

-P/123-

PROCEEDING OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, THE NILGIRIS DISTRICT

Present : Tmt. J.Innocent Divya, I.A.S.,

Rc. D9 No.:5962/2019

Dated: 09.09.2019

Sub: District Environmental Plan - The Nilgiris District – Committee to Operate the District Environmental Plan – Constituted – Orders – Issued.

- Ref: 1. Hon'ble NGT (PB), Order dated 15.07.2019 in O.A.No.710-713/2017
2. Chairman TNPCB D.O. Letter No.T4/TNPCB/BMW/ Guidelines/ DLMC/ 2019 dated 27.08.2019

ORDER:

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (PB) in their order dated 15.07.2019 cited above has ordered to form a District Committee for the preparation and operation of the of District Environmental Plan, to cover the issues relating to Solid Waste Management, Bio-Medical Waste Management, Plastic Waste Management, Construction and Demolition Waste (C&D) Management, Non – attainment cities, Polluted River stretches, Polluted Industrial Clusters, Industrial Pollution Control, Utilization of treated Sewage, Sand Mining and Conservation of water bodies at the District level.

As per the recommendations of District Magistrate, The Nilgiris District, District Committee is constituted with the following members:

1	District Collector, The Nilgiris District, Udthagamandalam	Chairperson
2	District Revenue Officer, Udthagamandalam	Deputy Chairperson
3	Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Udthagamandalam	Member
4	District Forest officers, Udthagamandalam & Gudalur	Member
5	Personal Assistant to the District Collector (D), Udthagamandalam	Convener
6	Joint Director, Health Services, Udthagamandalam	Member
7	Deputy Director, Health Services, Udthagamandalam	Member
8	Joint Director, Horticulture, Udthagamandalam	Member

9	Joint Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences, Udhagamandalam	Member
10	District Environmental Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Udhagamandalam	
11	Executive Engineer, Agricultural Engineering, Udhagamandalam	
12	Regional Director, Municipal Administration, Tiruppur	Member
13	Assistant Director, Town Panchayats, Udhagamandalam	Member
14	Assistant Director, Panchayats, Udhagamandalam	Member
15	Commissioners, Udhagamandalam / Gudalur / Coonoor/ Nelliylam Municipalities	Member
16	Assistant Director, Geology and Mining, Udhagamandalam	Member
17	The General Manager, District Industries Center, Udhagamandalam	Member

The Committee shall obtain action plan from the concerned departments on Solid Waste Management, Bio-Medical Waste Management, Plastic Waste Management, Construction and Demolition Waste (C&D) Management, Industrial Pollution Control, Utilization of treated Sewage, Sand Mining and Conservation of Water Bodies formulate the District Environmental Plan. The Committee shall also operate/ monitor the implementation of the District Environmental Plan.

[Handwritten Signature]
 District Collector
 The Nilgiris District
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To

All the members concerned

Copy to The Principal Secretary/Chairman (FAC), TNPC Board, Chennai – 32.

District Environmental Plan for

The Nilgiris District

(As per Hon'ble NGT in

O.A.No.710-713/2017 dated 15.07.2019)

District Environmental Plan for The Nilgiris District

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Preface

Hon'ble NGT in O.A. No. 710-713/2017 dated 15.07.2019 ordered regarding constitution of District Committee (as a part of District Planning Committee under Article 243 ZD) under Articles 243 G, 243 W, 243 ZD read with Schedules 11 and 12 and Rule 15 of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Accordingly the Principal Secretary to Government/Chairman(FAC) vide D.O. letter dated 26.07.2019 requested the District Collector, The Nilgiris District to constitute District Committee to operate the District Environmental Plan (as a part of District Planning Committee under Article 243 ZD) with representatives from Panchayats, Local Bodies, Regional Officers, State PCB and a suitable officer representing the administration, which may in turn be chaired and monitored by the District Collector/District Magistrate twice every month and shall host the same in the website for a period of one year. The Committee was constituted in the District in proceedings dated 09.09.2019.

