

1. Rectification of CRZ Classification on draft CZMP Map No. OD 90 (Sheet No. F 45-P6/SW) under CRZ Notification, covering areas of Subarnarekha Port.

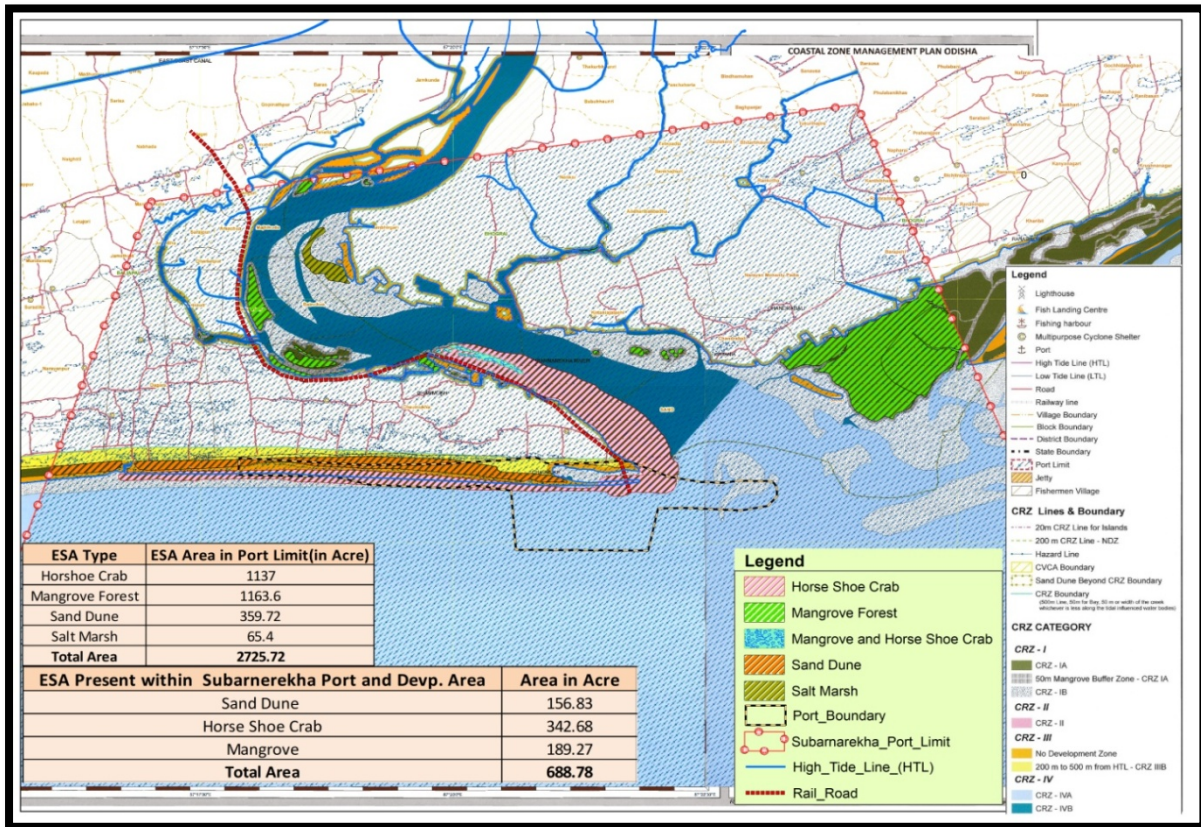
The Chief of Projects of Subarnarekha Port Pvt. Ltd has submitted a representation on 18.02.2021 for rectification of CRZ Classification in the draft CZMP Map No.OD 90, sheet No. F 45-P6/SW in relation to Subarnarekha Port area.

Odisha Coastal Zone Management Authority appraised the Subarnarekha Port proposal for CRZ Clearance under CRZ Notification, 1991/2011 based on the mandatory documents and the CRZ Map in 1:4000 scale prepared by National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), an Authorised agency of Govt. of India. Odisha Coastal Zone Management Authority recommended the proposal to MoEF& CC, Govt. of India on 31st March 2011 for grant of CRZ Clearance.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change accorded EC & CRZ Clearance for development of Subarnarekha Port on 21st March, 2012 initially for a period of 7 years and was further extended till March 2023.

