

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH,  
NEW DELHI**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 361/ 2018**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Narmada Pradushan Nivaran Smiti & Ors. ...Applicant(s)

Versus

Ministry of Environment, forest & Climate Change & Ors. ...Respondent(s)

**INDEX**

S.NO.	PARTICULAR	PAGE NO.
1.	Additional Reply Affidavit/Fresh status report on behalf of Respondent No. 2 / Narmada control authority and Respondent no. 3/Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation	1-5
2	<b>Annexure- R/14</b> Copy of Letter dated 27.12.2024	6-7
3	<b>Annexure - R/15</b> Copy of letter dated 13.01.2025	8-10
4	<b>Annexure - R/16</b> Copy of letter dated 22.01.2025	11
5	<b>Annexure - R/17</b> Copy of Minutes of the 95th NCA meeting held on 04.09.2024	12-15

Respondent No. 2 & 3

Through

  
 Gigi C. George Advocate  
 Standing Counsel (UOI)

Place : New Delhi

Date : 11.03.2025

Ch. No. 457, Lawyers Block, DHC, New Delhi

[Gigicgeorge.adv42@yahoo.in](mailto:Gigicgeorge.adv42@yahoo.in), M-9810625315

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

**Original Application No. 361/2018**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

Narmada Pradushan Nivaran

Samiti & Ors.

... Applicant

VS

Ministry of Environment, Forest &

Climate Change & Ors.

... Respondents

**ADDITIONAL REPLY AFFIDAVIT/FRESH STATUS REPORT ON  
BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.2/NARMADA CONTROL AUTHORITY  
AND RESPONDENT NO.3/MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI, DEPARTMENT  
OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA  
REJUVENATION**

I, R.Vasudevan, S/o. Late Sh. P.M. Ramasamy Aged about 55 Years working as Director (Civil), Narmada Control Authority, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD &GR, Govt. of India do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am authorized and competent to file the present additional reply affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.2 and 3. I am well versed with the facts and circumstances of the case and filing the present affidavit on the basis of the

(R. VASUDEVAN)  
Director (Civil)  
Narmada Control Authority  
(MoJS, DoWR, RD &GR)  
INDORE (M.P.)

1

*d.v.*  
(R. VASUDEVAN)  
Director (Civil)  
Narmada Control Authority  
(MoJS, DoWR, RD &GR)  
INDORE (M.P.)

official records, discussions and decisions taken after 95<sup>th</sup> NCA Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.

2. **That**, the Respondent Nos. 2 and 3 have filed reply by way of affidavit dt.30.07.2018 before this Hon'ble Tribunal, which is on record (Paper Book Page No. 482 to 627).
3. **That**, the Respondent Nos. 2 and 3 have filed Additional documents by way of affidavit dated 01.02.2021 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No.4550/ 2019, which is on record (Paper Book Page No.1 to 18).
4. **That**, the Respondent Nos. 2 and 3 have filed Additional documents by way of affidavit dated 18.04.2024 before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in OA No.361/ 2018, which is on record (Paper Book Page No.1 to 58).
5. **That**, the Respondent Nos. 2 and 3 have filed additional reply/ fresh status report by way of affidavit dated 27.07.2024 before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in OA No.361/ 2018, which is on record (Paper Book Page No.774-832).
6. **That**, the present additional reply is being filed to bring on record some facts and latest development pertaining to the issue in the original application.
7. **That**, in accordance with Clause V and Clause XVI of the NWDT Award, it is respectfully submitted that the provisions of the Award are expressly made subject to review at any time after a period of 45 years from the date of publication of the Decision of the Tribunal in the Official Gazette dated 12.12.1979.

(R. VASUDEVAN)  
Director (Civil)  
Narmada Control Authority  
(MoJS, DoWR, RD & GR)  
INDORE (M.P.)

2

*d.v.l.*  
(R. VASUDEVAN)  
Director (Civil)  
Narmada Control Authority  
(MoJS, DoWR, RD & GR)  
INDORE (M.P.)

