

IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
WESTERN ZONE BENCH AT PUNE

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 198 OF 2024



IN THE MATTER OF:

COURTS ON ITS OWN MOTION.....APPLICANT

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND OTHERS ..RESPONDENT

REPLY ON THE BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 3 (MINISTRY OF  
ENVIRONMENT FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE)

I, Nandkishor, S/o Vyankatesh Balkrishnarao Kale, aged about 50 Years, at present posted as Assistant Inspector General of Forests (AIGF), National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Regional Office at Nagpur, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. It is submitted that, I am working as AIGF in National Tiger Conservation Authority, and I am filing the present counter affidavit on behalf of MOEF&CC and NTCA in the aforesaid writ petition and I am aware of the facts and circumstances of the case based on available records and therefore, competent to affirm this affidavit.
2. It is submitted that the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, constituted under enabling

provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per power and functions assigned to it under the said Act. It has been successful in fulfilling its mandate within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/ normative guidelines, bases on appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of especially constituted committees. (As such, the National Tiger Conservation Authority has an overarching role in the matter of tiger conservation).

3. It is submitted that the NTCA is statutory body constituted with object and strong commitment to conserve iconic species Tiger through amendments to the Wildlife (Protection) Act. It is most respectfully submitted that the NTCA takes all mitigation measures to conserve tigers in India as and when required as per the opinion of domain experts.
4. It is submitted that That Section 38 V (4) (i) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 categorically highlights the fact that the core or critical tiger habitat areas of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries have to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of tiger conservation.
5. It is submitted that the State Government is mandated with the day-to-day administration of field formations within the State as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The National Tiger Conservation Authority assists the tiger range States by hand holding and providing necessary funding support, for protection, strengthening of anti-poaching activities including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, for deployment of anti-poaching squads involving ex-army personnel and more home guards, apart from work force comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication and wireless facilities on a site-specific basis. Guidance to tiger range States is provided through



the National Tiger Conservation Authority (Normative Standards for Tourism activities and Project Tiger) Guidelines, 2012 under Section 38 O (1) (c) of the Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972.

6. It is submitted that this answering respondent provides technical/scientific support for the conservation of the tigers across the country through the guidelines/SOP/Advisories/technical reports time to time or as when and where required.
7. It is submitted that the Section 38 V (4) (i) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 categorically highlights the fact that the core or critical tiger habitat areas of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries have to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of tiger conservation. The NTCA issues a set of guidelines from time to time for implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, after its revision and approval by the competent authority with a format for preparation of village relocation plan from core/critical tiger habitats.
8. It is submitted that India's tiger reserve network has now expanded to current 58 tiger reserves cumulatively protecting an area of nearly 84487 km<sup>2</sup> (approximately 2.5% of the country's geographical area) of which approximately 46701.29 km<sup>2</sup> is inviolate core. These tiger reserves are repositories for biodiversity conservation in the country ensuring regional water security and carbon sequestration thereby contributing in accomplishing India's climate change mitigation goals.
9. It is submitted that the NTCA along with the Wildlife Institute of India, in letter and spirit of section 38 O (1) (g) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 have identified 32 major tiger corridors in the country and published them in a document titled "Connecting Tiger Populations for Long-term Conservation", which are operationalized through prescriptions of a Tiger Conservation Plan mandated under section 38V of the said Act.
10. It is submitted that Section 38 O (1) (g) of the Wild Life



(Protection) Act, 1972 provides that it shall be the function of the NTCA to ensure that the tiger reserves and areas linking one protected area or tiger reserve with another protected area or tiger reserve are not diverted for ecologically unsustainable uses, except in public interest and with the approval of the National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) and on the advice of the NTCA.

11. It is submitted that an 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 was prepared in 2013. In the said report it had been noted that 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. A Copy of the Assessment Report is Annexed herewith as **Annexure - 1**.
12. It is submitted that a site inspection was also carried out by this Answering Respondent and in this report it has been observed that the Durgapur Opencast Project is located 12.25 Kilometres from the Core Zone of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. Durgapur project was conceived in 1978 and when around 2010 buffer was carved it touched the boundary of Durgapur project. But present proposal of 80.77 Ha is 1.2 Km from Buffer boundary. This project is also outside of eco sensitive zone of any PA. A copy of report dated 23.06.2025 is annexed herewith as **Annexure - 2**.
13. It is submitted that as stated herein above, NTCA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 does not grant separately any permission/Clearance to any activities/projects. However, the NTCA only gives its consent/comments in granting of Wildlife Clearance by the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) to the activity as and when required by the NBWL.
14. In view of the above submission, it is most respectfully submitted that the present additional affidavit may kindly be taken on record and into consideration and this Hon'ble Court may kindly be pleased to pass appropriate Order(s), direction(s), as deemed fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the present case.
15. That other/ancillary issues raised in the petition under reply do



not pertain to the answering respondent. The answering Respondent seeks leave to make additional submissions, if required, during the course of the proceedings

**DEPONENT**

नंदकिशोर व्यंकटेश काळे / Nandkishor Vyankatesh Kale (IFS)  
सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक / Assistant Inspector General of Forests  
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India  
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change  
राष्ट्रीय व्याघ्र संरक्षण प्राधिकरण  
National Tiger Conservation Authority  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, नागपूर / Regional Office, Nagpur

**VERIFICATION**

I, the above named deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge derived from the records of the case and believed to be true. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom. Verified at Nagpur on this the ..... day of July, 2025.

**DEPONENT**

नंदकिशोर व्यंकटेश काळे / Nandkishor Vyankatesh Kale (IFS)  
सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक / Assistant Inspector General of Forests  
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National Tiger Conservation Authority  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, नागपूर / Regional Office, Nagpur

(Adv. Pushkal Mishra)

NOTARIAL REG  
ENTRY No. 8099  
DATE 10/7/2025

MRS. S. R. MATTA  
NOTARY  
NAGPUR DIST. (M.S.)  
INDIA  
BO No 6776  
My term Expires  
on 22 9 2028  
GOVT OF INDIA

NOTARY  
MRS. S. R. MATTA  
DIST. NAGPUR (M.S.)  
REGD. NO. 6776  
GOVT. OF INDIA

APPEAR BEFORE ME ON THIS 10<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF July 25 2025 AT NAGPUR BY  
SHRI / SMT. / K. Nandkishor V. B. Kale  
R/o NAGPUR WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY  
SHRI / SMT. Pushkal Mishra  
ADVOCATE, NAGPUR.

