

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

Original Application No. 239 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:-

News Item titled “What Challenge Are Kashmiri Wetlands Facing?”
appearing in Kashmir Life dated 02.02.2024

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Filed by:

Charu Singhal

[CHARU SINGHAL]

Advocate

Counsel for MoEF&CC Respondent No.5

Enrolment No. D/1224-E/1995

228, M.C. Setalvad Lawyers' Chamber

Supreme Court of India,

NEW DELHI-110001

Mb.9810720565

New Delhi;

Filed on:2024

File no. W/20/2024-WTL
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India
(Wetlands Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
JorBagh Road
New Delhi-110003
Date: 09.09.2024

To
The Deputy Director General of Forest (C),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office,
Bays No. 24-25, Sector-31A,
Dakshin Marg, Chandigarh-160030

Sub: Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.5/ Regional Office, MoEFCC, Chandigarh, in OA No. 239/2024, based on the News item titled "What challenges are Kashmiri wetlands facing?" appearing in Kashmiri Life dated 02.02.2024, before National Green Tribunal-New Delhi (Principal Bench)

Sir,

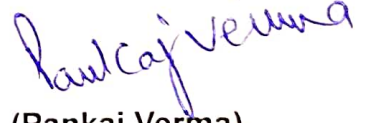
In reference to the above-captioned subject-matter, an approved affidavit along with annexures is annexed for your kind reference and for filing before Hon'ble the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, at New Delhi.

2. The filing of affidavit may kindly be confirmed and appearance on behalf of MoEF&CC may be ensured on 10.09.2024 with a view to protect the interest of Union of India.

3. A copy of the filed affidavit may kindly be forwarded to the ministry.

4. This has been issued with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully



(Pankaj Verma)
Scientist 'E'

Tel: 011-20819270(O)

Email: Pankaj.verma@nic.in

Encl. as above.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 239/2024

News Item titled "*What challenges are Kashmiri Wetlands Facing?*" appearing in Kashmir Life dated 02.02.2024.

Affidavit on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate

Change, represented through Regional office, MoEF&CC,

Chandigarh

I, Dr. K.M. Selvan, S/o Shri Kanagaraj, aged about 39 years, presently working as Scientist 'E' at the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi, 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 in the present application, the regional office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh has been arrayed as Respondent No. 5 and is representing the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.



Signature

3. That vide order dated 13.03.2024, passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal, notice was issued to all the respondents and they were directed to file the reports before the next date of hearing. The operative portion of aforementioned order dated 13.03.2024 has been reproduced hereunder:

"Let notice be issued to the above Respondent for filing their response at least one week before the next date of hearing."

The order dated 13.03.2024 has been annexed here as **Annexure/R-5/1**.

4. That vide order dated 22.05.2024, the Hon'ble Tribunal directed the parties to file their response within 8 weeks. The operative portion of the aforementioned order dated 22.05.2024 is reproduced hereunder:

"It will be open to all the respondents to file their further reply/report within 8 weeks keeping in view the observations made above"

The order dated 22.05.2024 is annexed here as **Annexure/R-5/2**.

5. That it is pertinent to mention that Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 08.02.2017, in the matter of MK Balakrishnan vs. Union of India (WP No. 230/2001), directed that the principles



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of Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2010 will be applicable to all 2,01,503 wetlands that have been mapped by the Government of India and also directed that the Central government shall identify and inventorize with the assistance of the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations all these 2,01,503 wetlands to cover under the ambit of Rule 4 of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2010. The order dated 08.02.2017 is annexed here as **Annexure/R-5/3**.

6. That the wetlands are a vital part of the hydrological cycle. They are highly productive ecosystems which support rich biodiversity and provide a wide range of ecosystem and services such as water storage, water purification, flood mitigation, erosion control, aquifer recharge, microclimate regulation, and aesthetic enhancement of landscapes while simultaneously supporting many significant social and cultural activities, being part of our rich cultural heritage.
7. That the depletion and destruction of wetlands is a serious concern for the Respondent Ministry. Wetlands are threatened by reclamation and degradation through drainage and landfill, pollution (discharge of domestic and industrial effluents, disposal



Ranjeet Kaur

of solid wastes), hydrological alteration (water withdrawal and changes in inflow and outflow), over-exploitation of their natural resources and illegal constructions resulting in loss of biodiversity and disruption in ecosystem services provided by wetlands.

8. That India is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands which is an Intergovernmental Treaty that embodies the commitments of its member countries to maintain the ecological character of their wetlands of International Importance and to plan for the 'wise use', or sustainable use, of all the wetlands in their territories.
9. It is humbly submitted that MoEF&CC has taken several steps in creating awareness about the importance of wetlands through people's participation. It is submitted that in this regard, "**Sahbhagita Mission**" was launched in 2022 for people and stakeholders' participation in the wetland conservation and management with a mission of *'a healthy and effectively managed network of wetlands of national and international significance which support water and food security; buffer from floods, droughts, cyclones and other extreme events; employment generation; conservation of species of local, national and international significance; climate change mitigation and*

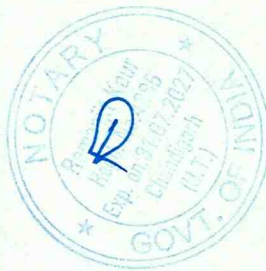


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adaptation actions; and recognition, conservation and celebration of cultural heritage.' . Mission Sahbhagita is an important step towards participatory conservation and **wise use** of wetlands to enable a societal ownership approach with communities leading at the forefront. Under the aforesaid Mission, so far seven regional workshops have been conducted with State/UTs Wetlands Authorities, Site Managers, Wetland Mitras (volunteers for Wetlands) and other stakeholders.

10. That every year, *World Wetlands Day (WWD)* is celebrated on 2nd February by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, at a national level following the themes recommended by the Ramsar Convention to sensitize the stakeholders and emphasize the need for conservation of wetlands, including community participation for public awareness. Similarly, Wetland Authorities also conduct such activities in their respective territories including at site level.
11. It is pertinent to mention that the use of social media and other modes of mass communication is used extensively to sensitize the public about the importance of wetlands protection and conservation.

Signature



12. That, to further the process of awareness and promote participation, a nationwide campaign namely, "**Save Wetlands Campaign**" was initiated by MOEF&CC on 4th February 2022. The campaign was structured on a whole of society approach for wetlands conservation, enabling affirmative action for wetlands conservation at all levels of the society and involving all strata of the society. The campaign inter-alia, envisaged to include sensitizing people of the value of wetlands, increasing the coverage of Wetland *Mitras* and building citizen partnerships for wetlands conservation amongst other targets. Aligning with the Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) and following the philosophy of Mission *Sahbhagita* of MoEF&CC, the campaign was implemented at a Pan-India level. The network of Ramsar Sites served as model sites or anchors for their respective States/UTs. State Wetland Authorities, District Administrations, Municipal Corporations, Gram Panchayats, Educational Institutes, and Knowledge Partners have been active participants in the campaign. Under the aforesaid campaign, more than 2 million people have been sensitised across the country, approx. 80,000 ground truthing of wetlands have been done, health cards for more than 6,200 wetlands have been prepared and more than 18,000 Wetland *Mitras* have been registered. As per the information

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available, in Jammu and Kashmir, ground truthing of 174 wetlands have been done, health cards of more than 100 wetlands have been prepared, and 1931 Wetlands Mitras have been registered under the campaign. Encouraged with the success of Save Wetlands Campaign, Ministry has decided to continue the activities taken up under the aforesaid campaign during the current year as well.

13. That the **Wetlands Web-Portal** namely indianwetlands.in was launched on 02.10.2021. This portal is a single point window that provides information regarding wetland sites of the country, projects, initiatives, trainings and other resource materials. The portal provides a platform for knowledge sharing and capacity building on wetlands and encourages involvement of stakeholders in conservation and management of wetlands.
14. That the MoEF&CC and Confederation of Indian Industries - India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (CII-IBBI) has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on 21st May 2022 to drive business engagement in wetlands conservation and building resilience to biodiversity loss and climate change impacts. In this regard, the ministry and CII-IBBI jointly organized a workshop with the Wetland Authorities, site managers, tourism departments and tour

Signature



operators of 8 prioritized Ramsar Sites in June 2023 to explore diversified livelihood options and avenues for private sector engagement in wetland management and conservation.

15. That the Government of India, in its annual budget of financial year 2023-2024 has announced "**Amrit Dharohar**" initiative with the goal to promote '*unique conservation values of Ramsar Sites*' and create demonstration, replication and up-scaling effect on other wetlands of national and international importance. The purpose of the initiative is to maintain a healthy and effectively managed network of Ramsar sites which provide water and food security; buffer the landscape from floods, droughts, cyclones and other extreme events; generate local employment and support livelihoods; provide habitats for species of local, national and international conservation significance; maintain and enhance carbon sinks and conserve and celebrate rich cultural heritage.
16. That vide order dated 03.04.2017, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directed the J&K High Court to take action in conserving, managing and protecting the Ramsar Sites within its territory. In pursuance of the same, PIL No. 11/2017 was registered Suo moto against the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and others, MOEFCC was also arrayed as Respondent. An affidavit dated

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08.11.2023 on behalf of MoEF&CC in PIL No. 11/2017 has been filed providing the status of steps taken by the Government in assistance of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in conservation and management of the five wetlands/Ramsar Sites of international importance. The order dated 03.04.2017 and affidavit dated 08.11.2023 filed by the ministry are annexed here as **Annexure/R-5/4** and **Annexure/R-5/5** respectively.

17. That the present application has been registered Suo Moto on the basis of News item titled "*What challenges are Kashmiri Wetlands Facing?*" appearing in Kashmir Life dated 02.02.2024, before the Principal Bench, Delhi and the issue raised here is of unchecked deposits of sediments, resulting in shallowing of wetlands, elevated temperatures, increased biochemical oxygen demand (BoD) and pH level, illegal encroachments and waste discharge in the Wular Lake, Manasbal Lake, Haigam Rakh Wetland, Hokersar Wetland, Anchar Lake and Shalibugh wetland of Kashmir.
18. That, under the constitutional provisions, the State Governments and Union Territory administrations are vested with the powers for inventorization and notification of wetlands.
19. That, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is a comprehensive legislation to provide protection and improvement of the

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environment, including inter-alia, wetlands, and for matters connected therewith. The Central Government had notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 for conservation and management of wetlands in exercise of powers conferred section 25, read with sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) and section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. A copy of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 is annexed here as **Annexure/R-5/6**.

20. That, Rule 5(1) & 5(2) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 provides for the constitution of Wetlands Authorities in each State and Union Territory and Rule 5(4) talks about the powers and functions to be exercised and performed by the State Wetlands Authorities or Union Territory Wetlands Authorities.
21. That Rule 3 of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 provides that these rules shall apply to the wetlands or wetlands complexes namely: —
- (a) Wetlands categorized as '*wetlands of international importance*' under the Ramsar Convention;

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(b) Wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration.

22. That Rule 4(1) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, provides that the wetlands shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority and Rule 4(2) enumerates that the following activities shall be prohibited within the wetlands, namely:

- 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-*

Signature



boundary 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 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.*
23. That, under the Ramsar Convention, India has designated 85 Ramsar Sites so far, and out of these 85, there are five wetlands namely, Wular Lake, Surinsar-Mansar Lakes, Hokera Lake, Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve and Shalibugh Wetland Conservation Reserve that have been designated as the Ramsar Sites of International importance in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
24. That the Guidelines for implementation of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017, issued by MoEF&CC to support the State Governments/UT administrations in the implementation of

Signature



rules, recommends that management of each notified wetland is guided by an Integrated Management Plan (IMP). The Guideline states that: *“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 trans-boundary wetlands shall also be reviewed and endorsed by the MoEF&CC.”* The copy of these Guidelines for implementation of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 is annexed here as **Annexure/R-5/7**.

25. That the Ministry supports the implementation of approved IMPs through an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for conservation and management of wetlands and lakes in the country on cost sharing basis between the Central Government and respective State/UT Governments (60:40 percentage sharing between Central Govt. and State Govt., 90:10 percentage sharing between Central Govt. and North-eastern States and 100% Central Govt. funded for Union Territories). The copy of NPCA guidelines, 2024 is annexed here as **Annexure/R-5/8**.
26. That with regard to steps taken by the Ministry in conservation of five wetlands designated as Ramsar sites of international

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importance in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the current status of IMPs of these Ramsar sites is tabulated as below:

S.No	Ramsar Sites	Designation Date	Status of IMP	Funds released by MoEF&CC under NPCA scheme
1.	Hokera Wetland, Kashmir	08.11.2005	IMP is under technical appraisal by IIT-Roorkee.	NIL
2.	Wular Lake, Kashmir	23.03.1990	IMP has been approved by MoEF&CC.	Approved total project cost Rs. 38.28 Crores and released Rs. 9 Crores on 31.03.2023. (Copy of sanction order dated 31.03.2023 is enclosed as Annexure/R-5/9).
3.	Surinsar-	08.11.2005	IMP is yet to be	NIL

Signature



	Mansar Lakes, Jammu		submitted by the Union Territory Administration.	
4.	Shalibugh Conservation Reserve, Kashmir	08.06.2022	IMP is under technical appraisal by IIT- Roorkee.	NIL
5.	Haigam Conservation Reserve, Kashmir	08.06.2022	IMP is under technical appraisal by IIT- Roorkee.	NIL

27. In view of the aforesaid, the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass any order as deemed appropriate.




DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified at Chandigarh on the 9th Sep, 2024 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.

Deponent
DEPONENT



ATTESTED
R
RAMANJIT KAUR
Notary, Distt. Courts, Chandigarh

9 SEP 2024

The contents of this Affidavit/Document has been explained to the deponent/executants. He/She has admitted the same to be correct. The deponent/executants has signed Register at Sr. No. 1202 P. No. 111 Date: 9/9/2024

Item No.05

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 239/2024

News item titled "**What Challenges Are Kashmiri Wetlands Facing?**" appearing in Kashmir Life dated 02.02.2024

Date of hearing: 13.03.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. This OA is registered *suo motu* on the basis of the news item titled "**What Challenges Are Kashmiri Wetlands Facing?**" appearing in Kashmir Life dated 02.02.2024.

2. The news item raises the issue of deteriorating condition of wetlands in India especially in Kashmir. As per the article in the Kashmir Valley alone, wetlands occupy an area of nearly 42,661 hectares comprising of 755 small and large water bodies. The news item discloses that unchecked deposition of millions of tons of sediments annually has led to shallowing of wetlands, elevated temperatures, increased Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and pH levels. The news item further states that illegal encroachment, cultivation activities and waste discharge have aggravated the situation. It has been disclosed that the Dal Lake is facing the problem of discharge of municipal waste and pollution from local and external sources and similar is the situation of Wular Lake, Manasbal Lake, Haigam Rakh, Hokersar, Anchar and Shalbug and these water bodies are grappling with issues like sedimentation, land use and land cover (LULC) changes, infrastructural

impediments, haphazard planning and vested interests from various segments of society, including development authorities like LAWDA and WUMDA. The news item reflects the need for effective management of wetlands and water bodies and swift and tangible measures to ensure their sustainability.

3. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms, implementation of the provisions of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

4. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

5. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:

- i. Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee through its Member Secretary.
- ii. Jammu & Kashmir Wetland Authority through its Secretary.
- iii. Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Jammu & Kashmir.
- iv. Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board.
- v. Regional Officer, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Chandigarh.

6. Let notice be issued to the above Respondent for filing their response at least one week before the next date of hearing.

7. On advance notice, report on behalf of Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (J&KPCC) has been filed stating that the monitoring of

nine (9) wetlands i.e. Hokarsar, Mirgund, Manibugh, Freshkooori, Chattleam, Kranchoo, Shallbugh, Hygam and Manasbal was done and on the basis of the monitoring report, they have been identified as 'B', 'C' and 'D' as per the designated best use of water quality criteria prescribed by CPCB. The Annexure A to the report discloses the classification of water bodies on the basis of the annual average as under:

“Classification of various Wetlands of Kashmir Division on the basis of Annual Average:

Name of the wetland	Location	2021	2022	2023	2024
HOKARSAR	Inlet	Class B except DO	Class B except BOD	Class B except BOD	Class B except BOD
	Center	Class B except DO	C	C	Class B except BOD
	Outlet	Class B except BOD	B	B	B
MIRGUND	Inlet	-	B	Class B except BOD	B
	Center	C	B	C	B
	Outlet	Class B except BOD	Class B except BOD	B	B
MANIBUGH	Inlet	-	Class B except BOD		Class B except BOD
	Center	C	Class B except BOD	C	Class B except BOD
	Outlet	-	C	D	
FRESHKOOORI	Inlet	-	D	Polluted	Polluted
	Center	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
	Outlet	-	Polluted	Polluted	Polluted
CHATTLEAM	Inlet	B	Class B except BOD	Class 13 except BOD	B
	Center	Class B except BOD	Class B except BOD	Class B except BOD	Class B except BOD
	Outlet	Class B except BOD	B	Class B except BOD	B
KRANCHOO	Inlet	Class B except DO	C	C	
	Center	C	D	C	-
	Outlet	C	C	C	D
SHALLBUGH	inlet	C	C	D	Class B except BOD
	Center	C	C	C	B
	Outlet	-	C	C	B
HYGAM	Inlet	Class B except BOO	C	B	B
	Center	B	C	B	B
	Outlet	-	B	B	B
MANASBAL	Inlet	B	B	B	B
	Center	B	B	B	B
	Outlet	B	B	B	B

8. The above table, however, does not disclose the physicochemical and biological including bacteriological data in terms of numeric values which may be needed for proper assessment of water bodies.

9. Though the report was filed by the J&KPCC, but no one is present on their behalf.

10. Hence, the reports as directed above be filed by all the concerned authorities at least one week before the next date of hearing by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

11. List on 22.05.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

March 13, 2024
Original Application No. 239/2024
DV

Annexure R-5/2

Item No. 16

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 239/2024

News item titled "What Challenge Are Kashmiri Wetlands Facing?"
appearing in Kashmir Life dated 02.02.2024

Date of hearing: 22.05.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondent: Ms. Charu Singhal, Adv. for MoEF & CC
Mr. Parth Awasthi, Adv. for R - 1 to 3 with Mr. Ghansham Singh, Member
Secretary, J&K PCC (Through VC)
Mr. Vikrant Pachnanda, Adv. with Ms. Alpana Narula (Through VC),
Scientist, CPCB

ORDER

1. In this original application, the Tribunal is considering the issue of unchecked deposits of sediments resulting in shallowing of wetlands, elevated temperature, increased Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and pH level, illegal encroachment and waste discharge in the wetlands of Kashmir.

