

**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA****Abstract**

Water Resources Department- Operational Framework for Integrated River Basin Conservation and Management- Approved - Orders issued

WATER RESOURCES (ISWC) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(P)No.25/2025/WRD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 26-06-2025

Read Letter No. CEIA/2753/2023-PL2(PLG) dated 18/10/2024 from the Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Administration, Thiruvananthapuram

ORDER

Effective water resource management is a challenge, particularly in regions like Kerala where river systems are under increasing pressure. In Kerala, the combination of intense rainfall in the high ranges with a drastic elevation difference over a short distance causing peak runoffs, combined with flat terrain towards the western coast presents the conditions for flooding like that witnessed in August of 2018. With growing pressures from population increase, industrialization, and climate change, effective and integrated water management has become more urgent than ever. Therefore an authoritative guide for implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) across river basins, through a structured approach to address the diverse challenges these resources face, has become necessary.

2. Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to approve the Operational Framework for Integrated River Basin Conservation and Management, annexed to this Government Order.

(By order of the Governor)
BISHWANATH SINHA
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

To:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary,

- Planning & Economic Affairs Department
2. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary, Revenue Department
 3. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary, Local Self Government Department
 4. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary, Finance Department
 5. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary, Power Department
 6. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary, Agriculture Department
 7. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary, Forest and Wild Life Department
 8. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary, Environment Department
 9. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary, Tourism Department
 10. The Secretary, Law Department
 11. The Vice Chairman, State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram
 12. All District Collectors
 13. The Chief Engineer (Irrigation and Administration), Thiruvananthapuram
 14. The Director, Directorate of Environment & Climate Change.
 15. The Director, Agriculture Department
 16. The Director, Fisheries Department
 17. The Member Secretary, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority
 18. The Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board
 19. The Chief (Agri Division), Kerala State Planning Board
 20. The Chief Engineer, Local Self Government Department
 21. The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department
 22. The Chief Engineer, Kerala Water Authority
 23. The Chief Engineer, Kerala State Electricity Board
 24. The Chief Engineer, Harbour Engineering Department
 25. The Director, Ground Water Department
 26. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Forest Department
 27. The Commissioner, Land Revenue
 28. The Director, Tourism
 29. The Director, Soil Conservation
 30. The Director, Industries and Commerce

31. The Mission Director, Mission Directorate (PMU-RKI) WRD
32. The Chief Engineer, IDRB
33. The Chief Engineer, Project 1, Kozhikode
34. The Chief Engineer, Project 2, Thiruvananthapuram
35. The Chief Engineer, Inland Navigation & Kuttanad Package
36. The Principal Accountant General(Audit/A&E) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram
37. The General Administration (SC) Department (vide Item No.3075 dated 25/06/2025)
38. The Director, I&PRD(Web & New media)
39. Stock file/ Office Copy

Forwarded /By order
Signed by

Resmi B

Date: 27-06-2025 13:23:16
Section Officer

Copy to:

1. The PS to Chief Minister
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7. The PS to Minister for Local Self Government Department
8. The PS to Minister for Agriculture
9. The PS to Minister for Environment
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17. PA to Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department

18. PA to Special Secretary, Water Resources Department

**OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT**

Preface

The sustainable management of river basins is crucial for conserving natural resources, supporting local livelihoods, and preserving ecological balance. With growing pressures from population increase, industrialization, and climate change, effective and integrated water management has become more urgent than ever. This operational framework has been developed to serve as an authoritative guide for implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) across river basins, establishing a structured approach to address the diverse challenges these resources face.

Designed to serve as a guiding authority for IWRM, this framework outlines essential components, including governance structures, planning methodologies, financial management, and community engagement strategies. It emphasizes collaboration among government agencies, local communities, civil society, and the private sector, ensuring that all stakeholders work together towards sustainable river basin management. By defining clear roles and responsibilities, this framework aims to enhance coordinated action across departments and improve the efficiency and impact of river basin management initiatives.

The framework is organized into several key chapters, each addressing a fundamental area of river basin management. From long-term strategic planning and annual action plans to transparent financial structures and monitoring mechanisms, it provides a comprehensive foundation for achieving IWRM objectives.

Acknowledging that IWRM success depends on the active involvement of all stakeholders, this framework is built on principles of inclusivity and adaptability. It encourages continuous dialogue and feedback from the broader community of water resource stakeholders to refine strategies and practices that meet evolving challenges. This operational framework is a call to action, urging all partners to participate actively in the stewardship of our river basins.

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List of Acronyms

AAP	Annual Action Plan
AC	Apex Committee
ACS	Additional Chief Secretary
CE	Chief Engineer
CS	Chief Secretary
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CWC	Central Water Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GIS	Geographical Information System
HED	Harbour Engineering Department
HoD	Head of Department
HoFF	Head of Forest Forces
IRBM	Integrated River Basin Management
IRBMP	Integrated River Basin Management Plan
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KSDMA	Kerala State Disaster Management Authority
KSEB	Kerala State Electricity Board
KSPB	Kerala State Planning Board
KSPCB	Kerala State Pollution Control Board
KWA	Kerala Water Authority
LSGD	Local Self Government Department

MD	Managing Director
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
PWD	Public Works Department
RBCM	River Basin Conservation and Management
RBLC	River Basin Level Committee
SC	Steering Committee
TC	Technical Committee
WRD	Water Resources Department

Context

Kerala is blessed with a rich endowment of water resources. It has a high average annual precipitation of approximately 3,000 mm and has 44 small and medium rivers, around 2590 lakes and ponds spread across the state covering an area of approximately 800 sqkm, an intricate stream network extending to about 9000km with a dense system of tributaries and distributaries feeding the 44 rivers, as well as around 300 perennial springs and extensive wetlands which cover approximately 1648 sqkm. However, this natural system of water resources varies both spatially and temporally, resulting in occasional floods and droughts. The bulk of rainfall is received during the southwest monsoon, which typically sets in by June and extends up to September. The State also receives heavy rains during the northeast monsoon, from October to December. Approximately 90% of rainfall occurs during these six monsoon months. The high intensity storms during the monsoon months result in heavy discharges in all the rivers, while the prolonged dry seasons jeopardize farmers' incomes and people's livelihoods. Additionally, Kerala has a diverse topography ranging from the high ranges (Anamudi Peak at 2,695 meters) to midland and coastal plains and lowland areas near the coast that fall three meters below sea level, all within a 100-kilometer distance. This combination of intense rainfall in the high ranges with a drastic elevation difference over a short distance causing peak runoffs, combined with flat terrain towards the western coast presents the conditions for flooding like that witnessed in August of 2018.

The floods of 2018 and 2019 highlighted several structural constraints that left Kerala unprepared for major natural disasters or climate change shocks. This included inadequate policies and institutional frameworks that were not risk-informed to manage and monitor critical natural resources such as water and land. This in turn led to extensive urban sprawl, unmanaged construction in hazard prone areas, exclusion of disaster risk preparedness in key socioeconomic sectors, gaps in basic infrastructure in urban areas along with aging and poorly maintained infrastructure, weak capacity of institutions to anticipate and respond to extreme events, poor availability and sharing of reliable data for disaster risk planning and management due to inadequate hydro-met system and limited fiscal resources as well as absence of ex ante financing modalities for risk pooling and sharing. Due to these systemic weaknesses, Kerala was at the mercy of the 2018 floods and landslides.

Definitions

1. "Basin" means the entire catchment of a water body or water course including the soil, water, vegetation, and other natural resource in the area.
2. "Catchment" means the entire area whose runoff from rain, drains into a water body or watercourse.
3. "Climate Resilience" means the capacity of a river basin and its ecosystems to adapt to climate variability and extreme events while maintaining functionality.
4. "Dispute Resolution Mechanism" means the process designed to address and resolve conflicts, particularly concerning the management and allocation of shared water resources
5. "Framework" means framework for River Basin Conservation and Management which outlines the goal and objectives of the framework together with its activities, organization, and key responsibilities of its stakeholders, and serves thereby as a reference point for decision-making, strategic planning, and direction.
6. "Government" means the Government of Kerala.
7. "Groundwater" means the water which exists below the surface (subsurface) of the ground at any location or at any category of locations and those stored in aquifers.
8. "Interstate rivers" means the rivers which flow across Kerala boundary or form boundaries between Kerala and other states.
9. "IWRM" means the process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources to maximize the economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.
10. "Jurisdiction" means Kerala state boundaries and other such prescribed boundaries by the Government and Apex Committee, from time to time.

11. "Dam" means any artificial barrier and its appurtenant structure constructed across rivers or tributaries thereof with a view to impound or divert water which also include barrage, weir, and similar water impounding structures but does not include (a) Canal, aqueduct, navigation channel and similar water conveyance structures, (b) Flood embankments, dike, guide bund and similar flow regulation structures.
12. "Environmental flow" is the proportion of original flow maintaining or restoring biophysical components, ecological processes, and services of instream and groundwater systems, floodplains, and downstream receiving waters.
13. "Notification" means a notification published in the Kerala Gazette.
14. "Pollution" means such contamination of water or such alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of water or such discharge of any sewage or trade effluent or of any other liquid, gaseous or solid substance into water (whether directly or indirectly) as may, or is likely to, create a nuisance or render such water harmful or injurious to public health or safety, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural or other legitimate uses, or to the life and health of animals or plants or of aquatic organisms.
15. "Pooled Budget" means a financial mechanism where resources from various sources are consolidated for effective management and allocation within the river basin.
16. "River Basin" means the hydrological area or portion of land drained by a river and its tributaries, encompassing the entire land surface dissected and drained by many streams, and water channels that flow downhill into one another.
17. "State" means the State of Kerala.
18. "Sub Basin" means a hydrologic unit or hydrologic sub-unit of a river basin.
19. "Water" means and includes surface, sub-surface, ground, and stratospheric water.

20. "Water Resources Department" means the Government department or departments handling the subject of water resources as prescribed by the Rules of Business of the Government of Kerala.
21. "Wetland" means any natural or artificial water body containing saline water or fresh water, static or flowing and includes polders, backwaters, lakes, estuaries, marshes, fen, lagoons, mangroves, and wetlands as notified under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017, but does not include rivers, streams, reservoirs, or water bodies, formed in the rivers and streams, by the construction of dams and paddy fields as specified in the Kerala Conservation of Paddy and Wetland Act 2008.

Chapter 1

Impact of 2018 Floods

During the August 2018 flooding, irrigation canals and drains became heavily silted, canal banks collapsed, and many structures such as cross drains, sluice gates, weirs, check dams, diversion channels, etc. were damaged. The drainage systems in urban areas were blocked due to floodwaters carrying heavy sediment load, compounded by local high intensity rainfall. Gushing waters spread deep into the habitations, aggravating the damages to public and private assets. Both inland and coastal protection structures were impacted, which caused salt-water intrusion in the Vembanad Lake area. In the case of hydraulic infrastructure, most of the damages occurred in smaller storage systems such as small dams, storage ponds, diversion channels, embankments, etc. No major damage was reported to large and medium dams. Nearly 200 storage ponds and 70 minor dams were damaged. Several gates were either non-operational or experiencing severe leakage due to structural damage – such as ruptures in spillways, crevasses, sluice gates, etc. Approach roads leading to dams, site offices, and residential areas were also heavily damaged.

1.1 Needs for improvements

The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) that followed the immediate recovery activities post disaster of 2018 suggested an embedded in a long-term vision laid down in Kerala's sustainable development planning. With IWRM in place, it is possible to make proper plans for water safety and water security, based on actual and planned land-use, resulting in multiple basin plans. The integrated basin plans need to be based on sufficient and reliable data, and state-of-the-art hydrological models. The recovery process should break inter-sectoral barriers to establish a holistic and mutually beneficial framework for coordination; and through doing so, identify best practices from various disciplines that encourage the creation of a healthy river ecosystem that is beneficial to communities, economies, and biological processes.

It is a known fact that the challenges presented by water resources in Kerala can either be mitigated or exacerbated based on how they are managed and developed. The severe damages incurred by the heavy floods in Kerala are a consequence of

inadequately planned, developed and managed water resources. Although the recent flooding was produced naturally by the heavy monsoon rains, it was exacerbated by poor management of water resources. The lack of monitoring systems and inadequate institutional capacity limits the State's ability to anticipate, forecast, and respond to extreme events and leads to sub-optimal and ad hoc response, from one disaster/emergency to another.

The August 2018 floods have catalyzed the State's commitment to improve water resources planning, development, and management to decrease its vulnerability to water-related risks. This presents a major opportunity for Kerala and its management of water resources to rebuild and reform in a more sustainable and resilient manner. Although the State offers great potential for development of water as an economic engine, it has substantial water resource management challenges that need to be systematically addressed to accelerate resilient development. The major challenges associated with water resources management in the State, many of which are mentioned in the Kerala Water Policy (2008) and were re-emphasized in the post-flood analysis viz. Water storage and coordinated reservoir operation, carrying capacity of major water systems, Wetlands degradation, Poor Management of Hill Watersheds, Deteriorating Surface water quality, Groundwater use and quality, Sand quarrying, Coastal erosion and Climate change. In addition to the fragile natural resources system in Kerala, the increase in population, urbanization, industry development, demand for food production etc. adds further pressure on water resources and vulnerabilities of communities to natural hazards like floods and droughts. Furthermore, inadequate management of water resources and development also makes it challenging for Kerala to mitigate risks and make the most productive use of its water resources. Specifically, there are weakness in the three fundamental 'levers' of water resource development and management, i.e.:

1. **Institutions and Policy Framework** – Low capacity of institutions, inadequate coordination amongst water-related institutions and between various wings of the Water Resources Department..
2. **Information and Analysis** – Inadequate hydrological data base, information systems, data sharing mechanisms, and tools for sound decision-making and to enable forecasting and early warning to trigger emergency response.

3. **Investment Planning and Implementation** – Inadequate investments in building resilient infrastructure and poor operation and maintenance of assets contribute to economic losses across sectors during extreme events.

Water resources management in Kerala presents an opportunity as much as a challenge. To address these challenges and unlock the potential, there is urgent necessity to implement and enforce efficient management in the conservation and regulatory practices for water resources in Kerala by implementing an Integrated River Basin Management Plan (IRBMP)

Chapter 2

Why Integrated River Basin Management Plan?

