

**MINUTES OF TENTH MEETING OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR
DECLARATION OF ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES FOR OKHLA BIRD SANCTUARY
ON 15TH APRIL, 2015**

A meeting of the Expert Committee for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones for Okhla Bird Sanctuary was held on 15th April, 2015 under the chairmanship of Shri Hem Kumar Pande, Additional Secretary. The proposal for finalization of Eco-Sensitive Zone of Okhla Bird Sanctuary along with a table item regarding Regional Plan for Dahanu Taluka was taken up for discussion during the meeting. The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members of the Expert Committee and representatives of Government of Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi. Chairman invited the representative of UP Government to make presentation on the draft notification and provide response of the UP Government on the comments received from various stakeholders.

3. Chief Conservator of Forest, Meerut, Government of UP made a brief presentation on the proposal for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone around Okhla Bird Sanctuary. He highlighted the following salient features:-

- The Okhla Bird Sanctuary was notified by the UP Government under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 on 8th May, 1990.
- Sanctuary has the following boundaries:-
 - North: Okhla Weir and Okhla Weir Bund form Northern Boundary, River Yamuna, and Hindon cut enter close to DND.
 - South: Okhla Barrage Tie Bund, Amrapali Marg (a road that connects Delhi and NOIDA) and Shahdara drain form Southern boundary.
 - East: Left afflux bund of barrage forms Eastern Boundary.
 - West: Right Marginal Bund forms western boundary. This bund is protected partly by a fence and partly by a wall.

3.1 The extent of ESZ proposed is

- 100 meters on eastern, western and southern boundary
- 1.27 kms on northern boundary up to DND fly over across river bed, situated in GB Nagar District of UP and SE district of NCT Delhi.

4. A total of 7 comments/suggestions have been received on the draft notification. Two persons have suggested to extend the extent of ESZ upto 1 km on the eastern, western and

southern side of the sanctuary. Whereas one person is of the view that the extent of ESZ on all sides should be 10 kms. The other persons have supported the proposal with certain suggestions. Three persons, in view of large public interest, have requested to issue the final notification at the earliest. The mitigation measures suggested for the conservation of migratory birds to and fro the sanctuary are:-

- i) To minimize the use of bright interior lights during migration season.
- ii) Promote dimming of exterior building lights during late night hours.
- iii) Promote lesser use of glass in the building facade so as to minimise the reflection of light during day and night.

5. Regarding the suggestions to increase the extent of ESZ, the representatives of UP Government expressed the view that the present proposal with an extent of ESZ as contained in the draft notification comprising of prohibited, regulated and permitted activities has been arrived after careful consideration and the extent of ESZ as proposed on the four sides i.e. east, west, south and northern boundary of the sanctuary is based on the site inspection carried out on 27.6.2014 by a team comprising of representatives of Wildlife Division of Ministry, Government of UP and NCT of Delhi as constituted by the Ministry .

It was agreed that as also recommended by the Government of UP, the following suggestions may be suitably incorporated while finalizing the notification:-

- i) Minimize use of bright interior lights during migration season
- ii) promote dimming of exterior building lights during late night hours.
- iii) promote lesser use of glass in building façade to minimize the reflection of light during day and night
- iv) To declare silence zone/no horn zone within ESZ.
- v) Bright lights should be restricted and birds friendly diffused light during night should be promoted during migratory season of the birds(15 Oct to 15 March).

6. Representative of NCT of Delhi informed that they are in the process of bringing out the notification for the Okhla Bird Sanctuary for the portion falling in the territory of Delhi commensurate with the notification issued by the Government of UP in the year 1990. The draft notification, in this regard, has already been issued. However, Government of NCT of

Delhi has no objection to the extent of ESZ as proposed in the instant draft notification issued by the Ministry.

7. The Committee decided that instead of the State Level Eco-Sensitive Zone Monitoring Committee, as contained in the draft notification, a site specific Monitoring Committee may be set-up for each of Government of UP and NCT of Delhi. Therefore, it was decided that the Monitoring Committees in the two States may be headed by the Principal Secretary (Environment & Forest) and the Member Secretary being Chief Wildlife Warden of the State. The composition of the Monitoring Committees of NCT of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh will, therefore, be:-

NCT of Delhi

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|-------|--|---|------------------|
| i) | Principal Secretary (Environment & Forest) | - | Chairman |
| ii) | Member Secretary, CPCB | - | Member |
| iii) | Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee | - | Member |
| iv) | An expert in the area of ecology and environment to be nominated by the Government of NCT of Delhi for a period of one year. | - | Member |
| v) | One representatives of Non-governmental Organization (working in the field of environment including heritage conservation) to be nominated by the Government of NCT of Delhi for a period of one year. | - | Member |
| vi) | Representative of Delhi Development Authority | - | Member |
| vii) | Representative of Revenue Department, NCT of Delhi | - | Member |
| viii) | Concerned District Collector | - | Member |
| ix) | Concerned Divisional Forest Officer | - | Member |
| x) | Chief Wildlife Warden | - | Member-Secretary |

Uttar Pradesh

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|------|--|---|----------|
| i) | Principal Secretary (Environment & Forest) | - | Chairman |
| ii) | Member Secretary, CPCB | - | Member |
| iii) | Member Secretary, UP Pollution Control Board | - | Member |
| iv) | An expert in the area of ecology and environment | - | Member |

to be nominated by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for a period of one year.

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| v) | One representatives of Non-governmental Organization (working in the field of environment including heritage conservation) to be nominated by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for a period of one year. | - | Member |
| vi) | Representative of Housing and Urban Planning Department Government of UP | - | Member |
| vii) | Representative of Revenue Department Government of UP | - | Member |
| viii) | Representative of Irrigation Department Government of UP | - | Member |
| ix) | Concerned District Collector | - | Member |
| x) | Concerned Divisional Forest Officer | - | Member |
| xi) | Chief Wildlife Warden | - | Member-Secretary |

8. It was also decided that as per the new format the Zonal Master Plan may be approved by the Competent Authority in the State Government instead of the MoEF&CC. Necessary amendment, in this regard, therefore, may be affected in para 2 of the draft notification titled Zonal Master Plan for the Eco-Sensitive Zone.

9. After threadbare discussion, the Expert Committee recommended for finalisation of the Draft Notification for Declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Okhla Bird Sanctuary with the above amendments.

10. Regional Plan for Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority (DTEPA)

The Regional Plan along with the comments of DTEPA were again placed before the Expert Committee for Eco-sensitive Zone on 15th April, 2015. The Regional Plan, in the light of comments of DTEPA, was discussed in the Expert Committee. It was decided that the suggestions and corrections as communicated by DTEPA to be conveyed to the State Government for incorporation and submission to MoEF&CC for approval of the Competent Authority.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

Members of Expert Committee

1. Shri Hem K. Pande, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC Chairman
2. Dr. G.V.Subramanyam, Adviser, MoEF&CC
3. Shri S.P.Vashishth, DIG, Wildlife Division, MoEF&CC-representing IG(WL)
4. Dr. Pawan Kumar, Chief Planner TCPO
5. Shri P.K. Duria, Town & Country Planner, TCPO, MoUD
6. Dr. Sheo Kumar Scientist E & Head BGIR, BSI, Noida
7. Dr. A.N. Rizvi, Sci-'D' ZSI Dehradun
8. Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Assistant Director, Forest Survey of India, Dehradun
9. Shri Lalit Kapur, Director, MoEF&CC-Member Secretary

State Governments of UP & NCT of Delhi

10. Shri S.K. Rastogi, CCF Western Zone, Meerut
11. Shri S.K. Awasthi, CF, Meerut
12. Shri Krishna Kumar Singh, DCF Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida (UP)
13. Shri A.K. Shukla, CCF, Delhi
14. Shri Tarun Johri, DCF South Delhi

MoEF&CC

15. Shri Shivpal Singh, Jt. Director (WL)
16. Dr. H. Kharkwal, Jt. Director, MoEF & CC
17. Dr. Amit Love, Sc."D", MoEF&CC
18. Shri Pankaj Verma, Jt. Director, RE-Division, MOEF&CC