

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Execution Application No. 16/2019

In

Original Application No. 153/2014



Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage

...Applicant(s)

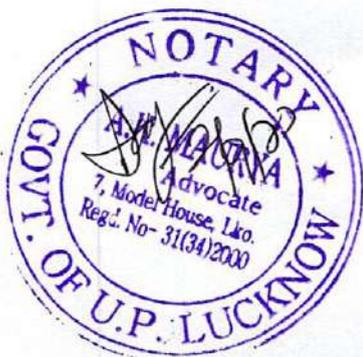
Versus

Govt. of N.C.T of Delhi & Ors

...Respondent(s)

**Affidavit on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(Respondent No. 10)**

I, Dr. R. B. Lal S/o Shri Jhamman Lal, aged about 49 years, presently working as Scientist 'F' at the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Regional Office, Lucknow, Kendriya Bhawan, 11th Floor, Sector

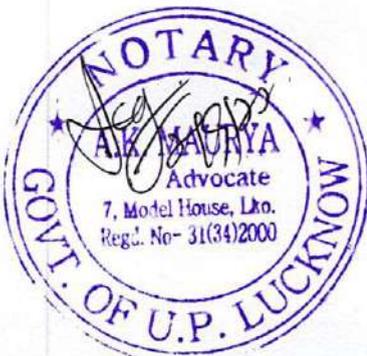


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“H”, Aliganj, Lucknow-226020, Uttar Pradesh, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under: -

1. That, I am, the above-named Deponent, authorized and well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and thus competent to swear the present affidavit.
2. That, the present execution application has been filed seeking execution and compliance of Judgment/Order dated 20.02.2017 in the matter of Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors (OA No. 153/2014), wherein, the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to direct:

“We have heard the Learned Counsel appearing for the parties. The Learned Counsel appearing for the State of Haryana submits that in Original Application No. 325 of 2015 titled as Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs. Union of India & Ors., the State Government has taken up the stand that the Najafgarh Jheel has been accepted to be a water body and the Government has decided to identify the said water body and approval in that behalf is under process. He says, however, the matter still has to receive approval from the competent authority in the State Government. In light of that, nothing survives in this Application and the same is disposed of.



Thus Original Application No. 153 of 2014 stands disposed of without any order as to cost.

The Applicant is at liberty to move the Tribunal, if the occasion so arises.

In view of this statement, the NCT of Delhi is directed to take appropriate steps in accordance with law.”

3. That, vide Order dated 01.05.2025, the Hon'ble Tribunal directed;

“8. The issue concerning the exact area of the Najafgarh Lake on the Haryana side is required to be decided and the exact area is required to be determined by some independent competent body. Hence, we direct the Applicant to implead the National Wetland Authority in this execution application through the Chairman and serve the same.

10. The National Wetland Authority is expected to file the reply affidavit at least one week before the next date of hearing.

4. That at the outset, it is submitted that this respondent, MoEF&CC is the nodal agency of the Central Government for planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies. The primary concern of the Ministry is the implementation of

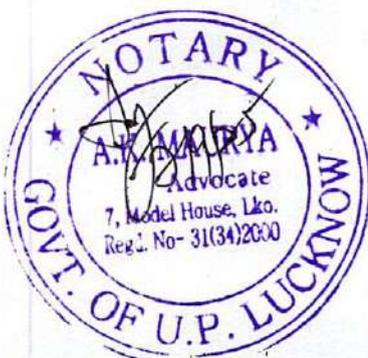


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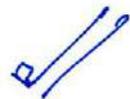
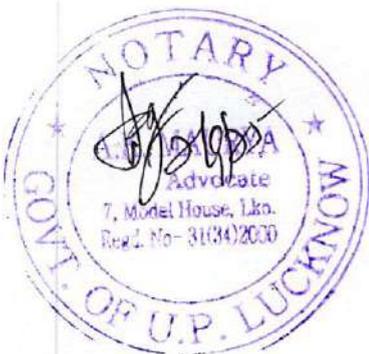
policies and guidelines relating to conservation of the country's forests, lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, natural resources and wildlife.

5. That the 'land' & 'water' are a subject matter of State Government. The forest/wetland areas and the legal boundaries thereof, are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government. That being the repository of land records, State Government has the primary responsibility to determine status of any parcel of land, giving due regards to gazette notifications, provisions under Central and State Acts and concerned judgments and directions of the Hon'ble Courts/Tribunals.
6. That, for effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the MoEF&CC, had notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, superseding the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 with decentralization of powers in view of the fact that "Water and Land" are subjects which come under the purview of the State List. Under these Rules, the State/Union Territories Wetland Authorities have been constituted, thereby, replacing the erstwhile Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority. The powers & functions of State/UT wetland authorities are outlined under Rule 5, while Rule 7 specifies the delegation



of powers and functions to the State Governments and UT Administrations for notification of the wetlands. The Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 are annexed as **Annexure/R10/1**.

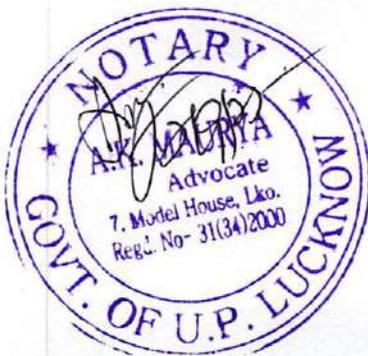
7. According to Rule 2(g) of the aforesaid 2017 rules, *"wetland" means an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters, but does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purpose.*
8. That, Rule 3 of the aforesaid rules, stipulates their applicability to: (a) wetlands categorized as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention; and (b) wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration. *Provided that these rules shall not apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wild Life (Protection) Act,*



1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Forest Acts, and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 as amended from time to time.

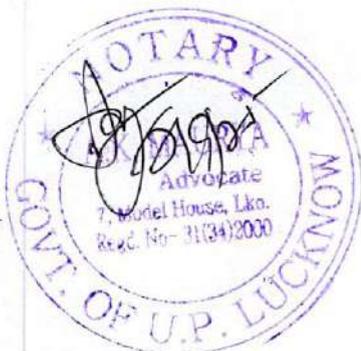
9. That, Rule 4 of the aforesaid rules, provides the list of activities that are restricted in the wetlands. Rule 4(1) provides that wetlands shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority. Rule 4(2) enumerates the activities which are restricted:

- a. *Conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;*
- b. *Setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;*
- c. *manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;*



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- d. *Solid waste dumping;*
- e. *Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;*
- f. *any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty meters from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and,*
- g. *Poaching.*
10. That, Rule 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 stipulates the delegation of powers and functions to the State Government & Union Territory Administrations. As per the provisions of Rule 7 (1) and (4) of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017;
- (1) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules, prepare a Brief Document for each of the wetland identified for notification, providing: —*
- (a) demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;*



(b) demarcation of its zone of influence and land use and land cover thereof indicated in a digital map;

(c) ecological character description;

(d) account of pre-existing rights and privileges;

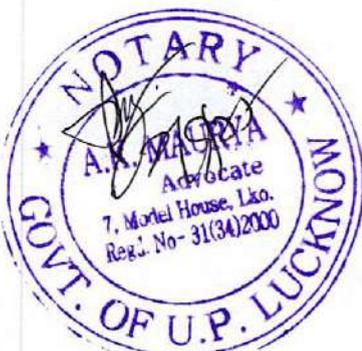
(e) list of site-specific activities to be permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence;

(f) list of site-specific activities to be regulated within the wetland and its zone of influence; and

(g) modalities for enforcement of regulation;

(4) a) In case of trans-boundary wetlands, the Central Government shall coordinate with concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to prepare the Brief Document containing information as listed in sub-rule (1).

b) Based on the Brief Document, the National Wetlands Committee shall make recommendations to the Central Government for notification of the wetland.



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c) *The Central Government shall, after considering the objections, if any, from the concerned and affected persons, notify the wetlands in the Official Gazette, within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of recommendation by the committee.*

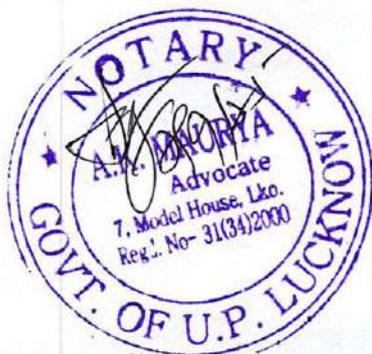
11. That, according to Guidelines for implementation of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017,

“60. In the case of transboundary wetlands, the respective State Governments/UT Administration may initiate the process of preparation of a common Brief Document and submit the same to MoEF&CC. If required, MoEF&CC shall coordinate with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for preparation of the Brief Document and addressing relevant issues. The Ministry will further process Brief Document as per process laid under Rule 7(4) of Wetlands Rules, 2017.”

Guidelines for implementation of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules are annexed as **Annexure/R10/2**.

12. That, vide order dated 11.12.2024, the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that

“Prior to 2017, the figures given by ISRO regarding the number of wetlands

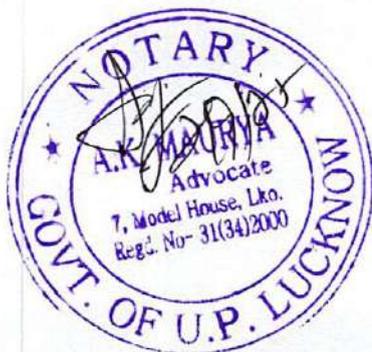


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*in India having an area more than 2.25 Hectares was 2,01,503. The latest ISRO data, which is of the year 2021, shows that this figure has now increased to 2,31,195.”, and further, inter-alia, directed that each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities shall complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the Wetland which have been identified for their State by Space Application Centre Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021 as expeditiously as possible, but definitely within a period of three months from 11.12.2024. The order dated 11.12.2024 is annexed here as **Annexure/R10/3**.*

13. It is pertinent to mention that in compliance of order dated 01.05.2025, a virtual meeting was convened on 15.05.2025 by Wetlands Division, MoEF&CC, with representatives from the State Wetlands Authorities of Haryana and Delhi to deliberate on issues related to the notification of Najafgarh Jheel—a transboundary wetland situated along the Delhi-Gurugram border—in accordance with the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. Accordingly, it was decided that “*a joint report shall be submitted within two months by Wetlands International South Asia (WISA), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-India. They shall also prepare a*



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joint Brief document; delineate the boundary on both Delhi and Haryana side after proper stakeholder consultation including the farmers and other community members in the adjoining areas. Further, the report should include assessment of the impact of the bund on Haryana side on the wetland ecosystem. Concerned authorities from both the Governments of Haryana and NCT of Delhi are kindly requested to cooperate with the team for effective compliance.” Minutes of meeting dated 15.05.2025 are annexed as **Annexure/R10/4**.

14. That, in furtherance of the aforesaid meeting dated 15.05.2025, a team comprising of representatives from WISA and WWF-India conducted a field visit to the Delhi side of Najafgarh Jheel on 06.08.2025, and to the Haryana side on 19.08.2025, to carry out the assessment. During these visits, the team undertook detailed field surveys, engaged in consultations with the relevant Government departments and local stakeholders, and prepared an interim field visit report. Photographs of field visit conducted on 06.08.2025 & 19.08.2025 are annexed as **Annexure/R10/5**.

15. That, the interim report submitted by WISA and WWF-India in relation to the Najafgarh Jheel is required to be revalidated by the National Centre for

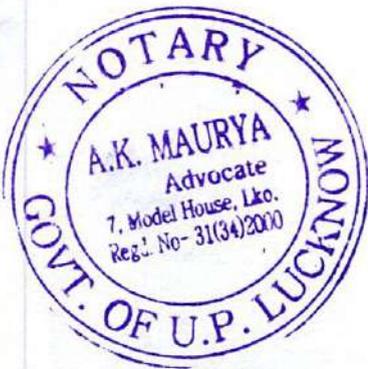


- 17. That, the Interim report is prepared, and it is most respectfully prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to grant a period of eight weeks for submission of Final Report by the NCSCM.
- 18. That, in view of the aforesaid, the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass the order(s) as it deems appropriate.


DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

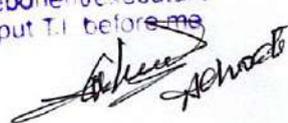
Verified at Lucknow on the 2ND of September, 2025 that the contents of Paragraphs of the aforesaid affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed or concealed therein.



EXECUTION ADMITTED
 BEFORE ME.

 Advocate Notary
 7, Model House, Lucknow


DEPONENT

I identify the deponent/executor
 who has signed/put T.I. before me


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REGD. NO. D. L.-33004/99



भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (i)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (i)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 802]

नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, सितम्बर 26, 2017/आश्विन 4, 1939

No. 802]

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017/ASVINA 4, 1939

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 26 सितम्बर, 2017

सा.का.नि. 1203(अ).—आर्द्रभूमि, जो जलीय चक्र का अत्यावश्यक भाग है, उच्चतर उत्पादक पारिस्थितिकी प्रणालियां हैं जो समृद्ध जैवविविधता का आधार हैं तथा हमारी समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक विरासत का भाग होने के कारण कई महत्वपूर्ण मनोरंजक, सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक कार्यकलापों का समर्थन करते हुए जल भंडारण, जल शुद्धिकरण, बाढ़ अल्पीकरण, अपरदन नियंत्रण, भूजल का पुनःभरण, सूक्ष्म जलवायु का विनियमन, दृश्यभूमि के सौन्दर्य बौध को बढ़ाना जैसी पारिस्थितिकी प्रणाली सेवाओं की व्यापक रेंज प्रदान करता है।

और, अधिकतर आर्द्रभूमि, अपवहन और भरणस्थान, प्रदूषण (घरेलू और औद्योगिक बहिःस्राव का निस्सारण, ठोस अपशिष्टों का निपटान), जल विज्ञान संबंधी परिवर्तन (जल अपनयन और अंतर्वाह तथा बहिवाह परिवर्तन) के माध्यम से भूमि सुधार और अवक्रमण के कारण गंभीर रूप से संकटस्थ स्थिति में हैं और उनके प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के अत्यधिक दोहन के परिणामस्वरूप जैव विविधता की हानि और आर्द्रभूमि द्वारा उपलब्ध पारिस्थितिकी प्रणाली सेवाओं में विघटन हुआ है;

और, संविधान के अनुच्छेद 51क के खंड (छ) में यह बताया गया है कि भारत के प्रत्येक नागरिक का यह कर्तव्य होगा कि वह प्राकृतिक पर्यावरण की, जिसके अंतर्गत वन, झील, नदी और वन्यजीव हैं, रक्षा करे और उसका संवर्धन करे तथा प्राणिमात्र के प्रति दयाभाव रखे;

और पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 पर्यावरण को संरक्षण प्रदान करने तथा उसमें सुधार लाने के लिए एक व्यापक विधान है, जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ आर्द्रभूमि और उससे जुड़े मामले भी सम्मिलित हैं।

और, राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरण नीति, 2006 में आर्द्रभूमि द्वारा उपलब्ध पारिस्थितिकी सेवा को मान्यता दी गई है और सभी आर्द्रभूमि के लिए एक विनियामक तंत्र स्थापित करने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया गया है, जिससे उनकी ऐसी पारिस्थितिकी स्थिति को बनाए रखा जा सके, जो अंततोगत्वा उनके एकीकृत प्रबंध में सहायक हो;

और, भारत, आर्द्रभूमि संबंधी रामसर अभिसमय का हस्ताक्षरकर्ता है, तथा अपने अधिकार क्षेत्र के भीतर सभी आर्द्रभूमियों के संरक्षण और बुद्धिमतापूर्ण उपयोग के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

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और केन्द्रीय सरकार ने तारीख 4 दिसंबर, 2010 की सं.सा.का.नि. 951(अ) द्वारा आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण और प्रबंधन) नियम, 2010, प्रकाशित किए हैं;

और आर्द्रभूमि का संरक्षण और युक्तियुक्त उपयोग राज्य और राष्ट्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था को सारवान प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष आर्थिक लाभ प्रदान कर सकता है तथा केन्द्रीय सरकार विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के लिए विकास आयोजना तथा निर्णय लेने की प्रक्रिया में आर्द्रभूमि जैवविविधता तथा पारिप्रणाली सेवाओं की पूर्ण श्रृंखला को मुख्य धारा में लाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है;

और, राज्य सरकारों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों को इसी प्रकार से अपने विकासात्मक कार्यक्रमों तथा आर्थिक कल्याण में आर्द्रभूमि पारिस्थितिकी प्रणाली सेवाओं और जैव विविधता संबंधी मूल्यों पर विचार करने और इस बात को संज्ञान में लेने की आवश्यकता है कि आर्द्रभूमि पारिस्थितिकी प्रणाली के दो मुख्य पारिस्थितिकी घटक भूमि और जल, भारतीय संविधान के अनुसार राज्य के विषय के रूप में सूचीबद्ध हैं;

और केन्द्रीय सरकार ने देश में आर्द्रभूमियों के प्रभावी संरक्षण और प्रबंधन के लिए आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण और प्रबंधन) नियम, 2010 को अधिकांश करना आवश्यक समझा है;

और, अब, केन्द्रीय सरकार ने पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की उपधारा (1) और उपधारा (2) के खंड (v) और धारा 3 की उपधारा (3) के साथ पठित धारा 25 द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए जनसाधारण की जानकारी के लिए, जिनके उससे प्रभावित होने की संभावना है, सा.का.नि. 385 (अ) तारीख 31 मार्च, 2016 द्वारा आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण और प्रबंधन) नियम, 2016 का प्रारूप प्रकाशित किया था; और यह सूचना दी गई थी कि केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा उक्त प्रारूप नियमों पर, उस तारीख से, जिसको इस राजपत्र में यथाप्रकाशित इस अधिसूचना की प्रतियां जनता को उपलब्ध करा दी जाती है, साठ दिन की अवधि की समाप्ति के पश्चात् विचार किया जाएगा;

और, केन्द्रीय सरकार को प्रारूप आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण और प्रबंधन) नियम, 2016 के संबंध में राज्य सरकारों, संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों राज्यों और इसके संगठनों, व्यक्तियों और सिविल समाज संगठनों से सुझाव तथा आक्षेप प्राप्त हुए हैं;

और, ऐसे आक्षेपों और सुझावों पर, जो ऊपर उल्लिखित प्रारूप नियमों के संबंध में प्राप्त हुए हैं, पर राज्य सरकारों और राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों के परामर्श से केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा सम्यक रूप से विचार किया गया;

अतः अब, केन्द्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (1) और उप-धारा (2) के खंड (v) और उप-धारा (3) के साथ पठित धारा 25 और धारा 23 द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए तथा आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण और प्रबंधन) नियम, 2010 को उन बातों के सिवाय अधिकांश करते हुए, जिन्हें ऐसे अधिक्रमण से पूर्व किया गया था या करने का लोप किया गया था, आर्द्रभूमि के संरक्षण और प्रबंधन के लिए निम्नलिखित नियम बनाती है, अर्थात्:—

1. संक्षिप्त नाम और प्रारंभ.—

- (1) इन नियमों का संक्षिप्त नाम आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण और प्रबंधन) नियम, 2017 है।
- (2) ये राजपत्र में प्रकाशन की तारीख को प्रवृत्त होंगे।

2. परिभाषाएं.—

- (1) इन नियमों में, जब तक कि संदर्भ से अन्यथा अपेक्षित न हो,—

- (क) "अधिनियम" से पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 अभिप्रेत है;
- (ख) "प्राधिकरण" से यथास्थिति राज्य आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण, अभिप्रेत है;
- (ग) "समिति" से नियम 6 में निर्दिष्ट राष्ट्रीय आर्द्रभूमि समिति अभिप्रेत है;
- (घ) "पारिस्थितिकीय गुण" से पारिस्थितिकी प्रणाली घटकों, प्रक्रियाओं तथा सेवाओं का ऐसा संकलन अभिप्रेत है जो आर्द्रभूमियों की विशिष्टता चित्रित करता है;
- (ङ) "एकीकृत प्रबंधन योजना" से कोई ऐसा दस्तावेज अभिप्रेत है जिसमें आर्द्रभूमि का युक्तियुक्त उपयोग के लिए कार्यनीतियों और कार्रवाइयों का वर्णन किया गया है तथा इस योजना में स्थल प्रबंधन के उद्देश्य; उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए अपेक्षित प्रबंधन कार्रवाइयां, वे घटक, जो विभिन्न स्थल विशिष्टताओं को प्रभावित करते हैं, या प्रभावित कर सकते हैं; पारिस्थितिकीय स्वरूप में परिवर्तनों का पता लगाने के लिए और प्रबंधन की प्रभावितता के मापन के लिए अपेक्षित मानीटरी और कार्यान्वयन प्रबंधन कार्यान्वयन के लिए संसाधन सम्मिलित हैं;
- (च) "रामसर अभिसमय" से 1971 में ईरान के रामसर में हस्ताक्षरित आर्द्रभूमि संबंधी अभिसमय अभिप्रेत है;
- (छ) "आर्द्रभूमि से कोई क्षेत्र या कच्छ पंक, पीटभूमि या जल; प्राकृतिक या कृत्रिम, स्थायी या अस्थायी, जल जो ठहरा है या बहते, ताजे, खारे या लवणीय, जिसके अंतर्गत समुद्री जल का जिसकी गहराई ज्वार की स्थिति छह मीटर से अधिक की न हो अभिप्रेत है, परंतु इसमें नदी जल मार्ग, धान के खेत, पेयजल प्रयोजनार्थ विशिष्ट रूप से मानव निर्मित जल निकाय/जलाशय, मत्स्यपालन, नमक उत्पादन और मिर्चाई प्रयोजनों के लिए विशिष्ट रूप से निर्मित संरचनाएं सम्मिलित नहीं हैं;



- (ज) "आर्द्रभूमि परिसर" से दो या दो से अधिक पारिस्थितिकीय और जलीय समीपस्थ आर्द्रभूमियां तथा जिनमें उनसे जुड़े नाले/वाहिकाएं सम्मिलित हो सकती हैं, अभिप्रेत हैं;
- (झ) "आर्द्रभूमियों का युक्तियुक्त उपयोग" से सतत विकास के संदर्भ में पारिप्रणाली दृष्टिकोण के माध्यम से प्राप्त पारिस्थितिकीय गुणों का रख-रखाव अभिप्रेत है;
- (ञ) "प्रभावित जोन" से आर्द्रभूमि या आर्द्रभूमि परिसर के आवाह-क्षेत्र का वह भाग जिस पर विकासात्मक कार्यकलापों के कारण पारिप्रणाली ढांचे, तथा पारिप्रणाली सेवाओं में प्रतिकूल परिवर्तन पड़ता है।
- (2) उन सभी शब्दों और पदों के, जो इन नियमों में प्रयुक्त हैं और परिभाषित नहीं हैं, किंतु अधिनियम में परिभाषित हैं, वही अर्थ होंगे जो उनके उस अधिनियम में हैं।

3. नियमों का लागू होना.—ये नियम निम्नलिखित आर्द्रभूमियों या आर्द्रभूमि परिसरों को लागू होंगे, अर्थात्:-

- (क) रामसर अभिसमय के अधीन 'अंतरराष्ट्रीय महत्व की आर्द्रभूमि' के रूप में वर्गीकृत आर्द्रभूमियां;
- (ख) केन्द्रीय सरकार, राज्य सरकार और संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन द्वारा यथा अधिसूचित आर्द्रभूमियां।

परंतु ये नियम समय-समय पर यथा संशोधित भारतीय वन अधिनियम, 1927, वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972, वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980, राज्य वन अधिनियम तथा तटीय विनियमन जोन अधिसूचना, 2011 के अंतर्गत आने वाले क्षेत्रों में पड़ने वाली आर्द्रभूमियों को लागू नहीं होंगे।

4. आर्द्रभूमियों में क्रियाकलापों पर निर्बंधन.—(1) आर्द्रभूमि का संरक्षण और प्रबंध, आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण द्वारा यथा अवधारित 'युक्तियुक्त उपयोग' के सिद्धांत के अनुसार किया जाएगा।

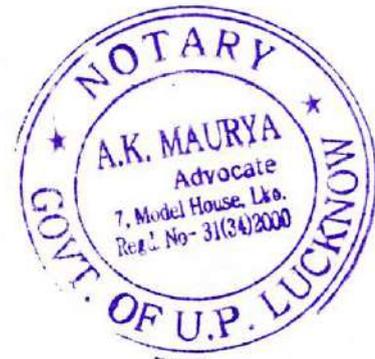
(2) आर्द्रभूमि के भीतर, निम्नलिखित क्रियाकलापों को प्रतिषिद्ध किया जाएगा, अर्थात्:-

- (i) किसी भी किस्म के अतिक्रमण सहित गैर-आर्द्रभूमि उपयोग हेतु परिवर्तन;
- (ii) किसी उद्योग को स्थापित करना और विद्यमान उद्योगों का विस्तार करना;
- (iii) निर्माण और विध्वंस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन नियम, 2016 के अंतर्गत आने वाले निर्माण और विध्वंस अपशिष्ट का विनिर्माण या हथालन या भंडारण या निपटान; परिसंकटमय रसायन के विनिर्माण, भंडारण और आयात नियम, 1989 या परिसंकटमय सूक्ष्म जीवों आनुवंशिक रूप से निर्मित जीवों या कोशिकाओं का उपयोग, आयात, निर्यात और भंडारण संबंधी नियम, 1989 या परिसंकटमय अपशिष्ट (प्रबंधन, हथालन और सीमापारीय संचलन) नियम 2008 के अंतर्गत आने वाले परिसंकटमय पदार्थ; ई-अपशिष्ट (प्रबंधन) नियम, 2016 के अंतर्गत आने वाला ई-अपशिष्ट;
- (iv) ठोस अपशिष्ट का पाटन;
उद्योगों, शहरों, कस्बों, गांवों और अन्य मानव बस्तियों से अशोधित अपशिष्ट और बहिस्रावों का निस्सारण;
- (v) किसी स्थायी प्रकृति का किसी निर्माण मिवाय नाव घाटों के, पचास मीटर के भीतर इन नियमों के प्रारंभ की तारीख से पिछले दस वर्षों में प्रेक्षित बाढ़ के औसतन उच्च स्तर से गणना की जाएगी; और
- (vi) अवैध शिकार।

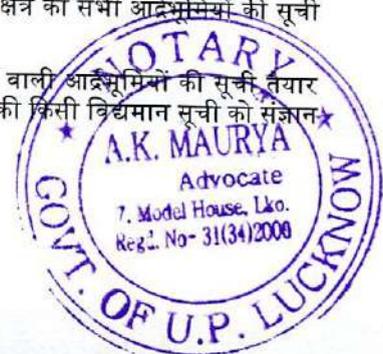
परंतु केन्द्रीय सरकार प्राधिकरण की सिफारिश पर किसी कार्यकलाप के विलोपन के लिए राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन से प्राप्त प्रस्तावों पर विचार कर सकेगी।

5. आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण.—(1) केन्द्रीय सरकार, प्रत्येक राज्य में राज्य आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण का गठन करेगी जिसमें निम्नलिखित सदस्य होंगे, अर्थात्:-

- (i) राज्य सरकार के पर्यावरण/वन विभाग का भारसाधक मंत्री या आर्द्रभूमि के विषय से संबंधित कार्य कर रहे भारसाधक मंत्री - अध्यक्ष;
- (ii) राज्य का मुख्य सचिव या समतुल्य अपर मुख्य सचिव - उपाध्यक्ष;
- (iii) पर्यावरण विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (iv) वन विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (v) शहरी विकास विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (vi) ग्रामीण विकास विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (vii) जल संसाधन विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;



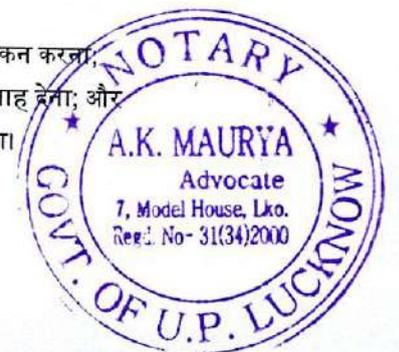
- (viii) मत्स्यकी विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (ix) सिंचाई और बाढ़ नियंत्रण विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (x) पर्यटन विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xi) राजस्व विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xii) निदेशक, राज्य सुदूर संवेदी केन्द्र - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xiii) मुख्य वन्यजीव वार्डन - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xiv) सदस्य सचिव, राज्य जैवविविधता बोर्ड - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xv) सदस्य सचिव, राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xvi) पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय के क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय का अपर प्रधान मुख्य संरक्षक - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xvii) आर्द्रभूमि पारिस्थितिकी, जल विज्ञान, मत्स्यकी, भू-दृश्य योजना और सामाजिक-आर्थिक क्षेत्र में से प्रत्येक का एक विशेषज्ञ जिसे राज्य सरकार द्वारा नामनिर्दिष्ट किया जाए; और
- (xviii) पर्यावरण/वन विभाग या आर्द्रभूमियों से संबंधित विभाग में अपर सचिव/संयुक्त सचिव/निदेशक - सदस्य सचिव।
- (2) केन्द्रीय सरकार, प्रत्येक राज्य क्षेत्र के लिए संघ राज्य क्षेत्र आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण का गठन करेगी जिसमें निम्नलिखित सदस्य होंगे, अर्थात्:-
- (i) संघ राज्य क्षेत्र का प्रशासक या मुख्य सचिव - अध्यक्ष;
- (ii) पर्यावरण विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - उपाध्यक्ष;
- (iii) वन विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (iv) शहरी विकास विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (v) ग्रामीण विकास विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (vi) जल संसाधन विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (vii) मत्स्यकी विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (viii) सिंचाई और बाढ़ नियंत्रण विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (ix) पर्यटन विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (x) राजस्व विभाग का भारसाधक सचिव - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xi) निदेशक, सुदूर संवेदी केन्द्र - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xii) सदस्य सचिव, संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण समिति - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xiii) सदस्य सचिव, संघ राज्य क्षेत्र जैव-विविधता बोर्ड - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xiv) मुख्य वन्यजीव वार्डन - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xv) पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय के क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय के अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक - पदेन सदस्य;
- (xvi) आर्द्रभूमि पारिस्थितिकी, जल-विज्ञान, मत्स्यकी, भू-दृश्य योजना और सामाजिक-आर्थिक क्षेत्रों से एक-एक विशेषज्ञ जिसे संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन द्वारा नामनिर्दिष्ट किया जाए; और
- (xvii) पर्यावरण/वन विभाग या आर्द्रभूमि हथालन विभाग में अपर सचिव/संयुक्त सचिव/निदेशक - सदस्य सचिव।
- (3) राज्य आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण, तीन से अधिक, यदि अपेक्षित हों, अन्य सदस्यों, का सह-चयन, कर सकेंगे।
- (4) राज्य आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण, निम्नलिखित शक्तियों का प्रयोग करेगा और निम्नलिखित कृत्यों का पालन करेगा, अर्थात् :-
- (क) इन नियमों के प्रकाशन की तारीख से तीन मास के भीतर राज्य या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र की सभी आर्द्रभूमियों की सूची तैयार करना;
- (ख) इन नियमों के प्रकाशन की तारीख से छह मास के भीतर अधिसूचित की जाने वाली आर्द्रभूमियों की सूची तैयार करना; अन्य सुसंगत राज्य अधिनियमों के अधीन तैयार/अधिसूचित आर्द्रभूमियों की किसी विद्यमान सूची को संज्ञान में लेना;



- (ग) इन नियमों के अधीन विनियमन हेतु उनके संक्षिप्त दस्तावेजों के आधार पर अभिजात आर्द्रभूमियों की संस्तुति करना;
- (घ) इन नियमों के प्रकाशन की तारीख से एक वर्ष की अवधि के भीतर सभी आर्द्रभूमियों की व्यापक डिजिटल सूची तैयार करना और उक्त प्रयोजन से केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा विकसित की जाने वाले डेडीकेटेड वेब पोर्टल पर इसे अपलोड करना; और इस सूची को प्रत्येक दस वर्ष में अद्यतन किया जाएगा;
- (ङ) अधिसूचित आर्द्रभूमियों के भीतर विनियमित और अनुज्ञात किए जाने वाले कार्यकलापों और उनके प्रभाव क्षेत्र की विस्तृत सूची विकसित करना;
- (च) विनिर्दिष्ट आर्द्रभूमियों के लिए प्रतिपिद्ध कार्यकलापों की सूची में बढोतरी, यदि कोई हो, की सिफारिश करना;
- (छ) आर्द्रभूमियों की अधिकारिता के भीतर उनके संरक्षण और युक्तियुक्त उपयोग के लिए कार्यनीतियां पारिभाषित करना; यदि पारिस्थितिक प्रणाली के कार्यकलापों (जल भण्डारण, भू-जल संभरण, बाढ़-प्रतिरोधक जैसे) और मूल्य (मनोरंजन और सांस्कृतिक जैसे) का अनुरक्षण किया जाता है या उसमें अभिवृद्धि की जाती है; तो इन पारिस्थितिक प्रणाली को प्रबंधित करने के लिए एक मिद्दांत, जो संरक्षण के साथ संगत बहुनीय उपयोगों को समावेशित करता है (जैसे जीवन-निर्वाह स्तर हेतु मछली पकड़ना या जलीय वनस्पति की पैदावार करना) का विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग करना;
- (ज) प्रत्येक अधिसूचित आर्द्रभूमियों के लिए एकीकृत प्रबंधन योजना का पुनर्विलोकन करना (केन्द्रीय सरकार के समन्वयन से सीमा-पारीय आर्द्रभूमियों सहित), और इन योजनाओं के भीतर आर्द्रभूमियों, जो पारिस्थितिकीय स्वरूप के अनुकूल हैं, के पारम्परिक उपयोगों को जारी रखना और उसमें समर्थन देने पर विचार करना;
- (झ) उन मामलों में, जहां अधिसूचित आर्द्रभूमियों या आर्द्रभूमि परिसरों की सीमा के भीतर भूमि क्षेत्र का निजी भू-धारण अधिकार है, उन्हें बढावा देने के लिए कार्यकलापों के माध्यम से पारिस्थितिकीय स्वरूप को बनाये रखने के लिए कार्यतंत्रों हेतु सिफारिश करना;
- (ञ) विद्यमान राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र स्तर की विकास योजनाओं और कार्यक्रमों के साथ प्रबंध योजना के कार्यान्वयन के अभिसरण के लिए कार्यतंत्रों की पहचान करना;
- (ट) इन नियमों और अन्य सुसंगत अधिनियमों, नियमों और विनियमों का प्रवर्तन सुनिश्चित करना और अर्द्ध-वार्षिक आधार पर (प्रत्येक कैलेन्डर वर्ष के जून और दिसम्बर पर) एक सूचना तंत्र के माध्यम से ऐसी अधिसूचित आर्द्रभूमियों की स्थिति पर संबंधित राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन या केन्द्रीय सरकार को सूचना देना;
- (ठ) विभिन्न संगत विभागों और अन्य संबंधित अभिकरणों के माध्यम से युक्तियुक्त उपयोग के मिद्दांत के आधार पर एकीकृत प्रबंधन योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन का समन्वयन करना;
- (ड) राज्य या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन के भीतर सभी आर्द्रभूमि विनिर्दिष्ट प्राधिकरणों के लिए नोडल प्राधिकरण के रूप में कार्य करना;
- (ढ) संबंधित क्रियान्वयन अभिकरणों को आर्द्रभूमियों के संरक्षण और सतत प्रबंधन हेतु आवश्यक निदेश जारी करना;
- (ण) आर्द्रभूमियों के मूल्यों और क्रियाकलापों के संबंध में पणधारियों और स्थानीय समुदायों के बीच जागरूकता के संवर्धन हेतु उपाय करना; और
- (त) स्वप्रेरणा से या राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन द्वारा यथानिर्दिष्ट अन्य मामले पर सलाह देना।
- (5) राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन का संबंधित विभाग, प्राधिकरण के लिए नोडल विभाग और सचिवालय के रूप में सभी आवश्यक सहायता प्रदान करेगा और कार्य करेगा।
- (6) प्राधिकरण, इन नियमों के प्रकाशन के नब्बे दिन के भीतर :
- (क) संक्षिप्त दस्तावेजों और प्रबंध योजनाओं का पुनर्विलोकन करने तथा आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण द्वारा निर्दिष्ट किसी तकनीकी विषय पर सलाह देने के लिए एक तकनीकी समिति का, और
- (ख) जनता द्वारा प्राधिकरण को की गई शिकायतों की सुनवाई करने और उन्हें अग्रपेित करने के लिए एक कार्यतंत्र उपलब्ध कराने हेतु चार सदस्यों से मिलकर बनी एक शिकायत समिति का गठन करेगा।
- (7) उप-नियम (6) में निर्दिष्ट समितियां अपने कृत्यों के निष्पादन के लिए प्रत्येक तिमाही में कम से कम एक बार बैठक करेंगी।
- (8) प्राधिकरण की वर्ष में कम से कम तीन बार बैठक होगी।
- (9) राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन द्वारा नामनिर्दिष्ट प्राधिकरण के गैर-अधिकारिक सदस्यों का कार्यकाल अधिकतम तीन वर्ष की अवधि का होगा।



6. **राष्ट्रीय आर्द्रभूमि समिति का गठन.**—(1) केन्द्रीय सरकार, एक राष्ट्रीय आर्द्रभूमि समिति का गठन करेगी, जिसमें निम्नलिखित सदस्य होंगे, अर्थात् :—
- (i) सचिव, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार – अध्यक्ष;
 - (ii) आर्द्रभूमि संबंधी कार्य देख रहे विशेष सचिव या अपर सचिव, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार – उपाध्यक्ष;
 - (iii) अपर महानिदेशक, वन्यजीव, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार – पदेन सदस्य;
 - (iv) आर्द्रभूमियों संबंधी कार्य देख रहे सलाहकार या संयुक्त सचिव, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय – पदेन सदस्य;
 - (v) संयुक्त सचिव, पर्यटन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार – पदेन सदस्य;
 - (vi) संयुक्त सचिव, जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार – पदेन सदस्य;
 - (vii) संयुक्त सचिव, कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार – पदेन सदस्य;
 - (viii) संयुक्त सचिव, सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय भारत सरकार – पदेन सदस्य;
 - (ix) संयुक्त सचिव, शहरी विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार - पदेन सदस्य;
 - (x) संयुक्त सचिव, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार - पदेन सदस्य;
 - (xi) अध्यक्ष, केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड - पदेन सदस्य;
 - (xii) निदेशक, भारतीय प्राणि सर्वेक्षण या वैज्ञानिक एफ - पदेन सदस्य;
 - (xiii) निदेशक, भारतीय वनस्पति सर्वेक्षण या वैज्ञानिक एफ - पदेन सदस्य;
 - (xiv) निदेशक, अंतरिक्ष अनुप्रयुक्ति केंद्र, अहमदाबाद या वैज्ञानिक एफ - पदेन सदस्य;
 - (xv) सदस्य केन्द्रीय जल आयोग - पदेन सदस्य;
 - (xvi) सलाहकार, नीति आयोग - पदेन सदस्य;
 - (xvii) राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्यक्षेत्र प्रशासन के तीन प्रतिनिधि, चक्रानुक्रम आधार पर, प्रत्येक दो वर्ष के कार्यकाल के लिए;
 - (xviii) आर्द्र भूमि पारिस्थितिकी, जल विज्ञान, मत्स्यकी क्षेत्र, भू-दृश्य योजना और सामाजिक अर्थशास्त्र के क्षेत्रों में से प्रत्येक का एक-एक विशेषज्ञ; और
 - (xix) आर्द्रभूमि से संबंधित कार्य करने वाले निदेशक/अपर निदेशक/संयुक्त निदेशक, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय - सदस्य सचिव।
- (2) राष्ट्रीय आर्द्रभूमि समिति, यदि अपेक्षित हो, तीन से अनधिक अन्य सदस्यों को सहयोजित कर सकेगी।
- (3) राष्ट्रीय आर्द्रभूमि समिति निम्नलिखित कृत्यों का पालन करेगी, अर्थात्:—
- (क) आर्द्रभूमियों के संरक्षण तथा बुद्धिमत्तापूर्ण उपयोग के लिए समुचित नीतियों और कार्रवाई सम्बन्धी कार्यक्रमों के विषय में केन्द्रीय सरकार को सलाह देना;
 - (ख) आर्द्रभूमियों के एकीकृत प्रबंधन के लिए बुद्धिमत्तापूर्ण उपयोग के सिद्धान्त पर आधारित मानदंड और मार्गदर्शक सिद्धान्त तैयार करना;
 - (ग) प्राधिकरण द्वारा इन नियमों के क्रियान्वयन की निगरानी करना;
 - (घ) नियम 4 के उप नियम (2) में यथानिर्दिष्ट प्रतिषेधित क्रियाकलापों के लिए राज्य सरकारों या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों से प्राप्त पुनरीक्षित प्रस्तावों के संबंध में केन्द्रीय सरकार को सलाह देना;
 - (ङ.) रामसर अभिसमय के अधीन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महत्व की आर्द्रभूमियों को अभिहित किये जाने की सिफारिश करना;
 - (च) अधिसूचित किये जाने के लिए सीमापार आर्द्रभूमियों की सिफारिश करना;
 - (छ) रामसर स्थलों और सीमापार आर्द्रभूमियों के एकीकृत प्रबंध की प्रगति का पुनर्विलोकन करना;
 - (ज) आर्द्रभूमियों से संबंधित मुद्दों पर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अभिकरणों के समन्वय के संबंध में सलाह देना; और
 - (झ) किसी अन्य मामले पर स्वप्रेरणा से सलाह देना या केन्द्रीय सरकार को निर्दिष्ट करना।



- (4) समिति के गैर-सरकारी सदस्यों को कार्यकाल तीन वर्ष से अनधिक का नहीं होगा।
- (5) समिति प्रत्येक छह मास में कम से कम एक बार बैठक करेगी।
7. **राज्य सरकारों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों को शक्तियों और कार्यों का प्रत्यायोजन.**—(1) राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन का सम्बद्ध विभाग इन नियमों के प्रकाशन की तारीख से एक वर्ष की अवधि के भीतर अधिसूचित किये जाने हेतु अभिज्ञात प्रत्येक आर्द्रभूमि के लिए एक संक्षिप्त दस्तावेज तैयार करेगा, जिसमें निम्नलिखित का उपबंध होगा:—
- (क) निर्देशांकों सहित यथार्थ डिजिटल मानचित्रों द्वारा समर्थित और जमीनी सत्यापन द्वारा विधिमान्य आर्द्रभूमि का सीमांकन;
- (ख) इसके प्रभाव क्षेत्र का सीमांकन और डिजिटल मानचित्र में संकेतित उसका भूमि उपयोग और आच्छादित भूमि क्षेत्र;
- (ग) पारिस्थितिक-स्वरूप का विवरण;
- (घ) पूर्वतः विद्यमान अधिकारों तथा विशेषाधिकारों का लेखा;
- (ङ.) आर्द्रभूमि तथा इसके प्रभाव क्षेत्र के भीतर अनुज्ञप्त स्थल-विशिष्ट क्रियाकलाप की सूची;
- (च) आर्द्रभूमि और उसके प्रभाव क्षेत्र के भीतर विनियमित किये जाने वाले स्थल-विशिष्ट क्रियाकलापों की सूची; और
- (छ) विनियमों के प्रवर्तन की रीति;
- (2) प्राधिकरण, संक्षिप्त दस्तावेज के आधार पर, आर्द्रभूमियों को अधिसूचित किये जाने के लिए राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्यक्षेत्र प्रशासन को सिफारिश करेगा।
- (3) राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन संबंधित और प्रभावित व्यक्तियों से प्राप्त आक्षेपों, यदि कोई हों, पर विचार करने के पश्चात् प्राधिकरण द्वारा की गयी सिफारिश की तारीख से दो सौ चालीस दिन से अनधिक की अवधि के भीतर राजपत्र में आर्द्रभूमियों को अधिसूचित करेगी।
- (4) (क) केन्द्रीय सरकार सीमा-पार आर्द्रभूमियों के मामले में, संक्षिप्त दस्तावेज, जिसमें उप-नियम (1) में यथा सूचीबद्ध सूचना दी गई हो, को तैयार करने में संबद्ध राज्य सरकार और संघ राज्यक्षेत्र प्रशासनों के साथ समन्वय करेगी।
- (ख) संक्षिप्त दस्तावेज के आधार पर, राष्ट्रीय आर्द्रभूमि समिति आर्द्रभूमि को अधिसूचित किये जाने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार को सिफारिशें करेगी।
- (ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार संबद्ध और प्रभावित व्यक्तियों से प्राप्त आक्षेपों, यदि कोई हों, पर विचार करने के पश्चात् समिति द्वारा की गई सिफारिश की तारीख से दो सौ चालीस दिन से अनधिक की अवधि के भीतर आर्द्रभूमियों को राजपत्र में अधिसूचित करेगी।
- (5) (क) केन्द्रीय सरकार आर्द्रभूमियों से संबंधित सूचना के लिए एक समर्पित वेब पोर्टल का सृजन करेगी।
- (ख) केन्द्रीय सरकार, राज्य सरकार और संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन अपनी अधिकारिता में की आर्द्रभूमियों के विषय में, सभी संबंधित सूचना अपलोड करेगी।

[फा. सं. जे-22012/78/2003-सीएस(डब्ल्यू) पार्ट.V]

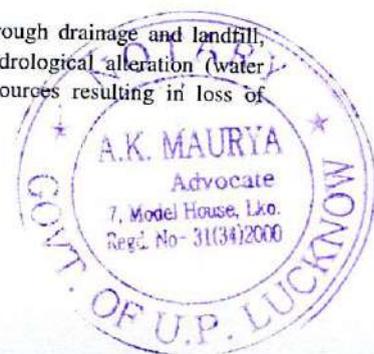
डॉ. ए. दुरैसामी, वैज्ञानिक 'जी'

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 26th September, 2017

G.S.R. 1203(E).—Whereas the wetlands, vital parts of the hydrological cycle, are highly productive ecosystems which support rich biodiversity and provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as water storage, water purification, flood mitigation, erosion control, aquifer recharge, microclimate regulation, aesthetic enhancement of landscapes while simultaneously supporting many significant recreational, social and cultural activities, being part of our rich cultural heritage:

And whereas many wetlands are threatened by reclamation and degradation through drainage and landfill, pollution (discharge of domestic and industrial effluents, disposal of solid wastes), hydrological alteration (water withdrawal and changes in inflow and outflow), over-exploitation of their natural resources resulting in loss of biodiversity and disruption in ecosystem services provided by wetlands;



And whereas clause (g) of article 51A of the Constitution stipulates that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures;

And whereas the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is a comprehensive legislation to provide protection and improvement of the environment, including *inter-alia*, wetlands, and for matters connected therewith;

And whereas the National Environment Policy, 2006 recognises the ecosystem services provided by wetlands and emphasizes the need to set up a regulatory mechanism for all wetlands so as to maintain their ecological character, and ultimately support their integrated management;

And whereas India is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and is committed to conservation and wise use of all wetlands within its territory;

And whereas the Central Government has published the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, vide number G.S.R. 951(E), dated the 4th December, 2010;

And whereas conservation and wise use of wetlands can provide substantial direct and indirect economic benefits to state and national economy, and thereby the Central Government stands committed to mainstreaming full range of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services in development planning and decision making for various sectors;

And whereas the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations need to take into account wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity values likewise within their developmental programming and economic well-being, also taking into cognizance that land and water, two major ecological constituents of wetland ecosystems, are enlisted as State subjects as per the Constitution;

And whereas the Central Government considered it necessary to supersede the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 for effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country;

And whereas the Central Government had, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 25, read with sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, published the draft Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016, vide number G.S.R. 385 (E) dated 31st March, 2016 for information of the public likely to be affected thereby; and notice was given that the said draft rules would be taken into consideration by the Central Government after expiry of a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette notification is made available to the public;

And whereas the Central Government has received the suggestions and objections from the State Governments, Union Territories and its organisations, individuals and civil society organisations on the draft Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016;

And whereas the suggestions and objections received in response to the above mentioned draft rules have been duly considered by the Central Government in consultation with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

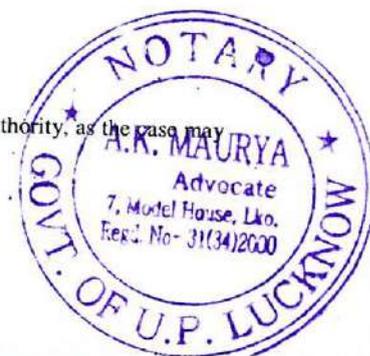
Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 25, read with sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 3 and section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and in supersession of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby makes the following rules for conservation and management of wetlands, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement.—

- (1) These rules may be called the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.
- (2) These shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions.—

- (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—
 - (a) "Act" means the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
 - (b) "Authority" means the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority, as the case may be;



- (c) "Committee" means the National Wetlands Committee referred to in rule 6;
- (d) "ecological character" means the sum of ecosystem components, processes and services that characterise the wetlands;
- (e) "integrated management plan" means a document which describes strategies and actions for achieving wise use of the wetland and the plan shall include objectives of site management; management actions required to achieve the objectives; factors that affect, or may affect, the various site features; monitoring requirements for detecting changes in ecological character and for measuring the effectiveness of management; and resources for management implementation;
- (f) "Ramsar Convention" means the Convention on Wetlands signed at Ramsar, Iran in 1971;
- (g) "wetland" means an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters, but does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes;
- (h) "wetlands complexes" means two or more ecologically and hydrologically contiguous wetlands and may include their connecting channels/ducts;
- (i) "wise use of wetlands" means maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through implementation of ecosystem approach within the context of sustainable development;
- (j) "zone of influence" means that part of the catchment area of the wetland or wetland complex, developmental activities in which induce adverse changes in ecosystem structure, and ecosystem services.
- (2) The words and expressions used in these rules and not defined, but defined in the Act, shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Act.
- 3. Applicability of rules.**—These rules shall apply to the following wetlands or wetlands complexes, namely:—
- (a) wetlands categorised as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention;
- (b) wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration:
- Provided that these rules shall not apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Forest Acts, and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 as amended from time to time.
- 4. Restrictions of activities in wetlands.**—(1) The wetlands shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority.
- (2) The following activities shall be prohibited within the wetlands, namely,—
- (i) conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
- (ii) setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
- (iii) manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;
- (iv) solid waste dumping;
- (v) discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
- (vi) any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and,
- (vii) poaching.



Provided that the Central Government may consider proposals from the State Government or Union Territory Administration for omitting any of the activities on the recommendation of the Authority.

5. Wetlands Authorities.—(1) The Central Government hereby constitutes the State Wetlands Authority in each State with the following members, namely:—

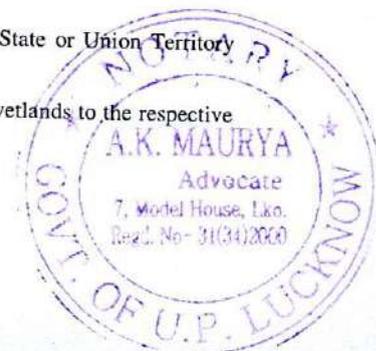
- (i) Minister In-charge of the Department of Environment/Forests of the State Government or Minister In-charge of the Department handling wetlands - Chairperson;
- (ii) Chief Secretary of the State or Additional Chief Secretary equivalent - Vice Chairperson;
- (iii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Environment - Member *ex-officio*;
- (iv) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Forests - Member *ex-officio*;
- (v) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Urban Development - Member *ex-officio*;
- (vi) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Rural Development - Member *ex-officio*;
- (vii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Water Resources - Member *ex-officio*;
- (viii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Fisheries - Member *ex-officio*;
- (ix) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Irrigation and Flood Control - Member *ex-officio*;
- (x) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Tourism - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xi) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Revenue - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xii) Director, State Remote Sensing Centre - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xiii) Chief Wildlife Warden - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xiv) Member Secretary, State Biodiversity Board - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xv) Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xvi) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xvii) One expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socio-economics to be nominated by the State Government; and
- (xviii) Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Director in the Department of Environment/Forests or Department handling wetlands - Member Secretary.

(2) The Central Government hereby constitutes the Union Territory Wetlands Authority for each Union Territory with the following members, namely:—

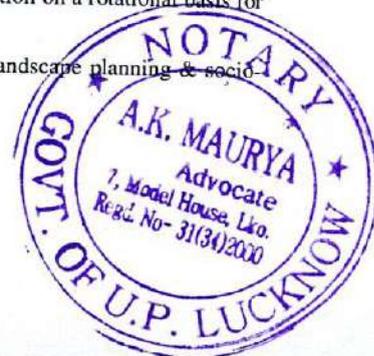
- (i) Administrator or Chief Secretary of the Union Territory - Chairperson;
- (ii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Environment - Vice Chairperson;
- (iii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Forests - Member *ex-officio*;
- (iv) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Urban Development - Member *ex-officio*;
- (v) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Rural Development - Member *ex-officio*;
- (vi) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Water Resources - Member *ex-officio*;
- (vii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Fisheries - Member *ex-officio*;
- (viii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Irrigation and Flood Control - Member *ex-officio*;
- (ix) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Tourism - Member *ex-officio*;
- (x) Secretary in-charge of the Departments of Revenue - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xi) Director, Remote Sensing Centre - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xii) Member Secretary, Union Territory Pollution Control Committee - Member *ex-officio*;



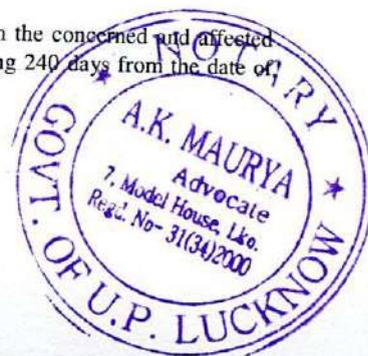
- (xiii) Member Secretary, Biodiversity Board of the UT - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xiv) Chief Wildlife Warden - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xv) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change- Member *ex-officio*;
- (xvi) One expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socio-economics to be nominated by the Union Territory Administration; and
- (xvii) Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Director in the Department of Environment/Forests or Department handling wetlands - Member Secretary.
- (3) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority may co-opt other members, not exceeding three in number, if required.
- (4) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority shall exercise the following powers and perform the following functions, namely:-
- (a) prepare a list of all wetlands of the State or Union Territory within three months from the date of publication of these rules;
- (b) prepare a list of wetlands to be notified, within six months from the date of publication of these rules; taking into cognizance any existing list of wetlands prepared/notified under other relevant State Acts;
- (c) recommend identified wetlands, based on their Brief Documents, for regulation under these rules;
- (d) prepare a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules and upload the same on a dedicated web portal to be developed by the Central Government for the said purpose; the inventory to be updated every ten years;
- (e) develop a comprehensive list of activities to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence;
- (f) recommend additions, if any, to the list of prohibited activities for specific wetlands;
- (g) define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction; wise use being a principle for managing these ecosystems which incorporates sustainable uses (such as capture fisheries at subsistence level or harvest of aquatic plants) as being compatible with conservation, if ecosystem functions (such as water storage, groundwater recharge, flood buffering) and values (such as recreation and cultural) are maintained or enhanced;
- (h) review integrated management plan for each of the notified wetlands (including trans-boundary wetlands in coordination with Central Government), and within these plans consider continuation and support to traditional uses of wetlands which are harmonized with ecological character;
- (i) in cases wherein lands within boundary of notified wetlands or wetlands complex have private tenancy rights, recommend mechanisms for maintenance of ecological character through promotional activities;
- (j) identify mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing State/Union Territory level development plans and programmes;
- (k) ensure enforcement of these rules and other relevant Acts, rules and regulations and on half-yearly basis (June and December of each calendar year) inform the concerned State Government or Union Territory Administration or Central Government on the status of such notified wetlands through a reporting mechanism;
- (l) coordinate implementation of integrated management plans based on wise use principle through various line departments and other concerned agencies;
- (m) function as nodal authority for all wetland specific authorities within the State or Union Territory Administration;
- (n) issue necessary directions for conservation and sustainable management of wetlands to the respective implementing agencies;



- (o) undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands; and
- (p) Advise on any other matter *suo-motu*, or as referred by the State Government/Union Territory Administration.
- (5) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory shall provide all necessary support and act as nodal Department and Secretariat to the Authority.
- (6) The Authority shall, within ninety days of publication of these rules, shall constitute,—
- (a) a technical committee to review brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the Wetland Authority; and
- (b) a grievance committee consisting of four members to provide a mechanism for hearing and forwarding the grievances raised by public to the Authority;
- (7) The Committees referred to in sub-rule (6) shall meet at least once in every quarter to perform their functions.
- (8) The Authority shall meet at least thrice in a year.
- (9) The term of non-official members of the Authority nominated by State Government or Union Territory Administration, shall be for a period not exceeding three years.
6. **Constitution of National Wetlands Committee.**—(1) The Central Government, hereby constitutes the National Wetlands Committee with the following members, namely:—
- (i) Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India - Chairperson;
- (ii) Special Secretary or Additional Secretary dealing with wetlands, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India-Vice Chairperson;
- (iii) Additional Director General, Wildlife, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India - Member *ex-officio*;
- (iv) Adviser or Joint Secretary dealing with wetlands, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - Member *ex-officio*;
- (v) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (vi) Joint Secretary , Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (vii) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (viii) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (ix) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (x) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;
- (xi) The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xii) Director, Zoological Survey of India or Scientist F- Member *ex-officio*;
- (xiii) Director, Botanical Survey of India or Scientist F- Member *ex-officio*;
- (xiv) Director, Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad or Scientist F- Member *ex-officio*;
- (xv) Member, Central Water Commission - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xvi) Adviser, Niti Aayog - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xvii) Three representatives of State Government or Union Territory Administration on a rotational basis for a tenure of two years each;
- (xviii) One expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning & socio economics; and



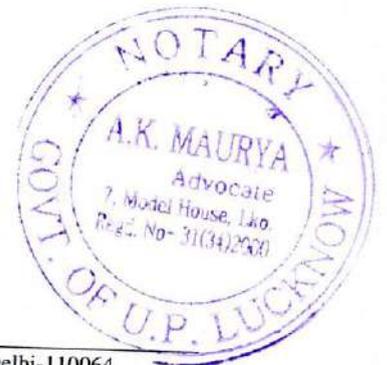
- (xix) Director/Additional Director/Joint Director dealing with wetlands, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - Member Secretary.
- (2) The National Wetlands Committee may co-opt other members, not exceeding three in number, if required.
- (3) The National Wetlands Committee shall perform the following functions, namely:-
- advise the Central Government on appropriate policies and action programmes for conservation and wise use of wetlands;
 - evolve norms and guidelines for integrated management of wetlands based on wise use principle;
 - monitor implementation of these rules by the Authority;
 - advise the Central Government on proposals received from State Governments or Union Territory Administrations for omission of the prohibited activities as referred in sub-rule (2) of rule 4;
 - recommend designation of wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention;
 - recommend trans-boundary wetlands for notification;
 - review progress of integrated management of Ramsar sites and transboundary wetlands;
 - advise on collaboration with international agencies on issues related to wetlands; and
 - advise on any other matter *suo-moto*, or as referred by the Central Government.
- (4) The tenure of non-official members of the Committee shall not exceed three years.
- (5) The Committee shall meet at least once in every six months.
- 7. Delegation of powers and functions to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.—**
- (1) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules, prepare a Brief Document for each of the wetland identified for notification, providing:—
- demarkation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;
 - demarkation of its zone of influence and land use and land cover thereof indicated in a digital map;
 - ecological character description;
 - account of pre-existing rights and privileges;
 - list of site-specific activities to be permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence;
 - list of site specific activities to be regulated within the wetland and its zone of influence; and
 - modalities for enforcement of regulation;
- (2) Based on the Brief Document, the Authority shall make recommendations to the State Government or Union Territory Administration for notifying the wetlands.
- (3) The State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, after considering the objections, if any, from the concerned and affected persons, notify the wetlands in the Official Gazette, within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of recommendation by the Authority.
- (4) (a) In case of trans-boundary wetlands, the Central Government shall coordinate with concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to prepare the Brief Document containing information as listed in sub-rule (1).
- (b) Based on the Brief Document, the National Wetlands Committee shall make recommendations to the Central Government for notification of the wetland.
- (c) The Central Government shall, after considering the objections, if any, from the concerned and affected persons, notify the wetlands in the Official Gazette, within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of recommendation by the Committee.



- (5) (a) The Central Government shall create a dedicated web portal for information relating to wetlands.
- (b) The Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration shall upload all relevant information and documents pertaining to wetlands in their jurisdiction.

[F. No. J-22012/78/2003-CS (W) Pt. V]

Dr. A. DURAISAMY, Scientist 'G'



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**Guidelines for implementing
Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017**

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



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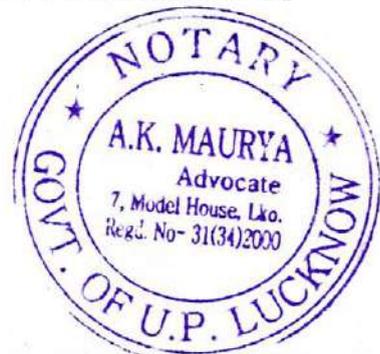


I. Guidelines Purpose and Scope

1. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017** (hereinafter **Wetlands Rules**) under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands in India. These guidelines have been drafted to support the State Governments / Union Territory (UT) Administrations in the implementation of the Rules by providing guidance on:
 - a) Preparing a list of wetlands in the State / UT
 - b) Identifying wetlands for notification under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017
 - c) Delineating wetlands, wetlands complexes and zone of influence
 - d) Preparation of Brief Document
 - e) Determining 'wise use' and ecological character
 - f) Developing a list of activities to be regulated and permitted
 - g) Developing an Integrated Management Plan
 - h) Constitution and operational matters of the Wetlands Authorities
 - i) Overlapping provisions.
2. These guidelines were drafted by a committee constituted by the MoEF&CC vide OM dated August 10, 2018. The committee comprised Mr U.A.Vora (former CCF Wildlife, Government of Gujarat), Dr Arvind Kumar (President, India Water Foundation), Dr B.C. Jha (Former Director (Wetlands), Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute), Dr P. S. N. Rao (Director, School of Planning and Architecture), Dr Afroz Ahmad (Member, Environment and Rehabilitation, Narmada Control Authority) and Dr Ritesh Kumar (Director, Wetlands International South Asia). The committee met on five occasions at MoEF&CC, New Delhi for the said purpose, and submitted final version of the guidelines to the Ministry on December 5, 2018. The draft guidelines were subsequently sent for comments to all State Governments / UT Administrations, and have been finalized after due consideration of the comments received. The Committee immensely benefitted from the discussions held with Ms Manju Pandey (Joint Secretary). The Committee also acknowledges the support received from Ms Rita Khanna (Scientist 'F'), Dr M. Ramesh (Scientist 'E'), Mr Chandan Singh (Scientist 'D'), Dr Anu Chetal (Research Assistant) and Ms Pallavi Mukherjee (Research Assistant) during the guidelines preparation process.

II. Wetlands to be regulated

3. The provisions of Wetlands Rules apply to:
 - a) Wetlands designated by the Government of India to the List of Wetlands of International Importance under the provisions of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention). [Ref. Rule 3 (a) of Wetlands Rule]
 - b) Wetlands notified under the rules by the Central Government, State Government and UT Administration. [Ref. Rule 3 (b) of Wetlands Rule]



4. All wetlands, irrespective of their location, size, ownership, biodiversity, or ecosystem services values, can be notified under the Wetlands Rules, except:
- River channels;
 - Paddy fields;
 - Human-made waterbodies specifically constructed for drinking water purposes;
 - Human-made waterbodies specifically constructed for aquaculture purposes;
 - Human-made waterbodies specifically constructed for salt production purposes;
 - Human-made waterbodies specifically constructed for recreation purposes;
 - Human-made waterbodies specifically constructed for irrigation purposes;
 - Wetlands falling within areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; State Forest Acts and amendments thereof;
 - Wetlands falling within areas covered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and amendments thereof;
 - Wetlands falling within areas covered under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and amendments thereof.
- [Ref. Rule 2 (g) and Rule 3 of Wetlands Rules]
5. Human-made wetlands are defined as wetlands that are planned, designed and operated to meet a specific purpose (such as providing water for irrigation, producing fish through culture operations, producing salt, recreation, preventing salinity intrusion, flood control etc.). Only those human-made wetlands that have been built for purposes, mentioned at paras 4c) - 4g) above, are excluded from notification under these Rules.
6. Natural wetlands, partly or wholly used for purposes as mentioned at 4c) - 4g), attract the provisions of the Wetlands Rules.
7. Wetlands designated as Ramsar Sites may be notified under the Rules as per the process mentioned in paragraphs 57-65, even when partly or wholly overlapping with areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; State Forest Acts and amendments thereof; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and amendments thereof; Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and amendments thereof. Regulations for parts of wetlands overlapping with 4h-4j (supra) will, however, be as per the corresponding regulatory framework. Ramsar site areas, not covered under any of the overlapping laws and rules, will attract the provisions of the Wetlands Rules (Refer illustration 1 below).

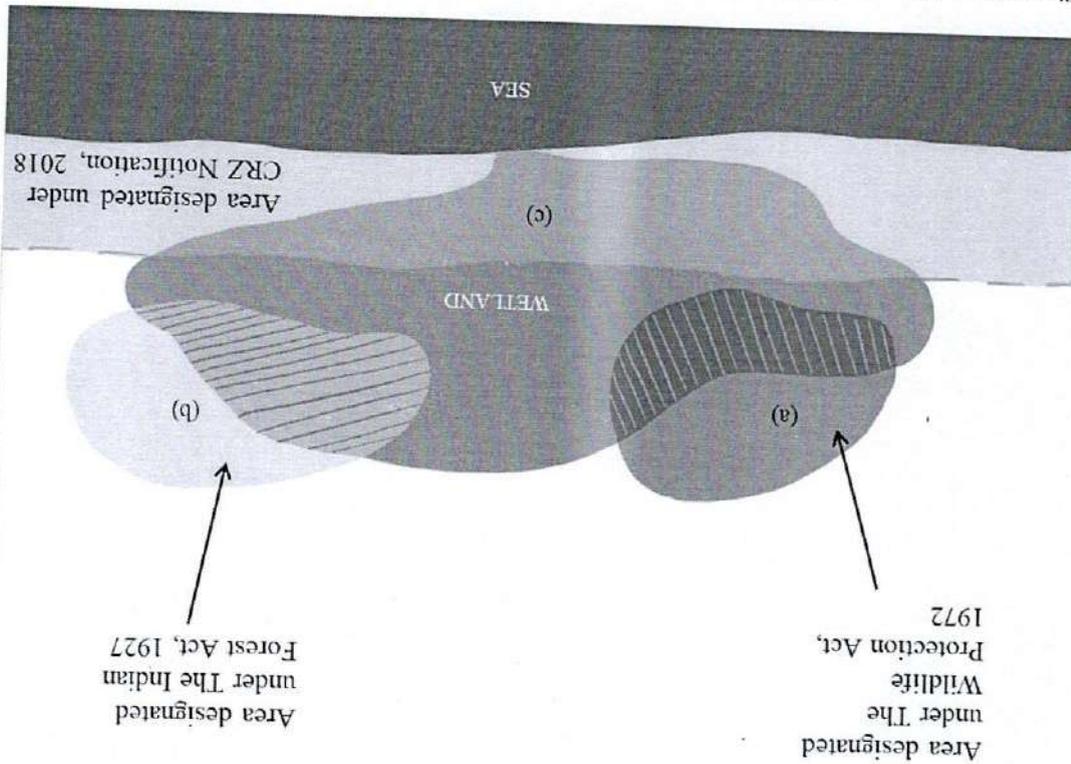




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9. Though Protected Areas and areas falling within the purview of Coastal Zone Regulation have been excluded from notification under the Wetlands Rules, management of such wetlands may benefit through the application of 'wise use' approach (within the framework of existing laws and rules) as outlined in Section VII of these guidelines.
8. For wetlands falling within the criteria 3 (b) (supra), the exclusions mentioned at para 4 a) - 4j) shall apply only in cases wherein the entire wetland falls under the said category. In cases wherein areas falling within para 4 a) - 4 j) form a part of larger wetland or wetlands complex, and exclusion may result in impeded ecological connectivity and connectivity, such areas may be included within the boundary of wetland being notified. Regulations within the boundaries of areas mentioned at para 4 h) - 4 j) will, however, be as per the corresponding regulatory frameworks (Refer Illustration 1 and 2).

Illustration 1: Using the Wetlands Rules to fill in the gaps in situations of multiple regulations in a Ramsar Site. In the situation above, wildlife sanctuary (indicated as a) and a reserved forest (indicated as b) partly overlap with the Ramsar Site boundary. Being a coastal wetland, a part (indicated as c) also falls under Coastal Regulation Zone. In such cases, it is recommended that the entire Ramsar Site, inclusive of overlapping areas, is delineated and notified under the Wetlands Rules. The overlapping areas shall continue to be regulated as per respective Acts and Rules, and the remaining area may be regulated as per the provisions contained in Wetlands Rules. Similar approach can be taken even for wetlands that have not been designated as Ramsar Site.



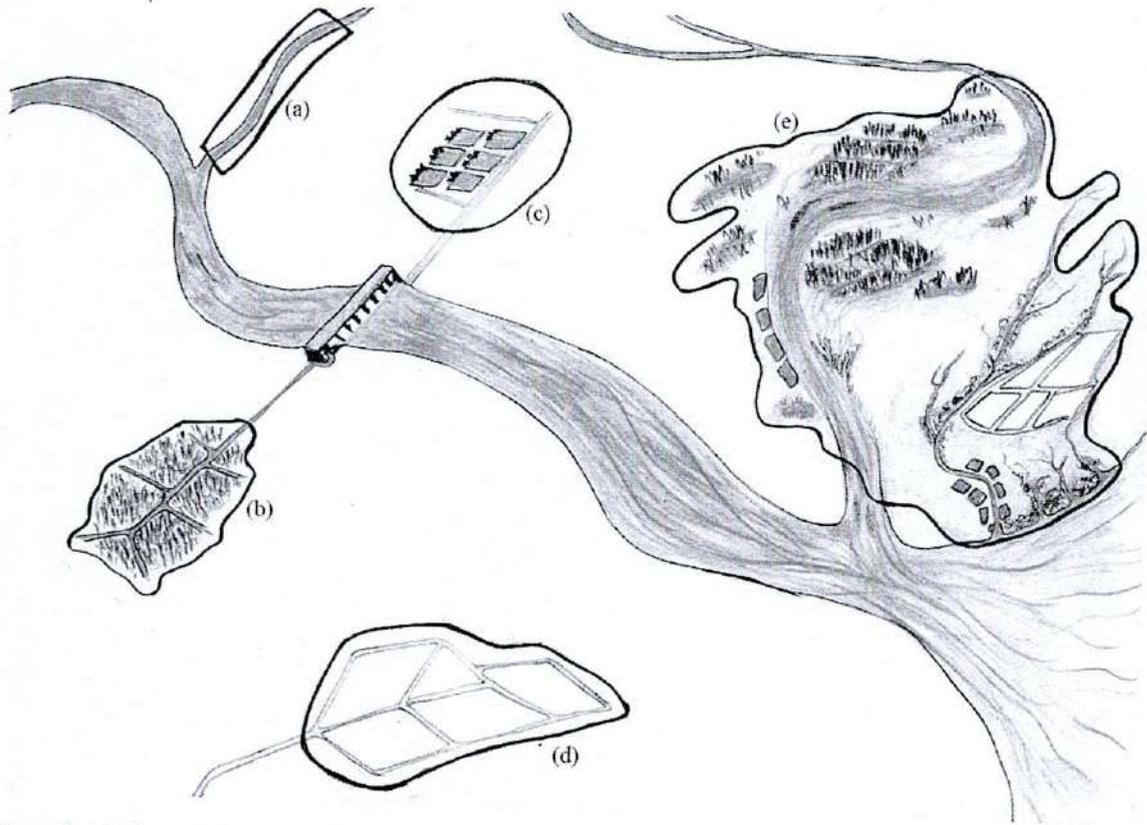


Illustration 2: Considering river stretch and human-made wetlands for notification. In situations when the entire wetland, to be notified, is a river stretch [indicated as (a)], paddy fields [indicated as (b)], human-made wetland waterbodies for irrigation [indicated as (c)], and human-made waterbodies created for aquaculture purposes [indicated as (d)], these may not be notified under the Wetlands Rules. However, in cases as in (e), wherein river channels, paddy fields, and human-made wetlands such as aquaculture areas form a part of a larger wetland or wetland complex, and excluding such area may fragment the wetland regime, the area to be notified may include river channels, paddy fields or any other human-made wetland.

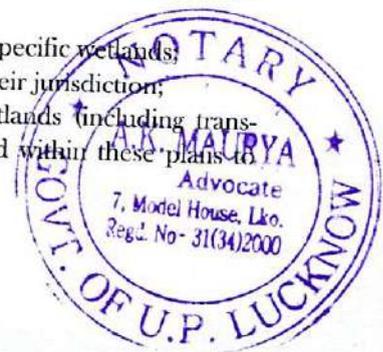
10. Should the State Governments/UT Administrations be desirous, any wetland, even if included within the list of wetlands excluded from notification under Wetlands Rules, may be notified under the relevant state laws. In this regard, the approach/mechanism outlined in Wetlands Rules and these guidelines may be suitably adopted.

III. Wetlands Authorities

11. As per Rule 5 of Wetlands Rules, 2017 the Wetlands Authorities within States and UTs are deemed as constituted with the following members:
- Minister In-charge of the Department of Environment/Forests of the State Government or Minister In charge of the Department handling wetlands - Chairperson;(Administrator or Chief Secretary of the UT - Chairperson in the case of UT);
 - Chief Secretary of the State or Additional Chief Secretary equivalent - Vice Chairperson;
 - Secretary in-charge of the Department of Environment - Member ex-officio, (Vice Chairperson in the case of UT)
 - Secretary in-charge of the Department of Forests - Member ex-officio;
 - Secretary in-charge of the Department of Urban Development - Member ex-officio;



- f) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Rural Development - Member ex-officio;
- g) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Water Resources - Member ex-officio;
- h) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Fisheries - Member ex-officio;
- i) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Irrigation and Flood Control - Member ex-officio;
- j) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Tourism - Member ex-officio;
- k) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Revenue - Member ex-officio;
- l) Director, State Remote Sensing Centre - Member ex-officio;
- m) Chief Wildlife Warden - Member ex-officio;
- n) Member Secretary, State/UT Biodiversity Board - Member ex-officio;
- o) Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board/UT Pollution Control Committee - Member ex-officio;
- p) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - Member ex-officio;
- q) One expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socioeconomics to be nominated by the State Government / UT Administration
- r) Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Director in the Department of Environment/Forests or Department handling wetlands - Member Secretary
12. The Department of Environment / Forests or Department handling wetlands shall designate one expert each in the following fields for a period not exceeding three years: [Ref. Rule 5 (2) (xvi) of Wetlands Rules]
- a) Wetlands ecology
- b) Hydrology
- c) Fisheries
- d) Landscape planning
- e) Socioeconomics
13. The Wetlands Authority may co-opt other members, not exceeding three in number. It is recommended that at least one member may be drawn from civil society to enable stakeholder representation.
14. The Authority shall exercise following powers and perform the following functions:
- a) Prepare a list of all wetlands of the State or UT within three months from the date of publication of these rules;
- b) Prepare a list of wetlands to be notified, within six months from the date of publication of these Rules, taking into cognizance any existing list of wetlands prepared/notified under other relevant State Acts;
- c) Recommend identified wetlands, based on their Brief Documents, for regulation under these rules;
- d) Prepare a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands within one year from the date of publication of these rules and upload the same on a dedicated web portal, to be developed by the Central Government for the said purpose; the inventory ought to be updated every ten years;
- e) Develop a comprehensive list of activities, to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence;
- f) Recommend additions, if any, to the list of prohibited activities for specific wetlands;
- g) Define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction;
- h) Review Integrated Management Plan for each of the notified wetlands (including trans-boundary wetlands in coordination with Central Government), and within these plans to



consider continuation and support to traditional uses of wetlands that are harmonized with ecological character;

- i) Recommend mechanisms for maintenance of ecological character through promotional activities for land within the boundary of notified wetlands or wetlands complex have private tenancy rights,;
- j) Identify mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing State/UT level development plans and programmes;
- k) Ensure enforcement of these rules and other relevant Acts, rules and regulations and on a half-yearly basis (June and December of each calendar year) inform the concerned State Government or UT Administration or Central Government on the status of such notified wetlands through a reporting mechanism;
- l) Coordinate implementation of Integrated Management Plans based on wise use principle through various line departments and other concerned agencies;
- m) Function as a nodal authority for all wetland-specific authorities within the State or UT Administration;
- n) Issue necessary directions for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands to the respective implementing agencies.
- o) Undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands; and
- p) Advise on any other matter suo-motu, or as referred by the State Government/UT Administration.

[Ref. Rule 5 (4) of Wetlands Rules]

15. The State Government or UT Administration shall designate a department as nodal department for wetlands. Such department shall provide all necessary support and act as Secretariat to the Authority. The State Governments / UT Administrations may allocate sufficient budget and human resources to ensure smooth functioning of the Authority and conduct of its various activities. The Authority and the nodal department may identify a professional institute(s)/organization(s) that would assist them in their various functions such as preparing a list of wetlands, Brief Documents for notification etc.
16. The Authority shall meet at least thrice in a year. State Government / UT Administration may decide an appropriate quorum, not less than half of the members. Minutes of meetings of the Authority may be placed in the public domain within a period not exceeding two weeks from the day on which meeting has been convened. [Ref. Rule 5 (2) (8) of Wetlands Rules]
17. Each Wetlands Authority shall constitute:
 - a) Technical Committee to review Brief Documents, Management Plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the Wetlands Authority; and,
 - b) Grievance Committee, consisting of four members, to provide a mechanism for hearing and forwarding the grievances raised by the public to the Authority.

[Ref. Rule 5 (6)(b) of Wetlands Rules]
18. The composition of these committees may be decided by the concerned State / UT Wetlands Authority. Meetings of these committees shall be held at least once every quarter, and proceedings presented in the next meeting of the Authority.
19. The Wetlands Authority may empower the Grievance Committee to redress grievances at the local level and to recommend to the Authority for the finality of decisions. The State Government



/ UT Administration may consider appointing at least one member with a legal background in the Grievance Committee. [Ref. Rule 5(6)(b) of Wetlands Rules]

20. State or UT level Wetlands Authorities constituted before notification of Wetlands Rules, shall be deemed dissolved for the purpose of these Rules.
21. State / UT Wetlands Authorities shall serve as nodal authority for authorities / agencies created for specific wetlands. Management plans and notifications pertaining to the specific wetland shall be subject to approval and endorsement of the State / UT Wetlands Authority. Administrative matters, however, may continue to be dealt by the nodal department specified within the constitution of the wetlands specific authority.

IV. Preparing a list of wetlands

22. The State / UT Wetlands Authorities are expected to prepare a list of wetlands within the boundaries of their respective States / UTs. This list should be comprehensive, and not just focus on wetlands that qualify for notification under these Rules. Therefore, it is recommended that the list is developed based on wetlands definition of the Ramsar Convention (to which India is a Contracting Party).

22.1 The Convention, ratified by Government of India, defines wetlands as 'areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which, at low tides, does not exceed six meters'. In addition, to protect coherent sites, Article 2.1 of the Convention provides that 'wetlands may include riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six meters at low tide lying within the wetlands.'

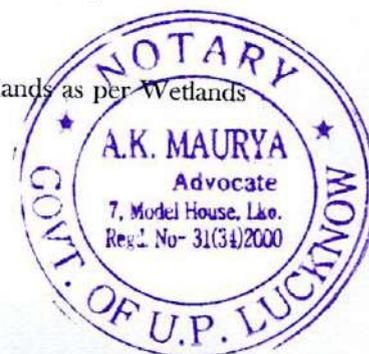
23. The National Wetlands Atlas prepared by Space Application Center under the National Wetlands Inventory and Assessment project, and available at https://vedas.sac.gov.in/vedas/downloads/atlas/Wetlands/NWIA_National_atlas.pdf has spatial data on wetlands for each State and UT.

23.1 The GIS data has already been made available by the Wetlands Division of the MoEF&CC to the representatives of the State Governments / UT Administrations during the regional consultation workshops held during 2016-18.

23.2 Wetlands Authority may seek the assistance of District Administration to validate the information provided in the Atlas. Existing land records may also be considered while developing the list of wetlands.

23.3 The final list of wetlands/wetland complexes may be prepared under the following heading:

- a) Wetland Name
- b) Geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude of the centre of the wetland)
- c) Wetland type (inland and coastal) and sub-type (natural or human-made)
- d) District(s) within which the wetland is located
- e) Approximate area of the wetland
- f) Whether the wetland falls within the category of regulated wetlands as per Wetlands Rules.

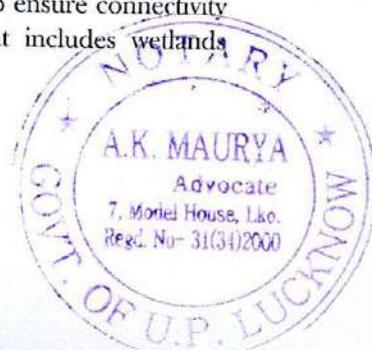


A format for compiling the list of wetlands is at **Annex 1**. This list may also contain trans-boundary wetlands (at the end) with additional details such as the bordering State/UT under which wetland is falling along with corresponding area.

24. In addition to the National Wetlands Atlas, it may also be helpful to consider the list of wetlands studied and described by various agencies, including revenue records (particularly areas recorded as any of the wetlands types such as ponds, lake, *talab*, *sarovar* etc.). The States/UTs may seek the assistance of State Remote Sensing Agencies and local experts for preparing such wetland inventory expeditiously. State Governments/ UT Administrations are also encouraged to make use of satellite images available at National Remote Sensing Center's Geo-platform Bhuvan, accessible at <http://bhuvan.nrsc.gov.in/data/download/index.php>.

V. Delineating wetlands

25. After the wetlands have been identified for notifications under the Wetlands Rules, the next step involves delineation of each of these wetlands (or wetlands complexes) and their zone of influence.
26. For delineating wetlands, it is essential to be aware of the distinguishing characteristics of these ecosystems. Wetlands arise when inundation by water produces soil dominated by anaerobic processes, which in turn forces the biota, particularly rooted plants to adapt to flooding. Wetlands, thus, have the following general distinguishing characteristics:
- Permanent or periodic inundation or saturated soils throughout the year or during parts of the year
 - Presence of macrophytes adapted to wet conditions (also known as hydrophytes)
 - Soil that are saturated or flooded long enough favouring development of anaerobic conditions
27. Water creates wetlands. The biological composition of wetlands, from fish to migrating waterbirds, depends on the ways water moves within a wetland. The amplitude and frequency of water level fluctuations are probably the most critical factors affecting the composition and functioning of wetlands. Hydrological regimes may, therefore, be used as the primary delineation characteristics for defining wetland boundary.
28. Wetlands boundary can be derived as the outer envelope of the maximum area under inundation, the area covered by hydrophytes, or saturation of soil near the surface during a normal monsoon year. The boundary should be such that during a normal monsoon year, the entire area is inundated for at least 15 days, or the soil is saturated roughly within one foot from the surface. It may be pertinent to exclude areas that are only intermittently inundated in the case of high floods (such as one in 100-year floods) or extreme events (such as storm surges of extreme intensity).
29. Where two or more wetlands exist with a high degree on hydrological connectivity (for example, wetlands connected during monsoon), or ecological connectivity (sharing waterbird habitats or located on migratory fish pathways), these can be delineated as a single complex. In such cases, non-wetland areas may be included within the boundary of the complex to ensure connectivity and continuity. The connotation of wetland throughout this document includes wetlands complex, as may be the case.





- a) Zone of influence
- b) Wetland boundary

35. A map should be prepared to indicate the following elements in a Geographical Information System (WGS84 datum and UTM projection) and adopting professional cartographic standards.

34. For wetlands with diffused drainage and where the slope is too gentle leading to large basin area, the zone of influence can be delineated on the basis of features that are likely to influence wetland functioning adversely. These could be based on the outer periphery of adjoining settlements, or peripheral agricultural fields that drain directly into the wetland.

33. The boundary of the zone of influence may be defined with due consideration to local hydrology and nature of land use. For wetlands with a well-defined surface drainage system, its directly and freely draining basin should be delineated as the zone of influence. This can be done using a suitable digital elevation model data and validated using toposhets. The basin should encompass all direct inflow as well as outflow areas. The river basin atlas of India (available at http://www.india-wriss.nrs.gov.in/wrpinfo/index.php?title=WRIS_Publications) may be used to support the delineation.

32. For each wetland to be notified, a zone of influence is to be defined. The zone of influence of a wetland is an area, developmental activities wherein are likely to induce adverse changes in wetland ecosystem structure and (ecological) functioning.

VI. Delineating zone of influence

These scales have been recommended on the basis of spatial data available for preparing wetlands maps and details that may be extracted for management planning and monitoring decisions. Resources at 2 LSS IV data that may be used for preparing map of wetlands below 100 ha renders an approximate scale of 1:4000. Even larger wetlands can be mapped using finer resolution data. However, for expedience and cost effectiveness, a lower scale may be sufficient for meeting management needs.

Wetland / Wetlands complex area	Recommended scale
Below 100 ha	1: 4000
Between 100 - 500 ha	1: 10,000
Between 500- 4000 ha	1: 25,000
4000 ha and above	1: 50,000

31. Recommended scale for producing the wetlands maps is as follows:

- a) Wetland boundary
- b) The boundary of settlements located within and around the wetland
- c) Connecting drainages, inflows and outflows
- d) Main roads and railway (if any)
- e) Major landmarks

follows:

30. For each wetland and wetlands complex, a map should be prepared using a Geographical Information System (WGS84 datum and UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) projection) and adopting professional cartographic standards. Essential features to be included in the map are as follows:

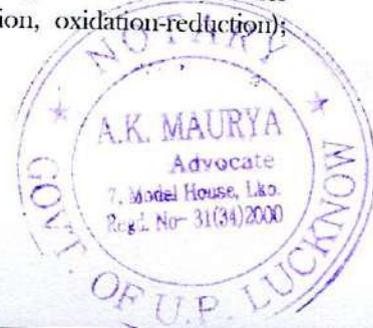
- c) Connecting drainages, inflows and outflows
- d) Main roads and railway (if any)
- e) Major landmarks

36. The recommended scale at which the map of the zone of influence is to be produced is as follows:

Area of zone of influence	Recommended mapping scale
Below 100 ha	1: 4000
Between 100 and 500 ha	1: 10,000
More than 500 ha	1: 50,000

VII. Wetlands wise use and ecological character

37. Management of notified wetlands is recommended to be based on 'wise use' approach. Human beings and their use of resources form an essential component of wetland ecosystem dynamics. The 'wise use' approach recognises that restricting wetland loss and degradation requires incorporation of linkages between people and wetlands. The wise use principle emphasises that human use of these ecosystems on a sustainable basis is compatible with conservation.
38. Ramsar Convention defines the 'wise use' of wetlands as "the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development". Ecosystem approach requires consideration of the complex relationship between various ecosystem elements and promotion of integrated management of land, water and living resources. Wise use, through an emphasis on sustainable development, calls for resource use patterns which can ensure that human dependence on wetlands can be maintained not only in the present but also in the future. Seen in totality, wise use is about maintaining and enhancing wetland values and functions to ensure the maintenance of the flow of benefits from wetlands (their ecosystem services) from an inter-generational equity point of view.
39. Ecological character is "the combination of ecosystem components, processes and services that typify the wetland at a given point in time". Ecosystem components are living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) constituents of the wetland ecosystem. These include:
- a. Geomorphic setting (landscape, catchment, river basin);
 - b. Climate (precipitation, wind, temperature, evaporation, humidity);
 - c. Physical setting (area, boundaries, topography, shape, bathymetry, habitat type and connectivity);
 - d. Water regime (inflow, outflow, balance, surface-groundwater interactions, inundation regime, tidal regime, quality);
 - e. Wetland Soil (texture, chemical and biological properties);
 - f. Biota (Plant and animal communities)
40. Ecosystem processes occur between organisms and within and between populations and communities, including interactions with the non-living environment that result in an existing ecosystem state and bring about changes in ecosystems over time. These include: Physical processes (water stratification, mixing, sedimentation, erosion); Energy - nutrient dynamics (primary production, nutrient cycling, carbon cycling, decomposition, oxidation-reduction);



Processes that maintain animal and plant population (recruitment, migration); and Species interaction (Competition, predation, succession, herbivory).

41. Ecosystem services are benefits obtained by humans from ecosystems, categorized as: Provisioning (fisheries, use of aquatic vegetation for economic propose, wetland agriculture, biochemical products); Regulating (maintenance of hydrological regimes) and Cultural (recreation and tourism, spiritual, scientific and educational value). Supporting services are included within ecosystem processes.

42. A wetland use is not 'wise-use' if:

a. The intervention leads to adverse changes in ecosystem components and processes, such as:

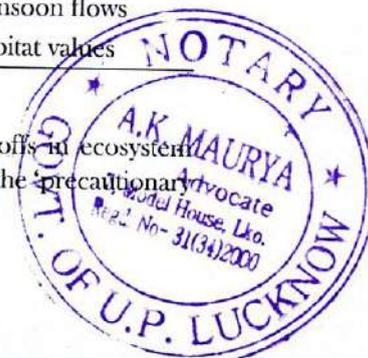
- i. Reduction in water flowing into the wetlands
- ii. Reduction in the area under inundation, or changes in inundation regime
- iii. Reduction and alteration of natural shoreline
- iv. Fragmentation of wetlands into small patches of water
- v. Reduction in water holding capacity
- vi. Degradation of water quality
- vii. Reduction in diversity of native species
- viii. Introduction or emergence of invasive species
- ix. Decline in wetlands resources, such as fish, aquatic plants, and water

b. The intervention enhances some ecosystem services (such as food production values) while diminishing other ecosystem services (such as the ability of wetlands to moderate wetlands regime).

43. Some examples of wetlands uses that may not be 'wise-use' are as follows:

Type of wetland	Intervention	Ecosystem services likely to be enhanced	Ecosystem services likely to be diminished
Lagoon	Prawn aquaculture by creating enclosures within the lagoon area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food provision • Livelihoods for wetlands dependent communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water regime moderation • Flood buffering
Lake	Impounding water by regulating outflows	Increased water availability for human use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to moderate floods
Marsh	Construction of road connecting settlements located on the periphery	Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrological regime moderation • Flood buffering • Aesthetics
Urban lake	Concretization of shoreline for beatification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetic value • Tourism and recreational benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to accommodate monsoon flows • Habitat values

44. In several cases, the impact on ecosystem structure and functions, or tradeoffs in ecosystem services may not be immediately apparent. It is, therefore, recommended that the precautionary



approach' is adopted to ensure that wetlands conservation is prioritized in the case of information uncertainty.

VIII. Prohibited activities in a notified wetland

45. The following activities are prohibited within notified wetlands:

- a. Conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
- b. Setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
- c. Manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;
- d. Solid waste dumping;
- e. Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
- f. Any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and,
- g. Poaching.
[Ref. Rule 4 (2) of Wetlands Rules]

46. State/UT Wetlands Authority, based on consideration of site-specific conditions, may consider expanding the list of prohibited activities for a notified wetland (or wetlands complex). This should be specified as such within the notification for specific wetland (or wetlands complex).

47. Permission for carrying out any activity included within the list of prohibited activities [as per Rule 4(2) of Wetlands Rules], within a notified wetland can only be given by the MoEF&CC. A specific request needs to be made by the State Government based on the recommendation of Wetlands Authority specifying:

- a) Activity for which permission is sought;
- b) Justification thereof;
- c) The premise on which the activity is not considered detrimental to the wetland's ecological character; &
- d) Supporting evidence-base (such as an expert report, EIA, mitigating measures proposed to be undertaken etc.)

IX. Developing a list of activities, to be regulated in a notified wetland:

48. Activities within a notified wetland and its zone of influence, which when contained within a specific threshold or area, are not likely to induce an adverse change in wetlands ecological character may be placed under the 'regulated' category. Such activities should be notified within the notification for a specific wetland (wetlands complex).

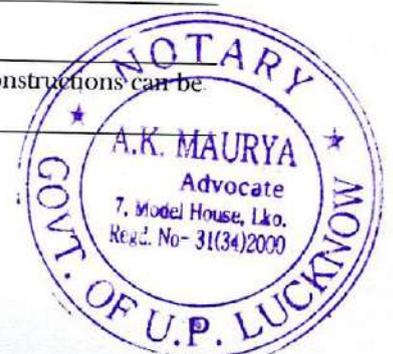
49. Following activities, when regulated, are not likely to induce an adverse change in wetlands:

- a) Subsistence level biomass harvesting (including traditional practices);



- b) Sustainable culture fisheries practices (in private lands);
 c) Plying of non-motorized boats;
 d) Desilting, in case where wetlands inflow regimes and water-holding capacity are impacted by siltation (note that 'deepening' activities are not the same as 'desilting'); &
 e) Construction of temporary nature
50. Each activity, however, would need to be considered on a case to case basis keeping in mind the ecological character of wetland or wetlands complex. A generic listing of a set of activities for all wetlands of the State / UT may not be feasible or desirable. For example, releasing treated sewage may not be advisable for high altitude wetlands that have slow decomposition rates.
51. For each regulated activity, it may be desirable to set a threshold limit beyond which the activity may be prohibited. The thresholds can be in the form of a spatial limit (such as areas wherein capture fishing may be carried), temporal limits (such as observing closed season), ecological condition (such as maintenance of a water quality parameter within a prescribed range), number of people (such as number of tourists permitted to visit the wetland on a given day), land use (such as prohibiting use of intermittently inundated area for permanent agriculture, or construction of enclosure), or any relevant dimension. Some examples of thresholds are:

Activity (Indicative List)	Aspect on which threshold can be specified
a) Subsistence level biomass harvesting (including traditional practices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people that can be permitted to harvest biomass within the wetlands • Type of harvesting gears (mesh size) and crafts • Area wherein harvesting is permitted
b) Releasing of treated sewage	Water quality parameters (such as): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissolved Oxygen, • Biological Oxygen Demand • Chemical Oxygen Demand • Concentration of heavy metals • Coliforms
c) Sustainable culture-based fisheries practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area wherein culture-based fisheries is permitted • Stocking density • Water quality
d) Plying of non-motorized boats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area wherein plying is permitted • Number of boats
e) Desilting, in cases where wetlands inflow regimes and water holding capacity are impacted by siltation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area wherein desilting can be carried out
f) Noise Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting below level suited for waterbird habitat
g) Washing and bathing activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of detergent
h) Construction of temporary nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area wherein temporary constructions can be carried out



-
- The period for which such structure can be maintained inside the notified wetlands
-
- i) Change in landuse pattern within the zone of influence
- Land use does not alter the hydrological regime or interrupt species interactions (such as bird migration pathways)
-

52. The Wetlands Authority shall be responsible for enforcing the regulations, through enforcement machinery of the concerned State Government / UT Administration.

X. Developing a list of activities permitted in a notified wetland

53. Activities aligned with the 'wise use' of wetland may be permitted within the wetland (wetlands complex) or its zone of influence. The following activities are likely to be aligned with the 'wise use' approach:

- a) Ecological rehabilitation and rewilding of nature ;
- b) Wetlands inventory, assessment and monitoring;
- c) Research;
- d) Communication, environmental education and participation activities;
- e) Management planning;
- f) Habitat management and conservation of wetland-dependent species;
- g) Community-based ecotourism (with minimum construction activities);
- h) Harvesting of wetlands products within regenerative capacity; and,
- i) Integrating wetlands as nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

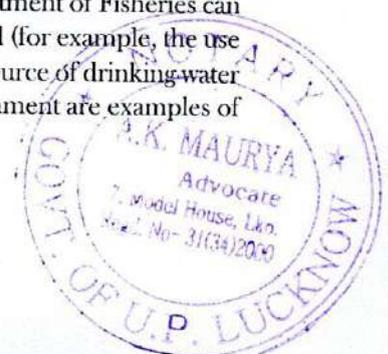
54. Permitted activities may need to be identified considering the ecological character of each wetland to be notified. It is likely that an activity may be benign for one wetland, yet would need regulation for others. For example, ecotourism may not be desirable for all wetlands.

XI. Registration of wetlands

55. It is advised that the State/UT governments may ascertain whether the respective wetland has been registered appropriately in the land revenue records. If the wetland has not been registered as yet, necessary steps may be taken early. This would help in ensuring that the usage of wetland is not altered in future through encroachment, illegal claim of ownership etc.

XII. Account of pre-existing rights and privileges in a notified wetland

56. Each wetland is likely to be associated with a range of pre-existing rights and privileges, and it must be ensured that such rights and privileges are aligned with the 'wise use' approach. 'Privilege' is defined here as a special entitlement granted to restricted group or persons, on a conditional basis and can be revoked. 'Rights', on the other hand, may be irrevocable and inherently held by a human being. Thus, a fish lease granted in certain wetlands by the Department of Fisheries can be considered as a privilege. Privilege can also be customary and traditional (for example, the use of traditional fishing techniques, buffalo wallowing, elephant bathing, the source of drinking water for bovines, etc.). Parking a houseboat against a lease right to clean environment are examples of rights.



57. For assessing the consequence of a pre-existing right or privilege on a wetland, it may be important to consider their implication on wetland ecological character. The privilege of fishing granted along a migratory route can lead to an adverse change in fish stocks. Similarly, the disposal of untreated sewage by houseboat in a wetland can lead to pollution. Thus, such privileges are not aligned with 'wise use'. On the other hand, in many cases, the subsistence level harvest of macrophytes may help in keeping species invasion in check and therefore aligned with ecosystem health. Such considerations may need to be made while deciding whether a wetland use is to be regulated or permitted.

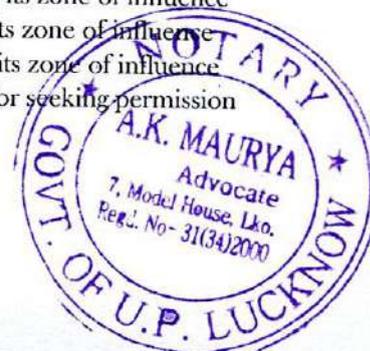
XIII. Notifying wetlands

58. For each wetland proposed to be notified, a 'Brief Document' containing the following information needs to be prepared:

- a) Demarcation of wetland boundary, supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;
- b) Demarcation of its zone of influence alongwith land use and land cover thereof indicated in a digital map;
- c) Ecological character description;
- d) Account of pre-existing rights and privileges;
- e) List of site-specific activities, to be permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence;
- f) List of site-specific activities, to be regulated within the wetland and its zone of influence; and,
- g) Modalities for enforcement of regulation.

A format for preparing the Brief Document is at **Annex 2**.

59. The nodal department, designated by the State Government/UT Administration for wetlands, shall be responsible for preparing the Brief Documents.
60. In the case of transboundary wetlands, the respective State Governments/UT Administration may initiate the process of preparation of a common Brief Document and submit the same to MoEF&CC. If required, MoEF&CC shall coordinate with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for preparation of the Brief Document and addressing relevant issues. The Ministry will further process Brief Document as per process laid under Rule 7(4) of Wetlands Rules, 2017.
61. All Brief Documents shall be placed for approval of the Wetlands Authority. The Authority may endorse the Brief Document for notification to the concerned State Government / UT Administration.
62. The State Government / UT Administration shall issue a draft notification indicating the wetland (wetlands complex) to be covered under the Wetlands Rules. The notification should contain:
- a) Description of the wetland (wetlands complex) boundary along with its map
 - b) Description of the zone of influence along with a map
 - c) List of activities prohibited within the wetland (wetlands complex) and its zone of influence
 - d) List of activities regulated within the wetland (wetlands complex) and its zone of influence
 - e) List of activities permitted within the wetland (wetlands complex) and its zone of influence
 - f) Name and contact details of the nodal person, who is to be contacted for seeking permission to undertake regulated activities.



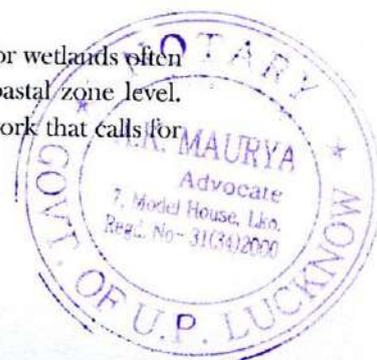
A format for notification is at **Annex 3**.

63. Each draft notification shall be placed for public consultation for sixty days.
64. The State Government after considering objections from the concerned and affected persons shall publish the final notification within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of **draft notification**.
65. MoEF&CC shall issue the draft and final notification for transboundary wetlands.
66. All Ramsar Sites, deemed covered under these Rules, shall also be notified as per the process laid out in paragraphs 57-64. This is proposed to ensure that the site boundaries are properly delineated and the knowledge about the same is available in public domain. It is advised that the information in the 'Brief Document' may be consistent with Ramsar Site Information Sheet (RSIS), submitted to the Ramsar Convention during site designation or RSIS updated thereafter.

XIV. Integrated Management Plan

67. Wetlands are one of the most embedded and interlinked ecosystems with human livelihoods and well-being. A balanced management approach, addressing biodiversity conservation values while providing for sustainable utilisation in a way compatible with the maintenance of natural properties of the ecosystem, needs to be adopted for these ecosystems. It is, therefore, recommended that management of each notified wetland (is guided by an "Integrated Management Plan". The plan refers to a document which describes strategies and actions for achieving 'wise use' of the wetland and includes objectives of site management; management actions required to achieve the objectives; factors that affect, or may affect, various site features; monitoring requirements for detecting changes in ecological character and for measuring the effectiveness of management; and resources for management implementation. Besides identifying resources, a management plan serves several important functions including generating baseline information, communication with stakeholders and ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks and policy commitments.
68. While it is recognized that each wetland has its own distinctive ecological and hydrological features and thereby distinctive management needs, the following broad planning principles need to be kept in mind while formulating integrated management plans:
 - **Integrated planning:** Aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems are intimately linked by the process of the water flowing through them. Every land use decision has a consequence on water availability. Delineating a basin or a coastal zone enables demarcation of a distinct hydrological unit which is the natural integration of all hydrological processes within its boundary and therefore an ideal and rational unit for soil, water and bio-resources conservation and management. Thus, management planning for wetlands should not be restricted to a defined administrative boundary, but rather take into account wider planning and management context of the basin or coastal zone within which the site is located.

The process of development and implementation of management plans for wetlands often needs to be accompanied by governance improvements at basin and coastal zone level. Such an approach underpins Integrated Lake Basin Management framework that calls for



achieving 'sustainable management of wetlands through gradual, continuous and holistic improvement of basin governance, including sustained efforts for integration of institutional responsibilities, policy directions, stakeholder participation, scientific and traditional knowledge, technological possibilities, and funding prospects and constraints.

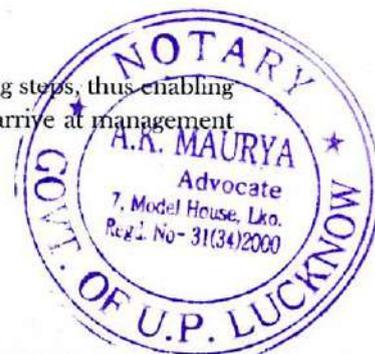
Achieving close relationship between planning and governance is critical, considering multiple stakeholder and sectoral interests which underlie and, to a large extent, structure wetland biodiversity and ecosystem service values, and the need to secure people's involvement and participation in basin-scale management for considerably long periods of time.

Reflection upon the following six pillars of basin-scale governance may thus be useful:

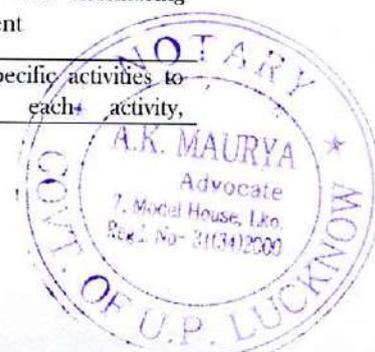
- **Institutions:** Development of effective organisations and governance frameworks
 - **Policies:** Setting broad directions and specific rules
 - **Participation:** Expanding the circle of involvement
 - **Technology:** Possibilities and limitations
 - **Information:** Pursuing sources of knowledge and wisdom, and
 - **Finance:** Seeking sustainable sources at the appropriate level
- **Use of diagnostic approaches for defining management approach and actions:** Given the uniqueness associated with each wetland, it is important that 'one size fit all' approach is replaced with a diagnostic approach, wherein the ecological, hydrological, socioeconomic and institutional features are comprehensively assessed and trends therein determined to be able to spell out management objectives and actions clearly.
 - **Adaptable management:** Wetlands are influenced by a range of drivers and pressures that act at multiple spatial, temporal and political scales. Their management plan, therefore, needs to be accommodative of uncertainties and challenges. This can be achieved by using an adaptable management approach that allows for suitable modification of management based on continuous site monitoring and assessment of new information.
 - **Stakeholder participation:** The condition of any wetland is an outcome of actions by a range of stakeholders, which are linked to the ecosystem in a number of ways. Management planning, therefore, needs to recognise these linkages, and build a mechanism for participation of stakeholders in design, review and implementation processes.
 - **Governance:** Being located at the interface of land and water, wetlands are influenced by a range of developmental activities that take place within their direct and indirect basins and coastal zones. Institutional arrangements for managing wetlands need to be such that they are capable of integrating activities across multiple sectors (such as agriculture, water resources, forests, rural development, urban development, forests and wildlife and others), and balancing the needs of a group of diverse stakeholders while ensuring that ecological integrity of these fragile ecosystems is not adversely affected.

In the above context, association of entities or individuals as 'Wetland Mitras' can encourage stakeholder participation and overall governance.

69. An integrated wetlands management plan can be developed in the following steps, thus enabling a systematic diagnosis of wetlands features and their governing factors to arrive at management objectives and activities.



Step 1	Preamble	Concise policy statement describing the rationale for the application of human, technical and financial resources for the wetland management
Step 2	Description of wetland features	Collation and synthesis of data to describe: wetland location and extent, catchment, hydrological regimes, biodiversity, ecosystem services, socioeconomic and livelihoods
Step 3	Evaluation of wetland features	Based on the description of features, identification of priority wetland features that need to be maintained, and key threats that adversely affect these features
Step 4	Institutional arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of the current institutional arrangements in the context of wetlands management; • Discuss why the current institutional arrangements are insufficient in ensuring wetlands conservation and wise use; • Propose institutional arrangement for wetland management, with specific focus on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Nodal Agency b) Role of various departments and agencies and coordination mechanism, and c) Role of civil society and communities. • Develop an organogram for management plan implementation. • Regulatory regime specifying activities prohibited within wetlands, activities to be regulated within wetlands and zone of influence and regulation thresholds and activities permitted
Step 5	Setting Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a statement of the overall goal that the management plan seeks to achieve; • Summarize the ecological and economic benefits that are expected from management plan implementation; • Enlist specific objectives; • Describe strategy(ies) for achieving each of the management objectives; • Provide a strategy for implementing regulatory regime - including list of activities liable to be prohibited, regulated and permitted within the wetland (wetlands complex)
Step 6	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present an overview of monitoring the wetland, and management plan implementation; • Describe monitoring parameters, the frequency of monitoring and the agency that will be responsible for monitoring; • Describe how coordination between different monitoring agencies will be achieved; • Discuss the infrastructure and human resource requirement for implementing the management plan. (As far as possible, include local universities, research organizations and NGOs in wetlands monitoring); • Discuss the frequency in which reporting shall be done and the responsible agency; Discuss how the monitoring outcomes will be used to adapt management
Step 7	Action Plan	Listing of management components and specific activities to achieve management objectives. For each activity,



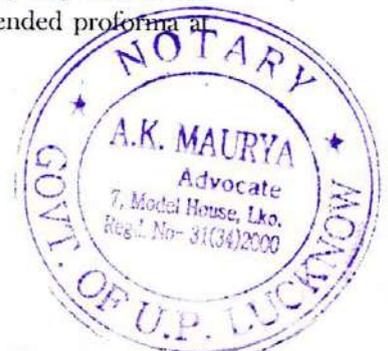
		implementation location, prioritisation, implementing agency and timeline should be specified.
Step 8	Budget	Assessment of financial resources required for implementing the management plan and sources of funds.

A description of each step and format for the compilation of integrated management plan is at **Annex 4.**

70. **The management plans should be presented to the Wetlands Authority. The implementation shall begin only after receiving their endorsement. Management plans for Ramsar Sites and transboundary wetlands shall also be reviewed and endorsed by the MoEF&CC.**
71. The diagnostic management planning process, as described above, may also be used to guide management of wetlands excluded from notification under Wetlands Rules.

XV. Violations and penal provisions

72. The Wetlands Authorities are entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring enforcement of Wetlands Rules and other relevant Acts, Rules and Regulations. Provisions of the relevant Central and State Government Acts are applicable.
73. All prohibited and regulated activities beyond their thresholds, if taken up within the wetlands and its zone of influence, shall be deemed violations under the Wetlands Rules.
74. The violations of the Wetlands Rules shall attract the penal provisions as per the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
75. Complaints may need to be filed in the case of violations. In exercise of powers conferred under clause (a) of section 19, the Central-Government has authorised the officers and authorities listed, in the Table (p. 238) vide S.O. 394 (E) published in the Gazette No. 185 dated 16-4-87, S.O. 237(E) published in Gazette No. 171 dated 29-3-89 and S.O. 656(E) published in the Gazette No. 519 dated 21-8-89, and amendments thereafter, if any.
76. The Authority should evolve a mechanism for continuous watch and ward of wetlands within their jurisdiction. At the local level, the concerned Gram Panchayat and Urban Local Body may be entrusted with watch and ward in association with any body constituted by the State Wetlands Authority, such as a Wetlands Management Unit for a specific Wetland. At District levels, the responsibility may be entrusted to the DDO/CDO (District/Chief Development Officer)/CEO (Chief Executive Officer)/ Chief Programme Officer of the Wetland level body, such as a Wetlands Management Unit.
77. The State Governments should proactively ensure incorporation of wetlands within land records.
78. The Wetlands Authority shall report the status of notified wetlands on half yearly basis to the State Government/UT Administration and Central Government (recommended proforma at Annex 5).



XVI. Portal for information sharing

79. The MoEF&CC has created a web-portal for sharing information regarding implementation of Wetlands Rules. The portal may be accessed at MoEFCC website. The Central Government, State Government and UT Administration are required to upload all relevant information and documents pertaining to wetlands in their jurisdiction. State Governments / UT Administrations are encouraged to develop their own portals and hyperlink the same to the national portal. The State Governments and UT Administrations are also encouraged to upload other project documents and publications to enable sharing and exchanging good practices related to wetlands management in general, and implementation of regulatory framework in particular.





Category	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural (Inland)
Subcategory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent lakes <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal/ intermittent lakes <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent streams/ creeks <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal/ intermittent streams/ creeks <input type="checkbox"/> Oxbow <input type="checkbox"/> River floodplain <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent freshwater marshes <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub-dominated wetlands <input type="checkbox"/> Tree-dominated wetlands <input type="checkbox"/> Geothermal wetlands <input type="checkbox"/> Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems

2.2 Wetland type (Please tick appropriate categories and sub-categories)

2.1 Area of wetland / wetlands category (ha)

Section 2: Site Characteristics

1.5 Name of the Department / Agency which has jurisdiction over the wetland / wetlands complex

Longitude: From _____ to _____

Latitude: From _____ to _____

1.4 Geographical coordinates (Latitude and Longitude, to degree, minutes and second)

1.3 Name of the District(s) in which wetland complex is located

1.2 Name of the Village(s) , Tehsil(s), Municipal area (s)

1.1 Name of the Wetland (Alternative names, including in local language should be given in parenthesis after official name)

Section 1: Identification, Location and Jurisdiction

Name and address of person(s) compiling this information

State / Union Territory:

<input type="checkbox"/> Natural (Coastal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal lagoon <input type="checkbox"/> Estuary <input type="checkbox"/> Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats <input type="checkbox"/> Mangroves <input type="checkbox"/> Coral reefs
<input type="checkbox"/> Human-made	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture pond <input type="checkbox"/> Tank <input type="checkbox"/> Saltpan <input type="checkbox"/> Dam / Reservoir

2.3 Depth (m) Average _____ Maximum _____

2.4 Elevation (m above mean sea level) _____ m

2.5 Water regimes

a) Main source of water (tick all applicable)

Rainfall Groundwater Catchment runoff Direct / indirect inflow from river

Others, please specify _____

b) Water permanence

Mostly permanent Mostly intermittent

c) Destination of water from wetland

Feeds groundwater To downstream catchment To river To sea

d) Water pH

Acid (< 5.5) Circumneutral (5.5 - 7.4) Alkaline (> 7.4)

Not known

e) Water salinity

Fresh (< 0.5 g/l) Brackish (0.5 - 30 g/l) Euhaline (30- 40 g/l)

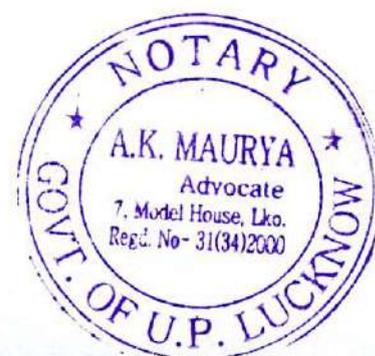
Hypersaline (>40g/l) Not known

f) Nutrient in water

Eutrophic Mesotrophic Oligotrophic

Not known

2.6 Climatic setting



- a) Annual Rainfall /Snowfall(mm) _____
- b) Temperature (°C) Minimum _____ Maximum _____
- c) Humidity (%) Minimum _____ Maximum _____

2.7 Area of zone of influence (in ha) _____ [Ref. paras 32-34 of the guidelines on wetlands]

2.8 Major land use within zone of influence (provide as approximate % of catchment area)

- Forests _____%
- Plantation _____%
- Agriculture _____%
- Settlements (Rural) _____%
- Settlements (Urban) _____%
- Industrial _____%

2.9 Map of wetland complex and zone of influence
(To be enclosed as Annex I and II to this proposal)

Section 3: Biodiversity

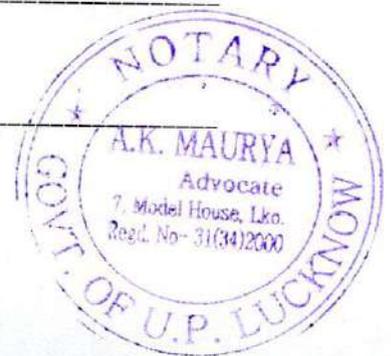
- 3.1 Notable plant species present in wetland

- 3.2 Notable animal species present in wetland

- 3.3 Species of conservation significance (rare, endangered, threatened, endemic species)

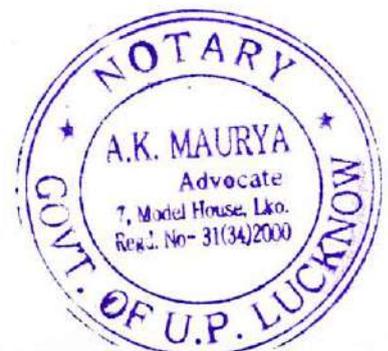
- 3.4 Major plant invasive alien species

- 3.5 Major animal invasive alien species



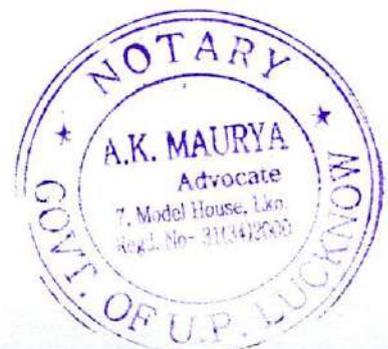
Section 4: Ecosystem services

Importance	Relevant for the site (please tick yes or no)	If Yes, Details (upto 50 words for each category)
Source of drinking water for people living and around	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Source of water for agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Cultivation of aquatic food plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
For buffalo wallowing and use of domesticated animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Medicinal plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Is a recreational site	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Buffering communities from extreme events as floods and storms	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Groundwater recharge	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Water purification	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Acts as a sink for sediments	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Has significant cultural and religious values	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Is a site for recreation and tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Supports noteworthy plants species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Supports noteworthy animal species	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Site of high congregation of migratory water birds	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Supports life cycle of fish or amphibians	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Mining	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Any other, please list		



Section 5: Pre-Existing Rights and Privileges

Nature of right and privilege	Relevant for the site (please tick yes or no)	Does this negatively impact the wetland's ecological health?	Brief description (upto 50 words for each category)
Community Fishing (without any lease or permission from government department)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Fishing under lease from government department	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Harvest of plants (without any lease or permission from government department)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Harvest of plants under lease from government department	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Agriculture or horticulture within wetland	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Grazing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Religious practices	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Withdrawal of water for domestic use	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Withdrawal of water for agriculture or fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Bathing or wallowing of domestic animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Plying of boats	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	
Any other, please list here	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed	



Section 6: Present and Potential Threats

Threat	Degree	Present or Potential	Additional information, if any
Changes in water inflow and outflow	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Potential	
Pollution	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Potential	
Unsustainable harvest of biological resources	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Potential	
Mining	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Potential	
Siltation	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Potential	
Encroachment	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Potential	
Spread of invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Potential	
Any other, please list	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Potential	

Section 7: Activities Proposed to be Prohibited (other than those listed in Rule 4(2) of Wetland Rules and Regulated

Activity	Whether prohibited or regulated	Regulation within wetlands or zone of influence	If regulated, indicate the level of regulation (in terms of people, restricted area or any other)	Name of department / agency responsible for regulation / prohibition	Additional information, if any
Withdrawal of water / impoundment/diversion or any other hydrological intervention		<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence			
Harvesting of resources (living / non-living)		<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence			
Grazing		<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence			
Discharge of treated sewage/ effluent / wastewater		<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence			

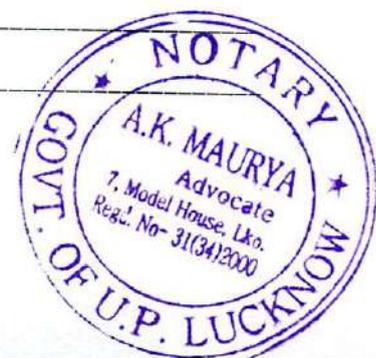


Construction of boat jetties, and facilities for temporary use , as pontoon bridges	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence			
Aquaculture, agriculture and horticulture activities within the wetland boundaries.	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence			
Any other, please list	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence			

Section 8: Activities Proposed to be permitted

Activity	Place a tick mark if relevant	Within wetlands or zone of influence	Additional information, if any
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary <input type="checkbox"/> Zone of influence	

Section 9: Listing of Available Scientific Resources Used



CHECKLIST

- Responsible agency has been clearly identified and details of contact person included
- Wetland/ wetlands complex boundary has been delineated using GIS and firmed up by adequate ground truthing
- Wetland/ wetlands complex map has been provided at required scale
- Zone of influence has been delineated and included in wetland map or a separate map
- Wetland zone of influence is sufficient to manage all activities
- Site's importance have been listed, and for major categories, justification is provided
- Site's biodiversity values are listed, and for major categories, justification is provided
- List of pre-existing rights and privileges is provided
- Consistency or inconsistency of pre-existing rights and privileges is indicated to be best of available knowledge
- Threats to site are listed, and for major categories details are provided
- Activities prohibited, other than those listed in Rule 4(2) have been mentioned
- List of activities to be regulated within wetlands and zone of influence is provided
- List of activities to be permitted is provided



Annex 3: Format for draft notification of wetlands under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017

Government of [State / Union Territory / India]

[Date]

S.O. _____ The draft of the notification, which the [name of the issuing entity] proposes to issue in exercise of the powers conferred under rule 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 read with Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), is hereby published for the information of the persons likely to be concerned or affected thereby; and notice is hereby given that the said draft notification shall be taken into consideration on or after the expiry of a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette of containing this notification are made available to the public;

Any person interested in making any objection or suggestion on the proposals contained in the draft notification may forward the same in writing, for consideration of the [State Government / UT Administration / MoEFCC, GoI], within the period so specified to the [insert designation and address], or at email address,.....

Draft Notification

1. WHEREAS, the wetland / wetland complex, situated in village(s), tehsil(s), district(s) of state of, is considered to be critically significant for its ecosystem services and biodiversity values for the local communities and society at large;
2. AND WHEREAS, it is considered that for sustaining these values, the ecological character of wetland ecosystem needs to be maintained by regulating developmental activities within the wetland as well as within its zone of influence;
3. NOW THEREFORE, the [State Government, UT Administration / Government of India] declares that the said wetlands shall be covered under the provisions of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.



4. The extent of the wetland /wetland complex and its zone of influence is described in **Schedule I** of this notification;
5. Activities prohibited within the wetland and its zone of influence are listed in **Schedule II** of this notification. Such prohibitions shall not apply for areas designated under other Acts and Rules, and listed at para 1.2 (a), (b) and (c) of Schedule I. Relevant provisions of respective Acts and Rules shall apply in such areas.
6. Activities regulated within the wetland and its zone of influence, i.e. permitted only with permission of [State Government, UT Administration / Government of India] are listed in **Schedule III** of this notification. Request for permissions can be made to the [Designation, contact address and email]. Such regulations shall not apply for areas designated under other Acts and Rules, and listed at para 1.2 a), b) and c) of Schedule I. Relevant provisions of respective Acts and Rules shall apply in such areas.
7. Activities permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence are listed in **Schedule IV** of this notification. Such permissions however shall not apply for areas designated under other Acts and Rules, and listed at para 1.2 (a), (b) and (c) of Schedule 1. Relevant provisions of respective Acts and Rules shall apply in such areas.
8. The [State / UT Wetlands Authority] and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall monitor the enforcement of the provisions of this notification.

By order

.....



Schedule 1: Location and Extent of Wetland / Wetlands Complex and its Zone of Influence

1.1 Wetland / wetlands complex

The wetland / wetlands complex, as delineated, extends within an area ofha within the geographical coordinates as under:

Extremity	North	South	West	East
Latitude				
Longitude				

The map of wetland / wetlands complex boundary is at **Map 1(a)**.

1.2 Boundary of area already designated under provisions of other Acts and Rules

The wetland / wetland complex boundary includes an area of ha designated under other Acts and Rules, with the geographical coordinates as under:

1.2 (a) Area designated under Indian Forest Act, 1927; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; State Forest Acts and amendments thereof

Extremity	North	South	West	East
Latitude				
Longitude				

1.2 (b) Area designated under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and amendments thereof

Extremity	North	South	West	East
Latitude				
Longitude				

1.2 (c) Area designated under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and amendments thereof.

Extremity	North	South	West	East
Latitude				
Longitude				

The above areas should be clearly demarcated on the map of wetland / wetlands complex boundary i.e. **Map 1(a)**.

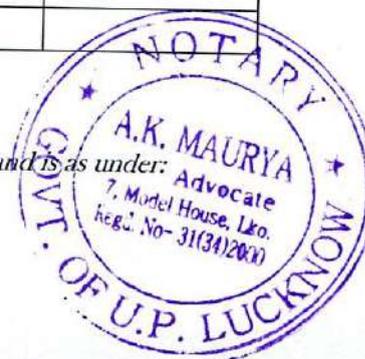
1.3 Zone of influence

The geographical coordinates of the zone of influence span an area of ha within the geographical coordinates as under:

Extremity	North	South	West	East
Latitude				
Longitude				

The map of zone of influence of the wetland is at **Map 1(b)**.

1.4 List of revenue villages / municipal areas falling fully or partly within the wetland



[Insert list]

1.5 List of revenue villages / municipal areas falling fully or partly within the zone of influence is as under:

[Insert list]

Schedule II: List of activities prohibited within wetland/ wetlands complex boundary

- a) Conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
- b) Setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
- c) Manufacture or/and handling or/and storage or/and disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;
- d) Solid waste dumping;
- e) Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
- f) Any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and,
- g) Poaching.

[Other activities, likely to have an adverse impact on the ecosystem to be inserted from the Brief Document]

Schedule III: List of activities regulated within the boundary of wetlands / wetlands complex and its zone of influence and for which prior approval of [State Government/ UT Administration/MoEF&CC] is required to be obtained

Activity	Restrictions	
	Within the boundary of wetland / wetlands complex	Within the zone of influence
[Insert from brief document]	[Insert from Brief Document]	[Insert from Brief Document]

Schedule IV: List of activities permitted within the boundary of wetlands / wetlands complex and its zone of influence

Activity	Levels and types not requiring permission	
	Within the boundary of wetland / wetlands complex	Within the zone of influence
[Insert from brief document]	[Insert from Brief Document]	[Insert from Brief Document]

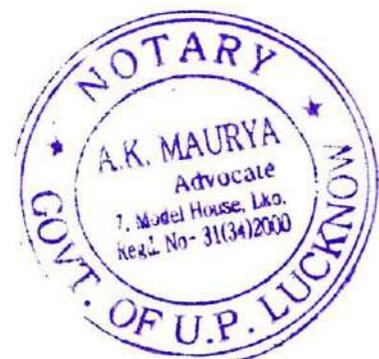


Annex 4: Steps and format for developing Integrated Management Plan

1. Wetlands provide wide-ranging ecosystem services that support human well-being in a number of ways. Numerous plant and animal species depend on wetlands during different parts of their life-cycle. In order to ensure that wetlands continue to provide their ecosystem services and support biodiversity, it is essential that a well-defined strategy and actions are identified for their conservation and wise use. An Integrated Management Plan reflects a common understanding between various stakeholders on the management purpose, significant threats and constraints limiting conservation and wise use, opportunities and specific actions for addressing these threats, and mainstreaming wetlands within the wider developmental planning.
2. The Integrated Management Plan is formulated to serve the following purposes:
 - Identify the objectives of wetland management;
 - Identify the factors that affect or may affect the wetland;
 - Resolve conflicts between various stakeholders having an interest in the wetland;
 - Define monitoring requirements and research needs;
 - Help obtain financial resources for managing the wetland;
 - Enable communication between different wetland managers, organizations and stakeholders;
 - Ensure compliance with extant laws and regulation; and,
 - Demonstrate that management is effective and efficient
3. Systematic diagnosis of various wetlands features and factors influencing these features is essential to arrive at management objectives and actions. The following eight steps are recommended for developing an Integrated Management Plan:

Step 1: Preamble

4. The process for management planning must begin with an exercise of setting up an overarching preamble describing the rationale for application of human, technical and financial resources for the wetland. This is a concise policy statement that expresses the commitment of the State Government/ UT Administration for integrated management. The preamble can be developed on the basis of:
 - Importance of the wetland for the state / UT
 - Ways in which the wetlands conservation and wise use will contribute to conservation and developmental goals
 - Alignment with sectoral policies, directives and planning frameworks

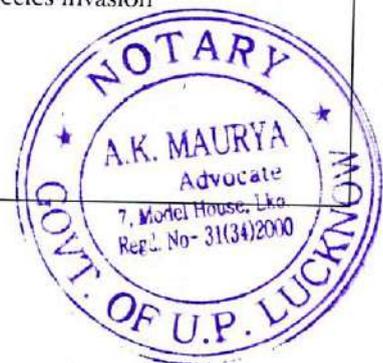


Step 2: Description of wetland features

5. This step entails collation and synthesis of existing information on various site features so as to provide a basis for the identification of management objectives. A generic listing of management information needs and data requirements are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Information Required for Description of Wetlands Features

Wetland feature	Management information needs	Data requirement
Wetland type and extent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Location ▪ Wetland type ▪ Wetland area ▪ Significant inter-annual changes in the wetland ▪ Major changes in the wetland extent in the last 20 - 30 years (if available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geographical coordinates ▪ Land use and land cover data for the wetland (at least for two seasons, pre and post-monsoon) ▪ Historical map of the wetland (can be developed from the Survey of India toposheets) (if available)
Catchment/ Drainage Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct and indirect catchment of the wetland ▪ Geological and geomorphological characteristics that have led to the formation of the wetland ▪ Present land use and land cover of the catchment and their implication for wetland ▪ Major developmental activities in the catchment and their impacts on the wetland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geology and geomorphology ▪ Topography ▪ Drainage pattern ▪ Soil types ▪ Climate setting ▪ Land use and land cover change
Hydrological regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major sources of water inflow and outflow from the wetland ▪ Major sources of sediments into the wetland ▪ Inundation regime ▪ Trends in water holding capacity and factors for the decline ▪ Water quality and pollution status ▪ Water use pattern within the wetland catchment and implication for wetland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water inflow, outflow and balance ▪ Inundation pattern ▪ Sedimentation ▪ Groundwater ▪ Water quality ▪ Water use within the basin
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Species richness ▪ Role of the wetland in the life-cycle of migratory species ▪ Invasive species and major contributing factors ▪ Major changes in species richness and habitat and factors thereof 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Species richness and diversity ▪ Biological significance of habitats ▪ Risk of species invasion



<p>Ecosystem Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key ecological and hydrological characteristics required for the sustained provision of ecosystem services ▪ Ecosystem services trade-offs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provisioning services (direct wetland products, eg: food, fibre, water) ▪ Regulating services (the ability of an ecosystem to regulate hydrological regimes, influence micro-climate, reduce disaster risk, groundwater recharge) ▪ Cultural services (recreational values, cultural and religious norms and beliefs related to wetlands) ▪ Supporting services (Primary production and other ecosystem functions which enable wetlands to deliver all above ecosystem services)
<p>Socioeconomics and livelihoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extent of dependence on wetlands for livelihoods ▪ Status of community infrastructure (such as water and sanitation) and implication for wetlands ▪ Livelihood vulnerability and relationship with changes in wetland resources ▪ Resource use conflicts ▪ Major shifts in livelihoods and implications for wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demographic features of communities living in and around ▪ The contribution of wetland to income and employment ▪ Community resource use and management practices

6. Attention should be paid to the robustness of data and associated uncertainties thereof. It is recommended that the data on-site features and linked metadata are, to the extent possible, maintained in a spatial format to enable updation at a later stage as more information becomes available through monitoring programmes. The step should also include identification of data gaps.

Step 3: Evaluation of wetland features

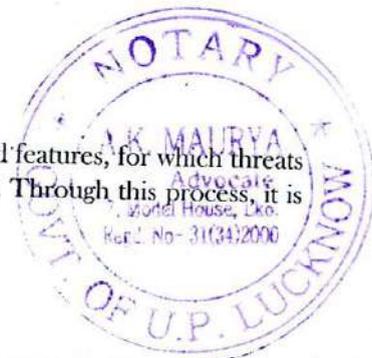
7. This step entails an evaluation of information on status and trends on wetlands features (conducted in the previous step) to identify:

- a) Key wetland features that should be a priority for management planning
- b) Natural variability within these features, including describing thresholds, if any
- c) Threats that limit (or potentially limit) maintenance of wetlands features in the desirable state

8. Evaluation of wetland features can be done on the basis of criteria such as:

- Naturalness
- Rarity
- Criticality for ecosystem functioning
- Socioeconomic importance
- Requirement under the extant regulatory regime

9. The evaluation process will lead to narrowing down of the list of wetland features, for which threats may be identified. The management plan is a response to these threats. Through this process, it is



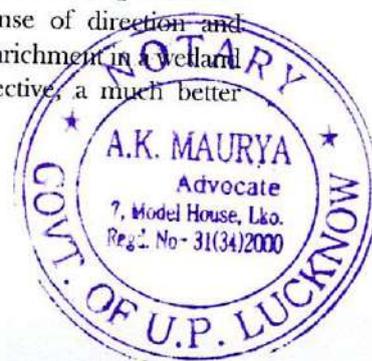
ensured that the plan does not merely focus on symptoms (for example, poor water quality) but on the root causes (in this case, ineffective sewage management in wetland catchments).

Step 4: Defining an institutional arrangement for wetland management

10. The purpose of this step is to evaluate whether existing institutional arrangements are sufficient and effective in addressing the threats to wetlands. Based on the gaps identified, an institutional arrangement for implementation of the management plan is developed.
11. This step includes:
 - a) Enlisting of government departments having programmes which impact (or have the potential to impact) wetlands features or threats on these features;
 - b) An analysis of laws and regulation related to wetland, access and use of wetland resources, biodiversity or any dimension;
 - c) Ownership, rights and privileges pertaining to wetlands;
 - d) Analysis of the role of CSOs and communities in wetlands management, with particular reference to their views, rights and capacities; and,
 - e) Gaps and challenges.
12. Based on the analysis, an institutional arrangement for wetlands management should be developed, clearly stating:
 - a) The nodal agency responsible for managing wetlands
 - b) Role of different government departments and mechanisms for inter-departmental coordination
 - c) Role of CSOs and communities
13. In line with the requirements of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, the following should be specified:
 - a) Activities prohibited within the boundary of wetlands;
 - b) Activities to be regulated within wetlands and zone of influence and regulation thresholds; and,
 - c) Activities permitted.

Step 5: Setting management objectives

14. This step involves the identification of site management objectives that need to be met so as to ensure that site features are maintained or improved. The management objectives may address the threats identified in the previous step, and issues relating to maintenance of wetland in a desired healthy state.
15. While defining objectives, the following may be considered:
 - a) **Measurability** - The objectives must be measurable so as to enable reporting on progress towards meeting them (for example, reducing silt load from the wetland catchment by xx %)
 - b) **Achievability** - The objectives must be achievable at least in the medium or long term. An objective that cannot be achieved can lead to an overall loss of sense of direction and misallocation of resources (for example, completely preventing nutrient enrichment in a wetland located in the intensive agricultural landscape is an unachievable objective, a much better proposition would be to reduce the current rate by xx%).



- c) **Indicative of purpose and not the process** - The objectives should not be prescriptively stating the way the objective should be achieved. It should ideally reflect the purpose of management (for example - afforestation in xxx ha is not an objective but a way to reduce siltation. Focusing just on afforestation then limits the use of other options for reducing siltation in a wetland).

Step 6: Developing a monitoring and evaluation plan

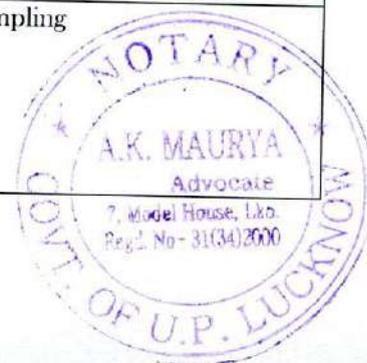
16. This section aims at outlining a monitoring and evaluation plan to enable assessment of overall management effectiveness and identify needs for mid-term correction.

Performance indicators

17. For each of management objectives, a set of performance indicators should be identified.

Table 2: Performance Indicators

Wetland feature	Management objective	Performance Indicator	Means of measurement
Area	Maintain wetland area	Wetland area which has not been altered for non-wetland usages	Area estimated from analysis of remote sensing images and ground truthing
Catchments	Reduction in silt load from catchment	Silt load	Monitoring pilot watersheds
Hydrological regimes	Reduce pollution	Biological Oxygen Demand, Chemical Oxygen Demand or any other water quality parameter assessed against a threshold	Water quality monitoring
	Enhance hydrological connectivity within wetlands complex	Area of wetland complex inundated during high floods period	Analysis of remote sensing data, and hydrological surveys
Biodiversity	Maintain and enhance habitat of waterbirds	Area of wetland used by waterbirds	Physical survey
	Reduce area under invasive macrophyte	Area under invasive macrophyte	Analysis of remote sensing images and ground truthing
	Maintain fish species richness	Fish species richness	Sampling



Socioeconomics	Reduce use of harmful fishing practices	Number of destructive fishing gear used in the wetland	Survey
	Reduce direct dependence of communities on capture fisheries	Reduction in % of income derived from wetland	Socioeconomic surveys

18. For each performance indicator, a baseline value at the beginning of management plan implementation may be specified. These values should be tracked over the course of management plan implementation to assess whether management objectives are being met.

Monitoring mechanism

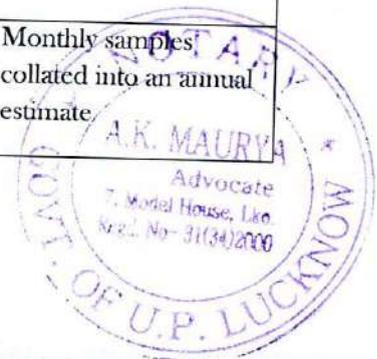
19. Besides setting up performance indicators for the management plan, it is also essential to set up a monitoring system for the wetland to be able to assess changes in ecosystem condition over a period of time.
20. A generic listing of monitoring parameter, method and frequency is presented in the Table 3 below. Parameters marked with a single asterisk (*) sign are relevant for all wetlands and must form a part of the monitoring system. In addition to these, parameters marked with a double asterisk (**) are relevant for wetlands located in urban and peri-urban areas. Other parameters may be included based on the assessment of relevance and wetland contexts.
21. Photographic documentation (before, during and after management intervention) may also be maintained as part of monitoring process. Aquatic drones/ buoy-based sensor induced transmission for online data updating may be used for large wetlands, which will further help in enriching the management practices.

Table 3: Parameters for wetlands monitoring

Wetland feature	Monitoring parameter	Monitoring method	Recommended Frequency
Wetland extent	• Wetland area *	Remote sensing and ground truthing	Once in a year
	• Land use and land cover within the wetland area	Remote sensing and ground truthing	Once in a year
	• Connectivity with other adjoining wetlands, river / streams, coastal zone	Remote sensing and ground truthing	Once in a year



Wetland Catchment	• Climate	Data from the nearest weather station	Monthly
	• Land use and Land Cover*	Remote sensing and ground truthing	Once in 3 years
	• Total sediment yield	Stream gauging station	Monthly
	• Total nutrient yield	Stream gauging station	Monthly
Hydrological regimes	• Water inflow and outflow*	Stream gauging station	Monthly
	• Waterholding capacity	Bathymetric survey	Once in 5 years
	• Peak inundation	Remote sensing and ground truthing	Once in 2 years
	• Dissolved Oxygen, Biological Oxygen Demand *	Data from water quality sampling stations	Atleast monthly
	• Chemical Oxygen Demand **	Data from water quality sampling stations	Atleast monthly
	• Number of point sources discharging untreated sewage into the wetland **	Surveys	Once a year
Biodiversity and Habitat	• Population of major wetland dependent species groups (such as waterbirds, mammals etc.)*	Mid-winter counts	Once a year
	• Habitat use by key species	Physical surveys	Once a year
	• Number of migratory species using the wetland as a habitat	Physical surveys	Once a year
	• Area under invasive macrophyte**	Physical surveys	Once a year
Ecosystem Services	• Annual Fish yield	Sampling	Monthly samples collated into an annual estimate



	• Number of tourists	Surveys	Monthly samples collated into an annual estimate
	• Volume of surface water abstracted from wetland	Hydrographic surveys	Monthly samples collated into an annual estimate
	• Volume of groundwater recharged	Hydrographic surveys	Once a year
	• Proportion of floodwaters stored in the wetland	Hydrographic surveys	Once a year
	• Use of wetland for research and education	Surveys	Annual estimate
Livelihoods	• Population living around the wetland*	Surveys	Once every three years
	• Population depending on wetlands for livelihoods	Surveys	Once every three years
	• Number of households around the wetland using safe sanitation practices	Surveys	Once every three years
	• Participation of communities in wetlands management	Surveys	Once every three years

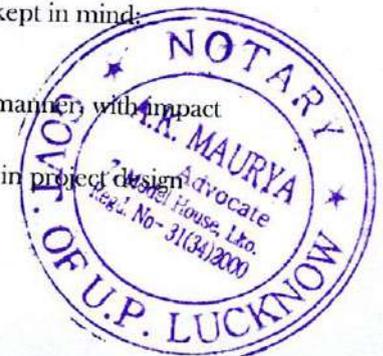
Note: (i) The frequency, as above, is advisable for wetlands above 100 ha and is indicative in nature. The Wetland Authority may suitably modify based on logistics involved.

(ii) For wetlands less than say 100 ha, the frequency may be appropriately divided.

Step 7 - Developing an action plan

22. The last stage of the management planning process includes defining the action plan, or specific interventions that address the identified management objectives. A generic listing of activities is presented in Table 4. The projects need to be defined very clearly to ensure good implementation. While identifying activities for management of wetlands, the following must be kept in mind:

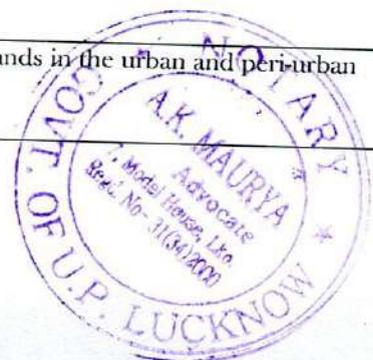
- Ecosystem-based interventions should be promoted as far as possible
- Engineering interventions in wetlands should be taken up in a limited manner, with impact assessments conducted for all major works
- Operations and maintenance of all structural works should be included in project design



- d) Participation of local communities should be included to the extent possible

Table 4: Generic listing of activities for management of wetlands

Management Plan component	Activities	Key considerations
Boundary delineation and demarcation	Boundary mapping and delineation	Site boundaries should be established with reference to inundation regimes, soil conditions and vegetation types. Landscape connectivity should also be taken into account when wetlands exist in patches. All activities should be completed within the first year.
	Removal of encroachments	Boundaries should be notified and legally protected wherever possible. All activities should be completed within the first year.
	Shoreline management	Mostly required for wetlands in urban and peri-urban setting. For stabilizing bunds of wetlands, naturalization of slopes using vegetative measures should be preferred. Development of promenade for urban lakes can be included based on an evaluation of natural drainage and shoreline ecosystem niches.
Catchment conservation	Afforestation and aided regeneration	Catchment conservation plans should be developed at watershed scales and based on Joint Forest Management approaches. Native species should be used for forestry operations. Pilot watershed should be periodically monitored to assess changes in soil moisture regimes. Livelihood interventions for catchment communities aimed at reducing dependence on wood as an energy source should be included as appropriate.
	Small scale engineering measures (gully plugging, check dams, gabion structures etc.)	Community participation in design, implementation and post-project maintenance of structures should be ensured.
Water management	Selective dredging and desilting to improve hydrological connectivity	Dredging to be used only selectively, and be based on assessments of bathymetric profile and species interactions. For inflowing channels, dredging can be used to improve water inflow.
	Interception, diversion and	Mostly recommended for wetlands in the urban and peri-urban setting.



Management Plan component	Activities	Key considerations
	treatment of point sources of pollution	Provision of comprehensive sanitation and safe drinking water coverage to communities living around the wetlands may be ensured. Engineering (STPs) as well as biological options (constructed wetlands) should be evaluated for application. Planning for Operation and Maintenance expenses should be included for all engineering structures.
	Construction and operation of hydraulic structures for maintenance of water regimes and flood control	For each significant structure, environmental impact assessments should be carried out prior to construction.
	Balancing water allocation for human and ecological purposes	Environmental flows for wetlands, hydrological regimes of which are affected by hydraulic structures, should be assessed and implemented in consultation in water managers
Biodiversity conservation	Habitat evaluation and improvement	Until specifically desired, plantation of terrestrial plant species in wetlands should be avoided.
	Improvement and maintenance of migratory routes	Community groups should be involved in habitat monitoring and maintenance of migratory routes
	Maintenance of breeding and spawning grounds for key species	Community groups should be involved in the maintenance of breeding and spawning grounds
	Management of invasive species	A mix of mechanical and biological methods for controlling species invasion should be used. For plant invasives, economic utilization along with physical removal should be included.
Sustainable resource development and livelihood improvement	Microenterprise development for reducing dependence on wetland resources for livelihoods	Identification of micro-enterprise development options should be based on an assessment of community livelihoods, capacities, resources and market linkages.
	Sustainable fisheries development	Only capture based fisheries techniques should be promoted in natural wetlands



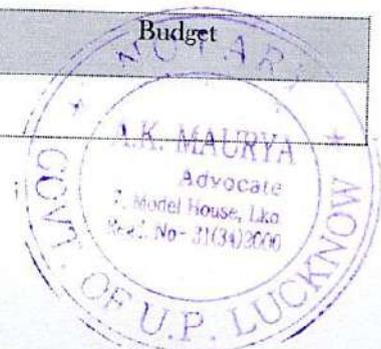
Management Plan component	Activities	Key considerations
		Options for improving culture fisheries in areas around wetlands may be included to reduce dependence on capture fisheries
	Sustainable agriculture development	Organic farming practices in immediate catchments should be included to minimize nutrient enrichment in wetland.
Institutional development	Setting regulatory regimes	Site regulation should be harmonized with national and State level regulations. Local customary self-regulation which supports maintenance of conservation values should be promoted
	Development of monitoring and evaluation system	Comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism for hydrological, ecological, socio-economic and institutional features should be made a part of the management system Involvement of stakeholders in monitoring should be encouraged.
	Communication and Outreach	Increasing awareness on values and functions of wetland should be made an integral part of the management plan. The use of television, print, electronic and social media for awareness generation and outreach may be included as appropriate. Developing and disseminating dos and donts in wetlands for general public may also be considered.
	Research	For each site, key research areas to support management needs should be identified and included in the management plan

Step 8: Developing budget and financing plan

23. A complete costing of the Integrated Management Plan item wise may be done for the entire tenure of the plan using the existing norms of the State and central government, as may be the case. Year wise requirement of funds for various items of work/ activities, band PERT charts for the works/activities should be prepared. Summary of Cost Estimates and year-wise breakup of the requirement of funds may be presented in the formats given below:

Table 5: Summary of budget

S. No.	Management Plan component	Budget



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Table 6: Year wise breakup of requirement of funds

S. No.	Activity	Funds Required in Yr I	Funds Required in Yr II	Funds Required in Yr III	Funds Required in Yr IV	Funds Required in Yr V	Total

Table 7: year wise breakup of requirement of funds

S. No	Total Budget	Funds from Central Government Scheme (Scheme Name)	Funds from State Government (Scheme Name)	Funds from other donors (Project and donor name)	Funds from private sector (Name of the agency)	Funds available from convergence sources	Funds required to be raised
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f) = (b) + (c) + (d) + (e)	(g) = (a) - (f)

Format for compiling Integrated Management Plan

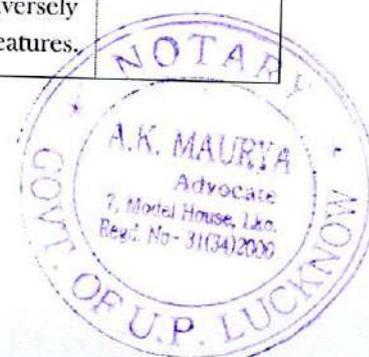
24. The management plan should have a cover sheet with the following information:

- Wetland Name
- Wetland Area (in ha)
- Location: (District(s), State / UT)
- Area of the direct catchment (in ha)
- Name of the nodal agency for management plan implementation
- Management plan period
- Date on which approval of State / UT Wetland Authority was obtained
- Total budget
- Total funds available from convergence sources

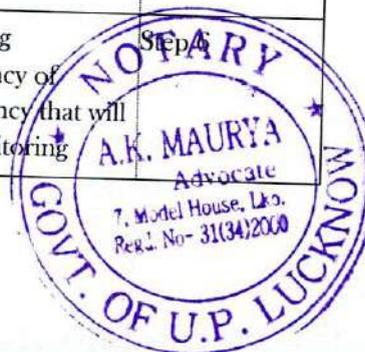


25. The management plan may be compiled in the following eight chapters:

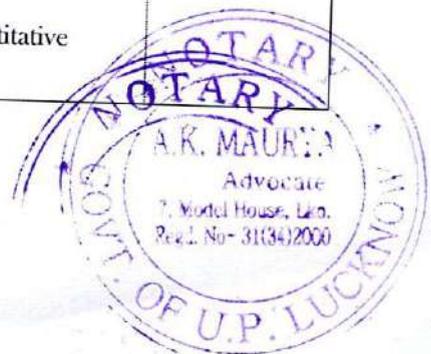
Chapter heading	Sub-headings	Explanation	Reference to Management Planning Steps
1. Introduction	1.1 Rationale for management planning	Describe the importance of wetland, ways in which wetlands conservation and wise use will contribute to state conservation and development goals and alignment with state and central government policies, directives and planning frameworks	Step 1
	1.2 Terms of reference	Enlist the overall terms of reference for the management plan	Step 1
	1.3 Approach and Method	Provide an overview of approach (ways in which the recommended steps have been used) Describe the data sources and research carried out for management planning if any	Step 1
2. Description of wetlands features	Description of wetland features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location and extent • Wetland catchments • Hydrological regimes • Biodiversity • Ecosystem Services • Socioeconomics and livelihoods 	Describe wetland features. As far as possible, present the data in maps.	Step 2
3. Evaluation of wetlands features	Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority wetland features that need to be maintained and thresholds thereof • Threats 	From the wetlands features described in the previous section, enlist the priority wetlands features. Describe the threats that adversely affect the priority wetland features.	Step 3



Chapter heading	Sub-headings	Explanation	Reference to Management Planning Steps
4. Institutional arrangements	4.1 Review of existing arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key organizations and programmes • Rules and regulations • Role of civil society and community based organizations 	Provide an overview of the current institutional arrangements in the context of wetlands management	Step 4
	4.2 Gaps	Discuss why the current institutional arrangements are insufficient in ensuring wetlands conservation and wise use.	Step 4
	4.3 Proposed arrangements for wetland management	Propose institutional arrangement for wetland management, which specific focus on a) nodal agency, b) role of various departments and agencies and coordination mechanism, and c) the role of civil society and communities. Develop an organogram for management plan implementation.	Step 4
5. Setting Management Objectives	5.1 Goal and purpose	Provide a statement of the overall goal that the management plan seeks to achieve	Step 5
	5.2 Benefits (ecological as well as societal)	Summarize the ecological and economic benefits that are expected from management plan implementation	
	5.3 Management objectives	Enlist the specific objectives	Step 5
	5.4 Strategies	Describe strategy(ies) for achieving each of the management objectives	Step 5
6. Monitoring and evaluation plan	6.1 Monitoring strategy	Present an overview of monitoring the wetland, and management plan implementation	Step 6
	6.2 Monitoring parameters, frequency and responsibility	Describe the monitoring parameters, the frequency of monitoring and the agency that will be responsible for monitoring	Step 6



Chapter heading	Sub-headings	Explanation	Reference to Management Planning Steps
	6.3 Institutional design	Describe how coordination between different monitoring agencies will be achieved.	Step 6
	6.4 Infrastructure and human resources design	Discuss the infrastructure and human resource requirement for implementing the management plan as far as possible, including local universities, research organizations and NGOs in wetlands monitoring	Step 6
	6.5 Reporting	Discuss the frequency in which reporting shall be done and the responsible agency.	Step 6
	6.6 Review and adaptation	Discuss how the monitoring outcomes will be used to adapt management	Step 6
7. Developing an Action Plan	7.1 Component wise activities linked with management objectives	Generic listing of activities indicating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will be done? • Where will the activity be done? • What is the priority for the activity? 	Step 7.1
	7.2 Components for consideration for support under National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)	For all activities eligible for support under NPCA indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the activity important? • How will the activity be implemented? (include intermediate steps, technical specifications and relevant drawings, as may be the case) • Where will the activity be implemented? • Who will implement the activity? • What are the quantitative targets to be met? 	Step 7.2



Chapter heading	Sub-headings	Explanation	Reference to Management Planning Steps
8. Budget and activity phasing	8.1 Activity linked budget	Present a summary budget in line with Table 5 Provide details of funding available from convergence sources in line with Table 6 Provide detailed budget for NPCA in line with Table 7	Step 8
	8.2 Time planning	Present a monthly Gantt Chart for management plan implementation	Step 8

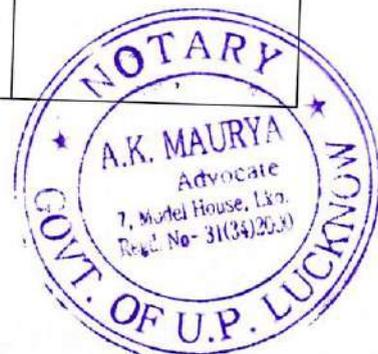
Checklist for submission of Integrated Management Plan

- Approved by the State Govt./ UT Administration/ State Wetlands Authority/ UT Wetlands Authority (minutes of meeting to be enclosed)
- Forwarding letter states -commitment of the State Government/ UT for providing their share of budget (supporting document indicating concurrence to be enclosed)
- Integrated Management Plan has a cover sheet providing details on Wetland, catchment area, implementing agency, total budget and fund requested from NPCA
- Brief Document is enclosed with the management plan (as per Annex V)
- Wetlands map is provided in a standard GIS format
- Map of zone of influence in provided in a standard GIS format.
- Management plan is aligned with recommended format of eight chapters
- All activities proposed to be funded by the NPCA fall within the list of core and non-core activities
- Necessary drawings and technical specification for major activities is provided.
- Core activities have been allocated not less than 75% of the budget
- Non- core activities have been allocated not more than 25% of the budget
- Budget has been prepared with reference to an approved Schedule of Rates



Annex 5: Format for reporting status of notified wetlands

1. Wetlands / Wetlands Complex Name:		Report Date:		
		Reporting Officer:		
2. Wetlands status				
2.1 Area: current- ; in notification -				
2.2 Water inflow and outflow (attach data in an annex)				
2.3 Water quality (attach data in an annex)				
2.4 Status of major threats				
(such as encroachment, linear infrastructure development, destructive fishing practices, untreated sewage discharge, solid and liquid waste dumping, dumping of hazardous waste, invasive species, habitat modification / destruction/alteration or any other that has or may induce an adverse change in wetland ecological character)				
3. Status of enforcement of the regulatory regime				
Activity regulated	Whether regulation complied with?	Violation if any?	Where has the violation been reported?	Action taken
4. Implementation of the management plan				
Management Plan Component and Activity Planned for the period	Progress of implementation during the period	Nodal agency	Remarks (successes and challenges)	



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Annexure/R10/3

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ITEM NO.6

COURT NO.13

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 304/2018

ANAND ARYA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 131361/2018 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 230/2001 (PIL-W)
(I.A.NO.203606/2022 IN W.P.(C)NO.230/2001
IA No. 203606/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)W.P.(C) No. 302/2020 (PIL-W)
(FOR impleading party ON IA 172736/2024
FOR INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 172736/2024
FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 172737/2024
IA No. 172737/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 172736/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

Date : 11-12-2024 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHANSHU DHULIA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAHFor Petitioner(s) Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Trisha Chandran, Adv.
Mr. Naresh Kumar, AORMr. Jayant Bhushan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Reena George, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Kumar Singh, AOR
Mr. Amartya Bhushan, Adv.
Mr. Yojit Mehra, Adv.Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Shibani Ghosh, AOR
Ms. Ayushma Awasthi, Adv.
Ms. Himanshi Gupta, Adv.For Respondent(s) Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Ms. Swarupma Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Manisha Chava, Adv.
Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR

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Jayant Kumar Arora
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1208

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 Mr. Milind Kumar, AOR

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 Mr. Samarth Krishan Luthra, Adv.
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 Mr. Rohit Pandey, Adv.

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 Ms. Pooja Sharma, Adv.
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 Mr. Pashupathi Nath Razdan, AOR

Mr. V. N. Raghupathy, AOR

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 Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv.

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 Mr. Sarthak Dora, Adv.

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 Mr. Midhun Aggarwal, Adv.
 Ms. Vaishnavi, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
 O R D E R

Prior to 2017, the figures given by ISRO regarding the number of wetlands in India having an area more than 2.25 Hectares was 2,01,503. The latest ISRO data, which is of the year 2021, shows that this figure has now increased to 2,31,195.

Now these figures have to be checked on ground. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 (in short, "the Rules") and the guidelines issued thereunder prescribe that the next step after identification of such wetlands is what is called Ground truthing, which is the term given to the actual inspection of these wetlands by a team constituted by the State for that purpose. This step has, however, been neglected by almost all the States, except the State of Punjab to some extent. As regards demarcation of these wetlands all States have done almost nothing up till now.

We have been informed at the Bar that each State presently has a Wetland Authority. In fact, reading of Rule 5 suggests that the State Wetlands Authority has already been constituted. Rule 5, by which the State Wetland Authority as well as such Authorities in the Union Territories have been



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constituted and the powers to these Authorities have been given, reads as under :-

"Wetland Authorities – (1) The Central Government hereby constitutes the State Wetlands Authority in each State with the following members, namely ; -

XXXXX

(2) The Central Government hereby constitutes the Union Territory Wetlands Authority for each Union Territory with the following members, namely -

XXXX

(3) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority may co-opt other members, not exceeding three in number, if required.

(4) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority shall exercise the following powers and perform the following functions, namely :-

a) Prepare a list of all wetlands of the State or UT within three months from the date of publication of these rules;

b) Prepare a list of wetlands to be notified, within six months from the date of publication of these Rules, taking into cognizance any existing list of wetlands prepared/notified under other relevant State

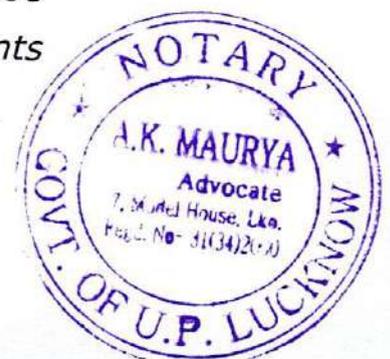


Acts;

- c) Recommend identified wetlands, based on their Brief Documents, for regulation under these rules;*
- d) Prepare a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands within one year from the date of publication of these rules and upload the same on a dedicated web portal, to be developed by the Central Government for the said purpose; the inventory ought to be updated every ten years;*
- e) Develop a comprehensive list of activities, to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence;*
- f) Recommend additions, if any, to the list of prohibited activities for specific wetlands;*
- g) Define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction; wise use being a principle for managing these ecosystems which incorporates sustainable uses (such as capture fisheries at subsistence level or harvest of aquatic plants) as being compatible with conservation, if ecosystem functions (such as water storage, ground water recharge, flood buffering) and values (such as recreation and cultural) are maintained or enhanced ;*



- h) Review Integrated Management Plan for each of the notified wetlands (including trans-boundary wetlands in coordination with Central Government), and within these plans to consider continuation and support to traditional uses of wetlands that are harmonized with ecological character;*
- l) Recommend mechanisms for maintenance of ecological character through promotional activities for land within the boundary of notified wetlands or wetlands complex have private tenancy rights,;*
- j) Identify mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing State/UT level development plans and programmes;*
- k) Ensure enforcement of these rules and other relevant Acts, rules and regulations and on a half-yearly basis (June and December of each calendar year) inform the concerned State Government or UT Administration or Central Government on the status of such notified wetlands through a reporting mechanism;*
- l) Coordinate implementation of Integrated Management Plans based on wiseuse principle through various line departments and other concerned agencies;*



- m) Function as a nodal authority for all wetland - specific authorities within the State or UT Administration;*
- n) Issue necessary directions for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands to the respective implementing agencies.*
- o) Undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands; and*
- p) Advise on any other matter suo-motu, or as referred by the State Government/UT Administration.*

(5) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory shall provide all necessary support and act as nodal Department and Secretariat to the Authority.

(6) The Authority shall, within ninety days of publication of these rules, shall constitute -

- (a) a technical committee to review brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the Wetland Authority and*
- (b) a grievance committee consisting of four members to provide a mechanism for hearing*



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and forwarding the grievances raised by public to the Authority;

(7) The Committees referred to in sub-rule (6) shall meet at least once in every quarter to perform their functions.

(8) The Authority shall meet at least thrice in a year.

(9) The term of non-official members of the Authority nominated by State Government or Union Territory Administration, shall be for a period not exceeding three years."

It is clear now that the ground truthing and the demarcation of wetland boundary is the next step, which is to be undertaken by each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities in coordination with concerned nodal Department as provided under the Rules. It is a Statutory function which has been assigned to them under the Rules. We, therefore, direct each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities to complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the Wetland which have been identified for their State by Space Application Center Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021.

For easy accessibility of this, each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities shall complete this work as expeditiously as possible, but definitely within a period of three months from today. Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General, has assured this Court that they shall be doing the monitoring with each of the State and shall file a detailed affidavit before the

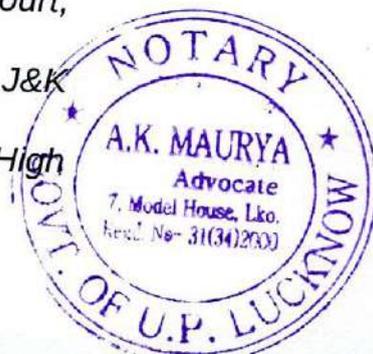


next date of listing.

Vide our order dated 03.04.2017 (in Writ Petition (C) No. 230 of 2001), this Court has passed certain directions regarding protection of Ramsar Convention Sites (of wetlands) to be monitored by each of the High Court concerned and 15 High Courts were given such a direction. The relevant portion of order dated 03.04.2017 is reproduced as under :-

"We have put it to learned counsel for the petitioner that insofar as the Ramsar Convention sites are concerned, since they are matters of international heritage, it might be more appropriate if the concerned High Courts monitor the management of these sites at least till there is some visible improvement. Learned counsel for the petitioner says that he has no objection to this.

Under the circumstances, we direct the Registry of this Court to make photocopies of the affidavit filed by the Union of India by Dr. A. Duraisamy, Scientist 'F' and Member Secretary, Central Wetland Regulatory Authority and send it to the following High Courts: High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad for the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Gauhati High Court, Gujarat High Court, Himachal Pradesh High Court, J&K High Court, Kerala High Court, Madhya Pradesh High



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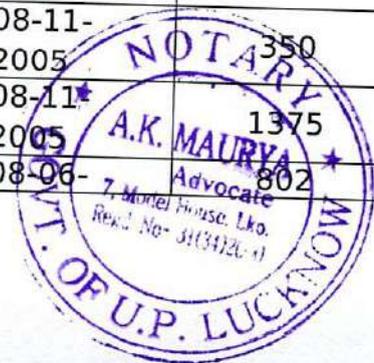
Court, Manipur High Court, Orissa High Court, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Rajasthan High Court, Madras High Court, Tripura High Court, Allahabad High Court and High Court at Calcutta. The affidavit be sent to the Registrar General of all the aforementioned High Courts within two weeks from today. A copy of all the orders passed by this Court from 10th September, 2014 till today shall also be sent to the concerned High Courts along with the affidavit. We request Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court to treat the affidavit as a suo motu public interest petition and, if necessary, appoint an amicus to assist the court so as to ensure that the Ramsar Convention sites within their jurisdiction are properly maintained. The affidavit by the Union of India should be filed within six weeks. List the matter on 12th July, 2017"

Now, the latest figure shows that these Ramsar sites have increased from 26 to 85, including 59 additional sites (cited below) falling under 5 other additional High Courts i.e. Patna, Bombay, Karnataka, Gauhati (Aizawl Bench as well) and Uttarakhand. The list of updated RAMSAR sites has been given to this Court, which is reproduced as under:-

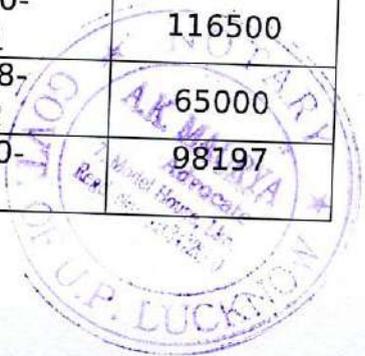


"List of 85 Ramsar Sites"

	State/UT		Wetland	Date of Designation	Area (hectares)
1.	Andhra Pradesh (1)	1.	Kolleru Lake	19-08-2002	90100
2.	Assam (1)	2.	Deepor Beel	19-08-2002	4000
3.	Bihar (3)	3.	Kabartal Wetland	21-07-2020	2620
		4.	Nagi Bird Sanctuary	11-10-2023	206
		5.	Nakti Bird Sanctuary	11-10-2023	333
4.	Gujarat (4)	6.	Nalsarovar	24-09-2012	12000
		7.	Wadhvana Wetland	05-04-2021	630
		8.	Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary	05-04-2021	699
		9.	Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary	13-04-2021	512
8.	Goa (1)	10.	Nanda Lake	08-06-2022	42
9.	Haryana (2)	11.	Sultanpur National Park	25-05-2021	143
		12.	Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary	25-05-2021	412
11.	Himachal Pradesh (3)	13.	Pong Dam Lake	19-08-2002	15662
		14.	Chandertal Wetland	08-11-2005	49
		15.	Renuka Wetland	08-11-2005	20
14.	Jammu and Kashmir (5)	16.	Wular Lake	23-03-1990	18900
		17.	Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	08-11-2005	350
		18.	Hokera Wetland	08-11-2005	1375
		19.	Hygam Wetland	08-06-2005	802



			Conservation Reserve	2022	
		20.	Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve	08-06-2022	1675
19.	Karnataka (4)	21.	Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary	15-02-2022	518
		22.	Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve	10-03-2023	98.76
		23.	Aghanashini Estuary	14-02-2023	4801
		24.	Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve	14-02-2023	54.38
20.	Kerala (3)	25.	Asthamudi Wetland	19-08-2002	6140
		26.	Sasthamkotta Lake	19-08-2002	373
		27.	VembanadKol Wetland	19-08-2002	151250
23.	Ladakh (2)	28.	Tso Kar Wetland Complex	17-11-2020	9577
		29.	Tsomoriri Lake	19-08-2002	12000
25.	Madhya Pradesh (5)	30.	Bhoj Wetlands	19-08-2002	3201
		31.	Sirpur Wetland	07-01-2022	161
		32.	Sakhya Sagar	07-01-2022	248
		33.	Yashwant Sagar	07-01-2022	823
		34.	Tawa Reservoir	08-01-2024	20050
29.	Maharashtra (3)	35.	Nandur Madhameshwar	21-06-2019	1437
		36.	Lonar Lake	22-07-2020	427
		37.	Thane Creek	13-04-2022	6521
32.	Manipur (1)	38.	Loktak Lake	23-03-1990	26600
33.	Mizoram (1)	39.	Pala Wetland	31-08-2021	1850
34.	Odisha (6)	40.	Chilka Lake	01-10-1981	116500
		41.	Bhitarkanika Mangroves	19-08-2002	65000
		42.	Satkosia Gorge	12-10-2021	98197



		43.	Tampara Lake	12-10-2021	300
		44.	Hirakud Reservoir	12-10-2021	65400
		45.	Ansupa Lake	12-10-2021	231
40.	Punjab (6)	46.	Harike Lake	23-03-1990	4100
		47.	Kanjli Lake	22-01-2002	183
		48.	Ropar Lake	22-01-2002	1365
		49.	Beas Conservation Reserve	26-09-2019	6429
		50.	Keshopur - Miani Community Reserve	26-09-2019	344
		51.	Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	26-09-2019	116
46.	Rajasthan (2)	52.	Keoladeo Ghana National Park	1-10-1981	2873
		53.	Sambhar Lake	23-03-1990	24000
48.	Tamil Nadu (18)	54.	Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	19-08-2002	38500
		55.	Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary	08-11-2021	72
		56.	Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary	08-11-2021	260
		57.	Karikili Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	58
		58.	Pichavaram Mangrove	08/04/2022	1479
		59.	Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest	08-04-2022	1248
		60.	Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve	08-04-2022	52672
		61.	Vembannur Wetland Complex	08-04-2022	20
		62.	Vellode Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	77
		63.	Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	44
		64.	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	40
		65.	Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex	08-04-2022	113
		66.	Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary	08-04-	



				2022	
		67.	Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary	08-04-2022	97
		68.	Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary	24-05-2023	453.72
		69.	Longwood Shola Reserve Forest	24-05-2023	116.007
		70.	Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary	16-01-2024	125.865
		71.	Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary	16-01-2024	5151.6
62.	Tripura (1)	72.	Rudrasagar Lake	08-11-2005	240
63.	Uttar Pradesh (10)	73.	Upper Ganga River	08-11-2005	26590
		74.	Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	19-09-2019	225
		75.	Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	02-12-2019	722
		76.	Saman Bird Sanctuary	02-12-2019	526
		77.	Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	03-10-2019	799
		78.	Sandi Bird Sanctuary	26-09-2019	309
		79.	Sarsai Nawarjheel	19-09-2019	161
		80.	Sur Sarovar	21-08-2020	431
		81.	Haiderpur Wetland	13-04-2021	6908
		82.	Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary	29-06-2021	2894
73.	Uttarakhand (1)	83.	Asan Conservation Reserve	21-07-2020	444
74.	West Bengal (2)	84.	East Calcutta Wetlands	19-08-2002	12500
		85.	Sunderbans Wetland	30-01-2019	423000
23 States & UTs		85 Ramsar Sites			13,58,068.335

The Registrar General of this Court is directed to send the complete list to all the High Courts, including the 5 High Courts which are mentioned above,



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and the High Courts are requested to treat the affidavit as a Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation where an Amicus be appointed, if necessary, to assist the Court and ensure that the RAMSAR Sites within their jurisdiction are properly maintained. We say this only as a continuation of our order dated 03.04.2017.

List the matter again on 25.03.2025.

(JAYANT KUMAR ARORA)
ASST. REGISTRAR-CUM-PS

(RENU BALA GAMBHIR)
COURT MASTER



Minutes of the meeting held on 15.05.2025 pursuant to Hon'ble NGT's Order dated 01.05.2025 of EA No. 16/2019 in OA No. 153/2014 in the matter of INTACH vs. Govt. of NCT Delhi & Ors.

A virtual meeting was convened on 15.05.2025 by Wetlands Division, MoEF&CC, with representatives from the State Wetlands Authorities of Haryana and Delhi to deliberate on issues related to the notification of Najafgarh Jheel—a transboundary wetland situated along the Delhi-Gurugram border—in accordance with the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. The list of Participants is **annexed**.

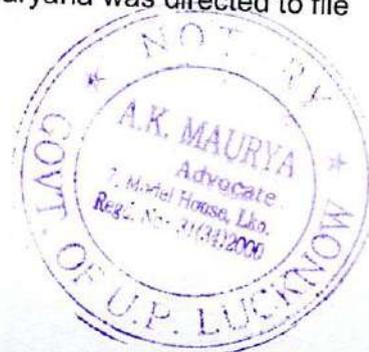
2. At the outset, Scientist 'F' (Wetlands), welcomed the participants, followed by a brief introduction of the members. The members were apprised that EA No. 16/2019 has been filed before the Hon'ble NGT for execution of its order dated 20.02.2017 in OA No. 153/2014 (INTACH vs. Govt. of NCT Delhi & Ors), wherein the Hon'ble Tribunal recorded the Government of Haryana's decision to identify Najafgarh Jheel as a water body and directed the Government of NCT of Delhi to take immediate action. The EA No. 16/2019 was disposed of vide order dated 16.02.2023 along with other connected matters, observing that:

"In OA No. 470/2022, a joint committee consisting of the CPCB, DPCC, DJB, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department of the Government of Delhi, and the District Magistrate of South West Delhi has submitted a report outlining the extent of pollution. The report also recommends the monitoring of sewage treatment and the management of other effluents discharged into the lake, both in Haryana and Delhi.

Since the issue of controlling pollution in drains and water bodies affecting the Yamuna is currently being addressed in Delhi by a high-level committee chaired by the Lieutenant Governor, and the rejuvenation of Najafgarh Lake is closely tied to the rejuvenation of the Yamuna, it can be handled by the same committee for the Delhi region. For the areas in Haryana, the Chief Secretary of Haryana can take charge of the matter."

2.1 The aforementioned order dated 16.02.2023 was challenged in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Civil Appeal No. 4100/2023, titled as Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage vs. Government of NCT Delhi. The said CA was disposed of vide order dated 31.07.2023 directing that the EA be revived and be heard along with OA No. 6/2021. Accordingly, the EA was revived vide order dated 17.10.2023.

2.2 Vide order dated 22.12.2023, the Hon'ble Tribunal recorded the submission made on behalf of Government of NCT Delhi that a decision has been taken to declare Najafgarh water body as wetland. The State Government of Haryana was directed to file



the report disclosing the action taken in pursuance to the statement which was made before the Tribunal on 20.02.2017.

2.3 Vide order dated 16.02.2024, the response filed on behalf of Haryana was recorded and no satisfactory explanation has been furnished for not giving effect to the statement which was made on 20.02.2017 fully till now. Ld. Counsel for Haryana sought 6 weeks time to furnish an affidavit disclosing the time schedule within which the process of notification of Najafgarh Jheel as trans-boundary wetland will be completed at the ends of State of Haryana.

2.4 Vide order dated 30.07.2024, status report filed on behalf of Haryana was been recorded wherein Haryana has decided to declare 75 acres of land as Wetland. The Hon'ble Tribunal gave an option to petitioners to file objections, if any to the report filed by the State of Haryana.

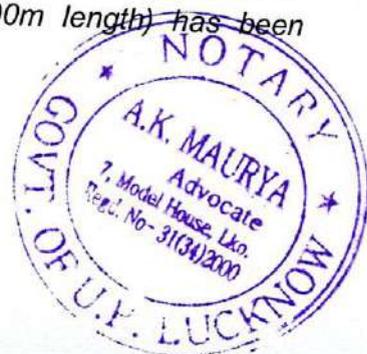
2.5 Vide order dated 22.10.2024, the Id. Counsel for Haryana sought time to respond to objections filed on behalf of petitioners in terms of previous order dated 30.07.2024 in respect of declaration of 75 acres of Najafgarh Jheel as wetland by the State of Haryana.

2.6 The Hon'ble Tribunal's latest order dated 01.05.2025 in EA No. 16/2019 is reproduced hereunder:

"2. The wetland authority of Haryana has submitted the report dated 29.07.2024 stating as under:

"xxxxxx.....xxx
 10. That although actual area of submergence as waterbody can be ascertained only after completion of the said projects, however, anticipating the stoppage of untreated discharge and utilization of treated effluent as per completion of projects mentioned herein above, 75 acres (60 m width x 5000 m length) has been identified along Najafgarh Drain which can considered for declaration as waterbody/wetland. The detail of such Khasra Nos. is enclosed as ANNEXURE-R/2. If after completion of projects mentioned in preceding paragraphs, more substantial area is found under submerge of water, further decision shall be taken to enlarge the area identified as waterbody, in accordance with law."

3. The above disclosure reveals that though the actual area of submergence as water body has not been determined till now but anticipating the stoppage of untreated discharge and utilisation of the treated effluents as per the completion of the project 75 acres (60m width x 5000m length) has been identified for declaring as a wetland.



4. Learned Counsel appearing for the State Wetland Authority submits that the brief document has already been submitted to the Wetland Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on 17.09.2024 and the action at the end of the MoEF&CC is awaited.
5. It has been pointed out that MoEF&CC is a party and served in this execution application, but no one is present representing the MoEF&CC. Hence, we direct the Secretary, MoEF&CC to ensure the representation of the MoEF&CC on the next date through some competent advocate or through some senior officer of the MoEF&CC. Let a copy of this order be forwarded to the Secretary, MoEF&CC for compliance.
6. Learned Counsel for the Applicant has submitted that the area of Najafgarh lake on the Haryana side is much large then 75 acres. He has referred to the satellite image of 2021, Annexure-A-7 (page 1111) to show that the water spread on September 24, 2021 was 2048 acres. He has also referred to the satellite image (page 848) to show that in 11.11.2021 water spread was 1667 acres and has pointed out the image on page 849 which shows that the water spread range from 200 acres to 2048 acres 2 3 between 2014 to 2021. He has also referred to Annexure A-3 concerning the Land Revenue Settlement of the Gurgaon District - FC Channing, Settlement Officer, 1882 – extracts and has submitted that the area of five villages was found to be inundated, covering 1772 acres. The petitioner himself has given the submergence level and area of the Najafgarh lake in Haryana over the last 16 years as under:

Year	High Flood Level (HFL) Contour	Submergence area at HFL Acres/Ha
2009	210m	3436*
2010	210.35m	3800
2011	209.75m	2100
2012	209.72m	2100
2013	209.92m	2200
2014	209.70m	2100
2015	209.70m	2100
2016	210.00m	3436*
2017	209.62m	2000
2018	210.12m	3600
2019	209.37m	1500
2020	210.6m	2000
2021	210.90m	4600
2022	211.05m	5349*



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2023	210.75m	4200
2024	210.60m	4000
Average Level	210.41M	3800 Acres/1520 Ha

Source for HFL at Jhatikra: I&FC, Delhi for Levels
***Submergence Areas as/Haryana EMP**

7. Counsel for the Applicant has also relied upon the area of wetland disclosed in Annexure-3, a Framework of Integrated Environment Management Plan jointly submitted by the Government of Haryana and NCT Delhi (draft) filed alongwith the report of the CPCB dated 13.12.2021. Counsel for the State Wetland Authority has disputed the material which is shown by the Applicant.

8. The issue concerning the exact area of the Najafgarh lake on the Haryana side is required to be decided and the exact area is required to be determined by some independent competent body. Hence, we direct the Applicant to implead the National Wetland Authority in this execution application through the Chairman and serve the same.

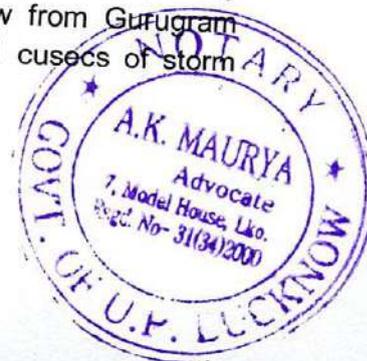
9. IA No. 339/2024 has been filed by some of the persons on the plea that their land is likely to be affected in the process of determining the wetland of Najafgarh in the State of Haryana. Considering the scope of the matter and also the plea that they are likely to be affected, we allow the IA No. 339/2024 and permit the applicants to intervene in this execution application.

10. The National Wetland Authority is expected to file the reply affidavit atleast one week before the next date of hearing.

11. List on 04.09.2025."

3. After detailed deliberations, the following points emerged during the meeting:

3.1 The Government of NCT of Delhi reiterated its position that the Najafgarh Jheel is to be notified as a wetland, based on the Brief Document and the framework of Integrated Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that have been submitted. It was informed that the EMP submitted to MoEF&CC, in compliance with the directive of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, delineates a total wetland area of 2,530 hectares, out of which 1,400 hectares fall within the territory of Delhi and 1,130 hectares within Haryana. The representative from the Government of Haryana indicated that out of the 1,130 hectares situated in Haryana, the State Government supports notification of only 30 hectares. The Department of Irrigation and Flood Control, Government of NCT of Delhi, referred to findings from the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) report, which states that 30,198 cusecs of discharge flow from Gurugram towards Najafgarh wetland. Following diversion, an estimated 8,621 cusecs of storm



water would eventually reach Najafgarh wetland, while the carrying capacity of the Najafgarh water body is 8,115 cusecs. This indicates that the overall carrying capacity of the drainage system is inadequate. Therefore, it was emphasized that hydrological considerations, particularly the carrying capacity of the system, must be given due attention in the planning process.

3.2 The Government of Haryana expressed its intention to construct a bund on the Haryana side. In this context, it was informed that the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 8th February 2017, 4th October 2017 and 11th December 2024 has inter-alia directed to protect the 2, 31,195 wetlands (as mapped by Space Application Centre, ISRO) as per Rules 4(2) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. It was further proposed to undertake a hydrological modelling study to delineate the wetland boundary. Given the influx of both rainwater and sewage during the monsoon season, it was suggested that the boundary be determined by excluding areas influenced solely by sewage. It was further noted that storm water diversion presents significant challenges. The existing wetland serves as a flood buffer, providing temporary storage and delaying downstream overflow. This functional role should be duly considered while delineating the wetland boundary. It was also recommended that land use planning in the region should factor in disaster risk reduction, with the wetland being an essential buffer to accommodate excess storm water, especially given the degraded and choked state of existing drainage channels.

Action Point

- A joint report shall be submitted within two months by Wetlands International South Asia (WISA), and WWF-India. They shall also prepare a joint Brief document; delineate the boundary on both Delhi and Haryana side after proper stakeholder consultation including the farmers and other community members in the adjoining areas. Further, the report should include assessment of the impact of the bund on Haryana side on the wetland ecosystem. Concerned authorities from both the Governments of Haryana and NCT of Delhi are kindly requested to cooperate with the team for effective compliance.

The meeting ended with thanks to all the participants.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S.No.	Name (Mr./Ms./Dr.)	Designation	Organization
1	Pankaj Verma	Scientist 'F', Wetlands Division	MoEF&CC
2	Gauri Vashist	Associate (Legal)-B, Wetlands Division	MoEF&CC
3	Shyam Sundar Kandpal	PCCF	Gov't of N.C.T. of Delhi
4	Balram Meena	ADM (South West)	Gov't of N.C.T. of Delhi
5	Mukesh Kumar	Chief Engineer, Delhi Irrigation & Flood Control Department	Gov't of N.C.T. of Delhi
6	Subhash Yadav	DFO, GMDA	Government of Haryana
7	Virendra Singh	Engineer-in-chief, Irrigation & Water Resources Department	Government of Haryana
8	Ritesh Kumar	Director	Wetlands International South Asia
9	Muruganandam R	Scientist 'C'	NCSCM, Chennai
10	Suddabhrata C	Junior Advisor	GIZ, New Delhi



FIELD VISIT INTERACTIONS/PHOTOGRAPHS

An interaction between team members of Wetlands International South Asia and WWF-India, and officials from the Government of Delhi NCT, was held at Flamingo Point, Najafgarh Jheel, on 6th August 2025



Field visit and interaction of the team members of Wetlands International South Asia and WWF-India with officials from the Government of Haryana held on 19th August 2025