8. **That**, with reference to the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principle Bench, New Delhi dated 27.11.2024 directing the submission of an affidavit detailing the exercise to be undertaken upon the completion of 45 years including the proposed timeline, it is respectfully submitted that, at this stage, no formal proposal/complaint has been received from the beneficiary States to initiate any exercise for the review of the NWDT Award. It is further submitted that any such consideration remains subject to future determination, pursuant to the applicable legal and procedural framework, which will guide the course of action at the appropriate juncture.

9. **That**, in relation to the comprehensive study of Environmental Flow (E-Flow), as decided in the 3<sup>rd</sup> E-Flow Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, the matter was further discussed during the 95<sup>th</sup> NCA meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2024. Following detailed deliberations, and in consideration of the case pending before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principle Bench, New Delhi, all the beneficiary States have reached a consensus to undertake the environmental flow studies in a phased manner across the entire basin, from Amarkantak to the Gulf of Cambay, while accounting for the intervening structures. In the initial phase, two separate studies will be undertaken by CIFRI through SSNNL:

1. From Garudeshwar Weir to Bhadbhut Barrage
2. From Bhadbhut Barrage to the Mouth of the river

The results of these studies will be reviewed and decisions will be made with the consensus of the beneficiary States.

(R. VASUDEVAN)  
Director (Civil)  
Narmada Control Authority  
(MoJS, DoWR, RD & GR)  
INDORE (M.P.)

  
(R. VASUDEVAN)  
Director (Civil)  
Narmada Control Authority  
(MoJS, DoWR, RD & GR)  
INDORE (M.P.)

10. That, as per the decision taken in 95<sup>th</sup> NCA meeting, NCA, vide letter Nos. NCA/Env/443/2024/399 dated 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 which is annexed as Annexure-R/14 and NCA/Env/E-Flow/436/2024/18 dated 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 which is annexed as Annexure-R/15 requested SSNNL, Govt. of Gujarat to expedite the process of awarding the study to CIFRI, Barrackpore, Kolkata.
11. That, vide letter No. SSNNL/Env/NCA/103/2025 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2025 which is annexed as Annexure-R/16, the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL), Government of Gujarat (GoG), conveying its approval for the Phase-I study as decided in the 95<sup>th</sup> NCA meeting, has requested the Director, CIFRI, Kolkata, to submit a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the said study at the earliest.
12. That, upon the award of the study to CIFRI, the determination of the three-season environmental flow (e-flow) shall be undertaken. The minimum time required for CIFRI, Kolkata to conduct the study will be 9 months from the date of award of work.
13. That, for the upstream stretch of SSP, from Amarkantak to the Sardar Sarovar Dam, separate study/studies shall be commissioned; engaging appropriate agencies. The Minutes of the 95<sup>th</sup> NCA meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 is annexed as Annexure-R/17.
14. That, the Respondent Nos. 2 and 3, in consultation with and with the assistance of all relevant stakeholders, are diligently undertaking all necessary measures to determine the downstream environmental flow (E-flow) of the

(R. VASUDEVAN)  
Director (Civil)  
Narmada Control Authority  
(MoJS, DoWR, RD & GR)  
INDORE (M.P.)

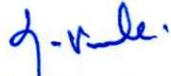
*R. Vasudevan*  
(R. VASUDEVAN)  
Director (Civil)  
Narmada Control Authority  
(MoJS, DoWR, RD & GR)  
INDORE (M.P.)

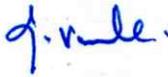
River Narmada, with the objective of maintaining and preserving the ecological integrity of the River Narmada.

15. That, the E-flow Committee formed by the Respondent Nos. 2 & 3, to find a solution for the issue of downstream E-flow of River Narmada, is consisting of best experts from different fields and are capable of taking the right decision for maintaining the ecology of the River Narmada.
16. That, the Respondent Nos. 2 & 3 will abide by whatever direction/order passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

Verification

Verified at New Delhi on....., 2025 that the contents of above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and derived from the official records.

  
Deponent  
(R. VASUDEVAN)  
Director (Civil)  
Narmada Control Authority  
(MoJS, DoWR, RD & GR)  
INDORE (M.P.)