2.1 Importance of Integrated River Basin Management Plan.

Over the last 100 years, some form of river basin management has been in practice in many countries. In earlier days, single-purpose water resource planning was the norm, and surface water quantity was the prime concern. Gradually, planning became more multi-purpose, but water quantity has remained a core dimension. Over time, it became clear that issues pertaining to both water quality and quantity, and to groundwater and surface water, should be treated together. This more comprehensive approach to planning and management became known as ***Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)***.

Today, it is considered best practice in water resources planning to integrate water quantity and quality management for both groundwater and surface water, while incorporating a full understanding of how the natural resources and the people of a basin are impacted by various levels of development or by adopting new resource use policies. Land use as well as land and vegetation management are thus issues that need to be considered in water resources planning and management. This is best done in a highly participative way, involving all the major stakeholder groups, and in a way that achieves a balance between the level of economic development and the consequent impact on the natural resource base of a river basin as agreed by the stakeholders. **This participatory and comprehensive approach is what is generally referred to as good Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM).**

Infrastructure projects can gain in effectiveness and sustainability from having a sound, overarching framework in place for IRBM. However, working within a river basin management framework usually adds to the preparation time of a project. Integration in IRBM means much more than just considering water resources as part of the overall natural resource base of a river basin. **Integration extends to economic, social, and environmental issues.**

There are five common features or attributes that constitute best practice in IRBM. Those basin organizations that are addressing or managing these five features seem to be achieving the best results. These are as follows:

1. The establishment of a basin-wide institutional framework that allows all the main government administrations operating within the basin to participate from state, to district, and local bodies. This framework needs to be strong, clear, and flexible.
2. Good knowledge of the condition and behavior of the natural resources of the basin. This refers to the strategic assessment of water and related resources to include all aspects of catchment data, not just water quantity.
3. The development of all policies, strategies, decisions, and projects in an integrated manner in recognition of the holistic and interactive way that natural resources behave.
4. Incorporation of community and stakeholder participation into the planning and management processes.
5. Establishment of a system to assess on a regular basis whether the river basin is being managed sustainably.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) provides guidelines for IWRM in which comprehensive information about the various elements of integrated planning, development and management in river basins throughout India and in line with this framework are explained and discussed. The Guidelines outlines three types of river basin organizations (i) consultative/coordinating bodies, (ii) planning and regulatory bodies overseeing development of plans and policies, and (iii) large multipurpose organizations also undertaking services such as hydropower operation or irrigation water supply.

An overriding principle in selecting a suitable “basin coordinating arrangement” is to adopt the simplest model or framework that will deliver the improvements sought in

terms of sustainable basin management, with the least possible disruption to any existing agencies or processes that are operating reasonably effectively.

Considering the scenario in Kerala, no Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Plan has been developed till date. Although the flooding was the triggering factor to initiate IRBM, this is not the only issue posing economic, socioeconomic, and environmental risks in the river basin. Some of the major challenges related to basin management are:

- Flooding and water logging in downstream reaches and debris due to landslides at vulnerable slopes causing damages to property, infrastructure, crops etc.
- Bank erosion during floods, scouring of bridge piers, bed level changes in navigation channels, reservoir siltation; sand bars blocking water intakes etc., which are few examples of associated flood damages.
- Scarcity of potable water or water for irrigation in the dry season resulting in competition for water. Due to hydrogeological conditions, most of the water abstraction is from surface water.
- Salinity intrusion, wetlands and eventually the rivers with impacts on fishery, agriculture, water abstraction for water supply schemes etc.
- The water holding capacity of rivers are declining year by year for different reasons such as siltation, encroachment, change of hydrology patterns, climate change etc.
- Encroachment of water bodies (riverbanks, wetlands, flood plains, lake) results in higher risks of flooding, siltation, and erosion in such areas and further downstream.
- Use of pesticides and fertilizers results in extensive pollution and water quality deterioration of stagnant water bodies which in turn has a detrimental impact on the public health.
- Delineation of special agriculture zones with special regulations to sustain cultivation in this zone.
- Need for joint crop calendar to guide in use of pesticides, fertilizers, operation of salinity barrage, pond drainage, weed growth control etc.
- Solid waste management is inadequate with unregulated dumping of solid waste resulting in unintended encroachment, water pollution, etc.

- Demarcation of floodplain zones and water bodies are untransparent and source of conflicts among land users and owners in the catchment.
- Urban drainage issues exist in several municipalities throughout the river basin with water logging during heavy rains causing damages and interruptions in urban areas, and drainage master plans are missing.
- Inland waterways navigation is hampered at various locations due to e.g., low-hanging bridges, encroachment, bank erosion etc.

The list above is not complete, and more challenges may be identified once wider groups of stakeholders have been consulted. A holistic view on IRBM is needed although the primary target initially will be to improve severely flood-prone regions and minimize losses there in the future.

2.2 Objectives of the Integrated River Basin Management Plan

The objectives of the IRBM in Kerala is to carry out natural resource (water resources) management and decision-making through holistic integration of inherent diverse interests and different objectives (ecological, social, economic, cultural, political) by a participatory approach across the different sectors of the society in the river basins, and thereby ensure sustainable long-term development and resilience towards future natural hazards:

- To implement and enforce efficient management in the conservation and regulatory practices for water resources in Kerala, in the wake of depleting water resources within the State of Kerala and the repeated occurrences of extreme climatic events.
- To implement Integrated River Basin Management Plan (IRBMP) within the state by developing Integrated State Water plans /master plans for each of its river systems and implementing them in a time bound manner;
- To protect surface and groundwater systems and its water quality;

The outcome of IRBM will be new ways for concerned stakeholders of managing and using the natural resources in the river basin which in the long run will lead to more social equity and inclusiveness, economic development and prosperity, and environmental sustainability and resilience, the expected tangible output is described below.

Four main outputs from the IRBM are:

- i. Strategies, policies, and plans with scenario analyses of impact on the environment and people.
- ii. Data management to ensure up-to-date and adequate information for decision-making and actions.
- iii. Recommendations for interventions (structural and non-structural); and
- iv. Institutional framework strengthening (state, district, local bodies) for implementing the IRBM plan.

Environmental and social risks and impacts of policy options and technical interventions shall be outlined and mitigation measures to address the impacts shall be included as part of the IRBM plan. As an integral part of the preparation of the IRBM plan, institutional set-up for its implementation and other activities shall be identified.

Integrated river basin management aims to establish a framework for coordination whereby all administrations and stakeholders involved in river basin planning and management can come together to develop an agreed set of policies and strategies such that a balanced and acceptable approach to land, water, and natural resource management can be achieved.

The operational framework explained in the following chapters will form a regulatory mechanism to facilitate integrated river basin management plan and to ensure judicious, equitable and sustainable management, allocation, and utilization of water resources. This is also necessary to protect the river system and its water quality. However, this framework does not address management or jurisdiction of interstate rivers flowing through the state.

Chapter 3

Enabling Provisions in the Water Conservation Act

The Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003 does empower the government to create necessary institutions for effective water management. The Act emphasizes integrated water resource management, enabling the formation of authorities or committees to oversee conservation efforts at the river basin level.

The Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003 includes provisions for the establishment of authorities related to water management.

3.1 Chapter XIV; Clause 90

Chapter XIV; Clause 90 of the Act allows for the formation of River Basin Authorities to facilitate the integrated management of river basins. These authorities are responsible for conservation, management, and sustainable use of water resources within their designated river basins.

CHAPTER XIV; Clause 90. Constitution of Water Management and Utilization Board.-

- 1. The Government may, by notification, constitute a Water Management and Utilization Board with respect to any basin or cluster of river basins or project or irrigation work or any major irrigation work, for advising the Government on matters relating to the regulation of the distribution of water from the irrigation work in that area or the major irrigation work, as the case may be, and on such other matters as may be referred to it.**
- 2. The Board constituted under sub-section (1) shall consist of not more than twenty members appointed by the Government representing agriculturists in the area, non- officials of such interests as may be prescribed, officials and representatives of local bodies: Provided that the agriculturists and non-official members taken together shall have majority in the Board.**
- 3. The term of office of a member, other than an official member, of the Board shall be three years from the date of constitution of the Board, unless his term is terminated earlier by the Government by notification.**

3.2 Section 3

Watercourses and water in watercourses to be Government property. This section grants the government control over water bodies to ensure they are utilized in a way that aligns with state priorities, such as irrigation or navigation projects, and allows the imposition of regulatory measures to conserve and maintain these resources effectively.

Section 3 - Water courses and water in watercourses to be Government property. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law for the time being in force, or in any custom or usage or in any contract or other instrument but subject to the provisions of section 218 of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 (13 of 1994) and section 208 of the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994 (20 of 1994), all water courses and all water in such water courses in the State shall be the property of the Government, and the Government shall be entitled to conserve and regulate the use of such watercourses and the water in all those water courses for the purposes of irrigation and the generation of Electricity and for matters connected therewith or for both.

Chapter 4

Charter of Operational Framework for River Basin Conservation and Management

This charter of the framework for River Basin Conservation and Management (RBCM) outlines the goal and objectives of the framework together with its activities, organization and key responsibilities of its stakeholders, and serves thereby as a reference point for decision-making, strategic planning and direction.

4.1 Goal

The purpose of the framework for RBCM and IRBM in Kerala is to carry out natural resource (water resources) management and decision-making through holistic integration of inherent diverse interests and different objectives (ecological, social, economic, cultural, political) by a participatory approach across the different sectors of the society in the river basins and thereby ensure sustainable long-term development and resilience towards future natural hazards.

4.2 Objective

- To implement and enforce efficient management in the conservation and regulatory practices for water resources in Kerala, in the wake of depleting water resources within the State of Kerala and the repeated occurrences of extreme climatic events.
- To implement Integrated River Basin Management Plan (IRBMP) within the state by developing Integrated State Water plans /master plans for each of its river basins and implementing them in a time bound manner;
- To protect surface and groundwater and its water quality;

4.3 Activities

- Coordinate existing strategies, plans, activities and financing related to water resources between relevant government administrations at state, district and local bodies level;
- Initiate new projects and interventions (structural as well as non-structural) for improvement of water resource management in selected river basins
- Establish mechanisms for sharing of data, information, decisions, best practices, lessons learned related to water resource management between the stakeholders.

- Advocacy and raising awareness of integrated river basin management among relevant stakeholders within the state;

4.4 Organizational Structure

Committees at different levels are established with defined responsibilities and tasks that will ensure efficiency in the flow of data, information, decisions and actions.

4.4.1 Apex Committee

- **Chair:** Hon. Chief Minister
- **Members:**
 - Minister for Water Resources
 - Minister for Revenue and Housing
 - Minister for Electricity
 - Minister for Forest and Wildlife
 - Minister for Finance
 - Minister for Tourism
 - Minister for Local Self Government Department (LSGD)
 - Minister for Agriculture
 - Minister for Environment
 - Minister for Industries
 - Minister for Fisheries
 - Minister for Public works
 - Minister for Law
 - Vice Chairman of the State Planning Board
 - Chief Secretary
 - ACS WRD (Convenor)
- **Responsibilities:**
 - To approve the River Basin Management Plan for each river basin, reviewed and recommended by the Steering Committee

- To ensure that the strategic direction of the Integrated River Basin Management Plan (IRBMP) aligns with the broader state policies, climate resilience, and sustainability objectives.
- Provide guidance on sector-specific priorities ensuring that the IRBMP reflects an integrated approach to river basin management.
- Ensures that the overall planning aligns with state development goals and long-term strategies.
- The Apex Committee assesses and approves significant programs, infrastructure projects, and initiatives proposed, viz. flood control projects, water conservation strategies, ecosystem restoration, and water infrastructure upgrades etc under the IRBMP.
- Responsible for the approval of funds necessary for the implementation of key projects and ensuring efficient resource utilization. It sets financial priorities and ensures alignment with government budgets and other funding sources including international funding.
- Ensures that proposed initiatives are consistent with social, environmental, and economic development goals, as well as with international commitments (such as climate action targets).
- The Apex Committee is tasked with resolving conflicts that may arise between various departments such as Revenue, Water Resources, PWD, and LSGD, ensuring that there is policy cohesion.
- The Apex Committee ensures that different departments work in coordination, avoiding duplication of efforts, and promoting a unified approach to river basin management.
- The Apex Committee will provide high-level oversight on the progress of IRBMP initiatives. It regularly reviews key performance indicators, reports from implementing bodies, and the overall progress of river basin management efforts.
- Ensures transparency in decision-making, financial transactions, and reporting processes related to the activities.

- Sets broad guidelines on public engagement strategies, ensuring that the public is informed about the IRBMP initiatives, their benefits, and how they contribute to regional development.
- The Apex Committee has the authority to approve any necessary modifications or amendments to the IRBMP based on changing circumstances, new research, or unforeseen challenges. This may also include reallocating funds, revising timelines, modification in the composition of the Steering Committee or adjusting project goals.
- The Apex Committee may co-opt domain specialist as needed.
- The Apex Committee shall convene when a quorum of two-third is present.

4.4.2 Steering Committee

- **Chair:** Chief Secretary of Kerala
- **Members:**
 - Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) for Water Resources
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Planning
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Revenue
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of LSGD
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Finance
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Agriculture
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Forest and Wild Life
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Environment

- Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Tourism Department
- Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Power Department
- Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of any other stakeholder department (as directed and approved by Apex Committee)
- Secretary (Law)
- Secretary/Special Secretary(Convenor)
- Chief Engineer (Irrigation and Administration)

• **Responsibilities:**

- Responsible for the approval of the broad guidelines for the preparation of the Integrated River basin Management plan and its review from time to time.
- The Steering Committee is responsible for reviewing and recommendation for the IRBM plan, ensuring that it aligns with state policies, stakeholder inputs, national water management standards, strategic priorities of the state, including climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and water security.
- The Steering Committee monitors the progress of the IRBM plan implementation at regular intervals to ensure that the set goals and milestones are achieved.
- It reviews performance reports from implementing agencies and other stakeholders to ensure that the plan is on track and adapts to changing needs or challenges.
- The Steering Committee ensures that sectoral plans (such as agriculture, water supply, sanitation, disaster management, urban planning, and infrastructure development) are integrated within the broader IRBM framework.
- It facilitates coordination between different departments and agencies (Water Resources, Agriculture, Environment, Public Works, Local Self Government, etc.) to avoid duplication and ensure effective resource allocation.
- Provides technical oversight and administrative support to the River Basin Level Committee to ensure the successful implementation of the sectoral plans under IWRM, addressing issues such as sustainable water use, pollution control, water quality, and ecosystem protection.

