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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Environment Department Prani Sampad Bhawan, 5th Floor, LB-2, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 106

No. 909-EN/T-II-7/003-ii/2003

Date: 16.05.2023

NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS Haldir Char is an island in the river Haldi under Itamogra II Gram Panchayat of Mahishadal Development Block, Purba Medinipur district having mangrove swamp with regular tidal influence and sustaining some littoral fauna, as well as inland waterbody supporting indigenous fishes. The peripheral part, the land water interface, is populated with some reeds like *Sachharum spontaneum*, *Phragmites karka*, *Vetiveria zizanioides* which mostly check the erosion at the island edge. The inside of the island is populated by different mangroves species like *Avicennia marina* (Piyara Bain), *A. officinalis* (Jat Bain), *Sonneratia apetala* (Chak Keora), *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* (Kakra), *Aegiceras corniculatum* (Khalsi), *Excoecaria agallocha* (Gewa), and several mangrove associated plants like *Derris scandens* (Kali lata), *Thespesia populnea* (Habul / Paras Pipul), *Cryptocoryne ciliata*, *Acanthus ilicifolius* (Hargoja), *Clerodendrum inerme* (Bon Jui), *Dolichos* sp. etc. Haldir Char is also home to remarkable avian population with nests like Open Bill Stork (*Anastomus oscitans*), Little Cormorant (*Microcarbo niger*), Indian Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*), Egret (*Egretta* sp.), Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Pond Heron, (*Ardeola grayii*) etc. The scheduled species (Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended up to date) residing in the island are Monitor Lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*), Mongoose (*Herpestes* sp.).

AND WHEREAS to strengthen the biodiversity conservation and to stem the habitat degradation in Haldir Char, the State Government upon recommendation of the West Bengal Biodiversity Board has felt it necessary to declare the area as the Haldir Char Biodiversity Heritage Site.

AND WHEREAS the collection of species of plants, animals and microbes from the Haldir Char requires to be regulated as per the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and West Bengal Biological Diversity Rules, 2005.

AND WHEREAS no-objection regarding declaration of Haldir Char as Biodiversity Heritage Site has been issued by the office of the District Magistrate of Purba Medinipur District.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under sub section (1) of section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and sub-rule (2) of rule 20 of the West Bengal Biological Diversity Rules, 2005, the Governor is hereby pleased to declare Haldir Char as Haldir Char Biodiversity Heritage Site.

The details of the area and boundary of Haldir Char Biodiversity Heritage Site is given below:-

HALDIR CHAR BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITE

The Area covered:

Mouza & JL No.: Adjacent to Mouza Keshabpur Jalpai JL No. 133, Land Class: River Island, Gram Panchayat: Itamogra II, Block: Mahisadal, District: Purba Medinipur, Area: nearly 15 Acres

Point GPS co-ordinate of the river island:

Haldir Char: 22.100023°, 87.963126°

Management of the BHS shall be done by a Haldir Char Biodiversity Heritage Site Management Committee constituted by District Magistrate, Purba Medinipur involving Mahishadal Block Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), Purba Medinipur District Level BMC, Department of Forests, Fisheries Department, Land and Land Reforms Department, Irrigation and Waterways Department, experts in the relevant field, other stakeholders, along with representatives from West Bengal Biodiversity Board, with overall supervision of the District Administration.

This notification shall come into effect from the date of its publication in *The Kolkata Gazette*.

By order of the Governor,

ROSHNI SEN
Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal