



and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights)

Act, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the Impugned Act). The Petitioner is moving the present Application in the backdrop of some rather disturbing developments that gravely threaten the future of forest and wildlife conservation due to large scale indiscriminate distribution of forest lands even in the ecologically sensitive and biodiversity rich areas within national parks and sanctuaries and further creating wide ranging commercial rights over all kinds of forest produce under the provisions of the Impugned Act. These rights will ultimately be exploited by profit making middle men and contractors to the serious detriment of wildlife and its habitat. The indiscriminate parceling of forest land and the consequent fragmentation of forest lands have been scientifically accepted as one of the most serious threats to the nation's invaluable biodiversity. By giving freebies to ineligible and bogus claimants under the Impugned Act which is driven by political expediency and which is being exploited by the vested interests requires to be checked urgently.

2. The Petitioner No.1 in the above Writ Petition is a Bangalore based wildlife conservation organization working in the field of forest and wildlife conservation for over one and half decades. Wildlife First was nominated as a member of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) from 2007 - 2010. The trustee of the Wildlife First, Mr. Praveen Bhargav has represented Wildlife First on the NBWL and was on its sub-committee which was constituted to make recommendations on the amendments to the Wild Life (Protection)