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PROCEEDINGS OF THE 23RD MEETING OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) HELD ON 12th December 2014 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 M.K. Shambhu, IFS Representative from Forest Department	Member
3.	Shri. A.G. Bhagwat Representative from Department of Water Resources	Member
4.	Shri. Levinson Martins, Member Secretary, Pollution control Board	Member
5.	Shri Satish Dev Representative from Directorate of Agriculture	Member
6.	Dr. Joe D'Souza	Member
7.	Shri. Celso Dias	Member
8.	Dr. Bhiva Malik	Member
9.	Dr. Nitin Sawant	Member Secretary

Shri. Srinet Kothwale, Director, Department of Science, Technology and Environment (member) and **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: Confirmation of the minutes of 22nd Board meeting held on 24th September 2014 and Special meeting held on 09th October 2014

The Board approved the minutes of the 22nd Board meeting and special meeting held on 24th September, 2014 and 9th October 2014 respectively and reviewed the compliance.

Agenda 2: Action taken report of 22nd Board meeting held on 9th October 2014

The action taken report of 22nd Board meeting and Special meeting was circulated during the meeting and the members were requested to review the same.

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Agenda 3: Finalization of Thematic Expert Committee members-

The Board approved the draft guidelines for constitution of the thematic expert committees and the following expert committees were constituted

1. Expert committee on Agrobiodiversity

- a) Shri. Larry Barreto, Deputy Director, South District Agricultural Office at old Collectorate building, Margao.
- b) Shri. Minguel Braganza, Additional Director, Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI) and Horticulture Consultant
- c) Shri. Anand S. Jadhav, ACF, Goa Forest Department
- d) Shri. Shrirang V. Jambhale, Principal, Ramanata Crisna Pai Raikar School of Agriculture, Savoi Verem, Ponda Goa
- e) Dr. Nitin Sawant, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board

2. Expert Committee on Animal and Fish Biodiversity

- a) Dr. C.U. Rivonkar, Professor, Department of Marine Sciences, Goa University
- b) Dr. Santosh Desai, Assistant Director, AHVS
- c) Dr. Anil Kumar, IFS; DCF, Wildlife and ecotourism, North Goa
- d) Dr. Sharmila Monteiro, Director, Department of Fisheries
- e) Dr. Baban Ingole, Senior Scientist, NIO
- f) Dr. Nitin Sawant, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board

3. Expert Committee on Traditional Knowledge Association

- a) Dr. Sangam Kishori Das, Reader, Ayurvedic College Shiroda
- b) Shri. Rajendra Kerkar, Wildlife Conservationist, NGO (VEB)
- c) Dr. Nandakumar Kamat, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, Goa University
- d) Dr. Arun Joshi, Professor & Head of Pharmacognozy Department, Goa College of Pharmacy.
- e) Shri Francis Coelho, DCF, Goa Forest Department
- f) Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board

4. Expert Committee on Capacity Building

- a) Shri. Gajanan Bhat, Director, Directorate of Education, Porvorim-Goa
- b) Shri. Bhagirath Shetye, Secretary, Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education
- c) Ms. Nishita Nair, Reporter, Herald
- d) Shri. Sujeet Kumar Dongre, Programme Coordinator, CEE
- e) Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board

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5. Expert Committee on legal matters to IPR and ABS

- a) Shri. Mukopadhyay Pranab, Professor, Department of Economics, Goa University
- b) Adv. Venefreda Braganza, Private Practice, Calangute Goa
- c) Adv. Constans Fernandes, Goa State Pollution Control Board
- d) Prof. M.K. Janarthanam, Department of Botany, Goa University
- e) Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board

6. Expert Committee of Biodiversity Heritage Site

- a) Shri. M.K. Shambu, IFS, CF, Goa Forest Department
- b) Shri. Satish Dev, Dy. Director, Department of Agriculture
- c) Dr. Manoj Borkar, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Carmel College of Arts, Science and Commerce for women.
- d) Dr. Nandakumar Kamat, Assistant Professor, Goa University
- e) Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board

7. Expert Committee on Wildlife Conservation

- a) Shri. Prakash Salelkar, RFO, Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary
- b) Shri. Paresh Porob, RFO, Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Shri. Parag Rangnekar, Environmentalist, Mineral Foundation of Goa
- d) Shri. Amrut Singh, President, Animal Rescue Squad
- e) Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board

8. TSG Group

- a) Dr. M. Thangam, Senior Scientist, Department of Agriculture, ICAR
- b) Shri. Divakar Mesta, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, Smt. Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science
- c) Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas, Former Scientist, NIO and Member, GCZMA
- d) Dr. Bhosle Saroj Naidu, Professor, Department of Microbiology, Goa University
- e) Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board

Agenda 4: Training and capacity building programme on preserving indigenous flora and fauna, local varieties and breeds at International Centre Goa from 17th- 19th November 2014

The Member Secretary briefed the members about the Training and capacity building programme on preserving indigenous flora and fauna, local varieties and breeds" held at International Centre Goa from 17th- 19th November 2014. He further stated that the detailed report of the same will be circulated to all the members.

Agenda 5:

a) Appraise GSBB members regarding new staff recruited under GEF Project

It was informed that the following staff was recruited under the UNEP-GEF project

- 1) Ms. Valanky Bothello, Scientific/Technical Assistant
- 2) Ms. Sonali Padyardesai, Finance Assistant
- 3) Mr. Arvind Naik, Computer Assistant

b) Recruitment of State Project Coordinator- GEF Project

It was informed that the post of State Project Coordinator was advertised twice but no suitable candidate appeared for the same and at present the Member Secretary and Scientific officer are handling the project.. After discussion and deliberation it was suggested that a person with required qualification may be deputed from other line departments or expression of interest may be invited till then the Member secretary and Scientific Officer of GSBB may handle the project.

Agenda 6: Remuneration for Legal Counsel (Adv. Nikhil Pai) representing GSBB at NGT and High Court on legal matters.

The circular received from the Law department was circulated amongst the members. It was resolved to pay the fees as per the circular issued. It was suggested by a member that the fees prescribed by the Law department for Government advocates should be made applicable to the officials of the Board who has to visit NGT for briefing the Legal Counsel. After discussion and due deliberation it was resolved to propose to the State Government for adopting the same guidelines for officials of the Board.

Agenda 7: Staff contract renewal

It was informed that the contract renewal of the staff is due and the details of contract of each staff member were circulated along with the agenda of the meeting. After discussion and due deliberation it was resolved that since the performance of the existing staff recruited under State Government grants is not satisfactory and also the scientific staff is not competent nor have the staff members shown any improvement even after cautioning them several times, the contract of the staff recruited under the State Government grants may not be renewed and the post may be re- advertised. However the contract of staff recruited under the NBA grants namely Scientific Officer and Programme Officer may be renewed.

Agenda 8: Remuneration for Panchayat Secretary

The Board was appraised regarding the meeting of the Chairperson and Member Secretary held with the Director, Directorate of Panchayat and Collector North and South Goa. The proceedings of the same were circulated along with the agenda. It was

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informed that the Director, Directorate of Panchayat proposed to pay honorarium to the Panchayat Secretaries as they serve as the Secretary of the Biodiversity Management Committee. After discussion and due deliberation it was resolved that since the work load of the BMC is an additional duty to Panchayat Secretaries the Panchayat Secretaries posted in village Panchayats where BMC's are constituted may be paid an honorarium of rupees 2500/- per annum (RS. 500 per meeting i.e %s. 500x 4 meetings= 200 and Rs. 500 for other BMC correspondence) and the amount may be drawn from the start up funds sanctioned by NBA for the BMC's. It was also resolved to obtain concurrence from Finance Department for the same.

Agenda 9: Finalization of:-

a) Guidelines and Constitution of Thematic Expert Committees

It was informed that the suggestions and comments received from the Board members on the above guidelines were incorporated in the draft. The Guidelines were approved by the Board.

b) Guidelines of Biodiversity Heritage Sites

The Guidelines were approved by the Board and it was resolved to forward the same for notification in the official gazette.

c) Administrative and financial guidelines for BMC functioning

It was informed that the suggestions and comments received from the Board members on the above guidelines were incorporated in the draft. The Guidelines were approved by the Board.

d) Format for proposal for Declaration of BHS

The format for receiving proposal for declaration of Biodiversity Heritage site was approved by the Board.

Agenda 10: Second National Biodiversity Congress 2015 to be held at Kanakakkunnu Palace, Kerala

The board was informed that the Kerala State Biodiversity Board is organizing the 2nd National Biodiversity congress 2015 at Thiruvananthapuram from 23rd to 27th February 2015 and has requested the Goa State biodiversity Board for providing financial support. The Board appreciated the initiative taken by the Kerala SBB and after discussion and due deliberation it was resolved that since the Board is at its primitive stage and is currently functioning with the grants received from the State Government the GSBB is not in position to provide financial support to the Kerala SBB.

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Agenda 11: Application for financial support towards "Medicinal Plants Biodiversity Exhibition and Awareness" for school and college students during National Seminar on New Frontiers in Plant Sciences and Biotechnology received from Department of Botany, Goa University.

It was informed that the proposal received for financial support for the medicinal plant exhibition from Botany Department, Goa University was discussed with the chairperson and the same has been forwarded to NBA for consideration.

Agenda 12: Issues:

It was resolved that the Member Secretary may not wait for Boards decision to act on any complaint or issues. The Member Secretary in consultation with the Chairperson may take decision on any issue/complaint brought to the notice of the Board and the decision may be ratified during the Board meeting.

a) M/s Leading Hotels Ltd & Ors. V/s Sunil Shetye- NGT court matter

It was informed that the Legal Counsel is appointed for GSBB for defending the case in NGT. It was unanimously resolved to conduct a site inspection to rule out the presence of any species of conservation concern in the area and also to refer the matter to the concerned Biodiversity Management committee for its comments.

b) M/s Balaji Concepts-NGT and High Court matter

The Board was appraised on the status of the case.

c) Abhishek Engineers- High Court matter

The Board was appraised on the status of the case.

d) Colva lake NGT matter and sluice gate issue

The Board was appraised on the status of the Colva lake matter.

e) Dredging of Sinkerim River at Bardez Taluka

i) Joint site inspection regarding dredging of Sinkerim River at Bardez Taluka

The Board was appraised regarding the site inspection organized by Shri. Michael Lobo, Hon'ble MLA, Calangute Constituency.

ii) Objections for the dredging of Sinkerim River from V.P. Nerul

The Board was informed that the Village Panchayat of Nerul Has objected the dredging of Sinkerim River as it would hamper the livelihood of locals.

iii) Request for NOC for disilting of Sinquerim River from Captain of Ports

The Board was informed regarding the request received from Department of Captain of Ports for NOC for disilting the Sinquerim River. It was resolved that the Board has no provision under the BD Act, 2002 to grant NOC, however under Sec 23 of the BD Act, 2002 the recommendation of the Board may be forwarded to Department of Captain of Ports.

iv) Observations and recommendations regarding disilting of Sinquerim River

The draft report of the site inspection including the recommendations of the Board was circulated amongst the members. A member queried as to how the members can comment on the report as they were not the part of the site inspection. After discussion and due deliberation the Board resolved to forward the report to the concerned authorities.

f) Illegal construction of concrete swimming pool and concrete villas along with restaurant in NDZ area complaint by Savius D'Souza- Matter forwarded to GCZMA for action.

The Board was appraised regarding the complaint and informed that the same has been forwarded to GCZMA.

g) Request to shut the sluice gates of Sappu toiem complaint by Shri. Rony Dias.

It was resolved to forward the letter to Water Resource Department.

h) Objections to concretization of Nayaband -Cuncolim

It was resolved to organize a meeting of the Chairperson with the Water Resource Department officials and the complainant to discuss on the issue and understand the problem.

i) Urgent need to stop destruction of habitat of rare and protected species of waterfowl complaint by Shri. Abhijit Prabhudesai.

It was resolved to organize a meeting of the Chairperson with the Water Resource Department officials and the complainant to discuss on the issue and understand the problem.

j) Destruction of wild fruit berries trees and grassland at Vagator

A member informed the Board regarding the destruction of trees at the Sunburn event site at Vagator and a complaint has been filed in in the concerned Police station. After discussion and due deliberation it was resolved that since a police complaint has been already filed the Police may investigate the issue.

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Agenda 13: Any other points with the permission of the Chairperson

1) Decisions related to UNEP-GEF-MoEF ABS project

It was resolved that all the decisions regarding the UNEP-GEF-MoEF ABS project will be taken by the Member Secretary in consultation with the Chairperson.

2) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules, 2004 notified in Official Gazette of Goa.

The Member secretary informed the Board that the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules, 2004 are notified in the Official Gazette of Goa vide notification No. 10/3/2014-LA/217.

3) Peer to peer learning and exchange visits under the scheme of NBA's financial assistance for strengthening the SBB's.

It was resolved to organize a visit to Kerala State Biodiversity Board for all the Board members by first week of February 2015.

4) Identity cards for the UNEP-GEF-MoEF ABS project staff.

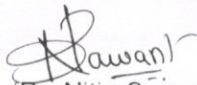
The Board Approved to issue Identity cards to the UNEP-GEF-MoEF ABS project staff.

5) Requesting Dr. Divakar Mesta, Botany Department, Carmel College for women, Nuvem for undertaking the inventory of flora for PBR preparation.

It was resolved to request /appoint Dr. Divakar Mesta to undertake the inventory of flora for preparing the PBR. It was also resolved to pay an amount of Rs. 5000/- per BMC as honorarium and the same will be paid from the amount sanctioned for PBR by NBA/ State Government.

6) Destruction of mangrove ecosystem at Quellossim.

The Chairperson brought to the notice of the Board that a huge area at Quellossim consisting of mangroves has been destroyed and requested the members to visit the site. After discussion and due deliberation it was decided to conduct a inspection at the site in question.


(Dr. Nitin Sawant)
Member Secretary (GSBB)