

Government of Orissa
Department of Water Resources

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Orissa
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RESOLUTION
State Water Policy – 2007

Water is a prime natural resource, a basic human need and a precious national asset. Planning, development and management of water Resources therefore need to be governed by a national perspective. The National Water Policy was first formulated in 1987. Based on the national policy, the State Water Policy was formulated in 1994. Since then a number of developments have take place; new information and knowledge have been generated and new issues and challenges have emerged in the field of development and management of water resources. The National Water Policy-1987 has been reviewed, updated and a new policy titled National Water Policy-2002 has been adopted by Government of India. It was therefore felt necessary by the State Government to review the State Water Policy-1994. After due consideration, the State Govt. have prepared a new Water Policy called "Orissa State Water Policy- 2007" in keeping with the National Water Policy – 2002, and this has been approved by the State Water Resources Board after taking outcome of the meeting with all stakeholders and administrative departments into account. It aims at laying down the principles of equitable and judicious use of water for survival of life, welfare of human beings and sustained as well as balanced growth of the State.

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State Water Policy

Water is replenishable but finite resource. The annual overall availability of surface water in Orissa is about 85.59 billion m³. The population of Orissa is 4% of that of the country, according to 2001 census. The State has 11% of the water resources of the country. The per-capita availability of water in 2001 was 3359 m³. By 2051, it is likely to reduce to 2218 m³. With increasing population and the consequential increase in demand for food and water and with the growth in mining and industrial activities, the demand for water from various sectors is likely to increase to 55 billion m³. by 2051. The degradation in quality of water resources by direct and indirect human interference such as discharge of untreated/partially treated industrial and municipal waste water, organic and inorganic wastes and runoff from agriculture, mining, etc makes this resource increasingly scarce.

The seasonality of water availability in peninsular India causes significant variations in availability of water, both in space and time. The vagaries of monsoon cause droughts and floods in different parts of the State on a regular basis. From 1958 to 2005, rain related natural calamities have visited the State 27 times.

The State Water Policy of Orissa, 2007 takes into account all these emerging factors and aims at laying down principles for wise and judicious use of water for survival of life.

1. State Water Plan

1.1 The hydrological unit should be the unit of development and management of water resources, starting from primary watersheds to sub-catchments and catchments, integrated into sub-basins and basins. The State of Orissa has 11 river basins. The salient features of these basins are placed in the Annexure. The State has developed a State Water Plan for a period covering up to 2051 AD when the population of the State is expected to stabilize. With competing demands for water from the same sources, it is necessary to lay down the priorities in its allocation. The State of Orissa adopts the following order of priority in water allocation in tune with the National Policy:

- Drinking water and domestic use (human and animal consumption)
- Ecology
- Irrigation, Agriculture and other related activities including Fisheries.
- Hydro Power
- Industries including Agro Industries.
- Navigation and other uses such as tourism.

Any alteration in the above mentioned priorities will demand formulation of a new policy.

1.2 The State Water Plan will not only allocate the water resource to different sectors of priority, it will also have a perspective plan for development of these resources in important areas like drinking water, irrigation, hydro-power etc. While developing these resources, people's need, preservation of the ecological balance and enrichment of the ecosystem would receive adequate attention. The plan will be holistic, participatory and environmentally sustainable.

2. Institutional Mechanism

- 2.1 The preparation of the State Water Plan and development of the water resources require an appropriate institutional and legal framework to support the activities. The Orissa Water Planning Organisation under the Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources shall prepare macro level multi sectoral River Basin Plans. The OWPO will interact with various stakeholders for preparation of these plans. The plans prepared by OWPO will be ground-truthed through the River Basin Organisations (R.B.Os), which are to be established for planning and management of water resources of different basins. Adequate representation would be provided to various stakeholders of water in the RBOs. The RBOs will also take on board P.R.I.s, Legislators, civil society organisations and experts for a holistic water resource plan for the basin.
- 2.2 The plans prepared by OWPO and vetted by the R.B.Os will be placed for approval of the State Level Water Resource Board, which would provide necessary forum for inter sectoral coordination and policy realignment.
- 2.3 The institutional capacity for development of new water resource will be suitably upgraded in the light of modern improvements in project planning, monitoring and evaluation. Time and cost overruns shall be minimized through appropriate systems of monitoring. The budgetary provision will be prioritized for achieving the maximum return on investment.
- 2.4 The human resource engaged in planning and development of water resources will be trained at suitable intervals in order to keep abreast of the latest developments in the field.