

8-03/2019FC

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**  
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**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,**  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi – 110003  
**Dated: 20th June, 2023**

To,

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of West Bengal,  
Kolkata -700 098.

**Subject: Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for Open Cast Mining Project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal**

Madam/Sir,

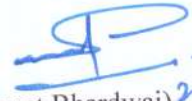
I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even no. dated 24.04.2023 wherein the certain information on the recommendation of Advisory Committee on 24.03.2023 was sought from the Government of West Bengal. In this regard, the reply is awaited from State Government.

2. The Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Kolkata vide their letter No. 5.WBA/04/2019-BHU-08 dated 31.05.2023 has forwarded the inspection report of a sub-committee constituted by this Ministry on 24.04.2023. The sub-committee visited the area on 29.05.2023 and made certain observation with regard to the instant proposal. A copy of the inspection report is enclosed for ready reference.

In view of above, Government of West Bengal is requested to provide the para-wise reply on the observation made by the sub-committee in their report along-with the pending reply on Ministry's letter dated 24.04.2023 for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours sincerely,

**Encl: As Above**

  
(Suneet Bhardwaj) 20/06/20

**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata ;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Kolkata;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

गोपनीय

संख्या- 5.WBA/04/2019-BHU- 08

भारत सरकार

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, कोलकाता  
आई. बी.-198, सेक्टर-III, साल्ट लेक सिटी,  
कोलकाता-700 106.

दिनांक. 31 मई, 2023

सेवा में,

वन महानिदेशक एवं विशेष सचिव  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोरबाग रोड  
नई दिल्ली-110 003 ।

IG (FC)

cop + 1/6

O/o DGF & SS  
Dy. No. 942635  
Date. 09-06-2023

HW  
AIGLSB  
31/6/23

विषय: **Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for Open Cast Coal Mining Project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.**

संदर्भ: का0 जा0 संख्या 8-03/2019-FC, दिनांक 24.04.2023 ।

महोदय,

उपर्युक्त विषय के संदर्भ में सूचित किया जाता है कि, संबंधित विषय पर गठित किए गए निरीक्षण समिति के निम्नलिखित सदस्यों के द्वारा उक्त निरीक्षण स्थल का दिनांक 29.05.2023 को निरीक्षण किया गया ।

1. श्री मनोज पंत, एफ.ए.सी. सदस्य
2. श्रीमती सोमा दास, आई.आर.ओ., कोलकाता
3. नोडल अधिकारी, कोलकाता

उपरोक्त संबंधित निरीक्षण प्रतिवेदन की प्रति आपके सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु इस पत्र के साथ संलग्न कर प्रेषित किया जा रहा है ।

संलग्नक: निरीक्षण प्रतिवेदन ।

प्रतिलिपि:

1. श्री मनोज पंत, एफ.ए.सी. सदस्य
2. नोडल अधिकारी, ( एफ.सी.ए.), कोलकाता

भवदीया,

(डॉ0 सोमा दास )

क्षेत्रीय निदेशक, भा.व.स, पू.क्षे./  
वन महानिरीक्षक (प्र.)

(डॉ0 सोमा दास )

क्षेत्रीय निदेशक, भा.व.स, पू.क्षे./  
वन महानिरीक्षक (प्र.)

O/o IG (FC) ROH/PE/IFS (RKP)  
Dy. No. 942635  
Date. 13/6/23

E-949635/2023/CR  
06-06-2023

E-942635/2023/N14(SB)  
13/06/2023

N14 on tour  
ACF (RK)

**Field Inspection Report of the Sub-Committee constituted vide Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's Office Memorandum dated 24.04.2023 for inspection of Forest Land proposed for diversion for open-cast Coal Mining at Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine in favour of West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL), West Bengal.**

This is in reference to MoEF&CC's above mentioned office memorandum vide which a sub-committee was constituted for inspection of the area proposed for diversion of 109.459 ha of Forest Land for open-cast coal mining project, ABC Coal Mine at Gourangdih in favor of West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL) under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.

The details of the case are as under:

1. Government of West Bengal vide letter no. 84-For/O/L/10T-01/2019 dated 14.01.2009 submitted the above subject proposal for seeking prior approval under section II of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The details of the proposal are available on the 'PARIVESH' portal of the Ministry.
2. The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the ministry in its meeting held on 31.03.2022 examined the proposal along with the Site Inspection Report (SIR) and recommendations of the Regional office of MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar.
3. The FAC during its meeting on 31.03.2022 made certain observations and also recommended that a sub-committee of FAC will visit the area to look into the observations raised by the FAC and report on the same for further consideration of the FAC. Regional Officer, Kolkata was also to be a part of the sub-committee.
4. In view of the observations of the FAC, the Ministry vide letter dated 08.04.2022 sought clarification from the West Bengal Government on the observations made by the FAC. A sub-committee of the FAC was also constituted by the Ministry on 08.04.2022.
5. The Government of West Bengal vide letter no. 1676-For/O/L/10T-01/2019 dated 24.11.2022 submitted its response on the observations made by the FAC.
6. Since, the sub-committee of the FAC constituted on 08.04.2022 could not visit the area of the instant proposal and in the meanwhile the tenure of Mr. Sanjay Deshmukh, Expert, Non-official Member, FAC, who was also a member of the above-mentioned sub-committee expired, the Ministry reconstituted the sub-committee of the FAC vide OM dated 24.04.2023 comprising of Shri Manoj Pant, Expert Member, FAC, Smt. Soma Das, IRO, Kolkata and Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, West Bengal.

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7. The sub-committee along with the field staff of Durgapur Forest Division inspected the instant area on 29.05.2023. Representatives of the user agency were also present during the field inspection. The observations of the sub-committee after inspection of the said area are as under:
- A. The FAC in its meeting held on 31.03.2022 had sought the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal on the likely impact of the project on the wildlife and the mitigation measures required to be taken if any. As informed by Nodal Officer West Bengal, the Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and approved by PCCF (Wildlife) and submitted to State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal vide Memo no. 3362/WL/2M-33 (Pt-II)/2021 dated 23.11.2022. and also to IRO Kolkata on 27.03.2023 (Annexure 1).
  - B. There appears to be a contradiction between the area as approved by the Ministry of Mining, Government of India and the area mentioned in the instant proposal. As informed by the user agency, a total of 370 ha area of the Coal Block comprising of 92.53 ha of forest land was allocated by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India for Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine. However, as informed by the user agency, this revised proposal of the coal block from 370 ha to 356.575 ha and increasing the forest area from 92.53 ha of forest land to 109.459 ha is yet to be approved by the Coal Ministry.
  - C. Regarding adequacy of existing road infrastructure to accommodate the increased transportation of coal, the response of the State Government may be examined.
  - D. Regarding suggestion of the FAC, to explore the possibility of evacuation of coal using common, closed/piped conveyor, the financial implications of the proposal as per the study conducted through transaction advisor M/s. KPMG International as provided by the State Government is high and is not financially viable.
  - E. Since, the revised mining plan is yet to be approved by the Ministry of Coal, the tabular statement indicating various types of land use including dumping area also needs be revised and the revised map to be uploaded on PARIVESH portal accordingly.



