

Minutes of the meeting of Monitoring committee held by Additional Chief Secretary(Environment) on 21.12.2022 in the matter of National Green Tribunal in OA No.147/2022 regarding Remedial Action for the protection of Ashtamudi and Vembanad - Kol Wetland

The meeting commenced at 2:30 PM with Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department in Chair. Director , Directorate of Environment and Climate Change and State Wetland Authority; Director, Urban Directorate and representatives from Directorate of Industries and Commerce; Directorate of Panchayat; Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority and Kerala State Pollution Control Board attended the meeting. Representatives from concerned local bodies also participated in the meeting.

The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board reiterated the direction of Hon'ble NGT order dated 23/08/2022 in OA 147/2022 and informed that the workshop of stakeholders was conducted on 12/10/2022 on various study/action plans that were already being conducted in Ashtamudi and Vembanad Kol wetlands for collecting information for preparation of the restoration plan. Google Sheet was shared with all the local bodies abutting the above wetlands and concerned departments for providing information regarding ongoing projects as well as proposed projects for management of sewage and solid waste.

Information was also collected through the district offices of the Board. A draft plan was prepared on the basis of the information made available via Google docs and documents from concerned Departments. Facilities have been provided/being implemented for the management of waste for preventing contamination of Vembanad and Ashtamudi lake in the State by stakeholders. Based on the information draft plan was prepared and was presented by the Member Secretary in the meeting. On going through the presentation, the Additional Chief Secretary directed to incorporate only those projects for which Administrative Sanction has been issued by the Government. Also directed to include only major projects and to avoid the minor ones.

After detailed discussion, the following decisions were taken:

- 1. Incorporate projects for which Administrative Sanctionhas been issued.
- 2. Include only major projects in the proposed plan.
- 3. Incorporate details of notices issued as well as fines levied by local bodies and other concerned departments for unauthorised discharge of waste water/sewage and for littering of solid waste or banned plastic usage in the report to be filed. The local bodies should update the details in the Google spreadsheet within one week.
- 4. The Tourism Department will take immediate action to prevent pollution from houseboats

(Action: All monitoring Committee Members)

Meeting came to a conclusion at 4.00 PM.

DR VENU V I A S ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY O/O ACS ENVIRONMENT Additional Chief Secretary