



UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project

INAUGURATION OF MORLEM BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON 24/06/2016

The Village Panchayat Morlem inaugurated its Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) on 24th June 2016, at 11.00 am in the presence of Shri. Rajendra Kerkar, Environmentalist; Shri. Pradip V. Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board and the Sarpanch, Morlem Panchayat.

Shri. Sanjit, Village Panchayat staff welcomed the gathering and Shri. Sushant Paste, Sarpanch Morlem Village Panchayat greeted the dignitaries with flowers. This was followed by lighting of the traditional lamp by the dignitaries.

Shri. Rajendra Kerkar then explained the significance of the Biodiversity Management Committee as well as the need to protect and preserve the rich biodiversity of the village. He highlighted on the *devrais* (sacred groves) of the Morlem Village and adjoining villages which are very rich in biodiversity. He also emphasized on urgent need to document the heritage and traditional knowledge. He requested Goa State Biodiversity Board to guide Morlem BMC to prepare People's Biodiversity Register (PBR).

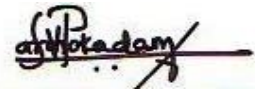
Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB briefed the villagers about the objectives of the Biological Diversity Board Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004. He also asked BMC members to involve the local people, educational institutes and NGOs for the documentation of traditional knowledge and preparing PBR. He assured to extend all the necessary support by Goa State Biodiversity Board to BMC for their activities

Later, BMC certificate and 1st instalment cheque was handed over to the Morlem Biodiversity Management Committee members by Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam and he congratulated the BMC members for forming the BMC under the UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Shri. Sushant Paste, Chairperson, Morlem BMC.

Staff of GSBB/ UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project attending the programe:

1. Dr. Vidhya Gaude, State Project Coordinator
2. Mrs. Reshma Kerkar, Scientific Officer, GSBB
3. Ms. Sneha Bhonsle, Scientific/Technical Assistant



Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary,GSBB

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Lightning of the traditional lamp



Villagers present for inauguration programme



Shri. Rajendra Kerkar addressing the villagers



Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam explaining about BD Act, 2002



Interactive session



Interactive session



MS, GSBB with Morlem BMC members



GSBB staff with Morlem BMC members