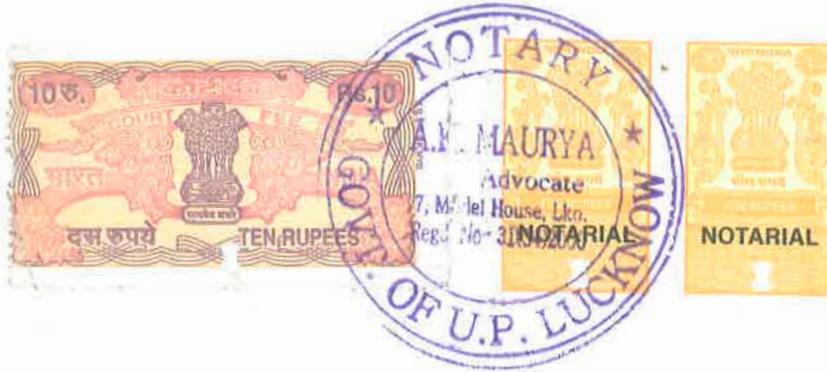


BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 627/2022



Prakash Yadav

...Applicant(s)

Versus

State of Haryana & Ors

...Respondent(s)

Affidavit on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

(Respondent No. 13)

I, Dr. A. K. Gupta S/o Shri Jagdish Prasad, aged about 49 years, presently working as Scientist 'E' at the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

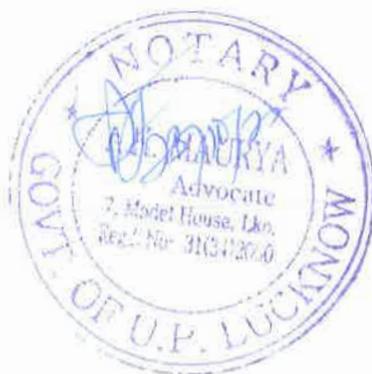


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(MoEF&CC), Regional Office, Lucknow, Kendriya Bhawan, 5th Floor, Sector "H",
Aliganj, Lucknow – 226020, Uttar Pradesh, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare
on oath as under: -

1. That, I am, the above-named Deponent, authorized and well conversant with
the facts and circumstances of the present case and thus competent to swear
the present Affidavit.
2. That, the present application has been registered on the basis of letter
petition sent by the applicant via email to the Hon'ble Tribunal, with the
prayer for issuance of direction to stop discharge of sewage in Sahibi river
barrage.
3. That, vide order dated 09.10.2025, the Hon'ble Tribunal directed;

*"2. In view of the facts and circumstances of the case and also nature and
magnitude of the environmental issues involved consistent with expansion of
the scope of the original application, we consider presence of MoEF&CC*



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and CPCB to be essential for just and proper adjudication of the environmental questions involved in the case. Accordingly, they are impleaded as respondents no. 13 and 14.

3. The Registry is directed to amend the memo of parties.

4. Mr. Srinivas Vishven, Advocate, who is already appearing for CPCB, which was not formally impleaded as respondent, accepts notice for newly impleaded respondent no. 14- CPCB.

5. The Registry is directed to issue notice to newly impleaded respondent no. 13- MoEF&CC requiring it to file its response within two weeks.

6. In its response, respondent no. 13- MoEF&CC shall specifically respond to the aspect of restoration of the name of water channel earlier known as River Saibi but later named as Najafgarh drain in view of the observations made by this Tribunal in the course of hearing of the present Original Application besides other aspects of its rejuvenation/restoration.

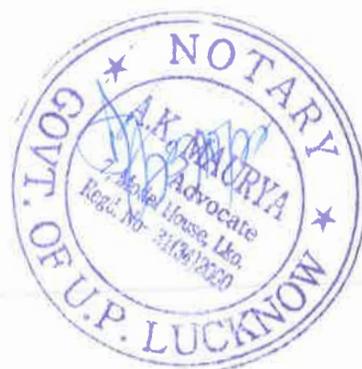


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7. List on 31.10.2025 for further hearing.

8. A copy of this order may also be sent to the Secretary, MoEF&CC by email for compliance in this regard.”

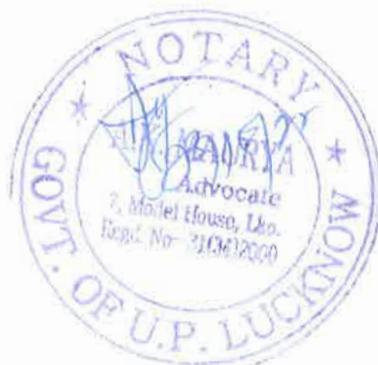
4. That, at the outset, it is submitted that this respondent, MoEF&CC is the nodal agency of the Central Government for planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest policies. The primary concern of the Ministry is the implementation of policies and guidelines relating to conservation of the country's forests, lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, natural resources and wildlife.
5. That, the Central Government has enacted Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, which specifically deals with issues related to control and abatement of pollution in water bodies including drains. The implementation of the provisions of these Act are with the Central Pollution



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Control Board (CPCB) and concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).

6. That, the 'land' & 'water' are a subject matter of State Government. The forest/wetland areas and the legal boundaries thereof, are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government. That being the repository of land records, State Government has the primary responsibility to determine status of any parcel of land, giving due regards to gazette notifications, provisions under Central and State Acts and concerned judgments and directions of the Hon'ble Courts/Tribunals. The primary sources of pollution, including sewage discharge and solid waste dumping, fall within the civic, health, and sanitation responsibilities of State Governments and/or municipal/local bodies. Accordingly, these authorities bear the principal responsibility for addressing such pollution through their own budgetary allocations and internal revenue mechanisms. It is also incumbent upon them



to establish adequate infrastructure for the collection and treatment of sewage generated in urban areas, so as to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage into water bodies and the surrounding environment.

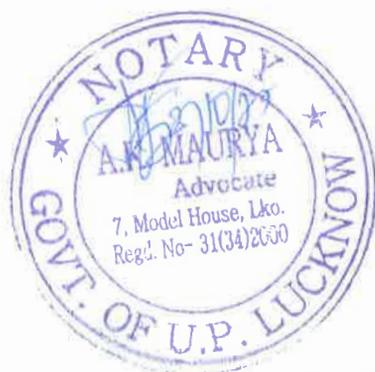
7. That, for effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the MoEF&CC, had notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, superseding the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 with decentralization of powers in view of the fact that "Water and Land" are subjects which come under the purview of the State List. Under these Rules, the State/Union Territories Wetland Authorities have been constituted, thereby, replacing the erstwhile Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority. The powers & functions of State/UT wetland authorities are outlined under Rule 5, while Rule 7 specifies the delegation of powers and functions to the State Governments and UT Administrations



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for notification of the wetlands. The Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 are annexed as **Annexure/R13/1**.

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

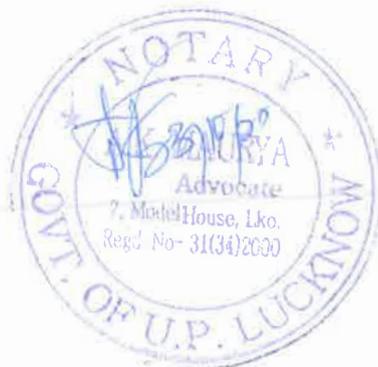


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Provided that these rules shall not apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Forest Acts, and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 as amended from time to time.

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

- a. *Conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;*
- b. *Setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;*
- c. *manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the*



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Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;

- 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.*



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11. That, Rule 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 stipulates the delegation of powers and functions to the State Government & Union Territory Administrations. As per the provisions of Rule 7 (1) and (4) of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017;

(1) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules, prepare a Brief Document for each of the wetland identified for notification, providing: —

(a) demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;

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

(c) ecological character description;

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



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

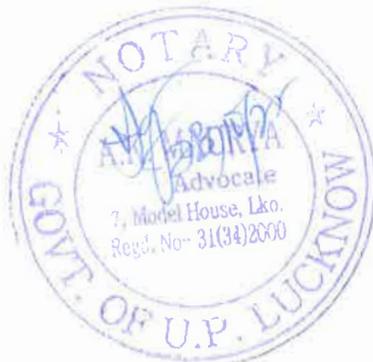
(f) *list of site-specific activities to be regulated within the wetland and its zone of influence; and*

(g) *modalities for enforcement of regulation;*

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

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

c) *The Central Government shall, after considering the objections, if any, from the concerned and affected persons, notify the wetlands in the Official*



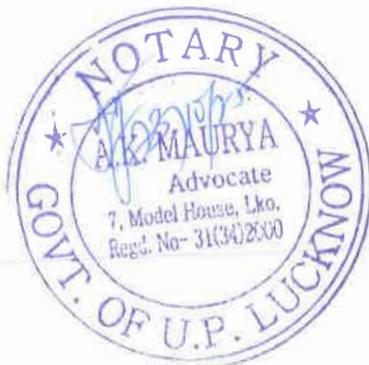
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Gazette, within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of recommendation by the committee.

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

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

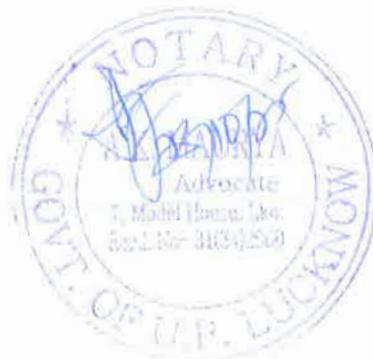
Guidelines for implementation of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules are annexed as **Annexure/R13/2**.



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13. That, 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), inter-alia, directed the application of the principles of Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 to the 2,01,503 wetlands (>2.25 ha) that have been mapped by the Union of India. The aforesaid direction was reiterated vide order dated 04.10.2017. It is submitted that the inventory of these wetlands prepared by Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmadabad based on the satellite data of 2006-07 is available at <https://indianwetlands.in/uploads/National-Wetland-Inventory.pdf>. Subsequently, SAC has prepared the national wetlands inventory (>2.25 ha) based on the satellite data of 2017-18 along with decadal wetland change analysis with reference to earlier wetland inventory of 2006-07. The same is available at https://indianwetlands.in/uploads/Wetlands201718_inventory%20list_moef.

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pdf. The orders dated 08.02.2017 and 04.10.2017 are annexed as

Annexure/R13/3.

14. That, an Office Memorandum (O.M.) dated 08.03.2022 was issued to all the State/UT Wetlands Authorities by the Ministry, wherein it is once again clarified/reiterated that the 2,01,503 wetlands (>2.25 ha) as per the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA), 2011 should be protected as per Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. This protection is irrespective of the applicability of/notification as per the said Rules. The OM dated 08.03.2022 is annexed as **Annexure/R13/4.**

15. 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 further 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*



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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 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.

16. 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, 2023. 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

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sensitizing people of the value of wetlands, enhancing the network 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. State Wetland Authorities, District Administrations, Municipal Corporations, Gram Panchayats, Educational Institutes, and Knowledge Partners have been active participants in the campaign.

17. That, various modes of mass communication including social media are being used to sensitize the public about the importance of wetlands protection and conservation.
18. That, vide order dated 11.12.2024, the Hon'ble Court observed that "*Prior to 2017, the figures given by ISRO regarding the number of wetlands in India having an area more than 2.25 Hectares was 2,01,503. The latest*

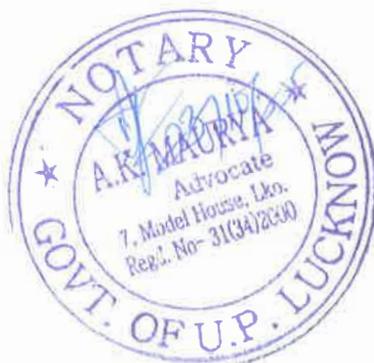
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*ISRO data, which is of the year 2021, shows that this figure has now increased to 2,31,195.”, and further, inter-alia, directed that each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities shall complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the Wetland which have been identified for their State by Space Application Centre Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021 as expeditiously as possible, but definitely within a period of three months from 11.12.2024. The order dated 11.12.2024 is annexed as **Annexure/R13/5.***

19. It is pertinent to mention that vide order dated 19.08.2025, the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed/ directed;

“3. Mr. Jayant Bhushan, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner(s) would draw the attention of the Court that seven States namely, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Haryana, Goa, Jharkhand, Puducherry, Sikkim, Karnataka

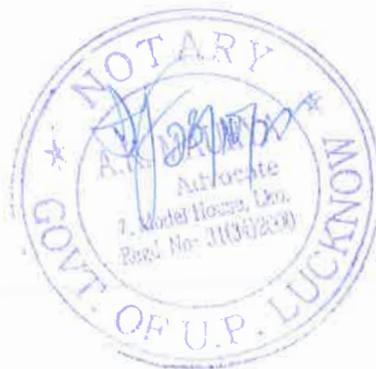


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and Ladakh have achieved less than 50% and the 6 States of Delhi, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have achieved less than 40%. This would clearly indicate that the respective States Wetland Authorities seem to be moving at a snail's pace and the direction issued by this Court has not yielded positive results.

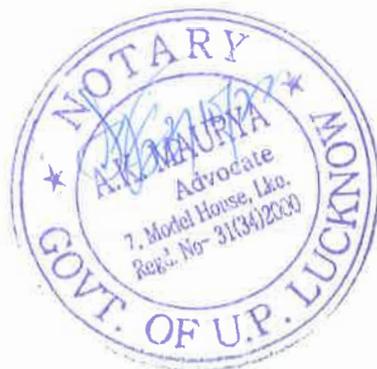
4. In that view of the matter, we direct these States to expedite the ground truthing and boundary demarcation expeditiously and at any rate within an outer limit of two months from today, failing which, the Secretaries of the concerned States of the Department of Environment and Ecology will have to personally remain present before this Court on next date of hearing. It is also made clear that inaction on the part of these State Wetland Authorities would compel this Court to pass coercive orders against such of those States which has failed to comply with the direction issued earlier as well as the

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direction issued by this order.” The order dated 19.08.2025 is annexed as **Annexure/R13/6.**

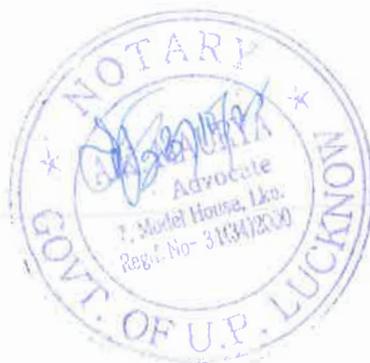
20. That, it is submitted that a similar matter, i.e., Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH) vs. Govt. of N.C.T of Delhi (EA No. 16/2019 in OA No. 153/2014), is being dealt with, by this Hon’ble Tribunal wherein the issue relates to the rejuvenation and notification of Najafgarh Jheel under the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. It is also submitted that an affidavit in compliance of Hon’ble Tribunal’s order dated 01.05.2025 passed in EA No. 16/2019 in OA No. 153/2014 has already been filed by MoEF&CC apprising the Hon’ble Tribunal of the steps undertaken by the Ministry to expedite the notification of Najafgarh Jheel under the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. It was submitted therein, that a field visit to the Delhi side of Najafgarh Jheel was conducted on 06.08.2025, and to the Haryana side on 19.08.2025. Further, it



was stated that an Interim Report has been prepared by Wetlands International South Asia (WISA) & World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India), which is required to be revalidated by National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Mission (NCSCM), and accordingly, the Hon'ble Tribunal has been requested to grant time for submission of the Final Report by NCSCM. The Affidavit filed in compliance of Order dated 01.05.2025 in EA No. 16/2019 in OA No. 153/2014 is annexed as **Annexure/R13/7**.

