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## Mangrove cutting case: Notice issued

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PANAJI: The forest department has issued a show cause notice to the property owner, who had allegedly cleared a patch of mangroves on Conno island in the middle of a tributary of Mapusa river in Moira recently.

The notice has been issued under Preservation of Tree Act as the owner had allegedly hacked an area of around 500 sq m of mature mangroves on the leaf-shaped island spanning barely 25,000 sq m.

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"The mangroves are being cut for some development purpose on the island," Floriano Lobo, Goa environmental action group, general secretary, who had complained to the forest department alleged.

"The owner one E Sequeira has been issued the notice for the mangrove felling in area under survey no 172 on Conno island," a forest department source said.

In his reply, the owner had denied that he had carried out any activity to clear the riverside area. However, the department is not satisfied with his answer and is likely to probe him further in the matter, sources said.

Conno island lies hidden behind a green curtain opposite the Moira church.

After inspection forest department staff found that around 50 large and medium sized mangrove trees and some bhendi trees had been felled.

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