

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 96 OF 2024(SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in Deccan Herald dt:08.01.2024 titled, " Over 5000 hectares of forest land in Kerala under encroachment: State forest Dept report".

-VS-

The Principal Secretary, Environment &
Forest Department, Kerala and Ors.

----Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, FOREST & WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT/2ND RESPONDENT**

Index

S.No	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Report filed by Additional Secretary, Forest Department	1-3

Dated at Chennai on this the 06th day of August,2024.

for A. Govind
6/8/24

M/s. E.K.KUMARESAN

Standing Counsel for State Government of Kerala - NGT(SZ) Chennai Bench

①

**Report on forest lands and forest encroachments in the
State of Kerala**

The forest area under the Kerala Forest Department is 11531.139 km² at the close of the year 2021-22 and forms 29.67% of the total geographical area of the State (38863km²) as against the National average of 23.24%. The extent of encroachment as per the Administration Report of Kerala Forest Department for the year 2021-22 (latest published) is 5024.535 ha. From the area indicated in the administrative Report published in 2021-2022,

1. 6.0832 ha encroachment forest land has been vacated
2. 67.6240 ha has been reduced for the cases of forest rights given under Forest Rights act 2006, vacated as per court orders and vacated by residents voluntarily.
3. 13.2348 ha of the newly identified encroachment of forest land has also been added.

As on 31.03.2024, 4975.5239 ha of encroached forest land in the State is to be vacated.

Forest Department is taking stringent action as per law, for eviction and prosecution on encroachment cases. Eviction of forest encroachments post 01.01.1977 has been declared as the policy of the State Government. Based on the above, it is reported that the Forest Department is making earnest efforts for protecting the forest lands and elimination of encroachments. As per the Administration Report from 2021-22 onwards no forest encroachment has taken place.

Law and Order problems associated with eviction of old encroachments and litigation's during cairns construction are the major impediments faced by the department in addressing the issue.

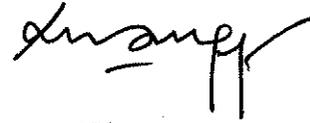
SUSAN GOPI
Additional Secretary
PEN 101464
Forest & Wildlife Department
Government Secretariat
Thiruvananthapuram
Ph : 2518245



2

Digitization of forest boundaries in collaboration with Revenue Department is also in progress and consolidating the GPS data of the cairns is also being carried on.

District and Division wise details of encroachment as on 31.03.2024 is enclosed here with.



SUSAN GOPI
Additional Secretary
PEN 101464
Forest & Wildlife Department
Government Secretariat
Thiruvananthapuram
Ph : 2518245

3

Details of encroachment of Forest (in Hectors)							
Sl.No.	Name of District	Name of Division	Details of encroachment				Total encroachment upto March 2024 District wise (In Ha)
			Protected Forest (In Ha)	Reserve Forest (In Ha)	Deemed Forest (In Ha)	Sanctuaries and protected areas(In Ha)	
Southern Circle							
1	Thiruvanantha puram	Thiruvanantha puram		0.59202			0.5920
2	Kollam	Punalur		0.97			0.97
3		Thenmala		1.9928			1.9928
4	Pathanamthitta	Konni		10.5898			10.5898
5		Ranni		1.7404			1.7404
	Total			15.8850			15.8850
High Range Circle							
6	Idukki	Munnar		1058.6597			1058.6597
7		Kothaman galam		434.0366			434.0366
8		Kottayam		105.8837			105.8837
9		Mankulam		358.4255			358.4255
10		Marayoor		0.03			0.03
11	Ernakulam	Munnar		34.931			34.931
	Total			1991.9065			1991.9665
Central Circle							
12	Thrissur	Thrissur		191.6903			191.6903
13		Chalakkudy		0.2644			0.2644
14	Ernakulam	Malayatoor		127.655			127.655
	Total			319.6097			319.6097
Eastern Circle							
15	Palakkad	Mannarkkad				635.1787	635.1787
16		Nenmara				237.6512	237.6512
17		Palakkad				37.685	37.685
18	Malappuram	Nilambur North				657.8708	657.8708
19		Nilambur South				2.12	2.12
	Total					1570.5057	1570.5057
Northern Circle							
20	Kasargod	Kasargod		7.267			7.267
21	Kannur	Kannur		40.537			40.537
22	Kozhikkod	Kozhikkode		75.429			75.429
23		TS, Kozhikkode		0.5165			0.5165
24	Wayanad	North Wayanad		230.5123			230.5123
25		South Wayanad		705.0679			705.0679
	Total			1059.3297			1059.3297
Wildlife Palakkad Circle							
26	Palakkad (Mannarkkad div)	Silentvalley				6.2985	6.2985
27	Malappuram (Nilambur South Div)	Silentvalley				5.28	5.28
28	Wayanad	Wayanad				0.6428	0.6428
29	Kannur	Aralam				2.00	2.00
	Total					14.2213	14.2213
FDPT Kottayam							
30	Idukki	Periyar Tiger Reserve East				4.006	4.006
	Total					4.006	4.006
	Grand Total			3386.7909	0.00	18.2273	1570.5057
							4975.5239


SUSAN GOPI
 Additional Secretary
 FEN 101464
 Forest & Wildlife Department
 Government Secretariat
 Thiruvananthapuram
 Ph : 2518245

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL
(SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI)**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 96
OF 2024(SZ)**

In the matter of:
Tribunal on its own motion SUO
MOTU based on the News Item in
Deccan Herald dt:08.01.2024 titled,
" Over 5000 hectares of forest land
in Kerala under encroachment: State
forest Dept report".

-VS-

The Principal Secretary,
Environment &
Forest Department, Kerala and Ors.
----Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY ADDITIONAL
SECRETARY, FOREST &
WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT/2ND
RESPONDENT**

E.K. KUMARESAN,
**Standing Counsel for Government
of kerala**

No.6, Indian Chambers (SICCI)
Annex Building, Ground Floor,
Esplanade, Chennai - 600 108.

Cell No: 94443 98701