



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2022-23**



**East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority**  
**Department of Environment \* Government of West Bengal**







**ANNUAL REPORT  
2022-2023  
OF  
EAST KOLKATA WETLANDS  
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

**Department of Environment  
Government of West Bengal**







# CONTENTS

<b>Chapter 1: Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 East Kolkata Wetlands	
<b>Chapter 2: Composition and Functions of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA)</b>	<b>2-5</b>
2.1 Composition of the EKWMA	
2.2 Name Chairperson, Member Secretary and Chief Technical Officer of EKWMA during 2022-23	
2.3 Staff Strength of EKWMA	
2.4 Functions and Powers of the EKWMA	
2.5 Meetings of the EKWMA	
<b>Chapter 3: Major Activities of EKWMA during 2022-23</b>	<b>6-17</b>
3.1 Enforcement of East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006	
3.2 Reply to Right to Information Act	
3.3 Status of Court Cases	
3.4 Demarcation of Boundary of East Kolkata Wetlands	
3.5 Initiation of Solid Waste Management Project within East Kolkata Wetlands	
3.6 Implementation of Integrated Management Plan of East Kolkata Wetlands 2021-2026	
<b>Chapter 4: Awareness Generation Programmes</b>	<b>18-23</b>
4.1 World Wetlands Day	
4.2 Stakeholders' Workshop on East Kolkata Wetlands	
4.3 Showing pop-up message on Banglarbhumii Portal and Property Registration Portal	
4.4 Moving of LED Mounted Mobile Van	
4.5 Distribution of Leaflet and Miking	
4.6 Trips to East Kolkata Wetlands	
<b>Chapter 5: Finance</b>	<b>24-25</b>
<b>Chapter 6: West Bengal State Wetlands Authority (WBSWA)</b>	<b>26-29</b>
6.1 Composition of the WBSWA	
6.2 Name Chairperson, Vice- Chairperson and Member Secretary of WBSWA during 2022-23	
6.3 Staff Strength of WBSWA	
6.4 Functions and Powers of the WBSWA	
6.5 Meetings of the WBSWA	
<b>Chapter 7. Major Activities of WBSWA during 2022-23</b>	<b>30-32</b>



## List of Annexure

- I. Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority.
- II. Copy of the Reasoned Orders issued in the name of the Secretary, B.K.Roy Foundation
- III. Copy of the Reasoned Orders issued in the name of Md. Anarul Sardar
- IV. Copy of the letter issued in the name of Collector, North 24-Parganas.
- V. Copy of the Reasoned Orders issued in the name of the Occupiers of the land.
- VI. Copy of the Reasoned Orders issued in the name of Smt. Bandana Singh and Sri. Dukhiram Mondal.
- VII. Copy of the Reasoned Orders issued in the name of Mr. Patiram Naskar.
- VIII. List of un-disposed cases before the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta relating to East Kolkata Wetlands.
- IX. Minutes of the third meeting of West Bengal State Wetlands Authority.
- X. Copy of the Notification of the committee constituted to chalk out action plan for protection of water bodies / wetlands.

## List of Table

Table 1: List of Members of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority.

Table 2: Abstract of receipts and expenditure of the EKWMA for 2022-23.

Table 3: Budget for the year 2022-23.

Table 4: List of Members of West Bengal State Wetlands Authority.

## Front Cover and Back Cover

Front Cover: A Photograph of East Kolkata Wetlands.

Inside Front Cover: Photographs of different activities within the East Kolkata Wetlands.

Back Cover: Photographs of different activities within the East Kolkata Wetlands.

Inside Back Cover: Photographs of different activities within the East Kolkata Wetlands.



# Chapter 1

## Introduction: East Kolkata Wetlands

The residents of Kolkata are fortunate to have inherited a 12,500 ha of wetland complex (a mosaic of water bodies, agricultural, horticultural and habitation area) called East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW), situated to the east of the city. EKW is the world's largest sewage-fed pisciculture system. This kind of pisciculture practice provides survival opportunities for a large, economically underprivileged community living in this wetlands area. A traditional waste recovery system of this wetlands area saves the State exchequer from a huge capital expenditure. This wetlands complex is unique as these features are unlike to any other Wetlands / Ramsar sites in India.

The EKW saves Kolkata from inundation during heavy rains and storms as it provides a basin where the city's excess rainwater naturally drains out. Sixty percent of carbon found in the wastewater is sequestered by the plant and animal life of the wetlands. Considering the ecological and social significance, the UNESCO designated international importance to this wetlands area by adding it to the Ramsar list in 2002.



This wetlands complex has 48% of its area under water (including 260 fish farms), 27% under agriculture, 20% under habitation, 2% under horticulture and canals and 1% under landfills, out of the total 12500 ha. This wetlands area produces more than 20,000 tons of fish and more than 50,000 tons of vegetables per annum.

# Chapter 2

## Composition and Functions of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority

In order to conserve and manage this unique wetlands complex the State Government framed a specific act namely East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 [EKW(C&M) Act, 2006]. East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA), a statutory body, was formed under the Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal under Section 3 of the said Act for proper conservation and management of the EKW area. After formation of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), EKW being a Ramsar Site came under the purview of this Rules as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 was superseded by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 [Wetlands (C&M) Rules, 2017].

### 2.1 Composition of the EKWMA

In the year 2017, EKWMA was reconstituted with thirteen members' body including four expert members in the field of hydrology, fisheries, ecology and socio-economics by amendment of the sub-section 2 of the section 3 of EKW (C&M) Act, 2006.

It was decided in the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EKWMA that the Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, District Magistrates of South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas would be permanent Invitee Members of the Authority. Four expert members from the field of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, and socio-economics have been nominated for a period of three years by the State Government on 18.08.2020. Member list is given at Table 1.



**Table 1: List of Members of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority**

Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge / Minister-of-State (Independent Charge), Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal	Chairperson
Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal	Member Secretary
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Land & Land Reforms & Refuge Relief & Rehabilitation, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Irrigation and Waterways, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Tourism, Government of West Bengal	Member
Prof. Arunabha Majumder, Former Director, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health	Expert Member, Hydrology
Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board	Expert Member, Wetland Ecology
Director of Fisheries, Fisheries Department, Government of West Bengal	Expert Member, Fisheries
Prof. Debasis Das, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Political Science	Expert Member, Socio-economics

## 2.2 Name of the Chairperson, Member Secretary and Chief Technical Officer of EKWMA during 2022-23

Name of Chairperson of EKWMA	
Dr. Ratna De Nag Minister-of-State, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal	01.04.2022 to 08.08.2022
Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia Minister-in-Charge, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal	08.08.2022 to 31.03.2023
Name of Member Secretary of EKWMA	
Shri Vivek Kumar, IAS Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal	01.04.2022 to 29.08.2022
Ms. Roshni Sen, IAS Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal	29.08.2022 to 31.03.2023
Name of Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA	
Shri Kaliyamurthi Balamurugan, IFS	01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023

## 2.3 Staff Strength of EKWMA

Division	Number of Officers	Function
<b>Legal</b>	One Senior Law Officer One Technical Officer (Law) One Technical Assistant	Address all legal matters resulting from enforcement of East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 and the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017
<b>Monitoring and Research</b>	One Technical Officer One Scientific Officer (working up to June, 2022) One Field Supervisor Five Technical Assistant	Monitoring of wetlands through GIS platform and field inspection for enforcement of EKW Act and Wetlands Rules. Scientific, technical and administrative documentation
<b>Accounts</b>	Two Technical Assistant	Maintenance of accounts and preparation of financial statement of the Authority
<b>Office Support</b>	Three Peon	Office Assistance



## 2.4 Functions and Powers of the EKWMA

The EKWMA has following functions as per the EKW (C&M) Act, 2006.

- To demarcate the boundaries of the East Kolkata Wetlands.
- To take measures or make an order to stop, undo and prevent any unauthorised development project in, or unauthorised use of, or unauthorised act on, the East Kolkata Wetlands.
- To make an order directing demolition or alteration of any hoarding, frame, post, structure, etc. erected or exhibited illegally within the EKW.
- To take measures to abate pollution in the East Kolkata Wetlands and conserve its flora, fauna and biodiversity in general.
- To prepare action plans conforming to the resolutions taken and recommendations made, from time to time, under the Ramsar Convention and to update the land use maps of the East Kolkata Wetlands.
- To implement and monitor the activities specified in the action plans
- To promote research and disseminate findings of such research among the stakeholders.
- To raise awareness about the utility of the wetlands in general and the East Kolkata Wetlands in particular.
- To promote basic conservation principles like sewage fed pisciculture and eco-tourism in the East Kolkata Wetlands.
- To enforce land use control in the substantially water body oriented areas and other areas in the East Kolkata Wetlands.
- To detect changes of ecological character and in land use in the East Kolkata Wetlands.
- To establish network with other Ramsar Sites in India.

## 2.5 Meetings of the EKWMA

During the year 2022-23, 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of EKWMA was held on 03.06.2022 at the Chief Secretary's conference hall on 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Nabanna. The meeting was chaired by Shri Hari Krishna Dwivedi, Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal. A copy of the minutes of the meeting is attached in Annexure-I.

# Chapter 3

## Major Activities of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority during the year 2022-23

### 3.1. Enforcement of East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 against illegal encroachments within East Kolkata Wetlands area.

Since East Kolkata Wetlands area is in the outskirts of Kolkata, it faces several anthropogenic threats from the developers and land sharks for attempting to make rampant encroachments and illegal constructions within this wetlands area. The area of this wetlands complex overlaps with the two Municipal areas, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) and Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation (BMC). In order to protect and conserve this unique wetlands of international importance, the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority has not only been playing the pivotal role of a watchman, but also providing healing touch to the damage of the unique ecosystem of this wetlands area caused by the encroachers. EKWMA undertakes various steps as per the provisions of East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Act, 2006 to protect and conserve the vast stretch of 12,500 ha of this wetland area which are detailed below.

#### 3.1.1. Implementation of Section 11 of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006

To conserve and manage the



EKW, regular monitoring is undertaken by the staff of the EKWMA with assistance of the

concerned police authorities. Upon finding any illegal activity during regular inspection in the EKW area or upon receiving any complaint against violation of Section 9 of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Act of 2006 and Rule 4 (2) of the Wetlands (Conservation

& Management) Rules of 2017, EKWMA issues order to immediately stop the illegal activity and restore the land to its original status within a stipulated period of time at the expense of the violator, after providing him with a hearing opportunity for the sake of the principles of



natural justice and as per the provision of Section 11 of the EKW (C&M) Act, 2006. In case, any law suit is filed on being directed by the judiciary the EKWMA provides the same hearing opportunity to the violators / petitioners. During the financial year 2022-2023, the EKWMA provided hearing opportunity to the following persons:

Name of persons	Ground to provide hearing opportunity	Decision taken after hearing sessions
Sri Pradosh Kumar Janaray, Secretary, B.K. Roy Foundation	Being dissatisfied with the rejection of the application for promotion of education, healthcare, etc. by constructing a building, B.K. Roy Foundation filed a Writ Petition vide WP No. 11498 (W) of 2018. The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta disposed of the matter on 15.03.2022 with a direction to provide with an opportunity of hearing.	Reasoned order was issued with the decision of not to grant NOC for the building construction and also to abide by the prevalent laws. Copy of the Reasoned Order is attached in Annexure-II.



Name of persons	Ground to provide hearing opportunity	Decision taken after hearing seasons
Md. Anarul Sardar	Md. Anarul Sardar contested the Order issued by the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta dated 04.03.2022 in the matter of WPO no. 541/2017 regarding demolition of unauthorized construction and restoration of the water bodies at Boro Bongheri, Choto Bongheri and Rabi Ghosher Gheri in Mouza Dhapamanpur, JL No.1 under P.S. South Bidhannagar, North 24 Parganas District through Writ Petition WPA (P) No. 393 of 2022 aimed to stop excavation activities, citing the presence of cricket ground as a reason. The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta on 22.08.2022 directed EKWMA to consider his representation.	Reasoned order was issued with a decision of rejection of his representation. EKWMA also directed to Md. Anarul sardar to co-operate with the State Government to restore the subject land as per the Order of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta in the matter of WPO no. 541/2017. Copy of the Reasoned Order is attached in Annexure-III.
Mr. Nirmal Basu	Mr. Nirmal Basu made a representation alleging that fishing activity has stopped in Choto Pareshher Bheri covering 250 bighas of wetland and illegally converted to agricultural land / paddy field situated at Mouza Dhapamanpur, JL No. 1 under P.S. Bidhannagar (South), District - North 24 Parganas within the East Kolkata Wetlands and also filed a case vide	A letter was sent to the Collector, North 24 Parganas requesting to clarify how the character / mode of use of land was converted from water body to agricultural land at Choto Pareshher Bheri without permission from the EKWMA. Reply is

Name of persons	Ground to provide hearing opportunity	Decision taken after hearing seasons
	WPA(P) No. 385 of 2022. The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta ordered on 22.08.2022 to provide an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner.	awaited. Copy of the letter is attached in Annexure-IV.
The Occupiers of RS Dag No. 1407 of Mouza Dhapamanpur, JL No. 56 (previously JL No. 01), P.S.South Bidhannagar, District North 24 Parganas with Representative of Public Works Department (recorded owner) and Bidhnagar Municipal Corporation (as the land falls under the jurisdiction of BMC)	The High Court in the case of WPA(P) No. 360 of 2021 directed on 26.07.2022 to demarcate the land of RS Dag No. 1407 of Mouza Dhapamanpur, JL No. 56 (previously JL No. 01), P.S. South Bidhannagar, District - North 24 Parganas where several unauthorized constructions had been made and also directed to demolish the illegal constructions.	Reasoned order was issued with a direction to the occupiers of the land to demolish the illegal constructions and restore the subject land to its previous status. Copy of the Reasoned Order is attached in Annexure-V.
Md. Firoj Khan @ Mini Firoj	Several unauthorized construction were made at West Chowbaga under P.S. Anandapur, Dist. 24 Parganas (South).	A letter was issued to PS Anandapur to identify the actual violators of the seventeen unauthorised constructions.

Name of persons	Ground to provide hearing opportunity	Decision taken after hearing seasons
Mr. Manoj Kumar Sharma and Mrs. Sunita Sharma	An unauthorised two storey building and two unauthorised boundary walls including one plastic recycle unit were constructed at part of RS Dag Nos. 1147, 1148 & 1149, Mouza- Dhapa, JL No. 2 under P.S. Anandapur, KMC Ward No. 108.	Complaint lodged with Anandapur Police Station for take action as per law.
Smt. Bandana Singh and Sri Dukhiram Mondal	Construction of a bridge was undertaken over Bidyadhari 2 No. Khal nearest to bantala bazar, at RS Dag no. 1622/1796 and 1622/1797, Mouza Dhapa, JL no. 2, PS Anandapur, Kolkata Municipal Corporation Ward no. 108, Dist. South 24 Parganas.	Reasoned Order was issued with a direction to demolish the said bridge and restore the land to its previous status. Failing compliance of the order, KMC was requested to demolish the said bridge and restore the land to its original character. Copy of the Reasoned Order is attached in Annexure-VI.
Mr. Patiram Naskar	Erection of a mobile tower at RS Dag No. 398, Khatian No. 523, Mouza-Hadia, J.L.No. 5, PS Kolkata Leather Complex, Dist. South 24 Parganas.	Reasoned Order was issued with a direction to remove the illegal telecom tower and restore the subject land to its previous status. Upon non-compliance of the order, District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas was requested



Name of persons	Ground to provide hearing opportunity	Decision taken after hearing seasons
		to demolish the said mobile tower and restore the land to its original character. Copy of the Reasoned Order is attached in Annexure-VII.

### 3.1.2 Implementation of Section 18 of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006

In case of failure to act on any order issued by EKWMA or contravenes any provisions of the EKW (C&M) Act of 2006, EKWMA lodges complaint with the local police station to take action in accordance with Section 18 of the EKW(C&M) Act, 2006. Up to March 2023, 487 complaints with various police stations have been lodged by the EKWMA against the violations of the afore-said law; while during this financial year 42 complaints have been lodged.

### 3.1.3. Demolition of Unauthorized Constructions and Restoration of Water Body

As per the provision of Section 11 of EKW(C&M) Act, 2006 or as per direction of the Hon'ble Courts, EKWMA issues order against the violators with the direction to demolish the illegal construction and restore the land to its previous condition at his own cost. Failing which, EKWMA undertakes the demolition / restoration work it-self and recovers the cost thereof as arrears of land-revenue. During this financial year, following demolition and restoration works have been carried out within the EKW area:

- i) After getting information about illegal construction of concrete wall for the purpose of making bridge over a canal namely Ghosher Khal at Mouza- Dhapamanpur by obstructing natural sewage flow of the canal, EKWMA lodged complaint with South Bidhannagar Police Station. On 11.03.2022, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in the matter of O.A. No.

78/2016/EZ directed Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to demolish illegal concrete wall at Ghosher Khal. Accordingly, BMC has demolished the above said construction on April, 2022.

ii) EKWMA noticed that two unauthorized boundary walls including a plastic recycle unit had been constructed at part of RS Dag no. 1147, Mouza Dhapa, JL no. 2, under PS Anandapur, KMC Ward No. 108. Accordingly, EKWMA pasted a notice on the alleged walls directing to stop work and



restoring the subject land to its original character. Failing the afore-mentioned order, EKWMA lodged complaint with Anandapur Police Station against unauthorized construction of boundary walls and requested the KMC to demolish the above said boundary walls. The work for demolition was done in July, 2022 in presence of the EKWMA and the KMC officials.

iii) On noticing that an unauthorized three storey building has been constructed by filling up of water bodies namely Baro Bongheri, Choto Bongheri and Robi Ghosher Bheri at Mouza Dhapamanpur under North 24 Parganas District, EKWMA served a notice with a direction to stop work immediately and lodged complaint with South Bidhannagar Police Station. As per Section 11 of the EKW(C&M) Act, 2006 and direction of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta in the matter of WPO no. 541/2017, EKWMA issued an order with a direction upon the violators to demolish the three storey building within one month. Due to non-compliance with this direction, EKWMA requested District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas to demolish the three storey building. The demolition work was done in March, 2022. After that, EKWMA requested Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation to restore the said water bodies. A

fund of Rs. 1,99,94,738/- was released by Environment Department directly in favour of the BMC for the restoration work. The work of restoration of the water bodies was completed in November, 2022.



### **3.2. Reply to Right to Information Act**

The basic objective of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI) is to empower the citizens, promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government and make the democracy work for the people in real sense. It mandates timely response to public queries for Government information. Being a 'Public Authority', the EKWMA is under obligation to furnish information sought for in various RTI applications that are received. During the year 2022-2023, 48 applications have been received and subsequently replied to the people.

### **3.3. Status of Court Cases**

Several civil suits are filed before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court and the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata against violations that have occurred under the EKW(C&M)Act, 2006 and the Wetlands (C&M) Rules, 2017 as well as challenging the provisions of said Act and Rules. Upto March, 2022, cases filed before the NGT are disposed of and 35 cases filed before the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta are pending. The list of pending cases before the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta is annexed in Annexure-VIII.



### 3.4. Initiation of Solid Waste Management Project within East Kolkata Wetlands

Solid Waste Management Project at Kheadaha II Gram Panchayat and Bamanghata Gram Panchayat was finalized after getting administrative and financial approval from Department of Environment. This project is in convergence mode with Panchayat and Rural



Development Department. Two Civil Society Organisations namely, Amra Susama Jalprapat and BITAN Institute of Training Awareness and Networking were engaged as anchor for sensitizing the local community to run this project. The work of Solid Waste Management Project is presently ongoing.

### 3.5. Demarcation of Boundary of East Kolkata Wetlands

It is mentioned in Section 4(1) (a) of East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 that the boundary of East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) is to be demarcated. To comply with this, ground truthing was done in co-operation with DL&LRO of North and South 24 Parganas in the whole EKW area except the area under ATM Kasba block. After



finalization of the waypoints, it was decided that physical demarcation would be done by erecting pillars at a certain interval in the same manner as is done for demarcating forest boundary.

Furthermore, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in the matter of O.A. 32/2019 directed that the boundary of the East Kolkata Wetlands area has to be demarcated by erection of pillars. In compliance with the direction and Section 4(1) (a) of EKW(C&M) Act, 2006, EKWMA started erection of monolith pillars for demarcation the EKW boundary with the help of North and South 24-Parganas District Administrations. Till date 1048 monolith pillars have been erected along the boundary of the EKW.

### **3.6. Implementation of Integrated Management Plan (IMP) of East Kolkata Wetlands 2021-2026**

East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority was created to maintain ecological character of East Kolkata Wetlands and in doing so, retaining those essential ecological and hydrological functions which ultimately enable the wetland to provide its provisioning, regulating and cultural services. Having a system to describe, monitor and detect changes in ecological character is, therefore, critical to support decision making for wise use of this Ramsar Site. It is equally important to assess effectiveness of management in terms of ability to develop and implement an integrated planning, management and evaluation system to secure wise use of the wetland. To reach this purpose, an Integrated Management Plan of East Kolkata Wetlands (Management Action Plan 2021-2026) had been prepared as per the guidelines of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic-ecosystem (NPCA). The current version of the IMP describes a monitoring framework for the EKW to support integrated management and wise use of this wetland. The IMP was approved by the Government of West Bengal and by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) with the sanction of Rs. 66.359 Crore. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the Central Government share of 60% and the State Government share of 40%. The budget allocation for the 1st year is Rs. 9.995 Crore. Both the Central and the State Governments have released 25% of their respective shares for the 1st year. Execution of work for the 1st year has started, which is briefly described below.



## i. Stake holders' Workshop:

East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority organized a Stakeholders' Workshop to understand the challenges faced by local community of EKW and to discuss the work plan of the IMP of EKW by



engaging local community. The workshop held on 13.01.2023 at Biswa Bangla Milan Mela Prangan, Kolkata. Brief of the workshop is described in Chapter 4.2.

## ii. Celebration of World Wetlands Day:



On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023 EKWMA celebrated World Wetlands Day at Bantala lockgate. The programme is elaborated in Chapter 4.1.

## iii. Studies on Bio-accumulation of Heavy Metal in fishes and vegetables grown within East Kolkata Wetlands :

Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management (IESWM) has earlier conducted studies on contamination of heavy metals in vegetables and fishes in different District of the

State. Accordingly, EKWMA has engaged IESWM to conduct a study on contamination of heavy metals in vegetables and fishes grown in EKW area.

#### **iv. Canal De-siltation Programme:**

The water bodies (called bheries) of this wetland complex area are connected to several major and minor canals which carry sewage water to the bheries. For this reason, canals of EKW



get silted very fast which affects the production of fishes as well as livelihood of local community. To overcome this problem, Water Resources Investigation and Development Department (WRI&DD) was approached for de-siltation of fourteen canals in the EKW area to maintain optimum water

level in the bheries. The work for de-siltation of canals is under process.

#### **v. Excavation / De-siltation of bheries within East Kolkata Wetlands**

Pisciculture in EKW sustains on regular supply of sewage water. Due to this reason, sewage water supply is essential for the bheries which however get silted very fast. To resolve this issue, de-siltation of bheries within EKW area is necessary. In this regard, State Fisheries Development Corporation submitted a proposal for de-siltation of four ponds under their control, which are situated at Nalban Bheri area. EKWMA agreed with this proposal and decided to provide financial support.

Besides that, EKWMA has attempted to start the works on Asian Water Bird Census, Erection of signages, Establishment of Nature Interpretation Centre, Assessment of production of fishes and vegetables and its diseases, eradication of invasive fish species, promotion of indigenous fishes, etc.

# Chapter 4

## Awareness Generation Programmes

East Kolkata Wetlands is situated just adjacent to the metropolitan city Kolkata. Due to the huge pressure of urbanization, the EKW is under tremendous stress of encroachment. The human settlement pressure affects not only the water bodies of the EKW, but also its unique biodiversity. Most of the time, common people encroach the land in EKW due to lack of information about the importance of EKW as well as about the activities prohibited under East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Act, 2006 and Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. As per existing Act and Rules, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority has power to take measures to generate awareness within the stakeholders and local community on values and functions of wetlands. Following steps have been carried out in this regard:

### 4.1 Celebration of World Wetlands Day

In the year 2023, the theme for the World Wetlands Day was “wetland restoration”. In light of this, EKWMA celebrated the World Wetlands Day along with People United for Better Living in Calcutta (PUBLIC, an NGO). The students of La Martiniere for Girls school and



National Institute of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), West Bengal took part in this occasion. The programme was organized at Bantala lockgate area of East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW).



During the occasion, the students were apprised of the importance of the unique ecosystem of EKW. The students were informed that there are several endangered faunal and floral species in this wetlands area.

At the end of the event, the students were taken for a walk along the bheries of Bantala area. The students interacted with the local fishermen and came to know about the traditional pisciculture system.

## 4.2. Stakeholders' Workshop on East Kolkata Wetlands



East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority organized a Stakeholders' Workshop on 13.01.2023 to address the challenges faced by the fishermen and farmers community of the East Kolkata Wetlands and to discuss the work plan of the IMP of EKW by engaging local community.

The Workshop was organized at the conference hall of Biswa Bangla Milan Mela Prangan, Kolkata. Sri Manas Ranjan Bhunia, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Environment Department inaugurated the workshop by lighting lamp.

On the same day, the celebration of World Wetland Day, 2023 also began. EKWMA invited officials of the concerned departments, NGOs working on the EKW and representatives of local communities to participate in the workshop.

EKWMA also roped in all the key Government Departments on one platform in the workshop, with the aim to listen from the local community about the day-to-



day challenges being faced by them in fish and vegetable farming and their livelihood and to resolve these issues through involvement of concerned departments for sustainable management and conservation of East Kolkata Wetlands.

### 4.3. Showing pop-up message on Banglarbhumii Portal and Property Registration Portal

Due to the proximity to Kolkata, ordinary people have purchased land in EKW area with the intention of constructing building for residential and commercial purpose without the knowledge of it being a prohibited activity within the EKW area. To overcome this issue and enforce the prohibition on conversion of land use / change of character of land / construction of permanent nature within 37 Mouzas of East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) area, it was decided in the thirtieth meeting of EKWMA that an online flag / pop-up message would be incorporated in the existing property Registration Portal and Banglarbhumii Portal. Accordingly, EKWMA has requested the Land and Land Reforms and Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department and Finance Department in this regard. An online pop-up message has been incorporated in Banglarbhumii Portal by L&LR Dept and in property Registration Portal by Finance Department for mouzas within EKW.



#### 4.4. Moving LED-Mounted Mobile Van

To attract public attention and educate general people, an audio-visual message on importance of East Kolkata Wetlands was prepared. During this financial year, two LED mounted mobile vans displaying the above said audio-visual message travelled within EKW and its surrounding area from June, 2022 to August, 2022.



#### 4.5. Distribution of Leaflet and Miking

Fishing Cat (Baghrole) is the State Animal of West Bengal and EKW is a habitat of the Fishing Cat. It is an endangered species and the month of



February has been declared as Fishing Cat Month. This is an opportunity to take initiatives for protection of fishing cat along with the wetlands and its eco-system. In this regard, EKWMA distributed leaflet and carried out miking for protection of fishing cat as well as East Kolkata Wetlands in association with People United for Better Living In Calcutta (PUBLIC).

## 4.6. Trips to East Kolkata Wetlands

**4.6.1. Cycling Trip:** On the occasion of World Environment Day a cycling trip was organized on 04.06.2022 in collaboration with Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The objective of the trip was to highlight the importance of wetlands being Ramsar site to an audience which was not much aware of its



intrinsic value. The trip was started from New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) and ended at Chaker bheri. Sixty persons participated in this trip.

**4.6.2. Indian Audit and Accounts Department, Regional Training Institute, Kolkata:** A field trip was arranged on 22.06.2022 for the Group-B officers of Indian Audit and Accounts Department. This trip was a part of Mid-Career Training Programme on Environment Audit. Around 20-25 officers participated in the field trip.







**4.6.3. Centre for Urban Science and Engineering, IIT, Bombay:** Ms. Swati Lokhonde Ph.D. student of Centre for Urban Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay came to visit EKW to understand the mechanism of resource recovery practice from sewage-fed aqua-culture. Field staff of EKWMA took

her to visit EKW on 30.06.2022 and described the traditional pisciculture practice and sewage flow system within the EKW area.

**4.6.4. Santoshpur Vidyamandir for Boys School:** One field trip was organized for the students of Santoshpur Vidyamandir for Boys School on 09.03.2023 to gather knowledge about the waste management system of EKW and its Bio-diversity. Forty two students along with their teachers attended this trip.



# Chapter 5

## Finances

Abstracts of receipts and expenditure, and Budget Estimate of EKWMA for the period of 2022-2023 are given below:

**Table 2: Abstract of receipts and expenditure of the EKWMA for 2022-23**

Financial Year	Name of Head	Opening Balance (Rs.)	Receipts (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)	Closing Balance (Rs.)
2022 – 2023	3435-03-102-002-36-00	81,693.00	45,75,000.00	42,62,483.00	3,94,210.00
	3435-03-102-002-31-02	0.00	35,53,000.00	30,20,938.00	5,32,062.00
	3435-03-101-008-35-00	0.00	1,49,92,500.00	30,10,000.00	1,19,82,500.00
	3435-03-101-009-35-00	0.00	99,95,000.00	10,53,100.00	89,41,900.00
	3435-03-003-001-31-02	0.00	53,10,000.00	53,10,000.00	0.00
	3435-04-103-004-31-02	11,800.00	0.00	0.00	11,800.00
	3435-04-800-002-31-02	17,65,000.00	0.00	5,06,200.00	12,58,800.00
	3435-03-003-002-31-02	9,00,000.00	0.00	0.00	9,00,000.00

**Table 3: Budget for the year 2022-23**

Financial Year	Name of Head	Budget Estimate (Rs.)
2022 – 2023	3435-03-102-002-36-00	73,50,000.00
	3435-03-102-002-31-02	76,00,000.00
	3435-03-101-008-35-00	10,00,00,000.00
	3435-03-101-009-35-00	4,00,00,000.00





# Chapter 6

## West Bengal State Wetlands Authority (WBSWA)

West Bengal State Wetlands Authority (WBSWA) has been constituted under Rule 5(1) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India. The WBSWA was first constituted in October, 2017.

### 6.1 Composition of the West Bengal State Wetlands Authority (WBSWA)

The WBSWA is a twenty members' body including five expert members in the field of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socio-economics. Five expert members have been re-nominated by the State Government for a period of three years in March, 2022. Member list is given at Table 4.

**Table 4: List of Members of West Bengal State Wetlands Authority**

Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge / Minister-of-State (Independent Charge), Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal	Chairperson
Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal	Vice Chairperson
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal	Member Secretary
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Forests, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Water Resources Investigation & Development, Government of West Bengal	Member

Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Irrigation and Waterways, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Tourism, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Science & Technology & Bio-Technology, Government of West Bengal	Member
Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, Department of Land & Land Reforms & Refuge Relief & Rehabilitation, Government of West Bengal	Member
Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal	Member
Member Secretary, West Bengal Biodiversity Board	Member
Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board	Member
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office of MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar	Member
Chief Environment Officer, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal	Member
Dr. Subir Ghosh, Member of IUCN and IWGS	Expert Member, Wetland Ecology
Prof. Gopinath Bhandari, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Jadavpur University	Expert Member, Hydrology
Dr. Srikanta Samanta, Head, Riverine and Estuarine Fisheries Division, CIFRI	Expert Member, Fisheries
Prof. Sumana Bandyopadhyay, Professor, Department of Geography, Calcutta University	Expert Member, Landscape Planning
Prof. Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan, Head, Department of Geography, Jadavpur University	Expert Member, Socio-economics

## 6.2 Name of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Member Secretary of WBSWA during 2022-23

Name of Chairperson of WBSWA	
Dr. Ratna De Nag Minister-of-State, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal	01.04.2022 to 08.08.2022
Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia Minister-in-Charge, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal	08.08.2022 to 31.03.2023)
Name of Vice Chairperson of WBSWA	
Shri Hari Krishna Dwivedi, IAS Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal	01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023
Name of Member Secretary of WBSWA	
Shri Vivek Kumar, IAS Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal.	01.04.2022 to 29.08.2022
Smt. Roshni Sen, IAS Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal	29.08.2022 to 31.03.2023

## 6.3 Staff strength of WBSWA

It was decided in the first meeting of WBSWA that the staffs of EKWMA will provide secretariat support to WBSWA. Accordingly, the staffs of EKWMA are also carrying out the work of the West Bengal State Wetlands Authority in addition to their normal duties.

## 6.4 Functions and Powers of the WBSWA

The State Wetlands Authority has following functions as per the Wetlands (C&M) Rules.

- To prepare a list of all wetlands of West Bengal.
- To prepare a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands and upload the same on a dedicated web portal to be developed by the Central Government.
- To prepare list of wetlands to be notified.

- To prepare brief documents of identified wetlands and recommend for regulation under the Wetlands (C&M) Rules, 2017.
- To develop a comprehensive list of activities to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and its zone of influence.
- To ensure enhancement of the Wetlands (C&M) Rules, 2017.
- To generate awareness within the stakeholders and local community on values and functions of wetlands.
- To prepare an Integrated Management Plan of each notified wetlands for conservation and wise use of these wetlands considering traditional practices of those wetlands to maintain the ecological character of the wetland. Promotional activities of the stakeholders and local community are included in the Integrated Management Plan.

## 6.5 Meetings of the WBSWA

During 2022-23, 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of WBSWA was held on 03.06.2022 at the Chief Secretary's conference hall at 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Nabanna. The meeting was chaired by Shri Hari Krishna Dwivedi, Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal. Minutes of the meeting is attached in Annexure-IX.



# Chapter 7

## Major Activities of West Bengal State Wetlands Authority during the year 2022-23

### **Back ground:**

After formation of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, the West Bengal State Wetlands Authority has from time to time discussed regarding implementation of the Central Wetlands Rules.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has provided direction on 08.02.2017 in the matter of *M.K. Balakrishnan & Others* to prepare brief documents of the wetlands with an area of more than 2.25ha identified in the National Wetlands Inventory & Assessment Project (NWIA).

On 24.11.2021 the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta ordered the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal being the Vice-Chairman of the State Wetlands Authority to get all wetlands of the State identified.

The Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench directed all the States on 25.11.2021 in the matter of *Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs. State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.* to map all available wetlands apart from 2,01,503 wetlands identified in *M.K. Balakrishnan & Ors.* and prepare an exhaustive inventory for protection of wetlands, and also submit the same to National Wetland Authority.

Further, in the matter of *People United for Better Living in Calcutta (PUBLIC) & Anothers Vs. The Union of India & Others*, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench directed on 09.05.2022 that for protection of the wetlands, water bodies and flood plains in the entire State of West Bengal, consistent with the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *M.K. Balakrishnan & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Ors.* A



Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, West Bengal was constituted by Hon'ble NGT to oversee compliance of the said Order.

For compliance of the above said direction, it was decided in the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of WBSWA held on 03.06.2022 that a Technical Committee would be constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kalyan Rudra along with the representatives of Department of Fisheries, Land and Land Reforms and Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation, Water Resources Investigation and Development, Science and Technology and Bio-Technology, Panchayat and Rural Development, Public Health Engineering, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management to chalk out Action Plan for protection of water bodies / wetlands. Accordingly, a notification was issued vide no. 153-IESWM/4E-174/2022-23(525) dated 12.08.2022. A copy of the notification is attached in Annexure-X.

The Technical Committee has forwarded a pro-forma of Action Plan to all District Magistrates with a request to confirm the timeline to complete the work mentioned in the action plan to WBSWA and follow the work plan in time bound manner.

During this financial year, following activities had been undertaken:

### **1. Preparation of an inventory of the wetlands within West Bengal:**

In the National Wetlands Atlas, 2010 prepared by the MoEF&CC, the total number of wetlands mapped in West Bengal is 1,47,826 including 1,38,707 wetlands smaller than 2.25 ha and 8911 wetlands bigger than 2.25 ha (excluding rivers). An inventory of 8,911 wetlands with an area of 2.25 ha and above has been prepared.

### **2. Geo-tagging of the wetlands:**

The work of geo-tagging of all the said 8,911 wetlands of the West Bengal with an area of 2.25 ha and above with Unique Identification Number has been started by Fisheries Department.

### 3. Preparation of Brief documents:

- a) IESWM was engaged for preparation of brief documents of 23 wetlands with an area of more than 500 ha.
- b) Kalyani University has been assigned for preparation brief documents for 221 wetlands with an area of 10 ha or above.
- c) Preparation of brief documents of the rest of the wetlands has being given to the respective district administrations.





**Government of West Bengal  
Department of Environment**

**Minutes of the meeting of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority held on 03.06.2022 in the Chief Secretary's Conference Room, Nabanna, Government of West Bengal**

The list of participants is given in the Annexure.

Chief Secretary, West Bengal chaired the meeting.

1. Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department briefed the members about the background, significance, Act and Rules relating to the East Kolkata Wetlands, different initiatives and actions taken by the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA).
2. East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) located on the eastern fringes of Kolkata comprising an area of 12,500 hectares are the largest assemblage of sewage-fed fish ponds comprising around 250 water bodies across the districts of South and North 24 Parganas covering a total of 37 mouzas (30 full and 7 part) with a resident population of nearly 1,50,000 people. It is a mosaic of water bodies, agricultural land and homestead/settlements.
3. The shallow ponds of EKW, naturally recycle 910 Million Litres per Day (MLD) of sewage water generated from Kolkata city through phyto-remediation process. For this natural filtration process, the EKW deserves the description of being '**Kolkata's kidneys**'. The natural wastewater purification system obviates the need for setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) thus saving substantial capital and recurring expenditure. EKW produces 22 thousand tonnes of fish per year, 150 tonnes of vegetables per day and 16,0000 metric tonnes of paddy per annum. EKW is a part of Kolkata's lung system as a large amount of carbon sequestration takes place in the wetlands. EKW reduce the urban heat island effect. It soaks the excess rain water during monsoon and prevents the city from flooding. EKW also serves as the excellent ground water recharge system. EKW supports rich biodiversity and a total of 1925 species have been recorded.



4. In 2002, EKW was designated as a Ramsar site for being “wetlands of international importance”. EKWMA is the nodal Government authority mandated to ensure wise use of the wetland within the regulatory framework defined by the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006.

5. **Initiatives/ Actions taken by the EKWMA**

- a) EKWMA has prepared a five-year Integrated Management Plan (IMP) as per the guidelines of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA). The total estimated budget of IMP is Rs 110.72 crores phased over a period of 5 years with the State’s share of 40% and Central share of 60%. The IMP has been submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for release of fund. So far, after a rigorous and transparent screening process, nine organisations have been empanelled for implementation of different components of the IMP.
- b) In terms of enforcement actions, EKWMA has, till date, filed 358 FIRs against violations and also undertaken demolition of illegal structures from time to time.
- c) Environment Department has sanctioned Rs 1.98 crore to the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation to undertake re-excavation of Bonghery Beel which had been unauthorisedly filled up to restore the original character of the land.
- d) For the first time, boundary demarcation on the ground has been undertaken to demarcate the EKW area physically by erecting pillars. 400 boundary pillars have already been erected at Mouza Garal, Samukpota, Nayabad, Kantipota, Ranabhutia, Atghara, Mukundapur, Jagatipota, Bhagawanpur, Karimpur, ChakKalar Khal, Nonaganga, Chowbaga of South 24 Parganas and DhapaManpur of North 24 Parganas.
- e) For the first time, afforestation drives have also been started in EKW area. The West Bengal Forest Development Corporation has completed the planting of 5269 saplings during 2021-22 covering the areas of Bamanghata, Kheadaha 1 and Tardaha Gram Panchayats at a total cost of Rs. 1.02 crore provided by the Environment Department, Government of West Bengal.
- f) For continuous awareness generation and public education on the need to protect EKW areas from encroachments and conversion, etc., two LED-mounted mobile vans have been deployed. To involve the general public, EKWMA has also conducted study tours and involved young volunteers as ‘Wetland Mitras’ for conducting awareness on related issues.




- g) During 2021, EKWMA along with the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has published the Biodiversity Profile of East Kolkata Wetlands. As per the latest surveys, a total of 1925 species (637 species of flora and 1288 species of fauna) have been recorded in EKW.
  - h) EKWMA has coordinated with Water Resources Investigation & Development Department (WRIDD) and caused a survey of 17 canals (49.41 km) within EKW. Execution works of 2 canals, namely Bidyadhari-I and Tihuria have already been started by WRIDD.
6. Action taken by the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation (BMC) for Solid Waste Management of MollarBheri: Dumping of household/ municipal waste at MollarBheri site has been completely stopped by BMC and New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA). Boundary around the MollarBheri comprising an area of 15.86 acres has been completed with *ballah* pilling and drum sheet walling. Land reclamation through bio-mining has started on the site from February, 2021 with two trommels and is expected to be completed by March, 2023.
  7. Action taken by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) for Solid Waste Management at Dhapa dumpsite: At the State's oldest municipal waste dumpsite at Dhapa, a part has been successfully closed and capped by the Environment Department. The total estimated legacy waste accumulation in Dhapa dumpsite was approximately 40 lakh MT out of which 3.25 lakh MT of legacy waste has been mined and stabilized by spraying bio-culture. A compost plant with 500 TPD capacity, a plastic processing plant with 2 TPD capacity and 300 KLD capacity leachate treatment plants are in operation at Dhapa dumpsite.
  8. After the presentation/ discussions on the points mentioned above, the directions of the Hon'ble NGT on East Kolkata Wetlands, issued from time to time, were discussed. These are:
    - i. *To review the manner of disposal of sewage as well as the use of treated sewage for pisciculture, encroachments by concrete structures, and removal of illegal polluting units on Basanti Highway.*
    - ii. *Regular monitoring of water quality of wetlands and water bodies and stringent standards should be applied for any discharge in the water.*
    - iii. *Demarcation of boundary of East Kolkata Wetlands within stipulated time.*
    - iv. *A Monitoring Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, West Bengal may meet at least once a month and place its minutes on the website of the WBPCB.*
  9. After detailed deliberations, the following decisions were taken:

- a) Since large quantities of fish and vegetables are being produced in EKW for supply to Kolkata market, West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) will regularly monitor the water quality of EKW's water bodies at different locations to ascertain if the level of sewage being discharged is optimal/ commensurate with EKW's natural filtration capacity. WBPCB shall submit this report to the Member Secretary, EKWMA on a monthly basis. The Institute of Environment Sciences and Wetland Management (IESWM) will also undertake similar studies on a regular basis for ascertaining the fish and horticultural produce from EKW is safe for human consumption.
- b) KMC and BMC shall review, monitor and remove encroachments within EKW regularly with the assistance of the police authorities. For removal of illegal polluting units on Basanti Highway, WBPCB will take similar action, with the assistance of the authorities concerned.
- c) It has been seen that in spite of the legal restriction on construction activity in EKW, some Gram Panchayats are issuing building permission for minor roads, culverts, buildings, etc in violation of the rules. It was decided that like in the past, the Panchayats and Rural Development Department will re-circulate an order prohibiting the panchayat bodies (concerned Zilla Parishads/ Panchayat Samitis/ Gram Panchayats of North and South 24 Parganas) from issuing approval (including online clearances, if any) for any construction activities within EKW, without prior clearance from EKWMA. The same advice shall apply to the KMC and BMC authorities in respect of the areas falling under them.
- d) Environment Department will pursue MoEF&CC for early release of funds for the implementation of the EKW Integrated Management Plan. In the meanwhile, funds available under the Environment Department's regular budget may be utilised. For maximum public participation in its implementation, the organisations selected by EKWMA through a transparent process may be utilised; efforts must also be made to involve self-help groups, wherever possible.
- e) To effectively enforce the prohibition on conversion of land use/ change of character of land/ construction of permanent nature within the 37 mouzas of EKW, an online flag/pop up message will be incorporated in the existing property Registration Portal by the Finance Department, and in the Banglarbhumi portal by the Land and Land Reforms and Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department (as has been done for lands of Tea Gardens and tribal lands). Such a facility will forewarn/ caution the buyers of land about lands falling under the notified boundaries of EKW and the restrictions on change of character of land/ conversion/ large-scale construction activities.

- f) The Water Resource Investigation and Development Department (WRIDD) will undertake the periodic de-siltation / re-excavation of the canals in EKW and surrounding areas, to ensure that the maintenance of the optimum level of water conducive to pisciculture and overall wetland management.
- g) EKWMA will publish advertisements in print and electronic media from time to time as well as on social media handles to make the public aware on the environmental importance of preserving EKW as well as the prohibition on land conversion and permanent construction within EKW. It will continue other measures for extensive awareness generation on the need to protect and conserve EKW.
- h) Since the concrete boundary pillars being erected by the district administrations of South and North 24 Parganas to demarcate EKW areas are small (not noticeable in the public eye) and of destructible nature, it was decided that high-mast steel signages of indestructible nature (as seen on National Highways) will be installed by Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) beginning with the locations/ sites that are most vulnerable to encroachments; since this expenditure is towards environment protection, funding could be provided by WBPCB (from the proceeds collected/deposited as Environmental Compensation by different project proponents/agencies in terms of orders of NGT or any other related fund).
- i) A copy of these minutes shall be placed on the website of EKWMA and Department of Environment.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to and from the chair.



[H. K. Dwivedi]  
Chief Secretary  
Govt. of West Bengal





**Government of West Bengal  
Department of Environment**

**Annexure**

The following persons attended the meeting of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority held on 03.06.2022 in the Chief Secretary's Conference Room, Nabanna, Government of West Bengal:

- 1) Shri H. K. Dwivedi, Chief Secretary, West Bengal and Vice-Chairperson, State Wetlands Authority (SWA) and Member, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA)
- 2) Shri Debasish Sen, Chairman, New Town Kolkata Development (NKDA)
- 3) Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board and Expert Member, EKWMA
- 4) Shri Vivek Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Environment Department and Member Secretary, SWA & EKWMA, and ACS, Forest Department and Member, SWA & EKWMA
- 5) Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board and Member, SWA
- 6) Dr. Manoj Pant, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department and Member, SWA
- 7) Shri Debal Roy, Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal and Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
- 8) Shri Prabhat Kumar Mishra, Principal Secretary, Irrigation and Waterways Department and Member, SWA & EKWMA and Principal Secretary, Water Resources Investigation & Development Department and Member, SWA
- 9) Shri Anoop Kumar Agarwal, Principal Secretary, Science and Technology and Biotechnology Department and Member, SWA
- 10) Shri Khalil Ahmed, Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department and Member, SWA
- 11) Shri Binod Kumar, Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) and Invitee Member, EKWMA
- 12) Shri Onkar Singh Meena, Principal Secretary, Public Works Department
- 13) Smt. Neelam Meena, Secretary, Environment Department (Attended through V.C.)
- 14) Smt. Smaraki Mahapatra, Secretary, Land and Land Reforms Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department and Member, SWA & EKWMA



- 15) Shri K. Balamurugan, Chief Environment Officer, Environment Department and Member, SWA
- 16) Dr. P. Ulaganathan, District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas and Invitee Member, EKWMA
- 17) Shri Ajoy Sanyamath, Senior Special Secretary, L&LR and RR&R Department
- 18) Smt. Tripti Sah, Member Secretary, West Bengal Biodiversity Board and Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
- 19) Shri Sumit Gupta, District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas and Invitee Member, EKWMA
- 20) Smt. Nandini Ghosh, Joint Secretary, UD&MA Department
- 21) Shri Sujay Sarkar, Commissioner, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation (BMC)
- 22) Smt. Shanta Pradhan, Special Secretary, Tourism Department (Representative of Principal Secretary and Member, EKWMA)
- 23) Shri Supriya Ghoshal, Director, State Urban Development Agency (SUDA)
- 24) Shri Joly Chaudhuri, Additional Secretary, UD&MA Department and Additional Director, SUDA
- 25) Prof. Waikom Viswanath, Member, National Wetlands Committee and representative, MoEF&CC (Attended through V.C.)
- 26) Shri M.K. Biswas, Regional Director, Central Pollution Control Board (Attended through V.C.)
- 27) Dr Subir Ghosh, Member, IUCN and Expert Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
- 28) Prof. Gupinath Bhandari, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Jadavpur University and Expert Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
- 29) Prof. Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan, Head, Department of Geography, Jadavpur University and Expert Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
- 30) Prof. Sumana Bandyopadhyay, Professor, Department of Geography, Calcutta University and Expert Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
- 31) Dr Srikanta Samanta, Head, Riverine and Estuarine Fisheries Division, CIFRI and Expert Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.).
- 32) Shri Prantik Ray, Chief Engineer, Ganga Action Plan, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority
- 33) Dr. Tapas Kumar Gupta, Chief Technical Advisor, WBPCB (Attended through V.C.)
- 34) Shri Sukdeb Das, Senior Law Officer, UD&MA Department
- 35) Smt. Paushali Pahari, Senior Law Officer, Environment Department



**Government of West Bengal  
Department of Environment**

Annexure II

**East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority**

Pranisampad Bhaban, 5th Floor, LB - 2, Sector - III, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700106

Ph.: 91-33-2335 3003, Fax: 91-33-2335 6403

No: 206/CTO/EN/420/2017-2018(Form-1)

Date: 27.05.2022

**Reasoned Order**

In compliance with the Order dated 15.03.2022 of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta communicated to this office on 30.03.2022 in the matter of B.K. Roy Foundation & Another Vs. The State of West Bengal & Others, Respondent No. 2 i.e. the Chief Technical Officer, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) provided the applicant-petitioners, B.K. Roy Foundation, with an opportunity of hearing on 20.04.2022. The hearing was called with respect to the reconsideration of the application in Form 1 received by the office of the EKWMA on 28.12.2016 under Rule 8 of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2006 from Sri Pradosh Kumar Janaray, Secretary, B.K. Roy Foundation with address at 91/1, Southern Avenue, Kolkata-700029. The said application was for the purpose of education, healthcare and rural development on the land in question at part of RS Dag Nos. 2 and 3, Mouza Kharki, J.L. No. 9, P.S. Sonarpur (presently under PS Narendrapur), Dist. South 24 Parganas.

As per the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the "EKW Act of 2006") R.S. Dag No. 2 is classified as "Substantially water body oriented area (full)" and R.S. Dag No. 3 is classified as "Substantially water body oriented area (part)" and "Urban/ Rural settlement area (part)". As per the Record of Rights (Parcha) the land classification of both RS Dag nos. 2 and 3 is "Bastu".

**CASE HISTORY:**

Sri Pradosh Kumar Janaray, Secretary, B.K. Roy Foundation submitted an application in Form 1 which was received by the office of the EKWMA on 28.12.2016 under Rule 8 of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2006. The applicant mentioned that the purpose of application is for promotion of education, healthcare, etc. by constructing a building. As per the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 RS Dag no. 2 is classified as "Substantially water body oriented area(full)" and RS Dag no. 3 is classified as "Substantially water body oriented area (part)" and "Urban / Rural settlement area (part)". As per the Record of Rights (Parcha) the land classification of both RS Dag nos. 2 and 3 is "Bastu".

Due to the difference of land classification between the Land Reforms record (Record of Rights) and the Schedule of the EKW Act of 2006, a joint field inspection was conducted on 22.11.2017 at the subject land with representatives of the Office of the BL&LRO and the EKWMA. The subject land being a part of RS Dag nos. 2 and 3 was identified by the joint field inspection team. According to the joint field inspection report, water bodies existed on the portion of the subject land of the applicant-petitioners, while a portion of land was found lying vacant. In the said water bodies, pisciculture was going on at that time.



On 20.02.2018, the EKWMA informed Shri P.K. Janaray, Secretary, B.K. Roy Foundation, about the rejection of the application dated 28.12.2016 since the above subject land is within East Kolkata Wetlands governed by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as the "Wetlands Rules of 2017") notified by the Government of India. According to the said Rules any construction of permanent nature is prohibited in wetlands.

On 04.07.2018, B.K. Roy Foundation filed a Writ Petition vide WP No. 11498 (W) of 2018 which was later on renumbered as WPA 11498 of 2018 in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta. On 15.03.2022 the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta disposed of the matter with the following direction: "*The Chief Technical Officer being the respondent No. 2 is directed to reconsider the application filed by the petitioners in Form 1, which was received by the authority on December 28, 2016 afresh and dispose of the same by passing a reasoned order after giving an opportunity of hearing to the petitioners.*"

As per the Order dated 15.03.2022 of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta, on 20.04.2022 the Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA provided an opportunity of hearing to the applicant-petitioners B.K. Roy Foundation for reconsideration of the application dated 28.12.2016 in Form 1 on the subject land at part of R.S. Dag Nos. 2 and 3, Mouza-Kharki, J.L. No. 9, P.S. Sonarpur (presently under PS Narensrapur), Dist. South 24 Parganas.

#### HEARING:

The following persons attended the hearing on behalf of the applicant-petitioners:

- Shri P.K. Janaray, Secretary, B.K. Roy Foundation.
- Shri Samir Kumar Chakrabarti, Advocate.

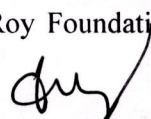
During the hearing the Secretary, B.K. Roy Foundation said that they want to make building construction for education and healthcare purposes. And, the culvert has been made in front of their land as part of their rural development for the local people.

On 22.04.2022, Secretary, B.K. Roy Foundation made the following submission before the Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA:

- A letter dated 22.04.2022 along with copies of the following two plans approved by Pradhan, Kheadaha-II Gram Panchayat in 2014:
  1. Motorable bridge on canal (culvert),
  2. Boundary wall of the subject land.

#### CONCLUSION:

While considering the application dated 28.12.2016 submitted by B.K. Roy Foundation as well as examining the available records the following points were considered:



1. According to Section 9 of the EKW Act of 2006, notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, every person holding any land in the East Kolkata Wetlands shall maintain and preserve such land in a manner that its area is not diminished, or character is not changed except with the previous sanction of the Authority (EKWMA). So, the aforesaid two plans approved by Pradhan, Kheadaha II Gram Panchayat are not tenable and those are *void ab initio*.
2. As per the published judgment of the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court in the matter of PUBLIC Vs. State of West Bengal & Others in 1992 the State Respondents were directed to maintain the nature and character of the wetlands in their present form.
3. On 09.12.2011, an order was passed by the then Chief Technical Officer, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) stating that in accordance with the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EKWMA held on 28.09.2011, the following resolution had been taken:
  - a. No new No Objection Certificate (NOC) for conversion of land shall be granted by the Authority.
  - b. All NOCs granted so far shall be revoked.The applicant-petitioners applied before the EKWMA for change of character or change of mode of use of the subject land in the year 2016.
4. From the photographs annexed with the report of the joint field inspection conducted on 22.11.2017 it was found that water bodies existed at the land of the applicant-petitioners. This corroborates the land classifications mentioned in the Schedule I of the EKW Act of 2006.
5. East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) being a Ramsar site came under the purview of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 notified by the Government of India from 04.12.2010. As per Rule 4(1)(vi) of the said Rules of 2010 any construction of a permanent nature was prohibited within the East Kolkata Wetlands.
6. In the year 2017, the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were superseded by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Rule 4(2)(vi) of the Wetlands Rules of 2017 retained the same prohibition as mentioned in Rule 4(1)(vi) of the Wetlands Rules of 2010.
7. B.K. Roy Foundation has mentioned in their application in Form 1 that they want to make building construction at the subject land. But, as per Rule 4(2)(vi) of the Wetlands Rules of 2017 any construction of a permanent nature is prohibited within the East Kolkata Wetlands.

The Chief Technical Officer, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority has examined the matter and upon reconsidering all the above mentioned points including the imperative of environment protection, has decided not to grant NOC or sanction order under Section 10 of the EKW Act of 2006 to the applicant-petitioners, B.K. Roy



oundation. The applicant-petitioners are also directed to abide by the provisions of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 and the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

All concerned may be informed accordingly.

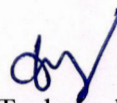


Chief Technical Officer

East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority

Copy for information to:

1. PS to the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Environment Department
2. Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department and Member Secretary, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority
3. District Magistrate, Dist South 24 Parganas
4. The Superintendent of Police, Baruipur Police District
5. Block Land and Land Reforms Officer, Sonarpur
6. The Officer-in-Charge, PS Narendrapur
7. Pradhan, Kheadaha II Gram Panchayat
8. The Secretary, BK Roy Foundation
9. Guard File



Chief Technical Officer

East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority



**Government of West Bengal****Department of Environment****East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority**

Pranisampad Bhaban, 5th Floor, LB - 2, Sector - III, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700106

Ph.: 91-33-2335 3003, Fax: 91-33-2335 6403

No: 421 /CTO/EN/493/2022-2023

Date: 21.10.2022

Reasoned Order

In compliance with the Order dated 22.08.2022 of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta in the matter of W.P. A. (P) No.393 of 2022 (Anrul Sardar Vs. The State of West Bengal & Others), the Chief Technical Officer, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) provided the applicant-petitioner, Anrul Sardar with an opportunity of hearing on 27.09.2022. The hearing was called with respect to the consideration of the representation dated 08.08.2022 addressed to the Secretary, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority and Chief Technical Officer, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority alleging that one cricket ground situated at the middle of Boro Bon Gheri under Mouza- Dhapa Manpur, JL No.1 under P.S. Bidhannagar (South), District- North 24 Parganas situated within the East Kolkata Wetlands is being excavated by the EKWMA with the help of local authorities. In the said representation, the petitioner has stated that local people come for playing cricket in the said cricket ground and take fresh air, the local people are very much dependent on the field as there is no playground in the entire locality. The cricket ground provides oxygen to the entire locality. The petitioner has prayed before the EKWMA not to excavate the Bon Gheri and requested to take appropriate steps for proper maintenance of the cricket ground.

**CASE HISTORY:**

- i) The Hon'ble Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta upon perusal of the supplementary affidavit filed in connection therewith in WPO No. 541 of 2017 came to a prima facie finding that *a two storied permanent building* construction has been taken place at Boro Bon Gheri, Choto Bon Gheri and Rabi Ghosher Gheri, under Mouza- Dhapa Manpur, JL No.1 under P.S. Bidhannagar (South), District North 24 Parganas within EKW which is a 'substantially water body oriented area'. The operative portion of the said order dated 29.11.2021 is reproduced herein below:

*"..... Since we are of the prima facie view that the construction is on a land defined as a water body, we direct the appropriate authority to ensure that the building is not put to use and no electricity connection should be granted to the building and appropriate authority shall lock*

*and seal the building and file necessary documents of such action being taken duly supported by photographs along with the affidavit-in-opposition.”*

- ii) On 24.12.2021 the Hon’ble High Court at Calcutta was pleased to pass order in connection with the W.P.O 541 of 2017, wherein the Hon’ble Court directed the concerned authority under the EKW(C&M) Act, 2006 to take expeditious action in terms of Section 11 of the Act and give an opportunity of hearing to the person responsible for the illegal construction and complete the exercise in terms of the Section 11 of the Act as expeditiously as possible preferably within a period of four weeks. The relevant portion of the said order dated 24.12.2021 is reproduced herein below:

*“Mainly two issues have been raised by learned counsel appearing for the petitioners. First is in respect of a double storied unauthorised construction which has been raised at Boro Bon Bheri, Chhoto Bon Bheri and Rabi Ghosher Bheri under P.S. Bidhannagar (South), District North 24 Parganas and ... ..*

*Hence, we direct the concerned authority under the Act to take expeditious action in terms of Section 11 of the Act and give an opportunity of hearing to the person responsible for the illegal construction and complete the exercise in terms of the said Section as expeditiously as possible preferably within a period of four weeks from today. Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation is directed to extend full help and cooperation to the concerned authority for the purpose of restoration of the land to its original position”.*

- iii) On 04.03.2022. W.P.O. 541 of 2017 came up for consideration before the Hon’ble Division Bench of this Hon’ble High Court, when the Hon’ble Court was apprised of the fact that opportunity of hearing was afforded to the petitioner and that pursuant thereto the order dated 08.02.2022 have come to be passed with a finding that the construction was unauthorized and direction to the petitioner, herein to dismantle the construction within 15 days. Relevant portion of the order dated 04.03.2022 is extracted herein below for ready reference:

*“So far as the direction of this Court in respect of the illegal construction of double storied building on the wetlands as noted in the previous order is concerned, the affidavit reveals that the concerned person was given an opportunity of hearing in terms of Section 11 of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 and thereafter, the competent authority had passed the order dated 8th February, 2022 finding that the construction was unauthorized and directing the person responsible to dismantle the construction within 15 days, failing which the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority is to take necessary steps in terms of the provisions of the Act.*

*Learned Advocate General has informed that though the 15 days has lapsed but the person concerned has not removed the unauthorized construction. Therefore, in terms of the earlier order now the unauthorized construction will be removed with the help of Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation.*



*This Court on 24th December, 2021 had already directed the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation to extend full help and cooperation for the purpose of restoration of the land to its original position. Hence, we direct that the needful in pursuance to the decision of the competent authority dated 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 will be done within a period of three weeks and the compliance will be reported to this Court in the form of affidavit on the next date of hearing."*

- iv) On receipt of the Order, District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas was directed to demolish the said two storied building and submit a report. District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas reported that the unauthorized and illegal structure has been duly removed/ dismantled on 23.03.2022 and 24.03.2022.
- v) On 18.04.2022 Member Secretary, EKWMA requested the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation to restore the land to its original condition and provide a scheme and cost estimates for the restoration work.
- vi) On 29.04.2022, a revised cost estimate was submitted by Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation to the Member Secretary, EKWMA of Rs. 1,99,94,738 /- only for restoration of land to its original condition at Boro Bongheri, Choto Bongheri and Rabi Ghosher Bheri of Mouza-Dhapamanpur, JL No. 1 under PS-South Bidhannagar in Dist. North 24 Parganas, based on the 'Unified Scheme of Rates of Irrigation & Waterways Department'.
- vii) The said amount of Rs 1,99,94,738/- has been released by the Environment Department for excavation of the land to its original condition at Boro Bongheri, Choto Bongheri and Rabi Ghosher Bheri, of which the cricket ground is a part of Boro Bongheri.

On 08.08.2022 Anrul Sardar filed a representation to the Secretary, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority and Chief Technical Officer, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority to stop excavating the Boro bongheri to save the cricket ground.

On 16.08.2022, Anrul Sardar filed a Writ Petition vide W.P.A,(P) No. 393 (W) of 2022 before the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta. The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta on 22.08.2022 disposed of the matter with the following direction: "*Be that as it may, since the representation is already made by the petitioner, therefore, the concerned authority is expected to decide the said representation expeditiously*".

In pursuance of the Order dated 22.08.2022 of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta, on 27.09.2022 the Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA provided an opportunity of hearing to the applicant-petitioners Anrul Sardar for hearing.

#### HEARING:

The following persons attended the hearing on behalf of the applicant-petitioners on 27.09.2022:

- Shri Anrul Sardar,
- Shri Mithu Sardar,

At the outset, the CTO, EKWMA briefed the petitioner and his advocate in detail about the orders of the Hon'ble Division Bench of High Court at Calcutta dated 29.11.2021, 24.12.2021 and 04.03.2022 in WPO 541 of 2017 in which the Division Bench of High Court at Calcutta has directed the EKWMA to take action as mandated by the provisions of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 and Orders of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta.

As per the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 the entire Bon Gheri is classified as "Substantially water body oriented area".

According to Section 9 of the EKW (C&M) Act of 2006 notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, every person holding any land in the East Kolkata Wetlands shall maintain and preserve such land in a manner that its area is not diminished, or character is not changed except with the previous sanction of the Authority

From 04.12.2010 East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) being a Ramsar site came under the purview of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 notified by the Government of India. As per Rule 4(1)(vi) of the said Rules of 2010, any construction of a permanent nature was prohibited within the East Kolkata Wetlands.

In the year 2017, the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were superseded by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Rule 4(2)(vi) of the Wetlands Rules of 2017 retained the same prohibition as mentioned in Rule 4(1)(vi) of the Wetlands Rules of 2010.

In the present case, the google imagery of 2018 shows that the area was waterbody. No permission was sought by the petitioner-applicant from EKWMA for change of character or nature of land. On the basis of the complaint of local Councillor on 01.03.2021, complaint was forwarded to South Bidhannagar Police Station to enquire into the matter and take action as per law. Police stated a case 69/21 dated 03.03.2021 and a field inspection was done by the team of CTO, EKWMA along with his team on 16.07.2021 wherein it was found that "*the waterbody have been filled up and a two storied permanent building has been constructed by violating the EKW Act and also the illegal activities are underway in full swing*". The Inspection Report was forwarded to the Commissioner of Police, Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate for taking action. On 17.09.2021 a stop notice was issued by the CTO, EKWMA.

Upon detailing the entire facts before the petitioner- applicant, the petitioner requested the CTO, EWKMA not to excavate the cricket ground as the same has larger public utility.

#### CONCLUSION-

The Chief Technical Officer, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority has examined the matter and upon considering all the above mentioned points has decided to reject the representation of the applicant-petitioners, Anrul Sardar. The applicant-petitioners is directed to abide by the provisions of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 and the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and to extend full co-operating to the State Government to abide by the Orders of the Hon'ble Division Bench of High Court ,Calcutta.

This has the approval of the Member Secretary, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority.

All concerned may be informed accordingly.



Chief Technical Officer

East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority

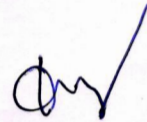


No. 421 CTO/EN/493/2022-23

Date: 21.10.2022

Copy to :

1. OSD to Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Environment Department  
&  
Chair Person, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority  
Government of West Bengal
2. Principal Secretary, Environment Department, Government of West Bengal  
and Member Secretary, EKWMA
3. Commissioner, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation
4. Commissionerate of Police, Bidhannagar Police Commission
5. Inspector-in-Charge, South Bidhannagar Police Station
6. Anrul Sardar, S/o Oman Ali Sardar
7. Mr. Sagnik Bhattacharya, Advocate
8. Guard File



Chief Technical Officer

East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority





**Government of West Bengal**  
**Department of Environment**  
**East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority**  
Pranisampad Bhaban, 5th Floor, LB - 2, Sector - III, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700106  
Ph.: 91-33-2335 3003, Fax: 91-33-2335 6403

No: 466/CTO/EN/488/2022-23

Date: 01.12.2022

From: Kaliyamurthi Balamurugan, IFS  
 Chief Technical Officer

To: The Collector,  
 North 24 Parganas

**Sub: W.P.A.(P). No. 385 of 2022 (Nirmal Basu-Vs- The State of West Bengal & Ors.)**

Sir,

This is to bring to your notice that a Writ Petition W.P.A.(P). No. 385 of 2022 was filed in the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta in which the petitioner has alleged that about 250 bighas of wetland at Chotto Paresh Bheri situated in Dhapa Manpur Mouza falling within East Kolkata Wetlands has been illegally converted from fishery to agricultural land in which paddy cultivation is taking place.

The Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta vide Order dated 22.08.2022 has disposed of the matter with a direction upon the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority to decide the representation of the petitioner expeditiously.

In compliance with the aforesaid Order, the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority provided an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner on 27.09.2022. The Petitioner was represented through his Advocate at the time of hearing and submitted a written statement stating that the character of Choto Paresh Bheri is converted from water body to agricultural land with a request to investigate into the matter.

On 19.10.2022 one Field Inspection was conducted by the staffs of EKWMA on the Choto Paresh Bheri, situated at RS Dag Nos. 1602 and 2255, Mouza-Dhapa Manpur, JL No. 1 under P.S. South Bidhannagar, District North 24 Parganas. The Field Inspection Report states that the "RS Dag Nos. 1602 and 2255 is fenced with concrete pillars and barbed wire, on which paddy cultivation is going on. Earlier, on this land there was a water body namely "Choto Paresh Bheri". As per ROR the land belongs to District Collector, North 24 Parganas. (Copy enclosed)

Section 9 of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 states that "Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, every person holding any land in the East Kolkata Wetlands shall maintain and preserve such land in a manner that its area is not

diminished, or character is not changed or it is not converted for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was settled or previously held, except with the previous sanction of the Authority under Section 10."

Section 10(1) of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 states that "Any person holding a land in East Kolkata Wetlands may apply, in such manner as may be prescribed, to the Authority for change of character or mode of use of land."

The subject land is classified as "Substantially water body oriented area (full)" as per the schedule of East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006.

You are requested to let this office know how the subject land has changed its character /mode of use of land (waterbody to agricultural land) without permission of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority.

Enc: as stated

Sincerely,



(Kaliyamurthi Balamurugan)





**Government of West Bengal**  
**Department of Environment**  
**East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority**  
 Pranisampad Bhaban, 5th Floor, LB - 2, Sector - III, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700106  
 Ph.: 91-33-2335 3003, Fax: 91-33-2335 6403

No: **458** /CTO/EN/473/2021-2022

Date: 25.11.2022

**Reasoned Order**

The Hon'ble Division Bench of the High Court, Calcutta in the matter of W.P.A(P)No.360 of 2021 (Biplab Kumar Chowdhury Vs. The State of West Bengal & Ors.), vide Order dated 26.07.2022 has taken note of the fact that several unauthorized constructions have been raised at R.S. Dag No.1407 of Mouza- Dhapa Manpur, JL No.-56 (previously JL No.-01) , P.S.- South Bidhannagar, District-North 24 Parganas. The Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta *inter alia* directed the respondent authorities to take expeditious action for removal of the unauthorized constructions and file action taken report before the next date of hearing. In compliance with the aforesaid Order, the Chief Technical Officer, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) provided the violators/occupiers with an opportunity of hearing on 07.11.2022.

**CASE HISTORY:**

A case was filed by Biplab Kumar Chowdhury at the High Court , Calcutta alleging filling up of wetland and permanent constructions raised at RS Dag No.1407 of Mouza- Dhapa Manpur, JL No.56 (previously JL No.01), P.S.- South Bidhannagar, District-North 24 Parganas. A field inspection was done by the staffs of EKWMA on 04.03.2022 and found that several unauthorized constructions took place at Dag no.1407 of Mouza- Dhapa Manpur. Earlier, EKWMA forwarded a complaint letter on 22.11.2018 to the Inspector-in- charge, South Bidhananagar Police Station regarding illegal construction at RS Dag No.1407 and police started case vide No.182/2018 dated 25.1.2018 and charge sheet was submitted vide No.52/19. The Hon'ble Division Bench of the High Court, Calcutta vide Order dated 26.07.2022 *inter alia* passed the following directions:

*"..... Learned Counsel for the State is directed to get the demarcation done by the competent authority within a period of four weeks from today."*



*The respondent authorities are directed to take expeditious action for removal of the unauthorized constructions.*

*Let the action taken report be filed before the next date of hearing."*

In compliance with the afore-said directions, demarcation of RS Dag No.1407 of Mouza- Dhapa Manpur, JL No.56 was conducted by the office of ADM&DL&LRO, North 24 Parganas, Barasat on 14.09.2022 in presence of the BL&LRO, Rajarhat, North 24 Parganas, authorized representative of EKWMA and authorized representative of Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

Thereafter, on 02.11.2022 hearing notice was issued by the EKWMA with the assistance of police authorities to the violators / occupiers who have made unauthorized constructions in RS Dag No.1407 to attend hearing before EKWMA on 07.11.2022 at 12.00 p.m.

The record of BL & LRO show that RS Dag No.1407 at J.L. No-56 is Government land belonging to Communication and Works Department. As there is no such Government office in the name of Communication and Works Department, Public Works Department (PWD) officials were asked to be present at the hearing. Representative of BMC was also requested to attend the hearing on 07.11.2022.

#### HEARING:

On 07.11.2022 the following persons attended the hearing:

- Smt. Chameli Naskar Mondol, Councillor of Ward No.36, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation.
- Sri Sourav Chakraborty, Law Officer, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation
- Sri Surajit Basu, Assistant Engineer, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation
- Sri Rajib Kumar Biswas, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department
- Other 39 violators.

At the outset, the Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA briefed the persons present about the Order of the Hon'ble Division Bench of High Court, Calcutta dated 26.07.2022, in which the Division Bench of High Court, Calcutta has directed the EKWMA to take expeditious action for removal of the unauthorized constructions as mandated by the provisions of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006.



As per the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 the RS Dag No.1407 of Mouza- Manpur, JL No.56 plot is classified as "urban/rural settlement area".

According to Section 9 of the EKW (C&M) Act of 2006 notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, every person holding any land in the East Kolkata Wetlands shall maintain and preserve such land in a manner that its area is not diminished, or character is not changed except with the previous sanction of the Authority.

Section 11(1) of the EKW (C&M) Act of 2006 states that if the authority is, either suo moto or on receipt of any information, satisfied that the character or mode of use of a land is being changed or has been changed in contravention of any provision of this Act, it may, by order in writing, require the person responsible for the change to restore the land at his own expense, to the original character or mode of use within such period as may be specified in the order and, in case of default by such person, undertake the restoration by itself and recover the cost thereof as arrears of land-revenue.

Provided that before passing the order the Authority shall give the person a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

From 04.12.2010 East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) being a Ramsar site came under the purview of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 notified by the Government of India. As per Rule 4(1)(vi) of the said Rules of 2010, any construction of a permanent nature is prohibited within the East Kolkata Wetlands.

In the year 2017, the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were superseded by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Rule 4(2)(vi) of the Wetlands Rules of 2017 retained the same prohibition as mentioned in Rule 4(1)(vi) of the Wetlands Rules of 2010.

In the present case, RS Dag No.1407 of Mouza- Dhapa Manpur, JL No.-56 (previously JL No.01), P.S.-South Bidhannagar, District-North 24 Parganas is Government land as per BL&LRO Record. The Councillor on behalf of the violators stated that the violators /occupiers are residing in the said plot generation-wise since independence. The said land in the disputed plot is not wetland but Sali land. The violators /occupiers are paying tax to the



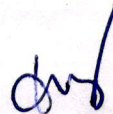
Government. A few copies of tax receipts of Land & Land Reforms along with copies of Adhaar Card, voter card, ration card, electricity bill of some of the violators/occupiers were enclosed along with the written submission.

The violators/occupiers could not submit any documents regarding rights /title in the land. No documents were submitted by them seeking permission from any authority for construction of building at any point of time. No permission was sought by the violators / occupiers from EKWMA for change of character or mode of use of land.

The PWD official present in the hearing stated that he is not aware of the fact that the land belongs to PWD. The officials from BMC stated that in R.S. Dag No.1407 no permission was granted to the alleged violators/occupiers for any construction in the area.

#### CONCLUSION-

Considering the above points, the Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA is of the opinion that violators /occupiers residing on R.S. Dag No.1407 have no title on the land. The constructions made on the R.S. Dag No.1407 is in violation of the provisions of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 and in violation of the provisions of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010. Hence, the violators / occupiers are directed to demolish the illegal construction on their own within 30 days of issuance of the Reasoned Order and the subject land be restored to its previous status, or else action shall be taken in accordance with law.



Chief Technical Officer

East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority



No: 458 /CTO/EN/473/2021-2022

Date: 25.11.2022

Copy forwarded to:

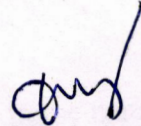
1. OSD to Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Environment Department  
&  
Chairperson, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority, Government of West Bengal
2. Principal Secretary, Environment Department, Government of West Bengal
3. Commissioner, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation
4. Commissionerate of Police, Bidhannagar Police Commission
5. Inspector-in-Charge, South Bidhannagar Police Station
6. Smt. Chameli Naskar Mondol, Councillor of Ward No.36, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation
7. Pappu Raha, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
8. Sanit Pramanik, A/34, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
9. Rakhi Bag, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
10. Bandana Das, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
11. Sujata Roy, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
12. Laxmi Dey, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
13. Sourav Chakraborty, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation
14. Surajit Basu, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation
15. Rekha Mahato, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
16. Uma Chowdhury, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
17. Tapashi Mondal, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
18. Kanan Mitra, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
19. Parimal Das, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
20. Chinta Sarkar, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
21. Arjun Garu, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
22. Rabin Midya, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105



23. Sibu Kumar Jana, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
24. Rajib Kumar Biswas, EE, PWD
25. Rabi Debnath, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
26. Palash Das, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
27. Gourav Kundu, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
28. Soumen Mondal, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
29. Biswajit Mondal, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
30. Tapan Mitra, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
31. Ranjit Thakur, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
32. Saraswati Modak, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
33. Gobinda Mondal, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
34. Manu Paul, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
35. Nipa Das, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
36. Sukumar Das, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
37. Saikat Das, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
38. Nitai Sana, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
39. Sudhil Kumar Patel, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
40. Dinesh Thakur, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
41. Madan Adhikari, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
42. Uttam Das, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
43. Meghnath Mondal, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
44. Laltu Mondal, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangha, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105



45. Ranjit Das, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
46. Mona Mondal, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
47. Ashim Mondal, A/33, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105
48. Ratna Prava Mahakul, A/32, Chayanavi, Salt Lake , Sec-IV, P.O. Nowbhangra, P.S. South Bidhannagar, Kol-105



Chief Technical Officer

East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority





**Government of West Bengal**  
**Department of Environment**  
**East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority**  
Pranisampad Bhaban, 5th Floor, LB - 2, Sector - III, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700106  
Ph.: 91-33-2335 3003, Fax: 91-33-2335 6403

No: 098-CTO/EN/200(7)/2022-2023

Date: 30.03.2023

**Reasoned Order**

It has come to the notice of East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) that construction of a bridge has been initiated over Bidyadhari 2 No. Khal, at bargheri area opposite bantala 2 no. bheri, RS Dag No. 1622/1796 & 1622/1797, Mouza: Dhapa, PS Anandapur, Kolkata Municipal Corporation Ward No.108 by blocking normal sewage flow of the canal. The aforementioned works are illegal and violate the provision(s) of section 9 of East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 and Rule 4 (2)(vi) Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017.

A complaint was lodged by EKWMA with the Anandapur Police Station on 09.12.2022. One case was initiated on the basis of the complaint by Anandapur Police Station vide Anandapur PS Case No.214 dated 14.12.2022 u/s 18 of the EKW (C&M) Act, 2006. It has been learnt that one Dukhiram Mondal@Dukhe is involved in the said construction. The Block Land & Land Reforms Officer, Kolkata, South 24 Parganas has reported that the recorded owner of both Plot No.1622/1796 (classified as KHAL) and the Plot No.1622/1797 (classified as BANDH) is Smt. Bandana Singh.

Adhering to the provisions of section 11 of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Act, 2006, the Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA vide letter dated 026/CTO/EN/108(7)/2020-2021(link-1) dated 27.01.2023 directed Smt. Bandana Singh, W/o Birendra Nath and Sri Dukhiram Mondal@Dukhe to attend the hearing on 09.02.2023 with relevant documents.

**HEARING:**

On 09.02.2023 Sri Dukhiram Mondal@Dukhe attended the hearing but no one appeared on behalf of Smt. Bandana Singh .

As per the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 the land on which construction of bridge has been initiated at Bidyadhari 2 No. Khal, at bargheri area opposite bantala 2 no. bheri, RS Dag No. 1622/1796 & 1622/1797, Mouza: Dhapa, PS Anandapur, Kolkata Municipal Corporation Ward No.108 is classified as "Substantially water body oriented area".

During hearing Sri Dukhiram Mondal@Dukhe stated that he does not know anything about such construction in the said land.

According to Section 9 of the EKW (C&M) Act of 2006 notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, every person holding any land in the East Kolkata Wetlands shall maintain and preserve such land in a manner that its area is not diminished, or character is not changed except with the previous sanction of the Authority.

Section 11(1) of the EKW (C&M) Act of 2006 states that if the authority is, either suo moto or on receipt of any information, satisfied that the character or mode of use of a land is being changed or has been changed in contravention of any provision of this Act, it may, by order in writing, require the person responsible for the change to restore the land at his own expense, to the original character or mode of use within such period as may be specified in the order and, in case of default by such person, undertake the restoration by itself and recover the cost thereof as arrears of land-revenue.

Provided that before passing the order the Authority shall give the person a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

From 04.12.2010 East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) being a Ramsar site came under the purview of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 notified by the Government of India. As per Rule 4(1)(vi) of the said Rules of 2010, any construction of a permanent nature is prohibited within the East Kolkata Wetlands.

In the year 2017, the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were superseded by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Rule 4(2)(vi) of

the Wetlands Rules of 2017 retained the same prohibition as mentioned in Rule 4(1)(vi) of the Wetlands Rules of 2010.

#### CONCLUSION-

Taking into considering the above points, the Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA is of the opinion that the construction of a bridge has been initiated over Bidyadhari 2 No. Khal, at bargheri area opposite bantala 2 no. bheri, RS Dag No. 1622/1796 & 1622/1797, Mouza: Dhapa, PS Anandapur, Kolkata Municipal Corporation Ward No.108. The aforementioned works are illegal and violate the provision(s) of section 9 of East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 and Rule 4 (2) (vi) Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. Hence, the violators i.e. Smt. Bandana Singh and Sri Dukhiram Mondal@Dukhe are directed to demolish the bridge within 30 days from issuance of the Reasoned Order and the subject land be restored to its previous status, or else action shall be taken in accordance with law.

This issues with the approval of Member Secretary, EKWMA.



Chief Technical Officer

East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority



No: 098/CTO/EN/200(7)/2022-2023

Date: 30.03.2023

Copy forwarded for your information and necessary action :

1. Smt. Bandana Singh, W/o. Brendra Nath, Rampur, Hasnabad, Dist. North 24-Parganas, PIN-743439.
2. Dukhiram Mondal @ Dukhe
3. Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation.
4. Deputy Commissioner, East Division, Kolkata Police
5. The Officer-in-Charge, P.S. Anandapur, Kolkata Police, requested to serving the notice to the above said persons and post this notice at a prominent place at the site mentioned above.
6. The OSD to Hon'ble Minister -in-Charge, Environment Department, Government of West Bengal.
7. Sr. P.S. to Principal Secretary, Environment Department, Government of West Bengal.

Sincerely,



(Kaliyamurthi Balamurugan)



**Government of West Bengal**  
**Department of Environment**  
**East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority**  
Pranisampad Bhaban, 5th Floor, LB - 2, Sector - III, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700106  
Ph.: 91-33-2335 3003, Fax: 91-33-2335 6403

No: 096 /CTO/EN/506/2022-2023

Date: 30.03.2023

**Reasoned Order**

On 03.01.2023 a complaint was received from Sri Palan Naskar addressed to Chief Technical Officer, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) alleging erection of a mobile tower by Sri Patiram Naskar at RS Dag No. 398, Khatian No. 523, Mouza-Hadia, J.L.No. 5, PS Kolkata Leather Complex, Dist. South 24 Parganas without permission from the EKWMA.

Meanwhile a writ petition has been filed bearing W.P.A. No.3175 of 2023 (Palan Naskar Vs. The State of West Bengal & Ors.) before the Hon'ble Division Bench of the High Court, Calcutta, regarding installation of the alleged mobile tower in village-Bamanghata, Naskar Para, Mouza- Hadiya, J.L.No. 398, under Bamanghata Gram Panchayat, P.S. Pragati Maidan falling within the EKW area as per the Schedule of the East Kolkata Wetlands Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 without permission of the EKWMA.

After enquiry into the matter by the staffs of EKWMA the name of the following persons have come up:

1. Sri Patiram Naskar, S/o Late Surendra Nath Naskar;
2. Sri Palash Sarkar, Tower Vision India, Astra Tower;
3. Sri Mrityunjy Kumar Singh, Manager of Legal, Tower Vision India, Astra Tower.

Thereafter, adhering to the provisions of section 11 of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Act, 2006, the Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA vide letter 043/CTO/EN/108(4)/2021-2022(link-7) dated 17.02.2023 directed the above-mentioned persons to stop work immediately and provided them an opportunity of hearing on 24.02.2023.

**HEARING:**

On 17.02.2023 the following persons attended the hearing :

1. Sri Patiram Naskar, S/o Late Surendra Nath Naskar;
2. Sri Madhumay Naskar, S/o Sri Patiram Naskar;

Sri Patiram Naskar, alongwith his son appeared for hearing. Sri Patiram Naskar stated that he is the absolute owner of the said land and he entered into a lease agreement on 17th day of September, 2022 with Tower Vision India Private Limited for a period of 15 years for the purpose of installation and operation of the telecom tower on the said land on a rental basis. No one appeared on behalf of the Tower Vision India, Astra Tower at the time of hearing.

As per the Schedule of the East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 RS Dag No. 398, Khatian No. 523, Mouza-Hadia, J.L.No. 5, PS Kolkata Leather Complex, Dist. South 24 Parganas is classified as "urban/rural settlement area".

According to Section 9 of the EKW (C&M) Act of 2006 notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, every person holding any land in the East Kolkata Wetlands shall maintain and preserve such land in a manner that its area is not diminished, or character is not changed except with the previous sanction of the Authority.

Section 11(1) of the EKW (C&M) Act of 2006 states that if the authority is , either suo moto or on receipt of any information, satisfied that the character or mode of use of a land is being changed or has been changed in contravention of any provision of this Act, it may, by order in writing, require the person responsible for the change to restore the land at his own expense, to the original character or mode of use within such period as may be specified in the order and, in case of default by such person, undertake the restoration by itself and recover the cost thereof as arrears of land-revenue.

Provided that before passing the order the Authority shall give the person a reasonable opportunity of being heard.



From 04.12.2010 East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) came under the purview of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 notified by the Government of India. As per Rule 4(1)(vi) of the said Rules of 2010, any construction of a permanent nature is prohibited within the East Kolkata Wetlands.

In the year 2017, the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were superseded by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Rule 4(2)(vi) of the Wetlands Rules of 2017 retained the same prohibition as mentioned in Rule 4(1)(vi) of the Wetlands Rules of 2010.

#### CONCLUSION-

Taking into consideration all the above-mentioned points, the Chief Technical Officer, EKWMA is of opinion that installed telecom tower on RS Dag No. 398, Khatian No. 523, Mouza-Hadia, J.L.No. 5, PS Kolkata Leather Complex, Dist. South 24 Parganas is in violation of the provisions of the East Kolkata Wetlands Management (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006 and in violation of the provisions of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Hence, the violator, Sri Patiram Naskar is directed to remove the illegal telecom tower within 30 days of issuance of the Reasoned Order and to restore the subject land to its previous status, or else action shall be taken in accordance with law.

This issues with the approval of Member Secretary, EKWMA.

Sd/-

Chief Technical Officer

East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority

Copy forwarded for information to –

1. Sri Patiram Naskar, S/o Late Surendra Nath , R/o Vill-Bamunghata, P.O.- Hadia, PS-KLC, South 24 PGS, Pin-700150.
2. Sri Palan Naskar, S/o Late Surendra Nath Naskar, R/o Vill-Bamunghata, P.O.- Hadia, PS-KLC, South 24 PGS, Pin-700150.
3. OSD to Hon'ble MIC, Environment Department.
4. Sr. P.S. to Principal Secretary, Environment Department.



(Kaliyamurthi Balamurugan )

**EKW Cases Pending in the High Court in 2022-23**

SL No.	Case No	Cause Title	Case in Brief
1	CPAN No 428 of 2014. WP No 17841(W)/13. AST No 142 of 2013 with ASTA 84 of 2013	Bikash Kumar Ray & Anr-Vs-State of WB & Ors [Resp no. 27]	Illegal construction by violation of the High Court Order.
2	WP 14850(W)/ 17	MK Balakrishnan & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Ors.	Conversion of wetlands throughout India including West Bengal
3	WP 22198(W)/ 15	Vishal Water World Pvt. Ltd. Vs. EKWMA & Others	To revoke the reasoned order no. CTO/EN/104/385/2014-15 dt. 22/04/15 passed by EKWMA
4	WP 541/17	PUBLIC Vs. Union of India & Others (Resp no. 2. Dept of Env, 3. EKWMA)	Construction of flyover bridge over the EKW and restrain any ongoing construction over the aid wetland.
5	CAN 12196 of 2019 in WP 23341(W) of 2018	Vaidic Dharma Sansthan & Anr. Vs. The State of WB & Ors. CAN 5863[Resp. 2,3,4]	CAN 12196: CAN 4921: For condonation of delay in challenging the HC's Order dt. 28.11.17. WP 23341(W) of 2018: [Resp no. 4, 5] a) to quash the EKW Act, b) to prepare the Brief Docs, c) to quash the order(s) which stands in the way of preparing the Brief Documents
6	WP 9223(W)/18	Leisure Country Club and Resorts Pvt Ltd Vs Union of India [3. PS, Env Dept., 4. EKWMA, 5. Chairperson, EKWMA, 6. MS, EKWMA, 7. Members, EKWMA, 8. CEO & CTO]	Prayer: a. To pass an order delaring that the EKW Act is ultra vires to Article 253 of the Constitution, d. To prepare brief documents as per Rule 7 of the Central Rule of 2017, f. To quash the criminal proceedings, i. to quash the notice dt 20.06.17.
7	WP 25913(W)/ 18	Sri Bibhuti Bhushan Mondal & Ors. Vs. The National Wetlands Committee & Ors. [Resp. 2, 5, 6]	Prayer: a. EKW Act stands otiose, b. To declare the land of the petitioner at Mouza Mukundapur as not a wetland.
8	WP 25791(W)/ 18	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring that EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being SNP 90/2018 dt 21.01.18, c) Stay of all further proceedings in SNP 90/2018. [Para-wise reply]
9	WP 25803(W)/ 18	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring that EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being SNP 223 dt. 13.02.18, c) Stay of all further proceedings in SNP 223/18.
10	WP 25804(W)/ 18	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring that EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being SNP 255 dt. 19.02.18, c) Stay of all further proceedings in SNP 255/18.
11	WP 25809(W)/ 18	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring that EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being SNP 90/2018 dt 21.01.18, c) Stay of all further proceedings in SNP 90/2018.
12	WP 25811(W)/ 18	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring that EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being SNP 90/2018 dt 21.01.18, c) Stay of all further proceedings in SNP 90/2018.



SL No.	Case No	Cause Title	Case in Brief
13	WP 25813(W)/ 18	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring that EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being SNP 90/2018 dt 21.01.18, c) Stay of all further proceedings in SNP 90/2018.
14	WP 25815(W)/ 18	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring that EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being SNP 90/2018 dt 21.01.18, c) Stay of all further proceedings in SNP 90/2018.
15	WP 25817(W)/ 18	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring that EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being SNP 90/2018 dt 21.01.18, c) Stay of all further proceedings in SNP 90/2018.
16	WP 25819(W)/ 18	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring that EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being SNP 90/2018 dt 21.01.18, c) Stay of all further proceedings in SNP 90/2018.
17	WP 25820(W)/ 18	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring that EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being SNP 90/2018 dt 21.01.18, c) Stay of all further proceedings in SNP 90/2018.
18	WP 25823(W)/ 18	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring that EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being SNP 90/2018 dt 21.01.18, c) Stay of all further proceedings in SNP 90/2018.
19	WP 2127(W)/ 19	Bhola Paik Vs. Union of India & Ors [Resp no. 2. PS Env Dept, 4. CEO]	Prayer: a) An order declaring EKW Act stand otiose, and EKWMA has become functus officio w.e.f. 26.09.17, b) Certiorari quashing all proceedings being Narendrapur 181 dt. 24.12.2018, c) Stay of all further proceedings in Narendrapur PS case no. 181/18. [Para-wise reply]
20	WP 8462(W) of 19	Salt Lake Fishworkers' Welfare Organisation & Anr Vs. CWRA & Ors [Resp no. 3 Chief Secretary, Resp no. 4 Chairperson EKWMA]	Illegal filling up of water bodies, illegal conversion and sale of land within EKW, building of multistorey buildings
21	WP 16751(W) of 2019	Sukumar Mandal Vs. State of WB & Ors [Resp no. 2 EKWMA, reps no. 3 MS, EKWMA, reps no. 4 CTO]	Illegal construction in the EKW
22	WP 20251(W) of 2019, MAT 1863 of 2019	Insta Concretex Pvt Ltd & Another Vs. The Union of India & Ors [2. ACS Env Dept, 3. SWA, 4. PS Env Dept, 5. CTO EKWMA]	a) Direction declaring that the provisions of EKWMA are ultra vires to Article 253 of the Constitution of India and so it stands otiose, (b) to reidentify the boundaries of the EKW, (c) cancel impugned order no. 280-CTO/EN/389/2015-16 dt 25.09.2019, (d) an injunction till disposal of the suit.
23	WP 16383(W) of 2019	Outdoor Advertising Association & Others Vs. EKWMA & Others	Restraining the EKWMA from giving any effect to the order no. 318/CTO/EN/018/2006-07 dt 13.11.2019.
24	WP 24268(W) of 2019	Sant Shri Asaramji Ashram Trust, Kolkata Branch Vs The State of WB & Ors [Resp no. 1. Secy, Env Dept & Member Secy EKWMA, 4. CTO, EKWMA]	The prayer is: Refrain from demolishing the buildings raised by Asaram Ashram.

SL No.	Case No	Cause Title	Case in Brief
25	WP 5958(W) of 2020	Jyote Motors (Bengal) Pvt Ltd & Anr Vs State of WB & Ors [Resp no. 2, 3, 4, 5]	a) To cancel the order no. 152/CTO/EN/108(1)/2012-13 dt 04.06.20 passed by the EKWMA, (b) to permit the petitioner to continue with their automobile workshop cum service centre.
26	WP 4940(W) of 2020	Wander Land Regency Pvt Ltd Vs State of WB & Ors	Revoking Notice no. CTO/EN/307(2)/108(1)/2012-13 dt 13.08.2018 and to consider the case U/S. 10 of the EKW Act, 2006.
27	WPA 5693 of 2021	Motilal Mondal Vs The State of WB	Unauthorized filling up of water body at Mouza Kalikapur and Mukundapur namely Heder Bheri
28	WPA(P) 251 of 2021	Diti Majumdar and Ors Vs State of WB and Ors	Management plan for the old Dhapa dump site, to take action against illegal tree felling, stop construction at old dump site
29	WPA(P) 360 of 2021	Biplab Kr Chowdhury Vs The State of WB & Ors	Restore those water bodies at RS Dag nos. 898 and 1407 of Mouza Dhapa
30	WPA 6248 of 2022	Rabin Bain & Ors Vs The State of WB & Ors	To make a construction in the EKW.
31	WPA(P) 205 of 2022	Ruhul Amin Gain Vs State of WB & Ors	To direct Authorities to take action against Urban Sabujayan project
32	WPA 11112 of 2022	Griebs Organics Pvt Ltd Vs The State of WB & Ors	Ecotourism project with permanent construction in Boro Bongheri, Choto Bongheri and Rabi Ghosher Bheri.
33	WPA 18647 of 2022	Kajiul Sardar Vs The State of WB & Ors	To direct EKWMA not to enter Bongheri in connection with the Notice no. 272-CTO/EN/360(Pt-2) dt 13.07.22
34	WPA(P) 394 of 2022	Nuralam Biswas Vs The State of WB & Ors	Heavy vehicles are plying on the roads of Bonbheri for dredging the Bheri.
35	WPA 3175 of 2023	Palan Naskar Vs. The State of WB & Ors	To demolish an illegal mobile tower



**Government of West Bengal  
Department of Environment**

**Minutes of the meeting of the State Wetlands Authority held on 03.06.2022 in the  
Chief Secretary's Conference Room, Nabanna, Government of West Bengal**

The list of attendees is annexed.

Chief Secretary, West Bengal chaired the meeting.

1. ACS, Environment Department briefed the members about the Order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in M.K. Balakrishnan & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors passed on 08.02.2017 for protection of wetlands and the Order passed by the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench on 22.07.2021 in Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs State of J&K & Ors. on identification of all wetlands in the State, which shall be included in the District Environment Plan.
2. ACS, Environment Department also discussed the case related to filling up of wetlands in Mollarber and Panchghara Mouza in Dankuni, District- Hooghly. This case was transferred to the NGT, Eastern Bench by the High Court, Calcutta (W.P. No.26328 (W) of 2015 on 18.03.2016. Hon'ble NGT disposed of the matter on 09.05.2022 and passed directions, which were discussed at length.
3. ACS, Environment Department also highlighted the actions taken/ progress made on the subject in the recent months, as follows:
  - i. Water Resources Investigation Development Department (WRIDD) was designated as the Nodal Department for restoration of water bodies *vide* Notification dated 31.05.2021 in pursuance of the directions passed by NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi on 18.11.2020 in O.A. 325/2015 in Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi -Vs- UOI & Ors. Environment Department has requested WRIDD to coordinate with all District Magistrates (DMs) and inventorise significant wetlands as per the provisions of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017.
  - ii. Environment Department has provided to WRIDD KML files of 8,911 water bodies in West Bengal that are above 2.25 Ha.



- iii. As a first step, WRIDD has identified 2,437 water bodies that are more than 10 ha. and shared them with DMs to prepare their Brief Documents.
  - iv. Till date, DMs have prepared a list of 246 wetlands having area 10 ha. and above and submitted factsheets for 153 wetlands. However, due to the technicalities involved, they could not prepare Brief Documents as per prescribed format of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) Guidelines.
  - v. The Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management (IESWM) under the Environment Department has been entrusted to prepare Brief Documents of the identified wetlands. Considering the time-bound nature of this country-wide exercise and the very large number of water bodies that required to be mapped in the State, IESWM has found the scale and scope of the exercise beyond the capacity of its limited staff and has felt the need to outsource the preparation of Brief Documents to a professional agency or a University / Higher Education Institution.
4. After a detailed deliberation on all aspects of the matter, the following decisions were taken:
- a) In the first phase of action, WRIDD as the nodal Department, will coordinate with the DMs and complete the geo-tagging exercise for waterbodies/ wetlands (assigning them unique number) as per NGT's instructions. Thereafter, demarcation of flood plains and catchment areas is to be done. This, and other exercises related to this work, will be done by WRIDD in association with the Fisheries Department, Science & Technology Department and Land Department since each of these Departments has large data bases/technical expertise related to the subject matter. Principal Secretary, WRIDD will coordinate efforts among these and other Departments/agencies, as may be necessary.
  - b) A Technical Committee will be constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kalyan Rudra along with representatives of Fisheries Department, Land Department, WRIDD, Science & Technology Department, Panchayats and Rural Development Department, Public Health Engineering Department, IESWM, etc. to chalk out the State Action Plan for protection of water bodies/ wetlands within one month. WBPCB shall provide secretarial and other assistance for the same.
  - c) Preparation of Brief Documents of identified wetlands would be approached in two ways: the part relating to maps/ imagery/ land details, etc. of the water bodies shall be provided by the Fisheries Department / Science & Technology Department while the field study/ survey etc. would be entrusted to a State-


funded university, such that the entire exercise can be completed in a time-bound manner; funds for this exercise will be provided by WBPCB. Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, PCB and well-known River Expert agreed to coordinate this exercise.

- d) Chief Secretary reminded all the Departments that highest priority is to be accorded to the above-mentioned exercises as per the orders passed by Hon'ble NGT and stressed upon time-bound implementation.
- e) Minutes of this meeting will be uploaded on the website of SWA and Department of Environment.

**5. Proposal for designating Rasik Beel, Coochbehar as Ramsar Site (Wetland of International Importance)**

Considering the significance of the Rasik Beel wetland, as discussed in the previous SWA meeting held on 20.12.2019, the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), West Bengal has proposed to SWA for designating it as a wetland of international importance. It is found that the site meets the criteria for designating it as a wetland of international importance (Ramsar site). It was agreed that keeping in mind the huge tourist potential of the Rasik Beel as well as its significant role in the local biodiversity, CWLW may prepare a detailed proposal as per NPCA Guidelines for onward transmission to Government of India for declaration of this water body as Ramsar site.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to and from the chair.

  
[H. K. Dwivedi]  
Chief Secretary  
Govt. of West Bengal



**Government of West Bengal  
Department of Environment**

**Annexure**

The following persons attended the meeting of the State Wetlands Authority held on 03.06.2022 in the Chief Secretary's Conference Room, Nabanna, Government of West Bengal:

1. Shri H. K. Dwivedi, Chief Secretary, West Bengal and Vice-Chairperson, State Wetlands Authority (SWA) and Member, East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA)
2. Shri Debasish Sen, Chairman, New Town Kolkata Development (NKDA)
3. Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board and Expert Member, EKWMA
4. Shri Vivek Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Environment Department and Member Secretary, SWA & EKWMA, and ACS, Forest Department and Member, SWA & EKWMA
5. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board and Member, SWA
6. Dr. Manoj Pant, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department and Member, SWA
7. Shri Debal Roy, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal and Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
8. Shri Prabhat Kumar Mishra, Principal Secretary, Irrigation and Waterways Department and Member, SWA & EKWMA and Principal Secretary, Water Resources Investigation & Development Department and Member, SWA
9. Shri Anoop Kumar Agarwal, Principal Secretary, Science and Technology and Biotechnology Department and Member, SWA
10. Shri Khalil Ahmed, Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department and Member, SWA
11. Shri Binod Kumar, Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) and Invitee Member, EKWMA
12. Shri Onkar Singh Meena, Principal Secretary, Public Works Department
13. Smt. Neelam Meena, Secretary, Environment Department (Attended through V.C.)



14. Smt. Smaraki Mahapatra, Secretary, Land and Land Reforms Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department and Member, SWA & EKWMA
15. Shri K. Balamurugan, Chief Environment Officer, Environment Department and Member, SWA
16. Dr. P. Ulaganathan, District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas and Invitee Member, EKWMA
17. Shri Ajoy Sanyamath, Senior Special Secretary, L&LR and RR&R Department
18. Smt. Tripti Sah, Member Secretary, West Bengal Biodiversity Board and Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
19. Shri Sumit Gupta, District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas and Invitee Member, EKWMA
20. Smt. Nandini Ghosh, Joint Secretary, UD&MA Department
21. Shri Sujay Sarkar, Commissioner, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation (BMC)
22. Smt. Shanta Pradhan, Special Secretary, Tourism Department (Representative of Principal Secretary and Member, EKWMA)
23. Shri Supriya Ghoshal, Director, State Urban Development Agency (SUDA)
24. Shri Joly Chaudhuri, Additional Secretary, UD&MA Department and Additional Director, SUDA
25. Prof. Waikom Viswanath, Member, National Wetlands Committee and representative, MoEF&CC (Attended through VC)
26. Shri M. K. Biswas, Regional Director, Central Pollution Control Board (Attended through VC)
27. Dr. Subir Ghosh, Member, IUCN and Expert Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
28. Prof. Gupinath Bhandari, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Jadavpur University and Expert Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
29. Prof. Lakshmi Sivaramakrishnan, Head, Department of Geography, Jadavpur University and Expert Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
30. Prof. Sumana Bandyopadhyay, Professor, Department of Geography, Calcutta University and Expert Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.)
31. Dr. Srikanta Samanta, Head, Riverine and Estuarine Fisheries Division, CIFRI and Expert Member, SWA (Attended through V.C.).
32. Shri Prantik Ray, Chief Engineer, Ganga Action Plan, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority
33. Dr. Tapas Kumar Gupta, Chief Technical Advisor, WBPCB (Attended through V.C.)
34. Shri Sukdeb Das, Senior Law Officer, UD&MA Department
35. Smt. Paushali Pahari, Senior Law Officer, Environment Department



# INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND WETLAND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

GOVT. OF WEST BENGAL  
DD-24, SECTOR-I, SALT LAKE  
KOLKATA : 700 064  
PHONE : (033) 2334-0531/0239  
Fax : 91-33-2358-0967  
E-mail : contact.ieswm@gmail.com  
Website : www.ieswm.org

No.153-IESWM/4E-174/2022-23 (525)

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

As per direction of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Special Bench on 09.05.2022 in O.A. 65(THC) of 2016 /EZ (PUBLIC VS Uol & Ors.) in the matter of protection of Wetlands in West Bengal, a meeting was held on 03.06.2022 at Nabanna under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal. Wherein it was decoded that a Technical Committee will be formed to formulate the State Action Plan for protection of Water bodies / wetlands situated in the West Bengal.

Accordingly, a Technical Committee is hereby constituted with the following members:

1	Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chirman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board.	Chairman
2	Director, Land & Land Reforms Department, GoWB	Member
3	Director, Water Resources Investigation & Development Department, GoWB	Member
4	Representative of Fisheries Department, GoWB (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
5	Representative of Science & Technology Department, GoWB (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
6	Representative from Department of Panchayets & Rural Development, GoWB (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
7	Representative of Public Health Engineering Department, GoWB (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
8	Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management	Member- Convenor
9	Mr. K. Balamurugan, IFS, Chief Environment Officer, Department of Environment, GoWB	Special Invitee
10	Ms. Tripti Sah, IFS, Senior Environment Officer, Department of Environment, GoWB	Special Invitee

The Committee would be responsible to formulate the State Action Plan for protection of Water bodies / wetlands within West Bengal. The Committee would prepare the said Plan within one month of its constitution. Secretarial and any other assistance, if required, would be provided by WBPCB for the same.

The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the constituted Committee would be held at 3.00 P.M. on 25.08.2022, in the Conference Hall of WBPCB. All are requested to kindly attend or depute suitable representative for attending the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.

Director,  
IESWM









**EAST KOLKATA WETLANDS MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

**PRANISAMPAD BHABAN, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, LB-2, SECTOR-III, SALT LAKE,  
KOLKATA- 700106**

**PHONE NO.- 033 2005 3003 WEBSITE: WWW.EKWMA.IN**