



GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

C/o Department of Science, Technology & Environment
Opp. Saligao Seminary, SaligaoBardez, Goa – 403511.

Website: www.gsbb.goa.gov.in Email: goanbiodiversity@gmail.com

Dated: 01.01.2025

No. 21-1-2024/GSBB/Meet/ 741

To,

1. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Goa Forest Department, Van Bhavan Panaji Goa.
2. The Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change, 4th Floor, Dempo Tower, Patto Panaji- Goa.
3. The Director, Directorate of Fisheries, Panaji- Goa
4. The Director, Directorate of Agriculture, Toncar, Panaji-Goa
5. The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Porvorim Goa
6. Dr. Parveen Kumar, Director, Director, ICAR-CCARI, Old Goa, Tiswadi- Goa
7. Dr. Baban Ingole, Bambolim-Goa
8. Shri. Rajendra Kerkar, Keri, Sattari- Goa
9. Shri. Parag Rangnekar, Vasco, Goa
10. Shri. Nirmal Kulkarni, Mapusa-Goa

Sub: Minutes of the 43rd Board Meeting (Regular meeting) of Goa State Biodiversity Board, held on 29th August 2024 at Conference hall, Ministerial Block, Secretariat- Porvorim, Goa.

Sir/Madam,

Please find attached vide email the Minutes of the 43rd Board Meeting (Regular meeting) of Goa State Biodiversity Board, held on 29th August 2024 at Conference hall, Ministerial Block, Secretariat- Porvorim, Goa, for your information and record.

Please note that the hard copy of the Minutes shall not be circulated unless specifically requested. Kindly acknowledge the receipt of this communication.

Thanking you.



Yours faithfully,

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary, GSBB

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 43rd BOARD MEETING OF GOA STATE
BIODIVERSITY BOARD**

TYPE OF MEETING: Regular

DATE: 29th August 2024

TIME: 04.00 PM

**VENUE: FIRST FLOOR "CONFERENCE HALL", MINISTERIAL BLOCK,
PORVORIM, GOA**

**THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY SHRI ALEIXO SEQUEIRA, HON'BLE
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT
OF GOA, CHAIRPERSON, GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD.**

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1	Shri Aleixo Sequeira, Hon'ble Minister for Environment & Climate Change, Chairperson Goa State Biodiversity Board	Chairperson
2	Shri. Johnson B.Fernandes, The Director, Department of Environment & CC	Ex-officio Member
3	The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Goa Forest Department, Van Bhavan, Panaji Goa rep. by Shri Naveen Kumar CF (Wild Life)	Ex-officio Member
4	Director, Directorate of Fisheries rept. by Mrs. Zigyasa Murkar Superintend of Fisheries	Ex-officio Member
5	Director, Directorate of Agriculture, Rep. by Smt. Sangita Velip , Assist. Director of Agriculture	Ex-officio Member
6	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board Goa	Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board & Convenor

7	Shri. Pramod Badami ,The Chief Engineer, Water Resource Department, Porvorim	Ex-officio Member
8	Dr. Baban Ingole	Expert Member
9.	Shri. Nirmal Kulkarni	Expert Member
10	Shri. Chandan Shirodkar rept. of Fisheries Department Goa	

Shri Rajendra Kerkar Expert Member of GSBB, Shri. Parag Rangnekar Expert Member of GSBB, Shri. Dr. Parveen Kumar Expert Member of GSBB were absent for the 43rd Board meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board.

At the onset, Shri Aleixo Sequeira, Chairperson of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB), Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Climate Change, extended a warm welcome to the members of the Board for the 43rd Board Meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board.

All members present in the meeting introduced themselves and with the permission of Chairperson GSBB, M.S. GSBB presented the agenda of meeting to all the members of the Board for detailed discussion and deliberation.

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of the 42nd Board Meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 27.09.2023.

The Minutes of the 42nd Board meeting were presented by M.S. of GSBB to all the members of the Board Present for the meeting. The same were unanimously approved. Proposed by – Dr. Baban Ingole and Seconded by – Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, MS GSBB

Agenda 2: Action Taken Report of 42nd Board Meeting held on 27.09.2023.

MS GSBB presented the action taken report, and a pointwise discussion was held to update the present status of actions proposed and approved during the 42nd Board meeting. Those points that have ongoing statuses were discussed, as given below.

Regarding the proposed Theme Park at Mopa, the chairperson asked about land ownership and advised that further clarity needs to be brought in this regard.

Regarding BHS at Rivona, The GSBB in last meeting had agreed that communication be made to administrator of south Goa comunidade regarding declaration of proposed BHS. MS GSBB briefed about the meetings held with BMC and Rivona Comunidade wherein the committee of comunidade (owners of the said land) were not inclined to agree for the declaration of BHS in Rivona for *dipcadi goaense species of flower* unique to the area proposed by BMC of Rivona and about the possibility of acquisition On this, the Chairperson GSBB suggested that based on the proper advice from law department, if the Biological Diversity Act 2002, Biological Diversity Rules 2004 as

well as State Rules 2017, permit then State Biodiversity Board should go ahead & declared such unique site as Biodiversity Heritage Site to strengthen the conservation of this important site.

With respect to green fire crackers, MS GSBB informed that NEERI was contacted and approved vendors are identified, it is initially proposed to purchase few green crackers and explore the possibility of selling through GoVan project.

Regarding the action taken report on Dr. Nandkumar Kamat's final presentation and subsequent report, it was informed that a booklet on the comprehensive data submitted by Dr. Nandakumar Kamat is awaited.

Regarding furnishing of resolutions from BMCs and GSBB on Mhadei River Diversion, Board agreed to compile and handover the resolutions received by GSBB till date along with report of GSBB to Water Resources Dept. who could use it further as to strengthen the case of the Mhadeyi for the State of Goa. In this regard all members of Board unanimously agreed that the letter to the WRD will be signed by Chairperson of GSBB and handed over to Hon'ble WRD Minister of Goa.

Regarding the approval of sustainable harvesting guidelines MS, GSBB suggested that the guidelines be circulated to the Forest Department for their input before release. The same was unanimously resolved.

With regards to the guidelines drafted by Retd. Judge Shri. Desmond D'Costa regarding Management of Biodiversity Heritage Site which was circulated among board members for inputs, the board members unanimously resolved that after the same may be finalized after central notification and publication of BHS Guidelines by NBA based on newly amended Biodiversity Act. After publishing the Rules and NBA Guidelines State Board can review the guidelines drafted by Retd. Judge Shri. Desmond D'Costa and can send the same to the law Department for its vetting. The GSBB members unanimously approved the same.

Regarding the Guidelines for the functioning of the BMC, MS GSBB informed that since the newly amended Central Biodiversity Rules are awaited and have not yet been notified, GSBB can continue the process after such central notification. The same was agreed to and resolved unanimously.

Agenda 3: - Prominent Activities of GSBB - for information (Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards-2024-Presentation Ceremony).

MS GSBB informed the Board about various activities undertaken by the GSBB and the outreach that was achieved.

a) Inclusion of a new category award, the Green Teacher Award & Lifestyle for Environment Services, to recognize participation in Conservation activities.

All the board members, including the chairperson, agreed that if any BMC had done commendable work, GSBB should ensure they were rewarded to encourage and

appreciate such work. The Board suggested that Cavelossim and Verna BMC be recognised for positive initiatives. The Board agreed to include a new category award, the Green Teacher Award, and the Lifestyle for Environment award for individual or entity for the work that exemplifies the concept of Lifestyle for Environment as envisaged by Govt. of India. These awards will be open to the public instead of any specific sector.

The Board members unanimously agreed to increase appreciation amounts from ₹5000/- to 10,000/- for the selected awardees and 12 secretaries from 12 talukas selected subject to satisfaction of criteria and performance recommended by respective GSBB mentors and MS GSBB as per the ongoing practice.

The list of selected awardees as per the category was presented to the board meeting, and the same was discussed thoroughly for their achievements. The result of the award scrutiny committee was accepted by the board.

Agenda 4: Regarding of BHS at - Rivona BHS, whether land can be acquired.

Regarding declaring proposed BHS in Rivona for *dipcadi goaense species of flower* unique to the area proposed by BMC of Rivona, on this Chairperson suggested that if Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and BHS guidelines permit then State Biodiversity Board should go ahead and declare proposed site of Rivona as BHS.

Agenda 5: - Considering the newly amended BD Act, GSBB State Rules proposed for amendment decision.

The Amended Act of Biodiversity was published and came into force on 1 April 2024, but the amendment of central rules has yet to be completed; hence, it is decided that the Goa Biological Diversity Rules, 2017, could be amended after the same.

Agenda 6: - Developing State-Specific ABS Guidelines.

The board members discussed that the amended Act of Biodiversity was published and came into force on 1 April 2024, but the amendment of central ABS guidelines has yet not been done; hence, it is decided that the Goa-specific ABS guidelines could be developed after the same.

Agenda 7:- Decision regarding:

a) Work assigned to GSBB by GCZMA for compliance to Orders from Hon'ble Courts Regarding Conservation & Restoration Cell.

MS GSBB informed about the various restoration works that have been assigned to GSBB by GCZMA or as per the orders of Hon. NGT of the High Court from time to time. As per approvals availed from time to time, DRDA is engaged in implementation and technical evaluation including tendering, billing etc. of civil and restoration works under the guidance of GSBB, including for MPCs under the GoVan project. To this

Chairperson GSBB said that GSBB should explore the possibility of empanelment of agencies who could directly work under GSBB. The same was discussed and it was decided to explore such a possibility after a detailed comparison of various options available.

b) Sought guidance regarding access to PBRs prepared by BMCs as a reference in preparing EIA, Research, Planning & Policy making to various departments, institutions, companies, NGOs, etc.

As per Goa Biological Diversity Rules, 2017, Rule 6 (f), as part of the note, PBRs are confidential records. Hence, only information that is not sensitive and which may not lead to commercial exploitation or violation of traditional wisdom of the community could be shared with only the relevant part of the PBR if useful in conserving local biodiversity and socio-ecological welfare on a case-to-case basis with approval of the State board.

It was decided that this agenda could be further deliberated in the next board meeting to bring more clarity and take final decision in this regard.

c) Fees charged by Hon'ble AG & other advocates for representing GSBB in the Hon'ble Courts.

Board decided that the above agenda should be discussed in the next meeting after understanding further details. Till then the existing system to be followed by taking Govt. approval.

Agenda 8: - Staff of GSBB:

- a) Regularization of existing staff working since 2013-14 & those who have rendered many years of service in GSBB/there may be appropriate policy decision towards appointment of 'existing staff on a fixed term long duration contract for at least 10 years.

MS GSBB informed that the staff working at GSBB with salaries supported through the grant in aid from the Govt. of Goa has completed over 8-9 years, and a board resolution could be taken regarding their regularisation or having a policy decision for long-term engagement. Other members deliberated on this, and the Chairperson said that such decisions should be in line with the decision of the Govt. of Goa, and we should differ on the same at this stage.

- b) Regarding Extension of Medical benefits to the staff of GSBB PF is provided and decision regarding medical benefits needs to be taken.

MS GSBB informed the board that as per the previous approval on file in the past, GSBB had voluntarily started contributing to the PF for staff receiving salary through Grant in Aid from Govt. of Goa and the agenda was to discuss about medical benefits for GSBB staff. The Board decided to discuss this agenda in the next board meeting.

Additional Agenda

Regarding Rules for the recruitment of Member Secretary for GSBB

In this Regard Board decided that Director of Environment & CC will have to initiate the process and frame the recruitment rules. With regards to the other States, it was informed that State Biodiversity Boards have Forest Department as line department hence MS Position there is on deputation from Forest Department. However, in case of Kerala State Biodiversity Board, MS is appointed by Government from existing pool of Govt. officials qualified in biodiversity. It was unanimously decided that the Director of Dept. of Environment in Goa should initiate the process and do the needful in this regard.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Chairperson GSBB.

-Sd/-

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary, GSBB