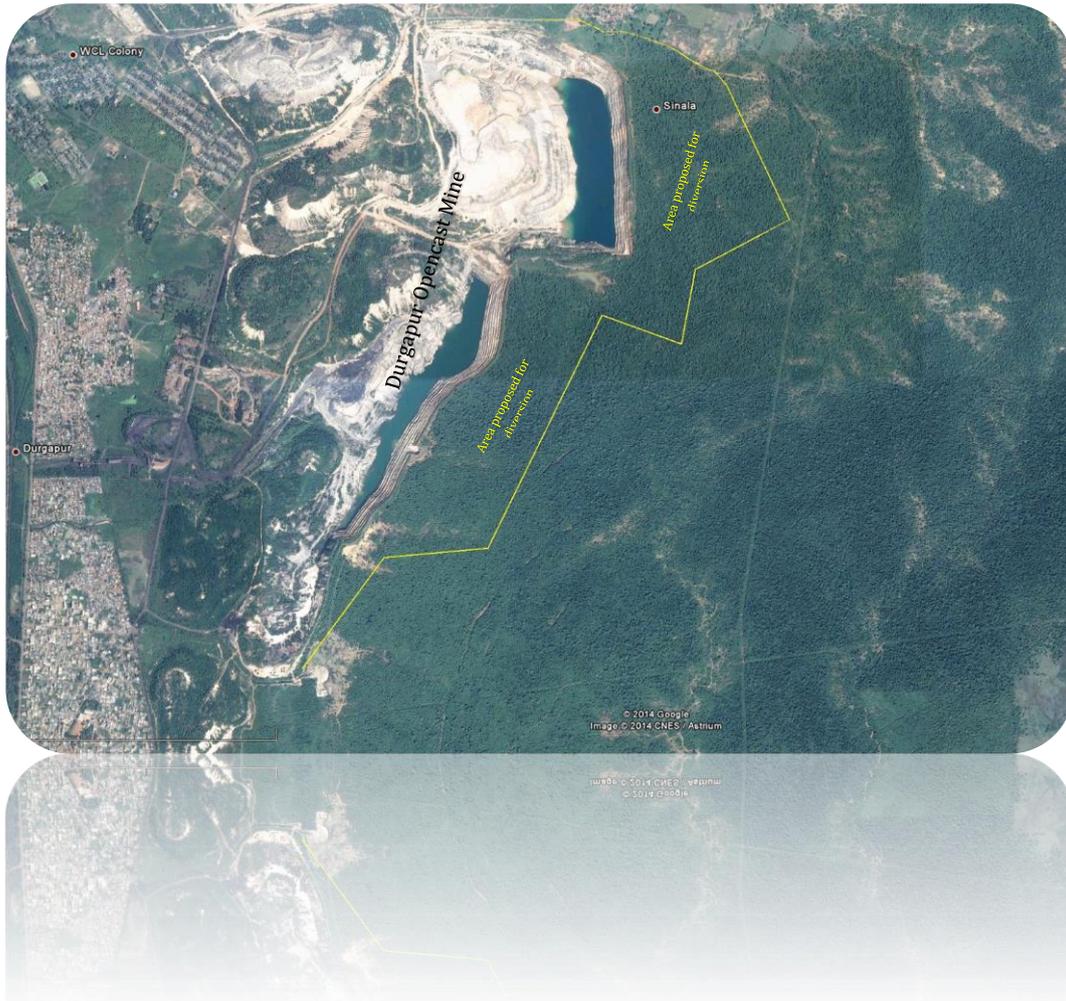
Mrs. S. R. MATTA  
Advocate & Notary  
16-B, Clarke Town, Nagpur

MATTA  
NOTARY  
NAGPUR DIST. (M.S.)  
INDIA  
BO No 6776  
My term Expires  
on 22 9 2028  
GOVT OF INDIA

5 INDIAN  
पांच रुपये  
FIVE RUPEES  
NOTARIAL

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

**Assessment Report**



**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.

### C. Field Observations:

#### a) 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**).

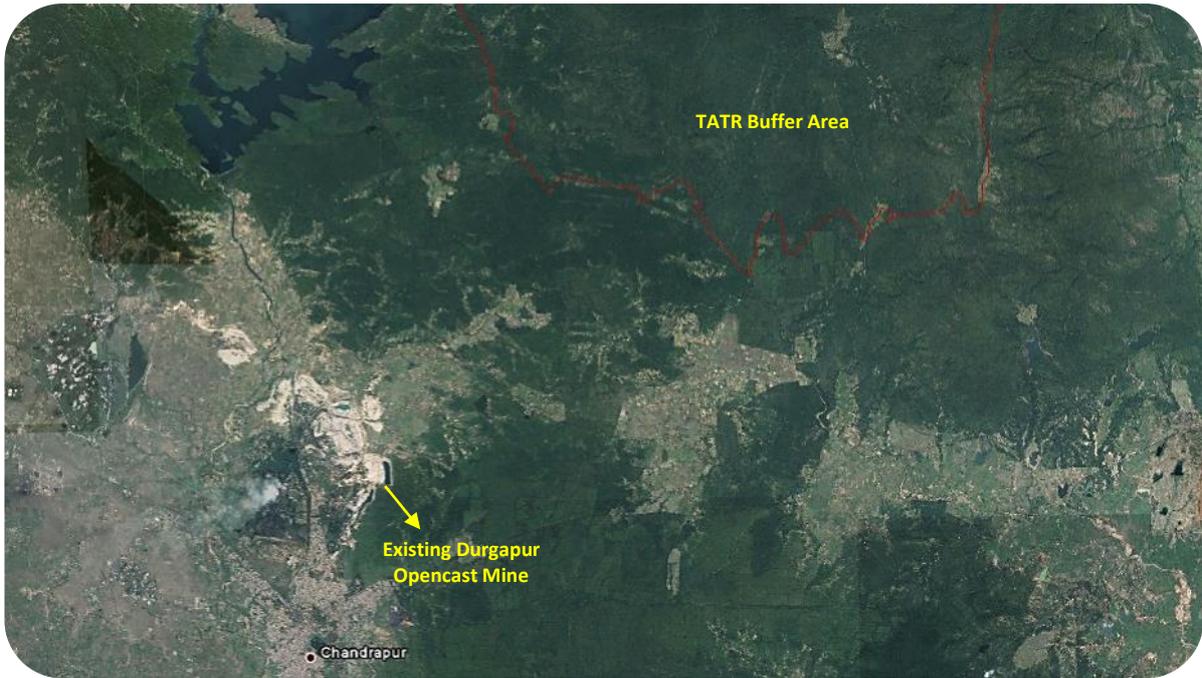
During the field visit, a 3 km long trail through the 121.58 ha area was searched for occurrence of animal signs (pugmarks, scats etc.), direct sightings and also to assess vegetation diversity and condition along the trail. During the field visit existing mining areas and compensatory afforestation 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:

