

Minutes of the 15th meeting of West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority (WBCZMA) held on 1st December, 2021 in the Department of Environment, Govt. of W.B.

The following WBCZMA members attended the meeting:

1. Sri K. Balamurugan, Chief Environment Officer & Member Secretary, WBCZMA
2. Sri. Piyar Chand, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, Directorate of Forests
3. Shri Sandip Chatterjee, Ex-Engineer-in-Chief, Deptt. of Public Health Engineering
4. Dr. Parthasarathi Chakrabarti, Former Chief Scientist, Geoinformatics & RS Cell, Deptt. of Science & Technology
5. Representative, Deptt. of Sundarban Affairs

The following officials attended the meeting as special invitees:

1. Smt. Tripti Sah, Senior Environment Officer, Environment Department
2. Sri. Subrata Ghosh, Chief Engineer, West Bengal Pollution Control Board
3. Sri. Samir Biswas, Joint Director (Surveys), Land & Land Reforms and Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department.
4. Prof. Sugata Hazra, Deptt. of Oceanography, Jadavpur University
5. Dr. B. C. Barman, Dy. Director, River Research Institute, Irrigation & Waterways Deptt.
6. Sri. Debojyoti Bhaumik, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management

Following representatives were present virtually on behalf of Sundarban Sonar Bangla:

1. Sri. Avisheak Paul Chowdhury, Partner, Hotel Sonar Bangla Sundarban
2. Sri. Saugata Sarkar, Consultant, Cognizance Research India Pvt. Ltd

Agenda:

The agenda of the meeting was CRZ clearance for establishment of proposed “Hotel Sonar Bangla Sundarban” at Mouza – Dulki, P.O & P.S – Gosaba, District – South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

Proceedings:

The Chief Environment Officer & Member Secretary, WBCZMA chaired the meeting. He welcomed all and initiated the discussion.

Project Brief:

Hotel Sonar Bangla Sundarban is located in Mouza – Dulki (JL No.90) under Gosaba block of South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal. The total project area is 33623.27 sq. m. The project site is located by the bank of Gomdi Khal near its confluence with Satjali Khal near Pakhiralay. The project area is accessible from Kolkata by Kolkata- Basanti highway (SH-3) and is connected with sub divisional head quarter Canning, by Baruipur- Canning - Basanti road as well as by waterways through Matla river, Karatal gang and Bidya river.

As per the CRZ Report prepared by IESWM, based on MOEF & CC approved CZMP, 2011, the Area of Interest (AoI) of the project falls under the following CRZ categories;

Description	Approx. Area (sqm)	Approx. Area
Total Area of Interest (AOI)	33623.2725	~ 100 %
Mangrove Buffer (CRZ-IA)	3979.3611	~ 11.84 %
No Development Zone (NDZ)	22054.4673	~ 65.59 %
Outside CRZ	7589.4442	~ 22.57 %

Project Proponent (PP) made a presentation and informed the house that the project Sonar Bangla Sundarban is an eco-friendly resort to promote rural tourism.

After the presentation, the following issues were raised:


As per the CRZ report prepared by IESWM and submitted by the Project Proponent to WBSCZMA, it was found that more than 75% of the project area lies in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ); with 11.84% of the area falling in CRZ-IA and 65.59% is falling within No Development Zone (NDZ) of CRZ-III. As per CRZ Notification, 2011, hotel construction is not a permissible activity in these zones.

It was also clear that some structures such as Reception Lobby, Swimming Pool, and few Cottages have already been constructed. WBSCZMA members expressed their dissatisfaction at the fact that the project was started without any approval/consent of WBSCZMA, in complete violation of the CRZ Notification. The CRZ report prepared by IESWM also mentions that the hotel and resort facility is partially commissioned.

In view of the fact that nearly 77% of the Area of Interest falls in the Mangrove Buffer (CRZ IA) and the No Development Zone (NDZ), there is no question of granting approval to this project, in its current form. Since the CRZ Report prepared by IESWM has brought out the fact that some structures such as few cottages, swimming pool etc have already been

constructed without obtaining due clearance from the Competent Authority and in complete violation of CRZ Notification, 2011, this Committee not only rejects the current proposal but also decides to apprise the District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas who is also the Chairman of the District Level Committee (DLC) as well as the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) for immediate necessary action in the matter as per the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the chair.



Member Secretary,
West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority
&
Chief Environment Officer,
Department of Environment

No. 2140/EN/T-II-4/13/2021

Date: 06/12/2021

Copy forwarded for information to:

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Govt. of W.B.
2. The Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Govt. of W.B.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Sundarban Affairs, Govt. of W.B.
4. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, Directorate of Forests, Govt. of W.B.
5. Sri Sandip Chatterjee, Ex-Engineer-in-Chief, Dept. of Public Health Engineering, Govt. of W.B.
6. Dr Parthasarathi Chakrabarti, Former Chief Scientist, Geo-informatics and RS Cell, Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of W.B.
7. Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, Kol-32.



Member Secretary,
West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority
&
Chief Environment Officer,
Department of Environment

No. : 2140/1(8)/EN/T-II-4/13/2021

Date : 06/12/2021

Copy forwarded to:

1. Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Science and Technology & Biotechnology, Bikas Bhavan, 4th Floor, Kolkata – 700 091-
2. Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board
3. Director, Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management
4. District Magistrate, South 24Pgs.
5. Sr. P.S. to Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of WB & Chairman, WBSCZMA.
6. Sri Samir Biswas, Joint Director (Surveys), Land & Land Reforms and Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department.
7. Prof. Sugata Hazra, Deptt. of Oceanography, Jadavpur University
8. Dr. B. C. Barman, Dy. Director, River Research Institute, Irrigation & Waterways Deptt.

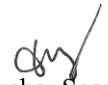

Member Secretary,
West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority
&
Chief Environment Officer,
Department of Environment

No : 2140/20/EN/T-II-4/13/2021

Date : 06/12/2021

Copy forwarded to:

1. Sri. Mr. Avisheak Paul Chowdhury, Partner, Hotel Sonar Bangla Sundarban, Mouza- Dulki, P.O. & P.S.- Gosaba, Dist.- 24 Parganas (South), Pin -743370.


Member Secretary,
West Bengal State Coastal Zone Management Authority
&
Chief Environment Officer,
Department of Environment