

जयराम रमेश  
JAIRAM RAMESH



राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
पर्यावरण एवं वन  
भारत सरकार  
नई दिल्ली-110003  
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI - 110 003

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As you are aware, wetlands are unique and distinct eco-systems, the conservation and preservation of which is crucial for the maintenance of a health environment. This requires coordinated and concerted efforts on the part of both the Central and State Governments.

Over the last few decades, wetlands in India have been facing the threat of extinction due to various man-made pressures and the ongoing processes of urbanization in cities. This has resulted in the shrinkage of areas and the loss of biodiversity as wetlands are frequently reclaimed and converted for other uses.

In light of all these developments, my Ministry had initiated a scheme for the conservation of wetlands in 1987 which includes research and developmental activities besides conservation and management activities. Under this scheme, 115 wetlands all over the country spread over 24 States/Union Territories have been identified for conservation.

Now to further enhance our conservation and management efforts for these wetlands, the Central Government has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010. These rules are in furtherance of our obligation under the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands, 1971 to which our country is one of the signatories.

These rules not only provide for a regulatory mechanism but also detail the activities which need to be restricted in these wetlands. I am enclosing a copy of the Gazette Notification of these rules. You may notice that all the Ramsar sites (list annexed) stand notified.

The other wetlands which are covered by the criteria laid down in these rules will have to be identified by the concerned State/Union Territory Government, which will also have to submit a brief document providing basic information for identification of such wetlands. The proposals for notification of new wetlands identified need to be sent to us immediately (in batches), so that activities within these wetlands are regulated as per their wide use.

The concerned State/Union Territory Government will then submit a brief proposal in respect of each wetland to the Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA) constituted under these Rules within a maximum period of one year. The Central Government will notify the identified wetlands on the recommendations of the CWRA. The CWRA has also been given the powers to regulate activities in the notified wetlands.

Even in the enforcement of regulatory activities, the State/Union Territory Governments have a major role to ensure effective management and wise use of wetlands through their Forest Department for wetlands in protected areas and Nodal Department/Agency for the wetlands situated outside the protected areas.

I would be grateful for your cooperation in furthering our joint efforts to conserve our wetlands by issuing necessary directions to the concerned officials in your State/Union Territory.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(Jairam Ramesh)

Shri Neiphiu Rio  
Chief Minister  
Government of Nagaland

Encl: as above

Sent to all CMs  
from Dr. Kaul's office