  
Deponent  
(R. VASUDEVAN)  
Director (Civil)  
Narmada Control Authority  
(MoJS, DoWR, RD & GR)  
INDORE (M.P.)



# नर्मदा नियंत्रण प्राधिकरण

(जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग, भारत सरकार)

## NARMADA CONTROL AUTHORITY

(Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, Govt. of India)

नर्मदा सदन, सेक्टर-बी, स्कीम नं., 74-सी, विजय नगर, इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

Narmada Sadan, Sector-B, Scheme No. 74-C, Vijay Nagar, Indore - 452 010 (M.P.), INDIA

No. NCA/Env/443/2024 / 399

Dated 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

To,

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,  
Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited,  
Govt. of Gujarat, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Block No. 12, New Sachivalaya Complex,  
Gandhinagar- 382010, Gujarat.  
Email : envirmntcell@gmail.com

Sub: To review the environmental flow of river Narmada in the downstream of Sardar Sarovar Dam-reg.

Sir,

This is in continuation to the 95<sup>th</sup> NCA meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2024, wherein decision was taken in light of the case pending before the Hon'ble NGT that the studies for environmental flow (E-Flow) will be conducted in a staged manner across the entire basin, from Amarkantak to the Gulf of Cambay, accounting for intervening structures.

In the initial phase, two separate studies will be undertaken by CIFRI through SSNNL:

1. From Garudeshwar Weir to Bhadbhut Barrage
2. From Bhadbhut Barrage to the mouth of the river

The results of these studies will be reviewed and decisions will be made with the consensus of the beneficiary States.

In this regard as agreed by all the States, SSNNL, GoG is requested to expedite awarding the work to CIFRI, Kolkata for conducting the E-Flow study and submits its report in 8 months time so that further action can be taken on this issue. Further, CIFRI may be provided with all the relevant data, including river cross-section, so that the study is completed on time.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

*R. Vasudevan*  
27/12/24

(R. Vasudevan)

Director (Civil)

Mob. No. : 8878811141

Email id : vasudevanr213@gmail.com

Copy for favour of kind information to :

1. PPS to Secretary to the Gol and Chairman, NCA, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi - 110001. (Email: secy-mowr@nic.in)



स्वच्छ सुरक्षित जल-सुन्दर खुशहाल कल  
CONSERVE WATER - SAVE LIFE

2. PPS to the Managing Director, Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited, Govt. of Gujarat, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Block No. 12, New Sachivalaya Complex, Gandhinagar-382010, Gujarat. Email : mdssnnl2009@gmail.com
3. Executive Member, NCA, Indore. Email: exe.mem.nca@nic.in
4. Member (Civil), NCA, Indore. Email: memc.nca@gov.in
5. Director (Canal), Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited, Govt. of Gujarat, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block No. 12, New Sachivalaya Complex, Gandhinagar-382010, Gujarat. Email: directorcanal@gmail.com
6. Shri Vivek P. Kapadia, Director (Civil), Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited, Govt. of Gujarat, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block No. 12, New Sachivalaya Complex, Gandhinagar-382010, Gujarat. Email : dire.civil.ssnnl@gmail.com
7. Chief General Manager (T&C), Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited, Govt. of Gujarat, Block No. 12, New Sachivalaya Complex, Gandhinagar-382010, Gujarat. Email: gm.coor.ssnnl@gmail.com, cgmtnc-ssnnl@gujarat.gov.in



# नर्मदा नियंत्रण प्राधिकरण

(जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग, भारत सरकार)

## NARMADA CONTROL AUTHORITY

(Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, Govt. of India)

नर्मदा सदन, सेक्टर-बी, स्कीम नं., 74-सी, विजय नगर, इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

Narmada Sadan, Sector-B, Scheme No. 74-C, Vijay Nagar, Indore - 452 010 (M.P.), INDIA  
No. NCA/Env/E-flow/436/2024/ 18.



Speed post/Email

January 10, 2025

13.

To,

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited,  
Govt. of Gujarat,  
Block No. 12, New Sachivalaya Complex,  
Gandhinagar – 382010 (Gujarat).  
(Email : [envirmentcell@gmail.com](mailto:envirmentcell@gmail.com))

**SUB : Re-assessment of Existing Environmental Flow in Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP).**

Sir,

Reference is kindly drawn to the Minutes of the 95<sup>th</sup> NCA Meeting, which the NCA Secretariat circulated under letter no. D-6 (91)/Secy/2018/51, dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025. As resolved in the meeting, considering the ongoing case before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), in the initial phase, two distinct studies will be got conducted by SSNNL through the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), covering the segments from Garudeshwar Weir to the Bhadbhut Barrage, and from Bhadbhut Barrage to the mouth of the Narmada River. The results of these studies will undergo a thorough review process, with final decisions made through consensus among the beneficiary states.

Further, kindly refer to the Minutes of the First E-Flow Committee Meeting, held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 in Indore, which included the following key recommendations:

- 1. Re-assessment of E-Flow Study:** The SSNNL shall assign the re-assessment of E-Flow study to CIFRI, Barrackpore, as agreed upon by all party states. All critical river cross-section data up to the High Flood Level (HFL), downstream of the Garudeshwar Weir, is to be sourced and provided to CIFRI, along with any additional data required, including real-time hydrological and virgin flow data. This will ensure the timely completion of the study within eight months from the award of work, under the guidance and consultation of the E-Flow Committee. SSNNL will also assist CIFRI in collecting necessary field data related to habitat, river health, geomorphology, and other relevant parameters.
- 2. Transparency and Participation:** The re-assessment process should be transparent, with input from expert members of the E-Flow Committee, scientists from CIFRI, Members from NCA and the Party States. Meetings will be held periodically for deliberation and finalization. GoG is to arrange a joint field visit for all the members of the E-Flow Committee to assess the downstream situation and begin addressing the needs of the impacted fishermen.

In light of the above, it is requested that the re-assessment study on E-Flow be awarded without delay. Additionally, coordination and arrangement for a joint field visit to the downstream stretch for all members of the E-Flow Committee is requested at an early date. SSNNL is further requested to finalize and communicate a mutually convenient date for the field visit to all committee members.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

*Devjani Patra*  
(Devjani Patra) 10/1/25

Member (Environment & Rehabilitation)  
Mobile No. 8527484480  
Email : [mem.er.nca@nic.in](mailto:mem.er.nca@nic.in)

Contd...p/2.



स्वच्छ सुरक्षित जल-सुन्दर खुशहाल कल  
CONSERVE WATER - SAVE LIFE

निष्काशित 25  
NOT REISSUED

Copy to:

#### **NARMADA CONTROL AUTHORITY**

1. Executive Member.
2. Member (Civil).

#### **NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA (NMCG)**

1. Executive Director (Technical), National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD&GR, GoI, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate, New **Delhi – 110 001**  
(Email : ed-technical@nmcg.nic.in)
2. Dr. Sandeep Behera, Consultant – Biodiversity, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD&GR, GoI, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate, New **Delhi – 110 001**. (Email : sandeepbehera@nmcg.nic.in/ sandeepbehera1967@gmail.com)

#### **CENTRAL WATER COMMISSION**

1. Shri Nityanand Rai, Chief Engineer, CWC, Opp. Gujarat Forest Department, Sector 10A, **Gandhinagar -382 010**, Gujarat. (Email : nitya20may@yahoo.co.in)

#### **CENTRAL INLAND FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CIFRI)**

1. Dr. B.K.Das, Director, ICAR- Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Monirampur (Post), Barrackpore, **Kolkata – 700120** (West Bengal).  
(Email : director.cifri@icar.gov.in/ director.cifri@gmail.com)
2. Dr. Amiya Kumar Sahoo, Senior Scientist, ICAR- Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Monirampur (Post), Barrackpore, **Kolkata – 700120** (West Bengal). (Email: amiya7@gmail.com)

#### **INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT), ROORKEE**

1. Dr. Arun Kumar, Professor, NEEPCO Chair Professor, Hydro & Renewable Energy Department, IIT Roorkee, **Roorkee-247667** (Uttarakhand) (Email: arun.kumar@hre.iitr.ac.in, aheciitr.ak@gmail.com)

#### **GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT**

1. Managing Director, SSNNL, Government of Gujarat, Block No. 12, New Sachivalaya Complex, **Gandhinagar-382 010** (Email : mdssnnl2009@gmail.com).
2. Director (CAD), SSNNL, Govt. of Gujarat, 2nd Floor, Block No. 12, New Sachivalaya Complex, **Gandhinagar-382010**.
3. Chief General Manager (Technical & Coordination), SSNNL, Govt. of Gujarat, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Block No. 12, New Sachivalaya Complex, **Gandhinagar – 382010** (Gujarat). (Email : cgmtnc-ssnnl@gujarat.gov.in)
4. Dy. Director (Fisheries), Office of the Commissioner of Fisheries, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Block No. 10, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Old Sachivalaya, **Gandhinagar** (Gujarat).

#### **GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN**

1. Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Government of Rajasthan, Lal Sagar, Kishore Bagh, **Jodhpur -342007**. (Email: cejdr.wr@rajasthan.gov.in/cejdr.wr@gmail.com)
2. Superintending Engineer, Narmada Canal Project, **Sanchore- 343041** (Email : sencpcircle1@gmail.com).

#### **GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**

1. Commissioner, Department of Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra, C-24 2nd floor, Mittal Tower C-Wing, Nariman Point near Vidhan Bhavan, **Mumbai-400 021** (Maharashtra).  
(Email : commfishmaha@gmail.com/ comm\_fisheries@maharashtra.gov.in)
2. Director, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, New Administrative Building, Hutatma Rajguru Chowk, Mantralaya, Mumbai-400 032, Maharashtra.  
(Email: dir1.mev-mh@nic.in/envmantra-mh@nic.in)

-: 3 :-

3. Executive Engineer, Narmada Development Division, **Nandurbar**, (Maharashtra)  
(Email : ee\_narmada@yahoo.co.in)
4. Joint Commissioner (Inland), Nashik Division, Old Ashwini Barrack No. 06, Opp. Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Nashik Road, **Nashik – 422 101** (Maharashtra)  
(Email : rdconfnashik@gmail.com)
5. Regional Deputy Commissioner of Fisheries, Nashik Division, Old Ashwini Barrack No. 06, Opp. Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Nashik Road, **Nashik – 422 101** (Maharashtra)  
(Email : rdconfnashik@gmail.com)
6. Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries, 17, Kamnath Mahadeo Nagar, Near Aadarsh Hotel, Sakri Rd, **Nandurbar – 425412** (Maharashtra) (Email : acfnandurbar@gmail.com)

**GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH**

1. Vice Chairman, Narmada Valley Development Authority, Govt. of M.P., 59, Arera Hills, Narmada Bhawan, **Bhopal – 462 011**, (M.P.). (Email: vcnvda@mp.gov.in/acst11@gmail.com/ps1.cm@mp.gov.in)
2. Member (Environment & Forests), Narmada Valley Development Authority, Govt. of M.P., 59, Arera Hills, Narmada Bhawan, **Bhopal – 462 011**, (M.P.). (Email: memforest\_nvda@mp.nic.in)
3. Director (Admin./Rehabilitation), Narmada Valley Development Authority, Govt. of M.P., 59, Arera Hills, Narmada Bhawan, **Bhopal – 462 011**, (M.P.). (Email: dir.rehvnvda@gmail.com)
4. Shri Vikram Singh Solanki, Divisional Forest Officer (Monitoring), Narmada Valley Development Authority, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, 59, Arera Hills, Narmada Bhawan, **Bhopal – 462 011**, (M.P.)  
(Email : dfom21@gmail.com)

**Copy for kind information to :** Chairperson, NCA & Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Jal Shakti, DoWR, RD & GR, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, **New Delhi – 110 001** (Email : secy-mowr@nic.in).



# Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited

(A Wholly Owned Govt. of Gujarat undertaking)

**Add. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests**

Environment Cell, Block-12, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, New Sachivalay,  
Gandhinagar-382010 (Gujarat)

(L) (079) 232 52812, 232 52442  
E-Mail: envirementcell@gmail.com

NO. SSNNL/ENV/NCA/103/2025

date: 22/01/2025

To  
Dr. B. K. Das.  
Director, CIFRI  
Barrackpore, Kolkata 700120, West Bengal

**Sub:** Project Proposal on E-Flow in the downstream of SSD/Garudeshwar Weir

**Ref :** 1) Member (E&R) letter no. NCA/Env/2019/50 dated February 9, 2024.  
2) NCA letter No. D-6(91)Secy/2018/14 Dated 07/01/2025 regarding Minutes of the 95<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Narmada Control Authority.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above-cited subject, CIFRI has prepared and submitted a project proposal focusing on the downstream stretch from Garudeshwar Weir to the Bhadbhut Barrage. Furthermore, during the 95<sup>th</sup> NCA Meeting held on 04.09.2024, it was decided that two separate studies would be conducted by CIFRI through SSNNL for the following stretches:

1. From Garudeshwar Weir to Bhadbhut Barrage.
2. From Bhadbhut Barrage to the mouth of the river.

In accordance with this decision, SSNNL has approved CIFRI's study proposal for Phase 1, as submitted under reference. You are requested to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this project/study and ensure its submission at the earliest.

  
Add. Pri. Chief Conservator of Forests  
SSNNL, Gandhinagar

**Copy submitted for kind information to:**

- Hon'ble CMD, SSNNL, Gandhinagar.
- Director (Canals), SSNNL, Gandhinagar.
- CGM (T&C), SSNNL, Gandhinagar
- Member (E&R) Narmada Control Authority, Narmada Sadan, Sector – B, Scheme No. 74, Vijaynagar, Indore-452010 (M.P.)

केवल सरकारी प्रयोग के लिए  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



नर्मदा नियंत्रण प्राधिकरण  
NARMADA CONTROL AUTHORITY

नर्मदा नियंत्रण प्राधिकरण  
की पंचानवेवी बैठक का कार्यवृत्त  
MINUTES FOR THE NINETY-FIFTH MEETING OF  
NARMADA CONTROL AUTHORITY

स्थान :सिविल सेवा अधिकारी संस्थान, कस्तूरबा  
गांधी मार्ग, नई दिल्ली

दिनांक : 4 सितम्बर, 2024  
Date : 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2024

Venue: Civil Services Officers Institute (CSOI),  
Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi

समय : 11.00 बजे  
Time : 11.00 Hrs

इन्दौर  
दिसम्बर, 2024

Indore  
December, 2024

Member (E&R), NCA further stated that it is crucial to maintain regular engagement with the fishing community. Stakeholder consultations should be conducted periodically, and their feedback should be systematically recorded to guide the formulation of a comprehensive management strategy addressing the sustainable development and conservation requirements of the Narmada River.

Adding to the points raised by Member (E&R), Senior Scientist from CIFRI, informed that E-flow is required for sustaining the habitat of the fishes whereas the livelihood doesn't completely depend upon the E-flow. He further elaborated that the idea of capture fisheries and hatcheries farming, which are independent of the E-flow in the downstream of river Narmada should be taken up by SSNNL. He also informed that it is imperative to address provisions for alternate and diversified livelihoods for fishermen, including non-fishing activities along the downstream stretch of the Narmada River to enhance their well-being, as advised by CIFRI in its report. The livelihood of fishermen can be supported through various means, including capture fisheries and aquaculture. A multifaceted approach that includes both natural and artificial methods of fish production is recommended. Further, establishing hatcheries and supporting other forms of aquaculture are crucial for enhancing fish stocks and improving fishermen's livelihoods. This is especially important in areas where natural recruitment alone cannot meet the demand.

It has been noted that SSNNL has not started implementing any of the measures suggested by the HR Wallingford or CIFRI in their report for alternative livelihood of fishermen. The work on hatchery has not been initiated either by SSNNL.

After detailed deliberation, Chairperson, NCA emphasized the importance of adopting a balanced approach that fosters both ecological sustainability and the livelihood of local fishermen communities. Recognizing that different groups of fishermen have varying needs and levels of dependence on fisheries, the Chairperson directed GoG to implement the necessary measures as recommended by the CIFRI. Furthermore, GoG was instructed to expedite the finalization and execution of the Fishery Management Plan being developed by the State Fisheries Department. Regular updates on the progress of the plan's implementation are to be shared with the NCA to ensure accountability and effectiveness.

**GoG agreed for the same.**

**Q. TO REVIEW THE ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW OF RIVER NARMADA IN THE DOWNSTREAM OF SARDAR SAROVAR DAM**

The Executive Member, NCA informed that as per the decisions of 94<sup>th</sup> NCA meeting, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Executive Member, NCA, including Members from NCA, party States, and experts from CWC, NMCG, CIFRI, and IIT Roorkee. The Committee was tasked with reassessment of downstream environmental flow.

The Committee held its first meeting on September 21, 2023, in Indore, wherein it was decided that CIFRI would undertake a re-assessment of the downstream E-flow requirements. Following comments from GoMP, GoM, and GoR received on October 27, 2023, and subsequent correspondence from GoG, CIFRI was requested to incorporate additional parameters into the reassessment study.

In response, the second meeting of the Committee on E-flow was held on January 17, 2024, wherein it was decided that CIFRI would prepare the Scope of Work/Terms of Reference (ToR), including partner institutions and financial implications, for the reassessment study. This Scope of Work was to be discussed in the next Committee meeting and the work was to be awarded to CIFRI through SSNNL, GoG.

The third meeting of the E-flow Committee took place virtually on March 19, 2024. During this meeting, while the initial Scope of Work prepared by CIFRI focused on the downstream stretch from Garudeshwar Weir to the Badhbhut Barrage, GoG requested that the study be extended to cover the entire stretch of the River Narmada, from Garudeshwar Weir to the sea. GoG was of the view that the

river's ecosystem cannot be divided into separate segments. The integrity of the ecosystem, including parameters, such as water quality, ecological balance, and species conservation, must be maintained throughout the study.

Expert Members of the Committee emphasized that studying parameters beyond the Badhbhut Barrage would be complex due to factors, such as, the wide mouth of the river and high salinity levels, along with a diverse and intricate ecology. Given the absence of previous studies in this regard, freezing the parameters would require extensive research, involving more institutions than initially envisaged by CIFRI in its proposal, which will eventually result in both time and financial implications.

GoM suggested that the downstream area beyond the Badhbhut Barrage should fall under the jurisdiction of the Kalpasar Department, responsible for conducting necessary environmental flow studies to manage the area. This viewpoint was shared by the GoR as well. Although GoMP did not express a specific opinion on this matter, they expressed a desire for the e-flow study to cover the entire stretch of the River Narmada, starting from Amarkantak and the Bargi Dam up to the sea.

Despite the insistence of the Member (E&R), NCA and other experts on prioritizing the study up to the Badhbhut Barrage in the first phase, particularly due to ongoing legal proceedings at the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), with the potential to address the area beyond Badhbhut in a subsequent phase, the GoG did not concur with this approach.

After thorough deliberation, and as there was no consensus among the party States, it was decided that the issue would be brought forward for the direction of the Authority in the upcoming NCA meeting.

*The Executive Member, NCA informed that the next hearing is scheduled to be held on 18.11.2024. He requested GoMP, GoM and GoR to file their submission before the Hon'ble NGT in time. Further, he requested the Authority for deliberation and direction with respect to the stretch of river that has to be included for this E-flow studies.*

Representative from GoMP stated that the proposal for carrying out the studies is only in the part of Gujarat for about 161 km downstream of SSP before draining in to Gulf of Cambay will not serve the purpose but insisted for carrying out the study for the entire Narmada Basin so that water required for every stage from Amarkantak till the draining in to Gulf of Cambay can be known instead of carrying out the studies for d/s of SSP.

Representative from GoMP also stated on the other hand, if the concerned States wanted to carry out the studies in their territory, they can do the study without affecting the NWDT award. If, NCA wanted to carry out the study, in that case, the study should be carried out for the entire Narmada basin rather than carrying out only in Gujarat territory.

Representatives from GoM agreed to get the study carried out for the downstream SSP for E-Flow upto Bhadbhut Barrage only with a condition that the water should be released from RBPH. Also, for the downstream stretch beyond Bhadbhut Barrage, Kalpasar Department should meet out and release the water.

Representatives from GoR agreed to get the study carried out for the downstream SSP for E-Flow till Bhadbhut Barrage, and also urged that any decision on upward revision of E-flow should not affect the water share of Rajasthan as it being an arid State.

GoG insisted that the reassessment of e-flow study should be conducted up to the sea from the Garudeshwar weir. But it was pointed out by the Chairperson, NCA and Member (E&R) that as per practice in a cascade river valley project, e-flows are calculated between one intervention to the other. Since Bhadbhut Barrage has come up downstream to the Garudeshwar weir, this study would only be taken up to the Bhadbhut Barrage. GoG said that the e-flow released from Garudeshwar weir shall be released from Bhadbhut Barrage as well. If there is any requirement for enhancement of e-flow downstream to Bhadbhut Barrage, the same shall be taken care of by the Kalpasar Department.

Senior Scientist from CIFRI mentioned that it is important to recognize that upstream and downstream ecosystems from Bhadbhut Barrage are different and have varying water requirements. Freshwater and coastal/estuarine ecosystems each have unique needs and should be studied and managed accordingly. When representative from GoG said that it's a connected ecosystem, Senior Scientist from CIFRI clarified that while ecosystems are connected along the river continuum, they function differently and require distinct management strategies. The area downstream to Bhadbhut has much higher salinity with a very wide river mouth. The e-flow assessment for this part would be completely different than the upstream part. Soan 8-month study may be insufficient for comprehensive assessment, for both downstream and upstream assessment w.r.t Bhadbhut Barrage, especially when dealing with complex ecosystems. The study should be realistic about what can be achieved within the given timeframe and may need to be phased.

Member (E&R) emphasized that the reassessment of e-flow should be expedited in view of the deteriorated condition of the river downstream of Garudeshwar weir due to inadequate environmental flow. She pointed out that the River Bed Power House (RBPH) does not run every day and all 24 hours in a year. Even when they run, it is only for a few hours in a day. So mere 600 cusec, without any additional water coming from RBPH, is not sufficient considering the huge stretch of the river to be maintained, which is about 125 km from Garudeshwar weir to Bhadbhut Barrage. Earlier studies carried out by H R Wallingford had suggested atleast 1000 cusec as downstream e-flow to be maintained till the review is done to protect the riverine ecology. Other studies carried out by M S University Vadodara and Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune had estimated a minimum downstream e-flow of 1589.16 cusecs and 1059.43 cusecs, respectively.

After thorough deliberation, Chairperson, NCA decided that, in light of the case pending before the Hon'ble NGT, the studies for environmental flow (E-Flow) will be conducted in a staged manner across the entire basin, from Amarkantak to the Gulf of Cambay, accounting for intervening structures.

In the initial phase, two separate studies will be undertaken by CIFRI through SSNNL

1. From Garudeshwar Weir to Bhadbhut Barrage
2. From Bhadbhut Barrage to the mouth of the river

The results of these studies will be reviewed and decisions will be made with the consensus of the beneficiary States.

For the upstream stretch, from Amarkantak to the Sardar Sarovar Dam, a separate study/studies shall be commissioned, engaging agencies, through an open tender process.

**All the States agreed to the same.**

**R. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF SARDAR SAROVAR PROJECT & COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT ON NAL SAROVAR BIRD SANCTUARY, VELAVADAR NATIONAL PARK AND WILD ASS SANCTUARY IN GUJARAT**

**i. NAL SAROVAR BIRD SANCTUARY (NSBS)**

*The Executive Member, NCA, informed that during the 94<sup>th</sup> NCA meeting, held on May 8, 2023, it was decided that all the mitigation measures from the 1998 GEER Foundation report must be implemented within the specified timeframe to restore ecological balance and protect the internationally renowned Ramsar site. He also emphasized the critical need to maintain the lake's wet and dry scales, pH, and depth throughout the year, as these factors are vital for supporting and attracting migratory floral and faunal species, many of which are vulnerable, endangered, or threatened.*