



UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project

Report on Cluster Meeting for Biodiversity Management Committees and Village Panchayats for South Goa.

Cluster meeting was organized for Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and Village Panchayats on understanding the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; Access and Benefit Sharing and other important related aspects on 8th July 2016 at 2.30 pm at “Conference Hall”, South-Goa District Collectorate, Mathany Saldanha Administrative Complex, Margao-Goa. 82 BMC members were present representing 30 BMCs of South Goa and 13 members from 8 village Panchayats attended the meeting.

Smt. Reshma Kerkar, Scientific Officer, Goa State Biodiversity Board welcomed the participants and explained the importance of the Biodiversity Management Committee. She highlighted on the medicinal plants along with their uses which are available in the State of Goa.

Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board explained on the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) and also stressed on urgent need of PBR preparation for comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resource, their medicinal or any other use and any other TK associated with them. He also highlighted on the UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project, Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) and Access Benefit Sharing (ABS), elaborated on the recently constituted Technical Support Groups (TSGs) to help BMCs to document and prepare the PBR. He also advised BMCs to keep the PBR in a safe custody of BMC as it is a legal document.

This was followed by reporting from one representative each from the BMCs /Village Panchayats attending the meeting which was coordinated by Dr. Varsha Raikar Hoble,

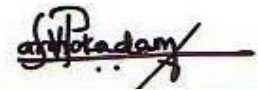
Project Assistant I. Apart from functioning of the BMCs the reporting also included constrains, difficulties faced by BMC members and these queries, complain, difficulties, etc were resolved/addressed by Member Secretary and staff of Goa State Biodiversity Board.

Those BMCs which are constituted resolved to inaugurate the same at the earliest so that they can receive the 1st installment from GSBB. The Village Panchayats who have not yet constituted got a fair knowledge about how BMCs are functioning in South Goa and what is expected from their BMC once it is constituted. 2nd installment cheques were disbursed by the hands of Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Vidhya Gaude, State Project Coordinator.

Prepared By: Sneha Bhonsle, STA

Checked By: Dr. Vidhya Gaude, SPC



Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary, GSBB



Lecture on functioning of BMCs by Smt. Reshma kerkar



Member Secretary addressing the gathering



BMC Members participated for Cluster Meeting



Interactive Session



Distributing Cheques for BMCs