

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 38th BOARD MEETING OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB)

TYPE OF MEETING: REGULAR.

DATE: 6th July 2021;

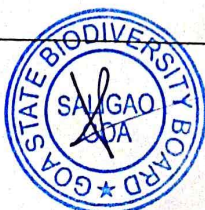
TIME: 4.00 PM

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

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

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble Minister Environment & Climate Change, Government of Goa, Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board.	Chairperson
2.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, was represented by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Smt. Yasodha K.	Ex Officio Member
3.	Directorate of Agriculture, represented by Shri Sanjeev A. Mayekar, (DDA)	Ex Officio Member
4.	Director, Directorate of Fisheries represented by Dy. Director, Shri Chandrakant Velip,	Ex Officio Member
5.	Director, Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary services represented by Dr. Veena Kumar	Ex Officio Member
6.	Shri Parag Rangnekar	Expert Member
7.	Shri Nirmal Kulkarni	Expert Member
8.	Dr. Chandrasheker Rivonker	Expert Member
9.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam (Member Secretary, GSBB)	Member Secretary(MS)
10.	Dr. Shaber Ali, Offg. Principal VM. Salgaocar College of law	Specially Present for Signing MoU



**Shri Rajendra Kerkar Expert Member was unable to attend the meeting.*

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 invitee and others. In the presence of Chairperson GSBB, MS GSBB signed MOU with V M. Salgaocar College of Law wherein both the parties will thereby be mutually benefitted in their respective objectives of creating awareness on protection and conservation of Biodiversity.

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of 37th Board Meeting The minutes of the 37th Board Meeting (Special Meeting) were confirmed by the Board Members present at the meeting,

Proposed by – Shri. Parag Rangnekar

Seconded by - Dr. Chandrasheker Rivonker

Agenda 2: Action Taken Report of 37th Board Meeting

The action taken report was presented to the members present. Discussing the point on Action Taken Report regarding 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 and it was informed that online meetings were conducted for the preparation of guidelines.

MS, GSBB submitted that the Guidelines, which are proposed to be applicable throughout the State of Goa are drafted and circulated to all the Expert Members and Board Members. MS GSBB presented the guidelines to the Board. MS, GSBB informed that Dr. Baban Ingole has suggested vide email that there should be restriction on premature harvesting of the clams and study needs to be conducted collecting data about the habitat, micro-habitat, quantum of harvest, equipment to be used in harvesting.

Deputy Director of Fisheries, Shri Chandrakant Velip added that they are also in the process to drafting guidelines for the same and will share the same with the Board members. MS, GSBB suggested that till the rules by fisheries department are finalized the guidelines prepared by the GSBB committee needs to be implemented. Expert member Shri. Parag Rangnekar put forth the point that the term "local Community" is ambiguous in nature. Chairperson GSBB suggested that guidelines



should include specific distance from the bio-resource habitat to ensure more specificity, this distance – say about 5 kms, the beneficiaries within that limit can utilize the benefits of that resource and will be responsible for its protection & conservation. The prescribed distance and size of premature bioresources that may be prohibited shall be decided and included in guidelines by the expert committee and the same may be finalized by circulation and need not be brought back to the Board. The guidelines be released by taking approval from Chairperson GSBB after approval by expert committee and Board members in specified period. Overall framework of guidelines and contents were approved except the above-mentioned part regarding distance and size of premature clams / marine bioresources under consideration.

Next point on the Action Taken Report was Colva Lake Study. MS GSBB informed that a joint meeting of the, Panchayat, BMC and the Technical Support Group Eco-care Ecology Conservators needs to be conducted. Chairperson asserted that since this study is in Compliance with NGT order, its compliance should be carried out without delay in time bound manner and communication in this regard should be sent to VP Colva and others. He also said that in case they fail to take a decision, then in next GSBB Board meeting, GSBB should decide and close the matter. MS GSBB assured to start the correspondence and action towards the same.

