

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, EASTERN ZONE BENCH,
KOLKATA**

O.A. No. 89 of 2024 (EZ)

In the matter of:

Gopinath Majhi.

...Applicant

Vs.

State of Odisha and others

...Respondents

INDEX

<u>Sl No.</u>	<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1.	Reply on behalf of respondent No. 1,8 & 11	1-7
2.	<u>ANNEXURE R-1</u> A Copy of the satellite view of the area showing the location of the OPGC thermal power plant, its ash pond units, and their proximity to Hirakud Reservoir and Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary	8-9
3.	<u>ANNEXURE R-2</u> A copy of the notification is annexed herewith and marked	10-12
4.	<u>ANNEXURE R-3</u> A copy of the letters stating Utilisation Certificate for Eradication of Ipomoea Weeds and expenditure statement	13-18
5.	<u>ANNEXURE R-4</u> A copy of the office memorandum date 20.12.2024 issued by the MoEF&CC	19-39
6.	<u>ANNEXURE R-5</u> A copy of the brief report on Hirakund Wetland	40-43
7.	<u>ANNEXURE R-6</u> A copies of the minutes of meetings	44-58
8.	<u>ANNEXURE R-7</u> A copies of the minutes of meetings	59-61

9.	<u>ANNEXURE R-8</u> A copy of the letter dated 14.03.2024	62-65
10.	Proof of Service	66

Filed By:

*Raman yadav*Raman Yadav
Advocate

C- 167, LGF

Defence Colony

New Delhi - 110024

Ph.: 011-45784866

M-8800457781

E-mail: officeoframanyadav@gmail.comDate: 17.02.2025
Place: New Delhi

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA.**

O.A. No. 89 of 2024 (EZ)

In the matter of:

Gopinath Majhi. ...Applicant

Versus

State of Odisha and Ors. ...Respondents

REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT No. 1, 8 & 11

I, Smt. Anshu Pragyan Das, aged about 42 years, working as the Divisional Forest Officer at O/o the Divisional Forest Officer, Hirakud Wildlife Division, Sambalpur, Odisha do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I am competent to swear and affirm this affidavit on behalf of Respondent Nos. 1, 8 & 11. I have reviewed the contents of the present original application and fully understood them.

2. At the outset, I deny all the allegations, averments, and contentions urged in the original application individually and collectively, save and except to the extent specifically admitted herein below. Any allegations, averments, and/or contentions not specifically admitted, though not traversed, shall be deemed to have been denied.



(Signature)
Divisional Forest Officer
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur

754 17-2-25
Sl. No. ...
A.C. BHOI
NOTARY Sambalpur



3. The present original application alleges that the Odisha Power Generation Corporation Ltd. ("OPGC"), a thermal power plant in Banaharpali, Jharsuguda District, is causing significant environmental hazards due to improper fly ash management in violation of Environmental Clearance (EC) conditions. The Applicant seeks a direction for the removal of fly ash from adjoining government and private lands, including within the backwater of Hirakud Reservoir, and for the restoration of land to its original condition. The Applicant also prays for an examination of whether the existing and proposed ash pond conforms to the siting criteria of 500 meters from Hirakud Reservoir and the impact of any ash pond breach on the Hirakud wetland.

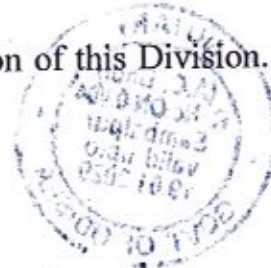
4. It is submitted that the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, comprising Debrigarh Reserved Forest (111.87 sq. km) and Lohra Reserved Forest (239.93 sq. km), along with a small part of Hirakud Reservoir (135.88 sq. km), falls under the jurisdiction of the Hirakud Wildlife Division.

The sanctuary is located in Bargarh District of the State of Odisha, with its headquarters at Sambalpur.

5. That the OPGC thermal power plant, which is the subject of O.A. No. 89/2024(EZ), along with its ash pond units, is situated in Jharsuguda District. This area does not come under the administrative control of the Hirakud Wildlife Division. The said power plant and its ash ponds are located at a distance of 20 km from the jurisdiction of this Division. A




Divisional Forest Officer
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur



copy of the satellite view of the area showing the location of the OPGC thermal power plant, its ash pond units, and their proximity to Hirakud Reservoir and Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is annexed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE R - 1.

6. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, as a regulatory framework for the conservation and management of wetlands in India.
7. In compliance with the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, the State Wetland Authority, Odisha, as well as a Technical Committee and a Grievance Committee, have been duly constituted to oversee wetland conservation efforts and address environmental concerns.
8. Under the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA), the Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, Ahmedabad, has carried out the mapping and area estimation of various wetland categories in Odisha at a 1:50,000 scale. The assessment includes GIS-based layers detailing wetland boundaries, water spread, aquatic vegetation, and turbidity. The project was conducted with financial assistance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India.



9. Six internationally recognized wetlands in Odisha have been designated as Ramsar Sites, namely: (i) Chilika Lake (designated in 1981, first Ramsar site of India) (ii) Bhitarkanika Mangrove (designated in 2002) (iii) Hirakud Reservoir (designated in 2021) (iv) Satkosia Gorge (designated in 2021) (v) Ansupa Lake (designated in 2021) (vi) Tampara Lake (designated in 2021).
10. It is submitted that the Hirakud Reservoir, covering an area of 65,400 hectares, was declared a Ramsar Site on 12.10.2021. A copy of the notification is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE R -2**.
11. That for the protection of floral and faunal species within the Hirakud Wetland (Ramsar Site), the following measures have been undertaken:

- (i) Removal of Ipomoea weed over 200 hectares along the shoreline, covering approximately 100 km, during the year 2022-23. The landscape has been restored with palatable grasses conducive to the ecosystem. A copy of the letters stating Utilisation Certificate for Eradication of Ipomoea Weeds and expenditure statement are annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE R - 3**.
- (ii) Awareness programs have been conducted in the northern and southern fringe villages of the wetland to promote its conservation.




 Divisional Forest Officer
 Hirakud Wildlife Division
 Sambalpur



- (iii) With the declaration of Hirakud Lake as a Ramsar Site in 2021, the area has attracted numerous tourists and photographers. More than 2 lakh migratory birds visit the Hirakud Wetland annually for breeding and habitation.
- (iv) Govindpur village in Odisha has declared itself a "Bird Village," demonstrating the commitment of its residents to protecting birds during their breeding and migration period.

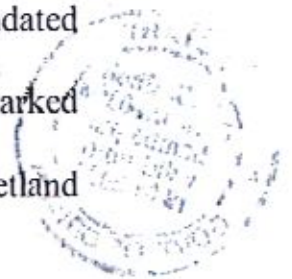
12. It is submitted that Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, situated in Bargarh District, is more than 10 km away from the OPGC plant and is not directly impacted by its operations.

13. That the boundary of Hirakud Wetland has been demarcated in the Wetland Atlas prepared by SAC-2021 and approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC). As per the order of MoEF&CC (File No. W/30/2024-WPL, Wetland Division), the demarcation of the wetland boundary, supported by an accurate digital map with coordinates and validated through ground truthing, is currently in progress. A copy of the office memorandum dated 20.12.2024 issued by the MoEF&CC is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE R -4**. A copy of the brief report on Hirakud Wetland is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE R - 5**.

14. That the regular meetings of the State Wetland Authority are being conducted to ensure conservation efforts are monitored and




 Divisional Forest Officer
 Hirakud Wildlife Division
 Sambalpur



implemented effectively. A copies of the minutes of meetings are annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE R - 6**.

15. The Grievance Committee of the State Wetland Authority is functional, and meetings are conducted regularly to address environmental concerns. A copies of the minutes of meetings are annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE R - 7**.

16. An Action Plan for the Conservation of Hirakud Wctland has been prepared, and a fund allocation of Rs. 31.30 lakh was made under the State Wetlands Authority (State Plan) for the Financial Year 2023-24. A copy of the letter dated 14.03.2024 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE R - 8**.

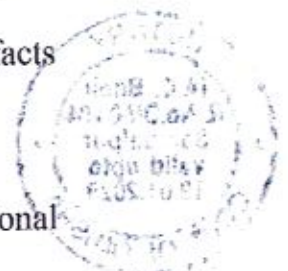
17. It is respectfully submitted that the present counter affidavit may kindly be taken on record and considered while adjudicating the matter. The answering Respondents pray that this Hon'ble Tribunal may pass appropriate orders or directions as deemed fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the present case.

18. The answering Respondents reserve the right to make additional submissions if required during the course of the proceedings.



VERIFICATION

DEPONENT
 Divisional Forest Officer
 Hirakud Wildlife Division
 Sambalpur



I, Smt. Anshu Pragyan Das, do hereby verify that the contents of the above counter affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, no part of it is false, and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Sambalpur on this 17th day of February'2025.



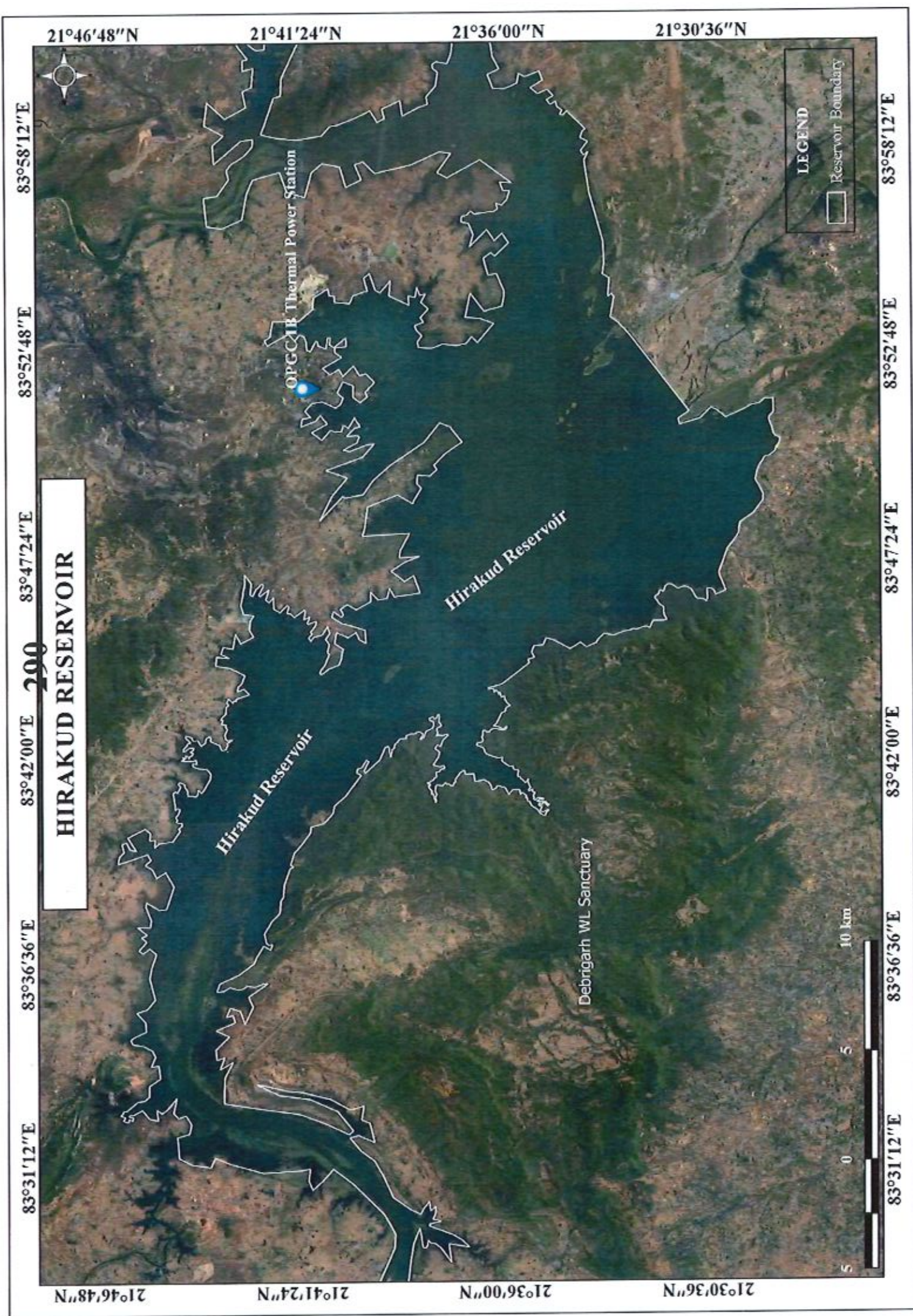
identified by me
A.C. Bhoi
17.2.25
Advocate, Sambalpur

DEPONENT
[Signature]
Divisional Forest Officer
Rirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur

The deponent solemnly affirm before me today at.....*1.00* AM/PM being identified by Sri.....*A.C. Bhoi* Advocate, Sambalpur

A.C. Bhoi
NOTARY, Sambalpur *17.2.25*





HIRAKUD RESERVOIR

OPGC IR Thermal Power Station

Hirakud Reservoir

Hirakud Reservoir

Debrigarh WL Sanctuary

LEGEND
Reservoir Boundary

10 km

5

0

21°46'48"N 21°41'24"N 21°36'00"N 21°30'36"N
83°31'12"E 83°36'36"E 83°42'00"E 83°47'24"E 83°52'48"E 83°58'12"E

.Email

13.12.22.

Designation certificates of Satkosia Gorge, Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir and Ansupa Lake in Odisha -reg

From : Chandan Singh <c.singh@nic.in>
Subject : Designation certificates of Satkosia Gorge, Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir and Ansupa Lake in Odisha -reg
To : Suresh Chandra Mahapatra <scm@nic.in>, cs@nic.in
Cc : RAGHU KUMAR KODALI <kodali.rk@gov.in>, Sujit Kumar Bajpayee <sujit.baju@gov.in>

Mon, Dec 12, 2022 11:58 AM

6 attachments

Sir,

Kindly find attached a DO letter dated 09.12.2022, list of 75 Ramsar sites in India and designation certificates of **Satkosia Gorge, Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir and Ansupa Lake** issued by the Ramsar Secretariat.

With regards

Chandan Singh
 Consultant (Wetlands)
 and Former Scientist 'D'
 Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
 V - 530, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
 Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi -110003
 Phone: 011-20819242 (O)

ACS f1E
 Chief Secretary
 Odisha



- satkosia.pdf
83 KB
- Ansupa Lake.pdf
78 KB
- Hirakud Reservoir.pdf
60 KB
- Tampara Lake.pdf
76 KB
- DO Letter dated 09122022 _Odisha.pdf
328 KB
- Statewise list of 75 Ramsar Sites in India (15082022) .pdf
663 KB

12/12/2022 (7:06 PM)

लीना नन्दन
LEENA NANDAN

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



सचिव 11
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND
CLIMATE CHANGE

D.O. No. J-22012/19/2018- CS(W)

December 09, 2022

Dear Shri. Mahapatra,

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has recently designated 28 new wetlands from India as Ramsar sites of international importance. Thus, in the 75th year of our Independence, the total number of Ramsar sites in the country is 75, which is a milestone in itself.

I am happy to state that Satkosia Gorge, Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir and Ansupa Lake from Odisha figure in this list, making them a part of an international network, wherein the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources would contribute to sustainable development.

Copies of the certificates issued by the Ramsar Secretariat are attached. We are confident that under your stewardship, the conservation measures of these sites will continue to receive requisite focus and priority.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

Encls.: as above

L.N.
(Leena Nandan)

Shri Suresh Chandra Mahapatra
Chief Secretary
Government of Odisha,
Secretariat,
Bhubaneswar- 751001



ACR 198



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

This is to certify that

Hirakud Reservoir

has been designated as a

Wetland of International Importance

and has been included in the
List of Wetlands of International Importance
established by Article 2.1 of the Convention.
This is site No: 2494

Date of designation: 12 October 2021

Jonathan BARZDO
Secretary General
Convention on Wetlands

Dir. Env



ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ବନାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ହୀରାକୁଡ଼ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ବନଖଣ୍ଡ, ମୋତିଝର, ସମ୍ବଲପୁର.
ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ପିନ୍-୭୬୮୦୦୧, ଦୂରଭାଷା/ଫୋନ୍-୦୬୬୩-୨୫୪୮୭୪୩,
ଇମେଲ-dfohirakudwl.od@gov.in

Letter No. 2728 /IF-61 (Actt.)/2021-22 Dated. 13-7-2022

To,

The Director,
Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Govt.
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department.
Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Sub:-

Submission of Utilization Certificate for Eradication of Ipomoea Weeds
during the year 2022-23.

Ref:-

No.21098 dt.02.12.2021 of the Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt. Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department,
Odisha.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, the Utilization Certificate of Rs.40.568 Lakh (Rupees Forty Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Eight Hundred) only for Eradication of Ipomoea Weeds (Annexure-I) and Expenditure Statement (Annexure-II) as on 13.07.2022 for the year 2022-23 is submitted herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl:- i) Utilization Certificate (Annexure-I)
ii) Expenditure Statement (Annexure-II)

Yours faithfully,

Divisional Forest Officer,
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur

Memo No. 2729 /dated.13-7-2022

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur

Memo No. 2730 /dated.13-7-2022

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Sambalpur for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur

Total Pages- 3 nos
(P-1/3)

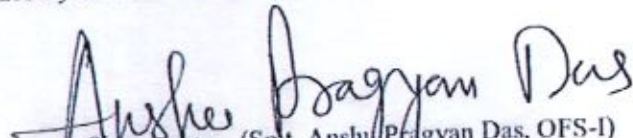
FORM GFR 12-C
[See Government of India's Rule 239]
Form of Utilization Certificate

Sl.No.	Letter No. and Date	Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	CERTIFICATE FOR THE YEAR 2022-23
1.	No.ENV-II-36/2022-21098/FE&CC Dt.02.12.2021 of the Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Govt., Govt. of Odisha, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department.Odisha.	44.80	Certified that out of Rs.44.80 Lakh grants sanctioned during the year 2021-22 in favour of Forest Department under this Ministry / Department Letter No. given in the margin and Rs.NIL on account of unspent balance of the previous year, a sum of Rs.40.568 Lakh (Rupees Forty Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Eight Hundred) only has been utilized for the purpose of implementation of the Scheme "Eradication of Ipomoea weeds" for which it was sanctioned and that the balance of Rs.4.232 Lakh remaining unutilized as on 13.07.2022 which will be utilized during the Financial Year 2022-23.
TOTAL		44.80	

Certified that I have satisfied myself that the conditions on which the grants-in-aid was sanctioned have been duly fulfilled / are being fulfilled and that I have exercised the following checks to see that the money was actually utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

Kinds of checks exercised:

1. Purchases have been made in accordance with the provision contained in OGFR/DFP Rules.
2. Works were executed in the field in accordance with the approved schedule of rates of State P.W.D. Department and other local rates etc. as applicable.
3. In accordance with the Codal provisions, necessary checks have been exercised and Measurements have been recorded by the field officers.


 Signature: - (Smt. Anshu Pragyan Das, OFS-1)
 Designation: - Divisional Forest Officer,
 Hirakud Wildlife Division,
 Sambalpur

Date: -

ANNEXURE-II

EXPENDITURE STATEMENT SHOWING PHYSICAL & FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT UNDER

WETLAND DEVELOPMENT DURING THE YEAR 2022-23.

Sl No.	Head of Account	Items of Works	Sanctioned		Actual		Location	Deviation with Reason	
			Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	Qty.	Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	Qty.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Eradication of Ipomoea weeds	Eradication of Ipomoea weeds	44.80	32 Ha.	Lakhanpur Kamgaon	40.568	163.57 ha.	Dhodrokusum Mundomahul Parbaitang Chourasimal Govindpur Kurumkel Badduma Jhagadabehera	No Deviation
TOTAL			44.80			40.568			

Anshu Das
 Divisional Forest Officer
 Hirakud Wildlife Division
 Sambalpur

(P-3/3)

Government of Odisha,
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department.

No. 21098 /F.E.&C.C., Dt. 02.12.21
From Env-II-36/2020

Sri Susanta Nanda, IFS,
Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Government.

To

The D.F.O., Mangrove Forest Division(WL), Rajnagar
The D.F.O., Hirakud (WL) Division, Sambalpur.

Sub: Release of funds through RTGS/NEFT to DFO, Mangrove Forest Division, Rajnagar and DFO, Hirakud WL Division, Sambalpur.

Ref: This Office letter No.ENV-II-36/2020-21073/F&E., Dt.02.12.2021.

Sir/Madam,

In continuation to this Office letter No.21073/F&E, dt.02.12.2021, the works sanctioned for your respective Divisions, to be taken up out of the funds released vide letter under reference, are as below.

1.	DFO, Mangrove Forest Division(WL), Rajnagar.	(A)	Construction of 23 numbers of Bathing Ghats around Bhtar Kanika wetlands.	Letter No.828 dt.5.2.21 of DFO, Mangrove Forest Division (WL)	Rs.29.90 lakhs
		(B)	Construction of 53 numbers of Bathing Ghats	Letter No.5639 dt.4.10.2021	Rs.106 lakhs.
2.	DFO, Hirakud WL Division, Sambalpur.		Eradication of Ipomoea weeds over 32 hectares.	Letter No.3965 dt.29.9.2021	Rs.44.80 lakhs.

You are requested to take up the above work at the earliest and submit U.C. along with supporting photographs.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature] 02/11/21
Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt.



THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, HIRAKUD WILDLIFE DIVISION,
MOTIJHARAN, SAMBALPUR, ODISHA, PIN:768001

Phone/Fax : 0663-2548743, Email: dfohirakudwlo@odisha.gov.in

Letter No. 3965 /BF-131 2020-21 Dt. 29.09.2021

To, The Member Secretary,
Odisha State Wetland Authority.

Subject: Submission of proposal for development of Hirakud Reservoir (proposed Ramsar site), the shore line adjoining Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary and Bird congregation area.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, this is to submit that Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary with an area of 353.81 sqkm is situated on the bank of Hirakud Reservoir. Total Sanctuary and 135.88 Sqkm Hirakud Reservoir area is under the jurisdiction of Hirakud Wildlife Division. The area of Reservoir adjoining sanctuary witness more than 1.2 Lakh migratory birds, of more than 98 species every year. Hirakud reservoir is the lifeline for Debrigarh Sanctuary and it is pertinent to mention that prey density of Debrigarh Sanctuary is healthy with many Schedule-I species. The following proposal includes habitat improvement, alternative to illegal fishing at shore line and community sensitization for conservation of Hirakud Reservoir :

Item of work	Details	Description of activities	Unit cost	Total cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Remarks
Eradication of <i>Ipomoea</i> weed (the presence <i>Ipomoea</i> in the shore line is creating negative ecological impact on the flora and fauna of the reservoir & sanctuary).	32 Ha area adjoining Hirakud reservoir & Debrigarh Sanctuary (shore line of 100 km) is infested by <i>Ipomoea</i> weed.	Physical removal followed by Soil Solarization / drying and burning of removed stems etc.	Rs.1.40 Lakh/ha	Rs.44.80 Lakh	Working season for eradication of <i>Ipomoea</i> is February'2022 to June'2022
Alternative to nylon net- fishing used by 85 identified fishermen families (survey by Hirakud Wildlife Division during August'2021) active at shore line.	Use of nylon fishing nets by local fishermen is detrimental for the visiting birds and also for the wildlife dependent on Hirakud reservoir for daily water requirement.	During the year 2021-22 @Rs.0.54 Lakh per fishermen family with support of District Fishery Office.	LS	Rs.45.90 Lakh	Highly essential for the health of Hirakud Reservoir, wildlife of Debrigarh Sanctuary and migratory birds visiting the reservoir every year.
Seasonal monitoring of water quality.				Rs.2.00 Lakh	

Total Pages - 2

P. T. O

Conservation of birds / nesting site by engaging local village communities in conservation.	Awareness programs in 30 villages adjoining bird congregation area of Hirakud Reservoir.	Distribution of T-shirts/caps/ note books with logo/ bags/ Stickers for vehicles etc to School and College students, Teachers, Shopkeepers, Fishermen, Social workers and other sectors of society.	@Rs.0.20 Lakh/ village	Rs.6.00 Lakh	
			Total	Rs.98.70 Lakh	

(Rupees Ninety-Eight Lakh Seventy Thousand) only

Note: The component mentioned in Point No.2 can also be taken up in phases in 2 years according to the availability of funds.

Yours faithfully,

Anshu Bajpai Dan.
Divisional Forest Officer 29.9.21
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur

Memo No. 3966 Dt. 29.09.2021

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha for favour of-kind information and necessary action.

Anshu Bajpai Dan.
Divisional Forest Officer 29.9.21
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur

Memo No. 3967 Dt. 29.09.2021

Copy forwarded to the Chief Executive, Chilika Development Authority for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Anshu Bajpai Dan.
Divisional Forest Officer 29.9.21
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur

Memo No. 3968 Dt. 29.09.2021

Copy forwarded to the Conservator of Forests, Sambalpur Circle for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to discussion on dtd.29.09.2021.

Anshu Bajpai Dan.
Divisional Forest Officer 29.9.21
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur

2/2

**Supreme Court Matter – Most Immediate
(by e-mail)**

File No. W/30/2024-WTL
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(Wetlands Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Date: 20.12.2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: W.P. (C) No.304/2018 – Anand Arya vs. Union of India along with W.P. (C) No.230/2001 and W.P. (C) No.302/2020 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court – **Demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing.**

This is in continuation to Ministry's O.M. No. J-22012/17/2020-CS (W) dated 11.10.2024 regarding detailed compliance of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 and all other steps taken by the States/UTs for wetlands conservation with reference to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 01.10.2024 in the above captioned matters.

2. Vide order dated 11.12.2024, the Hon'ble Supreme Court inter-alia directed that, ***each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities shall complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the Wetland which have been identified for their State by Space Application Center Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021 as expeditiously as possible, but definitely within a period of three months from 11.12.2024 (copy attached).***
3. The Ministry has assigned Knowledge Partners (KPs) of wetlands to each State/UT to assist them in various aspects of wetlands conservation. The States/UTs may enter into a formal agreement with them (**list of KPs attached**).
4. Since the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are to be complied within a maximum period of three months (from 11.12.2024), it is requested that action in this regard may be taken up at the earliest. Regular progress and compliance may also be monitored through Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary of Environment/Forest Department of the State/UT for ensuring time bound compliance of the directions.
5. Since, the Ministry is required to do monitoring with each State/UT and file a detailed affidavit, it is requested to provide a **time-bound action plan latest by 31.12.2024 on top priority. Subsequently, a progress report may also be sent to the Ministry on a fortnightly basis.**


(Dr. Ramesh M.)
Scientist 'F'
Tel.: 011-20819338
Email: ramesh.motipalli@nic.in

To

1. The Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States/UTs
2. The Member Secretaries of State & UT Wetlands Authorities

Copy to:

1. PSO to Secretary(EF&CC)
2. Sr. PPS to SS (TK)
3. PPS to JS(RA)
4. All officers of Wetlands Division

ITEM NO.6

COURT NO.13

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 304/2018

ANAND ARYA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 131361/2018 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 230/2001 (PIL-W)
(I.A.NO.203606/2022 IN W.P.(C)NO.230/2001
IA No. 203606/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 302/2020 (PIL-W)
(FOR impleading party ON IA 172736/2024
FOR INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 172736/2024
FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 172737/2024
IA No. 172737/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 172736/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

Date : 11-12-2024 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHANSHU DHULIA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Trisha Chandran, Adv.
Mr. Naresh Kumar, AOR

Mr. Jayant Bhushan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Reena George, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Kumar Singh, AOR
Mr. Amartya Bhushan, Adv.
Mr. Yojit Mehra, Adv.

Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Shibani Ghosh, AOR
Ms. Ayushma Awasthi, Adv.
Ms. Himanshi Gupta, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Ms. Swarupma Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Manisha Chava, Adv.
Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR

Mr. Bhuvan Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Aman Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Rohan Gupta, Adv.

Mr. P. V. Yogeswaran, AOR

Mr. Manish Kumar, AOR
Mr. Ravi Shanker Jha, Adv.

Mr. Kunal Verma, AOR

Ms. Sumita Hazarika, AOR
Mr. Shiv Sagar Tiwari, AOR

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.
Mr. Manish Chaubey, Adv.
Mr. Milind Kumar, AOR

Mr. Anil Shrivastav, AOR
Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, AOR

Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR
Ms. Purna Singh, Adv.
Mr. Samarth Krishan Luthra, Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR
Mr. Deepayan Dutta, Adv.
Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Adv.

Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR
Ms. Eliza Bar, Adv.

Mrs. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mrs. Swarupama Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. A K Panda, Adv.
Mr. Wasim Qadri, Sr. Adv.
Mrs. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Pandey, Adv.

Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR
Mr. Prashant Bhagwati, Adv.
Ms. Devyani Bhatt, Adv.

Ms. Supriya Juneja, AOR

Mr. Anand Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Sandeep Jindal, AOR
Mr. Vishwanathan Iyer, Adv.

Mr. Arman Sharma, Adv.
Mrs. Shimpy Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Pooja Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Yeshasvi Shrivastava, Adv.

Mr. Parth Awasthi, Adv.
Mr. Pashupathi Nath Razdan, AOR

Mr. V. N. Raghupathy, AOR

Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR
Mrs. Anu K Joy, Adv.
Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv.

Mr. Sunny Choudhary, AOR
Mr. Abhimanyu Singh Ga, Adv.
Mr. Sarad Kumar Singhania Aor, Adv.
Ms. Rashmi Singhania, Adv.

Mr. Bharat Bagla, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR
Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.

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Mr. Upendra Mishra, Adv.
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Mr. T.k. Nayak, Adv.

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Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.
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Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR
 Mr. Rahul Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Aakash Thakur, Adv.
 Mr. Aryan Srivastava, Adv.
 Ms. Ayushi Bansal, Adv.
 Mr. Sarthak Dora, Adv.

Ms. Purnima Krishna, AOR
 Mr. M.f. Philip, Adv.
 Mr. Karamveer Singh Yadav, Adv.

Mr. R. Ayyam Perumal, AOR

Ms. Garima Prasad, A.A.G.
 Mr. Sudeep Kumar, AOR
 Mr. Abhishek Saket, Adv.
 Ms. Manisha, Adv.
 Ms. Rupali, Adv.

Mr. Srisatya Mohanty, Adv.
 Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR
 Ms. Ripul Swati Kumari, Adv.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
 Ms. Swarupama Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. S.wasim A. Qadri, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Ashok Kumar Panda, Sr. Adv.
 Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
 Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.
 Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.
 Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Adv.
 Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.
 Ms. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Gautam Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. N Visakamurthy, aor, Adv.
 Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Mr. Aravindh S., AOR
 Mr. Abbas B, Adv.
 Mr. Aman Gautam, Adv.

Ms. Suveni Bhagat, AOR

Mr. Gopal Prasad, AOR

Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, AOR
 Ms. Sanjana Grace Thomas, Adv.
 Mr. D.p.singh, Adv.
 Ms. Tara Elizabeth Kurien, Adv.

Mr. Shishir Pinaki, AOR
Mr. Dhanaeswar Gudapalli, Adv.
Ms. Mallika Das, Adv.
Mr. Nandi Kiran Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Akash Vashistha, Adv.
Mr. Rishi Sehgal, AOR
Mr. Midhun Aggarwal, Adv.
Ms. Vaishnavi, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

Prior to 2017, the figures given by ISRO regarding the number of wetlands in India having an area more than 2.25 Hectares was 2,01,503. The latest ISRO data, which is of the year 2021, shows that this figure has now increased to 2,31,195.

Now these figures have to be checked on ground. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 (in short, "the Rules") and the guidelines issued thereunder prescribe that the next step after identification of such wetlands is what is called Ground truthing, which is the term given to the actual inspection of these wetlands by a team constituted by the State for that purpose. This step has, however, been neglected by almost all the States, except the State of Punjab to some extent. As regards demarcation of these wetlands all States have done almost nothing up till now.

We have been informed at the Bar that each State presently has a Wetland Authority. In fact, reading of Rule 5 suggests that the State Wetlands Authority has already been constituted. Rule 5, by which the State Wetland Authority as well as such Authorities in the Union Territories have been

constituted and the powers to these Authorities have been given, reads as under :-

Wetland Authorities – (1) The Central Government hereby constitutes the State Wetlands Authority in each State with the following members, namely ; -

XXXXX

(2) The Central Government hereby constitutes the Union Territory Wetlands Authority for each Union Territory with the following members, namely -

XXXX

(3) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority may co-opt other members, not exceeding three in number, if required.

(4) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority shall exercise the following powers and perform the following functions, namely :-

a) Prepare a list of all wetlands of the State or UT within three months from the date of publication of these rules;

b) Prepare a list of wetlands to be notified, within six months from the date of publication of these Rules, taking into cognizance any existing list of wetlands prepared/notified under other relevant State

Acts;

c) Recommend identified wetlands, based on their Brief Documents, for regulation under these rules;

d) Prepare a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands within one year from the date of publication of these rules and upload the same on a dedicated web portal, to be developed by the Central Government for the said purpose; the inventory ought to be updated every ten years;

e) Develop a comprehensive list of activities, to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence;

f) Recommend additions, if any, to the list of prohibited activities for specific wetlands;

g) Define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction; wise use being a principle for managing these ecosystems which incorporates sustainable uses (such as capture fisheries at subsistence level or harvest of aquatic plants) as being compatible with conservation, if ecosystem functions (such as water storage, ground water recharge, flood buffering) and values (such as recreation and cultural) are maintained or enhanced ;

- h) Review Integrated Management Plan for each of the notified wetlands (including trans-boundary wetlands in coordination with Central Government), and within these plans to consider continuation and support to traditional uses of wetlands that are harmonized with ecological character;*
- i) Recommend mechanisms for maintenance of ecological character through promotional activities for land within the boundary of notified wetlands or wetlands complex have private tenancy rights,;*
- j) Identify mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing State/UT level development plans and programmes;*
- k) Ensure enforcement of these rules and other relevant Acts, rules and regulations and on a half-yearly basis (June and December of each calendar year) inform the concerned State Government or UT Administration or Central Government on the status of such notified wetlands through a reporting mechanism;*
- l) Coordinate implementation of Integrated Management Plans based on wiseuse principle through various line departments and other concerned agencies;*

m) Function as a nodal authority for all wetland - specific authorities within the State or UT Administration;

n) Issue necessary directions for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands to the respective implementing agencies.

o) Undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands; and

p) Advise on any other matter suo-motu, or as referred by the State Government/UT Administration.

(5) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory shall provide all necessary support and act as nodal Department and Secretariat to the Authority.

(6) The Authority shall, within ninety days of publication of these rules, shall constitute -

(a) a technical committee to review brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the Wetland Authority and

(b) a grievance committee consisting of four members to provide a mechanism for hearing

and forwarding the grievances raised by public to the Authority;

(7) The Committees referred to in sub-rule (6) shall meet at least once in every quarter to perform their functions.

(8) The Authority shall meet at least thrice in a year.

(9) The term of non-official members of the Authority nominated by State Government or Union Territory Administration, shall be for a period not exceeding three years."

It is clear now that the ground truthing and the demarcation of wetland boundary is the next step, which is to be undertaken by each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities in coordination with concerned nodal Department as provided under the Rules. It is a Statutory function which has been assigned to them under the Rules. We, therefore, direct each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities to complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the Wetland which have been identified for their State by Space Application Center Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021.

For easy accessibility of this, each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities shall complete this work as expeditiously as possible, but definitely within a period of three months from today. Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General, has assured this Court that they shall be doing the monitoring with each of the State and shall file a detailed affidavit before the

next date of listing.

Vide our order dated 03.04.2017 (in Writ Petition (C) No. 230 of 2001), this Court has passed certain directions regarding protection of Ramsar Convention Sites (of wetlands) to be monitored by each of the High Court concerned and 15 High Courts were given such a direction. The relevant portion of order dated 03.04.2017 is reproduced as under :-

"We have put it to learned counsel for the petitioner that insofar as the Ramsar Convention sites are concerned, since they are matters of international heritage, it might be more appropriate if the concerned High Courts monitor the management of these sites at least till there is some visible improvement. Learned counsel for the petitioner says that he has no objection to this.

Under the circumstances, we direct the Registry of this Court to make photocopies of the affidavit filed by the Union of India by Dr. A. Duraisamy, Scientist 'F' and Member Secretary, Central Wetland Regulatory Authority and send it to the following High Courts: High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Gauhati High Court, Gujarat High Court, Himachal Pradesh High Court, J&K High Court, Kerala High Court, Madhya Pradesh High

Court, Manipur High Court, Orissa High Court, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Rajasthan High Court, Madras High Court, Tripura High Court, Allahabad High Court and High Court at Calcutta. The affidavit be sent to the Registrar General of all the aforementioned High Courts within two weeks from today. A copy of all the orders passed by this Court from 10th September, 2014 till today shall also be sent to the concerned High Courts along with the affidavit. We request Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court to treat the affidavit as a suo motu public interest petition and, if necessary, appoint an amicus to assist the court so as to ensure that the Ramsar Convention sites within their jurisdiction are properly maintained. The affidavit by the Union of India should be filed within six weeks. List the matter on 12th July, 2017"

Now, the latest figure shows that these Ramsar sites have increased from 26 to 85, including 59 additional sites (cited below) falling under 5 other additional High Courts i.e. Patna, Bombay, Karnataka, Gauhati (Aizawl Bench as well) and Uttarakhand. The list of updated RAMSAR sites has been given to this Court, which is reproduced as under:-

List of 85 Ramsar Sites

	State/UT		Wetland	Date of Designation	Area (hectares)
1.	Andhra Pradesh (1)	1.	Kolleru Lake	19-08-2002	90100
2.	Assam (1)	2.	Deepor Beel	19-08-2002	4000
3.	Bihar (3)	3.	Kabartal Wetland	21-07-2020	2620
		4.	Nagi Bird Sanctuary	11-10-2023	206
		5.	Nakti Bird Sanctuary	11-10-2023	333
4.	Gujarat (4)	6.	Nalsarovar	24-09-2012	12000
		7.	Wadhvana Wetland	05-04-2021	630
		8.	Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary	05-04-2021	699
		9.	Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary	13-04-2021	512
8.	Goa (1)	10.	Nanda Lake	08-06-2022	42
9.	Haryana (2)	11.	Sultanpur National Park	25-05-2021	143
		12.	Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary	25-05-2021	412
11.	Himachal Pradesh (3)	13.	Pong Dam Lake	19-08-2002	15662
		14.	Chandertal Wetland	08-11-2005	49
		15.	Renuka Wetland	08-11-2005	20
14.	Jammu and Kashmir (5)	16.	Wular Lake	23-03-1990	18900
		17.	Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	08-11-2005	350
		18.	Hokera Wetland	08-11-2005	1375
		19.	Hygam Wetland	08-06-	802

			Conservation Reserve	2022	
		20.	Shalibugh Wetland Conservation Reserve	08-06-2022	1675
19.	Karnataka (4)	21.	Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary	15-02-2022	518
		22.	Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve	10-03-2023	98.76
		23.	Aghanashini Estuary	14-02-2023	4801
		24.	Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve	14-02-2023	54.38
20.	Kerala (3)	25.	Asthamudi Wetland	19-08-2002	6140
		26.	Sasthamkotta Lake	19-08-2002	373
		27.	VembanadKol Wetland	19-08-2002	151250
23.	Ladakh (2)	28.	Tso Kar Wetland Complex	17-11-2020	9577
		29.	Tsomoriri Lake	19-08-2002	12000
25.	Madhya Pradesh (5)	30.	Bhoj Wetlands	19-08-2002	3201
		31.	Sirpur Wetland	07-01-2022	161
		32.	Sakhya Sagar	07-01-2022	248
		33.	Yashwant Sagar	07-01-2022	823
		34.	Tawa Reservoir	08-01-2024	20050
29.	Maharashtra (3)	35.	Nandur Madhameshwar	21-06-2019	1437
		36.	Lonar Lake	22-07-2020	427
		37.	Thane Creek	13-04-2022	6521
32.	Manipur (1)	38.	Loktak Lake	23-03-1990	26600
33.	Mizoram (1)	39.	Pala Wetland	31-08-2021	1850
34.	Odisha (6)	40.	Chilka Lake	01-10-1981	116500
		41.	Bhitarkanika Mangroves	19-08-2002	65000
		42.	Satkosia Gorge	12-10-2021	98197

		43.	Tampara Lake	12-10-2021	300
		44.	Hirakud Reservoir	12-10-2021	65400
		45.	Ansupa Lake	12-10-2021	231
40.	Punjab (6)	46.	Harike Lake	23-03-1990	4100
		47.	Kanjli Lake	22-01-2002	183
		48.	Ropar Lake	22-01-2002	1365
		49.	Beas Conservation Reserve	26-09-2019	6429
		50.	Keshopur - Miani Community Reserve	26-09-2019	344
		51.	Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	26-09-2019	116
46.	Rajasthan (2)	52.	Keoladeo Ghana National Park	1-10-1981	2873
		53.	Sambhar Lake	23-03-1990	24000
48.	Tamil Nadu (18)	54.	Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	19-08-2002	38500
		55.	Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary	08-11-2021	72
		56.	Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary	08-11-2021	260
		57.	Karikili Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	58
		58.	Pichavaram Mangrove	08/04/2022	1479
		59.	Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest	08-04-2022	1248
		60.	Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve	08-04-2022	52672
		61.	Vembannur Wetland Complex	08-04-2022	20
		62.	Vellode Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	77
		63.	Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	44
		64.	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	40
		65.	Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex	08-04-2022	94
		66.	Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary	08-04-	113

				2022	
		67.	Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	97
		68.	Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary	24-05-2023	453.72
		69.	Longwood Shofa Reserve Forest	24-05-2023	116.007
		70.	Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary	16-01-2024	125.865
		71.	Kazhuvelli Bird Sanctuary	16-01-2024	5151.6
62.	Tripura (1)	72.	Rudrasagar Lake	08-11-2005	240
63.	Uttar Pradesh (10)	73.	Upper Ganga River	08-11-2005	26590
		74.	Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	19-09-2019	225
		75.	Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	02-12-2019	722
		76.	Saman Bird Sanctuary	02-12-2019	526
		77.	Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	03-10-2019	799
		78.	Sandi Bird Sanctuary	26-09-2019	309
		79.	Sarsai Nawarjheel	19-09-2019	161
		80.	Sur Sarovar	21-08-2020	431
		81.	Haiderpur Wetland	13-04-2021	6908
		82.	Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary	29-06-2021	2894
73.	Uttarakhand (1)	83.	Asan Conservation Reserve	21-07-2020	444
74.	West Bengal (2)	84.	East Calcutta Wetlands	19-08-2002	12500
		85.	Sunderbans Wetland	30-01-2019	423000
23 States & UTs		85 Ramsar Sites			13,58,068.335

The Registrar General of this Court is directed to send the complete list to all the High Courts, including the 5 High Courts which are mentioned above,

and the High Courts are requested to treat the affidavit as a Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation where an Amicus be appointed, if necessary, to assist the Court and ensure that the RAMSAR Sites within their jurisdiction are properly maintained. We say this only as a continuation of our order dated 03.04.2017.

List the matter again on 25.03.2025.

(JAYANT KUMAR ARORA)
ASST. REGISTRAR-CUM-PS

(RENU BALA GAMBHIR)
COURT MASTER

State/UT wise Allocation of Knowledge Partners of Wetlands Division

S.No.	State/UT	Knowledge Partner										Total-KPs	
		CDA-BSSR	CWRDM	EPCO	GEER	NCSCM	SACON	WISA	WWF	GIZ			
UTs													
1	Andaman and Nicobar					P	S						2
2	Chandigarh				S						P		2
3	Dadra Nagar Haveli				P						S		2
4	Daman and Diu				P								1
5	Dehli								P				1
6	Jammu and Kashmir								S		S	P	2
7	Ladakh					S					P		2
8	Lakshadweep		S			P							2
9	Puducherry		S				P						2
States													
1	Andhra Pradesh						P						1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	S							P				2
3	Assam				P								1
4	Bihar								P			S	2
5	Chhattisgarh			P	S						S		3
6	Goa				P		S						2
7	Gujarat				P								1
8	Haryana										P		1
9	Himachal Pradesh								S			P	2
10	Jharkhand	S							P				2
11	Karnataka		S		S		S				P		4
12	Kerala		P						S				2

Contact Details of Knowledge Partners

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Email ID
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	Mr Lokendra Thakkar	Officer In-Charge, SWA, EPCO	thakkarlokendra@mp.gov.in
4	Dr R.K. Sugoora	Director, GEER Foundation	dir-geer@gujarat.gov.in
5	Mr Ravindra Singh	Director, IGBP, GIZ India	ravindra.singh@giz.de
	Mr Kirtiman Awasthi	Senior Advisor, GIZ India	kirtiman.awasthi@giz.de
6	Dr Purvaja Ramachandran	Director, NCSCM	purvaja.ramachandran@gmail.com purvaja@ncscm.res.in
7	Dr. Goldin Quadros	Principal Scientist, SACON	goldinq@gmail.com
8	Dr. Ritesh Kumar	Director, WISA	ritesh.kumar@wi-sa.org
9	Mr Suresh Babu	Director, River Basins, WWF-India	suresh@wwfindia.net
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10	Mr V.R. Tiwari, IFS	Director, WII	dwii@wii.gov.in ; vrt@wii.gov.in
11	Dr Ashiho Asosii Mao	Director, Botanical Survey of India	hq@bsi.gov.in , admin@bsi.gov.in
12	Dr Dhriti Banerjee	Director, Zoological Survey of India	director@zsi.gov.in

Government of Odisha
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department

No. FE-ENV2-ENV-0001-2021 11077 /F&E, Dt. 24.06.21

From

Sri Susanta Nanda, IFS
Member Secretary, State Wetland Authority and
Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt.

