

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 402/2025

NEWS ITEM TITLED "RAVENOUS SEA FEEDS ON SUNDERBANS SHORE 40% OF GHORAMARA ISLAND TO SHRINK BY 2042" APPEARING IN THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE DATED 04.08.2025

STATUS REPORT IN THE FORM OF AFFIDAVIT BY THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL IN PURSUANT OF THE ORDER OF THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH DATED 11.08.2025

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Filed by:

Place: New Delhi
Date: 21.11.2025


 Madhumita Bhattacharjee
 Adv for State of West Bengal
 J-1921, C.R. Park,
 New Delhi-110019
 D/2674/1999
 Bhattacharjee.madhumita@gmail.com
 Mob: 9811785211

SL. No. 858 /20 25

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
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NEWS ITEM TITLED "RAVENOUS SEA FEEDS ON SUNDERBANS SHORE
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 TELEGRAPH ONLINE DATED 04.08.2025

BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC
 AT BIDHANNAGAR
 DIST. NORTH 24 PARGANAS

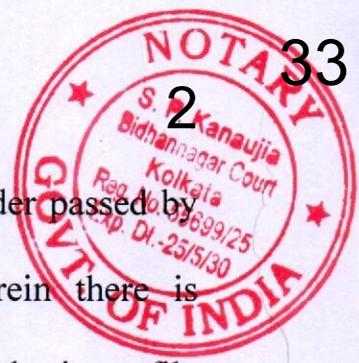
STATUS REPORT IN THE FORM OF AFFIDAVIT BY THE ADDITIONAL
 CHIEF SECRETARY, ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF
 WEST BENGAL IN PURSUANT OF THE ORDER OF THE HON'BLE
 NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH DATED 11.08.2025

Most Respectfully Sheweth

I, Smt. Roshni Sen, d/o Late Saibal Kanti Sen , aged about 59 years, by
 occupation service, having office at Prani Sampad Bhawan, 5th Floor, LB-2,
 Sector III, Salt Lake, Kolkata- 7000106, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as
 follows:-

1. That, I am holding the post of the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal and Chairman, West Bengal Coastal Zone Management Authority. I have made myself well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of instant case and have gone through the documents and reports pertaining to the subject matter of the instant Original Application, hence, I am competent to affirm the instant affidavit before the Hon'ble Tribunal.

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2. That, this affidavit is being affirmed in pursuant to the solemn Order passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, Principal Bench dated 11.08.2025 wherein there is direction upon the West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority to file response by way of affidavit.

3. That with regard to the erosion happening along the Sunderbans coasts, especially on Ghoramara Island in West Bengal, it is reported that-

I. The Gangetic alluvial delta is a sediment starved delta facing acute erosion along the coast caused by:-

(i) Geogenic activity- South-east ward tilt of Bengal basin and retrograding deltaic condition along with littoral drift and transverse current aggravates the erosional activity of the Sundarban Islands.

(ii) Climatic phenomenon- global warming, sea level rise, increase in Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over Bay of Bengal results in more frequent and furious cyclones, breaching of embankments and overtopping, sea ingress etc.

(iii) Anthropogenic action- construction of dam, lock gates sluice etc may reduce the fresh water supply as well as amount of silt to downstream.

II. There are various studies which revealed the truth that the islands of Sundarban are vulnerable and some of them are susceptible to erosion -

- The draft CZMP-2019 Report for the district of South 24 Parganas stated that due to storm surge or frequent cyclones, embankment breach and long-term inundation along the coast may results in loss of land or landward shift of High-Water Line (HWL).

Extract from draft CZMP-2019 Report for the district of South 24 Parganas is marked as Annexure-R/1.

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- The Scholarly article “ Climate Change and Encroaching Coast Line in Indian Sundarban” by Kalyan Rudra revealed that the islands of Sundarban are shrinking. The article mentions some environmental changes viz.increase in sea surface temperature, sea level rise, erratic and intense rainfall pattern, intense and frequent cyclone etc. aggravates the coastal erosion.

