

**DRAFT OF MINUTES OF THE 31<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB).**

**TYPE OF MEETING:** REGULAR MEETING

**DATE:** 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019;

**TIME:** 03:30 PM ONWARDS

**VENUE:** CONFERENCE HALL, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR, MINISTERIAL BLOCK, SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM- GOA

**MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY SHRI. NILESH CABRAL, HON'BLE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, GOA STATE; 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 Minister for Environment, Government of Goa; Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board.	Chairperson
2.	Shri. Gopal Parsekar, Director, Directorate of Panchayats	Special invitee
3.	Shri. Johnson Bedy Fernandes, Director, Department of Environment	Special invitee
4.	The Director, Department of Municipal Administration was represented by Shri. Subhash Mhalsekar, Engineering Assistant	Special invitee
5.	The Director, Department of Municipal Administration was represented by Rajesh Harmalkar (F.S.)	Special invitee
6.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forests was represented by Shri. Palnikant, IFS, DCF HQ	Ex Officio Member
7.	Director, Water Resource Department was represented by Assistant Engineer, Div I WRD, Panaji	Ex Officio Member
8.	Director, Directorate of Fisheries was represented by Shri. Chandresh Haldankar, Supdt. of Fisheries	Ex Officio Member

9.	Director, Directorate of Animal Husbandary & Veterinary Services was represented by Dr. Greta Costa, Dy. Director	Ex Officio Member
10.	Shri. Parag Rangnekar	Expert Member
11.	Shri. Rajendra Kerkar	Expert Member
12.	Dr. Chandrashekher Rivonker	Expert Member
13.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam	Member Secretary

Chief Secretary, Govt. of Goa (Special Invitee); Secretary (Environment), Govt. of Goa (Special Invitee); Secretary (Forests), Govt. of Goa (Special Invitee); Secretary (Panchayat), Govt. of Goa (Special Invitee); Director, Directorate of Agriculture (Ex Officio Member), Shri. Nirmal Kulkarni, Expert Member were unable to attend the meeting.

At the onset, Member Secretary, GSBB extended a warm welcome to the members of the Board and special invitees.

**Agenda 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of 30<sup>th</sup> Board meeting (Regular meeting) of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.**

The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of GSBB were confirmed by the members present for the meeting.

Proposed by: Shri. Parag Rangnekar

Seconded by: Shri. Rajendra Kerkar.

**Agenda 2: Action taken report of 30<sup>th</sup> Board meeting (Regular meeting) of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

Action taken report was discussed in brief.

**Agenda 3: Trailing/ pending points from Action taken report of 30<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to be discussed. Most significant points are:**

- **Agenda 4 a) Permanent skeletal staff at GSBB: In process**

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members that permanent staff for smooth function of GSBB is required. Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble Minister for Environment; Chairperson, GSBB expressed that the process for creation of permanent posts for GSBB should be expedited and accordingly instructed Member Secretary, GSBB and Director Environment to expedite the same. He also assured that he would do the needful whenever required to follow up with the Govt.

Above points were approved unanimously.

- **Agenda 4 c) Premises of GSBB to be renovated, additional space of at least 20000 square meters for seed bank by GSBB: In process.**

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members that process of renovation of premises of GSBB is ongoing and additional space of atleast 20000 square meters for seed bank by GSBB has been requested. The process of approval is not yet completed.

Chairperson, GSBB informed that after meeting the Director, Environment he would pay a visit to GSBB campus at Saligao to examine the situation.

Above points were approved unanimously.

**Agenda 4: 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 & Ors, 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).**

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members of the GSBB that the meeting has been called in compliance to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi, order dated 09.08.2019, in O.A. No. 347/2016, Chandrabhal Singh V/s Union of India & Ors, GSBB respondent No. 6 to ensure monthly meeting of the Board. Further he also informed that all village level and Municipal level BMCs are constituted in Goa.

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members that at present preparation of 103 Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) are being prepared and out of these 10 PBRs have been validated, whereas another 15 are awaiting fulfilment of gaps and observations pointed out by Expert Committee on PBR after which they would be validated.