- **Acts as an appellate authority to resolve interdepartmental conflicts that arise during the planning or implementation of the IRBM plan, such as disputes over resource allocation, land acquisition, or the prioritization of projects, which is not resolved by the River Basin Level Committee.**
- The Steering Committee is responsible for the annual review and approval of budgetary allocations for projects under the IRBM plan. It ensures that sufficient financial resources are made available to execute the approved initiatives.
- To ensure the efficient allocation of state resources and identifies funding gaps that may require external financing (such as loans from the World Bank or other multilateral agencies).
- The Steering Committee will serve as the central authority for approving the use of external funds and will ensure that the projects funded by the external sources are aligned with the IRBM Plan and state priorities.
- The Steering Committee monitors the utilization of funds allocated for IWRM initiatives to ensure financial discipline and accountability.
- Reviews financial reports and ensures that all expenditures are in line with approved budgets, preventing cost overruns and ensuring value for money in project execution.
- Engages with external agencies to secure funding or technical assistance when required, ensuring that external funds are aligned with the IWRM objectives and are utilized effectively.
- Ensures that all aspects of the IRBM plan comply with relevant state laws, environmental regulations, and national water policies.
- To ensure the strengthening of institutional capacity initiatives for departmental staff and local authorities, equipping them with IWRM techniques.
- The Steering Committee may co-opt domain specialist as needed.
- The Steering Committee shall convene when a quorum of two-third is present, with the imperative presence of the Chairperson, ACS (WRD), ACS (Finance) and ACS (LSGD)

- To address any matter as directed by the Apex Committee.

4.4.3 Technical Committee

- **Chair:** Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources
- **Members:**
 - Director, Directorate of Environment & Climate Change.
 - Director, Agriculture Department
 - Director, Fisheries Department
 - Member Secretary, KSDMA
 - Member Secretary, KSPCB
 - Chief, Agriculture Division, KSPB
 - Chief Engineer, LSGD
 - Chief Engineer, PWD
 - Chief Engineer, KWA
 - Chief Engineer, KSEB
 - Chief Engineer, HED
 - Director, Ground Water Department
 - Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Forest Department
 - Commissioner, Land Revenue
 - Director, Tourism
 - Director, Soil Conservation
 - Director, Industries and Commerce
 - HoDs/Chief Engineers/MDs of any other Stakeholder departments (as directed and approved by Steering Committee).
 - Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Administration, Convenor
- **Responsibilities:**
 - The Technical Committee will act as a technical advisory to the Steering Committee in reviewing and ensuring that all sectoral plans are fully aligned with the broader IRBM goals.
 - It ensures that each department's water-related activities, such as irrigation, urban water supply, or flood management, contribute to the holistic and sustainable management of water resources across the state.
 - The Technical Committee identifies potential overlaps, duplication, contradictions, or conflicts in the sectoral plans of different departments.

- It facilitates coordination between departments to avoid redundant investments, ensuring efficient use of financial and technical resources.
- The Technical Committee reviews sectoral policies to ensure consistency with the overall objectives of the IRBM, particularly in areas such as sustainable water use, climate adaptation, pollution control, and equitable water distribution.
- The Technical Committee serves as the main platform for inter-departmental communication, ensuring that different government agencies are consistently informed about each other's water-related activities.
- The Technical Committee ensures that departments and their staff are adequately trained in IWRM principles and best practices, organizing workshops and knowledge-sharing sessions.
- Monitors how well the state policies related to water management are being translated into action on the ground, ensuring that legal and regulatory frameworks are adhered to.
- The Technical Committee regularly assesses how well the department's plans align with the overarching IRBM objectives and the efforts of other departments involved in water resource management.
- It also identifies any gaps in departmental plans where additional collaboration or new initiatives may be required to meet IRBM goals, such as cross-sectoral water conservation initiatives or joint infrastructure projects.
- The Technical Committee provides expert feedback on the technical aspects of IRBM implementation, focusing on water resource management, sustainable practices, and the use of new technologies.
- The Technical Committee identifies emerging challenges or new opportunities related to water resource management (e.g., climate change impacts, technological advancements) and suggests modifications to plans to accommodate these changes.
- It provides technical insights on how to integrate new findings, research, and innovations in water management into the department's operational strategies.

- Necessitates thorough Environment Impact Assessment for any major river basin interventions as required, ensuring projects are sustainable and environmentally sound.
- The Technical Committee may co-opt domain specialists as and when required.
- Address any matter as directed by the Apex Committee and Steering Committee.

4.4.4 River Basin Level Committee

- **Chair:** District Collector of the district, which has the largest geographical area of the river basin with District collectors of the other districts falling within the river basin as Co-Chair. (The list of the distribution of Kerala's rivers across the various districts is attached as annexure).
- **Members:**
 - Member/s of Legislative Assembly falling under the respective basin.
 - Heads of the local bodies falling within the river basin.
 - District level officers assigned for the departments of Irrigation, Agriculture, Forest, KWA, Fisheries, LSGD, PWD, Harbour, Groundwater, Soil Conservation, KSPCB, Tourism, Health and KSEB (To be nominated by each Department Head)
 - Technical Experts nominated by the Technical Committee and with representatives from Water Resource Department (Experts in water resource management, hydrology and river basin planning), Environmental Specialist, Hydrologists and climate Experts, GIS and Data Analysts, Agricultural and Land Management Experts, Social and Economic Experts, Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology Experts, NGOs and Civil Society Representatives.
 - Executive Engineer, Irrigation, as nominated by the Irrigation Department - Convenor

- **Responsibilities:**
- **The River Basin Level Committee will play a pivotal role in the preparation of sectoral plans for the basin plans through a participatory process with due stakeholder involvement.** The responsibility for preparing sectoral plans will be distributed to the authorized personnel (designated by the concerned departments) based on the expertise and scope of the concerned departments and stakeholders. Below is a breakdown of key stakeholders and their roles.
- ***The Irrigation Department*** – *The concerned Executive Engineer authorized for each river basin will be responsible for preparing sectoral plans related to water allocation, irrigation, flood management, groundwater recharge and overall water resource utilization within the river basin.*
- ***Agriculture Department*** – *The authorized personnel (designated by the department) will handle sectoral planning for sustainable agricultural practices, ensuring water-efficient farming methods, soil health, and addressing the water demands for agriculture while protecting environmental flows in river.*
- ***Fisheries Department*** – *The authorized personnel (designated by the department) will focus on the development of fisheries, ensuring sustainable fishing practices, protecting aquatic, protecting aquatic biodiversity, and addressing the socio-economic aspects of communities reliant on river based fisheries.*
- ***Forest Department*** – *The authorized personnel (designated by the department) will prepare sectoral plans related to forest management, afforestation, biodiversity conservation and ensuring that forest ecosystems contribute to the health of the river basin.*
- ***Urban and Rural Development Authorities*** – *The authorized personnel (designated by the department) will ensure that sectoral plans for land use, housing, urban drainage, and rural development are prepared, incorporating sustainable development goals in alignment with river basin health.*

- ***Environment Department*** – *The authorized personnel (designated by the department) will focus on environmental protection and pollution control, developing plans to reduce point and non-point source pollution, manage waste, and restore riverine ecosystems.*
- ***Public Works Department (PWD)*** – *The authorized personnel (designated by the department) will manage infrastructure development, such as bridges, roads, and embankments, ensuring they are resilient to climate change and flood risks.*
- ***Local Bodies (Panchayats, Municipalities)*** – *The authorized personnel (designated by the department) will play a crucial role in micro-level planning, focusing on localized interventions such as rainwater harvesting, small-scale waste management, and community-based river conservation efforts.*
- ***Civil Society and NGOs*** - *These stakeholders will provide input on community-based management plans, including participatory water governance, awareness campaigns, and initiatives to engage local communities in river basin management.*
- ***Any other related stakeholder department / authority / agency*** – *Additional relevant stakeholders, departments, or agencies involved in sectors impacting the river basin will also participate as required. This may include entities responsible for industry regulation, disaster management, public health, pollution control, electricity etc depending on the unique needs and characteristics of each river basin.*
- The Chairperson of the River Basin Level Committee will oversee the preparation of these sectoral plans, ensuring coordination among the various departments and stakeholders.
- The Technical Expert under the RBLC, will provide detailed technical assessments, develop scenarios for river basin interventions, coordinate sectoral inputs, and ensure that the basin plan is based on sound scientific and technical data. They will work closely with the RBLC Chairperson to coordinate its review by relevant committees. They will support and consolidate the sectoral plans into the comprehensive IRBMP for the river basin, ensuring alignment with environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic development goals.

- Once the sectoral plans are prepared, they will be reviewed and vetted by the Steering Committee, ensuring alignment with the broader objectives of the IRBMP. After revisions and integration of feedback, the consolidated river basin plan will be submitted to the Apex Committee for approval and finalization.
- The River Basin Level Committee assesses whether the proposed plans align with the broader objectives of the IRBM framework, ensuring that they address key concerns such as flood control, water conservation, pollution prevention, and sustainable water use.
- River Basin Level Committee coordinates with local stakeholders, including local governments, water users, and community organizations, to ensure that the planning process incorporates local knowledge, concerns, and priorities.
- The River Basin Level Committee provides recommendations for improvement or adjustments, ensuring that the plans are technically feasible and environmentally sustainable.
- **The River Basin Level Committee will act as a single window for the dispute resolution, between the departments that arise during the planning or implementation of the IRBM plan, such as disputes over resource allocation, land acquisition, or the prioritization of projects, which is not resolved by the River Basin Level Committee.**
- The River Basin Level Committee periodically reviews and approves the detailed implementation plans. These implementation plans outline specific projects, activities, timelines, and budgets required to execute the river basin management strategy.
- The River Basin Level Committee considers factors such as resource availability, technological requirements, environmental safeguards, and socio-economic impacts during its review of these plans.
- Any necessary amendments to the plans during the implementation process are subject to the River Basin Level Committee's approval.
- The River Basin Level Committee works with local monitoring agencies, research institutions, and community groups to gather data on the condition of the river basin and identify any early signs of degradation or pollution.

- The River Basin Level Committee is tasked with overseeing the execution of specific projects under the river basin management plan and reporting on their progress.
- It ensures that the projects are being executed within the set timelines, budgets, and environmental regulations. The River Basin Level Committee also checks whether the projects are achieving the intended outcomes, such as improved water availability, reduced pollution, or enhanced flood control.
- Local reports on project execution are compiled and shared with higher-level committees, such as the Apex Committee or Steering Committee to ensure transparency and accountability in the management of the river basin.
- In case of delays, cost overruns, or technical challenges, the River Basin Level Committee provides recommendations to mitigate risks and ensures that corrective actions are taken promptly.

4.5 Delegation of Powers

Delegation of financial powers of the above committees shall be notified in due consultation with the Finance Department.

Chapter 5

Planning and Finance

This chapter outlines the mechanisms for developing and implementing long-term and annual action plans within each river basin under the framework of RBCM's purview. It further describes the financial structure that supports these plans, including the establishment of a pool fund and the integration of departmental and local funding sources.

5.1 Planning

Each river basin under this framework jurisdiction will have a long-term plan and an annual action plan, forming a comprehensive approach to sustainable river basin management and conservation. The preparation and implementation of long term and annual action plans are essential to operationalize RBCM objectives, incorporating measurable objectives, phased timelines, resource allocation, stakeholder responsibilities, robust monitoring, and adaptive strategies. These details will be expanded during the preparation and implementation stages of IRBMPs to align with the specific needs of individual river basins.

5.1.1 Long-term Plan

The long-term plan serves as the cornerstone of sustainable river basin management, focusing on conserving the natural environmental flow and health of river systems and ensuring the continued availability of water resources for future generations. This plan not only emphasizes the preservation of river flow but also ensures that water-dependent activities across the basin are managed sustainably. The long-term plan will incorporate a comprehensive approach to align with key environmental and hydrological principles, supporting the overall integrity and resilience of river basins. This will emphasize the importance of water shed level planning tailored to natural hydrological boundaries promoting strategies to address water resource management, land use, and environmental challenges while ensuring sustainable practices that integrate ecological conservation with socio economic benefits, guiding the development of IRBMPs. These details will be expanded during the preparation and implementation stages of IRBMPs to align with the specific needs of individual river basins. The primary objectives include:

- **Conservation of River Flows and Ecosystems:** The plan will prioritize maintaining environmental flow, ensuring that the river's natural course

and flow patterns are sustained to support aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity.

- **Alignment with Environmental Flow and River Conservation Principles:** Environmental flow standards will guide water use and diversion to maintain the river's natural flow regime, thus sustaining ecosystems, biodiversity, and habitat health. Conservation practices will be embedded in all basin activities, from water allocation to infrastructure development.
- **Integration with Irrigation and Water Management Structures:** The plan will incorporate assessments of existing and future irrigation structures to ensure that they support sustainable water use, do not disrupt natural flow, and are aligned with conservation goals.
- **Floodplain Management and “Room for River” Concepts:** In response to climate and environmental changes, the plan will incorporate floodplain management strategies, including the “Room for River” concept. This approach aims to create space for rivers to overflow safely, reducing flood risks and allowing for natural water filtration, sediment distribution, and habitat restoration within the floodplain.
- **Climate and Environmental Change Adaptation:** Proactive climate adaptation measures will be included to address anticipated shifts in temperature, rainfall patterns, and extreme events, ensuring that river basins remain resilient to environmental change.
- **Sustainable Resource Use:** The long-term plan will define sustainable practices for using river basin resources, emphasizing balance between conservation and human use to secure water resources for various needs over time.
- **Water Quality and Pollution Control:** Protection of water quality is essential for the health of river ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. The plan will include standards and strategies to monitor, prevent, and control pollution across the basin.
- **Return Period and Flood Management:** Hydrological data will guide the design and placement of infrastructure based on flood return periods, minimizing flood risk and improving the basin's resilience to extreme events.