Extract from article “Climate Change and Encroaching Coast Line in Indian Sundarban” is marked as Annexure-**R/2**.

- The shoreline change map prepared by National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) shows the Ghoramara Island is facing erosional activity (Low to High). The Eastern side is showing high erosion compared to western coast. The map also depicts that islands like Lohachara, Kashimara are diluviated or eroded completely with the course of time.

Extract from shoreline change map prepared by NCSCM is marked as Annexure-**R/3**.

- The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan Shoreline protection, elucidate the fact that the Bengal Coast is more erosion prone compared to other coastal states because of climate change and sea level rise . “*The average sea level rise has been 1.3 mm per year along the Indian coast (INCCA, 20101), however, tide gauge observations at the Diamond Harbour Port indicate a sea level rise of 5.7 mm, which can be attributed to subsidence in the region at the rate of 4mm per year.*”
- The Bhangaduni and Dalhousie are the other two islands suffering from severe erosional activity though covered with thick mangrove. These two islands are part of Sundarban Forest area and devoid of any human activity.

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Hence, it is evident that the erosion of the Sundarban Islands does not always signify environmental degradation, but rather reflects the region's dynamic nature, where preservation and destruction co-exist as integral part of natural law.

4. That letter has been issued to the Irrigation & Waterways Department and the Forest Department, Government of West Bengal requesting to provide report on what action / steps have been taken for protection of the coast-line from erosion as reflected in the Order of the Hon'ble Tribunal dated 11.08.2025.

Copy of letter addressed to Irrigation & Waterways Department and the Forest Department, Government of West Bengal is marked as Annexure-R/4.

That the reply is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, which I derived from the office record.

That it is therefore respectfully prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass such order/orders as it deems fit and proper in the interest of justice.

L. S. Sen
DEPONENT

[Signature]
S. P. KANAUJIA
★ NOTARY ★
GOVT. OF INDIA
Bidhannagar Court
Dist.- North 24 Pgs.

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VERIFICATION

I, Smt. Roshni Sen, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that the contents of the report in the form of affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. No part of the Report is false and nothing has been concealed.

Verified at Kolkata this 21st day of November, 2025.

Roshni Sen

DEPONENT


S. P. KANAUJIA
★ NOTARY ★
GOVT. OF INDIA
Bidhannagar Court
Dist.- North 24 Pgs.

21 NOV 2025



Table 4/3 Change in surface area of Islands in Hooghly Estuary during different time periods derived from satellite images, after Vinod Kumar et. al. 1994; Vinod Kumar 2003; Chakrabarti et al, 2015.

Name of Island	Data Source & Time Period					Changes during 1971-1991	Changes during 1971-1996
	SOI Toposheet 1971	LANDSAT-2 MSS FCC 1975	LANDSAT-4/5 MSS FCC 1986	IRS-1A LISS-I FCC 1991	IRS-1C LISS-III FCC 1996	Deposition (+) Erosion (-)	Deposition (+) Erosion (-)
Ghoramara Island	8.141	7.334	6.794	5.197	5.00	(-) 2.944	(-) 3.14
Lohachara Island	1.943	0.536	Eroded off		-	Entire island eroded off	-
Suparibhanga Island	4.239	2.925	1.432	0.489	Eroded off	(-) 3.750	Eroded off

NB- The numerical value indicates aerial estimate in sq. km

30



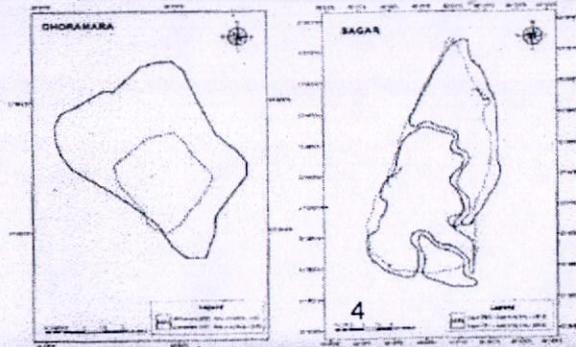
Dynamics of Climate Change: Indian Scenario