21. That, vide order dated 04.09.2025 in EA No. 16/2019 in OA No. 153/2014, the Hon'ble Tribunal has granted time for submission of final report by NCSCM. The copy of order dated 04.09.2025 is annexed as **Annexure/R13/8**.
22. That, the Respondent Ministry has undertaken an intensive mission to ensure completion of ground-truthing and boundary demarcation of wetlands. The SAC Atlas, 2021 data has been shared with all States and Union Territories,

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and regular coordination meetings are being conducted to facilitate and monitor the progress made by them towards conservation and management of wetlands within their respective jurisdictions.

23. That, in view of the aforesaid, the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass the order(s) as it deems appropriate.

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VERIFICATION

Verified at Lucknow on the *23rd* day of October, 2025 that the contents of Paragraphs of the aforesaid affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed or concealed therein.



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DEPONENT

**EXECUTION ADMITTED
BEFORE ME**
R. J. Maurya
Advocate Notary
7, Model House, Lucknow

If identify the deponent/execute
who has signed/put T.I. before me
Amil


भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (i)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (i)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 802]

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

No. 802]

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

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 26 सितम्बर, 2017

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

5864 GI/2017

(1)



- (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 मंदर्भ 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 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;



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

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

और, राज्य 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 अधिक्रांत 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;

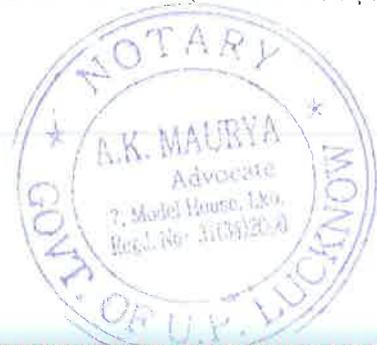
अतः अब, केन्द्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (1) और उप-धारा (2) के खंड (v) और उप-धारा (3) के साथ पठित धारा 25 और धारा 23 द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए तथा आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण और प्रबंधन) नियम, 2010 को उन बातों के सिवाय अधिक्रांत करते हुए, जिन्हें ऐसे अधिक्रमण 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।

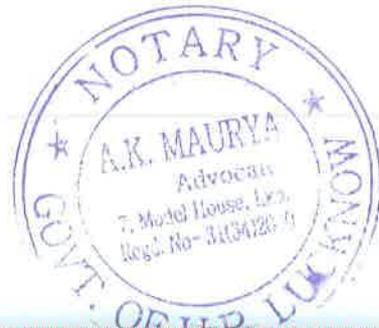
2. परिभाषाएं.—

- (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, जिनके 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 निकास/जलाशय, मत्स्यपालन, नमक उत्पादन और सिंचाई प्रयोजनों के लिए विशिष्ट रूप से निर्मित संरचनाएं सम्मिलित नहीं हैं;



- (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 डिज़ीटल सूची तैयार करना और उक्त प्रयोजन से केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा विकसित की जाने वाले डेडीकेटेड वेब पोर्टल पर इसे अपलोड करना; और इस सूची को प्रत्येक दस वर्ष में अद्यतन किया जाएगा;
- (ङ) अधिसूचित आर्द्रभूमियों के भीतर विनियमित और अनुज्ञात किए जाने वाले कार्यकलापों और उनके प्रभाव क्षेत्र की विस्तृत सूची विकसित करना;
- (च) विनिर्दिष्ट आर्द्रभूमियों के लिए प्रतिषिद्ध कार्यकलापों की सूची में बढ़ोतरी, 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 बढ़ावा 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 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।



- (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.

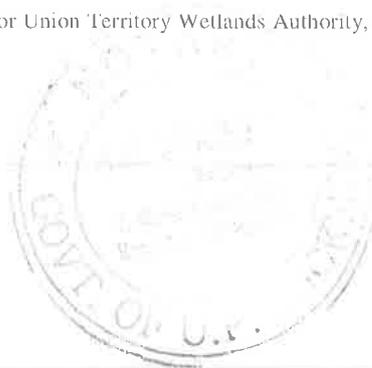
Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 25, read with sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 3 and section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and in supersession of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, except 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.

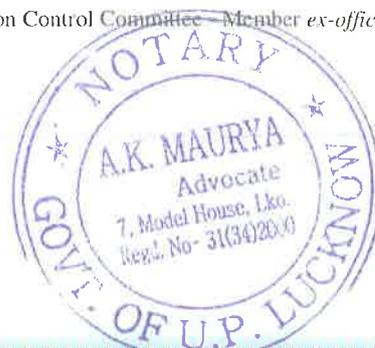
Provided that the Central Government may consider proposals from the State Government or Union Territory Administration for omitting any of the activities on the recommendation of the Authority.

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.

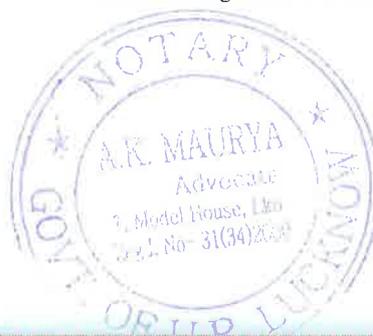
(2) The Central Government hereby constitutes the Union Territory Wetlands Authority for each Union Territory with the following members, namely:—

- (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*;



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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;



- (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'

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2020

**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).

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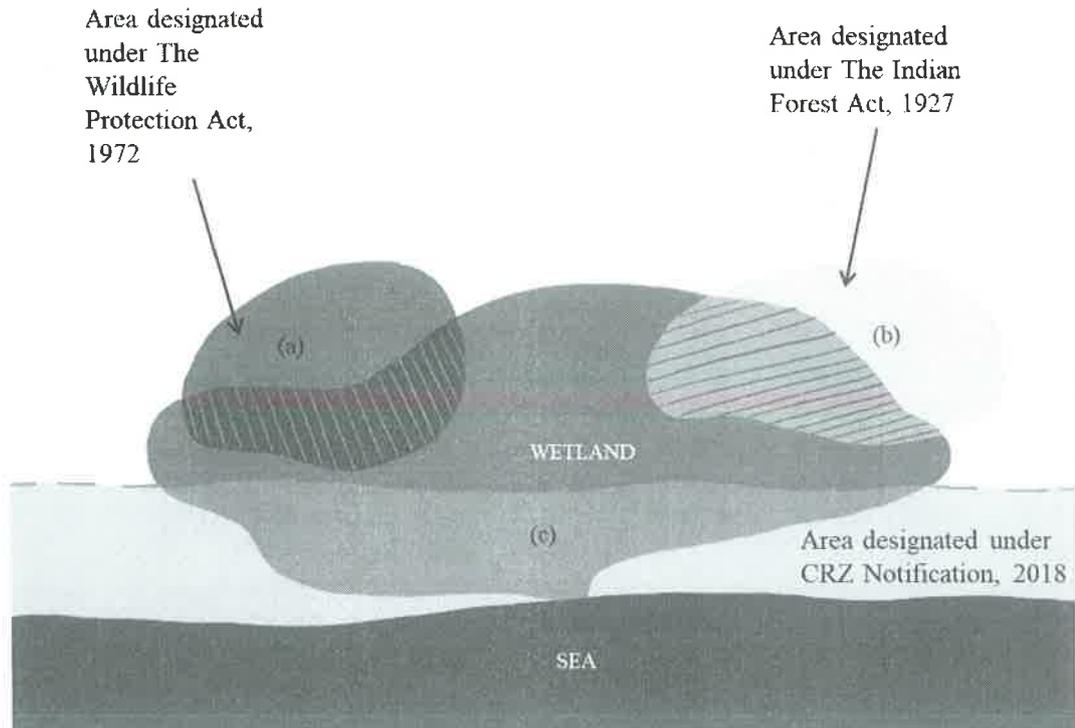


Illustration 1: Using the Wetlands Rules to fill in the gaps in situations of multiple regulations in a Ramsar Site. In the situation above, wildlife sanctuary (indicated as a) and a reserved forest (indicated as b) partly overlap with the Ramsar Site boundary. Being a coastal wetland, a part (indicated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



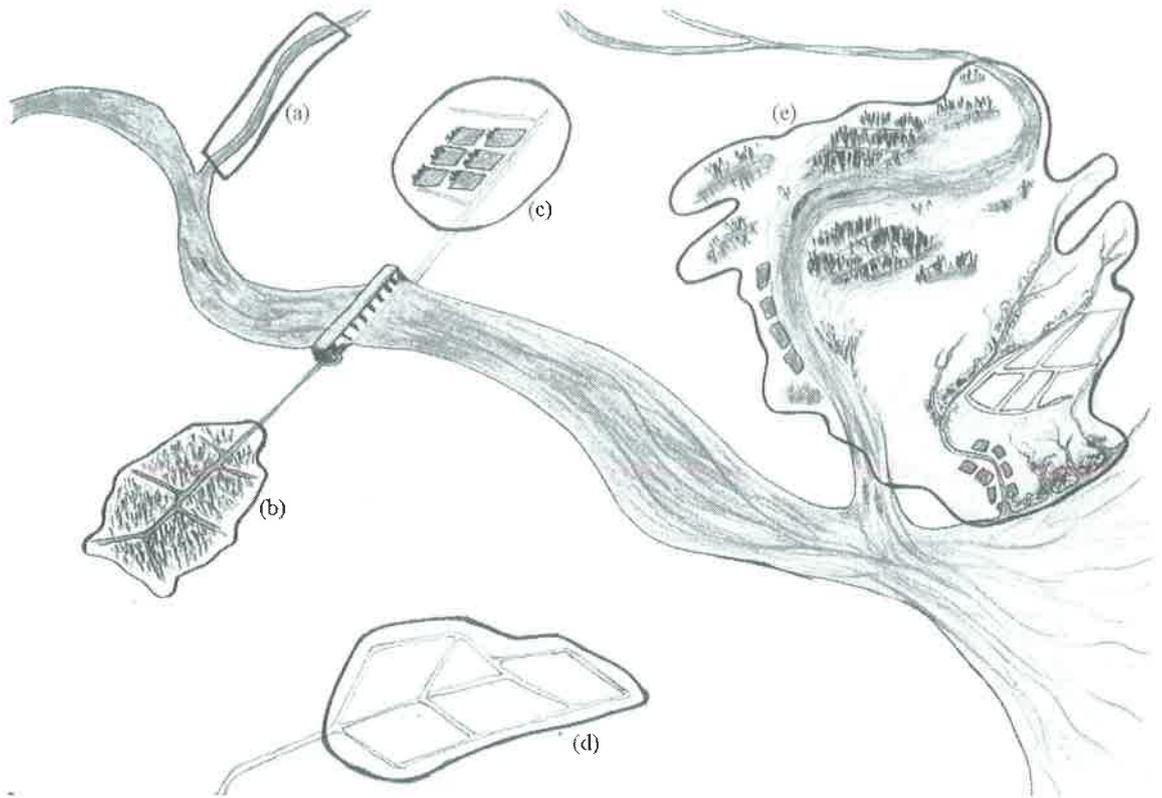


Illustration 2: Considering river stretch and human-made wetlands for notification. In situations when the entire wetland, to be notified, is a river stretch [indicated as (a)], paddy fields [indicated as (b)], human-made wetland waterbodies for irrigation [indicated as (c)], and human-made waterbodies 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.

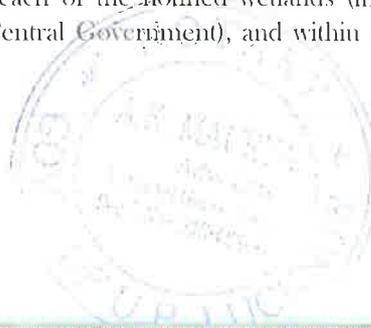
10. Should the State Governments/UT Administrations be desirous, any wetland, even if included within the list of wetlands excluded from notification under Wetlands Rules, may be notified under the relevant state laws. In this regard, the approach/mechanism outlined in Wetlands Rules and these guidelines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

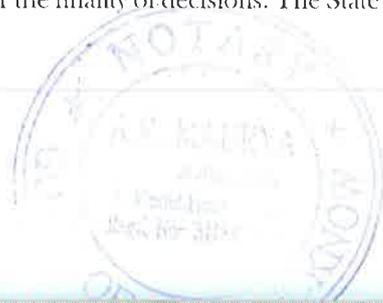
17. Each Wetlands Authority shall constitute:

- 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.'

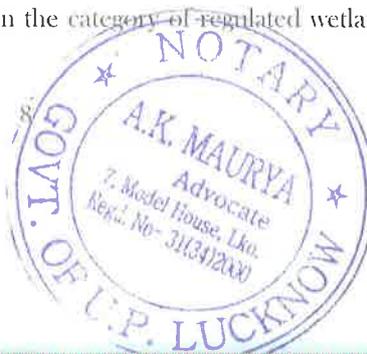
23. The National Wetlands Atlas prepared by Space Application Center under the National Wetlands Inventory and Assessment project, and available at https://vedas.sac.gov.in/vedas/downloads/atlas/Wetlands/NWIA_National_atlas.pdf has spatial data on wetlands for each State and UT.

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.



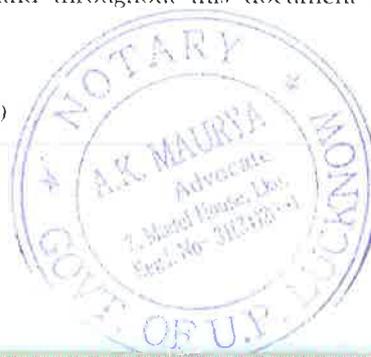
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A format for compiling the list of wetlands is at **Annex 1**. This list may also contain trans-boundary wetlands (at the end) with additional details such as the bordering State/UT under which wetland is falling along with corresponding area.

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:

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

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:
 - a) Zone of influence
 - b) 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 |

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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

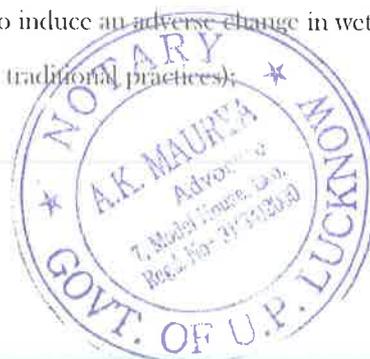
approach' is adopted to ensure that wetlands conservation is prioritized in the case of information uncertainty.

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 |

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- The period for which such structure can be maintained inside the notified wetlands

- | | |
|---|---|
| i) Change in landuse pattern within the zone of influence | • Land use does not alter the hydrological regime or interrupt species interactions (such as bird migration pathways) |
|---|---|

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

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

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

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

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

XI. Registration of wetlands

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

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

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



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

XIII. Notifying wetlands

58. For each wetland proposed to be notified, a 'Brief Document' containing the following information needs to be prepared:
- Demarcation of wetland boundary, supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;
 - Demarcation of its zone of influence alongwith 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.
- 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:
- Description of the wetland (wetlands complex) boundary along with its map
 - Description of the zone of influence along with a map
 - List of activities prohibited within the wetland (wetlands complex) and its zone of influence
 - List of activities regulated within the wetland (wetlands complex) and its zone of influence
 - List of activities permitted within the wetland (wetlands complex) and its zone of influence
 - Name and contact details of the nodal person, who is to be contacted for seeking permission to undertake regulated activities.

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

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

XIV. **Integrated Management Plan**

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

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

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

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

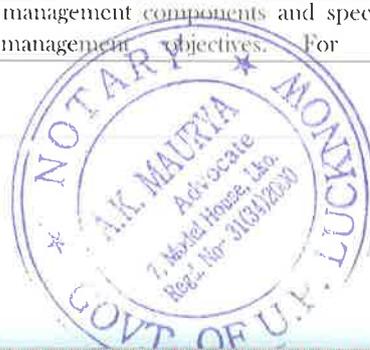
Reflection upon the following six pillars of basin-scale governance may thus be useful:

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

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



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



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| | | |
|--------|--------|---|
| | | 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).



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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.

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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 |

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| | |
|--|--|
| <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

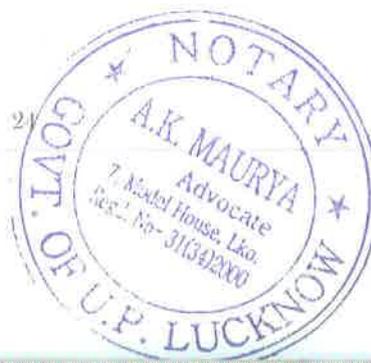
e) Water salinity

- 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



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- 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

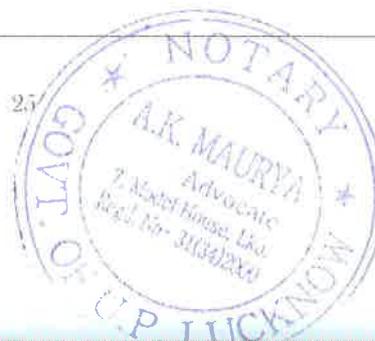
- 3.2 Notable animal species present in wetland

- 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

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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 | | |

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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 | |



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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 | | | |

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| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| 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 | |

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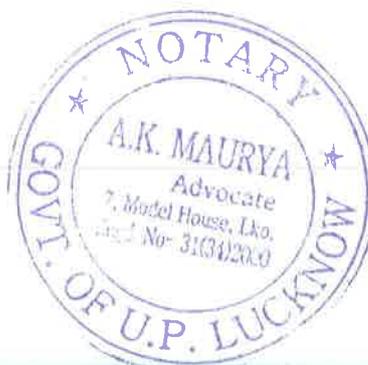
Section 9: Listing of Available Scientific Resources Used



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

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

Government of [State / Union Territory / India]

[Date]

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

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

Draft Notification

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



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

By order

.....

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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] |

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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

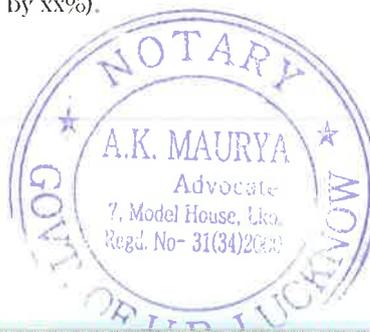
ensured that the plan does not merely focus on symptoms (for example, poor water quality) but on the root causes (in this case, ineffective sewage management in wetland catchments).

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 |

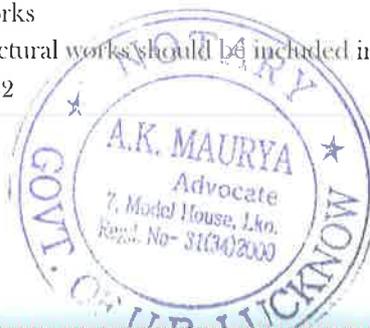
Note: (i) The frequency, as above, is advisable for wetlands above 100 ha and is indicative in nature. The Wetland Authority may suitably modify based on logistics involved.

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



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



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|

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

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

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



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



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

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

Checklist for submission of Integrated Management Plan

- Approved by the State Govt./ UT Administration/ State Wetlands Authority/ UT Wetlands Authority (minutes of meeting to be enclosed)
- Forwarding letter states -commitment of the State Government/ UT for providing their share of budget (supporting document indicating concurrence to be enclosed)
- Integrated Management Plan has a cover sheet providing details on Wetland, catchment area, implementing agency, total budget and fund requested from NPCA
- Brief Document is enclosed with the management plan (as per Annex V)
- Wetlands map is provided in a standard GIS format
- Map of zone of influence 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) | |
| | | | | |

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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
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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.
Mr. Vibhu Shanker Mishra, Adv.
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.

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SANJAY KUMAR
Date: 2017.02.10
10:29:17 IST
Reason: —



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|-------------------|---|
| | Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv. |
| Assam | Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, Adv. |
| Arunachal Pradesh | Mr. Anil Shrivastav, AOR |
| Bihar | Mr. Gopal Singh, AOR Ms. Varsha Poddar, Adv. |
| 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 |
| H.P. | Mr. D.K. Thakur, AAG Mr. Williams Vinod, Adv. Mr. Varinder Kumar Sharma, Adv. Ms. Pragati Neekhra, Adv. |
| J&K | Mr. Sunil Fernandes, AOR |
| Jharkhand | Mr. Tapesk Kumar Singh, Adv. Mr. Mohd. Waquas, Adv. Mr. Aditya Pratap Singh, Adv. Mr. Sukant Vikram, Adv. |
| Karnataka | Mr. V. N. Raghupathy, AOR Mr. Prakash Jadhav, Adv. Mr. Lagnesh Mishra, Adv. |
| Kerala | Mr. G. Prakash, AOR Mr. Jishnu M.L., Adv. Mrs. Priyanka Prakash, Adv. Mrs. Beena Prakash, Adv. Mr. Manu Srinath, Adv. |
| M.P. | Mr. Purushaindra Kaurav, AAG Mr. Mishra Saurabh, AOR Mr. Ankit Kr. Lal, Adv. |
| Maharashtra | Mr. Nishant R. Katneshwarkar, Adv. |
| Manipur | Mr. Sapam Biswajit Meitei, Adv. Ms. B. Khushbansi, Adv. |
| 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. |
| Sikkim | Ms. Aruna Mathur, Adv. Mr. Yusuf Khan, Adv. Mr. Avneesh Arputham, Adv. Ms. Anuradha Arputham, Adv. Mr. Amit Arora, Adv. for M/s Arputham Aruna & Co. |
| Tamil Nadu | Mr. B. Balaji, Adv. Mr. S. Kumar, Adv. |
| Telangana | Mr. S. Udaya Kumar Sagar, Adv. Mr. Mrityunjai Singh, Adv. |
| Tripura | Mr. Gopal Singh, AOR Mr. Rituraj Biswas, Adv. Ms. Varsha Poddar, Adv. |
| West Bengal | Mr. Joydeep Mazumdar, Adv. Mr. Debojyoti Bhattacharya, Adv. Mr. Parijat Sinham Adv. |
| Puducherry | Mr. V. G. Pragasam, AOR Mr. S. Prabu Ramasubramani, Adv. |
| A&N Islands | Mr. Bhupesh Narula, Adv. Ms. G. Indira, AOR Dr. Monika Gusain, Adv. Mr. Abhijit Sengupta, AOR |



Mr. Abhishek Chaudhary, AOR

Mr. Anil Kumar Jha, AOR

Mr. Anuvrat Sharma, AOR

Mr. A. Venayagam Balan, AOR

Mr. B. S. Banthia, AOR

Mr. Khwairakpam Nobin Singh, AOR

Mr. Kunal Verma, AOR

Mr. Naresh K. Sharma, AOR

Mr. P. V. Dinesh, AOR

Mr. R. Ayyam Perumal, AOR

Mr. R. D. Upadhyay, AOR

Mr. R. Nedumaran, AOR

Mr. S. Chandra Shekhar, AOR

Mrs. D. Bharathi Reddy, AOR

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.

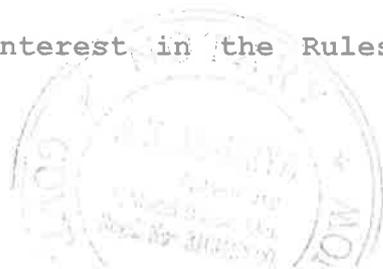
An affidavit dated 7th February, 2017 filed by the Union of India has been shown to us.



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



Annex 2

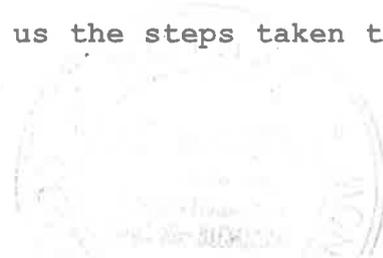
formulated and notified. Under these circumstances, there is no justification why the Union of India should not have taken prompt action and constituted the Committee much earlier for the purposes of finalizing the Rules. Finally, the conservation of wetlands is of immense ecological importance.

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



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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.



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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;



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(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

✓ April



ITEM NO.4

COURT NO.3

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)

Date : 04-10-2017 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. ABDUL NAZEER
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Adv.
Mr. Shrutanjaya Bhardwaj, Adv.
Ms. Veera Mahuli, Adv.
Mr. Naresh Kumar, AOR

For Respondent(s) /
applicant(s)
UOI/Delhi

Mr. A.N.S. Nadkarni, ASG
Mr. A.K. Panda, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Wasim A. Qadri, Adv.
Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Adv.
Ms. Binu Tamta, Adv.
Mrs. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Sanjai Kumar Pathak, Adv.
Mr. Shalinder Saini, Adv.
Mr. G.S. Makker, Adv.
Mr. B.V. Balram Das, Adv.
Mr. S.A. Siddiqui, Adv.
Mr. Satya Siddiqui, Adv.
Mr. Zaki Kazmi, Adv.

Intervenor

Mr. Jayant Bhushan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ketan Paul, Adv.
Ms. Reeja Varghese, Adv.
Mr. Chirayu Jain, Adv.

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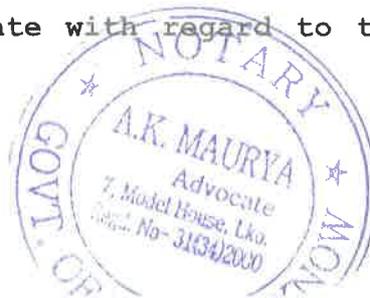
UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

We have heard learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Solicitor General.

We have been informed that the Wetland Rules have since been notified and they are now called the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. These Rules have come into force on the date of publication in the official gazette, that is, 26th September, 2017.

Learned counsel for the parties say that they have very serious objections to some of these Rules. It is submitted that it appears that the Central Government has abdicated its responsibility under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and instead of delegating its powers, it has abdicated its power in favour of the State Governments. We have also been informed that the Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority has since been disbanded and the State Wetlands Authority and the National Wetlands Committee have been constituted under Rules 5 and 6 of the new Rules.

With regard to the expenditure on Ramsar Convention sites, we have been informed by learned Additional Solicitor General that the audited accounts have so far been received from the States of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. Audited accounts have not been received from any other State with regard to the Ramsar



Convention sites.

We have also been informed that apart from Ramsar Convention sites, further funds have been given to the States and the Union Territories for conservation of wetlands. No audited accounts have been received in regard to these funds disbursed as well as their expenditure by the State Governments and the Union Territories.

With regard to the brief documents required to be furnished under the old Rules, it appears that only ten States and one Union Territory have responded. It appears that there is now no necessity of brief documents under the new Rules. We make it clear that this does not mean that the earlier brief documents already submitted can be discarded completely. The contents of these brief documents will still be followed as far as the implementation of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 is concerned.

Finally, with regard to the satellite images, we are told that the Space Application Centre would require between 12 to 18 months to make an inventory of 1,75,740 wetlands as they exist today. We make no comment on this but request learned Additional Solicitor General to re-check with the Space Application Centre since the wetlands are diminishing in our country at a very fast rate. It is very likely that many more will disappear by the time the task is completed by the Space Application



Centre.

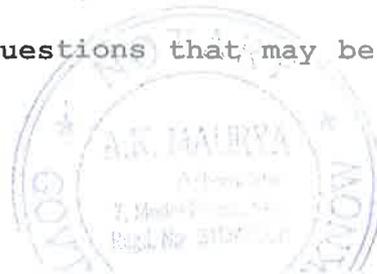
We make it clear and reiterate that in terms of our order dated 8th February, 2017, 2,01,503 wetlands that have been mapped by the Union of India should continue to remain protected on the same principles as were formulated in Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010.

Learned counsel for the parties may file their objections to the new Rules within a period of two weeks. We direct that only one set of objections should be filed and both learned counsel should sit together and arrive at some consensus on the objections.

We further direct the State Governments that have not complied with earlier orders or directions given by the Central Government should do so within a period of four weeks from today failing which we will be constrained to require the presence of the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments in addition to imposition of heavy costs keeping in mind the necessity of conserving whatever water bodies are left in the country.

List the matter for further directions and for hearing on the objections to the new Rules on 9th November, 2017.

We would require the presence of a senior officer of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India to be present in Court on the next date of hearing so that any questions that may be raised



can be answered immediately. Needless to say, the senior officer who should be present in Court should be well-versed with the subject. The files on the basis of which the new Rules have been framed may also be kept ready for perusal when the matter is taken up.

(SANJAY KUMAR-I)
AR-CUM-PS

(KAILASH CHANDER)
COURT MASTER

✓
Amal



F. No. W-4/4/2022-WTL
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(Wetlands Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi -110003

Dated 8th March, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Protection of Wetlands as per Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017

The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 4th October, 2017 in W.P. (C) No. 230 of 2001 has inter-alia, directed that, "We make it clear and reiterate that in terms of our order dated 8th February, 2017, 2,01,503 wetlands that have been mapped by the Union of India should continue to remain protected on the same principles as were formulated in Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010".

2. The same has been communicated by this Ministry to all the States and UTs in November, 2017. Hon'ble NGT has also reiterated the same in various recent cases.

3. In view of above, it is once again clarified/reiterated that the 2,01,503 wetlands (>2.25 ha) as per the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA), 2011 should be protected as per Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. This protection is irrespective of the applicability of/notification as per the said Rules.

Ramesh

(Dr. M. Ramesh)

Scientist 'E'

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To

The Member Secretaries of State and UT Wetlands Authorities



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ITEM NO.6

COURT NO.13

SECTION PIL-W

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

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

ANAND ARYA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 131361/2018 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 230/2001 (PIL-W)
(I.A.NO.203606/2022 IN W.P.(C)NO.230/2001
IA No. 203606/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 302/2020 (PIL-W)
(FOR impleading party ON IA 172736/2024
FOR INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 172736/2024
FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 172737/2024
IA No. 172737/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 172736/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

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

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHANSHU DHULIA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayan, Sr. Adv.
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Mr. Jayant Bhushan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Reena George, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Kumar Singh, AOR
Mr. Amartya Bhushan, Adv.
Mr. Yojit Mehra, Adv.

Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Shibani Ghosh, AOR
Ms. Ayushma Awasthi, Adv.
Ms. Himanshi Gupta, Adv.

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Jayant Kumar, Aora
Date: 2024.12.17
12:21:45
Reason: I am

For Respondent(s) Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
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Mr. Bhuvan Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Aman Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
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Mr. Milind Kumar, AOR

Mr. Anil Shrivastav, AOR
Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, AOR

Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR
Ms. Purna Singh, Adv.
Mr. Samarth Krishan Luthra, Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR
Mr. Deepayan Dutta, Adv.
Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Adv.

Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR
Ms. Eliza Bar, Adv.

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Mrs. Swarupama Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
Mr. A K Panda, Adv.
Mr. Wasim Qadri, Sr. Adv.
Mrs. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Pandey, Adv.

Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR
Mr. Prashant Bhagwati, Adv.
Ms. Devyani Bhatt, Adv.

Ms. Supriya Juneja, AOR

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Mr. Sandeep Jindal, AOR
Mr. Vishwanathan Iyer, Adv.



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Mr. Arman Sharma, Adv.
 Mrs. Shimpy Sharma, Adv.
 Ms. Pooja Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Yeshasvi Shrivastava, Adv.

Mr. Parth Awasthi, Adv.
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 Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.
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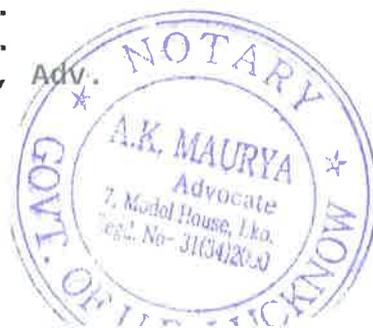
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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

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

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

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



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

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

XXXXX

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

XXXX

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

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

- a) Prepare a list of all wetlands of the State or UT within three months from the date of publication of these rules;
- b) Prepare a list of wetlands to be notified, within six months from the date of publication of these Rules, taking into cognizance any existing list of wetlands prepared/notified under other relevant state



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Acts;

c) Recommend identified wetlands, based on their Brief Documents, for regulation under these rules;

d) Prepare a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands within one year from the date of publication of these rules and upload the same on a dedicated web portal, to be developed by the Central Government for the said purpose; the inventory ought to be updated every ten years;

e) Develop a comprehensive list of activities, to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence;

f) Recommend additions, if any, to the list of prohibited activities for specific wetlands;

g) Define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction; wise use being a principle for managing these ecosystems which incorporates sustainable uses (such as capture fisheries at subsistence level or harvest of aquatic plants) as being compatible with conservation, if ecosystem functions (such as water storage, ground water recharge, flood buffering) and values (such as recreation and cultural) are maintained or enhanced ;



h) Review Integrated Management Plan for each of the notified wetlands (including trans-boundary wetlands in coordination with Central Government), and within these plans to consider continuation and support to traditional uses of wetlands that are harmonized with ecological character;

l) Recommend mechanisms for maintenance of ecological character through promotional activities for land within the boundary of notified wetlands or wetlands complex have private tenancy rights,;

j) Identify mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing State/UT level development plans and programmes;

k) Ensure enforcement of these rules and other relevant Acts, rules and regulations and on a half-yearly basis (June and December of each calendar year) inform the concerned State Government or UT Administration or Central Government on the status of such notified wetlands through a reporting mechanism;

l) Coordinate implementation of Integrated Management Plans based on wiseuse principle through various line departments and other concerned agencies;

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

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

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

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



and forwarding the grievances raised by public to the Authority;

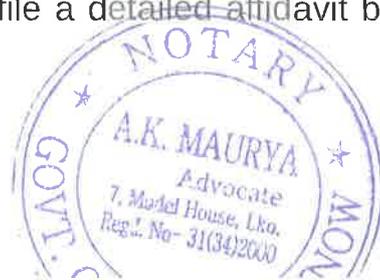
(7) The Committees referred to in sub-rule (6) shall meet at least once in every quarter to perform their functions.

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

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

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

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



next date of listing.

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

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

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



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

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



"List of 85 Ramsar Sites

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

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

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| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|--|------------|-------|
| | | 43. | Tampara Lake | 12-10-2021 | 300 |
| | | 44. | Hirakud Reservoir | 12-10-2021 | 65400 |
| | | 45. | Ansupa Lake | 12-10-2021 | 231 |
| 40. | Punjab (6) | 46. | Harike Lake | 23-03-1990 | 4100 |
| | | 47. | Kanjli Lake | 22-01-2002 | 183 |
| | | 48. | Ropar Lake | 22-01-2002 | 1365 |
| | | 49. | Beas Conservation Reserve | 26-09-2019 | 6429 |
| | | 50. | Keshopur - Miani Community Reserve | 26-09-2019 | 344 |
| | | 51. | Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary | 26-09-2019 | 116 |
| 46. | Rajasthan (2) | 52. | Keoladeo Ghana National Park | 1-10-1981 | 2873 |
| | | 53. | Sambhar Lake | 23-03-1990 | 24000 |
| 48. | Tamil Nadu (18) | 54. | Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary | 19-08-2002 | 38500 |
| | | 55. | Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary | 08-11-2021 | 72 |
| | | 56. | Chitragudi Bird Sanctuary | 08-11-2021 | 260 |
| | | 57. | Karikili Bird Sanctuary | 08-04-2022 | 58 |
| | | 58. | Pichavaram Mangrove | 08/04/2022 | 1479 |
| | | 59. | Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest | 08-04-2022 | 1248 |
| | | 60. | Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve | 08-04-2022 | 52672 |
| | | 61. | Vembannur Wetland Complex | 08-04-2022 | 20 |
| | | 62. | Vellode Bird Sanctuary | 08-04-2022 | 77 |
| | | 63. | Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary | 08-04-2022 | 44 |
| | | 64. | Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary | 08-04-2022 | 40 |
| | | 65. | Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex | 08-04-2022 | 94 |
| | | 66. | Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary | 08-04-2022 | 113 |



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

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



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

List the matter again on 25.03.2025.

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

(RENU BALA GAMBHIR)
COURT MASTER

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ITEM NO.34

COURT NO.15

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 (Civil) No.304/2018

ANAND ARYA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

IA No. 131361/2018 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 230/2001 (PIL-W)

I.A.NO.203606/2022 IN W.P.(C)NO.230/2001

IA No. 203606/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

W.P.(C) No. 302/2020 (PIL-W)

IA No. 172737/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

IA No. 172736/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

Date : 19-08-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

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Ms. Sadhana Madhavan, Adv.
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Shlok Luthra, Adv.For Respondent(s) : Mr. Anil Shrivastav, AOR
Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, AOR
Mr. Kunal Verma, AOR

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.

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Mr. Rohan Gupta, Adv.

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Mrs. Monika, Adv.
Ms. Nazish Fatima, Adv.
Mahipal Singh, Adv.
Ravinder Pal Singh, Adv.
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Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR

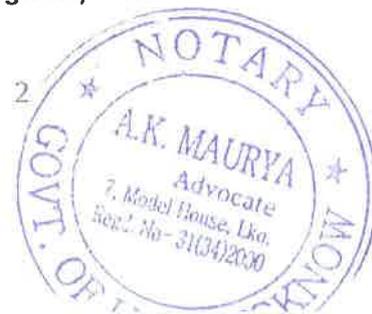
Ms. Eliza Barr, Adv.
Ms. Disha Singh, AOR

Mrs. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mrs. Swarupama Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.
Mrs. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Pratyush Srivastav, Adv.

Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR

Ms. Supriya Juneja, AOR

Mr. Alok Sangwan, Sr. A.A.G.
Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, AOR
Mr. Sumit Kumar Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Rajat Sangwan, Adv.



Ami

Mr. Shikhar Narwal, Adv.
 Ms. Drishti Rawal, Adv.
 Ms. Drishti Saraf, Adv.
 Mr. Mayur Goyal, Adv.

Mr. Vishwanathan Iyer, Adv.
 Mrs. Shimpy Sharma, Adv.
 Ms. Pooja Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Sandeep Jindal, AOR

Mr. Parth Awasthi, Adv.
 Mr. Pashupathi Nath Razdan, AOR

Mr. Muhammad Ali Khan, A.A.G.
 Mr. Sanchit Garga, AOR
 Mr. Shashwat Jaiswal, Adv.
 Mr. Kunal Rana, Adv.
 Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Adv.

Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR
 Mrs. Anu K Joy, Adv.
 Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv.
 Mr. Santhosh K, Adv.
 Mrs. Devika A.L., Adv.

Mr. Sunny Choudhary, AOR

Mr. Adarsh Dubey, Adv.
 Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
 Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR
 Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR
 Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.
 Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.
 Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv.

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
 Mr. T.K. Nayak, Adv.

Mr. Anando Mukherjee, AOR

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR
 Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.
 Ms. Chubalemela Chang, Adv.
 Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv.
 Ms. Yanmi Phazng, Adv.

Mr. Gaurav Khanna, AOR
 Ms. Natasha Sahrawat, Adv.
 Mr. Gautam Barnwal, Adv.
 Mr. Rudraksh Pandey, Adv.



Ms. Deepali Bhanot, Adv.

Mr. Siddhant Sharma, AOR

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.

Ms. Abhinandini Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Amogh Bansal, Adv.

Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR

Ms. Yashika Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Aryan Srivastava, Adv.

Mr. R. Ayyam Perumal, AOR

Ms. Purnima Krishna, AOR

Mr. M.F. Philip, Adv.

Mr. Karamveer Singh Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Togin M. Babichen, Adv.

Mr. Sudeep Kumar, AOR

Ms. Garima Prashad, Sr. A.A.G.

Mr. Sudeep Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Abhishek Saket, Adv.

Ms. Manisha, Adv.

Ms. Rupali, Adv.

Mr. Kunal Mimani, AOR

Mr. Prashant Alai, Adv.

Mr. K.M Nataraj, A.S.G.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.

Ms. Swarupama Chaturvedi, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Ashok Kumar Panda, Adv.

Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.

Ms. Sunita Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Gautam Kumar, Adv.

Mr. N Visakamurthy, aor, Adv.

Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.

Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.

Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.

Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Adv.

Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.

Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Adv.

Diksha Verma, Adv.

Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Mr. Aravindh S., AOR

Ms. Anika Bansal, Adv.

Ms. Ishita Bist, Adv.

Ms. Suveni Bhagat, AOR



Mr. Gopal Prasad, AOR

Mr. Rishi Sehgal, AOR
Mr. Akash Vashishtha, Adv.

Mr. Sravan Kumar Karanam, AOR
Mr. Kumar Abhishek, Adv.
Mr. Kumar Nikhil, Adv.
Mr. P. Venkatraju, Adv.

Mr. Sanjai Kumar Pathak, AOR
Mrs. Shashi Pathak, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar Tripathi, Adv.
Ms. Shweta Jayshankar Dwivedi, Adv.
Ms. Smriti Singh, Adv.

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR
Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.
Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv.

Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, AOR
Mr. D.P. Singh, Adv.

Mr. Shishir Pinaki, AOR

Mr. Abhimanyu Singh, GA
Mr. Sarad Kr. Singhania, AOR
Ms. Rashmi Singhania, Adv.

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

1. This Court by order dated 11.12.2024 had taken note of the fact that prior to 2017, the figures given by ISRO regarding the number of wetlands in India having an area of more than 2.25 Hectares was 2,01,503 and the latest ISRO data of the year 2021 reflected the figure having increased to 2,31,195. Hence, this Court was of the view that said figures will have to be checked at the ground level. The manner, method and mode in which this evaluation has to be undertaken has been traced to the Wetlands (Conservation of Management) Rules, 2017 namely identification of

such wetlands, which is described as 'Ground truthing'. This exercise ought to be undertaken by the respective States, same have been neglected by most of the States, except the State of Punjab to some extent and nothing have been done in that regard. Hence, Court vide order dated 11.12.2024 directed each of the State / Union Territory Wetland Authorities to complete ground truthing as well as demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the wetland which have been identified by Space Application Center Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021. A specific direction was issued by this Court that above said task was required to be expeditiously completed and at any rate within a period of three months from the date of the order.

2. Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General assured that Union of India had undertaken the task of monitoring with each of the State and a detailed affidavit was agreed to be filed before the next date. Accordingly, an affidavit has been filed on 24.03.2025 and today, a brief note has also been furnished enclosing therewith a chart, which reflects the ground truthing and boundary demarcation undertaking by respective State Wetland Authorities. The comparative statement *via-a-vis* with reference to the ground truthing carried out as on 22.03.2025 and 21.07.2025 as well as the boundary demarcation carried out by the authorities would reflect the sorry state of affairs.

3. Mr. Jayant Bhushan, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner(s) would draw the attention of the Court that seven States namely, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Haryana, Goa, Jharkhand, Puducherry, Sikkim, Karnataka and Ladakh have achieved less than 50% and the

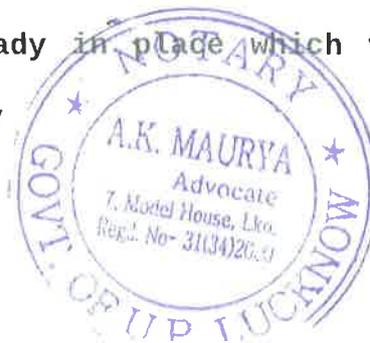
States of Delhi, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have achieved less than 40%. This would clearly indicate that the respective States Wetland Authorities seem to be moving at a snail's pace and the direction issued by this Court has not yielded positive results.

4. In that view of the matter, we direct these States to expedite the ground truthing and boundary demarcation expeditiously and at any rate within an outer limit of two months from today, failing which, the Secretaries of the concerned States of the Department of Environment and Ecology will have to personally remain present before this Court on next date of hearing. It is also made clear that inaction on the part of these State Wetland Authorities would compel this Court to pass coercive orders against such of those States which has failed to comply with the direction issued earlier as well as the direction issued by this order.

5. In the light of the wetlands having been identified, it is incumbent upon the State Wetland Authorities to publish the same in the respective State Governments' website indicating such of those Wetland which have been identified together with the areas, where ground truthing and demarcation of boundaries have been undertaken by distinctly and separately indicating the same, which exercise shall be undertaken before next date of hearing.

6. Let the affidavit of compliance be filed immediately after such an exercise being undertaken and at any rate before the next date of hearing.

7. Union of India shall coordinate with the State Level Wetland Authorities and expedite the issuance of notifications for which the draft notifications are already in place which would reflect



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the pro-active action undertaken by such authorities and a meeting in this regard shall be conveyed by Union of India of all the State Level Wetland Authorities and make them aware of the situation and expedite the works which are required to be undertaken by them.

8. The statistics furnished today would also reflect that wetlands which are less than 2.25 Hectares are required to be identified as prescribed under the extant Rules and the affidavits of the State Governments of Wetland Authorities shall also dwell upon as to the manner and method in which steps have been taken or being taken to protect these wetlands which are less than 2.25 Hectares which according to the statistics is around 5,55,557 as mentioned in the Wetland Atlas.

9. List on 07.10.2025.

IA No.203606/2022 in W.P. (C) No.230/2001:

Issue notice to the respondents in W.P. (C) No.230/2001, returnable on 07.10.2025. The petitioner(s) shall furnish requisite number of copies in the Registry for issuance of notice.

(NEHA GUPTA)
SENIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANT

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Execution Application No. 16/2019

In

Original Application No. 153/2014



Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage

...Applicant(s)

Versus

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

...Respondent(s)

Affidavit on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

(Respondent No. 10)

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

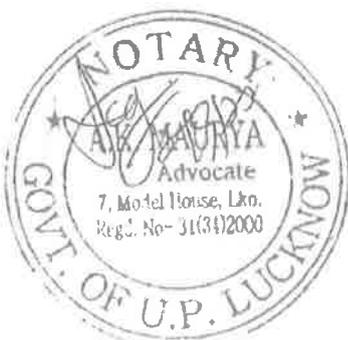


"H", Aliganj, Lucknow-226020, Uttar Pradesh, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under: -

1. That, I am, the above-named Deponent, authorized and well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and thus competent to swear the present affidavit.

2. That, the present execution application has been filed seeking execution and compliance of Judgment/Order dated 20.02.2017 in the matter of Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors (OA No. 153/2014), wherein, the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to direct:

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

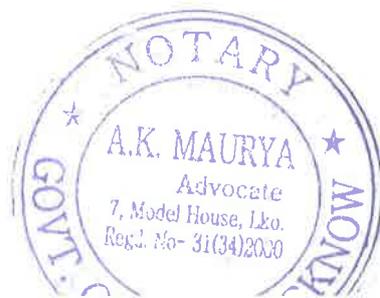
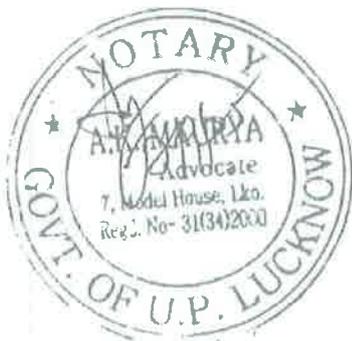


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policies and guidelines relating to conservation of the country's forests, lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, natural resources and wildlife.

5. That the 'land' & 'water' are a subject matter of State Government. The forest/wetland areas and the legal boundaries thereof, are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government. That being the repository of land records, State Government has the primary responsibility to determine status of any parcel of land, giving due regards to gazette notifications, provisions under Central and State Acts and concerned judgments and directions of the Hon'ble Courts/Tribunals.

6. That, for effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the MoEF&CC, had notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, superseding the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 with decentralization of powers in view of the fact that "Water and Land" are subjects which come under the purview of the State List. Under these Rules, the State/Union Territories Wetland Authorities have been constituted, thereby, replacing the erstwhile Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority. The powers & functions of State/UT wetland authorities are outlined under Rule 5, while Rule 7 specifies the delegation



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

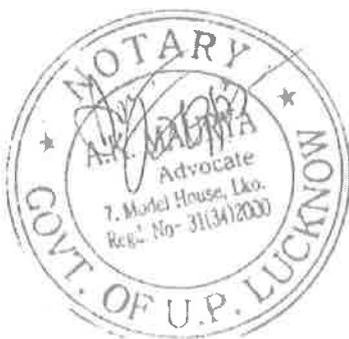
7. According to Rule 2(g) of the aforesaid 2017 rules, *"wetland" means an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not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



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

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

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



- d. *Solid waste dumping;*
- e. *Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;*
- f. *any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty meters from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and,*
- g. *Poaching.*
10. That, Rule 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 stipulates the delegation of powers and functions to the State Government & Union Territory Administrations. As per the provisions of Rule 7 (1) and (4) of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017;

(1) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules, prepare a Brief Document for each of the wetland identified for notification, providing: —

(a) demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;



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

(c) ecological character description;

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

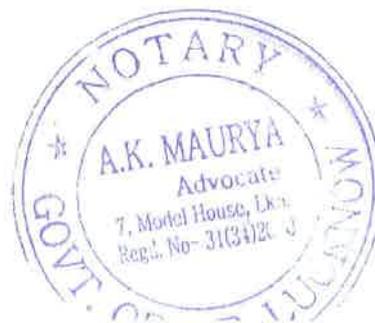
(e) list of site-specific activities to be permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence;

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

(g) modalities for enforcement of regulation;

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

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



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

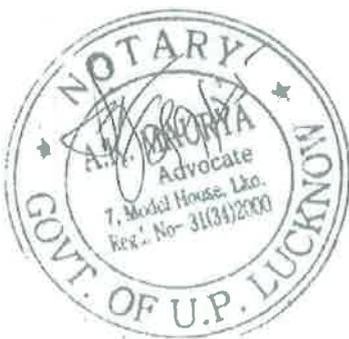
11. That, according to Guidelines for implementation of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017,

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

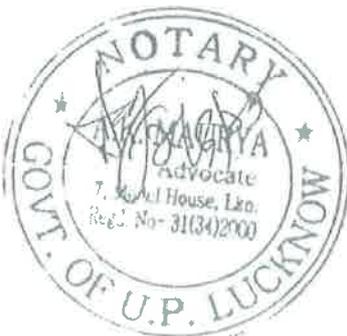
14. That, in furtherance of the aforesaid meeting dated 15.05.2025, a team comprising of representatives from WISA and WWF-India conducted a field visit to the Delhi side of Najafgarh Jheel on 06.08.2025, and to the Haryana side on 19.08.2025, to carry out the assessment. During these visits, the team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

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



Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), an Expert institution of repute working with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of India's coastal & marine environments. The said revalidation is being undertaken in compliance with the directions passed vide order dated 01.05.2025, for the purpose of determining the exact area of the Najafgarh Jheel. Such revalidation is necessary to ensure uniformity of methodology, adoption of scientifically accepted parameters, and legal sustainability of the boundary delineation, so that the same withstands judicial and administrative scrutiny and can form the basis of subsequent regulatory actions.

16. That, it is pertinent to submit that NCSCM is already undertaking similar scientific demarcation exercises in other States, including Maharashtra, where it has been engaged in delineation of wetlands and coastal stretches in consultation with the State authorities. Reference to such ongoing work demonstrates that NCSCM is the nationally recognized expert agency for such tasks, and its involvement in the present case will add value to the entire exercise.



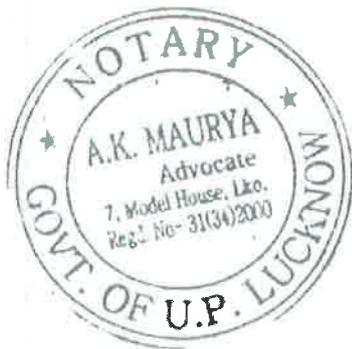
- 17. That, the Interim report is prepared, and it is most respectfully prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to grant a period of eight weeks for submission of Final Report by the NCSCM.
- 18. That, in view of the aforesaid, the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass the order(s) as it deems appropriate.


 DEPONENT

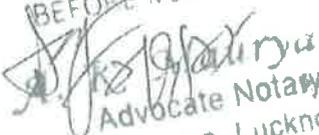
VERIFICATION

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

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 DEPONENT

EXECUTION ADMITTED
BEFORE ME

 Advocate Notary
7, Model House, Lucknow

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

Handwritten signature



रजिस्ट्री सं० डी० एल०-33004/99

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


भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (i)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (i)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 802]

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

No. 802]

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

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 26 मितम्बर, 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 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 (छ) में यह बताया गया है कि भारत के प्रत्येक नागरिक 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 बुद्धिमत्तापूर्ण 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 प्रशासनो 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 हैं, 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 गैर-मिथिल 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 निवाय 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 प्रभावितता के मापन के लिए अपेक्षित मानीटरी और कार्यान्वयन प्रबंधन कार्यान्वयन के लिए संसाधन सम्मिलित हैं;
- (च) "रामसर अभिसमय" से 1971 में ईरान के रामसर में हस्ताक्षरित आर्द्रभूमि संबंधी अभिसमय अभिप्रेत है;
- (छ) "आर्द्रभूमि से कोई क्षेत्र या कच्छ पंक, पीटभूमि या जल; प्राकृतिक या कृत्रिम, स्थायी या अस्थायी, जल जो ठहरा है या बहते, ताजे, खारे या लवणीय, जिसके अंतर्गत समुद्री जल का जिसकी गहराई ज्वार की स्थिति छह मीटर से अधिक की न हो अभिप्रेत है, परंतु इसमें नदी जल मार्ग, धान के खेत, पेयजल प्रयोजनार्थ विशिष्ट रूप से मानव निर्मित जल निकास/जलाशय, मत्स्यपालन, नमक उत्पादन और मिर्ची-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 मिश्रांत के अनुसार किया जाएगा।

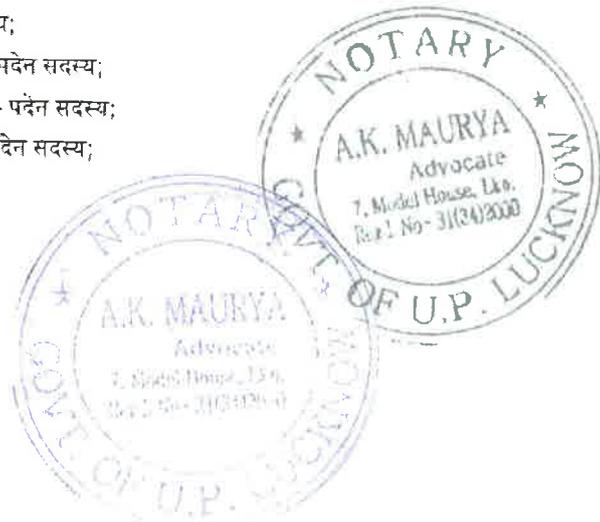
(2) आर्द्रभूमि के भीतर, निम्नलिखित क्रियाकलापों को प्रतिषिद्ध किया जाएगा, अर्थात्:-

- (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 निस्तारण;
- (v) किसी स्थायी प्रकृति का किसी निर्माण मिवाय नाव घाटों के, पचास मीटर के भीतर इन नियमों के प्रारंभ की तारीख से पिछले दस वर्षों में प्रेक्षित वाढ के औसतन उच्च स्तर से गणना की जाएगी; और
- (vi) अवैध शिकार।

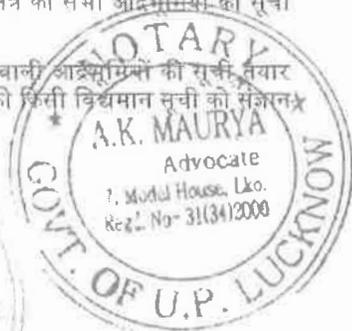
परंतु केन्द्रीय सरकार प्राधिकरण की सिफारिश पर किसी कार्यकलाप के विलोपन के लिए राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासन से प्राप्त प्रस्तावों पर विचार कर सकेगी।

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 संशोधन में लेना;

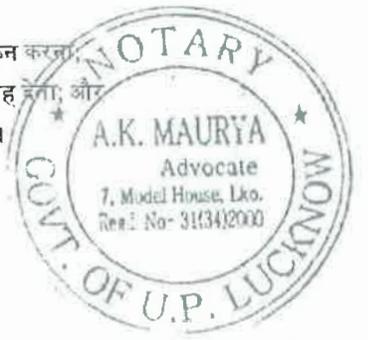


- (ग) इन नियमों के अधीन विनियमन हेतु उनके संक्षिप्त दस्तावेजों के आधार पर अभिज्ञात आर्द्रभूमियों की संस्तुति करना;
- (घ) इन नियमों के प्रकाशन की तारीख से एक वर्ष की अवधि के भीतर सभी आर्द्रभूमियों की व्यापक डिजिटल सूची तैयार करना और उक्त प्रयोजन से केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा विकसित की जाने वाले डेडीकेटेड वेब पोर्टल पर इसे अपलोड करना; और इस सूची को प्रत्येक दस वर्ष में अद्यतन किया जाएगा;
- (ङ) अधिसूचित आर्द्रभूमियों के भीतर विनियमित और अनुज्ञात किए जाने वाले कार्यकलापों और उनके प्रभाव क्षेत्र की विस्तृत सूची विकसित करना;
- (च) विनिर्दिष्ट आर्द्रभूमियों के लिए प्रतिपिद्ध कार्यकलापों की सूची में दृष्टीगोचर, यदि कोई हो, की मिफारिश करना;
- (छ) आर्द्रभूमियों की अधिकारिता के भीतर उनके संरक्षण और सुकियुक्त उपयोग के लिए कार्यनीतियां पारिभाषित करना; यदि पारिस्थितिक प्रणाली के कार्यकलापों (जल भण्डारण, भू-जल संभरण, वायु-प्रतिरोधक जैसे) और मूल्य (मनोरंजन और सांस्कृतिक जैसे) का अन्तर्क्षण किया जाता है या उसमें अभिवृद्धि की जाती है; तो इन पारिस्थितिक प्रणाली को प्रबंधित करने के लिए एक मिश्रित, जो संरक्षण के साथ संगत बहुनीय उपयोगों को समावेशित करता है (जैसे जीवन-निर्वाह स्तर हेतु मछली पकड़ना या जलीय वनस्पति की पैदावार करना) का विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग करना;
- (ज) प्रत्येक अधिसूचित आर्द्रभूमियों के लिए एकीकृत प्रबंधन योजना का पुनर्विलोकन करना (केन्द्रीय सरकार के समन्वयन से सीमा-पारीय आर्द्रभूमियों सहित), और इन योजनाओं के भीतर आर्द्रभूमियों, जो पारिस्थितिकीय स्वरूप के अनुकूल हैं, के पारम्परिक उपयोगों को जारी रखना और उसमें समर्थन देने पर विचार करना;
- (झ) उन मामलों में, जहां अधिसूचित आर्द्रभूमियों या आर्द्रभूमि परिसरों की सीमा के भीतर भूमि क्षेत्र का निजी भू-धारण अधिकार है, उन्हें बढ़ावा देने के लिए कार्यकलापों के माध्यम से पारिस्थितिकीय स्वरूप को बनाये रखने के लिए कार्यतंत्रों हेतु मिफारिश 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 सुकियुक्त उपयोग के मिश्रित 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 पण्यारियों और स्थानीय समुदायों के बीच जागरूकता के संबंधित 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 तन्व्ये 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।

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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 मिफारिश करना;
 - (च) अधिसूचित किये जाने के लिए सीमापार आर्द्रभूमियों की मिफारिश 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 द्वादश 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 सिफारिश 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(इन्व्यू) पार्ट.V]

डॉ. ए. दुर्गसामी, 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.

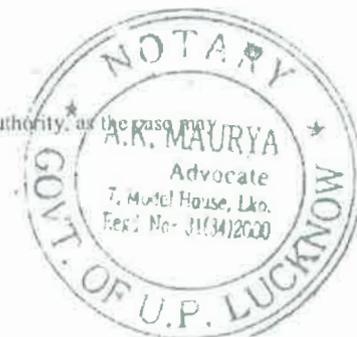
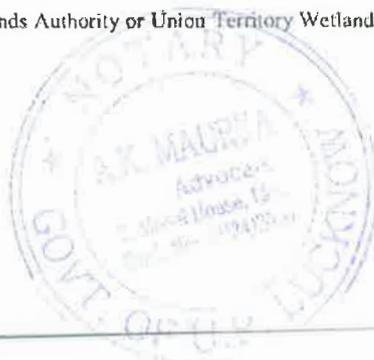
Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 25, read with sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 3 and section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and in supersession of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, except 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.



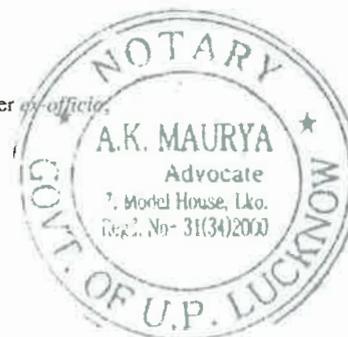
Provided that the Central Government may consider proposals from the State Government or Union Territory Administration for omitting any of the activities on the recommendation of the Authority.

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

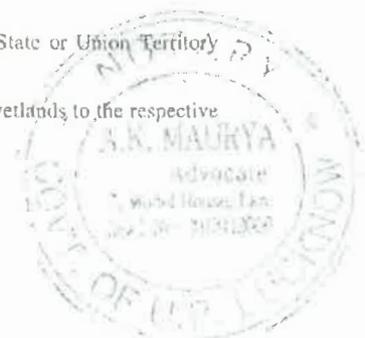
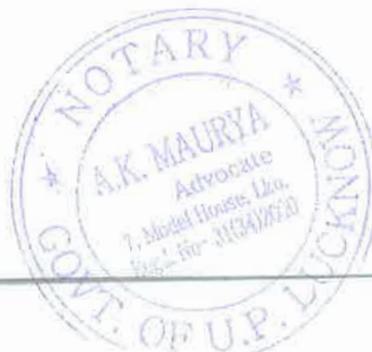
- (i) Minister In-charge of the Department of Environment/Forests of the State Government or Minister In-charge of the Department handling wetlands - Chairperson;
- (ii) Chief Secretary of the State or Additional Chief Secretary equivalent - Vice Chairperson;
- (iii) Secretary in-charge of the Department 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*.



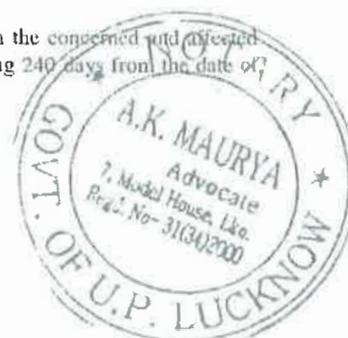
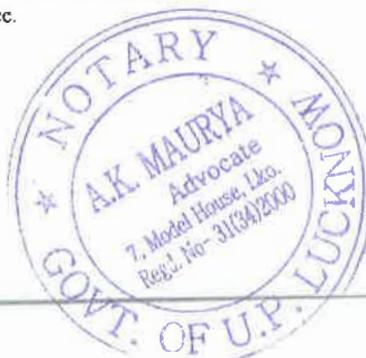
- (xiii) Member Secretary, Biodiversity Board of the UT - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xiv) Chief Wildlife Warden - Member *ex-officio*;
- (xv) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change- Member *ex-officio*;
- (xvi) One expert 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 *sua-moto*, or as referred by the Central Government.
- (4) The tenure of non-official members of the Committee shall not exceed three years.
- (5) The Committee shall meet at least once in every six months.
7. **Delegation of powers and functions to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.—**
- (1) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules, prepare a Brief Document for each of the wetland identified for notification, providing:—
- demarkation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;
 - demarkation of its zone of influence and land use and land cover thereof indicated in a digital map;
 - ecological character description;
 - account of pre-existing rights and privileges;
 - list of site-specific activities to be permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence;
 - list of site specific activities to be regulated within the wetland and its zone of influence; and
 - modalities for enforcement of regulation;
- (2) Based on the Brief Document, the Authority shall make recommendations to the State Government or Union Territory Administration for notifying the wetlands.
- (3) The State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, after considering the objections, if any, from the concerned and affected persons, notify the wetlands in the Official Gazette, within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of recommendation by the Authority.
- (4) (a) In case of trans-boundary wetlands, the Central Government shall coordinate with concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to prepare the Brief Document containing information as listed in sub-rule (1).
- (b) Based on the Brief Document, the National Wetlands Committee shall make recommendations to the Central Government for notification of the wetland.
- (c) The Central Government shall, after considering the objections, if any, from the concerned and affected persons, notify the wetlands in the Official Gazette, within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of recommendation by the Committee.



