DRAFT REPORT

Integrated Island Management Plan (IIMP)
As per ICRZ Notification 2019

Viper Island, Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi issued the Notification No. S.O.1242(E) dated 8th March, 2019, referred to as the Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) Notification, 2019 in supersession of IPZ Notification 2011, declaring the designated areas as Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ), with a view to conserve and protect the unique environment of coastal stretches and marine areas, besides ensuring livelihood security to the fisher communities and other local communities in the coastal areas and to promote sustainable development based on scientific principles taking into account the dangers of natural hazards, sea level rise due to global warming. The ICRZ Notification, 2019 also covers smaller Islands of the Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, which are not listed under the ICRZ categories and these smaller islands shall be managed through the respective Integrated Island Management Plans (hereinafter referred to as the IIMP).

As per the provisions of the ICRZ Notification, 2019, the Department of Environment & Forest, Andaman & Nicobar Administration have entrusted the responsibility of preparation of the Integrated Island Management Plan (IIMP) to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, which is an authorized agency approved by the Government of India, for the said purpose, vide Ministry of Environment & Forests Government of India order No. J-17011/8/92-IA-III dated 8th August, 2019. NCSCM, Chennai has completed the preparation of draft IIMP of Viper Island as per the guidelines of ICRZ Notification 2019.

With this background, NCSCM has prepared the draft IIMP on 1: 4,000 scale as per the guidelines in the ICRZ Notification 2019.

2. IIMP under ICRZ Notification 2019:

As per Para 6 of ICRZ Notification 2019, the following provisions are given for preparation of the IIMP:

(i) All the smaller Islands in Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, other than those listed under the ICRZ categories, shall also be covered under this Notification.

(ii) These smaller islands shall be managed through the respective Integrated Island Management Plans (hereinafter referred to as the IIMP). Integrated Island Management Plans (IIMPs) shall be formulated by respective Union

territory administration for all such Islands as per guidelines contained in Annexure-IV, and submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for approval at the earliest. Until and unless the IIMPs are framed, provisions of this Notification shall not come in force and the IIMPs as per provisions of IPZ Notification 2011 shall continue to be followed.

(iii) In view of the unique coastal systems and space limitations in these islands, a No Development Zone (NDZ) of 20 meters from the HTL on the landward side shall uniformly apply to such islands and activities shall be regulated as under:

(a) Existing dwelling units of local communities of these islands may be repaired or reconstructed within 20 meters from the HTL and however, no new construction shall be permitted.
(b) Foreshore facilities such as fishing jetty, fish drying yards, net mending yard, fishing processing by traditional methods, boat building yards, ice plant, boat repairs and the like, may be taken up in NDZ limits subject to due environmental safeguards.
(c) Activities in the Coastal Water areas, intertidal zone and ecologically sensitive areas shall be permitted or regulated as in the ICRZ-I and ICRZ-IV areas under Para 4 of this Notification.
(d) Development in these Islands beyond 20 meters of HTL shall be governed by the respective IIMPs and local regulations, as applicable.

3. Guidelines for preparation of Integrated Island Management Plan (IIMP).

Annexure-IVB of ICRZ notification 2019 provides the guidelines for preparation of Integrated Island Management Plan (IIMP) which are as follows:

(1) The Integrated Island Management Plan shall be prepared based on scientific methodology and appropriate coastal protection structures constructed/ proposed to be constructed shall be indicated in addition to activities planned in the area and got approved by the concerned authority in the UT administration. Thereafter it shall be forwarded to the NCZMA for final approval.
(2) The entire island including the aquatic area shall be considered for framing of the Integrated Island Management Plan (IIMP).
(3) Integrated Island Management Plans shall be prepared indicating therein all present and future developments, conservation and preservation schemes with frame of ten years.
(4) The Integrated Island Management Plan shall address vulnerability to human life and property based on elevation, geomorphology, sea level trends and horizontal line displacement and indicate suitable areas that are safe for locating dwelling units, infrastructure, and the like, and appropriate safeguards measures to protect the life and property of the local communities,

infrastructure from natural hazards shall be indicated in the Integrated Islands Management Plan.

(5) All the existing roads including the internal roads shall be strengthened, as these roads shall serve for the purpose of livelihood, communication, rescue, relief and evacuation measures during natural hazards.

(6) Adequate cyclone shelters shall be earmarked and constructed on elevated areas or on stilts adjacent to populated areas.

