



Forest Clearance for Non-Foresting Activities in Wildlife Sanctuaries

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The MoEFCC told the NGT that the Assam government did not obtain necessary forest clearance for non-forestry activities in the **Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary**. The Ministry highlighted that such activities require approval from central govt, which was not sought.

- **Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary**, located in Assam, India, is known for its diverse flora and fauna, including the endangered one-horned rhinoceros. It serves as a critical habitat for various wildlife species and is part of the larger [Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong](#) landscape.
- The Ministry advised the [NGT](#) to pass suitable orders on encroachment issues, noting that state governments can address unauthorised construction or illegal settlements.
 - NGT is a specialised body set up under the **National Green Tribunal Act (2010)** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- The Ministry's counter-affidavit, highlighted that non-forestry activities on forest land need central approval under [Section 2\(1\)\(ii\) of the Forest Conservation Act 1980](#). No such proposal was received.
 - The **Forest Conservation Act of 1980** regulates the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes in India, requiring prior approval from the central government.
 - It aims to preserve and protect forest land by controlling deforestation and promoting sustainable forest management.
- Read More: [Reserved Forest](#), [Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary](#), [Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary](#): [Assam Dehing Patkai and Raimona National Parks: Assam, National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#)

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