

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No.181 of 2024 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on the News Item in 'The Times of India',
Chennai Edition dt: 20.05.2024,
"Work on Checkdam in Kerala
Stokes TN Farmers' fears"

... Applicant(s)

Versus

The Chief Secretary to
Govt. of Tamil Nadu , Chennai and ors

...Respondent(s)

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE: 01.11.2024

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And

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STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE 7th RESPONDENT

I, Srinivas Ramachandra Reddy, IFS., Son of Late T. Ramachandra Reddy, Hindu, aged about 58 years, employed as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Chennai do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. It is respectfully submitted that I am the 7th respondent herein, and I am acquainted with the facts of the case based on the available records.
2. It is respectfully submitted that Anamalai Tiger Reserve is a critical habitat, hosting an extensive variety of fauna and flora. It includes diverse ecosystems such as Shola Forests and supports numerous habitat types. The protected area encompasses three national parks and two wildlife sanctuaries, making it an ecologically rich and significant area. Additionally, it forms a part of the Anamalai-Parambikulam Elephant Reserve, providing habitat for several

endangered species and numerous faunal and floral species endemic to the Western Ghats.

3. It is respectfully submitted that the Anamalai Tiger Reserve is part of a larger tiger conservation landscape within the Western Ghats. It shares boundaries with the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve and the Munnar Wildlife Division, specifically with Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala and Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. This strategic location facilitates ecological connectivity, essential for the migration and gene flow of wildlife species, especially large carnivores like tigers and elephants.
4. It is respectfully submitted that The Amaravathi Dam, located within the Anamalai Tiger Reserve in the Tiruppur Forest Division, is primarily fed by the Amaravathi River, which flows for several kilometers within the reserve. This river serves as a critical water source for the dam and supports the reserve's ecosystem by providing necessary hydration for both flora and fauna, particularly during dry seasons.

5. Potential Impact of Proposed Check Dam Construction

It is respectfully submitted that the proposed construction of a significant Check Dam across the Silandhi River by the Kerala State, a tributary of the Amaravathi River, could impede water flow to the Amaravathi Dam. Such a reduction in water availability may severely impact the biodiversity within the reserve. The reduction of water flow would directly affect wildlife that depends on the Amaravathi Dam, disrupting habitat conditions essential for the survival of various species, including tigers and other endangered fauna. Additionally, it may compromise the core tiger habitat by altering the hydrological balance crucial for sustaining diverse flora and fauna.

In light of the above facts and circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may pass any direction or order as it may deem fit, in the interests of justice and ecological preservation.

Date:- 29.10.2024



Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

VERIFICATION

I, Srinivas Ramachandra Reddy, IFS., Son of Late T. Ramachandra Reddy, Hindu, aged about 58 years, presently discharging my duties as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Chennai, Solemnly affirm that the contents of this Report are true to the best of my knowledge based on the records and I have not suppressed any facts.

Date:- 29.10.2024



Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)