As per the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP)-2019 of Odisha it has been noted that a substantial part of the port area i.e about 692 acres out of the 915 acres of the allotted land for port development, master plan and the road connectivity falls in CRZ-IA area i.e. Ecologically Sensitive Area due to the presence of Sand Dunes, Mangroves and Horseshoe Crab Habitat as per the ESA maps of NCSCM.

In the report prepared by NIO during 2010, for the propose of CRZ clearance of Subarnarekha Port states that the proposed port construction area does not fall under environmentally sensitive areas like Natural parks, Sanctuaries, Mangroves, Coral reefs or areas rich in genetic diversity.



Keeping in view, that the project already has a valid Environmental and CRZ clearance granted by MoEF&CC, as per CZMP 2011 and since as per NIO report, the project site falls on sandy beach and the port development area does contain any ESA areas, the Forest Environment & Climate Change Department, GoO has formed a team to study in detail the existing geomorphological characters/ ecologically sensitivity of the area vis-à-vis the characters that has been considered to classify the area as CRZ-I A. The team conducted a Field survey on 28th and 29th October 2021 and submitted the findings to the FE&CC Department, Govt. of Odisha.

The brief of the observations of the team are as follows:

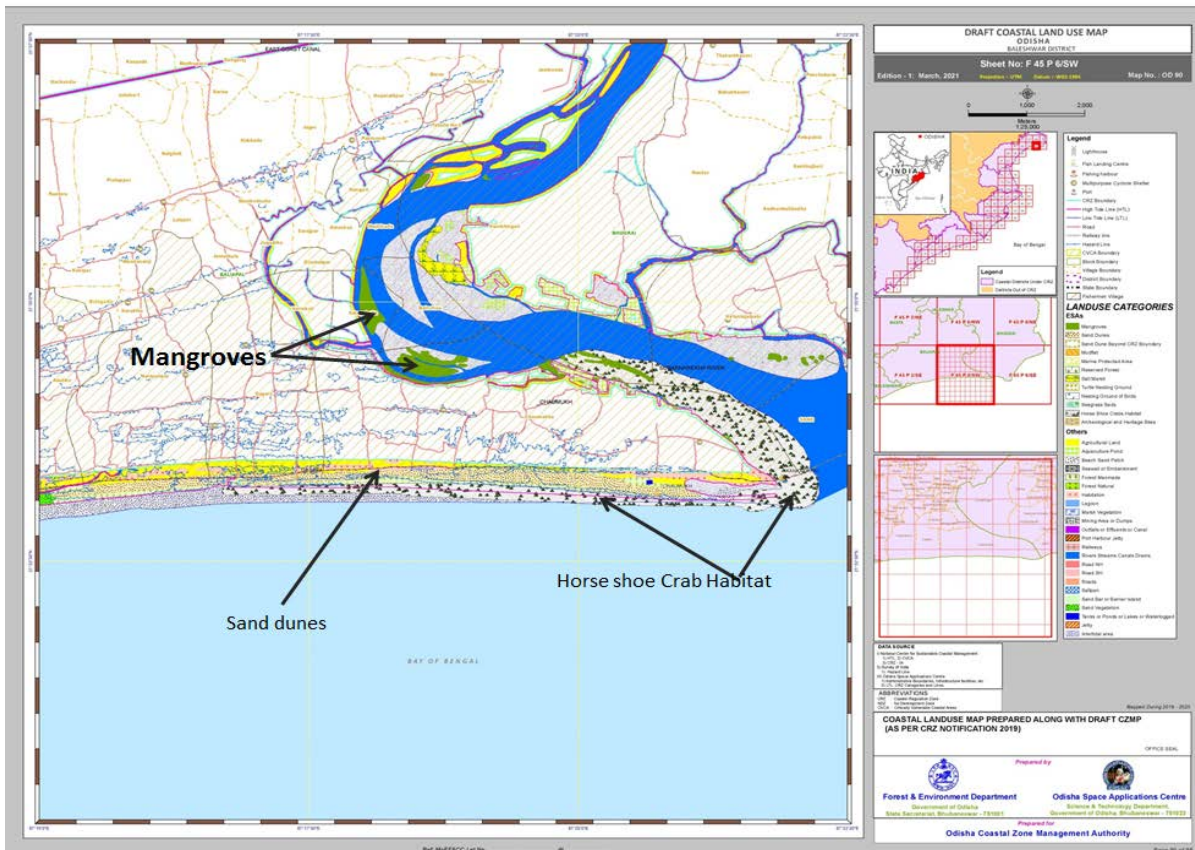
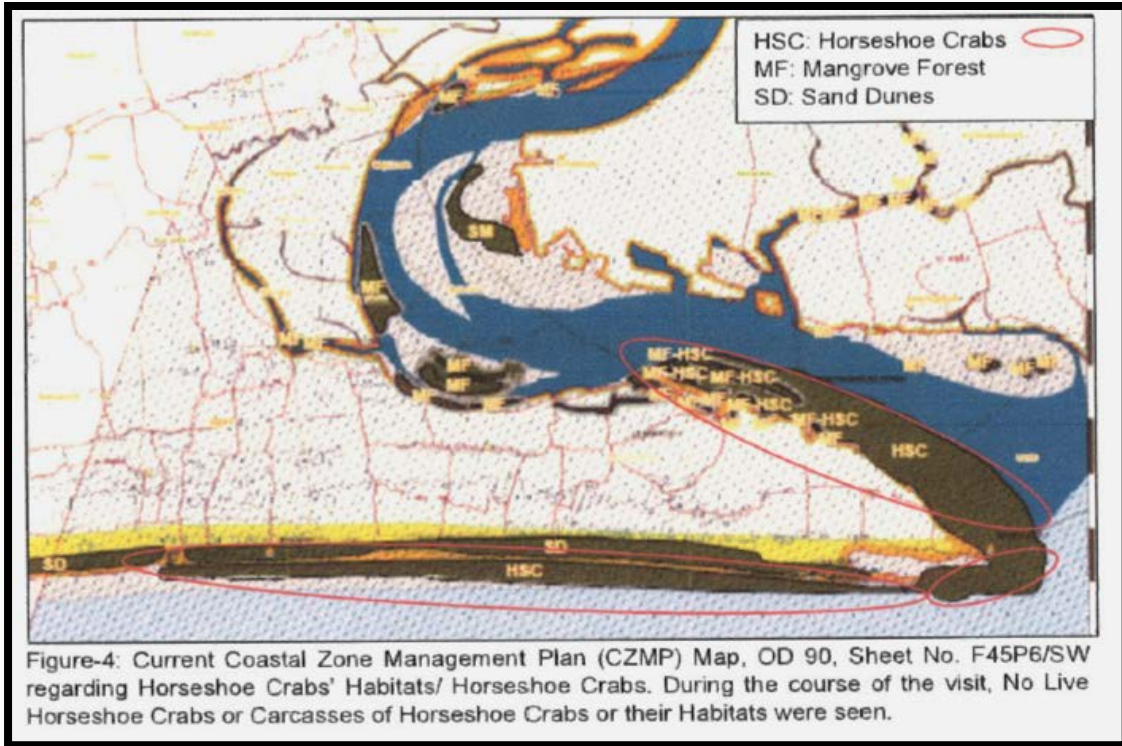
A. Horse Shoe Crabs:

CZMP 2011 & 2019: In the CZMP 2011 & 2019 map the area from Dagara Beach to Chaumukh Beach marked as IA due to the presence of Horse Shoe Crabs and their habitat.