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

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

Dr. A. DURAISAMY, Scientist 'G'

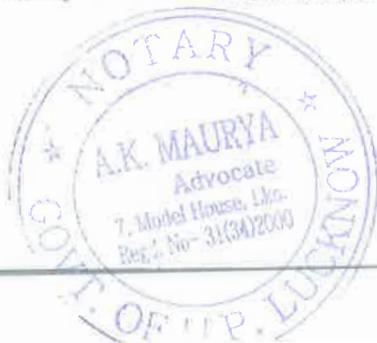
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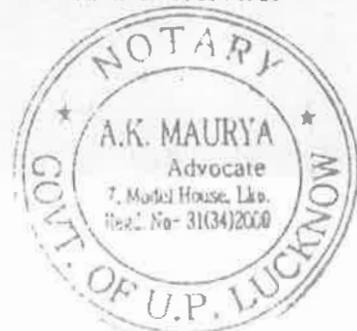




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Guidelines for implementing Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



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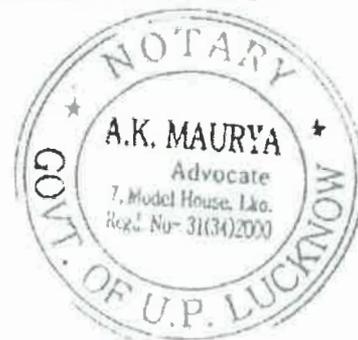
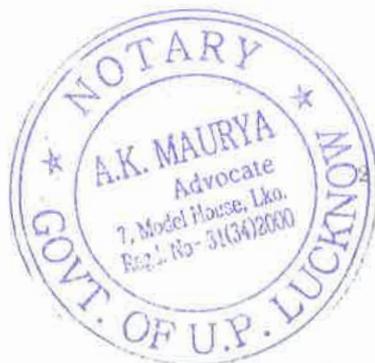


I. Guidelines Purpose and Scope

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

II. Wetlands to be regulated

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



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



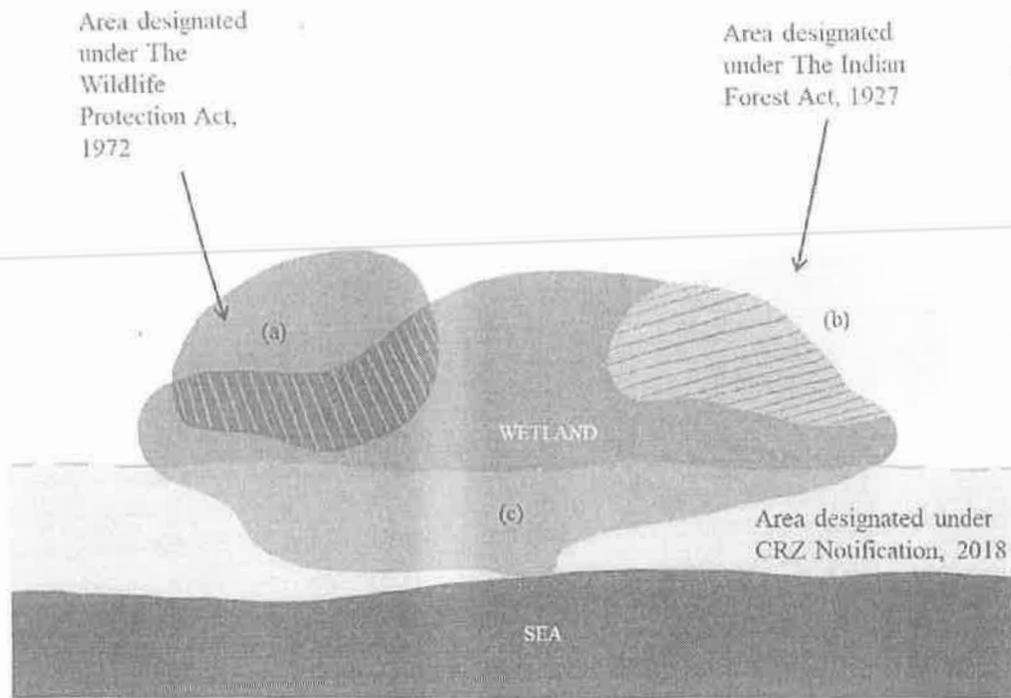
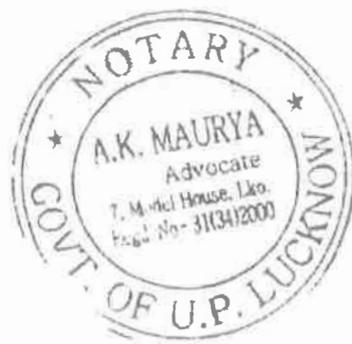


Illustration 1: Using the Wetlands Rules to fill in the gaps in situations of multiple regulations in a Ramsar Site. In the situation above, wildlife sanctuary (indicated as a) and a reserved forest (indicated as b) partly overlap with the Ramsar Site boundary. Being a coastal wetland, a part (indicated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

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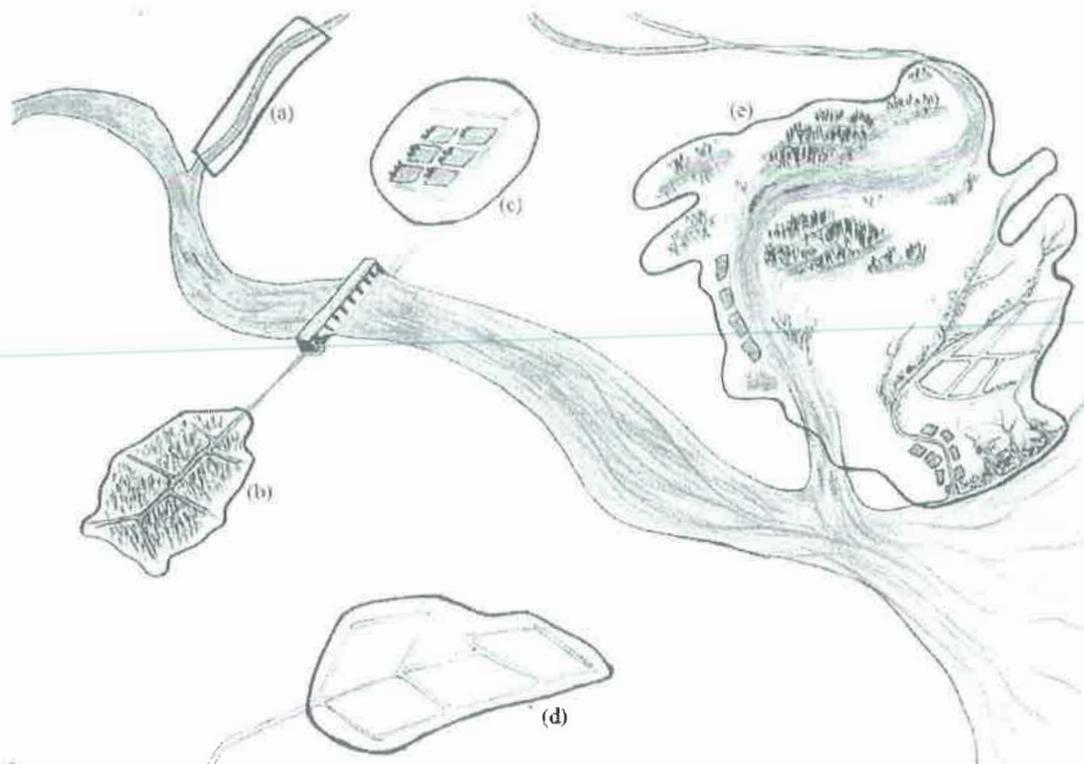
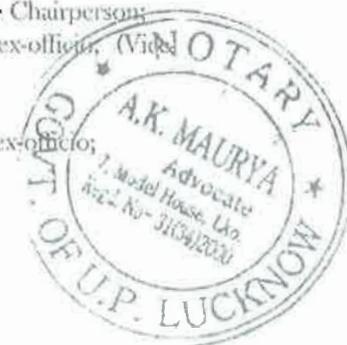
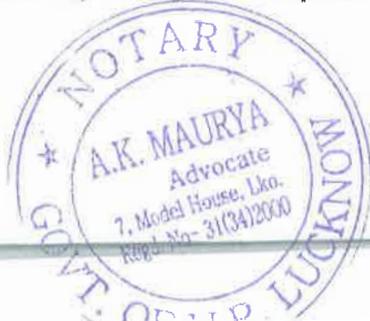


Illustration 2: Considering river stretch and human-made wetlands for notification. In situations when the entire wetland, to be notified, is a river stretch [indicated as (a)], paddy fields [indicated as (b)], human-made wetland waterbodies for irrigation [indicated as (c)], and human-made waterbodies 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.

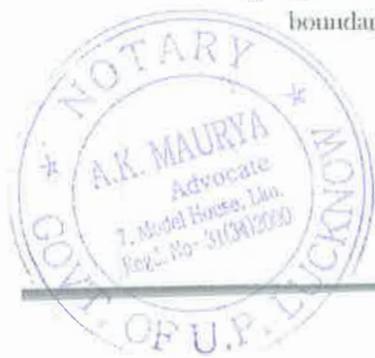
10. Should the State Governments/UT Administrations be desirous, any wetland, even if included within the list of wetlands excluded from notification under Wetlands Rules, may be notified under the relevant state laws. In this regard, the approach/mechanism outlined in Wetlands Rules and these guidelines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

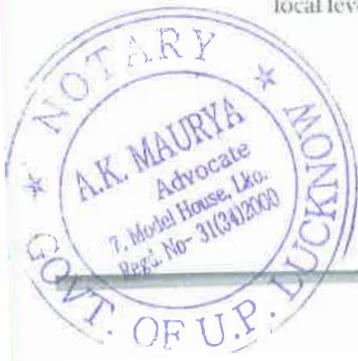
17. Each Wetlands Authority shall constitute:

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

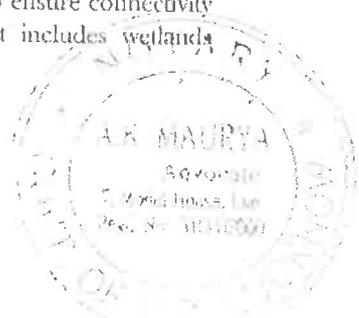


A format for compiling the list of wetlands is at **Annex 1**. This list may also contain trans-boundary wetlands (at the end) with additional details such as the bordering State/UT under which wetland is falling along with corresponding area.

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

V. Delineating wetlands

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



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:

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

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/wripinfo_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.

- a) Zone of influence
- b) 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



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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:
- Conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
 - Setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
 - 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;
 - Solid waste dumping;
 - Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
 - 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,
 - 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:
- Activity for which permission is sought;
 - Justification thereof;
 - The premise on which the activity is not considered detrimental to the wetland's ecological character; &
 - Supporting evidence-base (such as an expert report, EIA, mitigating measures proposed to be undertaken etc.)

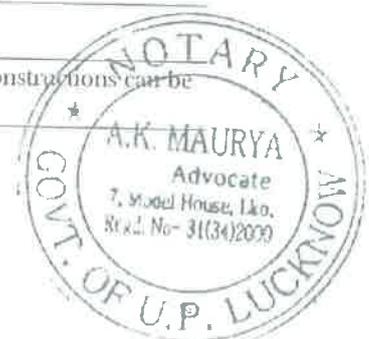
IX. Developing a list of activities, to be regulated in a notified wetland:

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



- b) Sustainable culture fisheries practices (in private lauds);
 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 |



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- The period for which such structure can be maintained inside the notified wetlands
-
- i) Change in land use pattern within the zone of influence
- Land use does not alter the hydrological regime or interrupt species interactions (such as bird migration pathways)
-
52. The Wetlands Authority shall be responsible for enforcing the regulations, through enforcement machinery of the concerned State Government / UT Administration.

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

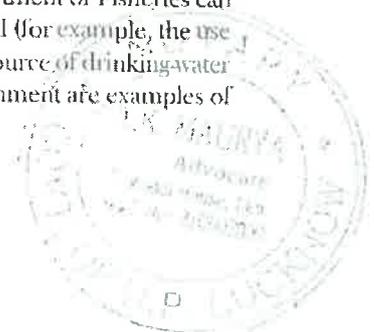
53. Activities aligned with the 'wise use' of wetland may be permitted within the wetland (wetlands complex) or its zone of influence. The following activities are likely to be aligned with the 'wise use' approach:
- a) Ecological rehabilitation and rewilding of nature ;
 - b) Wetlands inventory, assessment and monitoring;
 - c) Research;
 - d) Communication, environmental education and participation activities;
 - e) Management planning;
 - f) Habitat management and conservation of wetland-dependent species;
 - g) Community-based ecotourism (with minimum construction activities);
 - h) Harvesting of wetlands products within regenerative capacity; and,
 - i) Integrating wetlands as nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
54. Permitted activities may need to be identified considering the ecological character of each wetland to be notified. It is likely that an activity may be benign for one wetland, yet would need regulation for others. For example, ecotourism may not be desirable for all wetlands.

XI. Registration of wetlands

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

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

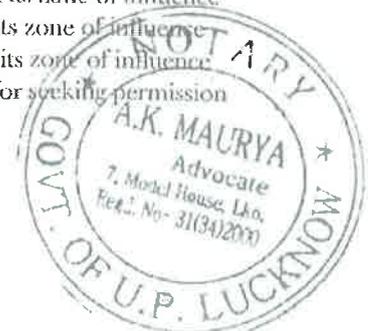
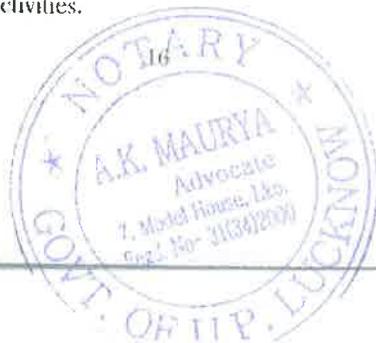
56. Each wetland is likely to be associated with a range of pre-existing rights and privileges, and it must be ensured that such rights and privileges are aligned with the 'wise use' approach. 'Privilege' is defined here as a special entitlement granted to restricted group or persons, on a conditional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



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

XIII. Notifying wetlands

58. For each wetland proposed to be notified, a 'Brief Document' containing the following information needs to be prepared:
- Demarcation of wetland boundary, supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;
 - Demarcation of its zone of influence alongwith 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.
- 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:
- Description of the wetland (wetlands complex) boundary along with its map
 - Description of the zone of influence along with a map
 - List of activities prohibited within the wetland (wetlands complex) and its zone of influence
 - List of activities regulated within the wetland (wetlands complex) and its zone of influence
 - List of activities permitted within the wetland (wetlands complex) and its zone of influence
 - Name and contact details of the nodal person, who is to be contacted for seeking permission to undertake regulated activities.



Annex

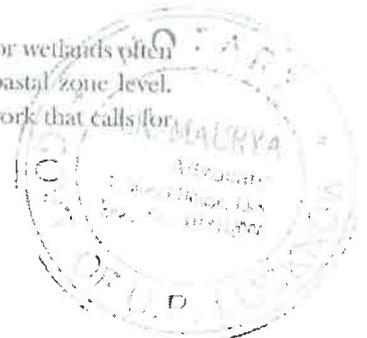
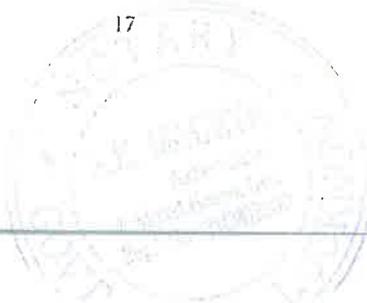
A format for notification is at Annex 3.

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



Annex 2

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

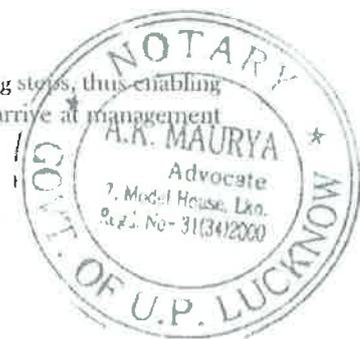
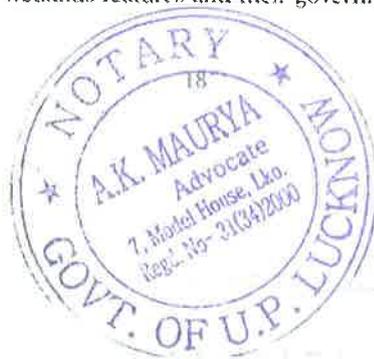
Achieving close relationship between planning and governance is critical, considering multiple stakeholder and sectoral interests which underlie and, to a large extent, structure wetland biodiversity and ecosystem service values, and the need to secure people's involvement and participation in basin-scale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

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

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

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

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



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

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| | | |
|--------|--------|---|
| | | 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. 287(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).

Annex



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.



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Annex 2: Form 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

Annex 2



- 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

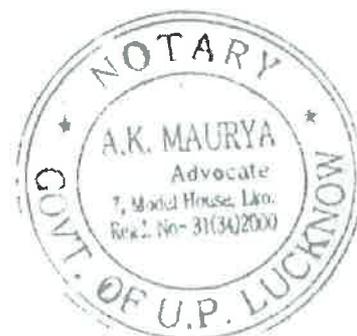
- 3.5 Major animal invasive alien species



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Section 4: Ecosystem services

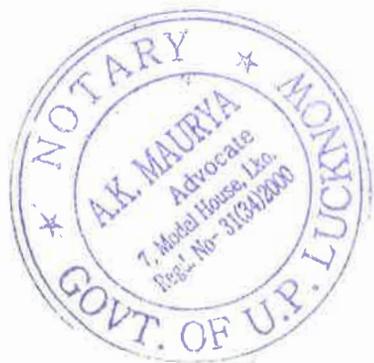
| Importance | Relevant for the site (please tick yes or no) | If Yes, Details (upto 50 words for each category) |
|---|--|--|
| Source of drinking water for people living and around | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| Source of water for agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 | |

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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 | | | |

Annex 2



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

Section 8: Activities Proposed to be permitted

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

Section 9: Listing of Available Scientific Resources Used

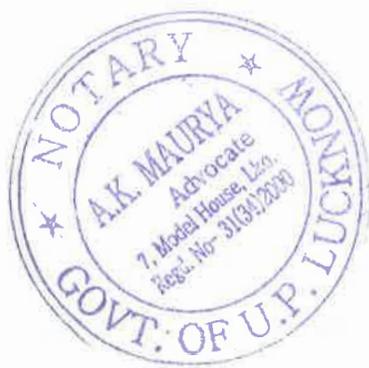
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CHECKLIST

- 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

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

Government of [State / Union Territory / India]

[Date]

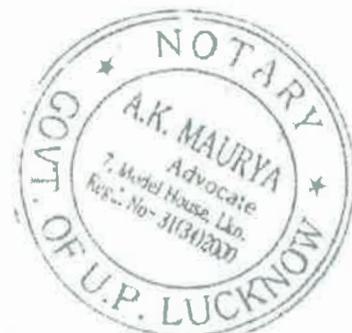
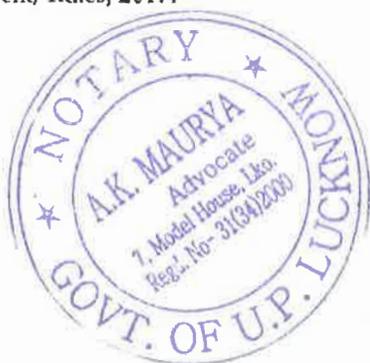
S.O. _____ The draft of the notification, which the [name of the issuing entity] proposes to issue in exercise of the powers conferred under rule 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 read with Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), is hereby published for the information 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.

Annex 2



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

By order

.....

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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:



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[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] |

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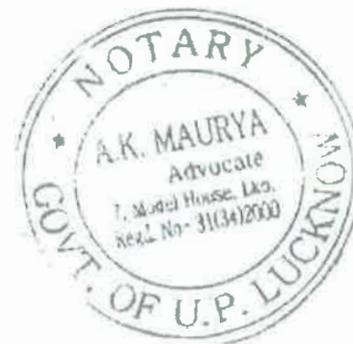


Annex 4: Steps and format for developing Integrated Management Plan

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

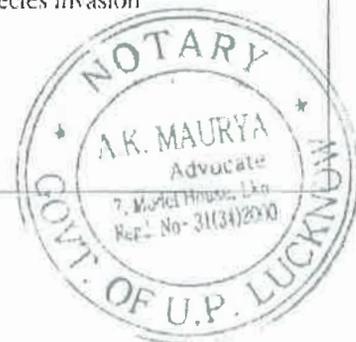
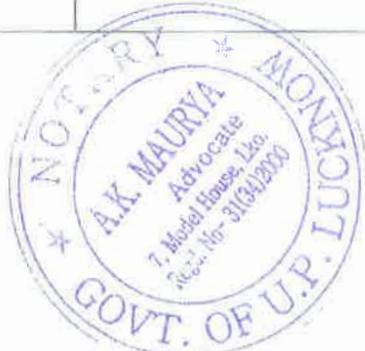


Step 2: Description of wetland features

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 toposhcets) (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



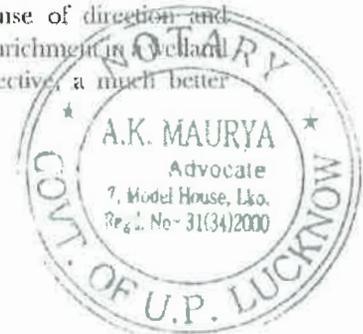
ensured that the plan does not merely focus on symptoms (for example, poor water quality) but on the root causes (in this case, ineffective sewage management in wetland catchments).

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:
- Enlisting of government departments having programmes which impact (or have the potential to impact) wetlands features or threats on these features;
 - An analysis of laws and regulation related to wetland, access and use of wetland resources, biodiversity or any dimension;
 - Ownership, rights and privileges pertaining to wetlands;
 - Analysis of the role of CSOs and communities in wetlands management, with particular reference to their views, rights and capacities; and,
 - Gaps and challenges.
12. Based on the analysis, an institutional arrangement for wetlands management should be developed, clearly stating:
- The nodal agency responsible for managing wetlands
 - Role of different government departments and mechanisms for inter-departmental coordination
 - Role of CSOs and communities
13. In line with the requirements of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, the following should be specified:
- Activities prohibited within the boundary of wetlands;
 - Activities to be regulated within wetlands and zone of influence and regulation thresholds; and,
 - 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:
- 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 %)
 - Achievability** - The objectives must be achievable at least in the medium or long term. An objective that cannot be achieved can lead to an overall loss of sense of direction and misallocation of resources (for example, completely preventing nutrient enrichment in a wetland located in the intensive agricultural landscape is an unachievable objective, a much better proposition would be to reduce the current rate by xx%).



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

Step 6: Developing a monitoring and evaluation plan

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

Performance indicators

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

Table 2: Performance Indicators

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



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

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

Monitoring mechanism

19. Besides setting up performance indicators for the management plan, it is also essential to set up a monitoring system for the wetland to be able to assess changes in ecosystem condition over a period of time.

20. A generic listing of monitoring parameter, method and frequency is presented in the Table 3 below. Parameters marked with a single asterisk (*) sign are relevant for all wetlands and must form a part of the monitoring system. In addition to these, parameters marked with a double asterisk (**) are relevant for wetlands located in urban and peri-urban areas. Other parameters may be included based on the assessment of relevance and wetland contexts.

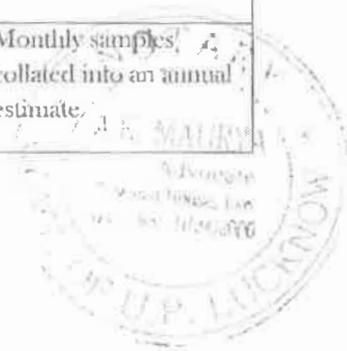
21. Photographic documentation (before, during and after management intervention) may also be maintained as part of monitoring process. Aquatic drones/ buoy-based sensor induced transmission for online data updating may be used for large wetlands, which will further help in enriching the management practices.

Table 3: Parameters for wetlands monitoring

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



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



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

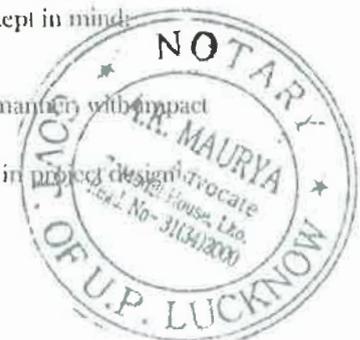
Note: (i) The frequency, as above, is advisable for wetlands above 100 ha and is indicative in nature. The Wetland Authority may suitably modify based on logistics involved.

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

Step 7 - Developing an action plan

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

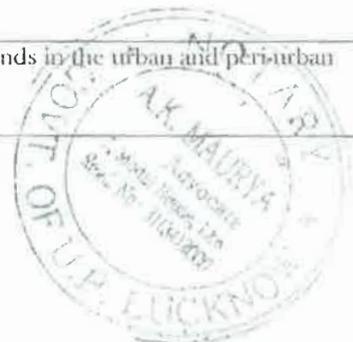
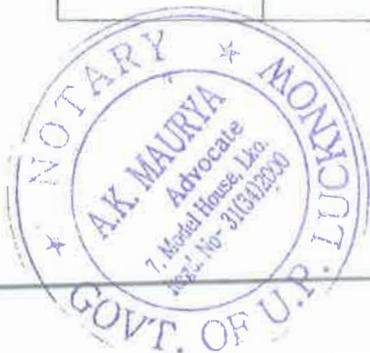
- Ecosystem-based interventions should be promoted as far as possible
- Engineering interventions in wetlands should be taken up in a limited manner with impact assessments conducted for all major works
- Operations and maintenance of all structural works should be included in project design



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

Table 4: Generic listing of activities for management of wetlands

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



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



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

Step 8: Developing budget and financing plan

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

Table 5: Summary of budget

| S. No. | Management Plan component | Budget |
|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| | | |



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
|--|--|--|

Table 6: Year wise breakup of requirement of funds

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

Table 7: year wise breakup of requirement of funds

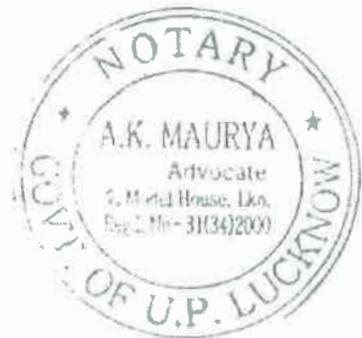
| S. No | Total Budget | Funds from Central Government Scheme (Scheme Name) | Funds from State Government (Scheme Name) | Funds from other donors (Project and donor name) | Funds from private sector (Name of the agency) | Funds available from convergence sources | Funds required to be raised |
|-------|--------------|--|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------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

Format for compiling Integrated Management Plan

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

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

Amr

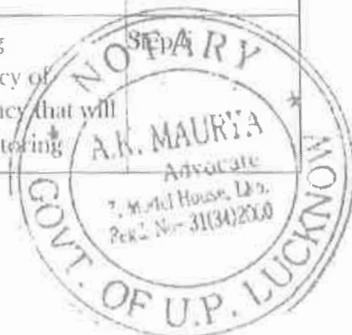


25. The management plan may be compiled in the following eight chapters:

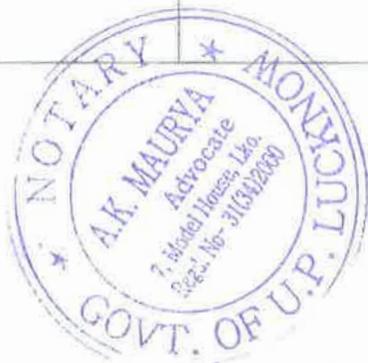
| Chapter heading | Sub-headings | Explanation | Reference to Management Planning Steps |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1. Introduction | 1.1 Rationale for management planning | Describe the importance of wetland, ways in which wetlands conservation and wise use will contribute 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 | |



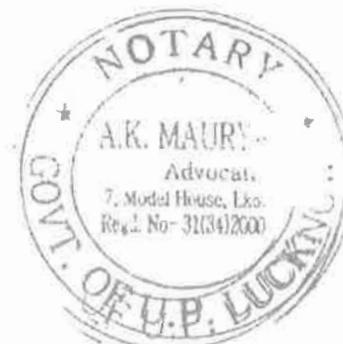
| Chapter heading | Sub-headings | Explanation | Reference to Management Planning Steps |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | 6.3 Institutional design | Describe how coordination between different monitoring agencies will be achieved. | Step 6 |
| | 6.4 Infrastructure and human resources design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



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

Checklist for submission of Integrated Management Plan

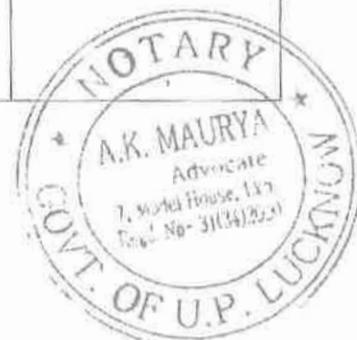
- Approved by the State Govt./ UT Administration/ State Wetlands Authority/ UT Wetlands Authority (minutes of meeting to be enclosed)
- Forwarding letter states -commitment of the State Government/ UT for providing their share of budget (supporting document indicating concurrence to be enclosed)
- Integrated Management Plan has a cover sheet providing details on Wetland, catchment area, implementing agency, total budget and fund requested from NPCA
- Brief Document is enclosed with the management plan (as per Annex V)
- Wetlands map is provided in a standard GIS format
- Map of zone of influence 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) | |
| | | | | |

Annex 2



Annexure/R10/3

1

ITEM NO.6

COURT NO.13

SECTION PIL-W

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

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

ANAND ARYA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 131361/2018 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 230/2001 (PIL-W)
(I.A.NO.203606/2022 IN W.P.(C)NO.230/2001
IA No. 203606/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 302/2020 (PIL-W)
(FOR impleading party ON IA 172736/2024
FOR INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 172736/2024
FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 172737/2024
IA No. 172737/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 172736/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

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

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHANSHU DHULIA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Trisha Chandran, Adv.
Mr. Naresh Kumar, AOR

Mr. Jayant Bhushan, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Reena George, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Kumar Singh, AOR
Mr. Amartya Bhushan, Adv.
Mr. Yojit Mehra, Adv.

