

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.198 OF 2024WZ

News item titled "Coal over Conservation ... .. Applicant

Versus


Principle Chief Conservator of Forest. ... Respondents

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Pune 28/02/2025

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Advocate for Respondent No.1

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,**  
**BENCH AT PUNE**

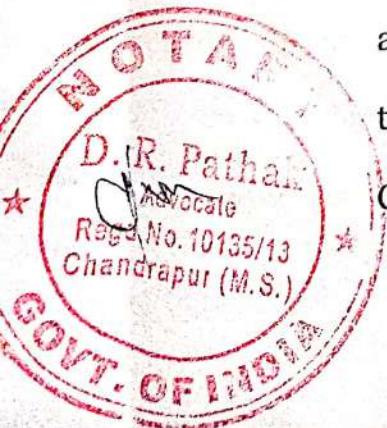
**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO 198/2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF NEWS ITEM TITLED "COAL OVER  
CONSERVATION : STATE WILD LIFE BOARD OKAYS  
MINING IN CHANDRAPUR TIGER CORRIDOR"  
PUBLISHED IN THE TIMES OF INDIA ON 27-8-2024**

**REPLY OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 TO THE ORIGINAL**  
**APPLICATION ON AFFIDAVIT**

I Prashant Khanderao Khade, age 45 Yrs, Occu. Service, as Divisional Forest Officer R/o Chandrapur, the respondent no 1. do hereby take oath and state as under:

1. It is submitted that there is availability of Coal and therefore the lands in and around the city of Chandrapur came to be acquired by the Western coal fields Ltd., as per the provisions of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 for coal excavation, after acquisition of the land the WCL has undertaken several activities for coal mining, it is operating coal mining. It is submitted that WCL is operating mining activities in large scale in and around Chandrapur City. It is submitted that intending to extend its activities



Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Nagpur, Chief Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur Circle and Divisional Forest Office, Chandrapur Forest Division Dtd.27-3-2024. Site inspection report dtd 27-3-2024 is annexed herewith as Annexure R-12. As per the report it is stated that only 93 trees were found in the proposed 80.77 Ha Forest Land and 98% of the area was already broken. The respondents are vigilant towards the impact of mining and is highly committed towards Environmental, Forest and Wildlife Conservation issues. The recently approved Wildlife Mitigation measures are site specific and recommended after the thorough study by the experts in the field. The answering respondent and MoEF & CC has scrutinized the necessity of the diversion of forest land before according the clearances.

14. The coal produced from this project is being supplied to another public sector company Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station via aerial rope conveyer since the inception.

15. The proposed 80.77 Ha forest land was already broken and lying as benches and water body. Hence, as stated in the article, there is no possibility of movement of tigers in the proposed forest land. But, there is a possibility of movement of tiger and other wildlife adjacent forest land which is clearly demarcated by a Safety Zone. In view of the diversion of 80.77 Ha Forest Land, compensatory afforestation of 162.00 Ha degraded Forest Land was already carried out through State

the coal seams. Due to the location specific nature of availability of coal reserve forest land has to be chosen for this project. The 80.77 Ha forest land is located at Durgapur Opencast Coal Mining Project at Chandrapur District. This forest land was mined out during the period from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005 to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 vide Forest Clearance letter no.8-123/2003-FC issued by the MoEF & CC, New Delhi on dated 08<sup>th</sup> November 2005. This forest land is not falling in Eco-Sensitive Zone, Buffer Zone and Core Zone of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve at Chandrapur District. But, the forest compartment 400 and 401 in which 80.77 Ha., is located is falling under the Tiger Corridor of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. Hence as directed the by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Maharashtra State vide letter dated 14.02.2024, a Wildlife Clearance proposal was submitted in Parivesh 2.0 Portal vide proposal number: WL/MH/MIN/QRY/463196/ 2024 on dated 27.02.2024. The proposal dtd.27-2-2024 is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-2**.

4. That, a part of the above, subsequently the Government of India has notified 410.96 Ha land area including adjacent forest land admeasuring 121.58 Ha through CBA (A&D) Act 1957 notification vide S.O.No.2922 dated 25.11.2010. Hence, renewal of forest clearance of 80.77 Ha., forest land become indispensable to approach the 121.58 Ha Forest Land for the user agency. It is pertinent to mention that the 121.58 Ha has been diverted vide letter F.No. 8-84-



15.05.2024	Desk-17/FCA-S1/PID-11192/Chandrapur/ 353	APCCF (Nodal Officer), Nagpur has forwarded point-wise compliance to the Principal Secretary (Forests), Revenue & Forest Department, Mantralaya, Mumbai
19.06.2024	FLD-2019/CR-310/F-10	Under Secretary (Forests), Revenue & Forest Department forwarded the FC proposal to MoEF & CC, New Delhi
02.08.2024	8-123/2003-FCVol. I/78809/2024	MoEF & CC, New Delhi raised 22 point queries
02.08.2024	8-123/2003-FCVol. I/78808/2024	MoEF & CC, New Delhi instructed MoEF & CC - IRO-Nagpur for Site Inspection
29.08.2024	-	Site Inspection conducted by Shri. C.B.Tahsildar, AIGF-MoEF & CC, IRO, Nagpur
13.09.2024	WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV /4711	WCL submitted point wise reply to the queries to Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur
26.09.2024	Desk-14/Survey/Land/882	DFO, Chandrapur has submitted point-wise reply to Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Chandrapur Circle
07.10.2024	Desk-3(1)/Land/C.No.48/2024-25/1016	CCF-Chandrapur has forwarded the compliance report to APCCF (Nodal Officer), Van Bhavan, Nagpur
22.10.2024	Desk-17/FCA-81/PID-6704/Chandrapur/1671	Nodal Officer has submitted point wise reply to the Principal Secretary (Forests), Mantralaya, Mumbai

12. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has already conducted a Wildlife Assessment Study during the diversion of 121.58 Ha Forest Land located within the same mine lease boundary. The proposed 80.77 Ha Forest Land also part of the study. Further, vide letter dated 11.07.2022, the PCCF (WL), Maharashtra State has approved various Wildlife Mitigation measures during the diversion of 121.58 Ha forest land of the same Project.

proposal was already in place for renewal of forest clearance of 80.77 Ha. Further it is necessary to submit that this project is not involved with rehabilitation of any villages.

6. Hence in these peculiar circumstances an application/proposal for Renewal of Forest Clearance Proposal submitted to Divisional Forest Officer vide letter no. WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/6157 dated 31.01.2013/01.02.2013. APCCF (Nodal Officer), Maharashtra State has recommended the proposal and forwarded to the Principal Secretary (Forest), M.S. vide letter dated 23.08.2019. Principal Secretary (Forests), Maharashtra State has recommended the proposal and submitted the same to the Secretary, MoEF & CC vide letter dated 19.06.2024. The series of the above letters are annexed herewith as **Annexure R-6 to R-8** respectively.

7. It is submitted that the project is located at 12.25 km from the core area and 1.25 km from the buffer area of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra. Here it is submitted that the area is not adjacent to the core area, and hence the wild animal may move in and around the area, but it cannot be said that, the area has habitat of the wild animals. It is submitted that the area is adjoining to the notified buffer zone of Tadoba Andhari Tier Reserve and Part of tiger corridor which is very near to Chandrapur Town. It is submitted that there is approved plan for protection of Tiger which is spread across Tadoba Andhari to Kanhargāon to Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary. It is



09.04.2021	Desk-3(1)/Land/Pr.Kr.48/2020-21/2338	Compliance Report forwarded by CCF to APCCF, Van Bhavan, Nagpur
02-06-2021	Desk-1(B)/Survey/21-22/129	APCCF (WL) raised queries regarding tiger corridor, applicability of new proposal for Safety Zone area, etc.
10.01.2022	Desk-14/Survey/Land/1821	DFO issued letter to WCL for compliance of queries raised by APCCF (WL)
19.05.2023	F.No.6-1/2023 WL	NBWL recommended the diversion of 121.58 Ha Forest land.
06.06.2023	WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/85	Updated Compliance report submitted to DFO on queries raised by APCCF (WL), Nagpur vide letter dated 02.06.2021
19.06.2023	Desk-14/Survey/Land/413	DFO forwarded the Compliance report to Chief Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur Circle
10.07.2023	Desk-3(1)/Land/Pr.Kr.48/2023-24/472	CCF-Chandrapur Circle forwarded the Compliance Report to APCCF (WL), East Wing, Nagpur
27.07.2023	Desk-1(B)/Survey/23-24/450	APCCF (WL) has returned the proposal to CCF, Chandrapur Circle to scrutiny again and submit fresh proposal
24.08.2023	Desk-3(1)/Land/Pr.Kr.48/23-24/1660	CCF forwarded the APCCF (WL) letter dated 27.07.2023 to DFO, Chandrapur Forest Division
06.10.2023	Desk-14/Survey/Land/1642	DFO forwarded the communication to Area General Manager, Chandrapur Area
25.10.2023	WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/265	WCL submitted compliance to the query raised by APCCF (WL) vide letter dated 27.07.2023
27.10.2023	Desk-14/Survey/Land/1799	DFO forwarded the compliance of WCL to Chief Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur Circle
03.11.2023	Desk-3(1)/Land/Pr.Kr.48/2023-24/1072	Chief Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur Circle asked clarification to APCCF (Nodal Officer) about submission of new proposal
24.11.2023	Desk-17/Nodal/FCA/S1/PID-6704/ C'Pur/2023-24/2506	APCCF (Nodal Officer) given clarification to continue the already submitted FC Proposal in Parivesh 1.0.
01.12.2023	Desk-3(1)/Land/Pr.Kr.48/2023-24/1181	CCF, Chandrapur Circle forwarded the proposal to APCCF (WL), East Wing, Nagpur

9. That as already submitted WII after conducting a detailed study of the area, submitted its report vide report Dtd.25<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and suggested to divert the same with some stringent conditions to be complied with by the user agency to protect the flora and fauna of the said area with a prime intention to protect the wild life of the said area. As per which the WCL was asked to deposit an amount of Rs.91.00 lakhs to Tadoba Andhari Tiger Foundation which was deposited by the WCL on 15-10-2024.

10. That, at the risk of the repetition it is once again submitted that Durgapur Opencast Project is located 12.25 Kms away from the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. This project is not falling in Buffer Zone and Eco-Sensitive Zone of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. This project is started since 1979 and the proposed forest land was already diverted / mined out during the earlier forest clearance period from 08.11.2005 to 07.11.2013. Currently, the proposed 80.77 Ha forest land is lying with benches and water body for which WCL is applied for renewal of Forest Clearance and wildlife clearance. Copy of the map showing the 80.77 Ha is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-11**.

11. Though the area was already mined out, WCL is applied for Wildlife Clearance as per the directions of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests as above said. It is submitted that the answering respondents are receiving all the necessary applications from the WCL and it is following all the legal formalities for the diversion of forest

	Pr.Kr.292/ 1237/2024-25	(Forests), Revenue & Forest Dept., Maharashtra Government
12.08.2024	SBWL Meeting	SBWL Meeting held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Maharashtra State
26.08.2024	WLP.08.24/Pr.Kr.2 49/F-2	Minutes of the SBWL Meeting by Under Secretary (Forests)
30.08.2024	Desk- 23(2)/WL/Survey/ Pr.Kr.191/ 1772/2024-25	PCCF (WL) has issued a demand letter stating with 2 conditions
15.10.2024	2% Payment	Payment towards Wildlife Mitigation as per condition of the PCCF (WL), M.S
22.10.2024	Desk- 5/Survey/Pr.Kr. / 2729	Field Director (TATR) issued confirmation receipt of payment and forwarded compliance of SBWL to PCCF (WL), M. S
24.10.2024	Desk- 14/Survey/Survey/ Land/1047	DFO, Chandrapur has forwarded the SBWL Compliance along with Stamp Paper undertaking to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur Circle
28.10.2024	Desk- 3(1)/Land/Pr.Kr.4 8(1)/2024-25/1207	Chief Conservator of Forest, Chandrapur Circle has forwarded the compliance report to APCCF (WL), East Wing, Nagpur
31.10.2024	Desk- 1(b)/Survey/Pr.Kr. 295/24-25/779	APCCF (WL) has forwarded the compliance report to the Office of the PCCF(WL)
18.11.2024	Desk- 23(2)/WL/Survey/ Pr.Kr.292/ 4238/2024-25	PCCF (WL) agreed with the compliance report and forwarded the Part IV to the Principal Secretary (Forests), Revenue & Forest Dept, Maharashtra State

### Chronology of Proposal till June 2024 (Forest)

08.11.2005 to 07.11.2013	MoEF letter no.8-123/2003- FC	Diversion of 80.77 Ha Forest Clearance approved for 8 years
01.02.2013	WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV /6157	Proposal for renewal of 80.77 Ha forest clearance submitted to DFO, Chandrapur
10.09.2015	FP/MH/MIN/6704/2014	Renewal of 80.77 Ha forest clearance

19.03.2024	WCL/CHA/AGM/P LG/REV/9780	WCL also wrote a letter to Wildlife Institute of India - Dehradun for clarification regarding separate Wildlife Impact Assessment Study for 80.77 Ha Forest Land
27.03.2024	Site inspection by DFO	DFO & WCL Team Visited the 80.77 Ha Forest Land for the proposal of Wildlife Clearance
28.03.2024	Tree Counting	RFO Submitted Revised Tree Felling Report
04.04.2024	Desk- 14/Survey/Land/3 5	DFO forwarded to proposal to CCF, Chandrapur Circle
10.04.2024	Desk- 3(1)/Land/Pr.Kr.4 8/2024-25/ 29	CCF forwarded to APCCF, (Wildlife) East Nagpur
29.04.2024	Desk- 1(B)/Survey/24- 25/119	APCCF raised queries on Wildlife Clearance Proposal
09.05.2024	Site Inspection by CCF	CCF & WCL Team Visited the 80.77 Ha Forest Land for the proposal of Wildlife Clearance
10.05.2024	WCL/CHA/AGM/P LG/PA/45	WCL clarified plantation activities proposed in the wildlife mitigation measures
10.05.2024	Desk- 3(1)/Land/Pr.Kr. 48/2024-25/162	CCF forwarded to APCCF, (Wildlife) East Nagpur
16.05.2024	WII/AE&CB/BH/ WL/Mining/ 2019- 01	WII-Dehradun has clarified that separate Wildlife Study is not required for 80.77 Ha Forest Land
20.05.2024	WCL/CHA/AGM/P LG/REV/ 1344	WCL has submitted the clarification given by WII-Dehradun to Principal Secretary (Forests), Revenue & Forests Department, M.S. and to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, M.S.
20.05.2024	WCL/CHA/AGM/P LG/REV/1344	WCL submitted the clarification received from WII-Dehradun to the Principal Secretary (Forests), M.S with a copy to the PCCF (WL) and Nodal Officer, M.S.
27.05.2024	Desk- 1(B)/Survey/24- 25/187	APCCF (WL) has forwarded the proposal to the PCCF (WL), M.S.
23.07.2024	Desk- 23(2)/WL/Survey/	PCCF (WL), M.S. has forwarded the Wildlife Clearance proposal to the Principal Secretary



land. During expiry of the earlier approval, 8.00 million tonnes of coal reserve was blocked under the excavated benches of the 80.77 Ha Forest Land. It is pertinent to mention that the proposed 80.77 Ha Forest Land is located between the diverted 121.58 Ha Forest Land and mining area within the project. It is humbly submitted that the diverted benches of 80.77 Ha Forest Land having 8.00 Million Tonnes of Coal Reserve, and also to approach the adjacent 121.58 hectares area for further mining extension is required. The renewal of forest clearance proposal was submitted in February 2013 and Wildlife Clearance proposal was submitted in February 2024 itself. Chronology of events of Forest Clearance and Wildlife clearance are enclosed hereunder in tubular form for kind reference.

**Chronology of Proposal till June 2024(wild life):**

Date	Letter No./Activity	Description
14.02.2024	Desk-23(2)/WL/Survey/Pr.Kr.292/ 5236/2023-24	This land had been diverted in 2005 for a period of 8 years. FC renewal proposal had been forwarded by DFO, CCF, Field Director TATR and APCCF (WL) to PCCF (WL) without Wildlife clearance as Mitigation Plan had been approved and implemented during FC of adjacent 121.58 ha. Surprisingly, PCCF (WL), directed to apply for Wildlife Clearance.
27.02.2024	Submission of Wildlife Clearance Proposal online - 463196	Accordingly, WCL submitted <u>online</u> Wildlife Clearance Proposal for renewal forest clearance of 80.77 Ha Forest Land
05.03.2024	Drone Survey	Drone Survey conducted.
14.03.2024	WCL/CHA/AGM/P LG/PA/4837	Hard Copy of Wildlife Clearance Proposal submitted to DFO, Chandrapur

		proposal submitted online (Parivesh 1.0)
03.12.2016	Desk-5/Survey/Land/2043	DFO requested to submit FRA certificate
19.06.2017	WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/1922	Original FRA Certificate submitted to DFO
06.02.2018	Site Inspection by DFO	DFO instructed RFO to count the number of trees to be felled
22.03.2018	Desk-5/Survey/Land/2765	DFO forwarded the proposal to Chief Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur Circle
31.03.2018	Desk-3(1)/Land/Pra.Kra.PR-48/6639	CCF raised queries regarding DGPS Map, Cost Benefit Analysis, Justification of the project, Outer Boundary Map and several other queries
17/18.09.2018	WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/2065	Compliance Report against the queries raised by CCF have been submitted to DFO, Chandrapur
24.12.2018	Site Inspection by CCF	CCF instructed to include the details of trees to be felled in the 80.77 Ha Forest Land
23.08.2019	Desk-17/NC/I/I.D-/896/19-20	APCCF/Nodal Officer (Forests) scrutinized the proposal and forwarded it to State Government with his recommendation
01.01.2021	FLD-2019/Pr.Kr.310/F-90	Under Secretary, Revenue & Forest Dept. Maharashtra Government raised a query Regarding Wildlife Corridor and felling of trees
20.01.2021	Desk 23(2)/WL/Survey/Pr.Kr/ 2546/2020-21	PCCF (WL) forwarded the queries to CCF, Chandrapur
01.02.2021	Desk-3(1)/Land.Pr.Kr.48/2020-21/ 3199	CCF forwarded the queries to DFO-Chandrapur
11.02.2021	Desk-14/Survey/Land/1619	DFO-Chandrapur gave comments and submitted reply to the queries to CCF-CHA.
02.03.2021	WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/ 6844	WCL also submitted reply to the queries with additional information to DFO
03.03.2021	Desk-14/Survey/Land/1719	DFO forwarded the reply submitted by WCL to CCF, Chandrapur Circle
25.03.2021	Desk-3(1)/Pr.Kr.481/2019-20/ 4079	CCF, Chandrapur raised a query to DFO on tree felling and comments on wildlife.
05.04.2021	Desk-14/Survey/Land/05	DFO-CHA replied the queries

submitted that as per bonafide understanding of answering respondents proposed project is not against wildlife and environment but also not against human being which will end anger human life and safety, particularly when the area sought for renewal is already mined out, and the renewal is for approach the adjacent area of 121.58 Hectares of land.