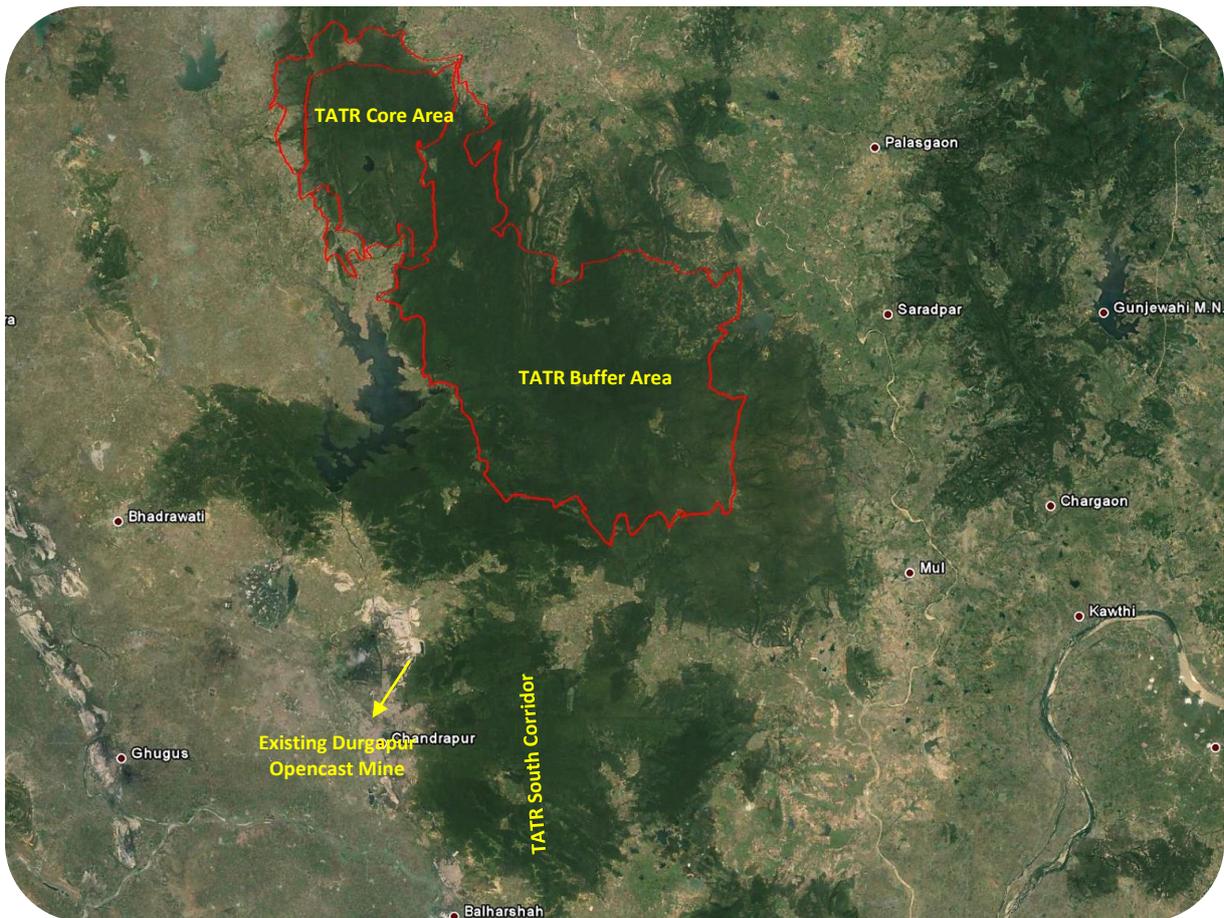
The land proposed for diversion (121.58 ha) has been demarcated by WCL authorities with boundary markings (GPS location of boundary markings provided in **Annexure 5**) and is contiguous to existing Durgapur Opencast Mine. The proposed diversion area is characterized by Southern Dry Deciduous Forest 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.

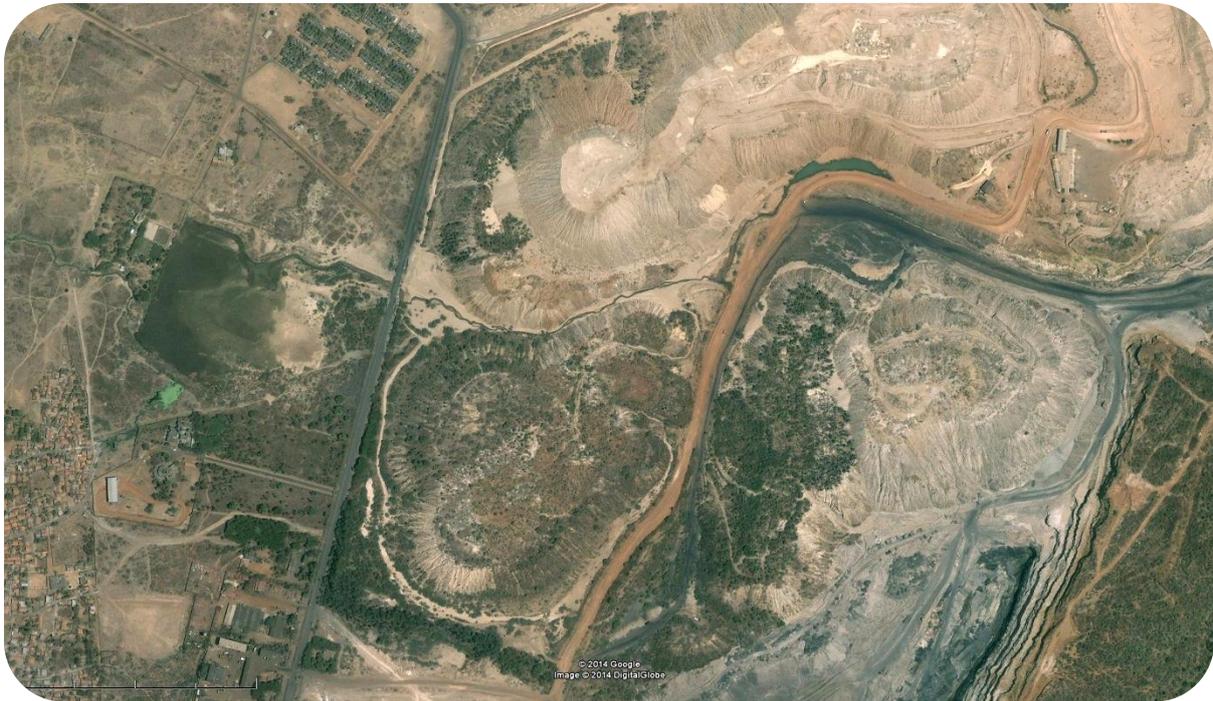
**f) *Prosopis* - an invasive species responsible for increasing human-wildlife conflict:**