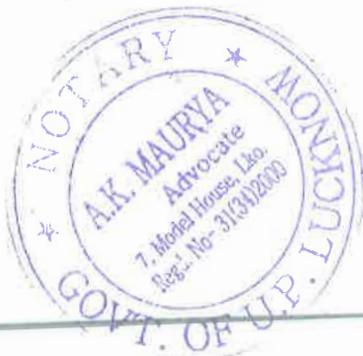
Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Shibani Ghosh, AOR
Ms. Ayushma Awasthi, Adv.
Ms. Himanshi Gupta, Adv.

Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by
Jayant Bhushan
DN: cn=Jayant Bhushan,
o=NOTARY,
c=IN

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Ms. Manisha Chava, Adv.
Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR



2

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 Mr. Rohan Gupta, Adv.

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 Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR
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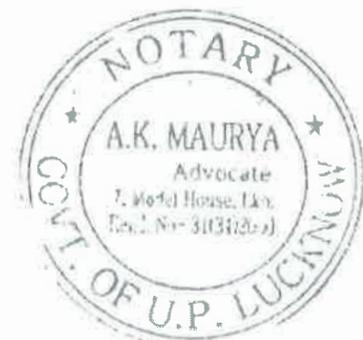
Mr. Abhimanyu Tewari, AOR
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Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR
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 Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv.

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 Ms. Rashmi Singhania, Adv.

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 Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR
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 Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.

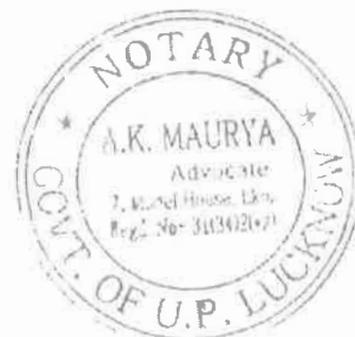
Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR
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Ms. Suveni Bhagat, AOR

Mr. Gopal Prasad, AOR

Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, AOR
 Ms. Sanjana Grace Thomas, Adv.
 Mr. D.p.singh, Adv.
 Ms. Tara Elizabeth Kurien, Adv.



Mr. Shishir Pinaki, AOR
Mr. Dhanaeswar Gudapalli, Adv.
Ms. Mallika Das, Adv.
Mr. Nandi Kiran Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Akash Vashistha, Adv.
Mr. Rishi Sehgal, AOR
Mr. Midhun Aggarwal, Adv.
Ms. Vaishnavi, Adv.

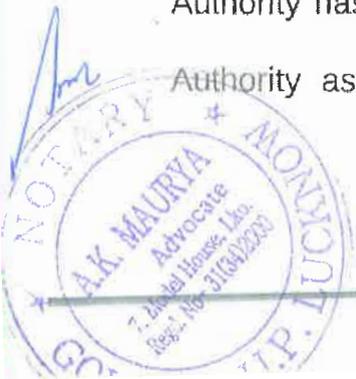
UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

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

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

We have been informed at the Bar that each State presently has a Wetland Authority. In fact, reading of Rule 5 suggests that the State Wetland Authority has already been constituted. Rule 5, by which the State Wetland

Authority as well as such Authorities in the Union Territories have been



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

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

XXXXX

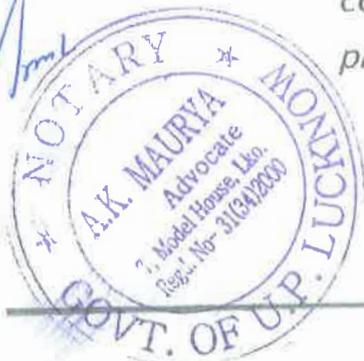
(2) The Central Government hereby constitutes the Union Territory Wetlands Authority for each Union Territory with the following members, namely -

XXXX

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

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

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



Acts;

c) Recommend identified wetlands, based on their Brief Documents, for regulation under these rules;

d) Prepare a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands within one year from the date of publication of these rules and upload the same on a dedicated web portal, to be developed by the Central Government for the said purpose; the inventory ought to be updated every ten years;

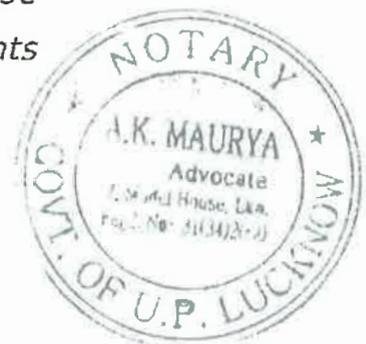
e) Develop a comprehensive list of activities, to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence;

f) Recommend additions, if any, to the list of prohibited activities for specific wetlands;

g) Define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction; wise use being a principle for managing these ecosystems which incorporates sustainable uses (such as capture fisheries at subsistence level or harvest of aquatic plants) as being compatible with conservation, if ecosystem functions (such as water storage, ground water recharge, flood buffering) and values (such as recreation and cultural) are maintained or enhanced;



- h) *Review Integrated Management Plan for each of the notified wetlands (including trans-boundary wetlands in coordination with Central Government), and within these plans to consider continuation and support to traditional uses of wetlands that are harmonized with ecological character;*
- 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 wiseuse principle through various line departments and other concerned agencies;*



m) Function as a nodal authority for all wetland - specific authorities within the State or UT Administration;

n) Issue necessary directions for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands to the respective implementing agencies.

o) Undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands; and

p) Advise on any other matter suo-motu, or as referred by the State Government/UT Administration.

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

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

(a) a technical committee to review brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the Wetland Authority and

(b) a grievance committee consisting of four members to provide a mechanism for hearing



Amr

and forwarding the grievances raised by public to the Authority;

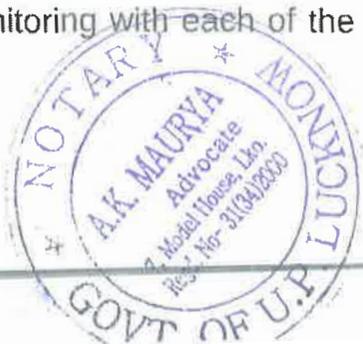
(7) The Committees referred to in sub-rule (6) shall meet at least once in every quarter to perform their functions.

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

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

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

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

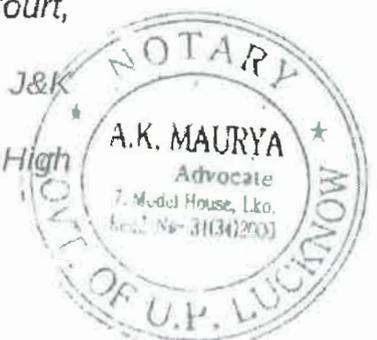
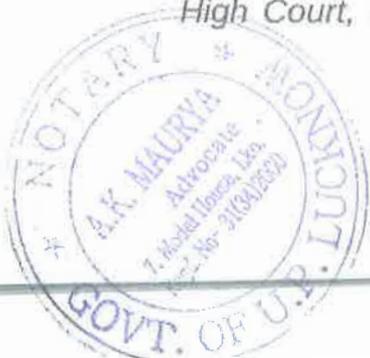


next date of listing.

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

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

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



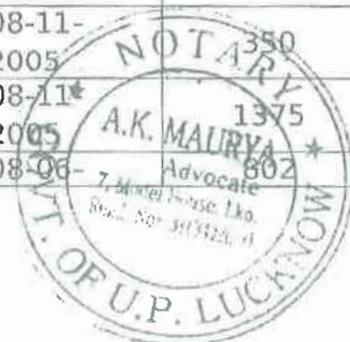
Court, Manipur High Court, Orissa High Court, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Rajasthan High Court, Madras High Court, Tripura High Court, Allahabad High Court and High Court at Calcutta. The affidavit be sent to the Registrar General of all the aforementioned High Courts within two weeks from today.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

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

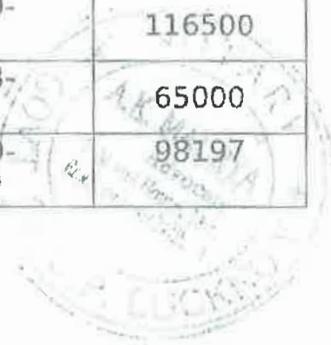


"List of 85 Ramsar Sites"

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



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

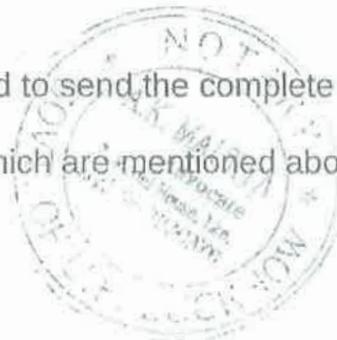
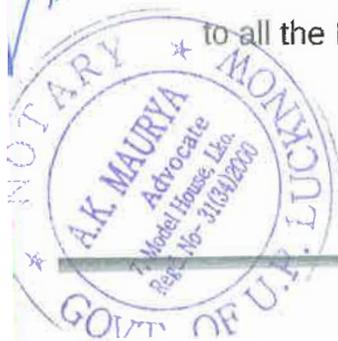


| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|--|------------|-------|
| | | 43. | Tampara Lake | 12-10-2021 | 300 |
| | | 44. | Hirakud Reservoir | 12-10-2021 | 65400 |
| | | 45. | Ansupa Lake | 12-10-2021 | 231 |
| 40. | Punjab (6) | 46. | Harike Lake | 23-03-1990 | 4100 |
| | | 47. | Kanjli Lake |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



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

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



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

List the matter again on 25.03.2025.

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

(RENU BALA GAMBHIR)
COURT MASTER



Am2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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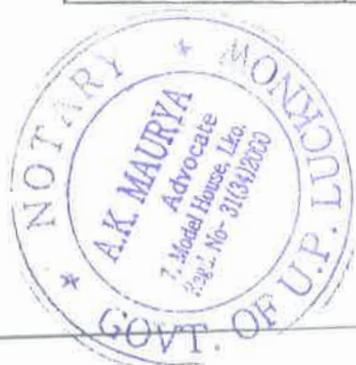


4. Learned Counsel appearing for the State Wetland Authority submits that the brief document has already been submitted to the Wetland Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on 17.09.2024 and the action at the end of the MoEF&CC is awaited.

5. It has been pointed out that MoEF&CC is a party and served in this execution application, but no one is present representing the MoEF&CC. Hence, we direct the Secretary, MoEF&CC to ensure the representation of the MoEF&CC on the next date through some competent advocate or through some senior officer of the MoEF&CC. Let a copy of this order be forwarded to the Secretary, MoEF&CC for compliance.

6. Learned Counsel for the Applicant has submitted that the area of Najafgarh lake on the Haryana side is much large then 75 acres. He has referred to the satellite image of 2021, Annexure-A-7 (page 1111) to show that the water spread on September 24, 2021 was 2048 acres. He has also referred to the satellite image (page 848) to show that in 11.11.2021 water spread was 1667 acres and has pointed out the image on page 849 which shows that the water spread range from 200 acres to 2048 acres 2 3 between 2014 to 2021. He has also referred to Annexure A-3 concerning the Land Revenue Settlement of the Gurgaon District - FC Channing, Settlement Officer, 1882 – extracts and has submitted that the area of five villages was found to be inundated, covering 1772 acres. The petitioner himself has given the submergence level and area of the Najafgarh lake in Haryana over the last 16 years as under:

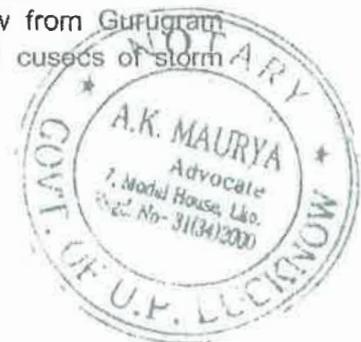
| Year | High Flood Level (HFL) Contour | Submergence area at HFL Acres/Ha |
|------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2009 | 210m | 3436* |
| 2010 | 210.35m | 3800 |
| 2011 | 209.75m | 2100 |
| 2012 | 209.72m | 2100 |
| 2013 | 209.92m | 2200 |
| 2014 | 209.70m |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



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

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

7. Counsel for the Applicant has also relied upon the area of wetland disclosed in Annexure-3, a Framework of Integrated Environment Management Plan jointly submitted by the Government of Haryana and NCT Delhi (draft) filed alongwith the report of the CPCB dated 13.12.2021. Counsel for the State Wetland Authority has disputed the material which is shown by the Applicant.
8. The issue concerning the exact area of the Najafgarh lake on the Haryana side is required to be decided and the exact area is required to be determined by some independent competent body. Hence, we direct the Applicant to implead the National Wetland Authority in this execution application through the Chairman and serve the same.
9. IA No. 339/2024 has been filed by some of the persons on the plea that their land is likely to be affected in the process of determining the wetland of Najafgarh in the State of Haryana. Considering the scope of the matter and also the plea that they are likely to be affected, we allow the IA No. 339/2024 and permit the applicants to intervene in this execution application.
10. The National Wetland Authority is expected to file the reply affidavit atleast one week before the next date of hearing.
11. List on 04.09.2025."
3. After detailed deliberations, the following points emerged during the meeting:
- 3.1 The Government of NCT of Delhi reiterated its position that the Najafgarh Jheel is to be notified as a wetland, based on the Brief Document and the framework of Integrated Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that have been submitted. It was informed that the EMP submitted to MoEF&CC, in compliance with the directive of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, delineates a total wetland area of 2,530 hectares, out of which 1,400 hectares fall within the territory of Delhi and 1,130 hectares within Haryana. The representative from the Government of Haryana indicated that out of the 1,130 hectares situated in Haryana, the State Government supports notification of only 30 hectares. The Department of Irrigation and Flood Control, Government of NCT of Delhi, referred to findings from the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) report, which states that 30,198 cusecs of discharge flow from Gurugram towards Najafgarh wetland. Following diversion, an estimated 8,621 cusecs of storm



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

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

Action Point

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

The meeting ended with thanks to all the participants.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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

Amr.





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



FIELD VISIT INTERACTIONS/PHOTOGRAPHS



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



[Handwritten signature]

Item No. 04

Court No. 1

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

Execution Application No. 16/2019
In
Original Application No. 153/2014
(IA No. 332/2024, MA No. 85/2022)

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

Applicant

Versus

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

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 04.09.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER
HON'BLE MR. SUDHIR KUMAR CHATURVEDI, EXPERT MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. SUJIT KUMAR BAJPAYEE, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Mr. Akash Vashishtha, Adv. for Applicant in E.A 16/2019
Respondents: Mr. Rahul Khurana, Adv. for the State of Haryana & HSPCB
Dr. Ankit Gupta, Adv. for MoEF & CC (Through VC)
Ms. Gauri Vashist, Adv. for Wetlands, MoEF & CC (Through VC)
Ms. Jyoti Mehdiratta & Ms. Ananya Basudha, Adv. for Wetland
Authority, Delhi (Through VC)
Mr. Gigi. C. George & Mr. Sunil Kumar, Adv. for CGWA
Mr. Vikrant Pachnanda, Adv. for CPCB (Through VC)
Ms. Shilpa Chohan, Adv. for Intervenor

ORDER

1. Learned Counsel for the Respondent No. 4 appearing virtually submits that the Wetland Division of the MoEF & CC had held a Joint Meeting of the Wetland Authorities of the Haryana and Delhi and now a Joint Report of Wetlands International South Asia (WISA) and WWF has been obtained after a ground verification and the process of revalidating the report is underway. In this background, further 8 weeks' time is sought. He submits that the MoEF & CC, disclosing the above facts, has filed the affidavit on 02.09.2025.
2. The office is directed to examine it and place it on record.
3. List on 26.11.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

Sudhir Kumar Chaturvedi, EM

Dr. Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, EM

September 04, 2025
EA No. 16/2019 In
OA No. 153/2014
HB



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