8. That, here it is not out of place to mention that on 27/02/2024 the WCL had submitted application for wild life clearance for the area of 80-77 H.ares to the respondents/Forest Department online and on 14-3-2024 a hard copy was also submitted to the Divisional Forest Officer i.e. the answering respondent. After which a drone survey was also conducted. The copy of proposal is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-9**. Thereafter the user agency as per the requirement wrote a letter to Wild Life Institute of India whether a separate wild life impact assessment study for 80.77 hectares of land, since the study for 121.58 hectares was already done. However, the WII has opined that there is no necessity to conduct the separate study as per their letter dtd. 16-5-2024. The letter dtd.16-5-2024 is annexed herewith as Annexure R-10. But, study was conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and the recommendations were suggested by the WII under their assessment report, Dtd.25<sup>th</sup> June 20214, to be followed. The copy of WII report is annexed as **Annexure R-10**.

13.12.2023	Desk-1(B)/Survey/23-24/1022	APCCF(WL) asked comments from Field Director (TATR), Chandrapur
26.12.2023	Desk-5/Survey/Pr.Kr./2023-24/ 2119	Reply submitted to APCCF (WL) by Field Director, TATR.
16.01.2024	Desk-1(B)/Survey/23-24/1039	APCCF (WL) agreed and submitted the compliance report to PCCF (WL).
14.02.2024	Desk-23(2)/WL/Survey//Pr.Kr.292/ 5236/2023-24	<b>PCCF (WL) suggested to take Wildlife Clearance to 80.77 Ha Forest Land</b>
19.02.2024	WCL/CHA/DOSA/SAM/4446 Copy of the appeal submitted to DIGF, AIGF in New Delhi, Principal Secretary (Forests), Revenue & Forest Dept., Mantralaya, Mumbai	WCL submitted an appeal to PCCF (WL) to process the forest clearance of 80.77 Ha without imposing Wildlife Clearance. It was clarified that 98% of 80.77 Ha forest land is already mined out and Wildlife Mitigation Measures approved for the adjacent 121.58 Ha (in same forest compartments 400 & 4001) by his office is for the whole Durgapur OC Project.
27.02.2024	Wildlife Clearance Proposal - 463196	Wildlife Clearance Proposal was submitted online for renewal forest clearance of 80.77 Ha Forest Land
14.03.2024	WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/PA/4837	Hard Copy of Wildlife Clearance Proposal submitted to DFO, Chandrapur
15.03.2024	WCL/CHA/PLG/REV/10/6	Letter to DFO, Chandrapur for forwarding the compliance of 80.77 Ha Forest Clearance
27.03.2024	Desk-14/Survey/Land/2356	DFO, Chandrapur has forwarded the compliance report to Chief Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur Circle
10.04.2024	Desk-3(1)/Land/Pr.Kr.48/2024-25	CCF, Chandrapur Circle has forwarded the compliance against the queries on 80.77 Ha FC Proposal
06.05.2024	WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/952	Point-wise reply against the query raised by State Government vide letter dated 01.01.2024 has been submitted to DFO, Chandrapur as suggested by the Office of Nodal Officer, Van Bhavan
07.05.2024	Desk-14/Survey/Land/185	DFO, Chandrapur has forwarded the point-wise reply to the CCF, Chandrapur
09.05.2024	Desk-3(1)/Land/Pr.Kr.48/2024-25/138	CCF, Chandrapur Circle has forwarded the point-wise reply with his specific comments to APCCF (Nodal officer), Van Bhavan, Nagpur

2014-FC, dated 22.12.2021 by MoEF & CC, New Delhi. The letter dated 22.12.2021 by MoEF & CC is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-3**. National Board of Wildlife has recommended the diversion of 121.58 Ha Forest Land vide letter dated 19.05.2023. The letter dated 19.5.2023 by NBWL is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-4**. Thereafter the Maharashtra State Government has issued a diversion order vide FLD-3613/C.R/251/F-10 dated 26.09.2023. the said diversion order dtd. FLD-3613/C.R/251/F-10 dated 26.09.2023 is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-5**. Tree felling is under progress on 121.58 Ha Forest Land, is also undertaken by the answering respondents.

5. That, as already submitted above the Coal reserve from 50.77 Ha out 80.77 Ha was extracted during the earlier diversion. However, coal reserve left in benches below 80.77 Ha forest land is 8.00 Million Tonnes (approx.) at the time of closure of operation in the area. This reserve could not be extracted because vertical mining cannot be done. The area of benches is measured as 30.00 Ha (approx.). The Project was directly linked to Pit head of Chandrapur Super Thermal Power station (CSTPS) for generation of electricity which is supplied to the public through MAHAGENCO. About 40% of the coal demanded by CSTPS is being supplied through this project. Hence, this on-going project which will caters the energy demand of the nation. This area was already mined out and forest clearance

13. It is stated that a research project "Understanding the impacts of mining areas of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) and Chandrapur Thermal Power Plant, Chandrapur" is already being carried out by WII, Dehradun as mandated by the 324<sup>th</sup> Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forest on "Status of Forests in India. The aim of the study is to assess the impacts of all mines (opencast and underground) in the Chandrapur district and provide a detailed assessment of the impacts of mines and an integrated wildlife mitigation and management plan for the WCL mining areas in the district. The outcome of the suggestions will be carried out by WCL.

14. Further, as per the condition of the PCCF (WL), 2% of Project Cost Rs.91.00 Lakh has been deposited to the account of Executive Director, TATR Foundation vide UTR NO. SBINR12024101555358939 dated 15.10.2024. The information given in this article are exaggerated and suppression of facts. **Though the area is falling in tiger corridor, 98% of the project area was already mined out during the earlier forest clearance period.** As per the site inspection reports, 93 trees and bushes only left out in the proposed 80.77 Ha forest land. But, the article was not considered this fact and portrayed the 80.77 Ha is a fresh diversion. Hence, there is no significant impact / damage to the tiger ecology with this diversion. Facts can be verified by the recent Site Inspection Report of the

for coal mine for which, the WCL is intending to start operation in the forest area in which there are wildlife and Schedule-I Animals, however while doing the expansion the WCL did not cause any harm to the environment including forest, wildlife and human being. It is submitted that if coal mining operation is allowed in the forest area in that event wildlife will not be disturbed.

2. That, as submitted above an area 338.85 Ha Forest Land had been acquired by WCL vide CBA (A&D) Act 1957 S.O.No. 450E dated 04.08.1979 for coal mining on Durgapur Opencast Project, Chandrapur District of Maharashtra, out of the same Forest Clearance obtained for 80.77 Ha out of 338.85 Ha vide MoEF, New Delhi letter F.no.8-123/2003-FC, dated 08.11.2005 for the period of 08 years. The letter dated 08.11.2005 is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-1**. The Compartment wise break up of 80.77 Ha Forest Land has been given below:

Sr. No.	Compartment / Survey No.	Type of Forest	Division	Area in Ha.	Purpose
1	Comptt. No. 400	Reserve Forest	Chandrapur	39.15	Mining
2	Comptt. No. 401	Reserve Forest	Chandrapur	41.62	
		<b>Total</b>		<b>80.77</b>	

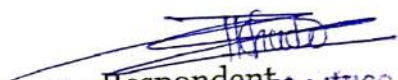
3. The location of the site for coal mining operation fully depends upon nature as per deposit of minerals and Geological structure of

Forest Department for which WCL has made payment during the diversion.

16. That, in view of the above submissions it is clear like a crystal that, the news item as published in the news paper is without sufficient enquiry and knowing the factual ground situation but only with an ulterior motive to defame the answering respondent's reputation.


Chandrapur

Date.

  
 Respondent  
 Divisional Forest Officer  
 Chandrapur Division Chandrapur

#### VERIFICATION

I, Prashant Khanderao Khade, age 45 Yrs, Occu. Service, as Divisional Forest Officer R/o Chandrapur, the respondent no 1. do hereby verify that, the above solemn affirmation is true to my personal knowledge and belief, hence verified and signed on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

  
 Respondent no 1.  
 Divisional Forest Officer  
 Chandrapur Division Chandrapur

I know and identify the deponent

  
 (Adv.S.Venugopal)



Notarial Regr.

Entry No. 1995

Date 29/12/2025

worn before me on 29th Feb, 2025  
by Shri Prashant  
S/o. W/o. Chandraso Madhe  
R/o Chandrapur  
who is identified by Adv. S. Venugopal  
who signed the

*[Signature]*

D. R. Patil,  
Advocate & Notary (Govt. of India)  
Regd. No. 10135/13 Chandrapur (M.S.)



E. No. 8-123/2003-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests  
(FC Division)



Paryavaran Bhawan  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi-110 003

Dated : 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005

To

The Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Maharashtra,  
Mumbai.

Sub: Diversion of 80.77 ha of forest land for Durgapur open cast coal mine project, in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. FLD-3603/CR-40/F-10 dated 28.10.2003 and subsequent letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/CR-11192/2691/04-05 dated 20.01.2005 and letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/CR-11192/1082/05-06 dated 26.09.2005 on the above mentioned subject whereunder the above proposal and compliance of various conditions was submitted, seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, the Central Government hereby conveys its approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 80.77 ha of forest land for Durgapur open cast coal mine project, in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra, subject to fulfilment of following conditions :-

- (i) ✓ Legal status of the forest shall remain unchanged.
- (ii) ✓ Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over degraded forest land double in extent to the area being diverted, i.e., over 162.00 ha and shall be maintained at the project cost.
- (iii) ✓ The lease period under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be for 8 years.
- (iv) ✓ The State Government should transfer amount of NPV and other funds to Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), which has already been constituted and notified by the Central Government on 23.04.2004. Till such time, the CAMPA intimates the Head of Accounts for deposition of funds, the funds will be maintained in the form of fixed deposits in the name of Nodal Officer or concerned Divisional Forest Officer of the State Government. The funds realized towards the NPV shall not be utilized by the State Government.
- (v) ✓ RCC pillars of 4 feet height shall be erected to demarcate the area by the user agency at the project cost and will be marked with forward and back bearings.

- (vi) The user agency shall raise, fence and maintain a safety zone around the mining area and will also raise and maintain the plantation over an area one and half times in extent of the safety zone at the project cost.
- (vii) All necessary measures should be taken by the user agency to protect the environment.
- (viii) The user agency should implement the reclamation works as per the reclamation plan. Monitoring of the reclamation works should be done continuously by the State Forest Department. The user agency shall submit progress report of reclamation works to the State Forest Department and Regional Office, Bhopal.
- (ix) Trees shall be felled only when it becomes necessary and that too under strict supervision of State Forest Department, and at the cost of the project.
- (x) No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
- (xi) Sufficient firewood shall be provided by the user agency to the labourers at the project cost after purchase from the State Forest Department/Forest Development Corporation.
- (xii) The user agency shall ensure that there should be no damage to the available wildlife.
- (xiii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (xiv) The forest land thus diverted shall be non-transferable. Whenever the forest land is not required, it shall be surrendered to the State Forest Department under intimation to this Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Pankaj Asthana)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to :

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office, Bhopal.
4. User Agency/Shri M.K. Shukla, CGM, Coal India Limited, Core-1, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Scope Minar, Vikas Marg, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi.
5. RO (HQ)/Monitoring Cell, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

OSD(L&P)



(Pankaj Asthana)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

5

6

F.No. 8-123/2003-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi - 110003,  
Dated : 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2004

LDALW  
11192

82E  
20/4/04

To  
The Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Maharashtra,  
Mumbai

Sub: Diversion of 80.77 ha of forest land for Durgapur Open Cast Coal Mining Project (OCP) in Chandarpur district of Maharashtra.

27(1) Sir

22-5-03

27/4  
Eshwari

I am directed to refer to your letter No. FLD-3603/CR-40/F-10, dated 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2003 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and say that the proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section 3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee mentioned above, the Central Government hereby agrees in-principle for diversion of 80.77 ha of forest land for Durgapur Open Cast Coal Mining Project (OCP) in favour of Western Coal Fields Ltd in Chandarpur district of Maharashtra subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-

1. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of Compensatory Afforestation over degraded forest land, double in extent of the forest land diverted under the proposal (i.e. 2 x 81 = 162.00 ha.) to the State Forest Department.
2. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of removal of 1,044 trees from the diverted forest land to the State Forest Department.
3. The User Agency shall raise and maintain a safety zone (including fencing, regeneration etc.), making 7.5 mtrs strip of the forest land all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area at the project-cost.
4. The User Agency shall, in addition to the Compensatory Afforestation, transfer the cost of plantation on 3.94 ha of degraded forest land (other than that identified for raising CA), which is 1.5 times the area falling as the safety zone, to the State Forest Department.
5. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value of the forest area diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30.10.2002 and 01.08.2003 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide letters No. 5-1/1998-FC (Pt. II) dated 18.09.2003 and 22.09.2003 in this regard.

Cont. page 2.

proposed 80.77

- 2 -

All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Agency (CAMPA). Till such time CAMPA is created, such funds shall be kept in the form of Fixed Deposits in the name of the concerned DFO or the Nodal Officer in any Nationalised Bank as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests dated 22-03-2004.

After receipt of compliance report from the State Government on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal will be considered for its final approval under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be effected till the formal order of final approval is issued by the Central Government in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

/

(Sandeep Kumar),

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copies:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal.
4. The General Manager, Western Coal Field Ltd, Chandrapur, Maharashtra.
5. RO (HQ), New Delhi.
6. Guard file



(Sandeep Kumar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Seeking recommendation of Standing Committee of NBWL/ SBWL

Project Name: DURGAPUR OPENCAST PROJECT

Proposal Number: WL/MH/MIN/QRY/463196/2024

State: MAHARASHTRA

Single Window Number: SW/172290/2024

Common Application Form

Project Details

1. Details of Project

1.1. Name of the Project	DURGAPUR OPENCAST PROJECT
1.2. Project Proposal For	Expansion
1.3. Whether proposal expansion is made under 7 (ii) (a)?	NO
1.4. Project ID (Single Window Number)	SW/172290/2024
1.5. Description of Project	The project is located in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State which caters coal to the Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station. Wildlife Clearance of 80.77 Ha Forest Land for Coal Mining Purpose. Forest Clearance obtained for 80.77 Ha Forest Land during 2005-2013 and renewal of FC Proposal is in process. This 80.77 Ha forest land is part of Reserve Forest Compartments 400 & 401 falling in the Wildlife Corridor located in south of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve connecting to Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary to Indravati Tiger Project in Chhattisgarh State

2. Details of the Company/Organization/User Agency making application

2.1. Legal Status of the Company/Organization/User Agency	Central PSU (eg. NHAI, AAI, NTP, CIL, SAIL)
2.2. Name of the Company/ Organization/User agency	Western Coalfields Ltd

Registered address

2.3. Address	Area General Manager Chandrapur Area Chandrapur PO Babupeth Chandrapur Area General Manager Chandrapur Area Chandrapur PO Babupeth Chandrapur
2.4. Village /Town / City	Durgapur
2.5. State	MAHARASHTRA
2.6. District	CHANDRAPUR
2.7. Pin Code	442404
2.8. Landmarks	Office of the Sub Area Manager, Durgapur Sub Area
2.9. E-mail address	gmwclcha@gmail.com
2.10. Landline Number	0712253322
2.11. Mobile number	8275967501

3. Details of the person making application

3.1. Name	Boopathi Lakshmanan
3.2. Designation	Deputy Manager

Correspondence address

3.3. Address	Office of the Area General Manager, WCL- Chandrapur Area
3.4. Village /Town / City	Durgapur
3.5. State	MAHARASHTRA
3.6. District	CHANDRAPUR
3.7. Pin Code	442404
3.8. E-mail address	boopathil@coalindia.in
3.9. Landline Number	253322
3.10. Mobile number	9962770888

Project Location

4. Location of the Project or Activity

4.1. Upload KML	80.77 Ha.kml
4.2. Whether the project/activity falling in the state/UT sharing international borders	NO
5. Shape of the Project	Non - Linear

Location Details

Toposheet No	State/UT	District	Sub District	Village	Plot/Survey/Khasra No.
E44B5	MAHARASHTRA	Chandrapur	Chandrapur	RESERVED FOREST	400
F44T8	MAHARASHTRA	Chandrapur	Chandrapur	RESERVED FOREST	401

Remarks

Forest Land is falling in Survey of India Toposheet No. 55P8, 56M5, 55P4, 56M1 in Reserve Forest Compartments of Chandrapur Forest Range & Division

## 6. Land Requirement (in Ha) of the project or activity

Nature of Land involved in (Ha)	Area Existing in Ha [X]	Additional Area Proposed in Ha [Y]	Total Area required after expansion in Ha [X+Y]
Non-Forest Land [A]	0	0	0
Forest Land [B]	0	80.77	80.77
Total [A+B]	0	80.77	80.77

## Project Activity Cost

## 6. Project/Activity Cost

6.1. Cost of the Existing Project at current price level (in Lakhs) [A]	0
6.2. Cost of the proposed expansion/ modernization of Project at current price level (in Lakhs) [B]	4551
6.3. Total Cost of the project/ Activity (in lakhs) [A+B]	4551

## 7. Employment likely to be generated

## 7.1. During construction phase

## Permanent employment

7.1.1. No. of permanent employment (No.s) [A]	0
7.1.2. Period of employment (No. of days) [B]	0
7.1.3. No. of man-days [X]=[A]*[B]	0

## Temporary employment

7.1.4. Temporary / Contractual employment (No. of Man days) [Y]	0
7.1.5. Total [X] +[Y]	0

## 7.2. During operational phase

## Permanent employment

	Existing	Proposed	Total
7.2.1. No. of permanent employment (No.s) [A]	1021	0	1021
7.2.2. Period of employment (No. of days) [B]	365	0	365
7.2.3. No. of man-days [X]=[A]*[B]	372665	0	372665

## Temporary employment

7.2.4. Temporary / Contractual employment (No. of Man days) [Y]	290	0	290
7.2.5. Total [X] +[Y]	372955	0	372955

## Others

8. Whether Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) involved?	NO
9. Whether project area involves shifting of watercourse/road/rail/Transmission line/water pipeline, etc. required?	NO
10. Whether any alternative site(s) examined or part thereof for the non-site-specific component?	Not applicable as the project or activity is site specific
11. Whether there is any Government Order or Policy/ Court order relevant or restricting to the site?	NO
12. Whether there is any litigation pending against the project and/or land in which the project is proposed to be set up?	NO
13. Whether the proposal involves violation of Act/Rule/Regulation/Notification of Central/State Government?	NO

## Part-I &amp; Part-II (Seeking recommendation of Standing Committee of NBWL/ SBWL)

## Project Details

## Wildlife Clearance

14 State	MAHARASHTRA
15 Whether proposal is for investigation/survey?	No
16 Upload a copy of note containing justification for locating the project in protected area	Justification for locating the project in protected area.pdf
17 Category of the project	Mining / Quarrying
18 Category of area required	Tiger Corridor
19 Whether any proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act for diversion of forest land required for this project has been submitted in the past?	Yes

Status of the Proposal	Proposal No. / SW No. / CDN No	Project Name	MoEFCC File No	Area proposed for Diversion (Ha)	Area Diverted (Ha)	Recommend Area For Diversion	Date of in-principle approval	Date of final approval	Date of Application
Submitted and under process	FP/MH/MN/5704/2014	Durgapur Open Cast Project	B-123/2003-FC	80.77	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA	10-09-2015

## Proposed Land

## 20. Location of project / activity with respect to Protected Area

20.1 Location of Project Area	Other
20.1.1 Please specify	Tiger Corridor falling south direction of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve which connects Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary to Indravati Tiger Reserve Project in Chhattisgarh State.