Observation of the Team:

The team during their field visit did not notice any live horse shoe crabs or carcasses of Horseshoe Crabs or their habitats along the sea coast from Dagara Beach to Chaumukh Beach and on the riverbed of the right bank of the Subarnarekha River up to Kankadapal. During the course of discussion with the local villagers and

fisherman they confirmed that they have never witnessed horseshoe crab in the above mentioned study area. In the published papers and report there is mention that Horse Shoe Crabs might have renounced the area due to disturbance to the habitat.

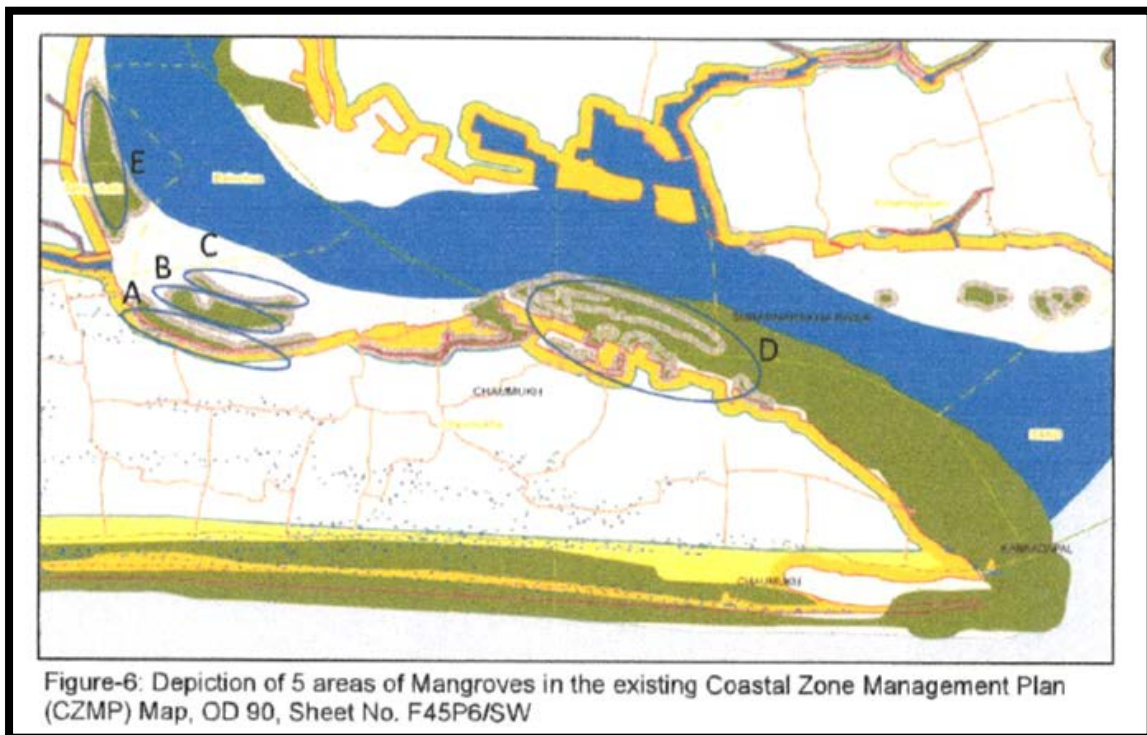


B. Mangroves

CZMP 2011 & 2019: In the CZMP 2011 & 2019 map OD-90, Sheet no. F45P6/SW the patches of area from the river bank of Subarnarekha demarcated as blue circle marked as A, B, C, D & E of the study area are classified as CRZ-IA due to the presence of Mangroves.

Observation of the Team:

Based on the observations made by the team during site visit, no mangroves were found in the area marked as A,D&E patches and only few mangrove saplings were observed in B & C patches.



