



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
DIRECTORATE OF FORESTS
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SOUTH – EAST CIRCLE, WEST BENGAL
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No: 2822 /SEC/2M-10 (ESSAR)

Dated: 13/09/2022.

REVISED Joint Site Inspection report of Chief Conservator of Forests, South-East Circle, WB with DFO's and other field officers of Burdwan and Durgapur Forest Division in respect of proposal for diversion of 17.6962 ha. of Forest Land in favour of Essar Oil and Exploration and Production Limited.

This patch of forest in Paschim Bardhaman is still very dense and is rich in Biodiversity. These patch of forests is the remnant of the dense forests that existed before intensive anthropogenic activities started taking place in the landscape. The JFMCs are sincerely watchful towards the forests and they are very much benefitted from forestry operations which are done regularly and ensures their active involvement in forest and wildlife protection. Elephants take shelter in this patch of forests at times during their movement and in recent times with increase in movement of elephants towards Bardhaman, elephants are guided towards these existing patch of forests only to avoid their movement in densely populated human habitations and to avoid any untoward incidence. If these patch of greenery is tampered with, Human Elephant Conflict shall rise beyond control during their occasional visits. Predominant crop is Sal along with its associates and diversified medicinal plants Akanda (*Calatropis gigantina*), Asamlata (*Chromolaena odorata*), Atari (*Combretum roxburgali sprengii*), Bainchi (*Flacourtia jangomas Lour Raeusch*), Kurchi (*Holarryhena antidysentria Wall*), Nishinda (*Vitex negunda Linn*), Satamuli (*Asparagus racemosa Wild*), Shialkanta (*Mimos rubicaulis Lamk*), Kalmegh (*Addrographis paniculata*), Latapalash (*Butea superba Roxb*)} have naturally flourished as undergrowth / climbers. Apart from that the proposed forest area is teeming with many Wild animals as follows:

Name	Scientific Name	Status under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
Indian Grey Wolf	<i>Canis lupus pallipes</i>	Schedule-I
Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	Schedule-II Part-II (2B)
Hyaena	<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>	Schedule-III Part (12)
Wild Boar (pig)	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Schedule-III (19)
Indian Porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i>	Schedule-IV (4)
Common Fox	<i>Vulpes bengalensis</i>	Schedule-II(1B)
Pangolin	<i>Manis crassicaudata</i>	Schedule-I (28)
Civets	<i>Viverridae spp</i>	Schedule-II, Part-II (1A)
Mongoose	<i>Herpestes spp</i>	Schedule-IV (6A)
Common langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>	Schedule-II Part-I (4A)

Common Hare/ Black Naped Hare	<i>Caprolagus hispidus</i>	Schedule-IV (4)
Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	Schedule-II Part-II 2(C)
Indian Cobra	<i>Naga specis</i>	Schedule-II Part-II (11)
King Cobra	Ophiophagus Hannah)	Schedule-II Part-II (12)
Russel's viper	<i>Vipera ruselli (Daboia russelii)</i>	Schedule-II Part-II (14)
Indian Python	Genus <i>Python</i>	Schedule-I (14A)
Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Schedule- I Part-III (11)
Grey Francolin/ Partridges	Phasianidae	Schedule-IV (51)
Boter/Quails	Rhasianidae	Schedule-IV (57)
Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus spp.</i>	Schedule-II, Part-II (15)

Etc.

05 Nos of the proposed project sites namely EDD-351 and EDD-365 under Durgapur Division and EDI 336, EDI 345, EDI 347 under Burdwan Division were jointly re-visited by undersigned along with DFOs, ADFO and other field staffs of Burdwan and Durgapur Forest Divisions and project proponents on 02-09-2022. All the sites were thoroughly inspected and following observations were made.

Project Proposals under Durgapur Forest Division submitted by ESSAR

Division	Pad Name	Range	Mouza	Tree Count in Well Pad	Tree Count is approach Road	Total Number of Trees	Area proposed for Diversion (Well pad + Approach road+pipeline)	Remarks
Durgapur	EDD-366		Gopedanga	636	6	642	0.745	The Gopedanga forest area is significant from the point of view of biodiversity in Durgapur Division (Pachim Bardhaman District). Because of the water harvesting structure created, the area provides a suitable habitat for small wild animals and existence of such wild lives is easily found. The area is both ecologically/geologically fragile as well as it includes fragile lateritic terrain because of which the attention of the team of Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) drawn who visited on 21/05/2022 for possible Soil and Moisture Conservation work. This area in Gopedanga is the last
	EDD-321		Chak Bishnupur, Bargaria, Gopedanga	347	6	353	0.662	

		Ukhra						refuge of some Schedule-I animals in Pachim Bardhaman District. Recent study on a teeming Indian Grey wolf population in the area has been published. Such forests serve as Habitat connectivity of small wild population & a healthy ecological corridor. Hence, Not Recommended .
EDD-351			Bargaria	321	6	327	0.4575	
EDD-365			Gopedanga	453	8	461	0.5147	Recommended
EDD-248			Bargaria	0	13	13	0.0975	The area has been selected for construction of road headed to the project site (outside forest). A portion of the road plan may be modified and a 2 meter diversion towards the left should be done to avoid the felling of old and irreplaceable Sal trees (Ten Numbers). Recommended with compliance of above mentioned observation.
EDC-241			Parulia	60	192	252	0.9595	Recommended
EDC-441		Banshia				0.3775	Recommended	
EDC-364		Gopedanga				0.225	Recommended	
Proposed for felling of Total Trees :						2048	4.0387	

