

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

Environment Department at Eastern Coalfields Limited deals with Environment and Forest related matters of company keeping in view the goals of Sustainable Development and is committed towards implementation of its Corporate Environment Policy. Regular monitoring of impact of coal mining activities on environment is undertaken and adequate environment protective measures are undertaken in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Statutory Norms, Acts and Rules. Besides taking steps for better adherence of Environment Clearance and Forest Clearance conditions, the company has taken green initiatives towards sustainable development.

Adoption of Corporate Environmental Policy

ECL has formulated and implemented its own Corporate Environment Policy which is in line with environment policy of Coal India Limited. The Environment Policy of ECL states that “Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) is committed to promote sustainable development by protecting the environment through integrated project planning & design, deploying the concept of 10 R’s (Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, Redesign, Repurpose, Refurbish, Repair, Recover, Redeploy and Refuse), prevention/mitigation of pollution, conservation of natural resources, restoration of ecosystem & biodiversity, proper disposal of wastes, addressing climate change and inclusive growth in a mission mode through company-wide implementation of Mission SuDESHH (Sustainable Development, Environment, Safety, Health and Hygiene)”.

Sustainable Development Cell (SDC)

“Sustainable Development Cell” has been formed at ECL to work towards generating new ideas to plan, prepare guidelines, periodically monitor and evaluate different environmental mitigation measures carried out by the company in a holistic way. The SDC cell is chaired by Director (Technical) P&P and constitutes of Key HoD’s. Taking up environmental mitigation measures in a right and sustainable way will provide a better environment to people working and residing in nearby areas and also improve the overall image of the coal sector in the country.

Activities under SDC:

Development of Eco-Parks/ Tourism Sites:

One new ecological Park would be developed at Jhanjra UGP over 13 Ha by West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Limited with a total project cost of 9.47 Crore.

Expansion of Gunjan Ecological Park for development of Botanical Garden under ABG scheme of Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change with technical assistance of Botanical Survey of India is under implementation.

Mine Water Utilisation:

Out of total discharge of 1272 L. Cum/year, 774 L. Cum/year of mine water is being utilised for own use of ECL (Industrial & Domestic) and for community supply (Domestic & Irrigation).

About 1,73,000 population in 115 village are beneficiaries of Community Water supply for domestic use and 575 Ha of land is being irrigated in 86 villages.

Two water supply schemes in cooperation with PHED, Govt. of West Bengal are operating utilising water from abandoned OCPs of ECL namely, Dhandadihi OCP of Kunustoria Area and Dalmiya OCP of Salanpur Area to the nearby villages.





Alternative Usage of OB:

ECL has taken an initiative for alternative usage of Over Burden and is in the process of installation of Processed OB plant at Kajora Area of ECL.

Scientific Study:

Assessment of ecological status of reclaimed OB site of about 245.20 Ha at Sonapur Bazari OCP with the existing biodiversity and ecological gain using field-based study is being carried out. Work order for the same has been issued to CSIR-CIMFR, Dhanbad.

06 Nos. of mines of ECL (Rajmahal OCP, Sonapur Bazari OCP, Kapasara OCP, Madhaipur OCP, Shankarpur OCP, Chitra East OCP) have been identified to carry out feasibility study for extracting processed OB/Sand from Overburden of Eastern Coalfields Limited. Work-order for same has been issued to IIT, Kharagpur.



Major Achievements during 2020-21:

Environment clearance:

Amendment of Environmental Clearance of four clusters have been obtained by reorganizing the mines of the cluster keeping capacity and area unchanged and due this there is gain in terms of better & effective EC capacity utilization.

EC amendment of Cluster No. 12 has been obtained for the following:

Samla UG & OC (0.12 MTY to 0.60 MTY).

Shyamsundarpur UG (1.12 MTY to 1.59 MTY).

Jhanjra UGP – Amendment of condition to enable production enhancement from 3.5 MTY to 4.00 MTY.

EC amendment of Cluster No. 11 has been obtained for the following:

Chora 7, 9 & 10 UG (0.15 MTY to 0.21 MTY)

C L Jambad UG (0.05 MTY to 0.96 MTY)

Siduli UG + OC (1.2 MTY to 2.32 MTY)

EC amendment of Cluster No. 10 has been obtained for the following:

Kunustoria and Amrasota UG (0.15 MTY to 0.60 MTY)

Central Kajora UG (0.12 MTY to 0.25 MTY)

Parascole east and west UG & OC (0.26 MTY to 0.54 MTY)

Amalgamation of Belbaid UG with Parasea UG & OC to Parasea-Belbaid UG & OC (0.67 MTY to 2.07 MTY)

EC amendment of Cluster No. 01 has been obtained for the following:

Increase in production capacity of Badjna colliery by introduction of OC mining within the leasehold.

Amalgamation of four mines, Lakhimata UG & OC, Shampur – B UG & OC, Mandman UG and Kapasara UG & OC (1.45 MTY to 2.30 MTY).

