

MINUTES OF THE 45th MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NCZMA) HELD ON 1st SEPTEMBER, 2022 AT NEW DELHI

The 45th meeting of the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) was held in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi on 01st September, 2022 through Hybrid mode (Physical / Video Conferencing), under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The list of participants is at Annexure. After deliberations, the following decisions were taken in the meeting: -

1. Opening remarks of the Chairman.

Secretary (EF&CC) and the Chairperson of the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) in her opening remarks mentioned that this was the 1st meeting of the reconstituted NCZMA and welcomed all the members. The Chairperson emphasized that the Authority has been assigned with the task to take measures for protection of Coastal and Marine Environment, co-ordination with CZMAs, approval of CZMPs, policy guidance and such other tasks. It was also informed that with the guidance from NCZMA, Ministry had undertaken various initiatives and streamlined the procedures for CRZ clearance. The Chairperson also flagged the issue of violations of CRZ regulations in coastal areas, role of CZMAs and directed that the CZMAs needed to work together with the respective Pollution Control Boards and the State/ UTs Governments so that strict action is taken against violations of CRZ regulations as per the powers delegated under the EP Act, 1986/ CRZ Notifications as applicable.

The Chairperson also mentioned that NCZMA has been repeatedly advising States to finalise their respective CZMPs as per the 2019 notification. However, the progress made by the States/UTs in this regard, so far had not been satisfactory. It was mentioned that so far only Odisha, 2 district of Maharashtra, and Great Nicobar have finalised their CZMP/ ICRZP and proposals from Little Andaman and Karnataka were being considered in this meeting. It was also highlighted that the States needed a futuristic CZMP/ICRZP in order to have a balance between developmental activities and environmental protection.

Thereafter, further deliberations were initiated on the agenda items.

(ii) Details of Proposals and Agenda by the Member Secretary

The Joint Secretary (CRZ), MoEF&CC and Member Secretary, NCZMA took up the Agenda items to be discussed during the meeting.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 44th Meeting of the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) held on 22nd February, 2022 at MoEF&CC, New Delhi through VC.

The NCZMA, noted that no comments had been received regarding the Minutes of the 44th Meeting of the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) held on 22nd February, 2022 and confirmed the same.

3. Item wise Action taken on decisions taken in the 44th NCZMA held on 22nd February, 2022

The Joint Secretary (CRZ), MoEF&CC and Member Secretary, NCZMA presented brief item wise action taken report on last meeting of the 44th NCZMA held on 22nd February, 2022 and NCZMA noted that all required actions had been taken.

4. Consideration of proposals:

With the permission of the Chairperson, discussions on each agenda item were taken up *ad-seriatim*.

4.1 Final SOP for Authorized Agencies and related issues for uniformity in preparation of CRZ Maps and others issues

The NCZMA during its 44th meeting had accepted and recommended the SOP subject to some amendments.

The final approved SOP prepared by NCSCM was released virtually by NCZMA Chairperson. The Chairperson appreciated the efforts put in for preparation of the document and hoped that it would be a very easy useful tool for preparation of CRZ Map by all the authorized Seven Institutes / Agencies by MoEF&CC. She also mentioned that the maps prepared with the help of the SOP shall have uniformity irrespective of the Institutes which had prepared the same. The Chairperson also stressed that capacity building of these Institutes should also be undertaken so that they are able to prepare the required marine EIA reports for CRZ Clearance also.

4.2 Presentation on ICRZ plans of Little Andaman Island as per ICRZ Notification, 2019

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration presented the status of ICRZ plans of Little Andaman Island and the Authority took note of the fact that the draft ICRZPs had been prepared on a 1:25000 scale map identifying and classifying the CRZ areas within the respective territories in accordance with the guidelines provided for in the respective Notifications.

The NCSCM, Chennai highlighted the observations of the Technical Scrutiny Committee (TSC) on Little Andaman Island and stated that the TSC had examined and found the ICRZ Plans of Little Andaman Island in order and that it could be considered for approval.

Based on the deliberations held, the NCZMA recommended the ICRZ Plans of Little Andaman Islands prepared on the basis of ICRZ Notification, 2019 for approval by the Ministry.

4.3 Presentation on CZMP of Karnataka as per CRZ Notification, 2019

The Principal Secretary & Chairman, Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA) made a presentation on the Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) of all the three coastal districts viz. Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada of the State of Karnataka. It was informed that these plans have undergone stakeholders' meetings and had been duly approved by the State Government. It

was also informed that objections / suggestions received from various stakeholders had been examined and suitably incorporated, as admissible. It was further informed by Director, NCSCM that the CZMPs of Karnataka had been scrutinised by the Technical Scrutiny Committee constituted for the task, at NCSCM, Chennai and were found to be in order.

