

GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

C/o Department of Science, Technology & Environment
Opp. Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Bardez, Goa – 403511.
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No. 7/17/2016-17/GSBB/Meet/007/085

Dated: 6th June 2016

To,

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Goa, Panaji - Goa
2. Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Government of Goa, Porvorim - Goa
3. Director, Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Goa, Panaji - Goa
4. Director, Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Goa, Panaji - Goa
5. Director, Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Goa, Panaji - Goa
6. Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas, Dona Paula, Goa
7. Dr. Bhiva Malik, Porvorim - Goa
8. Shri. Parag Rangnekar, Vasco-Da-Gama - Goa
9. Shri. Nirmal Kulkarni, Mapusa – Goa

Sub: Proceedings of the 26th Board meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB), held on 30th March, 2016 at 'Conference Hall' of Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Saligao, Bardez, Goa.

Sir/ Madam,

Kindly find enclosed herewith the copy of proceedings of the 26th Board meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board, held under the Chairmanship of Shri. Rajendra V. Arlekar, Hon'ble. Minister for Panchayats, Forest and Environment, Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board, on 30th March 2016, from 11:00 a.m. onwards at the 'Conference Hall' of the Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Saligao, Bardez, Goa.

Kindly note that comments and suggestions with respect to necessary changes to draft of proceedings of the 26th Board meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board No. 7/17/2016-17/GSBB/Meet/007/014, dated: 21st April, 2016 were received from Shri. C. Achalendar Reddy, IFS, Managing Director, Goa Forest Development Corporation (GFDC), Junta House, Panaji, Goa & Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas, Expert Member, GSBB. The same were incorporated in the draft of proceedings and the same may be read as "Proceedings of the 26th Board meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board".



Kindly acknowledge the receipt of the same.

Thanking You,



Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pradip Sarmokadam".

Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary, GSBB

Enclosed: Proceedings of 26th Board meeting of GSBB

Copy to: -

1. P.S. to Hon'ble. Minister for Panchayats, Forest and Environment, Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board.
2. Shri. C. Achalendar Reddy, IFS, Managing Director, Goa Forest Development Corporation (GFDC), Junta House, Panaji, Goa.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 26TH BOARD MEETING OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB).

TYPE OF MEETING: REGULAR MEETING

DATE: 30TH MARCH, 2016 **TIME:** 11.00 AM

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT, SALIGAO, BARDEZ-GOA

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY SHRI. RAJENDRA V. ARLEKAR, HON'BLE MINISTER FOR PANCHAYATS, FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT; CHAIRPERSON, GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB).

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri. Rajendra V. Arlekar Hon'ble Minister for Panchayats, Forest and Environment.	Chairperson
2.	Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS Managing Director, Goa Forest Development Corporation (GFDC); Former Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)	Special Invitee
3.	Shri. S. K. Agarwal, IFS Chief Conservator of Forests (Official deputed by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests).	Ex Officio Member
4.	Shri. A. S. Bhagwat Department of Water Resources (Official deputed by Department of Water Resources).	Ex Officio Member
5.	Shri. Ulhas Pai Kakode Director, Directorate of Agriculture.	Ex Officio Member
6.	Dr. Shamila Monteiro Director, Directorate of Fisheries.	Ex Officio Member
7.	Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas	Expert Member
8.	Dr. Bhiwa Malik	Expert Member
9.	Shri. Parag Rangnekar	Expert Member
10.	Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam	Member Secretary

Director, Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Ex Officio Member, GSBB, did not attend the meeting. Shri. Nirmal Kulkarni, Expert Member, GSBB could not attend the meeting and was granted leave of absence.

Agenda 1: Welcome by the Chairperson.

At the outset, Shri. Rajendra V. Arlekar, Hon'ble Minister for Panchayats, Forest and Environment; Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board extended a warm welcome to the members of the Board and the special invitee Shri. C. Achalender Reddy IFS, Managing Director, GFDC & Former Secretary, NBA.



