



सत्यमेव जयते

**Proceedings of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority Kerala**

Present: Prof. (Dr.) K.P. Joy, Chairman; (Dr. J.Subhashini, Member; Sri. P.K. Mohanty IAS, Member Secretary

Sub: SEIAA Kerala – River sand mining in Ernakulam District, Kerala- proposal submitted by District Collector Ernakulam – Environmental Clearance under EIA Notification 2006 accorded – Orders issued

**Environmental Clearance**

No. 246/SEIAA/KL/979/2014

dated, Thiruvananthapuram 25-04-2014

Read:- Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEIAA Kerala held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**ORDER**

Mr. M.G. Rajamanickam IAS, District Collector, Ernakulam, vide the application received on 03-03-2014, has sought Environmental Clearance under EIA Notification, 2006 for river sand mining from Periyar river and Muvattupuzha in Ernakulam District, Kerala. The proponent has submitted the application in Form 1 along with the following details for consideration of environmental clearance for river sand mining in Ernakulam District, Kerala:

- (i) Flora and fauna of Periyar River
- (ii) Details on river bed changes and channel incision
- (iii) Details on mining and replenishment of river sand resource
- (iv) Detailed presentation of bed material characteristics
- (v) Environmental issues and driving forces of sand mining
- (vi) A project on Environment appraisal and sand audit report of Periyar River, Ernakulam district, undertaken with the financial support of River Management Fund of Ernakulam district
- (vii) EIA of sand mining
- (viii) Sand auditing of Periyar
- (ix) Re-investigation report on the feasibility of sand mining from four kadavus of Okkal Grama Panchayath, Ernakulam district prepared by CESS
- (x) Interim report on the environmental impact on sand mining at Muvattupuzha river and Periyar river, prepared by Dr. A.V. George, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, M.G. University, Kottayam
- (xi) River bank audit of Muvattupuzha river (up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013) done by Tropical Institute of Ecological Sciences

The project comes under Category B, Activity 1(a), (i) as per the Schedule of EIA Notification 2006 (since it is below 50 hectares) and as per O.M. No. L-11011/47/2011-IA.II(M) dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012 of Ministry of Environment and Forests. It is further categorized as Category B2 as per the O.M. No. J-13012/12/2013-IA-II (I) dt. 24.12.2013 of Ministry of Environment and Forests. No forest land is involved in the present project.

The proposal has been appraised by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee Kerala

constituted by the competent authority, as per prescribed procedure in the light of provisions under the EIA Notification 2006 and subsequent amendments, in its 26<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> - nd 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014, and 27<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 27.03.2014 AND on the basis of the supporting documents enclosed with the application viz., the Form - 1, and the additional clarifications furnished in response to the observations, the SEAC Kerala recommended environmental clearance to the project. As stated by the proponent, there is no litigation pending against the lease area / applicant of the lease area in any court of law.

It is interalia noted that sand mining is permitted from the rivers, Periyar and Muvattupuzha based on the study report conducted by Centre for Earth Science Studies (CESS), Thiruvananthapuram and at present sand mining is recommended from 56 kadavus of 24 LSGD from these two rivers. Considering environmental protection, sand mining is banned during the south-west monsoon (July-September). River bank protection works executed as per the approval of state level expert committee. The District committee has also decided to plant bamboos and reeds on the banks for protecting the river banks. Sand mining is done with the permission of District Authority and distributed through online sand distribution system, which is granted only to the LSGD where online sand registration and distribution system are implemented. Considering these, SEAC recommended the project for environmental clearance which shall be valid up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

The SEIAA, after due consideration of the relevant documents and in view of the recommendations of SEAC, approved for issuance of Environmental Clearance for the project mentioned above at its 28<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Accordingly, the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Kerala constituted by Govt. of India vide Notification No. S.O. 2484(E) dt.3-11-2011 of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, published as Gazette extraordinary No. 2074 on 3-11-2011, and further amended by Govt. of India vide Notification No. S.O. 546(E) dt.25.02.2014 of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, published as Gazette extraordinary No. 466 dated 25-02-2014, hereby accord Environmental Clearance for river sand mining in the Kadavus of Ernakulam District Kerala as per powers vested with it under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification - 2006 and its subsequent amendments, subject to strict compliance of the following specific conditions:

1. The average depth of sand mining in the stretches should not exceed the water level at summer or the depth specified in the sand audit report, whichever is less.
2. The quantity of sand removed during the period(s) of EC validity, should not exceed the quantity removed during the corresponding period in 2013 subject to the condition no. 1 above.
3. Mining of sand in the Coastal Regulation Zone shall be as per the guidelines stipulated by the KCZMA vide G.O. (Rt) No. 10/2014/S&TD dt. 27.01.2014.
4. Summer water level must be fixed with reference to a permanent point (bench mark) by levelling and should be recorded for future reference. At least two such points must exist in each Panchayath.
5. Sand mining in rivers can be permitted in future only after consideration of recent sand audit reports. In this context, the reports of sand audits (that is under completion) should be speeded up and the reports must be made available before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014.
6. The conditions under Para 1 (iii) (a) to (e) stipulated in the O.M. dt. 24<sup>th</sup> December 2013 of MoEF for river sand mining should be complied with. Items mentioned under Chapter 3 of the Kerala Protection of River Bank and Regulation of Removal of Sand Act 2001 should be followed, unless repugnant with the conditions in the O.M. dt. 24<sup>th</sup> December 2013.
7. Conditions laid down in G.O. No. 02/14/Env't. dt. 21.02.2014 of Government of Kerala should be implemented.

8. Mining areas for which sand mining licenses are issued should not be less than 5 hectares and should be less than 25 hectares.
9. Monitoring of the sand mining activities should be done by the District Collector to ensure that the mining is done to the extent of area and quantum sanctioned. The District Collector should furnish monthly monitoring reports to SEIAA.
10. Specific mining plan which clearly defines the stretch wise details of the river in terms of extent of area (in hectares), proposed depth of the mining (in metres), quantity of mined sand in tons at a specific point and period and exact dimensions (marking boundaries of the mining area including its latitude and longitude) in maps, of the project site should be provided for any further EC application with respect to the project along with Form 1 and necessary attachments failing which application shall not be accepted. The sand audit report with necessary maps can be considered as the pre-feasibility report. Extent of area should be clearly mentioned in Form 1.
11. The mining shall be done manually.
12. Online e-management system should only be resorted for sand distribution.
13. All the other statutory clearances as is required should have been obtained prior to initiation of activities.

Compliance of the above conditions will be monitored by the Directorate of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Kerala or its agencies and also by the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India located at Bangalore. Necessary support for entry and inspection should be provided by the project proponent to the staff of the Environment Directorate of Government of Kerala and Ministry of Government of India for monitoring purposes. In case of non-compliance of conditions, noted, if any, the Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change shall report the matter to Government to take necessary action under Environment (Protection) Act 1986.

**The given address of correspondence of the Authorized Signatory of the project is:-**

Mr. M.G. Rajamanickam IAS, District Collector, Collectorate, Kakkanad, Ernakulam - 682030.  
Tel. No. 0484-2424838; Fax No. 0484-2423001; Email: dcekm.ker@nic.in

The validity of EC is only up to <sup>30th June</sup> ~~31st~~ May 2014.

P.K.Mohanty IAS  
Member Secretary, SELAA  
and Addl. Chief Secretary to Government  
Environment, Forest & Wildlife Departments

To

Mr. M.G. Rajamanickam IAS, District Collector, Collectorate, Kakkanad, Ernakulam.

Copy to :

1. IA-Division, Monitoring Cell, MoEF, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
2. MoEF Regional Office, Southern Zone, Kendriya Sadan, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, E&F Wing, II Block

**Koramangala, Bangalore-560034**

3. The Addl. Chief Secretary to Government, Environment Dept., Government of Kerala
4. The Principal Secretary to Government, Local Self Government Department
5. The District Collector concerned
6. The Director, Dept. of Environment and Climate Change, Govt. of Kerala, Tvm --- 24.
7. Chairman and Members of SEIAA Kerala
8. Chairman, SEAC Kerala
9. Website uploading
10. Stock file