

SIKKIM



GOVERNMENT

GAZETTE

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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
FORESTS, ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK, DEORALI - 737102

No. 347/GOS/FEWMD

Dated: 30/03/2016

NOTIFICATION

Whereas wetlands are important aquatic ecosystems, vital parts of the hydrological cycle, highly productive, support large biological diversity, provide a wide range of ecological services, such as water purification, waste assimilation, flood mitigation, ground water recharge, erosion control, microclimate regulation, aesthetic enhancement of landscape, source of fresh water in the hills, support many significant recreational, social and cultural activities;

And whereas, there is an urgent need to secure wetland regimes and check further degradation of such aquatic eco-systems;

And whereas an integrated management of such wetlands is therefore felt necessary; Now therefore, for conservation and sustainable management of wetlands in the State, the State Government is hereby pleased to constitute the Sikkim State Wetland Authority (SSWA) as a Nodal Agency consisting of the following members namely:-

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| 1. Minister for Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim | Chairman |
| 2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest -cum- Secretary Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim | Member |
| 3. Secretary Science, Technology and Climate Change Department, Government of Sikkim | Member |
| 4. Secretary, Mines, Mineral and Geology Department, Government of Sikkim | Member |
| 5. Secretary Livestock, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, Government of Sikkim | Member |
| 6. Secretary Water Security and Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Sikkim | Member |

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| 7. | Secretary
Tourism and Civil Aviation Department
Government of Sikkim | Member |
| 8. | Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial / Wildlife)
Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management
Department, Government of Sikkim | Member |
| 9. | Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board
Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management
Department, Government of Sikkim | Member |
| 10. | Additional Director / Joint Director, Environment
and Soil Conservation, Forest, Environment and Wildlife
Management Department, Government of Sikkim | Member Secretary |

2. The terms of reference of the authority shall be as under:-

(1) Policy

- (i) to formulate policy guidelines for conservation and sustainable management of the wetlands of the State,
- (ii) to identify and make recommendations for designation of wetlands as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), National Importance (under National Programme on Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems) or any other International and National programme.

(2) Advise -

- (i) to advise the State Government, its agencies, local authorities and autonomous bodies on matters pertaining to conservation and management of wetlands;
- (ii) to act as a clearing house for all technical matters related to wetlands.

(3) Regulation

- (i) to regulate and control all activities detrimental to maintenance of biodiversity and other ecological components, processes and services of wetlands;
- (ii) to ensure compliance with the existing National e.g. Wetland (Conservation) and Management) Rules, 2010 and State level regulatory frameworks related to wetlands;
- (iii) to approach the State Government for enactment of any regulation for achieving conservation and sustainable management of wetlands in the State.

(4) Integrated Management Planning

- (i) to formulate integrated management plans for conservation and sustainable use of prioritized wetlands;
- (ii) to work towards mainstreaming wetlands in sectoral programmes and policies, inter alia, water resources development, rural development, agriculture, urban development to ensure complementarity of the sectoral programmes with wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity and in particular prevent any detrimental impact.

(5) Wetland management

- (i) to coordinate and facilitate implementation of the following activities (within the ambit of site management plans) by organizations, institutions, departments, and local communities, namely:-
 - (a) restoration of hydrological regimes, including improvement of water quality;
 - (b) control of silt load from catchments;

- (c) management of plant and animal invasives;
- (d) ecological restoration and habitat improvement;
- (e) sustainable development of capture and culture fisheries;
- (f) livelihood improvement and disaster risk reduction with communities living in and around wetlands

(ii) to work towards resolution of trans boundary, trans catchment and multi-stakeholder conflicts;

(6) Monitoring and Evaluation

(i) to develop and maintain a wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring system, based on scientific guidelines, to assess and respond to changes in wetland components, processes of services;

(ii) to commission strategic environmental assessments for developmental projects likely to create detrimental impacts on wetland biodiversity and ecosystems of services;

(iii) to collate and disseminate periodic reports on status of wetlands of the State.

(7) Capacity building

to upgrade management and professional skills of authority members, staff and local communities involved in wetland management.

(8) Research

to promote multi-disciplinary research on wetlands to support integrated and adaptive management.

(9) Networking and collaboration

to collaborate with other State, National and International institutions to promote the cause of conservation and sustainable management of wetlands.

(10) Awareness generation

to develop and implement a communication and outreach strategy for wetlands.

(11) Financial management and fund raising

(i) to secure funds for implementation of wetland management plans by developing collaborative projects for funding support by State, National and International donors and private sector;

(ii) to acquire by gift, purchase, exchange, lease, hire or otherwise any property movable or immovable necessary for implementing the objectives of the society;

(iii) to draw, accept, make and endorse for the purpose of the authority, discount and negotiate Government of India and other promissory notes, bills of exchange, cheques or other negotiable instruments.

3. The office of the State Wetland Authority shall be at Gangtok.

By order and in the name of the Governor.

**Dr. Thomas Chandy
Principal Secretary-cum-PCCF
Forest, Env. & Wildlife Management Department
Government of Sikkim
File No.825/E&SC/FEWMD**