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

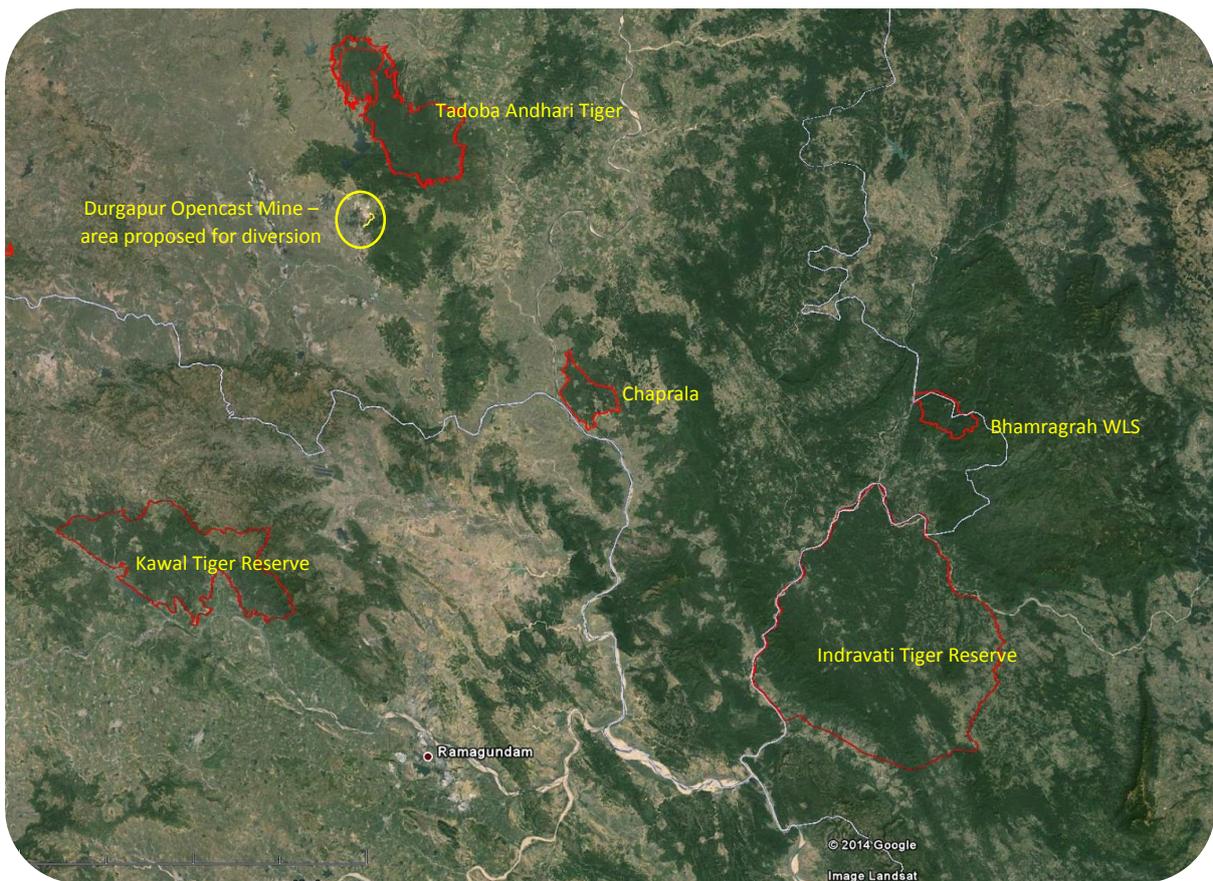
Sampling Locations	Percent <i>Prosopis</i> Cover at different Sampling Location (Year and date of Satellite Imagery)				
	2004	2006	2010	2012	2013
	15.04.2004	26.01.2006	02.12.2010	24.09.2012	01.11.2013
A	20	45	75	85	90
B	0	0	50	60	70
C	05	10	15	20	25
D	0	25	50	70	80
E	25	30	35	40	50
F	0	0	20	70	80
<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
<b>A</b>	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	90
	<i>Cassia siamea</i>	5
<b>B</b>	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	70
	<i>Cassia siamea</i>	10
	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	10
	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	5
<b>C</b>	<i>Acacia arabica</i>	40
	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	25
	<i>Cassia siamea</i>	10
	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	5
<b>D</b>	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	80
<b>E</b>	<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
<b>F</b>	<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 Chaprala 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 Rayatwari Colliery	5.42	-do-
3.	Durgapur Rayatwari 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
<b>2009-10</b>	5.80	1.08	<b>6.89</b>
<b>2010-11</b>	5.57	0.85	<b>6.42</b>
<b>2011-12</b>	5.98	0.77	<b>6.75</b>
<b>2012-13</b>	4.71	0.73	<b>5.45</b>
<b>2013-14</b>	<b>4.68</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>5.34</b>

## Annexure - 2

## ANNEXIRE 2

## GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

No. FLD 3613/CR 251/F-10  
 Room no. 456/ 461 Annex,  
 Revenue and Forest Department,  
 Madam Kama 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,  
 Deharadun 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,

(Sahjeev Gaur)  
 Joint secretary

P.T.O.

E:\F-10\English Letters to GOI.doc

E-Mail:

Section (Receipt)  
 22.8.2  
 20/08/13

DWIL OFFICE  
 DIARY NO. 4558  
 DATE: 20/08/13

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**

Copy for necessary action to:-

1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India, New Delhi with a request to direct the Institute to take up the wildlife study as mentioned above.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wild Life), Maharashtra State, Nagpur.
3. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur.
4. Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Chandrapur with a request to extend the necessary assistance to the Institute to carry out the above mentioned Wildlife Impact Assessment Study in the proposed area.
5. Chief Manger, WCL. Nagpur is requested to follow up the matter with concerned authorities.

## ANNEXIRE 3

## Government of Maharashtra

No. FLD 3613/CR 251/F-10  
 Room no. 456/ 461 Annex,  
 Revenue and Forest Department,  
 Madam Kama Road, Hutatma Rajguru  
 Chowk, Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032.  
 Dated: 6 January, 2014.