On the Status of Compensatory afforestation of Mopa, MS GSBB informed that till date 4,27,000 saplings have been planted and only about 1 lakh target is remaining excluding survivability replenishment. It was suggested that survivability audit be given to ICFR (Indian Council of Forestry Research). Chairperson GSBB asked Deputy Conservator of Forests, Smt.Yasodha K. to share the Methodology employed by ICFR for Survivability Audit. GIA in this regard is provided by Director Civil Aviation in addition to GMR funds @Rs20 per sapling.

Further MS, GSBB informed the Board that New theme based plantation scheme of GSBB has been sent for Notification.

MS GSBB briefed the Board that Forest Department is in the process of Constituting Pilot JFMCs in four villages of Keri, Bhati, Nagargao and Cotigao consisting of BMC members and additional 3 members and a representative of Forest Department in connection with Empanelment of purchaser for buyback in addition to existing



SunRajas under 'GoVan' Project. Chairperson GSBB asked to expedite the process of Constitution of JMFC and empanelment of additional local agencies interested in collaborating with GoVAN project.

Agenda 3: IDB-2021 Celebration

MS, GSBB informed that the IDB-2021 celebration was held online successfully on 22nd May 2021, with more than 100 participants attending the program. The feedbacks on Facebook & Twitter were positive and response was encouraging. The entire program was live on Facebook.

Agenda 4: Agenda regarding Suo-Moto cognizance of nominations for various State Awards of GSBB.

MS, GSBB requested the Board members to suggest some deserving BMCs and members for various categories for State Awards of GSBB on Suo-Moto basis. Categories and details regarding awards were displayed on the screen. He updated the Board that for the first time Applied Biodiversity Research and Biodiversity Enthusiast category been introduced, this was suggested by the committee which was approved by the Chairperson GSBB. Forest Department also suggested including Forest officers who do outstanding work for the conservation of Biodiversity. Shri Amrut Singh, Shri. Charan Desai and Shri. Francisco Fernandes (Pele) name was suggested by the Board in the Biodiversity Enthusiast category. Also, it was approved that the names suggested for Suo-Moto cognizance by Board members and MS GSBB should be placed on file to Chairperson for approval and then placed before the expert committee for awards selection who will finally decide and select the awardees.

Agenda 5: a) Approval for setting up Incubation Centre of GSBB under the Prime Minister Scheme for Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME).

Board's Approval is required for setting up Incubation Centre of GSBB under PMFME scheme. MS, GSBB explained that GSBB is a Key Technical Institute for implementation of PMFME Scheme for Goa State. In PBR, traditional recipes are documented and further they can be scientifically validated, for which specific guidelines are in place. Incubation Centre could act as training facility, and may not



be restricted to food items and include other bioresources too as permitted within the scheme. Under this scheme Two crore Rupees grants are given by the Central Government and out of which one crore is exclusively for the infrastructure.

MS, GSBB informed the Board that with the efforts of Chairperson GSBB, Goa State Biodiversity Board has been allotted land of 14975 Sq.mts for setting up of Seed Bank, Ex-situ Conservatory, Incubation Centre, Herbal Cluster related facility and other activities of GSBB from time to time. In this regard he suggested that there is need to empanel Architect preferably with sustainable architecture and Company Secretary and other necessary service providers. The same was approved.

b) Under SFURTI scheme: GSBB as Implementing Agency (IA) and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be finalized.

GSBB is coordinating for State Cluster Development Committee (CDC) for setting up about 10-12 clusters which include Medicinal Plant / Herbal Cluster, Agricultural Cluster, Coir cluster, etc. GSBB is proposed as IA and selected by the State CDC as Implementing Agency (IA) and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) needs to be constituted by IA to observe the provisions under this Scheme. To manage Incubation Centre and to carry out the provisions of SFURTI Scheme a separate Entity needs to be constituted like Farmers Producers Organization or Section 8 Company (Non-Profit Company), with GSBB owning 33% of its shares or as required under the scheme. Chairperson, Member Secretary and selected Board member could be Directors of the company along with prominent individuals in this field. Chairperson GSBB suggested individuals namely Shri. Pravas or Shri. Sandesh Nanu Naik (as per their acceptability), Adv. Atrey Kakodkar and at least one or two more farmers to be the Directors of the Company. The same may be suggested by MS GSBB and shall be approved by moving a file to the Chairperson, GSBB. Board members unanimously agreed to the constitution of SPV, induction of at least 10 directors as approved by Chairperson GSBB is acceptable to the present Board members.

