

SPATIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAMME

The Spatial Environmental Planning Programme called “Zoning Atlas for Siting of Industries” was launched in 1995 in 14 volunteering states and was later extended under the Environmental Management Capacity Building Technical Assistance Project funded by the World Bank. Realising the utility of the Spatial Environmental Planning instrument, the programme was further extended for the entire period of the 10th Plan with the grants-in-aid from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India. It was also decided to take up following activities under Spatial Environmental Programme.

- State Environmental Atlas
- District Environmental Atlas
- State Level Industrial Siting Guidelines
- District Wise Zoning Atlas for Siting of Industries
- District Specific Industrial Siting guidelines

During 2006-07, seventeen State Pollution Control Boards/Executing Agencies signed the agreement for executing Spatial Environmental Planning Activities. Details of activities are given below.

State Environmental Atlas

The State Environmental Atlas is a compilation of environment related information in the form of maps, texts and statistical data. State Environmental Atlas for the Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal was completed and for ten states namely Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Gujarat, Meghalaya and Utranchal are under various stage of Completion.

State Level Industrial Siting Guidelines

The State level siting guidelines for the State of Madhya Pradesh have been completed and are under review at CPCB.

District Environmental Atlas

The District Environmental Atlas is a compilation of environment related information in the form of maps, texts and statistical data. District Environmental Atlases for one hundred six (106) districts were completed and for sixty two (62) districts were under advanced stage of completion.

District Wise Zoning Atlas for Siting of Industries

The district-level Zoning Atlas for Siting of Industries interrelates the sensitivity of environment with the pollution potential of industries so as to identify sites with minimal environmental impacts/risks. The existing criteria for the preparation of district wise Zoning Atlas for Siting of Industries has been revised. The Zoning Atlas report will be used only for official purposes to develop district-specific industrial siting guidelines. Revision of Zoning Atlas report for 94 districts completed and for eighteen districts under various stages of completion.

District Specific Industrial Siting Guidelines

The district level siting guidelines, bring out information on environmentally sensitive zones/areas to be avoided for location of industries or carrying of process or operations, industries or carrying of processes or operations to be restricted in the district, potential zones for siting of air and water polluting industries and industries or carrying of process or operations that may be considered for siting anywhere in the district, other than 'Environmentally sensitive zones/areas to be avoided' for priority districts. This is an instrument for implementing the district level Zoning Atlas for Siting of Industries. Guidelines for 94 districts were completed and for 18 districts under completion.