Project Proposals under Burdwan Forest Division submitted by ESSAR

Division	Pad Name	Range	Mouza	Tree Count in Well Pad	Tree Count in approach Road	Total Number of Trees	Area proposed for Diversion (Well pad + Approach road+ pipeline)	Remarks
Burdwan	EDI-336 (60m x 60m)	Durgapur	Bishtupur	369	20	389	0.425	The forest road already exists leads to the Shyam Rupa Temple which is visited by many Hindu & tribal pilgrims throughout the year and specially during Durgapuja Festival. The place also witnesses the presence of several old sites having presence of God Idols and ancient scriptures. The temple & its adjacent 'Ashram' has some legends and religious sentiment. In the year of 2017-2018 a Bengal nature trail " Shibpur to Deul " was declared for trekkers & nature enthusiasts particularly because of the diverse nature of the forest and peculiar undulating terrain (Ref: PCCF/HoFF/WB's memo no. 8620/CS/2M-1020/13dt. 17/11/2017 & 1264/WBSFDA/Ecotourism/2017 dt. 08/12/2017. The nature trail is a work in progress in Deul. A portion of the forest area at Deul has been declared as a Conservation Reserve at the same Mouza Bistupur vide Govt. Notification number 1555-FR/0/11M-14/16 dt. 19/05/2017. A part from that the terrain on the opposite side of the road is ecologically fragile and prone to erosion which has led to formation of series of gullies. Hence the project is Not Recommended.
	EDI-339 (60m x 60m)		Bishtupur	315	5	320	0.855	
	EDH-356 (60m x 70m)	Akandara	9	5	14	0.7735	Recommended	

EDN-360 (60m x 70m)	Bandra	806	22	828	0.42	Recommended
EDN-361 (60m x 60m)	Bandra	622	15	637	0.435	Recommended
EDE-326 (60m x 60m)	Bistupur	101	34	135	0.4465	Recommended
EDE-330 (70 m x 80m)	Bishtupur	298	7	305	0.60	Recommended
EDE-333 (60m x 70m)	Bishtupur	156	120	276	0.794	Recommended
EDI-338 (60m x 60m)	Bishtupur	256	70	326	0.426	Recommended
EDI-343 (80m x 80m)	Bishtupur	415	151	566	1.0475	Recommended
EDI-345 (80m x 80m)	Bishtupur	1237	169	1406	1.0465	The project site shall be deprived of 1406 no. of admixture of mature and young coppice Sal trees if the project is undertaken. Apart from that, the area also is seen to be very rich in crop density and in general bio-diversity with significant presence of Medicinal plants. MS cutting operations under CAMPA Scheme was done in the area in January, 2022 and the crop looks very promising. Such a large felling of young Sal trees along with associates like Mohul and Piyal is not desirable. The project is <u>Not recommended.</u>
EDN-348 (70m x 80m)	Keshabpur	311	63	374	0.85	Recommended
EDN-349 (60m x 70m)	Keshabpur	99	30	129	0.7475	Recommended
EDI-347 (80m x 70m)	Malandighi	861	422	1283	0.8865	The site shall be deprived of 1283 no. of mature Sal and associate trees if the project is undertaken. Apart from that, the area also is seen to be very rich in bio-diversity with significant presence of Medicinal plants. Such a large felling of Sal trees along with associates like Mohul, piyal etc is <u>Not Recommended.</u>

EDI-354 (60m x 70m)	Malandighi	313	25	338	0.476	The proposed project site is located close to State Highway and the opening of forest for creation of well pad and approach road is likely to make the existing forest area susceptible to future illegal Encroachments. Hence the diversion is Not Recommended in the interest of protection of existing forest and wildlife.
EDI-355 (70m x 80m)	Malandighi	120	28	148	0.6875	Recommended
EDN-362 (70m x 80m)	Rajkusum	138	0	138	0.56	Recommended
EDN-358 (60m x 60m)	Tilakchandra pur	291	25	316	0.68	Recommended
EDN-363 (60m x 70m)	Keshabpur	478	3	481	0.42	Recommended
EDN-132 & EDN-360 (Pipeline)	Bandra	0	78	78	0.856	This land is required for installation of pipeline as well as creation of approach road to a well pad in Non-Forest Area. Since no alternate approach land is available in Private land, the project is Recommended .
EDE-127	Bishtupur & Saraswatiga nj	0	5	5	0.1175	This land is required for creation of approach road to a well pad in Non-Forest Area. Since no alternate approach land is available in Private land, the project is Recommended .
EDE-307	Bishtupur	0	62	62	0.1075	This land is required for creation of approach road to a well pad in Non-Forest Area. Since no alternate approach land is available in Private land, the project is Recommended .
Total:				8554	13.6575	

The site recommended for the above mentioned Diversion proposal should be accompanied by an approved Wildlife Conservation Plan as well as Soil Moisture Conservation Plan due to the presence of rich Biodiversity and scheduled Wildlife species in the proposed diverted area and proneness of area to soil erosion and gully formation.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Durgapur Division

13-09-2022

Divisional Forest Officer,
Burdwan Division

APCCF & Chief Conservator of Forests
South-East Circle, West Bengal.

13/09/2022