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In addition to the observations made by the FAC and the response of the State Government thereof, the sub-committee cross-checked the boundary of the proposed mining area by randomly selecting the boundary pillars and cross-checking their GPS locations with the DGPS surveyed and geo-reference map of forest land use plan in Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine as uploaded on the PARIVESH portal of the Ministry. The details are as under:

Boundary Pillar Number as per the map	GPS location as per uploaded Map	GPS location as per Ground <del>Testing</del> <i>Truthing</i> <span style="color: blue;">P</span>
14	N 23°49'24.744" E 86°57'56.55"	N 23°49'24.61" E 86°57'58.81"
13	N 23°49'24.528" E 86°57'54.180"	N 23°49'24.61" E 86°57'55.19"
79/A <sub>31</sub>	N 23°49'23.179" E 86°57'49.458"	N 23°49'23.06" E 86°57'49.39"
79/A <sub>12</sub>	N 23°49'27.408" E 86°58'23.232"	N 23°49'29.54" E 86°58'41.18"
79/A <sub>13</sub>	N 23°49'28.056" E 86°58'27.94"	N 23°49'27.62" E 86°58'41.36"
C-19/C-12/ Forest-81	N 23°49'06.88" E 86°59'49.73"	N 23°49'06.88" E 086°59'49.73"
C-13/C-20/ Forest-82	N 23°49'88.54" E 86°59'52.15"	N 23°49'08.54" E 86°59'52.15"
C-14/C-21/ Forest-83	N 23°49'09.26" E 86°59'56.99"	N 23°49'09.26" E 86°59'56.99"
C-19/C-28/ Forest-134	N 23°49'01.93" E 87°00'07.24"	N 23°48'44.46" E 86°59'51.60"
C-32/C-48	N 23°48'47.70" E 86°59'40.85"	N 23°48'47.38" E 86°59'40.547"

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31/5/23

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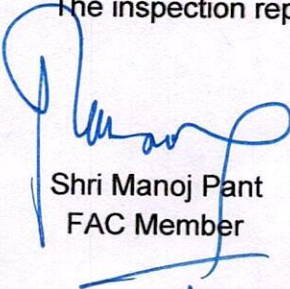
*X* 31/5/23

The geo location of the boundary pillars as indicated in the uploaded map are within reasonable limits of the ground verification.

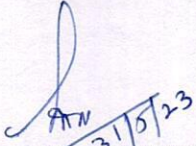


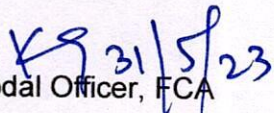
- i. The extent of the boundary of the forest area as marked in the uploaded map has to be in consonance with the records of the Forest Department, West Bengal. The user agency may be advised to revise the land use map as per the revised approved mining plan after verification and certification by the Forest Department and upload the same on the PARIVESH portal.
- ii. The user agency may also be advised to submit the schedule of Forest land of the said area as per the revised plan.
- iii. The safety zone along the periphery of the proposed mining area has not been marked by the user agency.
- iv. The user agency may be advised to explore the possibilities of identifying the dumping areas outside the forest area and may also revise tabular statement regarding redistribution of area accordingly.
- v. No mining activity was observed on the proposed site on the date of inspection.
- vi. There is no overlapping of boundaries with the adjoining mine on the eastern boundary of the proposed area.
- vii. No instance of violation of FC Act, 1980 was observed during the inspection.

The inspection report is hereby submitted for further necessary action.

  
Shri Manoj Pant  
FAC Member

31/05/23

  
Dr. Soma Das, IGF(C)  
IRO, Kolkata

  
Nodal Officer, FCA  
West Bengal



Government of West Bengal  
 Directorate of Forests  
 Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force  
 Aranya Bhawan, Block: LA-10A, Salt Lake City, Sector - III, Kolkata:: 700 106  
 Phone - Fax:: (033) 2335 8581/7751, e-mail : [nfcawb@gmail.com](mailto:nfcawb@gmail.com)  
 Visit us at: [www.westbengalforest.gov.in](http://www.westbengalforest.gov.in)

No. 8252/L & LT/2M-1334/17

Dated: 23.11.2022.

To: The Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal,  
 Department of Forest.

Sub: Diversion of 109.459 ha. of forest land for Open Cast Mining Project at Gourangdih  
 ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under  
 Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.

Ref :

1. Govt. of India, MoEF & CC File No.8-03/2019FC dated 08.04.2022, EDS raised on  
 Parivesh Portal (Proposal No. FP/WB/MIN/26869/2017).
2. West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd. letter No.  
 MDTC/PM-5/144(F)(Pt.-II)/2915 dated 17.10.2022.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South East Circle, W.B's letter No. 3105/SEC/  
 2M-10 dated 21.10.2022.

Sir,

With reference to above Para-wise reply is submitted as follows :-

**Para (i)**

Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and submitted to the P.C.C.F., Wildlife  
 & Chief Wildlife Warden vide Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, W.B's No.  
 3105/SEC/2M-10 dated 21.10.2022.

**Para (ii) to (vi)**

Reply given by West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd. letter  
 No. MDTC/PM-5/144(F)(Pt.-II)/2915 dated 17.10.2022 (copy enclosed).

**Para (vii)**

The Sub-Committee of FAC may visit the area if deemed necessary.

These replies may kindly be forwarded to IRO, Kolkata for consideration

Submitted Please.

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*  
 Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &  
 Nodal Officer, FCA

Encl.: As stated above.

No. 8254/L & LT/2M-1334/17

Dated: 23.11.2022.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action, to :-

1. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, W.B.
2. The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division.
3. The General Manager (Projects), WBMD & TC Ltd., WBIIDC Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
 DJ-10, Sector-II, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091.

*[Signature]*  
 Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &  
 Nodal Officer, FCA



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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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata: 700 091  
Tel.No.033-2334-6900/2358-3208, Fax. 033-2334-5946  
Website - www.wildbengal.com e-mail pccfwl-wb@nic.in & wbwildlife@gmail.com

No.1129/WL/2M-33(Pl.II)/2021

Date : 05.05.2022

To  
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HOFF  
West Bengal

[ Attn. Dr Kana Talukder, IFS, Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer, FCA, West Bengal ]

Sub : Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for open cast mining project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corpn. – Impact of project on wildlife and mitigation measures – comments

Ref : GoI, MoEF&CC's No.B-03/2019FC dt. 08.04.22 , this office Memo NO.896/WL/2M-33(Pl.II)/2021 dt. 13.04.21 and your mail dt.29.04.22.

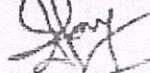
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Sir,

With reference to the subject and communications quoted above, this is to state that the area is not particularly rich in biodiversity. However, certain species as indicated in part-II of proposal exist in the area. Open cast mining will disturb the habitat of those animals, particularly the burrowing ones. Following mitigation measures are proposed.

- Building rescue and rehabilitation facility for all displaced animals.
- Creating awareness for wildlife conservation in the area.
- Protecting the source population of wildlife in adjoining areas such as Biharinath and Garh Panchakot so that the mining area may be repopulated once the mining is over.
- The mining work may be carried out in a phased manner and reclamation of one area may be completed before taking up a new area.
- A wildlife conservation plan may be prepared for post-mining restoration of wildlife.

Yours faithfully,

  
(DEBAJAY) 5/5/22

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



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Government of West Bengal  
Directorate of Forests  
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force  
Aranya Bhawan, Block: LA-10A, Salt Lake City, Sector - III, Kolkata: 700 106  
Phone - Fax: (033) 2335 8581/7751, e-mail : nfcawb@gmail.com  
Visit us at: www.westbengalforest.gov.in

No-13733 /L & LT/2M-1334/2017

Dated: 27.03.2023

To: The IRO Kolkata,  
MoEF & CC, Government of India,  
1B-193, Sector-III, Salt Lake City,  
Kolkata-700106.

Sub: Wildlife Conservation Plan (WLCP) of Gourangdi ABC Coal mine as submitted by WBMDTCL.

Ref: FAC meeting held on 24/03/2023 in New Delhi

Madam,

With reference to the above the WLCP as approved by PCCF WL and CWCL vide his memo No. 3362/WL/2M-33 (Pt-II)/2021 dated 23/11/2022 is enclosed herewith for onward transmission to MoEF & CC.

Earlier CWLW had commented on the project vide his memo No. 1129/WL/2M-33(Pt-II)/2021 dated 05/05/2022 (copy enclosed).

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

Y-9 27/3/23  
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act.

No-13734 /L & LT/2M-1334/2017

Dated: 27.03.2023

Copy forwarded for kind information and necessary action to:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Department of Forest.
2. The Chief Managing Director, West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, DJ-10, WBIDC Building, DJ Block, Sector-II, Salt Lake City, Kolkata- 700091 (wbmdtcltd@gmail.com).

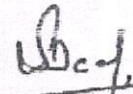
Y-9 27/3/23  
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act.

pollution loads on the existing road infrastructure.

- 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.
- 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 out side 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.
- vii. A Sub-Committee of the FAC will visit the area to look into the above observations of the FAC and a report on the same will be submitted for further consideration of the Committee. Regional Officer, Kolkata will also be part of the Sub-Committee.

In view of above, Govt. of West Bengal is requested to provide the clarification/ information/documents on points as indicated a point (i) to (vi) above for further necessary action. It is also requested to co ordinate with the IRO kolkata for the visit of subcommittee as specified by FAC at para vii above

Yours faithfully,

  
(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
3. Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Kolkata. to co ordinate with Government of West Bengal for the visit of FAC subcommittee
4. User agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard file.

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,

Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,

New Delhi - 1100 03.

Dated: 5 April, 2022

Principal Secretary,  
Government of West Bengal,  
Kolkata-700 098

Subject: Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for Open Cast Mining Project at ourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above subject proposal and to inform that the instant proposal has been considered by FAC in its meeting held on 31.03.2022 and the minutes of the meeting may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The FAC *inter-alia* recommended that:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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



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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.: 3362 / WL / 2M-33(Pt-II)/2021

Date: 23/11/2022

To: The Chairman  
State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)  
Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal.

Sub: Wildlife Conservation Plan of Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine - reg.


- Ref: 1. General Manager (Projects), WBMDTCL's memo no. MDTC/PM-5/144/Env/2879 dated 11/10/2022.  
2. APCCF & CCF, South-East Circle's letter no. 3105/SEC/2M-10 dated 21/10/2022.

Sir,

The Wildlife Conservation Plan for Gourangdih ABC Opencast Coal Mining Project is approved from this end for seeking Environment Clearance.

Encl.: as stated

Yours faithfully,

  
(Debal Ray) 23/11/22

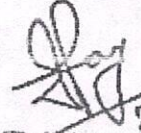
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife  
& Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal

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

Date: 23/11/2022

Copy forwarded for information to :-

1. The General Manager (Project), West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd.  
E-mail: [wbdmtdcltd@gmail.com](mailto:wbdmtdcltd@gmail.com) / [wbdmtdcl.gabc@gmail.com](mailto:wbdmtdcl.gabc@gmail.com)
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, West Bengal.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division, West Bengal.

  
(Debal Ray) 23/11/22

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

APCCF/FCA

25/11/22

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Government of West Bengal  
Department of Forests  
For Branch  
Aranya Bhavan, Block-LA-10A, Sector-III, Salt Lake City  
Kolkata-700 106

No. 1676-For/O/L/10T-01/2019

Kolkata, the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

From: Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal

To: The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC),  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
(Forest Conservation Division),  
Govt. of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi-110 003.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for open cast mining project  
at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and  
Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division.

Sir,

With reference to your letter no. 8-03/2019-FC dt. 08/04/2022 on the aforesaid subject, I am directed to send herewith para wise reply received from Directorate of Forests for your kind information and taking necessary action at your end. — P-111

Yours faithfully,

Self

Deputy Secretary

No. 1676/1(1)-For

Kolkata, the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Copy forwarded for information to:

The APPCF & Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980

Deputy Secretary

**Field Inspection Report of the Sub-Committee constituted vide Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's Office Memorandum dated 24.04.2023 for inspection of Forest Land proposed for diversion for open-cast Coal Mining at Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine in favour of West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL), West Bengal.**

This is in reference to MoEF&CC's above mentioned office memorandum vide which a sub-committee was constituted for inspection of the area proposed for diversion of 109.459 ha of Forest Land for open-cast coal mining project, ABC Coal Mine at Gourangdih in favor of West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL) under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.

The details of the case are as under:

1. Government of West Bengal vide letter no. 84-For/O/L/10T-01/2019 dated 14.01.2009 submitted the above subject proposal for seeking prior approval under section II of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The details of the proposal are available on the 'PARIVESH' portal of the Ministry.
2. The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the ministry in its meeting held on 31.03.2022 examined the proposal along with the Site Inspection Report (SIR) and recommendations of the Regional office of MoEF&CC, Bhubaneshwar.
3. The FAC during its meeting on 31.03.2022 made certain observations and also recommended that a sub-committee of FAC will visit the area to look into the observations raised by the FAC and report on the same for further consideration of the FAC. Regional Officer, Kolkata was also to be a part of the sub-committee.
4. In view of the observations of the FAC, the Ministry vide letter dated 08.04.2022 sought clarification from the West Bengal Government on the observations made by the FAC. A sub-committee of the FAC was also constituted by the Ministry on 08.04.2022.
5. The Government of West Bengal vide letter no. 1676-For/O/L/10T-01/2019 dated 24.11.2022 submitted its response on the observations made by the FAC.
6. Since, the sub-committee of the FAC constituted on 08.04.2022 could not visit the area of the instant proposal and in the meanwhile the tenure of Mr. Sanjay Deshmukh, Expert, Non-official Member, FAC, who was also a member of the above-mentioned sub-committee expired, the Ministry reconstituted the sub-committee of the FAC vide OM dated 24.04.2023 comprising of Shri Manoj Pant, Expert Member, FAC, Smt. Soma Das, IRO, Kolkata and Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, West Bengal.

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7. The sub-committee along with the field staff of Durgapur Forest Division inspected the instant area on 29.05.2023. Representatives of the user agency were also present during the field inspection. The observations of the sub-committee after inspection of the said area are as under:

- A. The FAC in its meeting held on 31.03.2022 had sought the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal on the likely impact of the project on the wildlife and the mitigation measures required to be taken if any. As informed by Nodal Officer West Bengal, the Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and approved by PCCF (Wildlife) and submitted to State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal vide Memo no. 3362/WL/2M-33 (Pt-II)/2021 dated 23.11.2022. and also to IRO Kolkata on 27.03.2023 (Annexure 1).
- B. There appears to be a contradiction between the area as approved by the Ministry of Mining, Government of India and the area mentioned in the instant proposal. As informed by the user agency, a total of 370 ha area of the Coal Block comprising of 92.53 ha of forest land was allocated by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India for Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine. However, as informed by the user agency, this revised proposal of the coal block from 370 ha to 356.575 ha and increasing the forest area from 92.53 ha of forest land to 109.459 ha is yet to be approved by the Coal Ministry.
- C. Regarding adequacy of existing road infrastructure to accommodate the increased transportation of coal, the response of the State Government may be examined.
- D. Regarding suggestion of the FAC, to explore the possibility of evacuation of coal using common, closed/piped conveyor, the financial implications of the proposal as per the study conducted through transaction advisor M/s. KPMG International as provided by the State Government is high and is not financially viable.
- E. Since, the revised mining plan is yet to be approved by the Ministry of Coal, the tabular statement indicating various types of land use including dumping area also needs be revised and the revised map to be uploaded on PARIVESH portal accordingly.



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In addition to the observations made by the FAC and the response of the State Government thereof, the sub-committee cross-checked the boundary of the proposed mining area by randomly selecting the boundary pillars and cross-checking their GPS locations with the DGPS surveyed and geo-reference map of forest land use plan in Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine as uploaded on the PARIVESH portal of the Ministry. The details are as under:

Boundary Pillar Number as per the map	GPS location as per uploaded Map	GPS location as per Ground Tooting
14	N 23°49'24.744" E 86°57'56.55"	N 23°49'24.61" E 86°57'58.81"
13	N 23°49'24.528" E 86°57'54.180"	N 23°49'24.61" E 86°57'55.19"
79/A <sub>31</sub>	N 23°49'23.179" E 86°57'49.458"	N 23°49'23.06" E 86°57'49.39"
79/A <sub>12</sub>	N 23°49'27.408" E 86°58'23.232"	N 23°49'29.54" E 86°58'41.18"
79/A <sub>13</sub>	N 23°49'28.056" E 86°58'27.94"	N 23°49'27.62" E 86°58'41.36"
C-19/C-12/ Forest-81	N 23°49'06.88" E 86°59'49.73"	N 23°49'06.88" E 086°59'49.73"
C-13/C-20/ Forest-82	N 23°49'88.54" E 86°59'52.15"	N 23°49'08.54" E 86°59'52.15"
C-14/C-21/ Forest-83	N 23°49'09.26" E 86°59'56.99"	N 23°49'09.26" E 86°59'56.99"
C-19/C-28/ Forest-134	N 23°49'01.93" E 87°00'07.24"	N 23°48'44.46" E 86°59'51.60"
C-32/C-48	N 23°48'47.70" E 86°59'40.85"	N 23°48'47.38" E 86°59'40.547"

P. Prakash

31/5/23

31/5/23

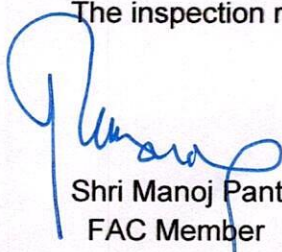
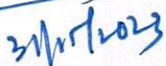


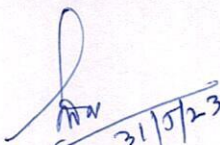
The geo location of the boundary pillars as indicated in the uploaded map are within reasonable limits of the ground verification.

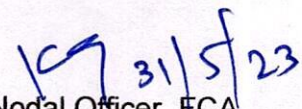


- i. The extent of the boundary of the forest area as marked in the uploaded map has to be in consonance with the records of the Forest Department, West Bengal. The user agency may be advised to revise the land use map as per the revised approved mining plan after verification and certification by the Forest Department and upload the same on the PARIVESH portal.
- ii. The user agency may also be advised to submit the schedule of Forest land of the said area as per the revised plan.
- iii. The safety zone along the periphery of the proposed mining area has not been marked by the user agency.
- iv. The user agency may be advised to explore the possibilities of identifying the dumping areas outside the forest area and may also revise tabular statement regarding redistribution of area accordingly.
- v. No mining activity was observed on the proposed site on the date of inspection.
- vi. There is no overlapping of boundaries with the adjoining mine on the eastern boundary of the proposed area.
- vii. No instance of violation of FC Act, 1980 was observed during the inspection.

The inspection report is hereby submitted for further necessary action.

  
Shri Manoj Pant  
FAC Member  


  
Dr. Soma Das, IGF(C)  
IRO, Kolkata

  
Nodal Officer, FCA  
West Bengal



Annexure - 1

Government of West Bengal  
Directorate of Forests  
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force  
Aranya Bhawan, Block: LA-10A, Salt Lake City, Sector - III, Kolkata:: 700 106  
Phone - Fax:: (033) 2335 8581/7751, e-mail : [nfcawb@gmail.com](mailto:nfcawb@gmail.com)  
Visit us at: [www.westbengalforest.gov.in](http://www.westbengalforest.gov.in)

No. 8252/L & LT/2M-1334/17

Dated: 23.11.2022.

To: The Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal,  
Department of Forest.

Sub: Diversion of 109.459 ha. of forest land for Open Cast Mining Project at Gourangdih  
ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under  
Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.

Ref :

1. Govt. of India, MoEF & CC File No.8-03/2019FC dated 08.04.2022, EDS raised on  
Parivesh Portal (Proposal No. FP/WB/MIN/26869/2017).
2. West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd. letter No.  
MDTC/PM-5/144(F)(Pt.-II)/2915 dated 17.10.2022.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South East Circle, W.B's letter No. 3105/SEC/  
2M-10 dated 21.10.2022.

Sir,

With reference to above Para-wise reply is submitted as follows :-

Para (i)

Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and submitted to the P.C.C.F., Wildlife  
& Chief Wildlife Warden vide Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, W.B's No.  
3105/SEC/2M-10 dated 21.10.2022.

Para (ii) to (vi)

Reply given by West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd. letter  
No. MDTC/PM-5/144(F)(Pt.-II)/2915 dated 17.10.2022 (copy enclosed).

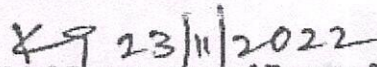
Para (vii)

The Sub-Committee of FAC may visit the area if deemed necessary.

These replies may kindly be forwarded to IRO, Kolkata for consideration

Submitted Please.

Yours faithfully,

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

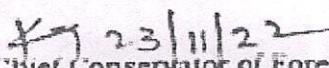
Encl.: As stated above.

No. 8254/L & LT/2M-1334/17

Dated: 23.11.2022.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action, to :-

1. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, W.B.
2. The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division.
3. The General Manager (Projects), WBMD & TC Ltd., WBIIDC Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
DJ-10, Sector-II, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091.

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



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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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata: 700 091  
Tel.No.033-2334-6900/2358-3208, Fax. 033-2334-5946  
Website - www.wildbengal.com e-mail pccfwl-wb@nic.in & wbwildlife@gmail.com

No.1129/WL/2M-33(Pl.II)/2021

Date : 05.05.2022

To  
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Hoff  
West Bengal

[ Attn. Dr Kana Talukder, IFS, Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer, FCA, West Bengal ]

Sub : Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for open cast mining project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corpn. – impact of project on wildlife and mitigation measures – comments

Ref : Gov. MoEF&CC's No.B-03/2019FC dt. 08.04.22 , this office Memo NO.596/WL/2M-33(Pl.II)/2021 dt. 13.04.21 and your mail dt.29.04.22.

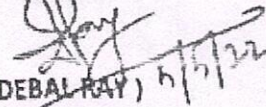
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Sir,

With reference to the subject and communications quoted above, this is to state that the area is not particularly rich in biodiversity. However, certain species as indicated in part-II of proposal exist in the area. Open cast mining will disturb the habitat of those animals, particularly the burrowing ones. Following mitigation measures are proposed.

- Building rescue and rehabilitation facility for all displaced animals.
- Creating awareness for wildlife conservation in the area.
- Protecting the source population of wildlife in adjoining areas such as Biharinath and Garh Panchakot so that the mining area may be repopulated once the mining is over.
- The mining work may be carried out in a phased manner and reclamation of one area may be completed before taking up a new area.
- A wildlife conservation plan may be prepared for post-mining restoration of wildlife.

Yours faithfully,

  
( DEBAJIT RAY ) 5/5/22

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

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Government of West Bengal  
Directorate of Forests  
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force  
Aranya Bhawan, Block: LA-10A, Salt Lake City, Sector - III, Kolkata.: 700 106  
Phone - Fax.: (033) 2335 8581/7751, e-mail : pfcawb@gmail.com  
Visit us at: www.westbengalforest.gov.in

No-13733 /L & LT/2M-1334/2017

Dated: 27.03.2023

To: The IRO Kolkata,  
MoEF & CC, Government of India,  
1B-198, Sector-III, Salt Lake City,  
Kolkata-700106.

Sub: Wildlife Conservation Plan (WLCP) of Gourangdi ABC Coal mine as submitted by WBMDTCL.

Ref: FAC meeting held on 24/03/2023 in New Delhi

Madam,

With reference to the above the WLCP as approved by PCCF WL and CWCL vide his memo No. 3362/WL/2M-33 (Pt-II)/2021 dated 23/11/2022 is enclosed herewith for onward transmission to MoEF & CC.

Earlier CWLW had commented on the project vide his memo No. 1129/WL/2M-33(Pt-II)/2021 dated 05/05/2022 (copy enclosed).

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

K 27/3/23  
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act.

No-13734 /L & LT/2M-1334/2017

Dated: 27.03.2023

Copy forwarded for kind information and necessary action to:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Department of Forest.
2. The Chief Managing Director, West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, DJ-10, WBIDC Building, DJ Block, Sector-II, Salt Lake City, Kolkata- 700091 (wbmdtcltd@gmail.com).

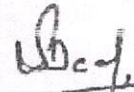
K 27/3/23  
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act.

pollution loads on the existing road infrastructure.

- 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.
- 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 out side 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.
- vii. A Sub-Committee of the FAC will visit the area to look into the above observations of the FAC and a report on the same will be submitted for further consideration of the Committee. Regional Officer, Kolkata will also be part of the Sub-Committee.

In view of above, Govt. of West Bengal is requested to provide the clarification/information/documents on points as indicated a point (i) to (vi) above for further necessary action. It is also requested to co ordinate with the IRO kolkata for the visit of subcommittee as specified by FAC at para vii above

Yours faithfully,

  
(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
3. Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Kolkata. to co ordinate with Government of West Bengal for the visit of FAC subcommittee
4. User agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard file.

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi - 1100 03.

Dated: 8 April, 2022

Principal Secretary,  
Government of West Bengal,  
Kolkata-700 098

Subject: Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for Open Cast Mining Project at ourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above subject proposal and to inform that the instant proposal has been considered by FAC in its meeting held on 31.03.2022 and the minutes of the meeting may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The FAC *inter-alia* recommended that:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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



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## GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

## DIRECTORATE OF FORESTS



Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)

&amp; 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.: 3362 / WL / 2M-33(Pt-II)/ 2021

Date: 23/11/2022

To: The Chairman  
State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)  
Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal.

Sub: Wildlife Conservation Plan of Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine - reg.

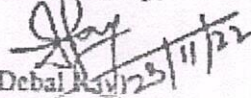
- Ref: 1. General Manager (Projects), WBMDTCL's memo no. MDTC/PM-S/144/Env/2879 dated 11/10/2022.  
2. APCCF & CCF, South-East Circle's letter no. 3105/SEC/2M-10 dated 21/10/2022.

Sir,

The Wildlife Conservation Plan for Gourangdih ABC Opencast Coal Mining Project is approved from this end for seeking Environment Clearance.

Encl.: as stated

Yours faithfully,

  
(Debal Ray) 23/11/22

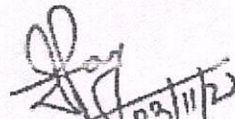
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife  
& Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal

Memo No.: 3362(2/3) / WL / 2M-33(Pt-II)/ 2021

Date: 23/11/2022

Copy forwarded for information to :-

1. The General Manager (Project), West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd.  
E-mail: [wbdmtdcltd@gmail.com](mailto:wbdmtdcltd@gmail.com) / [wbdmtdcl.gabc@gmail.com](mailto:wbdmtdcl.gabc@gmail.com)
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, West Bengal.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division, West Bengal.

  
(Debal Ray) 23/11/22

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

APCCF/FCA

25/11/22

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Government of West Bengal  
Department of Forests  
For Branch  
Aranya Bhavan, Block-LA-10A, Sector-III, Salt Lake City  
Kolkata-700 106

No. 1676-For/O/L/10T-01/2019

Kolkata, the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

From: Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal

To: The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC),  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
(Forest Conservation Division),  
Govt. of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi-110 003.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for open cast mining project  
at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and  
Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division.

Sir,

With reference to your letter no. B-03/2019-FC dt. 08/04/2022 <sup>P-111</sup> on the aforesaid subject,  
I am directed to send herewith para wise reply received from Directorate of Forests for your kind  
information and taking necessary action at your end.

Yours faithfully,

*Sd/-*

Deputy Secretary

No. 1676/1(1)-For

Kolkata, the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Copy forwarded for information to:

The APPCF & Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980

*Sd/-*  
Deputy Secretary





**Field Inspection Report of the Sub-Committee constituted vide Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's Office Memorandum dated 24.04.2023 for inspection of Forest Land proposed for diversion for open-cast Coal Mining at Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine in favour of West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL), West Bengal.**


This is in reference to MoEF&CC's above mentioned office memorandum vide which a sub-committee was constituted for inspection of the area proposed for diversion of 109.459 ha of Forest Land for open-cast coal mining project, ABC Coal Mine at Gourangdih in favor of West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL) under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.

The details of the case are as under:

1. Government of West Bengal vide letter no. 84-For/0/L/10T-01/2019 dated 14.01.2009 submitted the above subject proposal for seeking prior approval under section II of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The details of the proposal are available on the 'PARIVESH' portal of the Ministry.
2. The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the ministry in its meeting held on 31.03.2022 examined the proposal along with the Site Inspection Report (SIR) and recommendations of the Regional office of MoEF&CC, Bhubaneshwar.
3. The FAC during its meeting on 31.03.2022 made certain observations and also recommended that a sub-committee of FAC will visit the area to look into the observations raised by the FAC and report on the same for further consideration of the FAC. Regional Officer, Kolkata was also to be a part of the sub-committee.
4. In view of the observations of the FAC, the Ministry vide letter dated 08.04.2022 sought clarification from the West Bengal Government on the observations made by the FAC. A sub-committee of the FAC was also constituted by the Ministry on 08.04.2022.
5. The Government of West Bengal vide letter no. 1676-For/O/L/10T-01/2019 dated 24.11.2022 submitted its response on the observations made by the FAC.
6. Since, the sub-committee of the FAC constituted on 08.04.2022 could not visit the area of the instant proposal and in the meanwhile the tenure of Mr. Sanjay Deshmukh, Expert, Non-official Member, FAC, who was also a member of the above-mentioned sub-committee expired, the Ministry reconstituted the sub-committee of the FAC vide OM dated 24.04.2023 comprising of Shri Manoj Pant, Expert Member, FAC, Smt. Soma Das, IRO, Kolkata and Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, West Bengal.

  
31/05/2023

  
31/5/23

  
31/5/23

7. The sub-committee along with the field staff of Durgapur Forest Division inspected the instant area on 29.05.2023. Representatives of the user agency were also present during the field inspection. The observations of the sub-committee after inspection of the said area are as under:
- A. The FAC in its meeting held on 31.03.2022 had sought the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal on the likely impact of the project on the wildlife and the mitigation measures required to be taken if any. As informed by Nodal Officer West Bengal, the Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and approved by PCCF (Wildlife) and submitted to State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal vide Memo no. 3362/WL/2M-33 (Pt-II)/2021 dated 23.11.2022. and also to IRO Kolkata on 27.03.2023 (Annexure 1).
  - B. There appears to be a contradiction between the area as approved by the Ministry of Mining, Government of India and the area mentioned in the instant proposal. As informed by the user agency, a total of 370 ha area of the Coal Block comprising of 92.53 ha of forest land was allocated by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India for Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine. However, as informed by the user agency, this revised proposal of the coal block from 370 ha to 356.575 ha and increasing the forest area from 92.53 ha of forest land to 109.459 ha is yet to be approved by the Coal Ministry.
  - C. Regarding adequacy of existing road infrastructure to accommodate the increased transportation of coal, the response of the State Government may be examined.
  - D. Regarding suggestion of the FAC, to explore the possibility of evacuation of coal using common, closed/piped conveyor, the financial implications of the proposal as per the study conducted through transaction advisor M/s. KPMG International as provided by the State Government is high and is not financially viable.
  - E. Since, the revised mining plan is yet to be approved by the Ministry of Coal, the tabular statement indicating various types of land use including dumping area also needs be revised and the revised map to be uploaded on PARIVESH portal accordingly.



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In addition to the observations made by the FAC and the response of the State Government thereof, the sub-committee cross-checked the boundary of the proposed mining area by randomly selecting the boundary pillars and cross-checking their GPS locations with the DGPS surveyed and geo-reference map of forest land use plan in Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine as uploaded on the PARIVESH portal of the Ministry. The details are as under:

Boundary Pillar Number as per the map	GPS location as per uploaded Map	GPS location as per Ground Truthing
14	N 23°49'24.744" E 86°57'56.55"	N 23°49'24.61" E 86°57'58.81"
13	N 23°49'24.528" E 86°57'54.180"	N 23°49'24.61" E 86°57'55.19"
79/A <sub>31</sub>	N 23°49'23.179" E 86°57'49.458"	N 23°49'23.06" E 86°57'49.39"
79/A <sub>12</sub>	N 23°49'27.408" E 86°58'23.232"	N 23°49'29.54" E 86°58'41.18"
79/A <sub>13</sub>	N 23°49'28.056" E 86°58'27.94"	N 23°49'27.62" E 86°58'41.36"
C-19/C-12/ Forest-81	N 23°49'06.88" E 86°59'49.73"	N 23°49'06.88" E 086°59'49.73"
C-13/C-20/ Forest-82	N 23°49'88.54" E 86°59'52.15"	N 23°49'08.54" E 86°59'52.15"
C-14/C-21/ Forest-83	N 23°49'09.26" E 86°59'56.99"	N 23°49'09.26" E 86°59'56.99"
C-19/C-28/ Forest-134	N 23°49'01.93" E 87°00'07.24"	N 23°48'44.46" E 86°59'51.60"
C-32/C-48	N 23°48'47.70" E 86°59'40.85"	N 23°48'47.38" E 86°59'40.547"

*[Handwritten signature]*  
31/5/23

*[Handwritten signature]*  
31/5/23

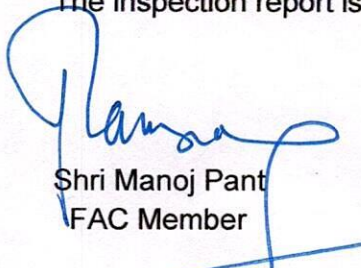
*[Handwritten signature]*  
31/5/2023

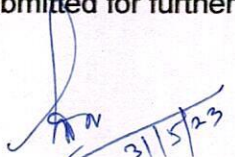
The geo location of the boundary pillars as indicated in the uploaded map are within reasonable limits of the ground verification.

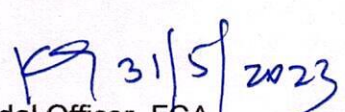


- i. The extent of the boundary of the forest area as marked in the uploaded map has to be in consonance with the records of the Forest Department, West Bengal. The user agency may be advised to revise the land use map as per the revised approved mining plan after verification and certification by the Forest Department and upload the same on the PARIVESH portal.
- ii. The user agency may also be advised to submit the schedule of Forest land of the said area as per the revised plan.
- iii. The safety zone along the periphery of the proposed mining area has not been marked by the user agency.
- iv. The user agency may be advised to explore the possibilities of identifying the dumping areas outside the forest area and may also revise tabular statement regarding redistribution of area accordingly.
- v. No mining activity was observed on the proposed site on the date of inspection.
- vi. There is no overlapping of boundaries with the adjoining mine on the eastern boundary of the proposed area.
- vii. No instance of violation of FC Act, 1980 was observed during the inspection.

The inspection report is hereby submitted for further necessary action.

  
Shri Manoj Pant  
FAC Member  
31/05/2023

  
Dr. Soma Das, IGF(C)  
IRO, Kolkata  
31/5/23

  
Nodal Officer, FCA  
West Bengal  
31/5/2023



Annexure-1

Government of West Bengal  
Directorate of Forests  
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force  
Amnya Bhawan, Block: LA-10A, Salt Lake City, Sector - III, Kolkata:: 700 106  
Phone - Fax:: (033) 2335 8581/7751, e-mail : [nscawb@gmail.com](mailto:nscawb@gmail.com)  
Visit us at: [www.westbengalforest.gov.in](http://www.westbengalforest.gov.in)

No. 8252 / L & LT/2M-1334/17

Dated: 23.11.2022.

To: The Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal,  
Department of Forest.

Sub: Diversion of 109.459 ha. of forest land for Open Cast Mining Project at Gourangdih  
ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under  
Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.

Ref :

1. Govt. of India, MoEF & CC File No.8-03/2019FC dated 08.04.2022, EDS raised on  
Parivesh Portal (Proposal No. FP/WB/MIN/26869/2017).
2. West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd. letter No.  
MDTC/PM-5/144(F)(Pt.-II)/2915 dated 17.10.2022.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South East Circle, W.B's letter No. 3105/SEC/  
2M-10 dated 21.10.2022.

Sir,

With reference to above Para-wise reply is submitted as follows :-

Para (i)

Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and submitted to the P.C.C.F., Wildlife  
& Chief Wildlife Warden vide Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, W.B's No.  
3105/SEC/2M-10 dated 21.10.2022.

Para (ii) to (vi)

Reply given by West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd. letter  
No. MDTC/PM-5/144(F)(Pt.-II)/2915 dated 17.10.2022 (copy enclosed).

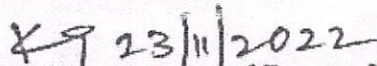
Para (vii)

The Sub-Committee of FAC may visit the area if deemed necessary.

These replies may kindly be forwarded to IRO, Kolkata for consideration

Submitted Please.

Yours faithfully,

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

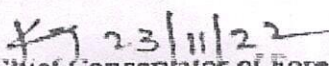
Encl.: As stated above.

No. 8254 / L & LT/2M-1334/17

Dated: 23.11.2022.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action, to :-

1. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, W.B.
2. The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division.
3. The General Manager (Projects), WBMD & TC Ltd., WBHDC Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
DJ-10, Sector-II, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091.

