CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST & WILDLIFE  

Notification  

Chandigarh, dated the 31st March, 2019  

No. Forest/2019/33/2019 - Whereas the Administration of Union Territory, Chandigarh intends to issue the following notification in pursuance of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 notified by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India vide Notification No.GSR 1203(E) dated 26.9.2017. The Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh in exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017, hereby published the draft notification and place the same in the public domain as required under Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 for the information of all concerned and affected persons.

Notice is hereby given that the draft will be taken into consideration by the Chandigarh Administration on or after the expiry of the period of sixty days from the date of publication of this notification in the Chandigarh Administration Gazette.

Any person having any objection against the said proposed draft notification may do so in writing to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forest & Wildlife, Chandigarh Administration, Paryavaran Bhawan Building, (3rd Floor), Sector 19-B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh - 160019 or on forestchandigarh@gmail.com within the said period of sixty days from the date of publication of this notification.

Reasons/Object of Notification  

Union Territory of Chandigarh Wetlands Authority, Chandigarh was constituted in pursuance of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India's Notification issued vide No.GSR 1203 (E) dated 26th September, 2017 under the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. Under the said rules of 2017, the UT Chandigarh shall have to notify the wetlands in the Official Gazette.

DRAFT  

Whereas Sukhna Lake of the City Beautiful was constructed in 1958 across Sukhna Choe and formed integral part of master plan Chandigarh prepared by famous French Architect Le Corbusier and Chief Engineer Mr. P.L Verma.

And whereas, the Administration of UT Chandigarh had already declared Sukhna Lake as Wetland vide notification No.3609-UTFI(1)-88/10083 dated 6th July, 1988.
And whereas the man-made lake is located on the foothills of the Shivalik mountain range and thousand of migratory birds such as Bar-headed Geese, Northern Pintail, Ruddy Shelduck, Northern Shoveller, Mallard, Tufted Duck & Common Pochard etc. come here for wintering every year.

Whereas Sukhna Wetland is having :-

i) Plant species such as vegetation type which includes free floating macrophytes like Ipomoea aquatica, Eichhorniacrassipesand emergent like Justicia adhatoda, Saccharum bengalense, Saccharumspontaneum, Phragmites sps, Cyperusnivens,Cyperusrotundus, Typha speciosocetc. Other flora includes Cynadondactylon, Dendrocalamusstrictus.

ii) The faunal diversity in the natural marshes of community reserve include mammals like Rusa unicolor, Sus scrofa, Herpestesedwardsi,Pteropusmedius etc., migratory waterbirds like Aythyaferna, Tadomaferuna, Aythyanychroca, Anas acuta, Anas querquedula, Platalealeucorodia, Dendrocygnajavanica, Sarkidiomismelanotes, Anas penelope, Anas platyrhynchos, Aegypiusmonachus, Gyps himalayensis, Aquila nipalensisetc, resident birds like Ptilicrinorecapilla, Gallinulachloropus, Porphyriopascocephalus, Hydrophasianuschirurgus, Duseteraflavicollis, Ixobrychuscinnemomes, Anas poecilorhyncha, Neophron percnopterusamphibians and reptiles like Euphlyctiscyanophytis, Hoplobatrachustigerinus, Bufo melanostictus, Varanus bengalensis, Python molurus, Bungarus caeruleus, Debola russelli, Naja naja, Xenochrophispiscator and fishes like Gadusliachapra, Labeorohita, Calliaca, Cyprinus carpio, Cirrhinus cirrhosis, Labeorohitaaand Hypophthalmichthys molitrix etc.


iv) Plant invasive alien species such as Eichhorniacrassipes, Cannabis sativa sativa, Parthenium hysterophorus.

v) Major animal invasive aliens species such as Cyprinus carpioand Hypophthalmichthys molitrix.

And whereas Sukhna Lake is ecologically sensitive, very rich in biological diversity and needs adequate attention to maintain the ecological health of the lake.

And whereas proper maintenance of this lake is of utmost importance to avail other ecosystem services such as groundwater recharge, water purification, nutrient recycling etc.

And whereas Sukhna Lake supports variety of life forms through extensive food web.
And whereas Sukhna Lake enhances landscape aesthetics of Chandigarh.

And whereas the UT Administration, Chandigarh has notified the Union Territory of Chandigarh Wetlands Authority as per the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 vide Notification No.99 dated 6.12.2017.

And whereas a brief document on Sukhna Lake has also been prepared making a mention of the ecological role and importance of this lake.

And whereas the Union Territory of Chandigarh Wetlands Authority met on 16th July, 2018 and 23rd July, 2019 and deliberated in detail on the issues and decided to declare Sukhna Lake as Wetland under Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 and the part of catchment falling within the jurisdiction of UT Chandigarh as Zone of Influence as recommended by the Technical Committee constituted by the UT Administration vide Order No.103 dated 21.8.2018.

Now therefore under Rule-7 of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017, the Union Territory Administration of Chandigarh hereby declare Sukhna Lake comprising of 565 acres as Wetland under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 as per the boundary description given below and part of catchment area falling within the jurisdiction of UT Chandigarh as Zone of Influence spreading over an area of 7185.824 Acres:-

**Delineation of Sukhna Wetland (Map attached as Annexure-1)**

- **North**: Fencing between agriculture fields of village Kaimbwala and Capital Project area
- **East**: Forest plantation between Lake and agriculture fields of village Suketri
- **West**: Lake Bandh near Lake Club and Cafetaria
- **South**: Lake Bandh

**Details of Zone of Influence of Sukhna Lake falling within the boundary limit of UT Chandigarh:-**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>Type of Catchment Area</th>
<th>Area in acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hilly Catchment Area</td>
<td>6281.419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Under Agricultural Use</td>
<td>904.406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7185.824</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Sukhna Wetland shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of "wise-use". Thus the activities identified as prohibited/regulated/promoted both in the Wetland as well as in the Catchment area (Zone of Influence) are given as below:

**Prohibited Activities in Sukhna Wetland:**
1. Commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units.
2. Setting up of industries causing water or air or soil or noise pollution and expansion of existing industries.
3. Use or production and Handling or storage/ disposal of hazardous substances
4. Commercial water resources including ground water harvesting- Commercial use of natural water resources including ground water shall be prohibited and all steps shall be taken to prevent contamination or pollution of water.
5. Establishment of new thermal and major hydroelectric projects.
6. Establishment of large-scale commercial livestock and poultry farms by firms, corporate and companies.
7. Reclamation/ filling up
8. No permanent construction (except for boat jetties) shall be allowed within 50 meters from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules.
9. Feeding of fishes and migratory birds by the public.
10. Release of any invasive species such as duck, bird, turtles etc. by the public.
11. Conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind
12. Manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or agriculture practices involving BT Cotton in the catchment area;
13. Solid waste dumping;
14. Discharge of untreated waste and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
15. Poaching except angling with due permission from the concerned Dept.
16. Uses of plastic carry bags

(b) Regulated Activities in Sukhna Wetland:
1. Commercial establishment of hotels and resorts- No new commercial hotels and resorts shall be permitted. The existing hotels/ resorts shall be maintained as per the law in force.
2. Erection of electrical and telecommunication towers
3. Felling of trees
4. Erection of high tension transmission lines
5. Eco-Tourism Activity
6. Withdrawal of water/impoundment/ diversion or any other hydrological intervention
7. Harvesting of resources (living/ non-living)
8. Aquaculture, agriculture and horticulture activities within the wetland boundaries
9. Release of fishes into the lake by the Department of Fisheries with scientific consultation.
10. Angling at few designated points with valid license issued by Department of Fisheries, UT Chandigarh
11. Upkeep and maintenance of the lake by Works Department, UT Chandigarh wherever technically feasible/ required.

12. Netting or removal of fishes from the lake by the Department of Fisheries to maintain ecological balance of lake with scientific consultation.

13. To carry out Scientific Research to encourage Research and Development on the lake and its ecology.

(c) Promoted Activities in Sukhna Wetland:

1. Ongoing agriculture and horticulture practices by local communities along with dairies, dairy farming and fisheries without chemical fertilizer and pesticide.
2. Rain water harvesting.
3. Use of renewable energy sources.
4. Adoption of green technology for all activities.
5. Vegetative fencing.
6. Environmental awareness

Activities to be Prohibited/ Regulated/ Promoted in Zone of Influence falling within the boundary of UT Chandigarh :-

The area from which rainfall flows into a river, lake, or reservoir is called Catchment. The activities identified as Prohibited/Regulated/Promoted are listed as under for the catchment area of the Sukhna Wetland :-

(a) Prohibited Activities

Following activities shall be prohibited in the catchment of Sukhna Wetland:-
1. Setting up of saw mills.
2. Commercial use of firewood.
3. New wood based industry.
4. Hunting in the catchment
5. Release of untreated waste water (not meeting the desired environmental standards)
6. Use of Diclofenac

(b) Regulated Activities :

Following activities shall be regulated as per existing law in force:-
1. Construction activities
2. Introduction of exotic species
3. Air (including noise) and vehicular pollution
4. Eco-friendly cottages for temporary occupation of tourists such as tents, wooden houses, etc. for eco-friendly tourism activities
5. Discharge of treated effluents in natural water bodies/ choes or land area
6. Small scale industries not causing pollution.
7. Solid Waste Management
8. Grazing to be allowed as per the existing rules
9. Upkeep and maintenance of the lake by Works Department, wherever technically feasible/ required
10. Land use change
11. Low-impact recreational activities

(c) **Promoted Activities:**

Following activities shall be promoted:
1. Participation of all stakeholders in the water catchment protection activities
2. Planting of indigenous tree species
3. Soil & moisture conservation activities
4. Measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands.
5. Certain activities relating to scientific research and education
6. Cleaning of culverts
7. Organic farming.
8. Agro forestry
9. Plantation of fruit bearing trees to make more food available to monkeys and other wild animals.

Chandigarh dated the 17th October, 2019

Endst. No.__________________

ARUN KUMAR GUPTA, IAS
Principal Secretary (Forests)
Chandigarh Administration

[Debendra Dalal] IFS
Special Secretary Forests
Chandigarh Administration

Endst. No.______________

Chandigarh, dated the__________

A copy is forwarded to the Controller, Printing & Stationery, UT Chandigarh with the request to publish this notification in the Chandigarh Administration Gazette (Extraordinary) and to supply 50 copies thereof to this Department.

Endst. No.______________

Chandigarh, Dated the__________

A copy is forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh
2. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana, Chandigarh

[Debendra Dalal] IFS
Special Secretary Forests
Chandigarh Administration

Endst. No.______________

Chandigarh, Dated the__________

A copy is forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. Chief Conservator of Forests, UT Chandigarh
2. Chief Engineer, UT Chandigarh
3. Managing Director, CITCO, Chandigarh
4. Conservator of Forests/DCF, UT Chandigarh

[Debendra Dalal] IFS
Special Secretary Forests
Chandigarh Administration
Chandigarh, Dated the 21-10-19

A copy is forwarded to the Director Public Relation, Chandigarh Administration with the request that the above notification may kindly be given wide publicity.

A copy is forwarded to the Director Information Technology, Chandigarh Administration, Chandigarh, for information with a request to get it upload the same on the website of Chandigarh Administration.

[debendra dalai] IFS
Special Secretary Forests
Chandigarh Administration

Chandigarh, Dated the

A copy is forwarded to all the HODs/Boards/Corporation, Chandigarh Administration for information.

[debendra dalai] IFS
Special Secretary Forests
Chandigarh Administration