2. The Tribunal on 13.03.2024 on the basis of *suo motu* action had impleaded the respondents and had issued notice.

3. The report on behalf of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) dated 21.05.2024 mentions that there are 5 Ramsar sites, namely, (i) Hygam Wetland, (ii) Shalbugh Wetland, (iii) Hokera Wetland, (iv) Wular Lake and (v) Mansar Lake. Including these 5 Ramsar sites, there are 11 wetlands. The report relating to pH, DO and BOD is also reflected in the

Chart, Table 1, page 1 disclosed in the report of CPCB is reproduced hereunder:

“

S. No.	Name of the water body	No of monitoring locations	Status of water quality w.r.t Class B (Outdoor bathing-Organized) of Designated Best Use (DBU) Water Quality Criteria
1	Wular Lake, Bandipora	11	Analytical reports for the parameters pH, DO & BOD reveals that out of 11 monitoring locations, 02 locations are not qualifying w.r.t class B of DBU water quality criteria for the months of March & April, 2024
2	Anchar Lake, Srinagar	05	Analytical report for the parameters pH, DO & BOD reveals that out of 05 monitoring locations, 03 locations are not qualifying w.r.t class B of DBU water quality criteria for the month of April, 2024
3	Dal Lake, Srinagar	24	Analytical reports for the parameters pH, DO & BOD reveals that out of 24 monitoring locations, none of the location is qualifying w.r.t class B of DBU water quality criteria for the months of March & April, 2024
4	Hokarsar Wetland, Srinagar/ Budgam	03	Analytical report for the parameters pH, DO & BOD reveals that out of 03 monitoring locations, 02 locations are not qualifying w.r.t class B of DBU water quality criteria for the month of April, 2024.
5	Manasbal Lake, Ganderbal	03	Analytical report for the parameters pH, DO & BOD reveals that all the locations are qualifying w.r.t class B of DBU water quality criteria for the month or April, 2024.
6	Shalibugh Wetland, Ganderbal	03	Analytical report for the parameters pH, DO & BOD reveals that out of 03 monitoring locations, 02 locations are not qualifying w.r.t class B of DBU water quality criteria for the month of April, 2024.

7	Hygam Wetland, Pampore Pulwama	03	Analytical report for the parameters pH, DO & BOD reveals that all the locations are qualifying w.r.t class B of DBU water quality criteria for the month of April, 2024.
8	Freshkooori Wetland, Pampore Pulwama	02	Analytical report for the parameters pH, DO & BOD reveals that none of the locations is qualifying w.r.t class B of DBU water quality criteria for the month of April, 2024.
9	Kranchoo Wetland, Pampore	03	Analytical report for the parameters pH, DO & BOD reveals that none of the locations is qualifying w.r.t class B of DBU water quality criteria for the month of April, 2024.
10	Chatlam Wetland, Pampore Pulwama	03	Analytical report for the parameters pH, DO & BOD reveals that out of 03 monitoring locations, 02 locations are not qualifying w.r.t class B of DBU water quality criteria for the month of April, 2024.
11	Manibugh Wetland, Pampore Pulwama	02	Analytical report for the parameters pH, DO & BOD reveals that none of the locations is qualifying w.r.t class B of DBU water quality criteria for the month of April, 2024

4. As per the submission of Counsel for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), there are only 3 Ramsar sites in Kashmir. Whereas as per the stand of CPCB, there are 5 Ramsar sites in Kashmir. Neither the MoEF&CC nor the CPCB knows the exact number of wetlands in Kashmir.

5. Mr. Ghansham Singh, Member Secretary, J&K PCC has submitted that for removal of encroachment from the wetlands, communications have been sent to the local bodies and so far as the reports relating to micro-biological parameters are concerned, the same are awaited and for that purpose time has been prayed for.

6. Ms. Alpana Narula, Scientist, CPCB appearing by virtual mode has submitted that in respect of the wetlands where the report reveals that requisite parameters are not meeting, necessary information will be collected within two months and within the same period, corrective action will also be initiated.

7. Learned Counsel for the Respondent No. 3 submits that he will file the relevant revenue record disclosing the details and area of each of the wetland in Jammu & Kashmir. Let the same be filed along with a tabulated chart within 8 weeks.

8. It will be open to all the respondents to file their further reply/report within 8 weeks keeping in view the observations made above.

9. List on 10.09.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

May 22, 2024
Original Application No. 239/2024
DV

ITEM NO.102

COURT NO.5

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).230/2001

M.K. BALAKRISHNAN & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(with appln. (s) for including the applicant in the Committee of Experts and to sanction an amount of Rs.10 crores for National Wetlands Yatra and early hearing and intervention and directions and directions and office report)

Date : 08/02/2017 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAFULLA C. PANT

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Adv.
Mr. Zeeshan Diwan, Adv.
Dr. Joginder Samal, Adv.
Mr. Naresh Kumar, AOR
Mr. Ravindra Kr. Singh, Adv.

For Respondent(s)/
applicant(s)

UOI

Mr. A.K. Panda, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ajit Kumar Sinha, Sr. Adv.
Mr. A.K. Sanghi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Wasim A. Qadri, Adv.
Ms. Binu Tamta, Adv.
Mrs. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Shalinder Saini, Adv.
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Mr. Pankaj Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Raj Bahadur, Adv.
Mr. G.S. Makker, Adv.
Mr. B.K. Prasad, Adv.
Mr. Rajesh Mishra, Adv.
Mr. M.K. Maroria, Adv.
Mr. A.K. Kaul, Adv.
Mr. Abhinav Mukerji, Adv.

Mr. Jayant Bhushan, Sr. Adv.

For States of
Andhra Pradesh

Mr. Guntur Prabhakar, Adv.

	Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv.
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Chhattisgarh	Mr. A.P. Mayee, Adv. Mr. A. Selvin Raja, Adv.
Gujarat	Ms. Hemantika Wahi, AOR Ms. Puja Singh, Adv. Ms. Mamta Singh, Adv.
Haryana	Mr. Sanjay Kumar Visen, AOR
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Kerala	Mr. G. Prakash, AOR Mr. Jishnu M.L., Adv. Mrs. Priyanka Prakash, Adv. Mrs. Beena Prakash, Adv. Mr. Manu Srinath, Adv.
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Meghalaya	Mr. Ranjan Mukherjee, AOR

Mizoram	Mr. Pragyan Sharma, Adv. Mr. Shikhar Garg, Adv. Mr. Ganesh Bapu, Adv. Mr. P. V. Yogeswaran, AOR
Nagaland	Mrs. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR Mr. Edward Belho, Adv. Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv. Mr. K. Luikang Michael, Adv.
Odisha	Mr. Sibho Sankar Mishra, AOR Mr. Umakant Mishra, Adv.
Punjab	Mr. Sanchar Anand, AAG Mr. Apoorv Singhal, Adv. Mr. Anant K. Vatsya, Adv.
Rajasthan	Mr. S.S. Shamsbery, AAG Mr. Amit Sharma, Adv. Mr. Ankit Raj, Adv. Mr. Milind Kumar, Adv.
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Mr. R. Nedumaran, AOR
Mr. S. Chandra Shekhar, AOR
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Mr. Shiv Sagar Tiwari, AOR
M/s Corporate Law Group (NP)
Ms. Kamini Jaiswal, AOR
Ms. Sumita Hazarika, AOR
Ms. Minati Rani, Adv.

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

We have, at length, heard learned counsel for the parties including learned counsel for the Union of India.

An affidavit dated 7th February, 2017 filed by the Union of India has been shown to us.

Annexed to the affidavit is an Office Memorandum issued on 6th January, 2017 with reference to the Draft Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016. The Draft Rules were made available to the public for inviting objections/suggestions some time in March, 2016. As many as 175 comments were received. For the examination of these comments, a Committee has been constituted. The Committee was given 45 days to look into the suggestions and submit its report to the Union of India.

We are told orally by learned counsel appearing for the Union of India that perhaps the term of the Committee may need to be extended. This is stated by him on the basis of information received pursuant to a meeting held yesterday, i.e., 7th February, 2017 by the said Committee.

Be that as it may, for the reasons given below, we are compelled to direct that the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016 should be notified on or before 30th June, 2017. We are compelled to issue this direction since the matter has been pending with the Union of India for the last almost a year and there has to be some finality to the publication of the Rules. The comments/suggestions have been given by all stakeholders such as the State Governments including its organizations, individuals and civil society organizations. That being the position, there is obviously a great deal of interest in the Rules being

formulated and notified. Under these circumstances, there is no justification why the Union of India should not have taken prompt action and constituted the Committee much earlier for the purposes of finalizing the Rules. Finally, the conservation of wetlands is of immense ecological importance.

Learned counsel for the Union of India says that all efforts will be made to ensure compliance with this direction and to ensure that the Rules are notified on or before 30th June, 2017.

We are sure that both the Committee as well as the Union of India will take into consideration the comments and suggestions offered by the State Governments and its organizations, individuals and civil society organizations before taking a final decision.

With regard to the Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority, we are told that its term is expiring on 14th February, 2017. We have been informed by learned counsel for the Union of India that the Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority will be notified on 13th February, 2017. The Union of India is bound by the statement made by learned counsel for the Union of India, which statement has been made on instructions received by him from an officer of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

In our order dated 31st January, 2017, we had required the Union of India to tell us the steps taken to preserve

the 26 wetlands covered by Ramsar Convention, 1971. The affidavit that has now been filed by the Union of India merely gives the disbursal of amount made by the Union of India from time to time. What specific steps have been taken including how the funds made available have been utilized and what is the impact of those steps have not been adverted to. We must have specific details. We direct the Union of India to file an affidavit within four weeks positively giving required specific details.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has drawn our attention to an additional affidavit filed by the Union of India on or about 9th September, 2014. The additional affidavit contains an Information Brochure "National Wetland Inventory & Assessment". This Brochure indicates on page 11 thereof that 2,01,503 wetlands have been mapped at 1:50,000 scale. All these wetlands have an area of more than 2.25 hectares. As a first step, the 'Brief Documents' with regard to these 2,01,503 wetlands should be obtained by the Union of India from the respective State Governments in terms of Rule 6 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010. We are told that obtaining these 'Brief Documents' may take some time. We are inclined to grant adequate time for this purpose. The Union of India should follow this up with the State Governments and inform us of the time frame on the next date of hearing.

The apprehension expressed by learned counsel for the petitioners is that with the passage of time there is a possibility that some of the wetlands may disappear. On a reading of the Information Brochure, this apprehension is not unfounded.

Accordingly, we direct the application of the principles of Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 to these 2,01,503 wetlands that have been mapped by the Union of India. The Union of India will identify and inventorize all these 2,01,503 wetlands with the assistance of the State Governments and will also communicate our order to the State Governments which will also bind the State Governments to the effect that these identified 2,01,503 wetlands are subject to the principles of Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, that is to say:

"(i) reclamation of wetlands;

(ii) setting up of new industries and expansion of existing industries;

(iii) manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 notified vide S.O. No. 966(E), dated the 27th November, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms/Genetically engineered organisms or cells notified vide GSR No. 1037(E), dated the 5th December, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 notified vide S.O. No. 2265(E), dated the 24th September, 2008;

(iv) solid waste dumping: provided that the existing practices, if any, existed before the commencement of these rules shall be phased out within a period not exceeding six months from the date of commencement of these rules;

(v) discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities or towns and other human settlements: provided that the practices, if any, existed before the commencement of these rules shall be phased out within a period not exceeding one year from the date of commencement of these rules;

(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;

(vii) any other activity likely to have an adverse impact on the ecosystem of the wetland to be specified in writing by the Authority constituted in accordance with these rules."

Learned counsel for the Union of India has shown us a chart of proposals/brief documents that have already been received by the Union of India under Rule 6 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010. The total number of wetlands covered in this document are 1683. Many of these proposals/brief documents received by the Union of India contain deficiencies which have already been identified in the document handed over to us.

The Central Wetland Regulatory Authority will take up the rectification of deficiencies with the State Governments with promptitude and ensure that all these deficiencies are removed and complete proposals/brief documents are furnished within the next about one month so that the Central Wetland Regulatory Authority is in a position to take a final decision with regard to these 1683 wetlands and their notification, if required, on or before 31st March, 2017.

List the matter on 3rd April, 2017.

(SANJAY KUMAR-I)
AR-CUM-PS

(JASWINDER KAUR)
COURT MASTER

ITEM NO.56

COURT NO.5

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). 230/2001

M.K. BALAKRISHNAN & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(WITH APPLN. (S) FOR directions and intervention and application for including the applicant in the committee of experts and to sanction an amount of Rs. 10 crores for national wetlands yatra and Office Report)

Date : 03/04/2017 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Adv.
 Mr. Zeeshan Diwan, Adv.
 Dr. Jogendra Samal, Adv.
 Mr. Naresh Kumar, AOR

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Mr. Pankaj Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Raj Bahadur, Adv.
Mr. G.S. Makker, Adv.
Mr. B.K. Prasad, Adv.
Mr. M.K. Maroria, Adv.
Mr. A.K. Kaul, Adv.
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For States of Andhra Pradesh	Mr. Guntur Prabhakar, Adv. Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv.
Assam	Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, Adv. Mr. Sayooj Mohandas M., Adv.
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Tamil Nadu Mr. B. Balaji, Adv.
Mr. Muthuvel Palani, Adv.

Telangana Mr. S. Udaya Kumar Sagar, Adv.
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Mr. Karunish Kumar Shukla, Adv.

Mr. Abhijit Sengupta, AOR

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Mr. Shiv Sagar Tiwari, AOR

M/s Corporate Law Group (NP)

Ms. Kamini Jaiswal, AOR

Ms. Sumita Hazarika, AOR

Ms. A. Subhashini, Adv.

