

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.209 of 2024 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Suo Moto matter in respect of news item appearing
in 'The Hindu' dated 23.04.2024 titled
"Concerns loom over damage to pulicat wetland as
claim settlement of villages in the sanctuary begin".

Versus

Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (CZMA),
Through its Member Secretary, 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:21.11.2025

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.209 of 2024 (SZ)
[Earlier O.A.No.615 of 2024 (PB)]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Suo Moto matter in respect of news item appearing in 'The Hindu' dated 23.04.2024 titled "Concerns loom over damage to pullicat wetland as claim settlement of villages in the sanctuary begin".

... Applicant(s)

Versus

Tamil Nadu Coastal Zone Management Authority (CZMA),
Through its Member Secretary,
Chennai and Ors.

... Respondent(s)

STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR
TIRUVALLUR

I, M.Prathap, I.A.S, S/o. Thiru.Murugavanam, aged about 30 years, residing at District Collector's Camp Office at Master Plan Complex in Tiruvallur Town, Taluk and District and presently holding the post of the District Collector, Tiruvallur do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am the 3rd Respondent herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case from records available with this office.

2. It is submitted that this case been registered as a Suo Motu matter by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi as Original Application No.615 of 2024 (PB) based on the news item published in 'The Hindu' dated 23.04.2024 titled, "Concerns loom over damage to pullicat wetland as claim settlement of villages in the sanctuary begin" which has been transferred to this Bench and renumbered as Original Application No.209 of 2024 (SZ).

3. It is submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its interim order dated 23.08.2024 has directed file a report before the next date of hearing.

4. It is submitted that the Government had issued a notification u/s 18(1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972) for declaring the area specified in the schedule to be a sanctuary called "Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary" vide G.O.Ms.No.1247, Forests and Fisheries No.II(2)/FRFI/4556/80 dated:22.09.1980 published at page No:750 part II, Section 2 of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dt:15.10.1980 and Kanchipuram District Gazette No:12 Extra-Ordinary dt:25.08.98.

5. It is submitted that in the above said notification, the Pulicat Lake in Survey No.95 with an extent of 300.17.5 Hectares and surrounding 13 Villages i.e., Pulicat, Kanavanthurai, Pakkam, Avurivakkam, Sirulapakkam, Annamalaicheri, Kallur-Sirumurkuppam, Keerapakkam, Mangodu, Poongulam, Opasathiram,

Sunnambukulam and Medipalayam has been notified to be called as the Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary.

6. It is submitted that subsequently, a draft Notification U/s 21 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 had been notified by the then District Collector, Tiruvallur on 27.08.1998 for claiming any rights mentioned in section 19 of the said Act.

7. It is submitted that in order to protect the Pulicat lake bird sanctuary and its ecosystem as well as to consider the claim of the people in and around Pulicat Lake, a draft re-notification U/s 21 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been proclaimed on 29.02.2024 for claiming any rights or objections mentioned under section 19 of said Act.

8. It is submitted that the further action has to be initiated by the way of passing an order in the cases regarding claim of right in or over any land referred under Section 19, the District Collector in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden will pass an order either admitting or rejecting the same in whole or in part U/s 24 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

9. It is submitted that after all the procedures done under the Section 22 to 26 of the said act, the proposal will be sent to the Government for declaring the Pulicat Lake as a Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary U/s 26(A) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

10. It is submitted that aforesaid process of declaring the Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary U/s 26(A) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is

based on the notification published U/s 18(1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972) and G.O.Ms.No.1247, Forests and Fisheries No.II(2)/FRFI/4556/80 dated:22.09.1980 published at page No:750 part II, Section 2 of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dt:15.10.1980 and Kanchipuram District Gazette No:12 Extra-Ordinary dt:25.08.98. In the said process, there is no occurrence of act and rule violation regarding the declaration of Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary.

11. It is submitted that the declaration of the boundaries of Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary U/s 26(A) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is meant for protecting the Pulicat Lake and its Bio-diversity including species of Birds. It is also to avoid the vulnerability of the Pulicat Lake from the industrial pollutions and other external disturbances.

It is therefore humbly prayed that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai may be pleased to accept the status report and thus render justice.


District Collector,
Tiruvallur

VERIFICATION

I, Thiru.M.Prathap, I.A.S, S/o. Thiru.Murugavanam, aged about 30 years, working as District Collector, Tiruvallur, do verify that the submissions in Paragraphs 1 to 11 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge as per records

DATE: 01.11.2025


District Collector,
Tiruvallur

