

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 36th BOARD MEETING (SPECIAL) OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB)

TYPE OF MEETING: SPECIAL MEETING CALLED FOR CONSTITUTION OF A COMMITTEE TO PREPARE GUIDELINES FOR CONTROLLED HARVESTING AND CONSERVATION OF EDIBLE CLAMS AND CRITICAL BIO-RESOURCES WITHIN JURISDICTION OF BMCs IN THE STATE OF GOA AND OTHER SHELLFISH ALONG THE RIVERINE AND COASTAL AREAS OF GOA STATE.

DATE: 16th JUNE 2020;

TIME: 4.00 PM

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:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble. Environment Minister, Government of Goa, Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board.	Chairperson
2.	Smt. Alina Saldanha, Hon'ble. MLA, Cortalim Constituency, former Chairperson, GSBB	Special invitee
3.	Director, Department of Panchayat, Panaji-Goa represented by Smt. Siddhi Halankar,	Special invitee
4.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, represented by Chief Conservator of Forests, Shri Keshav Kumar,(IFS)	Ex Officio Member



5.	Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Porvorim- Goa represented by Shri Saish A. Lawande, Asst. Surveyor of Works	Ex Officio Member
6.	Directorate of Agriculture, represented by Asst. Director, Shri Kishor Bhawe	Ex Officio Member
7.	Director, Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services represented by Dy. Director, Dr. Greta Costa	Ex Officio Member
8.	Director, Directorate of Fisheries represented by Dy. Director, Shri Chandrakant Velip	Ex Officio Member
9.	Shri Nirmal Kulkarni	Expert Member
10.	Shri Parag Ragnekar	Expert Member
11.	Dr. Chandrashekher Rivonker	Expert Member
12.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam (Member Secretary, GSBB)	Member Secretary
13.	Shri Rui M. Costa Araujo, Chairperson, Chicalim BMC	Invitee
14.	Shri Kapil D. Naik, Secretary, Chicalim BMC	Invitee
15.	Shri Navin Jha, Chairperson, Sancoale BMC	Invitee

**Other Members were unable to attend.*

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

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of 35th Board Meeting (Regular Meeting, monthly meeting in compliance to order from Hon'ble. National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi) of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 31st January 2020.



The minutes of the 35th Board Meeting (Special) were confirmed by the Board Members present at the meeting, Proposed by – Dr. Chandrashekher Rivonker & Seconded by Shri. Parag Ragnekar,

Agenda 2: Action taken report of 35th Board Meeting (Regular Meeting, monthly meeting in compliance to order from Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi) of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 31st January 2020.

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 3 of 34th Board Meeting: Validation of PBRs

Member Secretary, GSBB informed that constitution of BMCs and primary validation of PBRs is complete in all Villages of Goa, however completion of third level validation of PBRs including PBR of Mhadei which was decided to be sent to Central Govt. has been delayed due to unprecedented pandemic situation and the Board will take some time from the Center for completion.

Agenda 6 of 34th Board Meeting: Appointing of Interns for GSBB:

Member Secretary, GSBB informed the present members that the approval is required for remuneration and tenure of the Internship. The remuneration proposed is Rupees 8000/- (all inclusive) per month and internship duration is proposed for One year. MS, GSBB, also informed that the Board has to formulate the syllabus and eligibility criteria for the interns.

Agenda 6 of the 35th Board Meeting:

MS, GSBB informed that the request from Shri. Nirmal Kulkarni, Expert member to take Board resolution on Mhadei issue is kept on hold due to



Covid-19 pandemic situation and the same will be completed subsequently.

Agenda 7 of 35th Board Meeting: Any other point with the permission of the Chairperson:

Member Secretary, GSBB informed that presently three studies are initiated in collaboration with the CSIR-NIO. These are Sand accretion studies, River Biodiversity Index and Wetland Identification. The MS also informed that the Project "GoVan" is also in the process of setting up multiprocessing Centre at Palem and the Quarters of the Electricity have been allotted to GSBB for the same purpose.

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

Agenda 3: Constitution of committee to prepare guidelines for controlled harvesting and conservation of edible clams, critical bio-resources within jurisdiction of BMCs in the State of Goa and other shell fish along the riverine & coastal areas of Goa State.

Member Secretary, GSBB, highlighted the major ecological issue of uncontrolled harvesting of clams in Sancoale and Chicalim Bay. MS, GSBB pointed out that GSBB has received complaints from Sancoale and Chicalim BMCs that in absence of rules and guidelines, hundreds of people visit to these bays for rampant and unbridled harvesting of clams to such an extent that people have started to take away the pieces of substratum known as *Haddis* in common parlance without leaving any scope for rejuvenation.

In this regard MS, GSBB informed that an inspection was conducted onsite along with Dr. Rivonker, Dr. Manoj Borkar and Dr. Baban Ingole. These experts have given their valuable comments which have been forwarded to the Chairperson, GSBB. MS, GSBB also pointed out that such edible clams are important bio-resources of Goa and if the harvesting is not regulated, it shall



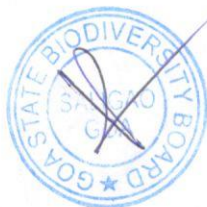
cause over-exploitation and depletion of clams and other molluscs species which are yet to be documented. The Board approved constitution of a Committee to prepare guidelines for controlled harvesting and conservation of edible clams and critical bio-resources within jurisdiction of BMCs in the State of Goa and other shell fish along the riverine & coastal areas of Goa State. Smt. Alina Saldanha also seconded the need to have a definite set of guidelines.

The Chairperson of GSBB, Hon. Minister for Environment, Shri Nilesh Cabral submitted that this Committee shall have to report to GSBB on various aspects of Clams, such as different varieties of clams available, population of clams in each season and propose sustainable quantity of harvesting for each season, determining and regulating methods of harvesting.

MS, GSBB pointed out that the Goa State Biodiversity Board can constitute such Committee by the power vested in the Board through Section 24(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Biodiversity Management Committees can levy fees for accessing local bio-resources under Section 41(3) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The Chairperson suggested that the Committee should consist of representative of local BMC. MS, GSBB added that the Committee should conduct technical analysis of the area. Shri Parag Ragnekar suggested Shri Aaron Lobo for the committee and the same was approved. At this point Dr. Rivonker suggested that based on data that we already have we can preliminary frame guidelines specifically for Sancoale and Chicalim Bay within 2-3 months and thereafter implement it in other areas.

Smt. Alina Saldanha suggested that there should be core areas identified in such bays which should not be allowed to access for harvesting so that preservation is ensured, while the Chairperson added that such core areas may keep interchanging depending on the density and population of the clams



in each season, which should be considered by the Committee to be appointed. Smt. Alina Saldanha further added that we should set a deadline for submission of the report by the Committee so that no delay is caused in setting the guidelines.

Sancoale BMC Chairperson Shri Navin Jha mentioned that they formed 12 member Committee for preparing BHS document, he however requested to be provided a technical support group such as NIO to assist the local committee to prepare a preliminary report. MS, GSBB informed Shri. Jha that the Technical Support Group (TERI) provided to the BMC for preparation of PBR is competent to provide assistance to prepare a preliminary report. Dr. Rivonker added that Dr. Sumit Biswas from BITS, Pilani, has conducted a study along the bay which can be referred. It was decided to invite Dr, Sumit Biswas as special invitee for the next meeting.

Shri Navin Jha also pointed out that although many people have helped to curb the rampant clam harvesting, it was seen that the locals are not aware and we have to create awareness by installing sign boards, etc. Shri Rui Araujo, Chicalim BMC Chairperson proposed that only locals should be allowed to harvest and claim benefits of the clams as it is a local bio-resource. Chairperson, GSBB pointed out that such suggestions should be inserted in the report for the consideration of the Government.

MS, GSBB submitted that there's a need for constitution of State Level Committee to Monitor Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) and to prepare guidelines for BHS. He further added if any person voluntarily wants to be member, the same can be informed to MS, GSBB. Members present can also suggest and nominate any distinguished person for this Committee. It was decided that the Committee shall be headed by Dr. Rivonker, and shall include Dr. Manoj Borkar and Dr. Baban Ingole, as they have already conducted studies on the concerned subject matter. MS, GSBB shall be convener for the meeting, while the Chairperson, GSBB suggested that expert from every field is required to be part of the committee and Dr. Sumeet Biswas from BITS, Pilani can be part of the committee as special invitee.



MS, GSBB also informed that Shri Rajendra Kerkar has expressed to be part of the State Level Committee. Shri Parag Ragnekar suggested the name of Shri Aaron Lobo. The Chairperson, GSBB agreed that the Committee shall constitute 6 above mentioned members who can invite other experts as special invitees. Suitable committee should be constituted by moving file to the Chairperson.

Agenda 4: Discussion on the report submitted by Directorate of Fisheries regarding the impact of proposed construction of training wall at Morjim on turtle nesting site.

MS, GSBB informed that a committee was formed in this regard which has conveyed that the Minutes of the first meeting may be considered as the Report of the Committee. Chairperson, GSBB suggested that the report may be circulated among the Board Members and the decision shall be taken at the next Board Meeting.

Agenda 5: Presentation of Colva lake Study.

MS, GSBB informed that the Agency appointed for Colva lake study has submitted that final report Chairperson, GSBB suggested that the report may be circulated among the Board Members and the same shall be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Agenda 5: Any other point with permission of Chairperson:

Approval of Plantation Scheme

MS, GSBB informed the Members that the Forest Department has advised the Board that since Goa State Biodiversity Board is an autonomous body, the Board itself can decide the cost of plantation and finalize the scheme and float it, working closely with Department of Environment. The Scheme was presented in the previous Board meeting however the cost of each plant



was not ascertained. MS, GSBB submitted that the cost is Rs. 2,500/- per plant including maintenance of plants for 5 years, however the Chairperson GSBB suggested that the Board should charge around Rs. 5000/- per plant keeping in mind contingencies including the need to replace the plants if required. MS, GSBB added that the finalization of the cost shall be circulated to the Members vide email and the Members can send their comments and suggestions. After which the cost will be approved and implemented by moving file to the Chairperson, GSBB for approval. The finalized cost may be approved for implementation by moving file to the Chairperson, GSBB.

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



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pradip Sarmokadam". Below the signature is a horizontal line and the letters "Sd/".

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary, GSBB