## 21. Detailed breakup of land required for the project

21.1 No. of Divisions involved in Protected Areas

1

## 21.2.1 Details of the proposed land

Division	Total Patches	Kml
CHANDRAPUR DIVISION WL	3	47602132_WL_KML_1708158463857_80.77 Ha.kml
		47602132_WL_KML_1708158463857_80.77 Ha.kml
		N/A
		47602132_WL_KML_1708158463857_80.77 Ha.kml

## 21.2.2 Location Details

Division	Toposheet No.	District	Village	Range	Proposed area inside PA (ha)	Proposed area outside PA (ha)
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## 21.3 Remarks Details

Remarks

## 21.4.1 Division-wise breakup of land required

Name of the District	Name of the Division	Name of the protected area/ Tiger Reserve	Project area under Protected Area/Tiger Reserve (Ha)			Project area outside Protected Area (Ha)		
			Forest	Non-Forest	Total	Forest	Non-Forest	Total
CHANDRAPUR	CHANDRAPUR DIVISION WL	Tiger Corridor falling south direction of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve	0	0	0	80.77	0	80.77
Total Area (ha)			80.77					

## 21.4.2 Component-wise breakup of land required

Non Linear

Sr No.	Component	Name of the PA	Project area under PA (X) (ha)			Project area outside PA (Y) (ha)			Component Area (X + Y) (ha)
			Forest	Non-Forest	Total	Forest	Non-Forest	Total	
1	Mining	Tiger Corridor falling south direction of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve	0	0	0	80.77	0	80.77	80.77

Total Component Area (ha)

80.77

21.5 Total period for which land is required(years)

25

21.6 Aerial distance of the project from the boundary of the PA (km)

12.25

21.7 Project area under PA / Tiger Corridor/ Tiger Reserve / ESZ (ha)

80.77

21.9 No. of trees proposed to be cut

93

21.10 Scanned copy of the Geo-referenced map of the project area with respect to the protected area prepared by using DGPS or Total Station (pdf only)

DGPS.pdf

21.11 Copy of Biodiversity Impact Assessment report (In case the proposal involves use of more than 50 ha. of NP/WLS)

Bio-diversity Impact assessment report.pdf

21.12 Information on the projects undertaken by the proponent

21.12 - Annexure I.pdf

22 Cost-benefit analysis in terms of maintenance of carbon neutrality or increase in carbon sequestration\*

Cost Benefit - Carbon Neutrality.pdf

23 Whether the Project requires Clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (Environmental clearance)?

Yes

23.1 Status of Environmental Clearance

EC granted

23.1.1 Proposal ID/Proposal No.

IA/MH/CMIN/52601/2008

23.1.2 Date of issue of environmental clearance

10-11-2017

23.1.3 MoEFCC / SEIAA File Number

J-11015/165/2009-IA-II(M)

23.1.4 Upload EC Letter (In pdf)

EC DOCP (10.11.2017) - J-1101562008\_IA-II (M).pdf

## Category Specific Details

24. Upload information on previous projects undertaken by the proponent agency in Protected Areas

Information on Project Undertaken by PA in Post.pdf

25. Copy of approved mining plan along with approval letter

Approved Mining Plan &amp; Approval Letter.pdf

26. Copy of map of the outer boundary of mining lease area (pdf only)

Revenue Plan.pdf

27. Copy of the detailed land use plan in 1:4,000 scale prepared by using DGPS or Total Station (Kml only)

47602132\_WL\_ALT\_KML\_1708928977835\_80.77 Ha.kml

28. Copy of the approved Biodiversity Impact Assessment report in the community extension (Kml only)

Biodiversity Impact Assessment report (Kml).pdf

28. Copy of the prospecting licence and extension of the prospecting licence, if any	Prospecting License - Sec 4(i) SO 1302.pdf
29. Copy of the approval accorded for MoEFCC for prospecting	Prospecting License - Sec 4(i) SO 1302.pdf
30. Copy of note containing details of the plan for the transportation of the minerals proposed to be raised from the mining lease (pdf only)	Transportation.pdf

**31. Period of validity of Mining Plan**

31.1 From	21-02-2017
31.2 To	20-02-2041

**32. Period of Mining Lease(Years)**

**33. Mineral Reserves**

Name of Mineral	Proved Reserves	Indicated Reserves	Inferred Reserves	Mineable Reserves	Remarks
COAL	8	8	8	8	

**34. Details of Letter of Intent (LoI) / Vesting order / Mining Lease**

34.1 Date of issue of LoI/Vesting order/Mining Lease	04-08-1979
34.2 Period of validity of LoI / Vesting order (years and months)	41/02
34.3 Period of lease (years and months)	41/02
34.4 Date of expiry of lease	20-02-2041
34.5 Lease area (In ha) as per LoI/Vesting order/Mining Lease	1597.5
34.6 Production capacity (In MTPA) as per LoI / Vesting Order / Mining lease, if any prescribed	3
34.7 Details of lease renewal(s), if any	MINE LEASE AREA WAS ACQUIRED THROUGH CBA (A&D) ACT 1957.
34.8 Other information, if any	RENEWAL OF FOREST CLEARANCE

**35. Status of approval of Mining plan**

Status of approval of Mining plan	Approved
-----------------------------------	----------

**36. Minerals to be mined**

Name of Mineral	Classification	Production Capacity	Remarks
COAL	Major	3	AS PER PRESENT EC

**37. Details of Total excavation (RoM) including Topsoil, Overburden, Mining waste, Rejects, etc.**

37.1 Total excavation in MTPA	3
37.2 Total Excavation in M.Cu.m/Annum	342.67
37.3 Stripping Ratio	114.2233
37.4 Other information, if any	MINE WORKED BY OPENCAST METHOD

**38. Life of mine (years and months)**

38.1 Life of the mine as per approved mining plan (in years and months)	17/00
38.2 Life of the mine as per total estimated reserves, if any (in years and months)	17/00
38.3 Other information, if any	

**39. Type and method of Mining Method**

39.1 Type of mining	Opencast
39.2 Method of mining	Mechanized
39.3 Other information, if any	

**40. Type of blasting, if any, to be adopted**

40.1 Type of blasting	OFF THE SOLID
40.2 Mitigation measures for control of blast induced vibrations	MITIGATION MEASURES TAKEN AS PER CMR 2017
40.3 Other information, if any	

**41. Whether it is proposed to install beneficiation plant/Coal washery within the mining lease area?**

Whether it is proposed to install beneficiation plant/Coal washery within the mining lease area?	No
--	----

**42. Whether it is proposed to install crusher within the mining lease area?**

Whether it is proposed to install crusher within the mining lease area?	Yes
42.1 No. Of crushers	2
42.2 Capacity of crushers	3 N/A
42.3 Total Capacity of crushers	3 N/A

**43. Dumping strategy**

Description	Area in Ha	Maximum height in m	Remarks
External dump	451.38	90	AS PER CMR 2017
Internal dump	680.68	60	AS PER CMR 2017
Topsoil dump/ storage	50.00	30	AS PER CMR 2017

**44. Topsoil management**

**44. Topsoil management**

44.1 Total Topsoil excavated during the entire life of the mine (mm3)	165
44.2 Utilization strategy of topsoil	AS A MINE CLOSURE ACTIVITY TOP SOIL SHALL BE SPREAD BACK ON THE INTERNAL DUMPS
44.3 Other information, if any	

**45. Details of the Quarry/Mine Pit**

45.1 Total Quarry Area (ha.)	660.58
45.2 Area of final void (ha.)	175
45.3 Maximum Depth of final void (m)	150
45.4 Other information, if any	

**46. Details of Transportation**

46.1 Mode of transportation upto pit head	BY DEPARTMENTAL HEMM
46.2 Mode of transportation from pit head to siding/loading	CONTRACTUAL TIPPER
46.3 Mode of transport from loading point to consumers	AERIAL ROPEWAY & MGR SYSTEM
46.4 Other information, if any	

**47. Details of reclamation/post mining land use**

47.1 Plantation area (ha.)	620
47.2 Water body (ha.)	175
47.3 Public use (ha.)	135
47.4 Other uses (ha.)	692.5

**48. Additional Information**

S. No.	Document Name	Remark	Document
1	Presentation on 80.77 Ha	Presentation of 80.77 Ha Forest Clearance of Durgapur OC Project, Chandrapur Area, WCL	DOC 80.77 Ha Presentation.pdf
2	Justification for locating project in Forest	80.77 Ha is already mined out during 2005 to 2013 with a Forest Clearance issued by MoEF, New Delhi. This clearance is sought for Renewal of Forest Clearance of 80.77 Ha which is under process at present.	Justification for locating in Forest.pdf
3	Undertaking for Linked end use of Project	The coal produced from the Durgapur OC Project is being supplied to CSTPS of MAHAGENCO for power generation	Linked End-Use of the Project.pdf
4	Undertaking by Project Proponent for tree felling	Undertaking by the Project Proponent for tree felling under supervision of State Forest Department	Undertaking reg tree felling.pdf
5	Stage II FC of DRC UG 462.43 Ha	Forest Clearance of 462.43 ha which was acquired vide CBA Notification 450E, dated 04.08.1979	DRC 462.43 Ha.pdf
6	Details regarding compliance of the conditions	Details regarding compliance of the conditions on each proposal	Details regarding compliance of the conditions on each proposal.pdf
7	Undertaking for 2% payment of Project Cost	Undertaking by the Project Proponent for payment of 2% of Project Cost towards Wildlife Mitigation	2% of Project Cost.pdf
8	Forest Clearance of 40.46 Ha	Forest handed over before FC Act 1980	Durgapur OC_40.46 Ha_23.05.1980_Before FCA 1980.pdf
9	NBWL Clearance of 121.58 Ha	Recommendation of National Board of Wildlife for 121.58 Ha	NBWL Clearance 121-58 Ha - 18-05-2023.pdf
10	Stage II FC - 121.58 Ha	Stage II FC of adjacent 121.58 Ha of Durgapur OC Project	Stage II FC of 121.58 Ha - F N 8 B4 2014 FC.pdf
11	Stage II FC - 136.54 Ha	Stage II FC of 136.54 Ha Forest Land of Durgapur OC Project	136.54 Ha_19.09.2005.pdf
12	Stage II of 80.77 Ha FC	80.77 Ha was diverted from 08.11.2005 to 07.11.2013. Renewal of 80.77 Ha Forest Clearance is in process	Stage II - 80-77 Ha - 08-11-2005.pdf
13	Land Acquisition by CBA	CBA Notification 450E dated 04.08.1979 - Adjacent 121.58 Ha Forest Land was acquired in this acquisition for expansion of Durgapur OC Project	CBA 2922.pdf
14	Land Acquisition by CBA	CBA Notification 450E dated 04.08.1979 - 80.77 Ha Forest Land was acquired in this acquisition	CBA 450E.pdf
15	KML file Mine Lease Boundary	KML file showing the mine lease boundary of Durgapur OC Project	Mine Lease Boundary - Durgapur OCP.kml
16	Payment details for Wildlife Mitigation	Rs.8.99 Crore has been paid towards activities to be implemented by State Forest Department- is deposited to CAMPA on 14.10.2023	Details of Rs.8-99 Cr Payment to CAMPA for Wildlife Mitigation.pdf
17	WII Study on Durgapur Deep OC	Wildlife Study Report submitted by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	Wild Life Study by WII, Dehradun.pdf
18	Approval and Approved Wildlife Mitigation Measures	Wildlife Mitigation Measures approved by PCCF (WL) for Durgapur Opencast Project	Approved Wildlife Mitigation Plan.pdf
19	Authority Letter	Authority Letter for making online application	Authority Letter.pdf
20	Google map	Google Map showing proposed 80.77 Ha, recently diverted 121.58 Ha and Mine Lease Boundary	Google Map showing 80.77 Ha & 121.58 Ha.pdf
21	Google Map showing the Project & TATR Zones	Google Earth Map showing 80.77 Ha in respect of Eco-Sensitive Zone, Buffer Zone and Core Zone of TATR, Chandrapur	Google Map showing Project with TATR Zones.pdf
22	Index Map 150,000 Scale	Survey of India Map showing Project Boundary, 80.77 Ha Forest Land, Eco-Sensitive Zone, Buffer Zone & Core Zone of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Chandrapur District	Index Map.pdf

**49. Undertaking**

I hereby give undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to be best of my knowledge and belief and I am aware that if any part of the data and information is found to be false or misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and clearance given if any to the project will be revoked at our risk and cost. In addition to the above, I hereby give undertaking that no activity/construction/expansion has been taken up

Name	Boopathi Lakshmanan
Designation	Deputy Manager
Company	Western Coalfields Ltd
Address	Office of the Area General Manager, WCL- Chandrapur Area
District	CHANDRAPUR
State	MAHARASHTRA
Pin	442404
Date	27-02-2024

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi - 110003  
Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2021

To  
The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Maharashtra,  
Mantralaya, Mumbai.


**Sub: Diversion of 121.58 ha of forest land for Durgapur Deep Extn. Open Cast Mine in favour of Western Coalfield Limited in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra's letter No. FLD-3613/CR-251/F-10 dated 12.08.2014 on the above mentioned subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of 121.58 ha of forest land for Durgapur Deep Extn. Open Cast Mine in favour of Western Coalfield Limited in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, *In-principle approval/Stage-I clearance* for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 16.12.2015 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Maharashtra vide letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/ID 12159/1473/17-18 dated 20.09.2017, letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/ID 12159/2425/18-19 dated 27.03.2019, letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/ID11327/1018/18-19 dated 12.01.2021, letter No. Desk-17/NC/RS-I/ID-12159/655/20-21 dated 29.07.2021 and letter No. Desl-17/Nodal/Chandrapur/12159/294/21-22 dated 20.10.2021 '*Final/Stage-II approval*' of the Central Government is hereby accorded under Section -2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 121.58 ha of forest land for Durgapur Deep Extn. Open Cast Mine in favour of Western Coalfield Limited in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra State subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:


**A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land to user agency by the State Govt.:**

  
22/12/2021

- i. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency implements the R&R Plan as per the R&R Policy of State Government in consonance with National R&R Policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R Plan will be monitored by the State Government/Regional Office of MoEF &CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones;
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been completed in accordance with the relevant Rules and Guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC in this regard, before handing over of forest land to the user agency;
- iii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
- iv. The State Government shall ensure that proposed forest land i.e. 121.58 ha shall be handed over to the user agency only when the user agency has acquired the required non-forest land, if any, for the project;
- v. The State Government shall upload the KML files of the area under diversion and the accepted area for raising compensatory afforestation in the E-Green Watch portal of FSI, before handing over forest land to the user agency.

**B: Conditions which need to be complied after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Govt.:**

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over 11 patches of Degraded Forest land in Wadsa Forest Division in Gadchiroli Circle under Gadchiroli District, Maharashtra State. As far as practicable a mixture of local indigenous species will be planted and mono-culture of a species has to be avoided;
- iii. The user agency shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area, and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc.;
- iv. The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and transfer the same to the ad-hoc CAMPA under intimation to this Ministry;
- v. The user agency shall ensure that *Prosopis spp.* is eliminated from the existing plantation areas of WCL within Chandrapur in a phased manner by replacing with native species, which will greatly help in reducing the human-wildlife conflicts in the area;
- vi. The user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to

  
22/11/2021

## File No.8-84-2014-FC

be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;

- vii. The State Government shall constitute a Committee under the chairmanship of PCCF, Wildlife & CWLW to ensure continued monitoring and use of existing corridor by wildlife and suggesting the measures for maintenance of corridor functionality;
- viii. The State Government shall ensure that mitigation measures suggested by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun may be implemented by the User Agency;
- ix. User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located in the area within 100 m. from outer perimeter of the mining lease;
- x. The user agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the user agency, the Nodal Officer or the Dy. Director General (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed.
- xi. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- xii. The period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulating) Act, 1957, as amended or Rules framed there under;
- xiii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government;
- xiv. The User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xvi. No labour camps shall be set up inside the forest area. Labour management

  
24/11/2014

- plan should be implement with emphasis that no labour camp be set up in the close vicinity of the eco-fragile and sensitive areas;
- xvii.The Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xviii.The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xix.No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xx.No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused;
- xxi.The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
- xxii.The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- xxiii.The State Govt. shall ensure that the compliance report of this approval is uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xxiv.The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.21 of comprehensive guidelines issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019;
- xxv.Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency; and
- xxvi.The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 16.12.2015 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Suneet Bhardwaj)


Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Department of Forests, Government of Maharashtra,

File No.8-84-2014-FC

- Nagpur;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur;
  3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
  4. User Agency;
  5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEFCC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.



22/11/2017.

**F.No.6-1/2023 WL**  
 Government of India  
 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
 (Wild Life Division)

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Vayu Wing,  
 Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
 Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110003.

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

To,

**The Principal Secretary,**  
 Forest Department,  
 Government of Maharashtra,  
 Mantralaya, Mumbai.

**Sub:** Proposal for diversion of 121.58 Ha. Forest land for Durgapur extension deep Open Cast mining project by Western Coalfields Ltd. Chandrapur (Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve - Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary tiger corridor) -FP/MH/MIN/6638/2022.

Sir,

Reference is invited to the subject mentioned above. The above proposal was discussed in the 72<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

2. After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions:

1. The project agency should implement all the mitigation measures that are proposed in mitigation plan proposed by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and the committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Maharashtra State.
2. 2% (Rs.1.37 Crore) amount of project cost falling in Tiger Corridor of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve-Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary-Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary shall be deposited by project agency for wildlife conservation and management activities in the State with the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve Conservation Foundation.
3. In order to prevent entry of wild animals, the entire mining area should be fenced with solar/ electric pulse monitored fences of at least 10 feet height.
4. The vehicular transportation should be avoided and be replaced with modern closed conveyor system. Belt conveyors should be fully covered to avoid air borne dust.



5. Control blasting techniques with proper delay detonators and explosives should be used for mitigation of dust generation and ground vibration during blasting operations.
  6. Installation of Wind barriers should be done for dust trapping.
  7. Thick green belt of 30-40 m width to be provided to mitigate/check the dust pollution. 3-tier avenue plantation should also be developed along vacant areas, storage yard, loading/ transfer points and also along internal roads/ main approach roads.
  8. A survey carried out by WII in the area demonstrated that WCL has used *Prosopis* sp. for reclamation and this has proliferated profusely. From 2004 till 2013, the *Prosopis* sp. spread was estimated to be from 8.33% in 2004 to 65.83% in 2013. This is unwarranted since this has suppressed the diversity of native fauna thereby reducing forage availability and provided suitable cover for leopards and wild pigs causing incidents of human wildlife conflicts. The WCL, in consultation with Maharashtra Forest Department, should take the responsibility of removing *Prosopis* sp. in the existing plantation areas (WCL) within Chandrapur in a phased manner by replacing it with native species, which is likely to help in reducing the human-wildlife conflicts in the area.
  9. WCL should carry out a base line biodiversity survey of plants and animals including birds, herpeto fauna etc. which will be useful in rehabilitation of the area.
  10. There should be no movement of transport vehicles during night within forested/corridor/ESZ areas of TATR.
  11. WCL should have appropriate waste disposal mechanism for the mining site so that no waste is disposed in the forested or any natural area.
  12. As a part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), WCL should attempt to strengthen Tiger Conservation Foundation of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.
  13. Chief Wild Life Warden, Maharashtra should have appropriate mechanism in place for compliance of the conditions laid by this Authority during various phases of project implementation.
  14. An annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions shall be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.
3. The minutes of the meeting have been posted online in the "PARIVESH" portal of this Ministry.



