

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 191/2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Yelahanka - Puttenahalli Lake and  
Bird Conservation Trust (Regd)

...Applicant

VERSUS

State of Karnataka and Others

...Respondents

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**Filed by**



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**Date: 03.07.2024**

**Place: New Delhi**

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 191/2024

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Yelahanka - Puttenahalli Lake and  
Bird Conservation Trust (Regd) ...Applicant

versus

State of Karnataka and Others ...Respondents

**REPORT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 4/FORREST ECOLOGY  
AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, KARNATAKA**

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

1. That this application has been filed seeking a direction against Respondent No. 2/BBMP to not carry out any activities regarding laying of pipeline around the Yelahanka – Puttenahalli lake, situated in Bangalore (*'the said lake'*).
2. It is submitted that the Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake Bird Conservation Reserve, located in Bengaluru, Karnataka, is a significant place for avian species amidst urban development. It was declared as a bird in 2015 under Section 36-A of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 to protect the biodiversity of the region. Since its declaration, the answering Department has invested over 10 crores

in rejuvenating and restoring the lake through bio-remedial measures, in consultation with Dr. Chanakya of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

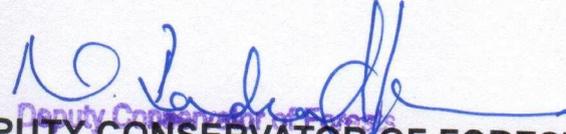
3. A diversion channel was constructed to divert sewage from the southern boundary of the lake, thereby improving the water quality. Bioremediation processes was applied by the answering Department to treat the necessary quantity of sewage water biologically, and the treated water was subsequently released into the lake to maintain its water quality and quantity. The answering Department has undertaken extensive efforts to maintain a suitable habitat for the birds, as well as the aquatic flora and fauna. Regular water testing is conducted to ensure the maintenance of water quality. Consequently, the lake attracts over 150 species of birds.
4. The reserve spans approximately 37 Acres. It serves as a crucial habitat for migratory birds and supports breeding of several bird species. The reserve is managed by the Karnataka Forest Department.
5. It is submitted that on 19.05.2024, due to heavy rainfall, storm water drains overflowing with sewage had breached the western side of Puttenahalli Lake through a compromised boundary wall. The

answering department had temporarily mitigated the incursion by reinforcing the wall with sandbags. However, at night some local residents removed the sandbag reinforcement, resulting in the unimpeded flow of sewage into the lake.

6. On the following day, *i.e.*, 20.05.2024, the Additional Chief Secretary to the Forest Ecology and Environment Department, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), and the BBMP Chief Commissioner, along with other officials, visited the site. It was decided following the inspection to divert the sewage in the interest of protecting the lake.
7. BBMP had commenced the work without obtaining approval from the Forest Department. Consequently, the work was halted, as the answering Department issued a notice dated 05.06.2024 to BBMP under the Forest Act, 1972. True Copy of notice dated 05.06.2024 is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-1**.
8. In the meanwhile, the present Application came to be registered and order dated 18.06.2024 came to be passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal directing that no further work shall be carried out until necessary approvals are granted.

9. Thereafter, an application for permission to lay down the pipeline to prevent the entry of sewage into the lake came to be made by the BWSSB by way of letter dated 28.06.2024 sent to the PCCF. True Copy of letter dated 28.06.2024 sent by BWSSB to the PCCF is annexed herewith as **Annexure R-2**.
10. However, in view of the pendency of the present Original Application and in view of the order dated 18.06.2024, the answering Department has not accorded the requisite permission yet.
11. Nevertheless, it is pertinent to note that in the interest of the conservation of the lake and to prevent further sewage inflow, the present work undertaken by the BBMP and BWSSB for diversion of Sewage is absolutely essential to save the lake and necessary correspondence was made with the BBMP to stop any additional sewage from entering the lake, and to instead divert the sewage to the STP at Yelahanka. The act proposed to be carried out by the BWSSB and BBMP is hence in the interest of the lake and to ensure its cleanliness.
12. It is submitted that BBMP and BWSSB are in communication with the Forest Department and are in the process of submitting a suitable

DPR. Necessary action will be taken as per law by the answering Department on the application filed by BWSSB.



DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS  
BENGALURU URBAN DIVISION, BENGALURU

FOR

RESPONDENT NO. 4  
FOREST ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
KARNATAKA

Date: 03.07.2024



**ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ**  
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, 18ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 003  
**Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests**  
Bangalore Urban Division, Aranya Bhavan Campus, 18<sup>th</sup> cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003

No. A2/BUD/CR-74/2023-24

Date: 05.06.2024

To,

Zonal Commissioner  
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike  
Yelahanka Range, Byatarayanapura  
Amrutahalli Main road  
Bengaluru-560092

Sir,

Subject: Regarding unauthorized construction of sewer pipe line work to construct a canal on the edge of Puttenahalli lake to match the flow capacity of Attur lake Kodi canal in Anantapur village survey no. 86, 85, 84, 78, 77, 73, 72, 66, 65, 58 and 57

- Ref:
1. Government Notification No. FEE 389 FWL 2014 Dated:29.04.2015
  2. Government Order No: FEE 211 F WL 2017 Dated: 22.11.2017
  3. Karnataka Lake Conservation And Development Authority Act 2014 Karnataka State Letter No. Samvya E 19 Statute 2014, Bangalore Dated: 06.09.20214
  4. Your OFFICE LETTER NO: WA/BBMP/PR/YAVA/20/2023-24 DATED: 09.05.2024
  5. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka, Bangalore Office Letter No: PCCF(WL)D/CR-01/2015-16 Dated: 27.05.2024
  6. This office even letter dated: 07.10.2023 and 15.05.2024

\* \* \* \* \*

With respect to the above subject and references cited above, the Government has handed over the said lake to the Forest Department for the purpose of protecting and reviving the environment and biological resources of the Puttenahalli Lake on the basis of Shri Laxman Rao Committee. Puttenahalli lake area is home to local and migratory bird species. Due to this, the said lake has been declared as "Puttenahalli Lake Bird Conservation Reserve" in the Government Notification under reference (1) of the Wildlife (Conservation) Act, 1972 for the conservation of aquatic life and bird life. The Management Plan for the

period 2017-18 to 2021-22 for the management and development of the said conservation reserve area has been approved and the Puttenahalli lake has already been developed as per the approved management plan.

Further "Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority Act 2014 Chapter III Order No. 12 clearly states in Clause (2) "No structure shall be constructed on the lake land without the permission of the Government. No lake land or any part thereof shall be taken for usufruct or against the current and shall not cause any obstruction to the natural or normal flow of water in or out of a lake in or out of a lake. In Clause (6) there is a clear direction of the Government that no roads, bridges and other similar structures shall be constructed within the lake area including the embankment of the lake without the permission of the Government and in Clause (8) no act shall be done directly or indirectly affecting the lakes".

Bringing all the above matters to their attention, it is a heinous crime and violation of law to carry out the unauthorized connection of sewer pipe line work by Burhat Bangalore Mahanagara Corporation from Yalahanka Zone to Puttenahalli Lake Bird Sanctuary. As the unauthorized pipeline work has been carried out by the Greater Bangalore Municipal Corporation, the contaminated soil excavated from the place where the work is being carried out, garbage, rotten plastic materials and water enters the said lake. Due to this, the life of aquatic mammals and birds living in the said lake area is threatened and their habitat is destroyed.

It has been found that the protective wall built for the protection of the said lake conservation reserve area is being demolished and the polluted water is being released into the lake and it is necessary to stop this immediately.

Discharge of polluted water inside the Puttenahalli Bird Sanctuary is a violation of Section 32 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Therefore, it is hereby directed not to carry out drainage work within the Puttenahalli Lake Bird Sanctuary.

Yours faithfully

(N. Raveendra Kumar)  
Deputy Conservator of Forests  
Bengaluru urban division, Bengaluru



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**BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**

Office of the Chief Engineer (Project),

Cauvery Bhavan, 3rd Floor, K G Road, Bangalore-560009

No. BWSSB/ CE(Project)/ACE(P)-1/TA/ 578 / 2024-25

Date : 28 / 06 / 2024

To,

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
& Head of Forest Force, Karnataka Forest Department,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram,  
Bengaluru-560065

Sir,

**Sub:** Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase 3) Contract package CP-25 i.e. Design, Engineering, Construction and Commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plants and Intermediate Sewage Pumping Stations with Operation & Maintenance thereof for Seven Years [Works -A] and Procurement and Construction of Main Sewers including Manholes in Byatarayanapura Zones (Hebbal Valley Catchment) [Works-B] under JICA Loan ID -P266- **Reg: Requesting permission for laying Trunk Sewer near the Puttenahalli Lake bund till designated Yelahanka kere WwTP.**

**Ref:** 1.Contract Agreement No:BWSSPIII/CP-25/03/2021-22 Dated :07-07-2021  
2. LOC No: BWSSB/CEKTE/TA11/04/2020/765/2021-22 Dated: 07-07-2021

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Adverting to the above, BWSSB has taken up the work of providing Trunk Sewer mains to lead off the sewage generated in the surrounding catchment areas of the 110 villages of BBMP coming under Byatarayanapura Zone for the subject project. The above said work is awarded to the successful contractor M/s Passavant Energy & Environment India Pvt Ltd as cited under ref (2).

The sewage generated in the Ananthapura coming under 110 village limits of BBMP and its surrounding areas is proposed to convey to the designated under-construction Yelahanka kere WwTP through the closed conduit. **In the original scope of the said project, sewage generated in the above said areas is proposed to lead off through the Lateral UGD pipelines** already laid in the catchment area which in-turn connecting to the proposed Sub-Mains in the Attur lake bund along the buffer zone of storm water drain (SWD) up to Century Saras apartment and thereby providing Lifting Machinehole (Man hole) at the

Cross Road junction of Century Saras Apartment towards newly established machinehole near Duo Marvel Layout in the Ananthapura Main Road.

The Ramanashree California layout adjacent to Puttenahalli Lake is a private layout wherein the layout association needs to establish their own Water supply and UGD network along with WwTP for handling the sewage generated in the Layout.

During the recent heavy rainfall in the month of May-2024, it was observed that an increased amount of surface water runoff mixed with the sewage from un-sewered/missed out areas of Ananthapura village, Ramagondanahalli Village coming under Panchayath limit and its surrounding areas overflowing to Puttenahalli Lake as the storm water drain work is partially completed and is discontinued towards northern portion of Puttenahalli lake from Attur lake. Further, the sewage from village panchayat flowing in an open drain is entering the lake during rainy season and from the un-sewered/missed out network in the 110 villages areas to the proposed under construction Yelahanka kere WwTP which shall be taken up in Phase-2 missing bits project with the World Bank assistance.

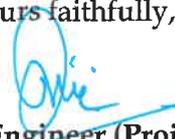
On 20.05.2024 Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister GoK, Chief Commissioner BBMP, Additional Chief Secretary (Forest, Ecology and Environment Department), GoK, Zonal and Joint Commissioners of Yelahanka, BBMP, BWSSB and other concerned inspected the spot of flooding and enquired about the preventive measures. Later, BBMP officials informed about the feasible alignment along the existing walking way of Puttenahalli Lake bund. Hon'ble DCM, GoK directed the officials to take up the same immediately and to complete the works at the earliest in the interest of public.

In view of the above, presently, BBMP is planning to lay 1600 mm dia RCC pipeline along the walkway of Puttenahalli lake bund to continue the SWD, is executed then only BWSSB would be able to lay 700 mm dia RCC trunk sewer of about 600 mts running parallel along the same alignment up to the proposed under-construction Yelahanka kere WwTP (drawing enclosed for kind reference) to cater the sewage from the future development in the upstream areas under village Panchayath limits else the pipe laid in the on-going work with the provision of lifting machinehole will suffice the present requirement.

Under the above circumstances, it is hereby requested to accord permission for laying trunk sewer pipeline in the said alignment coming under the Bird conservation along with the work of BBMP.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

  
Chief Engineer (Project),  
BWSSB

1. Copy submitted to Chief Commissioner, BBMP, NR Square, Bengaluru- 560002 for kind information.
2. Copy to Hon'ble Chairman, BWSSB for kind information.
3. Copy submitted to Principal Secretary (Forests), Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, Karnataka Government Secretariat, Room No. 442, Gate No. 2, M. S. Building, Bengaluru-560001 for kind information
4. Copy submitted to Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Aranya Bhavan, 18<sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560055 for kind information.
5. Copy submitted to Chief Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru Circle, Aranya Bhavan, 18<sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560055 for kind information.
6. Copy submitted to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru Urban Division, Aranya Bhavan, 18<sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560055 for kind information.
7. Copy to Chief Engineer (SWD), BBMP, NR Square, Bengaluru- 560002 for information.
8. Copy to ACE (Project)-01, BWSSB, for information & necessary action.
9. Copy to Executive Engineer (SWD), BBMP, Yelahanka Zone, Mini Vidhana Soudha, 3rd Floor, NES Circle, BBMP for information.
10. Copy to Executive Engineer (Project)-2, BWSSB, for information and necessary action.
11. Copy to Assistant Conservator of Forests, Bengaluru North Sub-Division, 18<sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, CJF Road, Bengaluru-560055 for information.
12. Copy to Range Forest Officer, Yelahanka Range, Puttenahalli, Doddaballapura Main Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 for information.
13. Copy to AEE (Project)-2-1, BWSSB, for information and necessary action.
14. Copy to M/s. Passavant Energy & Environment India Pvt Ltd, Shree Beereshwara Swamy Complex, Site #28 /1, 2nd floor, 15th main 1st Cross, E block, Sahakar Nagara, Bangalore-560092 for information and necessary action.
15. Office Copy.