

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT-2017



BHOPAL DECLARATION

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

30TH JULY, 2017, BHOPAL

REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
DECLARATION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT-
2017
DATE 30TH JULY, 2017, BHOPAL

The National Green Tribunal, Central Zonal Bench, Bhopal in association with the State of Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Madhya Pradesh Bio Diversity Board & Environment Planning and Coordination Organization held a “Regional Conference on Environment 2017” on 29th and 30th July, 2017 at Swarnajayanti Hall, RCVP Naronha Academy of Administration and Management, Bhopal, having considered the need of preservation and conservation of Environment.

In pursuance of the views expressed by the speakers in conference following declaration has been executed:

1. Commitment for achieving the goals under Article 48 A of the constitution of India that the States shall strive and make every effort possible to protect and improve the environment.
2. The States shall lay greater emphasis on creating awareness among the citizens regarding the fundamental duties of every citizen under article 51 A (g) of the constitution of India and a beginning shall be made in including environmental awareness in the syllabus and curriculum and if necessary some practical social service towards environmental duties.

3. **Acknowledging the importance of water, mandatory policies need to be put in place to sustainably manage the natural fresh resources, to protect the water environment and to meet the current and future demand.**
4. **During the conference, two unique initiatives came to be specially recognized. One is the activities undertaken by the Govt of MP in "Narmada Seva Yatra" by involving crores of people to make River Narmada "Aviral aur Nirmal" by mass public awareness and massive plantation drive both on the banks of River Naramada.**

Another equally appreciable initiative is the one undertaken by the Government of Rajasthan in the form of 'Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan', a massive climate change adaptation programme aimed at making every village of the state self-reliant in water, by eliciting public participation (both in cash and kind), converging the activities of nine different government departments and making the use of scientific tools in creating effective water conservation structures, rejuvenating traditional water bodies and undertaking plantation of trees around or near them.

Similar participation should be encouraged by the other states for protection and conservation of natural water bodies and creation of new water conservation structures.

- 5. To achieve "Swacch Bharat Mission", the cluster approach adopted by the State of Madhya Pradesh for establishing solid waste disposal sites and waste to energy plants as well as waste to compost process should be adopted by the other states as well for better management and effective disposal of waste even in smaller cities. Ambikapur Model of Chhattisgarh where Women Self Help Groups are involved in solid waste management, may also be experimented by the other States.**
- 6. States needs to take necessary measures for improving quality of water and also conservation through establishment of Sewage Treatment Plants in order to strive to achieve standards confirming to SS and BOD at 10 mg/lt by incorporating necessary conditions while issuing consents under Water Act, 1974.**
- 7. In mining, the pollution is mainly caused by approach roads used for transportation of minerals from pit heads to highways. Thus, cement concrete/blacktop approach road should be adopted to minimize dust pollution during transportation of minerals and also planting trees on both sides of the road and mining area etc., through compulsory condition in consent under Water Act, 1974 & Air Act, 1981.**
- 8. The states will strive for 100% Utilization of fly ash. New techniques shall be adopted for effective utilization of fly ash in line with the Raipur Declaration viz. backfilling in abandoned mines, use in road construction, establishment of**

captive light weight aggregate manufacturing plants, manufacture and use of fly ash bricks and creation of fly ash utilization funds.

- 9. Development of green belt area shall be secured as a mandatory condition while issuing consent under Environment Protection Act, 1986, Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981. Plantation should also be carried out on the open places of public utility and on the bunds of agricultural field to enhance the green cover area of the States.**
- 10. Developing Rain Water harvesting system shall be secured as a mandatory condition in the environment consents issued by the departments for conservation of water.**
- 11. The States shall make every effort for ensuring that the industries within their States establish “Environment Management Cell” with qualified environmental engineers and scientist for ensuring better compliance of the environmental laws.**
- 12. States which have preserved forest needs to be compensated for its forest wealth and preserving forest. At present, it is more of a disincentive as they are required to pay more for infrastructure development than the other States having lesser forest cover.**
- 13. Need to decentralize/delegate powers to States for faster FC & Environment Clearances. More flexibility needs to be given to States to use of CAMPA funds.**

14. **Research Institute of the MoEF&CC, Govt. Of India need to deal with region specific problems like Sal Borers and come out with science based technical inputs so that such problems do not occur.**
15. **Biodiversity is an issue that cover the whole Blue Planet (Biodiversity is Bhamhand). Biodiversity is Life in totality in all forms and is all pervasive (in the air, in the water, in the soil and on the land) and need to be conserved for human welfare which is in the centre of Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Not only Species level Biodiversity but also eco-system Biodiversity is getting degraded fast day by day hence it to be needed to be halted at any cost for the benefit of future generations. Eco-restoration and Sustainable use of Biodiversity, Access Benefit sharing of commercial utilization of biological resources need to be put in practice at once so the Biodiversity Conservation becomes self-sustainable. Also, mass and ongoing Biodiversity Awareness and Education Programme at all levels shall be initiated by National Biodiversity Authority and the State Biodiversity Boards of all the States.**

In order to implement above measures and initiatives, wide scale public participation of all stack holder on a sustainable basis shall be ensured.
