



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

Original Application No. 190/2024/EZ

IN THE MATTER OF

M/s Bhagwati Stone Crushers ..... Applicant.

VERSUS

Union of India & Ors. .... Respondent.

**BRIEF WRITTEN ARGUMENT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 04 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, CHAIBASA FOREST DIVISION.**

1. The area of interest is within the territorial jurisdiction of Chaibasa Forest Division in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

**2. A brief background regarding the genesis of Management Plan For Sustainable Mining (MPSM) and Delineation of Mining Zones and Conservation Area/No Mining Zones in Saranda and Chaibasa in West Singhbhum District**

(a) The Commission of Enquiry headed by Hon'ble Justice M.B.Shah was setup by the Government of India vide notification dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2010 to inquire into the nature and extent of illegal mining of iron ore and manganese ore. The Commission of Enquiry, among other things, has also given due emphasis to protection of critical wildlife habitats, corridors linking critical wildlife habitats and also considered the entire elephant landscape of eastern Jharkhand and western Odisha.

(b) In compliance of the Action Taken Report on the 'Memorandum of Action taken' on the 'First report on illegal mining of iron and manganese ores in the state of Jharkhand' of Justice M.B.Shah commission of inquiry, submitted to the Government, the MoEF & CC, vide its letter F.No. 11-65/2024-FC, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014, awarded the carrying capacity study in Saranda Forest Division in the West Singhbhum District, Jharkhand to Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun to suggest annual capacity for iron ore production. Based on the terms of reference (TOR) which included all aspects as suggested by the commission of enquiry, the ICFRE submitted the draft final report on 28.03.2016. The report was examined by a committee constituted on 04.04.2016 by the MoEF & CC. Based on the committee's recommendations the ICFRE report was accepted by the competent authority in the MoEF & CC and has the approval of the Ministry. It is



pertinent to mention that these are Central Government decision and the Forest Officers of MoEF & CC and state forest department are bound by the guidelines and circulars issued.

**(c)** The Section 3 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 states that:

3. Constitution of Advisory Committee -The Central Government may constitute a committee consisting of such number of persons as it may deem fit to advise that Government with regard to-

- (i) The grant of approval under Section 2; and
- (ii) Any other matter connected with the conservation of forests which may be referred to it by the Central Government.

Hence the MPSM has a statutory legitimacy and is based on scientific assessment and is evidently an executive decision of the Government of India approved by the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.

**(d)** After detailed recommendation by Shah Commission and subsequent detailed study by ICFRE for delineation of conservation area/no mining zone which included critical Bio-diversity and wildlife corridors. The Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, Government of India has duly approved Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) for Saranda and Chaibasa on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Photocopy of Office Memorandum dated 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018 of Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change Government of India F.No. 11-65/2014-FC (Pt)] is annexed as **Annexure- A** to the counter affidavit.

**(e)** the irrational fragmentation of elephant habitats and corridors due to mining led to conflict in the region, hence the classification is in the interest of Wildlife protection.

**3.** The petitioner had submitted an online application no. SWSFST2005202494aa9 dated 20.05.2024 through Single Window System of Government of Jharkhand in the office of respondent no. 04 for grant of "Report of Distance from Forest, Forest Reserve and Sanctuary." This report comprises of six points against which only objective information in the form of YES/NO is provided by the office of concerned Divisional Forest Officer. Out of these six points, one-point deals with the fact that whether the battery point or the project location i.e., Village Baliyapada, Thana no. Kolhan-368 falls within Conservation/No Mining Zone or not.

#### **4. Whether the applied area comes under Mining/ No Mining Zone?**

**(a)** The details of mining zone-I in Chaibasa Forest Division are given in Table 5, page 12 of Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) in Saranda and Chaibasa in Singhbhum district, Jharkhand. This table deals with villages where mining and allied activities are allowed. That it is humbly submitted that the battery points as mentioned in online



application no. SWSFST2005202494aa9 dated 20.05.2024 i.e. Village Baliyapada, Thana no. Kolhan-368 does not find mention in the aforementioned Table 5. Photocopy of page no. 12 of MPSM is annexed as **Annexure-C** to the counter affidavit.

**(b)** It is further submitted that as per point no. 13 given in page no. 8 of the MPSM- **“The remaining area outside the identified mining zone (zone I & II) shall be closed for the purpose of mining.”** Therefore, accordingly the certificate vide memo no. 1069 dated 27.06.2024 as well as subsequent clarification vide memo no. 1178 dated 09.07.2024 was issued by Divisional Forest Officer, Chaibasa Forest Division.

- i. Photocopy of page no. 8 of MPSM is annexed as **Annexure-D**
- ii. Photocopy of memo no. 1069 dt. 27.06.2024 and letter no. 1178 dt. 09.07.2024 is annexed as **Annexure- E & F** to the counter affidavit.

**(c)** The map showing Mining and Conservation zones in Saranda & Chaibasa Division has been given in page 52 of MPSM. As per the map, villages/compartments falling in mining zone have been shown in white colour and remaining village/compartments have been shown in yellow colour. That it is further submitted that based on shape file of areas falling under MPSM available in the office of Divisional Forest Officer, Chaibasa Forest Division a detailed map of Mining and No Mining/Conservation Zone falling within Chaibasa Forest Division has been prepared.

- i. Photocopy of page no. 52 of MPSM is annexed as **Annexure-G**.
- ii. Photocopy of map of Chaibasa Forest Division showing Mining & No Mining/Conservation Zone is annexed as **Annexure-H** to the counter affidavit.

**(d)** A section of the aforementioned map comprising of the applied area as well as nearby villages has been annexed as **Annexure-I** to the counter affidavit. As per this map, the applied area i.e. village Baliyapada, Thana-Kolhan, Thana No. 368 has been mistakenly labelled as village Baliyaposi, although there is only one such village by this name bearing thana no. Kolhan 450 as indicated in the map. (The village Baliaposi has also been wrongly mentioned twice at Sl. no. 32 and 37 in page no. 28 of MPSM.) This is also evident from the cadastral map of village Baliyapada, Thana no. Kolhan 368 and neighbouring revenue villages Tarapai and Parsa as the village Baliyapada can be seen situated at the boundaries of these villages. That it is further submitted that as per the maps given in annexure G, H, I, J & K both the villages fall under No Mining/Conservation zone.

- i. Photocopy of section of the map comprising of the applied area as well as nearby villages is annexed as **Annexure-I**.
- ii. Photocopy of cadastral map of village Tarapai (Sheet no. 04), Parsa (Sheet No. 01) and Baliyapada is annexed as **Annexure- J, K & L** to the counter affidavit.

#### **5. Whether MPSM is applicable to forest area only?**

It is submitted that it is amply clear from the maps of MPSM that entire village is considered as a single unit for inclusion under mining or No Mining/Conservation zone and not just the forest areas. This is also evident from the list of villages falling under mining zone-I as given in Table 5 of MPSM (**Annexure-C**). For example, the total area of Barajamda village as given in the table is 1442.89 ha. out of which only 607.09 ha. is forest area while the remaining area is non forest area.

#### **6. Whether MPSM is limited to iron and manganese ore only?**

(a) It is humbly submitted that in a related matter of M/s Singhbhum Agrochem Industries, the proponent had applied for NOC for carrying out limestone mining in non-forest area of village Bamebasa and Mauda of Chaibasa Forest Division. In this case of also the Divisional Forest Officer, Chaibasa Forest Division raised an objection as both the said areas come under no mining zone as per MPSM in Saranda and Chaibasa of Singhbhum District.

(b) That it is further submitted that in this matter, the project proponent sought for clarification and necessary direction to remove the aforesaid areas from no mining zone from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. That in reply to this, it was clarified by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change vide letter dated 23.08.2022 that mining activities are prohibited in Bamebasa and Mauda villages of Chaibasa Division as both the areas fall in the conservation zone. Thus, it is amply clear that applicability of MPSM is not limited to iron and manganese ore only. Photocopy of letter dated 23.08.2022 of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is annexed as **Annexure-M** to the counter affidavit.

(c) The ICFRE study has identified critical biodiversity zones (Two Biodiversity Conservation Area/ No mining zones and three Critical Biodiversity Hot Spot) and important wildlife corridors which needs to be conserved. Based on the ICFRE report, these critical areas have been geo-referenced and the forest compartments have been identified for conservation. These areas shall be provided protection by the state government under Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1927 and Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the rules made thereunder.

#### **7. Regarding applicability of Supreme Court judgement dated 13.11.2015**

(a) That the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 13.11.2015 is related to declaration of Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary whereas the area in question in this case falls within the territorial jurisdiction of Chaibasa Forest Division.

(b) That as per **para 83** and **84** of the judgement: -

***“83. In its latest proposal, the State has sought to exclude several compartments from the wildlife sanctuary, however, only 6 out of them (i.e., KP-2, KP-10, KP-11, KP-12, KP-13 and KP-14) are categorized as either Mining Zone-I or Mining Zone-II under the MPSM. Even the compartments which are identified in the MPSM as conservation areas/no-mining zones (i.e., TK-8, TK-9, T-4, T-5, T-6, T-25 to T-32) have been sought to be excluded from the wildlife sanctuary.***

***84. We see no justification in excluding the compartments which have been notified in the MPSM to be conservation area/no mining zone from the proposed wildlife sanctuary. We say so because the MPSM has recommended thus in order to adhere to the principle of Sustainable Development.”***

Thus, from the above observation of the Hon’ble Supreme Court, it is clearly evident that due weightage has been given to the MPSM and its recommendations.

(c) It is further submitted that as per **para 101** of the judgement: -

***“We see no reason as to why the entire area of 126 compartments notified under 1968 notification should not be declared as wildlife sanctuary. However, taking into consideration the MPSM which excluded compartment numbers KP-2, KP-10, KP-11, KP-12, KP-13 and KP-14 as either Mining Zone-I or Mining Zone-II, we are inclined to permit the State to exclude the aforesaid six compartments from the area to be notified as wildlife sanctuary.”***

Thus it is crystal clear that the aforementioned judgement of Hon’ble Supreme Court has not rendered the executive order of MoEF & CC, Government of India dated 08.06.2018 infructuous, rather, the MPSM has been given due consideration and recognition by allowing the state government to exclude those compartments from the notification of wildlife sanctuary that have been marked as Mining Zone-I or Mining Zone-II in page no. 22 of the MPSM. Therefore, the sanctity of MPSM has only been duly noted by the Hon’ble Apex Court of the country.

**Attached:**

- (i) Supreme Court Judgement dated 13.11.2025,
- (ii) Copy of MPSM.

Aishwarya Rajyashree  
Advocate



**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION**

**IN RE: SARANDA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

**I.A. NO.153500 OF 2024  
[Applications for Direction]**

**WITH**

**I.A. NO.153501 OF 2024  
[Application for exemption from filing official translation]**

**WITH**

**I.A. NO. 153502 OF 2024  
[Application for Intervention]**

**WITH**

**I.A. NO. 251558 OF 2025  
[Applications for Intervention]**

**WITH**

**I.A. NO. 252324 OF 2025  
[Application for placing on record Additional Facts and  
Documents]**

**WITH**

**I.A. NO. 252325 OF 2025  
[Application for exemption from filing official translation]**

**WITH**

**I.A. NO. 252948 OF 2025  
[Application for Direction]**

**WITH**

**I.A. NO. 252949 OF 2025  
[Application for exemption from filing official English  
Translation of Annexures]**

**WITH**

**I.A. NO. 265049 and 265353 OF 2025**  
**[Application for Clarification/Modification and for filing  
 Additional Documents]**

**IN**

**I.A. NO. 252948 OF 2025**

**WITH**

**I.A. NO. 268196 OF 2025**  
**[Application for Modification]**

**IN**

**I.A. NO.153500 OF 2024**

**WITH**

**I.A. NOS. \_\_\_\_\_ OF 2025**  
**Diary Nos.265620-265621 of 2025**  
**[Applications for Impleadment and Direction]**

**WITH**

**I.A. NO. \_\_\_\_\_ OF 2025**  
**Diary No.272221 of 2025**  
**[Applications for Direction]**

**IN**

**WRIT PETITION (C) NO. 202 OF 1995**

**IN RE: T.N. GODAVARMAN THIRUMULPAD**  
**...PETITIONERS**

**VERSUS**

**UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS** **...RESPONDENTS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DR. DAYA SHANKAR SRIVASTAVA** **...APPLICANT**

**STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LTD.** **...APPLICANT**

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## J U D G M E N T

### B.R. GAVAL, CJI

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The issue in the present matter pertains to the Saranda forest area in the State of Jharkhand which is undisputedly one of the most pristine Sal forests in the world. It is a biodiversity hotspot, interconnected with forests in the States of Odisha and Chhattisgarh, creating a contiguous wildlife corridor. The region is rich in biodiversity and wildlife and includes within its confines the critically endangered and endemic Sal Forest Tortoise, four horned antelope, Asian palm civet, wild

elephants, leopards, sambar and chital deer, bison, barking deer, and numerous species of birds and reptiles.

**2.** The erstwhile unified State of Bihar, by a notification bearing No. 1168F dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 1968<sup>1</sup> declared an extent of 31,468.25 hectares (approx. 314 sq. kms) in the Saranda forest area as the “Saranda Game Sanctuary”. This was done pursuant to relevant provisions of the *Bihar Forest, Hunting, Shooting and Fishing Rules, 1958*. On bifurcation of the then State of Bihar into States of Bihar and Jharkhand, this area now falls within the State of Jharkhand.

**3.** One Dr. R.K. Singh, a distinguished wildlife scientist, being aggrieved by the fact that the Government of Jharkhand<sup>2</sup> and Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change<sup>3</sup> had failed to declare the Eco-Sensitive Zone<sup>4</sup> in respect of Sasangada/Saranda Sanctuary based in the West Singhum District of Jharkhand, filed an Original Application being OA No. 59/2020/EZ before the National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata<sup>5</sup>. It was specifically contended in the said OA that the two massive iron ore mining projects, *Kiriburu* and

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<sup>1</sup> Hereinafter, “1968 Notification”.

<sup>2</sup> Hereinafter, “GoJ”.

<sup>3</sup> Hereinafter, “MoEF&CC”.

<sup>4</sup> Hereinafter, “ESZ”.

<sup>5</sup> Hereinafter, “NGT”.

*Maghehatuburu*, have chronically disturbed the habitat of wild animals in this locality. It was further contended that the protection of wildlife is mandatory under the *Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972*<sup>6</sup> so also that the pristine forest areas need to be protected under the provisions of *the Indian Forest Act, 1927* and the *Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980* bearing in mind the directions given by this Court in the present proceedings. A relief was, therefore, sought to notify an ESZ around Sasangada/Saranda Game Sanctuary and the adjoining Reserve Forests in a time bound manner.

4. The learned NGT, *vide* order dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022, passed the following direction:

“34. Annexure-2 to the Original Application mentions that the area of the Saranda/Sasangada Forest is about 31,468.25 hectares. This is a huge area of pristine forest and whether it has been declared as Game Sanctuary or not, it is nevertheless a repository of some of the finest Sal Forest in the country having rich wildlife and requires protection and preservation **and, therefore, a direction is issued to the State Respondents to consider whether the same needs to be declared as a Sanctuary since it has nowhere been stated by the State Respondents in their various affidavits that this massive area does not have any wildlife.**”

[Emphasis supplied]

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<sup>6</sup> Hereinafter, “WP Act”.

**5.** Thereafter, since no action was taken by the GoJ in this respect, an IA came to be filed before this Court in the present proceedings being IA No.153500 of 2024 by one Dr. Daya Shankar Srivastava, a resident of Palama, Jharkhand, seeking directions to the State of Jharkhand to declare the Saranda Game Sanctuary with area of 314.68 sq. km. as notified by the 1968 Notification by the erstwhile State of Bihar as a deemed sanctuary under the provisions of the WP Act.

**6.** Alongwith the IA for directions, two IAs being IA No. 153502 of 2024 seeking permission to intervene in the present proceedings and IA No.153501 of 2024 seeking exemption from filing official translation have also been filed by the applicant.

**7.** It appears from the material placed on record by the applicant that *vide* notification dated 26<sup>th</sup> September 2001, the Department of Forest and Environment of GoJ notified the entire forest area of Saranda, Kolhan, and Porahat Forest Division as the core area of the Singbhum Elephant Reserve.

**8.** *Vide* order dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024, notice came to be issued to the State of Jharkhand and MoEF&CC.

9. In response thereto, the MoEF&CC filed a counter-affidavit dated 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024, wherein it was stated that no record was available with the State of Jharkhand as to the notification of Saranda Game Sanctuary in 1986.

10. A counter-affidavit also came to be filed by the State of Jharkhand dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024, wherein it was stated by one Mr. Aviroop Sinha, Divisional Forest Officer<sup>7</sup>, Saranda, Chaibasa, West Singhbhum that in the last Working Plan of Saranda Forest Division prepared by one Mr. K.S. Rajhans for the period between 1976-77 and 1995-96 based on the 1968 Notification, the land in question consisted of 126 compartments of five Reserve Forest Blocks and two Protected Forest Blocks covering an area of 31,468.25 hectares.

11. It will be relevant to refer to the following statements made in the said affidavit:

“7. ...Besides since the inception of these Notified (R.F. & P.F.) Forests within the stated area of 31,468.25 Hectares (vide Notification No. 1168 F dated 16.02.1968) compromising (sic) of 126 Compartments, **neither any kind of mining excavation operations nor any diversion of Forest Land for Mining purpose as approved by Forest Conservation Act 1980 has been undertaken**, except for part area of approximately 4.31 hectares within compartments KP12 and KP 21 has been

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<sup>7</sup> Hereinafter, “DFO”.

diverted by Kiriburu Meghahataburu Iron Ore Mine for non-excavatory ancillary mining activity (Road). **Moreover, as on date, there are no operational mines inside the 126 compartments of stated within the stated area of 31,468.25 Hectares.**”

[Emphasis supplied]

**12.** It can thus be seen that it was clearly stated that except for part area of 4.31 hectares within compartments KP12 and KP 21 where iron ore mine was located, neither any kind of mining excavation operations nor any diversion of forest land for mining purpose has been undertaken in respect of the said area of 31,468.25 hectares.

**13.** Upon perusal of the aforesaid affidavit, this Court passed an order on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024, which reads thus:

“.....

**5.** It is not in dispute that the said area consists of pristine forest and it is a repository of some of the finest Sal trees in the country. It is also not disputed that it is having rich wildlife and as such requires protection and preservation.

**6.** A period of 2½ years has lapsed from the date on which the aforesaid observations were made by the learned NGT.

**7.** Since the State places reliance on the judgment of the NGT, it should have explained to us as to why it has not followed the directions issued by the learned NGT.

**8. The 2006 Amendment to the 1972 Act has been brought into effect with a purpose of imposing stringent restrictions for the protection of wildlife.**

**If that be so, there is no reason as to why the State did not take steps to implement the directions issued by the learned NGT on 12.07.2022.**

9. We, therefore, direct the State to file an affidavit explaining the aforesaid within a period of two weeks from today.”

[Emphasis supplied]

14. In pursuance to the aforesaid order, an affidavit dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 came to be filed by the DFO, Saranda stating therein that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Wildlife<sup>8</sup>-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden<sup>9</sup> had moved a proposal on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 for the declaration of Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary and Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve. It was stated that the proposal sought to declare an area of approx. 575.1941 sq. kms. as “Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary” and an area of approx. 136 sq. kms. as “Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve” in accordance with a map proposed by the Wildlife Institute of India<sup>10</sup> dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

15. It will be relevant to refer to the following averments made in the said affidavit dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024:

**“10. That the stated proposal is also in conformity with the Management Plan for sustainable Mining (MPSM) in Saranda and Chaibasa in Singbhum**

<sup>8</sup> Hereinafter, “PCCF-WL”.

<sup>9</sup> Hereinafter, “CWLW”.

<sup>10</sup> Hereinafter, “WII”.

**district. Besides, due consideration has been given for inclusion of the Conservation Area (in MPSM) which is also having two biodiversity hotspot zones, while delineating the boundaries of the proposed “Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary” and ‘Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve’.**”

**16.** It can thus be seen that the State specifically submitted that the stated proposal is also in conformity with the Management Plan for Sustainable Mining<sup>11</sup> in Saranda and Chaibasa in Singbhum district. Upon perusal of the affidavit dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024, this Court passed the following order on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025:

**1.** The issue in these applications pertains to Saranda Game Sanctuary in Saranda Forest Division.

**2.** In the affidavit dated 02.12.2024 filed by Mr. Aviroop Sinha, DFO Saranda, Van Bhawan, Chaibasa, it is stated that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Wildlife (PCCF-WL)- cum-Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Jharkhand vide its Memo No. 1263 dated 29.11.2024 has moved a proposal to the Government of Jharkhand for declaration of “Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary” and “Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve”.

**3.** In paragraph 9 of the said affidavit, the details of the areas to be included in “Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary” admeasuring 575.1941 sq. kms. and the areas to be included in “Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve” admeasuring 136.03806 sq. kms. have been given.

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<sup>11</sup> Hereinafter, “MPSM”

**4.** We expect the State of Jharkhand to take a final decision in that regard expeditiously.

**5.** List these applications on 16.04.2025.”

**17.** When the matter was thereafter listed before this Court on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025, an affidavit came to be filed by the same officer, Mr. Aviroop Sinha. In the said affidavit, it was stated that the proposal for declaration of protected areas under the WP Act, namely Saranda and Sasangdaburu was received from PCCF-WL-cum-CMLW on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and the same has been sent back by the Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, GoJ to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests<sup>12</sup> (HoFF) on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 for his examination and comments.

**18.** Taking a serious note of this change of stand by the State Government, this Court passed the following order on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025:

“.....

**8.** It was almost after a period of four months from the date on which the proposal was received by the State Government from PCCF-WL-cum-CMLW that the proposal has again been sent back to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for his comments.

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<sup>12</sup> Hereinafter, “PCCF”.

**9. We do not understand the propriety of keeping the matters pending almost for four months, particularly when an impression was given to this Court in the affidavit dated 02.12.2024 that the matter is being processed expeditiously by the State Government.**

**10.** The Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Jharkhand is, therefore, directed to remain present in this Court on 29.04.2025 at 10:30 a.m. and show cause as to why action should not be taken for dilly dallying the matter without any valid reasons.

.....”

[Emphasis supplied]

**19.** Accordingly, a compliance affidavit came to be filed on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in furtherance of the directions issued by this Court *vide* order dated 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025. In the said affidavit filed by one Mr. Aboobacker Siddique P, working as Secretary, Forest, Environment and Climate Change, GoJ, a reference was made to the chronology of events till the said date. It was stated that upon receiving comments from PCCF (HoFF) on the proposal submitted by PCCF-WL-cum-CWLW, certain defects were pointed out in the said proposal and the stand was taken for rectification of the said defects.

**20.** It will be relevant to refer to paragraph 15 of the said affidavit dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025:

“15. I say that the State Govt. is duty bound to ensure statutory compliance with the mandate of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for declaring any forest as sanctuaries and conservation reserve. I say that the intention and commitment of the State Govt. towards preserving the said area is unwavering and can be borne by the fact even before submitting the said Proposal, the State Government had engaged the services of the premier forest institute of the country, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun to carry out a detailed Research Proposal on Assessment and Monitoring of Biodiversity Values in Saranda Forest Division, and had received a Project Proposal in March 2024 itself. I reiterate, my and my State Govt’s commitment to implement the orders of this Hon’ble Court.”

**21.** It can thus clearly be seen that the GoJ has clearly stated that it was duty bound to ensure statutory compliance with the mandate of WP Act for declaring any forest as sanctuaries and conservation reserves. By the said affidavit, the State Government had expressed its unwavering intention and commitment to preserving the said area. The affidavit would also show that the State Government had engaged the services of the WII to carry out a detailed research proposal for assessment and monitoring of biodiversity values in Saranda Forest Division. The affidavit further stated that the State Government was awaiting the response/detailed justification from the WII in respect of the proposed Saranda Wildlife

Sanctuary and Conservation Reserve, along with supporting documents, for identifying the potential area for declaration as a protected area under the WP Act. The State of Jharkhand by the said affidavit, therefore, prayed for further reasonable time to obtain all necessary approvals and to carry out all requisite statutory compliances and procedural formalities.

**22.** Therefore, the matter was listed on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025. It will be relevant to refer to the order passed by this Court dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025, which reads thus:

“.....

**9.** In the affidavit it is stated that now the State Government has proposed to notify an area of 57,519.41 hectares as against the original proposal of 31,468.25 hectares as the Wildlife Sanctuary. It is further stated that an area admeasuring 136.03806 sq. kms. or 13603.806 hectares, has been proposed to be notified as a Conservation Reserve. It is stated that the proposal has now been sent for comments to the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun (WII). It is stated that as soon as the comments are received from the WII the proposal would be placed before the State Wildlife 15 Board (SWB) and upon the decision of the SWB, the matter would be placed before the State Cabinet and after the approval by the State Cabinet, the final notification would be issued.

**10.** We, therefore, request the WII to examine the proposal and forward the proposal along with its comments to the State of Jharkhand within a period of one month from today. The Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Jharkhand would communicate this order to the WII. On receipt of the comments from WII, we direct the

State of Jharkhand to complete all the formalities within a period of two months thereafter.

.....”

**23.** Pursuant to the aforesaid order, the State of Jharkhand filed a supplementary affidavit on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 stating therein that the WII examined the proposal and submitted its report on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025. It was stated that the WII report was placed before the Chief Minister-cum-Department Minister, for in-principal approval. It was further stated that the Competent Authority had directed the Chief Secretary, Jharkhand to convene a meeting with the Industry Department, Mines and Geology Department, Forest Department and Revenue Department to consider the proposal. It was further stated that the said meeting was convened on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025. It was stated that during the course of the said meeting, the Mines and Geology Department presented concerns regarding the aforementioned proposal dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025. It was stated that consequently a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Conservator of Forest, Wildlife, Jharkhand consisting of various officers as Members, with a mandate to thoroughly review the proposals for Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary. It was stated that the

committee held four meetings and submitted its report on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025. The conclusion of the report is as follows:

“As per the opinion and submission of Wild Life Institute of India/Mines and Geology Department/Forest Department Saranda Wild Life Sanctuary may be declared as per the provision of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 after obtaining the approval from SBWL. Thereafter, the decision on Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve may be considered in future.”

**24.** This Court was informed by the said affidavit that the next meeting of the State Board for Wildlife<sup>13</sup> was scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 and the proposal for declaration of Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary would be placed before the SBWL for thorough deliberation.

**25.** Thereafter, the matter was listed before this Court on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025. It will be relevant to refer to the entire order passed by this Court on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025:

**“1. From the perusal of the material placed before us, *it appears to us that the State of Uttarakhand (sic) is indulging in not only dilly dallying tactics, but is also attempting to take the Court for a ride.***

**2.** It was earlier brought to the notice of this Court that in spite of the NGT issuing a direction to the State Government vide order dated 12.07.2022 to consider whether the area of Saranda/Sasangada Forest needs to be declared as a sanctuary or not, the State of Jharkhand had not taken any steps.

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<sup>13</sup> Hereinafter, “SBWL”.

3. The applicant herein, therefore, was required to file an I.A. No.153500/2024. This Court vide order dated 20.11.2024 had recorded that it was not in dispute that the area consists of pristine forest and it is a repository of some of the finest Sal trees in the country. The Court also recorded that it was an undisputed position that the said area was having rich wildlife and as such requires protection and preservation. **The Court therefore, prima facie observed that there was no reason as to why the State did not take steps to implement the directions issued by the NGT on 12.07.2022.** We, therefore, directed the State to file an affidavit explaining the aforesaid position within a period of two weeks from the date of said order, i.e. 20.11.2024.

4. In compliance to the aforesaid, an affidavit was filed before this Court on 02.12.2024. In the said affidavit it was stated that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Wildlife (PCCF-WL)-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Jharkhand vide Memo No. 1263 dated 29.11.2024 had moved a proposal to the Government of Jharkhand for declaration of “Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary” and “Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve”. In the said affidavit, the details of the area to be included in the Saranda wildlife sanctuary was shown as 575.1941 sq. km. and the area to be included in Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve was shown as 136.03806 sq. km.

**5. Vide our order dated 20.02.2025, we expected that the State Government would take action expeditiously.**

6. Thereafter, when the matter was listed before us on 16.04.2025, another affidavit was filed by the State Government stating therein that the matter was examined by the Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Jharkhand and was sent back on 23.03.2025 to the PCCF (HoFF) for examination.

7. This Court vide order dated 16.04.2025 specifically found that it was almost after a period of four months from the date on which the proposal was received by the State Government from the PCCF-WL cum CWLW that the proposal was again sent back to the Principal Chief

Conservator of Forest for his comments. **The Court expressed that there was no propriety of keeping the matters pending for almost four months, particularly when an impression was given to this Court in the affidavit dated 02.12.2024 that the matter is being processed expeditiously by the State Government.**

We had, therefore, directed the Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Jharkhand to remain present before this Court on 29.04.2025.

**8.** On 29.04.2025, Mr. Abu Bakr Siddiqui, Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Jharkhand was present in the Court. An affidavit was also filed on behalf of the State Government. In the said affidavit, **it was specifically stated that the State Government had proposed to notify an area of 57,519.41 Hectares as against the original proposal of 31,468.25 Hectares as the wildlife sanctuary.** The affidavit further stated that an area admeasuring 136.03806 sq. km. Or 13603.806 Hectares has been proposed to be notified as conservation reserve. It was further stated that the proposal was sent for comments to the wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun. **It was also stated that as soon as the comments are received from the WII, the proposal would be placed before the State Cabinet and after the approval of the State Cabinet, the final notification would be issued.**

**9.** **On the basis of the said affidavit dated 29.04.2025, we had requested the WII to examine the proposal and forward the same along with its comments to the State of Jharkhand within a period of one month from the said date.** We had also directed the Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Jharkhand, to communicate the order to the WII. **We had further directed the State of Jharkhand to complete all the formalities upon receipt of the comments from WII within a period of two months thereafter.**

**10.** A supplementary affidavit filed by the State dated 22.07.2025 states that the WII has given its positive recommendations Vide report dated 30.05.2025.

**11. In that view of the matter, the State was expected to complete the formality, i.e. the approval of the State Wildlife Board and the Cabinet within a period of two months thereafter, i.e. on 30.07.2025. However, now we are informed that the Chief Secretary of the State of Jharkhand on 13.05.2025 constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Conservator of Forest for conducting 'a comprehensive review of the boundary/area determination of the proposed Sanctuary in consideration of the interest of the State and in compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court'.**

12. The primary reason given in the said letter was that the Geological Survey of India has identified certain Prospecting Areas for future mining which fall within the proposed area of Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary.

**13. It is, thus, clear to us that the conduct of the State, to say the least, has been totally unfair. When on various occasions, i.e. on 20.02.2025, 16.04.2025 & 29.04.2025, a clear indication was given to the Court that the State has proposed to notify an area of 57,519.41 Hectares as wildlife sanctuary and conversation (sic) reserve, now the State is turning on its stand by appointing a Committee for the same purpose vide order dated 13.05.2025. If the State was alive to the concerns expressed in the Minutes dated 13.05.2025, then nothing prohibited it from placing the same before this Court in the affidavit dated 02.12.2024, or the affidavit dated 29.04.2025.**

14. As a matter of fact, when the Secretary was present in the Court, in the affidavit dated 29.04.2024, a clear indication was given to the Court that upon approval by the WII, all the necessary formalities, i.e. obtaining the approval of the State Wildlife Board and the Cabinet would be completed. We had, therefore, given two months period to comply with the formalities.

15. We are of the considered view that the State Government of Jharkhand is in clear Contempt of the order passed by this Court on 29.04.2025.

**16.** We, therefore, direct the Chief Secretary of the State of Jharkhand to remain present in this Court on 08.10.2025 at 10.30 am and show cause as to why an action should not be taken against him for committing Contempt of the order of this Court dated 29.04.2025.

**17.** We further clarify that if the State fails to comply with its statements made in the affidavit dated 29.04.2025, the Court would be required to issue a Mandamus commanding the State to comply with the statement made before this Court.

**18.** The application for intervention is rejected while reserving the rights of the applicant to take recourse to such remedies as are available in law.

**19.** If the order dated 29.04.2025 is complied with in the meantime, the personal presence of the Chief Secretary, State of Uttarakhand shall stand exempted.

**20.** List on 08.10.2025.”

[Emphasis supplied]

**26.** A perusal of the aforesaid order would reveal that on the said date, this Court was informed that the Chief Secretary of the State of Jharkhand on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Conservator of Forest for conducting a comprehensive review of the boundary/area determination of the proposed Sanctuary in consideration of the interest of the State and in compliance with the orders of this Court. We had noted that the primary reason given in the letter appointing the said Committee was that the Geological Survey of India has identified certain Prospecting Areas for future mining which fall

within the proposed area of Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary. We had, therefore, observed that the conduct of the State, to say the least, had been totally unfair. We further observed that on various occasions, *i.e.*, on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025, a clear indication was given to the Court that the State had proposed to notify an area of 57,519.41 hectares as wildlife sanctuary and conservation reserve, but now the State was turning around on its stand by appointing a Committee for the same purpose *vide* order dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025. We, therefore, directed the Chief Secretary of the State of Jharkhand to remain present in this Court on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and to show cause as to why an action should not be taken against him for committing contempt of the order of this Court dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025. We further clarified that if the State failed to comply with its statements made in the affidavit dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the Court would be required to issue a mandamus commanding the State to comply with the statement made before this Court. We further clarified that if the order dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 was complied with, the personal presence of the Chief Secretary, State of Uttarakhand shall stand exempted.

**27.** In pursuance to the order passed by this Court on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Shri Avinash Kumar, Chief Secretary, GoJ was

personally present in this Court on the next date of listing *i.e.*, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and he had also filed an affidavit on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

**28.** In the said affidavit, it was stated that the draft proposal submitted by the PCCF-WL for notifying 57,519.41 hectares as Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary was made without carrying out a study or investigation and there was no scientific basis for the same. It was further stated that the WII, in its hurriedly prepared report, merely endorsed the draft proposal shared with it by the PCCF-WL. It was further stated that the WII had not considered the following issues involved:

- (i) Community Displacement and Livelihood Loss
- (ii) Socio-Cultural Disruption
- (iii) Mining and Economic Security
- (iv) Security Concerns

**29.** On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025, we had extensively heard Shri Kapil Sibal, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the State of Jharkhand and Shri K. Parameshwar, learned *amicus curiae*.

**30.** It will be pertinent to refer to the entire order passed by this Court on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025, which reads thus:

“**1.** In response to the order passed by this Court dated 17.09.2025, Mr. Avinash Kumar, presently occupying the office of Chief Secretary, State of Jharkhand is personally present in the Court.

2. We have extensively heard Shri Kapil Sibal, learned senior counsel appearing for the State of Jharkhand and Shri K. Parameshwar, learned Amicus Curiae.

3. Shri Sibal, submits that since inception, the proposal with regard to an area of 31,468.25 hectares for declaration as a wildlife sanctuary has been under consideration. However, confusion arose on account of a communication addressed by the Wildlife Institute of India (for short "WII"), indicating an area of 57,519.41 hectares. It is stated that on the basis of the said letter, a statement came to be made before this Court in an affidavit. However, the WII itself by a subsequent communication stated that the earlier letter was only a part of internal communication and the said letter was not authenticated.

4. It is, therefore, submitted that in view of this situation a statement came to be made.

5. He further submitted that there is no intention to run away from the earlier proposal of declaration of Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary.

6. From the affidavit dated 22.07.2025 sworn by Mr. Aviroop Sinha, Divisional Forest Officer, Saranda Forest Division, Chaibasa, Government of Jharkhand, **we find that, at least, an area admeasuring 31,468.25 hectares, has already been notified as game sanctuary vide Notification No. 1168 F dated 16.02.1968. As such, there should be no difficulty in notifying the said area as a Wildlife Sanctuary. The affidavit clearly states that in 126 compartments situated in the aforesaid area, neither any kind of mining excavation operations nor any diversion of Forest Land for Mining purpose has been undertaken. It is categorically stated that there are no operational mines inside the 126 compartments of the aforestated area.**

7. **In that view of the matter, we see no impediment in the State proceeding to notify the aforesaid area of 31,468.25 hectares as a Wildlife Sanctuary, which has already been notified vide Notification dated 16.02.1968.**

8. Insofar as the other question of including any additional area is concerned, the same is a matter to be considered by the State Government in consultation with the State Wildlife Board.

9. We had issued notice to the Chief Secretary, noticing that the State of Jharkhand was adopting a topsy-turvy approach and on every date and the stand was changed. Earlier though the proposal was sent by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Wildlife (PCCF-WL)-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden (CMLW), Jharkhand to the State Government, the State Government again sent it back to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) for reconsideration.

10. As such, we had directed the Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, State of Jharkhand to remain personally present before this Court vide our order dated 16.04.2025.

11. Accordingly, on 29.04.2025, the Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, State of Jharkhand was present before this Court. The impression conveyed was that the State proposed to notify an area of 57,519.41 hectares as a Wildlife Sanctuary. The only difficulty indicated was that certain communications from the WII were not received. This Court had, therefore, requested the WII to furnish their comments within a stipulated period.

**12. As such, a clear impression was given to the Court that the State Government intended to notify an area of 57,519.41 hectares as a Wildlife Sanctuary.**

**13. Subsequently, a supplementary affidavit came to be filed on 22.07.2025 stating therein that a Committee had been constituted to conduct a comprehensive review of the boundary/area determination of the proposed sanctuary, keeping in view the interest of the State and in compliance with the orders of this Court.**

14. In the meantime, an application (I.A. No. 214893 of 2025) also came up for consideration before this Court filed by one Electrosteel Castings Ltd. seeking directions

to keep the proposal for notification of the Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary in abeyance.

**15. In this background, we were not unjustified in gathering an impression that the State was taking the Court for a ride. As such, we had directed the Chief Secretary to remain present in the Court today.**

We had further clarified that if the order dated 29.04.2025 passed by this Court was complied with, the presence of the Chief Secretary shall stand dispensed with.

**16.** At least, insofar as an area of 31,468.25 is concerned, there appears to be no impediment to the State notifying the said area as a Wildlife Sanctuary.

**17. In view of the order passed by this Court on 17.09.2025, we could have issued a mandamus to that effect today itself inasmuch as the said area is very well identified.**

**18. However, Shri Sibal makes a statement that the State Government shall file an undertaking before this Court within a period of one week from today to the effect that the area of 31,468.25 hectares will be notified as a Wildlife Sanctuary.**

**19.** If the State proposes to include any additional area to the Wildlife Sanctuary, it shall be at liberty to do so.

**20.** List these applications on 15.10.2025.”

[Emphasis supplied]

**31.** It can thus be seen that after hearing the submissions, we were of the view that even if the stand of the State is to be accepted, that an area of 57,519.41 hectares was erroneously arrived at, there should be no difficulty in declaring an area admeasuring 31,468.25 hectares as a wildlife sanctuary, since the same was already notified as a Game Sanctuary *vide* the 1968 Notification.

We had noticed that the affidavit dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 clearly depicted that in the 126 compartments situated in the aforesaid area, neither any kind of mining excavation operations nor any diversion of Forest Land for Mining purpose has been undertaken. We had also clearly observed that the State of Jharkhand was adopting a topsy-turvy approach and was changing its stand on every date. We also observed that in view of the order dated 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025, we could have issued a mandamus to that effect on the said date itself. Shri Sibal made a statement that the State Government shall file an undertaking before this Court within a period of one week from the date of the said order to the effect that the area of 31,468.25 hectares would be notified as a Wildlife Sanctuary.

**32.** The matter was, thereafter, listed on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 on which date it was adjourned to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

**33.** In pursuance to our order dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025, an undertaking by way of an affidavit was filed on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025 on behalf of the State of Jharkhand along with the draft notification for Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary thereby declaring an area admeasuring 24,941.64 hectares, which was a part of the Saranda Reserve Forest Area, as Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary.

**34.** The State also filed an IA being No. 268196 of 2025 for modification of the order dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 passed by this Court on the same date *i.e.*, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025. It is pertinent to note that the prayer in the IA was that the State be allowed to declare only the proposed area of 24,941.64 hectares as Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary.

**35.** *Vide* an order dated 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025, after hearing learned Senior Counsel/counsel for the parties, the matter was reserved for judgment. In furtherance of the said order, IA Diary No. 272221 of 2025 is also taken up for consideration with the present batch of applications.

**36.** In this factual background, the matter arises for consideration before us.

## **II. SUBMISSIONS**

**37.** We have heard Shri K. Parameshwar learned *Amicus Curiae*, Shri Kapil Sibal learned Senior Counsel for the State of Jharkhand, Ms. Shibani Ghosh learned counsel for the Applicant-Dr. Dayanand Shankar Srivastava and Shri Tushar Mehta learned Solicitor General of India for the

Applicant-Steel Authority of India<sup>14</sup>.

**38.** Shri Parameshwar, learned *Amicus Curiae*, placed before us the entire factual background starting from the 1968 Notification to MPSM in Saranda and Chaibasa in Singhbhum District, Jharkhand, 2018 and the WII's 2025 Report. He also placed the previous orders of this Court so also the various affidavits filed by the State.

**39.** He submitted that the power to declare a sanctuary under the WP Act, is a power coupled with a duty. It is further submitted that the State, having recognized the ecological significance of Saranda Forest area, has a duty and an obligation to create a statutorily protected area by way of a wildlife sanctuary.

**40.** He further submitted that the declaration of a Wildlife Sanctuary under the WP Act does not affect existing rights of tribal and forest dwelling communities in the region, which are protected under Section 3 of the *Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006*<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> Hereinafter, "SAIL".

<sup>15</sup> Hereinafter, "FRA".

**41.** Ms. Ghosh, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Applicant Dr. Dayanand Shankar Srivastava, submitted that the State of Jharkhand has failed to fulfil its constitutional obligation to protect forests and wildlife. It is submitted that on account of deforestation and mining activities in the forest areas, elephants are forced to migrate to Chhattisgarh, there has been a reduction in the population of various species of wildlife in the area and the Koina river has been severely damaged.

**42.** *Per contra* Shri Sibal, learned Senior Counsel for the State of Jharkhand, submitted that the Saranda region, which is proposed to be declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary, is notified as an area under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. It is submitted that the said area has been inhabited for centuries by the *Ho, Munda, Uraon* and allied Adivasi communities whose subsistence and cultural traditions are intrinsically tied to forest produce.

**43.** He submitted that the area sought to be declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary also encompasses *vital public infrastructure* such as roads, schools, health centres, police posts, settled agricultural lands, etc. He further submitted that the Saranda

Forest Division hosts 26% of India's iron ore reserves, and that the steel plants of SAIL and Tata, are critically dependent on the mining in this area. He further submitted that declaration of entire area as a Wildlife Sanctuary would halt mining and affect employment opportunities. He, therefore, submitted that this Court should accept the declaration of 24,941.64 hectares of forest area within the Saranda Forest Division.

**44.** Shri Tushar Mehta, learned Solicitor General of India for SAIL, submitted that the mining leases in the State of Jharkhand form approximately 50% of the total captive iron ore resource base used by SAIL, and that the continued utilisation of these valid and subsisting operational leases is crucial to achieving the production levels envisioned in the National Steel Policy, 2017. He further submitted that certain incidental and ancillary activities are undertaken within the 1-km eco-sensitive zone of proposed Wildlife Sanctuary. He, therefore, sought protection of existing operational mining leases and ancillary activities falling within proposed wildlife sanctuary area.

### III. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

**45.** From the various affidavits filed by the GoJ since the very inception including the latest one filed by the Chief Secretary, GoJ, it is clear that the stand of the GoJ has been that in an area admeasuring 31,468.25 hectares consisting of 126 compartments, no mining activities are carried out and that the land is not diverted for any non-forest use. If that be the case, even if we were to accept the argument that the area of 57,519.41 hectares was erroneously mentioned on account of some confusion between the officers/officials because of the tentative report of the WII, we see no reason as to why the State should now change its stand to reduce the area of the wildlife sanctuary from 31,468.25 hectares to 24,941.64 hectares.

**46.** The ostensible reason given by the State is that the area in question comprises of vital public infrastructure, including road networks, crucial for regional connectivity, educational institutions and agricultural lands etc. Another reason given is that the area includes long-established habitations of Scheduled Tribes and customary lands, indispensable to the livelihood and cultural practices of the local communities. Another reason given is that the affidavit filed before this Court by the DFO, Chaibasa, West

Singhbum and the Secretary, Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, GoJ did not take into consideration the existing rights of the existing inhabitants of the Game Sanctuary which is an area covered by the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India. It is further stated that the earlier affidavits have been filed without taking into consideration as to which areas in the Game Sanctuary are of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, natural or zoological significance for the purpose of protecting, propagating or developing wildlife or its environment and therefore required to be notified as a Wildlife Sanctuary. Another reason given is that the declaration of the entire Game Sanctuary as a Wildlife Sanctuary will also restrict existing mining activities in the ESZ operated by SAIL and other entities. It stated that the proposed area of 24,941.64 hectares within the Saranda Forest Division meets the requirements prescribed under Section 26A of the WP Act and its declaration as a Wildlife Sanctuary would fully achieve the intended objectives of wildlife conservation.

**47.** It is also the contention of the State of Jharkhand that during the recent field visits, genuine apprehensions were recorded among indigenous and forest-dependent communities regarding possible displacement from their ancestral lands.

**48.** The thrust of the arguments of Shri Sibal is that the areas which have been excluded are the areas where there are habitations and infrastructural developments. Another apprehension expressed by Shri Sibal is that if the aforesaid area is included, it will also lead to the problem of the Naxalite insurgency in the said area.

**(i) KEY PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE WP ACT**

**49.** For considering the submissions made before us, it will be relevant to refer to certain provisions of the WP Act.

**50.** Section 18 of the WP Act reads thus:

**“18. Declaration of sanctuary.—**(1) The State Government may, by notification, declare its intention to constitute any area other than an area comprised within any reserve forest or the territorial waters as a sanctuary if it considers that such area is of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, natural or zoological significance, for the purpose of protecting, propagating or developing wild life or its environment.

