



Guidelines of Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) for delineating and regulating activities for the Zone of Influence (ZoI) for Wetlands identified under Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

- 1) As per Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rule, 2017, 2 (1) (j), “zone of influence” (ZoI) means that part of the catchment area of the wetland or wetland complex, developmental activities in which induce adverse changes in ecosystem structure, and ecosystem services.
- 2) As per Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rule, 2017, 5. (4) (e), The State Wetlands Authority, shall develop a comprehensive list of activities to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their ZoI.
- 3) In the view of the above and considering point VI. 33&34 of the guidelines for implementing Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rule, 2017, Goa State Wetland Authority hereby declares the following general guidelines for delineating and regulating activities for the ZoI for Wetlands identified under Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 within the State of Goa;
 - a) For wetlands with diffused drainage and where the slope is too gentle (catchment areas having less than 25% inclination) leading to large basin area, the ZoI can be delineated on the basis of features that are likely to influence wetland functioning adversely. These could be based on the outer periphery of adjoining settlements, or peripheral agricultural fields that drain directly into the wetland. These includes feeder channels or the main water inlets within the catchment areas and minimum setback of 5mts (subject to availability) around such channels may be maintained.

- b) In case of a land with inclination / slopes beyond 25%, the boundary of the ZoI may be defined with due consideration to local hydrology and nature of land use.
 - i) For wetlands with a well-defined surface drainage system in areas other than settlement zones, its directly and freely draining basin having critical slopes should be delineated as the ZoI. This can be done using a suitable digital elevation model data and validated using topo sheets. The basin should encompass all direct inflow as well as outflow areas.
 - ii) For settlement zones within ZoI, a special scheme may be worked out by the Department of Environment & Climate change to ensure that there shall be no adverse impacts on the notified wetland.
- 4) No prohibition for construction of any nature within the ZoI, but Directorate of Health Services, Water Resource Department and Town & Country Planning will ensure all the necessary regulations within the ZoI for activities such as discharge of solid waste or liquid waste of any kind or handling of material with hazardous contents or any other that will lead to adverse changes in ecosystem structure, and ecosystem services of the Wetland shall be prohibited.
- 5) The above general guidelines will remain same for the demarcation and regulation of ZoI of all Wetlands notified under Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017, although specific guidelines will be developed on case-to-case basis based on Category of Wetlands as shown below:
 - a) Category I includes large pristine and highly sensitive, natural and/or man-made, wetlands in natural setting and/or away from existing settlement areas.
 - b) Category II includes natural and/or man-made Wetlands in existing settlements with settlement zone within 50mtr buffer.