

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Original Application No. 93 of 2023

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The Hindu, Newspaper dt: 07.06.2023, titled "Study finds disturbing evidence of marine plastic pollution off Kerala coast".

...Applicant

v.

The Member Secretary,
Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority and Ors.

...Respondents

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Dated at Chennai on this 30th day of January, 2026



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**Report in OA No. 93/2023 taken by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal
Chennai based on the news published on "The Hindu" daily,
Thiruvananthapuram E-edition dated 07.06.2023 under the
caption "study finds disturbing evidence of marine plastic
pollution of Kerala coast" - Reg.**

This report outlines the procedure followed by the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA) in processing applications for Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance, in accordance with the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) 2019 and the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2019. It also highlights the conditions imposed to ensure environmental protection, particularly with respect to waste management, water flow, and prevention of pollution in CRZ areas.

1. Processing of CRZ Clearance Applications

Applications for obtaining CRZ clearance are being processed by KCZMA strictly as per:

- The approved CZMP 2019, and
- The provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2019.

While granting CRZ clearances, KCZMA incorporates specific conditions to ensure compliance with environmental safeguards prescribed under the Notification.

2. Solid and Liquid Waste Management

KCZMA mandates that project proponents shall:

- Manage solid and liquid waste properly in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.
- Ensure that waste is not dumped or discharged into water bodies, including coastal waters, creeks, backwaters, rivers, or other water bodies falling within the CRZ.

3. Ensuring Unobstructed Water Flow

To protect the natural hydrology of coastal areas:

- Unobstructed flow of water is ensured in all permitted activities.
- Projects are required to avoid any blockage or alteration of natural drainage patterns in CRZ areas.

4. Oil Spill Management Measures

In the case of construction and operation of petrol pumps, marine diesel pumps, and similar facilities within CRZ areas:

- An **Oil Spill Management Plan** is obtained as a mandatory requirement.
- Adequate preventive and mitigation measures are insisted upon to address accidental spills and protect coastal and marine environments.

5. Prohibition of Pollution in CRZ Areas

The disposal of plastic waste and the discharge of untreated waste and effluents from industries, cities, towns, or human settlements are strictly prohibited in CRZ areas.

As per the **CRZ Notification, 2019**, sub-clause **4.(v) and (x)**, the following activities are prohibited to safeguard aquatic systems and marine life:

- Discharge of untreated waste and effluents from industries, cities, towns, and other human settlements.
- Disposal of plastic into coastal waters.
- Failure to adopt adequate measures for the management and disposal of plastic materials within the CRZ.

5. Prohibited Activities under Clause 4 of CRZ Notification, 2019

In continuation of the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2019, Clause 4 specifies that the following activities are prohibited, in general, within the entire CRZ, except where explicitly permitted under specific CRZ categories:

1. Discharge of untreated waste and effluents from industries, cities or towns, and other human settlements.
2. Dumping of city or town wastes, including construction debris, industrial solid wastes, and fly ash, for the purpose of landfilling.
3. Disposal of plastic into coastal waters; adequate measures for management and disposal of plastic materials shall be undertaken within the CRZ to safeguard aquatic systems and marine life.

7. Implementation Status

The CRZ Notification, 2019 is being effectively implemented in the State of Kerala. CRZ clearances are issued by the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Notification and the approved CZMP 2019, ensuring environmental protection and sustainable development of coastal areas.

KCZMA continues to ensure strict compliance with the CRZ Notification, 2019 by imposing appropriate conditions while granting CRZ clearances. The Authority remains committed to preventing pollution, safeguarding marine and aquatic ecosystems, and ensuring sustainable management of coastal resources in the State.


SUNEEL PAMIDI IFS
Member Secretary, KCZMA