(7) The existing and as well new schools, market areas and other public facilities (excluding public toilets) where large number of public congregate, shall normally be located on safe areas preferably in elevated areas or protected areas shall be suggested.

(8) Along the seaward side sufficient bio-shield with local vegetation, trees including mangroves shall be planted and other soft protection measures.

(9) Sand dunes, being natural barrier in the event of flooding, shall be conserved and maintained or regenerated by planting shrubs or through appropriate measures.

(10) There shall be no restriction with regard to traditional fishing by local communities including installation of fish aggregating device as recommended by the Islands Administrations.

(11) The mining of construction material, especially sand from deep sea bed (beyond fifteen meters depth), after undertaking proper scientific studies may be permitted in the Plan;

(i) The alternative construction material, such as, bamboo, local forest products may be identified and used;

(ii) The other materials, like, metal, hollow brick blocks, and the like, shall be imported from the mainland.

(12) Emphasis shall be given for use of non-conventional energy resources especially, wind, solar and tidal energy, desalination, water recycling, and use of local products.

(13) Early warning system shall be provided for cyclone, tsunami, and the like, and an evacuation and relief measure plan in case of disasters shall be built preferably into the Integrated Islands Management Plan.

(14) Necessary provision shall be made in the Integrated Islands Management Plan for relocation and rehabilitation of people displaced due to natural disasters.

(15) Integrated Islands Management Plan shall also include the areas under habitation and make plan for future development.

(16) No developmental activities shall be permitted in the area under reserve forests, protected forests, national parks and sanctuaries notified under the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 (69 of 1980) or the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972) and the areas protected under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986).

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(17) The dwelling units or infrastructure of local communities as are existing at the time of preparation of Plan shall not be displaced.

(18) Repair of existing buildings or infrastructure including reconstruction activities shall be allowed.

(19) IIMP shall be prepared in 1:25,000 scale map for macro level planning and 1:10000 scale or cadastral scale for micro level planning.

(20) The High Tide Line demarcated by NCSCM, Chennai shall be used for all purpose while preparation of the Plan.

4. Preparation of Integrated Island Management Plan

The draft IIMPs maps on 1:15,000 scale have been prepared in accordance with the guidelines given in Annexure-IVB of the ICRZ notification, 2019. These are to be submitted to Department of Forest, Government of Andaman and Nicobar for website publication and public hearing. The draft IIMP maps are to be modified based on the suggestions and comments received during the public hearing, as per the provision of ICRZ notification 2019. The modified maps are to be submitted to MoEF&CC, Government of India for approval.

5. Methodology for Preparation of Integrated Island Management Plan

5.1. Base data: HTL, LTL, ESA, ICRZ and IIMP:

High Tide Line (HTL), Low Tide Line (LTL), and Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs), demarcated by NCSCM, Chennai, were used for preparation the IIMPs, as required under the provisions of the ICRZ Notification, 2019. Apart from the above database, hydrographic charts of the Naval Hydrographic Office, Toposheets of the Survey of India, and Satellite image were used.

5.2. Field mapping and map preparation

The use of satellite imagery in combination with field mapping provides better results in the preparation of maps for IIM Plans. The HTL, LTL and ESAs data were verified in the field during January, 2026.

6. Integrated Island Management Plan for Viper Island of the South Andaman administrative District as per ICRZ notification 2019

6.1. Location

Viper Island is a small island in the Andaman Islands and forms part of the South Andaman district of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The island lies to the west of Port Blair and is located within the sheltered waters of the harbour area. Viper Island is historically significant as it served as one of the earliest penal settlements established by the British prior to the construction of the Cellular Jail. The ruins of the old jail and gallows still exist on the island, making it an important heritage site associated with India's freedom

struggle. The geographical extent of the island lies approximately between Latitude 11°39'51.521"N and Longitude 92°41'33.443"E, and Latitude 11°39'34.24"N and Longitude 92°42'4.555"E. The total area of the island is about 0.313 km², with a High Tide Line length of approximately 3.27 km. Geographically, the island is characterized by gently undulating terrain covered with tropical vegetation. The island does not have permanent civilian settlements but is occasionally visited by tourists and officials due to its historical importance, and access is mainly through regulated boat services from Port Blair.