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB further informed that GSBB need funds for 89 more BMCs and in this regard request has been sent to State Government as well as National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

Member Secretary, GSBB informed that the Technical Support Groups (TSGs) are being asked if they can prepare PBRs immediately even without initial funds and the same will be paid subject to availability of funds. He also informed that ICLEI South Asia has agreed to work with all municipalities on the terms of GSBB and that they may be allowed to start immediately so as to achieve targets as per the NGT requirements to avoid penalties. In other cases the TSGs of GSBB may be given PBRs based on their capacity and willingness to take the same.

Chairperson, GSBB assured that efforts would be made for provision of the funds from the State for the preparation of PBR.

Above points were approved unanimously.

#### **Agenda 5: Status of contractual staff of GSBB post October 2019- Board to decide regarding renewal**

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members that the contract of the existing contractual staff of GSBB is expiring on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and proposed that the contract should be renewed. Chairperson, GSBB and the members of Board unanimously approved the same. It was decided that process of Govt, approval would be expedited.

Above agenda point was approved unanimously.

#### **Agenda 6: Plantation scheme of GSBB**

Member Secretary, GSBB gave presentation of the draft scheme to the members regarding compensatory afforestation of Mopa Airport tree felling has been prepared. The scheme was discussed in detail. Member Secretary, GSBB requested

that Forest Department and Agriculture Department to guide GSBB in estimating costs for tree plantation including pits, tree guards, watering arrangements, etc. also involving PWD for providing free water (conforming to the required discharge standards) from treated waste water plants, so that the costs could be finalized and included in the scheme before notification.

Chairperson, GSBB suggested that the scheme for compensatory afforestation should be circulated to all the members for their inputs before next Board meeting.

Further Chairperson, GSBB suggested that as mentioned in the scheme BMCs could be involved in this tree plantation process. Chairperson, GSBB suggested that spaces for tree plantation could be identified and accordingly scheme could be moved to Department of Environment. Shri. Parag Rangnekar cautioned that all ecosystems are independent and every season biodiversity varies hence plants should be selected accordingly. MS GSBB also informed that indigenous species to be planted in these areas are approved by Forest Dept.

Above points from agenda were approved unanimously.

#### **Agenda 7: Utilization of special component plan for scheduled castes.**

MS GSBB informed about communication received from NBA about possibility of financial assistance to SC areas for biodiversity related interventions. To this it was discussed whether one single Taluka or selected areas should be taken to avail this scheme.

Chairperson, GSBB suggested that focus could be on bamboo artisans from various villages by identifying them and training through BMC. Chairperson, GSBB suggested that peripheral areas of plateaus could be brought under bamboo plantation. Forest Dept. was requested to provide space on peripheral forest areas for benefit of locals. The forest official assured support for the concept. It was also suggested to involve Handicrafts Dept. for arranging training and further support in addition to efforts through BMCs.

Above points of agenda were approved unanimously.

#### **Agenda 8: Funds provisioning for PBRs and BMCs to expedite constitution.**

Chairperson, GSBB assured that efforts would be made for provisioning the funds from the State for the preparation of PBR and funds for the constituted BMCs. It

was also advised to request Forest Dept. for availing funds in project mode for requirements as mentioned in the agenda. Above points of agenda were approved unanimously.

**Agenda 9: Additional funds requirements for the maintenance of existing BMC office; existing herbal garden and other maintenance.**

Chairperson, GSBB suggested that letter has to be written to the Collector for utilising the premises of closed schools as BMC office, which otherwise are used only during election time; funds for maintenance of this BMC office could be availed from election funds. He also instructed to invite a joint meeting for further decision in this regard.

Above points were approved unanimously.

**Agenda 10: Status of BHSs: BHS study visit to Purvatali Rai- Sacred grove of Surla Village.**

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members that till date no Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) has been identified in the State of Goa, although many are suggested and approved by GSBB, ground level interventions and procedures have delayed the process. To this chairperson assured support to expedite the process and make financial provisions for making reports, survey, etc. Further MS GSBB also informed that a proposal to declare 'Purvatali Rai'- Sacred grove of Surla Village as BHS has been received by GSBB. The same was approved by GSBB for notification after completing procedure. Shri. Rajendra Kerkar proposed the same and MS GSBB seconded.

Above points of agenda were approved unanimously.

**Agenda 11: Significant activities of GSBB for information.**

- Publication of 'Tradable Bioresources ' Book
- Thematic Expert Committee meetings
- Colva Lake study commenced
- Change in Bank Account of GSBB

**Agenda 12: Any other point with permission of Chairperson**

**I. Local Body especially Municipal Council BMCs to ensure that the BMC constituted is not dissolved (or constituted) before completion of tenure without valid reason and to strictly adhere to the tenure of BMC.**

Member Secretary, GSBB suggested that dates for conducting BMC meetings on specific dates to ensure 4 meetings in a year to be conveyed to village panchayats would help in smooth functioning of the BMCs.

Chairperson, GSBB suggested that circular has to be issued to the panchayats that if the BMC is inactive they should be recommended for reconstitution of inactive members but subject to proper justification and not just dissolved without any justification or just because Village Panchayat body has changed or Sarpanch has changed. This was discussed and director Panchayats assured on action to streamline the same.

Above points were approved unanimously.

**II. Direct disbursement of PBR funds accorded as per MoU terms to be released by GSBB instead of BMC directly to Technical Support Groups (TSGs). Addendum to tripartite MoU of BMCs with TSGs regarding PBR funds disbursal to BMCs who are not disbursing funds on time to TSGs, for change in MoU.**

Member Secretary, GSBB informed that GSBB has received feedback that some BMCs are not adhering to MoU conditions and not disbursing the funds on time to TSGs as per MoU. This has to be resolved to expedite the PBR process and due amount to TSGs on completion of work may be directly transferred to TSGs subject to approval from respective BMCs. To this, Chairperson GSBB suggested that PBR funds receivable by TSGs could be directly disbursed to TSG on receipt of reports and approval from BMC as per MoU conditions.

Above points were approved unanimously.

**III. Project proposal publication by Mangrove Society of India.**

MS GSBB informed that proposal for book on mangroves was received from Mangrove Society of India whereby Late Dr. Untawale presented the same to Expert Thematic Committee of GSBB on Capacity Building headed by Director Education, and that the same was approved by them subject to approval by GSBB. To this Chairperson, GSBB suggested that the same may be approved and funded by Department of Environment. Above agenda point was approved unanimously.

**IV. Cluster wise coordinator for BMCs across the State of Goa.**

Member Secretary, GSBB suggested that in order to comply to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi, order dated 09.08.2019, in O.A. No. 347/2016, it would be advisable that cluster wise coordinator for BMCs across the State of Goa could be appointed.

The suggestion was unanimously approved by the members of the Board with initial three months trial without any honorarium.

**V. Status of preparation of State Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP).**

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members that the process of preparation of SBAP in line with NBAP is not initiated after enactment of BD Act 200, and that process should be started by constituting expert committee. Shri. Rajendra Kerkar said that this is very important and since he was part of SBAP of Goa prior to 2002, he is ready to volunteer to be the member of this committee.

Chairperson suggested that the proposal could be put up and committee could be approved during the next meeting.

**VI. Approval for the appointment of Programme Officer and Peon which is already approved post.**

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members that there are 02 vacant positions (NBA funding) at GSBB and recruitment needs to be done for the said posts.



Chairperson, GSBB and the members of Board unanimously approved the same.

**VII. Request for project funding for GSBB for conservation programme from Department of Environment.**

Member Secretary, GSBB suggested that project funding for conservation programmes could be availed from Department of Environment and also by collaborating with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Above points were approved unanimously.

**VIII. Joint project with NABARD.**

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the members that after preparation of PBRs by BMCs, conservation focus is derived and for implementation of such conservation projects in all villages, GSBB could provide financial support to BMCs by executing joint projects with assistance of NABARD. This was agreed and approved by the members.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks by Member Secretary, GSBB.

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