



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA  
Environment (A) Department

No.A2/162/2019/Envt

Thiruvananthapuram,  
Dated: 16/10/2019

**Circular**

Sub: Prohibited activities in Wetlands as per the Wetlands  
(Conservation & Management) Rules 2017- Circular.

- Ref:1) Notification No. G.S.R 1203 (E) dated 26.09.2017.  
issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate  
Change, Government of India.
- 2) G.O (Ms) No. 14/2017/Envt dated 28.12.2017.

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The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India as per the notification at reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited has issued the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017. As per section 5(1) of the said Rules, the Government of Kerala has constituted the State Wetland Authority vide G.O (MS) No. 14/2017/Envt dated 28.12.2017 with Hon'ble Chief Minister (who is also holding the charge as Minister of Environment Department) as the Chairperson, Chief Secretary to Government as the Vice Chairperson and Director, Directorate of Environment & Climate Change as the Member Secretary.

The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 shall apply to the following wetlands or wetlands complexes, namely:—

- (a) wetlands categorised as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention;
- (b) wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration:

Provided that these rules shall not apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Forest Acts, and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 as amended from time to time.

The Ramsar Wetlands of Kerala namely Vembanad-Kol, Ashtamudi Estuary and Sasthamkotta Freshwater Lake have already been notified.

As per the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rule 2017 sub rule 4(2), the following activities shall be prohibited "within" the wetlands, namely,-

- (i) Conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
- (ii) Setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
- (iii) Manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically Engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans boundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;
- (iv) Solid waste dumping;
- (v) Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
- (vi) Any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty meters from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and,
- (vii) Poaching.

The Wetland Authority is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring enforcement of Wetlands Rules and other relevant Acts, rules and regulations.

Provisions of the relevant Central and State Government Acts may be applicable. All prohibited and regulated activities beyond their thresholds if taken up within the wetlands and its zone of influence shall be deemed violations under the Wetlands Rules. The violations of the Wetlands Rules shall attract the penal provisions as per the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The complaints may need to be filed in the case of violations.


In the above circumstance, the concerned Local bodies such as Grama Panchayat, Municipality and Corporation is entrusted with watch and ward at the local level to ensure the enforcement of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017.

**DR. USHA TITUS  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

To

1. Sri. Manju Pandey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The Director, Directorate of Panchayats, Thiruvananthapuram.
3. The Director, Directorate of Urban Affairs, Thiruvananthapuram.
4. The Commissioner for Rural Development, Rural Development of Commissionerate, Thiruvananthapuram.
5. The Director, Directorate of Environment & Climate Change, Thiruvananthapuram.
6. The Member Secretary, State Wetland Authority Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
7. The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Thiruvananthapuram.
8. The Director, Information & Public Relations (Web & New Media) Department (for uploading in the Government website)
9. Stock File/Office Copy.

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Section Officer

12