To

Sri Ravi Agrawal, IRS
Additional Secretary to Government, MoEF&CC,
509, 5th Floor, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003

Sub: Identifying and managing Wetlands of International Importance in respect of State of Odisha-regarding

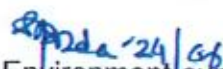
Sir,

In inviting a reference to your Letter No. J-22012/19/2018-CS(W) dated 08.03.2021 on the subject cited above, I am directed to say that Anshupa, Hirakud Reservoir, Satkosia Gorge and Tampara Wetlands of Odisha have been identified as "Wetlands of International Importance" in the State. Brief documents in respect of the above four wetlands are enclosed for necessary consideration on the proposal for designation of Anshupa, Hirakud Reservoir, Satkosia Gorge and Tampara as "Wetlands of International Importance".

Yours faithfully,


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt.
Memo No. 11078 Date 24.06.21

Copy forwarded to the Senior PS to the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department for kind information of the Additional Chief Secretary.


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt
Memo No. 11079 Date 24.06.21

Copy forwarded to the Chief Executive, Chilika Development Authority, Plot No - 493(P), Pallaspalli, Pokhariput Road, Bhubaneswar-20 for information.


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt

By email: dfobhmpr@yahoo.co.in

Memo No. 11080 Date 24.06.21

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Berhampur Division, At- Courtpeta, PO- Medical College, Berhampur, Dist- Ganjam, PIN- 760004 for information.


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt

Memo No. 11081 Date 24.06.21

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Satkosia Wildlife Division, Angul, Odisha- 759143 for information.


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt

Memo No. 11082 Date 24.06.21

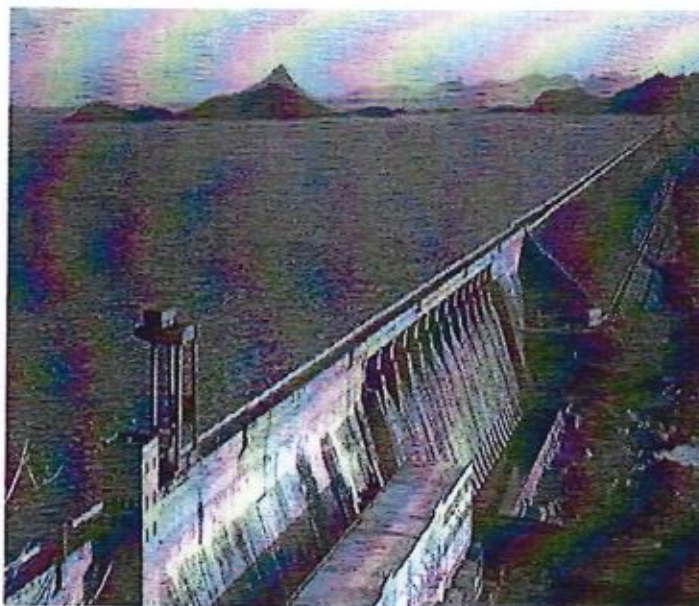
Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Hirakud Wildlife Division, Motijira, Sambalpur, Odisha for information.


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Govt

A brief introduction of Hirakud Reservoir, Sambalpur

Introduction

Hirakud Reservoir, formed due to the damming of River Mahanadi at Sambalpur in 1957, is the largest and most significant water infrastructure of the State of Odisha. Spanning an area upto 700 km² when full, the Hirakud Reservoir provides water for generating ~ 300 MW hydropower through its two power houses at Burla and Chiplima; irrigating 462,100 ha culturable command area within Bargarh, Bolangir, Sambalpur and Subarnapur



Districts; and securing 9,500 km² of Mahanadi Delta region from floods. Over 7,000 fisher households depend on the reservoir fisheries for livelihoods. The vast open waterbody attracts a sizeable population of ducks, geese and waders during winters, making it one of the major water bird congregation areas in the state. The scenic surrounding of the reservoir along with historically and culturally significant landmarks marks its significance from cultural and recreation perspectives.

The multiple values of the Hirakud Reservoir have been adversely affected by rapid transformation of catchments and increasing demands for water in the downstream reaches. Silt is accumulating in the reservoir at rates much faster than planned for, reducing its water storage and flood moderation capacity. Expansion of agriculture within command, industries and urban settlement within the reservoir catchments, have accentuated water use conflicts. Decreasing fish catch, reduction in fish species diversity and increasing pollution has placed the livelihood of fishers under great stress. Biodiversity has been adversely impacted by habitat fragmentation and increasing anthropogenic stress on key habitats.

Qualifying Criteria of Hirakud Reservoir to be identified as a Wetland of International Importance

Criterion 1: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.

Criterion 3: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.

Criterion 4: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.

Criterion 5: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.

Criterion 6: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.

Criterion 7: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species or families, life-history stages, species interactions and/or populations that are representative of wetland benefits and/or values and thereby contributes to global biological diversity.

Criterion 8: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend.

Justification:

Hirakud Reservoir the longest earthen Dam of the World, supports the livelihood of majority population in the state of Odisha, particularly in its command area. Based on the above Ramsar criteria, it qualifies to be designated as a Ramsar site of International Importance.

Government of Odisha
Forest and Environment Department

No. ENV-II-47/2019 17590 /F&E, Date. 17/09/2019

From

Dr. K. Murugesan, IFS
Director, Environment -cum-
Special Secretary to Government

To

The Chief Secretary, Odisha
The Principal Secretary, H&UD Department
The Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department
The Principal Secretary, Revenue & D.M Department
The Principal Secretary, Department of Water Resources
The Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj & D.W. Department.
The Commissioner- cum- Secretary, F & ARD Department
The Commissioner - cum – Secretary, Tourism Department
The Chief Executive, Odisha Space Application Center, Bhubaneswar
The PCCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha , Bhubaneswar
The Member Secretary, Odisha Biodiversity Board, Bhubaneswar
The Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
The Additional PCCF of Regional Office of MoEF & CC, GOI, Bhubaneswar
Dr. Sudarsan Panda, Ex-Director of Horticulture, Odisha, N-4/81, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015
Shri Surya Kumar Mohanty, Fishery Expert, CDA, Bhubaneswar
Dr. P. Kumar, Scientist, ORSAC, Bhubaneswar
Dr. P.C Panda, Principal Scientist, RPRC, Bhubaneswar
Prof. Sudhakar Panda, Director, Birla Global University, IDCO, Plot No-2 Gothapatena, Bhubaneswar 751029


Sub:- Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the State Wetlands Authority constituted as per Rule 5 of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose a copy of the minutes of the 1st meeting of the State Wetlands Authority held on 17.08.2019 at 11.30 A.M in the 2nd Floor Conference Hall of the State Lokaseva Bhavan under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment.

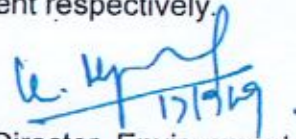
It is therefore, requested to kindly take necessary action for compliance of the decisions taken in the aforesaid meeting.

Yours faithfully


Director, Environment-cum-
Special Secretary to Government

12A
Memo No. 17591 F&EDate 17/09/19

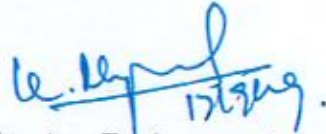
Copy forwarded to the P.S to Minister, Forest & Environment / P.S. to Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment Department / PS to Director, Env.-cum-Special Secretary, F&E Department for kind information of the Hon'ble Minister, Forest Environment / Principal secretary, F&E Department and Director, Env-cum-Special Secretary, F&E Department respectively.



Director, Environment -cum-
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 17592 F&EDate 17/09/19

Copy along with copy of the minutes of the 1st meeting of State Wetlands Authority forwarded to the Chief Executive, CDA, Plot No - 493 (P), Palaspalli, Pokhariput Road, Bhubaneswar - 751020 / Project Director, ICZMP, Odisha RPRC campus Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-15 / DFO Athagada for information and necessary action .



Director, Environment -cum-
Special Secretary to Government

123

Minutes of the meeting of State Wetlands Authority held on 17.08.2019 at 11.30 A.M in 2nd Floor Conference Hall of Odisha Secretariat

The first meeting of State Wetlands Authority constituted under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 held on 17.08.2019 at 11.30 A.M. under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Forest and Environment in the 2nd floor conference hall of Odisha Secretariat, Bhubaneswar. The list of participants is placed at **Annexure-I**.

At the outset, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment Department welcomed the members of the Authority and briefed the objectives of State Wetlands Authority. He further emphasized on conservation and management of all wetlands of the State in compliance to the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Hon'ble Minister, Forest and Environment-cum-Chairman of State Wetlands Authority in his address stated that for maintaining ecological balance and to co-ordinate integrated management of wetlands, Govt. of India in the Ministry of Forest Environment & Climate Change has constituted the State Wetlands Authority under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, which came into force from 26.09.2017. He further affirmed that wetlands are rich in biodiversity as they support a large variety of plant and animal species, amphibians, fishery resources etc. and are one of the most productive ecosystems. Wetlands directly and indirectly support millions of people in providing services such as food, fibre and raw materials. They play an important role in storm and flood control, in supply of clean water along with other educational and recreational benefits. However, the very existence of these unique ecosystems is under threat due to developmental activities and population pressure. Hence, he called for a long term planning for preservation and conservation of these resources.

Hon'ble Minister indicated that Odisha is fortunate enough to endow with some important wetlands such as largest brackish water lagoon Chilika, wildlife sanctuary Bhitarkanika, sweet-water lake Ansupa, Daha, Kanjia, Kuanria etc. Since wetlands are the target of human interference and are among the most threatened of all natural resources, their identification and protection have become very essential. He highlighted that last year about 172 sq. K.M area was freed from encroachment in Chilika lake thereby increase of fish production by 20%. He pronounced that restoration of Ansupa Lake will be taken up in near future. Further, he specified that MoEF&CC, Govt. of India has recently identified 3 wetlands namely Chilika, Ansupa and Bhitarkanika of our State for initiating restoration

measures. He stressed upon for submission of Action Plans to Govt. of India early for restoration of degraded wetlands of the State.

As desired, Director, Env.-cum-Special Secretary presented the status of Wetlands and salient points of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. He also conveyed the order dated 10.05.2019 of Hon'ble NGT in M.A. No. 26/2019 in O.A. No. 325/2015 in the matter of Lt.Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs UOI & Ors. and the order dated 29.03.2019 in O.A. No. 503/2018 of Hon'ble NGT in the matter of R.K.Gupta Vs Delhi Development Authority & Ors. to the notice of the Authority wherein Hon'ble Tribunal directed that the State Wetlands Authority may identify wetlands and water bodies to be notified in their jurisdiction and review the existing framework of restoration all water bodies by preparing an appropriate action plan.

After detail discussion, the following decisions are taken.

1. Regarding, constitution of Technical Committee, it was decided to include representatives of Forest & Environment Department, Water Resources Department, Housing & Urban Development Department, PR& DW Department, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Fisheries & Animal Resources Department and ORSAC for review of brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the State Wetlands Authority.
2. Further, it was decided to constitute a Grievance Committee consisting of ~~Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department~~, Chief Executive, CDA/ICZMP; one NGO and Director, Environment to provide a mechanism for hearing and forwarding the grievances raised by public to the Authority.
3. Technical Committee is to identify all wetlands in the State. They may refer the National Wetland Atlas prepared by ORSAC besides may also consider Hirakud reservoir, Hadagada as well as major, medium and some minor irrigation projects of Water Resource Department. On the basis of importance, Technical Committee will suggest the details of the wetlands in the next meeting of the Authority so that the Authority can recommend the eligible wetlands to be notified by the State Government.
4. For sustainable management of wetlands, Action Plans for each wetland need to be prepared. The objectives of the Action Plan should include catchment treatment, silt load reduction, checking of inflow of organic wastes, fertiliser & pesticides residues and open defecation thereby decrease of pollution load in water bodies. Further, site specific ecotourism, increase of fisheries and other recreational use may also be promoted.

Thereafter, Chief Executive, Chilika Development Authority presented the Integrated Management Plan of Chilika Lagoon and Ansupa Lake in detail. The Plan for Chilika Lagoon at a cost of Rs. 157.90 Crore and for Ansupa Lake at a cost of Rs.21.23 Crore over a period of 5 years from 2019-2024 was proposed for seeking funds under National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem (NPCA), MoEF&CC, Govt. of India.

After detail discussion, the State Wetlands Authority approved the same with the following observations:

1. Bathymetry survey of Chilika Lagoon will be done by CDA at the earliest since the last one was done in the year 2009 by INDOMER.
2. It was decided to take up a study under ICZMP for analyzing the core samples to know the rate of sedimentation.
3. Steps shall be taken up for solid waste management at important locations to prevent entry of wastes into Chilika Lake.
4. C.E., ORSAC will submit a proposal to carry out the Bathymetry survey of the Lagoon by using the LIDAR technology.
5. DFO, Athagarh, will take up soil moisture conservation works under MGNREGS in the catchment of Ansupa Lake, out of Rs.100 Crores that has been allocated to the Forest & Environment Department by the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department for the current year. CDA will provide the detail location and proposed soil conservation measures to be taken up to arrest silt load to Ansupa Lake.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

This has been approved by the Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment through OSWAS File No. FE-ENV2-ENV-0001-2018.

Approved



Principal Secretary

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the State Wetlands Authority held on 25.09.2023 at 04.30 PM under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Environment & Climate Change in the 1st Floor Conference Hall of Revenue & DM Dept., Loka Seva Bhawan.

The 2nd Meeting of the State Wetlands Authority constituted under Rule 5 of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Environment & Climate Change -cum- Chairman, State Wetland Authority, Odisha on 25.09.2023 at 04.30 PM in the 1st Floor Conference Hall of Revenue & Disaster Management Dept., Loka Seva Bhawan.

Initiating the discussion, the Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Dept. welcome all the participants and gave a brief background of the meeting. The Director, Environment -cum- Special Secretary to Govt., FE&CC Dept. then presented the detailed presentation.

The list of the participants is attached at Annexure - 1.

After a threadbare discussion, following decisions were made.

Item No.1

Confirmation of the minutes of the 1st meeting of the Authority held on 17.08.2019

No opinion, views or comments has been received after the issuance of the minutes of the 1st meeting of the State Wetlands Authority held on 17.08.2019. Hence the minutes are confirmed.

Item No.2

Compliance of the decision taken in the last meeting held on 17.08.2019 is as follows:

Sl. No	Decision in the last SWA meeting	Compliance	Decision
1	It was decided to constitute a Technical Committee including representatives of Forest & Environment Department, Water Resources Department, Housing & Urban Development Department, PR & DW Department, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Fisheries & Animal Resources Department and ORSAC for review of brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the State Wetlands Authority.	A Technical Committee was constituted vide F&E Department Notification No.2795 dated 07.02.2020.	Noted The meeting of Technical Committee shall be conducted regularly.
2	It was decided to constitute a Grievance Committee consisting of Chief Executive, CDA/ICZMP; one NGO and Director, Environment to provide a mechanism for hearing and forwarding the grievances raised by public to the Authority.	A Grievance Committee was constituted vide F&E Department Notification No.2800 dated 07.02.2020.	Noted The meeting of Grievance Committee shall be conducted regularly.
3	Technical Committee is to identify all wetlands in the State. They may refer the National Wetland Atlas prepared by ORSAC besides may	The 1st meeting of the Technical Committee of State Wetlands Authority was held on 19.05.2020 under the	Noted

	<p>also consider Hirakud reservoir, Hadagada as well as major, medium and some minor irrigation projects of Water Resource Department. On the basis of importance, Technical Committee will suggest the details of the wetlands in the next meeting of the Authority so that the Authority can recommend the eligible wetlands to be notified by the State Government.</p>	<p>chairmanship of the Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Govt. in compliance to the order dated 25.02.2020 in O.A. No. 325/2015 of the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi and subsequently 55 wetlands on priority basis were identified and communicated to SPCB, Odisha for conduction of water quality test and onward transmission to DoWR for onward submission to Gol. The list of 55 wetlands so identified is placed at Annexure-A.</p>	
4	<p>For sustainable management of wetlands, Action Plans for each wetland need to be prepared. The objectives of the Action Plan should include catchment treatment, silt load reduction, checking of inflow of organic wastes, fertiliser & pesticides residues and open defecation thereby decrease of pollution load in water bodies. Further, site specific ecotourism, increase of fisheries and other recreational use may also be promoted.</p>	<p>Among the 55 water bodies, 3 wetlands viz. Chilika, Anshupa and Kanjla comes under the administrative control of Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department.</p> <p>The detailed action plan in respect of Chilika, Anshupa and Kanjla have already been forwarded to DoWR vide FE&CC Department Letter No. 816 dated 11.01.2022.</p>	Noted
5	<p>Integrated Management Plan of Chilika Lagoon and Ansupa Lake at a cost of Rs. 157.90 Crore and Rs.21.23 Crore for Chilika and Ansupa Lake respectively over a period of 5 years from 2019-2024 for seeking funds under National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem (NPCA), MoEF&CC, Govt. of India was approved with certain observations as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bathymetry survey of Chilika Lagoon will be done by CDA at the earliest since the last one was done in the year 2009 by INDOMER. 2. It was decided to take up a study under ICZMP for analyzing the core samples to know the rate of sedimentation. 3. Steps shall be taken up for solid waste management at important locations to prevent entry of wastes into Chilika Lake. 4. C.E., ORSAC will submit a proposal to carry out the Bathymetry survey of the Lagoon by using the LIDAR technology. 5. DFO, Athagarh, will take up soil moisture conservation works under MGNREGS in the catchment of Ansupa 	<p>The proposal containing Integrated Management Plan of Chilika Lagoon with a cost of Rs.25 Crores (CS + SS) for the FY 2020-21, 2021-22 & 2022-23 was sent to the MoEF&CC vide this Department Letter No. 15872 dated 14.10.2020. The copy of the said Letter is placed at Annexure-C.</p> <p>Accordingly, Gol has sanctioned an total amount of Rs.23,50,50,000/- (CS + SS) under NPCA on 60:40 cost sharing basis for implementation of Integrated Management Plan of Chilika Lake for three years and out of this, an amount of Rs.9,79,33,000/- (CS + SS) has already been released in favour of the CE, CDA.</p> <p>Gol has sanctioned an total amount of Rs.7,47,96,000/- (CS + SS) under NPCA on 60:40 cost sharing basis for implementation of Integrated Management Plan of Ansupa Lake for three years and out of this, an amount of Rs.2,75,17,000/- (CS + SS) has already been released in favour of the CE, CDA.</p>	Noted

Lake, out of Rs.100 Crores that has been allocated to the Forest & Environment Department by the Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department for the current year. CDA will provide the detail location and proposed soil conservation measures to be taken up to arrest silt load to Ansupa Lake.

Item No.3

The following proposals were considered for approval.

Sl. No	Name of the Project Proposal	Decision
1	Anshupa, Hirakud Reservoir, Satkosia Gorge and Tampara Wetlands of Odisha have been declared as Ramsar Sites by Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Hence, the names of Chilika, Anshupa, Bhitarkanika Mangroves, Hirakud Reservoir, Satkosia Gorge and Tampara Wetlands may be considered to be notified under Wetland Conservation and Management Rules (2017) in respect of Odisha in compliance to the Order of Hon'ble NGT dated 22.07.2021 in Original Application No. 351/2019 in the matter of Raja Muzafar Bhat Vs State Government of Jammu and Kashmir.	This matter may be further discussed.
2	<p>The concerned field managers of the RAMSAR sites i.e. Chilika, Anshupa, Bhitarkanika Mangroves, Hirakud Reservoir, Satkosia Gorge and Tampara Wetlands were requested to prepare Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) of the respective Ramsar Sites as per the guidelines of NPCA in consultation with Knowledge Partner / Experts of Chilika Development Authority.</p> <p>The IMPs are required to be approved by the State Wetlands Authority in order to access funds under the scheme "National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-system(NPCA)" of MoEF & CC, Government of India and the timeline for the same is September 2023. These management plans mark the commitment of the Government of Odisha to set up effective management arrangements for conservation and sustainable management of the concerned wetlands.</p>	<p>The IMPs in respect of Chilika for three years(FY 2024-25 to 2026-27) for an amount of Rs.1136.50 lakh, Anshupa for three years (FY 2024-25 to 2026-27) an amount of Rs.718.00 lakh were approved after due deliberations.</p> <p>The Site Managers of Bhitarkanika Mangroves, Satkosia Gorge and Tampara Wetlands are to submit their budget estimate of respective IMPs to SWA forthwith.</p> <p>The Integrated Management Plan of Hirakud Reservoir may be re-examined and put up in the next Authority meeting for consideration.</p>

333

3	<p>An O.A. No 88/2023/EZ has been filed against the State Wetlands Authority in the matter of Wildlife Society of Orissa-vrs. State of Odisha & Others before Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata in which the Chairman, State Wetlands Authority (SWA) and Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Chief Secretary, Odisha, Additional Chief Secretary, FE&CC Department and the Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary, FE&CC Department and Member Secretary, State Wetlands Authority (SWA) have been impleaded as Opposite Party No. 4,1,2 and 3.</p> <p>The petitioner has filed this O.A. challenging the illegal and indiscriminate permanent construction on the zone of influence, water area of the Tampara Lake by the outfit of promotion of Eco-tourism. State Wetlands Authority has not granted any clearance nor has been approached before starting of the alleged illegal construction. The case is listed to 03.11.2023 for further hearing.</p>	<p>This matter may be pursued meticulously in co-ordination with Collector, Ganjam</p>
4	<p>The DFO, Hirakud (WL) Division and Site Manager, Hirakud Reservoir, RAMSAR site has submitted a detailed Action Plan for Conservation of Hirakud Wetland for the FY 2023-24 with a financial outlay of Rs.31.30 Lakh for funding out of budget provision of Rs.1 Crore made under State Wetlands Authority (State Plan) FY 2023-24.</p>	<p>This action plan may be re-examined in collaboration with DoWR, Department of Tourism and other connected Departments and the same shall be put up in the next Authority meeting for consideration.</p>

Item No. 4

Other Items:

- A. Chilika Development Authority to focus on three major issues for sustainable development of Chilika Lake as follows:
- i. Solarization of boats plying on Chilika
 - ii. Prevention of Plastic Pollution
 - iii. Complete demolition of Prawn Gherries
- B. Department of Water Resources shall be requested to monitor the entry and exit of water into Ansupa Lake. A regulatory mechanism must be evolved to conserve the oxbow Lake.
- C. The issue of Deras and Jhumka Dam may be taken up for ecotourism activity as they don't have ayacut areas anymore. While examined, the floating solar & tourism potential may be taken into consideration.
- D. ORSAC shall be the technical partner of SWA and shall annually monitor the Wetlands.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to the participants.


 Minister, Forest, Environment & Climate Change
 -cum- Chairman, State Wetlands Authority
MINISTER
 Forest, Environment & Climate Change,
 Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water,
 Information & Public Relations

The 3rd meeting of the State Wetlands Authority constituted under Rule 5 of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Environment & Climate Change -cum- Chairman, State Wetland Authority, Odisha on 09.02.2024 at 7.15 PM in the 1st Floor Conference Hall of Revenue & Disaster Management Dept., Loka Seva Bhawan. The list of the participants is attached at **Annexure - 1**.

Initiating the discussion, the Member Secretary, State Wetland Authority & Director-cum-Spl. Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Dept. welcomed all the participants and briefed the agenda for the meeting, and presented the proposals.

After a threadbare discussion, the following decisions were taken.

Item No.1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Authority held on 25.09.2023

No opinions, views, or comments have been received after the issuance of the minutes of the 2nd meeting of the State Wetlands Authority held on 25.09.2023. Hence the minutes are confirmed.

Item No.2 : Discussion held in the meeting and the decisions taken are as follows:

Sl. No	Name of the Project Proposal	Discussion held	Decision taken
1	Anshupa, Hirakud Reservoir, Salkosia Gorge and Tampara Wetlands of Odisha have been declared as Ramsar Sites by Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Hence, the names of Chilika, Anshupa, Bhilarakanika Mangroves, Hirakud Reservoir, Salkosia Gorge and Tampara Wetlands may be notified under Wetland Conservation and Management Rules (2017) in respect of Odisha in compliance to the Order of Hon'ble NGT dated 22.07.2021 in Original Application No. 351/2019 in the matter of Raja Muzafar Bhat Vs State Government of Jammu and Kashmir.	This matter was vividly discussed.	The notifications of these six Ramsar sites under Wetland Conservation & Management Rules, (2017) will be made after the respective Stakeholders meeting. Further, the notifications of Ramsar sites shall be made after the ensuing Election Procedures are over as the district administration is busy in developmental works.



2	<p>The concerned field managers of the RAMSAR sites i.e. Chilika, Anshupa, Bhitarkanika Mangroves, Hirakud Reservoir, Salkosia Gorge and Tampara Wetlands were requested to prepare Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) of the respective Ramsar Sites as per the guidelines of NPCA in consultation with Knowledge Partner / Experts of Chilika Development Authority.</p> <p>The IMPs are required to be approved by the State Wetlands Authority in order to access funds under the scheme "National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem (NPCA)" of MoEF & CC, Government of India and the timeline for the same is September 2023. These management plans mark the commitment of the Government of Odisha to set up effective management arrangements for the conservation and sustainable management of the concerned wetlands.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">335</p> <p>The IMPs in respect of Chilika for three years (FY 2024-25 to 2026-27) for an amount of Rs.1136.50 lakh, Anshupa for three years (FY 2024-25 to 2026-27) an amount of Rs.718.00 lakh were approved. The revised IMP of Hirakud Reservoir for 2023-24 with an estimate of Rs.31.30 lakh submitted by DFO, Hirakud after inclusion of wise use of wetland, awareness creation for conservation of birds and sanctuary, etc. was also discussed. Dfo, Brahmapur has submitted the Framework Management Plan for Tampara wetlands.</p>	<p>The concerned field managers of the RAMSAR sites i.e. Bhitarkanika Mangroves, Hirakud Reservoir, Salkosia Gorge, and Tampara Wetlands need to prepare Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) of the respective Ramsar Sites as per the guidelines of NPCA in consultation with Knowledge Partner / Experts of Chilika Development Authority and submit as early as possible.</p>
3	<p>An O.A. No 88/2023/EZ has been filed against the State Wetlands Authority in the matter of the Wildlife Society of Orissa-vs. State of Odisha & Others before Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata in which the Chairman, State Wetlands Authority (SWA) and Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Chief Secretary, Odisha, Additional Chief Secretary, FE&CC Department and the Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary, FE&CC Department and</p>	<p>The matter is listed for hearing on 11.03.2024 by the Hon'ble NGT. Hon'ble Tribunal has directed the Committee to submit its report in the shape of an affidavit before the next date of listing i.e. 11.03.2024.</p> <p>The site visit report of DFO, Berhampur indicates that some silt structures (concrete Piles) built under the Tourism cottages are present at the site. Also, some silt structures (concrete Piles) have not been completed due to a ban on works by Hon'ble NGT.</p>	<p>After due presentation in this regard, the authority decided to submit the proposal to the Central Wetland Authority for necessary consideration.</p>

	<p>Member Secretary, State Wetlands Authority (SWA) have been impleaded as Opposite Party No. 4,1,2 and 3.</p> <p>The petitioner has filed this O.A. challenging the illegal and indiscriminate permanent construction on the zone of influence, and water area of the Tampara Lake by the outfit of promotion of Eco-tourism. State Wetlands Authority has not granted any clearance nor has been approached before starting of the alleged illegal construction. The case is listed to 03.11.2023 for further hearing.</p>	<p>This matter is being monitored in coordination with Collector & D.M., Ganjam. The Collector & D.M., Ganjam has submitted the site visit report dated 22.09.2023 of the committee constituted by Hon'ble NGT.</p>	
4	<p>The DFO, Hirkud (WL) Division and Site Manager, Hirkud Reservoir, RAMSAR site has submitted a detailed Action Plan for Conservation of Hirkud Wetland for the FY 2023-24 with a financial outlay of Rs.31.30 Lakh for funding out of budget provision of Rs.1 Crore made under State Wetlands Authority (State Plan) FY 2023-24.</p>	<p>DFO, Hirkud informed that the action plan has been revised after the inclusion of aspects like wise use of wetlands for sustainable development, economic well-being of the people, renewable energy, fisheries, livelihood, etc.</p>	<p>As a permissible item, the proposal was considered and allowed.</p>
5	<p>Chilika Development Authority to focus on three major issues for sustainable development of Chilika Lake as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Solarization of boats plying on Chilika b. Prevention of Plastic Pollution c. Complete demolition of Prawn Gherries 	<p>The Chief Executive CDA, informed that the following steps have been taken for the sustainable development of Chilika:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. OREDA has floated a tender for procurement of solar boats and the tender will be opened on 15.02.2024. Two sites namely Satapada & Balugaon have been selected to deploy solar boats on a pilot basis. 	<p>Noted</p>

337
 b. The Plastic Pollution Awareness programme has been carried out involving public by CDA from time to time and on World Welland day in coastal sites of safapada, Ansupa and Balugaon. Nature camps with school children will also be arranged.

d. Illegal Prawn Gherry demolition is continuing by the joint effort of Collector Puri and Collector, Ganjam with the logistics support of CDA as required. Tehsildars have been entrusted the responsibility.

6	<p>Department of Water Resources shall be requested to monitor the entry and exit of water into Ansupa Lake. A regulatory mechanism must be evolved to conserve the oxbow Lake.</p>	<p>The Director, Water Resource informed that one proposal has been received and that needs further examination</p>	<p>Action taken report needs to be presented in the next meeting.</p>
7	<p>The issue of Deras and Jhumka Dam may be taken up for ecotourism activity as they don't have ayacut areas anymore. While examined, the floating solar & tourism potential may be taken into consideration.</p>	<p>Authority noted that Jhumka & Deras Dam don't have ayacut areas anymore. Ecotourism activities like pisciculture in the dams and the development of resorts, hotels, cottages, etc. in the area were also discussed focussing provision of safety measures for local farmers.</p>	<p>Authority suggested that Jhumka & Deras Dam is very much suitable for Eco-Tourism Activities as they are located near Bhubaneswar City. Proper monitoring may also be carried out by the WR Dept. to promote ecotourism activity in that area.</p>
8	<p>ORSAC shall be the technical partner of SWA and shall annually monitor the Wellands.</p>	<p>The Scientist, ORSAC informed that the wetlands were identified & demarcated as per data of 2022. Updating data pertaining to 2023 is going to be completed and change analysis</p>	<p>The authority noted the submission.</p>

Item No. 3

Discussion held on the new proposals and decision taken thereof:

Sl. No	Name of the Project Proposal	Discussion held	Decision taken
1	Development of "Hirakud Boat Club" Project at Hirakud Reservoir of Sambalpur District with a financial outlay of Rs.15.28 Cr. submitted by Tourism Deptt.	DFO, Hirakud stated that she has scrutinized the DPR and informed that as per Wetland Conservation & Management Rules, (2017), the construction of temporary structures is a permissible activity, but the project must have zero plastic and zero dumping of waste.	The project may be allowed subject to necessary incorporation
2	Execution of Integrated Development Plan of Bhilarakanika National Park in Kendrapara District with a financial outlay of INR 224.72 Cr. submitted by Tourism Deptt.	Director of Tourism stated that they have engaged one agency for this project. Five sites were selected for this project namely Dangamai, Kola, Gupti, Kasturikana & Chandbali. While Kasturikana site is only outside the National Park having 100 acres of available land. All the sites have day to day amenities, interpretation centres and jetties.	Authority in principle agreed to the Execution of the Integrated Development Plan of Bhitarakanika National Park in Kendrapara District subject to verification made by the DFO concerned with reference to sanctuary laws.
3	Development of Tourism infrastructure at Tampara Lake of Chhatrapur Tahasil, Ganjam with a financial outlay of INR 33.43 Cr. (Post-facto) submitted by Tourism Deptt.	Director of Tourism stated that In 2016, the project was taken with an outlay of Rs. 33.43 cr. under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of GOI. Under the project, some promenade and cottages were made for which it received prize award from GOI. However, NGT have directed it as an illegal activity violating Wetland Conservation & Management Rules, (2017). But, Tampara was declared as Ramsar site in 2022. It has not been mentioned in the National Wetland Atlas. Further, measures for wise use of	The Authority decided to recommend the proposal to MOEF&CC for post facto approval following clause 4 under Wetland Conservation & Management Rules, (2017) subject to verification made by the DFO concerned.

		<p style="text-align: center;">339</p> <p>wetland has been taken that includes "economic & livelihood development of local people, increasing aeration inside lake, establishment of rain water harvesting structures & sewage STP, Nature Interpretation centre, development of Jetties, etc. He requested for consideration of the proposal for sending to Central Wetland Authority .</p>	58
4	Engagement of two contractual consultants in the State Wetlands Authority having Ph.D./ Masters in Environmental Science with relevant experience with monthly remuneration (Rs.60,000/Rs. 40,000/-) fitting with other organizations under the administrative control of the Environment Wing		The authority agreed with the proposal and decided that steps to be taken for the engagement of one newly appointed Assistant Section Officer(ASO) and one Contractual Consultant in the State Wetlands Authority for smooth functioning of the Authority under the administrative control of the Environment Wing.
5	Constitution of a cell for smooth functioning of State Wetlands Authority		

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair and all the participants.

**Minister, Forest, Environment & Climate Change -Cum-
Chairman, State Wetlands Authority**

Government of Odisha
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department

No. FE-ENV2-Meeting-0004-2023 22237 /FE&CC, Dt. 20.10.23

From

Sri Bijaya Kishor Bhujabala, OSS
Under Secretary to Government and
Member Convenor, Grievance Committee, State Wetlands Authority

To

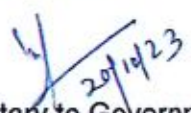
The Chief Executive, Chilika Development Authority, Bhubaneswar
Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA)
At- Hatapatana, PO-Kadalibana, Block/Dist:- Kendrapara- 754222

Sub: Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Grievance Committee of State Wetlands Authority constituted under Rule-5(6)(b) of Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to enclose herewith the approved minutes of the aforementioned meeting held under the chairmanship of the Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department on 11.10.2023 at 04:00 PM in his Office chamber at 4th Floor, Kharavel Bhavan, Bhubaneswar for taking further necessary action at you end.

Yours faithfully,


Under Secretary to Government

341
Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Grievance Committee of the State Wetlands Authority held on 11.10.2023 at 04:00 PM in the Office chamber of the Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department

The 1st meeting of the Grievance Committee of the State Wetlands Authority was held under the chairmanship of the Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Government on 11.10.2023 at 04:00 PM. Other members who were present in the meeting are at Annexure-I.

