

**Note on Kolleru Lake for the Study Visit of the
Department –related
Parliamentary Standing committee on Science &
Technology, Environment & Forests
Hyderabad on August 1st, 2013**

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
GOVT OF INDIA**

Note on kolleru lake

Kolleru Lake is the 2nd largest freshwater lake in Andhra Pradesh situated between Krishna and Godavari deltas in the coastal districts of West Godavari and Krishna lying between the latitude $16^{\circ}32'$ & $16^{\circ}47'$ and longitude $81^{\circ}05'$ & $81^{\circ}21'$ E. It is a shallow lake with an area of 901 Sq. Kms which was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in November 1999 under India's Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, and designated a wetland of international importance in November 2002 under the Ramsar Convention. The important activities in the lake area are agriculture and aquaculture. The lake is the drinking water source for the people living in the vicinity of the Kolleru Lake and it is a bird sanctuary for indigenous and migrating birds.

The ecological degradation of the lake was set in due to water diversion, extensive agriculture by use of pesticides & fertilizers in upper catchment and delta regions, bunding for pisciculture, draining of sewage and industrial pollutants through in-flowing drains and channels.



Monitoring of Kolleru Lake

To conserve Kolleru lake by restoring its ecological characteristics & its biodiversity, MoEF and Govt. of Andhra Pradesh have undertaken various conservation activities like removal of weeds, construction of boundary pillars, survey and demarcation, education & awareness etc. Till date, an total amount of ` 249.57 lakhs has been released by MoEF to Govt. of AP for conservation of lake and to undertake activities like Eco-development & Ecotourism. APPCB is regularly monitoring (monthly) the water quality of the lake at 20 points for Physico-chemical, Bacteriological and heavy metal parameters.

A. A. Monitoring locations (inlet drains) of Kolleru Lake:

1. West Tammileru at Gurukula-padu
2. Budameru at Arugolanu
3. Chandiraiah drain at Nandigam
4. Polaraju drain at Kakatiya wagu
5. East Tammileru at NH 5
6. Bulusu vagu at NH 5
7. Mondikodu drain
8. Kovali drain
9. Tokalapalli drain at Chebrolu undi road
10. Pandikodu drain at Chebrolu Undi road
11. Narasannapalem drain at Arugolanu

B. Monitoring locations in Kolleru Lake

12. Pedaedlagadi on Eluru Kaikaluru road
13. Chinaedlagai on Eluru Kaikaluru road
14. Circar channel at Alapadu run off
15. Point of Sringavarapadu
16. Point at Kolleti kota
17. Gudivakalanka
18. Kokkirayalanka
19. Chettunnapadu

C. Outlet of Kolleru Lake

20. Upputeru at Akiveedu road bridge

Note Received from MoEF

Status Note on Kolleru Lake in Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) under the National Wetland Conservation Programme

- Kolleru Lake in Andhra Pradesh is one of the 115 wetlands identified for conservation under National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) and also one of the Ramsar sites because of its international importance. The area of the lake is 901 sq.km. Kolleru lake has been notified under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules-2010 for not allowing use of the wetland beyond its carrying capacity.
- The lake is under stress mainly due to encroachment, aquaculture activities, pollution from industrial and domestic sources and prolific growth of weeds. Problems of encroachment have also resulted in deterioration of this water body.
- Till date, a total amount of Rs. 249.57 lakhs has been released for conservation of Kolleru Lake by Ministry of Environment & Forests to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for undertaking activities like eco-development, eco-tourism, removal of weeds, catchment area treatment, monitoring, publicity and creation of awareness etc. the last release of Rs. 126 lakh was made during the year 2009-10 for undertaking activities relating to restoration measures, protection measures and education & awareness. Since this amount could not be utilized by the Forest Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh (the implementing agency for the project) during 2009-10 to 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 129 lakh, including unspent balance of previous year, has been revalidated for the year 2012-13. The state Govt. needs to expeditiously implement the sanctioned works and submit the requisite utilization Certificates and Physical Progress Report for the same.
- Out of the total area of 901 sq.km of Kolleru lake which extends upto +10ft contour level, the lake upto +5ft contour level covering 308.55 sq.km has been notified as Wildlife sanctuary by the state Govt in October, 1999. The state Govt. had subsequently mooted a resolution for reducing the sanctuary area from existing +5ft contour level to +3ft contour level, thereby reducing the notified sanctuary area. The state Govt's proposal for reducing the boundaries of the sanctuary was considered by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) of the Ministry. However, the NBWL felt that it was not advisable to reduce the area of the Kolleru Lake sanctuary as it was not a viable proposition for the socio-economic and ecological benefits of the stakeholders, including local communities dependent on the lake. Ministry of Environment & Forests has

communicated the recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

- In order to restore the ecological characteristics of the lake and its biodiversity, about 1776 fish tanks extending over 44,725 acres have been demolished in the sanctuary area during June, 2006. Various conservation activities like removal and carting the soil from demolished fish tanks, removal of weeds, construction of boundary pillars, survey & demarcation, education and awareness etc. have been undertaken for conservation of Kolleru lake.
- The 2 ongoing schemes of National Lake Conservation Plan & National Wetland Conservation Programme have been merged into a new scheme 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)' in February, 2013. All new project proposals under this scheme will be taken up on 70:30 cost sharing basis between the Central & State Governments, which has already been conveyed to the states.
