

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA, CUTTACK**

**O.A. No.07 of 2025/EZ**

Alaya Samantaray ... Petitioner

**-Versus-**

State of Odisha and others ... Opp. Parties

**INDEX**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Description of documents</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1.	Counter Affidavit on behalf of the Respondent Nos.1 to 4	1-11
2.	<b><u>ANNEXURE-A/4</u></b> Copy of Letter dated 08.10.2024	12-13
3.	<b><u>ANNEXURE-B/4</u></b> Copy of the Chapter-6 & Chapter-7 of the Management Plan of Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park	14-19
4.	<b><u>ANNEXURE-C/4</u></b> Copy of the letter dated 20.10.2023	-20-
5.	<b><u>ANNEXURE-D/4</u></b> Copy of the Clarification dated 3.12.2024	21-23
6.	<b><u>ANNEXURE-E/4</u></b> Copy of the approval letter 28.1.2021	-31-
7.	<b><u>ANNEXURE-F/4</u></b> Copy of the Registration Certificate dated 14.8.2007	-32-

8. **ANNEXURE-G/4** 33-51  
Approved copy of the Resolution,  
Memorandum, By Laws and  
Rules of Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism and  
Eco-development Society (BEES), Rajnagar
9. **ANNEXURE-H/4** 52-55  
Copy of the Notification dated 8.2.2016
10. **ANNEXURE-I/4** - 56 -  
Copy of the Letter dated 19.3.2018
11. **ANNEXURE-J/4** 57-59  
Photographs of some  
Eco-tourism facilities
- 

Cuttack  
Date: 10.09.2025

  
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IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA, CUTTACK

O.A. No.07 of 2025/EZ

Alaya Samantaray ... Petitioner

-Versus-

State of Odisha and others ... Opp. Parties

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE  
RESPONDENT Nos. 1 to 4 & 7**

I, Sri Gagan Bihari Malik, aged about 46 years, S/o- late Uchhab Malik, working as Asst. Conservator of Forests, Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar, At/Po-Rajnagar, Dist- Kendrapara, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follow:-

1. That, I am working as Asst. Conservator of Forests, Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar in the district of Kendrapara and have been authorized by the above referred Respondents to swear this affidavit for and on behalf of Respondent No- 1 to 4 & 7.

2. That, I have gone through the original application as well as the documents annexed thereto and have understood the contents and purport thereof.

3. That, the Petitioner has no cause of action to file the aforesaid original application before this Hon'ble Court

Gagan Bihari Malik  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

  
Tanka Prasad Mishra  
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-X-

and the same being otherwise misconceived, is liable to be dismissed.

4. That, the original application as laid is not maintainable and is liable to be dismissed.

5. That the applicant has filed the aforesaid original application praying for a direction to hold and declare that the Eco-Retreat Programme at Pentha Sea Beach, Rajnagar, Kendrapara is illegal, for a direction to the State respondents to restore the Eco-Retreat site to its pristine condition, fix the accountability of Government Authorities who have allowed the Eco retreat programme at Pentha Sea Beach and for a direction to the Respondent No.1 to file prosecution and disciplinary action against the erring officer.

6. That, the averments made by the petitioner in Para-2 of the original application are not correct. The Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department has accorded permission to host "Eco Retreat" at Pentha beach, Bhitarkanika, Dist.-Kendrapara from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 vide Letter No.FE-OCZMA-CC-0002-2024-19339/FE&CC dated 08.10.2024 to the Department of Tourism, Govt. of Odisha. Copy of Letter dated 08.10.2024 of Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department is filed herewith as ANNEXURE-A/4.

*Sangam Bheri Mishra*

**Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar**

*hda*

  
Tankadhar Mishra  
Notary, Cuttack Town

-X-

7. That, with regard to the averments made in Para-3 of the original application, it is submitted that the permission Letter No.FE-OCZMA-CC-0002-2024-19339/FE&CC dated 08.10.2024 of the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department to the Department of Tourism, Govt. of Odisha under Annexure-A/4 permits the Eco Retreat event with strict adherence to certain terms & conditions which includes:

“3. It shall be ensured by the Department of tourism that flora or fauna of the area shall not be disturbed by the tourist.

4. Provisions of plastic waste management rules 2016 and amendments thereof must be followed at the site.

5. Solid & Liquid waste/sewerage shall not be discharged into the beach area, sea or other water bodies.

6. The existing contour of the site shall not be disturbed.

7. After completion of the events, the site shall be cleaned in all respects.

8. The nearest sand dunes and ESA area shall not be used for any activity during the event period.

9. The tourist must be encouraged to undertake plantation under ek ped maa ke naam programme and environmental awareness must be created among them by taking up various activities.”

*Suman Bhanu Mishra*

**Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar**

*h/101*

*Tankadhar Mishra*  
Notary, Cuttack Town

-X-

8. That, with regard to the averments made in Paragraph-4 of the original application, it is humbly submitted that in approved management plan of Bhitarkanika National Park & Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary under chapter-6 (The management strategies) in para-6.5.3, zonation of the National Park area has been done and Penth beach is part of the ecotourism zone. Further in chapter-7 (tourism, interpretation & conservation education) Penth beach is one of the tourist important places inside Bhitarkanika National Park facing Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary. The beach is having coastal casuarina plantation and tourist can also take pleasure of nature trail in the casuarina forest. It is pertinent to mention here that unauthorised entry and fishing is banned throughout the year inside Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary as per the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The copy of the Chapter-6 & Chapter-7 of the Management Plan of Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park is filed herewith as ANNEXURE-B/4.

9. That, with regard to the averments made in Paragraph-5 of the original application, it is humbly submitted that the Penth Sea beach harbours sporadic nesting activities of Olive Ridely Sea turtles. During the turtle nesting season which is marked from 1<sup>st</sup> November every year to 31<sup>st</sup> May of the succeeding year, various activities are carried out throughout the coastline including

Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

-X-

Pentha for the protection of turtles like establishment of a temporary camp, engagement of turtle watchers in the camp, establishment of temporary artificial hatchery. The watchers are engaged for preventing predation of nests, collection of eggs and keeping it safely in the artificial hatcheries.

10. That, the averments made in Paragraph-6 of the original application are not correct. The Member Secretary, Odisha Coastal Zone Management Authority (OCZMA) has accorded permission to host Eco Retreat Programme at Pentha beach, Kendrapara vide Letter No.206/OCZMA dated 20.10.2023 with some conditions stating that "Temporary tourism are permissible activities as per the CRZ Notification, 2019." The copy of the letter dated 20.10.2023 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE-C/4.

11. That, with regard to the averments made in Paragraph-7 of the original application, it is humbly submitted that under Annexure-B/4 in approved management plan of Bhitarkanika National Park & Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary under Chapter-7 (tourism, interpretation & conservation education), carrying capacity for tourists has been calculated.

12. That, with regard to the averments made in Paragraphs-9 & 10 of the petition, it is humbly submitted that the letter as alleged by the petitioner has

*Rajeshwar Pradhan*

Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

*hpa*

  
Tankadhar Mishra  
Notary, Cuttack Town

-X-

been received by the undersigned through the Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), O/o-Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha to furnish clarification and a detailed report to meet the queries raised by MoEF&CC, Govt. of India vide Memo No.14471 dated 29.11.2024. On receipt of the above memo, the details of point wise clarification were furnished to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) vide Memo No.7699 dated 03.12.2024 of Divisional Forest Officer, Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife) Rajnagar. The copy of the Clarification dated 3.12.2024 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE-D/4.

13. That in view of the submissions made hereinabove, this deponent has no comments to offer with regard to the averments made in Paragraphs-11 to 13 of the application.

14. That this deponent has no comments to offer with regard to the averments made in Paragraphs-14 to 17 of the original application.

15. That with regard to the averments made in Paragraph-18(i) of the original application, it is humbly submitted that the Management Plan for Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park for the period 2020-21 to 2029-30 approved vide Memo No.841 dated 28.01.2021 of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

*Sujan Bhanu Mishra*

**Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar**

*hpa*

  
Tankadhe Mishra  
Notary, Cuttack Town

-X-

(Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha is already in place and the Protected Area is managed as per the Chapters laid in the said Plan. Copy of the approval letter 28.1.2021 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE-E/4.

16. That in view of the submissions made hereinabove, this deponent has no comments to offer with regard to the averments made in Paragraph-18(ii) of the original application.

17. That with regard to the averments made in Paragraph-18(iii) of the original application, it is submitted that a Society in the name of "**Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism & Eco-development Society**" (BEES) has been constituted & got registered on 14.08.2007 vide Registration No.3120/15 of 2007-08 as per Society Registration Act, 1860 to look after Eco Tourism activities at Bhitarkanika. The amended Resolution, Memorandum, Bye Laws and Rules is approved by the Government in respect of Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism & Eco-development Society (BEES). For ticket facilities, hospitality, boating facilities and fooding facilities, local community members are engaged and are paid remuneration even during the closure period of park. The copy of the Registration Certificate dated 14.8.2007 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE-F/4 and the approved copy of the Resolution, Memorandum, By Laws and Rules of

*Shri. Jagan Bishari Mahapatra*

Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

*Tankadhar Mishra*  
Notary, Cuttack Town

- 8 -

Bhitarakanika Eco-tourism and Eco-development Society (BEES), Rajnagar is filed herewith as ANNEXURE-G/4.

18. That with regard to the averments made in Paragraph-19(III) of the original application, it is humbly submitted that two nos. of training on capacity building were organized by Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management (IITTM), Bhubaneswar: **1. Alternative Livelihood Programme** for the Eco-Development Committee (EDC) members, **2. Paryatan Navik Certificate** for the boatmen including drivers and staff. Both the training programmes were conducted from 05.01.2024 to 13.01.2024 by eminent resource persons from IITTM, Bhubaneswar. Further Eco-guides training is also imparted every year in collaboration with GIZ. Further, it is also to mention that fees structure for Entry, Still Camera, Cine Camera, Wildlife Documentary Makers are fixed as per Govt. of Odisha, Forest & Environment Notification No.FE-WL-WLF-0052-2015/2430/F&E dated 08.02.2016. The fees collected is deposited in the **“Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism & Eco-development Society” (BEES)** account and utilised in different Eco-tourism activities. For collection, hospitality and boating etc., local community members are engaged and are paid remuneration even during the closure period of park. The copy of the Notification dated 8.2.2016 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE-H/4.

*Pragyan Pradhan Mishra*

Asst. Conservator  
Mangrove Forest Division (W-L)  
Rajnagar

*Tankadhar Mishra*  
Notary, Cuttack Town

-X-

19. That, with regard to the averments made in Paragraph-19(IV) of the original application, it is humbly submitted that the revenue realized from online booking of accommodation and entry fees (only for night tourists) is transferred from the online booking agency (Odisha Forest Development Corporation) to the “**Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism & Eco-development Society**” account with a standard sharing mechanism approved by the Govt. of Odisha, Forest & Environment Letter No.FE-WL-WLF-0027-2016/6324/F&E dated 19.03.2018. Further the entry fees collected from day tourists in offline mode is also realized in the society account for utilization of ecotourism. The copy of the Letter dated 19.3.2018 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE-I/4.

20. That, with regard to the averments made in Paragraph-19(VI) of the original application, it is humbly submitted that for visitor sensitization and recreation various facilities exist inside the Eco-tourism destinations at Bhitarkanika which includes Entry gates at Dangmal, Bhitarkanika FB and Dobandhi, Selfie point at Dangmal, Wooden sky walk at Dangmal, Camouflaged watch tower in Bhitarkanika FB, Interpretation hall at Dangmal, Boat library at Dangmal, Salt water crocodile rearing complex at Dangmal, Mangrove Meta nursery at Dangmal, Nature trail in Bhitarkanika FB, Kanika Cafe at Dangmal / Gupti Cafe at Gupti, E-Rickshaw facility for senior citizens available

*Jagan Mohan Malik*

**Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar**

*Tankadhar Mishra*  
Notary, Cuttack Town

- X -

at Dangmal, proper signages explaining floral & faunal diversity of the Park have been installed along all the nature trails and entry gates for the information of the visitors. The Photographs of some Eco-tourism facilities are filed herewith ANNEXURE-J/4.

21. That, with regard to the averments made in Paragraph-19(VII) of the original application, it is humbly submitted that the **“Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism & Eco-development Society”** consists of two Authorities under the chairmanship of the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar Circle: **1. The General Body** which shall be the supreme authority in all matters of control and administration of the society consisting of Member Secretary, Joint Member Secretary, Ex-officio members from different departments, non-official members **which involve the local community** and **2. The Governing Body** which shall be executive wing of the society and shall be responsible for management of its affairs consisting of Member Secretary, Joint Member Secretary, Two Official members to be nominated by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Orissa, Two non-official members to be selected by the General Body from among its non-official members.

22. That, the averments which have not been specifically denied are hereby denied.

Tankadha Mishra  
Notary, Cuttack Town

*Shri Ganesh Chandra Mishra,*

**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

23. That in view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, the original application being devoid of any merit is liable to be dismissed.

24. That the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Identified by

*hgh*

Advocate

*Gagan Bihari Malik*

**DEPONENT**  
**Asst.Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

**VERIFICATION**

I, Sri Gagan Bihari Malik, aged about 46 years, S/o Late Uchhab Malik at present working as Assistant Conservator of Forests, Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar, At/Po-Rajnagar, Dist-Kendrapara, being the Respondent No.4 do hereby verify for self and on behalf of Respondent Nos. 1 to 3 and state that the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Kolkata

Date : 06.05.2025

*Gagan Bihari Malik*

**VERIFICANT**  
**Asst.Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

Solemnly Sworn before  
me by... *G.B. Malik*  
being identified by... *S.B. Mohanty Advocate*  
at Cuttack, dated... *19/7/25*

*Tomy*  
*19/7/25*  
Tankadhar Mishra  
Notary, Cuttack Town



-18-

ANNEXURE-A/4

9761

O/O the D.F.O. M.F.D  
(W.L), RAJNAGAR

No.- 5740

Date.- 09.10.24

Government of Odisha  
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department

8.10.24

No.- FE-OCZMA-CC-0002-2024 19339/FE&CC

Dt. 08.10.24

From

Sri Bijaya Kishor Bhujabala, OSS  
Under Secretary to Government

To

The Director, Tourism  
Department of Tourism,  
Government of Odisha

Sub: Permission to host "Eco-Retreat" at Pentha beach, Bhitarkanika, Dist.-  
Kendrapara from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 (90 days tentatively).

Sir,

In inviting a reference to Letter No. 7349/TSM Dt. 26.09.2024 on the subject cited above, I am directed to inform that, the proposal for hosting of "Eco-Retreat" event at Pentha beach, Bhitarkanika, Kendrapara is permitted under permissible activity as per the CRZ Notification, 2019 with strict adherence to the following terms & conditions:

1. All tented accommodation required for the events shall be purely on temporary and no RCC Construction shall be undertaken in the area.
2. The existing ecology of the site shall not be disturbed.
3. It shall be ensured by the Department of Tourism that flora or fauna of the area shall not be disturbed by the tourist.
4. Provisions of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and amendments thereof must be followed at the site.
5. Solid & liquid waste/sewerage shall not be discharged into the beach area, sea or other water bodies.
6. The existing contour of the site shall not be disturbed.
7. After completion of the events the site shall be cleaned in all respects.
8. The nearest sand dunes and ESA area shall not be used for any activity during the event period.
9. The tourists must be encouraged to undertake plantation under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" programme and environmental awareness must be created among them by taking up various activities.

Yours faithfully,

Under Secretary to Government

Sujan Bhari Malik  
Ass't Secretary of Forests  
Mangrove Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

FE-OCZMA-CC-0002-2024/01/2024

- 8 -

Memo No. 19340 /FE&CC

Dt. 08.10.24

Copy forwarded to the DFO, Rajnagar, Kendrapara for information and necessary action. They are requested to see that conditions imposed above are not violated.

Memo No. 19341 /FE&CC

*[Signature]*  
Under Secretary to Government  
Dt. 08.10.24

Copy forwarded to the Collector & DM, Kendrapara for information and necessary action.

Memo No. 19342 /FE&CC

*[Signature]*  
Under Secretary to Government  
Dt. 08.10.24

Copy forwarded to the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWW, Odisha, Prakruti Bhawan, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

*[Signature]*  
Under Secretary to Government

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*[Signature]*  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar





Management Plan  
**BHITARKANIKA  
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY  
AND  
NATIONAL PARK**

(For the Period: 2020-21 to 2029-30)



**MANGROVE FOREST DIVISION (WILDLIFE)**

Rajnagar, Kendrapada, Odisha

*Syngan Acharya Malua*  
**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
Rajnagar



## CHAPTER 6

### THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

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#### 6.1 Management Philosophy

The management strategy prescribed in this management plan is based on the philosophy outlined in this section.

##### 6.1.1 Participative Decision Making

Wetlands are dynamic areas, open to influence from natural and human factors. In order to maintain their biological diversity and productivity and their ecological characteristics, and to permit the wise use of wetland resources by people, an overall agreement is essential between the various managers, owners, occupiers and other stakeholders. The stakeholders' and SWOT analysis for the Bhitarkanika sanctuary has been described in Chapter 5. In order to make the management planning more inclusive, suggestions offered by various stakeholders in different forums, meetings and awareness camps have been taken into consideration while preparing this plan. Every possible effort is being made to ensure that the concerns of the stakeholders are fully respected while drawing up the prescriptions.

##### 6.1.2 Degree of Intervention

In general, a policy of minimal intervention in natural biological processes has been followed in this management plan considering the fragility of the wetland systems. The floral and faunal assemblage of the sanctuary and its surroundings has evolved over time by adaptation to a set of natural conditions. All life forms are dependent on each other in a complex web of life. The chain of interdependence is too complex to be understood in totality. Tampering with this natural ecosystem with limited understanding may create a chain of events that we may not understand and which can have long-term undesirable effects. Management prescriptions are therefore mostly directed towards reducing human influences that may create undesirable impacts on the flora and fauna and making off-site efforts to develop the surrounding area as a major center for tourism. In situations where cause and effect relationship are well understood, it may be justifiable to carry out interventions that help mitigate altered natural features of the ecosystem or for achieving specific management objectives. This implies a good understanding of the ecology of the wetland at the habitat as well as species level apart from an understanding of forestry, hydrology and other disciplines.

##### 6.1.3 Compliance with Local, National and International Policies

It is essential that the management plan recognizes and is compliant with a wide range of policies, strategies and legislations. Acts/Rules and regulations associated with management of forests, wildlife and environment have undergone numerous amendments. In recent times, a number of responses have emerged at international level

<sup>95</sup>  
**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

- 16 -

Reserve Forests, Protected Forests and Proposed Reserve Forests of the sanctuary were declared as Bhitarkanika National Park. But 410 villages remained within limits of the Sanctuary with intensive agriculture/shrimp culture practices, development of small townships and other economic activities not commensurate with the objectives of the sanctuary. So, a Fresh Proposal for Rationalization of Boundary which would sanction legal status of the Sanctuary more effectively and minimize agitation of local community and ensure their cooperation towards conservation had been proposed as per recommendation of the Collector, Kendrapada. The proposal is summarised as below.

Table 6.1: Summary of Rationalization of Sanctuary Boundary

Category	Details	Number of Villages
(i)	Villages to be excluded from Sanctuary Limits within Rajnagar Tahasil of Kendrapada District <b>(5445 Hectares)</b>	52
(ii)	Villages (Where no households are found at present) to be acquired and retained in Sanctuary	36 (Rajnagar Tahasil-33 + Rajkanika Tahasil-03)
(iii)	Villages to be retained inside Sanctuary as ringed out villages	322 (Rajnagar Tahasil-224 + Rajkanika Tahasil-98)
(iv)	Forest Areas to be added in lieu of villages proposed for exclusion in Category-(i) above <b>(5545 Hectares)</b>	08 Forest Blocks

On getting approval of the Competent Authority, State Government in Forest and Environment Department vide Notification No. 2289 Dated 01.02.2020 notified the Bhitarkanika Sanctuary u/s 26 A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as per proposal of rationalization of Sanctuary boundary. As per the new notification, 36 uninhabited villages (33 in Rajnagar and 3 in Rajkanika Tahasils) are to be acquired on payment to Revenue Department as per valuation to be made by the Collector. Further, 322 habited villages will remain inside the sanctuary limits as ringed out villages. Relocation of all 322 villages outside the PA would be a tremendous task requiring huge amount of money, alternate land and other logistics. However, in future, voluntary relocation of few villages with close proximity with the PA can be attempted.

### 6.2.3 Internal Boundary

The limits of the National Park are taken as the internal boundary of the Protected Area. It contains within itself mangrove forests, rivers, creeks, part of estuary and sea face. This may be termed as Core of the Protected Area. Amongst the mangrove communities, at least 24 associations have been identified. Besides, the rich wildlife of mangroves as described under Chapter-II are represented in this area. The core area is surrounded by villages. About 100 villages close to the National Park boundary are dependent on the National Park for part of their subsistence. The National Park boundary, except for the open estuary and some other areas, has been provided with masonry pillars. It will be

  
**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

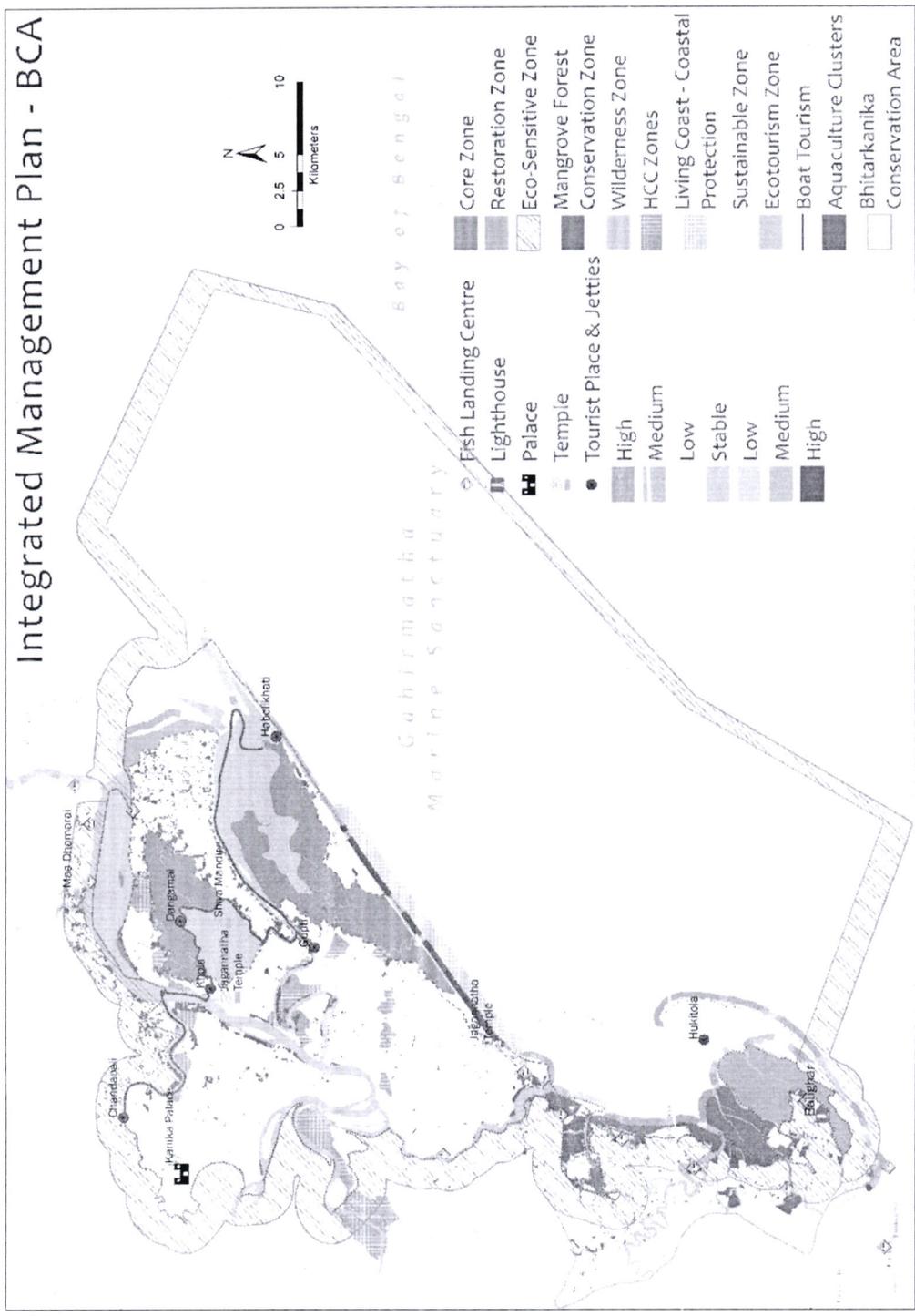


Figure 6.4: Integrated Management Plan - BCA

*Rajagan Mohan Meher*  
**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

- X -

CHAPTER 7

TOURISM, INTERPRETATION AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION

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### 7.1. Background

Ecotourism includes nature-based forms of tourism in which the main attraction for the tourists is the observation and appreciation of nature as well as the traditional cultures prevailing in natural areas. Ecotourism has been broadly defined as tourism which is ecologically sustainable. According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), "Tourism that involves travelling to relatively undisturbed natural areas or Protected Areas with the prime object of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals as well as any existing cultural aspects (both of the past or the present) found in these areas" is defined as Ecotourism."