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

Pursuant to our last order dated 8th February, 2017, it has been brought to our notice by learned counsel appearing for Union of India that Central Wetland Regulatory Authority (CWRA) has since been constituted on 14th February, 2017. The Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have not nominated an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Authority. We expect these two Ministries to make the nominations at the earliest so that the Central Wetland Regulatory Authority can comprehensively carry on its mandate under the law.

We have also been shown a statement of expenditure that has been filed by the Union of India along with an affidavit dated 28th March, 2017. While huge amounts

appear to have been spent to the extent of Rs.945.95 crores, it appears from a reading of the affidavit that not much improvement seems to have been made at least on the ground. That apart, the activities or the steps undertaken and the expenditure incurred in respect of those activities are extremely general in nature. We are also not sure whether the accounts have been audited or not.

Learned counsel for the Union of India says that he will ascertain whether the accounts of the amounts that have been disbursed to the State Governments have been audited and file an affidavit in this regard.

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 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.

(SANJAY KUMAR-I)
AR-CUM-PS

(SHARDA KAPOOR)
COURT MASTER

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822 Annexure R-5/5

BEFORE THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR &
LADAKH

CWPIL NO. 11/2017

IN THE MATTER OF:

Court on its own motion

...Petitioner

Versus

State of J&K & Ors.

...Respondents

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20/11/2023
08/11/23

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Replying Respondent
Through Counsel

T. M. Shamsi
DSGJ, Srinagar

Place: Srinagar

Dated: 08/11/23

BEFORE THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR &
LADAKH
CW/PIL NO. 11/2017

IN THE MATTER OF:

Court on its own motion

...Petitioner

Versus

State of J&K & Ors.

...Respondents

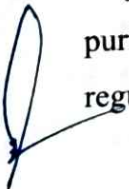
**SHORT AFFIDAVIT-CUM-STATUS REPORT ON BEHALF OF
RESPONDENT NO. 6, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND
CLIMATE CHANGE.**

I, Khursid Alam Khan S/o Hasnain Khan, aged about 36 Years, presently working as Scientist 'C', do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under:-

1. That I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case. I have also gone through the contents of the present Writ Petition and I have perused the official record. As such, I am competent to swear the present Short Affidavit on behalf of Respondent. Any omission in addressing any particular contention may not be construed as wilful omission. The Respondent craves leave to this Hon'ble Court to file the further status report if found necessary at a later stage of the proceedings.
2. That the Hon'ble High Court in CW/PIL No. 11/2017 titled Court on its own motion vs. State of J&K in its order dated 09.09.2022 has directed to file status report, the relevant extract of the order is reproduced hereunder for the convenience of lordships *"TM Shamsi, Learned ASGI, who represents Respondent 6, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may also submit action taken report in connection with above wetlands"*
3. It is humbly submitted that, Wetlands are vital parts of the hydrological cycle and are highly productive ecosystems which support rich biodiversity and they 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

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Dr. Khursid Alam Khan
Scientist 'C'
Integrated Regional Office, Jammu
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Govt. of India



supporting many significant recreational, social and cultural activities, being part of our rich cultural heritage

4. That, depletion and destruction of wetlands is a serious concern for the answering respondent. 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.
5. That, 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. That, the National Environment Policy, 2006 recognizes 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.
6. That the MoEF&CC notified the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 on 26th September, 2017, superseding the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, for more effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country. Vide these rules, the State/UT Wetland Authorities have been constituted and powers for inventorisation and notification of wetlands have been delegated to the State Governments and UT Administrations.
7. That, Rule 5(1) & 5(2) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 stipulates about constitution of Wetlands Authorities in each State and Union Territory and Rule 5(4) stipulates about the powers and functions to be exercised and performed by the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority. Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 are annexed as **Annexure -A1**.
8. That, Rule 3 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 provides that these rules shall apply to the following wetlands or wetlands, namely:-
 - a. *Wetlands categorized as 'wetlands of international importance' under Ramsar Convention.*
 - b. *Wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration;*

K.S.K.
 Dr. Khurshid Alam Khan
 Assistant Regional Officer, Jammu
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
 Govt. of India



9. That, with regard to 1230 identified wetlands, it is to be stated that Rule 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 specifically stipulates about delegation of powers and functions to the State Governments and UTs. Rule 7(1) says that “*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...*”
10. That, it is pertinent to mention that the UT administrations of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh uploaded 13 brief documents as per data available on the Wetland web portal.
11. That, the Guidelines for implementing Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, issued by MoEF&CC to support the State Governments / Union Territory (UT) Administrations in the implementation of the Rules, recommends that management of each notified wetland is guided by an “Integrated Management Plan” (IMP). The IMP should be presented to the State Wetlands Authority. The implementation shall begin only after receiving SWA endorsement, provided that the site is not a Ramsar Site or transboundary wetlands. For Ramsar and Tansboundary wetlands, the IMP has to be approved by MoEF&CC.
12. MoEFCC support implementation of approved IMPs through an ongoing centrally sponsored schemes namely “**National Plan for Conservation Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)**” with contribution in 60: 40 ratios between Center and State respectively.
13. That with regard to steps undertaken by the ministry for conservation of seven Ramsar Sites under consideration in the instant matter, the present status of IMP of these sites are tabulated below:

S. No.	Ramsar Sites	Status of IMP	Funds released by MoEFCC under NPCA Scheme
1.	Hokera Wetland, Kashmir	IMP under technical appraisal by IIT Roorkee	NIL
2.	Wular Lake, Kashmir	IMP approved by MoEF&CC.	Approved total project cost Rs. 38.28 Cr and released Rs 9.0 Cr on 31.03.2023.

K. J. K.

Dr. Khursid Alam Khan
Scientist 'C'
Integrated Regional Office, Jammu
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Govt. of India

3.	Tso Moriri, Ladakh	IMP yet to be submitted by state government	NIL
4.	Surinsar-Mansar lakes, Jammu	IMP yet to be submitted by state government	NIL
5.	Tso Kar	IMP yet to be submitted by state government	NIL
6.	Shalbugh, Kashmir	IMP under technical appraisal by IIT Roorkee	NIL
7.	Haigam, Kashmir	IMP under technical appraisal by IIT Roorkee	NIL

14. That, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may graciously be pleased to pass such other order and further orders(s) as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and necessary in the interest of justice.

Certified that the statement declared on oath

by me on this day of 31st month of Nov year 2023

by Khushboo Ahsan Khan
S/o-Design Hussain Ahsan Khan

R/o Secretary
who is identified by Hussain Ahsan Khan

K.A.K.
Dr. Khurshid Alam Khan
Scientist 'C'
Integrated Regional Office, Jammu
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
GOVERNMENT

IDENTIFIED

[Signature]
Adv. Amal Basit Deva
oath commissioner Srinagar
J&K High Court
VERIFICATION:

Verified at Jammu on the 30th Day of October, 2023 that the contents of para 1 to 14 of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed or concealed therein.