The Principal Secretary to Government/Chairman(FAC) vide D.O. letter dated 10.09.2019 furnished the areas which are to be covered in the District Environmental Plan and an indicative Template for the preparation of the District Environmental Plan. Taking leads from the guidelines furnished by the Principal Secretary, the District Environmental Plan for The Nilgiris District is prepared, making the District Specific changes are made wherever warranted.

Accordingly, the District Environmental Plan for The Nilgiris District covers the following aspects:

- I. Solid Waste Management
- II. Bio-medical Waste Management
- III. Plastic Waste Management
- IV. Construction and Demolition Waste (C&D)
- V. Conservation of water bodies
- VI. E-waste Management
- VII. Environmentally Responsible and Sustainable Tourism

The aspects such as Non-attainment cities, Polluted River Stretches, Polluted Industrial Clusters and Sand Mining are relevant to the District, and as such they are not covered in the Plan. Similarly, Industrial Pollution is also not a major concern, and as such that topic is also not considered; However, the same is substituted with Environmentally Responsible and Sustainable Tourism and Horticulture.

Solid Waste Management

In The Nilgiris District there are 4 Municipalities and 11 Town Panchayats. Wellington Cantonment board is also located in the District. The total quantity of solid waste generated from these Urban Local Bodies is estimated to be around 100 MT/Day. Out of the 15 Urban Local Bodies, three Municipalities viz. Udthagamandalam, Coonoor, Gudlar and one Town Panchayat viz. Kothagiri are generating more than 5 MT/Day of Solid Waste, thereby they require the Authorisation under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. These four Local Bodies have obtained the Authorisation from TamilNadu Pollution Control Board.

The implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and the Waste Management Practices in the District is challenging on two counts. First is the terrain of the District and the other being the temperate climate prevailing in the District. The steep terrain makes the collection of the Solid Waste cumbersome and the second one makes the processing of the waste very challenging. However, all initiatives are taken in the District to make the Solid Waste Management Programme in the District successful and meaningful.

It is fully understood that the success of the Solid Waste Management primarily relies on the source segregation. To ensure effective segregation of wastes, periodical awareness programmes are conducted for all the stakeholders. Further, a Special task Force for creating awareness on Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 is also instituted. This Task Force is meeting every month and chalk-out plans not only for the creation of awareness; but also action plan for improving the Solid Waste Management practices.

To overcome the challenges in the effective processing of the collected waste, it is felt that that the quantity of wastes that are coming to the Centralized Facilities need to be minimized. This is achieved by encouraging home composting, composting by bulk generator, setting up of smaller

capacity composting at public places like parks etc. Moreover, all the Local bodies are requested to set-up one Pilot Scale Composting Facility in their office premises. Such action would impart confidence in the minds of the Public, and motivate them to carry-out composting at their house-hold level, thereby the stress on the Centralized Processing facilities could be minimized.

The District is experiencing difficulty in the disposal of un-segregated non-recyclable dry wastes. Identifying a suitable agency to manage this waste is being explored.

The management of accumulated legacy wastes in Udthagamandalam and Coonoor Municipalities, is yet another challenge to be faced to make the Solid Waste Management Programme in the District more meaningful. The Technical feasibility and the action plan are being explored. It is scheduled to have a full-fledged Plan of Action in this count be ready by 31.01.2020, and the implementation would commence, after obtaining the required Financial support, at the latest by June 2020. The State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC) for Tamil Nadu on Solid Waste Management constituted under the Chairmanship of Honourable Justice Dr. P. Jyothimani, Former Judge, Madras High Court, Former Judicial Member, and National Green Tribunal, also visited the District and issued instructions in this matter.

The need for collecting and disposing the wastes from the used sanitary napkins and the children diapers is felt, in order to ensure the dignity of those who are engaged in the conservancy works/ solid waste collection and management find it difficult to handle the wastes. To achieve this goal, it is decided that the ideal situation shall be collecting the sanitary napkins and diapers in wrapped condition and to dispose them separately by installing proper means of disposal mechanism including specifically designed thermal destruction system, to be installed by the local bodies, after thoroughly assessing the capacity required, location, technology etc.