Agenda 6: Approval to notify Biodiversity Heritage Site at Chicalim, Curtorim, Shristhal, Rivona, etc.

MS, GSBB informed Board that till date only one Biodiversity Heritage Site(BHS) is notified by the State which is Purvatali Rai at Surla. However, there are four more under process these are at Curtorim, Shristhal, Chicalim, Rivona. In each case there



is a unique cause and reason for delay in notification. It was explained in detail but general reasons were existing differences between Panchayat and BMC on the finer details such as exact area to be notified in case of Curtorim, based on the opposition by one Shri. Gromiko from Curtorim.

In Rivona the site is under the ownership of Comunidade but during the meeting VP informed that it is leased out as mining area but there is no definite clarity hence it was decided to seek clarification in time bound manner.

Proposed Shristhal BHS is an area with a varied and rich biodiversity and there is no objection from anyone so far. However, report is done by 12-member committee including experts from GSBB and the approval of Gram Sabha and NOC is awaited. After completing the procedure, it was decided that GSBB approval is granted for notification.

Chicalim BMC had forwarded the proposal to GSBB for notification as Biodiversity Heritage Site hence if the Board approves GSBB can go ahead with the process of seeking public inputs and objections if any to the report for BHS notification which will be placed on website with intimation on newspapers after completing the necessary documentation, Gram Sabha approval and subsequently for notification on same basis as done in case of Purvatali Rai at Surla. Only after hearing the grievances if any by MS GSBB with few expert members and State level BHS Monitoring Committee, GSBB will proceed with the process of Notification of BHS.

Deputy Conservator of Forest Smt. Yasodha K. inquired about legal implications of notification as Biodiversity Heritage Site. MS, GSBB informed that once a site is notified as Biodiversity Heritage Site only traditional rights can exist and any of destructive activities which adversely affect the ecological character of the site are to be prohibited.

MS, GSBB acquainted the Board about Documentation of the site which is very detailed and tedious work and requires technical support which follows financial implications. Hence some funds need to be earmarked for this work. He proposed that Rs 50,000/- per BHS may be approved to be paid to the BMC and in case GSBB & BMC desires, then selected TSG may be awarded the work.



Dr. Chandrasheker Rivonker suggested to create awareness among the locals at the sites where they have apprehensions about this notification before proceeding with Draft notification.

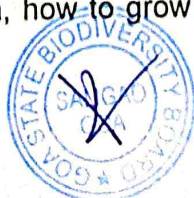
The process approved was in line with NBA guidelines wherein potential BHS area will be identified during PBR process or otherwise, BMC resolution shall be taken, then 12-member committee shall be constituted to prepare report, assistance of selected TSG may be availed if felt necessary, necessary ownership documents, maps etc. shall be procured, necessary NOCs shall be obtained, Gram Sabha approval shall be ensured after presenting the report to Gram Sabha and including their inputs. Then the proposal shall be submitted to GSBB for approval. Subsequently, it should be kept open for public inputs for at least 30 days in case the habitats do not require urgent conservation measures. The same may be notified after hearing the grievances if any and the same shall be notified by Govt. on recommendation by GSBB. In case of any dispute NBA guidelines shall be referred or advice sought and GSBB shall take the final call.

It was unanimously decided that in case of all BHS proposals, time bound action shall be expected at all levels.

Further Board approved to initiate the process of notification of above discussed sites and that they may not be again brought to GSBB unless such need is felt.

Agenda 7:For information: Engagement of Dr. Nandkumar Kamat, as Consultant, Microbial Diversity, by Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of Goa, under "Scheme for Engaging Services of Retired Resourceful Teachers" for a period of two years from 01.04.2021 to work on 'Status of Microbial diversity of Goa with special reference to mushrooms' in association with Goa State Biodiversity Board.

MS, GSBB informed the Board that Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of Goa, under "Scheme for Engaging Services of Retired Resourceful Teachers" have allocated services of Dr. Nandkumar Kamat as Consultant, Microbial Biodiversity to GSBB for two years. He has started working from 1st April 2021. In this regard presently conducted activities are - monthly meeting, preparing posters and promotional material with reference to microbial Biodiversity for GSBB, conducting trainings for BMCs and GSBB on microbial Biodiversity with emphasis on mushrooms in the State of Goa, how to grow mushrooms at home and conducting



research on mushrooms including support in identification and documentation of species. He has urged Forest Department to release an advisory to public against harvesting of the wild mushrooms from wildlife areas as it has adverse ecological consequences. In this regard Forest Dept. was advised to release advisory and take the necessary action.

Above agenda was approved by the Board members.

Agenda 8:

1. Decision regarding PMU share – Percentage of profit for GSBB

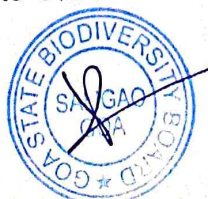
MS, GSBB briefed that the Project Management Unit which was approved under GoVan project is yet to be constituted. Under new Pattern of Assistance (PoA) funds are approved for GSBB for GoVan project. But GSBB has not decided the percentage of profit sharing on which Board approval was desired. Chairperson GSBB suggested that margin for GSBB be 10% out of which 5% for conservation and 5% for Administrative expenditure which was approved by the Board. However although present costs are as per market rates, further new rates of the product and other costs including distribution and retailer margin involved may be approved by committee constituted under GoVan central project steering and management committee.

2. Recipes of people to be branded as family recipe under GoVan (Masala, Pickle, etc.):

MS, GSBB acquainted the Board that since unique recipes are part of PBR, credit should be given to the family who created it and branded as Family recipes included in GoVAN project. Board agreed to this suggestion.

Agenda 9: Applicability of automated storage and retrievability units for Seed Bank like Digilocker in Seed bank.

MS, GSBB informed that GSBB can go ahead with Seed bank proposal approved in previous Board meeting as the area is granted for GSBB. In addition to central seed bank, which may require more time, he proposed to have units with automated storage and retrievability units for seed bank like digilocker in existing premises of GSBB and four more locations two in North and South Goa districts each. Locations and details could be placed for approval to Chairperson in Seed Bank proposal itself with total at least 5 such units to outreach in both districts for seed disbursal and



procurement. A digilocker type system is required which is digitally operated and has automatic climate control system to preserve seeds.

For Seedbank infrastructure to be instituted an Architect needs to be empaneled. Along with Company Secretary(CS) for SPV as discussed previously in the agenda no 5 a and b. In this regard, Hon. Chairperson suggested Arch. Mangesh Prabhugaonkar was suggested as he is a Conservation Architect and also empanelled with other Government agencies. Also, regarding CS, if already empanelled CS under SFURTI is available, then his services may be availed for Medicinal Plant & Herbal Cluster of GSBB.

Board approved the above propositions unanimously.

Agenda 10: Peon Vacancy to be filled (due to directions as per OM regarding cancellation of posts not filled for 7 years.)

MS, GSBB informed that GSBB doesn't have a peon and vacancy needs to be filled as it may lapse as mentioned in latest OM. Board approved the filling up of Peon vacancy.

Agenda 11: Status of:

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

2. New theme based Plantation of scheme of GSBB.

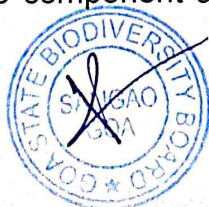
3. Colva Lake Study

Already discussed in the earlier segment of the meeting.

Agenda 12: Status of other projects of GSBB: GoVan Project/ SFURTI/ Atmanirbhar Bharat-SwayampurnaGoem:

1. Decision for allocating land for SFURTI

MS, GSBB informed Board that GSBB has requested Electricity Department to allocate land of at least 1500 square mts. which could be used to set up Multi Processing Centre (MPC) under District Mineral Fund(DMF) and collaborative projects such as Incubation Centre with KVK subject to approval on file by Chairperson GSBB. MS GSBB informed that the funds are not yet released by DMF for MPC. Expert Member Parag Rangnekar informed that since detailed estimates specifying PMU and Infrastructure component along with location are not provided



hence the funds are not released. MS, GSBB informed the Board that they will provide estimates as required on receiving communication from DMF about administrative approval for the proposal.

2. Progress of the MPC at Pale, Mode of Engagement of Staff at the Centre,

3. Using Multiproduct Processing Centre as collection point &

4. Minor Forest Produce Harvest

MS, GSBB informed that about one truck load Bayleaf was harvested this season, also some Amla, Giloy and Suranga flowers were harvested.

5. ABS signatories to be directly benefitted from GoVan project

MS, GSBB put forth the proposal to allow the ABS signatories to be directly benefitted from GoVan project and allow them to sell their products under our project. Also allow them to conduct trainings to the MPCs.

Above was approved by the Board Members.

6. Proposal from Plantify Laboratories, Borim, Ponda Goa, a plant tissue culture laboratory to identify, propagate and preserve unique species of Goan origin.

MS, GSBB informed about the proposal from Tissue Culture Laboratory that they can make tissue culture of any unique variety of plant and provide it back to GSBB.

This can be done but exclusivity of sale clause which needs to be adhered to by the Laboratory. Chairperson GSBB suggested to make the ABS agreement legally binding so that there are no violations of the clauses and is a transparent process.

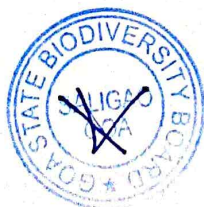
Dr. Rivonker suggested equitable sharing.

Board unanimously agreed to the Tissue Culture proposal subject to ABS agreement.

Agenda 13:

a) National review of e- PBR – Utilization of PBR printing Fund.:

For PBR preparation, State receives Rs.1,15,000/- is received by the State out of which Rs. 1 lakh is given to the BMC and remaining Rs.15,000/- to GSBB which is utilized for printing & layout purpose. The PBR should be used as important tool in decision making and planning process by various agencies of the State. The Board approved use of the GSBB component for appropriate use relevant to PBR.



b) Requisition of land from Electricity Department around the existing Multiproduct Processing Centre (MPC) at Pale, for new MPC at Pontemol. Already discussed at in the earlier segment of the meeting.

Agenda 14: Constitution of Natural Resource Accounting Cell/ SAPCC/ Climate Change Cell – Institutional Mechanism

MS, GSBB informed Board that Natural Resource Accounting Cell is instituted by CAG and MS, GSBB is also part of it.

Agenda 15: Any other point with permission of Chairperson:

a) Requests from Venkatesh Charloo for Marine protected areas study & Dr.Cazy for research

MS, GSBB informed that GSBB has received proposal from Dr.Cazy to conduct research in protected areas in the sea and document it and requests for funds. Venkatesh Charloo's proposal to conduct research. The same was approved to be circulated among Board members for further understanding and decision could be taken by circulation and emails.

b) Proposal for Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) Systems in Goa.

GSBB is in receipt of Proposal about Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) Systems in Goa in collaboration with BMCs. MS, GSBB suggested to set up a review committee to scrutinize such proposals. Shri. Parag Rangnekar recommended institutionalizing it and requesting yearly proposals. Dr. Rivonker submitted that clarity on such issues is desirable before taking decisions.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks by MS, GSBB.



Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary
Goa State Biodiversity Board