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

Subject : Forest Land- Chandrapur District  
 Diversion of 121.58 ha. of forest land for Durgapur Open Cast Mines of Western Coalfields  
 Ltd., Nagpur.  
 Ref: This Govt.'s letter of even no. dated 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2013.

Sir,

Please refer the above mentioned letter from Government of Maharashtra.

2. The area of the forest land to be diverted was inadvertently mentioned as 34.135 ha. in the above letter. However, it should be 121.58 ha. as proposed by the user agency. A copy of proposal letter from Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State, Nagpur is enclosed for your kind perusal.

3. It is therefore requested to consider the correct area as 121.58 ha. for carrying out wildlife study in the area as 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

F. T. O.

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E-Mail: [undersecretaryf10@gmail.com](mailto:undersecretaryf10@gmail.com)

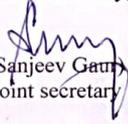
प्रतिभा अर्चना/Debar  
 WII-Div. Section (Receipt)  
 No. 1811/14  
 Date: 13/01/14

DIVISION:  
 DIV. NO.: 32  
 DATE: 13/01/14

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

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Sanjeev Gaur)  
Joint secretary

Copy for necessary action to:-

1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India, New Delhi with a request to direct the Institute to take up the wildlife study as mentioned above.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wild Life), Maharashtra State, Nagpur.
3. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur.
4. Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Chandrapur with a request to extend the necessary assistance to the Institute to carry out the above mentioned Wildlife Impact Assessment Study in the proposed area.
5. Chief Manger, WCL. Nagpur is requested to follow up the matter with concerned authorities.

## ANNEXURE 4

## List of persons met during Reconnaissance Visit

S. No.	Name and Designation	Contact Details
01.	Shri. Virendra Tiwari Ex. Field Director TATR	09422177456 <a href="mailto:virendra_t@hotmail.com">virendra_t@hotmail.com</a>
02.	Shri. G. P. Garad Field Director TATR	09423774202 ccf_fdtatr@rediffmail.com
03.	Shri. G. P. Narwane DFO Buffer TATR	09405465327 gajendranarwane@gmail.com
04.	Shri. N. D. Choudhari DFO, Chandrapur	09422303039 <a href="mailto:dfochandrapur@gmail.com">dfochandrapur@gmail.com</a>
05.	Shri. R.K. Mishra Area General Manager, Chandrapur Area	09422114943
06.	Shri. S. De Dy. G .M/Sub-Area Manager Durgapur OC Sub Area	09225336369 <a href="mailto:sdday75@gmail.com">sdday75@gmail.com</a>
07.	Shri. R. S. Gupta Staff Officer (P&P) Chandrapur Area	09225336388 <a href="mailto:geeteshgupta05@gmail.com">geeteshgupta05@gmail.com</a>
08.	Shri. S. D. Dhote Sr. Survey Officer Durgapur OC Sub Area	9405155273

## 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

भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
राष्ट्रीय व्याघ्र संरक्षण प्राधिकरण, क्षेत्रिय कार्यालय, नागपूर  
National Tiger Conservation Authority, Regional Office, Nagpur  
\*\*\*\*\*

F. No. 15-5/2024-NTCA-RONGP

Dated: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

To

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife)  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Government of India,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi - 110003

**Sub:** Report on proposal for use of 80.77 ha forest land for Durgapur Opencast Project Mine in favour of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in District Chandrapur within tiger corridor connecting Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve-Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary-Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Chandrapur District, Maharashtra-WL/MH/MIN/QRY/463196/2024-reg.

Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed site inspection report on proposal for use of 80.77 ha forest land for Durgapur Opencast Project Mine in favour of M/s Western Coalfields Limited in District Chandrapur within tiger corridor connecting Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve-Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary-Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Chandrapur District, Maharashtra-WL/MH/MIN/QRY/463196/2024 for your kind information and further necessary action. The documents mentioned in the inspection report are also enclosed herewith as below.

1. WII Assessment Report Durgapur Opencast Mine of 2013.
2. Approved Wildlife Mitigation Measures by Maharashtra Forest Department.

**Encl: As above**

Yours faithfully,



(Nandkishor V. Kale, IFS)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (NTCA)  
Tele/fax: +91-712-2560187  
Email: [aigcentral-ntca@nic.in](mailto:aigcentral-ntca@nic.in)

**Copy to:**

1. The Inspector General of Forests, National Tiger Conservation Authority, New Delhi.

क्वार्टर नं. बी -13/3 एवं बी -13/4 गव्हर्नमेंट कॉलनी, सी. पी. अँड बेरार हाईस्कूल के पास, रविनगर, नागपूर- 440001  
Qtr. No. B-13/3 & 13/4, Government Colony, Near C.P. & Berar High School, Ravinagar, Nagpur-440001

## Report of the Committee constituted as per directions of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life in respect of proposal WL/MH/MIN/QRY/463196/2024

