

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA**

**MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION NO--20--2025**

**ARISING OUT OF ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO -76 OF 2023  
DISPOSED ON 01/05/2025**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**WILDLIFE SOCIETY OF ORISSA**

**APPLICANT**

**VERSUS**

**STATE OF ODISHA AND ORS**

**RESPONDENTS**

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PLACE: Bhubaneswar

DATE: 22/05/2025

*S.Pani*

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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL****EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA**

*(Under Section 26 read with Section 18 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010)*

**MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION .....2025**

**ARISING OUT OF ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO -76 OF 2023  
DISPOSED ON 01/05/2025**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

WILDLIFE SOCIETY OF ORISSA, REPRESENTED BY ITS  
SECRETARY, SHANTIKUNJ, LINK ROAD, CUTTACKDIST-  
CUTTACK, ODISHA -753012 **APPLICANT**

**VERSUS**

1. State of Odisha through Chief Secretary of Odisha , LokaSeva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, 751001, Email- [csori@nic.in](mailto:csori@nic.in)
2. Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment Department, Kharbela Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Government of Odisha 751001 email- [fesec.or@nic.in](mailto:fesec.or@nic.in)
3. District Collector, Koraput, At/Po/Dist- Koraput, Odisha, 752001Email: [dm-koraput@nic.in](mailto:dm-koraput@nic.in)
4. Divisional Forest Officer, Koraput, At/Po/Ps- Rourkela, Koraput [koraputdivision@gmail.com](mailto:koraputdivision@gmail.com), [dfokoraput@yahoo.co.in](mailto:dfokoraput@yahoo.co.in)
5. Forest Range Officer, Semiliguda Forest Range, At/Po/PS- Semiliguda, Dist Koraput, 764036, Email-Not available
6. Chairman, Odisha Biodiversity Board, Regional Plant Resource Centre, Ekamrakanan, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, 751015 , [msobb@rediffmail.com](mailto:msobb@rediffmail.com)

7. UNION OF INDIA Through the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh, New Delhi – 110003 [secy-moef@nic.in](mailto:secy-moef@nic.in),
  8. Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar – 751023, Email: [roez.bsr-mef@nic.in](mailto:roez.bsr-mef@nic.in)
- RESPONDENTS**

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWTH:**

1. That the original application was filed challenging the on going large scale permanent construction work of Deomali Eco-tourism Complex in Deomali Hill, a forest land under Semiliguda Forest Range in Koraput Forest Division without Forest Clearance under the gab of Ecotourism. The very act of large scale permanent construction is against the principle of Sustainable Development, Precautionary Principle AND Supremecourt order in Godavarman Case.
2. That the Hon'ble Tribunal while deciding the OA 76 of 2023 in para 42 hold that ***“Thus, we find that even un-demarcated and un-classified forests are covered under the definition of Forest Land if falling under the forest area within the meaning of Section 2 clause (d) of the Act 2006 and therefore, the stand of the State Respondents that the land in question has neither any beginning nor end nor has it been***

*classified as a Forest or otherwise and is un-surveyed land, is wholly without any force or foundation in the facts and circumstances of the case.*” That the above mentioned observation of the Hon’ble Tribunal clearly states that the land in question is forest land.

3. It is pertinent to mention here that the OA 76 of 2023 was disposed on 01/05/2025 with the following directions,

**Para 54-** Therefore, on a conspectus of facts of the present case and the law laid down by the Hon’ble Supreme Court in Kaniz Ahmed Versus Sabuddin & Ors. (Supra), we dispose of this Original Application with a direction to the State Respondents to either seek approval of the Government of India under Forest (Conservation Act) within three months or else remove the entire structures and constructions made on the Deomali Hill Top Table Land under the garb of Eco Tourism Development Project and restore the land to its original form.

**Para 55-** We further direct that if the State Respondents have undertaken pine plantation over an area of 1.5 hectares to 2.00 hectares, the same shall continue to be maintained and the State Respondents shall make effort to widen this area over the entire 5.93 hectares of the land in question and in any case, no diversion of the land in question shall be made for non-forestry purposes and the Respondents shall ensure strict compliance of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan)

Adhiniyam 1980 read with the Forest Rights Act 2006. Copy of the order dated 01/05/2025 is annexed here unto as **ANNEXURE-1**.

4. That the Hon'ble Tribunal in para 54 of the order dated 01/05/2025 has clearly stated that the state Government\_to either seek approval of the Government of India under Forest (Conservation Act) within three months or else remove the entire structures and constructions made on the Deomali Hill Top Table Land under the garb of Eco Tourism Development Project and restore the land to its original form but in the present case the State Government without complying with the directions of Hon'ble Tribunal going ahead with concretisation of the deomali hill in a furious manner.
5. It is further submitted that the State Government in the garb of Eco-Tourism constructing permanent concrete structures in the Deomali Eco-tourism Complex in Deomali Hill.
6. That the Eco-tourism policy of MOEFCC prescribes for the nature of infrastructure development and same is reproduced as follows
  - (iv) Eco-tourism site development: The Eco-tourism site shall be developed only in ecotourism zone and in eco-friendly manner. While developing support infrastructure for ecotourism it shall be ensured that the natural profile and ecological integrity of the ecotourism site including its biodiversity value is maintained. **Any ecotourism facility or structure on forest lands shall be subject to the provisions of the**

**Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. However, no permanent structure shall be made /constructed to create ecotourism facility/structure,** but temporary structures/facility made predominantly of natural material of local origin may be allowed in Protected Area or on forest land. Such ecotourism facility/structure shall be part of the approved Working Plan/Management Plan/Working Scheme. Home stay managed by local communities on non-forest land shall be promoted. States may develop benchmarks/ standardized criteria based on site specificity, for adoption of best practices in eco-tourism including sustainable ecological management of the site, customer satisfaction, harmony with local culture and design, local construction material used, employment types, environmental education facilities. Further, safety measures, especially for managing fire, flood, landslide, needs to be inbuilt into the ecotourism site development plan and adequate system needs to be in place for efficiently managing such disasters. Copy of the eco tourism policy 2021 is annexed here unto as **ANNEXURE-2**.

7. That the photographs dated 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 suggests that the State Government is continuing the construction work on the site in question despite of the Hon'ble Tribunal hold the land as forest land and without approval from central government under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 the structures made on the land in question are to be demolished. Hence the photograph clearly suggest

the District Administration both District Magistrate Koraput and District Forest Officer are continuing the construction work in willful violation of Hon'ble Tribunal order dated 01/05/2025. Copy of the photographs dated 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 is annexed here unto as **ANNEXURE-3.**

8. That Section 26 in The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 prescribes for Penalty for failure to comply with orders of Tribunal and same is reproduced as follows

“(1) Whoever, fails to comply with any order or award or decision of the Tribunal under this Act, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to ten crore rupees, or with both and in case the failure or contravention continues, with additional fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees for every day during which such failure or contravention continues after conviction for the first such failure or contravention: Provided that in case a company fails to comply with any order or award or a decision of the Tribunal under this Act, such company shall be punishable with fine which may extend to twenty-five crores of rupees, and in case the failure or contravention continues, with additional fine which may extend to one

lakh rupees for every day during which such failure or contravention continues after conviction for the first such failure or contravention.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), every offence under this Act shall be deemed to be non-cognizable within the meaning of the said Code.

9. Similarly Section 28 in The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 prescribes for Offences by Government Department. And same is reproduced as follows

“(1) Where any Department of the Government fails to comply with any order or award or decision of the Tribunal under this Act, the Head of the Department shall be deemed to be guilty of such failure and shall be liable to be proceeded against for having committed an offence under this Act and punished accordingly: Provided that nothing contained in this section shall render such Head of the Department liable to any punishment if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a Department of the Government and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any

neglect on the part of any officer, other than the Head of the Department, such officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly”.

**10.**That since the State Government is not following the directions of the Hon’ble Tribunal and constructing permanent concrete structures over forest land without obtaining forest clearance from MOEFCC and deliberately violating the order of Hon’ble Tribunal, appropriated action deemed under section 26 and 28 of the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.

### **Grounds**

That, the applicant is therefore approaching this Hon’ble Tribunal in view of the of the Non-Compliance of order of Hon’ble NGT dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

- a) That the State Government is constructing permanent concrete structures over forest land without having forest clearance.
- b) That the non-implementation of the order invokes section 26 and 28 of the NGT Act 2010 where in stricter punishment such as 3years imprisonment or 10crores rupees penalty or both has been prescribed and knowing the same the respondents are willfully violating the order.

**LIMITATION**

That there is a subsisting cause of action because of the continuing violation of Hon'ble order of NGT dated 01/05/2025.

**INTERIM RELIEF**

That the Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to direct the District Collector Koraput to stop construction work of Deomali eco- tourism complex immediately till disposal of the present application.

**PRAYER**

In light of the present facts and circumstances it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be please to

- a) Direct the State Respondents to show cause why the criminal proceedings shall not be initiated for violation of the Order of the Hon'ble Tribunal
- b) Restrain the State Respondents from construction over forest land without valid forest clearance from the MoEFCC.
- c) Direct the Respondent to show cause what steps they have taken to implement the order of Hon'ble NGT dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

- d) Failure to provide satisfactory explanation the Hon'ble Tribunal may direct for the appropriate proceedings as provided under Section 26 and 28 of NGT Act 2010.
- e) Pass such order /s as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case.