Forest Clearance:

The major achievement with regard to Forest Clearance during 2020-21 were as under:

Chuperbhita OCP: 500.58 Ha of land for compensatory afforestation in lieu of diversion of 229.07 Ha of Forest Land for Chuperbhita OCP has been identified and its shape/KML file has been submitted to Jharkhand State Forest Department for Stage-I FC.

Hura-C OCP: Payment of ₹ 37.39 Crore has been made to Jharkhand State Forest Department for Govt. Jungle Jhari for 260 Ha Forest land in Hura-C OCP.

Chitra East OCP: Payment of ₹ 23.14 Crore to Jharkhand State Forest Department for Govt. Jungle Jhari Land involved in 260 Ha Forest Land in Chitra East OCP has been made.

Tilaboni UG (Ongoing Forest Diversion proposal): Tree Enumeration Report has been submitted to the State Forest Department and Site Inspection by DFO, Durgapur has been completed.



Plantation & Reclamation:

During financial year 2020-21, ECL has planted 3,26,255 Nos. of saplings over 133.24 Ha against the target of 100.00 Ha. Out of 133.24 Ha, 120.24 Ha has been created in Areas falling within West Bengal State and remaining 13.00 Ha in Jharkhand State. This afforestation area is inclusive of 3.00 Ha bamboo plantation. Additional Plantation along the 1.00 Km coal transportation road at Rajmahal Area has also been created. Detailed break-up of the plantation area based on the nature of land is as under:

Nature of Land	Area (Ha)
Backfilled area	65.50
Subsided Area	42.50
Avenue Plantation	4.72
Plantation along the railway Siding	6.52 (12 Km length)
Other plain land	14.00
Total	133.24

Mine-wise break-up of the plantation area is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Area	Name of the Mine	Type of Land	Area (Ha)	Type of Plantation
1.	Kenda	Shankarpur OCP	Internal OB Dump	3.00	Bamboo
		Bahula OCP	Internal OB Dump	1.50	Miscellaneous
2.	Salanpur	Dabor OC	Plain Land	5.00	Miscellaneous
		Barmondia UG	Subsided Area	10.50	Miscellaneous
3.	Satgram	Nimcha R Group	Internal OB Dump	9.00	Miscellaneous
		Satgram UG	Subsided Area	10.00	Miscellaneous
4.	Jhanjra	Jhanjra UGP	Subsided Area	5.00	Miscellaneous
			Subsided Area	5.00	Miscellaneous
5.	Sonepur Bazari	Sonepur Bazari OCP	Internal OB Dump	8.00	Miscellaneous
			Plain Land	8.00	Miscellaneous
			Plain Land	4.00	Miscellaneous
6.	Pandaveswar	Khottadih OCP	Internal OB Dump	26.00	Miscellaneous
			Plain Land - Avenue	0.50	Avenue 3-tier
			Plain Land - Avenue	1.00	Avenue 3-tier
		Bilpahari OCP	Internal OB Dump	5.00	Miscellaneous
7.	Sodepur	Patmohona UG	Subsided Area	2.00	Miscellaneous
8.	Bankola	Shyamsundarpur UG	Subsided Area	10.00	Miscellaneous
9.	Kunustoria	Bansra OC	Plain Land - Avenue	0.22	Avenue 3-tier
		Bansra Rly Siding	Plain Land - Avenue	0.24	Avenue 3-tier
		Amritnagar UG	Plain Land	5.00	Miscellaneous
		Parasea Rly Siding	Plain Land - Avenue	0.28	Avenue 3-tier
		Belbaid Rly. Siding	Plain Land - Avenue	1.00	Avenue 3-tier
10.	Rajmahal	Rajmahal OCP	Internal OB Dump	8.00	Miscellaneous
			Plain Land - Avenue	1 Km.	Avenue
11.	Mugma	Shampur A UG	Internal OB Dump	2.50	Miscellaneous
		Gopinathpur UG	Internal OB Dump	2.50	Miscellaneous
Total				133.24	

Apart from wide scale plantation activities, few parks and plantation sites have been developed which are as under:

Chandrasekhar Azad Udyan, POCP Siding at Jhanjra Area;
Mahatma Gandhi Udyan, ECL HQ;
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya Vanya Udhyan, Kajora Area;
Bal Gangadhar Udyan, Kenda Area;
Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Vanya Udyan, Kenda Area;
Chandra Sekhar Azad Aranya Udyan at Sonepur Bazari Area;
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Vanya Udyan, Jhanjra Area;
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Vanya Udyan, ECL HQ;
Kazi Nazrul Islam Vanya Udyan, Sonepur Bazari Area and
Chandra Sekhar Azad Madhuvan Vatika, J K Nagar, Satgram Area

Installation of PM₁₀ Analyser:

Three (03) Nos. of PM₁₀ analyser have been procured for installation at Jamtara Railway Siding of S.P. Mines Area, Khoodia Railway Siding of Mugma Area and Rajmahal Railway Siding of Rajmahal Area. The wide screen display of real-time monitoring of PM₁₀ would enable the public nearby to be aware of the pollution levels in the surrounding.

ISO Certification:

Stage I & Stage II certification audit for company wide ISO certification for the standards ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 have been successfully completed.