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DRAFT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 21ST BOARD MEETING OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) HELD ON 25TH JUNE, 2014 AT 4.00 PM IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, SALIGAO GOA, 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 Agarwal (Representative from the office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests)	Member
3.	Shri Sandeep Nadkarni (Department of Water Resources)	Member
4.	Shri Barreto (Representative from the Directorate of Agriculture)	Member
5.	Shri Srinet Kotwale (Department of Science, Technology and Environment)	Member
6.	Shri Joglekar (Representative from the Goa State Pollution Control Board)	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 was 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.

After deliberations on the agenda, the following decisions/resolutions were taken.

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the XXth Board meeting held on 21st February 2014.

The Board approved the minutes of the XXth Board meeting held on 25th June 2014 and reviewed the compliance.

2. Information on action taken on the agenda points of XXth Board meeting

Agenda 3: Biodiversity strategy and action plan and the constitution of Biodiversity Management Committee's (BMC's) in the State

i) Orientation meeting

Action taken with regards to item (i) was noted by the members with satisfaction.

Further, it was unanimously decided by the Board that the BMC members should

be selected during the Gram Sabha. It was also suggested that the list of BMC

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members selected should be verified by the Concerned GSBB staff engaged in BMC formation to confirm that the guidelines regarding formation of BMC is complied.

Shri Srinet Kotwale, Director Environment, queried regarding the criteria of selection of BMC members. He was informed that the BMC members should be from the voters list of the concern Village Panchayat, having interest/ knowledge of biodiversity and Panchayat Secretary will serve as the Secretary of BMC. However few Panchayats has conveyed that due to lack of interest it becomes inconvenient to nominate the members on the BMC and hence in most of the cases panch members are nominated as members of BMC.

The Member Secretary, informed the Board that an amount of Rs. 3,10,000/- was sanctioned by National Biodiversity Authority for the orientation programme of which Rs. 97,140/- is unspent. It was resolved that the unspent amount should be utilised for conducting another orientation programme for BMC members by inviting expert from other States.

Agenda 4: Projects on Biodiversity conservation and management

a) Proposed projects:

i) Mapping of Biodiversity sensitive elements along the coast of Goa

It was informed that similar project proposal was already put up by Goa State Council for Science and Technology and hence this project proposal will be repetition and hence proposed to be withdrawn and another project proposal would be submitted.

The Member Secretary proposed to submit a separate proposal for documentation of sand dune biodiversity which was approved and Shri. Srinet Kothwale suggested to submit the proposal.

ii) Study status and distribution of *Nothophodytes nimmoniana* "Narkya"

The Board was informed that the project proposal has been resubmitted to Forest Department on 10/04/2014 and the financial sanction is awaited. The Forest Department representative assured to check the same with department records.

iii) Tree Plantation Project

The project proposal was submitted to Goa Forest Department on 10th March 2014. To this Shri Agarwal said that the project proposal is sketchy and needs detailing. It was resolved that a detailed project proposal be submitted.

b) Ongoing projects:

i) Project of Corporation of The City of Panaji

The Board was informed that the inventory of Biodiversity of City of Panaji was completed and is in the process of publishing a book on biodiversity of Panaji. Dr. Joe D'Souza, Member GSBB, suggested that the book needs to be more scientific and should be reviewed by the Board. The same was agreed and noted for further necessary action.

Agenda 5: Biodiversity Rules for the State of Goa

The Board was informed that the rules are under vetting with Law Department. The same was noted by the Board and was also suggested to speed up the process with follow ups.

Agenda 6: Staff contract renewal

The contract of following staff was renewed purely on contract basis for further one year. The same was noted by the Board.

- 1) Steno- 19th Feb 2014 to 20th Feb 2015
- 2) Accounts Clerk -12th Feb 2014 to 11th Feb 2015
- 3) LDC - 13th Feb 2014 to 12th Feb 2015
- 4) Peon- 12th Feb 2014 to 11th Feb 2015

Agenda 7: New Staff recruitment

The recruitment of following staff members on 04/03/2014 preliminary on contract basis was noted by the Board.

Mrs Reshma Kerkar, Programme Officer
Mrs Rajshri Nagvekar, Project Assistant II

With regards to the appointment of Accountant after discussion and due deliberation it was resolved to employ an accountant on the basis of twice a week service with remuneration of Rs.10,000 / 15,000 per month.