(2) The notification referred to in sub-section (1) shall specify, as nearly as possible, the situation and limits of such area.

*Explanation.—*For the purposes of this section, it shall be sufficient to describe the area by roads, rivers, ridges or other well-known or readily intelligible boundaries.”

**51.** It can thus be seen that Section 18 of the WP Act empowers the State Government to declare its intention to constitute any area other than an area comprised within any reserve forest or the territorial waters as a sanctuary if it considers that such area is of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, natural or zoological significance, for the purpose of protecting, propagating or developing wild life or its environment.

**52.** It is thus clear that Section 18 of the WP Act would apply for declaring any area as a Wildlife Sanctuary which is not comprised within any reserve forest or the territorial waters.

**53.** It will also be relevant to refer to Section 19 of the WP Act, which reads thus:

**“19. Collector to determine rights.—**When a notification has been issued under Section 18, the Collector shall inquire into, and determine, the existence, nature and extent of the rights of any person in or over the land comprised within the limits of the sanctuary.”

**54.** It can thus be seen that upon a notification being issued under Section 18 of the WP Act, the Collector is required to inquire into, and determine, the existence, nature

and extent of the rights of any person in or over the land comprised within the limits of the sanctuary.

**55.** Sections 20, 21, 22 and 23 of the WP Act which deal with the procedures to be adopted by the Collector for determination of the rights and the extent of powers available to him, read thus:

**“20. Bar of accrual of rights.**—After the issue of a notification under Section 18, no right shall be acquired in, on or over the land comprised within the limits of the area specified in such notification, except by succession, testamentary or intestate.

**21. Proclamation by Collector.**—When a notification has been issued under Section 18, the Collector shall, within a period of sixty days, publish in the regional language in every town and village in or in the neighbourhood of the area comprised therein, a proclamation—

(a) specifying, as nearly as possible, the situation and the limits of the sanctuary; and

(b) requiring any person, claiming any right mentioned in Section 19, to prefer before the Collector, within two months from the date of such proclamation, a written claim in the prescribed form, specifying the nature and extent of such right with necessary details and the amount and particulars of compensation, if any, claimed in respect thereof.

**22. Inquiry by Collector.**—The Collector shall, after service of the prescribed notice upon the claimant, expeditiously inquire into—

(a) the claim preferred before him under clause (b) of Section 21, and

(b) the existence of any right mentioned in Section 19 and not claimed under clause (b) of Section 21,

so far as the same may be ascertainable from the records of the State Government and the evidence of any person acquainted with the same.

**23. Powers of Collector.**—For the purpose of such inquiry, the Collector may exercise the following powers, namely:—

(a) the power to enter in or upon any land and to survey, demarcate and make a map of the same or to authorise any other officer to do so;

(b) the same powers as are vested in a civil court for the trial of suits.”

**56.** It will also be relevant to refer to Section 24 of the WP

Act which reads thus:

**“24. Acquisition of rights.**—(1) In the case of a claim to a right in or over any land referred to in Section 19, the Collector shall pass an order admitting or rejecting the same in whole or in part.

(2) If such claim is admitted in whole or in part, the Collector may either—

(a) exclude such land from the limits of the proposed sanctuary, or

(b) proceed to acquire such land or rights, except where by an agreement between the owner of such land or holder of rights and the Government, the owner or holder of such rights has agreed to surrender his rights to the Government, in or over such land, and on payment of such compensation, as is provided in the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (30 of 2013),

(c) allow, in consultation with the Chief Wild Life Warden, the continuance of any right of any person in or over any land within the limits of the sanctuary.”

**57.** It can thus clearly be seen that the Collector, in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden, is entitled to allow the continuance of any right of any person in or over any land within the limits of the sanctuary.

**58.** It will also be pertinent to refer to Section 26A of the WP Act, which reads thus:

**“26-A. Declaration for area as sanctuary.—(1)**  
When—

(a) a notification has been issued under Section 18 and the period for preferring claims has elapsed, and all claims, if any, made in relation to any land in an area intended to be declared as a sanctuary, have been disposed of by the State Government; or

(b) any area comprised within any reserve forest or any part of the territorial waters which is considered by the State Government to be of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, natural or zoological significance for the purpose of protecting, propagating or developing wild life or its environment, is to be included in a sanctuary,

the State Government shall issue a notification specifying the limits of the area which shall be comprised within the sanctuary and declare that the said area shall be a sanctuary on and from such date as may be specified in the notification:

Provided that where any part of the territorial waters is to be so included, prior concurrence of the Central Government shall be obtained by the State Government:

Provided further that the limits of the area of the territorial waters to be included in the sanctuary shall be determined in consultation with the Chief Naval Hydrographer of the Central Government and after taking adequate measures to protect the occupational interests of the local fishermen.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the right of innocent passage of any vessel or boat through the territorial waters shall not be affected by the notification issued under sub-section (1).

(3) No alteration of the boundaries of a sanctuary shall be made by the State Government except on a recommendation of the National Board.”

**59.** A harmonious reading of Section 18 with Section 26A of the WP Act would reveal that the statute itself makes a distinction between any area other than an area comprised within any reserve forest or the territorial waters and any area within any reserve forest or any part of the territorial waters.

**60.** As discussed hereinabove, insofar as the area admeasuring 31,468.25 hectares is concerned, from the very beginning it has been the stand of the GoJ that the said area comprises of 126 compartments and that within these compartments, neither any kind of mining excavation operations nor any diversion of forest land for mining purpose

has been undertaken. In none of the affidavits, it has been stated that the areas concerned do not have ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, natural or zoological significance for the purpose of protecting, propagating or developing wildlife or its environment. It is further to be noted that Section 26A of the WP Act has been brought on the statute book by way of Act 44 of 1991 with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1991.

**(ii) REPORT BY THE WII**

**61.** It also cannot be disputed that the WII is a body of experts in the field of wildlife protection who possess the scientific knowledge with respect to conservation measures.

**62.** It will, therefore, be relevant to refer to the observations, findings and recommendations of the WII in its report dated 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025, which has been placed on record by the GoJ itself in its affidavit dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025. With regard to the ecological importance of the area, the WII observed thus:

“The region, historically recognised for its rich biodiversity and presently harbouring species like the Asiatic Elephant, Four-horned Antelope, and Sloth Bear, is experiencing habitat degradation and fragmentation. Historical records and ongoing surveys underscore the presence of numerous threatened species, highlighting the area's vital conservation value. The proposed Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary and Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve aim to protect

this biodiversity hotspot in the junction of Jharkhand and Odisha..... Thus, the proposed area is of immense ecological, biodiversity (floral and faunal), and geomorphological significance from historic, present and future contexts and is critical for the protection, conservation, propagation and development of wildlife and its habitat.

.....

#### **4. SINGHBHUM ELEPHANT RESERVE**

....The Singhbhum Elephant Reserve holds a critical value for the proposed Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary and Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve, as it is home to a number of elephant corridors and biodiversity.....

LULC map reveals that a substantial portion of the dense forest cover in the Singhbhum Elephant Reserve is located within the proposed Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary and Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve. This underscores the importance of the proposed area, which facilitates species movement within the Singhbhum Elephant Reserve by functioning as a vital wildlife corridor and hotspot.”

- 63.** After considering all the aspects concerning the issue, the WII finally observed thus:

#### **“7. OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

- i. The biodiversity within the Saranda Forest Division has both historic and contemporary importance and also act as a crucial ecological corridor facilitating wildlife connectivity between the states of Jharkhand and Odisha. This region is ecologically significant, serving as an important elephant corridor and providing passage and home for a diverse array of species across multiple taxa.
- ii. The area has experienced degradation due to mining operations and encroachment over time.

Traditionally, the intricate relationship between indigenous communities and forest ecosystems, often characterized by traditional resource management practices, has contributed to the relative integrity of these natural environments. However, increasing anthropogenic pressures from escalating demographic pressures, evolving socio-economic conditions, and heightened resource demands are altering this relationship, thereby exerting considerable pressure on the region's forest resources and ecological stability (WII, 2016). This underscores the importance of the Saranda Forest Division for the proposed Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary and Sasangdaburu Conservation Reserve, particularly regarding elephant movement and corridors within the Singhbhum Elephant Reserve.

- iii. Previous studies have specifically investigated the occupancy of the Four-horned Antelope within the Saranda Forest Division (Joshua et al., 2016). Limited information exists regarding the status of this species across its various fragmented habitats in India. Comparing historical and recent surveys highlights the ecological significance of the Saranda Forest Division for the species.
- iv. A 2016 study by the Wildlife Institute of India documented the presence 16 mammal species from the region. Further, the ongoing study by WII in the Saranda Forest Division has recorded 23 mammal species. Although the abundance of species in the Gua range may be relatively lower, likely influenced by mining activities, the recorded species richness underscores the importance of this area. Similar patterns are also observed in avifauna (the Wildlife Institute of India 2016 study recorded 116 species). The current ongoing study added to the list with a substantial increase up to 138 bird species from the Saranda Forest Division. Furthermore,

herpetofauna records show a notable increase from 13 species in the previous study (WII, 2016) to 27 species in the present ongoing study within the region.

- v. It is pertinent to mention that over 70% of the area in the Saranda Forest Division has intact forest. Many previous studies and the current ongoing study have predominantly focused on the areas with better accessibility and very often these are under disturbance regime. Despite considerable anthropogenic pressures, the area demonstrates resilience and continues to support a notable diversity of wildlife across various taxa.
- vi. Mouse deer and Nilgai are recorded occasionally in the Tholkobad beat of the Saranda Forest Division (Tiwari 2024), indicating the slow comeback of these species. It is possible that there could be more species when sampling can be intensified and there also possibility of reintroduction or augmentation of locally extinct species and low population species, respectively. The ongoing WII study's identification of species hotspots in the lower Koina range, adjacent to the Samta and Sasangda range, further emphasizes the ecological significance of these less-explored parts of the Division.
- vii. Given its geographic relationship with the Simlipal Tiger Reserve (Odisha), the Saranda Forest Division plays a vital role in regional conservation. Despite the absence of a resident tiger population, Saranda is known to facilitate the dispersal of tigers and other species between the states (Qureshi et al.. 2022) and with declaration of wildlife sanctuary population recovery for species like tiger and gaur can be accomplished.

## 8. CONCLUSION

In summation, the Saranda Forest Division within Jharkhand represents a critical ecological zone facing substantial environmental pressures, primarily from mining activities. The region's rich biodiversity and its importance for species like the Asiatic elephant, Chousingha, Mouse deer and sloth bear are under threat, necessitating a balanced approach that integrates conservation strategies with sustainable development practices. Hotspots for the population of Elephant and Four-horned Antelope are found within and outside the Proposed Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary and Sasangdaburu Conservation reserve highlighting the importance of the region from local and landscape contexts. Hence, the notification of the proposed wildlife sanctuary and conservation reserve by the state will be a significant value addition for protection of biodiversity and ecological integrity in the local, regional and national contexts.”

**64.** It can thus be seen from the report of the WII that it is clear that the land in question squarely falls within clause (b) of subsection (1) of Section 26A of the WP Act.

**65.** It cannot be disputed that under Article 48A of the Constitution of India, the State is mandated to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

**66.** Further, under Article 51A(g) of the Constitution, every citizen has a duty to protect and improve the natural environment

including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.

**67.** There cannot, therefore, be any dispute that according to these constitutional commitments and the environmental jurisprudence, as has developed on account of various judgments of this Court over the decades, the State is required to recognize and protect areas of ecological significance, and particularly to conserve and protect wildlife and its inhabitants. The State has a positive obligation and a mandate to provide statutory protection to forests and wildlife and declare ecologically significant areas to be statutorily protected. Furthermore, upon a perusal of the report of the WII and also the various affidavits filed by the State itself, it cannot be disputed that the Saranda Forest require protection as envisaged under Section 26A of the WP Act.

**(iii) NATIONAL FOREST POLICY, 1998 AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN, 2017-31**

**68.** This Court, in the present proceedings on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2005<sup>16</sup> recognized that the *National Forest Policy, 1988* provides for the identification of protected areas, recognition of customary rights

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<sup>16</sup> (2006) 1 SCC 1

over forest areas, forest conservation with involvement of the local community, and the need for regular surveys of forest resources.

**69.** It will be relevant to refer to some of the features of the

*National Forest Policy, 1988* which read thus:

**“3.3** For the conservation of total biological diversity, the network of national parks, sanctuaries biosphere reserves and other protected areas should be strengthened and extended adequately.

.....

**4.1 Area Under Forests** - The national goal should be to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system.

.....

**4.4.1** Forest land or land with tree cover should not be treated merely as a resources readily available to be utilised for various projects and programmes, nut as a national asset which requires to be properly safeguarded for providing sustained benefits to the entire community. Diversion of forest land for any non-forest land for any non-forest purpose should be subject to the most careful examinations by specialists from the standpoint of social and environmental costs and benefits. Construction of dams and reservoirs, mining and industrial development and expansion of agriculture trees and forests. Projects which involve such diversion should at least provide in their investment budget, funds for regeneration/compensatory afforestation.”

**70.** This Court, again in the case of ***Centre for Environmental Law, World Wide Fund-India v. Union of India and Others***<sup>17</sup> held that the *National Wildlife Action Plan, 2017-31* was also having a statutory flavour.

**71.** The *National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-31* recognises the need to enhance the protected area network (broadly including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, community reserves etc.) and to demarcate boundaries for protected areas. The *National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-31* further stresses on *in situ* conservation of threatened species, and the need for immediate conservation measures including the protection of critical habitants.

**72.** We, therefore, have no hesitation in saying that in view of the mandate of Articles 48A and 51A(g) of the Constitution, Section 26A of the WP Act and particularly in the light of the report of the WII, the State cannot run away from its duty to declare the extent of 31,468.25 hectares as Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary.

**(iv) JUSTICE M.B. SHAH COMMISSION REPORT**

**73.** There is another angle from which the matter can be looked at.

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<sup>17</sup> (2013) 8 SCC 234

**74.** In pursuance to the 2013 Report of Justice M.B. Shah Commission of Inquiry on illegal mining of iron and manganese ores in the State of Jharkhand, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun<sup>18</sup> conducted a study to suggest annual capacity for iron ore production. The ICFRE submitted its draft final report on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The report was examined by a committee constituted on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 by the MoEF&CC. Based on the committee's recommendations, the ICFRE report was accepted by the competent authority in the MoEF&CC. Further, based on ICFRE's Report, the MoEF&CC issued the MPSM *vide* Office Memorandum dated 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

**75.** It will be relevant to refer to some of the observations of the Justice M.B. Shah Commission's 2013 Report as summarized in the MPSM. Para 4 thereof reads thus:

**"4. It was observed that considering the aforesaid position and mining operation in dense Saranda Forest which is admittedly having wildlife and is one of finest elephant habitats, would be destroyed without getting further benefit of iron ore. As such, in the aforesaid area, Sal trees and associates which were existing are already destroyed and which has affected the environment. Hence, capping of production in each mine is a must."**

(Emphasis supplied)

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<sup>18</sup> Hereinafter "ICFRE".

**76.** It can thus clearly be seen that the MPSM found that the area in question is one which has wildlife and it is one of the finest elephant habitats, however, it is in danger of being destroyed if mining operations are continued without getting further benefit of iron ore. The Commission, therefore, noted that capping of production in each mine is a must.

**77.** It will also be relevant to refer to the following paragraphs of the MPSM:

**7.** In the State of Jharkhand, most of the mines are in the Saranda forest area which is the finest elephant habitat and part of Notified Elephant Reserve and also highly eco-sensitive, as regards bio-diversity. Most of the mines are very close to the rivers (i.e. Koena and others) or natural streams and in many of the cases; streams are either passing through or quite close by the leased area and catchments area. **The sudden increase in production would increase the effective area under mining and result into drying of these streams, degradation of environment, loss of micro bio-diversity of these streams, adverse effect on all roads, agriculture, horticulture, ground water table, pollution of air and water and eco-system as a whole. Modifications of mining plans to increase production without knowing the real effect on a self-contained Saranda ecosystem has raised many questions on environment of the area. It may leave a permanent impact which would be difficult to rejuvenate the climatic climax natural forest.**

**8.** The Commission observed that mining leases are granted, without having any prior consent of the Forest Department. The proposed lease is a fresh grant in the virgin forest of a very high tree density

and one of the finest elephant habitats. Whether diversion of one of the best natural virgin forest areas in the country for a lease of 12 to 13 years life is really worthy and justified? **The natural forest which had taken millions of years to come to this climatic climax would be destroyed for a mine of 12 to 13 years life span.** A serious thought in this regard shall be given.

As per the Indian Minerals Yearbook 2013 (Part-I) 52nd Edition the total iron ore (hematite) deposit in West Singhbhum district is 2304 MT (proven 1840 MT and probable 464MT). With 60 MTPA extraction of ore, the ore reserve will last for 40 years.

**9.** MoEF&CC is formulating parameters to identify pristine and biologically diverse and rich forest areas which shall not be diverted for mining projects. Though the parameters are yet to be finalised and shall be suggestive in decision making, the report of the ICFRE on carrying capacity study of Saranda region and Dr Bist Committee has examined all aspects of bio diversity conservation in tune with the concerns of Shah Commission and **identified critical wildlife habitats, corridors linking critical wildlife habitats, rich forests and such other important forest areas in Saranda Forest which needs to be protected and conserved for posterity and are considered as ecologically important and may be considered as inviolate for iron ore mining and may be notified as Conservation Reserve/ Corridors or Ecologically Sensitive Areas in accordance with the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Environment (Protection) 1986 respectively by the State Government.**

**10.** The ICFRE submitted the draft final report on 28.3.2016. The report was examined by a committee constituted on 4.4.2016 by the MoEF&CC. Based on the committee's recommendations, the ICFRE report was accepted by the MoEF&CC.

**11.** The process for identifying critical pristine forests for conservation is in progress and the concept has

been used in identifying the forest area which are critical for wildlife, forest and biodiversity conservation. As a policy the dense and biodiverse forest with significant wild flora and fauna population should not be diverted for mining purpose especially when sufficient mineral deposits are available elsewhere for feeding the related industries.

**In Saranda and Chaibasa sufficient iron and manganese ores deposits are available in the eastern boundary of Saranda forest adjoining Chaibasa with good forest cover which according to ICFRE can last for more than 50 to 100 years and mining may be allowed there with sufficient safeguards. This area has many operating mines and has been worked in past also and already fractured and disturbed the landscape. This area is adjoining the mining areas of Odisha. The iron ore complex in Meghahatuburu, Kiriburu, Baraibury, Gua and Noamundi in Jharkhand and, Barbil and Joda in Odisha makes contiguous area for iron and manganese ore mining and may be developed for sustainable mining with adequate integrated forest and wildlife management plan. The entire landscape of eastern Jharkhand and western Odisha is full of wild elephants and traditional corridor exists for the movement of elephants from one habitat to another.**

(Emphasis supplied)

**78.** The Plan, therefore, clearly notes that the sudden increase in production has dangerous effects resulting into drying of these streams, degradation of environment, loss of micro biodiversity of these streams and adverse effect on all roads, agriculture, horticulture, ground water table, pollution of air and water and eco-system as a whole. It further states

that modifications of mining plans to increase production without knowing the real effect on a self-contained Saranda ecosystem may leave a permanent impact which would be difficult to rejuvenate the climatic climax natural forest.

**79.** The Plan also expressed concern as to whether the natural forests which had taken millions of years to come to this climatic climax can be permitted to be destroyed for a mine of 12 to 13 years lifespan.

**80.** It specifically emphasized on identification, protection and conservation of the critical wildlife habitats, corridors linking critical wildlife habitats, rich forests and such other important forest areas in Saranda Forest. It emphasized that they need to be protected and conserved for posterity and are considered as ecologically important and may be considered as inviolate for iron ore mining. Therefore, it was recommended that these areas in Saranda Forest be notified as Conservation Reserve/Corridors or Ecologically Sensitive Areas in accordance with the provisions of the WPA and the

*Environment (Protection) Act, 1986*<sup>19</sup> respectively by the State Government.

**81.** The Commission also observed that in Saranda and Chaibasa, sufficient iron and manganese ores deposits are available in the eastern boundary of Saranda forest adjoining Chaibasa with good forest cover which according to ICFRE can last for more than 50 to 100 years and mining activities could be undertaken there with sufficient safeguards. It is further observed that the area has operating mines and has also been working in past, which has already fractured and disturbed the landscape. It is further observed that the iron ore complex in Meghahatuburu, Kiriburu, Baraibury, Gua and Noamundi in Jharkhand and Barbil and Joda in Odisha makes contiguous area for iron and manganese ore mining and may be developed for sustainable mining with adequate integrated forest and wildlife management plan. The Commission recorded that the entire landscape of eastern Jharkhand and western Odisha is full of wild elephants and traditional corridor exists for the movement of elephants from one habitat to another.

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<sup>19</sup> Hereinafter “EPA”.

**82.** Appendix 1 of the MPSM lists the forest compartments which shall be conservation areas/no mining zones. It is thus clear that even another expert body has identified the areas which shall be conservation areas/no mining zones.

**(v) STAND TAKEN BY THE STATE OF JHARKHAND**

**83.** In its latest proposal, the State has sought to exclude several compartments from the wildlife sanctuary, however, only 6 out of them (*i.e.*, KP-2, KP-10, KP-11, KP-12, KP-13 and KP-14) are categorized as either Mining Zone-I or Mining Zone-II under the MPSM. Even the compartments which are identified in the MPSM as conservation areas/no-mining zones (*i.e.*, TK-8, TK-9, T-4, T-5, T-6, T-25 to T-32) have been sought to be excluded from the wildlife sanctuary.

**84.** We see no justification in excluding the compartments which have been notified in the MPSM to be conservation area/no mining zone from the proposed wildlife sanctuary. We say so because the MPSM has recommended thus in order to adhere to the principle of Sustainable Development.

**85.** This Court has time and again emphasized on the necessity to strike a balance between environmental

protection and the need for development. A reference in this regard can be made to the following judgments of this Court:

- (i) ***Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum v. Union of India and Others***<sup>20</sup>;
- (ii) ***Intellectuals Forum, Tirupathi v. State of A.P. and Others***<sup>21</sup>
- (iii) ***State of Himachal Pradesh and Others v. Yogendera Mohan Sengupta and Another***<sup>22</sup>; and
- (iv) ***T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India and Others (In Re: Gaurav Kumar Bansal)***<sup>23</sup>.

**86.** The main opposition of the State is on the ground that the rights of the tribals and the traditional forest dwellers residing in the area proposed to be declared as wildlife sanctuary would be adversely affected. We find that the said contention is absolutely without any substance.

**87.** As already discussed hereinabove, under Section 24(2)(c) of the WPA, the Collector, in consultation with the Chief Wild Life Warden, is entitled to allow the continuation of

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<sup>20</sup> (1996) 5 SCC 647

<sup>21</sup> (2006) 3 SCC 549

<sup>22</sup> (2024) 13 SCC 1

<sup>23</sup> (2025) 2 SCC 641

any right of any person in or over any land within the limits of the sanctuary.

**88.** In this respect, it will also be relevant to refer to the FRA. The Preamble of the FRA reads thus:

“An Act to recognise and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded; to provide for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land

Whereas the recognised rights of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers include the responsibilities and authority for sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological balance and thereby strengthening the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring livelihood and food security of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers;

And whereas the forest rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognised in the consolidation of State forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who are integral to the very survival and sustainability of the forest ecosystem;

And whereas it has become necessary to address the long standing insecurity of tenurial and access rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers including those who were forced to relocate their dwelling due to State development interventions....”

89. It will also be relevant to refer to Section 3 of the FRA

which reads thus:

**“3. Forest rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.—(1)**

For the purposes of this Act, the following rights, which secure individual or community tenure or both, shall be the forest rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers on all forest lands, namely:—

(a) right to hold and live in the forest land under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self cultivation for livelihood by a member or members of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dwellers;

(b) community rights such as *nistar*, by whatever name called, including those used in erstwhile Princely States, Zamindari or such intermediary regimes;

(c) right of ownership access to collect, use, and dispose of minor forest produce which has been traditionally collected within or outside village boundaries;

(d) other community rights of uses or entitlements such as fish and other products of water bodies, grazing (both settled or transhumant) and traditional seasonal resource access of nomadic or pastoralist communities;

(e) rights, including community tenures of habitat and habitation for primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities;

(f) rights in or over disputed lands under any nomenclature in any State where claims are disputed;

(g) rights for conversion of *Pattas* or leases or grants issued by any local authority or

any State Government on forest lands to titles;

(*h*) rights of settlement and conversion of all forest villages, old habitation, unsurveyed villages and other villages in forests, whether recorded, notified, or not, into revenue villages;

(*i*) right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use;

(*j*) rights which are recognised under any State law or laws of any Autonomous District Council or Autonomous Regional Council or which are accepted as rights of tribals under any traditional or customary law of the concerned tribes of any State;

(*k*) right of access to biodiversity and community right to intellectual property and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity and cultural diversity;

(*l*) any other traditional right customarily enjoyed by the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes or other traditional forest dwellers, as the case may be, which are not mentioned in clauses (*a*) to (*k*) but excluding the traditional right of hunting or trapping or extracting a part of the body of any species of wild animal;

(*m*) right to in situ rehabilitation including alternative land in cases where the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers have been illegally evicted or displaced from forest land of any description without receiving their legal entitlement to rehabilitation prior to the 13th day of December, 2005.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (69 of 1980), the Central Government shall provide for diversion of forest land for the following facilities managed by the Government which involve felling of trees not exceeding seventy-five trees per hectare, namely:—

- (a) schools;
- (b) dispensary or hospital;
- (c) *anganwadis*;
- (d) fair price shops;
- (e) electric and telecommunication lines;
- (f) tanks and other minor water bodies;
- (g) drinking water supply and water pipelines;
- (h) water or rain water harvesting structures;
- (i) minor irrigation canals;
- (j) non-conventional source of energy;
- (k) skill upgradation or vocational training centres;
- (l) roads; and
- (m) community centres:

Provided that such diversion of forest land shall be allowed only if,—

- (i) the forest land to be diverted for the purposes mentioned in this sub-section is less than one hectare in each case; and
- (ii) the clearance of such development projects shall be subject to the condition that the same is recommended by the Gram Sabha.”

**90.** It can thus be seen that none of the rights about which the State has expressed its concerns, through its application

for modification of order of this court dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025, would at all be disturbed for either an individual or for the community as a whole.

**91.** It will also be relevant to refer to sub-Section (1) of Section 4 of the FRA which reads as under:

**“4. Recognition of, and vesting of, forest rights in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.—**(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, and subject to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government hereby recognises and vests forest rights in—

- (a) the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes in States or areas in States where they are declared as Scheduled Tribes in respect of all forest rights mentioned in Section 3;
- (b) the other traditional forest dwellers in respect of all forest rights mentioned in Section 3.”

**92.** It can thus be seen that sub-Section (1) of Section 4 of the FRA which begins with a *non-obstante* clause recognizes and vests forest rights in the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and also the other traditional forest dwellers. Under sub-Section (2) thereof, even if any modification of forest rights or resettlement in critical wildlife habitats of national parks or wildlife sanctuaries for creating inviolate areas for wildlife

conservation recognized under the said Act has to be done, very stringent provisions have been made.

**93.** Therefore, we are of the considered view that the provisions contained in Section 24(2)(c) of the WPA and Section 3 read with Section 4(1) of the FRA amply protect the rights of the tribals and forest dwellers even after declaration of the said area as a wildlife sanctuary.

**94.** The bogey that on declaration of wildlife sanctuary, the habitations and rights of the tribals and traditional forest dwellers will be lost and vital public infrastructures like educational institutions, roads, etc., will have to be demolished is only a figment of imagination of the State. Rather than taking such a stand before this court, we are of the considered view that the State should have educated the tribals/forest dwellers residing in the said areas about the rights available to them under the FRA as well as the WPA.

**95.** Further, in order to allay the apprehension of the State with regard to any protest or resistance from the tribals and forest dwellers, we are of the view that the same would be taken care of in view of the directions that we propose to issue hereinafter.

**96.** As already discussed hereinabove, Section 3 of FRA protects the individual rights as well as the rights of the community pertaining to habitat and habitation, conversion of leases or grants, the right to live on forest lands, as well as *in situ* rehabilitation. Further, the diversion of forest lands is permitted under sub-Section (2) of Section 3 of the FRA for any of the purposes stated therein. In that view of the matter, we find that the contention of the State that it has reduced the area of 31,468.25 hectare to 24,941.64 hectare taking into consideration the protection of the rights of the tribals and forest dwellers is without any substance.

**97.** It will also be relevant to refer to the following observations made by this court in the case of ***Orissa Mining Corporation Limited v. Ministry of Environment and Forests and others***<sup>24</sup>:

“**55.** The definition clauses read with the abovementioned provisions give emphasis to customary rights, rights to collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce, community rights like grazing cattle, community tenure of habitat and habitation for primitive tribal groups, traditional rights customarily enjoyed, etc. Legislative intention is, therefore, clear that the Act intends to protect custom, usage, forms, practices and ceremonies which are appropriate to the traditional practices of

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<sup>24</sup> (2013) 6 SCC 476

forest dwellers.”

**98.** It is further to be noted that for the effective implementation of the Act, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has issued certain guidelines and communicated the same to all the States and the Union Territories *vide* its letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012. The said guidelines have already been reproduced in the judgment of this court in the case of ***Orissa Mining*** (supra), therefore, we avoid reproduction of the same in the present judgment.

**99.** Even in the 2006 judgment in the present proceedings (supra), this court has recognized the importance of protecting and safeguarding community rights in various laws. It will be relevant to refer to some of the observations of this Court:

**73.** It has been recognised that one of the essentials for forest management is the conservation of total biological diversity, the network of national parks, sanctuaries, biosphere reserves and other protected areas to be strengthened and extended adequately.

**74.** The strategy under the Forest Policy is to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-thirds of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile ecosystem. Clause 4.3 lays down the aspects of management of State forests. It would be instructive to reproduce hereunder certain parts of the policy with a view to have clarity in the

aim to be achieved:

“4.3.1. Schemes and projects which interfere with forests that clothe steep slopes, catchments of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, geologically unstable terrain and such other ecologically sensitive areas should be severely restricted. Tropical rain/moist forest, particularly in areas like Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands should be totally safeguarded.

4.3.2. No forest should be permitted to be worked without the Government having approved the management plan, which should be in a prescribed format and in keeping with the National Forest Policy. The Central Government should issue necessary guidelines to the State Government in this regard and monitor compliance.

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4.4.1. Forest land or land with tree cover should not be treated merely as a resource readily available to be utilised for various projects and programmes, but as a national asset which requires to be properly safeguarded for providing sustained benefits to the entire community. Diversion of forest land for any non-forest purpose should be subject to the most careful examinations by specialists from the standpoint of social and environmental costs and benefits. Construction of dams and reservoirs, mining and industrial development and expansion of agriculture should be consistent with the need for conservation of trees and forests. Projects which involve such diversion should at least provide in their investment budget, funds for regeneration/compensatory afforestation.

4.4.2. Beneficiaries who are allowed mining and quarrying in forest land and in land covered by trees should be required to repair and revegetate the area in accordance with established forestry practice. No mining lease should be granted to any party, private or public, without a proper mine management plan appraised from the environmental angle and enforced by adequate machinery.

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4.6. Having regard to the symbiotic relationship between the tribal people and forests, a primary task of all agencies responsible for forest management, including the forest development corporations should be to associate the tribal people closely in the protection, regeneration and development of forests as well as to provide gainful employment to people living in and around the forest. While safeguarding the customary rights and interests of such people, forestry programmes should pay special attention to the following—

- one of the major causes for degradation of forest is illegal cutting and removal by contractors and their labour. In order to put an end to this practice, contractors should be replaced by institutions such as tribal cooperatives, labour cooperatives, government corporations, etc. as early as possible;
- protection, regeneration and optimum collection of minor forest produce along with institutional arrangements for the marketing of such produce;
- development of forest villages on a par with revenue villages;
- family-oriented schemes for improving

the status of the tribal beneficiaries; and  
 — undertaking integrated area development programmes to meet the needs of the tribal economy in and around the forest areas, including the provision of alternative sources of domestic energy on a subsidised basis, to reduce pressure on the existing forest areas.

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4.8.1. Encroachment on forest lands has been on the increase. This trend has to be arrested and effective action taken to prevent its continuance. There should be no regularisation of existing encroachments.

\*\*\*

4.9. The main considerations governing the establishment of forest-based industries and supply of raw material to them should be as follows:

— As far as possible, a forest-based industry should raise the raw material needed for meeting its own requirements, preferably by establishment of direct relationship between the factory and the individuals who can grow the raw material by supporting the individuals with inputs including credit, constant technical advice and finally harvesting and transport services.

— No forest-based enterprise, except that at the village or cottage level, should be permitted in the future unless it has been first cleared after a careful scrutiny with regard to assured availability of raw material. In any case, the fuel, fodder and timber requirements of the local population should not be sacrificed for this purpose.

— Forest-based industries must not only provide employment to local people on a

priority but also involve them fully in raising trees and raw material.

— Natural forests serve as gene pool resources and help to maintain ecological balance. Such forests will not, therefore, be made available to industries for undertaking plantation and for any other activities.

— Farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers would be encouraged to grow, on marginal/degraded lands available with them, wood species required for industries. These may also be grown along with fuel and fodder species on community lands not required for pasture purposes, and by the Forest Department/corporations on degraded forests, not earmarked for natural regeneration.

— The practice of supply of forest produce to industry at concessional prices should cease. Industry should be encouraged to use alternative raw materials. Import of wood and wood products should be liberalised.

— The above considerations will, however, be subject to the current policy relating to land ceiling and land laws.

\*\*\*

4.16. The objective of this revised policy cannot be achieved without the investment of financial and other resources on a substantial scale. Such investment is indeed fully justified considering the contribution of forests in maintaining essential ecological processes and life support systems and in preserving genetic diversity. Forest should not be looked upon as a source of revenue. Forests are a renewable natural resource. They are a national asset to be protected and enhanced for the well-being of the people and the nation.”

**100.** In the totality of circumstances, we find that the State has been changing its stand time and again. Earlier, it had clearly admitted that in 126 compartments which were notified as the Saranda Game Sanctuary *vide* 1968 Notification, neither any kind of mining excavation operations nor any diversion of Forest Land for mining purposes have been undertaken except in part of the area approximately measuring 4.31 hectares. Subsequently, the stand had been changed wherein the State submitted that it is considering declaration of area measuring 57,519.41 hectare as against the original area measuring 31,468.25 hectare as a wildlife sanctuary. This stand was, yet again, changed and finally the State now proposes to notify only an area of 24,941.64 hectare as wildlife sanctuary.

**101.** We see no reason as to why the entire area of 126 compartments notified under 1968 notification should not be declared as wildlife sanctuary. However, taking into consideration the MPSM which excluded compartment numbers KP-2, KP-10, KP-11, KP-12, KP-13 and KP-14 as either Mining Zone-I or Mining Zone-II, we are inclined to

permit the State to exclude the aforesaid six compartments from the area to be notified as wildlife sanctuary.

#### IV. CONCLUSION AND DIRECTIONS

**102.** In the result, we *dispose of* the present set of IAs in the following terms:

- (i) We direct that the State Government shall notify the area comprising of 126 compartments as notified in 1968 notification, excluding six compartments i.e., compartment numbers KP-2, KP-10, KP-11, KP-12, KP-13 and KP-14, as a wildlife sanctuary within a period of three months from the date of this judgment.
- (ii) We reiterate the directions issued by this Court *vide* judgment and order dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023<sup>25</sup> passed in the present proceedings which reads thus:

**“60.** Insofar as the restriction on mining is concerned, we are of the considered view that it has been the consistent view of this Court that the mining activities within an area of one kilometre of the boundary of the Protected Areas will be hazardous for the wildlife. Though in the case of *Goa Foundation* (supra), the said directions were issued in respect of State of Goa, we find that such directions need to be issued on Pan-India basis.

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<sup>25</sup> 2023 SCC OnLine SC 504

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**65.** We also modify the direction contained in paragraph 56.4 of the order dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 (supra) and direct that mining within the National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary and within an area of one kilometre from the boundary of such National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary shall not be permissible.”

- (iii) We further direct the State of Jharkhand to give wide publicity to the fact that by this judgment, neither the individual rights nor the community rights of the tribals and the forest dwellers in the said area would be adversely affected. The State shall also give wide publicity to the fact that in view of the provision of Section 3 read with sub-Section (1) of Section 4 of the FRA all the rights of the tribals and the forest dwellers both individually as well as of community shall stand protected.

**IA Diary No.272221 of 2025**

**103.** The present IA is filed with the following prayers:

- A. Direct that the declaration of the proposed Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary covering 24,941.68 hectares and its 1 km Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) shall not in any manner impede, restrict, or otherwise affect the operation, maintenance, and functioning of the Applicant’s essential ancillary infrastructure like Rangring tailing Dam, which

are indispensable for sustaining lawful mining operations and township activities namely:

a. Kumbdi Water Dam and allied facilities located partly in Compartments KP-15, KD-10 and KD-16 as mentioned in Paragraph 3 and detailed in **Annexure-3**, and

b. Railway Take-up Point and railway lines passing through Kiriburu-Meghahatuburu mines Compartments KP-21 as mentioned Paragraph 3 and detailed in **Annexure A-4**, and

B. to pass such other or further order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the interest of justice and equity.”

**104.** In the foregoing paragraphs, we have already held that in view of the provisions contained in Sections 3 and 4 of the FRA, the activities as prayed in the IA are permissible activities. Even after the declaration of the area covered under the 1968 Notification as a Wildlife Sanctuary, ancillary activities as sought to be carried out by the Applicant-SAIL would be continued to be permitted.

**105.** We, therefore, find that in view of the observations made hereinabove, the grievance of the applicant-SAIL no more survives. The IA is, therefore, disposed of in terms of the observations made in this judgment.

**106.** Before we part with the Judgment, we would like to place on record our deep and sincere appreciation for the tireless efforts put in by Shri K. Parameshwar learned *amicus curiae*, who has been ably assisted by Mr. M.V. Mukunda, Ms. Kanti, Ms. Raji Gururaj, Ms. Veda Singh, Mr. Shreenivas Patil, Mr. Prasad Hegde, Mr. Sai Kaushal, learned counsel. We would also like to place on record our appreciation for Shri Kapil Sibal, learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the State of Jharkhand, Shri Tushar Mehta, learned Solicitor General of India appearing for Steel Authority of India Limited and Ms. Shibani Ghosh, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the applicant-Dr. Dayanand Shankar Srivastava.

.....CJI  
(B.R. GAVAI)

.....J  
(K. VINOD CHANDRAN)

**NEW DELHI;  
NOVEMBER 13, 2025.**

**Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM)  
in Saranda and Chaibasa in Singhbhum district,  
Jharkhand**



**Government of India**

**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

**2018**

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**Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM)  
and  
Delineation of mining zones and Conservation Area/ No mining zones  
in Saranda and Chaibasa in Singhbhum District, Jharkhand**

In compliance of the Action Taken report on the ‘Memorandum of Action taken’ on the ‘First report on illegal mining of iron and manganese ores in the state of Jharkhand’ of Justice M. B. Shah commission of inquiry, submitted to the Government, the MoEF& CC, vide its letter F.No.11-65/2014-FC, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014, awarded the carrying capacity study in Saranda Forest Division in the West Singhbhum District, Jharkhand to Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun to suggest annual capacity for iron ore production.

Based on the terms of reference (TOR) which included all aspects as suggested by the Commission of enquiry, the ICFRE submitted the draft final report on 28.3.2016. The report was examined by a committee constituted on 4.4.2016 by the MoEF&CC. Based on the committee’s recommendations the ICFRE report was accepted by the competent authority in the MoEF& CC.

The ICFRE study was conducted to comply with the recommendations of Shah Commission of Enquiry. It is important to understand the recommendations of the Shah Commission. The observations of the Commission of Enquiry related to MoEF has been summarised below.

1. It has been observed that contrary to the said provisions of MCDR, the Regional Controller of IBM has approved the mining plans for increased extraction of iron ore without having reference from Controller General. Such unscientific and illogical modifications for steep increase in production for commercial purpose by Regional Controller are in utter violation of the said Rule and are against the interest of the scientific mining, conservation of minerals and protection of environment at large. No reasons are assigned for modification of the approved mining plans. Further it was observed that all the modifications were not on need basis but on greed basis. It was commented that IBM has approved mining schemes to increase production during the mining plan period without application of mind to the ingredients of Rule 10 of MCDR, 1988, objectives of National Mineral Policies, 1993 and 2008. For modification of mining plan, conditions mentioned in the Rules are required to be satisfied which was totally ignored and created multi fold environmental hazards to

the Saranda Forest. The conditions have become more aggravated, since the mines are located in clusters and transport through common roads used by them. The roads cannot sustain this load and remain always in dilapidated conditions beyond repair, as observed by the Commission during its visit. Regional Controller, Jharkhand region submitted information regarding life of the various mines in the State. List of 21 mining leases of iron, iron ore – manganese ore for which mining plan/ scheme was modified by IBM under Rule 10/12 of MCDR, 1988 is given in the report at Table: 1 (Page 127-130, Vol. I). Out of the above 21 mining leases, in case of 06 mining leases, mining plans/ schemes were modified twice under Rule 10/12 of the MCDR, 1988 and the list thereof is given in Table: 2 (Page 131-133, Vol. I) and in case of 08 mining leases (Table: 3 at Page 134-138, Vol. I), mining plans/schemes for increase in production were modified by the IBM Authority with retrospective effect. This means that the lessees have increased the production without prior approval.

2. In case of 24 leases (Table: 4 at Page 139-151, Vol. I) where mining plans/ schemes for increase of production are granted by IBM and approved by MoEF in violation of Rule: 10/12 of MCDR, 1988, it has been observed that production limit for 24 leases were increased from 5.6MTPA to 60.87MTPA. It was observed that out of 8,897.84 ha of leased area for 24 leases; 7,652.08 ha area is forest land. So, it has been recommended that instead of granting fresh leases in the Saranda forest, all these leases should be terminated by following due process of law and then be granted by public auction or otherwise whichever is applicable within law, after notifying under Rule 59 of the MCR, 1960 so that there may not be further depletion of the Saranda Reserve Forest which is also a part of notified Elephant Reserve and proposed Conservation Reserve by the Expert Committee.
3. In compliance 18 such leases have been cancelled by the State Government.
4. It was observed that considering the aforesaid position and mining operation in dense Saranda Forest which is admittedly having wildlife and is one of finest elephant habitats, would be destroyed without getting further benefit of iron ore. As such, in the aforesaid area, Sal trees and associates which were existing are already destroyed and which has affected the environment. Hence, capping of production in each mine is a must.

5. It was further observed by Justice M.B.Shah that the right to life is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India and it includes the right to enjoyment of pollution-free water and air for full enjoyment of life. The protection of this right is directly linked with clean environment. It is the duty of the State and citizens to improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures. This would require that habitats of wildlife should not be disturbed; river, lake, water and air should not be polluted. Therefore, it was directed that before carrying out any mining operation, Comprehensive Environmental Management Plans must be formulated to the satisfaction of, and got approved from, the Ministry of Environment & Forests in a time bound manner.
6. Contrary to the principle of Public Trust Doctrine, commercial interest of a handful of lease holders to earn more windfall profits at the cost of society, ecosystem, tribal and natural resources has been encouraged which have had adverse impact on forest, environment and social fabrics of the State and the Country. There should be balance between preservation and utilization that would indeed be a matter for an expert body to examine and on the basis of appropriate advice, Government should take a policy decision and firmly implement the same. In addition, there should not be any depletion of water resources. On effects on Environment on Saranda Forest, the Shah Commission observed that it is an accepted principle of inter-generational equity that present generation has a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for the present and future generations. For this, present generation must safeguard the natural resources of the earth through careful planning and to undertake to pass on to the future generations' environment as intact as the one it inherited from the past generation. Therefore, long term planning must be undertaken to keep up the national wealth. It has always to be remembered that these are permanent assets of mankind and are not intended to be exhausted in one generation.
7. In the State of Jharkhand, most of the mines are in the Saranda forest area which is the finest elephant habitat and part of Notified Elephant Reserve and also highly eco-sensitive, as regards bio-diversity. Most of the mines are very close to the rivers (i.e. Koena and others) or natural streams and in many of the cases; streams are either passing through or quite close by the leased area and catchments area. The sudden increase in production would increase the effective area under mining and result into drying of these streams, degradation of environment, loss of micro bio-diversity of

these streams, adverse effect on all roads, agriculture, horticulture, ground water table, pollution of air and water and eco-system as a whole. Modifications of mining plans to increase production without knowing the real effect on a self-contained Saranda ecosystem has raised many questions on environment of the area. It may leave a permanent impact which would be difficult to rejuvenate the climatic climax natural forest.

8. The Commission observed that mining leases are granted, without having any prior consent of the Forest Department. The proposed lease is a fresh grant in the virgin forest of a very high tree density and one of the finest elephant habitats. Whether diversion of one of the best natural virgin forest areas in the country for a lease of 12 to 13 years life is really worthy and justified? The natural forest which had taken millions of years to come to this climatic climax would be destroyed for a mine of 12 to 13 years life span. A serious thought in this regard shall be given.

As per the Indian Minerals Yearbook 2013 (Part- I) 52<sup>nd</sup> Edition the total iron ore (hematite) deposit in West Singhbhum district is 2304 MT (proven 1840 MT and probable 464MT). With 60 MTPA extraction of ore, the ore reserve will last for 40 years.

