

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI****ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 555 OF 2024****IN THE MATTER OF:**

New item titled "India Lost 2.33 Million Hectares of Tree Cover Since 2000 Global forest Watch" appearing in the Indian Express date 13.04.2024

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Date:16.09.2025
New Delhi



Filed By

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 555 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

New item titled "India Lost 2.33 Million Hectares of Tree Cover Since 2000 Global Forest Watch" appearing in the Indian Express date 13.04.2024

RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 19
STATE OF MANIPUR

I, RK. Amarjit Singh, presently serving as Special Secretary (Forests, Environment & Climate Change), Government of Manipur, on behalf of the Respondent No. 19, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That, I am currently working in the aforesaid capacity and having gone through the records of the matter I say that I am conversant with the facts of the present case and therefore I am competent to depose the present Affidavit on behalf of the State Respondent, as authorized to do so.
2. That the present Affidavit is being filed to place on record the status of forest and tree cover in the State of Manipur in compliance of the directions issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal vide Order dated 07.08.2025.
3. That it is humbly stated that a tabulated chart showing District-wise Forest Cover in Manipur reported in the India State of Forest Report 2023 published by the Forest Survey of India, Government of India is reproduced hereunder:

(S. SWAMPHABA SINGH)
Oath Commissioner (JUDICIAL)
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District	Calculated Area by Sol	2023 Assessment				% of calculated Area by Sol	Change w.r.t. 2021 Raster based	Scrub
		Very Dense forest	Mod. Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total			
Bishnupur	471.50	0.00	0.93	19.91	20.84	4.42	-1.17	2.52
Chandel	2094.75	8.41	655.83	1142.12	1806.36	86.23	-22.32	89.69
Churachandpur	2419.75	8.02	772.32	1131.42	1911.76	79.01	-78.00	122.11
Imphal East	456.75	0.00	5.68	56.76	62.44	13.67	-5.26	14.11
Imphal West	440.25	0.00	4.80	27.08	31.88	7.24	-1.49	0.67
Jiribam	115.25	0.00	25.09	90.72	115.81	74.60	-1.95	0.90
Kakching	265.25	0.00	0.84	20.17	21.01	7.92	-2.90	3.75
Kamjong	2478.75	79.48	823.63	1248.39	2151.50	86.80	-21.29	102.17
Kangpokpi	1436.25	62.56	226.67	516.25	805.48	56.08	-31.57	92.81
Noney	1265.25	21.22	548.67	535.71	1105.60	87.38	-16.79	57.71
Pherzawl	2299.75	34.99	834.24	1120.70	1989.93	86.53	-59.89	72.01
Senapati	1842.50	182.83	427.00	777.00	1386.83	75.27	81.61	112.87
Tamenglong	3143.25	390.81	1120.82	1158.14	2669.77	84.94	-38.43	106.79
Tengnoupal	1166.50	1.86	278.55	625.44	905.85	77.66	1.55	93.97
Thoubal	339.50	0.00	0.00	10.43	10.43	3.07	-0.95	2.71
Ukhrul	2051.75	113.87	492.48	983.62	1589.97	77.50	144.00	98.66
Grand Total	22327	504.05	5217.55	5217.55	16585.46	74.29	-54.83	973.65

4. That it is most respectfully submitted that the major causes responsible for loss of forest cover in the State includes the old age customary practice of shifting cultivation, illegal poppy cultivation, particularly in the 'Unclassed Forests', forest fires in the dry season, diversion of forest land for developmental projects under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, etc.
5. That It is humbly submitted that the State of Manipur is tirelessly taking necessary steps to curb the issue of loss of forest cover and encroachment such as weaning people away from the practice of shifting cultivation, plantation of food, shelter tree species, patrolling, poaching, fire line cutting, eradication of invasive species, alternate livelihood generation activities, etc. in and around the forest areas. With regard to forest fires, It

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Oath Commissioner (JUDICIAL)
Manipur Regd. No. 576/2024.



is humbly submitted that the State has prepared a State Action Plan to prevent and control forest fires. It is pertinent to mention that the number of forest fire alerts reported by the Forest Survey of India has declined from 16,619 in 2020-21 to 7,386 (2020-2021), 6,934 (2022-2023) and 8,954 (2023-2024).

6. That it is further submitted with regard to the issue of encroachment of forests that as many as 413 encroachers have been evicted from 2015 to 2023 from the Reserved Forests and Protected Forests in the State. The year-wise number of encroachers evicted from 2015 to 2023 is as under:

Year	No. of encroached evicted
2015	64
2016	58
2018	79
2019	18
2020	5
2022	116
2023	73

It is respectfully submitted that eviction of encroachers from the Reserved Forests and Protected Forests has been taken up across the entire State without discriminating between Communities.

7. That it is humbly submitted that the State Forest Department has been taking up various programs and schemes to conserve and develop the

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forest and wildlife resources. State Afforestation programs like State Plan, Green India Mission, CAMPA, Chief Minister's Green Manipur Mission, etc have taken over 12.715 ha during the last three years from 2021 to 2024.

8. That it is most respectfully submitted that due to extensive plantation and protection measures taken up by the State Government in the last few years, the growing stock of Manipur forests has increased by 24% as per the latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023 published by the Forest Survey of India, Government of India

9. That it is humbly prayed that the present Reply on behalf of the State of Manipur be taken on record.

10. That it is humbly submitted that the answering Deponent further craves leave of this Hon'ble Green Tribunal to file a Supplementary Affidavit as and when required.

Signature of the Deponent

Rk Amarjit Singh
(RK)

(RK Amarjit Singh)

Special Secretary (Forests, Evt. & CC)

Government of Manipur

Spl. Secretary
(For., Evt. & CC)
Government of Manipur

Solemnly affirmed before me on 16/9/2025
at 3:30 PM at the Court
Premises by the Deponent who identified
by Sapna Kh. Ali. The Deponent seems
to understand the contents fully well on their
being read over and explained to him.

m
16/9/2025
(S. SMAMPHABA SINGH)
Oath Commissioner (JUDICIAL)
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VERIFICATION

I, the Deponent above-named do hereby verify the contents of the foregoing Paras are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Imphal on this 16th day of September, 2025.

Signature of the Verifier

RK Amarjit Singh

(Observed)

(RK Amarjit Singh)

Special Secretary (Forests, Evt. & CC)

Government of Manipur

Spl. Secretary
(For., Evt. & CC)
Government of Manipur

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16/9/2025

(S. SWAMPHABA SINGH)

Oath Commissioner (JUDICIAL)

Manipur Regd. No. 576/2024