Yours faithfully,



**(Dr. Sudheer Chintalapati)**  
Scientist 'E'  
**Email:** sudheer.ch@gov.in

**Copy to:**

1. Chief Wild Life Warden, Government of Maharashtra, Forest Department, Van Bhavan, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440001.
2. Deputy Director General of Forests Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001 **for monitoring the compliance of the conditions.**
3. Inspector General of Forests, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
4. Joint Secretary, IA Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.



**(Dr. Sudheer Chintalapati)**  
Scientist 'E'  
**Email:** sudheer.ch@gov.in



सत्यमेव जयते  
महाराष्ट्र शासन

Office of The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, (HoFF) Maharashtra State,  
Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001.

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests And Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State,  
Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, Nagpur 440 001.

0712-2556916

Email: apccfnodal@mahaforest@gov.in

Speed Post/Email

No. Desk-17/FCA-S2/PID-6602/Chandrapur/23-24/1959  
Nagpur - 440 001 Dated 28 / 09/2023.

To,  
The Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Chandrapur

**Sub:** Diversion of 121.58 ha. forest land for Durgapur Deep Extn. Open Cast Mine in Favour  
Western Coalfield Limited in Dist. Chandrapur Maharashtra-Regarding.

Ref:1. Govt. of Maharashtra order no. FLD-3613/C.R.251/F-10, dtd.26.09.2023.

Please find enclosed a copy of order mentioned under reference above. The Govt. of Maharashtra has issued an order regarding diversion of 121.58 ha Forest Land in favour of the User Agency subject to the terms and conditions mentioned in the letter dtd.16.12.2015 and 22.12.2021 of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India and subject to compliances of conditions no.1 to 4 mentioned in order under reference by the User Agency.

The undersigned has been directed to inform you the same and you are requested to do needful.  
Encl: As above

(Ginni Singh)

Deputy Conservator of Forests (FCA)

Copy submitted with compliments to Area General Manager, Chandrapur Area, PO; Babupeth,  
District Chandrapur 442 304 for favour of information.

**Forest Land- Chadrapur**

**Diversion of 121.58 ha of forest land for Durgapur Deep Extn. Open Cast Mine in favour of Western Coalfield Limited in Dist. Chandrapur, in the State of Maharashtra.**

**Government of Maharashtra**

**Revenue and Forest Department**

**Government Order No.FLD-3613/C.R.251/F-10**

Mantralaya, Mumbai 400032.

Date:- 26.09.2023.

**Reference:-**

- 1) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/D 12159/117/13-14, dt.20.04.2013.
- 2) Government of Maharashtra, Letter No. FLD-3613/CR-251/F-10, dt. 12.08.2014.
- 3) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi Letter F. No. 8-84/2014-FC, dt. 16.12.2015.
- 4) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/ID-12159/1473/17-18, dt.20.09.2017.  
Letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/ID-12159/2425/18-19, dt.27.03.2019.  
Letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/ID-11327/1018/18-19, dt.12.01.2021.  
Letter No. Desk-17/NC/RS-I/ID-12159/655/20-21, dt.29.07.2021.  
Letter No. Desk-17/Nodal/Chandrapur/12159/294/21-22, dt.20.10.2021.
- 5) Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi Letter F. No. 8-84/2014-FC, dt. 22.12.2021.
- 6) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Letter No. Desk-17/Nodal/ Chandrapur/ID-12159/2672/21-22, dt.10.03.2022.  
Letter No. Desk-17/FCA-S2/PID-6602/Chandrapur/23-24/1761, dt.06.09.2023.

**Order:-**

Whereas, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur, vide letter under reference No.1 has submitted a proposal for diversion of 121.58 ha Forest land for opencast mining of Durgapur Deep Extension OCP OF M/S. Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur Area Maharashtra;

AND whereas, the State Government vide letter under reference No.2 has submitted proposal to Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi;

AND whereas, the Government of India after due consideration, vide letter under reference No.3, accorded 'In-principle' approval to divert the 121.58 ha. Forest Land for the above project under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The said approval is subject to fulfillment of certain conditions by the User Agency;

AND whereas, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur vide letters under reference No.4 has submitted compliance of those conditions to the Government of India;

AND whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, Nagpur, vide under reference no. 5 accorded 'Final approval' to divert the of 121.58 ha Forest land in favour of Western Coalfield Limited, Chandrapur Area in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra for Durgapur Deep Extn. Open Cast Mine in District-Chandrapur under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

AND whereas, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur vide letters under reference No.6 has requested State Government to issue diversion order in the matter;

NOW, therefore, Government of Maharashtra hereby directs that the area of 121.58 ha consisting of Zudpi Jungle & Reserve Forest Land more specifically described in the proposal submitted vide letter under reference No. 1 and as per details given in the Schedule given below, be diverted to the User Agency, i.e. Area General Manager, Western Coalfield Limited, Chandrapur Area, for Durgapur Deep Extn. Open Cast Mine in District-Chandrapur.

The diversion shall be effected subject to the terms and conditions mentioned in the letter dated 16.12.2015 and dated 22.12.2021 of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. This approval for diversion of forest land is also subject to compliance of following conditions by the User Agency-

1. The Deputy Conservator of Forests shall verify the validity of the mining lease/applicability of provisions of the CBA (A & D) Act, 1957 for the said area, before giving actual possession and ensure that mining lease period has not been changed during the process of obtaining the Forest Clearance.
2. The User Agency shall comply with all the conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' and 'final approval' letters of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi, referred above. The Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur shall ensure the strict compliance of the conditions by the User Agency and shall furnish the report in this regard to Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur from time to time.
3. Non-compliance of any of the conditions mentioned in Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi letters dated 16.12.2015 and dated 22.12.2021, in this order and Rules & Guidelines made / issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, shall amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken accordingly.
4. In case of non-compliance of any of the above conditions, the Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur shall report through the State Government to the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, Nagpur as per procedure laid down in guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 .

**SCHEDULE**

Item of work/purpose	Name of Village	Survey/ Gut No	Compt No.	Area in Ha.	Legal Status of land
Coal Mining purpose of Durgapur Extension (Deep) Opencast Project	Sinhala, Chandrapur Division, Chandrapur	261/1	-	6.18	Zudpi Jungle
			400	59.20	Reserve Forest
			401	54.26	Reserve Forest
			402	1.94	Reserve Forest
<b>Total Forest land (in ha.)</b>				<b>121.58</b>	

This Government Order is available on Government of Maharashtra's website [www.maharashtra.gov.in](http://www.maharashtra.gov.in) with Reference No. 202309261443087319 This order has been signed digitally.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra.

**GANESH TUKARAM  
JADHAO**

Digitally signed by GANESH TUKARAM JADHAO  
DN: c=IN, o=GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA, ou=REVENUE AND  
FOREST DEPARTMENT, postalCode=400032, st=Maharashtra,  
2.5.4.20=0078F8512D3AC013150BBFA4B473ED7729DD2D31644106E  
2966b9ee6e92d7d,  
pkcs10-cnm=9511E297999C0516110AD2C5719C04356E8E8F,  
serialNumber=6FEED66678D369A7E8A2318BD1C399A9A58BA  
35DCCE147249F17965E888, cn=GANESH TUKARAM JADHAO  
Date: 2023.09.26 14:45:51 +05'30'

**(Ganesh Jadhao)**

**Under Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra**

**Copy:**

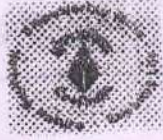
1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi.
2. Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, Nagpur.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur.
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife, Maharashtra State, Nagpur)
5. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & CEO, Maha-CAMPA, Nagpur.
6. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Nagpur.
7. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Conservation), Nagpur.
8. Collector, Chandrapur.
9. Chief Executive Officer, Zilha Parishad, Chandrapur
10. Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur
11. Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, Chandrapur
12. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur
13. Area General Manager, Western Coalfield Limited, Chandrapur Area, Dist. Chandrapur.
14. Select File F-10.

I. Collector- Chandrapur and Chief Executive Officer, Zilha Parishad, Chandrapur are hereby directed to forward the copy of this order to concerned Heads of Local

Bodies, Panchayats, Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government and they shall also ensure the display of this order on their notice board as well as on the notice board of local self-government bodies for the information of general public.

II. Area General Manager, Western Coalfield Limited, Chandrapur Area, Chandrapur, is hereby directed to publish the entire order of forest clearances granted in verbatim along with the details of Survey No., Gut No., area and legal status of each Survey, Gut No. etc. and along with the conditions and safe guards imposed by the Central Government while granting forest clearances in two widely circulated daily newspapers, one in vernacular language and other in English language. Copy of the Newspapers be submitted to Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur

III. Heads of Local Bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government are hereby directed to display the same on their notice board for 30 days from the date of receipt for the information of general public.



वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड  
WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED  
A Govt. Of India Enterprise  
(Nard Raha Company)

Office of the Area General Manager  
Chandrapur Area,  
Po & Distt. Chandrapur (M.S.)

पजी कंत्रा फोन इस्टेट, सिविल लाइन्स, नागपुर 440 001

Regd. Office: Coal Estate, Civil Line, Nagpur- 440 001

Ref. No. WCLCHA/AGM/PLG/REV/ 6157

Date 31.1.2013

01.02

To,  
The Dy Conservator of Forest,  
Chandrapur Division,  
Chandrapur.

**Sub.:- Renewal of forestry clearance -  
Proposal for diversion of 80.77 Ha. forest land for opencast mining  
of Durgapur Opencast Project of M/s. Western Coalfields Limited,  
Chandrapur Area**

Dear Sir,

Proposal for 80.77 Ha. of forest land has been approved by Govt. of India vide MOEF New Delhi order no. F.No. 8-123-2003-FC dtd. 8.11.2005 for a period of 8 years (i.e. 8.11.2005 to 7.11.2013).

We are enclosing herewith the proposal for Renewal of lease of above forest land in the prescribed Form 'B' duly filled along with the relevant documents in 8 (Eight) sets in respect of Durgapur Opencast Project of M/s. Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur Area, Tahsil & Distt. Chandrapur

You are therefore, requested to forward the enclosed proposal for onward submission to MOEF, New Delhi for getting necessary approval from Central Govt under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Thanking you.

Encl. as above

Yours faithfully,

AREA GENERAL MANAGER  
CHANDRAPUR AREA

**Copy to :-**

1. The Addl. PCCF / Nodal Officer, Forest Deptt. Van Bhawan, Nagpur
2. The Chief Conservator of Forest, North Circle, Nagpur road, Chandrapur
3. The G. M. (L&R), WCL, Nagpur.
4. The SAM, DOC SA

आवक / प्रस्ताव दिनांक  
11/2/2013  
विभागीय वा अधिकारी  
चंद्रपुर का विभाग, चंद्रपुर

# विभागीय वन अधिकारी, चंद्रपूर वनविभाग, चंद्रपूर यांचे कार्यालय.

रामबाग फॉरेस्ट कॉलनी, मुल रोड, चंद्रपूर - ४४२४०१ (म.रा.)

दुरध्वनी क्र. ०७१७२-२७०४४८

फॅक्स नं. ०७१७२-२७०४२०

E-mail :- dfochandrapur@gmail.com

विषय :- Renewal of forestry clearance.

Proposal for diversion of 80.77 Ha. forest land for opencast mining of Durgapur Opencast Project of M/s. Western Coal fields Limited, Chandrapur Area

क्रमांक :- कक्ष-६/सर्व्हे/जमीन/ ३१७

चंद्रपूर, दिनांक ११/३/१३

प्रति,

मुख्य महाप्रबंधक,  
वेस्टर्न कोलफिल्ड लिमीटेड,  
चंद्रपूर एरिया, चंद्रपूर.

12/12

9/4/13

संदर्भ :- आपले कार्यालयीन पत्र क्रमांक WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/6157, दिनांक 01/02/2013.

उपरोक्त संदर्भिय पत्रान्वये 80.77 हेक्टर क्षेत्राचा Renewal Proposal सादर केलेला होता. सदरहु प्रस्तावाची तपासणी केली असता खालीलप्रमाणे त्रुट्या निदर्शनास आले.

1. प्रस्तावातील Form 'B' मध्ये दिलेल्या Renewal (शिल्लक) क्षेत्राचा ताळमेळ जुळत नाही.
2. प्रस्तावासोबत जोडण्यांत आलेल्या 1:50,000 च्या नकाशावर प्रकल्प बाधीत क्षेत्राचे Latitude व Longitude दर्शविलेले नाही.
3. प्रस्तावातील जोडण्यांत आलेल्या नकाशामध्ये दर्शविलेले प्रकल्पबाधीत क्षेत्र आणि Form 'B' मध्ये दिलेले क्षेत्र योग्यरित्या दर्शविले नाही.
4. प्रकल्पबाधीत 80.77 हेक्टर क्षेत्रापैकी शिल्लक क्षेत्र आणि मागणी करावयाचे क्षेत्र याबाबत सुस्पष्टपणे माहिती Form 'B' मध्ये द्यावी.

वरील त्रुटींची पूर्तता करून प्रस्तावाच्या आठ प्रती या कार्यालयास सादर करावे.

सहपत्र :- वरीलप्रमाणे.

प्रस्तावाच्या 8 प्रती.

विभागीय वन अधिकारी,  
चंद्रपूर वनविभाग, चंद्रपूर

E:\Survey\80.77 Ha. doc

Sr. Manager (Sr)

for compliance fl.

11-4-13

file

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,**

**CHANDRAPUR DIVISION, CHANDRAPUR.**

**Rambagh Forest Colony, Mul Road, Chandrapur – 442401 (M.S.)**

Office Tel. No. 07172-270448

Fax No. 07172-270448

E-mail : dfochandrapur@gmail.com

**Sub.:- Forest Land Chandrapur**

**Renewal of forestry clearance**

Proposal for renewal of 80.77 Ha. Forest land  
Open Cast Mining of Durgapur Opencast Mine  
of M/s. Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur  
Area.

**No.:- Desk-5/Survey/land/1316**

**Chandrapur, Dated 22/10/13**

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Chandrapur Circle,  
Chandrapur.

महाराष्ट्र राज्य वन विभाग  
GM/ES/112/506 D-25/10/13  
31

**Ref.:- Western Coal Field Limited Chandrapur Area letter No. 957, dtd. 19/05/2013.**

The proposal for renewal of 80.77 Ha. Forest land (Reserve Forest 80.77 ha.) under F.C. Act 1980 required for Durgapur Opencast Mine, Chandrapur Area, Tah. Chandrapur, Dist. Chandrapur as received vide their letter under reference has been scrutinized in this office and the proposal in 5 copies and Mining Plan in 5 copies is forwarded to your office for further necessary action.

- Encl.:-** 1. Proposal in 5 copies.  
2. Mining Plan 5 copies.

So (P&P)  
[Signature]

[Signature]  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Chandrapur Forest Division,  
Chandrapur

Copy submitted to General Manager, Chandrapur Area, Western Coalfield Ltd., Chandrapur for information.

**WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED  
OFFICE OF THE AREA GENERAL MANAGER  
CHANDRAPUR AREA : PO & DISTT. CHANDRAPUR**

REF.NO.WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/  
Copy to :-

DATE : 4.11.2013

The Sub Area Manager, DOC SA.....for information.

RECEIVED

[Signature] 5/11/13

STAFF OFFICER (P&P)  
CHANDRAPUR AREA

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF FOREST FORCE), MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR**

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER, MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR,  
First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.

Tel no. (0712) 2530166, 2556916, Fax no. (0712) 2550675 E-mail- [apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in](mailto:apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in)

Sub:- Diversion of 80.77 ha Forest Land for renewal of mining lease under Section – (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for Durgapur Opencast project in Compartment No. 400 and 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division, Distt. Chandrapur in the State of Maharashtra.

No. : Desk-17/NC/1/I.D- 1896 /19-20

Nagpur – 440 001, Dated : 23/8/2019

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Revenue & Forest Department,  
Mantralay, Mumbai-400032

The Area General Manager WCL, Chandrapur has submitted the proposal for diversion of 80.77 ha Forest Land for renewal of mining lease under Section – (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for Durgapur Opencast project in Compartment No. 400 and 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division, Distt. Chandrapur in the State of Maharashtra. The details of forest land proposed for diversion are given as below –

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Comptt No.	Area (in ha.)	Legal Status
1	Chandrapur	400	39.15	Reserved Forest
2	Forest Division, Chnadrapur	401	41.62	
Total Forest Area			80.77	

2.00 Proposal for renewal of mining lease for Durgapur Opencast project has been initiated by Area General Manager WCL, Chandrapur Area for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Previously, the proposal for diversion of 80.77 ha. of forest land had been approved by the Government of India under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide letter No.8-123/2003-FC, dated 08/11/2005. The Project is located in Durgapur Geological Block in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State. The project can be demarcated on Toposheet No.55P/8 & 56M/5 having Latitude of 19°59'40.95" to 20°01'13.53" and Longitude of 79°19'15.69" to 79°19'57.13". The project has capacity of production 2.00 Million tonnes of Coal per annum and is directly linked to the Thermal Power station of Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Chandrapur.

2.1 The User Agency has stated that the coal reserve in the proposal for diversion of 80.77 ha forest land for Durgapur Opencast mine is 15.19 Million Tone out of which only 7.19 MT coal had been mined out during Forest Clearance granted for the period from 2005 to 2013. Subsequently, 8.00 MT coal reserve is still available in the benches of remaining forest land.

85

However, this reserve could not be extracted as vertical mining was not possible. Hence, for the extraction of balance coal reserve extension of time period is required. Therefore, the user agency has proposed for renewal of mining lease under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

**2.2 Details of approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 conveyed by the Ministry from time to time.**

Sr. No.	Project Name	Forest area diverted in (ha.)	Letter from the Government of India for diversion under the FCA, 1980.	In-Principle or formal approval under the FCA, 1980.	Period of diversion approved by the Government of India.
1	Durgapur Open Cast Mine	172.54	F.NO. 8-35/2001-FC, dated 12/06/2002.	formal approval	2 Years
2	Durgapur Open Cast Mine	136.54 (Reduced from 172.54)	F.No.8-35/2001-FC, dated 19/09/2006 & 19/05/2005.	formal approval granted for renewal of mining lease	20 Years or co-terminus with Mining Lease
3	Durgapur Open Cast Mine	80.77	F. No. 8-123/2003-FC, dated 08/11/2005.	formal approval	8 years
4	Durgapur Rayatwari Underground Mine	462.43	F. No. 8-53/2005-FCD, dated. 11/08/2006.	formal approval	Co-terminus with Mining lease as per CBA (A&D) Act 1957.
5	Durgapur Deep Extension Open Cast mine	121.58	F. No. 8-84/2014-FC, dated 16/12/2015.	in-principal approval	Proposal under consideration for Stage-II approval

2.2 The above said approvals for Durgapur Block are in accordance with Ministry of Energy (Department of Coal) Notification under Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 for (i) 338.85 ha. of forest land issued vide Notification No. S.O. no 450 (E), dated 04.08.1979 (ii) 1220.00 ha forest land coming under Schedule 'B' for Dugapur Block, Wardha Valley Coalfield issued vide Notification No. S.O. no 450 (E), dated 04.08.1979 and for (iii) 121.58 forest land issued vide Notification No. 2922, dt. 25/11/2010. The B:C ratio for the project is 8.811.

3.0 The required documents as prescribed in Government Circular, Revenue and Forest Department No.FLD-1081/2041/(A)/F-3, dated 20/03/1982 and according to Government of India's instructions issued from time to time as well as on the following points are enclosed in three copies.

- 1) Prescribed form dated 10/01/2003.
- 2) Certificate regarding minimum demand of forest land for the project,
- 3) Area Statement,
- 4) Index map,
- 5) The area belongs to Eco-value class-III of Open Forest category.

**4.0 The Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur has certified that:-**

- 4.1 the area belongs to Eco-value class-III of Open Forest category.
- 4.2 the forest land required is the barest minimum.
- 4.3 there are 93 trees of various species and girth in the area proposed for diversion. Girth class wise abstract is given as under:-

Tree Girth in Cm.										
15-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120	121-135	136-150	Above 150	Total
4	14	810	4	1	1	1	0	1	2	93

- 4.4 the proposed project is 12.25 km from the boundary of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and the Notified Buffer/Eco-Sensitive Zone boundary is near about 1.25 km..
- 4.5 the proposed project is not likely to affect monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.
- 4.6 the non forest area covered under the project is not acquired under the Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975 by application of section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 is not recognized as deemed reserved Forest nor it has been identified as "Forest" as envisaged in the interim order given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 12/12/1996.
- 4.7 there is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- 4.8 no Compensatory afforestation is required as the same has been already carried out over 162.00 ha degraded forest land in accordance with the approval granted by the Central Government vide letter F. No. 8-123/2003-FC, dated 08/11/2005.

**5.0 The user agency has given an undertaking:-**

- 5.1 to defray the cost of Net Present Value.
- 5.2 to defray the cost of compensatory afforestation.
- 5.3 The user agency has submitted Mining Plan approved by CMPDIL Nagpur and Mine Reclamation plan.
- 5.4 The project has been accorded environmental clearance with conditions stipulated by Government of India vide their letter No. J-11015 /56/2008-IA, II (M), pt. file dated 10/11/2017.
- 5.5 The user agency has submitted the certificate of the Collector, Chandrapur under the Schedule Tribes and Other traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 vide letter No.Karya-4/RB-II/2017/65, dt.4/5/2017 as per Government of India letter dt.5/7/2013 in prescribed format Form- II.
- 5.6 The Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur and the Chief Conservator of Forest (T), Chandrapur Circle have recommended the proposal for diversion of 80.77 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

6.0 In view of this, the proposal is recommended under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject the following conditions:-

- 6.1 The legal status of the land required will remain unchanged.
- 6.2 Wherever possible and technically feasible, the User Agency shall undertake by involving local community, the afforestation measures in the blanks within the lease area, as well as along the roads outside the lease area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.
- 6.3 Construction of temporary dwelling / hutments etc. for labors will not be allowed in the forest areas.
- 6.4 Adequate precautions shall be taken to safeguard the adjoining areas from explosives and it shall not be stored in the forest area.
- 6.5 The User Agency will dump the overburden on the revenue land or on adjacent private land owned by agency as per their undertaking and forest land will not be used for dumping.
- 6.6 The period of renewal of the mining lease of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulating) Act 1957, as amended or Rules framed there under;
- 6.7 The User Agency shall defray the cost of Net Present Value of 80.77 ha, of forest land proposed for renewal of mining lease.
- 6.8 The User Agency will defray the additional / revised cost of Net Present Value of Forest land as per the latest Guideline of Government of India.
- 6.9 A safety zone of 7.5 meter will be maintained around mining lease site. Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area (7.5 meter strip all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area) where feasible, shall be done at the project cost.
- 6.10 The User Agency shall ensure demarcation of boundary of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area) and its protection by erecting adequate number of 4 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPs coordinates and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department.
- 7.0 In case of mining leases adjoining the habitation stretch of the boundary of the safety zone of the lease adjacent to the habitation/roads be properly fenced by the user agency at the project cost to protect the vegetation/ regeneration activities in the safety zone.
- 7.1 Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy cover in the area, regeneration shall be taken in this area by the user agency at the project cost under supervision of the Forest Department.
- 7.2 Afforestation on degraded forest land, to be selected elsewhere, measuring one and a half time the area of forest land under safety zone shall also be at the project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department
- 7.3 The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
- 7.4 The user agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the State Forest Department.
- 7.5 The user agency shall prepare a schedule for surrender of the mined out and reclaimed forest land in accordance with existing mining plan and submit the same along with an undertaking to surrender the mined out and reclaimed forest land as per such schedule before grant of Stage-II approval.

- 7.6 All extraction works will be done as per mining plan approved by the Government of India.
- 7.7 Rehabilitation shall be done as per the approve rehabilitation action plan prepared by CMPDI, Nagpur.
- 7.8 The User Agency will defray the cost of removal of 93 trees in the proposed area. However, minimum number of trees will be felled.
- 7.9 No permanent building or labour sheeds should be constructed in the leased area.
- 8.00 The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of Central Government.
- 8.1 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- 8.2 The user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project.
- 8.3 The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or present without prior approval of the Central Government.
- 8.4 All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and guidelines shall be complied with by the user agency.

It is, therefore, requested that Government of India may kindly be moved for approving the diversion of 80.77 ha Forest Land for renewal of mining lease under Section – (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for Durgapur Opencast project in Compartment No. 400 and 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division, Distt. Chandrapur in the State of Maharashtra under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Encl. :- Proposal 3 copies

(Sanjeev Gauf)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer,

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur for information.  
Copy to the Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur for information.  
Copy to Area General Manager WCL, Chandrapur for information.

## Government of Maharashtra

By Speed Post

No. FLD-2019/CR-310/F-10  
 Revenue and Forest Department,  
 Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,  
 Madam Cama Road,  
 Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400 032.  
 Date:- 19.06.2024

To,  
 The Secretary,  
 Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
 Government of India,  
 Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
 New Delhi-110003.

**Subject: Forest Land-Chandrapur**

Diversion of 80.77 ha Forest Land for Renewal of Mining lease under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980 for Durgapur Open Cast Mine Project in Compartment No. 400 and 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur District of Maharashtra.

Sir,

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State has submitted Proposal for renewal of mining lease under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980 for Durgapur Open Cast Mine Project in Compartment No. 400 and 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division, Dist. Chandrapur. The details of forest land proposed for diversion are given as below -

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Comptt No.	Area (in ha.)	Legal Status
1	Chandrapur Forest Division,	400	39.15	Reserved Forest
2	Chandrapur	401	41.62	
<b>Total Forest Area</b>			<b>80.77</b>	

2.0 Proposal for renewal of mining lease for Durgapur Opencast project has been initiated by Area General Manager WCl., Chandrapur Area for approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980 . Previously, the proposal for diversion of 80.77 ha. of forest land had been approved by the Government of India under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980 vide letter No.8-123/2003-FC, dated 08/11/2005. The Project is located in Durgapur Geological Block in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State. The project can be demarcated on Toposheet No.55P/8 & 56M/5 having Latitude of 19°59'40.95" to 20°01'13.53" and Longitude of 79°19'15.69" to 79°19'57.13". The

project has capacity of production 2.00 Million tonnes of Coal per annum and is directly linked to the Thermal Power station of Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Chandrapur.

2.1 The User Agency has stated that the coal reserve in the proposal for diversion of 80.77 ha forest land for Durgapur Opencast mine is 15.19 Million Tone out of which only 7.19 MT coal had been mined out during Forest Clearance granted for the period from 2005 to 2013. Subsequently, 8.00 MT coal reserve is still available in the benches of remaining forest land. However, this reserve could not be extracted as vertical mining was not possible. Hence, for the extraction of balance coal reserve extension of time period is required. Therefore, the user agency has proposed for renewal of mining lease under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980.

2.2 Details of approvals under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980 conveyed by the Ministry from time to time.

Sr. No.	Project Name	Forest area diverted in (ha.)	Letter from the Government of India for diversion under the FCA, 1980.	In-Principle or formal approval under the FCA, 1980.	Period of diversion approved by the Government of India.
1	Durgapur Open Cast Mine	172.54	F.NO. 8-35/2001-FC, dated 12/06/2002.	formal approval	2 Years
2	Durgapur Open Cast Mine	136.54 (Reduced from 172.54 )	F.No.8-35/2001-FC, dated 19/09/2006 & 19/05/2005.	formal approval granted for renewal of mining lease	20 Years or co-terminus with Mining Lease
3	Durgapur Open Cast Mine	80.77	F. No. 8-123/2003-FC, dated 08/11/2005.	formal approval	8 years
4	Durgapur Rayatwari Underground Mine	462.43	F. No. 8-53/2005-FCD, dated. 11/08/2006.	formal approval	Co-terminus with Mining lease as per CBA (A&D) Act 1957.
5	Durgapur Deep Extension Open Cast mine	121.58	F. No. 8-84/2014-FC, dated 16/12/2015.	in-principal approval	Proposal under consideration for Stage-II approval

2.3 The above said approvals for Durgapur Block are in accordance with Ministry of Energy (Department of Coal) Notification under Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 for (i) 338.85 ha. of forest land issued vide Notification No. S.O. no 450 (E), dated 04.08.1979 (ii) 1220.00 ha forest land coming under Schedule 'B' for Durgapur Block, Wardha Valley Coalfield issued

vide Notification No. S.O. no 450 (I), dated 04.08.1979 and for (iii) 121.58 forest land issued vide Notification No. 2922, dt. 25/11/2010. The B:C ratio for the project is 8.811.

**3.0 The Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur has certified that:-**

- 3.1) The area belongs to Eco-value class-III of Open Forest category.
- 3.2) The forest land required is the barest minimum.
- 3.3) There are 93 trees of various species and girth in the area proposed for diversion. Girth class wise abstract is given as under:-

Tree Girth in cm											
15-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120	121-135	136-150	Above 150	Bamboo Ranjhi	Total
3	11	10	8	8	2	0	0	1	2	48	93

- 3.4) The proposed project is 12.25 km from the boundary of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and the Notified Buffer/Eco-Sensitive Zone boundary is near about 1.25 km.
- 3.5) The proposed project is not likely to affect monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance.
- 3.6) There is no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam-1980.
- 3.7) No Compensatory afforestation is required as the same has been already carried out over 162.00 ha degraded forest land in accordance with the approval granted by the Central Government vide letter F. No. 8-123/2003-FC, dated 08/11/2005.

**4.0 The user agency has given an undertaking:-**

- 4.1) to defray the cost of Net Present Value.
  - 4.2) to defray the cost of compensatory afforestation.
  - 4.3) The user agency has submitted Mining Plan approved by CMPDIL, Nagpur and Mine Reclamation plan.
  - 4.4) The project has been accorded environmental clearance with conditions stipulated by Government of India vide their letter No. J-11015 /56/2008-IA, II (M), pt. file dated 10/11/2017.
  - 4.5) The user agency has submitted the certificate of the Collector, Chandrapur under the Schedule Tribes and Other traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006
5. Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur & Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Chandrapur have recommended the proposal for approval under section-2 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  6. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur, has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam

Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. His recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his specific recommendations. under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. His specific recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.
8. In the circumstances explained in the aforesaid paragraphs and enclosures, the State Government recommends that the said forest land may be allowed to be diverted subject the conditions proposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur as well as following additional condition:-

“User agency shall obtain wildlife clearance, prior to commencement of work.”

The matter may kindly be placed before the Government of India for its approval under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.



(Ganesh Jadhao)

Under Secretary to the  
Government of Maharashtra

Under Secretary  
Revenue and Forests Department  
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk  
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya  
Mumbai 400 032

Encl: A) Set of case papers

B) The following documents are enclosed:-

1. Prescribed form as per Rules.
2. Area Statement
3. Commitment from the Applicant for defraying the cost of Net Present Value.
4. Brief note of the project
5. Site Inspection Report.
6. Certificate in Part V.

Copy:

1. Deputy Director General of Forest (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, Nagpur.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), M.S., Nagpur.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), M.S., Nagpur.
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & C.E.O, Maha-CAMPA, Nagpur.

5. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State Nagpur with reference to his letter No.Desk-17/NC/I/ID-806/19-20, Dated-23.08.2019
6. Chief Conservator of Forests (I), Chandrapur.
7. Collector, Chandrapur.
8. Chief Executive Officer, Zilha Parishad, Chandrapur.
9. Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur.
10. The Area General Manager, Western Coalfields Ltd., Chandrapur.
11. Select file (F-10).

**Subject: Forest Land-Chandrapur**

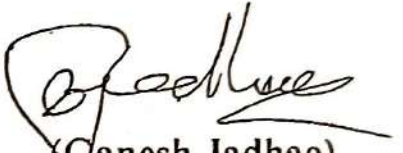
Diversion of 80.77 ha Forest Land for Renewal of Mining lease under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam-1980 for Durgapur Open Cast Mine Project in Compartment No. 400 and 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur District of Maharashtra

**PART - V**

(To be filled up by the Secretary In charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

**1. Recommendation of the State Government**

The Proposal is recommended  
vide Government letter  
No.FLD-2019/CR-310/F-10  
Dated:- 19.06.2024



(Ganesh Jadhao)  
Under Secretary to the  
Government of Maharashtra

Place: Mumbai

Date:- 19.06.2024

Under Secretary  
Revenue and Forests Department  
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk  
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya  
Mumbai 400 032



वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड /Western Coalfields Limited

मिनिरल कंपनी (A Miniratna Company)

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड की अनुषंगी कंपनी (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

CIN-U10100MH1975GOI018626



उप क्षेत्रीय प्रबंधक का कार्यालय

दुर्गापुर उपक्षेत्र, चंद्रपुर क्षेत्र

ऊर्जनगर, चंद्रपुर - 442404

Email: sam.doc-cha.wcl@coalindia.in

Office of Area General Manager

Durgapur Sub Area  
Chandrapur Area

Address: Urjanagar Post  
Dist: Chandrapur, MS, PIN:442403

Phone: 07172-265270

संदर्भ : वेकोलि/चक्षे/दुउक्षे/उक्षेप्र/PA/AS37

दिनांक: 14/3/2024

प्रती  
विभागीय वन अधिकारी  
चंद्रपुर वन विभाग  
चंद्रपुर

विषय : दुर्गापुर ओपनकास्ट माइन - Wildlife Clearance for Renewal of Forest Clearance of 80.77 Ha Forest Land for Durgapur Opencast Project Mine in favour of M/s. Western Coalfields Limited in District Chandrapur, Maharashtra – Application for Wildlife Clearance

संदर्भ : Letter from Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State vide Desk-23(2)/WL/Survey/Pr.Kr.292/5236/2023-24, dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024

महोदय,

With reference to the above subject & above referred letter, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State directed to apply for Wildlife Clearance for renewal of Forest Clearance of 80.77 Ha Forest Clearance Proposal. WCL Chandrapur Area (User Agency) has submitted an online application on 27.02.2024 through Parivesh 2.0 portal

The details are as below:

**Proposal number: 463196**

**Date: 27.02.2024**

We are herewith submitting 6 sets of Hard Copy of the same proposal along with relevant documents for and onward submission at your end.

It is therefore requested kindly to do the needful towards submission of online Part III in parivesh portal at your end for wildlife clearance under Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Thanking you.

संलग्न: यथोपरी

भवतीय,

14/03/2024  
आवक लिपीक

Project Proponent/SAM

Durgapur Sub Area

मुख्य वनसंरक्षक चंद्रपुर वनकृत  
मुख्य कार्यालय

1. प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक, वन भवन, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, सिविल लाइन्स, नागपूर - 440001
2. अपप्र प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक व केंद्रस्थ अधिकारी, वन भवन, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, सिविल लाइन्स, नागपूर - 440001
3. मुख्य वनसंरक्षक, चंद्रपुर वनवृत्त, चंद्रपुर
4. महाप्रबंधक (भू/रा), वेकोली मुख्यालय, नागपूर
5. महाप्रबंधक (पर्यावरण), वेकोली मुख्यालय, नागपूर
6. क्षेत्रीय महाप्रबंधक, चंद्रपुर क्षेत्र

14/03/2024  
आवक/लिपीक  
कार्यालय  
विभागीय वन अधिकारी  
चंद्रपुर वन विभाग



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India

File No. WII/AE&CB/BH/WL/Mining/2019-01

Dehradun, the May 16, 2024

To

**The Area General Manager**

Chandrapur Area, WCL

Planning Department

PO: Babupeth

Dist.: Chandrapur, MS

442 403

E-mail: [gmwclcha@gmail.com](mailto:gmwclcha@gmail.com) , [agmchandrapur.wcl@coalindia.in](mailto:agmchandrapur.wcl@coalindia.in)

**Sub.** Durgapur Opencast Mine – Clarification regarding conducting a fresh Wildlife Impact Assessment Study for Renewal of 80.77 Ha Forest Land for opencast mining of Durgapur Opencast Project, M/s. Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur Area – reg.

**Ref.** 1. Your letter (WCL/CHA/AGM/PLG/REV/9780) dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024.  
2. WII letter No. WII/AE&CB/BH/WL/Mining/2019-01 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.

With reference to aforementioned communication (Sr. No. 1) seeking clarification if a fresh wildlife impact assessment study is required for renewal of forest clearance of opencast mining in different areas in the Chandrapur mining area, it is stated that a research project "Understanding the impacts of mining areas of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) and Chandrapur Thermal Power Plant, Chandrapur" is already being carried out by WII, Dehradun, as mandated by the 324<sup>th</sup> Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forest on "Status of forests in India". The aim of the study is to assess the impacts of all mines (opencast and underground) in the Chandrapur district and provide a detailed assessment of the impacts of mines and an integrated wildlife mitigation and management plan for the WCL mining areas in the district. It is, therefore, submitted that a fresh wildlife impact study would not be required for the renewal of the forest clearance of 80.77 ha of Durgapur Opencast Mine, WCL Chandrapur area.

A joint committee under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Maharashtra has already given a mitigation plan for maintenance of the existing wildlife corridor for the 121.58 ha Durgapur Extension Deep OC Project which encircles the 80.77 ha renewal area Vide Letter No. 23(2)/WGN/P/No. 53/1061/2022-23; Dated: 12.07.2022.

पत्रपेटी सं० 18, चन्द्रबनी, देहरादून – 248 001, उत्तराखण्ड, भारत

Post Box No. 18, Chandrabani, Dehradun - 248 001, Uttarakhand, INDIA

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EPABX : +91-135-2640114, 2640115, 2646100 Fax: 0135-2640117

ई-मेल / E-mail : [wii@wii.gov.in](mailto:wii@wii.gov.in) वेब / Website: [www.wii.gov.in](http://www.wii.gov.in)



**भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान**  
**Wildlife Institute of India**

Further, regarding communication Sr. No. 2 seeking no-cost extension of the project, it is again requested to kindly release the third instalment of **Rs. 33.0975 Lakhs** (Each by WCL and MAHAGENCO) to finalise and submit the final deliverables of the project which is an integrated management plan.