- The Steering Committee will engage expert agencies to draft a long-term river basin plan within one year of its establishment. This draft will be based on scientific research, environmental assessments, and hydrological data to ensure alignment with sustainable river management principles.
- The Steering Committee shall issue guidelines for the preparation of the IRBMP with assistance from the Technical Committee, to ensure uniformity across the river basin plans prepared by the RBLC.
- The development process will include extensive consultations with river basin stakeholders, including local communities, governmental departments, environmental groups, and civil society organizations. This consultative approach ensures that diverse perspectives and needs are integrated into the final plan.
- Upon completion, the draft long-term plan will be submitted to the Steering Committee for a thorough review and recommendation to Apex Committee for final approval. The Committee will assess the plan's alignment with sustainability goals, environmental flow requirements, floodplain management, and adaptation to climate and environmental changes.
- The Steering Committee will allocate necessary funding to support the consultative process and expertise required for preparing the plan. This financial commitment ensures that the long-term plan is both scientifically robust and inclusive of stakeholder interests.

By focusing on these objectives, the long-term plan will provide a strategic, sustainable vision that secures river health, promotes resilience, and fosters environmental and community well-being across generations.

5.1.2 Annual Action Plan

The Annual Action Plan (AAP) is an essential tool in implementing the objectives set out in the long-term river basin management strategy. It breaks down the broader goals into specific, achievable tasks, prioritizing actionable targets for each year. Through this approach, the AAP ensures systematic progress towards river basin conservation, resource sustainability, and climate resilience. The AAP is designed to be an adaptive document, responding to emerging needs and priorities while aligning with the overarching goals of the long-term plan.

- Each AAP will lay out a list of prioritized activities viz. focus on high impact activities such as enhancing water quality, managing pollution sources etc.; integrating conservation efforts; addressing immediate needs such as flood preparedness, drought resilience etc., based on the long-term plan's objectives,

broken down into concrete steps that can be immediately acted upon. By specifying goals for each department, the AAP provides clarity on responsibilities, timelines, and desired outcomes.

- Each department must incorporate its components of the AAP into its routine operations. This integration allows departments to work towards the goals of the AAP within their existing structures and mandates.
- In cases where elements of the AAP fall outside the scope of approved departmental schemes, the River Basin Augmentation Plan will be activated. This plan addresses gaps by supporting critical initiatives not covered in regular departmental budgets, ensuring all essential AAP activities are funded.
- The RLBC will play central role in coordinating with stakeholder departments at the river basin level during the planning and preparation of the AAP. By acting as the liaison among the departments, the RLBC will ensure that:
 - ◆ the AAP will be developed in accordance with guidelines issued by the Steering Committee, ensuring all actions support basin-wide conservation and management goals.
 - ◆ the AAP will derive from the long-term river basin plan, acting as a stepwise breakdown of the broader vision into annual, achievable targets.
 - ◆ through collaborative engagement, the interdepartmental dialogue to synchronize activities are facilitated, redundancies are reduced, and complementary efforts are engaged.
- The Steering Committee will oversee the AAP, ensuring alignment with long-term objectives and coherence across departmental actions. Once reviewed, the steering Committee will forward the AAP to the Apex Committee for final approval, enabling high level oversight and ensuring all actions support strategic conservation and resource management objectives.
- Effective implementation relies on convergence, where departments work in a unified manner towards common goals. The RBLC will oversee coordination efforts, fostering interdepartmental collaboration and promoting resource sharing.
- The AAP will include monitoring mechanisms to ensure that departments meet their annual goals and to allow for adaptive management based on ongoing performance.
- The AAP fosters a structured, stepwise approach to achieving sustainable river basin management. By breaking down long-term goals into yearly actions, the

plan enables continuous, measurable progress towards river conservation and resource protection, ensures departments remain focused on key objectives and adapt their operations to meet evolving challenges and promotes collaboration and convergence among departments, maximizing the effectiveness of resource use and minimizing duplication.

Through this structured, adaptive approach, the AAP is a critical tool for guiding departments and stakeholders in working cohesively to ensure the sustainable health and resilience of river basins for future generations.

5.1.3 Implementation and Monitoring

Each department will independently monitor its annual action plan, both the primary scheme components and those supported by the Augmentation plan. Monitoring will occur at two levels:

- **Technical Field Level** - Field experts will evaluate progress on specific, measurable deliverables.
- **River Basin Level** - Broader physical achievements across the basin will be assessed, facilitating high-level reviews of the cumulative impact.

Periodic monitoring meetings will be convened to ensure accountability, address challenges, and evaluate progress across departments and at the basin level.

5.2 Finance

The financial structure supporting this frameworks' initiatives, comprises departmental budget allocations, a dedicated pool fund for state-level management, and supplementary funding sources.

- **Departmental Allocations** comprise the existing budget allocations from each department within each river basin.
- **A dedicated pool fund** established by the State Government and managed by the Steering Committee, will serve as a flexible resource to address additional requirements beyond departmental allocations, supporting:

The pool fund will be primarily utilized for three purposes:

- **Support for Supplementary Plans:** To address needs identified in the supplementary plan for each river basin.
- **Technology Integration:** Innovative technology applications at the basin level may also be funded by the pool, upon approval by the apex committee.
- **Cross-basin Shared Resources:** The pool fund can support initiatives that are common to multiple river basins, promoting integrated efforts across regions.

5.3 Budget Allocation and Additional Funding

Effective financial management is critical for the River Basin Conservation and Management Framework to ensure efficient implementation of both long-term and annual action plans. Dedicated budget lines will be established for each river basin committee and the overarching state authority to facilitate transparency and accountability in resource allocation and utilization. These dedicated budget lines will help each river basin authority manage its finances independently while adhering to a structured and state-sanctioned framework.

5.3.1 Dedicated Budget Lines

To promote accountability and ease of monitoring, the Planning and Finance Department will allocate specific budget lines for:

- **River Basin Level Committee:** Every river basin authority will have an individual budget line within the broader state budget.
- **Steering Committee:** The Steering Committee will also receive a dedicated budget line to support cross-basin initiatives, state-level coordination, and administrative oversight. This central allocation will also fund the pool fund, which can be used to address inter-basin needs, shared resources, and supplementary plans.

These dedicated budget lines will support better planning, timely fund disbursements, and a more organized financial structure, minimizing delays and reducing the risk of funds being misallocated or diverted from basin-specific objectives.

5.3.2 Additional Funding Sources

Apart from state and departmental allocations, each river basin authority is encouraged to seek supplementary funding from Local Government Contributions, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives, Grants and Development Funding etc. to strengthen its financial base and support broader project objectives.

5.3.3 Utilization and Financial Tracking

To ensure that funds are utilized effectively, each river basin level committee will adopt a transparent and standardized financial tracking system:

- **Regular Financial Reporting:** Authorities will provide periodic financial reports to the Planning and Finance Department, detailing expenditures, fund allocations, and project-specific financial status.
- **Monitoring and Audits:** Routine audits and financial reviews will ensure compliance with budgetary allocations and discourage mismanagement or misuse of funds. This oversight will help maintain public trust and secure long-term financial support for basin initiatives.

- **Flexible Fund Allocation:** By allowing river basin authorities to allocate funds as needed across specific projects and to request additional funding from the pool fund, this framework will enable responsive and adaptive financial management to address emerging needs or challenges.

The planning and finance framework aims to establish a structured, flexible approach to river basin conservation. By aligning long-term and annual action plans with a sustainable financial support system, this framework for RBCM promotes effective conservation and resource management across all river basins within its jurisdiction.

Chapter 6

Conclusion

The functions and responsibilities as per this operational framework shall be governed in accordance with the relevant Acts and Rules including the Kerala Protection of Riverbanks and Regulations of Removal of Sand Act, 2001, Kerala Land Conservancy Act and the provisions in Kerala Panchayath Raj and Kerala Municipality Act and shall not conflict with the powers and authorities of any of the statutory authorities. The proposed framework for the River Basin Conservation Management provides a structured approach to integrated water resource management in Kerala. By establishing clear roles and responsibilities among various committees, this framework aims to enhance coordination, accountability, and sustainability in river basin management, ultimately contributing to the conservation of water resources and the welfare of local communities. This framework for the River Basin Conservation and Management is focussed on establishing institutional, governance, management structures for river basin conservation and planning. It does not address management or jurisdiction of interstate rivers flowing through the state.

Annexure

The distribution of Kerala's rivers across the various districts is as follows:

Sl no	Name of River basin	Extend of basin in Sq. Km (District wise)	District with maximum basin area
1	Neyyar	Thiruvananthapuram (501.901)	Thiruvananthapuram
2	Karamana	Thiruvananthapuram (691.70)	Thiruvananthapuram
3	Mamom	Thiruvananthapuram (180.83)	Thiruvananthapuram
4	Vamanapuram	Thiruvananthapuram (586.29) Kollam (56.851)	Thiruvananthapuram
5	Ayirur	Thiruvananthapuram (91.043) Kollam (32.984)	Thiruvananthapuram
6	Ithikkara	Kollam (626.997) Thiruvananthapuram (34.269)	Kollam
7	Kallada	Kollam (1387.50) Thiruvananthapuram, (102.97) Pathanamthitta (124.567)	Kollam
8	Pallikkal	Kollam (200.872) Pathanamthitta (66.919) Alappuzha (58.206)	Kollam
9	Achenkovil	Pathanamthitta (721.209) Alappuzha (437.61) Kollam (183.466)	Pathanamthitta
10	Pamba	Pathanamthitta (1470.14) Alappuzha (380.473) Idukki (202.342)	Pathanamthitta

		Kottayam (35.864)	
11	Manimala	Kottayam (522.906) Pathanamthitta (268.08) Alappuzha (173.515) Idukki (107.072)	Kottayam
12	Meenachil	Alappuzha (0.248) Idukki (107.072) Kottayam (1211.19) Pathanamthitta (0.367)	Kottayam
13	Moovattupuzha	Ernakulam (1262.72) Alappuzha (360.151) Kottayam (431.851) Idukki (620.178)	Ernakulam
14	Periyar	Idukki (3045.96) Ernakulam (1727.42) Thrissur (272.609) Pathanamthitta (2.728)	Idukki
15	Pambar	Idukki (384.151) Ernakulam (0.192)	Idukki
16	Chalakkudi	Thrissur (592.315) Palakkad (460.381) Ernakulam (68.372)	Thrissur
17	Karuvannur	Thrissur (954.453) Palakkad (2.208)	Thrissur
18	Keecheri	Thrissur (766.762) Palakkad (3.391)	Thrissur
19	Kanjiramukku	Malappuram (169.622) Thrissur (115.468) Palakkad (71.081)	Malappuram
20	Bharathapuzha	Palakkad (3213.77)	Palakkad

		Thrissur (327.38) Malappuram (303.602)	
21	Tirur	Malappuram (3204.407)	Malappuram
22	Bhavani	Palakkad (605.25)	Palakkad
23	Kadalundi	Malappuram (1141.61), Palakkad (120.095), Kozhikode (6.246)	Malappuram
24	Chaaliyar	Malappuram (1734.55), Kozhikode (644.982), Wayanad (150.286), Palakkad (0.168)	Malappuram
25	Kallai	Kozhikode (87.468)	Kozhikode
26	Korapuzha	Kozhikode (659.824)	Kozhikode
27	Kabani	Wayanad (1922.17) Kannur (0.979) Kozhikode (4.036)	Wayanad
28	Kuttiyadi	Kozhikode (657.221) Wayanad (9.168)	Kozhikode
29	Mahe	Kozhikode (285.689), Kannur (112.054), Wayanad (29.742)	Kozhikode
30	Thalasseri	Kannur (120.872)	Kannur
31	Anjarakkandi	Kannur (460.664) Wayanad (0.286)	Kannur
32	Valappattanam	Kannur (1320.7), Wayanad (17.487)	Kannur
33	Kuppam	Kannur (439.128)	Kannur
34	Ramapuram	Kannur (57.452)	Kannur

35	Peruvamba	Kannur (292.62) Kasargod (2.066)	Kannur
36	Kavvai	Kannur (67.824) Kasargod (96.756)	Kasargod
37	Karingote	Kasargod (341.837), Kannur (97.075)	Kasargod
38	Neeleswaram	Kasargod (202.05)	Kasargod
39	Chittari	Kasargod (100.338)	Kasargod
40	Chandragiri	Kasargod (612.642)	Kasargod
41	Mogral	Kasargod (120.373)	Kasargod
42	Shiriya	Kasargod (366.471)	Kasargod
43	Uppala	Kasargod (98.183)	Kasargod
44	Manjeswar	Kasargod (49.391)	Kasargod



രഹസ്യം

കേരള സർക്കാർ
മന്ത്രിസഭായോഗത്തിന്റെ നടപടിക്കുറിപ്പുകൾ

തീയതി : 25-06-2025

ഫയൽ നം. ഐ.എസ്.ഡബ്ല്യൂ.സി1/61/2019/ജ.വി.വ.

ഇനം നം: 3075

വിഷയം : ജലവിഭവ വകുപ്പ് - കേരള നദീതട സംരക്ഷണ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് ചട്ടക്കൂട് - അംഗീകാരം - സംബന്ധിച്ച്.

തീരുമാനം : താഴെപ്പറയുന്ന ഭേദഗതികളോടെ കുറിപ്പിലെ നിർദ്ദേശം അംഗീകരിച്ചു.

1. അപ്പെക്സ് കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ നിയമ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രിയെ കൂടി ഉൾപ്പെടുത്താൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചു.
2. കുറിപ്പിലെ ഖണ്ഡിക 25-ൽ കേരള ഭൂസംരക്ഷണ നിയമം കൂടി ഉൾപ്പെടുത്താൻ തീരുമാനിച്ചു.

(ഒപ്പ്)

പിണറായി വിജയൻ

മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി

(ശരിപ്പകർപ്പ്)

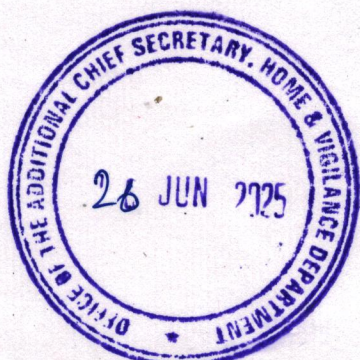
ശ്രീ G O Komencherry

Ministry

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ഡോ. എ. ജയതിലക്
ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി

അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി, ജലവിഭവ വകുപ്പ്.