Table. 3: Shrinking islands of Sundarban

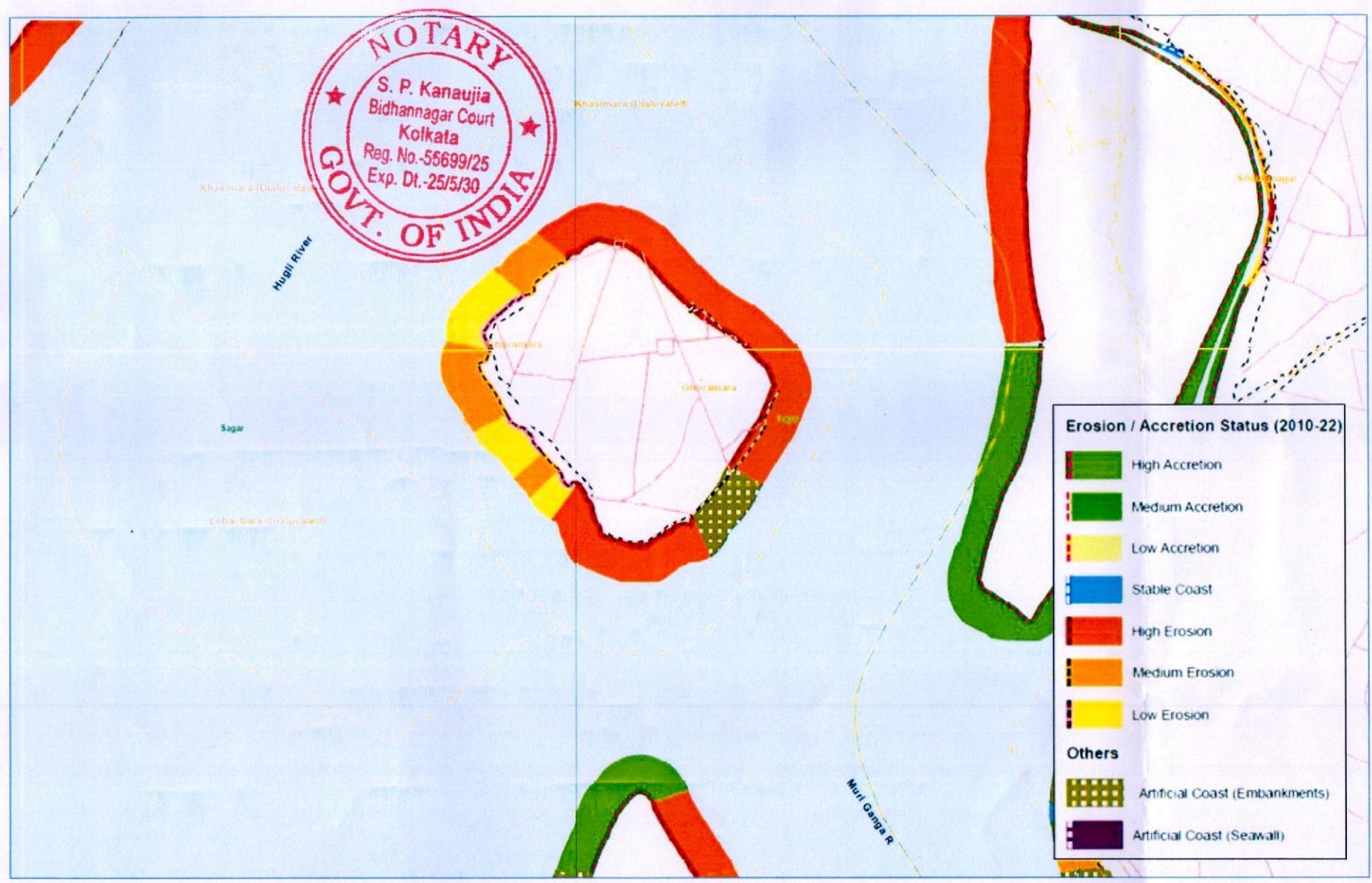
Islands	Area in km ² in different years					
	1917	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Sagar	239.93	250.66	240.02	237.55	237.19	233.40
Ghoramara	15.52	5.26	4.87	4.45	4.23	3.59
Moushuni	33.29	28.92	28.39	27.53	27.30	26.21
Namkhana	157.39	144.83	144.80	143.93	144.85	143.79
G-Plot	84.63	42.06	41.54	41.49	41.32	40.79
Dhanchi	68.29	36.08	34.57	34.18	34.03	33.71
Dalhousie	105.29	67.10	65.82	62.20	61.05	87.65
Bulchery	42.98	26.91	25.27	23.28	21.77	22.96
Bangaduni	67.44	31.31	29.55	26.15	23.82	25.63
Lothian	26.72	35.25	No data	No data	No data	36.44

Source: Areas of different island in 1917 were calculated from SOI topographical sheet. All other area statement is based on the report of the expert committee (2021).

The century-scale change of ten islands along the sea-front of Sundarban is clearly understood when those islands shown in SOI topographical sheet (1917) are compared with a satellite image of 2020. Nine islands, irrespective of having the forest cover or not have been reduced in size. The only exception is the Lothian island which has gained about 10 km² land by accretion. The Fig.3 shows the changing configuration of different islands between 1917 to 2020.



Shoreline Change Map of Ghoramara Island Based on Draft Shoreline Change Assessment Map (2010-2022)



Source: National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)



Annexure R/4

Government of West Bengal
Department of Environment
Prani Sampad Bhavan, 5th Floor, LB-2, Sector - III,
Salt Lake Kolkata - 700 106
Phone No. 033 23352742

No. 2219 /ENV/21013/1/2025

Date: 14 .11.2025

To

1. The Additional Chief Secretary, Irrigation & Waterways Department, Govt. of West Bengal
2. The Principal Secretary, Forest Department, Govt. of West Bengal.

Sub: O.A No. 402/2025, Principal Bench [News Item titled "Ravenous sea feeds on Sunderbans shore 40% of Ghoramara Island to shrink by 2042" appearing in The Telegraph online dated 04.08.2025]

Sir

With reference to the above subject matter, please find enclosed herewith the Order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench dated 11.08.2025 wherein the West Bengal Coastal Zone Management Authority was directed to file affidavit. [Copy of the order enclosed].

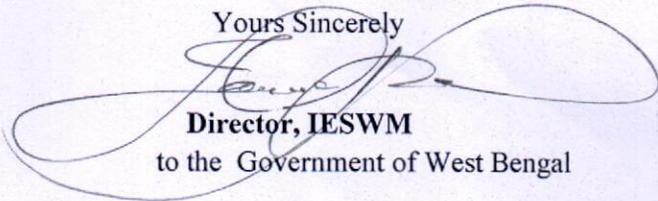
I am directed to request you to state what action / steps have been taken by your good office for protection of the coast-line from erosion as reflected in the Order of the Hon'ble Tribunal dated 11.08.2025 so as to incorporate the same in our affidavit.

Awaiting early response before 20.11.2025.

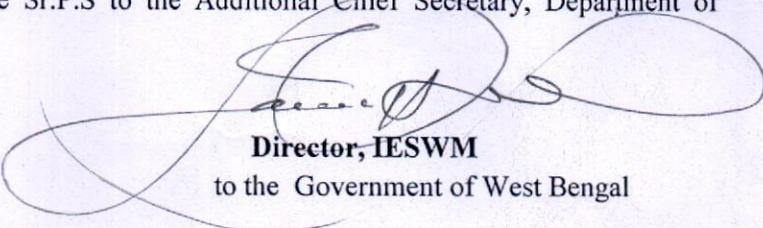
This is for your kind information and necessary action in this regard

Encl: as stated above

Yours Sincerely


Director, IESWM
to the Government of West Bengal

Copy forwarded for information to the Sr.P.S to the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal


Director, IESWM
to the Government of West Bengal

VAKALATNAMA

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 402/2025

RE: News item titled "Ravenous sea feeds on Sunderbans shore 40% of Ghoramara island to shrink by 2042" appearing in the Telegraph online dated 04.08.2025

Vakalatnama on behalf of the STATE OF WEST BENGAL

Know all men by these presents that by the Vakalatnama I/We appoint the Advocates noted below or any one of them, my/our lawful Advocate/Advocates for filing Memorandum of Appeal or Petition for entering appearance in the above matter for appearing in, conducting and arguing in the same for depositing or withdrawing any money in connection therewith, for moving the Court in any matter connected therewith, for preparing the paper-book in the case and for putting the papers, petition, etc. on my/our behalf for filing or taking back fresh suits etc. for signing and filing petitions of compromise in connections with the said matter and for taking copies of paper from the record and I/We further say that any act done by my/our said Advocate or Advocates or by any of them after accepting this Vakalatnama, shall be considered as my/our own true and lawful act.

And I/We further hereby agree and undertake to pay the said Advocate/Advocates his or their fees as settled all other sums that may be necessary to carry out his requisitions of the Court and otherwise to enable the Advocate/Advocates to conduct the case properly. Failing which the Advocate/Advocates after notice to me/us will be at liberty to withdraw from the further conduct of the case.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I/We sign and execute this Vakalatnama, on this 4th day
of October, 2025.

NAME OF ADVOCATES

MB
Madhumita Bhattacharjee
Advocate-on-Record
Lawyers Chamber No. 807, D-Block,
Additional Building Complex,
Supreme Court of India,
New Delhi-111001

[Signature]

PLAINTIFF(S)/ APPELLANT(S)/ RESPONDENT(S)
DEFENDANT(S)/ RESPONDENT(S)/ OPPOSITE PARTY(S)

Legal Remembrancer
West Bengal

Government of West Bengal
Office of the Legal Remembrancer, W.B.
2&3 K.S.Roy Road, Kolkata-700001
[Email:lrwb2013@gmail.com](mailto:lrwb2013@gmail.com)

Memo No: 7890 -A/O.C.-100/25

Dated:Kolkata,26.09.2025

From: The Office of the Legal Remembrancer, West Bengal.

To: **Smt. Madhumita Bhattacharjee, Ld. Advocate-on-Record,**
J-1921, LGF, Chittaranjan Park,
New Delhi-110019.

**Sub: Original Application No. 402/2025
In the matter**

Re: "Ravenous sea feeds on Sunderbans shore 40% of Ghoramara island to shrink by 2042" appearing in the Telegraph online dated 04.08.2025

Madam,

I am directed to inform you that you have been engaged for defending the afore mentioned matter on behalf of the State of West Bengal before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench at New Delhi.

'Vakalatnama' duly signed is enclosed herewith for this purpose.

You are requested to send all the communications, copy of Court's orders relating to the matter directly to the concerned department with intimation to this office.

Your bills will be paid from this office.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-
for Legal Remembrancer,
West Bengal**

Memo No. 7890 /1(2)-A/O.C.-100/25

Dated:Kolkata,26.09.2025

Copy forwarded for information and taking necessary action to:-

1.The Addl, Chief Secretary, Environment Department, Prani Sampad Bhavan,5th Floor,LB-2, Sector-III, Salt Lake ,Kolkata-700098.

2. Office Copy.


**for Legal Remembrancer,
West Bengal**