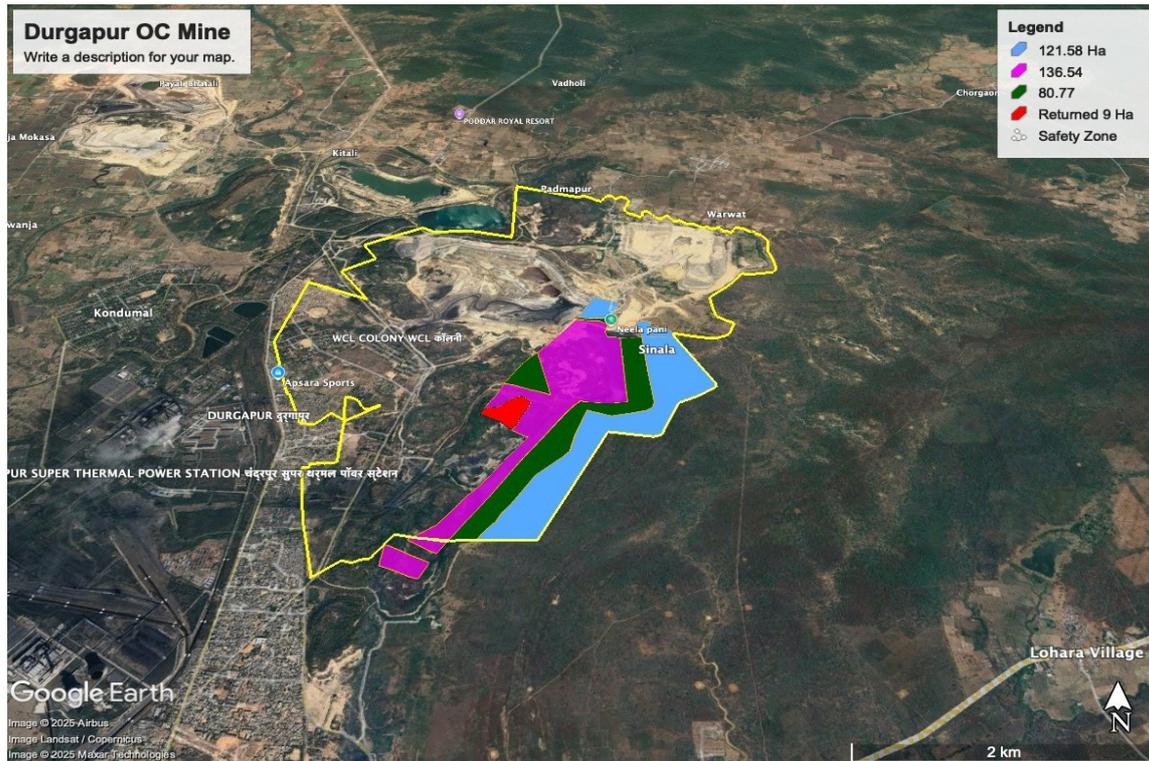
### 1. BACKGROUND

The Proposal is for the use of 80.77 ha forest land in Reserve Forest Compartment Nos. 400, 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division for Coal Mining at Chandrapur District, Maharashtra. **WL/MH/MIN/QRY/463196/2024** was discussed in the 82nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life (SCNBWL) held on 12th March 2025 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Geo-referenced map of the project area along with its key component is depicted in **Figure 1**.

### 2. COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

As directed by the Standing Committee, a site inspection committee was constituted vide its OM No. **F.No. 7-15/2025-NTCA** dated 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025, for comprehensive appraisal of the proposal:

1. Representative of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (Member – Convenor)
2. Representative of Director, Wildlife Institute of India (Member)
3. Representative of Chief Wildlife Warden (Member)
4. Representative of User Agency (Member)



**Figure 1:** Map of the project area

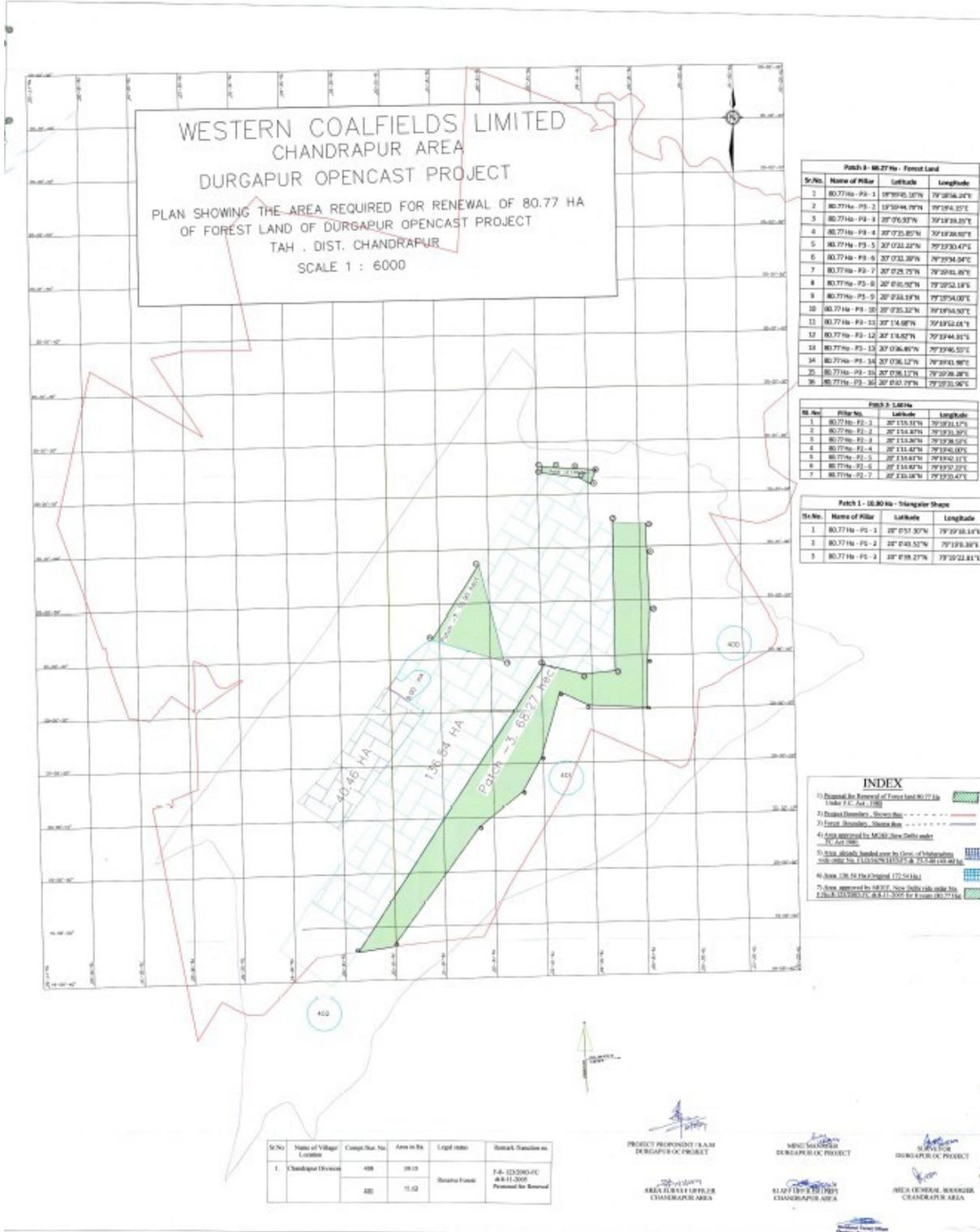


Figure 2: Geo-referenced map of the project area

### 3. Terms of Reference:

- I. The Committee shall examine the proposal and carry out site inspection.
- II. The Committee may co-opt experts in this field.
- III. The Committee shall study relevant reports, court orders, tribunal decisions, policy directives etc. with regard to proposal.
- IV. The Committee shall submit its report within 15 days.

Shri Nandkishor Kale, Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Regional Office, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Nagpur, was nominated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority to the committee. Wildlife Institute of India nominated Dr. Bilal Habib, Scientist F., represented by Ms. Anjali Thapriyal, Research Associate at WII, Dehradun who's already engaged on TATR Related Wildlife Studies inspected the site in place of Dr. Bilal Habib along with Shri. Prashant Khade, Divisional Forest Officer, Chandrapur Forest Division. Shri. Harish K Gawali, Project Proponent / Sub Area Manager, Durgapur Sub Area, Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur Area nominated by the User Agency as their representative. Shri. G.R. Naigamkar, Range Forest Officer, Chandrapur Range and Shri. Harish K Gawali, Sub Area Manager, Durgapur Sub Area of WCL also accompanied the team for Site Inspection.

The Committee carried out a site inspection on 12.06.2025. Figures 2, 3, and 4 provide visual documentation of inspection of 80.77 Ha Forest Area, along with the inspection team's visit to the site. The figures capture key moments from the field visit, including site observations, stakeholder engagement, and on-site discussions held by the inspection team regarding the proposed project.



**Figure 3: Field Visit**



Figure 4: Inspection Team at 80.77 Ha Forest Pillar – RF Compartment No.400



Figure 5: Verification of location with help of KML file

Figure 6: Backfilled Area along with Water Body in 80.77 Ha Forest Land

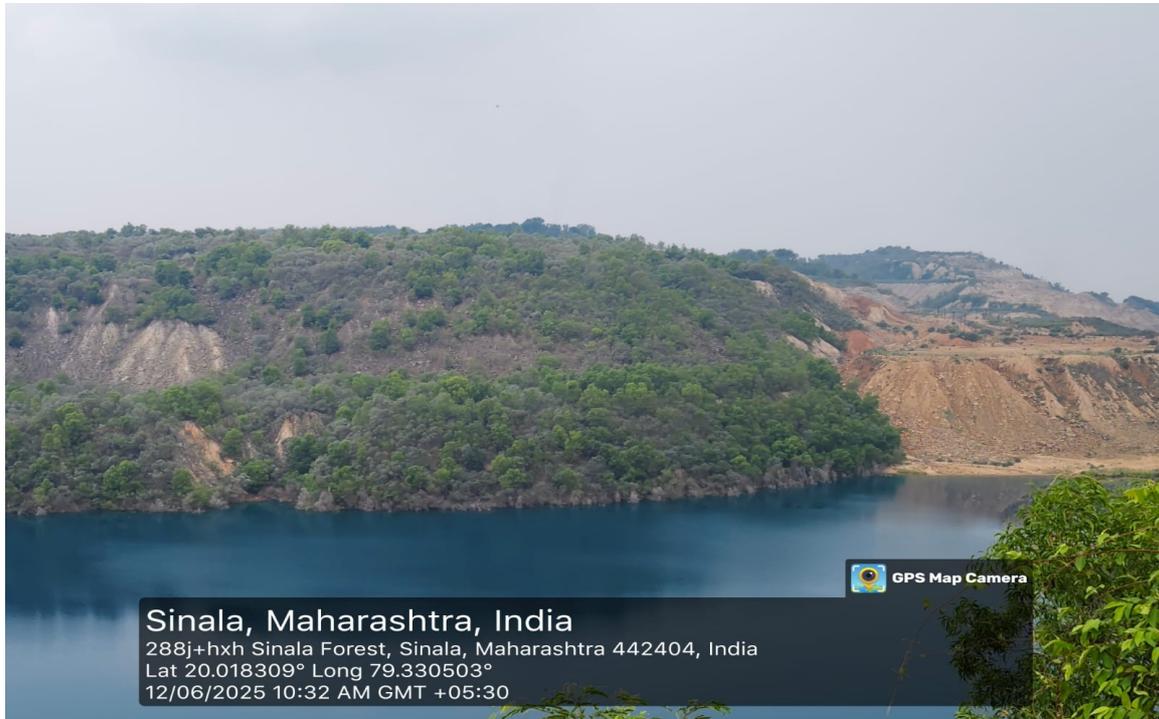


Figure 7: Water Body formed at 80.77 Ha Forest Land with submerged benches

4. OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS



**Project Background and Objective:** Durgapur Opencast Project of Western Coalfields Limited is located at Chandrapur District of Maharashtra. This project was started in the year October 1978. The committee noted that the 80.77 Ha Forest Land is located at the Compartment Nos. 400 & 401 of Chandrapur Forest Division at Chandrapur District, Maharashtra.

- I. The Durgapur Opencast project is having total area of 1597.50 Ha land. Total non-Forest land is 1218.15 Ha and Forest Land is 379.35 Ha. Out of which 177.00 Ha was already diverted for mining operations. Apart from that, Forest Clearance and Wildlife Clearance for 121.58 Ha Forest Land was obtained from MoEF & CC, New Delhi in 2021 & 2023 respectively. The current proposal is for renewal of forest clearance of 80.77 Ha forest land for which Stage I in-principle approval was issued by MoEF & CC, New Delhi vide letter dated 06.05.2025. **Figure 1** shows the relative positions of 80.77 Ha and 121.58 Ha of the forest land.
- II. The User Agency has backfilled and reclaimed 36.00 Ha Reserve Forest Land out of 172.54 Ha Forest Land diverted earlier in the year 2002 and returned to the State Forest Department in the year 2006.
- III. The proposed 80.77 Ha Forest Land was a diverted forest land vide MoEF, New Delhi Order dated 08.11.2005 for the period of 08 years. The User Agency has submitted a proposal for Renewal of Forest Clearance of 80.77 Ha which is recently accorded in-principle approval by the FC Division of MoEF & CC, New Delhi vide letter dated 06.05.2025.
- IV. As per the observation during the site inspection, 80.77 Ha Forest Land was mined out during the earlier diversion period except the Safety Zone area which are demarcated by pillars at ground level.
- V. Proposed 80.77 Ha is not falling in any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary or Eco Sensitive Zone.
- VI. The proposed 80.77 Ha is falling in the TATR Tiger Corridor 4 as per Tiger Conservation Plann(TCP) which connects Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) to Chaprala WLS in Maharashtra and Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh by TATR'S southern corridor.
- VII. As recommended in the WII-Wildlife Assessment Study, WCL is not planning any mining operations beyond 121.58 Ha Forest Land in the future.

