

Minutes of the meeting of Technical Evaluation Committee under State Wetland Authority, held on 4th May, 2022 at PCCF Conference Hall through hybrid mode

1. The 1st Meeting of Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) constituted under Rule 5(6) (a) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 was held on 4th May, 2022 at 1500 hrs. in the Conference Hall of PCCF office. The officers who could not join physically, attended the meeting through video conference. The purposed of the meeting was to review the **Brief Documents submitted** by the Divisional Forest Officers.
List of participants are at Annex- A.
2. At the outset, chairman welcomed all the participants and apprised that this meeting has been convened to review the brief documents submitted by the various divisions. He informed that for each wetland proposed to be notified under the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 a brief document containing the details of demarcation of the boundary supported by digital map, demarcation of its zone of influence, ecological character of the area, accounts of the rights and privileges, site specific activities to be permitted / regulated are be prepared in the requisite format as per Annexure 2 of the Guidelines for implementing Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. These rules not apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Forest Acts as per provisions of the Rule 3 of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.
3. Chairman further apprised that the wetlands are to be managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority. Activities such as conversion of non-wetland uses, setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries, solid waste dumping, discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty meters form the mean flood level, poaching are prohibited. The wetlands falling in protected areas and in forest land are to be conserved and managed as prescriptions made in the Wildlife Management Plan and Working Plans respectively. All the concerned DFOs must obtain NOC/ Consent of the community owning the wetland proposed for notification under the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.
4. The Brief documents submitted by the divisions were discussed and the details of discussion is as under.

S. No.	Wetland name	Forest Division	Details of discussion
1	Spiti Lake	Yingkiang	Not discussed as the DFO was not present.
2	Glaw Lake	Kamlang TR	DFO, Kamlang TR informed that the area is part of Tiger Reserve and is inaccessible most time of the year. There is no anthropogenic disturbance. Since the area is to be managed as per provisions of Wildlife Management Plan. Therefore the activities proposed in brief document should be in sink the wildlife management plan. Such areas not comes under purview of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. This committee is not the competent authority to make any recommendations in respect of the wildlife areas. Further it was observed that the data in respect of a number of parameter are based on assumption. It should be based on actual survey.
3	Pasang Sonam Tso	Aalo	A presentation was made Shri Tanga Murtem, RFO from Along Forest Division. On enquiring it was informed that the land in question is Un-classed forests. Therefore such areas also not come under the purview of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and cannot be notified under these rules. Moreover, in the brief document is mainly for promotion of the eco-tourism and permanent structures have been proposed. Such structures are not permissible under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
4	Shungester Lake	Tawang	It was informed that the land in question is Un-classed forests. Therefore such areas also not come under the purview of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and cannot be notified under these rules. The Divisional Forest Officer has proposed mostly the plantations in the catchment area of the lake. However, a lot of the tourists visit the lake therefore for protection of the area the brief document should also include proposal for solid waste management and plastic in particular. The document may be revised accordingly. Since the land is community

			land, the NOC / consent of the community owning the land may also be taken.
5	Simu sile (Pasam) Tso Lake	Aalo	On submission of the brief document the same shall be discussed in next meeting of TEC.
6	WS-11 (Ditung Lopung)	Aalo	On submission of the brief document the same shall be discussed in next meeting of TEC.
7	AN-78	Anjaw	It was informed that the land in question is Reserve Forest. Therefore such areas do not come under the purview of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and cannot be notified under these rules. In case the brief document is required, the same should be in sink with the Working Plan of the division.
8	AN-79	Anjaw	It was informed that the land in question is Reserve Forest. Therefore such areas do not come under the purview of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and cannot be notified under these rules. In case the brief document is required, the same should be in sink with the Working Plan of the division. Moreover it was informed that the wet-land is located in very remote area and there is hardly need of any intervention.
9	Mahao Lake	Mehao WLS	Not discussed as the DFO was not present.
10	Sally	Mehao	Not discussed as the DFO was not present.
11	Ganga Lake	Dy. CWLW, Naharlagun	Not discussed as the DFO was not present.
12	Ramrao Patang ES-I	Pasighat	Not discussed as the DFO was not present.
13	Kamo Uya & Emu Uya	Dibang Valley	Not discussed as the DFO was not present. Moreover, the brief documents were not complete.
14	Geggu Seriu	Daporijo	It was informed that the land in question is Un-classed forests. Therefore such areas do not come under the purview of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and cannot be notified under these rules. Moreover, in the brief document is mainly for promotion of the eco-tourism and permanent structures have been proposed. Such structures are not permissible under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

15	Olo Sinik	Daporijo	It was informed that the land in question is Un-classed forests. Therefore such areas do not come under the purview of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and cannot be notified under these rules. Moreover, in the brief document is mainly for promotion of the eco-tourism and permanent structures have been proposed. Such structures are not permissible under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The DFO informed that the area is too remote and very few persons visit the area.
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5. Dr. Swapna Acharjee, Scientis-C, SRSAC Member TEC suggested that inclusion of procurement of portable water kits for measuring water quality at filed in the IMP will be of great importance in creating long term water quality database.
6. After detailed discussion it was found that none of the brief documents is complete as per provisions under the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. All the areas proposed by the DFOs are forest area therefore the wetlands falling in these areas cannot be notified under the the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Further, the brief documents were data deficient. It was informed that in few cases the depth of the water bodies was mentioned only on the basis of information provided by the villagers which is not scientific. In case the wetland is taken outside the forest area then the consent of concerned landowner must be obtained. Based on the above discussion , the following decisions were taken.
 - i. The water bodies falling in forest/ wildlife area are to be managed as per provisions made under the Working Plan/ Wildlife Management Plan.
 - ii. The depth of the water body etc. reported in the document should be based on the actual measurement and not on hearsay.
 - iii. Similarly the other parameters viz temperature, TDS, rainfall, pH, salinity, humidity, biodiversity etc should be based on the actual data measurement.
 - iv. In order to take effective measures for wise use of the wetlands, the scientific measurement the parameters related to water and its surrounding are essential. If such data base is not available, mechanism for collection of such data may be part of the brief document.
- v. The Brief Document proposal of Anini Social Forestry Division was not considered by the Chairman as there was no anthropogenic activity.

- vi. The DFOs must personally attend the next review meeting and make their presentations on wetland brief documents.

The session adjourned with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-

Chairman
Technical Evaluation
Committee (SWA)
Arunachal Pradesh

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Copy to:-

Dated: 29.06.2022

1. The Chairman, TEC (SWA), Arunachal Pradesh.
2. All Members concerned.
3. Office copy.


29/06/2022
Director (Environment) &
Convenor TEC (SWA)
Arunachal Pradesh