For this act of kindness the applicant shall remain grateful for ever

APPLICANT THROUGH



Spami

ADVOCATE

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA**

**M.A. NO.- \_\_\_ OF 2025**

**ARISING OUT OF ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO -76 of 2023/EZ**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**WILDLIFE SOCIETY OF ORISSA                      APPLICANT**

**VERSUS**

**STATE OF ODISHA AND Others ...                      RESPONDENTS**

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Biswajit Mohanty S/o Biswanath Mohanty aged about 62 years, At/PO-Santikunja, Link Road Cuttack, Dist-Cuttack, Odisha -753012 do hereby solemnly affirm, and declare as under.

1. That I am the Secretary of the Applicant Organisation in the above mentioned Application and authorized to sign this affidavit.
2. I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and therefore competent to swear this affidavit
3. That I have read over the contents of the accompanying Miscellaneous Application and the same is true and correct and is drafted on my instruction.

WILDLIFE SOCIETY OF ORISSA

*Biswajit Mohanty*

SECRETARY

DEPONENT

**VERIFICATION**

Verified on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May...2025 at Cuttack that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

WILDLIFE SOCIETY OF ORISSA

*Biswajit Mohanty*

SECRETARY

DEPONENT

Identified By  
*Nousha Dab*  
Advocate



*22.5.25*  
Rajlaxmi Pati  
Notary, Cuttack  
Regd. No-26/2008  
Expiry-8.8.2028



Item No.08

Court No.1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA  
(THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING WITH HYBRID MODE)**

Original Application No.76/2023/EZ

Wildlife Society of Odisha

Applicant(s)

Versus

State of Odisha &amp; Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 01.05.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B. AMIT STHALEKAR, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. ARUN KUMAR VERMA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s) : Mr. Sankar Prasad Pani, Advocate a/w  
Mr. Ashutosh Padhy, Advocate (in Virtual Mode)

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Saroj Kumar Jee, AGA for R-1 to 5 (in Virtual Mode),  
Mr. Sakti Prasad Panda, AGA for R-6 (in Virtual Mode),  
Mr. Apurba Ghosh, Advocate for R-7 & 8 (in Virtual Mode)

**ORDER**

1. Mr. Sankar Prasad Pani, learned Counsel assisted by Mr. Ashutosh Padhy, learned Counsel is present (in Virtual Mode) for the Applicant. Learned Counsel has drawn the attention of the Court to the affidavit of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Koraput Forest Division dated 30.11.2024 and submits that the affidavit was notarized on 30.11.2024 by the Notary, Prasant Kumar Patro whereas the signature on the affidavit of the Additional Government Advocate, Mr. Saroj Kumar Jee in the verification at page no.489 is dated 02.12.2024.
2. We are of the view that the affidavit has been notarized on 30.11.2024 which would not invalidate the affidavit itself merely for the grievous fault of the Additional Government Advocate, Mr. Saroj Kumar Jee.  
***(Final order of the said case will be uploaded in NGT website by separate sheets of paper).***

.....  
**B. Amit Sthalekar, JM**

.....  
**Dr. Arun Kumar Verma, EM**

May 01, 2025,  
Original Application No.76/2023/EZ  
OM

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA  
(THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING WITH HYBRID MODE)**

Original Application No.76/2023/EZ

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**Wildlife Society of Orissa,**  
Represented by its Secretary,  
Shaktikunj, Link Road, Cuttack,  
Dist- Cuttack, Odisha - 753012

**.... Applicant(s)**

Versus

- 1. State of Odisha,**  
Through Chief Secretary of Odisha,  
Lok Seva Bhawan,  
Bhubaneswar - 751001
- 2. Additional Chief Secretary,  
Forest and Environment Department,**  
Kharbela Bhawan, Bhubaneswar,  
Government of Odisha,  
Pin- 751001
- 3. District Collector, Koraput**  
P.O./Dist- Koraput,  
Odisha - 752001
- 4. Divisional Forest Officer, Koraput**  
P.O./P.S.- Rourkela, Koraput
- 5. Forest Range Officer,**  
Semiliguda Forest Range,  
P.O./P.S.- Semiliguda,  
Dist- Koraput,  
Pin - 764036
- 6. Chairman, Odisha Biodiversity Board,**  
Regional Plant Resource Centre,  
Ekamrakanan, Nayapalli,  
Bhubaneswar - 751015
- 7. Union of India,**  
Through the Secretary,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh,  
New Delhi - 110003
- 8. Deputy Director General of Forests (C),**  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandersekharpur,

Bhubaneswar - 751023

.... Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 01.05.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B. AMIT STHALEKAR, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. ARUN KUMAR VERMA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s) : Mr. Sankar Prasad Pani, Advocate a/w  
Mr. Ashutosh Padhy, Advocate (in Virtual Mode)

For Respondent(s): Mr. Saroj Kumar Jee, AGA for R-1 to 5 (in Virtual Mode),  
Mr. Sakti Prasad Panda, AGA for R-6 (in Virtual Mode),  
Mr. Apurba Ghosh, Advocate for R-7 & 8 (in Virtual Mode)

### **ORDER**

1. We have heard learned Counsel for the parties and perused the documents on record.
2. The allegation in the present Original Application is that in Koraput District, there is a peak called Deomali which is known for endemic species of flora and fauna and the same is also Forest Land known as Deomali Reserve Forest. It is alleged that the Forest Department is constructing cottages in Deomali Hilltop under Pottangi Block with all-weather cement fiber boards. It is also alleged that ten (10) cottages for night stay of tourists have been constructed with provisions of a dining hall and two dormitories. It is further alleged that the Department has also planted about 1,000 tropical pine saplings brought from Assam for beautification of the landscape of the spot. It is also alleged that due to bauxite deposits on the hilltop, the soil dug up by machines were used to make pits for planting of saplings and other soil was also used to ensure growth of the plants.
3. It is further alleged that the Deomali Project is included under the Centre's Swadesh Darshan Scheme for development of infrastructure to boost inflow of tourists. The Project is in addition to Rs.16 crores sanctioned by the Tourism Department for integrated development of the hill.

4. It is also alleged that similarly Semiliguda Forest Range has prepared a proposal for Development of Eco-Tourism Complex, at an estimated cost about Rs.4.5 Crores and the same is being executed by the Semiliguda Forest Range Office, Koraput District. The nature of the ongoing construction and what has been proposed at Deomali Hilltop are outlined as follows: -

***“Parking area Development, Pathway with nature trail leading to Deomali Peak Grand entrance gate with security cabin and ticket counter***

- *Open dining with kitchen, store and pantry*
  - *Driver’s and staff Dormitory*
  - *Laundry and wash, 10 Nos. model Eco-cottages,*
  - *Reception, office with lounge and toilet,*
  - *Construction of viewpoints-02 Nos.*
  - *Construction of common toilet-02 Units.*
  - *Police sentry post with Barrack*
  - *Water intake and water supply with construction of overhead tank, Electrification throughout project area with DG Generator Set installation with transformer,*
  - *Installation of solar system, an alternative to Electric power,*
  - *Landscaping and Park development around cottage area,*
  - *Fencing around cottage area and Signage”*
5. It is stated that the Divisional Forest Officer (D.F.O.), Koraput Wildlife Division, has issued tender notice for Rs.3.95 Crores for Civil Works at Deomali, the last date of the bid being 15.12.2022.
6. The Semiliguda Forest Range Project is stated to be spread over 10.4 hectares or 26 acres of Forest land and requires prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It is alleged that in the present proposal for Eco-tourism there has been no involvement of the local community or indigenous knowledge of constructing house and household articles which is in violation of MoEF&CC letter dated 19.09.2018 stating the policy for Eco-tourism in Forest

and Wildlife area. The principles and objectives of Eco-tourism as per the MoEF&CC Policy letter dated 19.09.2018 has been filed as Annexure-5 to the Original Application which reads as under: -

**“Date: 19.09.2018**

**1. The Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF  
All States/UT Governments**

**2. The Chief Wildlife Warden  
All States/Governments**

**Sub: Policy for Eco-tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas-**

**Reg.**

Sir,

*Forests and wildlife are inseparable elements of environmental integrity and therefore, a participatory approach towards building the intricate interface between humans and forests is imperative.*

*2. With a view to practice eco-tourism in a ecofriendly manner, a policy has been prepared by this Ministry. The Eco-Tourism Policy is primarily prepared for wildlife, forest and areas having significant aesthetic appeal for nature. A copy of the document is enclosed.*

*3. The State/UT Governments may take further necessary action, in this regard.”*

7. Reference has also been made to the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *W.P. (C) No.202 of 1995, T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union of India & Ors.*, and order dated 12.12.1996
8. In support of the allegations made in the Original Application, the Applicant has filed as annexure 'PROPOSAL FOR ECO-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AT DEOMALI HILLS, Semiliguda Forest Range, Koraput Forest Division' (hereinafter referred to as 'proposal') with photographs. This Proposal mentions that in view of the tourism potential outlined therein, the Forest Department has taken a start up programme for development of Deomali Eco Tourism site.
9. The Divisional Forest Officer (D.F.O.), Koraput Forest Division has filed affidavit dated 21.08.2023 and it is stated that the Deomali

peak is completely devoid of any arboreal growth ; the table land of Deomali Hill Top is devoid of any tree growth ; the entire Table Land is having bauxite and lime stone deposits due to which no growth of any tree species takes place there except few stunted phoenix and grass. It is stated that Deomali Hill Top is a vast area and only a small patch of land measuring 5.93 hectare has been identified for Eco Tourism Complex site and is restricted to a small hillock on one hill side of the table land so that the actual hill top is not affected or disturbed. It is stated that no mega animals or mammals are found on the hill top area and the said area is also not included within any Elephant Corridor or any wildlife protected area.

10. The establishment of the Ecotourism Nature Camp is sought to be justified on the ground that it is not expected to cause any negative impact on the existing bio diversity of the hill.
11. It is specifically stated that the development of the Nature Camp by the Forest Department is being done with the intention that the presence of Government staff there would regulate random tourist flow ; providing care of the denuded land along with tree cover efforts by the Forest Department as a step towards ultimate improvement of the ecology of the Hill Top area of Deomali.
12. Reference has been made to the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act 2023 published in the Gazette of India whereby, Section 2 of the Act has been renumbered as sub-Section (1) and in the 'Explanation', after clause (b) the following has been substituted. Section 5 of the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act 2023 reads as under :-

*“5. In the principal Act, section 2 shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) thereof and—*

*(a) in sub-section (1) as so renumbered,—*

*(I) in clause (iii), for the words "not owned, managed or controlled by Government", the words ", subject to such terms and conditions, as the Central Government may, by order, specify" shall be substituted;*

*(II) in the Explanation, for the long line occurring after clause (b), the following shall be substituted, namely:—*

*"but does not include any work relating to or ancillary to conservation, development and management of forests and wildlife, such as—*

- (i) silvicultural operations including regeneration operations;*
- (ii) establishment of check-posts and infrastructure for the front line forest staff;*
- (iii) establishment and maintenance of fire lines;*
- (iv) wireless communications;*
- (v) construction of fencing, boundary marks or pillars, bridges and culverts, check dams, waterholes, trenches and pipelines;*
- (vi) establishment of zoo and safaris referred to in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, owned by the Government or any authority, in forest areas other than protected areas;*
- (vii) eco-tourism facilities included in the Forest Working Plan or Wildlife Management Plan or Tiger Conservation Plan or Working Scheme of that area; and*
- (viii) any other like purposes, which the Central Government may, by order, specify."*

13. It is stated that since the project is reflected in the Eco-Tourism Project chapter of current Working Plan of Koraput Forest Division, the recent amendment in the Forest (Conservation) Act also supports the present eco-tourism activities going on, on the hillock of Deomali Hill Top table land. It is also stated that this small patch

of land measuring over 5.93 hectares identified for eco-tourism project and restricted to a small hillock adjoining the main table land of Deomali is not within the forest area known as Deomali Reserve Forest as per the approved Working Plan of Koraput Forest Division.

14. We have perused the revised Working Plan of the Forest Department, Government of Odisha for Reserved Forests (RF), Proposed Reserved Forests (PRF), Demarcated Protected Forests (DPF), Reserved Lands (RL), Protected Lands (PL) and Compensatory Afforestation Areas (CA) of Koraput Forest Division for the period 2006-07 to 2015-16 copy of which has been filed at page 163 to page 171 (Colly) of the paper book where there is a clear mention that Semiliguda is the Range and Deomali is the Forest Block as per Appendix No.VII under the heading "FORSEST BLOCK WISE NOTIFIED AREA/TOPO AREA/WORKING PLAN AREA".
15. In the circumstances, we find that the stand of the Divisional Forest Officer in his affidavit dated 21.08.2023 to the effect that the small hillock identified for Ecotourism Project adjoining the main table land at Deomali is not within the forest area known as Deomali Reserved Forest, stands belied. It may further be noted that, the Working Plan nowhere states that Deomali Forest Block does not fall within the Semiliguda Range and that it is not a Reserved Forest (RF) or a Proposed Reserved Forest (PRF) / Demarcated Protected Forest (DPF) / Reserved Land (RL) / Protected Land (PL) / Compensatory Land (CA). In fact, the Appendix No. VII under the heading "Abstract", only mentions the number of Reserved Forests, Proposed Reserved Forests, Demarcated Protected Forests, Reserved land, Protected Land,

Compensatory Land and the number of Forest Blocks falling therein with Notified Area, Topo Area and Area for Working Plan.

16. Page 164 of the paper book showing the various headings and the page 171 of the paper book mentioning Semiliguda Deomali as Proposed Reserved Forest are extracted hereinbelow :- ??

**APPENDIX NO:VII**  
**FOREST BLOCK WISE NOTIFIED AREA/TOPO AREA/WORKING PLAN AREA**

RANGE	Forest Block Details		Notified Area/TOPO AREA/WORKING PLAN AREA				Remarks
	Name And Status		In Acres	In hectares	Topo Area(Hac)	for WP In hectares	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Balda	Bhimdole	RF	1529.00	618.7863	620.00	618.7863	*
Balda	Bhimdole Ext.***	PRF	402.30	162.8108	356.40	162.8108	***
Balda	Chatwa	RF	1639.64	663.5624	664.40	663.5624	*
Balda	Chompaput	PRF	80.40	32.5379	34.00	32.5379	*
Balda	Dhondadongor	PRF	44.73	18.1022	18.00	18.1022	*
Balda	Girabari	RF	118.00	47.7546	47.20	47.7546	*
Balda	Hathibari Ext	PRF	182.90	74.0197	73.60	74.0197	*
Balda	Hattubari	RF	2090.00	845.8230	846.40	845.8230	*
Balda	Laluburi	PRF	188.80	76.4074	76.40	76.4074	*
Balda	Nagasari- I	RF	2918.67	1181.1852	1180.40	1181.1852	*
Balda	Padwa	RF	2436.00	985.8492	986.80	985.8492	*
Balda	Pawlpur	RF	607.89	246.0130	245.20	246.0130	*
Balda	Suriput	PRF	767.40	310.5668	309.20	310.5668	*
Balda	Undergedda	RF	5600.00	2266.3200	2267.20	2266.3200	*
Balda	Vamagaray	PRF	276.00	111.6972	110.00	111.6972	*
Gudari	Andharalima	PRF	12523.00	5068.0581	5069.20	5068.0581	*
Gudari	Bamunidangar	PRF	6370.00	2577.9390	2578.00	2577.9390	*
Gudari	Becchadi	RF	2128.00	861.2016	862.00	861.2016	*
Gudari	Bichudi Ext**	DPF	384.00	155.4048	107.60	107.6000	**
Gudari	Chakunda	PRF	158.00	63.9426	63.60	27.5326	*
Gudari	Deula Ext.	RF	290.00	117.3630	116.40	117.3630	*
Gudari	Dhonduguda	PRF	510.00	206.3970	207.20	206.3970	*
Gudari	Durgadi	DPF	405.00	163.9035	165.20	163.9035	*
Gudari	Jayapanga	PRF	393.66	159.3142	160.80	159.3142	*
Gudari	Jolanidhi	PRF	2210.00	894.3870	897.20	894.3870	*
Gudari	Kharikuri	DPF	385.00	155.8090	156.40	155.8090	*
Gudari	Khimajhola	PRF	520.00	210.4440	212.00	210.4440	*
Gudari	Kutradhore	PRF	1540.00	623.2380	623.20	623.2380	*
Gudari	Lakshimpur	DPF	7168.00	2900.8896	2902.40	2900.8896	*
Gudari	Merunda	PRF	263.00	106.4361	107.20	106.4361	*
Gudari	Nairi	RF	930.00	376.3710	374.80	376.3710	*
Gudari	Nungudi	DPF	5520.00	2233.9440	2230.40	2233.9440	*
Gudari	Patoguda	PRF	910.00	368.2770	367.60	368.2770	*
Gudari	Pendli	PRF	6930.00	2813.9710	2818.00	2813.9710	*
Gudari	Perupanga	DPF	100.00	40.4700	41.60	40.4700	*
Gudari	Pitthamal	RF	1920.00	777.0240	776.80	777.0240	*
Gudari	Ponkal	DPF	3765.00	1523.6955	1525.60	1523.6955	*
Gudari	Sardapur	RF	4873.00	1972.1031	1972.00	1952.8231	*
Gudari	Siriguda	RF	2959.00	1197.5073	1198.00	1197.5073	*
Gudari	Sorgiguda	PRF	316.50	128.0876	128.00	128.0876	*
Gudari	Thahuni	RF	5483.00	2218.9701	2217.20	2218.9701	*
Gudari	Thorandi	RF	4640.00	1877.8080	1876.40	1827.2180	*
Gudari	Ulapadar	PRF	760.00	307.5720	368.93	307.5720	*
Gunupur	Ambabadi	RF	2080.00	841.7760	842.80	841.7760	*
Gunupur	Anjali	CA		60.0000	60.00	60.0000	*
Gunupur	Badamsing	PRF	5688.00	2301.9336	2302.80	2301.9336	*
Gunupur	Badamundi	CA		260.0000	260.00	260.0000	*
Gunupur	Bagudi	PRF	1982.50	802.3582	803.60	802.3582	*
Gunupur	Bangi	RF	703.00	284.5041	283.20	284.5041	*
Gunupur	Baridi	RF	330.00	133.5510	132.00	133.5510	*
Gunupur	Baridi	PRF	51.00	20.6397	20.40	20.6397	*
Gunupur	Bhagudi S.W	RF	3116.00	1261.0450	1260.00	1261.0450	*
Gunupur	Bhimpur	RF	6553.40	2694.6540	2251.20	2251.2000	*
Gunupur	Bhimpur Ext **	PRF	615.00	248.8905	249.60	248.8905	*
Gunupur	Boobing	PRF	758.00	306.7626	305.20	306.7626	*
Gunupur	Buddhimat	RF	6787.60	2746.9417	2745.60	2746.9417	*
Gunupur	Devala	CA		11.1100	11.11	11.1100	*
Gunupur	Dhargkhundi	PRF	1035.00	439.0995	440.80	439.0995	*
Gunupur	Duburi						

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Rayagada	Talagumna***			196 2795	537 60	124 2795	***
Rayagada	Therubali	DPF	485.00	(Less 72.0 Ha with Research Plot)			
Rayagada	Tikarpadu	PRF	111.00	44 9217	44 80	44 9217	*
Semiliguda	Visirikapadu	PRF	1085.00	439 0995	438 40	439 0995	*
Semiliguda	Aligaon	PRF	203.00	82 1541	82 40	82 1541	*
Semiliguda	Amalaghata	CA		140 0000	140 00	140 0000	*
Semiliguda	Ampabali ✓	RF	245.00	99 1515	98 00	99 1515	*
Semiliguda	Bangariendi P.V. ✓	RF	2250.00	910 5750	911 60	910 5750	*
Semiliguda	Bangarienda ✓	DPF	1017.50	411 7823	410 80	411 7823	*
Semiliguda	Bhoiraguda	PRF	1045.60	423 1543	421 60	423 1543	*
Semiliguda	Chitalput	PRF	644.00	260 9506	261 20	260 9506	*
Semiliguda	Chitalput S.W.	PRF	70.63	28 5840	29 60	28 5840	*
Semiliguda	Deogandhana	PRF	58.83	23 8085	23 20	23 8085	*
Semiliguda	Deomali ✓	RF	50.00	20 2350	19 60	20 2350	*
Semiliguda	Gadiahola	PRF	4609.10	1865 3027	1867 60	1865 3027	*
Semiliguda	Galgabada ✓	PRF	62.76	25 3990	25 20	25 3990	*
Semiliguda	Gangarajpur	PRF	3778.00	1528 9566	1528 40	1528 9566	*
Semiliguda	Goruput	PRF	2272.00	919 4784	920 00	919 4784	*
Semiliguda	Goutamput	RF	190.00	76 8930	76 40	76 8930	*
Semiliguda	I.B.Pabli S.W	PRF	17.23	6.9730	7 20	6.9730	*
Semiliguda	Jodimadili ✓	RF	43.20	17.4830	17.60	17.4830	*
Semiliguda	Jogidongor	RF	212.00	85.7964	85.60	84 5594	*
Semiliguda	Jubrajguda	PRF	915.62	370.5514	371.20	370.5514	*
Semiliguda	Kakadamba	PRF	542.86	219 6954	220 00	219 6954	*
Semiliguda	Kalladi	CA		110.0000	110.00	110 0000	*
Semiliguda	Kavidimali	PRF	1815.00	734 5305	735.20	734 5305	*
Semiliguda	Kholab	RF	275.00	111.2925	110.80	111.2925	*
Semiliguda	Kosendi	PRF	531.40	215 0575	216 80	215 0575	*
Semiliguda	Kotakaru	PRF	983.50	398.0225	397 60	398 0225	*
Semiliguda	Kotampadu ✓	PRF	50.00	20.2350	19.60	20.2350	*
Semiliguda	Kudi	DPF	1140.50	461.5604	462.40	461.5604	*
Semiliguda	Kuduli	CA		48 0000	48.00	48.0000	*
Semiliguda	Kunduli**	CA		60.0000	60 00	60.0000	*
Semiliguda	Kutugaon	PRF	1410.00	570.6270	394.40	394.4000	**
Semiliguda	Lamada	CA		80.0000	80.00	80.0000	*
Semiliguda	Laudi	PRF	1212.50	490 6988	490.00	490 6988	*
Semiliguda	Lohba	CA		1.2400	1 24	1.2400	*
Semiliguda	Lohba	PRF	214.00	86.6058	86.80	86 6058	*
Semiliguda	Moniguda	PRF	415.14	168 0072	167.60	168.0072	*
Semiliguda	Muralpadu	DPF	924.60	374.1856	373.60	374.1856	*
Semiliguda	Nandapur ✓	PRF	1410.00	570.6270	572 00	570.6270	*
Semiliguda	Pettavapabli	RF	88.00	35 6136	35 60	35 6136	*
Semiliguda	Pithaguda	PRF	217.00	87 8199	88.80	87 8199	*
Semiliguda	Pottangi	PRF	6426.00	2600.6022	2604.80	2600.6022	*
Semiliguda	Pujhariput	PRF	162.70	65.8771	64 40	65.8771	*
Semiliguda	Rabalpadu	DPF	382.50	154.7978	154 00	154.7978	*
Semiliguda	Rajasonoro	PRF	306.00	123.8382	124 40	123.8382	*
Semiliguda	Rellegedda ✓	PRF	1356.39	548 9310	550 80	548 9310	*
Semiliguda	Sambai	PRF	72.00	29.1384	29 20	29.1384	*
Semiliguda	Sambai	CA		120.0000	120 00	120.0000	*
Semiliguda	Sorispadar	CA		192 0000	192.00	192.0000	*
Semiliguda	Subai A	PRF	273.20	110.5640	111.20	110.5640	*
Semiliguda	Subai B	PRF	272.10	110.1188	109.60	110 1188	*
Semiliguda	Sunki** ✓	PRF	917.30	371.2313	274.00	274.0000	**
Semiliguda	Sunku	PRF	1556.00	629.7132	627.20	629 7132	*
Semiliguda	Tangini - A ✓	DPF	850.62	344 2459	343.60	344 2459	*
Semiliguda	Tangini B ✓	PRF	800.00	323 8860	321 20	323 8860	*
Semiliguda	Thuba	RF	850.00	343.9950	343 60	343.9950	*
Tikri	B.Maribhata	CA		50 0000	50 00	50 0000	*
Tikri	Baliakhada	RF	940.00	380 4180	381.20	380 4180	*
Tikri	Dadarjhola	PRF	62.00	25.0914	26.00	25.0914	*
Tikri	Dangasil	PRF	84.00	33.9940	33 60	33 9940	*
Tikri	Kampar	CA		75.0000	75.00	75.0000	*
Tikri	Kendripadar	RF	587.85	237.9069	238.00	237.9069	*
Tikri	Kharaka	PRF	158.00	63.9426	64 80	63.9426	*
Tikri	Kodinesa	PRF	1030.40	417 0000	417 60	417.0000	*

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17. So far as the constructions in question are concerned, it is stated that the stand of the Forest Department is that the Koraput Forest Division is constructing cottages on the Deomali Hill Top under Pottangi Block with all weather cement fiber board and the project is being constructed using Green Building Material such as :-

- (i) "Instead of concrete/brick mortar walls, using of fibre cement heavy duty boards,

- (ii) *Instead of RCC/Brick framed structures, using of M.S. framed structures,*
- (iii) *Instead of plastered outer finish of cement mortar, using of fibre cement planks,*
- (iv) *Instead of RCC roof, using of fibre cement heavy duty boards,*
- (v) *Using of PVC for windows considering the strength, alternate material to wood / timber / bamboo, as the said materials addresses environmental issues to reduce pollution, erosion, wastage and energy consumption and to conserve water.”*

18. It is stated that pre moulding cement fiber board for different purpose i.e. cement wood plank, designer boards, heavy duty boards from Everest company are being used as Green Building Ecofriendly Materials.

19. It is further stated that 10 cottages for night stay of tourists are being constructed with provisions of a dining hall and 2 dormitories also comprising administrative building, kitchen-cum-restaurant, drivers' accommodation and dormitories, parking area, view point, entrance gate, drinking water facility and power supply with an estimated cost of Rs.5,84,13,014 (Rupees five crore eighty four lakh thirteen thousand fourteen only) as stated in para 6 of the affidavit.

Paragraph 6 of the affidavit reads as under :-

*“6. .... it is humbly submitted that it is not a fact that Semiliguda Forest Range has prepared the proposal at an estimated cost of Rs.4.5 crore with 11 Nos. of components. It is to mention that the proposal was developed by an selected Architectural group, Nature Camp Developer named NESTER Peoples Group with the following components :*

1. *Eco friendly Model Eco cottage - 10 Nos.*
  2. *Open Dining with kitchen - 1 No.*
  3. *Driver/Staff Dormitory - 2 Nos.*
- To be executed by Forest Deptt.*
4. *Administrative building - 1 No.*

5. *Installation of solar system - 1 No.*
6. *Water intake & water supply to cottage area-  
To be executed by RWSS Department, Koraput.*
7. *Electrification to project area – To be executed by  
TPSODL/OSIC*

*The specification of green building materials used for construction of cottages and other components were designed as per the decision taken in the state level meeting i.e. Eco friendly green building materials as specified below.*

*Pre moulded cement fibre board for different purpose i.e. cement wood plank, designer boards, heavy duty boards from Everest company are used as Green building eco friendly materials. The green building materials certification by CII Green product & Service Council & Confederation of Indian Industry and Everest Green building materials (Green solution).”*

20. It is stated that 1000 tropical pine plants have been planted at the Deomali Hill Top Table Land and among different plant species, it has been found that pine has gained momentum in the hill regions of Koraput with an objective of reforesting denuded hill slopes. It is stated that plantation of pine species on the Deomali Hill Top is based on the outcome of Forest Researches published in the “Indian Foresters”.
21. It is stated that due to bauxite deposits on the hill top, the rocky top layer was replaced with good fertile soil to ensure the growth of the plants and it is stated that pine plants attained luxurious growth within one year.
22. It is again reiterated that the location where construction has been or is being made does not fall under any notified Forest Block or any kind of Forest Status Land. However, we find that this stand of the Forest Department is completely belied by their own Working Plan since the Deomali Forest Block in the Semiliguda Range has been shown as Proposed Reserved Forest.

23. The stand of the Forest Department and as also submitted by the learned Additional Government Advocate Mr. Saroj Kumar Jee is that the local community has been involved in the management and maintenance of Deomali Hill Top Table Land and regular meetings are conducted and Resolutions are passed and recorded in the concerned Vana Surakhya Samiti (VSS) Registers. It is stated that the Vana Surakhya Samiti (VSS) members of surrounding four villages of scheduled areas are involved in the process and Eco Tourism Group (ETG) comprising of 23 tribal women members of Scheduled Tribe (ST), Scheduled Caste (SC) and other categories from different Self Help Groups (SHG) have also been selected and Proposal moved by the Forest Department to facilitate them to get them well trained.
24. The learned Additional Government Advocate has placed before us the various Vana Surakhya Samiti (VSS) Resolutions of the Village Level Meeting and Vana Surakhya Samiti formation and Resolution No.1 of the paper book shows that the meeting was held on 01.10.2022 for formation of new Vana Surakhya Samiti (VSS) for maintenance of Deomali Eco Tourism. The Resolution in vernacular Oriya language and its English translation have been filed with the affidavit of the Divisional Forest Officer at page 214 to 276 (Colly) of the paper book.
25. The learned Additional Government Advocate referring to the various Resolutions of the Van Surakhgya Samitis (VSS) sought to submit that the Eco Tourism Development Project has the sanction and approval of the Forest Dwellers and therefore, the Provisions of the Forest Rights Act 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Forest Rights Act 2006') have been duly complied with.

26. The learned Additional Government Advocate submitted that in view of the Provisions of sub-Section (2) of Section 3 of the Forest Rights Act 2006, the said Act has overriding effect over the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 now known as Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 and the Central Government is competent to divert Forest Land for projects managed by the Government subject to the conditions mentioned in Sub-Section 2 of Section 3 of the Act 2006.
27. The Divisional Forest Officer has filed another affidavit dated 28.06.2024 wherein it is stated that the site where Eco Tourism Project is going on, does not fall within any Notified Forest Block or recorded Forest Land as per Government records nor is it identified as "Deemed Forest" as per DLC Report filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court during the year 1998 in Writ Petition (C) No.202/1995 *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Versus Union of India and Others*. It is therefore submitted that the Provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 has no application to the land in question.
28. It is also stated that the Decision Support System (DSS) of the Forest Survey of India for Canopy Density shows this particular patch as non-forest except the peripheral area of about 0.10 hectare as Open Forest. It is stated that the peripheral area over 0.10 hectare of Open Forest is left as such without putting it to any use. It is stated that the Decision Support System provides information regarding Canopy Density only and the same cannot be treated as a legal definition of Forest Kisam of land.
29. Another affidavit dated 30.11.2024 has been filed by the Divisional Forest Officer and it is stated that the word 'Jungle Block' is mentioned in the Village Sheet but there is no corroborative

document or evidence in the Forest Records or Revenue Records to that effect, nor is there any boundary delineation with regard to the extent of area to be treated as 'Jungle Block' out of the entire un-surveyed land ; it is stated that the starting points and ending points of 'Jungle Block' area is not clear in the Village Sheet and therefore, the land in question measuring 5.9 hectare *allotted to the Forest Department*, as averred in paragraph 6 of the affidavit filed by the District Administration for Eco Tourism purpose, may not be treated as Jungle Block or any kind of Forest Land.

30. It is stated that this piece of un-surveyed land is without any land status and devoid of vegetation and efforts have been made by the Forest Department to create greenery over the area of 1.5 hectare to 2.00 hectare in order to arrest soil erosion in the area. However, it is also stated that as per the decision of the District Level Forest Right Committee Meeting under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate and Collector, Koraput for Implementation of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Right) Act 2006, the eligible forest dwellers/poor tribal people have been identified by the constituted Committees, verification of claims by the concerned authorities are going on and their claims have been admitted as per extant Rules by the Sub Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) and District Level Committee (DLC) in Koraput district.
31. The Orissa Bio Diversity Board has filed affidavits dated 01.10.2023 and 24.06.2024 and it is stated that the Board is adopting the counter affidavit filed by the Divisional Forest Officer, Koraput Forest Division. Further, in the said affidavit dated 24.06.2024, it is stated that the Final Technical Report of Central University of Odisha, Koraput which has been referred to in the Original

Application by the Applicant is a preliminary Report and does not spell out the detailed survey and inventory having been conducted over stratified sampling plots randomly spread over the entire terrain of Deomali Hill. It is stated that the data is incomplete and currently there is no proposal under consideration for declaring the Deomali Hill as a Biodiversity Heritage Site.

32. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in its affidavit dated 09.12.2023 has reiterated the stand of the State Government and stated that the project area which spreads over 5.93 hectares is not within the Deomali Reserved Forest or any Notified Forest Blocks of Koraput Division ; it is an un-surveyed tract devoid of any tree growth and as informed by the Tahasildar, Pottangi, the land in question and the identified area of the Nature Camp at Deomali is un-surveyed land for which detailed land schedule is not available. It is stated that the land also does not find mentioned in the DLC Report of the Koraput district. It is further stated that there are no indications of the area under consideration being located in a Wildlife Sanctuary, National Park, Tiger Reserve or Tiger Corridor or an Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ). It is stated that only those activities which are proposed to be carried out within Wildlife Sanctuary, National Park, Tiger Reserve or Tiger Corridor and those activities which require Environmental Clearance and falling within Finally Notified Eco Sensitive Zone or within 10 kms from the boundary of National park or Sanctuary when Eco Sensitive Zone has not been finally notified, require consideration by the National Board for Wild Life (NBWL)/Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life.
33. Mr. Sankar Prasad Pani, learned Counsel for the Applicant submitted that the entire Semiliguda Forest Range Project is spread

over 10.4 hectares or 26 acres of Forest Land and therefore any non-forest activity in the area requires prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

34. Learned Counsel referring to the Tender Notice for Civil Works in Deomali (page 46 of the paper book) submitted that the Tender Notice has been issued by the Divisional Forest Officer, Koraput Wildlife Division, Koraput the Divisional Forest Officer. The submission of the learned Counsel is that if the land is not a Notified Forest and is devoid of trees and vegetations as is the stand taken by the Divisional Forest Officer for Koraput Wildlife Division, Koraput would have no role to issue Tender Notice for Civil Works and in such a case, if Civil Works are to be carried out, the Tender Notice for the same would have been issued by the State Government through the office of the District Magistrate without involving the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Koraput Wildlife Division though the argument does not hold good as the construction work is done through Forest Department.
35. We have already examined the Revised Working Plan of the Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Koraput Wildlife Division and we have also noted that Deomali Forest Block falls within the Semiliguda Range and in Appendix No.(VII) of the Forest Blockwise Notified Area/Topo Area/Working Plan area, the Deomali Forest Block in the Semiliguda Range has been demarcated as “Proposed Reserved Forest (PRF)”.
36. We may also note that if the stand of the State Respondents is to be accepted that the area in question i.e. Deomali Hill Top Land is not Forest Land the admitted fact is that it is referred to as ‘Jungle Block’ in the Village Sheet. The submission of the State Respondents is that there are no records with respect to the land in

question to show its character as a 'Jungle' and there are no trees or vegetation standing on the said plot.

37. If this stand of the State Respondent is to be accepted, question would arise as to why was the Village Level Meeting Resolutions held for formation of Van Surakhya Samiti (VSS) ? If the land in question was Revenue Land, the procedure as prescribed under the Forest Rights Act 2006 would have had no application or necessity.
38. Reference may be made to the Preamble to the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 which reads as under :-

*“An Act to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Schedulex Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded ; to provide for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land.”*

39. the Preamble clearly discloses that the intent and purpose of the Forest Rights Act 2006 is to recognize and vest forest rights and occupation in *Forest Land* in Forest Dwelling and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers who have been residing in such forest for generations but whose rights could not be recorded ; to provide for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of Forest Land.
40. Section 2 Clause (c) of the Act defines “Forest Dwelling Schedule Tribes” to mean *members or community of Schedule Tribes who primarily reside in and who depend on the forests or forest lands for*

*bona fide livelihood needs and includes the Schedule Tribe pastoralist communities.*

41. Section 2(d) defines “Forest Land” to mean *land of any description falling within any forest area and includes unclassified forests, undemarcated forests, existing or deemed forests, Protected Forests, Reserved Forests, Sanctuaries and National Parks.* Section 2(d) reads as under :-

**“2(d)** : *“forest land” means land of any description falling within any forest area and includes unclassified forests, undemarcated forests, existing or deemed forests, protected forests, reserved forests, sanctuaries and National Parks.:*

42. Thus, we find that even un-demarcated and un-classified forests are covered under the definition of Forest Land if falling under the forest area within the meaning of Section 2 clause (d) of the Act 2006 and therefore, the stand of the State Respondents that the land in question has neither any beginning nor end nor has it been classified as a Forest or otherwise and is un-surveyed land, is wholly without any force or foundation in the facts and circumstances of the case.
43. There is another aspect of the matter. The claim of the Respondents is that as per the Joint Identification Report of the land by the concerned Revenue Inspector and Gram Sabha Resolution, the application of the User Agency has been accepted under sub-Section (2) of Section 3 of the Schedule Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 and as per the decision of the District Level Forest Rights Committee Meeting under the Chairmanship of the District Magistrate and Collector, Koraput for implementation of Schedule Tribes and other

Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition and Forest Rights) Act 2006, the eligible forest dwellers/poor tribal people have been identified by the Constituted Committee, verification of claims by the concerned authorities are going on and their *claim have been admitted* as per extant Rules by the SDLC and DLC in Koraput district.

44. The stand of the State Respondents also is that Van Surakhya Samiti (VSS) members of surrounding four villages of the Scheduled areas have been involved in the process of Eco Tourism Development at Deomali and Eco Tourism Group (ETG) comprising of 23 tribal women members of Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe and other categories from different community have also been selected and proposal moved by the Forest Department to facilitate them to get training.
45. Reference may be made to the provisions of Sub-Section 2 of Section 3 of the Forest Rights Act 2006 which reads as under :-

*“3(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (69 of 1980), the Central Government shall provide for diversion of forest land for the following facilities managed by the Government which involve felling of trees not exceeding seventy five trees per hectare, namely:-*

- (a) Schools;*
- (b) Dispensary or hospital;*
- (c) Anganwadis;*
- (d) Fair price shops;*
- (e) Electric and telecommunication lines;*
- (f) Tanks and other minor water bodies;*
- (g) Drinking water supply and water pipelines;*
- (h) Water or rain water harvesting structures;*
- (i) Minor irrigation canals;*
- (j) Non-conventional source of energy;*

*(k) Skill upgradation or vocational training centres;*

*(l) Roads; and*

*(m) Community centres:*

*Provided that such diversion of forest land shall be allowed only if, -*

*(i) the forest land to be diverted for the purposes mentioned in this sub-section is less than one hectare in each case; and*

*(ii) the clearance of such development projects shall be subject to the condition that the same is recommended by the Gram Sabha.”*

46. A perusal of the activities which are permitted under sub-section 2 for purposes of diversion of Forest Land does not include Eco Tourism.
47. The proviso to sub-section 2 also states that diversion of Forest Land for the above purposes may be allowed only if the Forest Land to be diverted for the purposes mentioned in the sub-Section is less than one hectare in each case and the Clearance of such developmental projects shall be subject to the conditions that the same is recommended by the Gram Sabha.
48. In the present case, we may note that the admitted facts of the case is that the area demarcated for Eco Tourism Development project is 5.93 hectare and even though there may be various resolutions of the Gram Sabha as already noted hereinabove, construction for purposes of Eco Tourism is not an activity mentioned under the sub-Section 2 of the Forest Rights Act 2006.
49. The submission of the learned Additional Government Advocate on behalf of the State Respondents is that amendments have been made in sub-section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 by the

Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act 2023 and sub-clause (b) has been amended and sub-clause (vii) which has been added to the “Explanation” includes Eco Tourism facilities and therefore the present Eco Tourism Development Project in the Koraput Division on the Deomali Hill Top would not require any prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

50. In our opinion, the submission of the learned Additional Government Advocate is wholly misconceived in as much as even if Eco Tourism Facilities included in Forest Working Plan are kept outside the purview of Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the amendment of 2023 has been kept in abeyance vide orders of Supreme Court passed in Writ Petition(s) (Civil) Nos.1164/2023 *Ashok Kumar Sharma, Indian Forest Service (Retd) & Ors. Versus Union of India & Anr.*
51. The learned Additional Government Advocate further submitted that the construction in question was being made of Green Building Material and Eco Friendly Materials and instead of concrete/brick mortar walls and RCC, fiber cement heavy boards, MS frame structures, fiber cement planks and PVC for windows was being used.
52. The photographs which have been filed with the Original Application (from page 47 to page 51) however tell a different story. Here we find that the structures which have been made are solid cement or concrete structures at least at pages 49, 50 and 51 and do not show the same to have been constructed using Green Building Material.
53. Mr. Sankar Prasad Pani, learned Counsel for the Applicant has also placed before us the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court

passed in Special Leave to Appeal (C) Nos.12199-12200/2025 Kaniz Ahmed Versus Sabuddin & Ors. wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court while dismissing the SLPs, has observed as under :-

“xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

6. *The learned Counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that her client be given one chance to pray for regularization of the unauthorized construction. We do not find any merit in such submission. A person who has no regards for the law cannot be permitted to pray for regularization after putting up unauthorized construction of two floors. This has something to do with the rule of law. Unauthorised construction has to be demolished. There is no way out. Judicial discretion would be guided by expediency. Courts are not free from statutory fetters. Justice is to be rendered in accordance with law. We are at pains to observe that the aforesaid aspect has not been kept in mind by many State Governments while enacting Regularisation of Unauthorized Development Act based on payment of impact fees.*

7. *Thus, the Courts must adopt a strict approach while dealing with cases of illegal construction and should not readily engage themselves in judicial regularization of buildings erected without requisite permissions of the competent authority. The need for maintaining such a firm stance emanates not only from inviolable duty cast upon the Courts to uphold the rule of law, rather such judicial restraint gains more force in order to facilitate the well-being of all concerned. The law ought not to come to rescue of those who flout its rigours as allowing the same might result in flourishing the culture of impunity. Put otherwise, if the law were to protect the ones who endeavour to disregard it, the same would lead to undermine the deterrent effect of laws, which is the cornerstone of a just and orderly society. [See: Ashok Malhotra v. Municipal Corporation of Delhi, W.P. (C) No.10233 of 2024 (Delhi High Court)].*

8. *The Special Leave Petitions stand dismissed.*

9. *Pending applications, if any, shall also stand disposed of.”*

54. Therefore, on a conspectus of facts of the present case and the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Kaniz Ahmed Versus Sabuddin & Ors.* (Supra), we dispose of this Original Application

with a direction to the State Respondents to either seek approval of the Government of India under Forest (Conservation Act) within three months or else remove the entire structures and constructions made on the Deomali Hill Top Table Land under the garb of Eco Tourism Development Project and restore the land to its original form.

55. We further direct that if the State Respondents have undertaken pine plantation over an area of 1.5 hectares to 2.00 hectares, the same shall continue to be maintained and the State Respondents shall make effort to widen this area over the entire 5.93 hectares of the land in question and in any case, no diversion of the land in question shall be made for non-forestry purposes and the Respondents shall ensure strict compliance of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 read with the Forest Rights Act 2006.
56. I.As., if any, stand disposed of accordingly.
57. There shall be no order as to costs.

.....  
**B. Amit Sthalekar, JM**

.....  
**Dr. Arun Kumar Verma, EM**

May 01, 2025,  
 Original Application No.76/2023/EZ  
 SKB

F. No. 1-57/2014 WL (part-8)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Wildlife Division

First Floor, Agni Wing,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Principal Secretary (Forests),  
All States/Union Territories.

**Sub: Guidelines for sustainable eco-tourism in forest and wildlife areas-2021**

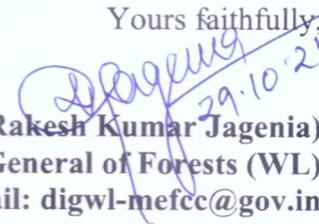
Sir,

Forests and wildlife are inseparable elements of environmental integrity and therefore, a participatory approach towards building the intricate interface between humans and forests is imperative.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has prepared the 'Guidelines for sustainable Ecotourism in forest and wildlife areas-2021'. The undersigned is directed to enclosed a copy of the said guidelines for ready reference (**Annexure**).

The States/Union Territories may take further action, as appropriate, in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Rakesh Kumar Jagenia)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (WL)

Email: digwl-mefcc@gov.in

Encl: As above.

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force (HoFF), All States /Union Territories.
2. The Chief Wild Life Warden, All States/ Union Territories.
3. Inspector General of Forests, Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC, New Delhi.
4. PSO to ADGF (WL)/PPS to IGF (WL), MoEFCC, New Delhi.

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

## **Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

Forests and wildlife are elements of nature and inseparable parts of the environment. Because of the intricate nature of interface between nature and human beings, nature conservation entails interactions with people as a central concept. Such interaction includes not only the forest fringe dwellers but also those who are living away from the forests for the purpose of creating experience for the visitors. Eco-tourism may be developed in and around designated sites in forest and wildlife rich areas and ex-situ conservation areas, and such designated sites may include sites of biological, geographical, geo-physical and eco-heritage importance such as mangroves, sacred groves, mudflats, beaches, streams, wetlands, waterfalls, rivers, hills, caves, etc.

Eco-tourism has the potential to create significant opportunities for building public awareness and mass movement towards conservation of nature and natural resources while expanding overall returns to the economy, improving skill base, creating new knowledge and green jobs, and improving the livelihoods of the local communities.<sup>[1]</sup> On the other hand, eco-tourism if not practiced in a science-based manner may adversely affect nature on a permanent basis. The Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the Guidelines or the Eco-Tourism Guidelines), therefore, lays the framework for practising and promoting sustainable eco-tourism by maximising outputs that support nature and natural resources in their original forms while minimising any negative externalities arising out of interactions between people and nature.

The Guidelines recognise that besides the popular sites located in Protected Areas, which presently number over 900 across the country, many potential eco-tourism sites are located in public, community and private forests outside the Protected Areas as well. These Guidelines shall be applicable to ecotourism sites falling in all forest and wildlife areas irrespective of the ownership of the land.

### **2. GOAL**

The overall goal of these Guidelines is promoting better understanding of nature and wildlife conservation while generating income and opportunities for the local communities in an ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable manner.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

The Guidelines seek to achieve the following objectives:

- i. Promote low impact nature tourism which ensures ecological integrity of the eco-tourism sites and its environment;
- ii. Promote biodiversity, traditional ecological knowledge and heritage values of India's wilderness;
- iii. Promote engagement of local communities in nature tourism in a manner that enriches local economy and encourages sustainable use of indigenous materials through financially viable value chains thereby helping such local communities become "*AtmaNirbhar*";
- iv. Promote partnerships amongst stakeholders for mobilising resources and developing and promoting nature tourism, as well equitable sharing of benefits.
- v. Enhancing potential of India as a global eco-tourism destination.

### 4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF ECO-TOURISM

**(i) Eco-tourism planning:** Eco-tourism shall be promoted on the basis of science based planning. The plan shall form part of the duly approved Working Plan or Management Plan or Conservation Plan of the forest or wildlife area as the case may be, and shall include the carrying-capacity analysis based description of the eco-tourism site, time, duration, route, mode of travel and number of persons for visitations, and any support infrastructure needed. Wherever feasible, the eco-tourism plan will also be dovetailed with the *Gram Panchayat* Development Plan. The Protected Area (PA) manager along with a third party shall determine the carrying-capacity of eco-tourism site by taking into account the wide diversity of environmental, physical, social and economic criteria of development and management of eco-tourism sites as well as institutional capacities of their managers. The Eco-tourism plan needs to also factor in aspects of control of plastic pollution, waste management, noise pollution, sewage treatment and disposal, etc. The Eco-Tourism guidelines issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority shall be applicable to Eco-tourism in Tiger Reserves in the country.

**(ii) Eco-tourism zonation:** The eco-tourism plan shall appropriately demarcate the eco-tourism zone upon assessment of management requirements of the target wildlife, the habitat or the geographical entity, and their behavioural and ecological characteristics. The eco-tourism zonation shall particularly ensure that the ecological integrity of the site, including breeding areas of wildlife and tribal habitations particularly PVTGs remains protected. The zonation shall also ensure that safeguards provided in the Forest Rights Act, 2006 are fully respected.

**(iii) Resource mobilisation and community participation:** The local community shall be the key stakeholder of eco-tourism. Central government will provide for participatory frameworks that encourage resource mobilisation by a group of stakeholders in development, operation and maintenance of eco-tourism zones. These frameworks shall ensure that equitable benefits flow from eco-tourism accrues, besides resource investors, to local communities, tribals and other traditional forest dwellers including by way of enhanced livelihood opportunities. Further, keeping in view that most eco-tourism sites are located in remote places and small-scale operators predominate, suitable programme may be taken up by the Central Government to facilitate eco-tourism operators to access incentives allowed to the tourism sector in a timely and adequate manner.

**(iv) Eco-tourism site development:** The Eco-tourism site shall be developed only in eco-tourism zone and in eco-friendly manner. While developing support infrastructure for eco-tourism it shall be ensured that the natural profile and ecological integrity of the ecotourism site including its biodiversity value is maintained. Any ecotourism facility or structure on forest lands shall be subject to the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. However, no permanent structure shall be made /constructed to create ecotourism facility/structure, but temporary structures/facility made predominantly of natural material of local origin may be allowed in Protected Area or on forest land. Such ecotourism facility/structure shall be part of the approved Working Plan/Management Plan/Working Scheme. Home stay managed by local communities on non-forest land shall be promoted. States may develop benchmarks/ standardized criteria based on site specificity, for adoption of best practices in eco-tourism including sustainable ecological management of the site, customer satisfaction, harmony with local culture and design, local construction material used, employment types, environmental education facilities. Further, safety measures, especially for managing fire, flood, landslide, needs to be inbuilt into the ecotourism site development plan and adequate system needs to be in place for efficiently managing such disasters.

**(v) Inter-sectoral synergy:** The central government will work towards prioritisation of action with regard to developing eco-tourism sites across the country and improving the way in which action on eco-tourism is coordinated with other sectors and synergies are exploited in the best possible manner. Regulations should be streamlined wherever possible and processes and procedures should be simplified while taking into consideration the objectives of relevant sectoral policies.

**(vi) Promoting eco-tourism entrepreneurship:** Concerted action will be taken for expanding entrepreneurship opportunities for stakeholders engaged in eco-tourism with due priority to the members of local communities and those whose livelihoods have been impacted because of actions such as closure of the Protected Area for forest product extraction. The focus will be on increasing productivity, boosting the skills and competencies of stakeholders at all levels, and the needed structural changes will be supported and strengthened. Start-ups will be supported through training, coaching, financial support and other benefits including through the incubators established under various government programmes.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The following are the broad framework for implementation of the Eco-tourism Guidelines:

**Strategy i: Identification of potential sites:** Each State may identify sites for eco-tourism through a participatory process involving stakeholders, particularly the local communities, and make a priority list for development of such sites. Area managers will initiate eco-tourism planning based on carrying-capacity analysis, including identification of eco-tourism zones, identification of potential partners, categorisation of infrastructure support that may be allowed, funding sources, and training and capacity building needs of the partners through a multi-stakeholder dialogue process. Spatially cluster approach to eco-tourism infrastructure will be promoted to larger blocks of contiguous habitats so as to minimise adverse ecological impacts on a larger area. An indicative list of potential eco-tourism sites is at Annexure I. However, States/UTs may develop ecotourism sites which has high potential.

An Eco-tourism Plan shall be prepared for every eco-tourism site. The Plan shall be approved and prepared for sites under various controls as follows:

- i. For Sites within forest/protected areas: The Eco-tourism Plan for the areas falling inside the notified forest/protected areas shall form part of duly approved Working Plan/Management Plan/ Working Scheme.
- ii. For Sites falling within Eco-sensitive Zones: All new Eco-tourism activities or expansion of existing tourism activities within the Eco-sensitive Zone (on non-forest land) shall be as per the Tourism Master Plan for the Eco-sensitive Zone. The Eco-tourism Master Plan shall be prepared by Department of Tourism in consultation with State Departments of Environment and Forests. The Tourism Master Plan shall form a component of the Zonal Master Plan and until the Zonal Master Plan is approved, development for tourism and expansion of existing tourism activities shall be permitted by the concerned regulatory authorities based on the actual site specific scrutiny and recommendation of the Monitoring Committee. Hotel/resort or commercial establishment construction shall be taken up inside the Eco-sensitive Zone as per the ESZ notification of the National Park/Sanctuary.

**Strategy ii: Funding support:** Compatible funding instruments that cater to the specific challenges of the eco-tourism sector, particularly the small and geographically fragmented nature of enterprises, is key to sustainable eco-tourism promotion. Financial institutions may be encouraged to develop targeted financial instruments for the eco-tourism entrepreneurs at the local level. Public funding for eco-tourism promotion, monitoring and innovation may be made available, including for non-repayable loans and guarantees, start-up grants and marketing of eco-tourism places.

**Strategy iii: Usage of Information Technology:** The role of digitalisation both as a driver and an enabler of eco-tourism shall be recognised. In particular, digitalisation will be used to facilitate new eco-tourism products, such as virtual tours, competitive exploration, etc., services, business processes and models. National and sub-national projects will be launched to undertake analysis of the needs of various partners and users (visitors) of eco-tourism projects, and develop scenarios for eco-tourism support for the future, and active steps will be taken for transfer of knowledge to partners including by making such knowledge public wherever feasible. In recognition of the fact that partners (e.g. service providers) in eco-tourism are mainly small entities, and their limited capabilities of using digital services combined with possible use of multitude of digital platforms and inability to create economies of scale, pose significant challenge. National and sub-national level data integration platforms to analyse visitors behaviour and preferences will be developed, and additional sources such as social media engagement, newsletter statistics, booking data, media and marketing reports, etc will be used.

**Strategy iv: Capacity building:** Despite wider and growing attraction to eco-tourism, the challenges emanating from the field such as geographically fragmented and small nature of sites, small business structure and high seasonality and the consequent visitor number fluctuation, are significant. On the other hand, it offers significant entrepreneurial and labour market opportunity for the local communities. With increased numbers of eco-tourism sites the eco-tourism sector may become a supplier of low return exchangeable standard products making private investment in eco-tourism less attractive. The capacity of field functionaries of different stakeholders, especially the eco-tourism site managers and the local communities, will be steadily built to innovate and meet the present and future challenges of the sector, and international best practices as suited to local conditions will be internalised. Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and other such institutes will be encouraged to develop specific programmes for local communities and small operators engaged in eco-tourism.

**Strategy v: Benefit sharing:** Community-based tourism will be promoted as a preferred form of eco-tourism. While eco-tourism will create new wage employment and private entrepreneurial income for the respective stakeholders, fair and equitable benefit sharing of common eco-tourism revenues with the local community is key to sustainability. Given the diversity of stakeholders, scale of operations and geographically fragmented nature of eco-tourism sites, appropriate mechanisms for sharing of benefits with the local eco-development committees / forest protection committees will be developed by the respective State Government for different types of eco-tourism sites falling on government lands. Such benefit sharing mechanisms shall recognise that the local community has the highest stake in eco-tourism and the revenue generated has to be also ploughed back for development and maintenance of the eco-tourism sites. Transparent mechanism for revenue collection from common eco-tourism activities user charges, entry fees, concessions, fines and penalties, etc. through a Foundation established at the appropriate local level, and sharing of revenue with stakeholders, particularly local communities, has served as best practise in many parts of the world and the same duly incorporated by the respective State governments. Considering that

eco-tourism is mostly a seasonal activity, the Eco-Tourism Plans should include measures to reduce financial overdependence of the local community on eco-tourism, and the same should be supported by the district level plan approval committees. Such measures may include capacity building of the communities with respect to processing and marketing of bio-cultural products to ensure that communities remain attached to preservation of local ecology. The Central government will support development of such mechanisms through sharing of international experiences and coordination with participating states and national entities in case the stated eco-tourism enterprise covers sites across States and/ or national entities are involved.

**Strategy vi: Education and outreach:** For effective use of the eco-tourism potential of the area, effective communication plan covering all eco-tourism sites of a State will be drawn by the State Governments with the help of expert organisations. The Plan, among other relevant information, will include information to the tourists on the eco-system services and intangible benefits provided by the area. The communication plan will include measures to promote partnerships between the eco-tourism project and socially responsible companies. Use of modern technologies such as electronic visual tools and well equipped modern interpretation centre at the eco-tourism site will be encouraged through this Plan to encourage self-learning by visitors. The Plan will also lay emphasis on appropriate signages for generating awareness among the visitors regarding the safety and risk factors in the eco-tourism zone and safety protocol and information material on the area for the visitors. The Central government will support the outreach of States' eco-tourism potential for international tourists in a programmatic manner.

**Strategy vii: Monitoring:** Each eco-tourism plan will invariably include a dynamic monitoring mechanism, covering multiple biological parameters to monitor stress on wildlife vis-a-vis number and patterns of tourist visitation and their level of satisfaction, involvement of local people, scope for improvement in flow of eco-system services, etc. The monitoring will also include mechanisms to ensure that rigorous practices are in place to prevent biological invasion, disease transmission, and air, water, noise or light pollution. The States Governments/UT Administrations shall endeavour to maintain service level quality standards through appropriate certification/rating protocols.

The States shall endeavour to initiate a ranking system for the respective ecotourism sites.

There shall be regular monitoring by the State Governments and Union Territories on the implementation of the guidelines spelt out in the Guidelines for Sustainable Ecotourism in forest and wildlife areas-2021.

District, State and National level monitoring committees comprising of representatives of relevant stakeholder departments, the local communities, civil societies, and the corporate organisations will be constituted to oversee the implementation of this Guidelines including mobilisation of the required technical, financial and human resource support for eco-tourism plans.

**Strategy viii: Review:** The National level eco-tourism monitoring committee will review the Eco-Tourism Guidelines every three years and make recommendation to the Central Government.

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<sup>[1]</sup>Wherever 'local community' has been used in this Guidelines, it will mean to include Schedule Tribe and other traditional forest dwellers as per Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, which is referred hereinafter as FRA 2006 in short.

**Potential Sites in India for Ecotourism (Illustrative)**

S.No.	State/ UT Administration	Name of Protected Area
	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	
1		Mahatama Gandhi Marine (Wandoor) NP
2		Mount Harriett NP
3		Ross Island WLS
	Andhra Pradesh	
4		Coringa WLS
5		Pulicat Lake WLS
	Arunachal Pradesh	
6		Itanagar WLS
	Assam	
7		Orang NP
8		DeeporBeel WLS
9		Hollongapar Gibbon WLS
10		Pabitora WLS
	Bihar	
11		Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary
	Chandigarh	
12		City Bird WLS
13		Sukhna Lake WLS
	Chhattisgarh	
14		Kanger Valley NP
15		Pamed Wild Buffalo WLS
	Goa	
16		BhagwanMahavir WLS
17		Dr. Salim Ali Bird (Chorao) WLS
	Gujarat	
18		Gir National Park & WLS & Gir Landscape
19		Marine (Gulf of Kachchh) NP
20		Barda WLS
21		Girnar WLS

22		Jessore Sloth Bear WLS
23		Kachchh Desert WLS
24		NalSarovar Bird WLS
25		Thol Lake WLS
26		Wild Ass WLS
	Haryana	
27		Sultanpur NP
28		Morni Hills (Khol-Hi-Raitan) WLS
29		Nahar WLS
	Himachal Pradesh	
20		Great Himalayan NP
31		Dhauladhar WLS
32		Kalatop-Khajjiar WLS
33		Kibber WLS
34		Manali WLS
35		Pong Dam Lake WLS
36		Renuka WLS
	Jammu & Kashmir	
37		Dachigam NP
38		Gulmarg WLS
	Laddakh	
39		Hemis NP
40		Changthang WLS
	Jharkhand	
41		Dalma WLS
	Karnataka	
42		Bannerghatta NP
43		Kudremukh NP
44		Cauvery WLS
45		Daroji Bear WLS
46		Pushpagiri WLS
	Kerala	
47		Eravikulam NP
48		Silent Valley NP
49		Thattekad Bird WLS
	Lakshadweep	
50		Pitti Island Bird Sanvtuary
	Madhya Pradesh	
51		Madhav NP
52		National Chambal WLS

53		Pachmarhi WLS
	Maharashtra	
54		Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) NP
55		Lonar WLS
56		Thane Creek Flamingo WLS
	Manipur	
57		Keibul-Lamjao NP
	Meghalaya	
58		Balphakram NP
59		Nokrek Ridge NP
	Mizoram	
60		Phawngpui Blue Mountain National Park
	Nagaland	
61		Intanki NP
	Punjab	
62		Harike Lake WLS
63		Beas Conservation Reserve
	Odisha	
64		Bhitarkanika WLS & NP
65		Chilika (Nalaban) WLS
66		Gahirmatha (Marine) WLS
67		Nandankanan WLS
	Rajasthan	
68		Keoladeo Ghana NP
69		Desert National Park Sanctuary
70		Mount Abu WLS
71		National Chambal WLS
	Sikkim	
72		Khangchendzonga NP
73		Maenam WLS
	Tamil Nadu	
74		Gulf of Mannar Marine NP
75		Vedanthangal WLS
76		Point Calimere WLS
	Telangana	
77		KasuBrahmananda Reddy NP

	Tripura	
78		Clouded Leopard NP
79		Trishna WLS
	Uttar Pradesh	
80		Katerniaghat WLS
81		National Chambal WLS
82		Kachua WLS
	Uttarakhand	
83		Gangotri NP
84		Nanda Devi NP
85		Valley of Flowers NP
86		Kedarnath WLS
	West Bengal	
87		Gorumara NP
88		Jaldapara NP
89		Neora Valley NP
90		Singalila NP

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THAT THE BELOW ATTACHED PHOTOGRAPHS ARE OF 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 SUGGESTING THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS CONSTRUCTING CONCRETE STRUCTURES IN THE GARB OF ECO TOURISM IN FOREST LAND WITHOUT HAVING FOREST CLEARANCE FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.











THAT THE BELOW ATTACHED PHOTOGRAPHS ARE OF 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025 SUGGESTING THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS CONSTRUCTING CONCRETE STRUCTURES IN THE GARB OF ECO TOURISM IN FOREST LAND WITHOUT HAVING FOREST CLEARANCE FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT



