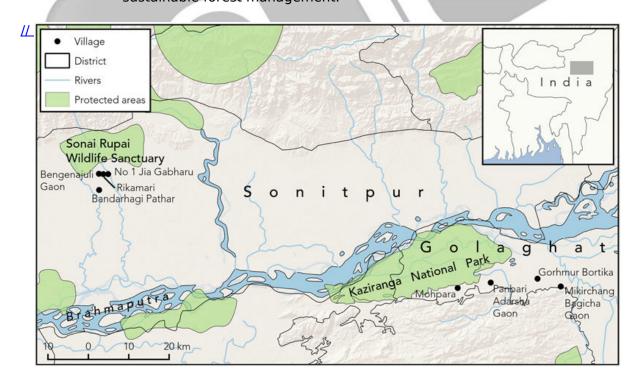


Forest Clearance for Non-Foresting Activities in Wildlife Sanctuaries

Source: TH

The MoEFCC told the NGT that the Assam government did not obtain necessary forest clearance for nonforestry 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 ispart of the larger Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong landscape.
- The Ministry advised the <u>NGT</u> to pass suitable orders on encroachment issues, noting that stategovernments 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 <u>Section 2(1)(ii) of the Forest Conservation Act 1980</u>. No such proposal was received.
 - The Forest Conservation Act of 1980 regulates the diversion of forest land for nonforest 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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