

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 32ND BOARD MEETING OF  
GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB)**

**TYPE OF MEETING:** REGULAR MEETING (MONTHLY MEETING  
IN COMPLIANCE TO ORDER FROM HON'BLE. NATIONAL GREEN  
TRIBUNAL (NGT), PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI)

**DATE:** 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2019;

**TIME:** 3:30

PM ONWARDS

**VENUE:** "CONFERENCE HALL", MINISTERIAL BLOCK,  
SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM, BARDEZ, GOA

**MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY SHRI. NILESH CABRAL, HON'BLE.  
ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, GOVERNMENT OF GOA,  
CHAIRPERSON, GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD.**

The following members attended the meeting:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble. Environment Minister, Government of Goa, Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board.	Chairperson
2.	Johnson Bedy Fernandes, Director, Department of Environment, Porvorim- Goa.	<b>Special invitee</b>
3.	Shri. Tariq Thomas, IAS, Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration	<b>Special invitee</b>
4.	Shri. Gopal Parsekar, Director, Directorate of Panchayats.	<b>Special invitee</b>
5.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, was represented by Shri. Santosh Kumar, IFS,	Ex Officio Member

	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF) & Shri. Pradeep Verekar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division	
6.	Shri. Sandip Nadkarni, Chief Engineer, Department of Water Resources	Ex Officio Member
7.	Director, Directorate of Agriculture, was represented by Deputy Director, Directorate of Agriculture	Ex Officio Member
8.	Director, Directorate of Fisheries, was represented by Roshini Naik, Asst. Superintendent of Fisheries	Ex Officio Member
9.	Director, Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, represented by Dr Greta Costa	Ex Officio Member
10	Shri. Parag Rangnekar	Expert Member
11	Shri. Nirmal Kulkarni	Expert Member
12	Shri. Rajendra Kerkar	Expert Member
13	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam (Member Secretary)	Member Secretary

(Dr. Chandrasheker Rivonker, Expert Member was granted leave of absence for the meeting.)

At the onset, Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board extended a warm welcome to the members of the Board and to the special invitees.

**Agenda 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of 31st Board Meeting** (Regular Meeting) of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.



The minutes of the 31st Board Meeting were confirmed by the Board Members present at the meeting, Proposed by – Dr. Greta Costa & Seconded by Shri. Parag Rangnekar

**Agenda 2: Action taken report of 31<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting** (Regular Meeting) of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

The Action taken report was circulated for information and compliance was intimated to GSBB Board members. Only the significant points in progress were discussed as follows:

Agenda 5 of 31<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting: Member Secretary, GSBB informed that based on the approval received from Government contract of the existing contractual staff has been renewed as on 31.10.2019 for a period of one year or co-terminus with the term of the Board.

Agenda 9 of 31<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting: Hon'ble. Chairperson, GSBB directed to follow up with finance department the file processed to Director, Environment for additional fund requirement for the maintenance of existing BMC office, existing Herbal Garden and other maintenance.

Agenda 12 of 31<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting: V. Status of preparation of State Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP): File to be processed to Chairperson, GSBB for constitution of Expert Committee for the preparation of SBAP – with compiled list of names of the past Committee that had prepared SBAP presented to the MoEFCC and Nodal officers from concerned departments.

The action taken report was presented to the members present. The same was accepted.

**Agenda 3:** Status of compliance to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi, Order dated 09.08.2019, in Original Application No. 347/2016, Chandrabhal Singh v/s Union of India & others, GSBB respondent no. 6. **(to**



**ensure compliance with 100% constitution of BMCs and PBRs by 31.01.2020, the Chief Secretaries may evolve a mechanism for ensuring a monthly meeting to be attended by the Chairman and Member Secretary of State Biodiversity Board, Secretaries, Panchayat, Environment & Forest starting from September, 2019.)**

Member Secretary, GSBB, appraised the present status of compliance from Goa State to the members. He thanked Director Municipal Administration (DMA) and Director Panchayat (DoP) for their continuous support in achieving targets. He also requested their support in completing PBRs. DMA and DoP assured full support in achieving targets.

The discrepancies regarding insistence of constituting district & Zilla Parishad level BMCs and preparation of their PBRs was explained. The Board resolved that since the BMCs constituted at Corporation, Municipal & Village Panchayat levels and their PBRs cover the entire State, the PBR preparation to be avoided at district and Zilla Parishad level as it will amount to duplication of work and unnecessary utilization of funds. The justifications decided for the purpose of sending affidavit points to NBA are discussed as below.

- a) Since all the BMCs are already constituted at Village Panchayat Level, Municipality and Corporation level, they cover entire State of Goa hence constituting BMCs at district level with members of District Zilla Panchayat Level, will mere lead to creation of body on paper and create one more layer over already existing BMCS at grass roots level will actually



not compliment but unnecessarily complicate the aspects such as clarity of jurisdiction of BMCs at local bodies, role and functions of such bodies newly created, source of funding, which resources will they conserve or document if these resources are already coming in the jurisdiction of already constituting BMCs, what will be their role in equitable sharing of benefits or Access Benefit Sharing and many more issues which are not clearly spelt in the Biological Diversity Act; 2002 especially with reference to District Zilla Panchayat Level BMCs.

- b) Since preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) in the State of Goa is already ongoing at Village Panchayat Level, Municipality and Corporation level all the biodiversity of the State will be documented and covered along with associated traditional knowledge, there will be no area left for making PBRs for District Zilla Panchayat Level BMCs if at all created.

BMCs at District Zilla Panchayat Level will only lead to duplication of work and unnecessary expenditure for the work already done at grassroots level by the owners and conservers of resources who have sovereign rights over their resources. Hence Goa State Biodiversity pleads for the exemption to constitute BMC at District Zilla Panchayat Level and also exemption to prepare PBRs at District Zilla Panchayat Level.



#### **Agenda 4: PBR:**

- a) Utilization of Grant in Aid funds for PBR Preparations and starting PBRs with available funds till proper funds are received from State or NBA.
- b) Board Resolution to be taken for filing an affidavit for seeking interim relief at least further 06 months for completion of PBRs i.e. till 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. As discussed in agenda 3.

Member Secretary, GSBB informed about the fund request to the State Government & NBA affidavit to be collectively filed by National Biodiversity Authority to the Hon'ble. NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi, requesting interim relief of six months to ensure 100% completion of the People's Biodiversity Registers by BMCs in Goa State. Presently funds required for 104 BMCs for PBR preparation.

Chairperson GSBB directed to use his offices for expediting release of funds.

#### **Agenda 5: Proposal of Govan to Forest Department.**

Presentation of the proposed activity was done by the project proponent with permission of the Chairperson, GSBB. GSBB members unanimously approved with conditions that while taking activity of silk there should not be introduction of any external bio-agents or external agents – hence this activity should be conducted in control conditions. The project proponents explained that the activity will be carried out only on species of trees available in Western Ghat. Forest Dept. APCCF said that this project is good for the State and initially this project be taken in 12 clusters and the BMCs in these cluster areas could be recognized as Joint Forest Management Committees (JMFCs) by forest department and the rights to collect forest minor products will be ensured by Forest Dept. It was decided that the project be taken up to strengthen livelihood linkages of biodiversity which will lead to conservation. It was suggested that the proponent will hand hold

the beneficiaries for a certain period of time and establish market linkages and that existing community organization/s working in the project or if required new be set-up or facilitated to take this linkage forward independently. It was decided that detailed MoU be signed with project proponent by GSBB, review committee could be constituted and the further process could be taken ahead on file to chairperson GSBB. The progress be reported to the Board periodically.

The above resolution was taken unanimously.

**Agenda 6: Status of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHSs): Site inspection at proposed Curtorim BHS scheduled on 22.10.2019.**

Member Secretary, GSBB, informed about the concluding decision taken at the meeting held at the Curtorim BMC office on the 22.10.2019 that is the Curtorim Village Panchayat to take resolution at Gram Sabha to convene meeting of Panchayat body, concerned stakeholders, Curtorim BMC & twelve member committee of Curtorim BHS , so that the required extent of the BHS be finalized at local level and then submitted to GSBB within specified timelines so that the process is expedited.

**Status of Surla BHS**

Member Secretary, GSBB informed that after completion of process at ground level including stakeholders consultations, the file being processed for Notification in Official Gazette of Government of Goa to declare 'Purvatali Rai'- Sacred Grove of Surla village as Biodiversity Heritage Site under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002.

Considering completion of above processes, MS GSBB expressed the need to set up State BHS committee for monitoring and management of BHS. Chairperson directed to move the file for further process.



The above resolution was taken unanimously.

**Agenda 7: Significant activities of GSBB for information:**

- **Selection and training of Technical Support Groups of GSBB**
- **Status of Colva lake study.**

Member Secretary, GSBB, apprised the Board that new Technical Support Groups have been selected for preparation of remaining PBRs.

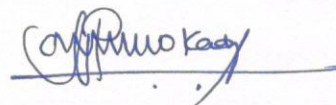
He also informed about the progress of study of Colva lake which is ongoing satisfactorily.

**Agenda 8: Any other point with permission of Chairperson:**

**Proposal from Parag Rangnekar, Expert Member, GSBB for printing of posters on birds, butterflies, dragonflies etc., & concept note on Natural History Museum.**

Parag Rangnekar, Expert Member, GSBB, made a presentation of drafts of the proposed posters for printing to the Board. It was suggested by the APCCF to forward the proposal to Forest Department for funding and printing of posters, as a joint activity of GSBB & Forest department. Regarding the Natural History Museum, Hon'ble. Chairperson, GSBB, suggested that the proposal file with complete details including finance requirements to be submitted to Hon'ble Chairperson, GSBB and he would make efforts for the same. The Board unanimously approved the same.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Member Secretary, GSBB.



Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam  
**Member Secretary, GSBB**