#### **Court Cases related to Forest Land in this Project**

- I. **NGT Case OA No 198/2024 related to diversion of 80.77 Ha is subjudice at Hon'ble NGT Bench Pune. This case is related to the same area for which this inspection is done. Presently there is no stay by NGT in this case.**
- II. **A Public Interest Litigation vide 20/2024 is filed at Hon'ble High Court Bench of Nagpur related to the diversion of 121.58 Ha Forest Land of Durgapur Opencast Project-, Hon'ble High Court of Nagpur has issued an Order to stop the felling of trees vide Order dated 04.12.2024. Last hearing is held on 28.04.2025 and the matter is sub-judice at the court at present.**

**Figure 8** depicts an overall view of the Google imagery after superimposing the KML files of the proposed project, along with the core zone boundaries of the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and Eco-Sensitive Zone – Buffer Zones at Chandrapur District.

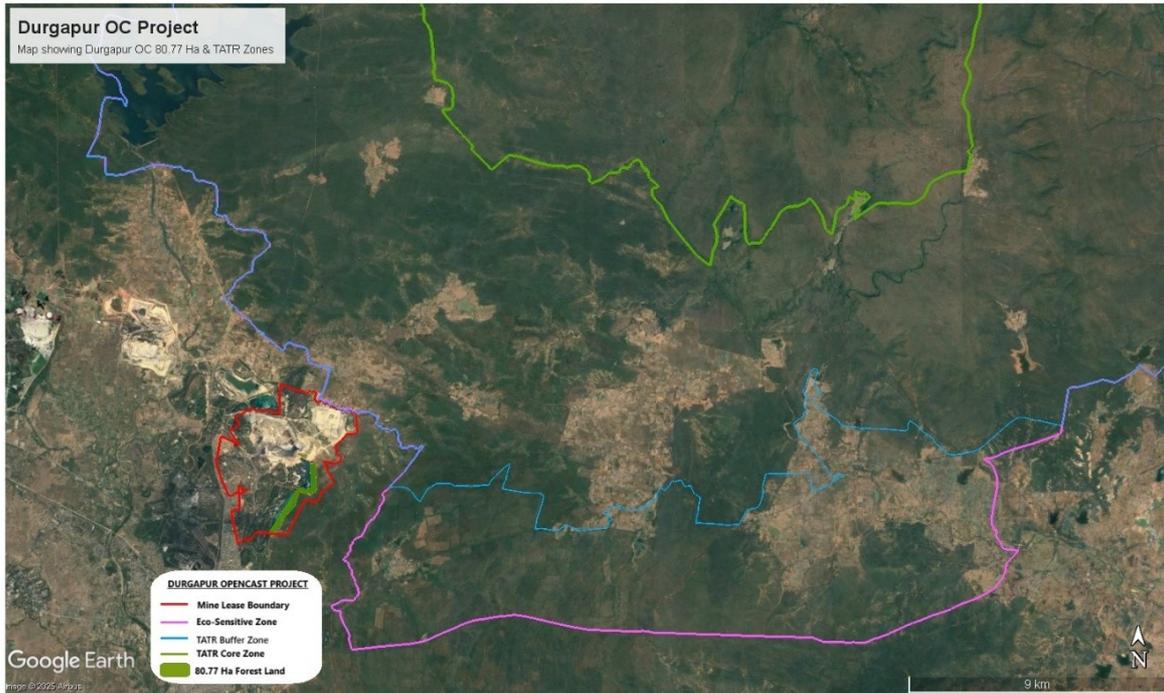


Figure 8: Durgapur OC Project in relation to TATR Zones



Figure 9: Safety Zone Pillar of 80.77 Ha Forest Land



**Figure 10: Shows the 36.00 Ha Forest Land Returned to State Forest Department**

### **Purpose & Societal Impact:**

#### **Necessity and urgency of the project**

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 about 8.00 Million Tonnes at the time of closure of operation in the area. This left out benches will be the approach for further mining in the proposed diverted 121.58 Ha forest land.

The Project is directly linked to Pit head of Chandrapur Super Thermal Power station (CSTPS) for generation of electricity which is supplied to the public through MAHAGENCO. A major portion of the coal demanded by CSTPS is being supplied through this project. Hence, this on-going project, establishing national importance on power generation front. Currently, the Durgapur Opencast Project is working with 3.00 MT capacity per annum.

As informed by User Agency, there is no further expansion of Durgapur Opencast mine and 121.58 Ha is the final working limit of Durgapur Opencast Project. **There will be no coal mining beyond already diverted 121.58 Ha Forest Land.**

WCL will carry out reclamation of used forest land and non-forest land area as per approved mining plan / mine closure plan. As informed by User Agency, OB generated during the mining operations shall be backfilled into existing mine voids. The concurrent technical reclamation/ backfilling shall continue for the next 17 years.

Plantation over the reclaimed land expected to be completed in subsequent four years post the closure of the mines.

Hence, the reclamation and return of the forest land is expected to be completed over next 22 years i.e by 2047.

Plantation of native species will be carried out through expert agencies.

**Protected Areas Involved:**

**The Durgapur Opencast Project is located 12.25 Kilometres from the Core Zone of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve. Durgapur project was conceived in 1978 and when around 2010 buffer was carved it touched the boundary of Durgapur project. But present proposal of 80.77 Ha is 1.2 Km from Buffer boundary. This project is also outside of eco sensitive zone of any PA.**

**Recommendations:**

The proposed 80.77 Ha Forest Land is already broken-up land. Renewal of 80.77 Ha is required to approach the adjacent diverted 121.58 Ha. Hence the project is recommended subject to the following conditions-

- i. A dedicated Wildlife Management Plan amounting to Rs. 18.07 Crs. has already been prepared based on the study conducted by WII, Dehradun for entire Durgapur OC project. User Agency should ensure implementation of all the Mitigative measures as recommended by the WII-Dehradun and approved by the Committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden. Maharashtra State.
- ii. All the area on forested side shall be fenced to avoid movement of wild animals inside mining area. It will also prevent felling of wild animals in mined out pits, Fencing shall be completed before initiation of mining operation.
- iii. User Agency should ensure implementation of WII's recommendation in Wildlife Assessment Study 2013.
- iv. In order to mitigate man-animal conflict in the area and to actively decrease/remove unnatural shelter areas for wildlife closer to human habitations, prosopis and other invasive species removal shall be completed within 5 years in entire Durgapur Project Area. A plan in this regard shall be prepared in consultation with forest departments which shall be approved by chief conservator of Forest, Chandrapur.



Dr Bilal Habib  
Scientist-F  
Wildlife Institute of India  
Dehradun



Shri Harish K Gawali  
Sub Area Manager  
Durgapur Sub Area  
WCL



Shri Prashant Khade  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Chandrapur



Shri Nandkishor Kale  
Assistant Inspector General of Forest  
NTCA, Nagpur

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'ch' followed by a checkmark-like flourish.

Chief conservator of Forest  
Chandrapur