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
(SHRI.PINARAYI VIJAYAN MINISTRY)
NOTE FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | File Number | ISWC1/61/2019-WRD |
| 2. | Department | Water Resources (Inter State Water Cell)
Department |
| 3. | Subject | Water Resources Department-Approval
to Operational Framework for Integrated
River Basin Conservation and
Managment-reg |
| 4. | Date of Chief Minister order for placing before
the Council | 25/03/2025 |
| 5. | (i)Does the case involve financial
commitments/implications | Yes. |
| | (ii)If the answer to the above is in the
affirmative, whether Finance Department has
been consulted and their remarks incorporated
in the Council Note | Yes. |
| 6 | Are any other Departments concerned with the
case and if so, have they been consulted and
their remarks incorporated in the Note for the
Council | Yes |
| 7. | Name of Special Secretary who submitted the
Draft Note | Sri. Jeevan Babu K |
| 8. | Name of Additional Chief Secretary who
approved the Draft Note | Sri. Bishwanath Sinha |
| 9. | Date of Approval of the Draft Note for the
Council by the Additional Chief Secretary | 13/06/2025 |
| 10. | Name of Chief Secretary who approved the
Draft Note | Dr. A Jayathilak |
| 11. | Date of approval of the Draft Note for the
Council by the Chief Secretary | 16/06/2025 |
| 12. | Name of Minister who approved the Draft Note | Sri. Roshy Augustine |
| 13. | Date of approval of the Draft Note for the
Council by the Minister | 23/06/2025 |
| 14. | Date of submission of fair copies | 24/06/2025 |
| 15. | Date of decision by the Council of Ministers | |
| 16. | Number and Date of the G.O./ letter
communicating the decision. | |

Notes for Council of Ministers

This note is regarding the proposal for formation of framework for River Basin Conservation and Management (RBCM) for efficient management of water resources in Kerala.

2) Effective water resource management is a challenge, particularly in regions like Kerala where river systems are under increasing pressure. In Kerala, the combination of intense rainfall in the high ranges with a drastic elevation difference over a short distance causing peak runoffs, combined with flat terrain towards the western coast presents the conditions for flooding like that witnessed in August of 2018.

3) The floods of 2018 and 2019 highlighted several structural constraints that left Kerala unprepared for major natural disasters or climate change shocks.

4) The August 2018 floods have catalysed the State's commitment to improve water resources planning, development, and management to decrease its vulnerability to water-related risks through a river basin based approach in an integrated manner.

5) With growing pressures from population increase, industrialization, and climate change, effective and integrated water management has become more urgent than ever. Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) across river basins, through a structured approach to address the diverse challenges these resources face, has become necessary. It is in this context that the Government propose to notify the River Basin Conservation and Management (RBCM) framework, draft of which is placed as an annexure to this note

6) Designed to serve as a guiding authority for IWRM, the proposed framework outlines essential components, including governance structures, planning methodologies, financial management, and community engagement strategies. It emphasizes collaboration among all the stakeholders to work

together towards sustainable river basin management. By defining clear roles and responsibilities among different governing structures, this framework aims to enhance coordinated action across departments and improve the efficiency and impact of river basin management initiatives.

7) Acknowledging that IWRM success depends on the active involvement of all stakeholders, the proposed framework is built on principles of inclusivity and adaptability. It encourages continuous dialogue and feedback from the broader community of water resource stakeholders to refine strategies and practices that meet evolving challenges.

8) The frame work targets to achieve its objectives through different governance structures, efficient resource planning and strict monitoring and evaluation. Following Committees at different levels are proposed to be established with well-defined roles and responsibilities that will ensure efficiency in the flow of data, information, decisions and actions.

i. Apex Committee

- Chair: Hon'ble Chief Minister
- Members:
 - Minister for Water Resources
 - Minister for Revenue and Housing
 - Minister for Electricity
 - Minister for Forest and Wildlife
 - Minister for Finance
 - Minister for Local Self Government Department (LSGD)
 - Minister for Agriculture
 - Minister for Environment
 - Minister for Industries
 - Minister for Fisheries
 - Minister for Public works

- Minister for Tourism
- Vice Chairman of the State Planning Board
- Chief Secretary
- Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department
(Convenor)

ii. Steering Committee

- Chair: Chief Secretary
- Members:
 - Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) for Water Resources
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Planning
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Revenue
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of LSGD
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Finance
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Power
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Agriculture
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Forest and Wild Life
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Environment
 - Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of Tourism Department

- Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary /Secretary of any other stakeholder department (as directed and approved by Apex Committee)
- Secretary (Law)
- Secretary/Special Secretary(Convenor)
- Chief Engineer (Irrigation and Administration)

iii. Technical Committee

- Chair: Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resource Department
- Members:
 - Director, Directorate of Environment & Climate Change.
 - Director, Agriculture Department
 - Director, Fisheries Department
 - Member Secretary, KSDMA
 - Member Secretary, KSPCB
 - Chief (Agri Division), KSPB
 - Chief Engineer, LSGD
 - Chief Engineer, PWD
 - Chief Engineer, KWA
 - Chief Engineer, KSEB
 - Chief Engineer, HED
 - Director, Ground Water Department
 - Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Forest Department
 - Commissioner, Land Revenue
 - Director, Tourism
 - Director, Soil Conservation
 - Director, Industries and Commerce

- HoDs/Chief Engineers/MDs of any other Stakeholder departments (as directed and approved by Steering Committee).
- Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Administration (Convenor)

iv. **River Basin Level Committee**

- Chair: District Collector of the district, which has the largest geographical area of the river basin with District collectors of the other districts falling within the river basin as Co-Chair.
- Members:
 - Member/s of Legislative Assembly falling under the respective basin.
 - Heads of the local bodies falling within the river basin.
 - District level officers assigned for the departments of Irrigation, Agriculture, Forest, KWA, Fisheries, LSGD, PWD, Harbour, Groundwater, Soil Conservation, KSPCB, Tourism, Health and KSEB (To be nominated by each Department Head)
 - Technical Experts nominated by the Technical Committee and with representatives from Water Resource Department (Experts in water resource management, hydrology and river basin planning), Environmental Specialist, Hydrologists and climate Experts, GIS and Data Analysts, Agricultural and Land Management Experts, Social and Economic Experts, Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology Experts, NGOs and Civil Society Representatives.
 - Executive Engineer, Irrigation, as nominated by the Irrigation Department - Convenor

9) Each river basin under this framework jurisdiction will have a long-term plan and an annual action plan (AAP), forming a comprehensive approach to sustainable river basin management and conservation. Objectives, the process involved etc. in the long-term river basin management plan are detailed in the framework attached.

10) Each AAP will lay out a list of prioritized activities viz. focus on high impact activities such as enhancing water quality, managing pollution sources etc.; integrating conservation efforts; addressing immediate needs such as flood preparedness, drought resilience etc., based on the long-term plan's objectives, broken down into concrete steps that can be immediately acted upon. By specifying goals for each department, the AAP provides clarity on responsibilities, timelines, and desired outcomes.

11) Each stakeholder department shall incorporate its components of the AAP into its routine operations. This integration allows departments to work towards the goals of the AAP within their existing structures and mandates. However, in cases where elements of the AAP fall outside the scope of approved departmental schemes, a River Basin Augmentation Plan will be prepared. This supplementary plan addresses gaps by supporting critical initiatives not covered in regular departmental budgets, ensuring all essential activities under the AAP are funded and implemented.

12) Each department will independently monitor its annual action plan, both the primary scheme components and those supported by the Augmentation plan.

13) The financial structure supporting this frameworks' initiatives, comprises departmental budget allocations, a dedicated pool fund for state-level management, and supplementary funding sources.

- **Departmental Allocations** comprise the existing budget allocations from each department within each river basin.
- **A dedicated pool fund** established by the State Government and managed by the Steering Committee, will serve as a flexible resource to

address additional requirements beyond departmental allocations, mainly to support the following activities.

- To address needs identified in the supplementary plan for each river basin.
- Technology Integration: Innovative technology applications at the basin level may also be funded by the pool, upon approval by the state authority.
- Cross-basin Shared Resources: The pool fund can support initiatives that are common to multiple river basins, promoting integrated efforts across regions.

14) Effective financial management is critical for the River Basin Conservation and Management Framework to ensure efficient implementation of both long-term and annual action plans. Dedicated budget lines will be established for each river basin committee and the overarching state authority to facilitate transparency and accountability in resource allocation and utilization. These dedicated budget lines will help each river basin authority manage its finances independently while adhering to a structured and state-sanctioned framework.

15) To promote accountability and ease of monitoring, the Planning and Finance Departments will allocate specific budget lines for:

- **River Basin Level Committee:** Every river basin authority will have an individual budget line within the broader state budget.
- **Steering Committee:** The Steering Committee will also receive a dedicated budget line to support cross-basin initiatives, state-level coordination, and administrative oversight. This central allocation will also fund the pool fund, which can be used to address inter-basin needs, shared resources, and supplementary plans.

16) Dedicated budget lines will support better planning, timely fund disbursements, and a more organized financial structure, minimizing delays and

reducing the risk of funds being misallocated or diverted from basin-specific objectives.

17) Apart from state and departmental allocations, each river basin authority is encouraged to seek supplementary funding from ***Local Government Contributions, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives, Grants and Development Funding, any other government approved fund etc.*** to strengthen its financial base and support broader project objectives.

18) Delegation of financial powers of the committees provided for in this framework shall be in accordance concurrence with the finance department and shall be prescribed at a later stage.

19) Authorities under this framework shall provide periodic financial reports to the Planning and Finance Department, detailing expenditures, fund allocations, and project-specific financial status.

20) Routine audits and financial reviews will ensure compliance with budgetary allocations and discourage mismanagement or misuse of funds. This oversight will help maintain public trust and secure long-term financial support for basin initiatives.

21) By allowing river basin authorities to allocate funds as needed across specific projects and to request additional funding from the pool fund, this framework will enable responsive and adaptive financial management to address emerging needs or challenges.

22) The functions and responsibilities as per this operational framework shall abide by the relevant Acts and Rules and shall not conflict with the powers and authorities of any of the statutory authorities. The framework will not be applicable to the management or jurisdiction of interstate rivers flowing through the state.

23) The remarks of State Planning Board on the draft proposal for Operational Framework for River Basin Conservation and Management is as follows:

“The report on ‘Operational Framework for Integrated River Basin Conservation and Management’ is recommended for further proceedings”.

24) When the proposal for Operational Framework for River Basin Conservation and Management was forwarded to Revenue department, that department has remarked as follows:

“1957-ലെ ഭൂസംരക്ഷണ നിയമം, 2001-ലെ കേരള നദീതീര സംരക്ഷണവും മണൽ വാരലും ആക്ട് എന്നിവ പ്രകാരമുള്ള ചുമതലകൾ നിർവഹിക്കേണ്ടത് റവന്യൂ വകുപ്പ് ആയിരിക്കണമെന്ന് ചാപ്റ്റർ 4 ലെ ഓപ്പറേഷൻ ഫ്രെയിം വർക്കിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തണം എന്ന ഭേദഗതിയോടെ കരട് അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നതായും ഇതിനു ബഹു. റവന്യൂവും ഭവന നിർമ്മാണവും വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രിയുടെ അംഗീകാരമുള്ളതായും അറിയിക്കുന്നു.”

25) Though the chapter 6 - Conclusion provides that “The functions and responsibilities as per this operational framework shall abide by the relevant Acts and Rules and shall not conflict with the powers and authorities of any of the statutory authorities.” However, in consideration of the remarks of revenue Department, it is further provided that the functions and responsibilities as per this operational framework shall be governed in accordance with the relevant Acts and Rules including the Kerala Protection of Riverbanks and Regulations of Removal of Sand Act, 2001 and the provisions In Kerala Panchayath Raj and Kerala Municipality Act.

26) The remarks of Finance Department on the Operational Framework for Integrated River Basin Conservation and Management is as follows:

“Finance agrees to the proposed draft operational framework for River Basin Conservation and Management Authority subject to no post creation and subject to the suggestion pointed below:

- It is suggested that WRD may assess the approximate requirement for the same for a financial year incorporate the same in their plan if possible, by fiscally revamping their existing projects in view of the current fiscal constraints.
- Administrative Department is also informed that Finance Department agrees to the formation of a pooled fund from sources such as LSG contributions, CSR Grants and Development funding and PPP.”

27) The remarks of Law Department on the Operational Framework for Integrated River Basin Conservation and Management is as follows:

"In the preface of the draft operational framework for Integrated River Basin Conservation and Management, it is stated that the operational framework has been developed to serve as an authoritative guide for implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) across river basins, establishing a structured approach to address the diverse challenges these resources face.

As per Sec. 3 of the Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003 all water courses and all water in such water courses in the State shall be the property of the Government and Government shall be entitled to conserve and regulate the use of such water courses and the water in all those water courses for the purposes of irrigation and the generation of electricity and for matters connected therewith or for both subject to the provisions of Sec. 218 of the Kerala Panchayath Raj Act, 1994 and Sec. 208A of the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994.

In accordance with the Sec. 218 of the Kerala Panchayath Raj Act, 1994 all public water courses (other than river passing through more area than the panchayath area which the Government may by notification in the Gazette, specify) the beds and banks of river streams, irrigation and drainage channels, canals, lakes, backwaters

and water courses and all standing and flowing water springs, reservoirs, tanks, cisterns, fountains, wells, kappus, chals, stand pipes and other works including those used by the public to such an extent as to give a prescriptive right to their use and also any adjacent land not being private property appertaining thereto shall stand transferred to and vest absolutely in the village panchayath. However, as per Sub Sec. 3 of Sec. 218 the Government may by notification in the Gazette, assumed the administration of any public source of water supply and public land adjacent and appertaining thereto after consulting the village panchayath and giving due regard to its objection if any. The above provisions are also applicable to the municipalities as per Sec. 208 A of the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994.

Moreover, The Kerala Protection of River Banks and Regulation of Removal of Sand Act, 2001 deals with the protection of river banks and river beds from large scale drudging of river sand and to protect their biophysical environment system and regulate the removal of river sand and for matters connected therewith.

