

**DRAFT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 22<sup>nd</sup> BOARD MEETING OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2014 AT 4.00 PM IN THE CHAMBER OF HON. MINISTER FOR FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT AT SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM, BARDEZ-GOIA UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON. MINISTER FOR FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT, CHAIRPERSON, GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD**

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	<b>Smt. Alina Saldanha</b> Hon. Minister for Forest and Environment	Chairperson
2.	<b>Shri. Richard D'Souza</b> (Principal Chief Conservator of Forests)	Member
3.	<b>Shri. Sandeep Nadkarni</b> (Department of Water Resources)	Member
4.	<b>Shri. Larry Barreto</b> (Representative from the Directorate of Agriculture)	Member
5.	<b>Shri. Srinet Kothwale</b> (Department of Science, Technology and Environment)	Member
6.	<b>Shri. Celso Dias</b>	Member
7.	<b>Dr. Joe D'Souza</b>	Member
8.	<b>Dr. Bhiva Malik</b>	Member
9.	<b>Dr. Nitin Sawant</b>	Member Secretary

**Shri. Levinson Martins (Goa State Pollution Control Board) & Shri. Mahesh Kandolkar** 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.

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

**Agenda 1: Confirmation of the minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and Special meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014**

The Board approved the minutes of the 21st Board meeting and special meeting held on 01<sup>st</sup> August and reviewed the compliance.

**Agenda 2: Information on Action Taken on the agenda points of 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting and special meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014**

**Agenda 2 – Point 5 of 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting and Agenda 2 of Special Meeting  
- Goa State Biodiversity Board Rules**

It was resolved by the Board that Biological Diversity Act, 2002; BD Rules, 2004 Booklets and Biodiversity Management Committee guidelines were to be printed in the official language (Konkani) and English only. Translation into any other language to be

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taken up only if there is demand for the same in other languages. This was seconded by Shri. Srinet Kothwale and Shri. Nadkarni.

**Agenda 12 of 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting: Identification cards for staff members**

Dr. Joe D'Souza, member GSBB proposed to issue identity cards to Board members. The same was resolved by the Board subject to withdrawal of the identity card on completion of member's term.

**Agenda 17 of 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting: Point 12 Complaints received**

It was resolved by the Board that on receipt of any complaint the project/issues to be discussed with relevant departments first before any action was initiated.

Regarding the complaint of concretization of Velim lake, the Board was informed that as resolved during the 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting a preliminary site inspection was conducted by GSBB member Shri. Celso Dias and GSBB Scientific staff and based on the observations letter was forwarded to Water Resources Department for necessary action.

MS suggested that expert opinion could be sought to resolve the matter.

Shri. Srinet Kothwale suggested that scientific measures for biodiversity protection could be adopted.

Chairperson suggested that a meeting of complainant and Water Resources Department-Chief Engineer to be arranged so that both sides could be considered. Further Dr. Bhiva Malik suggested that a team of GSBB members, retired Civil Engineer or a scientist from Goa University and complainant could visit the site along with Chairperson GSBB. Care to be taken that the retired engineer chosen for the task should not be ex-employee of Water Resources Department.

Dr. Joe D'Souza and Shri Celso Dias stated that they were against concretization of the lake as concretization destroyed the repairer biodiversity permanently.

**Agenda 3: Goa State Biodiversity Board Rules**

It was resolved that the Board members were to be given 15 days time to peruse the rules and give their opinion and suggestions, if any regarding the same.

**Agenda 4: Finalization of Guidelines and Constitution of Thematic Expert Committees**

Member Secretary proposed that names of experts to be included in each thematic committee to be suggested by GSBB members. Shri. Srinet Kothwale proposed that the venue of the meeting of the Thematic Expert Committee may be decided by the Chairperson of the Thematic Expert Committee with prior approval of Chairperson/Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board.

Dr. Joe D'Souza queried regarding sitting fees to be given to the thematic committee members being higher (Rs. 2000/- per sitting) as compared to sitting fees given to GSBB members (Rs. 800/- per sitting).

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Shri. Kothwale queried about appropriation of funds for the sitting fees of thematic committee and those of GSBB members. The Board was informed that NBA will be funding the thematic committees whereas GSBB members fees are being given through fund by State Government.

Shri. Richard D'Souza clarified that as per Goa Government rules/norms the sitting fees cannot exceed Rs. 800/- per sitting.