**Thanking you.**

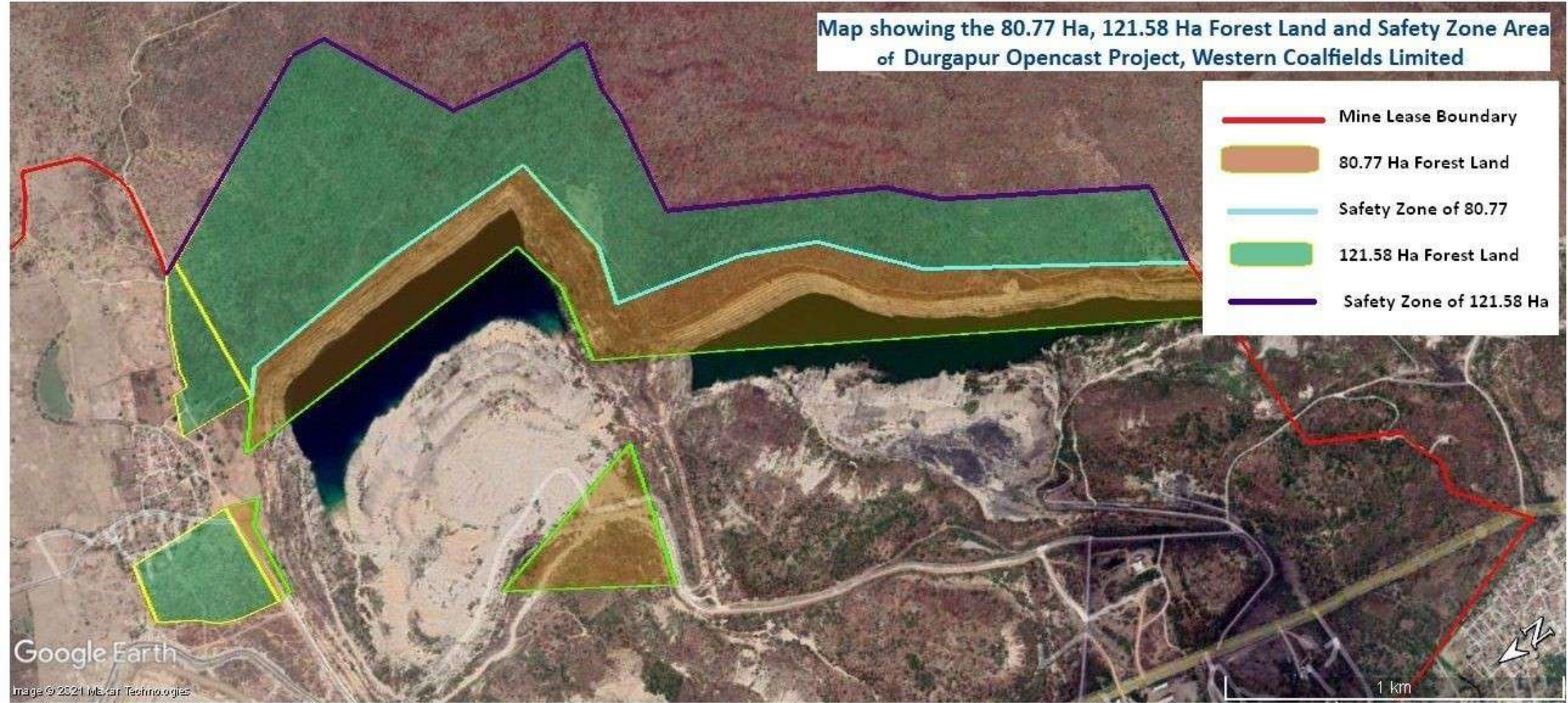
*Virendra Tiwari*  
(Virendra Tiwari) 6/5/24  
Director

**Copy to:**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Chief Wildlife Warden Maharashtra State, Nagpur, Van Bhawan, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines, NAGPUR-440 001 (Maharashtra), E-mail: [pccfwlmgp@mahaforest.gov.in](mailto:pccfwlmgp@mahaforest.gov.in)
2. General Manager (Environment), Western Coalfields Ltd., Civil Line, Sadar Nagpur, 440001, Maharashtra, E-mail: [gmenvironment@westerncoal.gov.in](mailto:gmenvironment@westerncoal.gov.in) with a request to release the third installment of the Project (30 % Rs. 33.0975 Laks).
3. Chief Engineer, Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station, Chandrapur – 442 404. E-mail: [cegenchandrapur@mahagenco.in](mailto:cegenchandrapur@mahagenco.in) with a request to release the third installment of the Project (30 % Rs. 33.0975 Laks).
4. The Chief Conservator of Forest (Territorial) Chandrapur. E-mail: [ccfchandrapur@gmail.com](mailto:ccfchandrapur@gmail.com)
5. The Conservator of Forests & Field Director Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. E-mail: [ccffdtadoba@mahaforest.gov.in](mailto:ccffdtadoba@mahaforest.gov.in)

Map showing the 80.77 Ha, 121.58 Ha Forest Land and Safety Zone Area of Durgapur Opencast Project, Western Coalfields Limited

- Mine Lease Boundary
- 80.77 Ha Forest Land
- Safety Zone of 80.77
- 121.58 Ha Forest Land
- Safety Zone of 121.58 Ha



Google Earth  
Image © 2021 Maxar Technologies

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India

Date: 25 June, 2014

No. WII/AE&amp;CB/BH/Durgapur/01/2014



To

Sh. Sanjeev Gaur  
Joint Secretary  
Revenue and Forest department  
Room No. 456/461 Annex.  
Madam Kama Road, Hutatma Rajguru  
Chowk, Mantralaya Mumbai - 400 032  
E-mail: [sanjeevgaur@rediffmail.com](mailto:sanjeevgaur@rediffmail.com)

1620  
26/6/2014

कोलि/महाप्रबंधक(पर्या)/मुख्यालय/नागपुर  
WCL/GM(Env)/HQ/Nagpur

Rec. 26/6/14 दिनांक/Date 27/6/14

Sub.: Assessment Report on Proposal for Diversion of 121.58 ha Forest Land for Opencast Mining of Durgapur Deep Extension Opencast Project of M/S. Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur Area, Maharashtra - Reg.

Ref.: Your Letter No. FLD 3613/CR 251/F - 10; Dated: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2013  
Your Letter No. FLD 3613/CR 251/F - 10; Dated: 6<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2014

Sir,

With reference to the above, please find enclosed a copy of the Wildlife Institute of India's Assessment Report in the context of diversion of 121.58 ha forest land for opencast mining of Durgapur Deep Extension Opencast Project of M/S. Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur Area, Maharashtra, for your kind perusal and further necessary action, please.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

  
[Dr. V. B. Mathur]  
Director

Encl: As Above

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)/Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra State, Nagpur - 44 0 001, Tel: 0712 526758/530126; Fax: 0712 510671, [cwfw@nagpur.net.in](mailto:cwfw@nagpur.net.in)
2. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Nodal Officer Maharashtra State Nagpur Ist Floor 'C' Wing, Ramgiri Road, near Police Gymkhana, Civil Line, Nagpur - 01, Off. 0712 2556916, Fax: 0712 2550675, [astabrahmapur@nodalmail.com](mailto:astabrahmapur@nodalmail.com); [apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in](mailto:apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in)
3. Chairman-cum-Managing Director Coal Estate, Civil Lines, Nagpur (M.S.) 440 001 Telephone: (91-712) 2510440, 2510315 (Offi.) Fax: (91-712) 2510500 E-Mail: [cmd.wcl@coalindia.in](mailto:cmd.wcl@coalindia.in); Fax: 0712

पत्रपेटी सं० १८, चन्द्रबनी, देहरादून - २४८ ००१, भारत

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Copy to  
GM (Env) / CWC (Env)

27/6/14

AGM, Chandrapur

**Assessment Report on Proposal for Diversion of 121.58 ha Forest Land for Opencast Mining of Durgapur Deep Extension Opencast Project of M/S. Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur Area, Maharashtra**

**A. Background:**

Western Coal Fields Limited (WCL), Chandrapur has submitted a proposal for diversion of 121.58 ha forest land under FCA-1980 for opencast mining of Durgapur Deep Extension Opencast Project. The proposed area includes 118.40 ha for mining and 3.18 ha as safety zone. The proposed forest land is from Reserve Forest Compartment Nos. 400, 401, 402 of Chandrapur Forest Division and 'zudpi jungle' S. no. 262/1 of village Sinhal, Chandrapur. The proposed project is extension of the ongoing project having capacity of producing coal to the extent of 2.0 million tonnes of coal per annum. The project is linked to Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station of Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB). The extension is proposed to enhance coal production to 3.0 MTPA. The brief introduction of WCL Chandrapur is given in **(Annexure 1)**.

The project is located at 12.25 km from the core area and 1.25 km from the buffer area of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Chandrapur has noted in his site inspection report that "The area has rich presence of endangered species such as Tiger/Leopard and the area is sensitive as it is good habitat for tiger and leopard and other wild animals". The area is adjoining to the notified buffer zone of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and very near to Chandrapur town. The man animal conflict in general has increased in many areas in the last 4 - 5 years. It is necessary to undertake studies by institution, such as Wildlife Institute of India and incorporate recommendations to mitigate man animal conflict as the land in question has presence of Schedule 1 species i.e., Tiger, before giving approval under Section - 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Maharashtra, based on remarks of the Filed Director, TATR and Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), East Nagpur offered his comments regarding this proposal. In brief, the remarks of Chief Wildlife Warden are as follows:

- 1) The proposed area is at crow fly distance of 12 km from the core of TATR and 1.25 km crow fly distance from buffer zone of TATR.
- 2) The proposed area is a habitat of Tiger, Leopard and other herbivores.

- 3) There were 3 cases of human death and 16 cases of people injured in man-wildlife conflict in this area during the period of 2008-09 to 2011 -12. This also confirms the presence of Tiger and Panther in the proposed area.
- 4) The proposed area is in the wildlife corridor.
- 5) The proposed area is not included in the buffer zone of TATR, but it is habitat of Tiger and Leopard.
- 6) It is recommended to undertake studies by institutions such as Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and incorporate its recommendations before giving clearance to the project.

Subsequently Wildlife Institute of India received a letter No. FLD 3613/CR 251/F-10, dated 5 August, 2013 from the Joint Secretary, Revenue and Forest Department, Govt. of Maharashtra with a request to carry out wildlife impact assessment study with reference to whether the proposed project by M/S Western Coalfields Limited would cause any damage to the wildlife habitat and also whether it will give rise to the conflict between human beings and wild animals (**Annexure 2**). The said letter from the Joint Secretary, Revenue and Forest Department, Govt. of Maharashtra mentioned about diversion of just 34.135 ha of forest land for Durgapur Opencast Mine of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), Nagpur.

In response to above request letter from the Joint Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), deputed Dr. Bilal Habib, Scientist-D, for site reconnaissance. Dr. Bilal Habib visited field site from 27 to 30 November, 2013.

#### **B. Objectives:**

The reconnaissance of the proposed project site was conducted with the following objectives:

- a) To assess the use of area under consideration for proposed forest diversion by wildlife species.
- b) To assess whether the land after proposed diversion of forest land will result into enhanced human and wildlife conflict.

## Field Observations:

### Incongruity in the Letter received from Joint Secretary, Revenue and Forest Department, Govt. of Maharashtra:

The letter received by Director Wildlife Institute of India from Joint Secretary, Revenue and Forest Department, Govt. of Maharashtra (Letter No. FLD 3613/CR 251/F-10, dated 5 August, 2013) mentioned proposed diversion of 34.135 ha of land whereas during the reconnaissance visit of the Wildlife Team it was found that the actual land requested for diversion was 121.58 ha. The team however continued reconnaissance visit, but requested WCL authorities to send appropriate amendment letter.

### b) Amended Letter:

Later Director, WII, received second letter (Letter No. FLD 3613/CR 251/F-10, dated 6 January 2014) (Annexure 3) informing that the forest land to be diverted was inadvertently mentioned as 34.125 ha in previous letter. However, the user agency (WCL) has proposed for diversion of 121.58 of forest land. After receipt of this amended letter, WII team again visited the field site from 2 to 5 June, 2014.

### c) Site Visits and Methodology:

The reconnaissance of the proposed project site was undertaken by Dr. Bilal Habib, Scientist WII, from 27 - 30 November, 2013 and 2 - 5 June, 2014 to validate and add to the secondary information that was collected and perused. This involved field observations to assess the present status of land considered for diversion with specific reference to its habitat value for Schedule - 1 wild animal species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The information was also supplemented by consultations with key stakeholders (Appendix 4).

During the field visit, a 3 km long trail through the 121.58 ha area was searched for occurrence of animal signs (pugmarks, scats etc.), direct sightings and also to assess vegetation diversity and condition along the trail. During the field visit existing mining areas and compensatory afforestation areas of M/S WCL were also visited by the team. During the reconnaissance, it was observed that reclaimed sites have been planted using *Prosopis* as a major species and this species has proliferated extensively. In view of this it was decided to carry out an assessment on temporal changes in vegetation due to such activities.

#### d) Field Observations:

The land proposed for diversion (121.58 ha) has been demarcated by WCL authorities with boundary markings (GPS location of boundary markings provided in Annexure 5) and is contiguous to existing Durgapur Opencast Mine. The proposed diversion area is characterized by Southern Dry Deciduous Forest Type dominated by Bamboo, *Lagerstroemia spp.*, *Butea spp.*, etc. The location of the proposed area with respect to TATR Core, Buffer and TATR South Corridor connecting TATR to Chaprala WLS is shown in Figure 1, 2 and 3. The area proposed by user agency is an ideal habitat for the endangered species such as Tiger and its associated co-predators and prey species. This is in accordance with the remarks made by Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra (Please see para 3). Further, as remarked by him, the area has witnessed three (03) cases of human death and 16 cases of human injury during the period of 2008 - 09 to 2011 -12. The area is thus, prone to human wildlife conflict. As per the Forest Clearance approval all the mining agencies need to go for compensatory afforestation over the degraded forest land double in the extent to the area being diverted and these area are to be maintained at the project cost. WCL has so far used prominently *Prosopis spp.*, an exotic species for compensatory afforestation. *Prosopis* suppresses the diversity of native vegetation thereby reducing the forage availability and provides suitable cover to the wild animal species (e.g., Leopard and Wild boar) which can exploit human-interface and result into enhanced human-wildlife conflict.

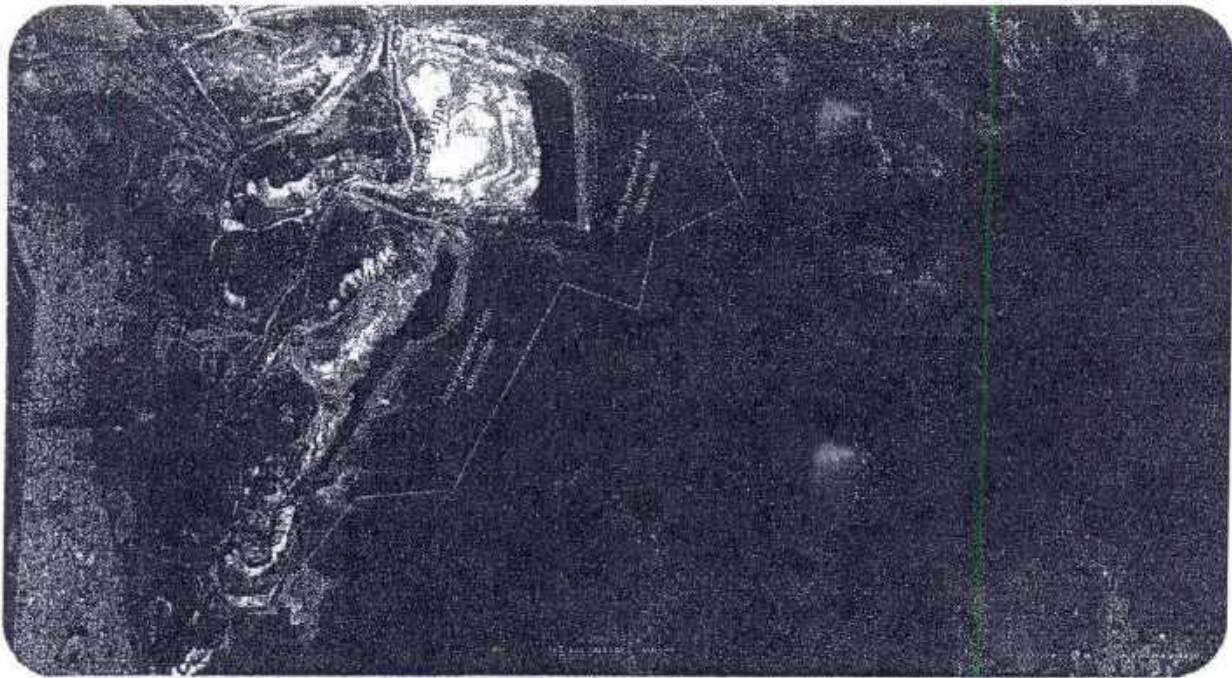


Fig 1: Location of existing Durgapur Opencast Mine with respect to surrounding forest land proposed for diversion.

