

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA**

(Through Physical Hearing with Hybrid Option)

Original Application No. 88/2025/EZ

Sri Uttam Bathari

Applicant(s)

Versus

State of Assam & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 30.05.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR AGARWAL, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. ARUN KUMAR VERMA, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant(s): Mr. Vikram Rajkhowa, Advocate for Applicant (in Virtual Mode)

Respondent(s): Ms. Malabika Roy Dey, Advocate for State of Assam

ORDER

1. This Original Application under Sections 14 and 15 of National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 has been filed complaining that Daldali Reserved Forest is a 'Reserve Forest', declared so vide notification dated 16.08.1933 w.e.f. 01.10.1933 under Section 17 of Assam Forest Regulation, 1891 and comes within the definition of 'Forest' under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 but there is large scale encroachment in the Reserved Forest Area causing damage to environment, deforestation and habitat destruction.

2. In our view, the complaint made by applicant *prima-facie* gives rise to substantial question relating to environment arising due of implementation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 read with Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 but before proceeding further in the matter, we find it appropriate to obtain a factual Report and for this purpose, we constitute a Joint Committee comprising Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,

Assam; a representative of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi; a representative of Department of Land Record and Survey, Government of Nagaland; and a representative of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council represented through Principal Secreatry, Assam.

3. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi shall be the nodal authority for coordination and compliance.

4. The above Committee shall collect relevant information, interact with the stakeholders and submit a factual report within two months.

5. List on 20.08.2025.

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. Arun Kumar Verma, EM

May 30, 2025
Original Application No. 88/2025/EZ
R