On perusal of the legal provisions explained above, it is seen that there is no legal impediment to formulate an operational framework for integrated river basin conservation and management by the Government in accordance with the provisions of the Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003 subject to the provisions in the Kerala Protection of River Banks and Regulations of Removal of Sand Act, 2001 as remarked by the Revenue Department and with the provisions in Kerala Panchayath Raj and Kerala Municipality Act as remarked by the LSGD. The A/D may be informed accordingly."

28)The opinion of Law Department is incorporated in the operational framework document in Chapter 6 by inserting the following:

‘The functions and responsibilities as per this operational framework shall be governed in accordance with the relevant Acts and Rules including the Kerala Protection of Riverbanks and Regulations of Removal of Sand Act, 2001 and the provisions in Kerala Panchayath Raj and Kerala Municipality Act.’

29) The proposed draft framework incorporating the above details was considered by the Council of Ministers on 28/05/2025 vide Item No.2976. The Council of Ministers directed to resubmit the draft after having incorporated certain modifications. The following modifications have been carried out in the draft framework and as appearing in this note as well. The revised draft Operational Framework is appended to this note.

1. The draft framework in para 4.4.1 “Apex Committee” has been amended and *Minister for Tourism* has been included
2. The draft framework in para 4.4.2 “Steering Committee” has been amended and *Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary of Power* has been included.
3. In consideration of the opinion of Law Department, Chapter 6 of the Operational Framework has been amended and it is provided as below:

“The functions and responsibilities as per this operational framework shall be governed in accordance with the relevant Acts and Rules including the Kerala Protection of Riverbanks and Regulations of Removal of Sand Act, 2001 and the provisions in Kerala Panchayath Raj and Kerala Municipality Act and shall not conflict with the powers and authorities of any of the statutory authorities”

4. Paragraph 5.3.2 “Additional Funding Sources” is modified. Funding from Public Private Partnership (PPP) is omitted and now para reads as below:

Apart from state and departmental allocations, each river basin authority is encouraged to seek supplementary funding from Local Government Contributions, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives, Grants and Development Funding etc. To strengthen its financial base and support broader project objectives.

5. The draft framework in para 4.4.4 “River Basin Level Committee” has been amended and *Member/s of Legislative Assembly falling under the respective basin* has been included.
6. A new paragraph 4.5 is inserted in Operational Framework under the heading “Delegation of Powers” as *“Delegation of financial powers of the above committees shall be notified in due consultation with the finance department.”*

Point for decision

Whether the Operational framework for Integrated River Basin Conservation and Management appended to this note may be approved.

കേരള സർക്കാർ
(ശ്രീ. പിണറായി വിജയൻ മന്ത്രിസഭ)
മന്ത്രിസഭായോഗത്തിനുള്ള കുറിപ്പ്

1. ഫയൽ നമ്പർ : ഐ.എസ്.ഡബ്ല്യു.സി1/61/2019-ജ.വി.വ
2. വകുപ്പ് : ജലവിഭവ (അന്തർ സംസ്ഥാന നദീജല സെൽ) വകുപ്പ്
3. വിഷയം : ജലവിഭവ വകുപ്പ്- കേരള നദീതട സംരക്ഷണ- മാനേജ്മെന്റ് ചട്ടക്കൂട് - അംഗീകാരം- സംബന്ധിച്ച്
4. മന്ത്രിസഭാ യോഗത്തിൽ സമർപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിയുടെ ഉത്തരവ് തീയതി; : 25/03/2025
5. (i) ഇത് സാമ്പത്തിക ബാധ്യതയുള്ളതാണോ? : അതെ
- (ii) സാമ്പത്തിക ബാധ്യതയുള്ളതാണെങ്കിൽ ധനകാര്യ വകുപ്പുമായി ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ, ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം മന്ത്രിസഭായോഗത്തിനുള്ള കുറിപ്പിൽ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ? : ഉണ്ട്
6. മറ്റേതെങ്കിലും വകുപ്പുമായി ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം മന്ത്രിസഭായോഗത്തിനുള്ള കുറിപ്പിൽ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ? : ഉണ്ട്
7. കുറിപ്പ് സമർപ്പിച്ച സ്പെഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പേര് : ശ്രീ. ജീവൻ ബാബു കെ
8. കുറിപ്പ് അംഗീകരിച്ച അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പേര് : ശ്രീ.ബിശ്വനാഥ് സിൻഹ
9. മന്ത്രിസഭയ്ക്കുള്ള കരട് കുറിപ്പ് അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി അംഗീകരിച്ച തീയതി : 13/06/2025
10. കുറിപ്പ് അംഗീകരിച്ച ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പേര് : ഡോ. എ ജയതിലക്
11. മന്ത്രിസഭയ്ക്കുള്ള കരട് കുറിപ്പ് ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി അംഗീകരിച്ച തീയതി : 16/06/2025
12. കുറിപ്പ് അംഗീകരിച്ച മന്ത്രിയുടെ പേര് : ശ്രീ. റോഷി അഗസ്റ്റിൻ
13. മന്ത്രിസഭയ്ക്കുള്ള കരട് കുറിപ്പ് മന്ത്രി അംഗീകരിച്ച തീയതി : 23/06/2025
14. കുറിപ്പിന്റെ പകർപ്പുകൾ സമർപ്പിച്ച തീയതി : 24/06/2025
15. മന്ത്രിസഭായോഗം തീരുമാനമെടുത്ത തീയതി :
16. തീരുമാനം പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ച സർക്കാർ ഉത്തരവ്/ കത്തിന്റെ നമ്പറും തീയതിയും :

മന്ത്രിസഭായോഗത്തിനുള്ള കുറിപ്പ്

സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ ജലവിഭവപരിപാലനം കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമമാക്കുന്നതിന് ലക്ഷ്യമിടുന്ന 'റിവർ ബേസിൻ കൺസർവേഷൻ ആൻഡ് മാനേജ്മെന്റ് (RBCM)' ചട്ടക്കൂടിനു അംഗീകാരം നൽകുന്നതു സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ് ഈ കുറിപ്പ്.

2. നദീവ്യവസ്ഥകൾ കൂടുതൽ സമ്മർദ്ദത്തിലായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കേരളം പോലുള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ജലവിഭവപരിപാലനം ഒരു വെല്ലുവിളിയാണ്. ഉയർന്ന തോതിലുള്ള മഴയുടെ ലഭ്യതയും കേരളത്തിന്റെ സവിശേഷമായ ഭൂപ്രകൃതിയും 2018 ൽ ഉണ്ടായതുപോലുള്ള പ്രളയസാഹചര്യങ്ങൾക്ക് കാരണമാകുന്നു.

3. വലിയ പ്രകൃതി ദുരന്തങ്ങളെയും കാലാവസ്ഥാ വ്യതിയാനം സംബന്ധിച്ച പ്രശ്നങ്ങളെയും നേരിടുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ കേരളത്തിനുള്ള ഘടനാപരമായ പരിമിതികളെ തുറന്നുകാട്ടുന്നതായിരുന്നു 2018 ലെ മഹാപ്രളയവും 2019 ലെ തുടർ പ്രളയവും.

4. നദീതടം അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയുള്ള ഒരു സംയോജിത സമീപനത്തിലൂടെ ജലവിഭവ ആസൂത്രണവും വികസനവും പരിപാലനവും കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമമാക്കി ദുരന്ത സാധ്യതകൾ ലഘൂകരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ ശ്രമങ്ങൾക്ക് ആക്കം കൂട്ടുന്നതിന് 2018 ലെ പ്രളയം കാരണമായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

5. ജനസംഖ്യാ വർധന, വ്യാവസായികവൽക്കരണം, കാലാവസ്ഥാ വ്യതിയാനം എന്നിവ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന വെല്ലുവിളികൾ കാരണം ഫലപ്രദവും സംയോജിതവുമായ ജലപരിപാലനം എന്നത് അടിയന്തരമായ ആവശ്യമായി മാറിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ജലമേഖല ഇന്ന് നേരിടുന്ന വെല്ലുവിളികളെ ഫലപ്രദമായി നേരിടുന്നതിന് നദീതടാടിസ്ഥാനത്തിലൂന്നിയുള്ള സംയോജിത ജലപരിപാലനം ഘടനാപരമായ സമീപനത്തിലൂടെ നടപ്പാക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. ഈ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിലാണ് ഈ കുറിപ്പിന്റെ

അനുബന്ധമായി ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ള 'റിവർ ബേസിൻ കൺസർവേഷൻ ആൻഡ് മാനേജ്മെന്റ് (ആർബിസിഎം)' ചട്ടക്കൂട് വിജ്ഞാപനം ചെയ്യാൻ സർക്കാർ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നത്.

6. സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ സംയോജിത ജലപരിപാലനത്തിന് കൃത്യമായ ദിശാബോധം നൽകുക എന്ന ഉദ്ദേശ്യത്തോടെ രൂപകൽപന ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള നിർദ്ദിഷ്ട ചട്ടക്കൂട്, ഭരണപരമായ ഘടന, ആസൂത്രണ രീതികൾ, സാമ്പത്തിക മാനേജ്മെന്റ്, പ്രാദേശിക സമൂഹവുമായി ഇടപെടുന്നതിനുള്ള മാർഗങ്ങൾ എന്നിവയുൾപ്പെടെ അവശ്യം വേണ്ട ഘടകങ്ങളുടെ രൂപരേഖ മുന്നോട്ടുവയ്ക്കുന്നു. സുസ്ഥിരമായ രീതിയിൽ നദീതട പരിപാലനത്തിനായി ഒരുമിച്ച് പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇതുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട എല്ലാവരുടെയും സഹകരിച്ചുള്ള പ്രവർത്തനത്തിന് ഇത് ഊന്നൽ നൽകുന്നു. ഈ ചട്ടക്കൂടിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള വ്യത്യസ്ത ഭരണ സംവിധാനങ്ങളുടെ ചുമതലകളും ഉത്തരവാദിത്തങ്ങളും കൃത്യമായി നിർവചിക്കുന്നതിലൂടെ, വിവിധ വകുപ്പുകളുടെ യോജിച്ച പ്രവർത്തനം സാധ്യമാക്കുന്നതിനും നദീതട പരിപാലനവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് ഏറ്റെടുക്കുന്ന പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യക്ഷമതയും സ്വാധീനവും മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും ലക്ഷ്യമിടുന്നു.

7. സംയോജിത ജലപരിപാലനം വിജയകരമാകണമെങ്കിൽ ഇതുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട എല്ലാ വകുപ്പുകളുടെയും/ഏജൻസികളുടെയും സജീവമായ ഇടപെടൽ ഉണ്ടാകണമെന്ന വസ്തുത കണക്കിലെടുത്ത് നിർദ്ദിഷ്ട ചട്ടക്കൂട്, ഉൾക്കൊള്ളലിന്റെയും ഒത്തുപോകലിന്റെയും തത്വങ്ങളെ ആധാരമാക്കിയാണ് രൂപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. പുതിയ വെല്ലുവിളികളെ നേരിടുന്നതിന് പറ്റുന്ന തരത്തിൽ നിലവിലുള്ള രീതികളും തന്ത്രങ്ങളും മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിന് ജലവിഭവപരിപാലനമേഖലയുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട വകുപ്പുകൾ/ഏജൻസികൾ എന്നിവയുമായുള്ള നിരന്തര ചർച്ചകളും അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളും പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും നിർദ്ദിഷ്ട ചട്ടക്കൂട് നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു.

8. വിവിധ തലങ്ങളിലുള്ള ഭരണസംവിധാനങ്ങൾ, കാര്യക്ഷമമായ വിഭവ ആസൂത്രണം, കർശനമായ നിരീക്ഷണവും വിലയിരുത്തലും എന്നിവയിലൂടെയാണ് നിർദ്ദിഷ്ട ചട്ടക്കൂട് അതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശ്യങ്ങൾ കൈവരിക്കാൻ ലക്ഷ്യമിടുന്നത്. ചുമതലകളും ഉത്തരവാദിത്തങ്ങളും കൃത്യമായി നിർവ്വഹിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള താഴെ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള വിവിധ തലങ്ങളിലുള്ള സമിതികൾ നിർദ്ദിഷ്ട ചട്ടക്കൂടിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഡാറ്റകൾ, മറ്റു വിവരങ്ങൾ, തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ, നടപടികൾ എന്നിവ കാര്യക്ഷമമായി കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്യുന്നുവെന്ന് ഉറപ്പാക്കുന്നതിന് ഈ സമിതികൾക്ക് കഴിയും.

i. അപെക്സ് കമ്മിറ്റി

- അധ്യക്ഷൻ: ബഹു .മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി
- അംഗങ്ങൾ:
 - ജലവിഭവ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി
 - റവന്യൂ-ഭവന നിർമ്മാണ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി
 - വൈദ്യുതി വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി
 - വനം വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി
 - ധനകാര്യ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി
 - തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി
 - കൃഷി വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി
 - പരിസ്ഥിതി വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി
 - വ്യവസായ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി
 - ഫിഷറീസ് വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി
 - പൊതുമരാമത്ത് വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി
 - ടൂറിസം വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി

- സംസ്ഥാന ആസൂത്രണ ബോർഡ് വൈസ് ചെയർമാൻ
- ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി
- അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി ,ജലവിഭവ വകുപ്പ് (കൺവീനർ)

ii. സ്റ്റിയറിംഗ് കമ്മിറ്റി

- അധ്യക്ഷൻ: ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി
- അംഗങ്ങൾ:
 - ജലവിഭവ വകുപ്പ് അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി
 - അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി/പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി/സെക്രട്ടറി ആസൂത്രണ വകുപ്പ്,
 - അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി/പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി/സെക്രട്ടറി റവന്യൂ വകുപ്പ്,
 - അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി/പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി/സെക്രട്ടറി തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്
 - അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി/പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി/സെക്രട്ടറി ധനകാര്യ വകുപ്പ്
 - അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി/പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി/സെക്രട്ടറി ഊർജ്ജ വകുപ്പ്
 - അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി/പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി/സെക്രട്ടറി കൃഷി വകുപ്പ്
 - അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി/പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി/സെക്രട്ടറി വനം വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ്
 - അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി/പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി/സെക്രട്ടറി പരിസ്ഥിതി വകുപ്പ്

- അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി/പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി/സെക്രട്ടറി ടുറിസം വകുപ്പ്
- മറ്റേതെങ്കിലും അനുബന്ധ വകുപ്പിന്റെ അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി/പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി/ സെക്രട്ടറി (അപെക്സ് കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ നിർദ്ദേശവും അംഗീകാരവും അനുസരിച്ച്)
- സെക്രട്ടറി (നിയമം)
- സെക്രട്ടറി/സ്പെഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി (കൺവീനർ)
- ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ (ജലസേചനവും ഭരണവും)

iii. ടെക്നിക്കൽ കമ്മിറ്റി

- അധ്യക്ഷൻ: അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി, ജലവിഭവ വകുപ്പ്
- അംഗങ്ങൾ:
 - ഡയറക്ടർ, പരിസ്ഥിതി ഡയറക്ടറേറ്റ്
 - ഡയറക്ടർ, കൃഷി വകുപ്പ്
 - ഡയറക്ടർ, ഫിഷറീസ് വകുപ്പ്
 - മെമ്പർ സെക്രട്ടറി, കെ.എസ്. ഡി . എം.എ
 - മെമ്പർ സെക്രട്ടറി, കെ.എസ്.പി.സി.ബി
 - ചീഫ് (അഗ്രി ഡിവിഷൻ), കെ.എസ്.പി.ബി
 - ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ, എൽ.എസ്.ജി.ഡി
 - ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയർ, പി.ഡബ്ല്യു.ഡി
 - ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ, കേരള വാട്ടർ അതോറിറ്റി
 - ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയർ, കെ.എസ്.ഇ.ബി
 - ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ, എച്ച് ഇ. .ഡി
 - ഡയറക്ടർ, ഭൂഗർഭജല വകുപ്പ്
 - പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ചീഫ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ ഓഫ് ഫോറസ്റ്റ്, വനം വകുപ്പ്

- കമ്മീഷണർ, ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ
- ഡയറക്ടർ, ടൂറിസം
- ഡയറക്ടർ, മണ്ണ് സംരക്ഷണം
- ഡയറക്ടർ, വ്യവസായ വാണിജ്യം
- മറ്റേതെങ്കിലും സ്റ്റേക്ക്ഹോൾഡർ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റുകളുടെ മേലധികാരികൾ/ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർമാർ/എംഡിമാർ (സ്റ്റിയറിങ് കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ നിർദ്ദേശവും അംഗീകാരവും അനുസരിച്ച്).
- ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ, ജലസേചനവും ഭരണവും (കൺവീനർ)

iv. നദീതട തല സമിതി

- അധ്യക്ഷൻ: നദീതടത്തിൽ ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ ഭൂവിസ്തൃതിയുള്ള ജില്ലയിലെ ജില്ലാ കളക്ടർ. നദീതടത്തിനുള്ളിൽ വരുന്ന മറ്റ് ജില്ലകളിലെ ജില്ലാ കളക്ടർമാർ സഹ-അധ്യക്ഷന്മാരായിരിക്കും.
- അംഗങ്ങൾ:
 - അതത് നദീതടം ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന മണ്ഡലങ്ങളിലെ നിയമസഭാംഗം/അംഗങ്ങൾ
 - നദീതടത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്ന തദ്ദേശ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ തലവന്മാർ.
 - ജലസേചനം, കൃഷി, വനം, കേരള വാട്ടർ അതോറിറ്റി, ഫിഷറീസ്, തദ്ദേശ സ്വയംഭരണ വകുപ്പ്, പി.ഡബ്ല്യു.ഡി, ഹാർബർ, ഭൂഗർഭജലം, മണ്ണ് സംരക്ഷണം, കെ. എസ്. പി. സി. ബി, ടൂറിസം, ആരോഗ്യം, കെ.എസ്.ഇ.ബി എന്നീ വകുപ്പുകൾക്കായി നിയോഗിക്കപ്പെട്ട ജില്ലാതല ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർ (ഓരോ വകുപ്പ് മേധാവികളും നാമനിർദ്ദേശം ചെയ്യേണ്ടത്)
 - സാങ്കേതിക സമിതി നാമനിർദ്ദേശം ചെയ്യുന്ന സാങ്കേതിക വിദഗ്ധർ, ജലവിഭവ വകുപ്പ് (ജലവിഭവ മാനേജ്മെന്റ്, ജലശാസ്ത്രം, നദീതട

ആസൂത്രണം എന്നിവയിൽ വിദഗ്ധർ, പരിസ്ഥിതി വിദഗ്ധർ, ജലശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞർ, കാലാവസ്ഥാ വിദഗ്ധർ, ജി.ഐ.എസ്-ഡാറ്റാ അനലിസ്റ്റുകൾ, കാർഷിക- ലാൻഡ് മാനേജ്മെന്റ് വിദഗ്ധർ, സാമൂഹിക-സാമ്പത്തിക മേഖലകളിലെ വിദഗ്ധർ, ഫിഷറീസ്- അക്വാട്ടിക് ഇക്കോളജി വിദഗ്ധർ, എൻ.ജി.ഒ കൾ, സിവിൽ സൊസൈറ്റി പ്രതിനിധികൾ.

- ജലസേചന വകുപ്പ് നാമനിർദ്ദേശം ചെയ്ത ജലസേചന വകുപ്പിലെ എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ -(കൺവീനർ)

9. ഈ ചട്ടക്കൂടിന് കീഴിൽ വരുന്ന ഓരോ നദീതടത്തിനും ഒരു ദീർഘകാല പദ്ധതിയും വാർഷിക പ്രവർത്തന പദ്ധതിയും (AAP) ആവിഷ്കരിക്കാൻ നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. സുസ്ഥിരമായ രീതിയിൽ നദീതടം പരിപാലിക്കുന്നതിനും സംരക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനും സമഗ്രമായ സമീപനം രൂപപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും ഇത് സഹായകമാകും. ദീർഘകാല നദീതട പരിപാലന പദ്ധതിയിലെ ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങൾ, ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രക്രിയ തുടങ്ങിയവ അനുബന്ധ ചട്ടക്കൂടിൽ വിശദമാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

10. ദീർഘകാലാടിസ്ഥാനത്തിലുള്ള പദ്ധതിയുടെ ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി അവയിൽ ഏറ്റവും മുന്തിയ പരിഗണന നൽകേണ്ടതും കൂടുതൽ ഫലം ഉണ്ടാക്കാവുന്നതുമായ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ വാർഷിക പദ്ധതികളുടെ ഭാഗമായി ഏറ്റെടുക്കേണ്ടതും മുൻഗണനാടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ പൂർത്തീകരിക്കേണ്ടതുമാണ്. ജലഗുണനിലവാരം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുക, മലിനീകരണ സ്രോതസ്സുകൾ കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്യുക, സംരക്ഷണ ശ്രമങ്ങൾ സമന്വയിപ്പിക്കുക, വെള്ളപ്പൊക്ക തയ്യാറെടുപ്പ്, വരൾച്ചയെ നേരിടാനുള്ള പ്രതിരോധം മുതലായ അടിയന്തര ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ പരിഹരിക്കൽ എന്നിവ ഇത്തരം പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉദാഹരണങ്ങളാണ്. ഓരോ വകുപ്പും കൈവരിക്കേണ്ട ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങൾ വ്യക്തമാക്കുന്നതിലൂടെ, ജലപരിപാലനവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ഓരോ വകുപ്പിന്റെയും ഉത്തരവാദിത്തങ്ങൾ അവ

കൈവരിക്കേണ്ട സമയക്രമം, ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന ഫലം എന്നിവയിന്മേൽ വാർഷിക പദ്ധതി വ്യക്തത നൽകുന്നു.

11. ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ഓരോ വകുപ്പും നദീതട വാർഷിക പദ്ധതികളുടെ ഘടകങ്ങൾ പതിവ് പദ്ധതി പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്താൻ കരട് ചട്ടക്കൂട് നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. ഇത്തരത്തിലുള്ള സംയോജനത്തിലൂടെ നിലവിലുള്ള ഉത്തരവാദിത്തങ്ങളുടെയും സംവിധാനങ്ങളുടെയും ഭാഗമായി തന്നെ നദീതട വാർഷിക പദ്ധതിയിലെ ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങൾ കൈവരിക്കാൻ വകുപ്പുകൾക്ക് സാധിക്കും. എന്നാൽ വാർഷികപദ്ധതികളിൽ വിഭാവനം ചെയ്യപ്പെടുന്ന പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ നിലവിൽ അതത് വകുപ്പുകളുടെ അംഗീകൃത പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുടെയോ പരിപാടികളുടെയോ ഭാഗമാകുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ അത്തരം പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി ഒരു അനുബന്ധ പദ്ധതി ആവിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നതാണ് (റിവർ ബേസിൻ ഓഗ്മെന്റേഷൻ പ്ലാൻ). അതത് വകുപ്പുകളുടെ പതിവ് ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടാത്ത, എന്നാൽ നിർണ്ണായകമായ സംരംഭങ്ങൾ ഏറ്റെടുക്കുന്നതിനും അതുവഴി നദീതട വാർഷികപദ്ധതികളിലെ നിർണ്ണായക പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഫണ്ട് ലഭ്യമാക്കി പൂർത്തീകരിക്കുന്നതിനും പ്രസ്തുത അനുബന്ധ പദ്ധതി സഹായകമാകും.

12. നദീതടവാർഷിക പദ്ധതിയുടെയും അനുബന്ധ പദ്ധതിയുടെയും ഭാഗമായ പദ്ധതി ഘടകങ്ങളുടെ നിർവ്വഹണ നിരീക്ഷണം അതത് വകുപ്പുകൾ തന്നെ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

13. നിർദ്ദിഷ്ട ചട്ടക്കൂട് പ്രകാരമുള്ള പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കാവശ്യമായ സാമ്പത്തിക പിന്തുണ അതത് വകുപ്പുകളുടെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് വിഹിതം, സംസ്ഥാനതലത്തിൽ രൂപീകരിക്കാനുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന പൂൾ ഫണ്ട്, മറ്റ് അനുബന്ധ സാമ്പത്തിക സ്രോതസ്സുകൾ എന്നിവയിലൂടെ കണ്ടെത്താവുന്നതാണ്.

- വകുപ്പ്തല വിഹിതം(Departmental Allowances): അതത് നദീതടത്തിലുൾപ്പെടുന്ന വകുപ്പുകളുടെ നിലവിലുള്ള ബഡ്ജറ്റ് വിഹിതം ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്നതാണ് വകുപ്പ് തലവിഹിതം.
- നിശ്ചിത പൂൾ ഫണ്ട് (dedicated pool fund): സംസ്ഥാനതലത്തിൽ രൂപീകരിക്കുന്നതും സ്റ്റിയറിങ്ങ് കമ്മിറ്റി നിയന്ത്രിക്കുന്നതുമായ പൂൾ ഫണ്ട് വകുപ്പുതലവിഹിതത്തിനുപരിയായി ആവശ്യമായി വരുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ഉപകരിക്കുന്നതാണ്. പ്രധാനമായും താഴെ പറയുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കായാണ് ഈ ഫണ്ട് ഉപയോഗിക്കുക.
- നദീതടങ്ങളുടെ അനുബന്ധ പദ്ധതികളുടെ ഭാഗമായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെടുന്ന പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കായി
- സംസ്ഥാന അതോറിറ്റിയുടെ അനുമതിക്ക് വിധേയമായി നദീതടത്തിൽ നൂതനമായ സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യകളുടെ പ്രയോഗത്തിന്.
- ഒന്നിലധികം നദീതടങ്ങൾക്ക് പൊതുവായ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനും പൂൾ ഫണ്ട് ഉപയോഗിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇത് ജലപരിപാലനമേഖലയിലെ സംയോജിത പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കും.

14. നദീതട സംരക്ഷണപരിപാലന ചട്ടക്കൂടിന് ഒരു ഫലപ്രദമായ സാമ്പത്തിക മാനേജ്മെന്റ് ഉണ്ടാകേണ്ടത് വളരെ പ്രധാനമാണ്. ഇതിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്ന ദീർഘകാല, വാർഷിക കർമ്മ പദ്ധതികളുടെ കാര്യക്ഷമമായ നടത്തിപ്പിന് ഇത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. വിഭവ വിഹിതത്തിലും വിനിയോഗത്തിലും സുതാര്യതയും ഉത്തരവാദിത്തവും ഉറപ്പാക്കുന്നതിന് ഓരോ നദീതട സമിതിക്കും സംസ്ഥാന സമിതിക്കും പ്രത്യേക ബജറ്റ് ലൈനുകൾ രൂപീകരിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ലൈനുകൾ സംസ്ഥാനതലത്തിൽ നിഷ്കർഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ചട്ടക്കൂടിന് വിധേയമായി അതത്

നദീതട അതോറിറ്റികൾക്ക് സാമ്പത്തികമായ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ സ്വതന്ത്രമായി കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് സഹായിക്കും.

15. പരിശോധനകൾ സുഗമമാക്കുന്നതിനും സുതാര്യത പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുമായി ആസൂത്രണ, സാമ്പത്തിക വകുപ്പ് പ്രത്യേക ബജറ്റ് ലൈനുകൾ ചുവടെ പറയുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി അനുവദിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

- നദീതട സമിതി-സംസ്ഥാന ബജറ്റിനുള്ളിൽതന്നെ ഓരോ നദീതട അതോറിറ്റിക്കും തനതായ ബജറ്റ് ലൈൻ ഉണ്ടാകും.
- സ്റ്റിയറിങ്ങ് കമ്മിറ്റി- ഒന്നിലേറെ നദീതടങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്ന പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ. സംസ്ഥാനതല ഏകോപനം, ഭരണപരമായ ചെലവുകൾ എന്നിവയ്ക്കായി സ്റ്റിയറിങ്ങ് കമ്മിറ്റിക്കും തനത് ബജറ്റ് ലൈൻ ഉണ്ടാകും. ഈ കേന്ദ്രീകൃത ഫണ്ടിൽ നിന്നാകും പൂൾ ഫണ്ട് അനുവദിക്കുന്നത്.