At the outset the Under Secretary to Government, Environment Wing welcomed all the Members to the meeting. Thereafter, the detailed agenda was discussed and the following decisions were taken in the meeting:

Item No.1

The following decisions were made in the meeting:

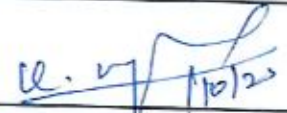

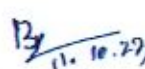

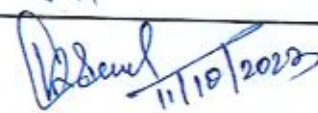

Sl. No	Grievance	Status	Decision
01	Grievance of ShriBasantPatra regarding Inclusion of JeyporeSagar Lake at JeyporeOdisha in NLCP	Many representations have been received from one Sri BasantPatra for development of JagannathSagar Lake, Jeypore, Koraput and include it under National Lake Conservation Scheme and has been forwarded vide this Department Letter No. 8006 dated 30.04.2022, No. 20608 dated 21.11.2022, No. 3097 dated 20.02.2023, No. 7292 dated 06.05.2023 and DO No. 29 dated 09.06.2023 to Collector, Koraput/ MS, SPCB with a request to comply Order dtd. 08.10.2020 of Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi in OA No148/2019.	SWA may write to Collector, Koraput in this matter.
02	Grievance of Sri BiswajitMohanty and Wildlife Society of Orissa and Prof (Retd.) BC Choudhury, Former Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India regarding illegal construction at Tampara Lake	Both the petitioners have alleged about the illegal and indiscriminate permanent construction on the zone of influence, water area of the Tampara Lake by the outfit of promotion of Eco-tourism.Both the grievances have been forwarded to the Collector, Ganjam with a request to furnish ATR in this regard vide this Department Letter No. 2771 dated 15.02.2023 and No. 9802 dated 11.05.2023. The DFO, Berhampur Forest Division has been requested to prepare and submit IMP in respect of Tampara Lake in consonance with the guidelines of NPCA. An O.A. No 88/2023/EZ has been filed against the State Wetlands Authority in the matter of Wildlife Society of Orissavrs. State of Odisha& Others before Hon'ble NGT, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata.	This matter may be pursued meticulously in co-ordination with Collector, Ganjam.
03	Repair, Renovation and Restoration of AshrukholaJora, Cuttack and Kendrapara District	Many representations have been received from one AshrukholaJoraPunarudhar O BikashManch, Cuttack for restoration of AshrukholaJora under Repair, Restoration, Rehabilitation (RRR) scheme which was forwarded to the Department of Water Resources vide this Department Letters No. 20259 dated 18.11.2021, No. 20988 dated 01.12.2021 and No. 9593 dated 09.05.2023 with a request to take necessary steps for restoration of AshrukholaJora under Repair, Restoration, Rehabilitation (RRR) scheme.	This matter may be followed up with DWR

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the participants.


 Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Government, & Chairman, Grievance Committee of State Wetlands Authority FE&CC Dept.

Attendance Sheet

1st Meeting of the Grievance Committee of the State Wetlands Authority held on 11.10.2023 at 04:00 PM in the Office chamber of the Director, Environment-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department

Sl. No	Name with Designation	Signature
1	Director, Environment.-cum-Special Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department	 11/10/23
2	Representative of Chilika Development Authority (Anil Kumar Nayak, Addl. CE, CDA)	 11/10/23
3	Action for Protection of Wild Animals (APOWA), At- Hatapatana, PO-Kadalibana, Block/Dist:- Kendrapara- 754222	 11.10.23
4	Under Secretary to Government, i/c Environment Wing, FE&CC Department	 11/10/23
5	Senior Scientist(E&E) Environment Wing, FE&CC Department	 11/10/2023
6	Dr. R. N. Samal Scientific Officer, CDA	 11.10.2023
7		
8		
9		
10		

DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT, ORISSA, BHUBANESWAR

No. 202334115305 / Dt. 14/03/2024

FE-ENV3-BUD-0001-2020

Issue No. 4616

Dt. 14.03.24



To,

The Accountant General (A&E), Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Sub:

Sanction of funds for "Sanction of funds towards implementation of the Conservation of HiraKud Wetland Ramsar Site under SSS-3130-Conservation and Development of Wetland during FY 2023-24 " during the year 2023 - 2024.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to convey the sanction of the Governor to an expenditure of Rs. 3130000 (Thirty One Lakh Thirty Thousand Only./-) as per the statement enclosed at Annexure-I for Sanction of funds towards implementation of the Conservation of HiraKud Wetland Ramsar Site under SSS-3130-Conservation and Development of Wetland during FY 2023-24 during the year 2023 - 2024.

The charge is debitable to 22--Demand Number for Forest and Environment Department-3435- ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT-03-102-ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION-3130- Conservation and Development of wetland-78611-918-Grant-in-aid-General(Non-Salary)-21-SSS-1-Voted-1-State Sector in the budget estimate for the year 2023 - 2024. No diversion of funds from one primary unit to other shall be made without prior approval of DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT, ORISSA, BHUBANESWAR

The Drawing and Disbursing officer (DDO) and the Drawing Treasury for the funds sanctioned herein shall be as per the details mentioned in Annexure-I.

The Financial Rules, Procedures and formalities as should be strictly followed while incurring expenditure.

This has been concurred in by Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department.

Signature
F.A.-cum-Additional Secretary to Govt., FE&CC
Department

Specific Terms and Conditions:

Sanction of funds towards implementation of the Conservation of HiraKud Wetland Ramsar Site under SSS-3130- Conservation and Development of Wetland during FY 2023-24



ଶ୍ରୀମଦ୍ରାଜ୍ୟୋତ୍ସ୍ନାପୁସ୍ତକାଧିକାରୀ, ହୀରାକୁଦ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀରକ୍ଷଣ, ମୋଡ଼ିଝର, ସମ୍ବଲପୁର,
ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ପିନ୍-୭୬୮୦୦୧, ଦୂରଭାଷା/ଫେକ୍ସ-୦୬୬୩-୨୫୪୮୭୪୩,

ଇମେଲ-dfo.hirakudwl@odisha.gov.in

Letter No. 2390 /IF-61 (Actt.)/2021-22 Dated 5-7-2023

To

The Member Secretary,
Odisha State Wetland Authority.

Sub: - Submission of Action Plan for allocation of funds for conservation of HiraKud Wetland (Ramsar site) for the year 2023-24.

Ref:- Memo No.3965 Dt.29.09.2021 of DFO,Hirakud Wildlife Division,Sambalpur.

Sir,

In continuation to the above cited memo on the captioned subject, the proposal for allocation of funds for conservation of HiraKud Wetland (Ramsar site) for the year 2023-24 is submitted herewith for needful action. The funds shall be utilized for conservation of HiraKud Wetland (Ramsar site), preserving the flora and fauna and awareness among local communities dependent on HiraKud Wetland living adjoining HiraKud wetland.

Items of works	Description of activities	Unit cost	Total cost (Rs. in lakh)	Justification
1. Eco-friendly improvement in the picnic zone between Govindpur & Tamdei villages adjoining HiraKud Wetland.	i- 10 nos of dustbins	Rs.0.02	Rs.0.20	Around 5000 picnickers (from neighbouring districts of Odisha & Chhatisgarh) every year do picnic near HiraKud wetland in between Govindpur and Tamdei villages. Eco-friendly infrastructures will help conserve the wetland.
	ii. Construction of eco friendly toilet with water facility.	LS	Rs.6.00	
	iii. Signage on conservation of HiraKud Wetland, Ramsar Site- 10 nos along the PWD roads, RD roads connecting to villages.	Rs.0.35	Rs.3.50	
Sub-total:-Rs.			9.70	
2. Conservation of birds/ nesting site by awareness among local villages, communities of (1)-Tamdei, (2)- Bungapali, (3)-Ramkhol (4)-Uttam (5)- Paruabhadi (6)- Tilcimal (7)- Chakramal (8)- Darlipali (9)- Hatikhoj (10)- Lakhanpur (11)- Rengali (12)- Christianpada (13)-Paharsrigida (14)- Amjhar (15)- Rujhemal (16)- Tangerpali (17)- Gadgaddala (18)- Junani (19)- Runipali (20)- Ghanghati.	i. Signage on birds, relevance of wetland, Ramsar site-40 nos (2 nos signage per village) along the PWD roads, RD roads connecting to villages.	Rs.0.35 lakh	Rs.14.00	- 3, 80 = Map of 20 mentioned villages adjoining HiraKud Wetland(Ramsar Site) enclosed as Annexure-I 25, or
	ii. Awareness meetings among Schools, Colleges, PanchayatiRaj Institutions, and Anganwadi in the 20 mentioned villages.	Rs.0.05 lakh	Rs.1.00	
	iii. T-shirts/caps/note books /bags/stickers with logo etc on HiraKud Wetland for distribution in School and Colleges.	LS	Rs.5.00	
	iv. 80 nos dustbins (4 nos dustbin per village)	Rs.0.02	Rs.1.60	
Sub-total:-Rs.			21.60	
Grand Total-Rs.			31.30 lakh	

(Rupees Thirty Thirty One lakh Thirty Thousand) only

Total page - 3 nos
(P-1/3)

Note: During the year 2021-22 Rs. 44.80 lakh was allotted for eradication of Ipomoea weed over 32 ha. in the shore line (100 km) Hirakud reservoir & Debrigarh Sanctuary. Out of the allotment Rs. 40.568 lakh was utilized for eradication of Ipomoea weed over 163.57 ha. & balance funds of Rs. 4.232 lakh was utilized for "Awareness generation programmes" & creation of Birds village at Govindpur, Lakhanpur Wildlife Range during 2022-23.

Encls:-Annexure-1-Map of 20 mentioned villages adjoining Hirakud Wetland (Ramsar Site)

Yours faithfully,

Divisional Forest Officer Cum Site Manager,
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur

Memo No. 2391 Dated. 5-7-2023

Copy forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife warden, Odisha, for favour of kind information.

Divisional Forest Officer Cum Site Manager,
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur

Memo No. 2392 Dated. 5-7-2023

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Sambalpur for favour of kind information.

Divisional Forest Officer Cum Site Manager,
Hirakud Wildlife Division
Sambalpur



Proof of Service

Office of Raman Yadav <officeoframanyadav@gmail.com>

Service of Reply on behalf of Resp. Nos. 1, 8 & 11 in OA NO 89 OF 2024 titled Gopinath Majhi Vs State of Odisha & Ors.

1 message

Office of Raman Yadav <officeoframanyadav@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 17, 2025 at 7:28 PM

To: Sankar Pani <sankarprasadpani@gmail.com>, fsec.ora@nic.in, dm-jharsuguda@nic.in, paribesh1@ospcboard.org, rdcbasp@nic.in, revsec.od@nic.in, mscb.cpcb@nic.in, ee_mddburla@rediffmail.com, msobb@rediffmail.com, secy-moef@nic.in

Cc: Hirakud Wildlife Division <hirakudwildlife1@gmail.com>

Dear All,


This is to inform you that the Reply on behalf of Respondent No. 1,8 & 11 in the captioned matter has been filed before the National Green Tribunal, Kolkata.

A copy of the same is being attached herewith for your reference.

This email serves as an advance service.

--

Office of Raman Yadav
Advocate, Supreme Court of India
C-167, LGF Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024
Mobile: +91 88004 57781

 Conter Affidavit on O.A No 89-2024 (EZ) - DFO, Hiraud WL Division (Respondent 1, 8 & 11).pdf
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