

GAHC010267422018



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

Case No. : PIL/77/2018

ASOM BASAOK

A NGO BEARING REGISTRATION NO. KAH(H)/263/K/211 HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT ASOM BASAOK, 302 BASISTHA ROAD, THE WILDERNESS, BELTOLA, GUWAHATI- 781028 REPRESENTED BY ITS GENERAL SECRETARY, SHRI RAJEEV BHATTACHARYYA, S/O SHRI HIRANYA KUMAR BHATTACHARYYA.

VERSUS

THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND 37 ORS.
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, INDIRA PARYAVARAN BHAVAN, JORBAGH ROAD, NEW DELHI- 110003.

2:FOREST SURVEY OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE)
REPRESENTED BY ITS DIRECTOR GENERAL
KAULAGARH ROAD
P.O. IPE DHERADUN- 248195
UTTARAKHAND (INDIA).

3:THE STATE OF ASSAM
REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
DISPUR
GUWAHATI- 781006.

4:THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF ASSAM
FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
DISPUR
GUWAHATI-6.

5:THE COMMISSIONER AND SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF ASSAM
LAND REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
DISPUR
GUWAHATI-6.

6:THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST AND HEAD OF
FOREST FORCE
ASSAM
PANJABARI
GUWAHATI.

7:(SPECIAL) PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
KARBI ANGLONG
DIPHU.

8:(SPECIAL) PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
(LOWER ASSAM ZONE)

9:(SPECIAL) PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
(CAMPA)
O/O THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST AND HEAD OF
FOREST FORCE
ASSAM.

10:(SPECIAL) PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
(BIO-DIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE)
O/O THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST AND HEAD OF
FOREST FORCE
ASSAM.

11:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

NAGAON DIVISION.

12:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

GOLAGHAT.

13:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

NORTH KAMRUP
RANGIA.

14:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

LAKHIMPUR.

15:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

DHEMAJI DIVISION.

16:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

NAGAON WL DIVISION.

17:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

CACHAR DIVISION

18:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

EAWL
BOKAKHAT.

19:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

KAMRUP EAST DIVISION.

20:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

JORHAT DIVISION.

21:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

NAGAON SF DIVISION
NAGAON.

22:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

LAKHIMPUR SF DIVISION.

23:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

SONITPUR EAST DIVISION
BISWANATH CHARIALI.

24:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

PARBOTJHORA DIVISION
SUPARIGHAT.

25:ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
ATTACHED TO THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
SONITPUR WEST DIVISION.

26:ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FOREST

ATTACHED TO THE THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
LAKHIMPUR DIVISION.

27:ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
ATTACHED TO THE THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER EAWL DIVISION
BOKAKHAT.

28:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
KAMRUP WEST DIVISION
BAMUNGAON
KAMRUP
ASSAM.

29:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
KAMRUP EAST DIVISION
BASISTHA
KAMRUP
ASSAM.

30:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
KARIMGANJ DIVISION
DIST. KARIMGANJ
ASSAM.

31:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
DIGBOI DIVISION
DIST. TINSUKIA
ASSAM.

32:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
N.C. HILLS DIVISION
HAFLONG
ASSAM.

33:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
AIE VALLEY DIVISION
BONGAIGAON
ASSAM.

34:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
KACHUGAON DIVISION
GOSAIGAON
ASSAM.

35:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
HALTUGAON DIVISION
KOKRAJHAR
ASSAM.

36:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
DHEMAJI DIVISION
DHEMAJI
ASSAM.

37:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
SIVASAGAR DIVISION
KAMRUP
ASSAM.

38:THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
DIBRUGARH DIVISION
KAMRUP
ASSAM

Advocate for the Petitioner : MR. K N CHOUDHURY

Advocate for the Respondent : ASSTT.S.G.I.

- B E F O R E -

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SUDHANSHU DHULIA

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANASH RANJAN PATHAK

23-08-2021

The matter is taken up through video conferencing.

Heard Mr.K.N. Choudhury, learned senior counsel for the petitioner. Also heard Mr. R.K. Bora, learned Additional Senior Government Advocate, Assam; Mr. P.N. Goswami, learned standing counsel, Forest Department and Mr. K.P. Pathak, learned standing counsel, Revenue Department.

This petition has been filed raising concern about the depletion of forest in the State of Assam. There are various Forest Divisions and Forest Conservation areas and it may not be possible either for this Court or for the Officers to file

separate replies.

All the same, we would expect the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-cum-Head of Forest Force, Assam to file a reply to the general concern raised by the petitioner as to the depletion of forest in Assam and as to what Forest Management Plan is there, which is required in terms of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as well as the orders passed by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of ***T.N. GodavarmanThirumulkpad -Vs- Union of India***, reported in **(1997) 2 SCC 267** from time to time.

List on **4th October, 2021**.

JUDGE

CHIEF JUSTICE

Comparing Assistant