

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**  
**Revenue Department**  
**Office of the Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari, Eluru.**

L.Dis.No.D2/e -1839660/2021

dated: 21.12.2021

From:  
Kartikya Misra, I.A.S.,  
Collector & District Magistrate,  
West Godavari, Eluru

To,  
The Registrar,  
National Green Tribunal,  
Southern Zone, Chennai.

Sir/Madam,

Sub: **National Green Tribunal: O.A.No.259/ 2020 & O.A No.2 of 202 I-  
"Mystery illness raises concern over Kolleru Pollution" - Action  
taken report to protect the Water Body and steps taken to remove the  
encroachments in Kolleru Lake - Report Submitted - Regarding.**

Ref: 1. Original Application No. 259 of 2020 (SZ) of item No. 175s 18 of  
National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone Chennai (received through  
whatsapp message on 03.11.2021).  
2. This L.Dis.No.D2/e -1839660/2021, dated: 03.11.2021.  
3. Report of the Sub-Collector, Narasapuram and Revenue Divisional  
Officer, Eluru.  
4. Rc.No.1185/2019-DM, O/o the Divisional Forest Officer, Wild life  
Management Division, Eluru, dt:19.11.2021.

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I invite attention to the reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited, wherein the Registrar, National Green Tribunal has directed to submit a detailed report regarding the nature of encroachments, steps taken by them to remove the encroachments in Kolleru Lake and to protect the water body and if there is any scheme launched by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to protect this water body, then what is the stage of its implementation etc., before 23.12.2021.

**The Brief history of the Kolleru Lake is as follows;**

- Kolleru is a largest fresh water lake in India and a natural balancing reservoir of Krishna and Godavari Delta systems covered by 7 Mandals (Ac.58795.12) in West Godavari and 2 Mandals in Krishna Districts (Ac 17449.00) with an extent of **Ac.76,243-00 cts.**, giving shelter for **189** species of migratory birds of various countries.
- Govt. of A.P issued preliminary notification under section 18 of Wild life protection Act, 1972 in G.O.Ms. No. 76 EFS & T (F or III) Dt. 25-09-1995 declaring the area below + 5 contours as KOLLERU WILD LIFE SANCTUARY (KWS).
- The Hon'ble Supreme Court upheld the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court and constituted a **Central Empowerment Committee (CEC)** and issued direction to the committee to demolish the tanks below+5 contour on 20-03-2006.

- Accordingly, the demolition of all encroachments and fish ponds within +5 contour of Kolleru lake was completed by 15-06-2006.
- The area of Kolleru Wild Life Sanctuary (KWS) mentioned in G.O.Ms.No.120, dated 04.10.1999 is **30,855.20 hectores** (76,243.20 Acres), (W.G + Krishna). The actual area arrived after survey is 33,987.35ha (83,982.70 Acres).
- The demolition of the fish tanks laid under below +5 contour of Kolleru Wild Life Sanctuary was took place during the year 2006. After demolition, the land measuring **33,987.35 Ha.** (W.G + Krishna) was handed over to Forest Department by the Revenue Department in year 2007.
- During the year 2008, the A.P Legislature unanimously passed a resolution on 04-09-2008 to reduce the Sanctuary from below +5 to +3 contour. But alteration of a sanctuary boundary is in the purview of "National Board of Wildlife". Hence, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution again on 23.12.2014 for reducing the boundary of Kolleru Wild Life Sanctuary from +5 contour to +3 contour to mitigate the problems of the farmers.
- Further, the Government has issued instructions to explore the Possibility of alternate land to land proposals for accommodating the Zeroit as well as D-Form Patta holders situated other than North East corner of Kolleru lake with the lands situated at north eastern boundary of Kolleru lake. Accordingly proposals were submitted to the Government for deletion of Ac.15801.04 cts of Government/private /D.Patta land in the NE corner. But no further action was taken in this regard.

**Encroachment status within Kolleru Wild Life Santuary:**

Regarding the encroachments in Kolleru Lake, I submit that, in the year 2006, all the illegal encroachments which were mostly in the nature of fish tanks were demolished and the land within the +5 contour area was handed over to the Forest Department. Since then the notified Kolleru land covered by wild life sanctuary is under the control of Forest Department and necessary changes were incorporated in Revenue Records as Kolleru Abhayaranyam. Further, traditionally majority of the villagers are practicing either agriculture or aquaculture activities in the area, but few are resorting to Pisci culture and the D.Form Pattas issued earlier were subsequently cancelled in view of sanctuary notification, in these land also few are resorting to Pisci-Culture and the concern officers were also instructed to alert the field level functionaries and not to allow the Pisci -culture in Wild Life sanctuary.

Further, the Forest department is taking concerted efforts in protecting the sanctuary area, so far 544 cases have been registered related to encroachment mainly for aquaculture in all the categories of the land since 2006-07 and the

cases are under trial in various courts. The details of cases booked from 2006-07 to 2021-22 (upto 31-10-2021) are given below;

**ABSTRACT OF ENCROACHMENT CASES BOOKED FROM 2006-07 TO 2021-22 (up to 31-10-2021) IN KOLLERU WLS**

Year of Encroachment Case booked	No. Cases booked	Extent of Encroachment (Acres)		
		Govt. (Ac.)	Ziroyati (Ac.)	Total (Ac.)
2006-07	3	0	3.03	3.03
2007-08	1	0	0	0
2008-09	11	170.00	258.71	428.71
2009-10	23	307.95	471.31	779.26
2010-11	36	321.61	355.24	676.85
2011-12	11	182.21	40.88	223.09
2012-13	18	237.83	122.45	360.28
2013-14	5	28.62	22.53	51.15
2014-15	19	586.80	193.88	780.68
2015-16	33	361.37	33.48	394.85
2016-17	74	737.83	172.51	910.34
2017-18	95	2329.59	244.69	2574.28
2018-19	55	2428.97	25.71	2454.68
2019-20	46	1665.47	95.27	1760.74
2020-21	65	1305.45	1009.33	2314.78
2021-22	59	1204.12	825.24	2029.36
<b>TOTAL::</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>11867.82</b>	<b>3874.26</b>	<b>15742.08</b>

**Activities taken up in the sanctuary area:**

The sanctuary area is generally managed based on the prescriptions provided in the approved management plan. The previous Integrated Management Plan for Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary was prepared by WISA (Wetland International-South Asia):2008 for a period of 5 years under an assignment from Forest Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The present management plan for Kolleru WLS is being prepared by involving Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai and it is under progress.

Further, various activities are being implemented in the Sanctuary area through state and central schemes. The main activities implemented broadly in the sanctuary area are Protection, wildlife habitat improvement, ecotourism, development of bird congregation sites, infrastructure development etc. Overall, an amount of Rs.30 crores (approx.) have been spent in the sanctuary area from 2006-07 to 2020-21. Some of the important state and central schemes being implemented currently in the sanctuary are CAMPA, BioSAP, 04-Sanctuaries, 06-Development of National Park & Sanctuaries, Centrally Sponsored Schemes - Conservation of Natural Resources & Aquatic Ecosystem etc., The important activities being taken by Forest Department in the sanctuary area are:

- 1. Protection:** Establishment of base camps, strike force, check post for regular patrolling, collecting intelligence, preventing encroachment activities, checking vehicle movement that carry fertilizers, chemicals and fish feed into sanctuary area etc. Presently 5 base camps, 1 strike force and 6 check posts are functioning from various locations in the sanctuary area.

- 2. Habitat improvement:** The activities like desilting of drains, demolition of old bunds, removal of water hyacinth and other weeds, formation of mounds, planting of trees for bird nesting, installation of artificial perching stands, releasing fish fingerlings (food for aquatic birds) etc., are being taken up to create favourable environment for the wildlife to survive.
- 3. Research & Monitoring:** Regular census is being conducted to enumerate different bird species and their population. Research related to tagging of birds was conducted earlier by BNHS. Presently through MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) a study is being conducted on Socio-economic and livelihood assessment of communities living in and around Kolleru WLS.
- 4. Ecotourism:** Ecotourism facility at Aatapaka and Madhavapuram in the sanctuary caters to the visitors and acting as conservation education centre. Presently facilities like Environmental Education Centre, watch tower, boating are being maintained by the department. These facilities are being managed by local communities under the supervision of forest department.
- 5. Awareness creation:** Regular village level awareness programmes are being taken up and competitions for school and college students are being conducted during world wetland day, world environment day, wildlife week etc., mainly for gaining their support in protection and conservation of this wetland.

I finally submit that, besides implementing various developmental activities, the protection of the said water body is being constantly monitored by the District Administration and instructions are being issued to the Forest officials Department from time to time to take stringent action against the illegal activities in the Sanctuary area. Further, the seasonal encroachments, if any identified in the sanctuary area for aquaculture have been tackled by registering offence cases, demolishing the bunds, conducting village level awareness programmes. Hence, all the best possible efforts to prevent and remove all kinds of encroachments in the sanctuary area have been taken to protect the water body.

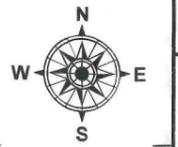
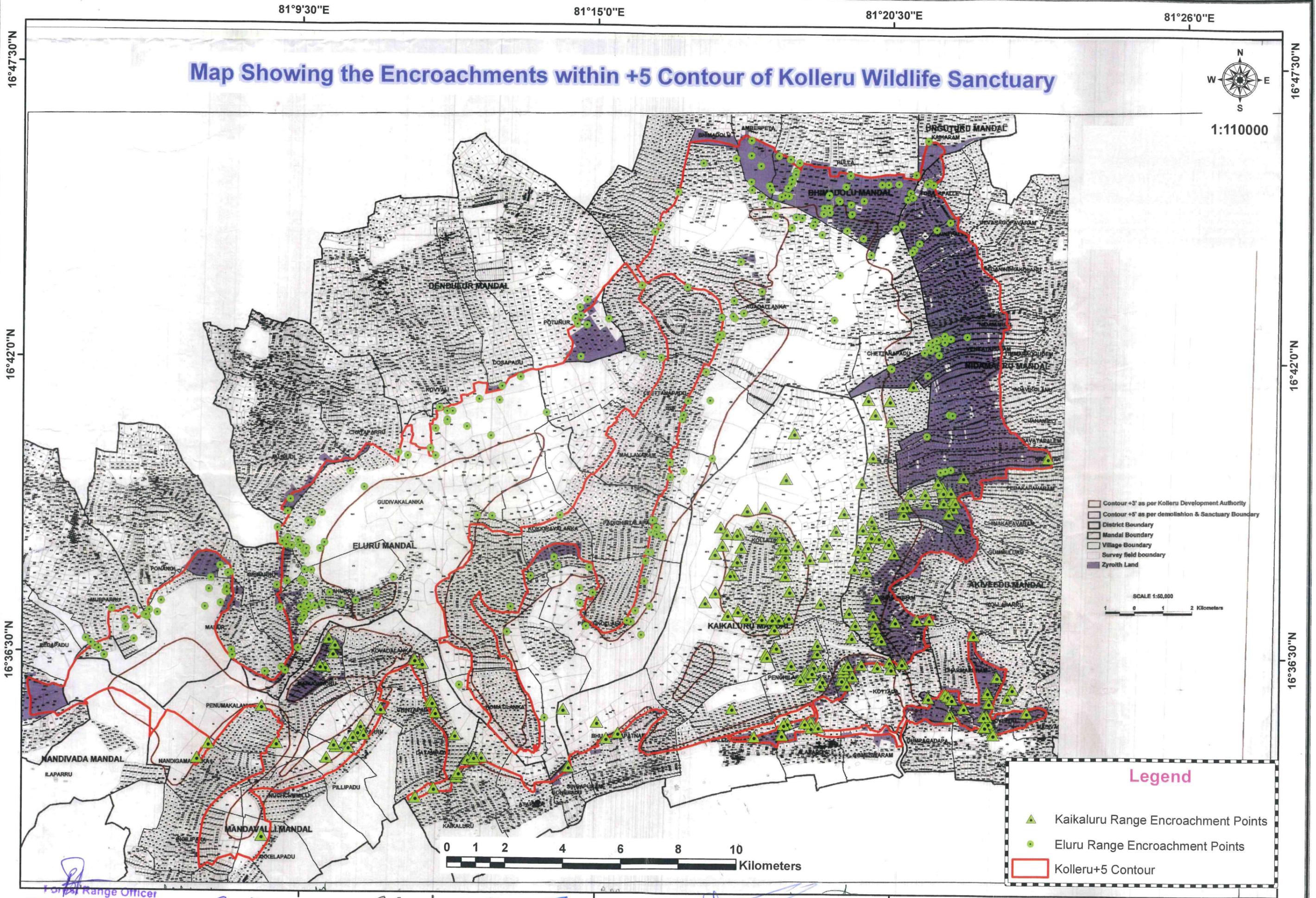
In view of the above, I herewith enclose the map depicting the encroachment based on the cases registered so far for kind perusal.

Encl: reference cited.

Yours faithfully,

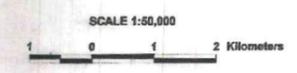
Collector & District Magistrate,  
West Godavari, Eluru.

# Map Showing the Encroachments within +5 Contour of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary

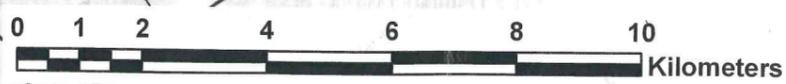


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- Contour +3' as per Kolleru Development Authority
- Contour +5' as per demolition & Sanctuary Boundary
- District Boundary
- Mandal Boundary
- Village Boundary
- Survey field boundary
- Zyroth Land



- ### Legend
- ▲ Kalkaluru Range Encroachment Points
  - Eluru Range Encroachment Points
  - Kolleru+5 Contour



Forest Range Officer  
 Wildlife Management Range  
 Kalkaluru
 

 Forest Range Officer  
 Wildlife Management Range
 

 Divisional Forest Officer  
 Wildlife Management Range
 

 Chief Conservator of Forests  
 Rajahmundry Circle, Rajamahendravaram