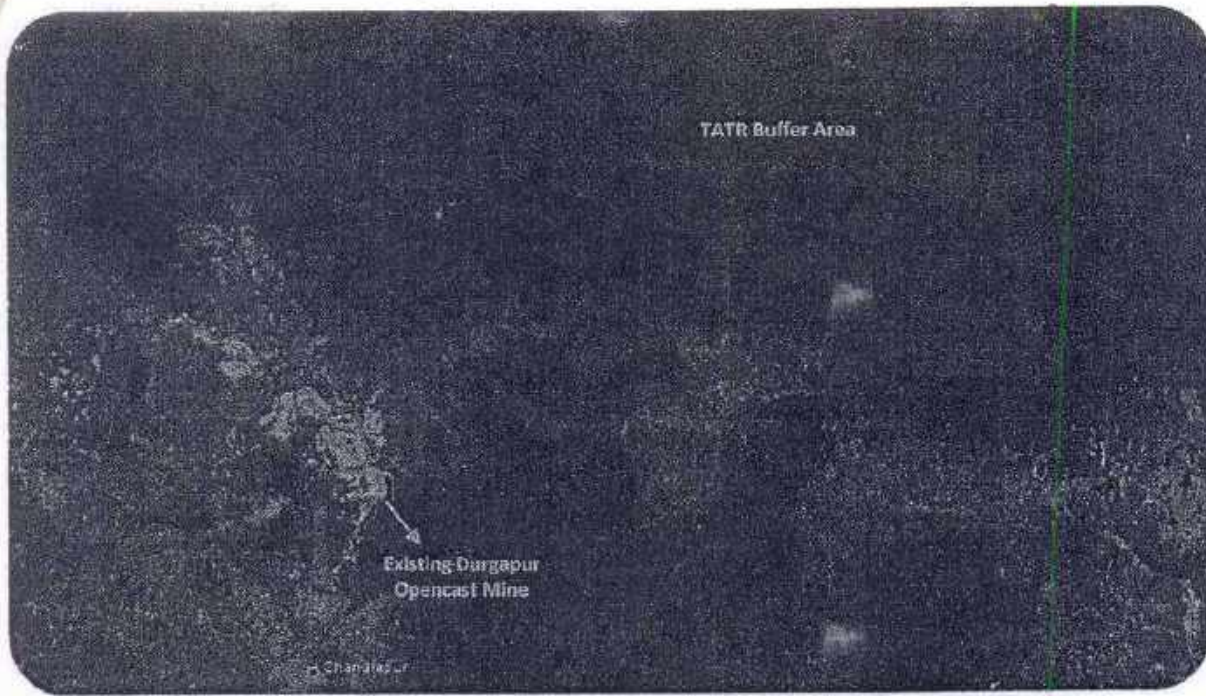


Fig 2: Location of existing Durgapur Opencast Mine with respect to Buffer Boundary of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

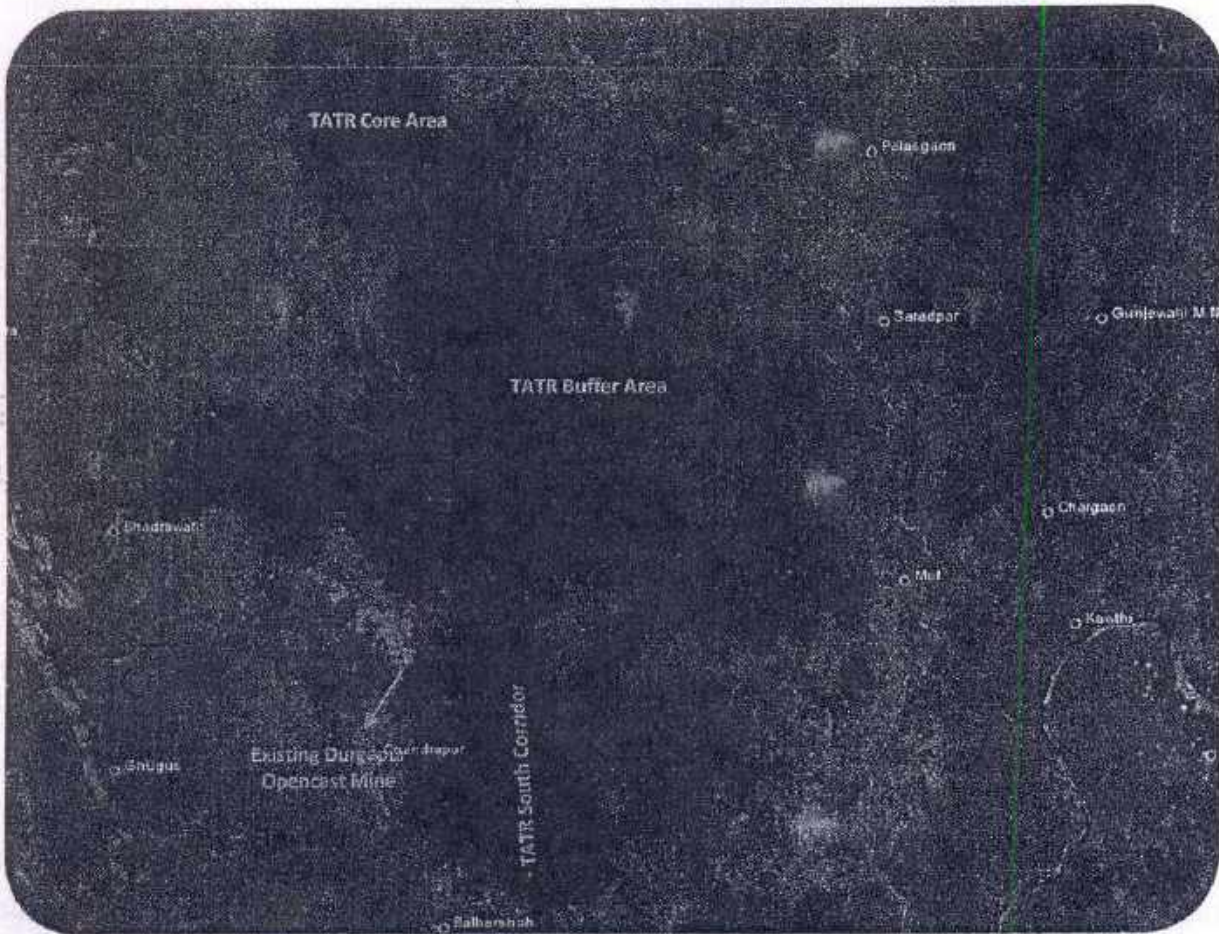


Fig 3: Location of existing Durgapur Opencast Mine with respect to Core and Buffer of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and Corridor Area between TATR and Chaprala WLS

During the reconnaissance visit the team also reported occurrence of 16 tree and shrub species from the area proposed for diversion with Bamboo as dominant species. The overall forest cover ranges from 60 – 80 per cent in the reserved forest area proposed for diversion. The list of dominant species reported is given in Table 1 below:

**Table 1:** Tree and shrub species reordered from the reserved forest proposed for diversion to WCL

S. No.	Tree/Shrub Species
01	<i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i>
02	<i>Lagerstroemia speciosa</i>
03	<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i>
04	<i>Butea monosperma</i>
05	<i>Lannea coromandelica</i>
06	<i>Madhuca indica</i>
07	<i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i>
08	<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>
09	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i>
10	<i>Bambusa spp</i>
11	<i>Buchanania lanzan</i>
12	<i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i>
13	<i>Cassia fistula</i>
14	<i>Dalbergia paniculata</i>
15	<i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>
16	<i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i>

During the site visit the team recorded 10 signs of Leopard (Scats and pugmarks), 3 signs of sloth bear and also sighted Blacknaped hare and Russell’s viper from the area proposed for diversion. The occurrence of signs and sightings indicate an active use of area by wildlife species proposed for diversion. Occurrence of large predators indicate the health of the system and therefore the area proposed for diversion is the potential habitat of the large carnivore species and is actively being used by them. This observation conforms the remarks of CWLW, Maharashtra.

**e) .Vegetation around mining and dumping sites:**

During the field visit, the team also visited various mining and dumping sites and evaluated the vegetation around those sites. The most dominant tree used for slope stabilization at dumping sites and for restoration of degraded areas was *Prosopis spp.* an invasive species to India. *Prosopis* was first introduced to India in 1877 where it has become invasive. Aggarwal *et al.*, (1976) found that the canopies of the invasive *Prosopis* had far fewer understory species. *Prosopis* is at least in part a “driver” of decreased diversity rather than a “passenger” responding to other factors that also decrease

diversity (MacDougall, A. S and Turkington, R., 2005). Strong negative impacts of *Prosopis* on the richness, evenness and densities of other plant species have also been reported in many countries where it is also invasive (El-Keblawy A., and Al-Rawai, A., 2007). The observed effects of *Prosopis* canopies on species richness are same in higher and lower stand densities.

**f) *Prosopis* - an invasive species responsible for increasing human-wildlife conflict:**

With its proven negative effect on the diversity of native plant species, *Prosopis* is responsible for enhancing the occurrence of human-wildlife conflicts in the vicinity of Chandrapur. The species provides good cover for leopard and wild boar in the area. As mentioned above, the understory of palatable species for herbivores is almost negligible below the stands of *Prosopis* which make this habitat unsuitable for deer and other potential prey species of Tiger and Leopard but makes this area as a potential habitat for species which depend on cover to exploit the anthropocene such as Wild boar and leopard. The occurrence of these species in the vicinity of human habitations result in enhanced human-wildlife conflict in the area. Most of the mining agencies in the area use *Prosopis* as species for vegetation /ecological restoration because of higher survival rate, less maintenance cost and its invasive nature to green more area while spending less money and time. This practice has lead an enhanced human-wildlife conflict in the area.

**g) Increase in *Prosopis* as a cover during last decade:**

We also estimated the percent change in *Prosopis* cover across mining and dumping sites within the Chandrapur area using time series analysis. We analyzed satellite imageries from 2004 to 2013 to estimate per cent changes in *Prosopis* across dumping and mining sites. We sampled six (06) grids (200m x 200 m) across the landscape and estimated the change or spread of *Prosopis* as a cover. *Prosopis* spread was estimated to be 8.33% in 2004 and this expanded to 65.83% in 2013 which means almost 60% increase in an area covered with *Prosopis* than what was there in 2004. The time series imageries from 2004 to 2013 are given in Figures 4 – 8 (Imageries are representative of smaller area for visualization purpose). The details of vegetation change are provided in Table 2. The time series analysis provides insights into the spread of *Prosopis* across the mining and dumping sites in Chandrapur area. The present condition of vegetation as on June, 2014 in sampling plots (200m x 200m grids) was actually sampled during the field visit for ground truthing purpose and to evaluate the composition of vegetation at sampling locations. One circular plot of 20 m radius within each 200m x 200m grid was

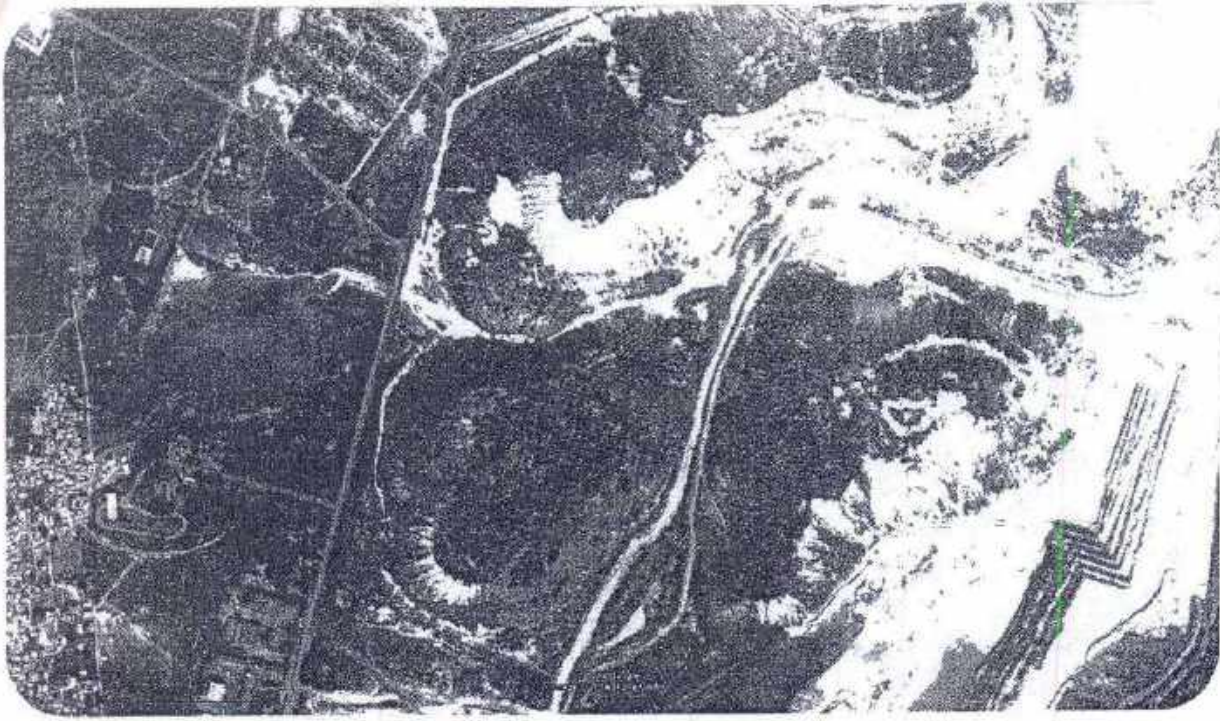
used for validation of current vegetation situation. The details of species occurrence and cover at sampling locations as on June 2014 is given in detail in Table 3.



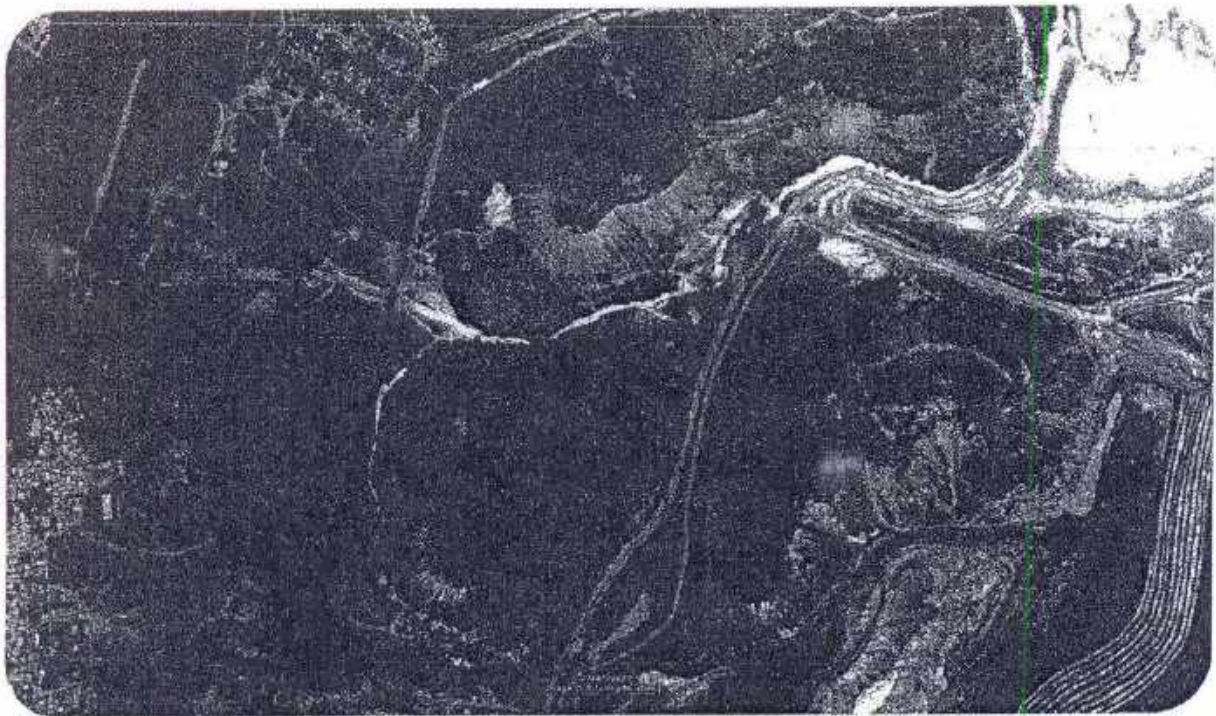
**Fig 4:** Satellite Imagery of Mining area showing the extent of *Prosopis juliflora* during the year 2004 (15.04.2004). The coverage under *Prosopis* was just 8.33%



**Fig 5:** Satellite Imagery of Mining area showing the extent of *Prosopis juliflora* during the year 2006 (26.01.2006). Extent of *Prosopis* coverage increased to 18.33% in just a brief period of 2 years.



**Fig 6:** Satellite Imagery of Mining area showing the extent of *Prosopis juliflora* during the year 2010 (02.12.2010). Coverage of *Prosopis* in 2010 enhanced to 32.5% from baseline extent of 8% in 2004.



**Fig 7:** Satellite Imagery of Mining area showing the extent of *Prosopis juliflora* during the year 2012 (24.09.2012). The coverage of *Prosopis* enhanced by almost 49% in comparison to base year of 2004 i.e., just 8 years

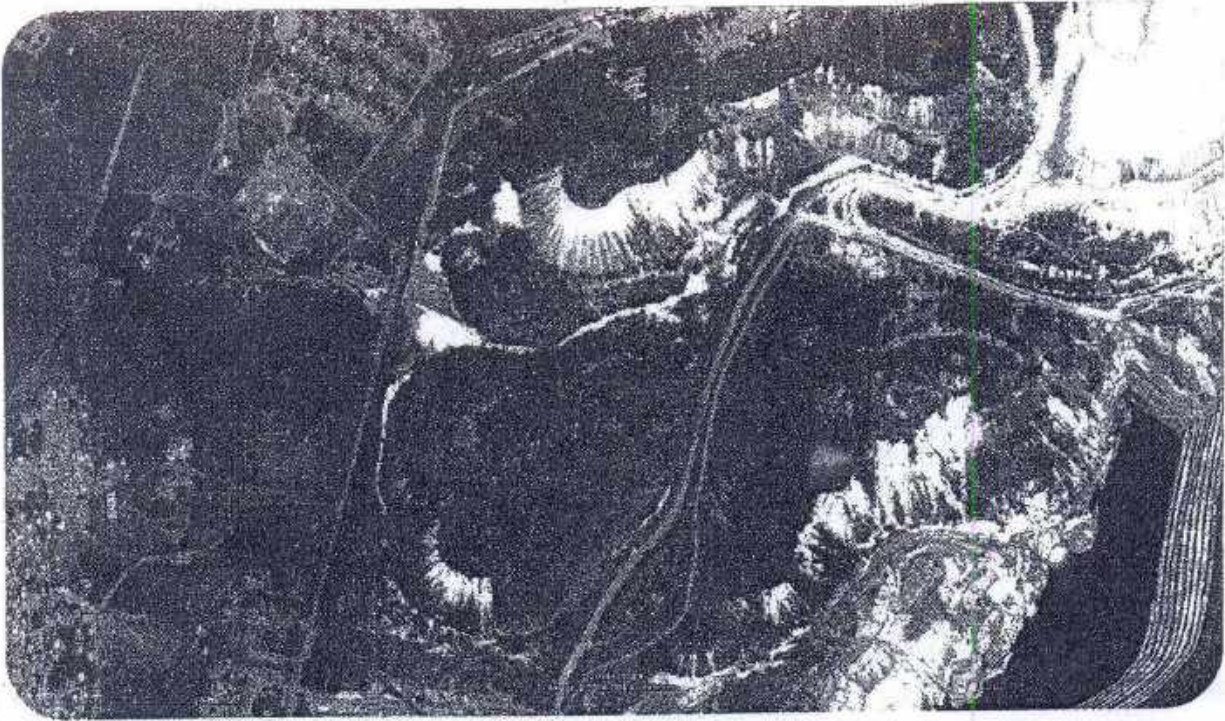


Fig 8: Satellite Imagery of Mining area showing the extent of *Prosopis juliflora* during the year 2013 (01.11.2013). The *Prosopis* coverage got further enhanced and cumulative increase from base year was about 57%.

Table 1: Temporal changes in *Prosopis* cover (per cent) across different years at mining and dumping sites in Chandrapur area

Sampling Locations	Percent <i>Prosopis</i> Cover at different Sampling Location (Year and date of Satellite Imagery)				
	2004	2006	2010	2012	2013
	15.04.2004	26.01.2006	02.12.2010	24.09.2012	01.11.2013
A	20	45	75	85	90
B	0	0	50	60	70
C	05	10	15	20	25
D	0	25	50	70	80
E	25	30	35	40	50
F	0	0	20	70	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.33</b>	<b>18.33</b>	<b>40.83</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>65.83</b>

**Table 3:** Results of vegetation sampling across time series plot during June, 2014

Sampling Locations	Species recorded at sampling Locations	% Cover by each species
A	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	90
	<i>Cassia siamea</i>	5
B	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	70
	<i>Cassia siamea</i>	10
	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	10
	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	5
C	<i>Acacia arabica</i>	40
	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	25
	<i>Cassia siamea</i>	10
	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	5
D	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	80
E	<i>Acacia spp.</i>	30
	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	50
	<i>Acacia arabica</i>	10
	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	5
	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	5
F	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	80

**h) Location of proposed area for diversion with respect to TATR South Corridor:**

The proposed forest diversion area is at the western side of the Tadoba Southern corridor. Tadoba is connected to Chaprala WLS in Maharashtra and Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh by TATR southern corridor. The proposed forest area for diversion is adjacent to existing Durgapur open cast mine. This diversion may not have much effect on movement of the animals through this corridor, but subsequent diversion if any may adversely affect the animal movement corridor. The locations of Durgapur mine and area proposed for diversion with respect to TATR south corridor is shown in Figure 9.

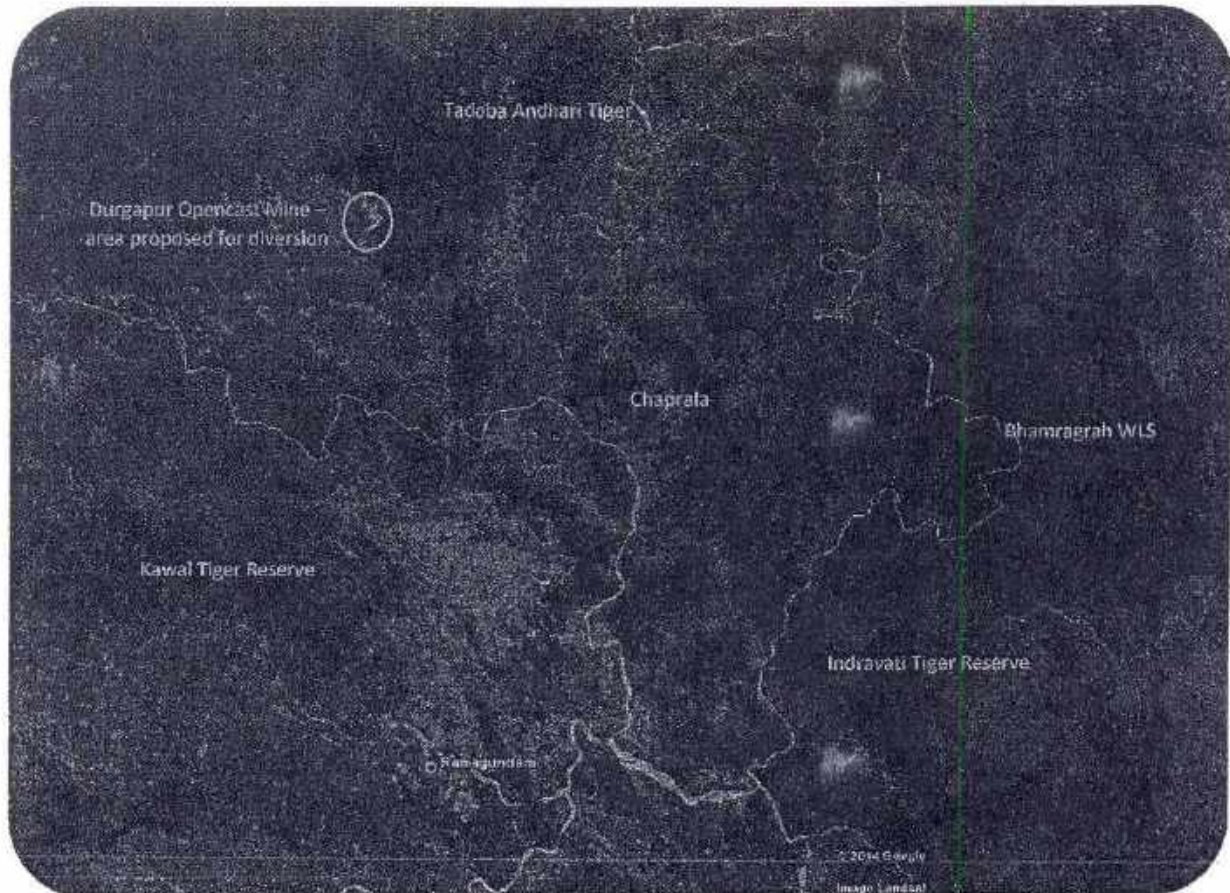


Fig 9: Location of various protected areas connected to Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve via TATR South Corridor with respect to forest area proposed for diversion

#### D. Recommendations:

1. The proposed forest diversion is at the western end of TATR south corridor which connects TATR to Chaprara WLS down south and further to Indravati Tiger Reserve, Chhattisgarh. The proposed forest diversion is expected to have less impact on the movement of animals using this corridor but any subsequent/additional forest diversion may impair the functionality of the corridor under consideration.
2. The WCL should take the responsibility of making existing plantation areas (WCL) within Chandrapur *Prosopis* free in a phased manner by replacing with native species, which will greatly help in reducing the human-wildlife conflicts in the area. As is evident from time series analysis, from 2004 till 2013 the *Prosopis* spread was estimated to be from 8.33% in 2004 to 65.83% in 2013 which means almost 60% of an area is covered with *Prosopis* than what was in 2004.

3. WCL should seek expert guidance for exploring options for better slope stabilization mechanisms at dumping sites. Native grass species and occasional trees interspersed in between should be the strategy for compensatory restoration instead of invasive *Prosopis spp.*
4. Continued monitoring by a competent agency of use of existing corridor by wildlife is vital along with maintenance of corridor functionality.

In view of above assessment, proposed forest (121.58 ha) can be considered for diversion subject to stipulation of phased removal of *Prosopis* in adjacent reclaimed sites and maintenance of functional corridor.

**References:**

Aggarwal RK, Gupta JP, Saxena SK, Muthana KD (1976) Studies on soil physico-chemical and ecological changes under twelve years old desert tree species of Western Rajasthan. *Indian For* 102: 863-872.

El-Keblawy A, Al-Rawai A (2007) Impacts of the invasive exotic *Prosopis juliflora* (Sw.) D.C. on the native flora and soils of the UAE. *Plant Ecol* 190: 23-35. doi: 10.1007/s11258-006-9188-2

MacDougall AS, Turkington R (2005) Are invasive species the drivers or passengers of change in degraded ecosystems? *Ecology* 86: 42-55. doi: 10.1890/04-0669

## ANNEXIRE 1

**Brief Introduction of WCL - Chandrapur**

Western Coalfields Limited Chandrapur Area is operating ten coal mines in & around Chandrapur City of Maharashtra State of which six mines are underground & four mines are opencast. A total workforce of 8471 persons is being deployed to produce around 6.0 Million Tonnes of Coal/Annum. Most of the coal produced is supplied to CSTPS-Chandrapur as well as other power plants in Maharashtra & the rest of the country. Some coal is also being supplied to Cement & other allied industries in & around Chandrapur. WCL-Chandrapur Area has acquired approx. 4000 Ha. Land & provided employment to about 800 land oustees directly & supports about 1000 persons indirectly as contractor's labour. Mining activity has also created work opportunities for sand/coal transporters, material suppliers, service providers like taxi operators, Garages etc. The details of forest land acquired till March 2014 along with production details are given below:

**A) SURFACE FOREST LAND ACQUIRED UPTO 31.3.2014 (As per Notifications)**

S. No.	Mine	Forest land (Ha.)	Remarks
1.	Hindusthan Lalpeth Colliery	44.30	Underground mine for surface work
2.	Chanda Rayatwar Colliery	5.42	-do-
3.	Durgapur Rayatwar Colliery	2.57	-do-
4.	Hindusthan Lalpeth Opencast	29.92	Opencast mining purpose
5.	Durgapur Opencast Mine	460.43	Including 121.58 ha forest land for mining purpose.
6.	Padmapur Opencast Mine	64.20	For opencast mining purpose
7.	Bhatadi Opencast	0.20	-do-
<b>Total</b>		<b>607.04</b>	

**B) Year-wise Coal Production for last five year is as follows (In Million Tonnes)**

Year	By Opencast	By Underground	Total
2009-10	5.80	1.08	6.89
2010-11	5.57	0.85	6.42
2011-12	5.98	0.77	6.75
2012-13	4.71	0.73	5.45
2013-14	4.68	0.65	5.34

## ANNEXIRE 2

## GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

No. FLD/3613/CR 251/F-10  
 Room no. 456/461 Annex,  
 Revenue and Forest Department,  
 Madam Cama Road, Hutatma Rajguru  
 Chowk, Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400 032.  
 Dated: 5th August, 2013.

To  
 ✓ The Director,  
 Wildlife Institute of India,  
 Government of India,  
 Post Box no. 18, Chandrabani,  
 Dehradun 248001, Uttarakhand.

Subject : Forest Land- Chandrapur District  
 Diversion of 34.135 ha. of forest land for Durgapur Open Cast Mines of Western Coalfields  
 Ltd., Nagpur.

Sir,  
 Western Coal Field Ltd, Nagpur, a Public Undertaking of Government of India, has submitted a proposal for diversion of 34.135 ha. forest land under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposed forest land is from village Sinhal in Chandrapur District. The project is located at a distance of 12.25 km from the core area of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and at 1.25 km from the buffer area of TATR. As reported by the Chief Conservator (Territorial), Chandrapur, the area has rich presence of endangered species such as Tiger/Leopard and the area is sensitive as it is a good habitat for Tiger, Leopard and other wild animals. The proposed area has presence of endangered Schedule -I species such as Tiger and Leopard. The area is adjoining to the notified buffer zone of TATR and very near to Chandrapur Town. The incidents of conflict between human beings and animals have been reported on the increased level in last 4-5 years.

In view of this, the State Government is of the opinion that, it is necessary to carry out the wildlife study in this area before taking any decision to recommend the proposal to Government of India.

Hence, it is requested to carry out Wildlife Impact Assessment Study with reference to whether this proposal would cause any damage to the wildlife habitat and also whether it will give rise to the conflicts between human beings and animals.

The project authority and concerned forest officers are being informed to extend all the necessary co-operation and assistance to you in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

(Sanjeev Gaur)  
 Joint secretary

P.T.O.

RECEIVED  
 22/8/13  
 20/08/13

## ANNEXURE 5

## The GPS locations of proposed forest land (Boundary)

S. No.	Boundary Pillar No.	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
1.	BP - 1	79 19 28.47	20 02 30.55
2.	BP - 2	79 19 46.58	20 02 17.59
3.	BP - 3	79 19 34.25	20 01 12.00
4.	BP - 4	79 19 58.09	20 01 02.27
5.	BP - 5	79 19 58.80	20 00 31.61
6.	BP - 6	79 19 57.00	20 00 34.21
7.	BP - 7	79 19 07.19	19 59 41.78
8.	BP - 8	70 18 28.38	19 59 24.19
9.	BP - 9	79 18 42.80	20 00 36.51
10.	BP - 10	79 18 16.64	20 00 26.85
11.	BP - 11	79 18 07.19	20 01 19.17
12.	BP - 12	79 18 33.40	20 01 19.28
13.	BP - 13	79 18 43.00	20 02 06.00
14.	BP - 14	79 19 27.00	20 01 55.23
15.	BP - 15	79 19 57.49	20 02 23.62
16.	BP - 16	79 20 32.70	20 02 02.39
17.	BP - 17	79 20 47.66	20 01 39.00
18.	BP - 18	79 20 22.80	20 01 13.78
19.	BP - 19	79 20 09.77	20 01 03.20
20.	BP - 20	79 20 21.19	20 00 40.13
21.	BP - 21	79 20 01.47	20 00 18.64
22.	BP - 22	79 19 26.16	19 59 43.40



## वेस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लिमिटेड

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)

(मिनिरातना कंपनी)

महाप्रबंधक (पर्यावरण) का कार्यालय

Website: westerncoal.nic.in

CIN: U10100MH1975GOI018626

## Western Coalfields Ltd.

(A Govt. Of India Enterprise)

(A Miniratna Company)

Office of the General Manager (Environment)

E-mail: gmenvironment.wcl@nic.in

पंजीकृत कार्यालय: कोल एस्टेट, सिविल लाइन्स, नागपुर - ४४० ००१  
Regd. Office.: Coal Estate, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440 001.

टेली फ़ैक्स क्रमांक - 0712-2510151

Tele Fax No - 0712 2510151

Ref. No: WCL/ENV/HQ/20-C & 3-D / 33

Date: 29.01.2016

To  
The Additional Director General of Forests (WL),  
MoEF & CC, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Vayu Wing,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
**New Delhi - 110 003**

**Sub: Application for Clearance from Standing Committee of NBWL - Durgapur Extension Deep O/C - Regarding.**

Dear Sir,

This has a reference to the letter No. J-11015/56/2008-IA, II (M) dated 24.02.2012, wherein the EAC (T & C) had directed for obtaining stage-I FC for 121.58 ha & also clearance from Standing Committee of NBWL. A copy of the said letter is enclosed here with for kind reference.

In fulfilment of requirement as desired above, the Stage-I FC for 121.58 ha of forest land has since been obtained from MoEF & CC vide its letter No. F. No. 8-84/2014-FC dated 16.12.2015. The aforesaid letter is enclosed along with a copy of assessment report submitted by WII, Dehradun.

In view of the above, we most earnestly solicit the clearance from Standing Committee of NBWL for the subject project for onward submission to EAC for further consideration.

**Enclosures:** As above

Yours Faithfully

  
29/01/16  
General Manager (Envt.)/HOD

**Copy to:**

1. AGM, Chandrapur Area, WCL.
2. GM (L & R), WCL (HQ), Nagpur.

**ताडोबा-अंधारी व्याघ्र प्रकल्प**

क्षेत्र संचालक यांचे कार्यालय, मुल रोड, चन्द्रपूर  
फोन ०७१७२-२५१४१४; फॅक्स ०७१७२-२५७११६

**TADoba-ANDHARI TIGER PROJECT**

Office of Field Director, Mul Road, Chandrapur 442401  
cf\_fdtatr@rediffmail.com; Phone 07172-251414; fax 277116

**Sub:-** Confirmation regarding locations of 16 coal mining projects of WCL w.r.t. Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR).

**No. Desk-5/Survey/11-12/ 2384**  
Chandrapur, Dated :- 10/02/2012

**To,**

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife),  
East Nagpur

Ref :- 1) General Manager Chandrapur Area letter No. WCL/CHA/GM/ENV/579,  
dated 10/02/2012. (Copy enclosed)  
2) This office letter No. Desk-5/Survey/09-10/659, dated 16/01/2010.

Shri. T.N. Jha, General Manager, Western coal fields Ltd. Chandrapur and Shri. S.K. Jagnania, Regional Director, CMPDI RI IV, Nagpur discussed the issue of 'Durgapur Open Cast' and 'Durgapur Extension (Deep) Open Cast' boundary with the reference to this office letter No. Desk-5/Survey/09-10/659, dt. 16/01/2010. In response to the General Manager, Western Coal fields Ltd. Chandrapur letter dated 10/02/2012, the boundary of two proposed open cast referred above shown on enclosed map duly certified by CMPDI RI IV, Nagpur and WCL area on 10/02/2012 has been duly tallied with the map submitted earlier for 'Durgapur Open Cast'. Since the boundaries shown on both maps are coterminous, the crow fly distances communicated vide this office letter No. Desk-5/Survey/09-10/659, dt. 16/01/2010 is valid for 'Durgapur Open Cast' and 'Durgapur Extension (Deep) Open Cast' taken together. It is reiterated that the proposed combined area of both open cast mines are at a distance of 12.25 k.m. from the core area and 1.25 k.m. from the buffer area of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve.

The report is submitted for issuing necessary certificate to the OSD, Environment WCL, Nagpur.

Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director,  
Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, Chandrapur

**Copy submitted to/ forwarded with compliment :-**

- 1) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), M.S. Nagpur
- ✓ 2) The General Manager, WCL Chandrapur Area
- 3) Chief Conservator of Forests, North Chandrapur
- 4) Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chandrapur Division, Chandrapur

## SITE INSPECTION REPORT

Sr. No.	Items	Observation and Remarks
1	Name of Project	Wildlife Clearance proposal for renewal of forest clearance of 80.77 ha. forest land for Durgapur Open Cast Project, Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur Area under Chandrapur Forest Division.
2	Forest area involved	80.77 ha.
3	Location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division</li> <li>• Range</li> <li>• Round</li> <li>• Beat</li> <li>• F.S.</li> </ul>	Chandrapur Forest Division, Chandrapur. Chandrapur Durgapur Durgapur Improvement Working Circle
4	Date of Site Inspection	27/03/2024
5	Details of forest type and flora of existing crop, with botanical name of species.	The vegetation according to Champion and Seth's classification belongs to the Sub group - Tropical dry deciduous forest and sub-group 5A/C3 southern tropical dry mix deciduous forest type having Teak as dominant species. The main associates of Teak ( <i>Tectona grandis</i> ), Ain ( <i>Terminalia tomentosa</i> ), Bamboo ( <i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i> ), Bija ( <i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i> ), Dhaoda ( <i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> ), Haldu ( <i>Adina cordifolia</i> ), Salai ( <i>Boswellia serrata</i> ), Tendu ( <i>Diospyros melonoxylon</i> ), etc.
6	Density of the forest area	Mined out Area. The density is below 0.01.
7	Details of fauna including their population and distribution from Wildlife Sanctuary, National Park or Reserve	<p><b>Fauna Vertebrates :-</b> (1) Mammals 80 species, (2) Aves 280 species, (3) Reptiles 54 species, (4) Amphibians 11 species, (5) Pisces 84 species, (6) Snakes 28 species, (7) Birds 280 species</p> <p><b>Invertebrates :-</b> (8) Millusca 37 species, (9) Dragonflies 41 species, (10) Muntoidea 51 species, (11) Hemiptera 25 species, (12) Lepidoptera 68 species, (13) Scolopendridae 3 species &amp; (14) Scorprionida 34 species etc.</p>
8	Other aspects of importance	
	• Historical / Archaeological	--
	• Geographical	--
	• Religious	--
	• Geological	--

9	Remarks regarding sensitivity of area likely to be affected due to project.	The proposed 80.77 ha. area was already mined out. Hence, no major negative impacts to be seen due to diversion of the area.
10	No. of Photographs (is enclosed)	No
11	Whether violation of the act has been noticed anywhere.	No

**Date :- 28/03/2024**

**Place :- Chandrapur**

  
**(Prashant Khade)**  
 Divisional Forest Officer,  
 Chandrapur Forest Division,  
 Chandrapur



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN  
TRIBUNAL, WESTERN ZONE, PUNE

Original Application No.198 of 2024

In the matter of :

News item titled "Coal Over Conservation raise  
... Applicant

Versus

Principle Chief Conservator of Forests.

& others Respondents

**Reply Affidavit of Respondent No.1**

DATED 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

D.M.GUPTA

ADVOCATE FOR RESPONDENT  
NO.1

3, LAXMAN APARTMENT

25/26, OLD TOPKHAHANA,

S'NAGAR, PUNE – 411 005

MOBILE : 9422317884

email: advgupte@gmail.com