

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 18 of 2025 (SZ)

In the matter of:

K. Saravanan,
Chennai.

... Applicant(s)

Versus

The State of Tamil Nadu,
Represented by its Secretary,
Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Chennai and Anr.

...Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY 2ND RESPONDENT-
THE TAMIL NADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY**

INDEX

S. No.	Date	Description	Page No.
1	01.07.2025	Status Report filed by the 2 nd respondent- The Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority	2-7
2	11.12.2024	Annexure 1- Supreme Court of india Order copy- Write Petition (civil) No 304/2018	8-24
3	-	Annexure 2.1- Photograph Built up area inside SAC atlas 2021's Wetland Shapefiles	25
4	-	Annexure 2.2- Photograph Map showing wetland boundary found less than the water spread area- SAC data 2021	26
5	-	Annexure 2.3- Photograph Map showing SAC atlas 2021's wetland shapefile larger than the actual wetland/waterbody	27
6	29.11.2023	Annexure 3- Communication Letter (Ref No TNSWA1/345/2023)	28-30
7	-	Annexure 4- SAC 2021, Atlas wetland Shapefiles data.	31-33
8	-	Annexure 5.1- Photograph SAC atlas 2011 wetland shapefiles in SOI sheet D4407	34

9	-	Annexure 5.2- (SAC Atlas wetland shapefiles in SOI sheet D4408)	35
10	08.03.2022	Annexure 6- Office Memorandum	36
11	28.06.2024	Annexure 7- Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P. No. 12653 of 2017. Status report filed by the Principal chief conservator of forest .	37-44

(Note: The page numbers are at the top centre of every page)



Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel of Government of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE: 19.07.2025

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI****Original Application No. 18 of 2025 (SZ)****IN THE MATTER OF:**

K. Saravana

Son of Kasinathan,

Aged about 37 years

No. 30, Urur Kuppam, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600090

Email : yogeshwaranadv@gmail.com

Ph : 9566254546

...Applicant

Vs

1. The State of Tamil Nadu

Rep by the Secretary

Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Fort St George, Chennai - 600001

Email : tndoe@tn.nic.in

Phone : 044 – 24336594

2. The Tamil Nadu State Wetlands Authority

Rep by its Member Secretary


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

Panagal Maligai, Saidapet, Chennai- 600015

Email : tnsa18@gmail.com

Phone : 044 – 24336594

... Respondents

**REPORT FILED BY THE 2nd RESPONDENT/MEMBER SECRETARY,
TAMIL NADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY**

I, Srinivas R.Reddy, S/o Late T. Ramachandran Reddy, aged about 58 years, working as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority(FAC) at Panagal Maligai, Saidapet Chennai-600 015 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

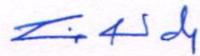
1. It is humbly submitted that I am the 2nd respondent herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case, the circumstances of the case on the basis of official records, and as such, authorized and competent to swear this affidavit.
2. It is humbly submitted that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P.(C) No. 230/2001, W.P.(C) No. 302/2020 and W.P.(C)No. 304/2018, Orders dated 11.12.2024, has instructed the following **(Copy of the Order is enclosed as Annexure – 1): -**


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

“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.”

3. It is humbly submitted that the wetlands identified in the Space Application Center’s National Wetland Inventory Assessment Report, 2021 (SAC Atlas 2021) represent water spread area only, as identified by the satellite images. However, on the ground, there are possibilities that the wetland shapefiles might not actually be a wetland, or the actual area of the wetland as per the revenue records might be more or less than that in SAC Atlas 2021. To illustrate the same, a map depicting the above case is enclosed as **Annexure – 2.1,2.2 and 2.3**).

4. It is humbly submitted that all the District Collectors and Chairpersons & District Forest Officers / Wildlife Wardens / Deputy Directors, and Member Secretaries of the District Level Wetlands Management Committee have been requested to physically verify (Ground truthing), survey, and demarcate the wetlands. It was also instructed that the wetlands covered under the shapefiles mentioned in the SAC Atlas 2021 shall be protected as per Rule (4) 2 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 (**Copy of the letters is enclosed as Annexure - 3**).


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

5. It is humbly submitted that, based on the superimposition of wetland shapefiles of the SAC Atlas, 2021, over the Survey of India (SoI) Maps (D44O7 & D44O8), submitted by the applicant, 97 wetland shape files (**Annexure – 4 as Excel format & Annexure – 5.1 and 5.2 as map format**) were found. In this regard, out of 97 shape files:-

a. The 40 wetland shapefiles either fully or partially fall under various CRZ zones such as CRZ 1A, CRZ 1B, CRZ II, CRZ IVB, and No Development Zone (NDZ).

b. In the remaining 57 wetland shapefiles, except for 3 wetland shapefiles, all others are categorized as “Inland” wetlands in the SAC Atlas 2021, thus, they are not influenced by the tidal flow. Furthermore, almost all the wetland shape-files are about 3.5 kms to 10 kms away from the shoreline. Therefore, these wetland shape-files do not seem to be part of the Ennore Creek, as tidal creeks are generally defined as a “*narrow inlet or estuary that is affected by the ebb and flow of ocean tides*”. Moreover, the area demarcated as “Ennore Creek” is not available in this Office.

6. In this regard, it is humbly submitted that the applicability of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 in a wetland is based on Rule 3 of the said rules, which is as follows: -

“3. Applicability of rules. —These rules shall apply to the following wetlands or wetlands complexes, namely: —


 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
 Member Secretary
 Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
 Chennai-15

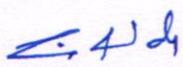
(a) wetlands categorised as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention;

(b) wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration:

Provided that these rules shall not apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Forest Acts, and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 as amended from time to time."

As stated above, since the aforesaid 40 wetland shape-files of Ennore area fall under the CRZ zones, the applicability of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 does not arise. In this regard, the Coastal Regulation Zones are managed and regulated by the Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority.

7. It is humbly submitted that, irrespective of the aforementioned facts, based on the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P.(C). No.230 of 2001 dated 04.10.2017 and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide its Office Memorandum dated 08.03.2022, there is blanket application of Rule 4 of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 on SAC Atlas 2021 shape-files till the ground truthing, survey and demarcation works have been completed (**Copy enclosed as Annexure 6**). In this regard, since the Ownership of the wetlands of Ennore creek lies with the Water resources Department (WRD) & other water body owning departments, the enforcement


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

of the Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation Management) Rules, 2017 and the consensus for notification under the said rule has to be provided by the such water body owning departments.

8. It is humbly submitted that, this Office is currently undertaking the process of ground truthing, survey, and demarcation study by collecting existing data from various water-body wetland owning Department, Survey Department, etc. and the progress made in the above-mentioned activity have been periodically forwarded to the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India for filling before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P.(C)No. 304/2018. Further, status reports have been filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in W.P. No. 12653 of 2017(**Copy of Status Report enclosed as Annexure 7**) In this regard, In light of the above submission, it is humbly prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to consider the ongoing efforts already being undertaken in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble High Court, and accordingly dispose of the present application, as it leads to avoidable expenditure of judicial time and public resources.

I therefore humbly submitted that the above said fact may kindly be taken into consideration by this the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai and pass necessary orders as it deems fit and thus render justice.

DEPONENT



Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

VERIFICATION

I Srinivas R.Reddy, S/o Late T. Ramachandran Reddy the above named deponent do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct on the basis of official record maintained by the Respondent No. 2, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Chennai on this the...st...day of *July* 2025.

DEPONENT

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

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.

Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by
Jayant Kumar Arora
Date: 2024.12.17
17:21:41 IST
Reason:

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. Prerna 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.

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
Mr. Upendra Mishra, Adv.
Mr. P. S. Negi, Adv.
Mr. T.k. Nayak, Adv.

Mr. Anando Mukherjee, AOR
Mr. Shwetank Singh, Adv.

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR
Ms. Limayinla Jamir, Adv.
Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.
Ms. Chubalemla Chang, Adv.
Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv.

Mr. Gaurav Khanna, AOR
Ms. Natasha Sahrawat, Adv.
Mr. Rudraksh Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Gautam Barnwal, Adv.
Ms. Deepali Bhanot, Adv.
Ms. Alisha Roy, Adv.

Ms. Baani Khanna, AOR
Mr. Robin Singh, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Mishra, Adv.

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 Prashad, 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;*
- l) 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.	Shallbugh 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.	Maharashtr a (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 Shola Reserve Forest	24-05-2023	116.007
		70.	Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary	16-01-2024	125.865
		71.	Kazhuveli 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.

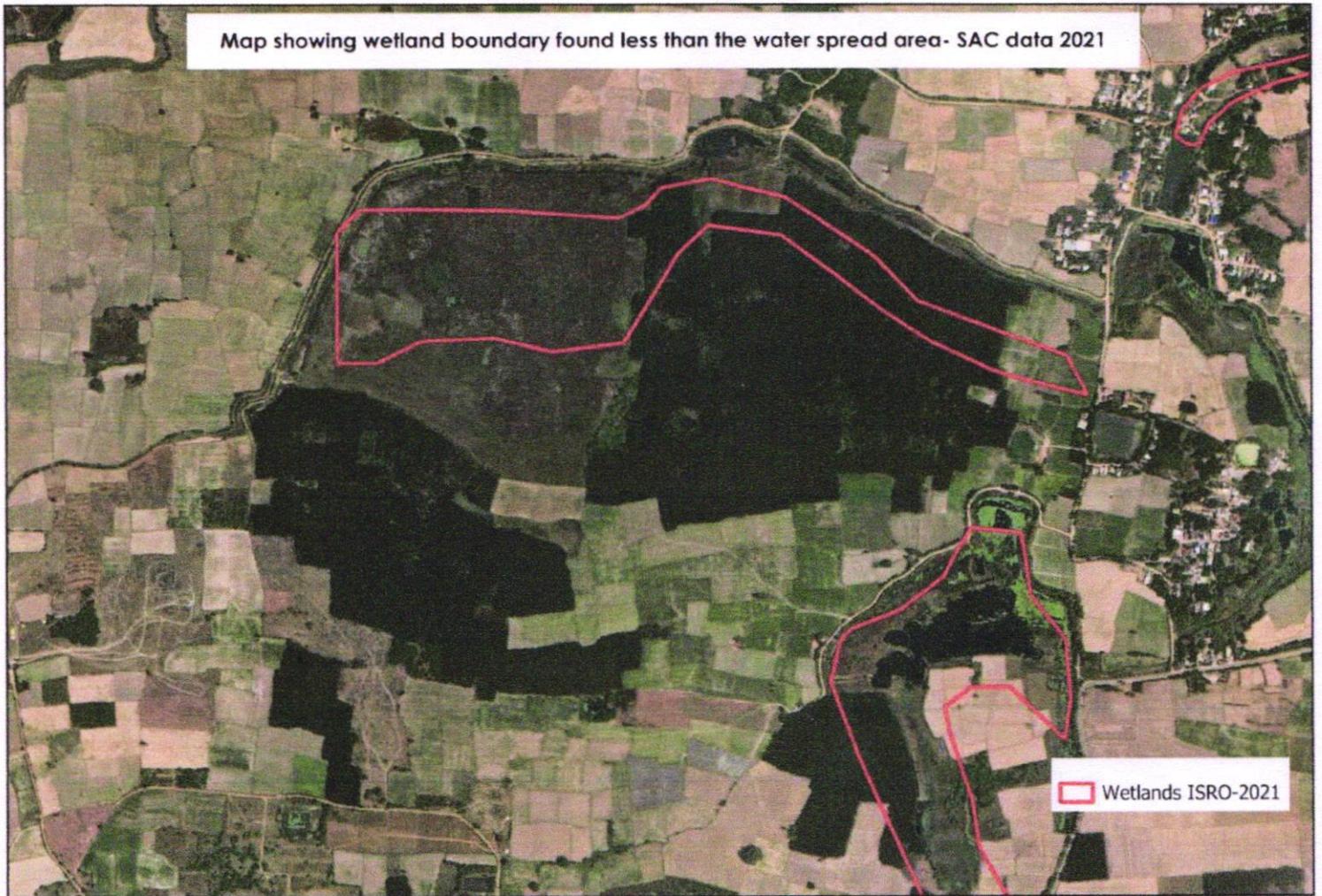
(JAYANT KUMAR ARORA)
ASST. REGISTRAR-CUM-PS

(RENU BALA GAMBHIR)
COURT MASTER

Annexure 2.1 - Built up area inside SAC Atlas 2021's wetland shapefiles



ANNEXURE 2.2



Annexure 2.3 - Map showing SAC Atlas 2021's wetland shapefile larger than the actual wetland/waterbody



ANNEXURE 3



தமிழ்நாடு மாநில ஈரநில ஆணையம்
TAMIL NADU STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY



From

Thiru. Deepak Srivastava, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority,
No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Maaligai,
Saidapet, Chennai – 15.

To

All District Collectors and Chairpersons,
District Level Wetlands Management
Committees.

All District Forest Officers / Wildlife
Wardens / Deputy Directors and Member
Secretaries, District Level Wetlands
Management Committees.

Ref.No.TNSWA1/345/2023, Dated 29.11.2023

Sir / Madam,

Sub: Wetlands – Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission – Ground Truthing of
Wetlands – Compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble Courts,
Tribunals and State Government – Action taken report – Regarding.

- Ref: (i) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member
Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority Ref.No.TNSWA1/
32255/ 2021, Dated 13.07.2022.
(ii) Environment, Climate Change & Forest (FR.9) Department, Letter.
No.19805/FR.9/2014-54, Dated 14.11.2022.
(iii) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority, Ref. No.TNSWA1/345/2023
Dated 15.09.2023

It is informed that with reference to letter cited at (i) to (iii) (copy enclosed), the
shape files of the wetlands in your Districts were communicated and you were
requested to do the Physical verification of the wetlands as per the shape files
prepared by Indian Space Research Organization, Ahmedabad and Institute of
Remote Sensing, Chennai sponsored by Ministry of Environment and Forests,
Government of India pertaining to your District since the matter is subjudice in the
Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble High Court of Madras and National Green
Tribunal, Principal bench, New Delhi.

2) It is therefore requested once again that the shape files of the wetlands for
your Districts may be physically verified as it is important to determine the wetland

and non-wetland areas for notifying the identified wetlands under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. The said Physical verification of wetland and non-wetland areas may kindly be completed at the earliest i.e., latest by 31st December 2023 and after duly approved by the District Level Wetlands Management Committees, the same may be forwarded to this Office.

3) After the identification of the wetlands which can be notified under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 by the District Level Wetlands Management Committees, the draft notification proposals may be prepared and sent to this Office for sending it to the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forest, Government of Tamil Nadu for Inter-departmental and public consultations as per the provisions of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, before the publication of final notification of the wetlands. It may kindly be noted that the wetlands which can be notified under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, are the area like marshes, swamps, mangroves, estuaries, creeks, mudflats, natural lakes etc.

4) It may also be noted that till the time, all the wetlands covered by the shape files are identified as wetland and non-wetland areas, all the wetlands should be protected under the rule (4) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, in compliance of the orders of the Hon'ble Courts & Tribunals. The provision of the rule (4) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, is as follows:-

- 4. Restrictions of activities in wetlands.—(1)** The wetlands shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority.
- (2) The following activities shall be prohibited within the wetlands, namely,-
- (i) conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
 - (ii) setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
 - (iii) manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of hazardous Chemical

Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans boundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;

- (iv) solid waste dumping;
- (v) discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
- (vi) any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty meters from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and,
- (vii) Poaching.

5) The Physical verification report (ground truthing) of the wetland & non-wetland areas may be undertaken expeditiously in order to avoid adverse criticism from the Government / Hon'ble Courts & Tribunal. Till the physical verification (ground truthing) of the wetlands from the given shape files are completed, all the wetlands need to be protected from further degradation keeping in view the uniqueness and role of the wetland ecosystems in the climate, water & food security.

Encl: as above

Yours faithfully,

 29-11-2023
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
and Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority

Copy submitted to the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Secretariat, Chennai for favour of kind information.

Copy to concerned Chief Conservator of Forests, Conservator of Forests for information and necessary action.


29/11/2023

Annexure - 4													
SAC 2021, Atlas Wetland Shapefiles data											Analysed Data		
S. No	Wetland ID	OBJECTID	LEVEL_I	LEVEL_II	LEVEL_III	Latitude	Logitude	Area in Hectare	Decadal change	District	Status of coverage under CRZ zones	CRZ Zone	Remarks
1	TN021774	999	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.34186	80.3242848	44.802639	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Fully	CRZ-IVB	
2	TN021745	1000	Coastal	Natural	Lagoon	13.3316072	80.317507	292.28864	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Fully	CRZ-IA,IA,IVB	
3	TN021758	1006	Coastal	Natural	Sand Beach	13.5048806	80.288131	309.99355	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Fully	CRZ-IA	
4	TN021759	1022	Coastal	Natural	Inter tidal mud flat	13.3987948	80.3078548	327.17492	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Fully	CRZ-IB	
5	TN021761	1023	Coastal	Natural	Inter tidal mud flat	13.4257836	80.291769	86.759621	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Fully	CRZ-IA	
6	TN021757	1025	Coastal	Natural	Sand Beach	13.4147995	80.327753	12.8683	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Fully	CRZ-IB	
7	TN021744	1550	Coastal	Natural	Lagoon	13.3199375	80.323923	13.541313	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Fully	CRZ-IB,IVB	
8	TN021755	1564	Coastal	Natural	Sand Beach	13.293932	80.346296	42.699476	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Fully	CRZ-IVB	
9	TN021756	1565	Coastal	Natural	Sand Beach	13.4069833	80.330226	133.06866	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Fully	CRZ-IB	
10	TN021787	1589	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.4233621	80.2738857	15.174881	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Fully	CRZ-IB	
11	TN001573	9157	Coastal	Natural	Sand Beach	13.0433027	80.282217	111.95107	Y-Y	Chennai	Covered Fully	CRZ-IA, IB	
12	TN001575	9158	Coastal	Natural	Mangrove	13.0139527	80.267995	2.335205	Y-Y	Chennai	Covered Fully	CRZ-IVB	
13	TN001574	9159	Coastal	Natural	Mangrove	13.0127213	80.264229	7.83303	Y-Y	Chennai	Covered Fully	CRZ-IVB	
14	TN001572	30752	Coastal	Natural	Creek	13.0163432	80.247068	192.32003	Y-Y	Chennai	Covered Fully	CRZ-IB,IVB	
15	TN021554	998	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3424578	80.326038	19.120119	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Fully	CRZ-IB	
16	TN021765	541	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.2358755	80.30612	24.071909	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-II	
17	TN021776	986	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.3679329	80.3126241	245.36402	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB,IVB	
18	TN021781	988	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.4121209	80.272065	16.587071	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	NDZ	
19	TN021783	990	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.4150667	80.293237	81.741464	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB	
20	TN021788	991	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.4308515	80.279392	43.500816	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IA	
21	TN021780	992	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.3976536	80.3217266	68.336082	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB	
22	TN021775	997	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.3543118	80.3219674	207.20666	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB,IVB	
23	TN021777	1002	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.3781426	80.325492	99.433094	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB,IVB	
24	TN021784	1003	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.4174229	80.261089	28.331684	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB	
25	TN021791	1005	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.4608532	80.260523	4.840986	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IA	
26	TN021768	1007	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.2949393	80.3252896	116.41444	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB	
27	TN021747	1015	Coastal	Natural	Lagoon	13.3981479	80.3063092	16.660648	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB	
28	TN021773	1017	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.3319215	80.307364	103.38131	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB	
29	TN021778	1024	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.3893809	80.3192926	7.41073	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	NDZ	
30	TN021760	1026	Coastal	Natural	Inter tidal mud flat	13.4146755	80.313209	35.184921	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IA	
31	TN021764	1511	Coastal	Man made	Salt Pan	13.2995005	80.31881	171.37115	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IA,IB,IVB	
32	TN021770	1571	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.3207157	80.3217013	109.41136	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB,IVB	
33	TN021785	1581	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.4202003	80.30452	28.039214	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IA	
34	TN021786	1590	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.4218958	80.266582	59.001126	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB	
35	TN001541	1028	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.19345	80.313256	10.347815	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-II	
36	TN001563	1031	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.1588968	80.291377	39.274221	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-II	
37	TN021748	1171	Inland	Natural	Waterlogged	13.4137001	80.28706	48.428066	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB	
38	TN021637	1583	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.4189997	80.31676	5.519747	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	CRZ-IA	
39	TN001534	9169	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.1190578	80.269824	68.263958	Y-Y	Chennai	Covered Partially	CRZ-IB	
40	TN020972	30494	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.4311236	80.269305	10.672053	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Covered Partially	NDZ	

SAC 2021, Atlas Wetland Shapefiles data											Analysed Data		
S. No	Wetland ID	OBJECTID	LEVEL_I	LEVEL_II	LEVEL_III	Latitude	Logitude	Area in Hectare	Decadal change	District	Status of coverage under CRZ zones	CRZ Zone	Remarks
Wetland Shapefiles not covered under CRZ zones													
1	TN021782	1010	Coastal	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.4097209	80.269578	4.728248	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	Categorized as coastal, but not covered in CRZ
2	TN021762	1014	Coastal	Natural	Inter tidal mud flat	13.4465625	80.256113	104.917	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
3	TN021746	1020	Coastal	Natural	Lagoon	13.3559116	80.305623	14.764089	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
4	TN020984	267	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.4559824	80.246631	75.370698	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
5	TN021355	553	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.2273204	80.252208	19.509456	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
6	TN001542	611	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.2005095	80.251948	59.536046	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
7	TN001571	659	Inland	Man made	Waterlogged	13.1784693	80.273299	38.407469	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
8	TN001566	680	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.1693224	80.252555	10.260905	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
9	TN001538	700	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.1629823	80.2490807	25.849715	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
10	TN001562	722	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.1560239	80.268885	27.901884	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
11	TN021593	983	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3829661	80.251048	121.85907	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
12	TN021602	984	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3913988	80.266231	68.709718	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
13	TN021574	985	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3630167	80.27839	228.16591	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
14	TN021618	987	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.4039681	80.25721	29.241383	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
15	TN021638	989	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.419318	80.277723	25.75232	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
16	TN021530	993	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3260162	80.259937	15.804421	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
17	TN021523	994	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.318248	80.289291	148.75661	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
18	TN021466	995	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.2795499	80.293235	11.960417	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
19	TN021563	996	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3508902	80.31597	46.608621	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
20	TN021697	1004	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.4610262	80.252894	10.921665	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
21	TN021407	1008	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.2551714	80.301432	49.301479	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
22	TN001537	1030	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.1505693	80.285153	14.802385	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
23	TN001539	1032	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.1685823	80.300635	3.176289	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
24	TN001567	1033	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.1694002	80.27492	9.698786	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
25	TN001564	1035	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.1651001	80.26722	26.580221	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
26	TN001568	1036	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.1718998	80.2694	6.664894	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
27	TN021438	1097	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.2660999	80.30092	11.153898	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
28	TN021492	1100	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.2911997	80.29946	3.720081	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
29	TN021494	1101	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.2943001	80.27631	67.16888	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
30	TN021506	1102	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3051996	80.27284	8.301186	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
31	TN020920	1105	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.3072557	80.295654	181.04174	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
32	TN021493	1107	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.2923002	80.25861	35.100058	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
33	TN021510	1108	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3052998	80.26376	10.224346	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
34	TN021498	1109	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.2976999	80.25447	3.604281	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
35	TN021504	1110	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3002996	80.25212	32.198493	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
36	TN021521	1118	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3146	80.26339	15.216634	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
37	TN021527	1120	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3223	80.26701	5.359013	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
38	TN021545	1122	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3360004	80.27625	13.624811	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
39	TN021546	1123	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3367996	80.26544	2.508299	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
40	TN021553	1124	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3427	80.26778	3.822215	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	

SAC 2021, Atlas Wetland Shapefiles data											Analysed Data		
S. No	Wetland ID	OBJECTID	LEVEL_I	LEVEL_II	LEVEL_III	Latitude	Longitude	Area in Hectare	Decadal change	District	Status of coverage under CRZ zones	CRZ Zone	Remarks
41	TN021551	1125	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3393002	80.28231	2.657665	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
42	TN021541	1126	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3332996	80.25316	20.963769	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
43	TN020949	1173	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.3736606	80.298422	34.234337	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
44	TN021737	1174	Inland	Man made	Aquaculture Pond	13.3606005	80.28578	5.984302	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
45	TN020993	1271	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.3846451	80.28933	55.203824	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
46	TN020992	1272	Inland	Natural	Waterlogged	13.3702002	80.27247	36.302547	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
47	TN020994	1281	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.4020004	80.27965	13.506214	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
48	TN021529	1547	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.3239002	80.27445	14.36717	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
49	TN021657	1548	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.4300198	80.264131	5.152589	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
50	TN021629	1582	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.4151001	80.30852	10.271855	N-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
51	TN020973	1591	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.4286013	80.257695	58.601412	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
52	TN021453	1592	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.2766839	80.25109	37.099039	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
53	TN001561	9153	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.1426894	80.263906	19.325416	Y-Y	Chennai	Not covered	-	
54	TN001558	9165	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.1331997	80.2806	4.251726	N-Y	Chennai	Not covered	-	
55	TN001549	9168	Inland	Man made	Tank/Pond	13.0326004	80.26896	2.360545	N-Y	Chennai	Not covered	-	
56	TN020953	30495	Inland	Natural	Lake/Pond	13.3837021	80.319323	51.123588	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	
57	TN021581	1282			Waterlogged	13.3688877	80.255745	11.467213	Y-Y	Thiruvallur	Not covered	-	



250 0 250 500 m



-  SAC Atlas 2021 wetland shapefiles, fully or partially covered under CRZ
-  SAC Atlas 2021 wetland shapefiles, not covered under CRZ
-  Wetland shapefiles considered as "Coastal" as per SAC Atlas 2021, but not part of CRZ
-  Boundary of D4407 SoI sheet.

Annexure 5.2 (SAC Atlas 2021 wetland shapefiles in SOI sheet D4408)



250 0 250 500 m



-  SAC Atlas 2021 wetland shapefiles, fully or partially covered under CRZ
-  SAC Atlas 2021 wetland shapefiles, not covered under CRZ
-  Boundary of D4408 SoI sheet.

ANNEXURE 6

F. No. W-4/4/2022-WTL
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(Wetlands Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi -110003

Dated 8th March, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Protection of Wetlands as per Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017

The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 4th October, 2017 in W.P. (C) No. 230 of 2001 has inter-alia, directed that, *"We make it clear and reiterate that in terms of our order dated 8th February, 2017, 2,01,503 wetlands that have been mapped by the Union of India should continue to remain protected on the same principles as were formulated in Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010"*.

2. The same has been communicated by this Ministry to all the States and UTs in November, 2017. Hon'ble NGT has also reiterated the same in various recent cases.

3. In view of above, it is once again clarified/reiterated that the 2,01,503 wetlands (>2.25 ha) as per the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA), 2011 should be protected as per Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. This protection is irrespective of the applicability of/notification as per the said Rules.

Ramesh

(Dr. M. Ramesh)
Scientist 'E'

Tel.: 011-20819249

Email: ramesh.motipalli@nic.in

To

The Member Secretaries of State and UT Wetlands Authorities

IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
(Special Original Jurisdiction)
WP.No.12653 of 2017
(SUO-MOTU PIL)
(On the file of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras)

1. Union of India, Rep. by its Secretary,
Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi.
2. Central Wetland Regulatory Authority
Rep. by Its Member Secretary, New Delhi
3. Union of India,
Rep. by its Secretary,
The Ministry of Tourism, New Delhi.
4. Union of India
Rep. by its Secretary,
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment,
New Delhi.
5. Government of Tamil Nadu
Rep. by its Chief Secretary,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.
6. Government of Tamil Nadu
Rep. by its Principal Secretary,
Public Works Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.
7. Government of Tamil Nadu
Rep. by its Principal Secretary,
Forest Department, Secretariat,
Chennai - 600 009.
8. Government of Tamil Nadu
Rep. by its Principal Secretary, Ornithology Department,
Coimbatore.
(R8 deleted as per order dated 15.06.2017 by CJ MSJ in W.P. No. 12653/2017)

Page No : 1
No. of corrections : Nil

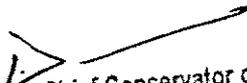

Deputy Conservator of Forests, wetland
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests and Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority

9. The District Collector,
Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu
10. The District Collector,
Ariyalur District.
11. The District Collector,
Karur District.
12. The District Collector,
Perambalur District.
13. The District Collector,
Pudukottai District.
14. The District Collector,
Thanjavur District.
15. The District Collector,
Tiruchirappalli District.
16. The District Collector,
Tiruvarur District.
17. The District Collector,
Dharmapuri District.
18. The District Collector,
Coimbatore District.
19. The District Collector,
Erode District.
20. The District Collector,
Krishnagiri District.
21. The District Collector,
Namakkal District.

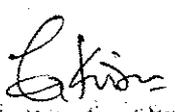
Page No : 2
No. of corrections : Nil


Deputy Conservator of Forests (wetland)
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests and Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

22. The District Collector,
The Nilgiris.
23. The District Collector,
Salem District.
24. The District Collector,
Tiruppur District.
25. The District Collector,
Dindigul District.
26. The District Collector,
Kanyakumari District.
27. The District Collector,
Madurai District.
28. The District Collector,
Ramanathapuram District.
29. The District Collector,
Sivagangai District.
30. The District Collector,
Theni District.
31. The District Collector,
Thoothukudi District.
32. The District Collector,
Tirunelveli District.
33. The District Collector,
Virudhunagar District.
34. The District Collector,
Chennai.

Page No : 3
No. of corrections : Nil

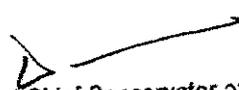

Deputy Conservator
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests and Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai 45

35. The District Collector,
Cuddalore District.
36. The District Collector,
Kanchipuram District.
37. The District Collector,
Tiruvallur District.
38. The District Collector,
Tiruvannamalai District.
39. The District Collector,
Vellore District.
40. The District Collector,
Villupuram District.
41. The District Collector,
Kallakurichi District.
42. Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority,
Rep by its Member Secretary,
O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)
No. 1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai -600 015.
(R10 to R42 suo motu impleaded vide court order dated 13.02.20 made in W.P.
12653/2017 by MSNJ and PRMJ)
43. The Chennai City Municipal Corporation,
Represented by its Commissioner,
Ripon Building, Chennai - 3.
44. The District Level Wetland Committee
(Constituted under Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act),
Represented by the Chairman / The District Collector,
Villupuram District, Villupuram.

Page No : 4
No. of corrections : Nil


Deputy Conservator of Forests (wetland)
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests and Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

**STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF
FORESTS AND MEMBER SECRETARY, TAMIL NADU STATE WETLAND
AUTHORITY (RESPONDENT No.42)**

I, Deepak Srivastava, IFS, S/o. Shri Gopal Krishnan Srivastava, aged about 59 years, working as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority at Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai herein after referred to as answering respondent do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

1. That I am the 42nd respondent herein and such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case, circumstances of the case on the basis of official records, and as such authorized and competent to swear this affidavit.
2. The answering respondent humbly submits that the shape files of ISRO's National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA) Report, 2011 for the wetlands of Thiruvallur District were geo-referenced and superimposed on the satellite imagery by the then learned Amicus Curiae Thiru.P.S.Raman and his team. The Hon'ble High Court of Madras thereafter directed the State Government to undertake the physical verification of the wetlands of Thiruvallur District which were geo-referenced and superimposed on the satellite imagery by the then learned Amicus Curiae Thiru. P.S. Raman and his team and under take similar excise for the entire State of Tamil Nadu. Also it is humbly submitted that the Chief Secretary to the Government convened a meeting with all the wetlands owning Departments on 21.10.2022, wherein the wetlands owning Departments like Water Resource Department, Municipal Administration Department, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowment Department, Land Administration Department, Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution and Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) were directed to physically verify the wetlands of the Thiruvallur District as mentioned in the ISRO's National Wetland Inventory and

Page No : 5
No. of corrections : Nil


Deputy Conservator of Forests (wetland)
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests and Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

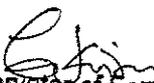
Assessment (NWIA) Report, 2011 which can be notified under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

3. The answering respondent humbly submits that based on the geo-spatial analysis of shape files of ISRO's National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA) Report, 2011 and National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas, 2021, it is submitted that there are 28904 wetlands (> 2.25 hectare) present in the State of Tamil Nadu; the details of the same is provided below –

S. No	Categories of ISRO data		Sign Code	Count
	NWIA 2011	NDWCA 2021		
1	Present	Present	Y-Y	23297
2	Present	Absent	Y-N	2258
3	Absent	Present	N-Y	3349
Total Count of ISRO wetlands of Tamil Nadu in both NWIA 2011 & NDWCA 2021 reports				28904

4. The answering respondent humbly submits that based on the directions of the Chief Secretary to the Government, the exercise of physical verification of wetlands was undertaken by the District Level Wetlands Management Committee of Thiruvallur District and the said Committee has physically verified 644 wetlands out of 1238 ISRO wetland shapefiles of that District. Also it is humbly submitted that the exercise for ground verification of the wetlands in other Districts was undertaken by obtaining the ground verified data of 14,098 wetlands from the Water Resource Department. Based on the data, this office undertook the geo-spatial analysis and identified that out of 14,098 wetlands, 8094 wetlands (> 2.25 ha) coincides with the shape files of ISRO's National Wetland Inventory Assessment report 2011 & National Wetlands Decadal Change Atlas, 2021. The survey numbers & the revenue village details shall be required from the Water Resource Department for boundary delineation of these 8094 wetlands in order to find out the actual area and extent of the wetlands. The

Page No : 6
No. of corrections : Nil


Deputy Conservator of Forests (wetland)
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests and Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15

district wise details of the Water Resource Department wetlands which are coinciding with ISRO Wetland shapefiles is enclosed in the **Annexure 1**.

5. The answering respondent humbly submits that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority, has requested the wetlands owning departments such as Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Municipal Administration and Town Panchayat to furnish the details of wetlands coming under their ownership, in order to validate the wetlands data with ISRO's wetland shape-files and to prepare a comprehensive list of wetlands as mandated in the para No.23.3 of Guidelines for implementing Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017.

6. The answering respondent humbly submits that in another order of the Hon'ble Madurai Bench of Madras High court in W.P.(MD) No.31214 & 31221 of 2023 and WMP (MD) No.26742, 26743, 26745 of 2023, Dated 07.03.2024, the Hon'ble High Court (a copy of the order attached as **Annexure 2**) has directed the Water Resources Department to create a website containing an exhaustive list of all water bodies (including tanks, rivers, kanmois, etc.,) mentioning the physical locations, details of village, taluk and District and extent (both original and present). Based on the above direction of the Hon'ble Madurai Bench of High court of Madras, the survey and demarcation of Water Bodies in the entire State of Tamil Nadu is required to be under taken by the Water Resources Department. Since, the ISRO's National Wetland Assessment Inventory report 2011 & National Wetlands Decadal Change Atlas, 2021 do consist of lakes, ponds, tanks, etc., the details of these wetlands shall get covered during the demarcation of water bodies by the Water Resource Department as per the orders of the Hon'ble Madurai Bench of Madras High court.

Page No : 7
No. of corrections : Nil


 Deputy Conservator of Forests (wetland)
 O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of
 Forests and Member Secretary
 Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority


 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
 Member Secretary
 Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
 Chennai-15

In view of the above circumstances and reasons explained above, it is humbly prayed that the Honourable Court may be pleased to accept the additional status report and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai, on

This the 28th day of June 2024 and

Signed his name in my presence.


Deputy Conservator of Forests (wetland);
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests and Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority
Chennai-15