The Duties and Responsibilities of various Stake holders, to make the Solid Waste Management Programme in the District successful and meaningful are as follows:

Sl. No.	Activity	Objective	Responsible agency	Status as on 30/09/2019
1	Collection, Segregation & Treatment of solid waste	To carry out 100% door to door collection with segregation at source	Local bodies	Currently around 85%
		Quantification of generation of solid wastes (Biodegradable, Non-biodegradable, inerts, etc.)	Local bodies	Carried-out
		Methodology of composting, biomethanation, Waste to Energy, etc. to be adopted.	Local bodies	Composting carried out. Biomethanisation under trial at Udhagamandalam
		Domestic hazardous waste such as discarded paint drums, used batteries, CFL bulbs, etc. to be collected separately and handed over to Hazardous Waste Disposal facilities authorized by the TNPCB	Local bodies	Collection system to be established.
2	Issue of Authorisation under SWM Rules, 2016	Local bodies generating solid waste greater than 5 tons/day shall obtain Authorisation as per SWM Rules, 2016.	Local bodies/ TNPCB	Issued to all the 4 ULBs requiring authorisation
3	Air Quality Monitoring, Water Quality Monitoring of dumpsites & Compost quality as per Schedule I & II of SWM Rules, 2016 at all Corporations and Municipalities	Assess the impact on the activity on Ambient Air and ground water, and to take adequate control measures to ensure that the waste management activity would not affect the quality of environment	TNPCB/ Local bodies,	Ground Water qualities around the waste handling facilities of all four Municipalities are monitored. Air quality tested in the Udhagamandalam dump site.
4	Creating awareness	Ensure that all stake-holders are adequately informed about their responsibilities in Solid Waste Management, with a view to make the handling of Solid Waste shall not affect the quality of environment adversely.	Local bodies, NGos, CEO, PRO, TNPCB	Special Task Force formed. Task Force carried out action plans for creating awareness.

Bio-medical Waste Management

Health Care Establishments of all sorts, viz. Hospitals, Clinic, Dispensaries, dental Clinics, Clinical Laboratories etc., are very important in maintaining the Public Health. Equally important is the proper handling and management of the wastes that are generated by the procedures adopted for the treatment of patients. Otherwise, those wastes would also become a source for infection, and become detrimental to the public health. Thus the management of the Bio-medical wastes, that are generated from the health care establishments, for both men and animal is of paramount importance.

Realising the above, a District Level Monitoring Committee was constituted in the District, vide proceedings dated 27.06.2016. The Duties and Responsibilities of various Stake holders, of the committee is as follows:

S. No	Activity	Objective	Responsible agency	Status as on 30.09.2019
1	Inventorization of establishments generating bio-medical wastes.	Ensure that all generators of BMW are handling the waste generated in the manner prescribed in the Rules, with authorisation.	JD(HS)/DD(HS), RJDAH, IMA, TNPCB	About 305 institutions identified. 210 applied.
2	Issuing Authorisation under BMW Rules 2016		TNPCB	180 authorisations issued
3	Establishing Common BMWTSDF as close to the point of generation.	Desired to have CBMWTSDF in each district.	IMA/ TNPCB/Govt.	The Nilgiris District may not support a dedicated common facility
4	Tracking of the movement of Waste	Provide GPS in collection vehicles, with a view to ensure that no pilferage occurs	CBMWTSDF operator	Both operators are having GPS fitted vehicles only.
5	Bar coded collection bags	To ensure that no pilferage occurs and proper accounting of waste	CBMWTSDF operator	One operator already complied.

Plastic Waste Management

The Nilgiris District is a front runner in Plastic Waste Management and eradicating the menace due to the throwaway plastic wastes. The District has initially banned the usage of the throwaway plastics in the District. This was essential considering the serenity of the District and large population of the wild animals in the District, which otherwise could have been affected by the throwaway plastics.