K.A.K.
DEPONENT
Dr. Khurshid Alam Khan
Scientist 'C'
Integrated Regional Office, Jammu
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Govt. of India



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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 बहिःवाह 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 (ख) 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 शृंखला को मुख्य धारा में लाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है;

और, राज्य सरकारें 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 अधिकांत 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 अधिकांत करते हुए, जिन्हें ऐसे अधिकरण 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,—

(अ) "अधिनियम" से पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 अभिप्रेत है;

(ब) "अधिकरण" 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 प्रभाविता 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 सिंचाई प्रयोजनों के लिए विशिष्ट रूप से निर्मित संरचनाएं सम्मिलित नहीं हैं;

KVA
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- (अ) "आर्द्रभूमि परिसर" से दो या दो से अधिक पारिस्थितिकीय और जलीय समीपस्थ आर्द्रभूमियां तथा जिनमें उनसे जुड़े नाले/बाहिकाएं सम्मिलित हो सकती हैं, अभिप्रेत हैं;
- (इ) "आर्द्रभूमियों का युक्तियुक्त उपयोग" से सतत विकास के संदर्भ में पारिप्रणाली दृष्टिकोण के माध्यम से प्राप्त पारिस्थितिकीय गुणों का रख-रखाव अभिप्रेत है;
- (ज) "प्रभावित जोन" से आर्द्रभूमि या आर्द्रभूमि परिसर के आवाह-क्षेत्र का वह भाग जिस पर विकासोन्मुख 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 निबंधन.—(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 मूधम 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 बहिष्कारों का निस्सारण;
- (v) किसी स्थायी प्रकृति का किसी निर्माण सिवाय 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;

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- (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;

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- (ग) इन नियमों के अधीन विनियमन हेतु उनके संक्षिप्त दस्तावेजों के आधार पर अभिज्ञात 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 डेडीकेटिड 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 प्रतिषिद्ध 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 सिद्धांत, जो संरक्षण के साथ संगत वहनीय 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 सिद्धांत 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 मूल्यां 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 अग्रेषित 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।

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- (4) समिति के गैर-सरकारी सदस्यों को कार्यकाल तीन वर्ष से अधिक 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 अधिक 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 अधिक 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'


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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;

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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;

"Authority" means the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority, as the case may

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- (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.

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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.

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*;

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- (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;


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- (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

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- (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:-
- (a) advise the Central Government on appropriate policies and action programmes for conservation and wise use of wetlands;
 - (b) evolve norms and guidelines for integrated management of wetlands based on wise use principle;
 - (c) monitor implementation of these rules by the Authority;
 - (d) 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;
 - (e) recommend designation of wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention;
 - (f) recommend trans-boundary wetlands for notification;
 - (g) review progress of integrated management of Ramsar sites and transboundary wetlands;
 - (h) advise on collaboration with international agencies on issues related to wetlands; and
 - (i) 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:—

- (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;

(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.

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- (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]

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Annexure R-5/6

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

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अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 26 सितम्बर, 2017

सा.का.नि. 1203(अ).—आर्द्रभूमि, जो जलीय चक्र का अत्यावश्यक भाग हैं, 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।

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 शृंखला 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 अधिकांत 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 अधिकांत 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 प्रभाविता 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 सिंचाई 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 सिवाय 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 अभिज्ञात 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 डेडीकेटिड 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 प्रतिषिद्ध 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 सिद्धांत, जो संरक्षण के साथ संगत वहनीय 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 कैलेंडर 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 सिद्धांत 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 अग्रेषित 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:—
- demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;
 - demarcation 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'

Annexure R-5/7

**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:
 - a) River channels;
 - b) Paddy fields;
 - c) Human-made waterbodies specifically constructed for drinking water purposes;
 - d) Human-made waterbodies specifically constructed for aquaculture purposes;
 - e) Human-made waterbodies specifically constructed for salt production purposes;
 - f) Human-made waterbodies specifically constructed for recreation purposes;
 - g) Human-made waterbodies specifically constructed for irrigation purposes;
 - h) Wetlands falling within areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; State Forest Acts and amendments thereof;
 - i) Wetlands falling within areas covered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and amendments thereof;
 - j) 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).

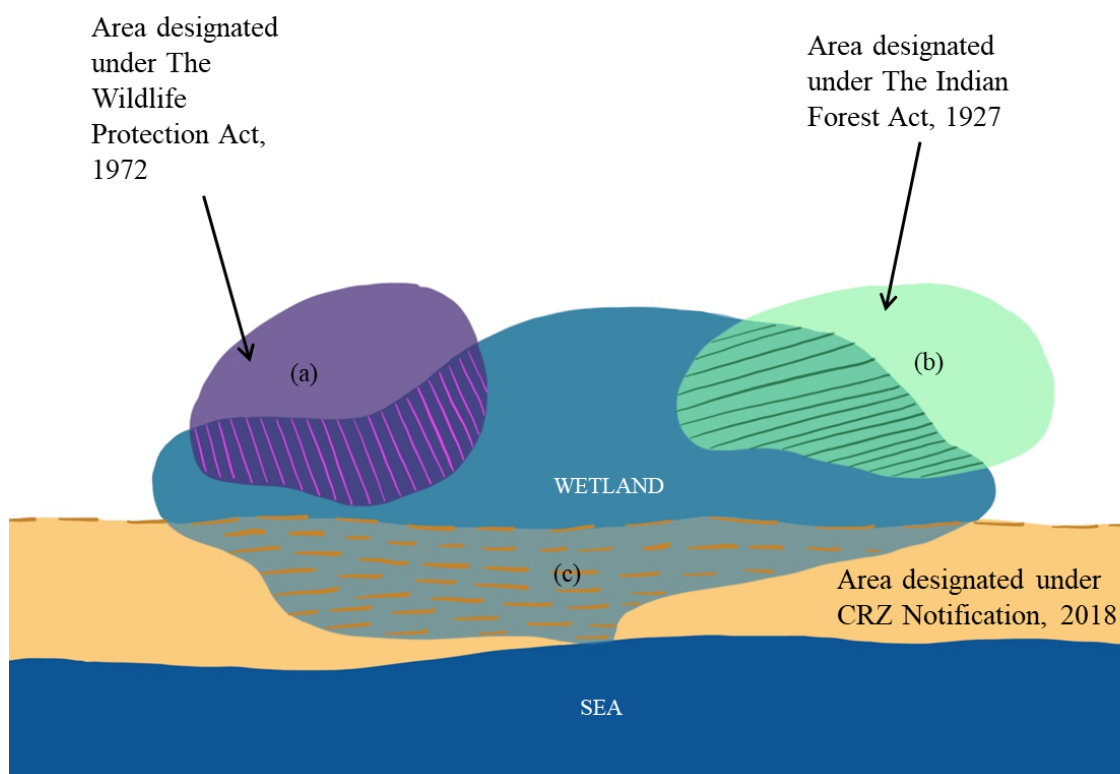


Illustration 1: Using the Wetlands Rules to fill in the gaps in situations of multiple regulations in a Ramsar Site. In the situation above, wildlife sanctuary (indicated as a) and a reserved forest (indicated as b) partly overlap with the Ramsar Site boundary. Being a coastal wetland, a part (indicated 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.

