : 5

<i>All dimensions in Hectare</i>					
Sub blocks	Block Area Allocated by MoC, G.O.I	Deduction for built up area areas [not taken for mine planning]	Area taken for Planning	Area taken outside allocated block boundary for OB, infrastructure etc.	Area applied for Mining Lease (=Project Area as per Mining Plan)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) = (2) - (3)	(5)	(6) = (4) OR (5)
Area in Block-A	127.53	0	127.53		127.53
Area in Block-B	99.43	78.52	12.31		12.31
Area in Block-C	151.64	0	151.64		151.64
Area taken out side of				65.09	65.09

  
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block					
<b>Total</b>	370	78.52	291.48	65.09	356.57

Mining Lease for this Project Area of ~356.57 Ha area has been granted by the Government of West Bengal as per the details given in the Table -6 below:

Table : 6

Sl. No.	Mining Lease Grant Order No.	Mining Lease Grant Order Date	Area Granted (in Hectares) approx.	Enclosure Number.
1	143-CI/O/MIN/GEN-COL/03/2016	23.02.2018	213.27	4
2	591-CI/O/MIN/GEN-COL/03/2016	29.09.2022	143.31	5

**Observation (vi):**

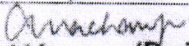
*Areas of Mining Plan and Mining lease are not same. Ministry's guidelines stipulated that area of safety zone should be inside the mining lease while the same has been kept outside the lease area in the extant case. Similarly, area of external dumps and infrastructure have also been kept outside the lease. Rationale for not including 143.305 ha of area outside the lease containing vital project components like safety zone, external dumps, infrastructure, etc. may be intimated by the State.*

**Clarification (vi):**

The Mining Plan was prepared by the Prior Allottee of the coal block and approved by the Ministry of Coal in 2011. Table 1.3 of the approved Mining Plan is reproduced below:

Table : 7

Sl No	Particulars of utilization	Total land Required (Ha)	Type of Land (Ha)	
			Non-Forest	Forest
1	Quarry area	214.00	121.47	92.53
2	External dump	62.97	62.97	0.00
3	Infrastructure	9.5	9.5	0.00
4	Rehabilitation Colony	12.00	12.00	0.00
5	Workers Colony	5.00	5.00	0.00
6	Road	8.00	8.00	0.00
7	Others including safety zone	45.2	45.2	0.00
	<b>Total (approx.)</b>	356.67	264.14	92.53

  
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 West Bengal Mineral Development  
 &  
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However, the Prior Allottee of the Coal Block did not take mining lease from the State Government till cancellation of the allotment of the Coal Block by Ministry of Coal. However, the Mining Plan envisaged Mining Lease for only the quarry area of ~214 Ha (refer to 'Summarised Data'- C(h) Pg. xix of Mining Plan), keeping the external dump etc, outside the ML area which is not permitted as per Clause 2(a) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 [Enclosure-6].

Hence, after reallocation of the Coal Block, WBMDTCL has applied for Mining Lease for the entire Project Area of ~356.57 Ha including the 143.305 Ha which was kept outside ML in the Mining Plan. The Mining Lease has been granted by the Government of West Bengal as per detail given in Table-6 above.

*Anurag*  
General Manager (Projects)  
West Bengal Mineral Development  
&  
Trading Corporation Limited

Phone (033) 2335-7751/8581/8755,  
Fax (033) 2335-8756

e.mail : pccf@office-wb@gov.in  
Visit us at : www.westbengalforest.in



**Government of West Bengal**  
**DIRECTORATE OF FORESTS**  
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Head of Forest Force, West Bengal  
Aranya Bhawan, Block LA-10A, Sector-III,  
Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700 106.



No. 3167/L&LT/2M-1334/17

Dt. 27.08.2021

→ To : The Chairman & Managing Director,  
West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd.  
WBIIDC Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
DJ-10, DJ Block, Sector-II,  
Salt Lake City, Kolkata- 700091

Sub: Certificate regarding the absence of Schedule-I species & non-existence of any Wildlife /  
National Sanctuary within 10 Km. of the project area of Gourangdih ABC Coal Mines as  
required by the EAC, MoEF & CC, New Delhi

Ref : Your office letter no. i) MDTC/PM-5/144/Env/742 dated. 25.11.2020 &  
ii) MDTC/PM-5/144/Env/589 dated. 18.08.2021

Sir,

With reference to above, it has been certified by the PCCF & CWLW vide his letter No. 896/WL/2M-  
33(Pt-II)/2021 dated. 13.04.2021(copy enclosed) which states that there is no direct evidence of Schedule-I  
species and there is no Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park within 10 Km. of the project site.

Yours faithfully,

(K. Talukdar)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
FCA & Nodal Officer.

Encl.: As stated above

No. 3170/L&LT/2M-1334/17

Dt. 27.08.2021

I Copy forwarded for information and necessary actions to, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Wildlife & CWLW, West Bengal.

(S. Mukherjee)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Head of Forest Force, West Bengal

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL  
DIRECTORATE OF FORESTS

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)  
& Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal

Bikash Bhawan, North Block, Third Floor, Saltlake City, Kolkata - 700 091.

Tel No. 2334-6900/2358-3208, Fax. 91-033-2334-5946

e-mail: pccfwl-wb@nic.in/pccfwloffice.fd-wb@bangla.gov.in, Visit us at [www.wildbengal.com](http://www.wildbengal.com)

Memo No.: 896 / WL / 2M-33(Pt-II) / 2021

Date: 13 / 04 / 2021

To: The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Head of Forest Force, West Bengal.

Attention: Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
and Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act, 1980

Sub: Proposal for diversion 109.459 ha.s of Forest Land for opencast Mining Project at Gourangdih ABC  
Coal Mine in favour of WBMDTC under Durgapur Forest Division- Reg.

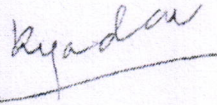
- Ref:
1. WBMDTCL's letter no. MDTC/PM-5/144/Env/18 dated 05/01/2021.
  2. DFO/ Durgapur Division's memo no. 3720/26 dated 04/01/2021.
  3. APCCF & CCF/ South-East Circle's letter no. 541/SEC/2M-10 dated 19/02/2021.
  4. WBMDTCL's letter no. MDTC/PM-5/144/Env/267 dated 22/03/2021.

With reference to the subject under reference, please find enclosed the report submitted by the  
Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division and field-verified by the APCCF and CCF, South- East Circle.  
Both the officers have informed that :-

1. There is no direct evidence of existence of Schedule-I species in the project and buffer area but it is  
learnt that regular rescue of Rock Python within 10 km of the project site exists.
2. There is no Wildlife Sanctuary / National Park within 10 km area of the project site.

This is for your information and taking needful action from your end.

Encl: as stated



(V.K. Yadav)

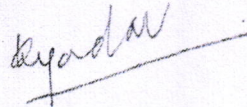
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife  
& Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal

Memo No.: 896(3) / WL / 2M-33(Pt-II) / 2021

Date: 13 / 04 / 2021

Copy forwarded for information to :-

1. Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest Department, West Bengal.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, West Bengal.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division.



(V.K. Yadav)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife  
& Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal