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NGT Kolkata <pgngtkolkata@gmail.com>

Fwd: Prayer

1 message

National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata <ngtjudicial-kolkata@gov.in>
To: pgngtkolkata <pgngtkolkata@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 8, 2025 at 12:04 PM

Regards/सादर

Judicial Section न्यायिक अनुभाग,
National Green Tribunal / राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण,
Eastern Zone Bench / पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय न्यायपीठ,
New Town, Kolkata / न्यू टाउन, कोलकाता - 700161
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==== Forwarded message =====

From: Sh Deepto Ghosh Registrar <registrarngt-kolkata@gov.in>
To: "National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata" <ngtjudicial-kolkata@gov.in>
Date: Tue, 08 Apr 2025 10:10:40 +0530
Subject: Fwd: Prayer

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From: Haripriya Patel <haripriyapatel@gmail.com>
To: <registrarngt-kolkata@gov.in>
Date: Mon, 07 Apr 2025 21:46:46 +0530
Subject: Prayer

==== Forwarded message =====

To

The Honorable Chairman
National Green Tribunal
Eastern Zone Branch , Kolkata

Honourable Sir,

I would like to bring into the kind notice of Honourable Tribunal to one article published in the newspaper the Times of India on 06/04/2025 namely "**Balukhand-Konark wildlife sanctuary facing ecological challenges: Study**" (copy enclosed). The article highlighted the condition of ecological jewels along the coast of Odisha, nestled between the cities of Puri and Konark, lies the Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary is in peril. It is a unique confluence of golden sands, whispering casuarina groves, a sprawling marine drive and nesting grounds for the endangered Olive Ridley turtles.

As reported in the newspaper a recent study found that dense vegetation in this sanctuary, home to spotted deer and blackbucks, has shrunk from 41.8% in 1993 to 37.1% in 2023.



Sparse vegetation now dominates over 50% of the area. Vegetation degradation peaks during years of intense cyclones like Fani, which devastated the forest canopy and altered the ecosystem permanently. A team of researchers from Fakir Mohan University, Balasore, and Federal University of Paraiba in Brazil also found that northern shores are eroding rapidly, while the southern parts are seeing sediment deposition.

It is also reported that the study, recently published in a peer-reviewed journal, 'Science of the Total Environment', offers the most comprehensive look yet at the sanctuary's evolving landscape. Led by Manoranjan Mishra of Fakir Mohan University, the study uses three decades of satellite data, processed through a combination of machine learning models to analyse changes in land use and shoreline from 1993 to 2023 and predict future trends through 2043. The study revealed a troubling pattern in the vegetation. In 2002 and 2023, dense vegetation virtually vanished. In contrast, 2017 offered a rare moment of green revival. But overall, data shows a gradual shift from healthy, dense vegetation to sparse or barren landscape.

It is also mentioned that the researchers observed an oscillating pattern of erosion and deposition. The early 2000s witnessed massive erosion. However, from 2013 to 2023, shore line stability improved, with 91% showing accretion, possibly due to sediment deposition or conservation efforts. Still, forecasts are alarming. **"By 2043, some areas in the north could erode by over 51 metres, while southern sections may experience deposition up to 179 metres. The implications are dire for wildlife corridors, nesting grounds, and nearby human settlements"**.

Articles 47 and 48-A of the Constitution impose upon the state a duty to improve the public health of citizens and protect the environment respectively. The Constitution under Part IV-A also casts a duty on every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife.

It is the duty of the government and every citizen to protect and improve the national environment and national Assets like Rivers, Canals, Water bodies etc. Forests, rivers, water bodies, wildlife etc. are our national wealth and they do not belong to an individual, Government or Authority. The Government is the custodian of this wealth and as beneficiaries of this wealth, it is as much our duty as that of the Government to preserve and treasure our natural resources and environment for posterity.

In this article the researcher highlighted that it is not just about the loss of trees but about the collapse of an ecosystem that supports migratory birds, animals like deer, reptiles and marine species like the Olive Ridley turtles. Therefore I request the honourable tribunal to take cognizance of the facts and issue necessary directions to authorities to take necessary steps to restore the ecosystems of Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary which is in peril .

With Regards

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 Balukhand-Konark wildlife sanctuary Times of India.pdf
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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Balukhand-Konark wildlife sanctuary facing ecological challenges: Study

Apr 6, 2025, 10:29 PM IST

BALUKHAND STATUS

- Sandy areas, which peaked in 2013, have now shrunk, indicating either vegetation recovery or erosion control efforts
- Water bodies showed minor fluctuations in the area
- Sparse vegetation remains the most dominant feature, suggesting slow ecological resilience but also exposure to further degradation

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- Integrating satellite data with AI models can guide conservation strategies. This can enable

Photo: TOI



authorities to plan for erosion hotspots, monitor post-disaster recovery and implement early warning systems. Real-time geospatial monitoring using high-resolution satellite data is also essential

- Collaboration between govts, scientists and local communities is crucial for effective policy and action

Bhubaneswar: Along the coast of Odisha, nestled between the cities of Puri and Konark, lies the Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary. It is a unique confluence of golden sands, whispering casuarina groves, a sprawling marine drive and nesting grounds for the endangered Olive Ridley turtles. But this ecological jewel is in peril.

A recent study found that dense vegetation in this sanctuary, home to spotted deer and blackbucks, has shrunk from 41.8% in 1993 to 37.1% in 2023. Sparse vegetation now dominates over 50% of the area. Vegetation degradation peaks during years of intense cyclones like Fani, which devastated the forest canopy and altered

the ecosystem permanently.

A team of researchers from Fakir Mohan University, Balasore, and Federal University of Paraiba in Brazil also found that northern shores are eroding rapidly, while the southern parts are seeing sediment deposition.

The study, recently published in a peer-reviewed journal, 'Science of the Total Environment', offers the most comprehensive look yet at the sanctuary's evolving landscape. Led by Manoranjan Mishra of Fakir Mohan University, the study uses three decades of satellite data, processed through a combination of machine learning models to analyse changes in land use and shoreline from 1993 to 2023 and predict future trends through 2043.

The study revealed a troubling pattern in the vegetation. In 2002 and 2023, dense vegetation virtually vanished. In contrast, 2017 offered a rare moment of green revival. But overall, data shows a gradual shift from healthy, dense vegetation to sparse or barren landscape.

"This is not just about the loss of trees," said Mishra. "It's about the collapse of an ecosystem that supports migratory birds, animals like deer, reptiles and marine species like the Olive Ridley turtles."

Cyclonic storms remain the biggest disruptors. Their analysis indicates that each major storm causes irreversible changes in vegetation, and their increasing frequency — linked to climate change — is worsening the decline.

The researchers observed an oscillating pattern of erosion and deposition. The early 2000s witnessed massive erosion. However, from 2013 to 2023, shoreline stability improved, with 91% showing accretion, possibly due to sediment deposition or conservation efforts.

Still, forecasts are alarming. "By 2043, some areas in the north could erode by over 51 metres, while southern sections may experience deposition up to 179 metres. The implications are dire for wildlife corridors, nesting grounds, and nearby human settlements," said Mishra, quoting his research work.

