

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 162 of 2023 (SZ)

Applicant : Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the news item in 'The Hindu' e-paper, dt. 24/09/2023, under the caption "Kole wetlands of Kerala face threat of alien plants"

Versus

Respondent(s) : The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Kerala, Department of Environment and others

REPORT FILED BY THE SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER, LEGAL CELL, ERNAKULAM FOR AND ON BEHALF OF 4TH RESPONDENT IN THE ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 162/2023



Adv. Rema Smrithi.

ADDITIONAL STANDING COUNSEL FOR THE RESPONDENT:4

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Dated this the 29th day of November 2023

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**REPORT FILED BY THE SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
REGIONAL OFFICE, LEGAL CELL, ERNAKULAM FOR AND
ON BEHALF OF THE 4TH RESPONDENT OF
KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

1. I, Vinaya K. S, now working as the Senior Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Ernakulam. I am competent to and duly authorized to represent Board. I know the facts and circumstances of the case. The factual submissions are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.
2. Thrissur Kole Wetlands lie in Thrissur district. The Kole wetlands are low lying tracts located 0.5 to 1 metre below MSL and it remains submerged for about six months in a year. The Thrissur Kole can be divided into North and South Koles. The Thrissur North Kole is a stretch of low lying lands extending from the Karuvannur River in the south to Kaiparamba in the north. Thrissur North Kole is divided into three basins, namely the north covering Kechery, Peramangalam and Chemmen basins, the central comprising of



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Puzhakkal Naduthodu, Chiyyaram and Kokkala basins and the south consisting of Puthenthodu, Herbert Canal and Chirakkal thodu basins of Karuvannur river. Alluvium deposits are brought down by the Kechery and Karuvannur rivers. Paddy cultivation and fish farming are carried out seasonally in these Kole wetlands.

3. In 2018, 21 polluted stretches were identified by Central Pollution Control Board. Karuvannur river, and Puzhakkal river fall under low pollution Priority 5 and Kechery under Priority 4. Based on this, Action plans were prepared and implemented by District Technical Committees. The activities namely closing of illegal outlets, desilting, cleaning of main drain in canals, construction of side wall protection, started windrow composting plant, implementing sewage treatment facilities, MCF and RRF facilities have been carried out under supervision of District Level Monitoring committee. In the assessment of CPCB in 2022, the quality of these rivers have been improved and have been delisted from polluted river stretches. Regarding Cabomba, (an aquarium plant) which is reported to be found in some portion of this Kole wetland where there is stagnant to slow flowing freshwater condition exist. Action has been taken for water quality monitoring of such areas.

All the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge,
information and belief.

Dated this the 29th day of November 2023



Vinayar
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SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER