

ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

Original Application No. 113/2025/EZ



In the matter of

Hemanta Kumar Panda ... Applicant

Versus

State of Odisha & Ors. ... Respondents

ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT

I, Hemanta Kumar Panda, aged about 59 years, S/o Late Nanda Kishor Panda, residing at At-Tikrapara, PO/Dist-Bolangir, Odisha, PIN-767001, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

- 1) That I had filed the present Original Application against large-scale roadside tree felling in Bolangir District, Odisha, based primarily on the information received under RTI from the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Bolangir, which admitted that 16,015 roadside trees were felled. A copy of the said information was annexed in the Original Application as Annexure- A (Page No. 11).

- 2) That by Order dated 22.07.2025; this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to grant me five weeks' time to collect additional information regarding the legality of tree felling and compensatory afforestation measures undertaken.

That in compliance with the said order, I approached to multiple authorities sincerely through RTI applications. Out of these, only the Odisha Forest Development Corporation Ltd. (OFDC Ltd.), Bolangir C-KL Division has furnished partial reply.

That according to OFDC Ltd., the total number of trees felled in Bolangir District during the last five years is about 4,45,000 (Four Lakh Forty-Five Thousand). Out of this, the number of roadside trees felled is shown as more than 18,000. Copies of the relevant information are annexed as Annexure 2 of Compliance of Affidavit (Page Nos. 17-47).

- 5) That there is thus a serious contradiction between the two government agencies:

i--DFO, Bolangir RTI Reply (Annexure A of Original application- Page 11)-more than 15000 roadside trees felled.

ii--OFDC Ltd. RTI Reply (Annexure 2 of Affidavit of Compliance -Pages 17-23)- More than 18,000 roadside trees felled, and 4,45,000 total trees felled in the District in the last five years.

- 6) That the details of compensatory afforestation are not disclosed by either authority. The DFO has not provided any information in this regard, and OFDC Ltd. has only provided some copies of tree felling orders, mentioning that estimates were sought for compensatory plantation, but no record of actual plantation, location, or survival of saplings is furnished.
- 7) That these contradictions and omissions clearly show that there is no transparency or proper compliance with the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and related guidelines on compensatory afforestation, raising serious doubt about the legality of the large-scale tree felling taking place in Bolangir District.

PRAYER





In view of the above, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to:

1. Admit the present Original Application in the interest of environmental justice.
2. Direct the State of Odisha and its authorities to place on record all permissions, orders, and reports relating to roadside tree felling in Bolangir District during the last five years, along with complete details of compensatory afforestation (number, location, survival report).
3. Grant an interim order restraining further tree felling in Bolangir District until this Hon'ble Tribunal is satisfied about the legality and compliance with compensatory afforestation norms.
4. Pass such other or further orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.



DEPONENT

*Hemanta Kumar Panda*  
Hemanta Kumar Panda

At-Tikrapara, PO/Dist-Bolangir, Odisha - 767001

VERIFICATION

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 7 are true and correct to my knowledge and belief, and nothing material has been concealed.

Verified at Bolangir on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

*Hemanta Kumar Panda*  
Hemanta Kumar Panda

**AFFIDAVIT**

*Hemanta Kumar Panda* having been identified by Sri *R.C. Sahoo* Advocate Solemnly affirm this 9<sup>th</sup> day of Oct 2025 as before Sri R.C. Sahoo NOTARY, Balangir Town. Read over and explained the contents to the deponent who admitted to have understood correctly at the time of making this affidavit.

*R.C. Sahoo*  
R.C. Sahoo 09.10.25  
NOTARY, Balangir Town.

AMENDMENT APPLICATION  
BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, EASTERN ZONE, KOLKATA  
Original Application No. 113/2025/EZ

In the matter of:

Hemanta Kumar Panda ... Applicant

Versus

State of Odisha & Ors. ... Respondents

AMENDMENT APPLICATION

I, Hemanta Kumar Panda, aged about 59 years, S/o Late Nanda Kishor Panda, residing at At-Tikrapara, PO/Dist-Bolangir, Odisha, PIN-767001, do hereby respectfully submit as follows:

1. That I have filed the above Original Application before this Hon'ble Tribunal concerning large-scale roadside tree felling in Bolangir District, Odisha.
2. That in the Affidavit of Compliance, the Applicant has received further information from Odisha Forest Development Corporation Ltd., Bolangir (C-KL Division) in response to RTI applications.
3. That in the said information, the OFDC Ltd. has stated that more than 18,000 roadside trees have been felled during the last five years in Bolangir District.

However, the copies of felling orders supplied by OFDC Ltd. account for only about 12,500 trees, which reveals a clear discrepancy between the figures stated in the RTI reply and the attached records.

4. That earlier, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Bolangir had furnished information indicating that more than 15000 roadside trees were felled in the district. Hence, there are contradictions between the data provided by the DFO and the OFDC Ltd. regarding the total number of roadside trees felled during the last five years.
5. That due to a typographical/clerical error in the earlier Affidavit of Compliance, the figure more than 18,000 was inadvertently typed as 12,500 at Page No. 2, Point No.5 though the correct figure as per OFDC's information is more than 18,000 roadside trees.

Made Part of Affidavit

*R.C. Sahoo*  
09.10.25

**R.C. Sahoo**  
Notary, Balangir Town



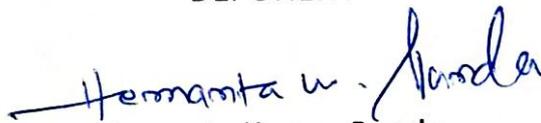
6. That the said correction and clarification are purely clerical and factual in nature, based on official RTI records, and do not in any way alter the prayer, grounds, or substance of the Original Application.

### PRAYER

It is therefore most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may graciously be pleased to:

1. Permit the Applicant to carry out the above correction in the Affidavit of Compliance and take on record this clarification based on the latest RTI information; and
2. Pass such other order(s) as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

DEPONENT

  
Hemanta Kumar Panda

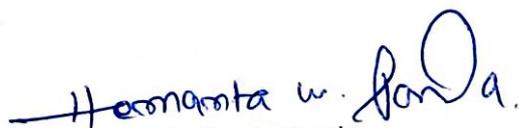
At-Tikrapara, PO/Dist-

Bolangir, Odisha - 767001

VERIFICATION

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 6 are true and correct to my knowledge and belief and that no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Bolangir, on this 9th day of October, 2025.

  
Hemanta Kumar Panda

(4)