

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF COONOOR  
MUNICIPALITY, ON THE ORDERS OF THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN  
TRIBUNAL (SZ) DURING THE HEARING HELD ON 08.07.2021,  
IN O.A. No.:108 OF 2020 (SZ)**

**Background:**

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in their order dated 08.07.2021 directed, among other things, to ascertain as to whether any temporary measures have been provided by the Coonoor Municipality to avoid discharge of untreated sewage water into the river and if so, the temporary measures provided are sufficient to meet the situation till the long term measure is accomplished by them. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) has also directed Coonoor Municipality to file their progress report for the work undertaken by them to remedy the situation as a short term measure till the long term measure is completed. They are directed to take steps to finalise their estimate and forward the same to the Government for sanction without delay.

**Progress on the Schedule of the works suggested:**

In the report submitted on 07.07.2021, Coonoor Municipality had addressed two Phyto-remediation service providers viz. AYALA NBS and CAMUS STB to visit Coonoor, and to offer their Technical Feasibility of providing their Phytoremediation systems, together with their cost estimates before 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021. Of them, one service provider, Vision Earth Care (Camus STB) have sent a Team from their Bengaluru Regional Office, to Coonoor on 14.07.2021 & 15.07.2021. The Team carried out field inspection of the situation, and based on the visit and with the further interaction with the officials of Coonoor Municipality, has submitted a feasibility report with cost estimates.

The other service provider viz. AYALA NBS has sought three weeks time from 30.08.2021 to submit their feasibility report with cost estimates. It is learnt that the restriction in performing inter-state travels, etc., could be the reasons for the delay. It is expected, in any case, that the proposal from AYALA NBS, would be received before the end of September, 2021.

It is informed that proposal submitted by CAMUS STB, is being examined by the Engineering Department of Coonoor Municipality. On thoroughly studying the proposal, the same would be discussed with District Collector, TamilNadu Pollution Control Board and others. Meanwhile, it is expected that the proposal from AYALA NBS is also expected by the third week of September, 2021, and

  
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similar exercise would also be carried out and based on the Techno-Economic advantages of each system, a particular Technology would be finalized and taken up further, for implementation.

**Revised Plan of Action:**

It is submitted that the delay in receiving the proposals from the service providers has resulted in modification/ further delay on the scheme of action proposed by Coonoor Municipality and submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ). It is submitted that wherever proposals are required to be received from other players, over which Coonoor Municipality do not have any control, the delay occurred and it is submitted, that in the matters/ works which are to be carried out by Coonoor Municipality, absolute control and adherence of Time Line shall be followed with. Therefore, it is kindly requested that the non-adherence of the timelines submitted shall be condoned and that no adverse inference shall be drawn based on the same.

Therefore, based on the condition as on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2021, the modified Plan of Action is submitted for the kind perusal of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ):

S. No.:	Activity	Time Line submitted earlier	Present Stage/ Revised Timeline
1	Obtaining the Feasibility of providing Phytoremediation in the beds of the Streams with Cost Estimate	23 <sup>rd</sup> July, 2021	One Proposal received. Other expected by 21 <sup>st</sup> September, 2021.
2	Finalizing the Technology	28 <sup>th</sup> July, 2021	30 <sup>th</sup> September, 2021
3	Approval of council	First week of August, 2021	Before 15 <sup>th</sup> of October
4	Submission of proposal to Government for approval	Second week of August, 2021	Before 31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2021.
5	Completion of the schemes	Nine months from the financial approval for the schemes	Nine months from the financial approval for the schemes

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**Short Term measures Taken:**

Maintenance of the quality of the water in the water bodies that are flowing through Coonoor Municipal Limits, is impacted by two activities, viz. disposal of untreated sewage in the water bodies and throwing of garbage in to the water bodies. In the aspect of untreated sewage reaching the water bodies, Coonoor Municipality has carried out an extensive survey and identified 34 establishments, other than households that are letting their sewage without treatment. Notices were also issued to them. Because of this effort, 7 establishments have stopped discharging sewage without treatment. The non-availability of sufficient space is the constraint faced to provide treatment and disposal system, such as septic tank and soak pit arrangements.

On the other hand, preventing throwing of garbage in to the water bodies would also prevent the deterioration of the quality of water in the rivers/water bodies passing through Coonoor Municipality. The Joint Inspection Team, during their visit on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, while visiting the Krishnapuram River, have expressed that the Coonoor Municipality shall ensure that no garbage is thrown in the water bodies and that severe penalty be imposed on the violators. Based on the same, Coonoor Municipality is preventing garbage throwing by regular public address system and imposing fine for throw waste as per by-laws on SWM Rules 2016.

**Prayer:**

It is respectfully submitted that the timelines, mentioned in the earlier submissions before this Hon'ble Tribunal could not be adhered with, due to the delay in getting the reports from service providers and also due to the COVID-19 situation prevailed in the country, which has caused delay in the study teams making visit to Coonoor. It is submitted that the Coonoor Municipality had taken all the required steps to adhere with the timelines submitted earlier. A copy of the proposal received from Vision Earth Care, on CAMUS SBT Technology is submitted herewith for kind reference and records.

Therefore it is kindly prayed that the Honourable Tribunal may kindly accept this Progress Report of the Coonoor Municipality, and to accept the revised Timelines submitted on behalf of the Coonoor Municipality, and to pass such orders that the Honourable Tribunal considers deem fit in the facts and circumstances of the case

  
Commissioner,  
Coonoor Municipality  