Shri. Nadkarni proposed that sitting fees given by other states could be authenticated for purpose of submitting GSBB proposal to government and accordingly proposal to be put up regarding the same.

After due discussion and deliberation the Board resolved to seek government approval for increase of sitting fees of members from the present Rs. 800/- per sitting to Rs. 1000/- and accordingly submit proposal for the same for consent of the Government.

**Agenda 5: Project proposal for Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR)**

The Board resolved to include PBR project proposal in next year's (2014 -15) budgetary provision.

**Agenda 6: Finalization of Guidelines for Biodiversity Heritage Sites**

It was resolved that the Board members were to be given 15 days time to peruse the Guidelines and give their opinion and suggestions, if any regarding the same.

**Agenda 7: BMC formation and Status**

The Board was apprised that 19 BMC's have been constituted in North Goa of which 13 were inaugurated and 11 BMC's have been constituted in South Goa of which two have been inaugurated.

**Agenda 8: Finalization of Administrative and Financial Guidelines for BMC functioning**

It was resolved that the Board members were to be given 15 days time to peruse the Guidelines and give their opinion and suggestions, if any regarding the same.

**Agenda 9: Activities conducted by GSBB from June 2014 to September 2014**

The Board was informed regarding all the activities conducted by GSBB from June 2014 to September 2014.

**Agenda 10: Issues**

**a) Milestones properties and holdings- NOC for construction of Jetty**

The Board resolved that as the Board has no provision under BD Act, 2002 to grant NOC, the proposal for NOC has been rejected and the applicant to be informed of the same.

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**b) Sappu tolem Velim- Concretization of lake**

This point was taken up under **Agenda 2: Information of Action taken....** (Agenda 17 of 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting point 12 complaints received) given above.

**c) Saipem tolem Navelim- Concretization of lake**

Board has resolved to forward the complaint to Water Resources Department.

**d) Sinqerim Plateau to be declared as Hotspot for Biodiversity**

Board resolved to seek opinion of expert committee regarding declaring Sinqerim plateau as Hotspot for Biodiversity.

Chairperson suggested one more site namely Quelosim- Khajan land to be declared as hotspot of Biodiversity and expert committee opinion to be sought for the same.

Member Secretary informed Board that before declaration the site, BHS guidelines need to be notified as well as detailed assessment of the proposed site should be studied to verify that the site for declaring as BHS.

**Agenda 11: Format for proposal for Declaration of BHS (for approval by Board)**

It was resolved that the Board members were to be given 15 days time to peruse the proposal and give their opinion and suggestions, if any regarding the same.

**Agenda 12: Herbal Garden proposal:**

Shri. Nadkarni proposed that GSBB/DSTE to put a proposal for bore well in DSTE campus to be put up to Water Resources Department to meet the demand for water for watering of herbal garden until then the GSBB may put up the proposal submitted as Annexure 14 to Department of Science, Technology and Environment.

**Agenda 13: Representation at NGT by GSBB Member Secretary/ Legal Counsel/**

**other Court matters :**

To curb the expenses related to travel of Member Secretary, GSBB, by Air to Pune for official purposes, the Member Secretary, GSBB giving due justification for the same proposed travel by GSBB official vehicle. In response the Board unanimously resolved that official GSBB vehicle may be used for travel to NGT, Pune for purpose of legal matters and henceforth the official vehicle may be utilized by Member Secretary, GSBB for travel outside State for official purpose with prior approval of Chairperson, GSBB.

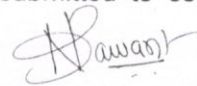
**Agenda 14: Decision on fuel quota of GSBB vehicle :**

The board has resolved to increase the fuel quota to 250 liters/month as it involves tremendous field work.

**Agenda 15: Any other point with the permission of the Chairperson**

No Objection Certificate for 'construction of small bridge and filling of creeks at Manaswada, Cundaim, Ponda Goa under Water Resources Department-Sought by Village Panchayat Cundaim –

The Board resolved that as the Board has no provision under BD Act, 2002 to grant NOC, the proposal for NOC has been rejected and the applicant to be informed of the same. However proposal may be assessed and to verify the implication on biodiversity or ecosystem as whole, and due recommendations may be submitted to concern Authority if any such impact is found.



Member Secretary  
Goa State Bio-diversity Board