Revised Draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) for Puducherry region prepared under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019.

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Executive Summary

1. Background

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, issued the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification on 06.01.2011. As per the CRZ Notification, 2011, all coastal States and Union Territories to prepare Coastal Zone Management Plans to regulate Developmental activities in the CRZ area (Land and water areas along the coast and tidal rivers).
- Under the CRZ Notification 2011, Government of the Puducherry had prepared its CZMP, held public hearings, received suggestions, and sent the plan to the Central Government. It was approved and has been in force since 24.10. 2018.
- MoEF&CC had issued the CRZ Notification 2019 on 18.01.2019 to replace the 2011 Notification.
- All coastal States and UTs shall revise/update CZMP 2011 plan in line with the 2019 Notification, 2019. On 8th June 2019, the MoEF& CC issued guidelines for preparation of CZMP, 2019.

2. Objectives of the CRZ Notification, 2019

- Ensure the livelihood security of fishing and other local communities living in coastal areas.
- Conserve and protect coastal areas, their unique environment and water bodies.
- Promote sustainable development based on scientific principles, taking into account natural disasters and the risk of sea level rise from global warming.

3. Coastal Regulation Zones

Under the CRZ Notification, 2019 the following areas are declared CRZ:

- The land area from HTL to 500 meter on the landward side along the sea front.
- High Tide Line (HTL) to 50 meter or width of the creek, whichever is less on the landward side along the tidal influenced water bodies
- The area between HTL to LTL (Low tide Line) (Intertidal Zone)
- The water and the bed area between the LTL to the territorial water limit (12 Nm) in case of sea and the water and the bed area between LTL at the bank to the LTL on the opposite side of the bank, of tidal influenced water bodies.

4. Hazard Line

- A line drawn considering tides, sea level rise and shoreline changes.
- Developed by the Survey of India and MoEF&CC together with NCSCM.
- Based on a combined assessment of the last 100 years of erosion and flooding data.
- A key tool for disaster management planning in the coastal environment.
- Used for planning adaptation and mitigation measures.
- A guide for protecting coastal structures and settlements.

5. Preparation of the Revised Draft CZMP for Puducherry Region

- The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, approved by the MoEF&CC, was appointed to prepared the CZMP under the CRZ Notification, 2019.
- The revised draft CZMP, maps, draft coastal land use maps and shoreline change assessment maps for Puducherry region have been prepared at 1:25,000 scale, based on satellite data and survey maps.

6. CRZ Categories

CRZ-IA, CRZ-IB, CRZ-II, CRZ-IIIA, CRZ-IIIB, CRZ-IVA and CRZ-IVB.

CRZ-IA (Ecologically Sensitive Areas)

Ecologically sensitive areas and geomorphological features that maintain the integrity of the coast:

- Mangroves (if the area exceeds 1,000 sq meter, a 50 meter buffer is also CRZ-IA)
- Corals and coral reefs
- Sand dunes
- Biologically active mudflats
- National parks, marine parks, sanctuaries, reserve forests, wildlife habitats and other protected areas under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, Forest (Conservation) Act or Environment (Protection) Act
- Biosphere reserves
- Salt marshes
- Turtle nesting grounds
- Horseshoe crab habitats
- Seagrass beds
- Bird nesting grounds
- Areas or structures of archaeological importance
- Heritage sites.

CRZ-IB (Intertidal Zone)

The land between the LTL and HTL, which is wetted and dried by daily tides.

CRZ-II (Urban)

CRZ-II shall constitute the developed land areas up to or close to the shoreline, within the existing municipal limits or in other existing legally designated urban areas, which are substantially built-up with a ratio of built up plots to that of total plots being more than 50% and have been provided with drainage and approach roads and other infrastructural facilities, such as water supply and sewerage mains etc.

CRZ-III (Rural)

Land areas that are relatively undisturbed (viz rural areas etc) and those do not fall under CRZ-II, shall constitute CRZ –III. CRZ-III shall be further classified into following categories:

CRZ-III A

Such densely populated CRZ-III areas, where the population density is more than 2161per sq km as per 2011 census base, shall be designated as CRZ –III A. In CRZ-III A, area up to 50 mts from the HTL on the landward side shall be earmarked as the No Development Zone (NDZ), provided the CZMPs as per this Notification, framed with due consultative process, have been approved, failing which, a NDZ of 200 mts shall continue to apply.

CRZ-III B

All other CRZ-III areas with population density of less than 2161 per sq km, as per 2011 census base, shall be designated as CRZ-III B. In CRZ-III B, the area up to 200 mts. From the HTL on the landward side shall be earmarked as the No Development Zone (NDZ).

Land area up to 50 mts. from the HTL, or width of the creek whichever is less, along the tidal influenced water bodies, shall also be earmarked as the NDZ in CRZ III areas.

CRZ-IV (Water Areas)

The CRZ - IV shall constitute the water area and shall be further classified as under:

CRZ- IV A

The water area and the sea bed area between the Low Tide Line up to twelve (12) nautical miles on the seaward side shall constitute CRZ-IV A.

CRZ- IV B

CRZ-IV B areas shall include the water area and the bed area between LTL at the bank of the tidal influenced water body to the LTL on the opposite side of the bank, extending from the mouth of the water body at the sea up to the influence of tide, i.e., salinity of five parts per thousand (ppt) during the driest season of the year.

7. Areas requiring special consideration in the CRZ

To protect important coastal environments and address problems faced by local communities, special attention is needed for **Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas (CVCA)** and other ecologically important areas identified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These must be managed with the participation of coastal communities, including fishermen, who depend on coastal resources for sustainable livelihoods.

8. Public Hearing

- A Public Hearing hearing will be held under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, chaired by the District Collector-cum- District Magistrate . The Draft CZMP will be revised based on public comments and objections, and the revised plan will be sent to MoEF&CC for approval.

It is hereby informed that the revised draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) maps, CZMP report, Coastal Land Use Maps and other relevant documents pertaining to the Puducherry region are available on the website of the Puducherry Pollution Control Committee (PPCC) at the following link: https://dste.py.gov.in/ppcc/CZMP-pdy-2026.html

All departments, institutions, the public, NGOs and other stakeholders may submit comments or objections in writing, in English and Tamil within 30 days of publication of the draft CZMP.

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