

## **Compliance report for Hon'ble NGT order dated 22.01.2020 in OA No. 1020/2019**

1. Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 1020/2019 News item published in "Hindustan Times" authored by Rakesh Goswami titled "Sambhars ecology among worst", vide order dated 20.11.2019 had directed that a joint action taken report may be submitted by National Wetland Authority ,Government of India, State Wetland Authority Rajasthan, State PCB and District Magistrate Jaipur.
2. A factual report was filled by the Member Secretary State Wetland Authority Rajasthan on 20.01.2020 giving details of the deaths of birds, rescue of birds and their rehabilitations, rescue operations, reports of various institutions on mass mortality and future action plan.
3. Vide order dated 22.01.2020 ,Hon'ble NGT has directed to file a report on the reason for spread of Avian Botulism and necessary action to be taken in the Sambhar area.

It is submitted that following action has been taken by the state-

1. A State Wetland Authority has been constituted by the State Government under the chairmanship of Hon'ble forest minister on 27.11.2019 (Annexure 1). Meeting of the State Wetland Authority was held on 24.02.2020 it was decided that information may be obtained regarding land details with Sambhar Salt Ltd. As given in the relevant MoU, land actually being used by SSL, Khatedari land near the Lake, and details where mass deaths of birds have occurred due to Avian Botulism, illegal encroachments and illegal extraction of Salt Brine. It was also decided that a Sub-Committee may be constituted for examining reports of NEERI, Vinod Kapoor Committee, and MoEF&CC reports may be examined and consolidated recommendations may be suggested (Copy of Meeting minutes given at Annexure 2).
2. Standing Committee for management of Sambhar Lake has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary on 24.12.2019 (Annexure 3). A meeting was held on 11.02.2020 wherein it was decided that ( Annexure 4):
  - I. Illegal mining areas may be identified and immediate action be taken to stop illegal salt extraction in the Sāmbhar Lake Area.
  - II. Local people may be sensitized by District Collectors, regular surveillance may be done in the area and a SOP may be developed in this regard for compliance by all Departments.
  - III. Monitoring of arrival, stay and departure of migratory birds may be done effectively.
  - IV. A Sub-Committee will prepare a comprehensive management plan for the conservation and development of Sambhar Wetland giving details of site specific works, schedule of works and responsibilities of various departments.
  - V. A nodal officer may be appointed by District Collector in Ajmer,Nagaur and Jaipur Districts for regular monitoring of status of birds. Similarly Forests, Environment, RSPCB, Animal Husbandry, Industries, Revenue and Panchayati Raj Departments will also appoint a nodal officer for this work.

3. As far as the reasons for Avian Botulism are concerned, the report given by Indian Veterinary Research Institute dated 21.11.2019 states the factors favoring growth of Clostridium-botulinum as under (Annexure 5) –
- I. CoD was high
  - II. Low salinity level
  - III. pH was between 7 to 9
  - IV. dissolved oxygen level was below 4
  - V. presence of crustaceans, invertebrates and planktons
  - VI. presence of maggots infested carcasses in the Lake and its premises
  - VII. Heavy rains in the month of July and August resulted in the filling of lake and there was formation of new marshy area.
  - VIII. After migration of birds, there was death in the insectivorous and omnivorous eating birds only there was no death in herbivorous birds. After death of birds the carcasses were infected with maggots and they are known to bio accumulate botulism's toxins.
  - IX. The deaths in water birds is mainly due to drowning and the carcasses were visible immediately after the water started receding.
  - X. The fresh birds that feed on these maggots have also succumbed to botulism's thus establishing a maggot's carcasses vicious cycle.

In this regard IVRI will be requested to submit a detailed report.

4. The present status of deaths and rescue of birds is as under

S.N.	District	Deaths of Birds	Rescue of Birds	No Carcasses found since
1	Jaipur	10027	857	28.12.2019
2	Nagaur	13100	597	07.02.2020

**Member Secretary**  
**State Wetland Authority**

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN**  
**Environment Department**

F.6(3) Env. / 2017 / Part 2

NOTIFICATION

Jaipur Dated: 27.11.19

In compliance of Section 5(1) of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 issued in supersession of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010; the Government of Rajasthan hereby notifies the Rajasthan State Wetland Authority (RSWA) as under:

S.No.	Name	Post
1.	Minister, Forest & Environment, GoR	Chairperson
2.	Chief Secretary, GoR	Vice Chairperson
3.	Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Urban Development & Housing Development, GoR	Member ex-officio
4.	Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department, GoR	Member ex-officio
5.	Addl. Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Revenue Department, GoR	Member ex-officio
6.	Principal Secretary or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, GoR	Member ex-officio
7.	Principal Secretary or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Local Self Government, GoR	Member ex-officio
8.	Principal Secretary or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Water Resources Department, GoR	Member ex-officio
9.	Principal Secretary or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Public Health & Engineering Department, GoR	Member ex-officio
10.	Principal Secretary or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Tourism Department, GoR	Member ex-officio
11.	Secretary or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Forest Department, GoR	Member ex-officio
12.	Secretary or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries & Gopalan Department, GoR	Member ex-officio
13.	Secretary or their nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary, Environment Department, GoR	Member ex-officio
14.	Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office, Lucknow, GoI	Member ex-officio
15.	Chief Wild Life Warden, Rajasthan	Member ex-officio
16.	Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board	Member ex-officio
17.	Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Bio-diversity Board	Member ex-officio
18.	Director, State Remote Sensing Centre, Jodhpur	Member ex-officio
19.	One expert each in the field of Wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape, planning and socio-economic to be nominated by the State Government	As nominated
20.	Director & Joint Secretary, Environment Department, GoR	Member Secretary

22.

2. The Rajasthan State Wetland Authority will exercise the following powers and performs following functions, namely:

- (a) Prepare a list of all wetlands of the State in a time bound manner.
- (b) Prepare a list of wetlands to be notified, in a time bound manner; 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 time bound manner and upload the same on the Central Government web portal; 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;
- (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 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 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;
- (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 wetland;
- (p) Advise on any other matter suo-motu, or as referred by the State Government.

4. The Environment Department will act as a Nodal Department of the Authority.

5. The Authority shall meet at least thrice in a year.

This notification shall come into force immediately.

By Order of the Governor

  
o/c (Sreya Guha) 27/11/19  
Principal Secretary

Government of Rajasthan  
Administrative Reforms (Group-3) Department  
F. 6(47)AR/Gr-3/2019 Jaipur, Date :24.12.2019

**ORDER**

The State Government hereby constitutes a Standing Committee for Management of the Sambhar Lake for the purpose of regular and effective monitoring of Sambhar Wetland area, as below:

S.No.	Designation	Member
1.	Chief Secretary	Chairperson
2.	Additional Chief Secretary, Industries Department	Member
3.	Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment Department	Member
4.	Secretary, Animal Husbandry Department	Member
5.	Secretary, Environment Department	Member
6.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (HoFF)	Member
7.	Chief Wild Life Warden, Jaipur	Member
8.	Salt Commissioner, Jaipur	Member
9.	District Collector, Jaipur	Member
10.	District Collector, Ajmer	Member
11.	District Collector, Nagaur	Member
12.	CMD, Sambhar Salts Ltd.	Member
13.	Joint Secretary, Environment	Member Secretary

The committee will be of permanent nature.

The committee will meet every three months to review activities of various departments concerned with the management of the area. The committee will also monitor compliance of directions of State Wetland Authority with regard to the Sambhar Wetland Area.

The Environment Department will be the administrative department of this committee.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect. .

  
24.12.19  
(Arun Prakash Sharma)  
Dy. Secretary to Govt.

Copy to the following for information and necessary actions:

1. Chief Secretary, GoR.
2. Additional Chief Secretary of Industries Department, GoR.
3. Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment Department, GoR
4. Secretary, Animal Husbandry Department, GoR
5. Secretary, Environment Department, GoR
6. Salt Commissioner, GoR
7. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (HoFF), GoR
8. Chief Wild Life Warden, GoR
9. District Collector, Jaipur
10. District Collector, Ajmer
11. District Collector, Nagaur
12. CMD, Sambhar Salts
13. Joint Secretary, Environment Department, GoR
14. Guard File (Ref. No. : Forest(6)Sambhar Lake./Final Report/Personal/2016)

  
24.12.19  
Dy. Secretary to Govt.

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN**  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

F.NO ( 6 )/Env/ 2019

Dated: 18-02-2020

**Meeting Minutes**

The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee for the Management of the Sambhar Lake was organized on 11-02-2020 at 11:00 AM in the Conference Hall-1 of Secretariat Jaipur under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Rajasthan. The list of participants is at Annexure.

Principal Secretary, Environment & Forests explained the purpose of the constitution of the Standing Committee and its Terms of Reference. A presentation was made on the agenda items and after discussions, the following decisions were taken:

1. ACS Industries informed that four Committees have been constituted for Sambhar which are overlapping in nature. It was decided that Industries Department and Environment Department will discuss the relevance of the committees in the present scenario and finalize whether the Committees are to be continued or not. ( Action: Industries & Environment Departments)
2. State Lake Authority has been constituted by the State Government for which the LSG Department is the nodal department. It has been informed by the LSG department that due to lack of human resources and infrastructure, Lake Authority is not effective. As the State Wetland Authority has now been constituted in compliance with the Wetland Rules, 2017, it was decided that action may be taken to repeal the Lake Authority under the LSG department and all wetlands may be monitored by the State Wetland Authority.  
(Action: LSG Department)
3. Pr. Secretary Tourism, Commissioner Industries Chief Engineer GWD and WRD, SE of AVVNL and JVVNL & VC RAJUVAS or his representative may be included in the Standing Committee as members. (Action Environment Department) .
4. It was observed that the paths of Medha and Rupangarh rivers which drain into the Sambhar Lake have been blocked by the illegal mines which has led to stoppage of the inflow of water into the Sambhar Lake. Consequently, the

submergence area of the lake has decreased since 1976. It was decided to identify illegal mining and immediate action be taken to stop illegal mining activities in the Sambhar Lake area. (Action: SSL, Police/Revenue/DC-Jaipur,Ajmer,Nagaur)

5. AVVNL should disconnect illegal connections to the pumping stations being used for mining (Action: JVVNL, AVVNL/DC-Jaipur, Ajmer, Nagaur/SSL)
6. RSPCB will collect water samples pre and post-monsoon every year for analysis and assessment of bacterial diseases and other properties. It will cover all three districts. Data will be submitted to the Environment Department. (Action RSPCB)
7. The representations regarding illegal mining and encroachments received from various sources are to be enquired into and factual report submitted in the next meeting. (Action: DC/SSL/Industries Dept.)
8. Recent deaths and rescue of migratory birds were reviewed. VC, RAJUVAS informed that the cause of deaths was Avian Botulism and briefed about action required to be taken in the future. It was directed that the local people may be sensitized by District Collectors, regular surveillance may be done in the area and an SOP may be developed in this regard for compliance by all agencies/ departments.
9. A Sub-Committee of this Committee headed by Secretary Environment may be constituted by the Environment Department for developing an SOP based on the NEERI report, Shri Vinod Kapoor report, INTACH recommendations, MoEFCC reports and inputs from the departments. The SOP will define the roles and responsibilities of various agencies/ Departments concerned with Sambhar Lake. This will ensure that monitoring of the arrival/stay/departure of migratory birds is done effectively. (Action: Environment Department).
10. The aforesaid Sub-Committee may also prepare a comprehensive Management Plan for the conservation and development of Sambhar Lake giving details of the quantum of works, site-specific locations, financial implications, schedule of works, responsibilities of various agencies/departments, etc. (Action: Environment Department).
11. A nodal officer may be appointed by District Collectors in Ajmer/Nagaur/Jaipur district for regular monitoring of the status of birds. Similarly, Forest, Environment, RSPCB, Animal Husbandry, Industries,

Revenue, PR Departments may also appoint a nodal officer each and inform the Environment Department. (Action: All Departments)

12. Member Secretary, State Wetland Authority, Member Secretary RSPCB, and District Collector Jaipur may appear before the NGT on 17.03.2020 with all relevant record as directed vide order at 21.01.2020 in OA 1020/2019 (MS SWA, MS RSPCCB & DC Jaipur)
13. Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

- Sd -  
(Rakesh Mathur)  
Joint Secretary  
Environment Department  
Jaipur.

Copy to the following for information & necessary action-

1. Sr. D.S. to Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan.
2. P.S. to Additional Chief Secretary, Industry Department
3. P.S. to Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment
4. P.S. to Secretary Animal Husbandry Department
5. P.S. to Secretary, Environment Department
6. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests ( HOFF)
7. Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan
8. Salt Commissioner, Jaipur
9. District Collector, Jaipur
10. District Collector, Ajmer
11. District Collector, Nagaur
12. CMD, Sambhar Salts Limited
13. MS RSPCB, Jaipur
14. Vice Chancellor, RAJUVAS, Bikaner
15. DCF, Jaipur
16. Deputy Registrar, Secretariat, Jaipur

  
Joint Secretary

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN**  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

F.NO 6(3)/Env/2017

Dated: 02-03-2020

**Minutes of the Meeting**

In compliance of the Rule 5(1) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, Dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, State Wetland Authority, Rajasthan was constituted vide F.6(3) Env/2017/Part, Jaipur, dated 27.11.2019. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the State Wetland Authority was organized on 24-02-2020 at 04:00 PM in the Conference Hall of Secretariat Jaipur under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Forests & Environment, Government of Rajasthan. The list of participants is at appended to these minutes of the meeting.

At the onset, Principal Secretary, Environment & Forests welcomed the members and briefed regarding the background of the constitution of the State Wetland Authority and its terms of reference. Secretary, Environment & Forests made a presentation on the agenda items. After discussions and deliberations, the following decisions were taken:

1. It was observed that several issues related to Wetlands, including encroachments, land settlement, water inflow and storage, setting up of industries around the wetland are also related to Industries, Revenue and Irrigation. It was decided that the Principal Secretary/ Secretary of these Departments may be included as members of the State Wetland Authority (SWA). **(Action: Environment Department)**
2. Chief Secretary observed that in coherence with Wetlands Rules, Principal Secretary of various departments are members of the SWA. However, in the notification constituting the SWA, an expression- "his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary" has been added. As the Authority is chaired by Hon'ble Minister, Environment and Forests and the Chief Secretary is the Vice Chairperson, it is required that only Principal Secretary/ Secretary of the various Departments should participate in the meetings. Necessary

modification may be made in the notification. **(Action: Environment Department)**

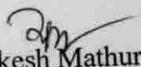
3. A Lake Conservation Authority had been constituted under the LSG Department. Due to various constraints, functioning of this Authority has been less than optimal. It was observed that since the State Wetland Authority has been constituted as per the provisions of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, the Lake Authority may be considered for repealing and all Wetlands may be brought under the State Wetland Authority. LSG department may examine the issue and initiate appropriate action in this regard. **(Action: LSG Department)**
4. The proposal for Technical and Grievance committees under the SWA was considered. It was directed that proposals for the committees may be put up on file for approval of Hon'ble Minister, Environment and Forests. **(Action: Environment Department)**
5. Chief Secretary observed that there are several Committees constituted for Sambhar Lake on various issues. It was decided that the Terms of Reference of these Committees may be examined by the Environment Department and proposals for discontinuing /continuing these Committees may be submitted. It was also decided that the reports of various Committees constituted by the State Government on wetland related issues may be submitted to the State Wetland Authority for review. **(Action: Environment Department, Industries Department)**
6. It was decided that the reports of NERRI, Shree Vinod Kapoor Committee and MoEF&CC may be examined consolidated recommendation for the potential implementation may be placed before the SWA. As decided in the meeting of the Standing Committee for Management of Sambhar Lake, a subcommittee may be constituted for the examination of the reports for their relevance in the present scenario in terms of the potential implementation in the field. **(Action: Environment Department)**
7. The Wetland Atlas for Rajasthan was prepared by ISRO in the year 2011 and Wetland Rules were notified in 2017. Therefore, it is possible that some of the wetlands may have been classified as wetlands in the Atlas that may not be in coherence with the definition/ illustration given in the Rules of 2017. For example, Chief Engineer, WRD and Addl Chief Engineer, WRD zone Udaipur referred to rule 2(g) of Wetland (Conservation and Management)

Rules 2017, where it is noted that structures constructed specifically for irrigation purpose shall not be classified as "wetland". It was pointed out that Udaisagar Mediam Irrigation project is a 400 year old reservoir of 1100 mcft storage capacity and has a well laid out 86 km canal network that irrigates 4653 ha agriculture land spread over 28 villages. Once the water is released for irrigation, the submerged khatadari land gets exposed, the cultivators start bed cultivation in Udaisagar. CE WRD submitted that in the light of these facts, Udaisagar Irrigation project should be excluded from the list of already identified 6 wetlands. Thus it was decided to move a case to MOEF&CC accordingly for exclusion of any irrigation dam in the list of wetlands as per rule 2(g) of Wetland rules, 2017. Also, the status of wetlands in the state may be reviewed as per the present definition of wetlands given in the Rules of 2017. **(Action: All concerned Departments that own, maintain or amange water bodies/ wetlands.)**

8. In the first phase, only those wetlands which are large in size, facing increased threats of pollution, encroachment, extraction etc may be taken up for development. Initially, 2 wetlands per district, as directed by the MOEF&CC GOI may be identified. **(Action: All concerned Departments that own, maintain or manage water bodies/ wetlands.)**
9. Every department will review the status of wetlands under their jurisdiction and submit a list of wetlands to SWA, conforming to the definition given in the Wetland Rules, 2017. **(Action: All concerned Departments that own, maintain or amange water bodies/ wetlands.)**
10. The Department having ownership and /or maintain or managing various concerned wetlands will be nodel Departments for the preparation, approval and implementation of the wetlands, after getting approval of the SWA. **(Action: All concerned Departments that own, maintain or amange water bodies/ wetlands.)**
11. It was decided that the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change will be the Secretariat for the State Wetland Authority. The Directorate will take action for getting the allocation of necessary budget from the Finance Department for the functioning of the SWA. **(Action: Environment Department)**
12. Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Forests, directed that information may be obtained regarding land details with Sambhar Salt Limited as given in the

relevant MoU and the land actually being used by SSL, Khatedari land near the lake, and area where mass deaths of birds have occurred due to avian butolism, illegal encroachment and illegal extraction of salt brine. **(Action: All concered Departments that own, maintain or amange water bodies/ wetlands.)**

13. Next meeting may be kept in the month of May 2020. Before the meeting, all decisions taken in the meeting may be implemented by the concerned Departments and action -taken reports should be submitted to SWA. **(Action: All Departments)**
14. Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

  
Rakesh Mathur  
Member Secretary  
State Wetland Authority  
Rajasthan, Jaipur.