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 contiguity 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).
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.

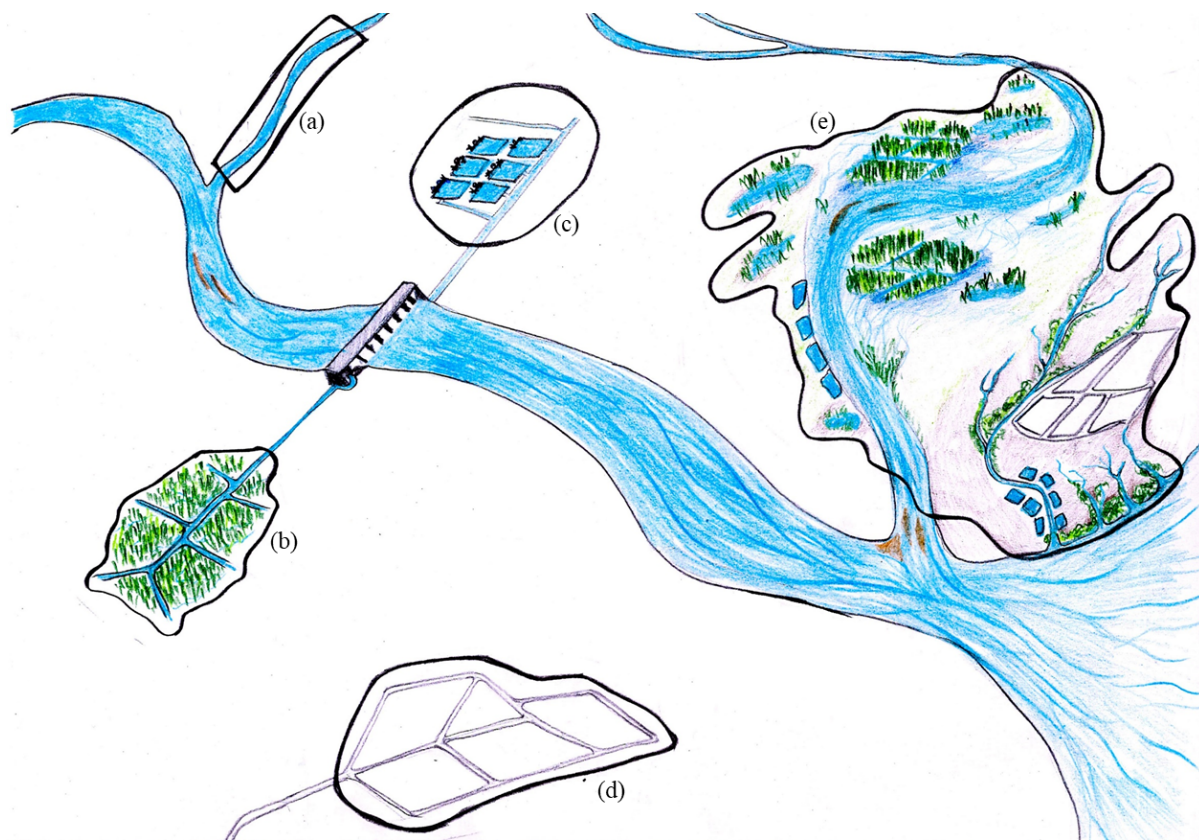


Illustration 2: Considering river stretch and human-made wetlands for notification. In situations when the entire wetland, to be notified, is a river stretch [indicated as (a)], paddy fields [indicated as (b)], human-made wetland waterbodies for irrigation [indicated as (c)], and human-made waterbodies 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:
 - a) Permanent or periodic inundation or saturated soils throughout the year or during parts of the year
 - b) Presence of macrophytes adapted to wet conditions (also known as hydrophytes)
 - c) 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.

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:
- Wetland boundary
 - The boundary of settlements located within and around the wetland
 - Connecting drainages, inflows and outflows
 - Main roads and railway (if any)
 - Major landmarks
31. Recommended scale for producing the wetlands maps is as follows:

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

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 LISS 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.

VI. Delineating zone of influence

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.
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 toposheets. The basin should encompass all direct inflow as well as outflow areas. The river basin atlas of India (available at http://www.india-wris.nrsc.gov.in/wrpinfo/index.php?title=WRIS_Publications) may be used to support the delineation.
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.
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:
- Zone of influence
 - Wetland boundary

- 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The period for which such structure can be maintained inside the notified wetlands
i) Change in landuse pattern within the zone of influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul 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.

Annex 2: Format for preparing Brief Document

State / Union Territory: _____

Name and address of person(s) compiling this information _____

Section 1: Identification, Location and Jurisdiction

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

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

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

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

Latitude: From _____ to _____

Longitude: From _____ to _____

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

Section 2: Site Characteristics

2.1 Area of wetland / wetlands category (ha) _____

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

Category	Subcategory
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural (Inland)	<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

<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"/> 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 I. 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 is as under:

[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

Ecosystem Services	<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)
Socioeconomics and livelihoods	<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:

- a) Ecosystem-based interventions should be promoted as far as possible
- b) Engineering interventions in wetlands should be taken up in a limited manner, with impact assessments conducted for all major works
- c) 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	<p>Provision of comprehensive sanitation and safe drinking water coverage to communities living around the wetlands may be ensured.</p> <p>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.</p>
	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	<p>A mix of mechanical and biological methods for controlling species invasion should be used.</p> <p>For plant invasives, economic utilization along with physical removal should be included.</p>
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)	©	(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	<p>Generic listing of activities indicating:</p> <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)	<p>For all activities eligible for support under NPCA indicate:</p> <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	<p>Present a summary budget in line with Table 5</p> <p>Provide details of funding available from convergence sources in line with Table 6</p> <p>Provide detailed budget for NPCA in line with Table 7</p>	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 is 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)	