

**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(RE Division)**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINTH (9TH) MEETING OF EXPERT
COMMITTEE ON ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE HELD ON 2ND March, 2015.**

The Ninth meeting of the Expert Committee on Eco-sensitive Zone was held on 2nd March, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Shri Hem Pande, Additional Secretary. The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members and the representatives of the Government of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.
3. After brief introduction to the agenda, Chairman requested the Adviser to initiate the proceedings as per agenda.

Item No.2: Consideration of the proposals listed in the agenda:

I. Finalization of the draft notification for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone around Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park and Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Odisha.

Shri S.S. Srivastava, PCCF(WL) & CWLW, Government of Odisha made a presentation on the draft notification for declaring Eco-sensitive Zone around Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park and Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Odisha. He stated that Odisha State has 19 Sanctuaries, one National Park (Bhitarkanika) and one proposed National Park (Similipal) and intimated that Bhitarkanika and two more sanctuaries namely Satkosia Gorge and Hadgarh were created for crocodile conservation.

He highlighted the salient features of the draft notification as follows:

- i. The Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife), Rajnagar has three protected areas namely Bhitarkanika WLS notified in the year 1975 u/s 29 of WPA 1972, Bhitarkanika National Park notified in 1998 u/s 35 sub section 4 of WPA 1972 and Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary notified in 1997 under clause b of sub section-1 u/s 26 of WPA 1972.
- ii. Bhitarkanika WLS, Bhitarkanika National Park and Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary are situated in the Kendrapara district of Odisha between 20°16'25" to 20°49'15" north of equator and between 86°37'45" to 87°18'43" east of Greenwich.
- iii. Total area of the sanctuary: - 1435.00 square kilometres which includes 1408.00 Square kilometres of water body and 27.00 Square kilometres of land mass including Reserve Forests (Mangrove), mud flats and accreted sand bars.

- iv. 190 Revenue Village within ESZ out of which 147 villages come under Kendrapara District and 43 villages come under Bhadrak District.
- v. Five proposed Reserve Forests (RFs) inside the ESZ are namely Hetamundia, Kansaridia, Sanatubi, Kandrapatia and Sasanpeta.
- vi. One Protected Forest named as Jamboo inside the ESZ.
- vii. The total area of Eco-sensitive Zone is about 445.07 square kilometres.

2. Based on the presentation made and discussions held, the Committee recommended for finalisation the draft notification for declaration of Eco Sensitive Zone around Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park and Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Odisha subject to following:

- i. The extent of Eco-sensitive Zone varies from 560 meters to two kilometers around the boundary of the protected areas of Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park and Gahirmatha (Marine) Wildlife Sanctuary situated in the Kendrapara district of Odisha covering geographical area of 446.40 square kilometres.
- ii. For effective Monitoring of the ESZ following Monitoring Committee was suggested, namely:-
 - (a) District Collector, Kendrapara, Government of Odisha - Chairman;
 - (b) Representative of Collector Bhadrak - Member;
 - (c) One representative of Non-governmental Organizations working in the field of environment to be nominated by the Government of Odisha for a period of one year - Member;
 - (d) Superintendent of Police Kendrapara - Member;
 - (e) Representative of Superintendent of Police Bhadrak - Member;
 - (f) An Expert in the field of Environment Wildlife and Ecology to be nominated by the Government of Odisha a period of year - Member;
 - (g) Representative of Odisha State Pollution Control Board-Member;
 - (h) Divisional Forests Officer, Bhadrak Wildlife Division - Member;
 - (i) Divisional Forest Officer-cum-Wildlife Warden, Mangrove Forest Division (Wildlife) Rajnagar - Member Secretary.
- iii. The paragraph 4 of the draft notification may be revised as under:
 - (A) The list of all activities proposed in the draft notification should be rearranged and categorised into the following categories instead of giving them in a combined tabulated form:
 - i) Prohibited Activities
 - ii) Regulated Activities and
 - iii) Promoted / Permitted Activities.

(B) Item No. 29. **New wood based industry:-**

Remarks:

- No establishment of new wood based industry shall be permitted within the limits of Eco-sensitive Zone:
Provided that new wood-based industry may be set up in the Eco-sensitive zone using 100% imported wood stock.

(C) Item No. 31. **Construction activities:-**

Remarks:

- (a) No new commercial construction of any kind shall be permitted within one kilometre from the boundary of the Protected Area:

Provided that, local people shall be permitted to undertake construction in their land for their residential use including the activities listed in sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 3:

Provided further that the construction activity related to small scale industries not causing pollution shall be regulated and kept at the minimum, with the prior permission from the Competent Authority as per applicable rules and regulations, if any.