16. മികച്ച ആസൂത്രണം, സമയബന്ധിതമായ ഫണ്ട് വിനിയോഗം, കൂടുതൽ സംഘടിത സാമ്പത്തിക ഘടന എന്നിവയെ പിന്തുണയ്ക്കുക വഴി പ്രത്യേക ബജറ്റ് ലൈനുകൾ പദ്ധതി നടത്തിപ്പിലെ കാലതാമസം കുറയ്ക്കുകയും ഫണ്ടുകൾ തെറ്റായി അനുവദിക്കപ്പെടുന്നതിനും നിർദ്ദിഷ്ട ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് വക മാറ്റുന്നതിനുമുള്ള സാധ്യത കുറയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും.

17. സംസ്ഥാനതലത്തിലോ വകുപ്പു തലത്തിലോ ലഭ്യമാകുന്ന വിഹിതങ്ങൾക്ക് പുറമെ വിശാലമായ പദ്ധതി ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങൾ കൈവരിക്കുന്നതിനും സാമ്പത്തിക അടിസ്ഥാന മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും തദ്ദേശസ്വയംഭരണ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ വിഹിതം, CSR വിഹിതം, മറ്റ് വികസന ഗ്രാന്റുകൾ, മുതലായ സാമ്പത്തിക സ്രോതസ്സുകളുടെ സാധ്യതകൾ ആരായുന്നതിന് നദീതട സമിതികളെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കും.

18. ഈ ചട്ടക്കൂടിൽ വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്ന കമ്മിറ്റികളുടെ സാമ്പത്തിക അധികാരങ്ങൾ ധനകാര്യ വകുപ്പുമായി കൂടിയാലോചിച്ചു പിന്നീട് തീരുമാനിക്കുന്നതാണ് .
19. ഈ ചട്ടക്കൂടിന് കീഴിലുള്ള വിവിധ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ ഫണ്ട് വിഹിതം, ചെലവുകൾ, പദ്ധതി തലത്തിലുള്ള സാമ്പത്തിക സ്ഥിതി എന്നിവ വിശദമാക്കുന്ന റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൾ ആസൂത്രണവകുപ്പിനും ധനകാര്യ വകുപ്പിനും യഥാസമയം നൽകേണ്ടതാണ്.
20. പതിവ് ഓഡിറ്റുകളും സാമ്പത്തിക അവലോകനങ്ങളും ബജറ്റ് വിഹിതത്തിന്റെ ദുരുപയോഗവും വകമാറ്റവും നിരുത്സാഹപ്പെടുത്തും. ഈ മേൽനോട്ടം പൊതുജനവിശ്വാസം നിലനിർത്താനും നദീതടാടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ആവിഷ്കരിച്ച് നടപ്പാക്കുന്ന സംരംഭങ്ങൾക്ക് ദീർഘകാല സാമ്പത്തിക സഹായം ഉറപ്പാക്കാനും സഹായിക്കും.
21. നിശ്ചിത പദ്ധതികൾക്ക് ആവശ്യാനുസരണം ഫണ്ട് അനുവദിക്കുന്നതിനും പൂൾ ഫണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും അധികമായി വേണ്ടി വരുന്ന ഫണ്ട് അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നതിനും നദീതട സമിതികളെ അനുവദിക്കുന്നതിലൂടെ, പുതുതായി ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന വെല്ലുവിളികളെയും ആവശ്യങ്ങളെയും ഫലപ്രദമായി നേരിടുന്നതിന് സഹായകരമാകുന്ന സാമ്പത്തിക മാനേജ്മെന്റ് സംവിധാനമായി ഈ ചട്ടക്കൂട് പ്രവർത്തിക്കും.
22. ഈ പ്രവർത്തന ചട്ടക്കൂട് പ്രകാരമുള്ള പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും ഉത്തരവാദിത്തങ്ങളും നിലവിലുള്ള പ്രസക്തമായ നിയമങ്ങൾക്കും ചട്ടങ്ങൾക്കും അനുസൃതമായിരിക്കും. കൂടാതെ ഈ പ്രവർത്തന ചട്ടക്കൂട് ഏതെങ്കിലും സ്റ്റാറ്റ്യൂട്ടറി അതോറിറ്റികളുടെ അധികാരങ്ങൾക്ക് വിരുദ്ധമാകുന്നതല്ല. സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലൂടെ ഒഴുകുന്ന അന്തർസംസ്ഥാന നദികൾ(interstate rivers) ഈ ചട്ടക്കൂടിന്റെ പരിധിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നതല്ല.

23. സംയോജിത നദീതട സംരക്ഷണത്തിനും പരിപാലനത്തിനുമുള്ള പ്രവർത്തന ഫ്രെയിംവർക്കിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള സംസ്ഥാന ആസൂത്രണ ബോർഡിന്റെ പരാമർശം ഇപ്രകാരമാണ്:

“The report on ‘Operational Framework for Integrated River Basin Conservation and Management’ is recommended for further proceedings”

24. സംയോജിത നദീതട സംരക്ഷണത്തിനും പരിപാലനത്തിനുമുള്ള പ്രവർത്തന ഫ്രെയിംവർക്കിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള റവന്യൂ വകുപ്പിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ ഇപ്രകാരമാണ്:

“1957 - ലെ ഭൂസംരക്ഷണ നിയമം, 2001- ലെ കേരള നദീതീരസംരക്ഷണവും മണൽ വാരലും ആക്ട് എന്നിവ പ്രകാരമുള്ള ചുമതലകൾ നിർവഹിക്കേണ്ടത് റവന്യൂ വകുപ്പ് ആയിരിക്കണമെന്ന് ചാപ്റ്റർ 4-ലെ ഓപ്പറേഷൻ ഫ്രെയിം വർക്കിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തണം എന്ന ഭേദഗതിയോടെ കരട് അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നതായും ഇതിനു ബഹു.റവന്യൂവും ഭവന നിർമ്മാണവും വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രിയുടെ അംഗീകാരമുള്ളതായും അറിയിക്കുന്നു”

25. എന്നാൽ സംയോജിത നദീതട സംരക്ഷണത്തിനും പരിപാലനത്തിനുമുള്ള പ്രവർത്തന ഫ്രെയിംവർക്കിലെ അധ്യായം 6- (Conclusion)-ൽ “ The functions and responsibilities as per this operational framework shall abide by the relevant Acts and Rules and shall not conflict with the powers and authorities of any of the statutory authorities.” എന്ന് വ്യക്തമാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. എന്നിരുന്നാലും, റവന്യൂ വകുപ്പിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ പരിഗണിച്ച്, ഈ പ്രവർത്തന ചട്ടക്കൂട് പ്രകാരമുള്ള പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും ഉത്തരവാദിത്തങ്ങളും 2001-ലെ കേരള നദീതീരസംരക്ഷണവും മണൽ വാരലും ആക്ട് , കേരള പഞ്ചായത്ത് രാജ്, കേരള മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റി ആക്ടിലെ വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ

എന്നിവയുൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള പ്രസക്തമായ നിയമങ്ങളും ചട്ടങ്ങളും അനുസരിച്ചായിരിക്കണമെന്ന് വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്യുന്നു.

26. സംയോജിത നദീതട സംരക്ഷണത്തിനും പരിപാലനത്തിനുമുള്ള പ്രവർത്തന ഫ്രെയിംവർക്കിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ധനകാര്യ വകുപ്പിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ ഇപ്രകാരമാണ്:

“Finance agrees to the proposed draft operational framework for River Basin Conservation and Management Authority subject to no post creation and subject to the suggestion pointed below:

- It is suggested that WRD may assess the approximate requirement for the same for a financial year incorporate the same in their plan if possible by fiscally revamping their existing projects in view of the current fiscal constraints.***
- Administrative Department is also informed that Finance Department agrees to the formation of a pooled fund from sources such as LSG contributions, CSR Grants and Development funding and PPP. ”***

27. സംയോജിത നദീതട സംരക്ഷണത്തിനും പരിപാലനത്തിനുമുള്ള പ്രവർത്തന ഫ്രെയിംവർക്കിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള നിയമ വകുപ്പിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ ചുവടെ ചേർക്കുന്നു :

“In the preface of the draft operational framework for Integrated River Basin Conservation and Management, it is stated that the operational framework has been developed to serve as an authoritative guide for implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) across river basins, establishing a structured approach to address the diverse challenges these resources face.

As per Sec. 3 of the Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003 all water courses and all water in such water courses in the State shall be the property of the Government and Government shall be entitled to conserve and regulate the use of such water courses and the water in all those water courses for the purposes of irrigation and the generation of electricity and for matters connected therewith or for both subject to the provisions of Sec. 218 of the Kerala Panchayath Raj Act, 1994 and Sec. 208A of the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994.

In accordance with the Sec. 218 of the Kerala Panchayath Raj Act, 1994 all public water courses (other than river passing through more area than the panchayath area which the Government may by notification in the Gazette, specify) the beds and banks of river streams, irrigation and drainage channels, canals, lakes, backwaters and water courses and all standing and flowing water springs, reservoirs, tanks, cisterns, fountains, wells, kappus, chals, stand pipes and other works including those used by the public to such an extent as to give a prescriptive right to their use and also any adjacent land not being private property appertaining thereto shall stand transferred to and vest absolutely in the village panchayath. However, as per Sub Sec. 3 of Sec. 218 the Government may by notification in the Gazette, assumed the administration of any public source of water supply and public land adjacent and appertaining thereto after consulting the village panchayath and giving due regard to its objection if any. The above provisions

are also applicable to the municipalities as per Sec. 208 A of the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994.

Moreover, The Kerala Protection of River Banks and Regulation of Removal of Sand Act, 2001 deals with the protection of river banks and river beds from large scale dredging of river sand and to protect their biophysical environment system and regulate the removal of river sand and for matters connected therewith.

On perusal of the legal provisions explained above, it is seen that there is no legal impediment to formulate an operational framework for integrated river basin conservation and management by the Government in accordance with the provisions of the Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003 subject to the provisions in the Kerala Protection of River Banks and Regulations of Removal of Sand Act, 2001 as remarked by the Revenue Department and with the provisions in Kerala Panchayath Raj and Kerala Municipality Act as remarked by the LSGD. The A/D may be informed accordingly."

28. ആറാം അധ്യായത്തിലെ പ്രവർത്തന ചട്ടക്കൂടിൽ നിയമ വകുപ്പിന്റെ ചുവടെ പറയുന്ന അഭിപ്രായം കൂടി ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്:

"The functions and responsibilities as per this operational framework shall be governed in accordance with the relevant Acts and Rules including the Kerala Protection of Riverbanks and Regulations of Removal of Sand Act, 2001 and the provisions in Kerala Panchayath Raj and Kerala Municipality

Act and shall not conflict with the powers and authorities of any of the statutory authorities”

29. മുകളിൽ പറഞ്ഞ വിശദാംശങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയ നിർദ്ദിഷ്ട കരട് ചട്ടക്കൂട് 28/05/2025-ന് ഇനം നമ്പർ 2976 പ്രകാരം മന്ത്രിസഭായോഗം പരിഗണിക്കുകയും ചില ഭേദഗതികൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയ ശേഷം കരട് വീണ്ടും സമർപ്പിക്കാൻ നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. കരട് ചട്ടക്കൂടിലും ഈ കുറിപ്പിലും ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ താഴെപ്പറയുന്ന ഭേദഗതികൾ വരുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. പുതുക്കിയ കരട് പ്രവർത്തന ചട്ടക്കൂട് ഈ കുറിപ്പിനൊപ്പം അനുബന്ധമായി ചേർത്തിരിക്കുന്നു.

1. കരട് ചട്ടക്കൂടിലെ ഖണ്ഡിക 4.4.1 "അപെക്സ് കമ്മിറ്റി" ഭേദഗതി ചെയ്യുകയും ടൂറിസം മന്ത്രിയെ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു.
2. കരട് ചട്ടക്കൂടിലെ ഖണ്ഡിക 4.4.2 "സ്റ്റിയറിംഗ് കമ്മിറ്റി" ഭേദഗതി ചെയ്യുകയും ഊർജ്ജ വകുപ്പ് അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി/ പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി/ സെക്രട്ടറി -യെ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു.
3. നിയമ വകുപ്പിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം പരിഗണിച്ച്, പ്രവർത്തന ചട്ടക്കൂടിന്റെ ആറാം അദ്ധ്യായം ചുവടെ പറയും പ്രകാരം ഭേദഗതി ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

“The functions and responsibilities as per this operational framework shall be governed in accordance with the relevant Acts and Rules including the Kerala Protection of Riverbanks and Regulations of Removal of Sand Act, 2001 and the provisions in Kerala Panchayath Raj and Kerala Municipality Act and shall not conflict with the powers and authorities of any of the statutory authorities”

4. ഖണ്ഡിക 5.3.2 “Additional Funding Sources ” Public Private Partnership (PPP) നിന്നുള്ള ഫണ്ടിംഗ് ഒഴിവാക്കി ചുവടെ പറയും പ്രകാരം പരിഷ്കരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

“Apart from state and departmental allocations, each river

basin authority is encouraged to seek supplementary funding from Local Government Contributions, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives, Grants and Development Funding etc. to strengthen its financial base and support broader project objectives.”

5. കരട് ചട്ടക്കൂടിലെ ഖണ്ഡിക 4.4.4 "നദീതട തല സമിതി" ഭേദഗതി ചെയ്യുകയും "അതത് നദീതടം ഉൾക്കൊള്ളുന്ന മണ്ഡലങ്ങളിലെ നിയമസഭാംഗം/അംഗങ്ങൾ" ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യും.
6. കരട് ചട്ടക്കൂടിൽ “4.5 Delegation of Powers ” എന്നൊരു പുതിയ ഖണ്ഡിക കൂടി ചുവടെ പറയും പ്രകാരം ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.
“Delegation of financial powers of the above committees shall be notified in due consultation with the finance department.”

തീരുമാനിക്കേണ്ട വിഷയം

ഈ കുറിപ്പിനൊപ്പം ഉള്ളടക്കം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള റിവർ ബേസിൻ കൺസർവേഷൻ ആൻഡ് മാനേജ്മെന്റ് (RBCM) ചട്ടക്കൂടിനു അംഗീകാരം നൽകാവുന്നതാണോ?