ABSTRACT

Forests – Wildlife – Ramanathapuram District - Declaration of Greater Flamingo Sanctuary at Dhanushkodi – Notification under section 18 (1) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972) – Orders – Issued.

Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.5) Department

G.O.(Ms.)No. 85 **Dated: 04.06.2025**
விசுவாவசு, வைகாசி 21
திருவள்ளுவர் ஆண்டு – 2056

Read:

1. G.O.(Ms.)No.962, Forest and Fisheries Department, dated 10.09.1986.
2. From the Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment &Forests, New Delhi letter No.1/6/80-Mannar, dated 04.04.1989
3. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden letter No.WL5/34441/2023, dated 08.08.2024, 10.12.2024 and 8.4.2025.

****

ORDER:-

In the G.O. first read above, the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1986 declared 21 islands in the reserve and the surrounding shallow waters as the Marine National Park to protect marine wildlife and its environment. In the letter second read above, the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve was notified. It covers an area of 10,500 sq km between Rameshwaram and Kanyakumari. In the letter third read above, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has sent a proposal for declaration of "Greater Flamingo Sanctuary" with an extent of 524.78 Hectare (or) 5.2478 Square Kilometre at Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram District under section 18 (1) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972(Central Act 53 of 1972). The proposed area is part of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve.

2. The Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Environment and Climate Change made an announcement on the floor of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 14.03.2025 as follows:-

> "The Dhanushkodi area, situated at the tip of Rameshwaram Island in Tamil Nadu, is home to diverse ecosystems such as sand dunes, marshes and mangrove forests. It also plays a crucial role in the Central Asian Flyway, serving as a key stopover for migratory birds, including Greater Flamingos. To safeguard this vital habitat and maintain biodiversity balance, steps will be taken to notify Dhanushkodi as a Greater Flamingo Sanctuary, ensuring the protection of migratory wetland birds and their natural ecosystem".

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3. Adverting to above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has submitted the proposal for declaration of "Greater Flamingo Sanctuary" at Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram District under section 18 (1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is as follows:-

Introduction

Rameshwaram Island surrounded by Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar, is an ecologically sensitive region with diverse water currents and seasonal variations. It provides vital habitats for diverse species, including fishes, crustaceans, Sea turtles and birds. With mudflats, mangroves and sandbanks, it sustains a range of organisms and serves as a key feeding and resting site for migratory birds, particularly along the Central Asian Flyway. This region acts as a nursery for marine species, including fish, crustaceans and molluscs, supporting their early development and local fisheries. Dhanushkodi beach is also a very important turtle nesting site.

Importance of the Area

This area is very important for both migratory and resident birds, serving as a key stopover along the Central Asian Flyway with essential feeding and resting grounds for species like Herons, Egrets, Sandpipers, Terns, Greater and Lesser flamingos, Kentish plovers, Hanuman plover and Waders. Nearly 128 species of birds (migratory and residents) are recorded here. During the last Wetland bird census (2023-2024), 10,761 wetland birds were recorded in this area. Nearly, 47 plant species have been recorded in this area. Mangroves like Avicennia and Rhizophora around the Dhanushkodi Lagoon are crucial for stabilizing the coastline, preventing erosion and buffering storm surges. These plants also provide essential habitats for marine species and birds. The lagoon's diverse flora, including herbs, shrubs and trees, supports a rich environment for insects, birds and small mammals, enhancing both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Designating these areas as a Bird Sanctuary will ensure protection of the resident, migratory birds and their habitats. The Sanctuary designation will also safeguard the diverse ecosystems of sand dunes, marshes and mangrove forests, contributing to the overall biodiversity of the region. It will raise awareness about the importance of wetlands conservation and the need to protect migratory birds. The Sanctuary status will also help promote responsible tourism practices, potentially generating employment opportunities for local communities.

Recommendation of the District Collector

The District Collector, Ramanathapuram has recommended and submitted the draft notification proposal under section 18 (1) of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 with the following schedule of notification:-

1.	Name of the District	Ramanathapuram
2.	Name of Taluk	Rameshwaram
3.	Legal status of the land	Revenue and Forest Land
4.	Village Number	2. Rameshwaram

5.	Survey Number with area of Revenue Land	1054/1	380.18 Ha
		1054/7	131.4 Ha
		1142/5	4.88 Ha
		1133/2	4.75 Ha
6.	Survey Number with area of Forest Land	1063 (RF)	3.57 Ha
Total			**524.78 Ha**

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has stated that based on the above recommendation of the District Collector, Ramanathapuram, he has submitted the proposal along with authenticated map for declaration of "Greater Flamingo Sanctuary" under section 18 (1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

4. The Government after careful consideration have decided to accept the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden and accordingly notify the areas mentioned in the notification as "Greater Flamingo Sanctuary" at Dhanushkodi under section 18 (1) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972(Central Act 53 of 1972).

5. The Notification appended to this order will be published both in English and Tamil in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and in Tamil in the District Gazette of the Ramanathapuram district. The Tamil Development and Information Department is requested to send immediately a Tamil translation of the Notification to the Works Manager, Government Central Press, Chennai for publication in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette and in the District Gazette of Ramanathapuram district.

6. The Works Manager, Government Central Press, Chennai is requested to send 20 copies of each of the Notification to Government and to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden and to the Collector of Ramanathapuram District as soon as the Notification is published.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Works Manager,
Government Central Press, Chennai - 600 079.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Head of Forest Force), Chennai - 600 032.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Chief Wildlife Warden, Chennai - 600 032.
The Chief Conservator of Forests / Field Director,
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Madurai.
The Wildlife Warden, Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust, Ramanathapuram.
The Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests,
Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003.

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The Collector, Ramanathapuram.
The Wildlife Warden, Ramanathapuram.
The Tamil Development and Information Department, Chennai - 600 009.

Copy to:-

The Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowment Department, Chennai - 600 009.
The Law Department, Chennai - 600 009.
The Private Secretary to Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Chennai - 600 009.
SC/SF.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

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4.6.25

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APPENDIX.

NOTIFICATION.

WHEREAS, the area covering an extent of 524.78 Hectare in Ramanathapuram district and part of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve is of utmost significance in terms of biodiversity conservation and maintenance of ecological balance. This area is very important for both migratory and resident birds, serving as a key stopover along the Central Asian Flyway with essential feeding and resting grounds. Nearly, 128 species of birds (migratory and residents) have been recorded here. During the last Wetland bird census (2023-2024), 10,761 wetland birds were recorded in this area.

AND WHEREAS, the Region has immense biodiversity and falls on the international migratory route of the birds. The area of Dhanushkodi in Rameshwaram Village, Ramanathapuram district described in the Schedule below, is of adequate ecological, faunal, floral, natural and geomorphological significance, for the purpose of protecting, propagating and developing wild life and its environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub - section (1) of section 18 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972), the Governor of Tamil Nadu hereby declares his intention to notify the area specified in the Schedule below as, a sanctuary, namely Greater Flamingo Sanctuary at Dhanushkodi, Ramanathapuram District.

THE SCHEDULE.

1.	**Name of the district**	:	Ramanathapuram
2.	**Name of the taluk**	:	Rameshwaram
3.	**Name and number of the Village**	:	2. Rameshwaram
4.	**Survey Number and extent**	:	

Survey Number	Extent in hectares
1054/1	380.18
1054/7	131.40
1142/5	4.88
1133/2	4.75
1063(RF)	3.57

5.	**Area of the Sanctuary**	:	524.78 Hectare
6.	**Name of the Sanctuary**	:	Greater Flamingo Sanctuary

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BOUNDARIES

North.- The boundary starts from the eastern side of Survey Number 1054/8 and the north side of Survey Number 1054/1 of V.No.2,Rameshwaram village. Then the boundary runs towards the east along the north side of Survey Numbers 1054/1, 1054/6 and 1054/7 of Rameshwaram village.

North East.- The boundary runs towards east to the north side of Survey Number 1054/7 of Rameshwaram village and turns towards south. Then the boundary runs towards south to the east side of Survey Number 1054/7 of Rameshwaram village and west side of Survey Number 1153 of Rameshwaram village.

East.-Thence the boundary runs towards the south along the east side of Survey Numbers 1054/7, 1055, 1144 and 1142/5 of Rameshwaram village and runs towards the south along the west side of Survey Numbers 1153, 1152, 1145 and 1142/3 of Rameshwaram village.

South East.- Thence the boundary runs towards south along the east side of Survey Number 1142/5 of Rameshwaram village and west side of Survey Number 1142/3 of Rameshwaram village and turns towards the west before 15 meters from National Highway 49. Thence the boundary runs towards the west along the south side of Survey Number 1142/5 of Rameshwaram village. The boundary also runs along the National Highway 49 before 15 meters towards west.

South.- Thence the boundary runs towards the west along the south side of Survey Numbers 1142/5 and 1133/2 of Rameshwaram village and also runs along the National Highway 49 before 15 meters towards west. Thence the boundary runs towards the west along the south side of Survey Numbers 1054/7, 1063 and 1054/1 of Rameshwaram village.

South West.- Thence the boundary runs towards west along the south side of Survey Number 1054/1 of Rameshwaram village and turn towards north. Then the boundary runs towards the north along the west side of Survey Number 1054/1 of Rameshwaram village.

West.-Thence the boundary runs towards the north along the west side of Survey Number 1054/1 and east side of Survey Number 1054/8 of Rameshwaram village.

North West.- Thence the boundary runs towards north along the west side of Survey Number 1054/1 of Rameshwaram village and end with the starting point.

The Geo co-ordinates of the Area of Dhanushkodi in Rameshwaram village, Ramanathapuram District are as follows:-

Prominent Points	Direction of Prominent Points	Latitude	Longitude
1	North-West	9°13'34.37"N	79°21'45.48"E
2	North	9°13'31.20"N	79°19'22.27"E
3	North	9°13'4.12"N	79°22'22.72"E
4	North	9°12'39.22"N	79°22'52.73"E
5	North	9°12'16.75"N	79°23'18.92"E
6	North	9°11'54.02"N	79°23'45.50"E

7	North-East	9°11'32.82"N	79°24'10.29"E
8	North-East	9°11'30.80"N	79°24'12.64"E
9	North-East	9°11'29.15"N	79°24'11.61"E
10	East	9°11'22.18"N	79°24'7.23"E
11	East	9°11'20.19"N	79°24'6.06"E
12	South-East	9°11'16.93"N	79°24'4.50"E
13	South-East	9°11'16.25"N	79°24'4.16"E
14	South-East	9°11'16.70"N	79°24'3.38"E
15	South	9°11'19.70"N	79°23'58.29"E
16	South	9°11'20.92"N	79°23'59.06"E
17	South	9°11'22.44"N	79°23'56.12"E
18	South	9°11'21.35"N	79°23'55.44"E
19	South	9°11'24.20"N	79°23'50.68"E
20	South	9°11'25.01"N	79°23'51.19"E
21	South	9°11'25.53"N	79°23'50.39"E
22	South	9°11'24.73"N	79°23'49.81"E
23	South	9°11'26.61"N	79°23'46.74"E
24	South	9°11'44.98"N	79°23'16.15"E
25	South	9°11'52.10"N	79°23'4.15"E
26	South	9°11'52.53"N	79°23'4.29"E
27	South	9°11'56.17"N	79°22'57.22"E
28	South	9°11'58.54"N	79°22'53.13"E
29	South	9°12'2.00"N	79°22'46.85"E
30	South	9°12'20.97"N	79°22'21.56"E
31	South	9°12'36.80"N	79°22'0.45"E
32	South-West	9°13'10.96"N	79°21'15.56"E
33	South-West	9°13'12.37"N	79°21'13.68"E
34	South-West	9°13'13.46"N	79°21'15.27"E
35	West	9°13'22.35"N	79°21'28.24"E
36	West	9°13'29.33"N	79°21'38.41"E
37	North-West	9°13'32.64"N	79°21'43.06"E

SUPRIYA SAHU
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

/TRUE COPY/

SECTION OFFICER

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
2025

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EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 256] CHENNAI, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025
Vaikasi 21, Visuvaavasu, Thiruvalluvar Aandu–2056

Part II—Section 2

Notifications or Orders of interest to a Section of the public issued by Secretariat Departments.

NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

DECLARATION OF GREATER FLAMINGO SANCTUARY AT DHANUSHKODI IN RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT UNDER THE WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) ACT, 1972

[G.O.Ms. No.85, Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.5), 4th June 2025, வைகாசி 21, விகுவாவக, திருவள்ளுவர் ஆண்டு-2056.]

No. II(2)/ECCF/494(a)/2025.

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			1142/5 — 4.88
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			1063(RF) — 3.57
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6.	Name of the Sanctuary	:	Greater Flamingo Sanctuary

BOUNDARIES

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North East.- The boundary runs towards east to the north side of Survey Number 1054/7 of Rameshwaram village and turns towards south. Then the boundary runs towards south to the east side of Survey Number 1054/7 of Rameshwaram village and west side of Survey Number 1153 of Rameshwaram village.

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West.- Thence the boundary runs towards the north along the west side of Survey Number 1054/1 and east side of Survey Number 1054/8 of Rameshwaram village.

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SUPRIYA SAHU,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

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