9. MoEF&CC is formulating parameters to identify pristine and biologically diverse and rich forest areas which shall not be diverted for mining projects. Though the parameters are yet to be finalised and shall be suggestive in decision making, the report of the ICFRE on carrying capacity study of Saranda region and Dr Bist Committee has examined all aspects of bio diversity conservation in tune with the concerns of Shah Commission and identified critical wildlife habitats, corridors linking critical wildlife habitats, rich forests and such other important forest areas in Saranda Forest which needs to be protected and conserved for posterity and are considered as ecologically important and may be considered as inviolate for iron ore mining and may be notified as Conservation Reserve/ Corridors or Ecologically Sensitive Areas in accordance with the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Environment (Protection) 1986 respectively by the State Government.
10. The ICFRE submitted the draft final report on 28.3.2016. The report was examined by a committee constituted on 4.4.2016 by the MoEF&CC. Based on the committee's recommendations, the ICFRE report was accepted by the MoEF&CC.

**11.** The process for identifying critical pristine forests for conservation is in progress and the concept has been used in identifying the forest area which are critical for wildlife, forest and biodiversity conservation. As a policy the dense and biodiverse forest with significant wild flora and fauna population should not be diverted for mining purpose especially when sufficient mineral deposits are available elsewhere for feeding the related industries. In Saranda and Chaibasa sufficient iron and manganese ores deposits are available in the eastern boundary of Saranda forest adjoining Chaibasa with good forest cover which according to ICFRE can last for more than 50 to 100 years and mining may be allowed there with sufficient safeguards. This area has many operating mines and has been worked in past also and already fractured and disturbed the landscape. This area is adjoining the mining areas of Odisha. The iron ore complex in Meghahatuburu, Kiriburu, Baraibury, Gua and Noamundi in Jharkhand and, Barbil and Joda in Odisha makes contiguous area for iron and manganese ore mining and may be developed for sustainable mining with adequate integrated forest and wildlife management plan. The entire landscape of eastern Jharkhand and western Odisha is full of wild elephants and traditional corridor exists for the movement of elephants from one habitat to another.

**12. Carrying capacity study report of ICFRE- a brief review.**

**A. Iron ore deposit in Singhbhum districts of Jharkhand state:** The iron rich area of Jharkhand state comprises of the northern part of the so called “horse shoe” of iron ore bearing belt of Singhbhum districts which comprise of Iron Ore Group of rocks of late Archaean to early Proterozoic age. The regional structure is a low NNE plunging synclinorium overturned towards southeast. The western limb of the synclinorium hosts some of the major iron ore deposits like Kiriburu, Meghahatahuru, Karampada, Ghatkuri and Gua. In the eastern limb the deposit of iron ore is available at Noamundi. Four major types of iron ores found in the Saranda and Chaibasa regions, such as massive, laminated, shaley and powdery ore. Average thickness of mineralization is 75-80 meter. These iron ore are of very high grade possessing more than 58% of iron content. Besides high-grade iron ore, low-grade iron ore are also found as Banded Iron Formation and Ferruginous shale containing more than 45% of Fe content.

**B. Iron ore deposits in forest area:** Almost entire iron rich mining area of the region is located within dense forests. Sal (*Shorea robusta*) is the most dominant

vegetation in the forests which confirm broadly to Champion and Seth type 3C/2e (ii) Moist Peninsular Low Level Sal Forests. The Saranda forest is full of biodiversity and home of many endangered flora and fauna and home of the elephant and is corridor for movement of wildlife which connect many other protected areas in the north and central India. This region has good drainage system with Koena and Karo as the chief perennial rivers and several perennial streams.

**C. Re-assessment of iron ore deposit in Jharkhand:** According to IBM, as per the ICFRE report, about 4000 million tonnes of iron ore is reported in Jharkhand. The cut-off grade for this estimation was 58% Fe content in iron ore (Hematite); now with the IBM revising the threshold value of iron ore to 45% Fe, this has necessitated the reassessment of all iron ore deposit of Jharkhand afresh. This is bound to enhance the iron ore reserve and resource of the state manifold. The Mining lease holder companies will prepare the revised mining plan and use latest mechanised mining technology. The revised mining plan shall be approved by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) and fresh environment clearance will be required from MoEF&CC. The estimation of iron ore has been exaggerated in the approved mining plan to 2418.029 million tonnes whereas ICFRE team has estimated the iron ore to be 2157.695 million tonnes spread over 199.54 sq km of land. As per the Indian Minerals Yearbook 2013 (Part- I) 52<sup>nd</sup> Edition, the total iron ore (hematite) deposit in West Singhbhum district is 2304 MT (proven 1840 MT and probable 464 MT).

**D. Total requirement of iron ore:** The total requirement of iron ore for the existing steel plants with 15.054 MTPA capacities is 24.058 MTPA. With the proposed expansion of existing steel plant capacity to 21.874 MTPA, the estimated requirement of iron ore is 35 MTPA. In addition to this, the proposed new steel plants with 60.9 MTPA capacities in Jharkhand would require additional Iron ore of 96.2 MTPA. Thus a total of about 131.0 MTPA of iron ore for a production of 83.0 million tonnes of steel will be required. Keeping in view the existing status of the mines, demand and supply of iron ore, the assimilative and supportive capacity of environment and reserve in Saranda-Chaibasa after taking into consideration the EC consent, Mining Plan, infrastructure and road network the suggested annual cap for ore production has been assessed by ICFRE to be **64 MTPA**. Further, keeping in view the strengthening of existing infrastructure, proposed

installation of conveyor, railway sidings and other mitigation measure, the supportive capacity may be enhanced to the proposed EC consent capacity of 99.9 MTPA or say 100.0 MPTA with the required statutory clearances, strict regulation and monitoring mechanism. At present around 64 MTPA may be allowed to be mined by various lease holders subject to EC issued by MoEF&CC unless strengthening of existing infrastructure, proposed installation of conveyor, railway sidings and other mitigation measure are reported by lease holder.

The mining output from these mines in identified mining zone may be enhanced subject to the improvement in the infrastructure and adoption of state-of-the-art-technology by the mining company and fresh EC issued by MoEF&CC on the basis of approved mining plan.

**E. Identification of important critical biodiversity zones and wildlife corridors**

**for conservation:** The ICFRE study has identified critical biodiversity zones (two Biodiversity Conservation Area/ No mining zones and three Critical biodiversity Hot Spot) and important wildlife corridors which need to be conserved. Based on the ICFRE report, these critical areas have been geo-referenced and the forest compartments have been identified for conservation. These areas shall be provided protection by the state government under Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and rules made thereunder.

**F. Forest Compartments in Saranda and Chaibasa Forest and its status:**

The Saranda Forest has forest compartment boundaries whereas the Chaibasa Forests has village boundaries. The entire forests compartment/ village boundary in Saranda and Chaibasa Forest Divisions along with the status which include the forest compartment / village in which mining is allowed as well as the Biodiversity Conservation Area/ No mining zones, Critical biodiversity Hot Spots and important elephant corridors and other areas which need to be conserved and where no mining shall be considered at present is given in Appendix-1. In Saranda and Chaibasa the mineralised area is limited to few compartments/ villages only. These compartments /villages will be considered for mining purposes as per the area mentioned in the mining zones and the remaining areas will be treated as Conservation Area/ No mining zone for mining purposes only.

**13. Identification of Mining Zones for mining of ore:** The underlined principle to be followed shall be to divert minimum forest area for mining and producing maximum output depending upon the approved mining plan and Environment clearance (EC) under EP Act 1986. Areas outside the Conservation Area/ No mining zones have been examined by experts of FSI by using the latest forest maps in order to identify the pristine forests which need to be saved from destruction caused by mining and allied activities. For this the very dense forests (VDF) with canopy density above 70% spread over forest area of more than 1.00 ha have been identified and considered for identification of pristine forest for the purpose of mining. It has been observed that the mining activities were mostly concentrated in the eastern part of the Saranda and sizable area has already been opened for mining. These mines were suspended owing to the detection of rampant uncontrolled and illegal mining affecting adversely the forest and wildlife. The mineral deposits in the central zone (Ankua) is under pristine forest full of biodiversity and important for forest and wildlife conservation. Considering the need to conserve the diverse forest and wildlife wealth in the Saranda, the forest compartments/villages having mineral deposits and mining leases granted for mining in the eastern boundary of Saranda have been considered for inclusion in the mining zone. The remaining area outside the identified mining zones (zone-I&II) shall be closed for the purpose of mining and the delineation of 'mining zone' in Saranda and Chaibasa in Singhbhum District, Jharkhand except as referred in para 15(b) will be reviewed when the mineral deposits in the eastern boundary in the identified mining zones are almost exhausted and appropriate technology is available for extraction of mineral from biodiverse forest area without damaging the forest and wildlife.

**A. Saranda forest:** The mineralised forest area with iron ore deposits in the Saranda forest have been identified with forest compartments and are given in **Table-1**.

<b>Table-1: Compartment-wise Iron outcrop- Saranda</b>			
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Compartment</b>	<b>Compartment Area ha.)</b>	<b>Iron outcrop area (ha.)</b>
1	A-10	174.59	52.83
2	A-11	191.41	148.21
3	A-12	325.79	217.4
4	A-13	518.91	153.57
5	A-14	245.00	52.77
6	A-16	495.58	36.81
7	A-18	218.85	38.87
8	A-19	182.81	67.24
9	A-20	402.33	359.76
10	A-21	226.17	219.15

11	A-22	279.74	115.46
12	A-24	344.11	52.34
13	A-25	374.58	4.21
14	A-26	61.41	18.43
15	A-27	217.26	118.09
16	A-28	438.06	175.34
17	A-29	358.40	133.49
18	A-30	402.69	137.61
19	A-40	410.12	29.16
20	A-42	408.52	32.34
21	A-43	349.73	48.48
22	A-7	200.87	18.14
23	G-10	251.90	57.26
24	G-11	180.04	1.8
25	G-12	575.27	51.97
26	G-13	759.40	18.25
27	G-14	386.08	66.15
28	G-15	378.99	48.02
29	G-16	295.05	13.63
30	G-17	513.76	113.93
31	G-18	448.45	71.59
32	G-19	395.52	49.82
33	G-20	414.15	84.11
34	G-22	524.96	74.37
35	G-23	413.19	35.97
36	G-24	512.60	16.42
37	G-25	198.77	85.4
38	G-26	558.39	131.45
39	G-29	422.04	45.25
40	G-3	323.68	13.02
41	G-30	609.96	58.85
42	G-31	280.56	89.25
43	G-32	141.80	76.4
44	G-33	401.98	72.09
45	G-4	329.80	4.16
46	G-5	549.27	142.33
47	G-6	449.06	28.8
48	G-7	307.83	115.94
49	G-8	532.33	19.42
50	G-9	269.54	48.1
51	K-1	283.83	88.25
52	K-2	319.11	82.13
53	K-3	412.34	30.44
54	K-4	248.27	5.22
55	K-5	254.39	0.46
56	K-6	403.38	23.48
57	KP-10	263.80	51.02
58	KP-11	286.12	11.32
59	KP-12	396.93	60.11
60	KP-13	562.74	57.84
61	KP-14	501.89	44.35
62	KP-2	239.93	12.52

63	KP-22	393.38	8.14
64	KP-23	349.11	219.89
65	KP-24	268.21	126.82
66	KP-25	246.51	28.01
67	KP-27	173.41	98.11
68	KP-28	624.18	30.59
69	KP-29	340.92	175.75
70	KP-3	178.72	17.13
71	KP-30	477.69	184.71
72	KP-31	506.03	465.86
73	KP-32	406.35	136.64
74	KP-33	300.89	234.4
75	KP-34	166.67	55.95
76	KP-35	281.88	255.96
77	KP-36	578.62	314.58
78	KP-7	233.59	4.04
79	TK-47	287.47	49.16

- a. **Saranda Forest-Mining Zone-I:** That forest compartments bearing iron ore deposit and such very dense forests cover spread upto 50 % area of the forest compartment have been considered for mining and allied activities. These areas are delineated and geo-referenced and may be considered as mining zone-I for mining and other allied activities. (Table-2)

<b>Table-2: Compartment under Proposed Development/Mining Zone -I</b>				
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Compartment No.</b>	<b>Area (Ha.)</b>	<b>VDF Area (ha.)</b>	<b>VDF Area (%)</b>
1	G-13	759.4	112.21	14.78
2	G-17	513.76	174.82	34.03
3	G-18	448.45	153.23	34.17
4	G-19	395.52	91.69	23.18
5	G-20	414.15	104.86	40.84
6	G-22	524.96	98.63	18.79
7	G-23	413.19	10.76	2.61
8	G-24	512.6	52.43	10.23
9	G-25	198.77	58.87	29.62
10	G-26	558.39	180.52	32.33
11	G-29	422.04	128.84	30.53
12	G-30	609.96	80.74	13.24
13	G-31	280.56	55.30	19.71
14	G-32	141.8	49.90	35.19
15	*G-33	401.98	36.49	10.69
16	KP-11	286.12	94.78	33.13
17	KP-12	396.93	142.80	35.98
18	KP-13	562.74	263.18	46.77
19	KP-2	239.93	45.29	18.88
20	*KP-29	340.92	15.90	12.51
21	KP-3	178.72	51.63	28.89
22	KP-31	506.03	224.70	44.40
23	KP-32	406.35	65.34	16.08
24	KP-34	166.67	14.43	8.66

25	KP-35	281.88	126.45	44.86
26	KP-36	578.62	173.16	29.93
27	TK-47	287.47	83.36	29.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10670.52</b>	<b>2690.30</b>	<b>25.21</b>
A-Ankua, G-Ghatkuri, S-Samta, T-Tirilposi, TK- Thalkobad, K-Kumdi, KP-Karampada				
Note: * Compartment no. KP-29 and G-33 are partly falling under Proposed Development/Mining Zone				

**b. Saranda Forest-Mining Zone-II:** That forest compartment bearing iron ore deposit and has such very dense forests cover spread above 50 % area of the forest compartment are delineated and geo-referenced and may be considered as mining zone-II for mining and other allied activities. Mining proposals will be accepted in Zone-IIalso. (table-3).

S.No.	Compartment No.	Area (Ha.)	VDF Area (ha.)	VDF Area (%)
1	KP-10	263.80	144.42	54.75
2	KP-14	501.89	306.85	61.14
3	KP-23	349.11	269.02	77.06
4	KP-24	268.21	200.22	74.65
5	KP-30	477.69	289.10	60.52
6	KP-33	300.89	157.43	52.32
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2161.59</b>	<b>1367.03</b>	<b>63.24</b>
A-Ankua, G-Ghatkuri, S-Samta, T-Tirilposi, TK- Thalkobad, K-Kumdi, KP-Karampada				

**B. Chaibasa Forest:** The mineralised forest area with iron ore deposits in the Chaibasa forest have been identified with forest compartments and are given in **Table-4.**

Village	Village Area (Ha.)	Iron outcrop (Ha.)
Balijor	401.63	180.09
Bara Baljori	1204.30	9.33
Barajamda	1442.89	10.75
Bokna	831.95	77.14
Dirburu	591.44	17.52
Gundjora	552.33	0.11
Kantoari	717.05	55.99
Khasjamda	314.46	215.01
Korta	354.93	333.15
Kumirat	349.52	45.40
Kutingta	470.29	19.39
Lipunga	1466.27	21.59
Mahudi	1420.69	5.98

Meralgara	410.59	112.92
Noamundi	844.39	196.59
Parambaljori	885.21	86.83
Sarbil	1488.03	47.54
Silpunji	103.77	17.78
Others	518.58	67.26

**Chaibasa Forest- Mining Zone:** That forest compartments bearing iron ore deposit and such very dense forests cover spread upto 50 % area of the forest compartment have been considered for mining and allied activities. These areas are delineated and geo-referenced and may be considered as mining zone-I for mining and other allied activities. (Table-5)

<b>Table-5: Compartment under Proposed Development/Mining</b>				
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Village Name</b>	<b>Area (Ha.)</b>	<b>VDF Area (ha.) under Phase I</b>	<b>VDF Area (%)</b>
1	Balijor	401.63	1.17	0.29
2	Barajamda	1442.89	0.00	0.00
3	Bokna	831.95	21.63	2.60
4	Diriburu	591.44	0.00	0.00
5	*Khasjamda	314.46	0.00	0.00
6	Korta	354.93	1.15	0.32
7	Meralgara	410.59	0.00	0.00
8	Noamundi	844.39	1.13	0.13
9	*Parambaljori	885.21	0.00	0.00
10	*Silpunji	103.77	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6181.27</b>	<b>25.08</b>	<b>0.41</b>
Note: * Village Parambaljori, Silpunji and Khasjamda are partly falling under Proposed Development/Mining Zone				

**C. Mining areas:** Those mining leases spread over Zone-I and Zone-II shall be treated as merged and considered as one entity for preparation of the mining plan and approved by IBM. However, the mining plan shall be prepared so as to start the mining in Zone-I and progressively proceed towards Zone-II in a phased manner.

**D. Sanctity of the existing lease boundary would be maintained:** Those existing mining leases which are extending into biodiversity hotspots/ critical hotspots, the sanctity of the existing lease boundary would be maintained and mining would also be allowed in the existing mining lease subject to adequate safeguards for the purpose of scientific and sustainable mining. The balance area of the forest

compartment shall be protected as biodiversity hotspots/ critical hotspot after excluding the area of existing lease.

#### **14. General Conditions imposed for Forest Clearance and restoration of mined area.**

- a. Forest clearance will be considered on priority for those projects proponents who have valid and operational mines as on date of consideration by the Ministry for which Stage-I and Stage-II proposals have been granted provided leased boundary falls inside the identified mining zone (Zone I&II). The remaining area outside the identified mining zones (Zone I&II) shall be closed for the purpose of mining except as described in para 15(b) and the delineation of 'mining zone' in Saranda and Chaibasa in Singhbhum District, Jharkhand will be reviewed when the mineral deposits in the eastern boundary in the identified mining zones are almost exhausted and appropriate technology is available for extraction of mineral from bio-diverse forest area without damaging the forest and wildlife.
- b. Each mining lease once deforested should be exploited to extract maximum mineral. However, for scientific and sustainable mining, unbroken area in lease may be allowed for mining in case to case basis. The production output will be limited to the extent the EC granted by the MoEF&CC. ICFRE has provided the maximum capacity of mining lease. Therefore, the limit prescribed by ICFRE should not be breached unless revised EC is obtained from MoEF&CC. While considering either new mining lease or expansion of existing mining lease the limit prescribed by ICFRE must be kept in view
- c. Mining will be done by opening minimum forest area and ores down below the forest will be mined till all exploitable ores are extracted by going to bottom of the operational mine before new site is proposed to be opened for mining. The entire block of ore deposit area is to be geo-referenced and mining plan prepared accordingly.
- d. For large lease holders such as Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO), the entire mining plan has to be prepared and life of each block of mine need to be specified in the mining plan and approved by IBM. The entire deposits may be extracted in two or three phases depending upon the deposits and requirement mining plan for each block may be prepared separately.

- e. The Government will consider allocating the mineral blocks in the Zone-I&II to those 13 mines situated in the central zone (Ankua and chidia) which are closed for mining.
- f. For smaller lease holders for captive mining, the detailed mining plan with well specified period of mining operation including life of the mine must be prepared and got approved by IBM.
- g. The forests in the Zone-I&II allotted to various lease holders will be opened after securing forest clearance from central government under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to Environment clearance under Environment (protection) Act, 1986. For each lease Forest Clearance and Environment Clearance will be obtained separately.
- h. After exhausting the mined area, the entire area will be biologically restored by massive plantation with local tree and shrub species as per the mine rehabilitation and restoration plan as approved by the Forest Department within three years extended upto maximum five years after closure of the mine or as per the mine closure plan whichever is earlier. The restoration efforts and outcome will be considered vital for granting forest clearance for next mine as per IBM approved mining plan. The restored area will be transferred to the forest department for further maintenance as forest.
- i. The mining plan of the entire lease area needs to be prepared including the actual mining pit area, over dump area, roads and other establishments etc. Clearing of the area may be allowed only in the designated mining area only and forest land will be opened as per the mining plan approved by IBM.
- j. The plan for locations of essential allied mining activities required for smooth operation of mining will be prepared in consultation with Forest Department and approved by PCCF of the state and will be included in the overall mining plan approved by IBM. Other allied activities will normally be allowed only in areas which has open and degraded forest with crown density below 10% as per the forest map and ground verification by forest department. Those forest areas in the lease boundary which are not in the mining area for open cast mining and needed for allied mining activities will be maintained as forest and afforestation of the blanks in the leased forest area will be done by the mining lease holder to bring

the crown density to above 60% during the lease period. The afforestation activities will be supervised by local forest department as per the working plan prescription.

- k. Safety belt plantation of 7.5 meter width will be carried out along the mining pit area in the beginning before mining operation is started.
- l. Lease rent per hectare of forest land at predetermined rate may be imposed for development of forest and local communities dependent on forest. Penalty may be imposed at double the rate for delay in closing the mine after the life of the mine as determined in the mining plan by IBM.

### **15. General Conditions for sustainable mining and conservation Plan of Saranda Forest in West Singhbhum District**

- a. The small leases do not possess scientific capability of environmentally sustainable mining. Therefore, small leases (<25 ha) should be cancelled.
- b. The mining lease executed in favour of the lease holder outside the mining zone referred in Para-13 above, shall be kept in abeyance till the MoEF&CC takes a final view on the environmental sustainability of mining in the region after further examination. ICFRE in its Carrying Capacity study for Saranda region has recommended that compartments nos-Ankua A-4, A-11, A-21, A-29 and A-30 may not be considered for conservation area or biological hot spot area. However, approval under FC Act 1980 in this area will not be considered till further examination by MOEF &CC.

The Dhobil mines of SAIL is a working mine and Stage-II clearance has been granted for the broken up area. Mining may continue only within the already broken up area.

- c. Out of the 26 non-working mines having consent capacity of 14.891 MTPA (area 4225.07 ha), 8 mine leases in an area of 739.421 ha having meagre reserves and 5 leases in an area of 640.902 ha having limited reserves and less production be closed and mined systematically only after getting statutory green clearances (FC and EC).
- d. The forest clearance (FC) and environment clearance (EC) granted to existing mining leases outside the mining zone referred in para 14 above shall be cancelled by the Ministry except as referred in para 15(b).
- e. Reclamation process of mines in the mining zone should be carried out concurrently with the mining activity and this should be included as an integral part of each mining plan. Restoration, Reclamation and Rehabilitation of lands

affected by mining should be done as per the approved R&R plan within the time frame prescribed.

- f. Integrated catchment area treatment and watershed management in mine affected areas shall be prepared and implemented scientifically by establishing biophysical baseline data for ecosystem based approach through a reputed organization for long-term sustainability in consultation with the State Forest and wildlife Department.
- g. Preparation of Geo referenced mine lease/prospecting license maps shall be mandatory for mines lease. Each mine shall be provided lease number for proper identification of individual mine boundary.
- h. Prospecting of mineral should be undertaken in the specified mining zone only referred in para 13 above. Estimation of reserves has to be done by cross sections/ slice plan method after detailed exploration. In some of the proposed leases having prospecting license, the PL area is higher in comparison to the reserves estimated which are on lower side. The concerned prospecting license lessees shall revise the area after detail exploration in order to reduce the area required for mining and in turn land use changes.
- i. The Mining Plan shall ensure commercial extraction of secondary or minor metals which often occur in association with the major metal in the mineral, for example, Manganese with Iron ore.
- j. The IBM approved reserve, EC consent for individual mine, Mining Plan and reassessed reserves may be examined in each case separately by IA Division.
- k. Fresh exploration strategy to draw ores with +45% Fe grade as a target need to be explored. The proper exploration model up to the maximum depth of the ore body is needed for proper use of low grade ore along with high grade in Jharkhand.
- l. The Elephant Conservation Area/ No mining zone Development Initiative and Regional Elephant Plan as proposed in IWMP and endorsed by MDEC shall be expanded beyond West Singhbhum District to cover the entire Eastern Central Elephant landscape and be adequately funded and implemented so as to *inter-alia* address the human elephant conflict issues in an effective manner. The prescription of Integrated Wildlife Management Plan (IWMP) prepared and approved by the State Wildlife authority, National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) and Project Elephant (PE) of MoEF& CC must be followed and mining should be done in phased manner spread over the life of mines when all ore is exhausted as per mining plan.

- m. The Integrated Wildlife Management Plan and other conservation plans shall be financed from the fund generated by District Mineral Foundation. In terms of the provisions of sub section 9B of MMDR Act 1957 (67 of 1957) the State Government has established in each district affected by mining activities a District Mineral Foundation. The Central Government has started the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY). This programme is meant to provide for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining related operations, using the funds generated by District Mineral Foundations (DMFs). The objective of PMKKKY scheme are (a) to implement various developmental and welfare projects/programs in mining affected areas that complement the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government; (b) to minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts; and (c) to ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas. The PMKKKY includes all aspects of living, to ensure substantial improvement in the quality of life. High priority areas like drinking water supply, health care, sanitation, education, skill development, women and child care, welfare of aged and disabled people, skill development and environment conservation will get at least 60 % share of the DMF funds. For creating a supportive and conducive living environment, balance funds will be spent on making roads, bridges, railways, waterways projects, irrigation and alternative energy sources. This way, government is facilitating mainstreaming of the people from lower strata of society, tribals and forest-dwellers who have no wherewithal and are affected the most from mining activities. The State Government shall provide the entire fund required for management of forest and wildlife in Singhbhum district and IWMP from the fund generated by DMF and not less than 50% of the funds from PMKKKY for the management of the Saranda forest, improvement of biodiversity and welfare of Scheduled Tribe and other traditional forest dwellers as provided in the Forest right Act 2006. The Forest Department will prepare a detailed management plan and submit to the concerned authority of DMF and PMKKKY for disbursement for fund for effective implementation. The fund will be also used for Environment preservation and pollution control measures such as effluent treatment plants, prevention of pollution of streams, lakes, ponds, ground water, other water sources in the region, measure for controlling air and dust pollution caused by mining operations and dumps, mine drainage system, mine pollution prevention

technologies, and measures for working or abandoned mines and other air, water & surface pollution control mechanisms required for environment-friendly and sustainable mine development. Energy and Watershed Development schemes such as development of alternate source of energy (including micro-hydel) and rainwater harvesting system, development of orchards, integrated farming and economic forestry and restoration of catchments will also be undertaken as conservation and sustainable development measures. The guidelines dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 on PMKKKY issued by the Ministry of Mines shall be followed.

**16.** The mining zones identified and referred in para 13 of this Mining Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) and the conditions stipulated in para 14 and 15 above for the purpose of sustainable mining in Saranda forest will not be changed without the approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.

**17.** Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) and delineation of mining Zone in Saranda and Chaibasa in Singhbhum District, Jharkhand has been prepared in consultation with the stakeholders and state government and approved by the competent authority in the Ministry.

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## Appendix-1

## Forest Compartments in Saranda and Chibasa Forest and its status

## Saranda Forest

S.No.	Compartment	Area (ha.)	Status
1	A-1	216.82	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
2	A-10	174.59	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
3	A-11	191.41	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
4	A-12	325.79	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
5	A-13	518.91	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
6	A-14	245.00	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
7	A-15	263.79	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
8	A-16	495.58	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
9	A-17	149.21	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
10	A-18	218.85	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
11	A-19	182.81	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
12	A-2	235.55	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
13	A-20	402.33	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
14	A-21	226.17	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
15	A-22	279.74	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
16	A-23	442.27	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
17	A-24	344.11	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
18	A-25	374.58	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
19	A-26	61.41	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
20	A-27	217.26	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
21	A-28	438.06	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
22	A-29	358.40	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
23	A-3	524.01	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
24	A-30	402.69	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
25	A-31	324.97	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
26	A-32	180.27	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
27	A-33	268.97	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
28	A-34	273.31	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area

29	A-35	294.55	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
30	A-36	201.47	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
31	A-37	334.98	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
32	A-38	107.09	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
33	A-39	425.48	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
34	A-4	309.55	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
35	A-40	410.12	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
36	A-41	277.88	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
37	A-42	408.52	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
38	A-43	349.73	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area,
39	A-44	434.57	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
40	A-45	212.43	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
41	A-46	429.70	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
42	A-47	158.69	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
43	A-48	123.76	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
44	A-49	211.41	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
45	A-5	195.29	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
46	A-50	220.14	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
47	A-51	149.09	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
48	A-52	134.59	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
49	A-53	236.37	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
50	A-54	263.94	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
51	A-6	317.35	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
52	A-7	200.87	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
53	A-8	406.65	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
54	A-9	338.82	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
55	G-1	515.95	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
56	G-10	251.90	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
57	G-11	180.04	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

58	G-12	575.27	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
59	G-13	759.40	Mining Zone-I
60	G-14	386.08	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
61	G-15	378.99	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
62	G-16	295.05	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
63	G-17	513.76	Mining Zone-I
64	G-18	448.45	Mining Zone-I
65	G-19	395.52	Mining Zone-I
66	G-2	256.77	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
67	G-20	414.15	Mining Zone-I
68	G-21	284.26	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
69	G-22	524.96	Mining Zone-I
70	G-23	413.19	Mining Zone-I
71	G-24	512.60	Mining Zone-I
72	G-25	198.77	Mining Zone-I
73	G-26	558.39	Mining Zone-I
74	G-27	270.88	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
75	G-28	202.17	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
76	G-29	422.04	Mining Zone-I
77	G-3	323.68	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
78	G-30	609.96	Mining Zone-I
79	G-31	280.56	Mining Zone-I
80	G-32	141.80	Mining Zone-I
81	G-33	401.98	Mining Zone-I
82	G-4	329.80	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
83	G-5	549.27	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
84	G-6	449.06	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
85	G-7	307.83	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
86	G-8	532.33	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
87	G-9	269.54	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
88	K-1	283.83	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
89	K-10	359.37	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
90	K-11	409.69	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
91	K-12	182.65	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
92	K-13	148.54	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
93	K-14	174.93	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
94	K-15	168.71	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
95	K-16	316.50	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
96	K-17	370.66	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
97	K-18	166.63	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
98	K-2	319.11	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
99	K-3	412.34	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

100	K-4	248.27	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
101	K-5	254.39	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
102	K-6	403.38	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
103	K-7	321.96	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
104	K-8	160.67	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
105	K-9	239.98	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
106	KP-10	263.80	Mining Zone-II
107	KP-11	286.12	Mining Zone-I
108	KP-12	396.93	Mining Zone-I
109	KP-13	562.74	Mining Zone-I
110	KP-14	501.89	Mining Zone-II
111	KP-15	289.27	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
112	KP-16	107.05	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
113	KP-17	409.19	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
114	KP-18	342.34	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
115	KP-19	272.08	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
116	KP-2	239.93	Mining Zone-I
117	KP-20	304.86	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
118	KP-21	179.08	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
119	KP-22	393.38	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
120	KP-23	349.11	Mining Zone-II
121	KP-24	268.21	Mining Zone-II
122	KP-25	246.51	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
123	KP-26	122.79	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
124	KP-27	173.41	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
125	KP-28	624.18	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
126	KP-29	340.92	Mining Zone-I
127	KP-3	178.72	Mining Zone-I
128	KP-30	477.69	Mining Zone-II
129	KP-31	506.03	Mining Zone-I
130	KP-32	406.35	Mining Zone-I
131	KP-33	300.89	Mining Zone-II
132	KP-34	166.67	Mining Zone-I
133	KP-35	281.88	Mining Zone-I
134	KP-36	578.62	Mining Zone-I
135	KP-4	240.22	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
136	KP-5	194.88	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
137	KP-6	333.65	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
138	KP-7	233.59	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
139	KP-8	183.78	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
140	KP-9	218.13	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
141	S-1	166.87	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
142	S-10	132.99	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
143	S-11	283.61	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
144	S-12	323.42	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
145	S-13	294.57	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

146	S-14	242.64	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home
147	S-15	377.91	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
148	S-16	343.41	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
149	S-17	255.83	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
150	S-18	231.66	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
151	S-19	301.65	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
152	S-2	395.75	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
153	S-20	244.25	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
154	S-21	184.94	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
155	S-22	911.89	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
156	S-23	414.66	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
157	S-24	195.31	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
158	S-25	260.20	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
159	S-26	343.84	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
160	S-27	199.38	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
161	S-28	275.88	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
162	S-29	286.65	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
163	S-3	217.32	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
164	S-30	139.98	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
165	S-30	123.33	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
166	S-31	331.12	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home
167	S-32	321.31	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home
168	S-33	256.14	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
169	S-34	251.64	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
170	S-35	191.53	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
171	S-36	263.42	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
172	S-37	159.28	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
173	S-38	294.28	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
174	S-39	265.61	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
175	S-4	207.35	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
176	S-40	185.25	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
177	S-41	213.92	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
178	S-42	281.46	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area

179	S-43	296.07	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
180	S-44	404.82	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
181	S-45	463.71	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
182	S-46	279.93	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
183	S-47	156.63	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
184	S-48	125.22	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
185	S-5	386.54	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
186	S-6	336.49	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
187	S-7	171.14	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
188	S-8	265.50	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
189	S-9	281.29	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
190	T-1	200.96	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
191	T-10	168.22	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
192	T-11	303.73	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
193	T-12	251.54	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home
194	T-13	284.75	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home
195	T-14	290.26	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
196	T-15	302.00	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
197	T-16	113.79	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
198	T-17	191.96	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
199	T-18	170.88	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
200	T-19	474.19	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
201	T-2	195.42	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
202	T-20	205.10	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
203	T-21	242.66	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
204	T-22	240.74	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
205	T-23	138.29	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
206	T-24	140.64	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
207	T-25	227.34	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
208	T-26	256.61	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
209	T-27	283.49	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
210	T-28	87.75	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
211	T-29	386.66	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological

			Conservation Area
212	T-3	396.99	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
213	T-30	210.85	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
214	T-31	134.84	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
215	T-32	380.20	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
216	T-33	200.04	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
217	T-34	309.52	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
218	T-35	329.26	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
219	T-36	187.60	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
220	T-37	225.51	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
221	T-38	217.68	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
222	T-39	130.19	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
223	T-4	257.60	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
224	T-40	142.08	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
225	T-41	225.17	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
226	T-42	256.50	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
227	T-43	270.37	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
228	T-44	318.57	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
229	T-45	264.87	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
230	T-46	105.75	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
231	T-47	144.39	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
232	T-48	205.84	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
233	T-49	272.15	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
234	T-5	285.14	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
235	T-50	224.15	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
236	T-51	583.38	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
237	T-6	217.05	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
238	T-7	370.21	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
239	T-8	143.92	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
240	T-9	311.74	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
241	TK-1	321.14	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
242	TK-10	408.48	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
243	TK-11	135.71	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
244	TK-12	279.28	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
245	TK-13	237.63	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
246	TK-14	163.51	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
247	TK-15	126.71	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
248	TK-16	150.62	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area

249	TK-17	219.16	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
250	TK-18	149.08	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
251	TK-19	89.66	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
252	TK-2	238.39	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
253	TK-20	320.38	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
254	TK-21	145.80	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
255	TK-22	152.78	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
256	TK-23	190.23	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
257	TK-24	180.70	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
258	TK-25	165.15	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
259	TK-26	221.04	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
260	TK-27	144.95	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
261	TK-28	283.28	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
262	TK-29	308.91	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
263	TK-3	346.64	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Elephant Home, Biological Conservation Area
264	TK-30	178.66	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot
265	TK-31	391.17	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
266	TK-32	197.36	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
267	TK-33	64.59	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
268	TK-34	188.38	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
269	TK-35	110.59	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Critical Biological Hotspot, Biological Conservation Area
270	TK-36	276.85	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
271	TK-37	245.65	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area

272	TK-38	359.36	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
273	TK-39	175.84	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
274	TK-4	278.46	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
275	TK-40	357.98	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
276	TK-41	378.85	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
277	TK-42	170.78	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
278	TK-43	241.13	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
279	TK-44	281.54	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
280	TK-45	242.06	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
281	TK-46	319.92	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
282	TK-47	287.47	Mining Zone-I
283	TK-48	258.47	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
284	TK-5	190.35	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
285	TK-6	258.12	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
286	TK-7	179.38	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
287	TK-8	264.45	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area
288	TK-9	205.77	Conservation Area/ No mining zone, Biological Conservation Area

### Chaibasa Forest

S.No	Village Name	Area (Ha.)	Status
1	Aburu	391.505	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
2	Adhikari	948.748	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
3	Aikuti	677.571	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
4	Aita	447.357	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
5	Amadiha	845.956	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
6	Ambaimarcha	388.749	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
7	Amda	345.578	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
8	Amita	348.624	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
9	Amjora	433.453	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
10	Anchu	395.648	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
11	Andhari	507.212	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
12	AngarPokharia	833.003	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
13	Angardiha	452.153	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
14	Angardiha	275.122	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
15	Angarpada	718.56	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
16	Anjedbera	1102.03	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
17	Anwala	238.285	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
18	Asanpat	247.793	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
19	Asura	1050.43	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
20	Babaria	576.257	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
21	Baduri	116.385	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

22	Baduri	241.345	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
23	Bageyabara	289.537	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
24	Bahada	447.853	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
25	Baharia	96.9514	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
26	Baida	231.754	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
27	Baida	374.121	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
28	Baihatu	351.426	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
29	Baihatu	1602.29	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
30	Baihatu	920.208	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
31	Baitubir	120.106	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
32	Baliaposi	532.206	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
33	Balibandh	701.598	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
34	Balidaskam	487.148	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
35	Balidih	265.309	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
36	Balijor	401.633	Mining Zone
37	Baliyaposi	306.984	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
38	Baljori	1231.92	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
39	Ballsering	106.587	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
40	Baluburu	314.836	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
41	Baluburu	88.9963	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
42	Bamebasa	126.148	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
43	Ban	125.186	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
44	Banahamtu	261.215	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
45	Banaikera	238.654	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
46	Banasanju	56.73	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
47	Bandabera	162.429	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
48	Bandabera	487.789	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
49	Bandijari	867.759	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
50	Bankdhar	470.66	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
51	Banmgutu	176.144	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
52	Bara Baljori	1204.3	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
53	Bara Belma	186.787	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
54	Bara Hampur	71.3436	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
55	Bara Jaipur	223.963	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
56	Bara Jambani	126.042	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
57	Bara Jhinkpani	380.269	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
58	Bara Kaita	232.674	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
59	Bara Pokri	114.531	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
60	Bara Punsia	433.778	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
61	Barabardih	202.228	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
62	Barajamda	1442.89	Mining Zone
63	Barakata	264.477	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
64	Baralisiya	520.285	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
65	Baralunti	420.989	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
66	Baramahuldia	491.094	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
67	Baramirglindi	964.432	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

68	Barananda	999.897	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
69	Barapaseya	458.834	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
70	Bararaixamin	244.721	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
71	Bararanju	184.316	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
72	Barasai	215.765	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
73	Baratorlo	2117.39	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
74	Barbil	272.371	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
75	Barchiru	336.206	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
76	Barijal	308.444	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
77	Barkanda	188.534	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
78	Barkimara	438.214	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
79	Barkundia	368.645	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
80	Barkundiya	490.814	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
81	Barlagra	814.198	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
82	Barmita	577.564	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
83	Barmoudi	423.19	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
84	Baruadang	330.228	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
85	Baruikuti	369.703	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
86	Barujal	276.01	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
87	Barusai	559.419	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
88	Barusai	197.027	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
89	Barutoa	466.715	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
90	Basahatu	217.858	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
91	Basahatu	372.358	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
92	Basira	179.484	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
93	Baskata	92.2147	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
94	Baskati	381.95	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
95	Baspani	210.742	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
96	Belma	332.854	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
97	Belposi	171.254	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
98	Belposi	133.346	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
99	Benesagar	191.794	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
100	Berakundrijor	228.213	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
101	Beramundui	462.747	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
102	Betajori	306.18	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
103	Betea	493.72	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
104	Beterkea	723.678	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
105	Bhagabila	1132.24	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
106	Bhalandia	579.096	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
107	Bhamarpani	217.481	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
108	Bhangaon	362.124	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
109	Bhangaon	39.8703	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
110	Bharbharia	636.852	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
111	Bhonda	438.829	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
112	Bhoya	556.32	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
113	Bichaburu	630.047	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

114	Bichaburu	680.856	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
115	Bichagutu	212.616	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
116	Bidri	375.487	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
117	Bikuli	539.956	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
118	Bindisai	223.368	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
119	Bingtopang	243.768	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
120	Binj	627.397	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
121	Binja	425.47	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
122	Birsinghastu	1085.4	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
123	Biskata	181.218	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
124	Bistumpur	416.871	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
125	Bokla	56.6334	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
126	Bokna	831.951	Mining Zone
127	Bombasai	1289.63	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
128	Bongasindri	440.762	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
129	Bunmunda	75.6853	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
130	Bunumlata	666.284	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
131	Burakaman	570.165	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
132	Burampada	102.782	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
133	Butka	336.566	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
134	Chacha	297.852	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
135	Chadidburia	283.675	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
136	Chadidburia	39.4472	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
137	Chaibasa	327.029	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
138	Chalgi	426.292	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
139	Chamkdorih	87.0896	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
140	Champila	571.412	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
141	Chandipi	266.511	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
142	Chanpada	269.762	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
143	Charabasa	280.645	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
144	Charai	283.072	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
145	Chatrisai	239.443	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
146	Chereapahari	541.425	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
147	Cheriapahari	199.203	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
148	Chimisal	340.546	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
149	Chimsai	62.8126	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
150	Chingijari	851.547	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
151	Chirchi	331.353	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
152	Chiriyagor	245.123	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
153	Chirubasa	167.201	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
154	Chitimiti	293.232	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
155	Chota Jaipur	147.587	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
156	ChotaJambani	216.01	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
157	ChotaKaita	219.172	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
158	ChotaLagra	56.9168	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
159	ChotaPokharia	146.711	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

160	Chota Toro	228.424	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
161	Chotalunti	278.119	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
162	Chotamodi	85.8356	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
163	Choya	443.864	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
164	Chukri	420.322	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
165	Churda	136	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
166	Dabusai	279.738	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
167	Dakuajangal	553.494	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
168	Dalki	528.54	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
169	Damodarpur	187.188	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
170	Damudarsai	395.23	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
171	Damudarsai	196.201	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
172	Danguaposi	222.487	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
173	Dansari	489.699	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
174	Dara	189.024	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
175	Darbila	426.989	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
176	Darima	375.287	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
177	Darudangua	335.115	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
178	Daubera	634.53	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
179	Debrabir	909.184	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
180	Debrasai	263.738	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
181	Delgapara	532.86	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
182	Demkaror	436.547	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
183	Deodhar	239.193	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
184	Deogaon	46.3731	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
185	Deogaon	344.799	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
186	Deojari	751.913	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
187	Deojori	800.735	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
188	Deoposi	272.162	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
189	Deoposi	14.357	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
190	Dhobadhobin	481.601	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
191	Dhobila	666.671	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
192	Dhori	253.381	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
193	Didibasang	277.262	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
194	Dikubalkand	377.826	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
195	DiliyaMarcha	334.512	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
196	Dindiburu	345.497	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
197	Dinoikuar	67.3338	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
198	Diriburu	591.44	Mining Zone
199	Dirigo	211.67	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
200	Dobrobasa	314.955	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
201	Dobrosai	78.4483	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
202	Dokata	505.411	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
203	Dokata	736.315	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
204	Domkahatu	146.918	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
205	Dudhbila	1012.94	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

206	Dudhjuj	1180.63	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
207	Dudhpani	932.872	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
208	Dumbisai	149.742	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
209	Dumuria	522.082	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
210	Dumurjoa	1002.76	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
211	Durirta	207.224	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
212	Durirta	711.691	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
213	Durula	417.008	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
214	Duwarsai	383.169	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
215	Gaisuti	413.417	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
216	Gamharia	1010.07	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
217	Ganapur	262.1	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
218	Gandimundi	656.901	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
219	Gandkida	478.072	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
220	Gangimundi	422.997	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
221	Ganjia	281.639	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
222	Garahatu	80.7447	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
223	Garahatu	90.4266	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
224	Garkeshna	270.162	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
225	Gaugutu	1026.28	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
226	Gaurdighya	152.064	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
227	Ghagra	124.589	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
228	Ghgri	532.314	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
229	Ghorbanda	658.921	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
230	Gitikendu	542.059	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
231	Gitiladar	450.447	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
232	Gitilpi	672.688	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
233	Gitilpi	397.064	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
234	Gitilpi	602.864	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
235	Gobardhan	242.493	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
236	Gomdapokhar	296.491	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
237	Gondai	258.521	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
238	Goreaduba	468.255	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
239	Gotai	236.279	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
240	Gotompi	451.354	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
241	Gotsereng	212.356	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
242	Guli	316.36	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
243	Gumria	774.657	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
244	Gunabasa	149.265	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
245	Gundijora	552.332	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
246	Gundiposi	450.614	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
247	Gunipua	339.654	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
248	Gura	558.831	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
249	Guraon	172.878	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
250	Haldia	793.839	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
251	Haldipokhar	1188.11	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

252	Hapugutu	134.312	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
253	Haribera	222.505	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
254	Haribhanga	43.4609	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
255	Harira	645.931	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
256	Harira	175.354	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
257	Harlahatu	675.013	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
258	Haruakamai	151.079	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
259	Hasabera	247.767	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
260	Hatimanda	739.116	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
261	Hatmanda	165.942	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
262	Hatnabera	313.281	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
263	Heperburu	793.819	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
264	Hesap	116.383	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
265	Hesapi	497.618	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
266	Hesasurnia	670.911	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
267	Heselberal	811.683	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
268	Heselkuti	240.087	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
269	Hindudih	256.679	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
270	Hobalkad	506.727	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
271	Horolor	310.57	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
272	Ichakuti	133.644	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
273	Ichapi	163.762	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
274	Ichapur	431.239	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
275	Iligara	385.727	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
276	Iligarha	580.632	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
277	Indikuri	314.844	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
278	Ipilsingi	634.495	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
279	Itabaljori	595.404	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
280	Itar	539.531	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
281	Jagarnathpur	387.805	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
282	Jaintgarh	210.991	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
283	Jaipur	102.28	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
284	Jairpi	166.707	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
285	Jaldhar	413.252	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
286	Jaldiha	131.755	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
287	Jaldiha	793.893	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
288	Jamarposi	336.357	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
289	Jamdiha	457.601	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
290	Jamjui	221.062	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
291	Jamkojori	233.456	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
292	Jampani	839.096	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
293	Jamuda	293.727	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
294	Jamumpi	303.421	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
295	Jangiburu	317.434	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
296	Janubera	325.794	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
297	Jauraposi	83.7514	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

298	Jawbera	248.921	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
299	Jeksai	136.778	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
300	Jetea	816.944	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
301	Jhikilta	219.905	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
302	Jhinkpani	77.9982	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
303	Jibasai	518.826	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
304	Jintugara	612.926	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
305	Jirpai	547.835	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
306	Joaribanga	236.429	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
307	Jogidaru	744.805	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
308	Joginanda	462.356	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
309	Jojobera	979.248	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
310	Jojohatu	220.669	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
311	Jojohatu	711.996	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
312	Jojobober	748.358	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
313	Jonkosasan	335.084	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
314	Jorapokhar	1781.93	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
315	Jorapokhar	611.242	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
316	Juripada	217.943	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
317	Juripada	31.1881	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
318	Kabrgutu	350.822	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
319	Kadajaint	55.7289	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
320	Kadajaint	197.76	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
321	Kadajamda	854.642	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
322	Kadalbera	291.362	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
323	Kadalbera	152.604	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
324	Kadamdiha	191.864	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
325	KadoKora	47.7986	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
326	KadoKora	193.89	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
327	Kadwari	81.7491	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
328	Kairpal	249.747	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
329	Kakuita	614.473	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
330	Kalaia	760.561	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
331	Kalaiya	814.456	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
332	Kalkalgutu	399.281	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
333	Kamarhatu	240.07	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
334	Kandarkora	229.445	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
335	Kandegutu	232.959	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
336	Kanjiya	529.981	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
337	Kanka	510.498	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
338	Kanki	270.053	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
339	Kankusi	233.976	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
340	Kansalaposi	175.345	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
341	Kantabila	13.1263	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
342	Kantabila	336.849	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
343	Kantamandui	234.06	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

344	Kantoari	717.055	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
345	Kaparsai	178.196	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
346	Karajia	324.945	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
347	Karanpia	694.64	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
348	Kariasindri	160.517	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
349	Kariguria	171.155	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
350	Karsakola	233.377	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
351	Kasea	413.304	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
352	Kasia (Alias) Surjabasa	338.156	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
353	Kasira	507.405	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
354	Katepara	854.305	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
355	Katigutu	176.64	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
356	Katikora	705.009	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
357	Katnbir	426.453	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
358	Keadchalam	606.737	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
359	Kechabaipi	617.06	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
360	Kelende	558.847	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
361	Kendposi	318.068	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
362	Kendua	325.21	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
363	Kendusa	117.103	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
364	Kenjra	3067.38	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
365	Kesna	334.316	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
366	Khadkori	1846.06	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
367	Khajuria	196.689	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
368	Khajuria	228.282	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
369	Khaminia	227.917	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
370	Khandadoar	681.506	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
371	kharbanda	1090.79	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
372	KhasPokharia	256.576	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
373	Khasjamda	314.463	Conservation Area/ part Mining Zone
374	Kheriatangar	577.323	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
375	Kherighar	109.019	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
376	Kholko	191.997	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
377	Khunta	237.041	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
378	Khunta	427.758	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
379	Khunti	197.166	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
380	KinjiriMinjiri	235.211	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
381	Kiri	127.419	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
382	Kitahatu	262.089	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
383	Kitakora	222.907	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
384	Kochra	494.301	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
385	kokarkata	1385.04	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
386	Kokcho	684.288	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
387	Kolaisai	281.524	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
388	Kolaisai	1602	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
389	Kondowa	332.993	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

390	Korta	354.931	Mining Zone
391	Kotachara	184.961	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
392	Kotgarh	631.377	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
393	Kuahatu	449.376	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
394	Kuapara	88.1913	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
395	Kuapara	20.4426	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
396	Kuchhatu or Kuchisai	188.889	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
397	Kucibera	252.586	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
398	Kudahatu	416.602	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
399	Kudahatu	320.074	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
400	Kudahatu	673.632	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
401	Kudahatu	422.014	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
402	Kudamsada	605.399	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
403	Kudamsada	1173.77	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
404	Kudapi	455.994	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
405	Kudapi	153.469	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
406	Kuira	978.993	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
407	Kukursud	387.578	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
408	Kulaburu	405.458	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
409	kulaburu	602.722	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
410	Kulaoa	594.687	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
411	kulawa	448.654	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
412	Kuldbusu	319.449	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
413	Kuldiha	395.074	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
414	Kumardih	136.517	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
415	Kumardungi	704.663	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
416	Kumarlota	162.874	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
417	Kumbra	803.437	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
418	Kumirat	349.525	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
419	Kumirta	863.029	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
420	Kumram	178.981	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
421	Kumur	83.0673	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
422	Kundarjor	371.618	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
423	Kundiadar	366.262	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
424	Kundrugutu	1712.96	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
425	Kundubera	368.074	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
426	Kunkalpi	208.63	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
427	Kuntiapara	7.18169	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
428	Kuntiapara	162.649	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
429	Kurposi	615.99	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
430	Kursi	515.177	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
431	Kusmita	1494.11	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
432	Kusmunda	956.859	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
433	Kusnupur	95.5326	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
434	Kutingta	470.286	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
435	Lakhimposi	113.496	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

436	Lakipai	545.054	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
437	Lampaihesa	744.963	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
438	Latakundrijor	813.432	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
439	Lepang	400.567	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
440	Lidiam	216.246	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
441	Lipunga	1466.27	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
442	LisimotiHomgutu	301.902	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
443	LisimotiHomgutu	371.791	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
444	Loahatu	81.6291	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
445	Lokehatu	194.644	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
446	Lokesai	412.098	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
447	Lokesai	146.677	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
448	Lomjori	531.203	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
449	Lowahatu	326.189	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
450	Luiya	238.771	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
451	Lupungpi	322.888	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
452	Lupunhatu	229.757	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
453	MahaliPokhar	273.251	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
454	Mahudi	1420.69	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
455	Mahuldiha	147.935	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
456	Mahuldiha	592.964	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
457	Mailpi	1150.18	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
458	Majhgaon	510.503	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
459	Majhiparsa	295.715	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
460	Maliku	206.85	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
461	Maluka	691.103	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
462	Mangapat	302.831	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
463	Manikpur	249.455	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
464	MarangPokharia	308.818	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
465	Masabila	962.348	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
466	Matagutu	446.372	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
467	Matkamhatu	244.358	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
468	Matkobera	429.684	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
469	Mauda	162.019	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
470	Mauda	522.085	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
471	Meralgara	410.594	Mining Zone
472	Meromhonar	778.266	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
473	Mirudia	185.912	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
474	Mongra	651.111	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
475	Muchi	64.9335	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
476	Muchi	50.5541	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
477	Mugadighiya	356.673	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
478	Munduum	238.082	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
479	Munduedel	202.102	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
480	Mundui	23.6428	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
481	Mundui	304.103	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

482	Murda	145.994	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
483	Murdin	141.253	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
484	Murum	143.2	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
485	Murumbura	870.143	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
486	Murumdia	195.95	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
487	Nagai	186.478	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
488	Nakhasa	259.583	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
489	Nakhasa	444.837	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
490	Nangara	471.97	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
491	Naranga	274.872	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
492	Naringpur	271.522	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
493	Nawagaon	281.945	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
494	Nawagaon	288.824	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
495	Nilchokar	209.191	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
496	Nimdih	111.415	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
497	Nimdih	368.318	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
498	Nindi	211.74	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
499	Noagaon	57.7091	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
500	Noamundi	844.386	Mining Zone
501	Nowagaon	1147.55	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
502	Nurda	1439.53	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
503	Ohmhatu	244.609	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
504	Olahnia	276.585	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
505	Padampur	292.276	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
506	Padampur	215.356	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
507	Padapahar	715.806	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
508	Paharbhaga	251.918	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
509	Paipi	329.25	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
510	Palisai	475.746	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
511	Pampara	328.146	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
512	Panaspai	384.251	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
513	Pandrasali	539.197	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
514	Pandrasali	344.191	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
515	Pandua Buru	764.611	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
516	Panduki	223.795	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
517	Panga	841.236	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
518	Papagara	725.49	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
519	Parambaljori	885.208	Conservation Area/ part Mining Zone
520	Paramsada	362.4	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
521	Parsa	376.521	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
522	Parsa	535.37	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
523	Parsa	681.36	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
524	Parsa	4.03223	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
525	Parsa	98.044	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
526	Pasubera	266.581	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
527	Patahatu	393.514	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

528	Patahatu	288.372	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
529	Patajaint	429.711	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
530	Patarhatu	319.283	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
531	Patarhatu	237.546	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
532	Patatagar	182.775	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
533	Patatrob	399.707	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
534	Patrahsi	315.126	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
535	Pendaro	126.267	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
536	Pertol	742.872	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
537	Peteta	1057.91	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
538	Pilka	378.933	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
539	Pokam	73.5669	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
540	Pokharia	553.584	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
541	Pokharia	227.779	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
542	Pokharpi	492.374	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
543	Pokhria	208.492	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
544	Poradiha	262.899	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
545	Porlong	269.839	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
546	Pundigutu	124.722	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
547	Punsia	280.188	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
548	Purda	373.514	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
549	PurnaChaibasa	284.612	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
550	Purnapani	874.313	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
551	Purnia	190.664	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
552	Purnia	251.974	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
553	Purnia	176.249	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
554	Purtidigiya	921.416	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
555	Purtisai	107.141	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
556	Putganw	71.0243	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
557	Putganw	5.97225	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
558	Putisia	202.795	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
559	Putkarsa	176.33	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
560	Raghunathpur	316.071	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
561	Raghunatpur	220.323	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
562	Raika	1983.93	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
563	Raikhaman	237.084	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
564	Raikola	272.797	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
565	Raipusi	81.2712	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
566	Rajabasa	98.5022	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
567	Rajanka	271.432	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
568	Ralibera	110.089	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
569	Ramchadpur	94.794	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
570	Ratnasai	1596.46	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
571	Raubera	103.9	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
572	Rengarbera	792.745	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
573	Rengarbera	219.344	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

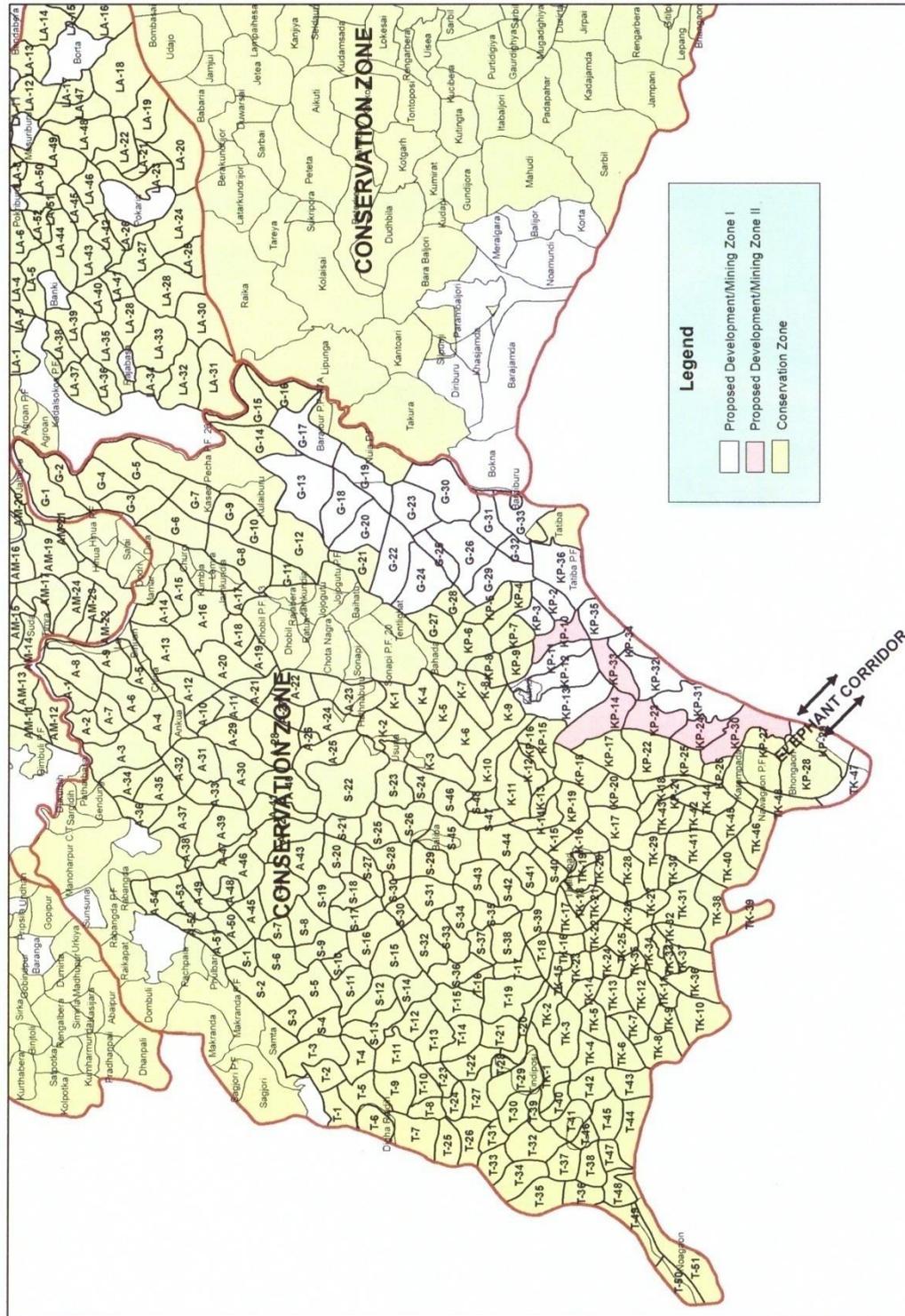
574	Rengrahatu	1590.09	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
575	Ritusari	116.799	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
576	Roladih	599.859	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
577	Roladih	548.148	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
578	Romara	451.411	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
579	Roro	757.589	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
580	Rotebasang	172.181	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
581	Rugudpata	130.323	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
582	Rugudsai	410.787	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
583	Ruia	1594.66	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
584	Ruidih	399.003	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
585	Sadomsor	96.7006	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
586	Sagarkata	1343.45	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
587	Saliburu	276.562	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
588	Saligutu	383.701	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
589	Salihatu	113.575	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
590	Salikuti	1375.05	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
591	San	64.4568	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
592	Sanchiru	146.226	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
593	Sangajata	472.967	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
594	Sankuchia	274.656	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
595	Sanmirlgindi	736.033	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
596	Sannanda	728.624	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
597	Sanparsa	239.798	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
598	Sanranju	405.094	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
599	Saprumgutu	245.038	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
600	Sarariya	1027.14	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
601	Saraswatipur	27.9266	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
602	Saraswatipur	81.7137	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
603	Sarbai	456.766	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
604	Sarbil	83.5106	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
605	Sarbil	1488.03	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
606	Sarbil	1462.8	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
607	Sarda	434.27	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
608	Sargaria	255.195	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
609	Sarkand	165.298	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
610	Sase	195.055	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
611	Seldauri	442.23	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
612	Sereng	372.51	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
613	Serngbil	519.189	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
614	Sialjora	636.103	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
615	Sidma	469.027	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
616	Sikursai	160.118	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
617	Silphori	715.677	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
618	Silpunji (Thana no. 215)	439.448	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
619	Silpunji (Thana no.	103.773	Conservation Area/ part Mining Zone

	771)		
620	Singpokharia	208.808	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
621	Sini	229.103	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
622	Siringsia	1194.13	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
623	Siyaljora	342.788	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
624	Sonapos	187.557	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
625	Sonapusi	185.391	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
626	Sonoposi	159.213	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
627	Sosopi	1321.36	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
628	Sosopi	340.496	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
629	Sudeopur	159.624	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
630	Suiamba	1073.52	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
631	Sukripora	182.98	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
632	Sundsurnia	527.497	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
633	Surlu	208.925	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
634	Takura	1550.34	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
635	Talburu with Sanlisia	572.017	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
636	Tamarbandh	258.337	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
637	Tangra	406.228	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
638	Tantnagar	710.888	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
639	Tarapai	118.254	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
640	Tareya	508.297	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
641	Tarpai	383.166	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
642	Tartaria	534.157	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
643	Tekasai	67.1219	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
644	Telgosa	182.949	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
645	Tengra	2021.83	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
646	Tengrai	563.536	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
647	Teno	235.196	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
648	Tensera	124.617	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
649	Tensera	561.724	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
650	Tentera	459.37	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
651	Tentrposi	276.872	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
652	Tergo	201.959	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
653	Thai	700.334	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
654	Tilaiipi	207.322	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
655	Tilaisud	349.064	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
656	Tiraposi	350.55	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
657	Tirilbasia	244.331	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
658	Tirilbut	102.798	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
659	Tirilpi	290.763	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
660	TirilpiKendposi	210.268	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
661	Tiyaposi	1019.92	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
662	Todanghatu	524.562	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
663	Tonto	568.567	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
664	Tonto	147.745	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

665	Tonto	414.625	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
666	Tontoposi	568.572	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
667	Topabera	187.363	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
668	Topabera	327.74	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
669	Torsinduri	402.433	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
670	Tubir	349.089	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
671	Tuibana	413.315	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
672	Tundchu	223.798	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
673	Tunga	150.318	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
674	Tungi	110.765	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
675	Tuntakata	348.877	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
676	Tuntakata	111.864	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
677	Turamdih	98.7632	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
678	Turui	18.4134	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
679	Turui	122.021	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
680	Tutugutu	396.368	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
681	Uaugutu	85.2834	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
682	Udajo	872.281	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
683	Uisea	282.772	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
684	Ukumatakam	454.583	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
685	Ulidih	319.762	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
686	Ulihatu	160.512	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
687	Ulihatu	108.839	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
688	Ulijhari	285.039	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
689	Unchuri	408.065	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
690	Unduda	1945.15	Conservation Area/ No mining zone
691	Usambir	483.787	Conservation Area/ No mining zone

Note: \* Village Parambaljori, Silpunji and Khasjamda are partly falling under Proposed Development/Mining Zone.

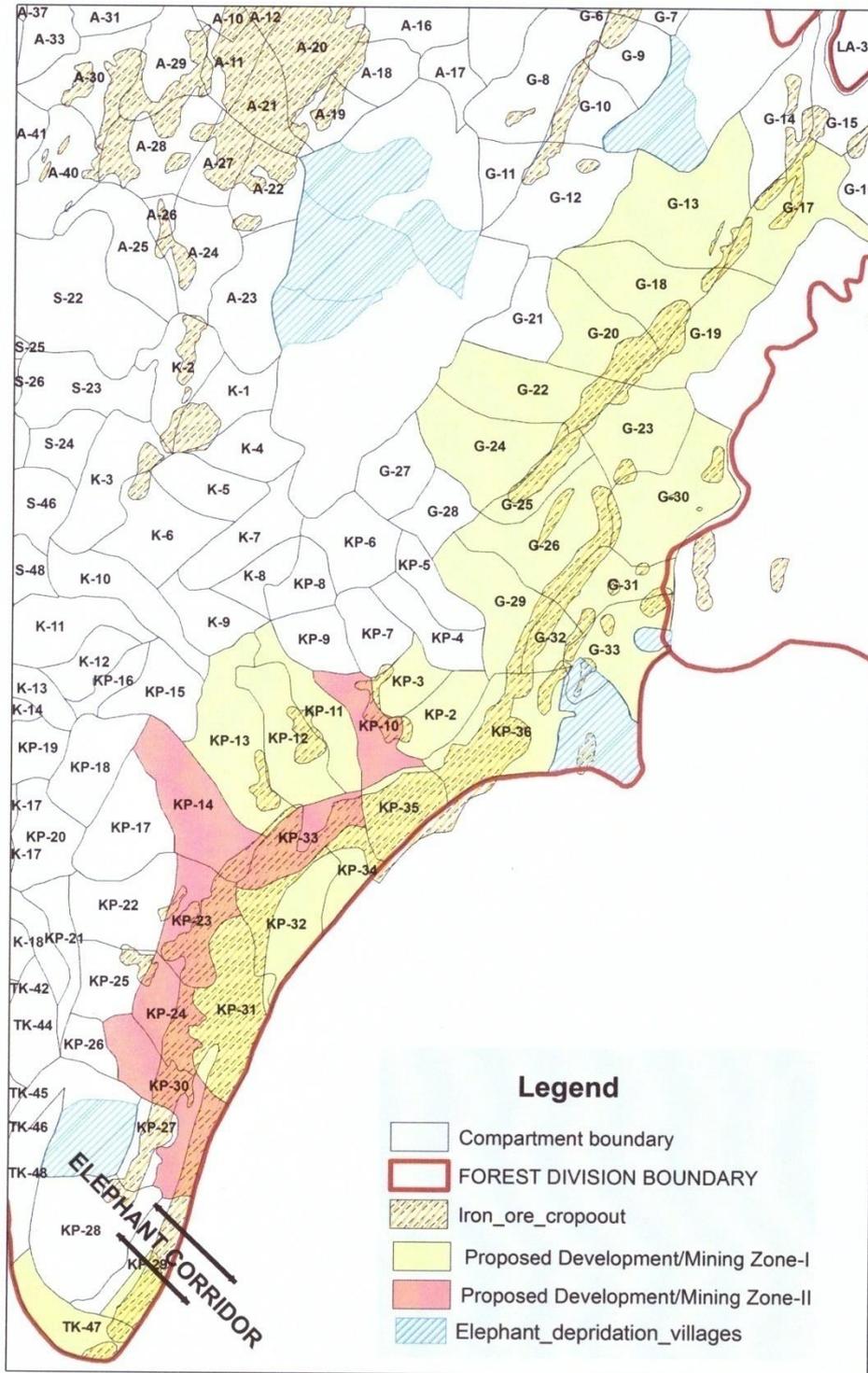
Map showing Proposed Development/Mining Zone in Saranda & Chaibasa Division