Google map showing the Mangroves patches marked in the CZMP Map

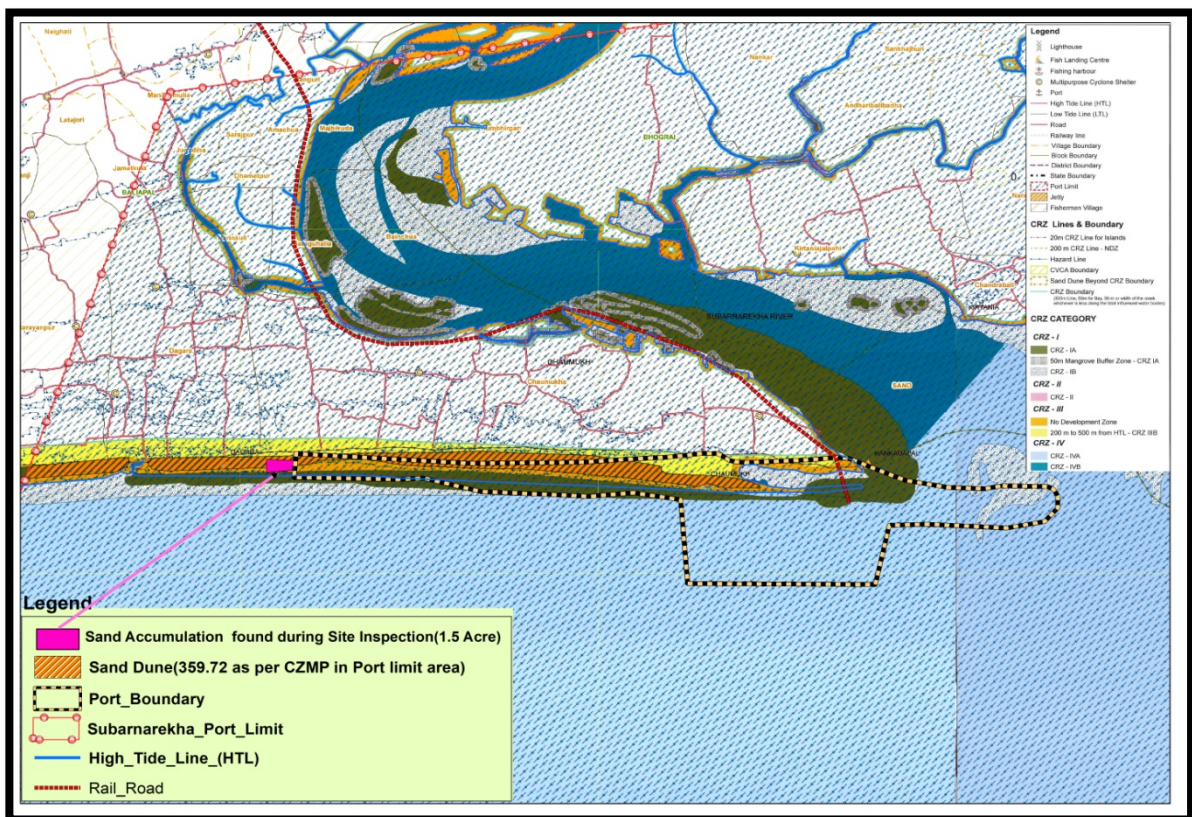


C. Sand Dunes

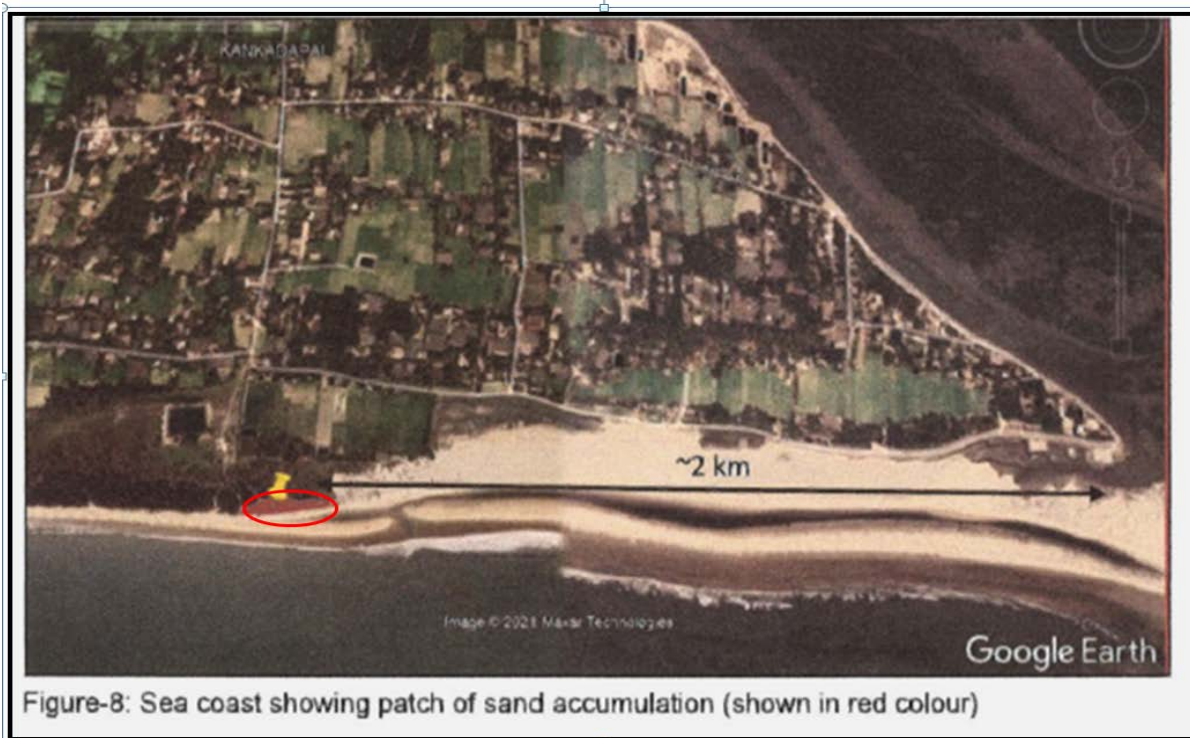
CZMP 2011 & 2019: In the CZMP 2011 & 2019 map the area from Dagara Beach to Chaumukh Beach marked within yellow circles are classified as IA i.e. Ecologically Sensitive Area due to the presence of Sand Dunes.

Observation of the Team:

- During site visit the observations made by the team from Dagara Beach to Chaumukh Beach and up to the mouth of Subarnarekha River, the beach is devoid of any active sand dunes but there are flattened beach ridge running parallel to shoreline. The flattened land has developed on the Palaeo beach ridge and are becoming flatter over the years and no active sand dunes were observed. The team also mentioned that the beach ridge might have been marked as sand dunes based on the interpretation from satellite imagery and classified as CRZ 1A.
- However, the team observed one small stretch of 200m of accumulated sand at approximately 2km from the Subarnarekha River Mouth which may be classified as Sand Dune. The leeward side of the dunes has a typical slip face and the



windward side is apparently steeper.

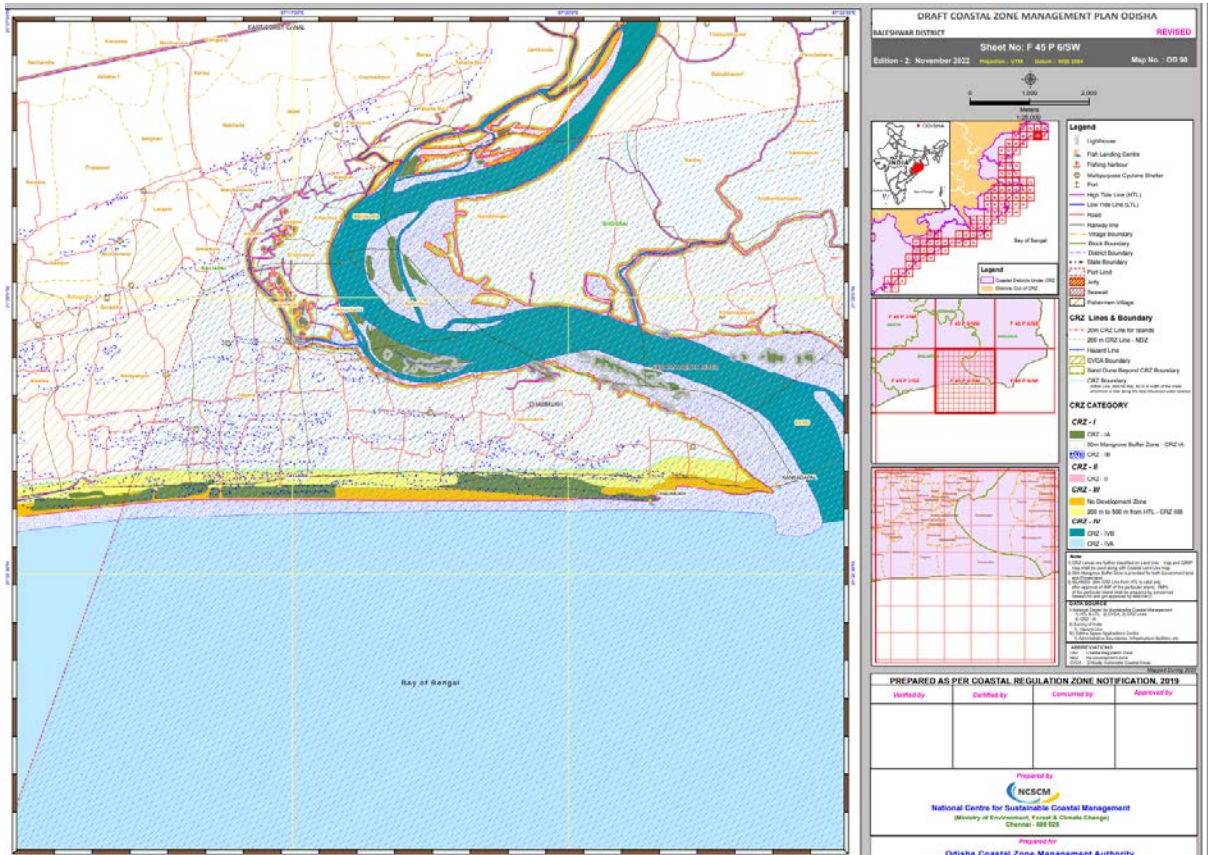


The matter was placed before the 40th meeting of Odisha Coastal Zone Management Authority held on 30.03.2022 and considering of the field visit report of the team the Authority decided to recommend the proposal to National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) for further verification and ground truthing as per the Annexure-IV Para (7) “revision of Coastal Zone Management Plan” of CRZ Notification, 2019.

As decided, the proposal was submitted to the NCSCM vide Letter No.27 DT. 07.04.2021. In response to OCZMA’s letter, a site inspection was carried out by the scientists of NCSCM, Chennai, & ORSAC Bhubaneswar on 27.5.2022. After the site inspection the NCSCM requested the Authority for submission of a report from PCCF Wildlife regarding the status of horse shores crab habitat within the Subarnarekha port area.

With response to the OCZMA letter dt 26.8.2022, PCCF (WL), Odisha in their letter no. 8323/4 WL -12/2022 dt. 16.9.2022 furnish the report which states that the there is no presence or habitat of Horse Shoe Crab, along the sea coast from Dagara Beach to Chaumukh Beach. The report was forwarded to NCSCM for necessary rectification of the map.

NCSCM, Chennai submitted the draft revised map No 90 vide email dt. for views and comments of OCZMA. The draft revised map prepared by NCSCM was communicated to the Subarnarekha Port Authority for their observations and OCZMA submitted some comments on the pre-draft CZMP map. NCSCM vide email dt. 28.11.2022 submitted the rectified draft CZMP Map No-90.



The Authority acknowledged the fact that as per MoEF&CC's guidelines, an elaborate process has been followed for rectification of the map. Accordingly, OCZMA considered recommending the draft revised map to NCSCM for finalization of the map so that it will be submitted to the MoEF & CC for consideration of approval.