

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 630 of 2023

Anand Arya

...Applicant(s)

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

**ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 1,
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(MoEF&CC), GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

INDEX

Sr. No.	Particulars	Page
1.	Additional Affidavit On Behalf Of The Respondent No. 1	1 - 3
2.	A copy of list of the nine Ramsar Criteria is annexed hereto as Annexure-R1/1	4
3.	Proof of Service	5

Place: *Delhi*

Date: *13/05/2026*

Through


Mr. Ankit Gupta
(Advocate for the Respondent No.1)

DR. ANKIT GUPTA (Advocate)
Ph.D, LLM, LLB (hons.), DCL, CAL (U.S.A.)
Enrl. No. D/1710/2011 M:- 9891803682
email:- vakilankitgupta@gmail.com
www.advocateankitgupta.com

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 630 of 2023

...Applicant(s)

Anand Arya

Versus

...Respondent(s)

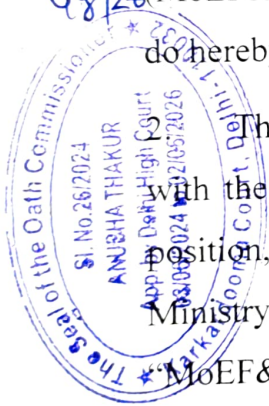
Union of India & Ors.

**ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 1,
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(MoEF&CC), GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

I, Dr. Motipalli Ramesh S/o Shri. M.G.K Murthy, aged about 46 years, presently working as Scientist F, in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110003, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under: -

That I am the above-named Deponent, duly authorised and well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case by virtue of my official position, and am thus competent to swear the present Affidavit on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as "MoEF&CC" or "the Ministry").

3. That this Affidavit is being filed in compliance to the order of the Hon'ble Tribunal dated 12.02.2026, wherein MoEF&CC was directed to place on record the complete details of the step-by-step procedure to be followed for designation of a wetland as a Ramsar Site, along with the competent authority responsible for each stage of such designation. The relevant directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal are noted and the present Affidavit is filed accordingly.



Ramesh

4. That it is humbly submitted that the step-by-step procedure to be followed for designation of a wetland as a Ramsar Site, along with the competent authority for each stage of such designation is as follows:

a. That a proposal for a wetland that fulfils at least one of the nine criteria under the Ramsar Convention is prepared and submitted by the concerned State Government (i.e. Secretary of the nodal department handling wetlands) to MoEF&CC, duly recommended and along with the State Government's consent for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MoEF&CC. The MoU encompasses all anticipated actions with regard to the proposed site. A list of the nine Ramsar Criteria is annexed hereto as **Annexure-R1/I**.

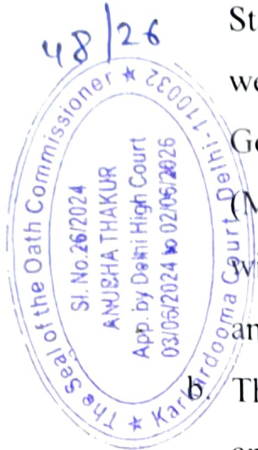
b. That upon receipt of the complete proposal from the State Government, the approval is obtained by competent authority of the MoEF&CC (i.e. Hon'ble Minister).

c. Consequently, MoEF&CC seeks a No Objection Certificate (NOC)/ clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs (i.e. Hon'ble Minister) on the proposal, as the designation under the Ramsar Convention involves an international commitment.

d. MoEF&CC seeks user credentials from the Ramsar Secretariat for online completion of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) of the proposed wetland through the Ramsar online portal (www.rsis.ramsar.org).

e. The RIS is filled by the compiler designated by the State Government through the Ramsar Portal. The RIS is to be duly completed in all respects and submitted to the Ministry.

f. After ensuring that the RIS is complete in all respects, a designation letter duly signed by the Administrative Authority (Secretary/Addl. Secy., MoEF&CC) is uploaded on the RIS portal and submitted to the Regional



Ramesh

3

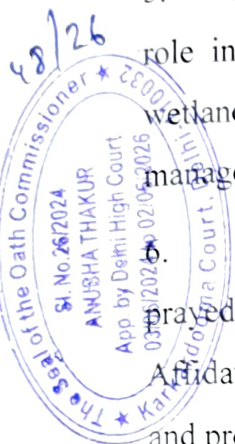
750

Team of the Ramsar Secretariat. The Regional Team reviews the proposal and forwards it for approval of the Secretary General, Ramsar Secretariat. g. Thereafter, the particular wetland is designated as a Ramsar Site and a Designation Certificate is also issued by Secretary General of the Ramsar Secretariat.

5. That it is pertinent to mention that the State Government plays a pivotal role in identifying, recommending, and providing consent for the proposed wetland/Ramsar site and is also responsible for its' conservation and management.

In light of the above-stated facts and circumstances, it is most humbly prayed that the Hon'ble Court may kindly be pleased to take the present Reply Affidavit on record and may pass appropriate Order(s). direction(s) as deemed fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the present case.

7. It is most humbly submitted that the Answering Respondent seeks leave to make additional submissions, if required, during the course of the proceedings.



Handwritten signature of Anusha Thakur

I identify the deponent who has signed; our thumb impression in my presence.

Ramesh
DEPONENT

VERIFICATION 13 MAY 2026

I Dr. Motipalli Ramesh, the above-named Deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge as per the records of the Answering Respondent. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at New Delhi on 13 May 2026.

CERTIFIED THAT THE DEPONENT
S/o, W/o, D/o, Sh. Motipalli Ramesh
Identified by Sh./Smt. M. B. K. Moudhey
has solemnly Affirmed before me at Delhi
13 MAY 2026 Ankit guptey
That the contents of the Affidavit which
have been read over to Him/her
are true & correct to my knowledge
Oath Com. A

Ramesh
DEPONENT
(डॉ एम. रमेश/Dr. M. RAMESH)
वैज्ञानिक 'एफ'/Scientist 'F'
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Min. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

The Ramsar Sites Criteria

The nine criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance

Group A of the Criteria. Sites containing representative, rare or unique wetland types

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.

Group B of the Criteria. Sites of international importance for conserving biological diversity

Criteria based on species and ecological communities

Criterion 2: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.

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.

Specific criteria based on waterbirds

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.

Specific criteria based on fish

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.

Specific criteria based on other taxa

Criterion 9: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent non-avian animal species.

Ramesh



White Legal Solutions <vakilankitgupta@gmail.com>

service of additional affidavit on behalf of MOEF&CC in OA 630/2023

1 message

White Legal Solutions <vakilankitgupta@gmail.com>
To: akashvashishtha.official@gmail.com

Wed, May 13, 2026 at 4:48 PM

Dear Sir,

PFa the additional evidence in OA No. 630/2023 on behalf of MOEF&CC.

The matter is listed tomorrow i.e. 14-05-2026.

--

Thanks and regards:-

DR. ANKIT GUPTA (Advocate and Mediator)

Mobile: 9891803682

Office: 4, First Floor, Priya Enclave, Delhi - 110092

www.advocateankitgupta.com**Anand Arya V S Union Of India .pdf**
1738K