

OFFICE OF THE WETLAND AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
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No.F.5(10)/WA/DIRECTIONS/2021-22 2004-13. Dated: 24/06/2022

Subject: Directions on protection and restoration of water bodies in Delhi.

To expedite protection and restoration of Water Bodies in Delhi in a time bound manner and to support efficient conservation and management of wetlands in consonance with (Wetland [Conservation & Management] Rules, 2017), following directions are issued for strict compliance:

1. Protection of water bodies under one's jurisdiction through the following actions: -

- (1) Ensure that 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 Wetland Rules, 2017; and,
 - (vii) poaching.
- (2) Ensure that the above prohibited activities in water bodies are taken cognizance of, swiftly acted upon and removed, if needed through existing mechanisms of STF for encroachment removal constituted by the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide order no. F.36(35)Div.Comm/Pt.File/201/1038-1045 dated 26.03.2014, or the grievance committee constituted in Districts vide F.5(01)/WA/2019/519-531 dated 01.07.2021.

- (3) Identify all water bodies, ensure listing and preparation of brief documents of all water bodies in the concerned jurisdiction as per the definition of Wetlands in Wetland Rules, 2017 with the master list of the Wetland Authority of Delhi, so that none of the water bodies in Delhi is left unlisted, unmapped and documented under the statutory framework.
 - (4) Undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands.
 - (5) Consider the objections, if any, referred to by Wetland Authority of Delhi from the concerned and affected persons, during the process of notification of wetlands in the district by the Government of NCT of Delhi.
2. Restoration and rejuvenation of water bodies in respective jurisdiction through the following actions:
- (1) Take measures to restore and rejuvenate all wetlands in the jurisdiction either departmentally or through work departments such as DJB, I&FC Department, PWD etc. and supervise their implementation in a time bound manner, in line with the management plan prepared on the basis of guidelines set by Wetland Authority of Delhi. The broad guidelines are as follows:
 - a) Water body should be cleaned through bio-remediation measures, de-silting, aeration, removal of floating and other invasive aquatic plant-species or any other technology suiting local conditions.
 - b) Shore-line of the water bodies should be properly fenced to protect them from encroachment. Inlet and outlet of the water body should be strengthened.
 - c) Inflow of domestic/ industrial sewage into the water body should be arrested and only treated effluent adhering to standards prescribed by CPCB may be allowed into the water body.
 - d) Catchment area treatment via afforestation, storm water drainage management, silt traps, etc. may be undertaken.
 - e) Water front development around the water body may be taken up, keeping in view the eco-system based approach for the aquatic body, conforming to prevalent environmental legislation and maintaining social and cultural sanctity of the place, in consonance with Wetland Rules 2017.
 - f) Creation of public spaces may be taken up to ensure public eye and vigilance to protect from encroachment or throwing garbage.
 - g) Participation of private sector, community based organizations, philanthropic foundations may be encouraged in rejuvenation and maintenance of water bodies.
 - h) Plantation plays a significant role in absorption of storm and rainwater for maintenance of ground water table, prevention of soil erosion and run-off and encourage growth of natural habitat for flora and fauna.

- i) Undertake plantation near water bodies, public spaces, parks and on roadside to improve green cover and water cycle.
 - j) Monitor quality of water in the selected body on regular basis at least eight times a year, communicate the quality data to Wetland Authority of Delhi and undertake appropriate action to improve wherever necessary.
- (2) The land owning agency or department shall prepare a management plan containing restoration actions in line with the catchment area and watershed principles and on the basis of the guidelines set by Wetland Authority of Delhi in consonance with Wetland Rules 2017.
- (3) After getting the management plan, duly approved by the Wetland Authority of Delhi, the land owning agency shall ensure that the work plan and estimates be prepared departmentally/internally or through work departments such as PWD, DJB, IFCD etc.
- (4) The budget for the implementation of the restoration project shall be provided by the GNCTD through the Wetland Authority of Delhi, or planned through the departmental budget of the land owning department / agency. AMRUT guidelines also allow funding for rejuvenation of water bodies.
- (5) Identify mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing development plans and programmes.
3. The water body owning agency shall submit timelines on the following actions for water bodies in the district:
- (i) Identification of unlisted water bodies and communication to Wetland Authority of Delhi.
 - (ii) Preparation of brief documents and management plan containing restoration actions by land owning agencies of all water bodies in one's jurisdiction.
 - (iii) Preparation of estimates for restoration projects either departmentally or by work departments (PWD, DJB, IFCD etc.) after approval of management plan containing restoration actions by Wetland Authority of Delhi.
 - (iv) Restoration of water bodies either departmentally or through work departments.
4. Regular monthly report shall be submitted by the water body owning agencies to the Wetland Authority of Delhi by 7th of every succeeding month clearly showing progress against declared timelines.

This issues with the approval of Chief Secretary, GNCTD/Chairperson, Wetland Authority of Delhi.


(K.S. Jayachandran)
Member Secretary
Wetland Authority of Delhi

To,

1. All Additional Chief Secretaries /Pr. Secretaries /Secretaries /Commissioner (MCD)/ CEO (DJB) / All District Magistrates /Engineer in Chief (PWD) /All Head of Departments, GNCTD with water bodies under their jurisdiction.
2. Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority
3. C.E.O, Delhi Wakf Board, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
4. CEO, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
5. Managing Director, Delhi State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.
6. Vice Chancellor, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi
7. Director & Officiating Chairman, IIT, Hauz Khas, New Delhi
8. Director General, CPWD, A-Wing, Room No.- 111 , Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
9. Chairman and Managing Director, NTPC Limited, NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi
10. Director, Archaeological Survey of India, GPO Complex, Block-D, 3rd Floor, Puratatva Bhawan, INA, New Delhi

(K.S. Jayachandran)
Member Secretary
Wetland Authority of Delhi