



OFFICE OF THE
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, KEONJHAR WILDLIFE DIVISION, ANANDAPUR.

At/PO- Salapada, Dist- Keonjhar, Pin- 758020, Telephone No. 06731-220322, e-mail id: dfo.keonjharwl@odisha.gov.in

Letter No. 3648/3WL(Lease)/ /2025

Dated, Anandapur the 25th July'2025.

To

The Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve-cum-
Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Baripada Circle, Baripada.

Sub: - Proposal for diversion of balance forest land of 746.3325 ha in favour of M/s OMC Ltd. within total forest land of 846.3995 ha located within approved Mining lease area of 1018.3085 ha for Iron Ore Mining in Daitari Mining lease in Cuttack Forest Division of Jajpur District and Keonjhar (WL) Division of Keonjhar District, Odisha) - reg.

Ref: - Letter No. 8-28/2015 FC dt.17.05.2024 by the MoEF & CC, Govt. of India (FC Division).

Sir,

In inviting a kind reference to the Letter No. cited above, this is to inform you that, MoEF & CC, Govt. of India while examining the proposal for diversion of 746.3325 ha of balance forest land pertaining to Daitari Iron Ore Mines of OMC Ltd. in Keonjhar and Jajpur district of Odisha has sought information on eight observations vide letter cited under reference for consideration of Stage-I Forest Clearance in respect of the captioned proposal. The point wise reply to the observations raised is given as under:

i) The revised KML of project area along with attributes of forest and non-forest area & ownership/managing agency;

The revised KML of project area over 405.26 ha. [Forest: 344.25 ha (Diverted: 95.60 ha. + Virgin: 248.65 ha.) + Non-forest: 61.01 ha.] is given in the CD enclosed herewith. The attributes of forest and non-forest area and ownership/managing agency is given as under:

| Sl. No. | Name of the area | Area in Ha | Managed by | Remarks |
|--|------------------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| Division-Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur, District-Keonjhar | | | | |
| 1 | Rebana RF | 142.62 | Forest Dept. | Part of Reserve Forest area proposed for Diversion |
| 2 | Rebana RF | 59.254 | Forest Dept. | Stage-II approval accorded vide No. 8-164/97-FC dt. 27.1.2005 of the Govt. of India, MoEF & CC. |
| 3 | Rakhita, Gramya Jungle | 3.78 | Revenue Dept. | Part of Revenue Forest area proposed for Diversion |
| Sub-Total | | 205.654 | | |
| 4 | Non-forest land | 61.01 | Revenue Dept. | |
| Total (A) | | 266.664 | | |

| Division-Cuttack Forest Division, District-Jajpur | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---|
| 5 | Daitari Protected Forest (PF) | 102.25 | Forest Dept. | Part of Protected Forest area proposed for Diversion |
| 6 | Daitari PF | 36.346 | Forest Dept. | Stage-II approval accorded vide No. 8-164/97-FC dt. 27.1.2005 of the Govt. of India, MoEF & CC. |
| Total (B) | | 138.596 | | |
| Grand Total (A+B) | | 405.26 | | |

The authenticated details of the same is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

ii) Updated report on the number and species of trees affected after reassessment of the reduced area (forest as well as non-forest area) recommended by the ICFRE for taking up mining activities.

It is submitted that out of the reduced area of 405.26 ha. recommended by ICFRE, 205.654 ha of forest land and 61.01 ha of non-forest land is coming under Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur and 138. 596 ha of forest land is coming under Cuttack Forest Division. M/s OMC Ltd. vide letter No. 8906/OMC/F&E/2024 dt. 01.06.2024 requested Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur to pass necessary instruction to carry out enumeration of trees standing on the recommended forest and non-forest area. Accordingly, the tree enumeration was conducted in the representative area of ten nos. of sample plots each in Rebana RF and Daitari PF to assess the number and species of trees which will likely to be affected due to mining in the reduced area recommended by ICFRE for mining and was extrapolated to the total area. The brief of the tree enumeration conducted is given as under:

| Sl. No. | Name of the area | Area in Ha | No. of trees enumerated | No. of trees to be felled. |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Division-Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur, District-Keonjhar | | | | |
| 1 | Rebana RF | 142.62 | 8266 (10 Sample plots) | 58945 |
| 2 | Rebana RF | 59.254 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Rakhita, Gramya Jungle | 3.78 | 705 | 705 |
| Sub-Total | | | | 59650 |
| 4 | Non-forest land | 61.01 | 10803 | 10803 |
| Total (A) | | | | 70453 |
| Division-Cuttack Forest Division, District-Jajpur | | | | |
| 5 | Daitari Protected Forest | 102.25 | 11247 (10 Sample plots) | 57501 |
| 6 | Daitari Protected Forest | 36.346 | 0 | 0 |
| Total (B) | | | | 57501 |
| Grand Total (A+B) | | | | 127954 |

As per above, 70453 nos. (approximately) of trees standing in area coming under Keonjhar Wildlife Division (59650 nos. (approximately) in forest land and 10803 nos. (approximately) in non-forest land) and 57501 nos. (approximately) of trees standing in area coming under in Cuttack Forest Division will be affected due to mining and ancillary activities.

The detailed updated report on the number and species of trees going to be affected considering the reduced area of 405.26 ha, recommended by ICFRE, duly signed Forest & Revenue Officials is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

iii) A considered opinion on impact of mining operations on 28 rare, endangered and threatened species found in the area and mitigation measures proposed for their conservation and protection.

It is submitted that ICFRE vide F. No. 1-99/2019-ADG (EM)/IOM-DML (WL)-ICFRE/1101 dt. 15.07.2024 has submitted a suitable reply referring Chapter-7, Section 7.3.1.1 of their final report. The copy of the letter by ICFRE with enclosures is given as **Annexure-III** for kind perusal.

In the said letter, threat to 27 RET species (out of 28) has been suggested to be mitigated through in-situ conservation. One species named *Entadarheedei* has been suggested to be protected through *ex-situ* conservation and for this, a species-specific conservation plan is required to be prepared and implemented. Accordingly, one Scheme has been prepared which is enclosed as **Annexure - IV**.

iv) Comments and recommendations of the Water Resource Department on the impact of the mining on the local hydrological regime in the and around the lease area on the proposed mining may be submitted by the State.

The User Agency has submitted the comments and recommendations of the Water Resource Department on the impact of the mining on the local hydrological regime in and around the lease area on the proposed mining (copy enclosed herewith as **Annexure-V(A)**) and an undertaking submitted by the User Agency to adhere the recommendations made by Water Resource Department is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-V(B)**.

v) A summary of the total mining leases approved under the Adhiniyam vis-à-vis their approved peak capacity and production level actually achieved in general and in r/o OMC leases in particular. The State Government shall also submit its comments on opening of such a huge area having sensitive conservation issues vis-a-vis the target of production and estimated shortfall in coming years;

A summary of total mining leases approved under the Adhiniyam with their approved peak capacity and production level actually achieved during FY 2024-25 of mining leases of OMC is enclosed as **Annexure-VI**.

Further it is submitted that, OMC vide letter No. 10642/OMC/F&E/2024 requested the Director of Mining & Geology, Department of Steel and Mines, Govt. of Odisha to share its comments on opening of such a huge area having sensitive conservation issues vis-a-vis the target of production and estimated shortfall in coming years to submit with MoEF&CC, Govt. of India to comply the condition. It is learnt that, Dept. of Steel and Mines, Govt. of Odisha has shared comments on the justification of using the reduced area within Daitari ML considering the conservation issues and production and estimated shortfall in coming years (copy enclosed herewith as **Annexure-VII**).

vi) The revised mining plan for reduced area recommended by the ICFRE in its report, may be provided by the State Government.

As intimated by M/s OMC Ltd, the Mining Plan (MP) approved by IBM vide letter No. BBS/JJP/ IRON/2197/MRMP/2022-23 dt 28.11.2022 over

the ML area of 1018.3085 ha has been revised and approved vide letter No. RMP-2308/2024-25-IBM_RO_BBS dt. 26.12.2024 considering the mine working till conceptual period confined to the revised area of 405.26 ha. as recommended by ICFRE out of the total ML area over 1018.3085 ha. The copy of the revised approved MP by IBM showing mine working within the reduced area recommended by ICFRE is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-VIII**.

vii) The revised cost benefit analysis after accounting the EG & S being lost and net economic gains from project to be submitted by the State.

It is submitted that basing on the request made by M/s OMC Ltd. vide letter No. 9960/OMC/ F&E/2024 dt 19.06.2024, ICFRE vide F. No. 1-99/2019-ADG (EM)/IOM-DML(WL)-ICFRE/1101 dt 15.07.2024 has submitted a suitable reply at Chapter-5, Table No.5.8 of the Final Report (Vol-I). ICFRE has also intimated that the EG&S losses in monetary terms have been given at Column-I of the Table 5.8. The copy of the letter by ICFRE along with enclosures are given at **Annexure-IX** for kind perusal.

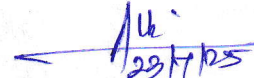
viii) The ICFRE has recommended mining over reduced area which was further suggested to be reduced by the Sub-Committee of AC. The State Government and user agency may comment on the economic feasibility of mining operations over reduced area.

It is submitted that, comments on the economic feasibility of mining operation over reduced area are given at **Annexure-X**, as examined on the requirement of revised area of 405.26 ha. which is the bare necessity to continue mining at Daitari Iron Ore Mines.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Encl.: - As above

Yours faithfully,

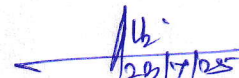


Divisional Forest Officer,

Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur.

Memo No. 3649 / Date 25.07.2025.

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

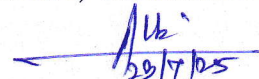


Divisional Forest Officer,

Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur.

Letter No. 3650 / Date 25.07.2025.

Copy forwarded to the Chief (Vigilance Officer and Land Officer), Authorized Signatory, M/s OMC Ltd., OMC House, Bhubaneswar for favour of information and necessary action.



Divisional Forest Officer,

Keonjhar Wildlife Division, Anandapur.