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1-220-327

Proposed Development/Mining Zone in Plate-1

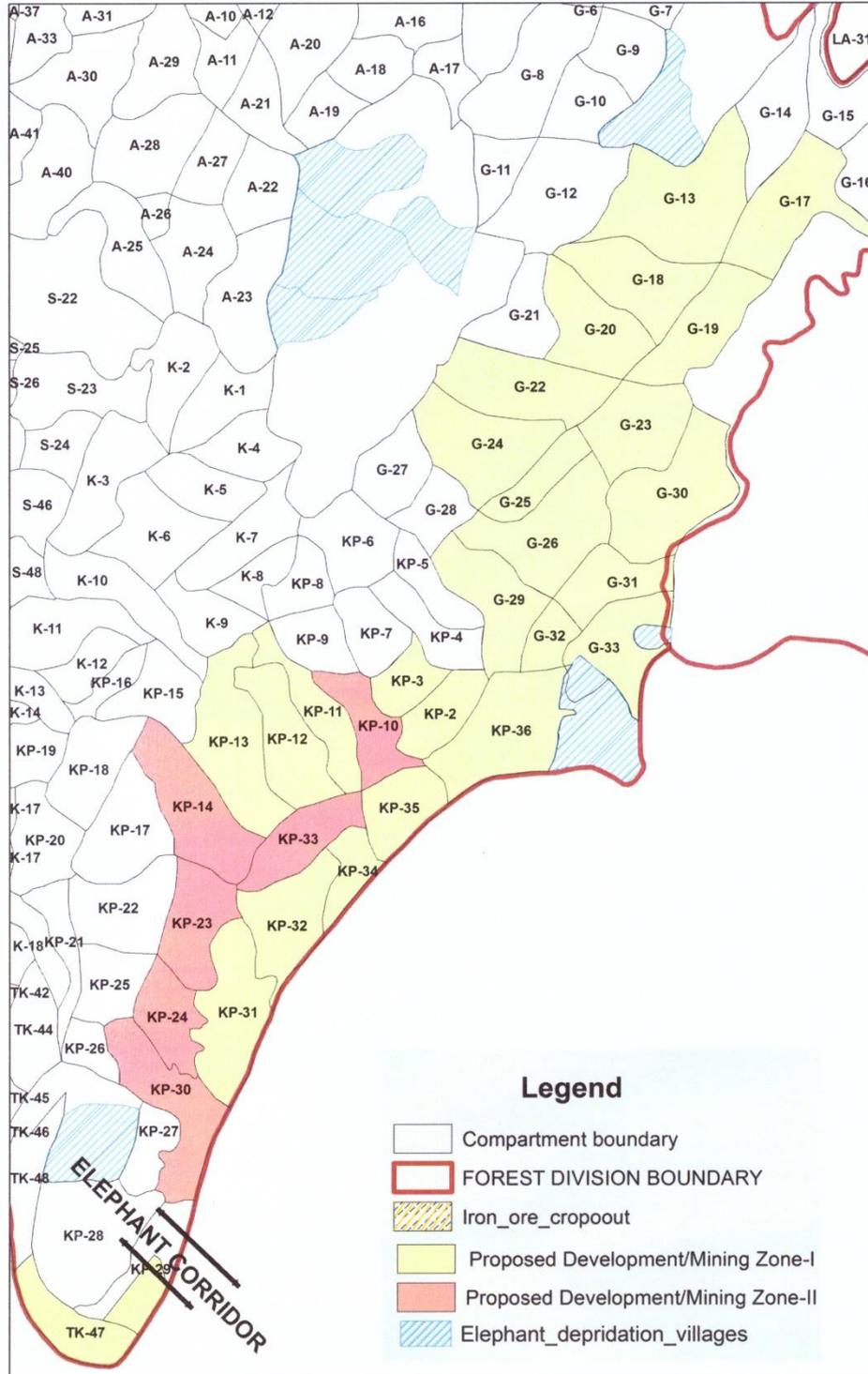


**Legend**

- Compartment boundary
- FOREST DIVISION BOUNDARY
- Iron\_ore\_cropout
- Proposed Development/Mining Zone-I
- Proposed Development/Mining Zone-II
- Elephant\_depridation\_villages

1 inch = 1.24 miles  
 0 0.5 1 2 3 4

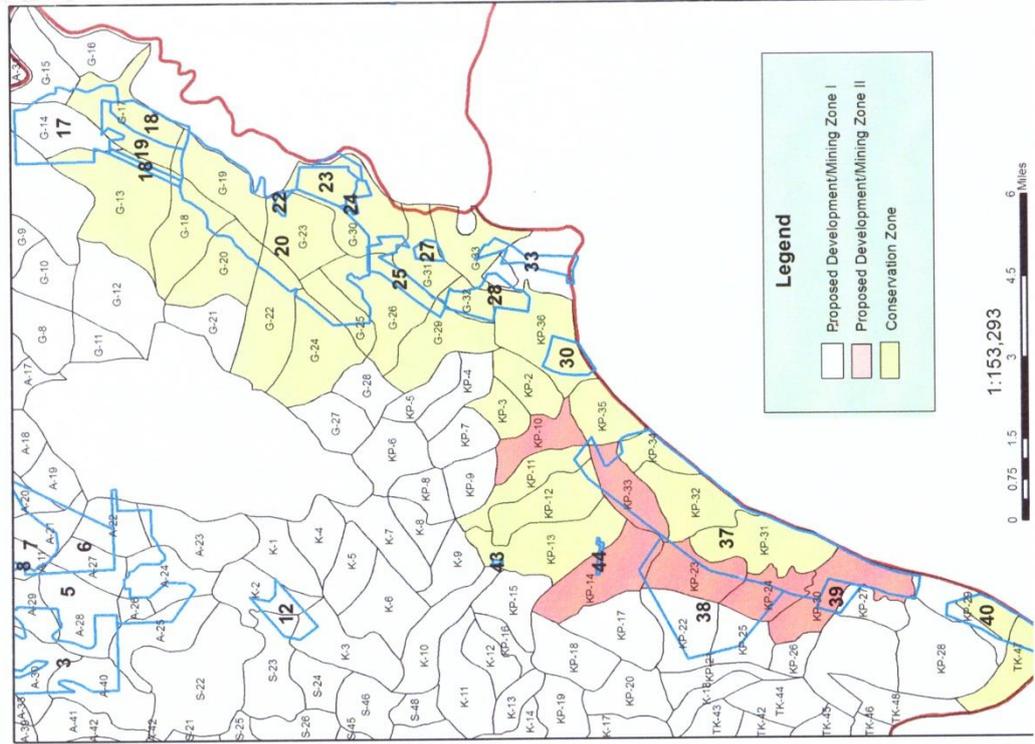
Proposed Development/Mining Zone in Plate-1



Proposed development/mining zone in Eastern part of Saranda Division

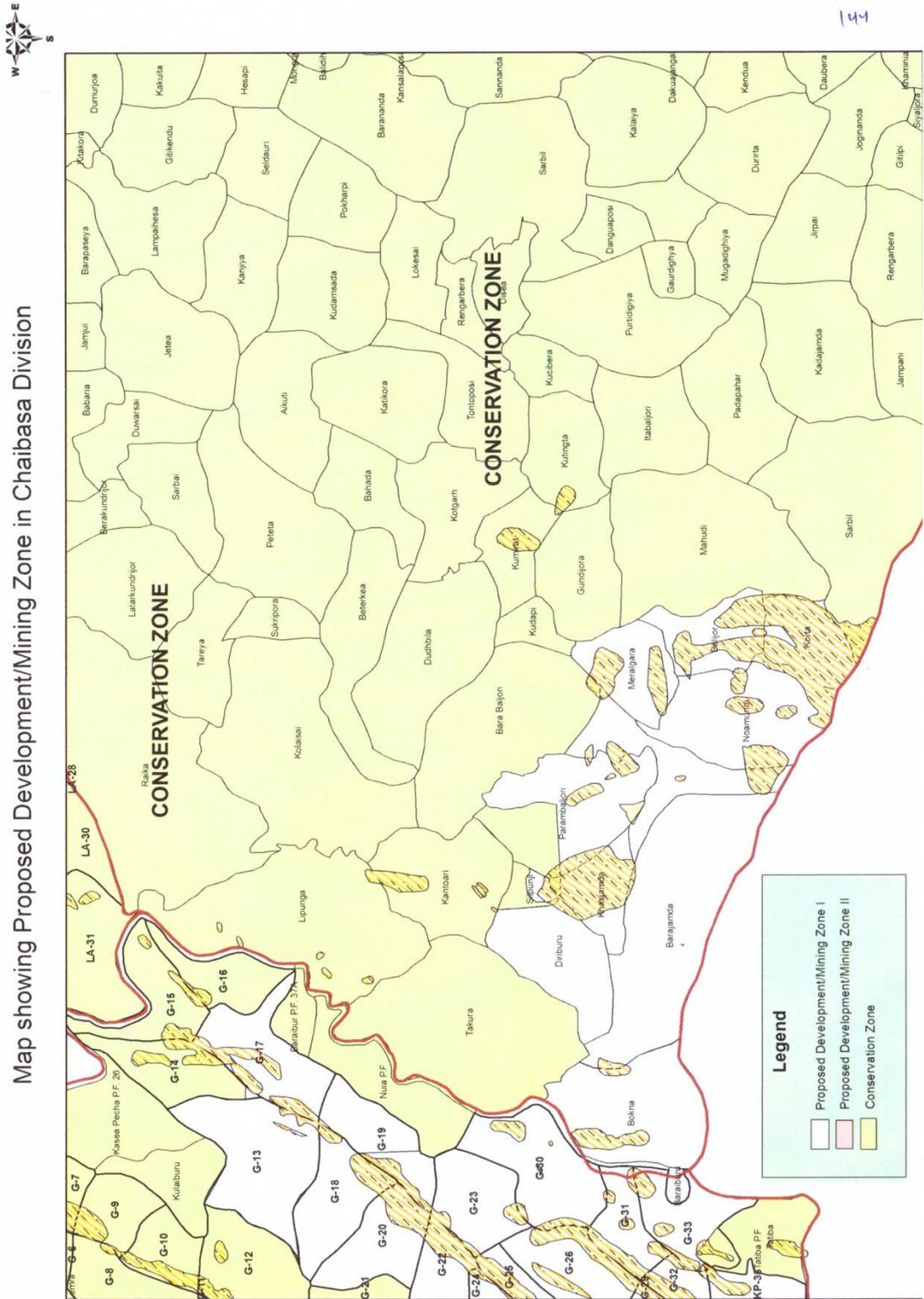


FID	Name	Clusture	Status	ID
0	Jeralda Buru Mine Ms JSPL	III	Proposed	17
1	Dishamburu Mine of Ms Electro Steel	IV	Proposed	12
2	Ankua Ms JSW	IV	Proposed	5
3	Kiriburu Meghahataburu Mines SAIL lease 1	II	Working	37
4	Vijaya II of Ms Usha Martin	I	Working	25
5	Ghatkuri Mines Ms OMM	III	Working	18
6	Ghatkuri Mines Ms Rungta	III	Working	19
7	Dhobil Iron Ore Mine SAIL	IV	Working	6
8	Karampada Mines Ms Saha Brothers	II	Working	40
9	Durgaburu Gua Ore Mine of SAIL	III	Working	20
10	Karampada Mine Ms Singhbhum Minerals	I	Non-Working	30
11	Karampada Mine Ms ML Jain & Sons	I	Non-Working	28
12	Tariba Mine KJS Ahluwalia	I	Non-Working	33
13	Ajita Buru Mine Ms Devika Bai Veji	I	Non-Working	27
14	Topalior Gua Ore mine of SAIL	III	Non-Working	22
15	Jilingburu-I SAIL	III	Non-Working	23
16	Jilingburu-II SAIL	III	Non-Working	24
17	Khasjanda Mines Ms. Sri Ram Minerals Company	V	Non-Working	50
18	Balaji Mines Ms. Anil Khirwal	V	Working	56
19	Bihar Mines of Ms. NCRK	V	Non-Working	55
20	Ajita Buru Mine SAIL	IV	Non-Working	8
21	Budha Buru Mine Ms SAIL McLellan	IV	Non-Working	7
22	Sukri Iron ore of Ms SAIL	IV	Non-Working	3
23	Kiriburu Lease III SAIL	II	Infrastructure areas	39
24	Kiriburu Lease II SAIL	II	Infrastructure areas	38
25	Tailing Dam/ringing dam Meghahataburu-IV of SAIL	II	Infrastructure areas	44
26	SAIL— lease 5 (I)-Kumdi Dam	II	Infrastructure areas	43

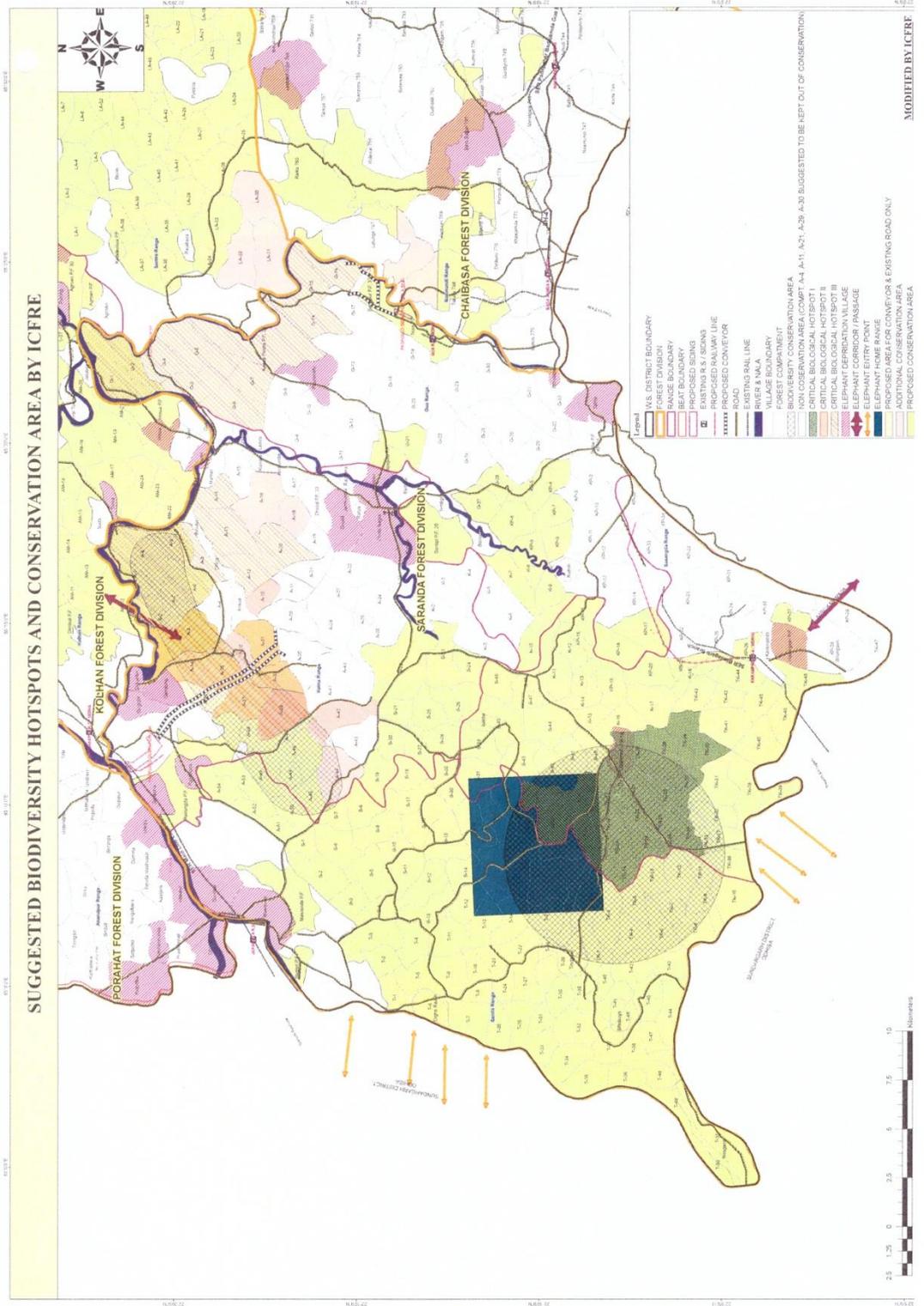




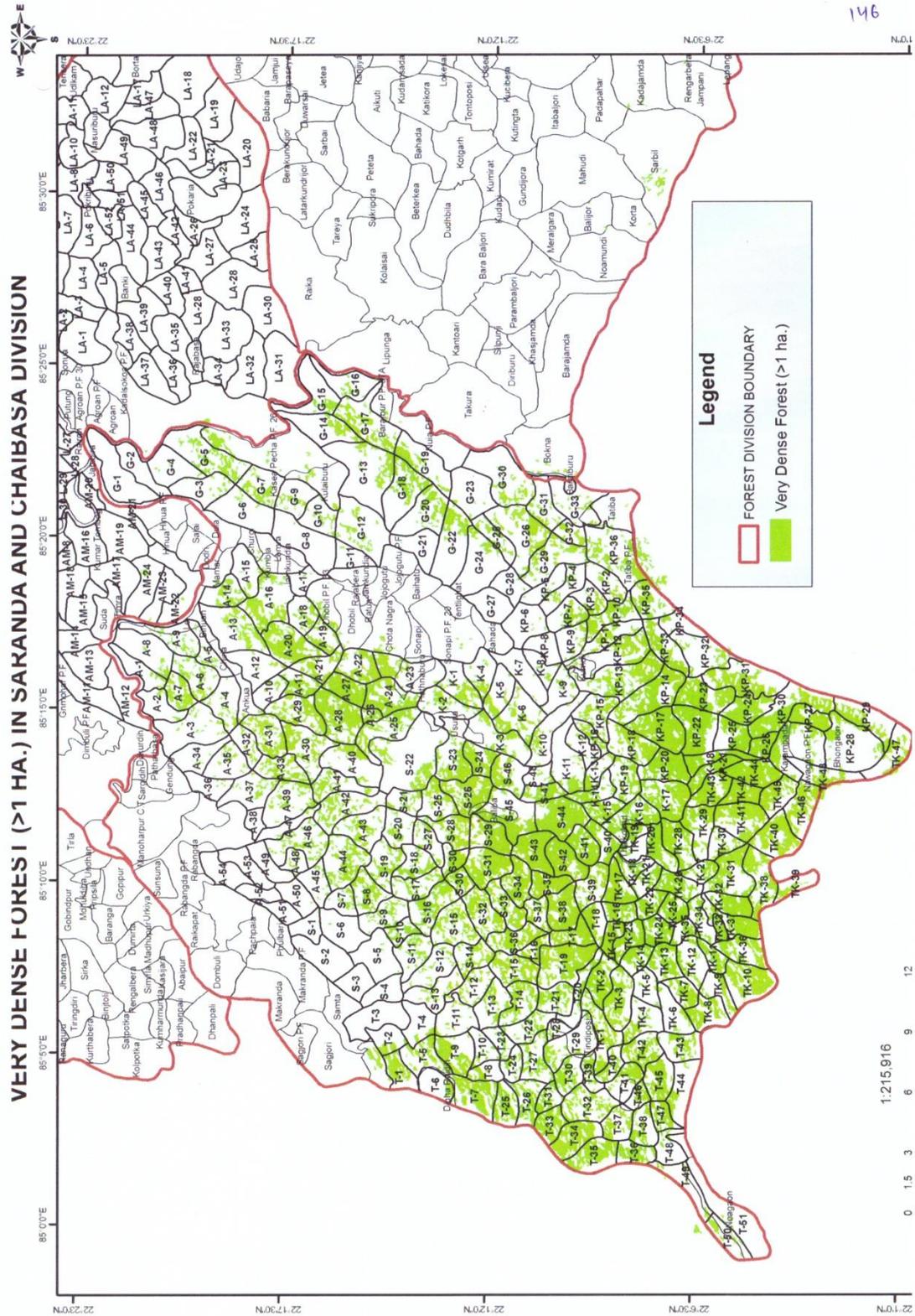
Map showing Proposed Development/Mining Zone in Chaibasa Division



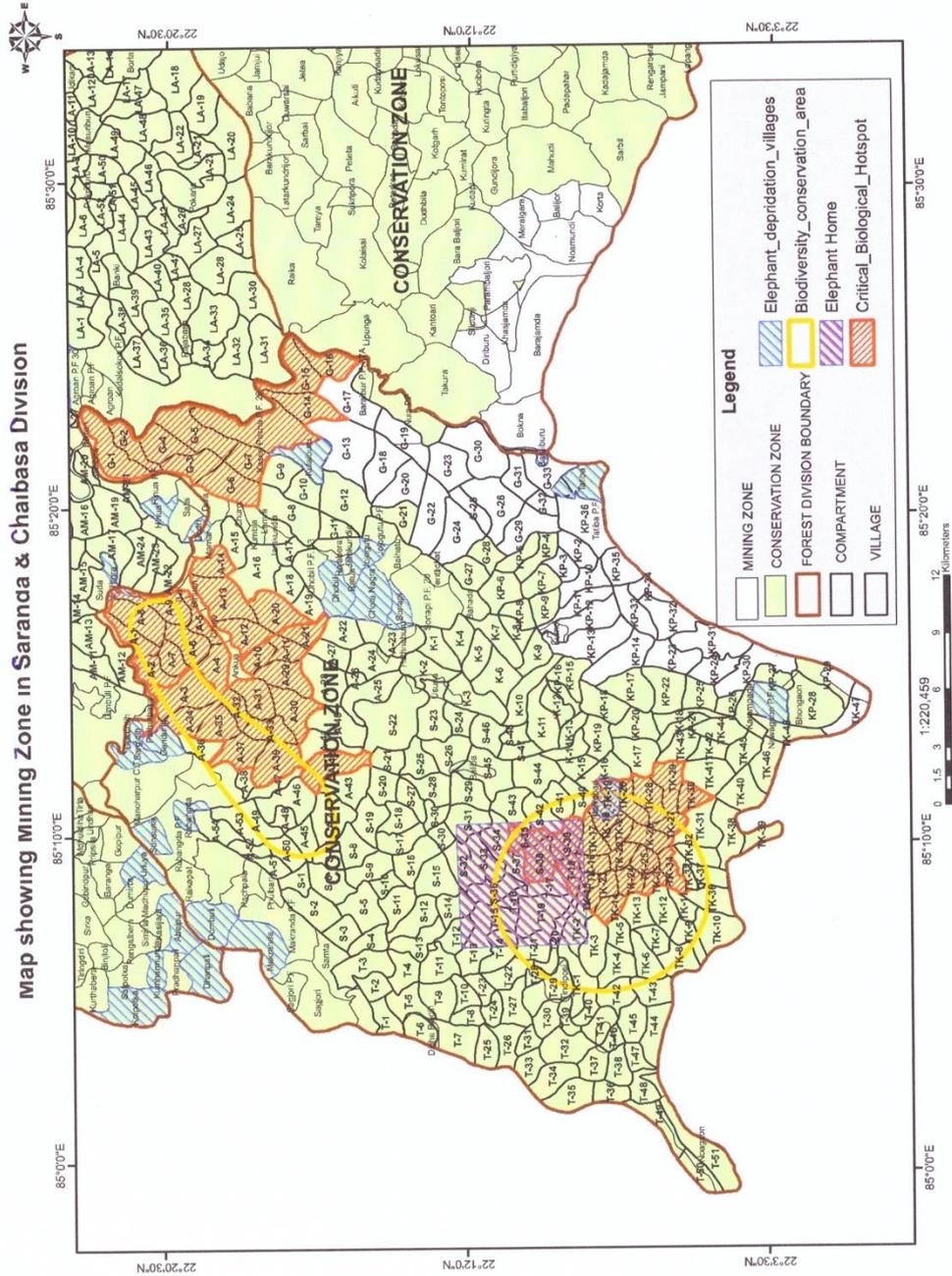
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