The key elements of eco-tourism include the following aspects.

- A natural environment as the prime attraction.
- An optimum number of environment-friendly visitors.
- Activities which do not involve any serious impact on the ecosystem.
- Above all, the positive engagement of local community in maintaining the ecological balance.

Ecotourism can take many forms ranging from watching animals, birds and trees in a forest to diving in the sea to see corals and marine life, and engaging in trekking, boating or rafting in beautiful natural landscapes. Of late, the concept of ecotourism has gained momentum and importance. Geographical diversity has resulted in a variety of ecosystems which have now become the core resource for ecotourism in India.

Mangrove ecosystems are very specialized forest ecosystems of tropical and sub-tropical regions bordering sea coasts and estuaries. The deltaic region of Bhitarkanika formed by the alluvial deposits of river Brahmani, Baitarani and Dhamra, harbours the specialized mangrove vegetation and its ecosystem is of immense importance. Bhitarkanika is popularly known as the land of the mangroves and reptiles. Situated away from the din and bustle of the city life, it is the cynosure of ecotourists. The lush green mangroves, meandering rivers and creeks, menacing estuarine crocodiles, docile spotted deer, kaleidoscope of avian fauna, salubrious sandy beaches and above all the serene sylvan and tranquil surroundings interspersed with the chirping of birds have become an important tourist attraction.

The scope of responsible ecotourism in Bhitarkanika is immense and it has to be harnessed to attract a greater number of ecotourists. Here are some of the places of tourist importance inside Bhitarkanika:

137

*Rajaguru Bhitarkanika*  
 Asst Conservator of Forests  
 Mangrove Division (WL)  
 Rajnagar

- 19 -

- **Dangmal:** Situated in the heart of the National Park, it is the cynosure of Bhitarkanika having highest animal concentration. Herds of spotted deer and huge crocodiles along the mud flats abound here.
- **Bhitarkanika Forest Block:** Located on the opposite side of Dangmal across the river, Bhitarkanika meadows spreads over 50 ha. Herds of deer, wild boar and flocks of resident and migratory birds can be seen from the Watch Tower.
- **Ekakula:** The most secluded part and situated north of the National Park, Ekakula faces the sea on one side and Maipura river on the other. Besides, mangrove forests, the tranquil beach is an added attraction.
- **Habalikhati:** A site once famous for Olive Ridley Sea Turtle Research Centre, Habalikhati is situated on the sea beach. It is approachable from Baunsagarh River through a winding Nature Trail.
- **Kalibhanja Diha:** Largest island of Bhitarkanika, Kalibhanja Diha is 8 km long and about 1 km wide located on north of the National Park in Dhamra river. Contains highest biodiversity of mangrove vegetation.
- **Pentha Beach:** part of Bhitarkanika National Park facing Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, the beach is having coastal Casuarina plantation and tourists can also take pleasure of nature trail in the Casuarina forest.

#### Special attractions of Bhitarkanika

- Basking crocodiles on the mud flats, spotted deer and monitor lizards.
- Salt water Crocodile Rearing Centre at Dangmal.
- Nesting Birds at Bagagahan/ Mathadia.
- Eight species of Kingfishers.
- Pristine mangroves with Pneumatophores and stilt roots.
- Blooming Pani Amba. (*Cerbera manghas*)
- Wading birds on the creek bank.
- Magnificent mud skippers.
- Meandering rivers and creeks.
- Virgin tranquil sandy beach at Ekakula, Habalikhati and Pentha.
- Nature trail at Dangmal, Bhitarkanika and Habalikhati.
- Historic shooting tower, ancient Shiva temple and lotus pond at Bhitarkanika.

#### 7.1.1. Eco-friendly Relationship

Control of non-biodegradable waste, especially single-use plastics and such products used and carried by visitors is essential. Properly implementing the ban on such items will help the P.A. in the long run.

Employment of tour guides properly trained in the subject matters of wildlife, ecology, environment and other aspects of the forest will help visitors to understand the unique

138



**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**



ANNEXURE - CA 46  
O/O the D.F.O. No. 105.  
(W.L.) RAJNAGAR

No. - 6159  
Date. - 21-10-23

## ODISHA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha

Letter No. 206 /OCZMA

F.No - OCZMA/29/2019

Dt. 20/10/2023

From

Dr. K. Murugesan, IFS  
Member Secretary

To

Additional Secretary to Government,  
Tourism Department,  
Government of Odisha

Sub: Permission to host "Eco-Retreat" at

- (i) Ramachandi beach, Konark, Dist.-Puri (1<sup>st</sup> Dec., 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)
- (ii) Sonapur beach, Dist.-Ganjam (15<sup>th</sup> Nov., 2023 to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)
- (iii) Pentha beach, Bhitarkanika, Dist.-Kendrapada (15<sup>th</sup> Nov., 2023 to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024)

Sir,

It is ascertained from your letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 on the above cited subject that you are going to host "Eco-Retreat" at Ramachandi beach, Sonapur beach and Pentha beach.

Temporary tourism are permissible activities as per the CRZ Notification, 2019.

In view of the above, Tourism Department is permitted to conduct Eco-Retreat at the above mentioned beaches with specific timeline and with the following conditions;

1. Only tented accommodation shall be permissible.
2. RCC construction shall not be undertaken in the area.
3. Scientific disposal of solid waste and grey water shall be ensured.
4. The existing ecology of the site shall not be disturbed.
5. It shall be ensured by the Tourism Department that tourists shall not disturb any flora and fauna of the area.
6. Solid and liquid waste / sewerage shall not be discharged into the creek and sea.
7. The existing contour of the site shall not be disturbed.
8. After completion of the event, the site shall be cleaned in all respects.

Therefore, Tourism Department may kindly submit an undertaking on the above issues before initiating any activity.

Yours faithfully,

MEMBER SECRETARY

Dt. 20/10/2023

Memo No. 207 /OCZMA

Copy forwarded to the DFO, Puri / DFO, Ganjam / DFO, Rajnagar, Kendrapara for information and necessary action. They are requested to see that conditions imposed above are not violated.

MEMBER SECRETARY

Asst. Conservator of Forests

Forest, Environment and Climate Change Division (WL)

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, KHARAVEL BHAVAN, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Bhubaneswar- 751001, Odisha, India

Email - [oczma1@gmail.com](mailto:oczma1@gmail.com); Website - [www.sczmaodisha.org](http://www.sczmaodisha.org)

P.T.O.

ANNEXURE - D/4

- 21 -

OFFICE OF THE  
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, MANGROVE FOREST DIVISION (WL), RAJNAGAR

AT/P.O: Rajnagar, Dist: Kendrapara-754225, Phone: 06729-242460,  
Control Room: 06729-242463, E-mail ID: dfo.rajnagarwl@odisha.gov.in

Memo No. 7699 /04F-419/2024

Dated, Rajnagar, the 03<sup>rd</sup> December, 2024

To

The Chief Conservator of Forests (WL-II),  
O/o-the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) &  
Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Sub:

**Request for clarification and details on the Eco-retreat programme at Pentha Beach within Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary.**

Ref:

Your Office Memo No. 14471/9F-ET)-49/2023 dated. 29.11.2024.

In inviting a reference to the above cited Memo on the captioned subject, as desired the details of clarifications sought by Government of India, MoEF & CC, , IRO, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar is furnished as under:-

01. In approved Management Plan of Bhitarkanika National Park & Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary under Chapter-6 in Para-6.5.3 the Management Strategy, Zonation of the National Park area has been done and Pentha beach is part of the Ecotourism Zone. And also in Chapter-7 (Tourism, Interpretation and Conservation Education) Pentha beach is one of the important ecotourism place inside Bhitarkanika National Park. The beach is having coastal Casuarina Plantation and tourist can also take pleasure of Nature trail in the Casuarina forest (Annexure- I & II) accordingly.
02. No documents available in this office regarding clearance from National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) for mass tourism & Luxury Tenting programme in Pentha beach.
03. No documents available in this office regarding carrying capacity study to determine the Environmental sustainability of this programme in Marine Wildlife Sanctuary as mandated by Ecotourism guidelines 2022 by MoEF & CC.
04. The Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department has accorded permission to host "Eco-Retreat" at Pentha beach, Bhitarkanika, Dist- Kendrapara from 01<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 (90days tentatively) vide Letter No. FE-OCZMA-CC-0002-2024-19339/FE& CC dated. 08.10.2024 to the Department of Tourism, Govt. of Odisha. Details of clearance and permission accorded and name of issuing Authorities are enclosed herewith in a separate sheet as Annexure-III.

O/C

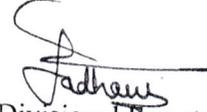
  
**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

- 22 -

Pentha beach is a part of Bhitarkanika National Park and sporadic nesting ground for Olive Ridley Sea turtles. Detail information on sporadic nesting of Olive Ridley Sea turtles last five year is enclosed herewith in a separate sheet as Annexure-IV.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

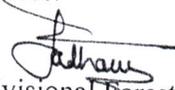
Enclosed: As Above.



Divisional Forest Officer  
Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife)  
Rajnagar

Memo No. 77 00 /Dated. 03.12.2024

Copy submitted to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar Circle, Bhubaneswar for favour of your kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No. 14472 dated. 29.11.2024 of the Chief Conservator of Forests (WL-II.), O/o-the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar in his address.



Divisional Forest Officer  
Mangrove Forests Division (Wildlife)  
Rajnagar

hgg



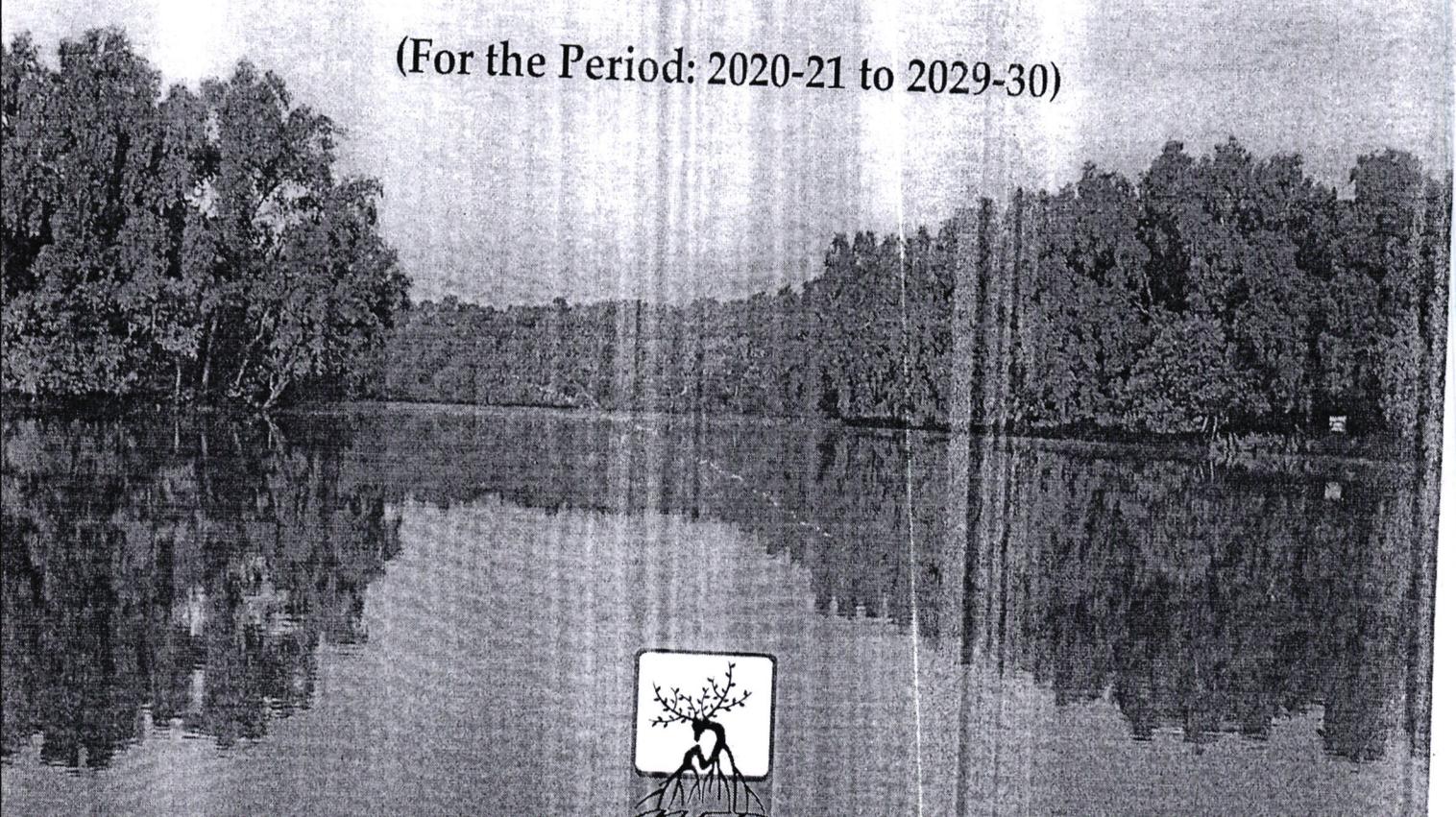
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

← 23 -



Management Plan  
**BHITARKANIKA  
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY  
AND  
NATIONAL PARK**

(For the Period: 2020-21 to 2029-30)



**MANGROVE FOREST DIVISION (WILDLIFE)**

Rajnagar, Kendrapada, Odisha

*[Signature]*

Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

- 24 -  
X

## CHAPTER 6 THE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### 6.1 Management Philosophy

The management strategy prescribed in this management plan is based on the philosophy outlined in this section.

#### 6.1.1 Participative Decision Making

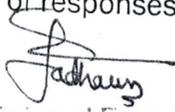
Wetlands are dynamic areas, open to influence from natural and human factors. In order to maintain their biological diversity and productivity and their ecological characteristics, and to permit the wise use of wetland resources by people, an overall agreement is essential between the various managers, owners, occupiers and other stakeholders. The stakeholders' and SWOT analysis for the Bhitarkanika sanctuary has been described in Chapter 5. In order to make the management planning more inclusive, suggestions offered by various stakeholders in different forums, meetings and awareness camps have been taken into consideration while preparing this plan. Every possible effort is being made to ensure that the concerns of the stakeholders are fully respected while drawing up the prescriptions.

#### 6.1.2 Degree of Intervention

In general, a policy of minimal intervention in natural biological processes has been followed in this management plan considering the fragility of the wetland systems. The floral and faunal assemblage of the sanctuary and its surroundings has evolved over time by adaptation to a set of natural conditions. All life forms are dependent on each other in a complex web of life. The chain of interdependence is too complex to be understood in totality. Tampering with this natural ecosystem with limited understanding may create a chain of events that we may not understand and which can have long-term undesirable effects. Management prescriptions are therefore mostly directed towards reducing human influences that may create undesirable impacts on the flora and fauna and making off-site efforts to develop the surrounding area as a major center for tourism. In situations where cause and effect relationship are well understood, it may be justifiable to carry out interventions that help mitigate altered natural features of the ecosystem or for achieving specific management objectives. This implies a good understanding of the ecology of the wetland at the habitat as well as species level apart from an understanding of forestry, hydrology and other disciplines.

#### 6.1.3 Compliance with Local, National and International Policies

It is essential that the management plan recognizes and is compliant with a wide range of policies, strategies and legislations. Acts/Rules and regulations associated with management of forests, wildlife and environment have undergone numerous amendments. In recent times, a number of responses have emerged at international level

  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

Dhamarai in Dhamra, Jagannath temple in Righagarh, Kereragarh and Pentha, Kanika palace in Rajkanika are places of tourism interest. In addition, the rivers and creeks outside the National Park area can also be used for cruising, nature appreciation, bird watching, crocodile sighting etc.

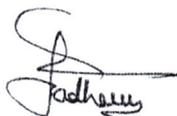
In addition to legal buffer zone, the mangrove forests of Garmal and Banipahi along with tidal rivers like Mantei, Kalinali are part of larger buffer area spreading beyond the jurisdiction of this Division. The local people of these places depend on the forest resources of Bhitarkanika National Park to some extent. The Management Plan shall also address the improvement of the forests of these areas. Chandbali is the main centre for ecotourism in Bhitarkanika. People particularly from West Bengal use Chandbali as their point of approach to Bhitarkanika. Earlier, Chandbali used to be a part of this Division, but after reorganisation of Forest Department during 2003, Chandbali has been placed under Bhadrak Wildlife Division. Recently, entry of visitors to Bhitarkanika has been allowed from Chandbali which is being managed by Bhadrak Wildlife Division. However, this Division will have to make some arrangements at Chandbali for dissemination of information, nature interpretation and tourism facilities.

### 6.5.3 Eco-tourism Zone

In Bhitarkanika, the core zone is very small. But this zone has already become popular amongst ecotourists. For sighting animals and mangroves, one has to enter into the core zone. The facilities for overnight stay have already been developed in places like Dangmal, Habalikhathi and Gupti. Places like Bagagahan, Bhitarkanika Forest Block, and Dangmal which are already popular with ecotourists have to be kept open for this purpose. Ecotourism is being increasingly used as a tool for conservation efforts. Some facilities for visitors have been created at Dobandi near Pentha village. Nature trail and toilet facility for visitors have been developed there. Therefore, places of tourism importance and the creeks connecting them will be kept under ecotourism zone. There is also scope of development of tourism in low scale in areas from Khola to khamarsahi where private and govt lands are available. The Code of Conduct for ecotourists in these areas will be prepared and all ecotourists will be urged to abide by the code.

### 6.5.4 Restoration Zone

These are areas where mangrove forests over the years have been damaged due to anthropogenic/natural factors. Entire Forest Blocks like Kantiakhai, Kanchira, Rوتا, Kantika, and Singarpurdia will come under this category. Besides, Raipatia in Ranahansua & West Habalganda Forest Blocks, Krishnapriyapur, Jaudia in Barunei-Gahirmatha Forest Block and Barunei swamp will come under this zone. Forest blocks in Mahakalapada Range such as Hetamundia, Kansaridia, Suniti in Mahanadi delta will also come under this zone. Heavy anthropogenic pressure has rendered these areas to a high degree of degradation. Efforts will be made to bring back the original condition by providing tidal channels and protection from humans and cattle. This will be followed by planting of suitable mangrove species.



Divisional Forest Officer  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)

Rajagar



Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajagar

28

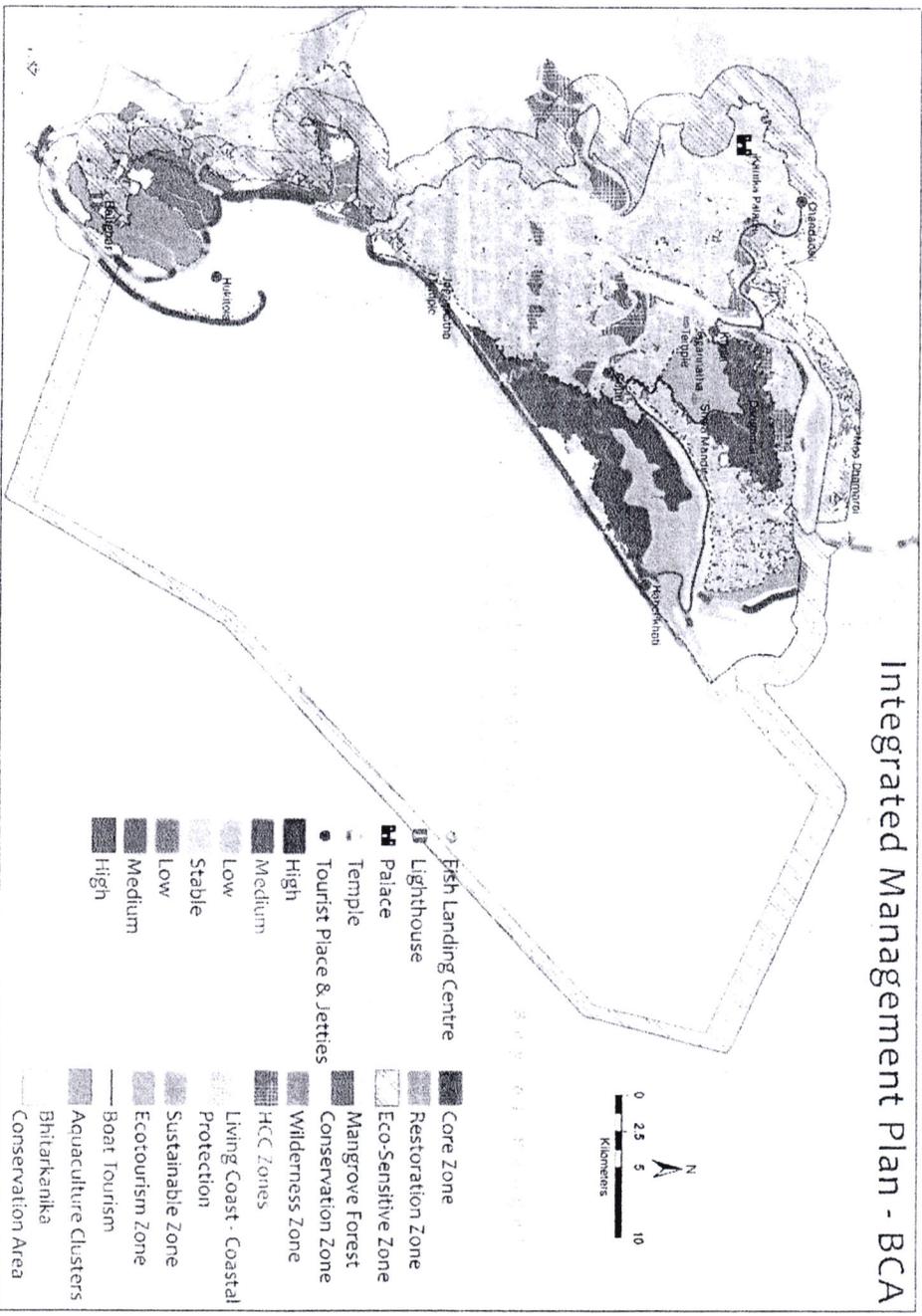


Figure 6.4: Integrated Management Plan - BCA

*S. Dasgupta*  
 Divisional Forest Officer  
 Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
 Rajnagar

*S. Dasgupta*  
 Asst. Conservator of Forests  
 Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
 Rajnagar

CHAPTER 7  
TOURISM, INTERPRETATION AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION

7.1. Background

Ecotourism includes nature-based forms of tourism in which the main attraction for the tourists is the observation and appreciation of nature as well as the traditional cultures prevailing in natural areas. Ecotourism has been broadly defined as tourism which is ecologically sustainable. According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), "Tourism that involves travelling to relatively undisturbed natural areas or Protected Areas with the prime object of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals as well as any existing cultural aspects (both of the past or the present) found in these areas" is defined as Ecotourism."

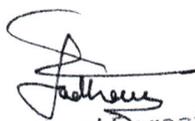
The key elements of eco-tourism include the following aspects.

- A natural environment as the prime attraction.
- An optimum number of environment-friendly visitors.
- Activities which do not involve any serious impact on the ecosystem.
- Above all, the positive engagement of local community in maintaining the ecological balance.

Ecotourism can take many forms ranging from watching animals, birds and trees in a forest to diving in the sea to see corals and marine life, and engaging in trekking, boating or rafting in beautiful natural landscapes. Of late, the concept of ecotourism has gained momentum and importance. Geographical diversity has resulted in a variety of ecosystems which have now become the core resource for ecotourism in India.

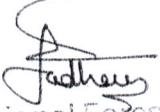
Mangrove ecosystems are very specialized forest ecosystems of tropical and sub-tropical regions bordering sea coasts and estuaries. The deltaic region of Bhitarkanika formed by the alluvial deposits of river Brahmani, Baitarani and Dhamra, harbours the specialized mangrove vegetation and its ecosystem is of immense importance. Bhitarkanika is popularly known as the land of the mangroves and reptiles. Situated away from the din and bustle of the city life, it is the cynosure of ecotourists. The lush green mangroves, meandering rivers and creeks, menacing estuarine crocodiles, docile spotted deer, kaleidoscope of avian fauna, salubrious sandy beaches and above all the serene sylvan and tranquil surroundings interspersed with the chirping of birds have become an important tourist attraction.

The scope of responsible ecotourism in Bhitarkanika is immense and it has to be harnessed to attract a greater number of ecotourists. Here are some of the places of tourist importance inside Bhitarkanika:

  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

- **Dangmal:** Situated in the heart of the National Park, it is the cynosure of Bhitarkanika having highest animal concentration. Herds of spotted deer and huge crocodiles along the mud flats abound here.
- **Bhitarkanika Forest Block:** Located on the opposite side of Dangmal across the river, Bhitarkanika meadows spreads over 50 ha. Herds of deer, wild boar and flocks of resident and migratory birds can be seen from the Watch Tower.
- **Ekakula:** The most secluded part and situated north of the National Park, Ekakula faces the sea on one side and Maipura river on the other. Besides, mangrove forests, the tranquil beach is an added attraction.
- **Habalikhati:** A site once famous for Olive Ridley Sea Turtle Research Centre, Habalikhati is situated on the sea beach. It is approachable from Baunsagarh River through a winding Nature Trail.
- **Kalibhanja Diha:** Largest island of Bhitarkanika, Kalibhanja Diha is 8 km long and about 1 km wide located on north of the National Park in Dhamra river. Contains highest biodiversity of mangrove vegetation.
- **Pentha Beach:** part of Bhitarkanika National Park facing Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, the beach is having coastal Casuarina plantation and tourists can also take pleasure of nature trail in the Casuarina forest.

  
 Divisional Forest Officer  
 Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
 Rajnagar

#### Special attractions of Bhitarkanika

- Basking crocodiles on the mud flats, spotted deer and monitor lizards.
- Salt water Crocodile Rearing Centre at Dangmal.
- Nesting Birds at Bagagahan/ Mathadia.
- Eight species of Kingfishers.
- Pristine mangroves with Pneumatophores and stilt roots.
- Blooming Pani Amba. (*Cerbera manghas*)
- Wading birds on the creek bank.
- Magnificent mud skippers.
- Meandering rivers and creeks.
- Virgin tranquil sandy beach at Ekakula, Habalikhati and Pentha.
- Nature trail at Dangmal, Bhitarkanika and Habalikhati.
- Historic shooting tower, ancient Shiva temple and lotus pond at Bhitarkanika.

#### 7.1.1. Eco-friendly Relationship

Control of non-biodegradable waste, especially single-use plastics and such products used and carried by visitors is essential. Properly implementing the ban on such items will help the P.A. in the long run.

Employment of tour guides properly trained in the subject matters of wildlife, ecology, environment and other aspects of the forest will help visitors to understand the unique

O/O the D.F.O. M.F.D.  
(W.L), RAJNAGARNo.- 5740  
Date.- 09.10.24Government of Odisha  
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department

Dt. 08.10.24

No.- FE-OCZMA-CC-0002-2024 19339/FE&CC

From

Sri Bijaya Kishor Bhujabala, OSS  
Under Secretary to Government

To

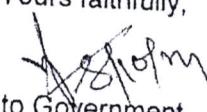
The Director, Tourism  
Department of Tourism,  
Government of OdishaSub: Permission to host "Eco-Retreat" at Pentha beach, Bhitarkanika, Dist.-  
Kendrapara from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 (90 days tentatively).

Sir,

In inviting a reference to Letter No. 7349/TSM Dt. 26.09.2024 on the subject cited above, I am directed to inform that, the proposal for hosting of "Eco-Retreat" event at Pentha beach, Bhitarkanika, Kendrapara is permitted under permissible activity as per the CRZ Notification, 2019 with strict adherence to the following terms & conditions:

1. All tented accommodation required for the events shall be purely on temporary and no RCC Construction shall be undertaken in the area.
2. The existing ecology of the site shall not be disturbed.
3. It shall be ensured by the Department of Tourism that flora or fauna of the area shall not be disturbed by the tourist.
4. Provisions of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and amendments thereof must be followed at the site.
5. Solid & liquid waste/sewerage shall not be discharged into the beach area, sea or other water bodies.
6. The existing contour of the site shall not be disturbed.
7. After completion of the events the site shall be cleaned in all respects.
8. The nearest sand dunes and ESA area shall not be used for any activity during the event period.
9. The tourists must be encouraged to undertake plantation under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" programme and environmental awareness must be created among them by taking up various activities.

Yours faithfully,

  
Under Secretary to Government

FE-OCZMA-CC-0002-2024/01/2024

  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

Memo No. 19340 /FE&CC

Dt. 08.10.24

Copy forwarded to the DFO, Rajnagar, Kendrapara for information and necessary action. They are requested to see that conditions imposed above are not violated.

Memo No. 19341 /FE&CC

Under Secretary to Government  
Dt. 08.10.24

Copy forwarded to the Collector & DM, Kendrapara for information and necessary action.

Memo No. 19342 /FE&CC

Under Secretary to Government  
Dt. 08.10.24

Copy forwarded to the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWW, Odisha, Prakruti Bhawan, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Under Secretary to Government



FE-OCZMA-CC-0002-2024/01/2024

  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

- 81 -

ANNEXURE - E/A



**STATE WILDLIFE HEADQUARTERS.**

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CCF (WILDLIFE) & CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN, ODISHA  
PRAKRUTI BHAWAN, PLOT NO. 1459, SAHEED NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR- 751007.

Website: [www.wildlife.odisha.gov.in](http://www.wildlife.odisha.gov.in), Email: [odishawildlife@gmail.com](mailto:odishawildlife@gmail.com)

Memo No. 84 /3WL-131/2021  
Bhubaneswar, Dated the 28 January, 2021.

To  
The Divisional Forest Officer,  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL),  
Rajnagar.

**Sub: Revising Management Plan of Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary for the period from 2020-21 to 2029-30 in Mangrove Forest Division (WL), Rajnagar.**

The draft Management Plan of Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary for the period from 2020-21 to 2029-30 in Mangrove Forest Division (WL), Rajnagar submitted vide your memo cited above is approved. You may go ahead with the printing and 10 copies of the printed Management Plan complete in all respect along with appendices, maps, etc. in GIS format along with soft copy may be submitted to this office at the earliest.

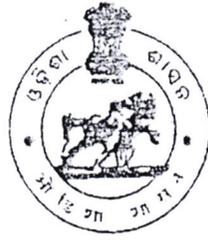
Principal CCF (Wildlife) &  
Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha.

Memo No. 84 /Date- 28/01/2021

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar Circle for information and necessary action with reference to memo No.86 dated 06.01.2021.

Principal CCF (Wildlife) &  
Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha.

**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
Rajnagar



# Certificate of Registration of Societies

ACT. XXI OF 1860

No. K. N. P.  
3120/15 of ~~2006~~-2007-08

I hereby certify that

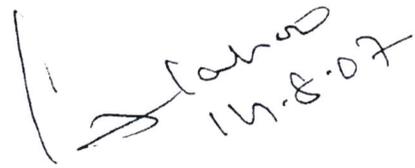
Bhutanika Eco-Tourism and Eco-

Development Society, Rajnagar

Dist: Kendrapara has this day been registered under  
the Societies Registration Act (No. XXI of 1860)

Given under my hand of Collectorate, Kendrapara  
this 14 th day of August  
two thousand ~~Six~~ Seven

  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

  
Addl. District Magistrate and  
Addl. Registrar of Societies  
Kendrapara

ANNEXURE-G/A 118  
175

- 38 -

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

\*\*\*\*\*  
No.8F(S)-18/2012. 1561 /F&E.. dated. 28-1-13

From

Shri Dehidutta Biswal IFS.  
Additional Secretary to Government.

To

The Divisional Forest Officer  
Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife)  
Rajnagar

Sub: Approval of Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism and Eco-development Society (BEES)-Registration No.3120/15 of 2007-08.

Sir:

With reference to your letter No.301 dt.22.01.2013 and in continuation of this Department Memo No.5652 dt. 31.03.2012 on the subject indicated above. I am directed to send here with the approved copy of the Resolution, Memorandum, Bye-laws and Rules of "Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism and Eco-development Society (BEES), Rajnagar" duly attested by the undersigned for necessary action at your end.

Yours faithfully,

Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No. \_\_\_\_\_ /F&E, dt. \_\_\_\_\_

Copy with copy of enclosures forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha for information and necessary action in continuation of this Department letter No.5651/F&E dt.31.03.2012.

Additional Secretary to Government

  
**Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar**

- 3A -

## RESOLUTION

It is resolved on this day 15.07.2007 to form a "Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism and Eco-development Society" (BEES) in the district of Kendrapara with the following objectives.

- A
- a) To strive to preserve the biodiversity and ecological integrity of Bhitarkanika in particular and other areas of Mangrove Forest Division (WL) Rajnagar, in general on long term basis.
  - b) Complementing, supplementing, strengthening or otherwise expanding the activities of Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha in promotion of Eco-tourism and Eco-development in Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar.
  - c) To chalk out and support concrete plans and programme for providing facilities and services of high standard for Eco-tourists visiting Bhitarkanika & other areas of Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar.
  - d) To collaborate with experts and strategic partner(s) in furtherance of the objectives of the Society.
  - e) To co-ordinate and liaise with National/International bodies and funding agencies and receive contribution for eco-tourism projects centered in Mangrove Forest Division (W.L), Rajnagar.
  - f) To receive financial assistance from financing institutions to meet short term gaps in business expenditure for fulfilling the objectives of the Society.

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**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

“BHITARKANIKA ECOTOURISM AND ECO-  
DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY”

M E M O R A N D U M

1. Name of the Society **Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism and Eco-Development Society (BEES).**
- 2.(a) Location of the Registered Office of the Society **At/Po: Rajnagar, District-Kendrapara.**
- (b) Area of operation/jurisdiction **Kendrapara district**

**3. Aims and objectives of the society :**

- a) To strive to preserve the biodiversity and ecological integrity of Bhitarkanika in particular and other areas of Mangrove Forest Division (WL) Rajnagar, in general on long term basis.
- b) Complementing, supplementing, strengthening or otherwise expanding the activities of Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha in promotion of **Eco-tourism and Eco-development** in Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar.
- c) To chalk out and support concrete plans and programme for providing facilities and services of high standard for **Eco-tourists** visiting Bhitarkanika & other areas of Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar.
- d) To collaborate with experts and strategic partner(s) in furtherance of the objectives of the Society.
- e) To co-ordinate and liaise with National/International bodies and funding agencies and receive contribution for eco-tourism projects centered in Mangrove Forest Division (W.L), Rajnagar.
- f) To receive financial assistance from financing institutions to meet short term gaps in business expenditure for fulfilling the objectives of the Society.

  
**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

- 26 -

12  
172

**BHITARKANIKA ECO-TOURISM AND ECO-DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, RAJNAGAR**

BYE LAWS

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|----|--|--|
| 1. | <b>Name of the Society:</b>                                  | <b>Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism &amp; Eco-development Society (BEES).</b>  |
| 2. | <b>(a) Location of the Registered office of the Society:</b> | Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar.<br>AT/P.O: Rajnagar, Dist: Kendrapara.<br>PIN Code No. - 754 225, Odisha.  |
|    | <b>b) Area of Operation/Jurisdiction</b>                     | Operational area of Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar.   |
| 3. | <b>Short title, extent and commencement</b>                  | <p>(a) These Byelaws shall be called the Byelaws of the Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism &amp; Eco-development Society <b>(BEES)</b>.</p> <p>(b) They shall apply to all the members, properties, activities and transactions of the Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism &amp; Eco-development Society (BEES), hereinafter referred to as the "Society".</p> <p>(c) They shall come into force on the date of registration of the society i.e. "Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism &amp; Eco-development Society" under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.</p> |
| 4. | <b>Definitions</b>   | <p>In these Byelaws unless there is any thing repugnant to the subject or context.</p> <p>(a) <b>"Act"</b> means the Societies Registration Act, 1860.</p> <p>(b) <b>"Bye-laws"</b> means the Bye-laws of Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism &amp; Eco-development Society (BEES), Rajnagar, Kendrapara.</p> <p>(c) <b>"Mentor"</b> means mentor of Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism &amp; Eco-development Society (BEES), Rajnagar, Kendrapara.</p> <p>(d) <b>"General body"</b> means general body of the society.</p>                               |
| 5. | <b>Registered Office.</b>                                    | The Registered office of the Society shall be situated at the office of the Divisional Forest officer, Mangrove Forest Division (WL) Rajnagar, Dt: Kendrapara until otherwise decided by the General Body.   |

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**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

~~37~~

16

171

6. **Authorities of the Society**

- a) The General body shall be the supreme authority in all matters of control and administration of the Society. It may delegate its authority and some of its powers and functions to the Governing Body/Sub-Committees as may be constituted by it.
- b) There shall be a Governing Body consisting of the following:
  - i) Chairperson
  - ii) Member Secretary
  - iii) Joint Secretary
  - iii) Two Official members to be nominated by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha.
  - iv) Two non-official members to be selected by the General Body from among its non-official members. The maximum tenure of any non-official member will be two years or completion of his tenure date.