6.2. IIM Plan for Viper Island:

a) As per the ICRZ notification 2019, the Viper Island fall under the integrated island management due to its small area is 0.31 km².
b) Total length of HTL of Viper Island is 3.27 km.
c) The IIMP of Viper Island consists of the following three maps:
   (i) Integrated Island Management plan (IIMP)
   (ii) Coastal land use Map
   (iii) Geomorphological Map

d) The IIMP for Viper Island has been classified into:

(i) **Preservation Zone:** The preservation zone includes mangroves. Total area under the preservation zone is 0.0085 Ha.

(ii) **Conservation Zone**: The conservation zone includes HTL to 20m landward buffer (i.e No Development Zone), Intertidal Zone, pond/tank and Gallows. The total area of the conservation zone is 10.39 Ha.

(iii) **Regulated Development Zone:** Regulated Development Zone includes all land areas except those falling under the Conservation Zone. The total area of the regulated development zone is 24.16 Ha.

Different zones such as preservation zone, conservation zone, regulated development zone, etc., would have different regulations as provided in the ICRZ notification, 2019. The IIMP map also includes existing infrastructure.

(1) The Geomorphology map depicts different geomorphological features and ecologically sensitive's areas located in the seaward of High Tide Line. This includes mangroves intertidal zone and waterbody.

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(2) Coastal land use depicts different land use features located in the landward of High Tide Line such as Police House, Jetty and Protected Forest etc. Area statistics of different land use features of Viper Island is given in Table 2.

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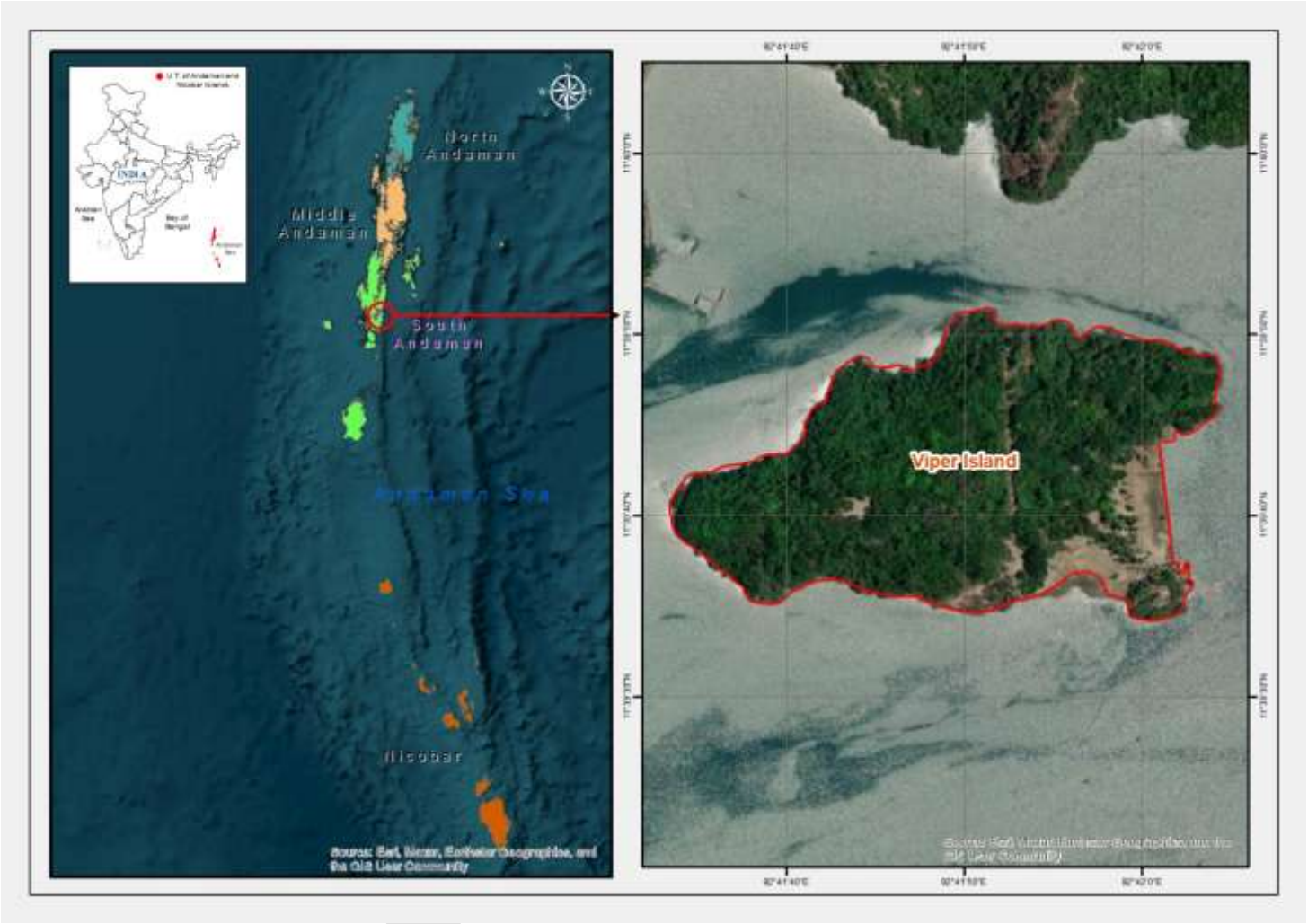

Figure 1. Location map of Viper Island

Table 1. Area statistics of different land use features of Viper Island

S. NO	Features	Area in Ha.
1	Coconut Plantation	1.38
2	Existing Structure	0.02
3	Forest mixed With Coconut Plantation	26.41
4	Guard Room	0.02
5	Historic ruin	0.43
6	Jetty	0.02
7	Open or Vacant Land	2.08
8	Path	0.48
9	Ruined British-era well	0.00
10	Tank/Pond	0.49
11	Bund	0.03

(3) The proposed future development plan received by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) from the Department of Environment & Forest, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Proposed future development plan provided by the Department of Environment & Forest, Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the Viper Island

S. NO	Area in sq.m			
	Proposed Future Development Plan/Activities	Preservation Zone	Conservation Zone	Regulated Development Zone
1	Adventure Zone	-	-	188.89
2	Amenity Block	-	-	910.80
3	Bio Rentention Park		-	1018.97
4	Garden	-	-	1489.84
5	Herbal Garden	-	605.64	740.22
6	Guard Room	-	195.27	-
7	Jetty	-	7.12	-
8	Landscaping Around Gallows	-	583.74	567.42
9	Mangrove Board Walk	40.84	647.11	129.04
10	Parking Area	-	-	-
11	Pathways Around Pond 1		-	1235.10

12	Pathways Around Pont 2,3 and 4	-	102.02	3599.60
13	Pavilion	-	-	63.42
14	Pond	-	-	530.04
15	Public Convenience	-	-	85.47
16	Public Plaza	-	-	155.82
17	Public Utilities	-	-	266.94
18	Ramp Till the Deck	-	243.03	217.10
19	Refreshment Kiosk	-	126.21	-
20	Restaurant	-	-	755.21
21	Seating Area (Heritage Zone)	-	-	892.70
22	Utility Area	-	1324.52	203.69
23	Viewing Deck	-	123.68	-
24	Walk Way	-	4.88	39.81
25	Water Sports Deck	-	39.14	-

(4) Regulation of activities in preservation, conservation and regulated developmental zones are given in Annexure -I

Note:

(i) The digitization of revenue land records is currently in progress, and the land records for many villages are yet to be digitized. Boundary reconciliation issues between forest and revenue lands remain unresolved in many cases. Additionally, instances of missing revenue surveys have come to light, and in few instances, cases related to land conversion are currently sub-judice. To resolve these issues, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) may be approached for the revision of ICRZ/IIM Plans once the digitized data becomes available. The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) will be involved in verifying all such cases for revision, in accordance with the ICRZ Notification 2019.

(ii) 17Eco-tourism shall be carried out as per para 4 II (a), para 4 IV (vi), para 4 V (viii) of the ICRZ Notification, 2019, Eco-tourism activities in identified stretches/beaches are permitted subject to such eco- tourism plans featuring in the approved ICRZ Plans. However, while carrying out Eco-tourism activities in Reserve Forest areas, in addition to the provisions of ICRZ Notification 2019, the provisions of Para 2, (1), (b), (iv) and (vii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, as well as Para 1.2, (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Adhiniyam, 1980, shall take into consideration.

(iii) Land use changes and conversions of revenue land are ongoing processes that sometimes lead to legal disputes, with many cases currently sub judice. To resolve

these issues, the ANCZMA will take appropriate actions based on orders from the Revenue Authority or the Courts.

(iv) In Cases of missing survey numbers ANCZMA may take appropriate actions based on factual reports from the revenue authority, in accordance with the provisions of the ICRZ Notification, 2019

(v) All future development projects and tourism projects that have not yet been envisaged shall be appraised by ANCZMA on a case-by-case basis, within the purview of the ICRZ Notification 2019. However, in the case of eco-tourism plans that are not currently envisaged, ANCZMA shall approach the MoEF&CC to consider revising the IIMP/ICRZ Plan to incorporate these plans, in consultation with the NCSCM.

(vi) To resolve the issue of revenue survey numbers located within reserve forests, ANCZMA shall take appropriate action on case by case basis on the ground verification report, conducted by Revenue and Forest Authority.

Annexure – I

List of activities prohibited, permitted and regulated in preservation, conservation and regulated developmental zones

SL. No	Activities	Preservation Zone			Conservation Zone			Regulated Development Zone			Remarks
		Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	
1	Mining of corals (both alive and dead) in the sea and beaches	✓			✓						
2	Mining of sand on beaches			✓			✓			✓	Non-eco sensitive area and subject to environmental safeguard
3	Coral removal for Construction /Widening of Navigation channels	✓			✓						
4	Boating for transport			✓			✓				To be established in areas identified in IIMPs. If not specified in IIMPs, locations to be identified by the administration based on environmental safeguard and studies
5	Boating for tourism and water sports and photography			✓			✓				To be established in areas identified in IIMPs. If not specified in IIMPs, locations to be identified by the administration based on environmental safeguard and studies
6	Boating for fishing			✓			✓				

SL. No	Activities	Preservation Zone			Conservation Zone			Regulated Development Zone			Remarks
		Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	
7	Diving, snorkeling and coral viewing thro glass bottom boats for tourism			✓			✓				Limited number of boats with tourists. No Out-Board Motor (OBM) operation in tourist boats near coral reef areas
8	Limited impact Scientific research		✓	□		✓					Limited diving and collection of very few specimens for taxonomic purposes only
9	Collection of ornamental fishes for Government aquarium			✓			✓				Only species that is abundant to be collected in small numbers. Rare and endangered species should not be collected
10	Collection of ornamental fishes for commercial purposes	✓			✓						
11	Any type of construction including observation towers etc for defence and security purposes			✓			✓			✓	
12	Buoys to collect data on met and environmental parameters and marker buoys			✓			✓				Limited in number and not to be anchored in hard coral areas.
13	Beaching or fishing craft or any other craft in major turtle nesting areas as decided by the ANFD	✓			✓						To be prohibited during the turtle nesting season in major turtle nesting areas located outside the protected area network by the ANFD

SL. No	Activities	Preservation Zone			Conservation Zone			Regulated Development Zone			Remarks
		Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	
14	Activities that facilitate preservation of corals		✓			✓					
15	Disposal of untreated sewage or effluents and Disposal of solid wastes including fly ash, industrial waste, medical waste, non-biodegradable waste, and the like	✓			✓						
16	Setting up of new industries and expansion of existing industries	✓			✓					✓	
17	Boating with OBM in seagrass beds	✓			✓						
18	Boating without OBM on coral reef & seagrass beds			✓			✓				-Use of row boat only and subject to environmental safeguard.
19	Cutting of mangrove vegetation	✓									
20	Grazing in mangrove areas	✓									
21	Fishing in mangrove water			✓							To regulate mesh size of nets to prevent fishing of juveniles
22	Collection & destruction of seagrass	✓									
23	Eco-tourism activities such as mangrove walk, tree huts,			✓			✓			✓	To be established in areas identified in IIMPs. If not specified in IIMPs, locations to be identified by the administration

SL. No	Activities	Preservation Zone			Conservation Zone			Regulated Development Zone			Remarks
		Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	
	nature trails, etc in identified area mention in the IIMP plan										based on environmental safe guard and studies
24	Construction of Road and widening of Road in identified area mention in the IIMP plan.			✓			✓			✓	To be established in areas identified in IIMPs. If not specified in IIMPs, locations to be identified by the administration based on environmental safe guard and studies
25	Setting of food processing industries with waste treatment methods/plants	✓			✓					□ ✓	To be established in areas identified in IIMPs. If not specified in IIMPs, locations to be identified by the administration based on environmental safe guard and studies
26	Construction /Widening of Navigation channels			✓			✓				To be established in areas identified in IIMPs. If not specified in IIMPs, locations to be identified by the administration based on environmental safe guard and studies
27	Construction of passenger jetties, breakwater for ports and slip ways for boat repair and	✓					✓			✓	To be established in areas identified in IIMPs. If not specified in IIMPs, locations to be identified by the administration

SL. No	Activities	Preservation Zone			Conservation Zone			Regulated Development Zone			Remarks
		Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	
	other facilities that require water front										based on environmental safe guard and studies
28	Traditional use of marine resources including fishing and allied	□				✓	□		✓		
29	Collection of ornamental fishes for Public aquaria and Scientific research and also other organisms for scientific research	□		✓			✓				Limited collection depending on population of target organism
30	Collection of ornamental fishes for brood stock in commercial culture	□		✓	□		✓				Limited collection permitted and requires permission from concerned department of A&N Admin for every collection
31	Deployment of Fish aggregating devices in the sea.			✓			✓				To avoid areas near corals (as it may attract Ornamental fishes also) in the sea. Such devices need not to be deployed. Lacks clarity. Please check
32	Beach landing of fishing crafts and tourist boats	✓					✓				To be away from turtle nesting grounds.
33	Construction of resorts/restaurants/storage facilities and tourism related	✓			✓					✓	To be established in areas identified in IIMPs. If not specified in IIMPs, locations to be identified by the administration

SL. No	Activities	Preservation Zone			Conservation Zone			Regulated Development Zone			Remarks
		Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	
	buildings, on stilts in the sea between coast and outer edge of coral reefs										based on environmental safe guard and studies
34	Reclamation of backwater/creeks and sea for any purpose except for laying of seawater pipelines and construction of cold water sumps for desalination and power plants	✓			✓						Structures and pipelines for desalination plants are recommended only in non-coral reef and mangrove areas.
35	Weather radars			✓			✓			✓	
36	Storage of non-hazardous cargo such as edible oil, fertilizers, food near the port	□		✓			✓			✓	
37	Activities that facilitate conservation of natural habitats including vegetation			✓		✓				✓	
38	Disposal of treated sewage in coastal water except in coral reef areas			✓			✓				
39	Eco-tourism activities on beaches including beach shacks.	□		✓			✓				To be established in areas identified in IIMPs. If not specified in IIMPs, locations to be identified by the administration

SL. No	Activities	Preservation Zone			Conservation Zone			Regulated Development Zone			Remarks
		Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	
											based on environmental safe guard and studies
40	Setting of small-scale industries including food processing industries with waste treatment methods/plants, power plants including solar power plants and windmills	□✓					✓			✓	
41	Establishment of hotels, tourist accommodation, resorts and other buildings relating to tourism	✓					✓			✓	
42	Construction of dwelling units, Govt buildings (office guest houses etc), public utilities, educational institutions, dispensaries, auditorium), places of religious worships and commercial buildings auditorium), places of religious worships and commercial buildings	✓					✓			✓	

SL. No	Activities	Preservation Zone			Conservation Zone			Regulated Development Zone			Remarks
		Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	
43	Agriculture and horticulture					✓			✓		
44	Construction/expansion of air strips and helipads									✓	To be established in areas identified in IIMPs. If not specified in IIMPs, locations to be identified by the administration based on environmental safe guard and studies
45	Centralized Boat Parking and Fish Landing	✓					✓			✓	
46	Floating jetties	✓					✓			✓	
47	Establishment and Deployment of floating solar and allied facilities	✓					✓				
48	Offshore Wind Power Turbines	✓					✓				
49	Development of Beach front facilities and construction	✓					✓			✓	
50	Beach Sport facilities	✓					✓			✓	
51	Pipelines, Conveying Systems including Transmission Lines			✓			✓			✓	
52	Desalination Plants, Foreshore and Associated Facilities	✓					✓			✓	To be established in areas identified in IIMPs. If not specified in IIMPs, locations to be identified by the administration

SL. No	Activities	Preservation Zone			Conservation Zone			Regulated Development Zone			Remarks
		Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	Prohibited	Permitted	Regulated	
											based on environmental safe guard and studies

Note: Any activities not mention in the above list, the same will be cleared based on the IIMP zones it falls as per the ICRZ notification, 2019, EIA notification, 2006 and relevant law need to be followed.

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