

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

Original Application No. 88/2023/EZ

IN THE MATTER OF:

WILDLIFE SOCIETY OF ORISSA

...Applicant

Versus

STATE OF ODISHA & OTHERS

...Respondents

INDEX

S.NO.	PARTICULARS	PAGE NO.
1.	Additional Affidavit on behalf of Respondent Nos. 9 & 10 i.e., National Wetlands Committee, MoEF&CC and Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, MoEF&CC	1-3
2.	The copy of D.O. Letter dated 20.02.2025 is annexed as Annexure/R9&10/1.	4

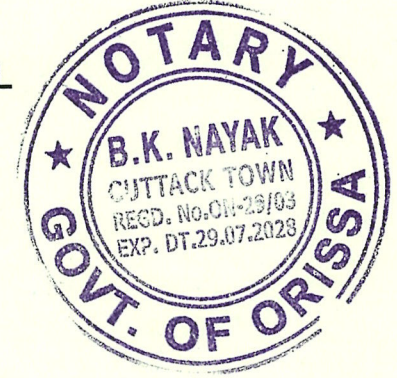
Place: *Bhubaneswar*

Dated: *28-03-2025*



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Additional Affidavit on behalf of Respondent Nos. 9 & 10 i.e., National Wetlands Committee, MoEF&CC and Integrated Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, MoEF&CC

I, Shri M. Rajeshwar Prasad S/o Shri M. Bhaskar Rao , aged about 57 years, presently working as Scientist 'C' at the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar – 751023, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under: -

*M. Rajeshwar Prasad.*

1. That, I am, the above named Deponent, authorized and well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and thus competent to swear the present Affidavit.
2. It is humbly submitted that the answering respondent has filed an additional affidavit in the present matter on 10.01.2025, inter-alia,

  
B.K. NAYAK  
NOTARY  
CUTTACK TOWN  
Regd. No. ON-29/03



apprising the Hon'ble Tribunal that a meeting of the National Wetlands Committee (NWC) was convened on 27.12.2024, wherein the proposal for development of Eco-tourism infrastructure at Tampara lake was discussed and it was stated that the proposal shall be placed again before the NWC after receipt of the Forest Clearance, Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and any other relevant communication along with.

3. That, vide order dated 25.02.2025, the respondents were granted final opportunity to file the affidavits and complete the proceedings.
4. It is submitted that the Ministry has issued a Demi-Official (D.O.) Letter dated 20.02.2025 to the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha, requesting to expedite the necessary actions so that the proposal can be placed before the NWC for its decision. The said documents/response is still awaited from the State Government. The D.O. Letter dated 20.02.2025 is annexed as **Annexure/R9&10/1**.
5. In view of above, the Hon'ble Tribunal may decide the present application.



*M. Rajeshwar Prasad.*  
DEPONENT

एम. राजेश्वर प्रसाद  
**M. RAJESHWAR PRASAD**  
वैज्ञानिक 'सी' / SCIENTIST 'C'  
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & CC  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय / Regional Office  
भुवनेश्वर / Bhubaneswar



**VERIFICATION**

Verified at Bhubaneswar on 29th March, 2025, that the contents of Paragraphs of the aforesaid affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed or concealed therein.

*M. Rajeshwar Prasad*  
**DEPONENT**

**M. RAJESHWAR PRASAD**  
SCIENTIST 'C'  
भारत सरकार/ Govt. of India  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु विभाग  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & CC  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/Regional Office  
भुवनेश्वर/Bhubaneswar

The deponent being identified by Selt Adv / Clerk swears on oath & solemnly affirms before me on dt: 29/03/2025 that the facts stated above are true to his/her knowledge

*M. Anand Prasad*  
Notary for Cuttack Town  
Govt. of Orissa  
Regn No. ON-29/0





रजत अग्रवाल, आईएएस  
**RAJAT AGARWAL, IAS**  
 संयुक्त सचिव  
**Joint Secretary**



सत्यमेव जयते



भारत सरकार  
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT FOREST AND  
 CLIMATE CHANGE

D.O. No. W-4/9/2023-WTL

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Dear Sir,

This has reference to the order dated 11.12.2024 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone, in the matter of Wildlife Society of Orissa versus State of Odisha & Others, (**Copy enclosed**), and the minutes of meeting of the National Wetlands Committee (NWC) held on 27.12.2024 (**Copy enclosed**).


2. The Hon'ble Tribunal vide the aforesaid order inter-alia, observed that *no conscious decision has been taken with reference to MoEF&CC letter dated 12.07.2024, wherein it was informed that a proposal for development of tourism infrastructure at Tampara Lake has been received from Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha.*

3. The aforesaid proposal was appraised in the said NWC meeting in accordance with Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017, wherein, it was informed by the Member Secretary, Odisha State Wetlands Authority that an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the lake is being prepared by the Knowledge Partner (WISA) and will be finalized soon. However, even after a period of almost 2 months, the same is awaited.

4. Since the matter is important and urgent and being monitored closely by Hon'ble NGT, I request you to personally look into the matter and expedite all necessary actions so that the matter may be placed before the NWC for its decision.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
 (Rajat Agarwal)

Encls. as above

**Shri. Satyabhrata Sahu, IAS**  
 Additional Chief Secretary  
 Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department,  
 Government of Odisha,  
 Kharavel Bhavan, Bhubaneswar,  
 Odisha