



Press Brief

**Society to implement India's major
Coastal Zone Management Project launched**

15th September, 2010

The Minister of State (I/C), Environment & Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, today inaugurated the office of the Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM), which will be the nodal agency for the major Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZM) being implemented by the Government of India. Speaking at the event, the Minister said, "Our coastal ecosystems are a critical reservoir of our biodiversity. They provide protection from natural disasters such as floods and tsunamis, and are a source of livelihood to hundreds of millions of families. This major national initiative will be critical for the protection of these important ecosystems. While we are starting with the states of Orissa, West Bengal and Gujarat, I am hopeful that we will extend the project to other states as well in short order. I am glad that SICOM is up and running in such a short span of time. I wish the SICOM team the very best, and I remain available to provide all help possible to make their work a success."

This is the first time that an expert body like SICOM has been set up and charged with the implementation of a project of this magnitude and ambition. SICOM has been established as a professional body with experts in various aspects of coastal science and management.

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a loan agreement for the implementation of this Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project, which will be implemented at a total cost of **Rs.1156 crore**. The World Bank will contribute an amount of Rs.897 crore (77.7%), the Government of India will contribute Rs. 177 crore (15.5%) and the States will contribute Rs. 80 crores (6.9%)

SICOM will also take a lead in designing phase-II of the ICZM project that will include other coastal States and Union Territories. The Minister made it clear that he is personally committed to this project and will give SICOM all the assistance that it requires. He is confident that with its dedicated and specialized staff SICOM will be able to accomplish its mission.

The ICZM Project being implemented by SICOM consists of four components.



Component I is a national component, which includes:

- [i] Mapping, delineation and demarcation of the hazard lines; and delineation of coastal sediment cells all along the mainland coast of India; which shall be undertaken by the Survey of India.
- [ii] Mapping, delineation and demarcation of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)
- [iii] Capacity building of the MoEF and the State Coastal Zone Management Authorities, and a nation-wide training program for coastal zone management
- [iv] Setting up of a National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) in Anna University, Chennai with an outlay of Rs.116 crore. The centre will be working with the collaborating institutes in each of the coastal States/UTs.

In addition to the above, SICOM is implementing a Green Action for National Dandi Heritage Initiative (G.A.N.D.H.I.) Memorial project, in memory of the 80th anniversary of Gandhiji's Dandi March. This project will focus on overall development and conservation of the environment of Dandi and the surrounding villages based on Gandhian Principles, for a total cost of Rs.25 crore. 100ha of mangroves and 50ha of bio-shield will be planted along the 8km long coastline of Dandi. The Minister said: "Gandhiji's commitment to the environment and to sustainable living is a modern day talisman for us, as we grapple with the critical issue of environmental pollution, climate change and biodiversity preservation. The GANDHI Memorial is a small but important step in recognizing Gandhiji's vision for environment and biodiversity."

The total budget for Component I is **Rs.355.41 crores**

Component II will comprise of capacity building of the Gujarat State Government, including the State Pollution Control Board, for effective management of the coastal areas. Pilot studies will be undertaken on the ICZM approach for the coastline of the Gulf of Kachchh. Further, transplantation of corals in the Gulf of Kachchh and sewage treatment facilities for Jamnagar District would also be undertaken. This component will also support priority investments in Gujarat, all located in the Gulf of Kachchh, to complement the ICZMP. Under the project a Green Action for National Dandi Heritage Initiative (G.A.N.D.H.I.) will also be developed. This component was launched on 7th July, 2010. The budget for the Gujarat component is **Rs.298.34crores**.



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Component III includes pilot studies for Orissa coast. The component includes, capacity building of the state level agencies and institutions; preparation of an ICZM plan for the coastal sediment cells in the stretches of Paradip-Dhamra and Gopalpur-Chilika; regional coastal process study, and priority investments. The project will support capacity building in the area of coastal management and wetland research. The priority investments in Orissa shall be concentrated in two stretches namely, (i) Gopalpur-Chilika and (ii) Paradip-Dhamra. The budget for the Orissa component is **Rs.201crores**.

Component IV involves pilot ICZM studies for West Bengal. The project will support capacity building of the various agencies involved in coastal management and priority investments. This component mainly addresses the coastal zone management issues in three sectors of West Bengal namely, Sundarban, Haldia and Digha-Shankarpur. The budget for the West Bengal component is **Rs.300crs**.

This World Bank is funding the ICZM project for a period of 5 years, and other States/Union territories will be considered in the subsequent phase of the project. An estimated 3.56 crore people will benefit from the three state components, while the total number of indirect beneficiaries from the project is an estimated 6.30 crore people.
