

MINUTES OF THE 43rd MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY HELD ON 16th AUGUST, 2021 AT NEW DELHI.

The 43rd Meeting of the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) was held on 16/08/2021 through video conferencing due to prevalent pandemic situation under the Chairmanship of Secretary EF&CC. The list of participants is given at Annexure. The deliberations held and decisions taken in the meeting are as under:

1. Presentation by Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority on CZMPs of Mumbai City and Mumbai Sub-Urban Districts of Maharashtra as per CRZ Notification, 2019

Principal Secretary & Chairman, Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) made a presentation on the Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) of Mumbai City and Mumbai Sub-Urban Districts of the State of Maharashtra, prepared as per provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2019. It was informed that these plans have undergone stakeholder's meetings and duly approved by the State Government. It was also informed that objections / suggestions received from various stakeholders have been examined and suitably incorporated, as admissible.

The Director, NCSCM informed that the CZMPs of Mumbai City and Mumbai Sub-Urban Districts of Maharashtra have been scrutinised by the Technical Scrutiny Committee constituted for the task, at NCSCM, Chennai and were found to be in order. The NCZMA was also informed that the guidelines issued vide this Ministry's OM dated 26/06/2019 for updation of CZMP prepared as per CRZ Notification, 2011 to align it with CRZ Notification, 2019 does not include Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) in the preparation of CZMP as per Annex-1 of said guidelines.

Based on the presentation made and deliberations held, the NCZMA recommended the CZMPs of Mumbai City and Mumbai Sub-Urban Districts of Maharashtra for approval. NCZMA further decided that the CZMP of Mumbai City and Mumbai Sub-Urban Districts shall also include the ESZ, if any, and revise the CZMP accordingly, if required. NCZMA also decided that the activities/projects prohibited in the notified ESZ falling within approved CZMP, if any, shall remain prohibited in that area.

NCZMA further decided that the guidelines issued vide this Ministry's OM dated 26/06/2019 for updation of CZMP shall be amended suitably to include the ESZ amongst other Ecologically sensitive areas to be demarcated in the CZMP.

2. Reclassification of mudflats from CRZ 1A to CRZ 1B within port limit of Bhavnagar District, Gujarat

NCZMA was informed that the Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) of Bhavnagar District, Gujarat was approved on 28/02/2019. The Government of Gujarat have requested for reclassification of mudflats from CRZ-1A to CRZ-1B in Bhavnagar Port limit due to tentative futuristic developmental projects or activities as under:

	Actual Area in the Database		Proposed Area To Be Converted to CRZ 1B
	Area in Sq. Km		
	Total Area in the Sheet No. 93	Total Area within Port Limit	
Mangroves	10.97	3.84	0

50 m Mangroves Area	4.78	2.84	0
Mudflat	23.67	18.16	4.12 (22.68%)

NCSCM submitted their comments based on the approved CZMP as per CRZ Notification, 2011 as under:

	Total area in sheet No. Gj 93 (sq. km.)	Total area within port limit (sq. km.)	Proposed area within port limit to be converted into CRZ-IB (sq. km.)	Areas outside port limit (sq. km.)
Mangroves	10.97	3.84	0	0.07
50 m mangrove areas (buffer)	4.78	2.84	0	0.04
Mudflat	23.67	18.16	5.95 (32.76%)	0.28

The representative of Government of Gujarat submitted that there is ambiguity in the mudflat area within the Bhavnagar port as per NCSCM report and informed NCZMA that the entire mudflat area proposed by Government of Gujarat is within the port limit.

Based on the deliberations held and presentations made, NCZMA decided that *the ambiguity in area of mudflat within Bhavnagar port vis-a-vis the total intertidal area shall be resolved between NCSCM and Government of Gujarat as per approved CZMP, 2011 and accordingly a revised proposal duly endorsed by Gujarat CZMA and Technical Scrutiny Committee may be also submitted by Government of Gujarat.*

3. Discussion on providing enabling provision in IPZ Notification 2011 / ICRZ Notification 2019 for Gas based thermal power plant in CRZ-III area at Hope Town, South Andaman M/s NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited

The NCZMA was informed that the Ministry has received a proposal from M/s NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited for setting up setting up Gas Based Power Plant (55 MW) along with Regasification unit and Desalination Plant in ICRZ-III (NDZ) at South Andaman, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. It was informed that as per extant norms of IPZ Notification 2011 / ICRZ Notification 2019, regasification unit and desalination plant are permissible activities, however, gas based power plant is a non-permissible activity. It was also informed that the ANCZMA vide their letter dated 26/04/2019 requested NCZMA for exemption for locating the power plant in ICRZ-III as a special case.

NCZMA was informed that Ministry of Shipping *vide* notification dated 02/03/2020 has amended the Notification dated 24/08/2001 and included the land area within 50 Yards of High-Water Mark as the landward port limit of Hope Town at Port Blair within the Port Limit. Now, the proposed location of the gas power project is within the notified Port limits. Accordingly, the concept of NDZ is no longer valid within notified port limit, however, the activity still remains non-permissible as per IPZ / ICRZ Notifications.

NCZMA took note that there is an increasing power supply demand in A&N Islands while there is also a need for reducing dependency on conventional Diesel Generation Sets (DG Sets).

Further, the proposed gas based power project is a cleaner fuel compared to highly polluting Diesel based power plants in the Island area. NCZMA felt there is a need to provide an enabling provision in the IPZ / ICRZ Notifications to meet the energy requirement of the islanders while reducing pollution at the same time.

Proposed amendment in IPZ Notification, 2011:

In paragraph III D (3). ICRZ-III (b) Area between 200-500 meters, after point (viii), the following shall be inserted: -

“(ix) Setting up of Gas based power plant, wherever it is replacing the source of Diesel / Coal based energy and new Gas based power plant, wherever there is no existing power plant.”

Proposed amendment in ICRZ Notification, 2019:

In paragraph 4, (V) ICRZ-III, (C) For ICRZ-III areas beyond the NDZ, after point v, the following shall be inserted: -

“(vi) Setting up of Gas based power plant, wherever it is replacing the source of Diesel/Coal based energy and new Gas based power plant, wherever there is no existing power plant only in islands with geographical areas >100 sq.km”

The NCZMA deliberated on the issue and agreed to the above proposed amendment for suitable incorporation in the IPZ Notification, 2011 and ICRZ Notification, 2019.

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

The NCZMA was informed that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change have 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 also 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 have 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 desired that the coastal State Government / Union Territory Administration shall expedite the updation / revision of CZMP's and shall submit to this Ministry for early approval. The NCZMA has also directed NCSCM to expedite the updation / revision of CZMP's pending with them.

5. SOP for Seven Authorized Agencies and related issues to uniformity in preparation of CRZ Maps and others issues

NCZMA was informed that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has authorized seven institutes/agencies for demarcation of the High Tide Line (HTL), Low Tide Line (LTL) and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) as under:

1. Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad
2. National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), Trivandrum
3. Institute of Remote Sensing (IRS), Anna University, Chennai
4. Institute of Environmental Studies & Wetland Management (IESWM), Kolkata
5. National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa/ Mumbai
6. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai
7. National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai

NCZMA was also informed that as per the CRZ notification 2019, the following, among others, are the requirements for CRZ clearance for permissible and regulated activities.

- CRZ map in 1:4000 scale, drawn up by any of the agencies identified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide its Office Order Number J-17011/8/92-IAIII, dated the 8th August 2019, using the demarcation of the HTL or LTL, as carried out by NCSCM.
- Project layout superimposed on the CRZ map duly indicating the project boundaries and the CRZ category of the project location as per the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan under this notification.
- The CRZ map normally covering 7 km radius around the project site also indicating the CRZ-I, II, III and IV areas including other notified ecologically sensitive areas.

In order to resolve issues related to uniformity in preparation of CRZ Maps for the purpose of CRZ clearance, being prepared by the above mentioned seven authorised agencies, a draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been prepared and placed before the NCMZA for its consideration. These standard operating procedures focus on the methods, processes, and requirements for preparation of the following CRZ mapping products:

- CRZ map of project site on 1:4000 scale.
- CRZ map on 1:25,000 scale covering an area of 7 km radius from the project site.
- CRZ report.

Based on deliberations held, the NCZMA desired that the SOP may be circulated to all State CZMAs for their comments / observations and upon receipt of the same, the proposal shall be considered at a later stage

6. Any other item with the permission of the Chair:

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

Annexure

S. No	Name of Participant	Organisation	E-mail
1.	Shri Rameshwar Prasad Gupta Secretary EFCC,	MoEF&CC, New Delhi	secy-moef@nic.in
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