- (b) Beyond one kilometre and upto the extent of Eco sensitive Zone construction for bona fide local needs shall be permitted and other construction activities shall be regulated as per Zonal Master Plan.
- (c) Construction activity in the ESZ shall be as per Zonal Master Plan.
- (D) Under Regulated Activities Item No.22 and Item No.26 are same. The Item No.26 may be deleted.
- (E) Under Regulated Activities, new item may be included as:

New Item: "Eco-friendly cottages for temporary occupation of tourists such as tents, wooden houses, etc. for Eco-friendly tourism activities."

Remarks: Regulated under applicable laws.

The format for issuing the final notification shall be same as approved by the Secretary, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice.

II. Reconsideration of Final Notification declaring Eco-sensitive Zone around Pulicat Bird Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh

The draft notification (S.O. No. 22 (E) dated 3rd January, 2014) declaring Eco-sensitive Zone around Pulicat Bird Sanctuary along with the comments/suggestions received on it were earlier considered in the seventh meeting of the Expert Committee of Eco-sensitive Zones held on 23rd July 2014. At that time, it was informed by the State Government representative that the proposal for ESZ had been sent to the new State Government of Andhra Pradesh for their concurrence. The Expert Committee had requested that the concurrence

of the State Government may be provided to the Ministry within a period of fifteen days.

The State Government representative informed the Committee that the concurrence of the State Government on the extent of ESZ as stated in the draft notification has now been received. It was informed that there are thickly populated areas in the vicinity of the ESZ and the pressure on livelihood was high. Further, the extent of ESZ had been finalized by a District Level Committee after discussion with local stakeholders with a view to protect the natural environment and allow for livelihood opportunities of the local people. The State Government representative explained the written response of the State Government on the objections and suggestions received on the draft notification.

The Committee observed that Pulicat Bird Sanctuary and its ESZ should be managed using ecological principles and that sustainable fisheries could be used to provide livelihood security to the local people. The Committee suggested that the PA management may gain from the experience of Sunderbans and Asthamudi where the livelihood security of the local people has been ensured by adopting sustainable fisheries. Also, the ecological principles used in the management of Chilka Lake may be used as a guiding reference.

After extensive deliberations, the Committee recommended that the draft notification declaring ESZ around Pulicat Bird Sanctuary may be finalized.

III. Reconsideration of Draft Regional Plan of Dahanu (1995-2015) in the State of Maharashtra

The Expert Committee had earlier considered the Regional Plan of Dahanu during its 8th Meeting held on 3rd December, 2014 and desired additional information/clarifications.

The additional information/clarifications as received on the Regional Plan of Dahanu from Government of Maharashtra alongwith minutes of 43rd meeting of Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority held on 22nd January, 2015 were placed before the Expert Committee. Shri N.R. Shende, Joint Director of Town Planning, Government of Maharashtra explained about the information/clarifications earlier asked by the Committee and it was decided that the matter will be taken after receipt of comments on the draft Regional Plan from Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority (DTEPA).

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S. No.	Name of the Expert	Status
1.	Shri Hem Pande Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC	Chairman
2.	Dr. G.V. Subrahmaniam Advisor, MoEF&CC	Member
3.	Dr. P.P. Dhyani Director, GBPIHED, Kosi-Katomal, Almora, Uttarakhand	Member
4.	Dr. K.Venkataraman Director, ZSI Kolkata	Member
5.	Shri P.K. Duria Town & Country Planner, TCPO, Ministry of Urban Development, New Delhi	Member Representative
6.	Dr. S.A. Hussain Scientist 'G', WII, Dehradun	Member Representative
7.	Shri K.K. Juadder Chief Planner, T.C.P.O. Ministry of Urban Development	Member Representative
8.	Dr. V.R.S. Rawat Scientist, ICFRE, Dehradun	Member Representative
9.	Dr. Nasim Ahmed Ansari Scientist, WII, Dehradun	Member Representative
10.	Shri Lalit Kapur Scientist 'F', MoEF&CC	Member Secretary
11.	Shri SP Vashishth DIG (WL), New Delhi	MoEF&CC
12.	Dr. H. Kharkwal Scientist 'D', New Delhi	MoEF&CC
13.	Dr. Amit Love Scientist 'D', New Delhi	MoEF&CC
Representatives of the State Government of Odisha:		
14.	Shri. S.S. Srivastava Pr.CCF (WL) & CWLW, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar	
15.	Shri Bimal Prasanna Acharya DFO, Mangrove Forests Division (WL), Government of Odisha, Rajnagar	

Representatives of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh:

16.	Shri A K.Naik Chief Conservator of Forests, Office of PCCF Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad	
-----	--	--

Representatives of the State Government of Maharashtra:

17.	Shri N.R. Shende Joint Director of Town Planning, Government of Maharashtra	
18.	Shri S.D. Ramadine Dy. Director of Town Planning, Government of Maharashtra	