Agenda 8: Selection of Logo

The logo for GSBB has been approved by the Board.

Agenda 9: Complaints Received

i) Complaint has been received from Shri Vaicunth Pai of Taleigao regarding conservation of biodiversity, reclamation of fields in Kevnem, Taleigao

The Board was appraised regarding the action taken by Dy. Collector, North Goa following the joint site inspection conducted by GSBB. The same was noted by the Board.

ii) Request from Chicalim Village Action Committee

The Board was informed that M/s Abhishek Engineers has put forth its say against the site inspection report prepared by GSBB. Shri Nadkarni opined that the documents need to be clarified. Shri Celso Dias informed the Board regarding the rampant reclamation at the site carried out for facilitating barge repair at the site of M/s Abhishek Engineers.

Dr. Joe D'Souza and Shri Nadkarni suggested that the inspection report and the letter received from Abhishek Engineer should be circulated to all the Members for review. The same was agreed.

iii) Complaint from Goenchea Ramponkaracho ekvott on Mechanised Beach Cleaning.

The Board was informed that as resolved during the 20th Board meeting to request Dr. Mascarenhas to conduct a study on the effect of mechanized beach cleaning on beach ecology was complied to and the report received from Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas was forwarded to the complainant.

Chairperson, Smt. Alina Saldanha expressed her concern towards the implications of the project on beach ecology.

Further, she added that the frequency of mechanized beach cleaning is also an important factor that would play an important role in the destruction of biodiversity on the shore. Shri Srinet Kotwale informed the Board members that glass bottle/pieces lay beneath the sand on the beaches and needs to be cleaned. Shri Agarwal suggested that we should also think about the other alternatives that would suffice to keep the beach clean without destroying the beach biodiversity.

iv) Villagers of Carrasvado- Illegal mud filling in pond and construction of rooms and toilets

The Member Secretary, informed the Board that a Joint site inspection was conducted on 12th March 2014 and further added that, Mapusa Municipal Council has taken action in this matter. The same was noted by the Board.

v) Destruction of environment at Vagator (venue of SUNBURN)

The Board was informed regarding the joint site inspection conducted on 13/03/2014 and the report has been sent to concern authority.

Shri Nadkarni suggested that the inspection reports and other concerned documents should be enclosed as annexure during the meeting so as to get

idea about the matter placed for discussion. Board was informed that it was resolved in 20th Board meeting to conduct joint site inspection and circulate the report to the Board members. Chairperson, Smt. Alina Saldanha however cautioned the Board members that the matter should not go beyond the members of the Board and should not be revealed to the media without prior permission of the Board.

Agenda 10: Right to Information (RTI)

Member Secretary informed the Board that the information sought under RTI by Mrs. Mallika Naik Vaz and Shri Pravin Kankonkar was provided. The same was noted by the Board and it was suggested that henceforth RTI matters may not be included in the agenda.

Agenda 11: New account for RTI

Member Secretary informed the Board Members that a new account has been opened to deposit the fee of RTI applications. The same was noted by the Board.

Agenda 12: Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB)

Member Secretary informed the Board Members that the floating pontoons was functioning in Chapora River. The letter regarding this has been sent to GSPCB for necessary action, the same was noted by the Board.

Agenda 13: DGS & D rates

Member Secretary informed the Board that the proposal for funds for 2 PC's and 1 laptop was submitted to NBA and the reply is awaited. He further requested Director, Environment to kindly consider and sanction grants for purchase of 2 PC's as the work of GSBB is suffering due to lack of infrastructure. The same was agreed by the Director, Environment and suggested Member Secretary to submit the proposal for the same.

21st Meeting Agenda

3. Participation for the special meeting of all the State Biodiversity Board on 13th May 2014 at New Delhi organized by NBA

The Board was informed regarding the participation of Member Secretary in the special meeting of all the State Biodiversity Boards organized by NBA on 13/05/2014. Member Secretary further informed the Board that the Chairman, NBA has directed the SBB's to declare atleast one Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) within next 6 months. Dr. Joe D'Souza inquired about the requirements that need to be fulfilled before the declaration of BHS. Members were also given BHS guidelines as per their request during the meeting.

Dr. Joe D'Souza suggested that Vaxim Island could be declared as BHS. The Member Secretary, informed that the Chandel- Hasapur BMC has suggested two areas in its jurisdiction and in the process of submitting the proposal for the same.

The Board members suggested Member Secretary to proceed further with the matter by adhering to the requirements that needs to be fulfilled.

4. Petition against GSBB in High Court of Bombay at Goa by Colva Panchayat

The Board members was appraised that the Colva Panchayat had filed a petition against GSBB in High Court of Bombay at Goa and the same was withdrawn to file it before the Hon. National Green Tribunal (NGT).

5. Establishment of committees for functioning of GSBB under Sec 13 and 25 of BD Act, 2002

The Board was informed that for facilitating the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in the State and to assist the Board in various matters related to biodiversity the Board needs to establish the following expert committees under Section 13 read with Section 25 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002:

- Inquiry/ site inspection committee
- Legal expert committee
- Capacity building committee
- Scientific members committee
- Agro biodiversity committee
- Wildlife conservation committee

Shri Nadkarni suggested that at least 1 Board Member should be there on every committee. Member Secretary also suggested that a sitting fee has to be decided for

the members of the committee. Dr. Joe suggested to set out criteria for working of each committee. The same was agreed for further necessary action.

6. Biodiversity strategy and action plan

Shri Nadkarni said that the Board should have the vision and mission and further added that the same could be put up in the next meeting.

7. Formation of BMC and status

Member Secretary informed the Board members that 2 BMC's has been inaugurated and 10 has been constituted. He further added that Technical Support Groups (TSG) has to be constituted to assist the BMC's.

Chairperson, Smt. Alina Saldanha suggested that the BMC should include persons with the aim to conserve biodiversity.

8. Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity 2014

Member Secretary briefed the Board on the various activities carried out for the celebration of IBD-14. The same was noted by the Board.

9. Complaints Received

i) Study of mysterious mortality of shellfishes at the catchment of River Sal, Complaint by V.P. Velim

The Board was appraised on the complaint received from Village Panchayat Velim on 05/05/2014 vide letter no. VP/V/75/2014-15 dated 19/04/2014 regarding the mortality of shellfish. He further stated that NIO was requested to conduct a study on the mortality of shellfishes at the catchment of River Sal vide letter no 7/17/2014-15/GSBB/OC/008/40 dated 28/04/2014 and the report of the same has been received on 13/06/2014.

ii) Palolem island (violation of Biodiversity)

Member Secretary informed the Board regarding the complaint received from Mrs. Ana Maria Afonso of Palolem about the violation of biodiversity at Canco Island (Palolem). A joint site inspection with the Department of forests and GCZMA was conducted on 24th May 2014 and the report was sent to the Board members on 24th June 2014 vide letter No. 7/17/2014-5/GSBB/ISS/006/130.

10. Annual Report 2012-13 and 2013-14

Member Secretary informed the Board that the draft of annual report 2012-13 and 2013-14 is ready and the annual audit is awaited. The same was noted by the Board.

11. Contract renewal of Project Assistant I

The Board granted the approval for renewal of contract of the Project Assistant I by another 1 year.

12. Identity cards for staff members

The Member Secretary proposed to issue Identity cards to staff members. The same was resolved by the Board.

13. GSBB vehicle

Member Secretary informed the Board about the purchase of Mahindra BOLERO SLE for GSBB. The same was noted by the Board.

14. Framing Financial and Administrative guidelines for functioning of BMC by GSBB

Member Secretary informed the Board that for the smooth functioning of BMC financial and administrative guidelines by GSBB needs to be framed. It was suggested to prepare a draft based on the guidelines framed by other SBB's and circulate it to the members for comments before finalizing the same.

15. Selection of letter head design for GSBB

The draft of the letter head was circulated amongst the Board. Dr. Joe D'Souza suggested that the names of the Chairperson, Member Secretary and members of the Board could be placed on the side of the letter head. The same was agreed by Board.

It was also suggested by the Board to mention that it is an Autonomous Statutory Body formed under Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

16. Desilting of River Sal

Member Secretary informed the Board that the Captain of Ports vide letter No. CP/HSO/207/2678 dated 13th June 2014 has requested GSBB for scientific recommendations on the desilting of River Sal and that the same would be sent to the Captain of Ports Department.

17. Any other points with the permission of the Chairperson

1. Publishing book on biodiversity

It was proposed to publish a book on Biodiversity in the Goa University campus to which Shri Srinet Kothwale suggested that it could be carried out by Botany Department of the Goa University.

2. Training and Orientation Programme

Member Secretary informed the Board members that the amount of Rupees 9.8 lakhs has been sanctioned by NBA for the training and orientation programme for line department. Permission was granted by the Board members.

3. Bank account for projects

It was proposed for proper functioning and management of accounts the office requires separate Bank accounts for projects. Shri Nadkarni suggested that it would be easier to deal with minimum number of bank accounts and further added that one account for project and one administrative account could be maintained. The same was approved by the Board.

4. Shifting of office to Panaji

It was proposed to shift the GSBB office in Panaji as the office space is insufficient. Members resolved to look out for new office in Panaji.

5. GIZ proposal

Dr. Aaron Lobo, Advisor, Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, GIZ India, gave a brief presentation on the Indo German Biodiversity Programme on sustainable management of coastal and marine protected areas. In his presentation he informed the members about the goals of his organisation and the techniques that would be implemented during the project.

The Board resolved that GSBB should be the nodal agency for implementing the project.

6. Change in internet network

It was proposed to shift the network from idea to Tata photon for PC and Vodafone for ipad as the internet connection of idea has network issues. The same was approved by the Board.

7. Celebration of 10th Year of GSBB

The Board was informed that GSBB is completing 10th Year of its constitution in December 2014. Member Secretary invited the suggestion of the Board for

celebrating the 10th year of Board constitution. Board members requested to put up itinerary of activity proposal.

8. GEF

Member Secretary informed the Board members that a project "Strengthening the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions (ABS)" is being implemented in some states in collaboration of SBB, BSI, ZSI etc. Now the project is proposed to be extended in some more states and Goa is being considered for inclusion in their list of states proposed for the implementation of the project. NBA is awaiting the consent of the competent authority. The Board gave its consent to implement the project

9. Complaints received by Chairperson regarding the destruction of biodiversity.

The Chairperson, GSBB raised concern over the complaints received by GSBB on destruction of biodiversity and queried as to how GSBB can intervene. It was informed that GSBB has no mandate to intervene in such cases. The Member Secretary added saying that as resolved by the Board in the past meeting to carry out joint site inspection to comply with the complaints, the same procedure was followed by the Board. He also informed the Board that based on the GSBB site inspection report, GSBB has now been made respondent in the NGT and High Court. After discussion and due deliberation it was resolved that henceforth on receipt of the complain the GSBB officials/ staff should inspect the area in order to investigate presence of Biological diversity, species of conservation concern if any and also to investigate project implication and forward the complain to the concerned Government Departments under intimation to the complainant.

10. Proposal to issue certificate/ award

It was proposed to issue certificate/award to people/ institution/ organisation/ company/ professional/ eco-tourism to encourage biodiversity conservational activity in the State. It was resolved to set a criteria for the same and invite nominations.

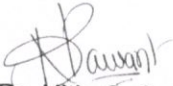
11. Complaint received from Zenobia regarding the illegal land filling

The Board was appraised on the complaint received from Ms Zenobia Miranda vide letter dated: 07/03/2014, regarding the illegal land filling at Sy No. 92/1 and 92/2 at Chauder in Cortalim. A joint site inspection was conducted on 25/03/2014 and the report of the same was sent to the complainant and concerned Department on 13th June 2014.

12. Complaint received

- i) The Board was appraised on the complaint received from Cavelossim Villagers Forum regarding the illegal activities by Silva Fisheries and Mobor Fisheries near banks of River Sal in Mobor ward of Village Cavelossim, Salcete on 23/06/2014. It has been decided to visit and inspect the site in biodiversity point of view and forward it to concerned Department.
- ii) The Board was appraised on the complaint received from Cavelossim Villagers Forum regarding the destruction of natural water bodies/nallas/channels by M/s Balaji Concepts at Village Khandi, Bandoi, Cavelossim, Salcete- Goa on 19/05/2014. A joint site inspection was conducted on 24th June 2014 at the said site. The Member Secretary also informed the Board that M/s Shree Balaji Concepts vide letter No. SBC/110/06/2014 dated: 25th June 2014 requested the Board to grant opportunity to be heard before taking any decision concerning their project. The same was granted by the Board.
- iii) The Board was appraised on the complaint received from Shri Rony Dias regarding the objection to concretization of Velim Lake (Sappu Tolem) received by this office on 13th June 2014. Shri Nadkarni suggested to forward the complaint to Water Resources Department.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.


Dr. Nitin S. Sawant
Member Secretary (GSBB)