Agenda 2: Confirmation of the proceedings of 25th Board Meeting (Special Meeting) of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 06th January 2016.

The minutes of the 25th Board Meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) were confirmed by the board members present for the meeting.

The above confirmation was proposed by Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas, Expert Member, GSBB and seconded by Shri. Parag Rangnekar, Expert Member, GSBB.

Agenda 3: Action taken report of 25th Board Meeting (Special Meeting) of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 06th January 2016.

The printed copy of the action taken report was circulated to the members and further review was done by MS, GSBB which was well participated by Board Members and following decision were arrived at:

Agendas 1-3 & 5-20:

The Board approved the above agendas and accepted the compliance.

Agenda 4 : Pending Agenda 1 of 09th Special Meeting: Peer to Peer learning and exchange visit programme:

It was decided to forward new proposal to NBA in financial Year 2016-17, and shall require a period of 3 -4 months to implement.

Agenda 4: Appointment of Staff at GSBB:

a) Appointment of new staff -

The Board resolved to recruit new staff on contract basis (Administrative approved taken), accordingly posts to be advertised in local dailies at the earliest . Further it was also resolved to initiate the procedure to regularize the staff of GSBB.

b) Renewal of contract of Smt. Reshma Kerkar, Programme Officer, GSBB -

The Board decided to renew the contract of Programme Officer, for a period of one year.

Agenda 5: Status of draft rules of GSBB:

It was unanimously decided to correspond with Law Department to return the file having GSBB Rules back to GSBB to review the comments if any made by the Law Department & resubmit the same to Law Department for vetting.

The Board Members decided that the notified rules of Kamataka SBB, Kerala SBB, Madhya Pradesh SBB, Andhra Pradesh SBB & Sikkim SBB were to be studied and



to take the relevant and best provisions for incorporation into Goa State Biodiversity Board Rules.

Agenda 6: Meetings attended by Member Secretary, GSBB:

- a) Visit of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests to Goa. Meeting held on 06/02/2016 at Majorda Beach Resort.

MS appraised the Board members regarding the proceedings of the meeting.

- b) Visit of Dr. A. K. Bhattacharya, MD & Country Head, National Green Highways Mission MORTH & NHAI to Goa. Meeting held at EDC complex on 09/02/2016.

MS appraised the Board members that Dr. Bhattacharya has extended an opportunity to GSBB to carry out plantations of local floral and fruit trees along highways & display informative hoardings on local biodiversity in the parking bays. Dr. Mascarenhas, Expert Member, GSBB, cautioned to ensure the alignment of the road before taking up the plantation of trees and to maintain suitable distance from road when planting fruit trees.

Agenda 7: Appointment of committee for procuring, consolidating and authenticating data on Biodiversity of Goa. GSBB to resolve the financial inclusions required for the same (financial resources, travelling resources, sitting fees etc.)

Shri. C. Achalendar. Reddy, IFS, Special invitee, informed that Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) contains the data of Biodiversity of the entire village and is a legally binding document. He informed that GSBB should focus on fulfilling the mandate of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, and accelerate the Biodiversity Management Committee formation in the State and facilitate the data collection for PBRs in those villages that have constituted the BMCs. Funds may be requisitioned from National Biodiversity Authority for PBRs. However compilation of studies conducted so far can also be taken up as a supporting document for the PBR; He suggested taking help from the University and Educational Institutions for the same.

Shri. Parag Rangnekar, Expert member, GSBB, proposed Model PBRs one each for Coastal and Forest areas. After due discussion & deliberation the Board resolved to first take up the PBR work in the villages that have constituted the BMCs and to involve volunteers from Educational Institutions, NGOs etc. for the same. The required funds for preparation of PBRs maybe sought from the NBA, Chennai.

Agenda 8: Issues:

- a) Complaint received from Shri. Trevor Bryan Mascarenhas and Shri. Desmond Jude D'souza on dated 18/11/2015 and 20/11/2015 respectively regarding music festival and commercial activities (Burning of grazing land) in Survey No. 206/1 Anjuna Village, Bardez- Goa.



