

DRAFT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) HELD ON 18thFEBRUARY 2015 AT 04.00 PM IN THE CHAMBER OF HON. MINISTER FOR FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT AT THE SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM, BARDEZ-GOIA UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SMT. ALINA SALDANHA, HON. MINISTER FOR FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT, CHAIRPERSON, GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD.

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Smt. Alina Saldanha Hon. Minister for Forest and Environment	Chairperson
2.	Shri. Srinet Kothwale, Director, Department of Science, Technology and Environment	Member
3.	Shri. S. K. Agarwal, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forest	Member
4.	Shri. A.G. Bhagwat Representative from Department of Water Resources	Member
5.	Shri. Sanjeev Joglekar, Representative from Goa State Pollution control Board	Member
6.	Shri.Yogvendra Desai Representative from Directorate of Agriculture	Member
7.	Dr. Joe D'Souza	Member
8.	Shri. Celso Dias	Member
9.	Dr. Bhiva Malik	Member
10.	Dr. Nitin Sawant	Member Secretary

Shri Mahesh Kandolkar (member)could not attend the meeting and were granted leave of absence.

At the outset, Smt. Alina Saldanha, Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Environment; Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board welcomed the members.

Agenda 1: NOC for floating jetty at Mobor, Cavellossim, Salcete, Goa in survey no. 109/1-Q – Shri. Idelking Barretto (31.12.2015).

The Board was informed regarding the application for N.O.C for setting a floating jetty received from Mr. Idelking Barreto, Mobor, Cavellossim, Salcete, Goa. After discussion and due deliberation it was resolved that the Board has no provision under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to grant NOC However to rule out the possibility of any threat to the biodiversity/ecosystem it was decided to conduct a joint site inspection of the area in question and obtain the observations/comments from other line Departments

c/230

and prepare a compiled report and the recommendations of the Board be forwarded to concerned authorities.

Agenda 2: Colva Lake NGT matter EIA proposal submitted by Goa University.

The Board was informed that the study on Colva Lake is time bound and Goa University has not yet undertaken the study due to their prior academic commitments. It was also informed that Prof. Chachadi (Geology) and Prof. Bernard Rodrigues (Botany) were involve in the said matter in past and it may lead into conflict of interest if the same study is given to University. It was also suggested by a Member to apply to NGT to seek time for conducting the study. After discussion and due deliberation it was resolved to withdraw the request made to Goa University to conduct the study and refer the same to TERI.

Agenda 3: Arihant ship breakers – Survey at the site of M.V.River Princess- for issue of certificate stating that the ferrous content below the sea-bed are not an ecological concern.

The Board was informed regarding the request for certification received from Arihant Ship Breakers after discussion it was resolved that the Board has no provision under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to grant such Certification.

Agenda 4: Proposal for sports water park and request for NOC – Monsoon open water park Pvt. Ltd. Calangute.(Location - at Resort Marinha Durada – Arpora lake).

The request for NOC for Open Water Sports Park at Arpora received from Monsoon Water Park Pvt. Ltd was placed before the Board. After discussion and due deliberation it was resolved that the Board has no provision under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to grant NOC, however to rule out the possibility of any threat to the biodiversity/ecosystem it was decided to conduct a joint site inspection of the area in question.

Agenda 5: Mopa airport issue – Goans for Dabolim Only, Sancoale, Goa – to ensure a proper & credible EIA study of impact of proposed airport on the state of Goa.

With regards to the Complaint received from GFDO, after discussion and due deliberation the Board resolved that the EIA study on the proposed Greenfield International Airport at Mopa should be carried out for minimum period of one year to access the biodiversity as the floral and faunal assemblage varies with season and due emphasis should be given to the Monsoon season. It was further resolved to convey the same to GSPCB and also to forward the complaint letters to GSPCB for further necessary action.

Agenda 6: Grave threat to biodiversity due to proposed Mopa airport – Shri. Sudan Sitaram Kambli, Warkhand, Pernem, Goa – Concealment of Biodiversity of the plateau & surrounding slopes in the EIA report of Mopa airport.

The Agenda point 6 was taken along with Agenda point 5.

Agenda 7: Request for NOC for construction of Canacona Bypass from 68/00 to 85/74 on NH-17, Canacona, Goa, by G.S.I.D.C.

c/229

With regards to the NOC requested by G.S.I.D.C. for Construction of Canacona Bypass from 68/00 to 85/74 on NH-17 it was resolved that the Board has no provision under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to grant NOC, it was further resolved to request G.S.I.D.C. to present the project to the Board and subsequently to conduct a joint site inspection to rule out the possibility of existence of species of conservation concern in the area.

Agenda 8: Issue of NOC/ permission by GCZMA for cutting of mangrove trees (247 nos.) for designing and construction of bridge across Mandovi to G.S.I.D.C. (Letter forwarded by GCZMA).

The Board was informed regarding the approval granted by GCZMA for cutting of mangrove trees for designing and construction of bridge across Mandovi at Panaji.

Agenda 9: Resolution to oppose dredging of River Terekhol, Keri and barge navigation at Gram Sabha, Village Panchayat Keri- Terekhol.

With regards to the resolution copy received from Village Panchayat Keri- Terekhol it was resolved to forward the same to the Keri-Terekhol Biodiversity management Committee for its comments.

Agenda 10: Research proposal regarding 'Conservation of Biodiversity in ferns of Western Ghats' submitted by ICAR.

With regards to the proposal titled 'Conservation of Biodiversity in Ferns of Western Ghats' submitted by ICAR it was decided to forward the same to Department of Science, Technology and Environment during the next financial year and also to check the possibility of collaborating with ICAR on the said project.

Agenda 11: Empowering Scientific Officer to oversee the activities and progress of the UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project.

The Member Secretary proposed that since the post of State Project Coordinator to be recruited under the UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project is vacant as no suitable candidate appeared for the said post, the Scientific Officer of Goa State Biodiversity Board may be empowered to oversee the activities of the said project. The same was approved by the Board.

Agenda 12: Participation of Member Secretary along with 2 other members for the 2nd National Biodiversity Congress at Thiruvananthapuram. Financial assistance to be availed from Department of Science, Technology and Environment for the same.

The Member Secretary informed the Board regarding the invitation received from The Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) for participating in the 2nd National Biodiversity Conference to be held at Thiruvananthapuram on 26th and 27th February 2015 and proposed to participate in the same along with the Scientific Officer, GSBB and Scientific/Technical Assistant, UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project. He further informed the Board that the travel expense and logistics of the Member Secretary and logistics of both the staff members will be borne by the KSBB and that the travel expenses of the 2 staff members may be availed from the Department of Science, Technology and Environment. After discussion and due deliberation the Board permitted the Member

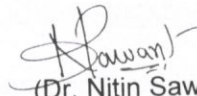
C/2

Secretary to participate in the said event and it was resolved that the travel expenses of the staff may be utilized from the existing grants.

Agenda 13: Any other point with permission of the Chair.

1. Contract renewal of GSBB staff.

With regards to the contract renewal of the GSBB staff it was informed that the said point was taken up during the 23rd Board Meeting held on 12/12/14. It was further stated that the office of the Member Secretary received comments from the Board members on the draft proceedings of the said meeting stating that the point was not taken up during the said meeting or the matter regarding the performance of the staff was not discussed. After discussion and due deliberation it was confirmed that the point regarding the contract renewal of the GSBB staff was discussed in detail during the meeting and it was informed that the performance of the staff recruited under the state Government grants was not satisfactory. It was further resolved to authorize the Member Secretary to decide upon renewal of contract/ re-advertising the posts depending upon the performance of the staff.


(Dr. Nitin Sawant)
Member Secretary (GSBB)