

IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA.

O.A. NO.88 OF 2023/EZ

Wildlife Society of Odisha ... Appellant
-Versus-
State of Odisha & others ... Respondents

I N D E X

Sl. No.	Description of Documents	Pages
1.	Affidavit on behalf of the Respondent No.1.	
2.	<u>ANNEXURE-A/1</u> Copy of Press Release dated 13.08.2022 of the MOEF as published by the Press Information Bureau.	
3.	<u>ANNEXURE-B/1</u> Copy of list of Ramsar Sites as on January, 2024 as maintained by the "EIACP Programme Centre Wildlife & Protected Areas Management" of the MOEF.	
4.	<u>ANNEXURE-C/1</u> Copy of forest diversion proposal dated 30.10.2023 preferred by the Tourism Department, Government of Odisha, before the MOEF&CC.	

Place: CUTTACK By the Respondent No.1 through

Date: 26/04/2024

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Advocate

IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA.

O.A. NO.88 OF 2023/EZ

Wildlife Society of Odisha ... Appellant
-Versus-
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**AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF
RESPONDENT NO.1**

I, Sri Balamukunda Bhuyan, aged about 53 years, son of Sri Dhaneswar Bhuyan at present serving as Additional Secretary to Govt., Toursim Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, Dist. Khurda, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That, I am filing this affidavit in my capacity of being the Additional Secretary to Govt. and have been duly authorised to sign and file the instant affidavit on behalf of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha i.e. Respondent No.1.
2. That, I have thoroughly gone through the contents of the Original Application and the Annexures filed therewith and have understood the contents thereof. I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case and as such competent to swear this affidavit.
3. That, it is respectfully submitted that the developmental works at Tampara Lake, in the Ganajam District of Odisha is being carried out under the aegis

By
PRADIPTA KUMAR MOHANTI
Notary, Cuttack Town
Regd. No-ON-04/1995

Balamukunda Bhuyan



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AOK*

of the 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme'- A Central Sector Scheme launched by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the project with a project cost of INR 33.43 Cr. including construction of Eco-Cottages, tourist reception centre, jetty, rain water drainage, solid waste management etc. was submitted by the Tourism Department of the State Government to the Central Government on 01.03.2016 and the same was approved by the Central Government on 19.09.2016.

4. The developmental works at Tamapara Lake, have been undertaken in two phases:

- **Phase-1** –Tamapara Lake Front Development (Completed in 2021)
- **Phase -2-** Development of Eco Cottages (Work commenced in February, 2022 and presently halted)

The present controversy pertains to the 2nd Phase of developmental works at the Tamapara lake.

5. That, it is respectfully submitted that on 26.09.2017, the Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change (“MOEF&CC”) notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 (herein after referred to as the “**2017 Wetland Rules**”). Under Rule 3 thereunder, the applicability of the said Rules is confined to wetland/ wetland complexes

Pradipta Kumari Mohanty

namely:- (a) Wetlands which have been categorised as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention and/or (b) Wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration. Under Rule 4(1) of the said Rules, Wetlands as defined under Rule 3 are to be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority and under 4(2) certain activities including construction activities of permanent nature are prohibited within the wetlands. However, under proviso to section 4(2) of the 2017 Wetland Rules, the Central Government is empowered to permit omission of any prohibited activities under wetlands when such proposals are sent by State Governments with the recommendation of the Wetland Authority.

6. That, it is respectfully submitted that pertinently, as is evident from the Press Release dated 13.08.2022 of the MOEF as well as the website of the "EIACP Programme Centre Wildlife & Protected Areas Management" of the MOEF, the Tampara lake was declared as a Ramsar site on 13.08.2022 after which, the 2017 Wetland Rules became applicable to the lake.

Copy of Press Release dated 13.08.2022 of the MOEF as published by the Press Information Bureau is annexed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE-A/1.

PRADIPTA KUMAR MOHANTY
Notary, Cuttack Town
Regd. No-ON-04/1995

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Copy of list of Ramsar Sites as on January, 2024 as maintained by the "EIACP Programme Centre Wildlife & Protected Areas Management" of the MOEF is annexed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE-B/1.

7. That, it is respectfully submitted that notably, as mentioned above, the developmental works at the Tampara Lake under the aegis of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme' was approved by the Central Government way back on 19.09.2016. Pursuant to the work orders issued in favour of M/s. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. on 10.01.2022, the work commenced immediately thereafter.

8. That, it is respectfully submitted that therefore, as on date of the declaration of the Tampara Lake as a Ramasar Site, i.e. on 13.08.2022, the developmental works at Tampara Lake had already commenced.

9. That, it is respectfully submitted that however, in order to comply with the 2017 Wetland Rules, the State Government has already sent its proposal to the State Wetland Authority which in turn has along with its recommendation dated 09.02.2024, forwarded the same to the Central Government. The same is pending before the Central Government.

10. That, it is respectfully submitted that additionally, 16.92% of land being developed in the 2nd phase, have 'Gramya Jungle'kisam. The land schedule of the 2nd phase of the project is as follows:

PRADIPTA KUMAR MOHANTY
Notary, Cuttack Town
Regd. No-ON-04/1995

Sl. No.	Village Name	Forest Land (Ha)	Non-Forest Land (Ha)
1.	Humuri	0.697	0.353
2.	Humuri Tampara	0	3.069
Total		0.697	3.422
Grand Total		4.119	

11. That, it is respectfully submitted that with respect to the abovementioned forest lands, the Tourism Department, Government of Odisha has on 30.10.2023, preferred a forest diversion proposal before the MOEF&CC which is at an advanced stage of consideration.

Copy of forest diversion proposal dated 30.10.2023 preferred by the Tourism Department, Government of Odisha, before the MOEF&CC is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE-C/1.**

12. That, it is respectfully submitted that notably, the Tampara Eco-cottages projects is an eco-friendly project and thus right from its inception i.e. the master-planning phase, key components such as - **a.** Sewerage Treatment Plant; **b.** Water Treatment Plant; **c.** Rainwater harvesting; **d.** Storm Water Drainage, **e.** Solid waste management have been contemplated and implemented. The project has ensured that no-grey water / waste water / sewer water is discharged in the lake water, and thus shall not affect the flora and fauna or any aquatic life-form of Tampara lake.

13. That, it is respectfully submitted that during execution of the cottages, no construction/ demolition waste has been dumped/ disposed into the lake. The waste has been picked up from the site and has been effectively disposed of away from Tampara Lake. The on-site Sewerage treatment plant has been provided for recycling of sewerage and wastewater disposal. Further, the proposed eco-cottages are being built over stilt structures, so as to allow free flow of the water. Temporary bunds have also been created for development of these stilt structures and the same will be removed expeditiously after completion of the project.

14. That, it is respectfully submitted that further, the Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change through D.F.O., Berhampur has initiated the preparation of the Integrated management plan for the Tampara lake as a comprehensive strategy that aims to address various aspects of the lake's management, including ecological conservation, water quality, recreational use, and sustainable development.

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

Identified by



Advocate

Sri Shakti Prasad Panda



DEPONENT

PRADIPTA KUMAR MONDAL
Notary, Cuttack Town
Regd. No-ON-04/1995

VERIFICATION

I, Sri Balamukunda Bhuyan, aged about 53 years, son of Sri Dhaneswar Bhuyan at present serving as Additional Secretary to Govt., Toursim Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, Dist. Khurda, 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 that nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at CUTTACK on this the 26th day of April, 2024.


VERIFICANT



Solemnly sworn before B. Bhuyan
 me by S.P. Panda Acharak
 being identified by S.P. Panda Acharak
 at Cuttack Town Dated 26/04/2024
26/04/2024
P.K. MOHANTY, Notary, Cuttack Town
Regd. No-ON-04/1995



Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

Common Application Form

Project Details

1. Details of Project

1.1. Name of the Project

Development of Tourism Infrastructure at Tampara Lake of Chatrapur Tahsil under Ganjam District of Odisha

1.2. Project Proposal For

New

1.3. Project ID (Single Window Number)

SW/173154/2024

1.4. Description of Project

Tampara lake, is a fresh water lake situated at the right bank of the river Rushikulya besides N.H. 16, (Kolkata-Chennai National Highway) near Chatrapur Town the district Head Quarter of Ganjam District in the State of Odisha. Berhampur, one of the major cities of Odisha is 23Km away from the site. The lake covers an area of 300Ha. and connected to the river Rushikulya. The maximum length of the lake is 5.4Km and width is 0.65Km. There is no geological evidence to confirm its origin. It is believed that 1766 during the battle between British East-India Company and French Colonist due to explosion the depression was created and at latter stage filled with flood water from the river Rushikulya to form the lake. At the time of flooding the flood water enter into the lake and enriches its bio-diversity. The lake provides water for irrigation and the major source of drinking water of nearby villages including Chatrapur town. It plays a major roll for control of floods in rainy season in the

2. Details of the Company/Organization/User Agency making application

2.1. Legal Status of the Company/Organization/User Agency

State Government (Department/Autonomous body)

2.2. Name of the Company/ Organization/User agency

Tourism Department

Registered address

2.3. Address

Odisha Tourism, Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar-751014

2.4. Village /Town / City

Bhubaneswar

2.5. State

ODISHA

2.6. District

KHORDHA

2.7. Pin Code

751014

2.8. E-mail address

info@odishatourism.gov.in

2.9. Mobile number

9439933355

3. Details of the person making application

3.1. Name

Balmukunda Bhuyan

3.2. Designation

Add. Secretary to Govt., Tourism Dept.

Correspondence address

3.3. Address

Odisha Tourism, Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar-751014

3.4. Village /Town / City

Bhubaneswar

3.5. State

ODISHA

3.6. District

KHORDHA

3.7. Pin Code

751014

3.8. E-mail address

info@odishatourism.gov.in

3.9. Mobile number

9439933355

True Copy Attested

**Additional Secretary to Govt.
Tourism Department**

Project Location

4. Location of the Project or Activity

- 4.1. Upload KML PROJECT AREA.kml
- 4.2. Whether the project/activity falling in the state/UT sharing international borders NO
5. Shape of the Project Non - Linear

Location Details

Toposheet No	State/UT	District	Sub District	Village	Plot/Survey/Khasra No.
E45B3	ODISHA	Ganjam	GANJAM	HUMURI	
E45B3	ODISHA	Ganjam	CHHATRAPUR	HUMURITAMPARA	

Remarks

N/A

6. Land Requirement (in Ha) of the project or activity

- 6.1. Nature of Land involved
- 6.2. Non-Forest Land [A] 3.422
- 6.3. Forest Land [B] 0.697
- 6.4. Total Land [A+B] 4.119

Project Activity Cost

6. Project/Activity Cost

- 6.1. Total Cost of the Project at current price level (in Lakhs) 2292.05
Amount in Words : Two Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Two Point Zero Five Lakh(s) Only

7. Employment likely to be generated

7.1. During construction phase

Permanent employment

- 7.1.1. No. of permanent employment (No.s) [A] 10
- 7.1.2. Period of employment (No. of days) [B] 730
- 7.1.3. No. of man-days [X]=[A]*[B] 7300

Temporary employment

- 7.1.4. Temporary / Contractual employment (No. of Man days) [Y] 70000
- 7.1.5. Total [X] + [Y] 77300

7.2. During operational phase

Permanent employment

- 7.2.1. No. of permanent employment (No.s) [A] 10
- 7.2.2. Period of employment (No. of days) [B] 36500
- 7.2.3. No. of man-days [X]=[A]*[B] 365000

Temporary employment

- 7.2.4. Temporary / Contractual employment (No. of Man days) [Y] 700000
- 7.2.5. Total [X] + [Y] 1065000

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Additional Secretary to Govt.
Tourism Department

Others

8. Whether Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) involved? NO
9. Whether project area involves shifting of watercourse/road/rail/Transmission line/water pipeline, etc. required? NO
10. Whether any alternative site(s) examined or part thereof for the non-site-specific component? Not applicable as the project or activity is site specific
11. Whether there is any Government Order or Policy/ Court order relevant or restricting to the site? NO
12. Whether there is any litigation pending against the project and/or land in which the project is proposed to be set up? NO
13. Whether the proposal involves violation of Act/Rule/Regulation/Notification of Central/State Government? NO

Form-A (Part-I): Diversion of Forest Land

Project Details

1. Forest Clearance

- 1.1. State ODISHA
1. Upload a copy of note containing justification for 2 locating the Project in forest land JUSTIFICATION.pdf
- 1.3. Project Category Others (please specify)
- 1.4. Exempted Category NA
- 1.5. Is Related to Encroachment? N/A
- 1.6. Whether any proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for this project has been submitted in the past? No

Proposed Land

2. Details of Forestland proposed to be diverted (Village / Division / District Wise Breakup)

- 2.1. Total area of forestland proposed for diversion (ha.) 0.697
- 2.2. Total area of non- forestland required for this project (ha.) 3.422

2.3. Legal Status of forest land proposed for diversion

Area (ha)	Legal Status of Forest Land
0.697	Revenue Forest

- 2.3.1. Total Area (ha) 0.697

- 2.4. Total period for which the forestland is proposed to be diverted (No. of years) 100

KML Details

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Tourism Department

Division	Berhampur Division
No. of Patches	23
KML	49914621_FC_KML_1708947157271_FOREST AREA.kml

Location Details

Toposheet No.	District	Village	Range	Forest land proposed for diversion (ha)	Non Forest Land (ha)
E45B3	Ganjam	HUMURI	Berhampur	0.697	0.353
E45B3	Ganjam	HUMURITAMPARA	Berhampur	0.000	3.069

Patch Details

Patch/ Segment ID	Forest Area (ha)	Non-Forest Area (ha)	Remarks if any
1	0.034	0	
2	0.012	0	
3	0.172	0	
4	0.025	0	
5	0.024	0	
6	0.02	0	
7	0.01	0	
8	0.028	0	
9	0.042	0	
10	0.089	0	
11	0.044	0	
12	0.014	0	
13	0.048	0	
14	0.026	0	
15	0.003	0.18	
16	0.004	0.121	
17	0.014	1.143	
18	0.018	0.723	
19	0.018	0.902	
20	0.03	0.007	
21	0.005	0.004	
22	0.01	0.002	
23	0.007	0.34	

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Tourism Department

Remarks Details

Total Patch-wise Forest Land in the division (ha)	
2.5. Total Forest Land Area (ha)	0.6970
2.6. Total Non Forest Land Area (ha)	3.4220
Total KML-wise Forest Land in the division (ha.)	

Total RMC Wise Forest Land in the Division (ha)

2.7. Total Forest Land Area (ha)	0.697
2.8. Total Non Forest Land Area (ha)	3.422
2.9. Total Area (ha)	4.119

3. Component Wise Break Up

Component	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
Tourism Infrastructure	0.697	3.422

4. Total Forest Land(ha) 0.697

5. Total Non Forest Land (ha) 3.4220

6. Upload map of the forest land proposed to be diverted prepared by using DGPS or Total Station (pdf only) 2. PROJECT SITE - DGPS MAP - signed.pdf

Afforestation Details

7. Details of land identified for Compensatory Afforestation

7.1. Whether Compensatory Afforestation is applicable or not? No

Others

8. Cost-Benefit analysis

8.1. Whether Cost-Benefit analysis for the Project has been made? N/A

9. Environmental clearance Details

9.1. Whether the Project requires Clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (Environmental clearance)? No

10. Wildlife clearance Details

10.1. Whether the Project or a part thereof is located in any Protected Area or their Eco sensitive zone? No

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Additional Secretary to Govt.
Tourism Department

Category Specific Details

N/A

11. Copy of Additional Information, if any

S. No.	Document Name	Remark	Document
1	Undertaking_PCA	Undertaking_PCA	UNDERTAKING FORPAYMENT OFCOST OFPENAL COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION.pdf
2	Undertaking ACA	Undertaking ACA	UNDERTAKING FORPAYMENT OFCOST OF ADDL

2	Undertaking_ACA	Undertaking_ACA	COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION.pdf
3	Undertaking_SSWLCP	Undertaking_SSWLCP	UNDERTAKING FOR PAYMENT OF SSWLCP.pdf
4	Undertaking_NPV	Undertaking_NPV	UNDERTAKING FOR PAYMENT OF NET PRESENT VALUE OF FOREST AREA.pdf
5	Undertaking_CA	Undertaking_CA	UNDERTAKING FOR PAYMENT OF COST OF COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION.pdf
6	Undertaking_ANPV	Undertaking_ANPV	UNDERTAKING FOR PAYMENT OF ADDL NET PRESENT VALUE OF FOREST AREA.pdf
7	Undertaking_CBA	Undertaking_CBA	UNDERTAKING FOR NON-APPLICABLE OFCOST BENEFIT ANALYSIS.pdf
8	Undertaking_RR PLAN	Undertaking_RR PLAN	UNDERTAKING FOR NON-APPLICABLE OF REHABILITATION & RESETTLEMENT.pdf
9	Undertaking_SPCB	Undertaking_SPCB	UNDERTAKING FOR NON-APPLICABLE OF NOC FROM SPCB.pdf
10	Undertaking_EC	Undertaking_EC	UNDERTAKING FOR NON-APPLICABLE OF ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE.pdf
11	Undertaking_FRA	Undertaking_FRA	UNDERTAKING FOR FRA.pdf
12	Authorization	Authorization	SELF AUTHORISATION.pdf
13	Location Map of CA Land	Location Map of CA Land	LOCATION MAP OF CA LAND.pdf
14	ORSAC Approval Letter_Forest Land	ORSAC Approval Letter_Forest Land	ORSAC APPROVAL LETTER.pdf
15	Land Schedule_Forest area	Land Schedule_Forest area	LAND SCHEDULE (FOREST AREA).pdf
16	Land Schedule_Non Forest area	Land Schedule_Non Forest area	LAND SCHEDULE (NON-FOREST AREA).pdf
17	Justification	Justification	JUSTIFICATION.pdf
18	Certificate_No alternative Land	Certificate_No alternative Land	CERTIFICATE FOR NO ALTERNATIVE SUITABLE NON-FOREST LAND.pdf
19	Administrative Approval	Administrative Approval	ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL.pdf
20	Certificate_Minimum use of Forest Land	Certificate_Minimum use of Forest Land	CERTIFICATE FOR MINIMUM USE OF FOREST LAND.pdf
21	Project area_KML	Project area_KML	PROJECT AREA.kml
22	Forest area_KML	Forest area_KML	FOREST AREA.kml
23	Wildlife Map	Wildlife Map	4. WILDLIFE SANCTUARY MAP - signed.pdf
24	ORSAC Authenticated DGPS Map	ORSAC Authenticated DGPS Map	2. PROJECT SITE - DGPS MAP - signed.pdf
25	Layout Map	Layout Map	3. LAYOUT MAP OF HUMURI-TAMPARA - signed.pdf
26	Topo Map_Project area	Topo Map_Project area	1. TOPO MAP_TAMPARA LAKE - signed.pdf

Undertaking

I hereby give undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to be best of my knowledge and belief and I am aware that if any part of the data and information is found to be false or misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and clearance given if any to the project will be revoked at our risk and cost. In addition to the above, I hereby give undertaking that no activity/construction/expansion has been taken up

12. Name

Balmukunda Bhuyan

13. Designation

Addl Secretary to Govt. Tourism Dept.

True Copy Attested

 Additional Secretary to Govt.
 Tourism Department

13. Designation

Addl. Secretary to Govt., Tourism Dept..

14. Company

Tourism Department

15. Address

Odisha Tourism, Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar-751014

16. Date

26/02/2024

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Additional Secretary to Govt.
Tourism Department

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

75 Ramsar Sites in 75th Year of Independence

India adds 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar Sites

Posted On: 13 AUG 2022 1:08PM by PIB Delhi

PM Shri @narendramodi ji's love and care for environment is helping India scale newer heights in conservation.

Elated to inform that 11 more Indian wetlands have got Ramsar recognition. This takes our tally to 75 sites. #AmritMahotsav #IndiaAt75
pic.twitter.com/jsYGTBGOQo

— Bhupender Yadav (@byadavbjp) August 13, 2022

India adds 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites to make total 75 Ramsar sites covering an area of 13,26,677 ha in the country in the 75th year of Independence.

The 11 new sites include: Four (4) sites in Tamil Nadu, Three (3) in Odisha, Two (2) in Jammu & Kashmir and One (1) each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Designation of these sites would help in conservation and management of wetlands and wise use of their resources.

India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. India signed it on 1st Feb 1982. During 1982 to 2013, a total of 26 sites were added to the list of Ramsar sites, however, during 2014 to 2022, the country has added 49 new wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites.

During this year itself (2022) a total of 28 sites have been declared as Ramsar sites. Based on the date of designation mentioned on Ramsar Certificate, the number is 19 for this year (2022) and 14 for previous year (2021).

Tamil Nadu has maximum no. of Ramsar sites (14 nos), followed by UP which has 10 nos. of Ramsar sites.

Brief of 11 wetlands designated as Ramsar sites

S.No	Name of wetland	Area in Ha	State

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Tourism Deptt.

1.	Tampara Lake	300	Odisha
2.	Hirakud Reservoir	65400	
3.	Ansupa Lake	231	
4.	Yashwant Sagar	822.90	Madhya Pradesh
5.	Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary	260.47	Tamil Nadu
6.	Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex	94.23	
7.	Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary	112.64	
8.	Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary	96.89	
9.	Thane Creek	6521.08	Maharashtra
10.	Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve	801.82	Jammu and Kashmir
11.	Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve	1675	
	Total area of 11 sites	76316	

Year wise designation of 75 Ramsar sites

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Tourism Deptt.


Director, Wildlife
 Department

S. No.	Year of Designation	No of site designated (As per date of designation)	Sites designated upto 2013 and after 2014 to till date	Area covered in Ha
1	1981	2	26 (1981 to 2013)	633871
2	1990	4		
3	2002	13		
4	2005	6		
5	2012	1		
6	2019	11	49 (2014 to 2022)	692807
7	2020	5		
8	2021	14		
9	2022	19		
	Total	75	75	1326678

ANNOTATED SUMMARY AND PICS OF 11 NEW RAMSAR SITES

1. Tampara Lake:

Tampara Lake is among the most prominent freshwater lakes in the State of Odisha situated in Ganjam district. The depression on the ground gradually filled with rainwater from catchment flow and was called "Tamp" by the British and subsequently termed "Tampara" by the locals. The wetland supports at least 60 species of birds, 46 species of fishes, at least 48 species of phytoplanktons, and more than seven species of terrestrial plants and macrophytes. The wetland is an important habitat for vulnerable species such as Cyprinus carpio, common pochard (Aythya ferina), and river tern (Sterna aurantia). With an estimated average fish yield of 12 tonnes per year, the wetland is an important source of livelihood for the local communities. Along with fishes the wetland also provides provisioning services like water for agriculture, and domestic use and is a well-known tourism and recreation site.

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Tourism Deptt.



Birds above the wetland




Wetland surface



Adjacent vegetation

2. Hirakud Reservoir

Hirakud Reservoir, the largest earthen dam in Odisha started operating in 1957. The reservoir to support a range of floral and faunal species, including several of high conservation significance. Out of the known 54 species of fish from the reservoir, one has been classed as being endangered, six near threatened and 21 fish species of economic importance. Fisheries presently yield a catch of around 480 MT of fish annually and is the mainstay of livelihoods of 7,000 fisher households. Similarly, over 130 bird species have been recorded at this site, out of which 20 species are of high conservation significance. The reservoir is a source of water for producing around 300 MW of hydropower and irrigating 436,000 ha of cultural command area. The wetland also provides important hydrological services by moderating floods in the Mahanadi delta, the ecological and socio-economic hub of the east coast of India. Hirakud reservoir supports abundant tourism, and forms an integral part of the high touristic value sites located around Sambalpur with over 30,000 tourists annually visiting the site.

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**Addl. Secretary to Govt.
Tourism Deptt.**



Hirakud Reservoir



Migratory Birds



Waterbirds _ Hirakud Reservoir



Landscape

3. Ansupa Lake

Ansupa Lake is the largest freshwater lake of Odisha situated in Banki sub-division of Cuttack district and has its fame from time immemorial for its scenic beauty, biodiversity, and natural resources. The wetland is an oxbow lake formed by River Mahanadi and is spread over an area of 231 ha. The wetland is home to at least 194 species of birds, 61 species of fishes and 26 species of mammals in addition to 244 species of macrophytes. The wetland provides a safe habitat to at least three threatened bird species- *Rynchops albicollis* (EN), *Sterna acuticauda* (EN) and *Sterna aurantia* (VU) and three threatened fish species- *Clarias magur* (Clariidae) (EN), *Cyprinus carpio* (Cyprinidae) (VU) and *Wallago attu* (VU). Ansupa lake sustains the freshwater demands of the surrounding areas and also supports the livelihood of the local communities through fisheries and agriculture. The wetland has immense recreational and tourism potential as it is a major wintering ground for migratory birds and is also known for its scenic beauty.

True Copy Attested

Addl. Secretary to Govt.
Tourism Deptt.

2023/03/02 10:00 AM
11/11/2023



A view of Ansupa Lake




A view of Ansupa Lake



Migratory ducks in Ansupa Lake

4. Yashwant Sagar

Yashwant Sagar is one of the two Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the Indore region as well as one of the most important birding sites in Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh. Presently it is mainly used for water supply to the city of Indore and is also being used for fish culture on a commercial scale. Yashwant Sagar reservoir comes under the jurisdiction of Indore City Municipal Corporation. Indore which has bagged the title of one of the cleanest cities in India is also often known as center of economic growth of Madhya Pradesh. The catchment area of this wetland is predominantly agriculture. Yashwant Sagar is considered to be a stronghold of the vulnerable Sarus Crane in central India. The lake backwaters have plenty of shallow areas, conducive for waders and other waterfowl. As the water level recedes, many islands serve as roosting sites for waterfowl. Due to its vast shallow reed beds, the wetland is considered heaven to a large number of winter migratory birds.

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Heronry birds, Yashwant Sagar



Lotus farming, Yashwant Sagar



Panoramic view of Yashwant Sagar

5. Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary

Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, locally known as "Chitrangudi Kanmoli" is located in Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu. The wetland is a protected area since 1989 and declared as Bird Sanctuary, coming under the jurisdiction of Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Ramanathapuram division. Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary is an ideal habitat for winter migratory birds. Around 50 birds belonging to 30 families have been reported from the site. Out of these 47 are water birds and 3 terrestrial birds. Notable waterbirds spotted from the site area spot-billed pelican, little egret, grey heron, large egret, open billed stork, purple, and pond herons. Chitrangudi is surrounded by agricultural fields, where different crops are grown throughout the year. The wetland also supports a number of fishes, amphibians, molluscs, aquatic insects, and their larvae forming good food sources for arriving waterbirds. Groundwater is extracted for irrigation around and within the wetland for agricultural purposes.

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CHITHIRANKUDI BIRD SANCTUARY WETLAND COMPLEX



CHITHIRANKUDI WETLAND COMPLEX-FLOCKS OF BAR HEADED GOOSE



CHITHIRANKUDI WETLAND COMPLEX -RELEASE OF FINGERLINGS



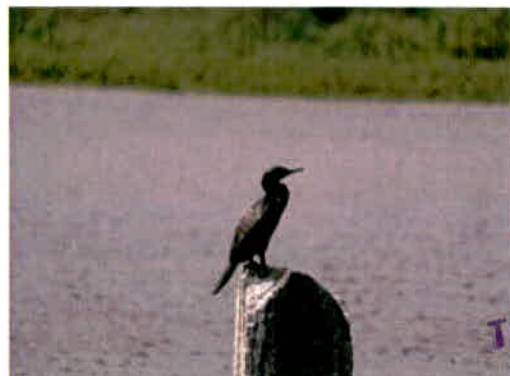
Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary

6. Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex

Suchindrum Theroor Wetland complex is part of the Suchindrum-Theroor Manakudi Conservation Reserve. It is declared an Important Bird Area and lies at the southern tip of the Central Asian flyway of migratory birds. It was formed for birds' nesting purposes and it attracts thousands of birds every year. The total population dependent upon Theroor is about 10,500 and 75% of the population's livelihood hinges on agriculture which in turn is dependent upon the water released from the Theroor tank. This is a man-made, inland Tank and is perennial. Copper plate inscriptions from the 9th century mention Pasumkulam, Venchikulam, Nedumarthukulam, Perumkulam, Elemchikulam and Konadankulam. Around 250 species of birds have been recorded in the area, of which 53 are migratory, 12 endemic, and 4 threatened.



Landscape of Suchindram Tank



Indian Cormorant

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Heronry in Suchindram Theroor



Spot-billed Duck

7. Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary.

Vaduvur bird sanctuary spreads over an area of 112.638 ha, is a large human-made irrigation tank and shelter for migratory birds as it provides a suitable environment for food, shelter, and breeding ground. While these irrigation tanks have socio-economic and cultural significance, very little is known of their ecological importance. These tanks have the potential to harbor good populations of resident and wintering water birds but no studies have been done to confirm this. Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* occurred in most of the surveyed tanks. Large concentrations of wintering waterfowl such as Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*, Garganey *Anas querquedula* were recorded in tanks. Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary has a diverse habitat including a number of inlets and surrounding irrigated agricultural fields which provides good nesting and foraging habitats for birds. Thus, the site provides support to the species listed above during critical stages of their life-cycle.



Panoramic View of Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary



Black headed Ibis nest

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Nesting Site



Panoramic view of the sanctuary

8. Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary.

Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary is a Protected area near Mudukulathur Ramanathapuram District, Tamil Nadu, India, declared in 1989. It is notable as a nesting site for several migratory heron species that roost in the prominent growth of babul trees there. The breeding population of migratory waterbirds arrive here between October and February and include: painted stork, white ibis, black ibis, little egret, great egret. The site qualifies as an IBA as the threatened Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* breeds here. The wetland exhibits rich biodiversity including many globally near-threatened species like Spot-billed Pelican, Oriental Darter, Oriental white Ibis and Painted Stork and also commonly occurring shore and water birds like greenshank, plovers, stilts and forest birds like bee-eaters, bulbuls, cuckoos, starlings, barbets, etc. They act as breeding, nesting, roosting, foraging, and stopover sites for the birds. The wetland supports IUCN RedList vulnerable avian species like *Sterna aurantia* (River Tern).



Black winged stilt



Black Ibis

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Spot-billed pelican nesting site



Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary

9. Thane Creek

Thane Creek is located in Maharashtra, India. There are several sources of fresh water to the creek, of which Ulhas River is the largest, followed by many drainage channels from various suburban areas of Mumbai, Navi Mumbai & Thane. It has been declared as Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary. Thane creek is fringed by mangroves on both banks & comprises around 20% of the total Indian mangrove species. The mangrove forest acts as a natural shelter belt & protects the land from cyclones, tidal surges, seawater seepage & intrusions. The mangrove serves as a nursery for several fishes & sustains the local fishery. The area is an important part of the wetland complex of the Central Asian Flyway of the birds and has been categorized as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Other than 202 avifaunal species, the creek also houses 18 species of fishes, crustaceans & molluscs, 59 species of butterflies, 67 species of Insects, and 35 species of phytoplankton, and 24 species of zooplankton & 23 species of Benthos.



congregation of Lesser flamingos



Closeup view

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Mangroves of Thane creek



Flamingoes in Thane creek

10. Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve


Hygam Wetland falls within the River Jhelum basin and plays a significant role as a flood absorption basin, biodiversity conservation site, eco-tourism site, and livelihood security for the local communities. The wetland is located in the Baramulla district. It serves as an abode to many residents and migratory bird species. It is also recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Consequent to the high rate of siltation, Hygam Wetland has lost its wetland characteristics to a large extent and in many places changed its profile into a landmass. This has resulted in further loss of habitat conditions to offer a suitable site for visiting migratory birds (Winter/ Summer migrants) and for resident birds as well. Hygam Wetland provides a plethora of ecosystem services, these include fish and fiber, water supply, water purification, climate regulation, flood regulation, and recreational opportunities. The livelihoods of people living in, and adjoining the fringes of wetlands depend partially or entirely on wetland ecosystem services.



Photograph of the flood basin



Migratory Waterfowl congregation at Hygam wetland

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Photograph of the flood basin.



Photograph of the wetland channel.

11. Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve

Shallabugh Wetland Conservation Reserve is located in the District Srinagar, UT of J&K. Large areas of the wetland dry up between September and March. The area has extensive reedbeds of *Phragmites communis* and *Typha angustata*, and rich growth of *Nymphaea candida* and *N. stellata* on open water. It serves as an abode to more than four lakh resident and migratory birds of at least 21 species. Shallabugh Wetland plays a major role in the natural control, amelioration or prevention of flooding. It is also important for seasonal water retention for wetlands or other areas of conservation importance downstream. The wetland is important for the recharge of aquifers. A major natural floodplain system. Shallabugh Wetland provides plethora of ecosystem services, these include fish and fiber, water supply, water purification, climate regulation, flood regulation, recreational opportunities. The wetland serves as an important breeding ground for many species of waterbirds



Pics of Shallabugh Wetland



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Panoramic view of Shallabugh Wetland

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RAMSAR Wetland Sites



(Photo: Sangeeta Angom, Loktak Lake, Manipur)

What is RAMSAR Wetland Sites

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value. [Click to know more on Ramsar sites in India](#)

RAMSAR WETLANDS SITES (As on January, 2024) NEW

S. No.	State Location	Name of Site	Date of Declaration	Area
1	Andhra Pradesh	Kolleru Lake	19.8.2002	901.00
2	Assam	Deepor Beel	19.8.2002	40.00
3	Bihar	Kabartal Wetland	21.07.2020	26.20
4	Goa	Nanda Lake	06.08.2022	0.42
5	Gujarat	Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary	13.04.2021	5.12
6	Gujarat	Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary	24.09.2012	120.00
7	Gujarat	Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary	05.04.2021	6.99

8	Gujarat	Wadhvana Wetland	05.04.2021	6.30
9	Haryana	Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary	25.05.2021	4.12
10	Haryana	Sultanpur National Park	25.05.2021	1.43
11	Himachal Pradesh	Chandertal Wetland	8.11.2005	0.49
12	Himachal Pradesh	Pong Dam Lake	19.8.2002	156.62
13	Himachal Pradesh	Renuka Wetland	8.11.2005	0.20
14	Jammu and Kashmir	Hokera Wetland	8.11.2005	13.75
15	Jammu and Kashmir	Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve	13.08.2022	8.02
16	Jammu and Kashmir	Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve	13.08.2022	16.75
17	Jammu and Kashmir	Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	8.11.2005	3.50
18	Jammu and Kashmir	Wular Lake	23.3.1990	189.00
19	Karnataka	Aghanashini Estuary	31.01.2024	48.01
20	Karnataka	Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve	31.01.2024	0.98
21	Karnataka	Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve	31.01.2024	0.54
22	Karnataka	Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary	15.02.2022	5.18
23	Kerala	Asthamudi Wetland	19.8.2002	61.40
24	Kerala	Sasthamkotta Lake	19.8.2002	3.73
25	Kerala	Vembanad Kol Wetland	19.8.2002	1512.50
26	Ladakh	Tso Kar Wetland Complex	17.11.2020	95.77
27	Ladakh	Tsomoriri Lake	19.8.2002	120.00
28	Madhya Pradesh	Bhoj Wetlands	19.8.2002	32.01
29	Madhya Pradesh	Sakhya Sagar	01.07.2022	2.48
30	Madhya Pradesh	Sirpur Wetland	01.07.2022	1.61
31	Madhya Pradesh	Yashwant Sagar	13.08.2022	8.23

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32	Maharashtra	Lonar Lake	22.7.2020	4.27
33	Maharashtra	Nandur Madhameshwar	21.6.2019	14.37
34	Maharashtra	Thane Creek	13.08.2022	65.21
35	Manipur	Loktak Lake	23.3.1990	266.00
36	Mizoram	Pala Wetland	31.08.2021	18.50
37	Odisha	Ansupa Lake	13.08.2022	2.31
38	Odisha	Bhitarkanika Mangroves	19.8.2002	650.00
39	Odisha	Chilka Lake	1.10.1981	1165.00
40	Odisha	Hirakud Reservoir	13.08.2022	654.00
41	Odisha	Satkosia Gorge	10.12.2021	981.97
42	Odisha	Tampara Lake	13.08.2022	3.00
43	Punjab	Beas Conservation Reserve	26.9.2019	64.29
44	Punjab	Harike Lake	23.3.1990	41.00
45	Punjab	Kanjli Lake	22.1.2002	1.83
46	Punjab	Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve	26.9.2019	3.44
47	Punjab	Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	26.9.2019	1.16
48	Punjab	Ropar Lake	22.1.2002	13.65
49	Rajasthan	Keoladeo Ghana NP	1.10.1981	28.73
50	Rajasthan	Sambhar Lake	23.3.1990	240.00
51	Tamil Nadu	Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary	13.08.2022	2.60
52	Tamil Nadu	Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve	04.08.2022	526.72
53	Tamil Nadu	Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary	13.08.2022	0.97
54	Tamil Nadu	Karaivetti Bird sanctuary	31.01.2024	4.53
55	Tamil Nadu	Karikili Bird Sanctuary	04.08.2022	0.58
56	Tamil Nadu	Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary	11.08.2021	0.72
57	Tamil Nadu	Longwood Shola Reserve Forest	31.01.2024	1.16
58	Tamil Nadu	Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest	04.08.2022	12.48

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59	Tamil Nadu	Pichavaram Mangrove	04.08.2022	14.79
60	Tamil Nadu	Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	19.8.2002	385.00
61	Tamil Nadu	Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex	13.08.2022	0.94
62	Tamil Nadu	Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary	04.08.2022	0.44
63	Tamil Nadu	Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary	13.08.2022	1.13
64	Tamil Nadu	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary	04.08.2022	0.40
65	Tamil Nadu	Vellode Bird Sanctuary	04.08.2022	0.77
66	Tamil Nadu	Vembannur Wetland Complex	04.08.2022	0.20
67	Tripura	Rudrasagar Lake	8.11.2005	2.40
68	Uttar Pradesh	Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary	29.06.2021	28.94
69	Uttar Pradesh	Haiderpur Wetland	8.12.2021	69.08
70	Uttar Pradesh	Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	19.9.2019	2.25
71	Uttar Pradesh	Parvati Agra Bird Sanctuary	2.12.2019	7.22
72	Uttar Pradesh	Saman Bird Sanctuary	2.12.2019	5.26
73	Uttar Pradesh	Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	3.10.2019	7.99
74	Uttar Pradesh	Sandi Bird Sanctuary	26.9.2019	3.09
75	Uttar Pradesh	Sarsai Nawar Jheel	19.9.2019	1.61
76	Uttar Pradesh	Sur Sarovar	21.8.2020	4.31
77	Uttar Pradesh	Upper Ganga River	8.11.2005	265.90
78	Uttarakhand	Asan Conservation Reserve	21.7.2020	4.44
79	West Bengal	East Kolkata Wetlands	19.8.2002	125.00
80	West Bengal	Sunderbans Wetland	30.1.2019	4230.00

Source: MoEFCC & State Forest Departments

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Map of RAMSAR Wetland Sites in India (As on November, 2023) **NEW**

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