The Board was informed that the complaint was forwarded to the concerned government departments for action.

The Board Members unanimously resolved to continue to forward such complaints to the concerned government departments.

- b) Letter to Police Inspector, Quepem Police Station with copy to other government departments regarding hill cutting and construction of road in survey no. 128/0 of Village Mullem, Paroda, Salcete- Goa, dated 20/11/2015.

The Board was informed that reply was received from Police Inspector, Quepem Police Station, informing of action taken and that further vigil is being maintained at the site.

- c) (I) Complaint regarding flow of sewage slurry into Vaddem bay and (II) Request for thorough investigation into massive decline of fish and marine water edible resources during last 10 years in the Vaddem, Vollant and neighboring bays of Mormugao received from Shri. Andre Cunha, Exe. Sec. Vasco Ramponkarancho- Magkarancho Ekvott, Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa dated 20/11/2015.

The Board was informed that the complaints were forwarded to the concerned government departments for action. Reply received from Mormugao Municipal Council regarding the above.

- d) Request for conducting flora & fauna inventory of Survey No. 95/1 and Survey No. 91/1 of Village Nerul, Bardez- Goa received on 20/11/2015 from villagers of Nerul with regards to conversion of this grazing land for construction purpose.

As GSBB is an autonomous, regulatory, statutory authority and also acts as an advisory body to Govt. of Goa and therefore should **function within the framework of Biological Diversity Act 2002** and Biological Diversity Rules 2004 the Board decided to inform the Nerul Biodiversity Management Committee that there is a mandate for BMCs to start Peoples Biodiversity Register, which is a legally valid document, and to request them to initiate the process for the same at the earliest. Further with regard to the requirement to conduct the biodiversity related documentation and study in the area of proposed project the Nerul BMC may contact reputed R & D institutes in the state for the same, and to further explore the statutory provisions which ensure environmental protection such as: The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, EIA Notification 2006, The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1975, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 & Rules, 1982, The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 & Rules, 1981, The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 & Rules, 1995, The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995, The National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997 and



other provisions of state applicable to the upcoming project and ecological set up of the area.

- e) Complaints received from Shri. Domnic Sequeira, St. Estevam, Illhas Goa regarding (I) reconstruction of concrete sluice gate and improvement to the bund "VAI CASANA" at St. Estevam and (II) illegal widening of Cavzo Cantra bund dated 26/11/2015.

The Board was informed that the complaints were forwarded to the concerned government departments for action. Reply has been received from Soil Conservation Division, Directorate of Agriculture, dated 21/01/2016 to clarify the above in response to letter from Mamlatdar of Tiswadi taluka dated 28/12/2015.

- f) Imminent threat of permanent loss of habitat of rare and endangered migratory ducks at Curtorim Lake complaint received from Curtorkarancho Ekvott on 18/12/2015 the same was forwarded to Curtorim BMC. Preliminary site inspection was conducted on 20/01/2016 to verify the matter and reply received from Curtorim BMC.

The Board was informed that report of site inspection and recommendations have been dispatched to complainant, Curtorim BMC & Curtorim Village Panchayat for information & necessary action.

- g) Application received for NOC for berthing of Passenger Vessel M.V. Jai Sofia, O.No.3552 for Cruise from Goa Golf Club Pvt. Ltd.

The Board was informed that the project proponent was informed that the matter does not come under the purview of GSBB, and that copy of letter to project proponent has been forwarded to Captain of Ports Department.

- h) Suggestions from Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas, Expert Member, GSBB on "Ponte de Linhares (Patto- Ribandar causeways): Threat from Mangroves".

Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas , Expert Member, GSBB, expressed serious concern about the safety of the Patto - Ribandar causeway due to effect of mangroves on the structure at several places. This engineering marvel is a heritage bridge, and has to be inspected as soon as possible. Mangroves which are touching or too close to the foundations of the structure have to be uprooted, removed or transplanted immediately, so that the ancient bridge can be restored. This issue needs to be tackled on an urgent basis.

In the ensuing discussion that followed, Dr. Mascarenhas also explained that mangrove cover in Goa has increased from 6 square kilometres to 24 square kilometres in a span of about 30 years. These data are taken from the report by Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad. Therefore, mangroves in Goa do not appear to be under threat, but are in fact thriving. Unfortunately, the field checks reveal that mangrove growth has been random as, for example, several erstwhile



paddy fields are now converted into mangrove marshes due to rapid invasion of these trees. Therefore, so as to control the proliferation of mangroves, a "mangrove management plan" has to be formulated. Dr. Mascarenhas has agreed to draft an appropriate plan on a scientific basis. Further it was decided to submit this plan to Government and policy decision regarding the same to be taken in collaboration with Water Resources Department , Directorate of Fisheries & Forest Department.

Agenda 9: Legal matters before the National Green Tribunal (NGT):

- a) Application no 123/2015 (WZ) Shri. Bismarque Dias and five others Vs State of Goa & Others. (GSBB respondent no. 5)- Matter regarding destruction of Environment & Ecology of Palni Khazan land due to construction of road across Palni bund.
- b) Application no.140/2015 (WZ) Mr. Savio Rodrigues Vs Mr. Diogo Costancio D' Souza & Others. (GSBB respondent no. 7) – Matter regarding currently operational bar & restaurant along with the on-going construction of a resort in survey number 15(1A) and 15(2) in village Tiracol. (13000 Sq. mtrs. area).
- c) Execution Application no. 1/2016 in Application no. 111/2014 (WZ) Poinguinkarancho Ekvott v/s. State of Goa & Others. (GSBB respondent no.4).
- d) Appeal No. 5/2016 (WZ) (M.A. No.22/2016) Cansualim-Arossim-Cuelim Civic & Consumer Forum & Anr. V/s M/s. Competent Automobiles Company Ltd &Ors. (GSBB respondent no. 11), posted for hearing on 29/02/2016.- Matter regarding violation of biodiversity norms in survey no.129/1, 130 Sub division 1/ 2/3/4/5/7 and survey no. 131/1/2 and 136/1/4 and 137/3 (> one lakh sq.mts in Arossim) for purpose of establishing hotels/ beach resorts in CRZ-III zone.

The Board was informed that advocates have been appointed for the above cases. Further it was decided to explore the extent of autonomy that GSBB has with regards to legal matters and whether GSBB should deal with such legal issues in future as per Biological Diversity Act 2002 & Rules 2004. In other words whether the GSBB needs approval of the Government in taking up prosecution of offenders and in other related legal issues within the ambit of Biological Diversity Act 2002& Rules 2004 needs to be studied in detail.

Agenda 10: Circular from legal department regarding remuneration to be paid to advocates representing GSBB legal cases.

The Board Members resolved to pay the advocates appointed T.A. / D.A., airfare etc. as per Government of Goa rules and budgetary provision/funds for the same to be



allocated in yearly budget of GSBB. In other words whether the GSBB needs approval of the Government in taking

Agenda 11: Remuneration to be paid to Non- Ex-officio members of GSBB for attending board meeting and site inspections. – Sitting fees have been increased from Rs.800/- to Rs.1000/- effective from 06th January 2016. In addition travel expenses incurred to be paid at actuals.

The Board approved the above agenda and accepted the compliance.

Agenda 12: Developing GSBB internal guiding rule book and procedures to be forwarded to all board members for review (compilation of distinct resolutions regarding functioning of GSBB during earlier Board meetings).

The Board Members accepted the above proposition to have internal procedures (Techno-Administrative Manual) for smooth functioning including organogram and job profiles of staff.

Agenda 13: Activities to be organized by GSBB for Celebration of International Biodiversity Day (IBD) on 22nd May 2016. Theme – “Mainstreaming Biodiversity; Sustaining people and their livelihoods”.

The following suggestions were put forth by the Board members:

- i. Elocution competition / short film (3 mins. duration) competitions to be conducted.
- ii. Roots & Shoots festival to be held during the two days of IBD celebrations.
- iii. Felicitation of villagers preserving biodiversity species, or having exceptional traditional Knowledge of biodiversity.
- iv. Committee to be formed to facilitate the celebration. Dr. Bhiwa Malik & Shri Parag Rangnekar to be included in this committee.
- v. IBD celebration proposal to be forwarded to NBA at the earliest.

Agenda 14: Levy of charges for the services of GSBB. (For e.g.(I) in cases such as request for flora & fauna study as mentioned in agenda no.8) d) and other requests (II) NOC from GSBB is recommended by other government departments e.g. GCZMA & COP). - Concrete guidelines to be framed so as to enable GSBB to address only genuine issues pertaining to biodiversity.

Shri. C. Achalendar Reddy explained that GSBB has to strictly follow the mandate of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, and Rules 2004, and hence individual requests for flora fauna study may be taken up if funds are made available. As regards to the NOCs expert committee may be appointed on case to case basis to give their recommendations and the same may be forwarded for action to the concerned departments. This was well accepted by the Board.



Regarding conducting site inspection to sites for project proposals wherever biodiversity is affected charges may be levied on similar basis as that of GCZMA but for other local bodies, urban local bodies, Government requests, public requests such charges may not be levied. However GSBB may take call on case to case basis.

Agenda 15: Budgetary provision of GSBB for next financial year.

The budget was discussed and it was suggested to change some of the budget heads and to be very specific while defining budget heads. Further Shri. C. Achalendar Reddy suggested putting a proposal to the Director, Planning & Statistics to procure funds available under the head 2551- Western Ghats Program, to fund certain conservation activities of GSBB.

Agenda 16: Any other point with permission of the Chairperson :

The following points were added with the permission of Chairperson.

a) Henceforth Whether to take up presentations by project proponents at Board meetings:

The Board members resolved that the above point to be decided on case to case basis and to explicitly follow mandate of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 & Rules 2004.

b) Decision regarding ESI & PF benefits to be applied to GSBB staff:

The Board approved the above agenda and decided to initiate the procedure for the same.

- c) Request from Nerul Biodiversity Management Committee for conducting inspection/ inventory of survey no. 95/1 and 91/1 of village Nerul:
- d) Request from Betqui-Candola Samvardhan Sammittee to Survey/document rich biodiversity in Candola village in survey nos. 29,30,31,33/1,34/1 & 34/2 of Candola with regards to proposed mega housing projects of M/s Gera Developments Pvt. Ltd.:
- e) Letter from Swapnagandha resorts to issue NOC to operate luxury cruise liner in rivers of Goa:
- f) Complaint against Hotel Park Hyatt reg illegal Heli-Jolly rides:
- g) Letter from concerned citizens of Navelim regarding destruction due to NH-17 bypass road:
- h) Letter from Orixtt Porjecho Avaz regarding request to stop construction for Defence Expo at Quitol Plateau:

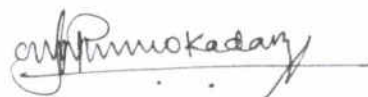


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With regards to points c) to h) the Board Members unanimously resolved to continue to forward such complaints to the concerned government departments and write to the concerned as resolved for Agenda 8- Issues d).

Shri. C. Achalender Reddy IFS, Managing Director, GFDC & Former Secretary, NBA, special invitee, explained to the Board Members the mandate of GSBB, various programs that can be undertaken by GSBB and provided his valuable suggestions to conduct the ongoing activities of the Board. He stressed that awareness & initiation of the Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) activities should be taken up on priority basis by GSBB.

The Board meeting ended with the vote of thanks from the Member Secretary, GSBB.



Shri. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary, GSBB



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