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



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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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata: 700 091  
Tel.No.033-2334-6900/2358-3208, Fax. 033-2334-5946  
Website - www.wildbengal.com e-mail pccfwl-wb@nic.in & whwildlife@gmail.com

No.1129/WL/2M-33(Pl.II)/2021

Date : 05.05.2022

To  
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HOFF  
West Bengal

( Attn. Dr Kana Talukder, IFS, Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer, FCA, West Bengal )

Sub : Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for open cast mining project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corpn. – Impact of project on wildlife and mitigation measures – comments

Ref : GoI, MoEF&CC's No.B-03/2019FC dt. 08.04.22 , this office Memo NO.896/WL/2M-33(Pl.II)/2021 dt. 13.04.21 and your mail dt.29.04.22.

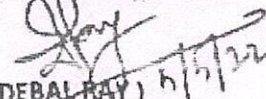
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Sir,

With reference to the subject and communications quoted above, this is to state that the area is not particularly rich in biodiversity. However, certain species as indicated in part-II of proposal exist in the area. Open cast mining will disturb the habitat of those animals, particularly the burrowing ones. Following mitigation measures are proposed.

- Building rescue and rehabilitation facility for all displaced animals.
- Creating awareness for wildlife conservation in the area.
- Protecting the source population of wildlife in adjoining areas such as Biharinath and Garh Panchakot so that the mining area may be repopulated once the mining is over.
- The mining work may be carried out in a phased manner and reclamation of one area may be completed before taking up a new area.
- A wildlife conservation plan may be prepared for post-mining restoration of wildlife.

Yours faithfully,

  
(DEBAJIT RAY) 6/5/22

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

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Government of West Bengal  
 Directorate of Forests  
 Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force  
 Aranya Bhawan, Block: LA-10A, Salt Lake City, Sector - III, Kolkata: 700 106  
 Phone - Fax: (033) 2335 8581/7751, e-mail : nfcawb@gmail.com  
 Visit us at: www.westbengalforest.gov.in

No-13733 /L & LT/2M-1334/2017

Dated: 27.03.2023

To: The IRO Kolkata,  
MoEF & CC, Government of India,  
1B-19B, Sector-III, Salt Lake City,  
Kolkata-700106.

Sub: Wildlife Conservation Plan (WLCP) of Gourangdi ABC Coal mine as submitted by WBMDTCL.

Ref: FAC meeting held on 24/03/2023 in New Delhi.

Madam,

With reference to the above the WLCP as approved by PCCF WL and CWCL vide his memo No. 3362/WL/2M-33 (Pt-II)/2021 dated 23/11/2022 is enclosed herewith for onward transmission to MoEF & CC.

Earlier CWLW had commented on the project vide his memo No. 1129/WL/2M-33(Pt-II)/2021 dated 05/05/2022 (copy enclosed).

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]* 27/3/23  
 Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
 & Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act.

No-13734 /L & LT/2M-1334/2017

Dated: 27.03.2023

Copy forwarded for kind information and necessary action to:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Department of Forest.
2. The Chief Managing Director, West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited (WBMDTCL), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, DJ-10, WBIDC Building, DJ Block, Sector-II, Salt Lake City, Kolkata- 700091 (wbmdtcltd@gmail.com).

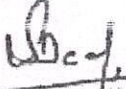
*[Signature]* 27/3/23  
 Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
 & Nodal Officer, Forest Conservation Act.

pollution loads on the existing road infrastructure.

- 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.
- 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 out side 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.
- vii. A Sub-Committee of the FAC will visit the area to look into the above observations of the FAC and a report on the same will be submitted for further consideration of the Committee. Regional Officer, Kolkata will also be part of the Sub-Committee.

In view of above, Govt. of West Bengal is requested to provide the clarification/ information/documents on points as indicated a point (i) to (vi) above for further necessary action. It is also requested to co ordinate with the IRO kolkata for the visit of subcommittee as specified by FAC at para vii above

Yours faithfully,

  
(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
3. Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Kolkata. to co ordinate with Government of West Bengal for the visit of FAC subcommittee
4. User agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard file.

Signed by Sandeep Sharma  
Date: 09-01-2022 17:20:47



Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,

Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,

New Delhi - 1100 03.

Dated: 5 April, 2022

To,  
Principal Secretary,  
Government of West Bengal,  
Kolkata-700 098

Subject: Diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for Open Cast Mining Project at ourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division, West Bengal.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above subject proposal and to inform that the instant proposal has been considered by FAC in its meeting held on 31.03.2022 and the minutes of the meeting may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The FAC *inter-alia* recommended that:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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



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

Memo No.: 3362 / WL / 2M-33(Pt-II) / 2021

Date: 23/11/2022

To: The Chairman  
State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)  
Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal.

Sub: Wildlife Conservation Plan of Gourangdih ABC Coal Mine - reg.


- Ref: 1. General Manager (Projects), WBMDTCL's memo no. MDTC/PM-5/144/Env/2879 dated 11/10/2022.  
2. APCCF & CCF, South-East Circle's letter no. 3105/SEC/2M-10 dated 21/10/2022.

Sir,

The Wildlife Conservation Plan for Gourangdih ABC Opencast Coal Mining Project is approved from this end for seeking Environment Clearance.

Encl.: as stated

Yours faithfully,

  
(Debal Ray) 23/11/22


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

Memo No.: 3362(2/3) / WL / 2M-33(Pt-II) / 2021

Date: 23/11/2022

Copy forwarded for information to :-

1. The General Manager (Project), West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation Ltd.  
E-mail: [wbdmtdcltd@gmail.com](mailto:wbdmtdcltd@gmail.com) / [wbdmtdcl.gabc@gmail.com](mailto:wbdmtdcl.gabc@gmail.com)
2. The Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, West Bengal.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Durgapur Division, West Bengal.

  
(Debal Ray) 23/11/22

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

APCCF/FCA

25/11/22

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Government of West Bengal  
Department of Forests  
For Branch  
Aranya Bhavan, Block-LA-10A, Sector-III, Salt Lake City  
Kolkata-700 106

No. 1676-For/O/L/10T-01/2019

Kolkata, the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

From: Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal

To: The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC),  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
(Forest Conservation Division),  
Govt. of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jorhagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi-110 003.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 109.459 ha of forest land for open cast mining project at Gourangdih ABC coal mine in favour of WB Mineral Development and Trading Corporation under Durgapur Forest Division.

Sir,

With reference to your letter no. B-03/2019-FC dt. 08/04/2022 on the aforesaid subject, I am directed to send herewith para wise reply received from Directorate of Forests for your kind information and taking necessary action at your end. — P-111

Yours faithfully,

*Sd/-*

Deputy Secretary

No. 1676/1(1)-For

Kolkata, the 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Copy forwarded for information to:

The APPCF & Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980

*Lal Mohai*  
Deputy Secretary