The collection and proper recycling of the other recyclable plastic wastes is very much important, to ensure that the environs of the District is free from waste. In order to give thrust on plastic waste littering, source segregation, recycling, involving waste pickers, recyclers and waste processors in collection of plastic waste fraction either from households or any other source of its generation or intermediate material are adopted. In order to motivate those who are involved in the conservancy works and to improve their livelihood, the revenue generated due to the selling of the recyclable wastes, mainly comprising of recyclable plastics, is distributed. Further, in order to completely eliminate the habit of littering, a penalty in the name of "Littering Fine" is introduced, and enforced. This has substantially reduced the habit of littering.

As regards the registration Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 as amended, notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, no industry requiring such registration is situated in The Nilgiris District.

The ban imposed by the Government of Tamil Nadu, under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 notified on manufacture, storage, supply, transport, sale or distribution of throwaway plastics, vide G.O. (Ms). No.84 dated 25.06.2018, is vigorously implemented in the District. The enforcement of the ban is not only implemented by the Local Bodies; but, also by the other Departments.

The Horticulture sector, whose presence in the District is much more than other Districts of the State need to use certain types of Plastic Films, for the wrapping of their produces. Those units are instructed that they shall collect the plastic waste generated and hand over them to the concerned local bodies. Similarly, the shopkeepers in the District are instructed that wherever possible, the plastic wrapper received at the point of manufacturing be removed and plastic free goods

alone be handed over to the consumer (eg. Wrapping of textiles/readymade shirts etc)., and the Plastic waste so collected shall be handed over to the Local Bodies.

Proper utilisation of the collected plastic wastes, which are not amenable to recycling is also important, to ensure that the Plastic Waste Management programme effective and successful. Realising this, the local bodies in the district are made a resolve that in the road works within their jurisdiction, plastic waste shall be consumed up to 7% of the bitumen requirement. It is also proposed to address the Highways department to commence similar initiative and to consume the plastic waste generated in the district for the Road works executed in The Nilgiris District.

The Honourable High Court of Madras, in their order dated 29.05.2019, in W.P. No: 15120 of 2019 have banned that water and soft drinks shall not be sold out in plastic bottles in the shops located along the Highways. To make the action more meaningful, the Hotels and the restaurants are also instructed not to stock/ sell water and soft drinks in plastic bottles. The Hotels, Resorts and Cottages are instructed to provide their own water treatment and dispensing system. This is being monitored by the concerned Departments. To ensure availability of protected Drinking water along the Highways, Water ATMS are installed and the availability of protected water at an affordable price is ensured. Extending such system, in the other areas of the District would also be explored, within the existing Legal frame Work.

Construction & Demolition Waste Management

The Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016, notified by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India requires that the wastes that are generated from construction activities, including re-modelling, repair and demolition be re-processed by establishing suitable facilities and such facilities are duly authorised.

In order to preserve the aesthetic beauty of the District, there are limitations in carrying out construction activities in the District. Only those constructions, which are conforming to the land use and the local laws are permitted. Considering the steep slope of the terrain, deploying of heavy equipments for construction purposes is permitted only with proper inspection.

Construction and Demolition waste management is in the very early stages, and that the quantum of Construction and Demolition wastes generated is relatively low comparing to other District, the District would adopt the practices in the other Districts and the Plans by the State. However, if any one desirous of establishing a facility for the reprocessing of the Construction and Demolition Waste, they shall be encouraged and assisted in identifying suitable place for establishing the facility, granting of expeditious approvals, financial incentives, as prevailing now etc.

