

GAHC010266542018



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THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT
(HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Case No. : PIL/76/2018

1.EARLY BIRDS AND ANR.

(A REGISTERED SOCIETY AND A NATURE CARE GROUP, REP. BY ITS PRESIDENT MR. MOLOY BARUA SON OF LATE ASWINI KANTA BARUA), HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT 26, SURAJMUKHI, CHANDMARI P.O. SILPUKHURI, GUWAHATI, ASSAM, IN THE DISTRICT OF KAMRUP, ASSAM, PIN - 781003.

2: MR RANJAN BHUYAN

S/O LATE KAMALA KANTA BHUYAN R/O HOUSE NO. 5A OPPOSITE - LUIT REGENCY APARTMENTS BASISTHAPUR BYLANE NO. 2 WIRELESS DISPURGUWAHATI IN THE DIST. OF KAMRUP (M) ASSAM PIN -781028

VERSUS

1.THE STATE OF ASSAM AND 14 ORS.

THROUGH ITS CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVT. OF ASSAM, DISPUR, GUWAHATI, IN THE DIST. OF KAMRUP (METRO), PIN- 781006

2:THE COMMISSIONER AND SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF ASSAM DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DISPUR GUWAHATIIN THE DIST.OF KAMRUP (METRO) PIN - 781006.

3:THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST (FOREST) AND HEAD OF THE FOREST FORCE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST GOVT. OF ASSAM PANJABARI GUWAHATI IN THE DIST. OF KAMRUP (M) PIN - 781037.

4:THE COMMISSIONER AND SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF WIRE OF PLAIN TRIBES AND BACKWARD CLASSES GOVT. OF ASSAM DISPUR GUWAHATI PIN - 781006.

5:THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST (WILDLIFE) DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST GOVT. OF ASSAM PANJABARI GUWAHATI IN THE DIST. OF KAMRUP (METRO) PIN - 781037.

6:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
SONITPUR WEST DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
FOREST GOVT. OF ASSAM TEZPUR IN THE DIST. OF SONITPUR
PIN - 784001.

7:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
SONITPUR EAST DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
FOREST GOVT. OF ASSAM IN THE DIST. OF BISWANATH PIN -784176

8:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER WESTERN ASSAM WILDLIFE
DIVISION DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST
GOVT. OF ASSAM IN THE DIST. OF SONITPUR PIN - 784501.

9:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER DHANSARI FOREST DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST
GOVT. OF ASSAM IN THE DIST. OF UDALGURI (BTAD) PIN - 784509.

10:THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BISWANATH
GOVT. OF ASSAM IN THE DIST. OF BISWANATH PIN 784176.

11:THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SONITPUR
GOVT. OF ASSAM IN THE DIST. OF SONITPUR PIN- 784001.

12:THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER UDALGURI
GOVT. OF ASSAM IN THE DIST. OF UDALGURI PIN - 784509.

13:THE BODOLAND TERRITORIA COUNCIL
REP. BY ITS SECRETARY BODOLAND TERRITORIAL AREA DISTRICT
IN THE DIST. OF KOKRAJHAR PIN - 783370.

14:THE UNION OF INDIA THROUGH ITS SECRETARY MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
NEW DELHI- 110003.

15:NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
THROUGH ITS MEMBER SECRETARY B-1 WING 7TH FLOOR PARYAVARAN
BHAWAN CGO COMPLEX NEW DELHI- 11000

For the Petitioner(s) : Mr. P. Bharadwaj, Advocate.
For the Respondent(s) : Ms. R.B. Bora, Standing Counsel, BTC.
: Mr. I. Borthakur, Advocate for Forest Department.

– **BEFORE** –
HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. ASHUTOSH KUMAR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN DEV CHOUDHURY

29.07.2025

(Ashutosh Kumar, CJ)

This Public Interest Litigation is aimed at securing removal of encroachments in the Sonai-Rupai-Nameri Forest Landscape in Assam.

The petitioner No.1 is an NGO, which has, in the present case, highlighted the violations of the forest and wild-life protection laws, causing ecological damage and human-animal conflicts.

The core concern of the petitioners here is the encroachment of the forest land.

It appears that on earlier occasion, this Court was informed that a roadmap has been prepared by the Department of Forest for removal of encroachment from the forest area under the said Landscape.

Mr. I. Borthakur, learned Advocate for the Forest Department submits that necessary instructions including the roadmap framed by the Government have been received and the same shall be brought on record by the next date positively.

Let that be done with a copy served in advance to the counsel for petitioners.

List this matter under the appropriate Heading on 20.08.2025.

JUDGE

CHIEF JUSTICE

Comparing Assistant