

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 47 OF 2023 (WZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

IN RE : News item published in the Times of India dated 03.01.2023
titled "Encroachment alleged inside Wild Ass Sanctuary"

INDEX FOR AFFIDAVIT - IN - REPLY ON BEHALF OF
RESPONDENT NO. 6,- PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF
FOREST AND CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN, GOVERNMENT OF
GUJARAT

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Filed Through,



Parth H. Bhatt, Advocate
For Respondent No. 6

SERIAL No. 772 /2025
 BOOK No: 1
 PAGE No. 99
 RECEIPT: 772
 DATE: 11 NOV 2025



BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
 WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 47 OF 2023 (WZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

IN RE : News item published in the Times of India dated 03.01.2023
 titled "Encroachment alleged inside Wild Ass Sanctuary"

AFFIDAVIT-IN-REPLY ON BEHALF OF PRINCIPAL CHIEF
 CONSERVATOR OF FOREST, GUJARAT

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. I, Bharatbhai Motibhai Patel, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Wildlife Sanctuary, being authorized signatory and representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Gujarat having communication address at Block A, 1st Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Bear CH- 3 Circle, Sector 10-A, Gandhinagar, Gujarat - 382010 do hereby solemnly state on oath and submit that:-

1.1 I have perused the contents, submissions, reports, annexures filed by the parties herein. Further I have perused the Orders passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal. I state

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 NOTARY
 GOVT. OF INDIA
 11 NOV 2025



that I am aware about the facts involving the present Application and I am competent officer to make the present Affidavit - in - Reply. (hereinafter referred as "Answering Respondent")

1.2 The captioned OA is arising out of the Suo moto proceeding initiated by the Hon'ble Tribunal based on the newspaper report dated 31.01.2023 titled "Encroachment alleged inside Wild Ass Sanctuary" by Nimesh Khakhariya published in Times of India. Thereafter vide an Order dated 22.02.2023 this Hon'ble NGT was pleased to constitute a Joint Committee for conducting the site inspection and to submit the factual reports.

1.3 The answering Respondent in compliance with the Order dated 26.11.2024 and 01.09.2025; hereby through this Affidavit humbly addresses certain queries of this Hon'ble Tribunal and further reserves its right to file a further reply comprehensively dealing with all the issues raised in the captioned matter. The Answering respondent limits the captioned reply to the queries and produces certain material documents on record which are as follows:-

1.3.1 User rights granted to Agariyas

- I. **Query vide an Order dated 26.11.2024** - "6. ... It is not made clear as to under which provision and by which Authority the user rights are accepted, because of which it is being stated that once user right is given, the unit/Agariyas cultivating the land for salt purpose would not be treated to be an encroachment. On what basis it is being stated is

JITENDRA H. BHATT
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GOVT. OF INDIA
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Environment Department had appointed an Office Order dated 16.08.1997 under section 18 of The Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 delegating the powers of Collectors of Surendranagar, Rajkot, Kutchchh, Banaskantha and Mehsana to the Additional Collector (Survey and Settlement) Ghudkar Forest Sanctuary Development, Surendranagar to perform the functions under section 19 to 25 The Wildlife Protection Act 1972 for the purpose of declaring the area as Sanctuary.

D. Additional Collector, Survey and Settlement Unit Wild Ass Sanctuary has conducted the inquiry and submitted the report to Government via Chief Conservator on 01.12.2008. (hereinafter referred as 1st Report of Survey and Settlement)

E. Thereafter, Additional Collector has submitted the Settlement Report in 2020 (hereinafter referred as 2nd Report of Survey and Settlement) wherein the list of eligible Agariyas were identified. The Settlement Officer has considered the user rights of the stakeholders such as Agariyas, fishermen and Sathani lands. Thereby settlement officer has accepted and recommended user rights including Agariyas.

F. Thereafter, Answering Respondent submits that the Department has duly considered the observations made by the Settlement Officer vide 2nd Settlement Report as well as the fact of Agariyas being traditionally engaged in salt cultivation in LRK and adjoining areas for past several



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decades; and the community has sustained its livelihood solely through this age-old traditional occupation; while the area was declared as Wild Ass Sanctuary since past 50 years approximately.

G. Thereafter, the Forest department has conducted several meetings with the Settlement Officer for discussions and deliberations for finalizing the Settlement report. However, the Final Settlement Report of Wild Ass Sanctuary is not yet ratified, therefore the finalization of Settlement Report and recognition of rights of stakeholders are pending. The Chief Wildlife Warden has initiated a letter dated 30.05.2022 addressing Additional Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment Department regarding finalizing the survey report. Copy of such letter is annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE -1.**

H. Answering Respondent humbly submits that time and again PCCF, Wildlife vide letters dated 21.02.2023 and 24.05.2023, instructed to allow only those Agariyas, whose rights are recognized by the Settlement Officer in the 2nd Survey Settlement report submitted by Additional Collector, Survey Settlement Office and further remove all other encroachments, if any from the area of the Wild Ass Sanctuary. Copy of such letters are annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE - 2 and ANNEXURE-3** respectively.

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 11 NOV 2025

I. The answering Respondent submits that upon the recommendation of Settlement officer and till the finalization of the 2nd Settlement Report, merely status quo is being maintained by PCCF Wildlife.

1.3.2. Report of February – April 2024

I. **Query vide an Order dated 26.11.2024** – “6...The conclusion drawn also indicates that some revised report is required to be prepared and no data for the period February to April, 2024 has been incorporated in the report...Therefore, we direct that a clear report in this regard be submitted clarifying therein the above queries made by us. The said report shall be submitted before the next date of hearing.”

II. Response by the Answering Department:-

A. This Hon'ble Tribunal has sought for report of February – April 2024 report for assessment of encroachment by Salt panners in Wild Ass Sanctuary; it is humbly submitted that such latest assessment report has to be prepared and submitted by the Joint Committee constituted by this Hon'ble Tribunal vide an Order dated 22.02.2023. Joint Committee comprises of following members and Gujarat Pollution Control Board as Nodal Agency :-

- Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad Satellite
- Wetland Authority, Gujarat
- Gujarat Coastal Management Zone Authority
- Collector, Kutch District
- Collect Surendranagar District
- Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Wildlife
- Gujarat Pollution Control Board

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 11 NOV 2025

B. Such report as and when finalized by the Joint Committee will be submitted by the Nodal Agency Gujarat Pollution Control Board. Further the Answering Respondent wish to state that the Space Application Centre (SAC) has collected the data for February - April 2018, February - April 2020, and February - April 2023 of LRK and has submitted if to the Joint Committee for its due consideration.

C. The Order dated 01.09.2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal has observed that the report mentioned in para 6 is required to be submitted by the answering Respondent and Collector of Kutch District. Answering Respondent humbly submits that the para 6 of the Order dated 26.11.2024 discusses about the report and data which can be submitted by Joint Committee. Therefore, this Hon'ble Tribunal may please to direct the Joint Committee to submit the assessment report and data for February - April 2024.

2. It is humbly submitted that 2nd Settlement Report of Wild Ass Sanctuary is under the consideration of the Government and awaiting to finalize. Therefore, until finalization of the report and considering the livelihood and traditional occupation of the Agariyas, the Forest Department is adhering to the recommendations made by Settlement officer and granted temporary user rights of the respective land to Agariyas.

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NOTARY OF INDIA
11 NOV 2025

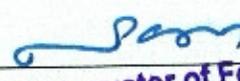
3. The answering respondent craves the leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to amend, delete and file additional affidavit, report or any documents, if required.

4. This Hon'ble Tribunal may please to pass any Order as deem fit and proper in the interest of justice. The answering Respondent assures to abide by all or any directions that may be issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

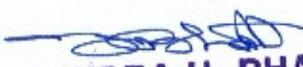
Date - 11-11-2025.
Place - Dhrangadhra

Identified by me

Advocate


Deputy Conservator of Forests
Wild Ass Sanctuary
Dhrangadhra

Respondent no. 0, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Wildlife Sanctuary, being authorized signatory and representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden,


JITENDRA H. BHATT
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA
11 NOV 2025

SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED
BEFORE ME

JITENDRA H. BHATT
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA
11 NOV 2025





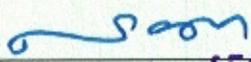
VERIFICATION

I, Bharatbhai Motibhai Patel, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Wildlife Sanctuary, being authorized signatory and representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Gujarat having communication address at Block A, 1st Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Bear CH- 3 Circle, Sector 10-A, Gandhinagar, Gujarat - 382010; solemnly states that the contents of the Affidavit are true and correct and best of my knowledge, nothing stated therein is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Date - 11-11-2025

Place - Dhrangadhra

x
Identified by me
AA
Advocate


Deputy Conservator of Forests
Wildlife Sanctuary
Dhrangadhra

Respondent no. 6, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Wildlife Sanctuary, being authorized signatory and representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden,


JITENDRA H. BHATTI
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA

11 NOV 2025

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 47 OF 2023 (WZ)

IN THE MATTER OF

IN RE : News item published in the Times of India dated 03.01.2023
titled "Encroachment alleged inside Wild Ass Sanctuary"

AFFIDAVIT-IN-SUPPORT OF REPLY

I, Bharatbhai Motibhai Patel, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Wildlife Sanctuary, being authorized signatory and representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Gujarat having communication address at Block A, 1st Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Bear CH- 3 Circle, Sector 10-A, Gandhinagar, Gujarat - 382010 do hereby state on affirmation as under:-

I have gone through the Reply and I state that the reply is drafted under my instructions. Contents herein the above reply are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief; and as per the data available on the record.

Solemnly affirmed on 11 day of November 2025 at Dhrangadhra

SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED
BEFORE ME

JITENDRA H. BHATT
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA

JITENDRA H. BHATT
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA

Deputy Conservator of Forests
Wild Ass Sanctuary
Dhrangadhra

Respondent no. 6, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Wildlife Sanctuary, being authorized signatory and representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden,

Annexure-3

અગ્ર મુખ્ય વન સંરક્ષણશ્રીની કચેરી,
અરણ્યભવન પ્લોટ નં.બી/૧, સેક્ટર નં. ૧૦ 'એ' ધ-૩ સબલ
E-mail ID: owlwgpj@gmail.com, fax no: 079-23254788
ગુજરાત રાજ્ય, ગાંધીનગર

પત્ર ક્રમાંક: વપસ/૩૨/અ/ ૧૮૦-૧૮૨ તા.૨૦૧૧-૧૩

તા.૧૦/૦૫/૨૦૨૨

પ્રતિ,
અધિક મુખ્ય સચિવશ્રી,
વન અને પર્યાવરણ વિભાગ,
નવા સચિવાલય, ગાંધીનગર

વન અને પર્યાવરણ વિભાગ,
ગાંધીનગર વન્ય પ્રાણી સંરક્ષણ વિભાગ
આવક ક્રમાંક: ૩૫૩
તારીખ: ૩-૬-૨૨
કેબલ નં: ૬૬૬

વિષય: પુડખર અભયારણ્યમાંથી ગેરકાયદેસર દબાણ દર કરવા બાબત,
સર્વે સેટલમેન્ટ અહેવાલ ફાઈનલ કરવા બાબત.

- સંદર્ભ: (૧) અત્રેના પત્ર ક્રમાંક: વપસ/૩૨/અ/૧૬૧૭-૧૮, તા.૨૬/૦૬/૨૦૧૭.
(૨) અત્રેના પત્ર ક્રમાંક: વપસ/૩૨/અ/૯૯૪-૯૫, તા.૨૪/૧૦/૨૦૧૯.
(૩) આપના પત્ર ક્રમાંક: વપસ/૧૦૨૦૨૦/૧૪૫/૬બલ્યુ,
તા.૨૪/૦૩/૨૦૨૦૨૨.
(૪) આપના પત્ર ક્રમાંક: વપસ/૧૦૨૦૦૯/૨૩૦/૬બલ્યુ,
તા.૨૦/૦૪/૨૦૨૨.

ઉપરોક્ત વિષય અન્વયે સાદર જણાવવાનું કે,

- (૧) ખેતી, વન અને સહકાર વિભાગના જાહેરનામાં-૧૯૭૩ તથા જાહેરનામાં-૧૯૭૮ થી કુલ-૪,૯૫૩.૭૨ ચોકિ.મી.વિસ્તારને પુડખર અભયારણ્ય તરીકે જાહેર કરવામાં આવેલ છે.
- (૨) વન્યપ્રાણી (સંરક્ષણ) અધિનિયમ-૧૯૭૨ ની જોગવાઈઓ અનુસાર અભયારણ્ય વિસ્તારનું જાહેરનામું પ્રસિધ્ધ થયા બાદ સ્થાનિક લોકોના અભયારણ્ય ઉપરના હક્ક-દાવાઓ તથા સવલતોની ખરાઈ કરી ચોક્કસ સમયમર્યાદામાં અભયારણ્યનું સર્વે સેટલમેન્ટ કરી સેટલમેન્ટ અહેવાલ ફાઈનલ કરવાનો રહે છે અને તદ્ અનુસાર વન્યપ્રાણી (સંરક્ષણ) અધિનિયમ-૧૯૭૨ની કલમ-૨૬ (એ) હેઠળ ફાઈનલ જાહેરનામું પ્રસિધ્ધ કરવાનું થાય છે.
- (૩) પુડખર અભયારણ્યના જાહેર થયાને ૪૯ વર્ષ જેટલો સમય થયેલ હોવા છતાં એકલા બીજા કારણસર હજુસુધી સર્વે સેટલમેન્ટ અહેવાલ ફાઈનલ થયેલ નથી અને અભયારણ્યનું ફાઈનલ જાહેરનામું પ્રસિધ્ધ થયેલ નથી. પરિણામે પુડખર અભયારણ્યની ફાઈનલ હદ તથા તેનો વિસ્તાર નક્કી થયેલ નથી.

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Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
Aranya Bhavan, Block No. B/1, Sector No. 10-B, Ch-3 Circle,
E-mail ID: cwlwguj@gmail.com | Fax: 079-23254788
Gandhinagar, Gujarat State.

Letter No.: WPS/32/A/180-182/2022-23

Date: 30/05/2022

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary,
Forest and Environment Department,
New Secretariat, Gandhinagar.

Subject: Regarding finalization of the Survey and Settlement Report for removal of illegal encroachments from the Wild Ass Sanctuary.

Reference: (1) This office letter No. WPS/32/A/1617-18 dated 26/09/2017.

(2) This office letter No. WPS/32/A/994-95 dated 24/10/2019.

(3) Your letter No. WPS/102020/145/W dated 24/03/2022.

(4) Your letter No. WPS/102009/230/W dated 20/04/2022.

With reference to the above subject, it is respectfully submitted that:

1. As per the notifications issued by the Agriculture, Forest and Cooperation Department in the years 1973 and 1978, a total area of 4,953.72 sq. km has been declared as the Wild Ass Sanctuary.
2. Under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, after the publication of a Sanctuary Notification, the rights, claims, and concessions of local residents over the sanctuary land are required to be verified within a specified period through a Survey and Settlement process, followed by the preparation of a Final Settlement Report, on the basis of which a Final Notification is issued under Section 26A of the Act.
3. Although it has been around 49 years since the declaration of the Wild Ass Sanctuary, due to various reasons, the Survey and Settlement Report has not yet been finalized, and the Final Notification of the Sanctuary has not been published. As a result, the final boundary and extent of the Wild Ass Sanctuary remain undetermined.

The Settlement Officer appointed for the purpose has already prepared the Survey and Settlement Report, and the same has been examined, deliberated upon, and discussed at various levels in the past with due diligence and scrutiny.

4. Due to the delay in finalizing the Settlement Report, the boundaries between approximately 84 villages adjoining the sanctuary and the sanctuary limits remain undefined. Consequently, encroachments and illegal activities such as expansion of salt pans (*agar*) within the sanctuary are increasing rapidly. Given the limited staff strength, it has become difficult to control such activities. Moreover, whenever attempts are made to remove encroachments, the absence of fixed boundaries and unresolved rights and claims gives rise to legal complications and court cases. The longer the delay in finalizing the Settlement Report, the more complex and difficult the situation is likely to become.
5. As stated in the referenced correspondence regarding the directions issued to remove encroachments from the sanctuary, it is submitted that once the Settlement Report is finalized, it will be much easier to remove such encroachments effectively. At present, since the exact boundaries, area, and recognized rights and claims of the Wild Ass Sanctuary are not yet determined, any attempt to remove encroachments gives rise to issues related to livelihoods, long-standing occupancy, and pressure from local leaders, Agariya associations, and other voluntary organizations, who often exert political influence to obstruct the process. Therefore, it is imperative and urgent that the Survey and Settlement Report of the Wild Ass Sanctuary be finalized at the earliest, after which all illegal encroachments can be properly identified and removed as per law.

Sd/-

(Shyamal Tikadar)
Chief Wild Life Warden,
Gujarat State, Gandhinagar

Copy forwarded to: The Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Circle, Gandhinagar — for information and necessary action.

Copy forwarded to: The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wild Ass Sanctuary, Dhrangadhra — for information and necessary action.

Office of the Conservator of Forests,
Gandhinagar Wildlife Circle, Aranya Bhavan,
A-5, Sector-10/A, Gandhinagar-382010.
Date: 13/6/2022

Copy forwarded to: The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wild Ass Sanctuary, Dhrangadhra — for information and necessary action.

Sd-

(Conservator of Forests)
Gandhinagar Wildlife Circle

અગ્ર મુખ્ય વન સંરક્ષકશ્રીની કચેરી,
અરણ્યભવન બ્લોક નં.બી/૧, સેક્ટર નં. ૧૦ 'એ' ચ-૩ સર્કલ
E-mail ID:cwlvwguj@gmail.com, fax no: 079-23254788
ગુજરાત રાજ્ય, ગાંધીનગર

પત્ર ક્રમાંક: વપસ/૩૨/બ/

/સને-૨૦૨૨-૨૩

તા. ૧૧/૦૨/૨૦૨૩

વિષય: ઘુડખર અભયારણ્યમાં મીઠાના અગરોની ગેરકાયદેસર પ્રવૃત્તિઓ અટકાવવા
બાબત.

ઉપરોક્ત વિષય અન્વયે જણાવવાનું કે, ઘુડખર અભયારણ્ય વિસ્તારમાં કચ્છના
નાનારણમાં ગેર કાયદેસર મીઠાના ઉત્પાદન બાબતેની મળેલ ફરીયાદો તેમજ તાજેતરમાં બનેલ
બનાવોની તારીજ તેમજ જુના વર્ષોના તેમજ અત્યાર ગુગલ ઇમેજના નકશાની ચકાસણી કરતાં છેલ્લ
થોડા જ વર્ષમાં મીઠાના ઉત્પાદન માટે અગરીયાઓ દ્વારા ખુબ મોટા પ્રમાણમાં સદર વિસ્તારમાં
દબાણમાં વધારો કરી ગેર કાયદેસર મીઠાના ઉત્પાદન કરવામાં આવી રહેલ છે. જે અંગેની રજુઆતો
અવાર-નવાર જેમાં ચર્ચા બાદ નિર્ણય આવેલ હતો કે સેટલમેન્ટ અહેવાલમાં અગરીયાને આપવામાં
આવેલ વપરાશી હક્કની સામે તેનાથી ત્રણ ગણા વિસ્તારમાં ગેરકાયદેસર દબાણ કરી મીઠાનું ઉત્પાદન
કરવામાં આવી રહેલ છે. તો તે બાબતે સ્થળ ઉપર ઘુડખર અભયારણ્યમાં વન વિભાગ દ્વારા ઉચ્ચ
કક્ષાએથી રજુઆતો/ સુચનાઓ મુજબ વન વિભાગ દ્વારા દબાણ દુર કરવા કરેલ કાર્યવાહીનો
તારીખવાર જણાવી ધ્યાન દોરેલ તેમજ જણાવેલ હતું કે ઘુડખર અભયારણ્ય વિસ્તારમાં કરવામાં
આવેલ સેટલમેન્ટમાં અગરીયાઓને વપરાશી હક્ક આપવામાં આવેલ હોય તે જ અગરીયાઓને
ઓળખપત્ર બનાવી પ્રવેશ આપવાનો રહેશે. જેથી અન્ય બિન કાયદેસર અગરીયાઓ પ્રવેશી કે મીઠાનું
ઉત્પાદન/દબાણ કરી શકશે નહીં.

વધુમાં અભયારણ્ય વિસ્તારના તાજેતરના બનાવો જેતા નવા પાટાઓ બનાવી મીઠાના
નવા અગરો બનાવવાની પ્રવૃત્તિ બે-રોકટોક ચાલુ રહેલ છે જેને સ્થાનિક સ્ટાફ દ્વારા અટકાવવાના કે
રોકવાના કોઈ પ્રયાસ થયેલાનું જણાતું નથી જે ખુબજ ગંભીર બાબત છે, અને આવી ગેરકાયદેસર
પ્રવૃત્તિઓ સામે આપના તરફથી યોગ્ય નિયમોનુસાર કાર્યવાહીના બદલે અત્રેની પાસે યોગ્ય આદેશ
માગવામાં આવે છે જે યોગ્ય નથી.

વધુમાં જણાવવાનું કે ઘુડખર અભયારણ્યના સેટલમેન્ટ અહેવાલમાં જે લોકોના જેટલા
વિસ્તારના હક્ક દાવાઓ માન્ય રાખવાની ભલામણ કરવામાં આવેલ છે તેને સેટલમેન્ટ અહેવાલ
આખરી થાઇ ત્યાં સુધી યથાવત સ્થિતિ જાળવી રાખવી જરૂરી જણાય છે, બાકીના તે સિવાયના તમામ
અગરીયાઓ અને ઇસમોને ગેરકાયદેસર ગણી તેઓને હટાવવા બાબતે તેની સામે નિયમોનુસારની
કાર્યવાહી કરવાની થાય છે, જેની જાણ થવા સારું.

વધુમાં હવે પછી તેઓના અભિચારણ્ય વિસ્તારમાં નવા કિલ પાટા બનાવી શીટલા સહી કરાવે
બનવા ન પામે તે બાબતેની તહેદારી રાખવા તકીદ અપવામાં આવે છે. તેમજ બીજા પ્રકારે સરના
અગરીયાઓ/ઉસમો હકાવવા નિયમોનુસારની જરૂરી કાર્યવાહી કરવા અપવામાં આવે છે.



(બિન. સીલબાંધ)

મુખ્ય મુલ્ય વન સંરક્ષક

વનવિભાગ

ગુજરાત સરકાર, ગાંધીનગર

વનસંરક્ષક બીની કલેરી,
ગાંધીનગર વનવિભાગ વતુન, ગાંધીનગર
આવક ક્રમાંક..... ૫૦૩૩-૩૧
તારીખ..... ૦૧/૩૧/૨૩
હેડાલ નં..... ૧-૭

પતિ

વન સંરક્ષકશ્રી,
વન્યપ્રાણી વતુન, ગાંધીનગર.

મંત્રીના આદેશ અનુસાર મુખ્ય વન સંરક્ષક અને હકાવક
શ્રીવેદ સર્જ ગુ.રા. ડાહ્યાને આદેશ મળેલ છે.

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
Aranya Bhavan, Block No. B/1, Sector No. 10-A, "Ch-3 Circle"
E-mail ID: cwlwguj@gmail.com | Fax: 079-23254788
Gandhinagar, Gujarat State

Letter No.: WPS/32/B/5033-34/2022-23

Date: 21/02/2023

Subject: Regarding prevention of illegal salt pan (agar) activities in the Wild Ass Sanctuary.

With reference to the above subject, it is to be informed that, in the area of *Nana Rann of Kutch* within the Wild Ass Sanctuary, several complaints have been received regarding illegal salt production activities. Upon examining these complaints, recent incidents, and cross-verifying with historical data as well as current Google imagery, it has been observed that over the past few years, there has been a significant and rapid increase in illegal salt production by *Agariyas* (salt workers) who have encroached extensively upon the sanctuary area. During various discussions held earlier, it was decided that compared to the user rights granted to the *Agariyas* as per the Settlement Report, they have illegally expanded their operations over nearly three times the authorized area to produce salt. Consequently, the Forest Department was directed at higher levels to report, with date-wise details, the actions taken to remove such encroachments from within the Wild Ass Sanctuary. It was also instructed that only those *Agariyas* whose user rights have been recognized in the Settlement Report shall be allowed entry into the sanctuary upon issuance of official identity cards. This measure is crucial to ensure that unauthorized and illegal salt workers are not permitted to enter or operate within the sanctuary limits.

Furthermore, considering recent incidents in the sanctuary, it has been noted that the illegal practice of creating *new plots and new salt pans* continues unabated, without any visible attempts by the local staff to prevent or stop such activities. This situation is extremely serious, and instead of taking appropriate action in accordance with the prescribed legal procedures, it is observed that requests for guidance or directions are repeatedly being referred to this office, which is not appropriate.

It must therefore be emphasized that, as per the Settlement Report of the Wild Ass Sanctuary, the rights of only those individuals whose claims and land extents have been duly recognized and recommended must be maintained as they are until the Settlement Report is finalized. All other *Agariyas* or persons operating outside the recognized limits must be treated as illegal occupants, and immediate legal action should be taken against them as per rules.

Additionally, strict vigilance must be maintained to ensure that no new plots are created and no new salt pans are established within the sanctuary area hereafter. Necessary and lawful action must be initiated promptly to remove all unauthorized Agariyas and individuals operating within the sanctuary limits.

Sd/-

(N. Srivastava)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Wildlife)
Gujarat State, Gandhinagar

To,
Conservator of Forests
Wildlife Circle, Gandhinagar.

Copy with complements: Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force,
Gujarat State, Gandhinagar Wildlife for kind information.

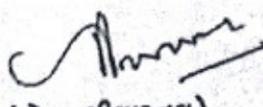
ક્રમાંક: વપસ/૩૨/બ/૮૫૬-૮૭/૨૦૨૩-૨૪
 અગ્ર મુખ્ય વન સંરક્ષકશ્રીની કચેરી,
 અરણ્યભવન બ્લોક નં.બી/૧, સે.૧૦' એ',
 E-mail ID:cwlvwguj@gmail.com
 ગુજરાત રાજ્ય, ગાંધીનગર,
 તા.૧૪/૦૫/૨૦૨૩

વિષય :- ઘુડખર અભયારણ્યમાં મીઠાના અગરીયાઓની ગેરકાયદેસર પ્રવૃત્તિઓ અટકાવવા માટે અગરીયાઓને ઓળખકાર્ડ/અગરકાર્ડ આપવા બાબત.

સંદર્ભ:- (૧) અત્રેના પત્રાંક : વપસ/૩૨/બ/૫૦૩૩-૩૪, તા.૨૧/૦૨/૨૦૨૩
 (૨) નાયબ વન સંરક્ષકશ્રી, ઘુડખર અભયારણ્ય, ધાંગધાના પત્રાંક :
 PCCFWAS/0020/04/2023, Dt.25/04/2023

નાયબ વન સંરક્ષકશ્રી, ઘુડખર અભયારણ્ય, ધાંગધાને જણાવવાનું કે, ઘુડખર અભયારણ્યના સર્વે અને સેટલમેન્ટ અહેવાલમાં જે અગરીયાઓના હક્ક-હિત સમાવિષ્ટ કરી ભલામણ કરવામાં આવેલ છે. તેઓને ઓળખકાર્ડ આપવામાં આવે તો ઘુડખર અભયારણ્ય વિસ્તારમાં બિન કાયદેસર મીઠાના અગરોની પ્રવૃત્તિ નાથી શકાય. જે અંતર્ગત તેઓના દ્વારા જે અગરીયાઓના સેટલમેન્ટ અહેવાલના હક્ક-હિતનો સમાવેશ કરવામાં આવેલ છે તેઓના માટે જે અગરકાર્ડનો ઓળખનો નમૂનો બનાવવામાં આવેલ છે તે નમૂનો બહાલ રાખવામાં આવે છે, તો સદરહુ નમૂનામાં જે અગરીયાઓને સેટલમેન્ટ અહેવાલમાં હક્ક-હિત આપવામાં આવેલ છે, તે જ અગરીયાઓને આ પ્રમાણેના અગરકાર્ડના ઓળખપત્ર આપવા જણાવવામાં આવે છે.

વધુમાં તેઓને જણાવવાનું કે, ઘુડખર અભયારણ્ય વિસ્તારના અન્ય કોઈ ઈસમો કે જેઓના સેટલમેન્ટ અહેવાલમાં કોઈ હક્ક આપવામાં આવેલ નથી તેવા અગરીયાઓને અભયારણ્યમાં પ્રવેશ દેવાના રહેશે નહિ અને આવા જે પણ બિન-કાયદેસર અગરીયાઓ ઘુડખર અભયારણ્ય વિસ્તારમાં આવેલ હોય તેને તાત્કાલીક અસરથી દુર કરવાના રહેશે.


 (એન. શ્રીવાસ્તવ)
 અગ્ર મુખ્ય વન સંરક્ષક
 વન્યપ્રાણી, ગુજરાત રાજ્ય,
 ગાંધીનગર

પ્રતિ,
 નાયબ વન સંરક્ષકશ્રી,
 ઘુડખર અભયારણ્ય, ધાંગધા.

નકલ રવાના:- વન સંરક્ષકશ્રી, ગાંધીનગર વન્યજીવ વર્તુળ, ગાંધીનગર તરફ જાણ તથા જરૂરી કાર્યવાહી થવા સારૂ.



પુડખર અભયારણ્ય, મયુર નગરવિસ્તાર, કલવદ શેડ,
પાંગણા, પીન: ૩૬૩૩૧૦ જી.સુરેન્દ્રનગર
Email: dtcf.vihar2019@gmail.com

અગરીયાકાર્ડ
(પુડખર અભયારણ્ય વિભાગ પાંગણા)



નામ:..... ઉમર:.....

સરનામું:.....

સંબંધિત બીટ:..... સંબંધિત રાઉન્ડ..... સંબંધિત રેન્જ.....

પાટાનું સરનામું GPS: N..... E.....

ગામ..... તાલુકો:..... જિલ્લો:.....

ચૂંટણીકાર્ડ/ખાધારકાર્ડ/ પાનકાર્ડ નંબર:.....

સર્વે સેટલમેન્ટના માન્ય હકદાવામાં નામ તથા અ.નુ.નં:.....

સર્વે સેટલમેન્ટના માન્ય હકદાવા ધારક સાથેનો સંબંધ:.....

પાટાનું ક્ષેત્રફળ:.....

ઉપયોગમાં લેનાર મશીનરીની વિગત:.....

આ કાર્ડ ૩૦ જુલાઈ ૨૦૨૪ સુધી જ માન્ય ગણાશે

કાર્ડ ધારકની સહી..... ફોરેસ્ટરની સહી

રેન્જ ડીરેક્ટ ઓફિસર ની સહી

No.: WPS/31/B/856-857/2023-24

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests, Aranya Bhavan, Block No. B/1, Sector-
10/A,

E-mail ID: cwlwguj@gmail.com

Gandhinagar, Gujarat State.

Date: 24/05/2023

Subject: Regarding issuing Identity Cards / Agar Cards to salt workers (Agariyas) to prevent illegal activities by unauthorized salt workers in the Wild Ass Sanctuary.

Reference: 1. This office letter No. WPS/32/B/5033-34 dated 21/02/2023.

2. Letter from the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wild Ass Sanctuary, Dhrangadhra, No. PCCFWAS/0020/04/2023 dated: 25/04/2023.

It is hereby informed to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wild Ass Sanctuary, Dhrangadhra that, as per the Survey and Settlement Report of the Wild Ass Sanctuary, the rights and interests of certain *Agariyas* (salt workers) have been recorded and recommended. If identity cards are issued to those *Agariyas* whose rights are included in the Settlement Report, it will help prevent illegal salt-making activities within the Wild Ass Sanctuary area. Accordingly, the format of the "Agar Card" prepared for identification of *Agariyas* whose rights and interests are recognized in the Settlement Report is hereby approved. Therefore, it is directed that only those *Agariyas* whose rights and interests are included in the Settlement Report shall be issued such "Agar Cards" as per the approved format.

Further, it is instructed that any other persons in the Wild Ass Sanctuary area—who are not granted rights under the Settlement Report—must not be allowed entry into the sanctuary. Any such unauthorized *Agariyas* currently operating within the sanctuary area must be removed immediately.

Sd/-

(N. Srivastava)

Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests Wildlife, Gujarat State,
Gandhinagar

To:

The Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Wild Ass Sanctuary, Dhrangadhra.

Copy forwarded to: The Conservator of Forests, Gandhinagar Wildlife Circle, Gandhinagar
— for information and necessary action.

Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests
Wild ass Sanctuary, Mayurnagar Area, Halavad Road,
Dhangdhra, Pin: 363310 Dist. Surendranagar.
Email: dcf.dhg2014@gmail.com

Agariya Card

(Wild ass Sanctuary Division Dhangdhra)



Name : Age

Address:

Related beat..... Related round..... Related Range.....

Address of Saltpan GPS: N..... E.....

Village:..... Taluka..... District.....

Election Card/Aadhar Card/PAN Card No.....

Name and Serial Number of the recognized claimant as per Survey Settlement:

Relationship with the recognized claimant of the Survey Settlement:

Area of the salt pan:

Details of machinery used:

This card shall remain valid only up to 30th July, 2024.

Signature of Card holder

Signature of Forester

Signature of of Range Forest Officer