Conservation of Udthagamandalam Lake and Other Water Bodies

The main attraction of The Nilgiris District is the Lake situated at Udthagamandalam, the Head Quarters of the District. Udthagamandalam lake is an artificial Lake, constructed by John Sullivan, in the year 1824, which is spreading over an area of 65 acres. The water flowing down mountain streams in the Udthagamandalam valley was dammed to form the lake. The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation on behalf of the Tourism Department took the possession of the lake in 1973, for providing boating facilities as a tourist attraction. The lake is surrounded by groves of Eucalyptus trees with a railway line running along one shore. During the summer season in May, boat races and boat pageantry are organised for two days.

Maintaining the quality of the Water that is present in the Lake is of paramount importance, so that the large number of people, who are using the lake for recreational purposes are not affected. With this objective, measures were undertaken to ensure that no untreated sewage from the town is entering in to the Lake. The sewage generated from the Municipal area, to the tune of about 70% is covered with the Under Ground Sewerage System and the sewage is conveyed to the Sewage Treatment Plant of the Municipality for treatment and the treated sewage is discharged in to Kamarajar Sagar Dam.

The sewage from the un-sewered area and the storm water/ runoff water in the Kodappamundhu Channel, which is entering in to Lake is intercepted and a treatment plant of 2 MLD capacity is provided and the only the treated water is alone allowed to enter in to the Lake. This ensures that no untreated sewage or polluted water stream enters in to the Lake and adversely affect the quality of the Water in the Lake.

TamilNadu Pollution Control Board is monitoring the quality of the water in Udthagamandalam lake, on a monthly basis, in respect of the parameters viz. pH, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Coliform (TC), Faecal Coliform (FC), and conductivity. The Report of Analysis revealed that the quality of the lake water is satisfactory, and within the norms in respect of all parameters except BOD, which is also within the norms, in most of the occasions.

In order to ensure that the sewage of the Municipality shall not reach the lake under any circumstance, the Udthagamandalam Municipality is instructed to augment

the capacity of the Sewage Treatment Plant and to cover the entire Municipal Area in the Under Ground Sewerage System and that no sewage is discharged untreated, under any circumstance. The Udhagamandalam Municipality is preparing detailed project report and estimate for the implementation of the above works.

In Coonoor Municipality, three tributaries of Coonoor River are flowing. These streams were subjected to dumping of garbage thereby the carrying capacity of the streams got reduced substantially. To restore them to their original level, plans were formulated for the cleaning of the streams, with the support from Non Governmental organisations. The cleaning of the Godeakombathorai Stream (Middle stream) was under taken and completed for a length of 1.5 k.m., at a cost of about 6 Lakhs. The works included fencing of the banks with a view of prevent throwing of garbage in to the water body. The works related to Hancoonthorai Stream (Upper Stream) for a length of 700 m was undertaken and the same is nearing completion. It is intended to take up the cleaning of the Gorethorai Stream also, in the same way the desilting and fencing of the other two streams were carried out, for a length of about 1.0 k.m. The survey works is about to be carried out by the Non Governmental Organisation "Clean Coonoor". The works shall be carried out after the North East monsoon, after finalising the Detailed project Report and the funding sources. Moreover, the Non Governmental Organisation "Clean Coonoor" has proposed to carry out the cleaning of the channel from the Coonoor Fire Station to Kanniamman Temple, by removing the dumped waste materials.

The rejuvenation of the Edappali Marsh land was under taken, and completed in 2 acres of area out of the total area of 8 acres, at Rs. 2.5 Lakhs. The District Administration contributed Rs. 1 lakh and about 2.5 Lakhs was mobilised as donations. It is estimated that the rejuvenation of the remaining 6 acres would cost around 7 Lakhs, and the means of funding the project is being explored. The works are likely to commence in March 2020 and completed in a span of 3 months.

Similar initiative is also undertaken to rejuvenate the marsh at Thala Kundah, and to provide fencing to ensure that garbage is not dumped in the marsh land. A proposal at an estimate has been prepared by the Udhagamandalam Panchayat Union and the same is under consideration. This work would be carried out and the marsh land would be rejuvenated in 2020-2021.

E-Waste Management

The recent felt threat to the environment is the mismanagement of e-waste. Even though, every individual is generating e-waste, the awareness about its proper management and the threats these waste pose to the environment, is not really felt to the extent the ill effects of mismanagement of hazardous wastes are felt by the public. In fact, the improper management and haphazard manner disposal of the e-waste would adversely affect the components of the environment, as many of the electronic components are containing heavy metals at various levels.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has notified E-Waste (Management) Rules 2016 for safe handling and disposal of e-waste in the country. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NBG) in its order dated 12.02.2019 in O.A. No. 512/2018 has also issued directions to all the stake holders for effective implementation of the e-waste management rules.

In The Nilgiris District, there is no electronics good manufacturing industry or e-waste recycler/ reprocessor of dismantler is located. Further, the electronics goods manufacturers are yet to establish collection centres in the District. A press release about the duties and responsibilities of the various stake holders under the e-Waste Management Rules, 2016, was already made. Awareness programmes about the need for the proper management of e-waste would be made involving TNPCB, Education Department and other stake holders. Bulk generators of e-waste shall be identified and they shall be guided for the safe and proper disposal of e-waste. All the supports would be extended for establishing collection centres under extended producer responsibility by the manufacturers of electrical and electronics goods and their authorised personnel.

Illegal handling of e-waste would be curtailed by periodical checking by the local bodies, TNPCB and other stake holders.

Environmentally Responsible and Sustainable Tourism

The Nilgiris District, with Udhagamandalam as its headquarters, is one of the most sought tourist destination in TamilNadu. It is roughly estimated that the number of tourists visit in a year is about 50 Lakhs, of which 20% of the people are visiting during the two summer months of April and May. The ingress of such a large number of tourists and the activities associated with the tourist would create a stress on the ecosystem of the District, unless adequate support system are in place to ensure that the tourist activities are not adversely affecting the environment and eco-system. Such an activity is very much necessary to sustain the tourism, in as much as the tourism industry is also interdependent on the ecology and environment. In fact, the pristine eco-system of the District attracts many people, and as such if the ecosystem becomes stressed, it would affect the eco-tourism. The District Administration and the Departments responsible for the Tourism Development are realising these truths, and as such formulated plans, for the improvement of tourism activities, without compromising the need for protecting our fragile ecosystem and thereby sustain the Tourism industry.

The foremost threat to the environment, due to the littering of garbage by the tourists. This activity would not only affect the aesthetics of the area; but also poses threat to the animals and chocking of waterways. The haphazard littering of garbage is also likely to cause breeding of mosquitoes. To avoid this District Administration has introduced Littering Fine and is implemented in the District very successfully. It is also realized that adequate infrastructure need to be created for properly putting the garbage in the designated bins, without much hardship to the tourists. Keeping this in mind, Garbage Collection Bins are adequately placed throughout the District, assessing the need for each area. Even in the Roads, Garbage Collection Bins are placed at least on set, for wet waste and dry waste separately, in every kilometre.

Another menace the District experienced was the throwing of water and cool drinks plastic bottles, which has resulted in unpleasant appearance, breeding of mosquitoes and causing environmental pollution. The selling of water and cool drinks in disposable plastic bottles has been completely banned. In order to ensure that the

Tourists are not affected because of such activity Water ATMs are established along the Highways and the important places. All the Hotels, Restaurants, Cottages and Resorts in the District are instructed not to dispense/ sell water and cool drinks in disposable plastic bottles. The compliance is monitored by the TNPCB and the concerned Local Bodies. The possibility of banning the selling of water and cool drinks in disposable plastic bottles, within the entire District, within the existing legal framework is being explored.

The need for the proper collection of Plastic Bottles and to provide incentives to the public for the proper handling and disposal of used water bottles, so that they are not thrown away in a haphazard manner, it is decided to install reverse vending machines for plastic bottles, at important locations. The modalities and the cost for installing such facilities are being explored and the sources of fund are also explored. Provision of such facility would substantially improve the environmental condition of the District.