

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 37th BOARD MEETING OF GOA STATE
BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB)**

TYPE OF MEETING: REGULAR.

DATE: 22nd DECEMBER 2020;

TIME: 4.30 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.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, represented by Chief Conservator of Forests, Shri Keshav Kumar,(IFS)	Ex Officio Member
3.	Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Porvorim- Goa represented by Shri P.B. Badami, Superintendent Engineer	Ex Officio Member
4.	Directorate of Agriculture, represented by Shri Sanjeev A. Mayekar, (DDA)	Ex Officio Member
5.	Director, Directorate of Fisheries represented by Dy. Director, Shri Chandrakant Velip,	Ex Officio Member
6.	Shri Parag Rangnekar	Expert Member
7.	Dr. Chandrashekher Rivonker	Expert Member



8.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam (Member Secretary, GSBB)	Member Secretary
9.	Director, District Rural Development Agency (MNREGA) Represented by Shri Deepak B. Sonwane, (DDM)	Special Invitee
10.	Director, Department of Panchayat represented by Smt. Siddhi Halarnakar	Special Invitee
11.	Smt. Melini D'Costa, Chairperson, Colva -VGS BMC	Invitee
12.	Smt. Shakuntala Mesquita, member, Colva BMC	Invitee
13.	Shri Edgar Gracias , Colva	Invitee
14.	Smt. Judith Almeida (Colva Civic & Consumer Forum)	Invitee
15.	Shri. Prajal Jangam from Eco-care Ecology Conservators	Special Invitee
16.	Smt. Samidha Khulle from Eco-care Ecology Conservators	Special Invitee

**Shri Rajendra Kerkar and Shri Nirmal Kulkarni, Expert Members were absent.*

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 36th Board Meeting The minutes of the 36th Board Meeting (Special Meeting) were confirmed by the Board Members present at the meeting,

Proposed by – Dr. Chandrashekhar Rivonker

Seconded by - Shri. Parag Rangnekar.

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

Agenda 2: Status of preparation of 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 by GSBB committee constituted for the same.

MS, GSBB submitted that the Guidelines, which are proposed to be applicable throughout the State of Goa are in the process of drafting however MoEFCC has designed its own guidelines. Expert member, Shri Rangnekar responded that the Guidelines by GSBB should be read alongwith the MoEFCC Guidelines.

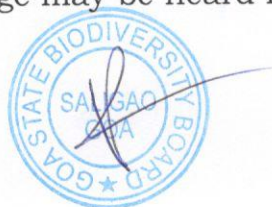
MS, GSBB informed the Members that the Committee for the same has been constituted as discussed in the previous Board Meeting.

Agenda 4: Presentation of Colva Lake study.

MS, GSBB, informed that the Report of the Colva Lake study by Eco-care Ecology Conservators (EEC) has been circulated to the members of the Board vide email. The Representatives of Eco-care Ecology Conservators (EEC), Shri Prajal Jangam gave a brief Power point presentation of the study conducted on Colva Lake and proposed few alternatives. They also indicated that they favor the third alternative which is to build a football playground on the stilts.

Colva-BMC Member Smt. Shakuntala Mesquita pointed out that their apprehensions are not addressed in the presentation. MS, GSBB pointed out that it is advisable to read the detailed report instead of referring only to the power point presentation. The apprehension raised by Smt. Mesquita were flooding in the surrounding areas, droughts, drying up of wells, loss of fresh water, impact of development on the coastal area etc.

MS, GSBB, added that the key experts on the panel of EEC are NABET accredited and once all concerned go through the report we can deliberate the project proposed in another special meeting, if required. The BMC as well as the Panchayat of Colva Village may be heard in presence of the Chairperson,



Expert members and Legal Advisory Group of GSBB. Expert member Dr. Rivonker mentioned that the study conducted by Ecocare does not seem to be comprehensive and needs to be revisited. He also mentioned that the study needs to be more objective than subjective.

Shri. Rangnekar pointed out that richness or abundance is not reflected in the report and the same needs to be incorporated. Hon. Minister and Chairperson Shri. Nilesh Cabral suggested few points to be added to the report. These includes erosion of beach, historical utilization of water from the lake, occurrence of draughts, floods, if any, in the surrounding area, incidences of drying of wells in surrounding area and whether the waterbody can be termed as wetland as per the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. He directed the Ecocare representative to include these points including of the apprehensions raised by the Colva-BMC locals and submit a fresh report to GSBB.

Chairperson and the Board Members approved the release of additional 20% of funds in favor of Eco-care for the study conducted.

Agenda 4: Publication of book on Mangroves-proposed & written by late Dr. Arvind Untawale.

MS, GSBB informed the members that the Thematic Expert Committee has already approved the publication.

Agenda 5: Status of:

1. Compensatory afforestation of 10 times the numbers of trees felled at Mopa Airport Project site.

MS, GSBB submitted that GSBB has successfully distributed around 2,05,141 plant saplings under the Compensatory afforestation of 10 times the numbers of trees felled at Mopa Airport Project site' through BMCs, farmers,



other individuals, institutions and organizations within the State of Goa. The Target is plantation of 5,00,000 trees in 5 years. He further informed that the survivability audit is proposed to be conducted soon through a third-party agency which shall be selected through e-tendering process. This was unanimously approved by the Board Members.

2. New theme based plantation of scheme of GSBB.

The scheme was already approved in the 36th GSBB Meeting, hence it was decided that the further process will be to take approval from the Chairperson on file.

Agenda 6: Empanelment of purchaser for buyback in addition to SunRajas under 'GoVan' Project, Approval for tag trademark etc., SFURTI clusters, Cluster Development Committee, Herbal Cluster.

MS, GSBB stated that there are no Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) constituted in Goa till date. He explained how the origin of resources remains unknown in most cases causing hindrance to managing minor produce and other bio-resources traded in the country, especially in Goa. He added that the JFMC will function in harvesting minor produce and simultaneously manage human-animal conflict. After brief discussion it was decided Pilot JFMCs will be constituted in the four villages of Keri, Bhatti, Nagargao and Cotigao consisting of BMC members and additional 3 members and a representative of Forest Department.

Under the GoVan project, there are various aspiring purchasers other than SunRajas have shown enthusiasm to support GoVan Project by buying back. Additionally, SunRajas has applied for permission as a trader and the ABS Committee has recommended approval after providing necessary guidance by GSBB and Forest Department. The same was approved by the Board Members.



Agenda 7: Status of other projects of GSBB: GoVan Project/Sfurti/Atmanirbhar Bharat –Swayampurna Goem:

a. MoU signed with Deendayal Research Institute

MS, GSBB informed the Members of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Deendayal Research Institute (DRI) and GSBB as a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme by which DRI would be a knowledge partner for the State of Goa and GSBB would be nodal office for the same.

b. Approval sought for herbal and spices cluster as approved by State Level Cluster Development Committee (SLCDC).

MS, GSBB explained the Board Members about SFURTI Cluster Scheme and informed that the Medicinal Plant Board should collaborate with GSBB for joint execution of SFURTI clusters by executing a Memorandum of Understanding with GSBB. This initiative could further extend to the villages in the vicinity of Forests which would promote eco management. This was agreed by CCF Shri. Keshav Kumar and he expressed his willingness to undertake necessary procedures for such collaboration. The Chairperson suggested that the Medicinal Plant Board and GSBB should work closely as this will benefit the locals.

Agenda 8: Any other point with permission of Chairperson.

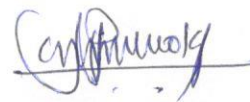
MS, GSBB informed the members that GSBB has been appointed as key state Technical Institute to manage the ODOP (One District One Product) Scheme and FME (Food Micro-processing Enterprises) Scheme to prepare a baseline study based on which a State Level Upgradation Plan will be established.



Further he added that the Medicinal Plant Board can sign a Memorandum of Understanding with GSBB.

MS,GSBB also informed the members about the joint initiation and association with DRDA (District Rural Development Agency) in conducting restoration in Cavelossim under the direction of the Hon. NGT and further extended to manage restoration activities under the Conservation and Restoration Cell of GSBB.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Chairperson, GSBB.



Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam

Member Secretary, GSBB