Based on the presentation made and deliberations held, the NCZMA recommended the CZMPs of Karnataka as per CRZ Notification, 2019 for approval by the Ministry. The NCZMA also appreciated the efforts of Karnataka State for being the second State in finalizing the updation / revision of CZMP of all concerned Districts as per CRZ Notification, 2019.

4.4 Presentation on CZMP 2011 of Goa State as per CRZ Notification 2011

The Secretary, Environment of Government of Goa made a presentation on the revised Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) 2011 prepared on 1:25000 and 1:4000 Scale. It was also informed that objections / suggestions received from various stakeholders had been examined and suitably incorporated in the CZMP maps on 1:25000 and 1:4000 Scale.

The Secretary, Eamt., Government of Goa mentioned that Public Hearing had been conducted based on the CZMP Maps of scale 1:25,000 and 1:4000 and hence, NCZMA may consider approving both the CZMPs in 1:25,000 scale as well as that on 1:4000 scale. The Secretary Environment , Govt. of Goa also submitted that CRZ Notification, 2019 should be read in totality, to which it was clarified that the proposal of Goa was as per CRZ Notification, 2011, and as such, it had to be as per the provisions of CRZ Notification, 2011. Secretary, Govt. of Goa also made a reference to the NCZMA meeting held on 13.1.2020 regarding preparation of CZMP maps on 1:4000 scale. It was clarified that NCZMA had observed in the aforesaid meeting that CRZ Notification, 2011 required local level maps to be prepared on 1:4000 scale . Secretary, Eamt., Govt. of Goa further submitted that other issues which were not directly related to CZMP approval viz. re-verification of demarcation of sand dunes, demarcation of bays, issue related to fishing wards, etc. and that the same shall be taken up separately by the State Government .

It was informed by Director, NCSCM that the CZMPs of Goa on the scale of 1:25,000 and 1:4000, as submitted by the State Government, had been scrutinised by the Technical Scrutiny Committee constituted for the task, at NCSCM, Chennai.

The NCZMA, after detailed deliberations, concluded that as per the extant provisions of CRZ Notification 2011, NCZMA could only recommend the CZMP maps prepared on a scale of 1:25000 which had been found to be in order by the Technical Scrutiny Committee as informed by Director, NCSCM. It was clarified that in so far as the issue of local level maps , prepared on a scale of 1:4000, was concerned, State Govt. could consider approving it at their own level , if found necessary, as per the extant provisions of CRZ Notification, 2011.

After detailed deliberation, NCZMA recommended the CZMP of Goa prepared on 1:25000 scale as submitted by Govt. of Goa for approval by the Ministry.

4.5 Amendment in the provisions of the IIMP for developmental projects in the Lakshadweep Islands

The Member Secretary of NCZMA informed to the Authority that the Lakshadweep Administration *vide* letter dated 24th August, 2021 had proposed for amendment in the provisions of the Integrated Island Management Plan (IIMP) for developmental projects in the Lakshadweep Islands.

As IIMPs have been prepared considering the recommendations made by Hon'ble Justice R.V. Raveendran Committee which has also been approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Ministry has proposed to consider the amendment in the IIMP as under:

Para as per IIMP report	Amendment Sought by the Lakshadweep Administration	Amendment considered by the MoEF&CC
All the tourist operations shall have a mandatory clearance from LCZMA, Lakshadweep Environment Department and the respective Island Panchayat	All the tourist operations shall have a mandatory clearance from LCZMA and Lakshadweep Environment & Forest Department	All the tourist operations shall have a mandatory clearance from LCZMA, Lakshadweep Environment & Forest Department in consultation with the respective Island Panchayat

As the Ministry as well as Lakshadweep Administration had conveyed No Objection on the recommendations of Hon'ble Justice Raveendran Committee Report before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, legal opinion from the Ministry of Law and Justice was sought by the Ministry *vide* UO Note dated 1st February, 2022 on whether the proposed changes in IIMP would be legally tenable.

The Ministry of Law and Justice *vide* communication dated 18th April, 2022 informed that there was no objection to the proposed amendment as suggested by the Ministry and the same appeared to be in tune with the recommendations made by Hon'ble Justice Raveendran (Retired) Committee Report which had been taken judicial notice of by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 10/08/2015.

In view the above, Lakshadweep Administration was requested to examine the amendment rationalized by the Ministry, and forwards its proposal in consultation with the Lakshadweep Coastal Zone Management Authority, for further consideration by the National Coastal Zone Management Authority / Ministry. The Lakshadweep CZMA *vide* letter dated 29/04/2022 requested for amendment in the provisions of the IIMP as suggested by the Ministry. After detailed deliberation the Authority recommended for approval by the Ministry the amendment as proposed by the Lakshadweep CZMA as under:

"All the tourist operations shall have a mandatory clearance from LCZMA, Lakshadweep Environment & Forest Department in consultation with the respective Island Panchayat".

4.6 Issues related to preparation of Coastal Zone Management Plan of Kerala as per the CRZ Notification, 2019

The Government of Kerala made a presentation related to their CZMP as per 2019 Notification and pointed out that the term 'legally designated urban areas' is not defined under the CRZ Notifications and therefore, 'Urban Areas' designated by the Acts or Rules or the Census Towns as per 2011 Notification ought to be considered as 'Legally Designated Urban areas'. The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 notified by the Ministry vide S.O 1357 (E), dated 8th April, 2016 under the E(P) Act 1986, mentions, "Census Town" means the Urban Area as defined by the Registrar General and the Census Commissioner. The State of Kerala opined that the 'Census Town' as defined in the Ministry's Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 may be considered as 'legally designated urban areas' for the purposes of the CRZ Notification, which is also notified under the E(P) Act.

It was informed that 66 Panchayats included in Kerala's notification of 2011 and 175 Panchayats included in Kerala's notification of 2021 were notified as Census Towns. It was submitted that 175 Panchayat notified by Government of Kerala as 'Legally designated Urban Areas' be considered for the purposes of classification under CRZ-II as per the CRZ Notification, 2019.

After detailed deliberations, the Authority recommended that 66 Category-I Coastal Grama Panchayats notified before the issue of CRZ Notification, 2019 be considered for approval by the Ministry as '*other existing legally designated urban areas*' as per the CRZ Notification, 2019 i.e. existing as on the date of issue of CRZ,2019 notification. It was submitted that such Category-1 Panchayats met the criteria of built up area and developmental infrastructure and could be considered for classification as falling under CRZ-II area.

However, the Kerala Government shall provide all the infrastructure facility in the proposed area as per the norms of Municipality and shall prepare detailed Disaster Management and Mitigation Plans. The areas specified by the Dept of Atomic Energy in the proposed aforementioned 66 Coastal Panchayats shall not be categorized as CRZ-II, and shall be classified as CRZ-IIIA or CRZ-IIIB, as per the norms, and such areas shall be contiguous in nature. The Kerala Government agreed to abide by the decision of Ministry in this regard.

4.7 Status of updation / revision of CZMPs of all Coastal States / UTs based on provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2019

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019 vide GSR 37(E), dated 18/01/2019. This notification at para no.6 prescribes that that all coastal States and Union territory administrations shall revise or update their respective coastal zone management plan (CZMP) framed under CRZ Notification, 2011 number S.O.19(E), dated 6th January, 2011, as per provisions of this notification and submit to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for approval at the earliest and all the project activities attracting the provisions of this notification shall be required to be appraised as per the updated CZMP under this notification and until and unless the CZMPs is so revised or updated, provisions of this notification shall not apply and the CZMP as per provisions of CRZ Notification, 2011 shall continue to be followed for appraisal and CRZ clearance to such projects.

It further prescribes that the CZMP may be prepared or updated by the coastal State Government or Union territory by engaging reputed and experienced scientific Institution(s) or the Agencies including the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and in consultation with the concerned stakeholders. To facilitate the coastal States/UTs, the Ministry issued 'Guidelines for updation of Coastal Zone Management Plan prepared as per CRZ Notification, 2011 to align it with CRZ Notification, 2019', on 26/06/2019 and circulated to all Coastal States / UTs Management Authorities.

The NCZMA reviewed the State-wise status and desired to know that likely date of completion of the task. The status as informed by the States during meeting is as under:

Sl. No.	State/UT	Status of	Agency preparing CZMP-2019	Timeline stipulated by the NCZMA to complete draft CZMP
		Draft CZMP 2019		
1	Maharashtra	Mumbai city, Mumbai sub-Urban: Approved by NCZMA	NCSCM	Completed
		Other 5 Districts: Public hearing completed and recommended by TSC		October 2022
2	Odisha	Approved by NCZMA	ORSAC/SAC	Completed
3	Andhra Pradesh	Mapping completed Public Hearing to be conducted	NCSCM	October 2022
4	Karnataka	Mapping Completed Public Hearing completed	NCSCM	Recommended by NCZMA.
5	Puducherry	Mapping completed Public Hearing to be conducted	NCSCM	4 Months
6	Daman & Diu	Mapping completed Public Hearing to be conducted	NCSCM	4 Months
7	Tamil Nadu	Mapping completed Public Hearing to be conducted	NCSCM	4 Months
8	Gujarat	In progress	NCSCM	Sept. 2022 (For 7 Districts) October 2022
9	Kerala	In progress. Being monitored by Kerala High Court.	NCESS	December 2022
10	West Bengal	In progress Public Hearing completed	IESWM	December 2022
11	Goa	Pending	Not known	CZMP - 2011 recommended by NCZMA. Prepare CZMP, 2019 by December 2022
	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	• Great Nicobar (ICRZ)- Approved by NCZMA	NCSCM	Completed

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Andaman Island (ICRZ) 		Recommended by NCZMA
12	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Andaman (ICRZ) • Middle Andaman (ICRZ) • Baratang (ICRZ) • North Andaman (ICRZ) • Rutland Island (ICRZ) • Kamorta Island (ICRZ) • Swaraj Dweep (ICRZ) • Car Nicobar Island (ICRZ) • Shaheed Dweep (IIMP) • Long Island (IIMP) • Aves Island (IIMP) • Smith Island (IIMP) • Flat Bay (IIMP) <p>(Maps submitted to ANZMA for Public Hearing).</p>		2 Months
13	Lakshadweep Islands	Revision of IIMPs of Suheli, Kadamat & Minicoy Islands in progress.	NCSCM	2 Months

After detailed deliberations, the NCZMA felt that the progress of preparation of CZMP 2019 by all other Coastal States / UTs is very slow and directed that it should be completed by December, 2022.

5. Any other item with the permission of the Chair

5.1 Guideline / template for preparation of IIMPs of smaller islands having area less than 10 ha.

The Director, NCSCM informed that the Guideline / template for preparation of IIMPs of smaller Islands having area less than 10 ha. shall be prepared and submitted to the Ministry within 10 days.

5.2 Other suggestion / decision during the meeting:

i. The Member Secretary, NCZMA informed that the CRZ clearances are being processed through PARIVEH portal. All the State CZMAs have been given with the login of PARIVESH and that this has further streamlined the procedure and brought in more transparency and efficiency in the system. The Ministry *vide* OM dated 26/04/2022 has issued the CRZ workflow clarifying the procedure for Clearance of Permissible Activities as per the CRZ / IPZ Notification, 2011 and similar procedure shall be made available under CRZ / ICRZ Notification, 2019 shortly.

ii. The Chairperson while concluding the meeting informed the Authority Members that India is taking up the G-20 Presidency this year and it would inter-alia emphasize on Sustainable Ocean Development as one of the subject matters. It was mentioned that the Ministry had undertaken many initiatives focusing on

beach cleaning and that the Hon'ble MEF had recently flagged a campaign regarding the same in Puducherry. Ministry would be taking up many more activities on beach cleaning in collaboration with MoES under 'Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar' Campaign in coming days. All CZMAs were directed to take up similar activities in all the beaches in their areas.

iii. The Secretary (EF&CC) and Chairperson also invited the State Government to participate actively in the upcoming National Conference of Environment Ministers during 23-24 September 2022 at Kevadia, Gujarat and share the best practices in their States.

The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks of the Chair.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THROUGH HYBRID MODE (PHYSICAL / VIDEO CONFERENCING) OF THE 45TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NCZMA) HELD ON 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2022 AT NEW DELHI

Sl. No.	Name of Participant	Organization	E-mail
1.	Ms. Leena Nandan, Secretary (EF&CC)	MoEFCC, New Delhi	secy-moef@nic.in
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3.	Dr. Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Joint Secretary and Member Secretary NCZMA	MoEF&CC, New Delhi	sujit.kumar@gov.in
4.	Dr. P.K. Dinesh Kumar, Chief Scientist, NIO, Kochi and Expert Member	National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Kochi, CSIR, Ministry of Science and Technology	pkdineshkumarnio@gmail.com
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	Chief Secretary		
16.	Principal Secretary, Karnataka	Government of Karnataka	Secyenv-fee@karnataka.gov.in
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	Authority		
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