

Minutes of OSCZMA Meeting

The Orissa State Coastal Zone Management Authority met on 3rd January, 2005 at 11:00 A.M. under the Chairmanship of Commissioner-cum-Secy., Forest & Env. Department.

The following members were present:

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| 01. Sri N.C. Vasudevan, IAS.,
Commissioner-cum-Secretary, H & UD Deptt. | Member |
| 02. Dr. B.R. Subramanian
P.D., ICMAM Deptt. Ocean Development | Member |
| 03. Prof. A.V. Raman
Andhra University, Visakhapatnam | Member |
| 04. Sri O.P. Pandey
CCF in-charge
Regional Office of MoEF, Bhubaneswar | Member |
| 05. Dr. A.K. Patnaik
C.E., C.D.A. | Member |
| 06. K. Jude Sekar
Director, Environment | Member-Secretary |

At the outset the Commissioner-cum-Secretary welcomed all the Members.

01. Preparation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan

Dr. B.R. Subramanian pointed out that the demarcation of the High Tide Line (HTL) for the entire Orissa coast has to be taken up on priority. This was based on his experience in the preparation of the HTL for a small stretch of the coast in North Chennai where the deviations from the original HTL were seen. The Member-Secretary clarified that this problem was due to the fact that the CRZ maps have been prepared on a scale of 1:25,000, whereas the Revenue maps are in the scale of 1:2000 (approximately). Whenever a project comes up in CRZ, the Plot No., Khata No. of the revenue records have to be indicated which is not possible in the CRZ Maps. The project proponents have to submit area specific CRZ maps of the same scale as Revenue maps. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has recognized 6 Agencies like the Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad; National Institute of Oceanography, Goa; National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad; etc. The project proponent approaches one of these agencies and gets CRZ maps prepared indicating the HTL and LTL for their project area. However, it is necessary to have the CRZ maps on the same scale as Revenue maps for the entire Orissa Coast. This is not just a time-consuming process but also very costly. The State Government nor the Government of India are in a position to fund such programmes for the entire Indian coast.

A proposal has been submitted to Govt. of India for preparation of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) for the entire Orissa coastline in a phased manner, beginning with Puri-Konark and Devi river mouth in the first phase. This proposal was presented before the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA), New Delhi, on 6th May, 2004. This is being done in collaboration with the Institute of Ocean Management of Anna University, Chennai. It is understood that they have been asked to recast the proposal by incorporating disaster mitigation, climate change and other issues. Prof. S. Ramachandran of Anna University could not attend this meeting to present an update on the progress of this work. (A copy of this project reached after this meeting ended.)

02. Area Specific Management Plans

The Orissa coast has some eco-sensitive areas like Bhitarkanika mangroves, Chilika lake, Rushikulya Sea Turtle Rookery etc. which need special attention. In the case of Chilika lake and Bhitarkanika there are specific agencies while there are certain other areas like Devi river mouth where sea turtles congregate which need to be brought under better coastal management.

Dr. B.R. Subramanian pointed out that some 33 Eco sensitive coastal stretches have been identified for the whole country. He was requested to give details of those stretches which come within the Orissa coast. He added that low lying coastal stretches are vulnerable to cyclones and to sea level rise and the coastline from Paradeep to West Bengal is one such stretch. Natural features like sandbars, beaches and plantations are best safeguards against nature's wrath. The Chairman wanted to know whether sand dunes can be artificially made. This was possible by importing sand from other areas. Dr. Subramanian said that only those barren areas devoid of vegetation in Tamilnadu coast were badly affected by the recent Tsunami. The Authority suggested for taking up sand dune development and coastal plantations.

03. Recommendation of Project Proposals

The Director (Regional), Ministry of Shipping, Directorate of Lighthouse and Light ships, Kolkata, has submitted two project proposals to obtain CRZ clearance for construction of Lighthouse and ancillary building etc. for staff at Prayagi in Ganjam district and also at Devi mouth in Puri district. The proponent explained the steps taken with regard to CRZ clearance. They also explained that there is no Lighthouse from Gopalpur to Puri. These two Lighthouses will help fisheries.

- a) The Prayagi Project will cover 0.25 hectares of **forest land** which is coming under CRZ III involving a total cost of Rs. 1.35 crore. In accordance with the provisions of Para 3(2) (ii) of CRZ Notification, this is a permissible activity which requires environmental clearance from MoEF, Govt. of India. The OSCZMA decided to clear this project for recommendation to NCZMA, Govt. of India for environmental clearance, subject to clearance from the Wildlife authorities.
- b) The second proposal for construction of a lighthouse at Devi point in Puri district was discussed in detail. The project proponent gave a blue print for this project. It will cover 0.3642 hectares of private land which is coming under CRZ III involving a total cost of Rs. 1.66 crore. In accordance with the provisions of Para 3(2) (ii) of CRZ Notification this is a permissible activity which requires environmental clearance from Govt. of India. The OSCZMA recommended this project for Govt. of India to grant environmental clearance subject to clearance from the Wildlife authorities.

04. Scrutiny Fee

The State Government has issued a Resolution to introduce a scrutiny fee for those projects that need clearance/ recommendations of the OSCZMA. The State Finance Department have concurred with this proposal with a stipulation that 50 percent of such fees collected will be deposited in the State Exchequer and the balance would be retained by the OSCZMA to meet its expenses.

05. Review of CRZ Violations

Allegations of violations of CRZ rules are received under section 19(b) of Environment Protection Act. Besides, some Environmental Activists and MoEF also forward some allegations. These were discussed by the OSCZMA. The Member Secretary clarified that the process of getting the allegations verified through the District Authorities is going on. The details of allegations received so far and the actions taken thereon have been given in Annexure- III. Once the allegations are confirmed by District Authority further action would be taken.

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06. **Delegation of powers to District Collectors**

The Member-Secretary apprised the Authority that a proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests to empower the District Collectors of the Coastal districts u/s 5 of the Environment(Protection) Act in order to take cognizance of CRZ violations and to act expeditiously rather than await for instructions from this authority. This is being examined by Government of India.

07. **Court Cases with Specific Reference to CRZ Implementation**

The Member Secretary apprised the Authority of the two cases which are pending in the High Court regarding CRZ. These are being attended to.

08. **Preparation of Local CZM maps**

The Member Secretary placed the list of equipments needed for better functioning of the authority i.e.

1. GIS Package and equipments.
 - a) Computer and its accessories
 - b) Scanner
 - c) Plotter
 - d) Software (ARCinfo and ARCview)
 - e) Light table
 - f) DGPS(Digital Global Positioning System)

Dr. Subramanian pointed out that they are offering training programmes for officers on Coastal Zone Management which may be availed of.

09. **Creation of Public Awareness**

The recent Tsunami disaster has brought home to the people the need for proper coastal zone management.

It was felt that the time is ripe for building a stronger awareness creation campaign on wise use of the coastal zone.

The meeting ended with tanks to the chairman and participants.