7. **Restrictions on the activities of the Society or its Authority.**

c) The Member Secretary of the society shall be the **Chief Executive** of the Society and shall have the power to do all such legal acts and deeds as may be delegated by the Governing Body.

The Society or any of its authority shall not be competent to engage or appoint any person or lease or rent out, or in any way transfer possession of any land/premises/capital asset of any office, Rest House, Forest area or undertake or authorize any civil construction without the prior sanction of competent authority under the Govt. of Odisha. Any directive issued by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha/State Govt. shall be binding on the Society. The Society or any of its authority shall not be competent to change this clause.

8. **Members and their tenure**

The General Body of the Society shall consists of :

- a) Official Members
  - 1. Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar Circle, Bhubaneswar. Chairperson
  - 2. Divisional Forest Officer, Mangrove Forest Division (WL) Rajnagar. Member Secretary
  - 3. Divisional Forest Officer, Bhadrak Wildlife Division, Chandbali. Ex-Officio Member
  - 4. Asst. Conservator of Forests, Rajnagar. Joint Secretary.
  - 5. Asst. Conservator of Forests, Paradip. Ex-Officio Member.

**Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar**

- 20 -

15  
170

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|     | 6.  | One Research Officer, O/o PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha as nominated by CWLW, Odisha   | -do-       |
|     | 7.  | Project Director, DRDA, Kendrapara.  | -do-       |
|     | 8.  | District Fisheries Officer, Kendrapara.  | -do-       |
|     | 9.  | Tourist Officer, Kendrapara.   | -do-       |
|     | 10. | SDPO, Pattamundai  | -do-       |
|     | 11. | Tehsildar, Rajnagar  | -do-       |
|     | 12. | Honorary Wildlife Warden for Kendrapara district.  | -do-       |
| (b) |     | Non-official Members   |            |
|     | 1.  | State Director, WWF, India, Odisha Chapter.  | NGO Member |
|     | 2.  | A local NGO to be nominated by the CWLW, Odisha  | NGO Member |
|     | 3.  | Two members from the field of Wildlife Conservation and Ecotourism to be nominated by the General body   | Member     |
|     | 4.  | Chairpersons from three EDCs of Mangrove Forest Division to be nominated by the General Body and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha.  | Members    |
|     | 5.  | Two Women members representing local institutions / local communities to be nominated by the General Body and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha.   | Members    |
|     | 6.  | The Society may admit further members subject to the approval of the General Body either or its own volition or on the request of any person or institution desiring to become member or at the instance of Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha or Government. | Members    |

**Note:**

- i. All official members shall be ex-officio members of the Society as long as they hold such office.
- ii. Each of non-official member to be nominated by the Society as per (b) above shall be for tenure of 2 years only.
- iii. A person convicted under any Forest or Wildlife law or under the IPC, a dismissed government employee or any other persons having disqualification which may be determined from time to time by Government shall not be eligible to be a member of the Society or it's Governing Body.

  
**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

- iv. *The Society may admit further members subject to the approval of the General Body either on its own volition or on the request of any person or institution desiring to be a member or at the instance of the State Government.*
- v. *Whenever a member desires to resign from the membership of the Society, he/she shall address his/her resignation to the Chairman his/her resignation shall take effect only on its acceptance by the General Body of the Society.*
- vi. *Any vacancy in the membership of the Society shall be filled by appointment or nomination by the Authority or the Institution entitled to make such nominations.*
9. **Register of members**
- a) A Register of members shall be maintained at the Registered Office of the society in which the name address and description of each member shall be entered together with the date of admission to membership and date and particulars of cessation of membership, wherever applicable.
- b) The address appearing in the Register of members shall be deemed to be the address of the members for the purpose of notice, etc.
10. **Office bearers**
- There shall be a Chairperson and a Member Secretary of the Society.
- a) The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar Circle, Bhubaneswar shall be the ex-officio Chairperson of the Society. He shall preside over and conduct the meetings of the General Body.
- b) The Divisional Forest Officer, Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar-cum-Wildlife Warden, Bhitarkanika National Park shall be the Member Secretary of the Society. The Member Secretary shall perform the day to day routine functions of the Society for implementing the work programme approved by the Governing Body and shall perform acts and duties as may be required for fulfilling the objectives of the Society.
- c) The ACF, Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar stationed at Rajnagar shall be the Joint Secretary of the Society. The Joint Secretary shall assist the Secretary in day-to-day functioning of the Society, as and when required. He shall also be a joint signatory of all the cheques issued by the Secretary on behalf of the Society.

  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

11. **Powers and functions of the General Body.** a) The General Body shall have general control over the affairs of the Society and shall have authority to exercise all powers and to perform acts and deeds for the running of the Society consistent with the aims and objectives of it.

b) The General Body, except for what is provided under bye-law-7, shall have full powers to alter, extend or abridge the aims, objectives and purposes of the Society, to change its name, to amend the bye-laws as they may think essential for the regulation and proper functioning of the Society, subject to such guidelines and directives issued by the State Government from time to time. All amendments to be made shall be implemented only after the same are approved by the Registrar of the Society under section 12 of S.R. Act 1860.

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Provided that any such proposition shall be submitted to the members of the Society thirty days prior to the meeting convened by the General Body for consideration of the same. Such proposition shall have to be agreed to, by at least two thirds of the members present and voting and further confirmed by two-thirds of the members present and voting at a second special meeting to be convened by the Secretary at least one month after the former meeting.

c) A report shall be submitted by the Member Secretary to the Registrar of Societies every year within fourteen days of the first General Body meeting of a year, or if for any reason such a meeting could not be held, then before the fourteenth of July stating the names, addresses and occupations of the members of the General Body.

d) The General Body may accept the management and administration of any endowment or trust fund or any subscription or donation, if the same is unaccompanied by any condition and not inconsistent with or in conflict with the nature and objectives with which the Society has been established.

Provided that the General Body shall not accept any condition regarding use of any forest land, office premises and equipment and regarding building construction which is inconsistent with the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

*Signature*  
**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
**Rajnagar**

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The Governing Body will comprise of 7 members including the Chairman, Member Secretary, two official and three non-official members.

## 12. Meeting of the General Body

- a) The General Body shall meet at least once a year. The meeting of the General Body shall be convened by the Member Secretary.
- b) The first meeting of the General Body for a financial year shall be held at a date not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June where among other business of the Society, the following shall be disposed of namely :
  - i) Consideration and approval of the Annual Report of the activities of the Society for the preceding year together with the audited copy of the balance sheet for the said year.
  - ii) Income and expenditure, receipt and payment accounts and the Audit report relating to the previous year, and
  - iii) Appointment of Auditors for the current year.
- c) The Member Secretary shall convene the General Body meeting whenever the Chairperson thinks it necessary, or whenever a written and signed requisition for such a meeting is made by at least six members of the General Body.
- d) Written notices for every meeting accompanied by the agenda, and stating the date, time and venue of the meeting shall be **dispatched to all members, preferably fifteen days before the date fixed for the meeting.**
- e)
  - i) The quorum for any meeting of the General Body shall be half the members.
  - ii) If within one hour from the time appointed for holding a meeting, the quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to a time as decided by the Chairperson.
  - iii) Quorum shall not be necessary for an adjourned meeting.
  - iv) Every meeting shall be presided over by the Chairperson.

## 13. Voting

- i) Every member including the Chairperson shall have one vote.
- ii) Except where there is unanimity, every matter shall be decided by simple majority of votes of those present and voting.
- iii) In case same number of votes are cast for and against any matter, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to his/her vote as a member.
- iv) Voting shall ordinarily be by a simple show of hands unless

  
 Asst. Conservator of Forests  
 Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
 Rajnagar

any member a secret ballot is demanded by any member present, either before or on declaration of the result of the show of hands.

**Note : The result of voting shall be recorded in the book of proceedings.**

- v) If on the demand for a poll, the poll can not be held on the same day, the transaction of business will be limited to business other than the matter on which a poll has been demanded.
- vi) Proxy shall not be permitted at any meeting or poll.
- vii) The Chairperson shall be the sole judge to decide any dispute regarding the validity of any vote tendered at a meeting or at a poll. Such decision of the Chairperson shall be final and binding upon every member.
- viii) If a vacancy in the membership occurs, the remaining members shall act as if no vacancy had occurred. No action or proceeding of a meeting of the General Body shall be vitiated or deemed invalid by reason of a vacancy in the General Body or of a defect in the appointment or continuation of any person as member of the General Body.
- ix) Any resolution of the General Body may be passed by circulation from member to member and it shall not be necessary to call a meeting for the purpose, if the chairperson deems that it is necessary and expedient to pass a resolution by circulation.
- x) The society may invite experts, reputed professionals or other persons to attend any meeting of the General Body or of any committee of the society so as to seek their expert opinion/advice/suggestions/and services in furtherance of the objectives of the society.

#### 14. Minutes

- a) The Member Secretary shall cause proper minutes to be made of all proceedings of the meetings of the General Body and Governing Body.
- b) The Minutes Book shall be signed by the Chairperson within ten days from the date of the meeting.

#### 15. Power and Functions of Governing Body:

1. The Governing Body shall be the Executive wing of the society and shall be responsible for management of its affairs. It would take all decisions for fulfilling the objectives of the society subject to the guidance and scrutiny of the General Body.

  
 Asst. Conservator of Forests  
 Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
 Rajnagar

- 42 -
2. The Governing Body shall be competent to approve the Annual Budget of the Society.
  3. The Governing Body shall be answerable to the General Body for the income, expenditure and all the activities of the Society.
  4. The Governing Body shall ensure maintenance of proper accounts and audit of the Society.
  5. The Governing Body may delegate such powers to the Member Secretary as may be necessary for the smooth functioning of the Society.
  6. The Governing Body shall meet as often as necessary but not less than once in a quarter.
  7. The Member Secretary shall issue necessary notice for meeting of the Governing Body with the prior approval of the chairperson by giving the members a notice of at least seven clear days.
  8. In case of emergency, the decision of the Governing Body can be taken by circulation among its members which shall be ratified by the Governing Body in its regular meeting immediately following such resolution by circulation.

**16. Member Secretary, his powers & functions:**

- a) The Member Secretary shall be the **Chief Executive** of the Society.
- b) All decisions, instructions, orders of the General Body and Governing Body shall be carried out by him. He shall receive and carry out on all correspondences for and on behalf of the Society. He will receive all contributions /grants meant for the Society, and deposit the same in the corpus Fund, and will grant proper receipts for the same.
- c) He shall have control and supervision of all resources of the Society. All expenditure within budget grant shall be approved and sanctioned by the Secretary, subject to delegation in this regard by the Governing Body.
- d) Drawal of money from the account of the Society will be through cheques signed jointly by the Member Secretary and the Joint Secretary.
- e) All contracts on behalf of society shall be signed by the Secretary witnessed by another member of the Governing Body.
- f) The Member Secretary shall arrange to comply with the requisite statutory returns and statements the periodical accounts. He

  
 Asst. Conservator of Forests  
 Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
 Rajnagar

- 44 -

Administrative Report shall submit Annual Administrative Report on the affairs and financial position and budget of the Society to Governing Body and the General Body. He shall file with the Registrar of Societies documents required under section 4 of the Act as amended from time to time.

- g) The Member Secretary shall represent the Society and act on its behalf and in its stead in all judicial, quasi-judicial proceedings and matters and shall have powers to engage Advocate(s) to represent him and the society in any proceedings. He may sue or be sued on behalf of the society.
- h) The Member Secretary shall present for inspection the books of accounts and record of the society as required under the financial rules.
- i) It shall be the duty of the Member Secretary to carry on the works, administration and management of the Society under the control of the Governing Body, in conformity with the aims and objectives, rules and byelaws of the Society.

#### 17. ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT AND AUDIT REPORT

- (a) Every member of the society shall have the right of inspection of accounts and registers maintained by the society and proceedings of the meeting of the Society at any time during office hours.
- (b) An annual report of the activities of the society and of all works undertaken during the year shall be prepared by the Governing Body for information of the State government and the members of the society. This report and the audited accounts of the society shall be placed before the society at the Annual General Body meeting.
- (c) Within 30 days after holding of Annual General Meeting, there shall be filed, with the Registrar of Societies, (i) a list of the names, address and occupations of the members of the General Body, the Chairman, Member Secretary and of other office bearers of the Society, (ii) an annual report of the previous year, and (iii) a copy of each of the balance sheet and of the auditor's report certified by the auditor, such documents and the annual report shall also be certified by the Chairman and the Member Secretary.
- (d) If any changes occur in the composition of the Governing Body or in the holder of the office of the Chairman or the Member Secretary at any time for any reason, such change shall within 30 days, be notified to the Registrar of Societies.

#### 18. PROPERTY OF THE SOCIETY:

All the property belonging to the society shall be deemed to be vested in the Governing Body of the Society but shall be referred as the property of the Society.



Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

- 45 -

**19. SUIT & PROCEEDINGS BY AND AGAINST THE SOCIETY:**

- (a) The Society may sue or may be sued in the name of the Member Secretary.
1. No suit or proceedings shall abate by reason of any vacancy or change in the holder of the office of the Chairman, the Member Secretary or any office bearer authorized in this behalf.
  2. Every decree or order against the Society in any suit or proceedings shall be executable against the property of the Society and not against the person or the property of the Chairman, the Member Secretary or any Office bearer.
- (b) Every member of the society may be sued or prosecuted by the Society for any loss or damage caused to the Society or its property or for anything done by him detrimental to the interest of the Society.

**20. IDEMNITY:**

Subject to provisions of section 10 and 11 of the Act, every member, employee and agent of the Society shall be indemnified against any cost, expense or liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings whether civil or criminal arising out of any act done in discharge of official duty relating to the affairs of the Society.

**21. NOTICES:**

- (a) A notice by the society may be served upon any member of the Society either personally or by sending it through the post in an envelop addressed to such member at the address mentioned in the roll of members.
- (b) Any notice, so served by post, shall be deemed to have been served on the day following that on which the letter envelopes or wrapper containing the same is posted and in providing such service it shall be sufficient to prove that the cover containing such Society notice was properly addressed and put into the post office.

**22. ALTERATION OR EXTENSION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY**

- (a) Subject to the prior approval of the State Govt., the society may alter or extend the objectives enshrined in the Memorandum and Article of Association.
1. If the Governing Body shall submit the proposal for such alteration or extension, as aforesaid to the members of the society in a written or printed report.
  2. If the Governing Body shall convene a special general body meeting of the members of the society according to these Rules for the consideration of the said proposal.



Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

- 46 -

7  
62

...red or sent by 3... If such report be delivered or sent by post to every member of the...  
...society, fourteen days clear previous to such special general body...  
meeting as aforesaid.

4. If such proposal is confirmed by the votes of three fifths of the members of Society present at a second special general meeting convened by the governing Body at an interval of the month after the former meeting.

(b) The bye-laws of the Society may be altered at any time with the approval of the Government of Orissa passed by a resolution of a two third majority of the members of the Society present at any meeting of the Society which shall have been duly convened for the purpose. The modified bye-laws will be deemed to have come into force in accordance with the provisions contained in the Societies Registration Act., 1860.

**23. DISSOLUTION:**

(a) The dissolution of the Society shall follow the provisions of section 13 and Section 14 of the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

(b) Members would receive no profits upon dissolution of the society. If after disposal and settlement of the property of the society and its claims and liabilities, there are any surplus assets, such assets shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the Society or any of them, but shall be disposed of as directed by the Government of Orissa with approval of the Registrar of Societies.

**24. DECLARATION:**

(a) Certified that there is no other Registered Society in the same name in the District of Kendrapara.

(b) Certified that all legal matters shall be guided under the S.R.Act. XXI-1860 with amendment 1979.

**25. LEGAL ACTION**

The Member Secretary may sue or be sued on behalf of the Society for movable and immovable properties.

  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

- ~~47~~ -

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**ODISHA "BHITARKANIKA ECO-TOURISM AND ECO-DEVELOPMENT"  
SOCIETY (BEES), RAJNAGAR"**

**R U L E S**

**1. Introduction.**

- a) "Society" means "The Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism Society, Rajnagar".
- b) "General Body" means the General Body of the Society;
- c) "Governing Body" means the Governing Body of the Society.
- d) "Chairperson" means the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar Circle, Bhubaneswar.
- e) "Member Secretary" means the Divisional Forest Officer, M.F.D (WL), Rajnagar.
- f) "Joint Secretary" means the ACF, M.F.D (WL), Rajnagar stationed at Rajnagar
- g) "Government" Means the Government of Odisha; and
- h) "Union Government" means the Government of India.
- i) "Chief Wildlife Warden" means Chief Wildlife Warden of Odisha.

**2. Office Bearers of the Society.**

- a) The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar Circle, Bhubaneswar shall be the ex-officio Chairperson.
- b) Divisional Forest Officer, Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife) shall be the Member Secretary of the Society.
- c) The ACF, Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife) stationed at Rajnagar shall be the Joint Secretary of the Society

**3. Duties and power of the Chairperson.**

- a) He shall preside over the meetings of the General Body and the Governing Body.
- b) He shall perform such functions and exercise such powers as may be provided under the bye-laws of the Society and rules made there under, or as may be specifically delegated/entrusted to him by the General Body.

**4. Duties and powers of the Member Secretary.**

- a) He shall be the Chief Executive of the Society.
- b) He shall be responsible for implementation of the decision of the General Body and Governing Body.
- c) He shall exercise all the powers as provided by the bye-laws or as delegated by the General Body/Governing Body.

**5. Duties and powers of the Joint Secretary :**

- a) He shall assist the Secretary in the day to day running of the Society as and when required.
- b) He shall be the joint signatory in the cheques for withdrawal of funds from the Bank.

  
**Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar**

48

6. Rights, powers and duties of the Governing Body.

- a) The business and affairs of the Society shall be carried on and managed by the Governing Body subject to the guidance and scrutiny of the General Body.
- b) The Governing Body shall exercise all such powers and perform such functions as are necessary or proper for the achievement or in furtherance of the objectives of the Society. Taking into consideration item no.7 of Bye-laws of the Society i.e. restrictions on the activities of the society or its authority.
- c) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, the Governing Body shall have the following powers and rights, namely :
- i) to manage properties including the Funds of the Society.
  - ii) to raise funds for the society by receiving as, gifts and donations and borrowing from financial institutions.
  - iii) to receive any movable and immovable property for and on behalf of the Society.
  - iv) to enter into agreement for and on behalf of the Society.
  - v) to defend legal proceedings against the society.
  - vi) to grant, receive, sign and execute instruments and endorse or discount cheques or other negotiable instruments through its accredited agents.
  - vii) to sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any movable property of the Society with the prior approval of Government.
  - viii) to consider and approve the annual budget the Society.
  - ix) to perform all such acts and do all such things as may be necessary for proper management of the affairs of the Society.
  - x) to constitute sub-committees for implementation of one or more objectives and coordinate their activities.
  - xi) to issue guidelines and directions to the Secretary as may be necessary for implementation of programme.
  - xii) to critically examine and to pass the annual/quarterly work programme of the Society.
  - xiii) to make rules, subject to approval of Government, in respect of the following matters, namely :
    - a) The management and utilisation of the funds of the Society.
    - b) The procedure for selection of members of the Committees.
    - c) The procedure for convening and conduct of the meeting of the General Body, Committees and such other bodies, as may be set up from time to time.
    - d) Purchase of articles and stores as may be necessary or expedient for the functioning of the Society.

  
 Asst. Conservator of Forests  
 Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
 Rajnagar

- 49 -

4  
[53]

Society and xiv) To change the name of the Society and to add, amend, alter, abridge or recast any or all of its aims and objectives, its bye-laws except bye-laws 7, rules and regulations in keeping with the purpose/objectives of the Society and the provisions of Section 12 of the Act.

### 7. Meeting.

- a) All meetings of the General Body and the Governing Body shall ordinarily be held in the head quarters of the Society.
- b) The meeting of the General Body may be convened by the secretary on requisition signed for the purpose by either the Chairperson or by not less than six members.
- c) The meeting of the Governing Body shall be convened at least once every quarter by the Secretary with prior-approval of the Chairperson.

### 8. Funds of the Society.

- a) The funds of the Society shall consist of the following.
  - i) Grants from the State Government/Union Government.
  - ii) Grants and contribution from other corporate bodies, agencies, institutions and individuals.
  - iii) Loans from the government and financing institutions.
- b) The Fund shall be kept in an interest bearing account in a Nationalised Bank, and withdrawal shall be made by cheques jointly signed by the Secretary and Joint Secretary.
  1. While opening an account in a Nationalised Bank, necessary permission of the Government may be taken.
  2. There should be maintenance of Cash Book for each financial year separately.
  3. Each entry of expenditure and receipt should be reflected in that Cash Book.
  4. Receipt of grants, contribution etc from agencies, institutions must be made against issue of receipt. Chronological Sl. Nos must be maintained for receipt books for every financial year. The Sl. Nos against which contributions are received must be reflected in the Cash Book.
  5. All the Cash/Cheque/Demand Draft/Receipt should be deposited in the Bank on the same day itself or the next working day positively.
  6. The Cheque must be signed by Government authority before encashment.
  7. The expenditure should not be more than demands of the occasion.

  
 Asst. Conservator of Forests  
 Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
 Rajnagar

**9. Audit :**

- a) The auditors of the Society shall be appointed by the General Body.
- b) At least once in every financial year, the accounts of the Society shall be examined and the correctness of the income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet ascertained by the auditors appointed under clause (a)
- c) The Government of Odisha shall have powers to conduct supplementary or test audit.
- ✓ d) The Accountant General, Odisha shall have powers to conduct supplementary or test audit of the Society's accounts by such person as may be authorised on his behalf.
- e) The Financial year of the Government shall be the financial year of the Society. The Society shall finalise the compilation of the annual Accounts and complete the audit for a financial year before 30<sup>th</sup> June and submit the copy of the annual accounts together with a copy of the audit report to the Chief Wildlife Warden and the Secretary, Forest and Environment Department who shall have the right to comment upon or supplement the Audit Report in any manner as he may deem fit.
- f) The Annual Accounts together with the Audit Report and the comments, if any, of the Chief Wildlife Warden/Secretary, Forest and Environment Department shall be placed before the General Body in the next meeting. After the annual accounts and audit report are accepted by the general Body, one copy of the same shall be sent to the Government, Forest and Environment Department within 30 days accompanied by an annual Report embodying the main features of the working of the society.
- g) *All changes or modification of Rules shall be made in conformity with the Rules of the State Government.*

**10. Amendment :**

Amendment to the Bye-laws of the Society may be made in accordance with the provisions of section 12 of the Act.

**11. Staff rules :**

The Government servants who are members of the Society shall be subject to control and guidance by the rules and orders of the Government including transfer, posting, promotion, disciplinary proceedings etc. No sanction of the Society shall be necessary for Government to take any disciplinary action against Govt. servants who are members of the Society. As Government servants they shall continue to be responsible to Government for their actions.

**12. Financial Rules :**

- a) The Governing Body shall form the financial rules of the Society in conformity with the rules and instructions of Government for transacting financial matters, including procurement of store and delegation of financial powers to the Chairperson or the Secretary.

  
**Asst. Conservator of Forests**  
**Mangrove Forest Division (WL)**  
Rajnagar

- 81 -

15+

All payments of and above Rs. 10, 000/- (Ten Thousand) shall be made by way of crossed A/c payee cheques only.

### 13. Dissolution

The dissolution of the Society shall be made in accordance with the provisions of section 13 & 14 of the Act or such other law for the time being in force.

### 14. Declaration :

In all circumstances, this Society shall function in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

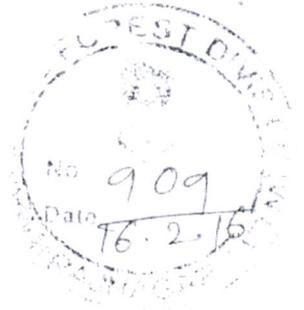
We, the following members of the General Body of the Bhitarkanika Eco-tourism Society, Rajnagar do hereby certify that the above is a correct copy of the bye-laws of the said Society.

  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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NOTIFICATION



No. FE-WL-WLF-0052-2015 2430/F&E, dt. 08-2-16

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 64 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972), the State Government do hereby make the following rules further to amend the Wildlife (Protection) (Orissa) Rules, 1974, namely:--

1. (1) These rules may be called the Wildlife (Protection) (Orissa) Amendment Rules, 2016.  
(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the *Odisha Gazette*.
2. In the Wildlife (Protection) (Orissa) Rules, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as the said rules in the Chapter IV in Rule 28, for sub-rule (3), the following sub-rule shall be substituted, namely:-
3. (a) (i) The entrance fee per day in case of citizen of India shall be Rs.100 (rupees one hundred) only per visitor and for a group of ten or more @ per person Rs.50 (rupees fifty) only for Similipal Tiger Reserve, and  
(ii) The entrance fee per day per visitor and for a group of ten or more visitors shall respectively be Rs.40 (rupees forty) only and Rs. 25 (rupees twenty five) only per person for other sanctuaries and National parks (except Nandankanan).  
(b) (i) The entrance fee per day in case of a person other than a citizen of India shall be Rs. 100 (rupees one hundred) only and for a group of ten or more @ per person shall be Rs. 50 (rupees fifty) only for Similipal Tiger Reserve and  
(ii) The entrance fee per day in case of a person other than a citizen of India, and for a group of ten or more visitors shall respectively be Rs. 40 ( rupees forty) only and Rs. 25 (rupees twenty five) only per person for other Sanctuaries & National Parks (except Nandankanan)

Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

- 53 -

(c) (i) A student shall be admitted on payment of Rs. 30 (rupees thirty) only for Similipal Tiger Reserve and Rs. 20 (rupees twenty) only for other Sanctuaries and National Parks (except Nandankanan).

(ii) For a group of ten or more students the entrance fee per student shall be Rs. 20 (rupees twenty) only for Similipal Tiger Reserve and Rs. 10 (rupees ten) only for other sanctuaries and National Parks (except Nandankanan).

(d) No fee shall be payable in respect of a child below 3 years of age and Person with disability.

4.(a) The fees for operating different types of still camera by amateur photographer in all Sanctuaries and National Parks/Tiger Reserves for first three days in case of citizen of India shall be Rs. 50 (rupees fifty) only and for Foreign Nationals Rs.200 (rupees two hundred) only, and

ii) The fees for operating different types of still camera by amateur photographer in all Sanctuaries and National Parks/Tiger Reserves per every additional day after three days, in case of citizen of India shall be Rs.30 (rupees thirty) only and for Foreign National Rs.100 (rupees one hundred) only.

b) The fees for operating different types of still camera by professional photographer in all Sanctuaries and National Parks/Tiger Reserves per camera per day in case of citizen of India shall be Rs.1,000 (rupees one thousand) only and for Foreign Nationals shall be Rs.2,000 (rupees two thousand) only.

c) The fees for operating different types of cine camera by amateur photographer in all Sanctuaries and National Parks/Tiger Reserves for first three days in case of citizen of India shall be Rs.5,000 (rupees five thousand) only and for Foreign National shall be Rs10,000 (rupees ten thousand) only and

  
Asst.Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

2

ii) The fees for operating different types of cine camera by amateur photographer in all Sanctuaries and National Parks/Tiger Reserves per every additional day after three days in case of citizen of India shall be Rs.1,000 (rupees one thousand) only and for Foreign National shall be Rs2,000 (rupees two thousand) only.

d) The fees for operating different types cine camera by professional photographer in all Sanctuaries and National Parks/Tiger Reserves per camera per day in case of citizen of India shall be Rs.25,000 (rupees twenty five thousand) only and for Foreign Nationals shall be Rs50,000 (rupees fifty thousand) only.

e) The fees for making wildlife documentary in all Sanctuaries and National Parks/Tiger Reserves per camera per day in case of citizen of India shall be Rs. 15,000 (rupees fifteen thousand) only and for Foreign Nationals shall be Rs20,000 (rupees twenty thousand) only.

By order of the Governor

Memo No 2431 /F&E, dt. 08-2-16 Principal Secretary to Government

Copy forwarded to the Director, Printing & Stationary & Publication, Odisha, Cuttack for information and necessary action.

He is requested to publish the notification in the next issue of extraordinary Gazette and supply 300 copies to this Department for use.

Special Secretary to Government

lhr  
Memo No 2432 /F&E, dt. 08-2-16

Copy forwarded to the PCCF, Odisha /PCCF (Wildlife), Odisha for information and necessary action.

Special Secretary to Government

Memo No 2433 /F&E, dt. 08-2-16

Copy forwarded to all RCCFs, all CCFs, Odisha /all DFOs for information and necessary action.

Special Secretary to Government

  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

- 35 -

6/11

Memo No 2434 /F&E, dt. 08-2-16

Copy forwarded to all Departments of Government / all Collectors for information and necessary action.

Memo No 2435 /F&E, dt. 08-2-16 Special Secretary to Government

Copy forwarded to all Officers/all Section of F&E Departments for information and necessary action.

Memo No 2436 /F&E, dt. 08-2-16 Special Secretary to Government

Copy forwarded to Head, State Portal, IT Department ,Odisha Secretariat for information and necessary action.

Memo No 2437 /F&E, dt. 08-2-16 Special Secretary to Government

Copy to Guard file (20 copies) for information and necessary action.

Special Secretary to Government

hpr

  
Asst.Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

No. FE-WL-WLF-0027-2016 / 6324 / F & E, Dt. 19.3.18

From Sri Debidutta Biswal, IFS  
Special Secretary to Government

SECRET  
20/3

To The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha

Sub:- Proposal for standard sharing mechanism of the revenue realized through booking of tourism destinations.

Sir, In inviting a reference to your Letter No. 1573 dt. 16.02.2018, on the above cited subject, I am directed to say that the revised proposal for standard sharing mechanism of the revenue realized from booking of eco-tourism destinations, has been approved as follows:

1. Payment of wages of ETG - 35%
  2. Recurring expenditure for day to day maintenance - 25%
  3. Infrastructure Development including major maintenance - 10%
- The other components i.e., i) Government revenue; ii) EDC/VSS share and  
iii) Corpus fund are to be at the same rate i.e. 10% each.

S. Bank  
20/3

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*  
19/3/18  
Special Secretary to Government

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CCF (WILDLIFE) & CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN, ODISHA  
5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, BDA APARTMENT, PRAKRUTI BHAWAN, NILAKANTHA NAGAR,  
NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR- 751012 Ph. No. 0674-2564587,  
FAX No.0674-2565062

\*\*\*  
Memo No. 2724 / 4WL(BT)475/2017  
Dated, Bhubaneswar, the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017.

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officers, Mangrove Forest (WL) Division, Rajnagar/ Dy. Director, STR, Baripada/ Chilika (WL)/ Satkosia (WL)/ Hirakud (WL)/ Puri (WL)/ Chandaka (WL)/ Balasore (WL)/Mahanadi (WL)/ Phulbani /Keonjhar(T)/Cuttack/ Dhenkanal/ Ghumsur (N)/ Nayagarh(T)/ Sundargarh(T) /Ghumsur(S) / Athagarh/ Karanjia/Rairangpur/ Balliguda/ Division.

*[Signature]*  
22/3/18  
Chief Conservator of Forests (WL).

*[Signature]*  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

Eco-tourism destination at Bhitarkanika



Dangmal Entry Gate



Gupti Entry Gate



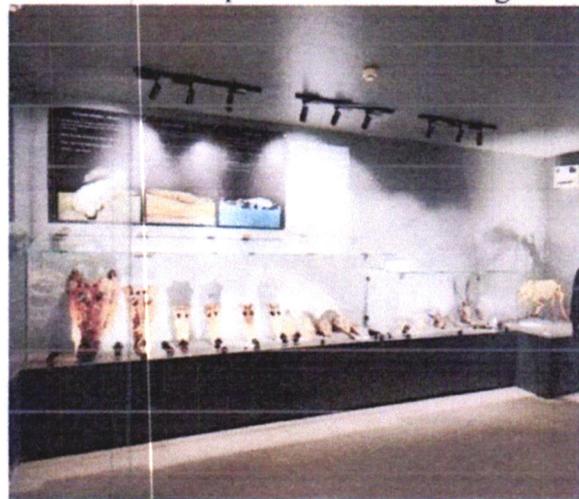
Selfie Point at Dangmal



New Interpretation centre at Dangmal



New Interpretation centre at Dangmal

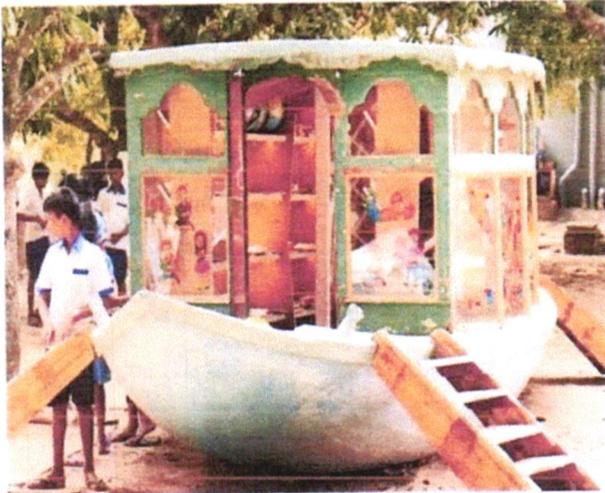


New Interpretation centre at Dangmal

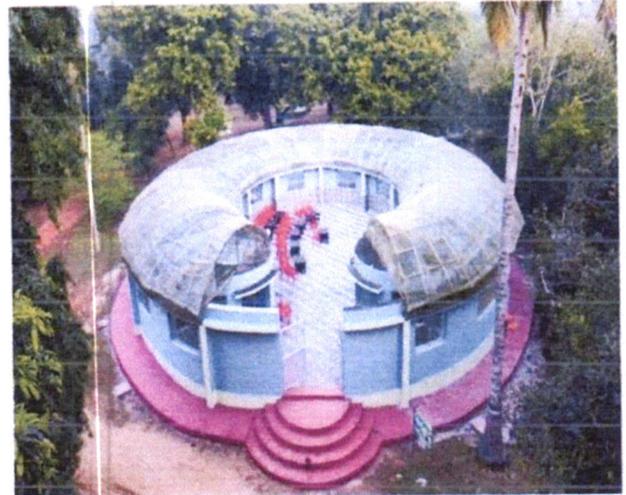
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Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

- 8 -



Childrens' Boat library



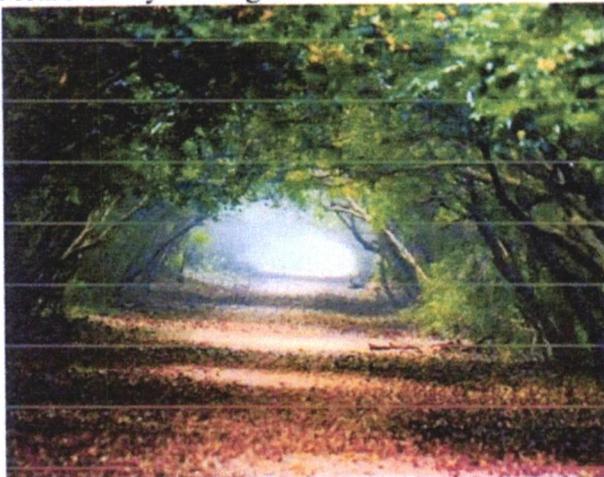
Crocodile Hetchery



Meta Nursery at Dangmal



Meta Nursery at Dangmal



Nature trail in Bhitarkanika FD



Kanika Café

*[Signature]*  
Asst. Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnagar

-X-



Kanika Café inner



Gupti Café



Gupti Café inner



8-seater e-rickshaw



4-seater e-rickshaw



Nature trail at Sikar Kothi

lx

*[Handwritten signature]*

**Asst.Conservator of Forests  
Mangrove Forest Division (WL)  
Rajnarar**