

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA**

Original Application No.71/2024/EZ

Wildlife Society of Odisha Applicant
-Versus-
State of Odisha and Others Respondents

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Cuttack

Date: 02/05/2024


ADDL. GOVT. ADVOCATE



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Original Application No.71/2024/EZ

Wildlife Society of Odisha Applicant
-Versus-
State of Odisha and Others Respondents

AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE RESPONDENT NO.7.

I, Dr. Meeta Biswal, aged about 58 years, W/o-Sri Debidutta Biswal, at present working as Chairperson, Odisha Biodiversity Board, Regional Plant Resource Centre Campus, Ekamrakanan, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Dist. Khurda, Odisha, do hereby solemnly affirm & state as follow: -

1. That, I am arrayed as Respondent No.7 in the aforesaid original application and competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That, the applicant has filed the aforesaid Original Application with the following prayers: -
 - a) Direct the State Wetland Authority to submit the status of implementation of the Wetland Rules and functioning of Grievance Committee.

Meeta Biswal.
PCCF-Cum-Chairman
Odisha Biodiversity Board



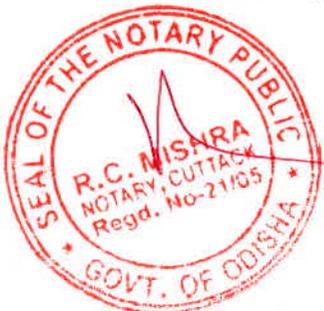
- b) Direct the respondent 1 and MOEFCC to take necessary legal action including the criminal proceeding against the erring officers for willfully violating the Provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980, Wetland Conservation and Management Rules 2017 and Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- c) Hold and declare that erection of temporary tents and sheds for tourists in the river bed of Mahanadi river inside Satkosia Tiger Reserve carried out every year by the Respondents is illegal.
- d) Direct the Respondents not to erect such temporary tents and sheds for tourists in the river bed and maintain the river bed in its original condition during the non-monsoon season.
- e) Direct the Respondents not to allow motorized boat tours for tourists inside Satkosia Gorge the core area of the Tiger Reserve and a Ramsar site.

3. Para 1 and 2: No comments

4. That, in reply to the averments made in Para-3 of the original application, it is humbly submitted that, the email has been received by this office but since there is no protocol laid for Odisha Biodiversity Board to initiate course of action/inquiry and the matter does not relate to this office, no action has been taken by the Odisha Biodiversity Board on this matter.

5. That, in reply to the averments made in Para-3 of the original application, the Satkosia gorge has been designated

Meeta Biswal.
PCCF-Cum-Chairman
Odisha Biodiversity Board



as a Ramsar site vide dated 12.10.2021 (Source: <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2470>) is annexed herewith as **Annexure I.**

6. Para 4 to 57: No Comments

ENCROACHMENT OF WATER BODY IN VIOLATION
OF JUDGMENTS OF HON'BLE SUPREME COURT

7. That, in reply to the averments made in Para-52 (Page 35 of OA 71/2024/EZ) of the original application is the question of Section-37 of Biological Diversity Act,2002, on declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS), it is to state that the area in question is already declared as a Ramsar Site (Annexure I).

8. That, since this matter primarily relates to the State Wetland Authority, State Forest Department, Deputy Director General of Forests, Govt. of India and does not relate to the office of the Respondent No.7, the Odisha Biodiversity Board may be spared (excluded) as a respondent.

9. That the averments which have not been specifically replied shall be deemed to have been denied and the Deponent craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to make further submissions and file further affidavit(s) in support of

Meeha Boruah.
PCCF-Cum-Chairman
Odisha Biodiversity Board



their contentions in the interest of justice and for effective adjudication by the Hon'ble Tribunal.

10. That, the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief based on the available official records.

VERIFICATION

I, Dr. Meeta Biswal, aged about 58 years, W/o- Sri Debidutta Biswal, at present working as the Chairperson, Odisha Biodiversity Board, Regional Plant Resource Centre Campus, Ekamrakanan, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Dist. Khurda, Odisha, do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge as derived from official records and nothing material has been concealed therefrom. Verified at Cuttack on this the 02nd Day of May 2024.

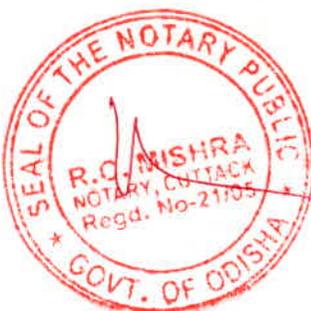
Identified by:


Addl. Govt. Advocate



Verificant

PCCF-Cum-Chairman
Odisha Biodiversity Board



AFFIDAVIT

I, Dr. Meeta Biswal, aged about 58 years, W/o- Sri Debidutta Biswal, at present working as the Chairperson, Odisha Biodiversity Board, Regional Plant Resource Centre Campus, Ekamrakanan, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Dist. Khurda, Odisha, do hereby solemnly affirm & state as follows: -

1. That I am the Respondent No.7 in the aforesaid Original Application. I am well acquainted with the facts of the case and as such competent to swear this affidavit on my official capacity.
2. That the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and based on official records.

Identified by:


Addl. Govt. Advocate


Deponent

**PCCF-Cum-Chairman
Odisha Biodiversity Board**

CERTIFICATE

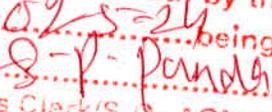
Certified that due non-availability of cartridge papers, plan legal papers are used.

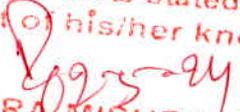
Cuttack

Date: 02/05/2024


ADDL. GOVT. ADVOCATE



solemnly affirm on in Oath by the Deponent at Cuttack on. 02-05-24 being identified by  Advocate/Adv's Clerk/S.O., AG's office/Notary personally, that the facts stated above are true to the best of his/her knowledge.


RAMA CHANDRA MISHRA, NOTARY
CUTTACK TOWN, REGD. No-21/08



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 3 August 2022

India Satkosia Gorge



Designation date	12 October 2021
Site number	2470
Coordinates	20°34'20"N 84°49'56"E
Area	98 196,72 ha

Meeta Baswal

**PCCF-Cum-Chairman
Odisha Biodiversity Board**