

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 39th BOARD MEETING OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB)

TYPE OF MEETING: REGULAR.

DATE: 6th June 2022; **TIME:** 4.00 PM

VENUE: "CONFERENCE HALL", 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
3.	Shri Nevil Alphonso, Director, Directorate of Agriculture	Ex Officio Member
4.	Shri. Dasharath Redkar, Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change	Ex Officio Member
5.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, GSBB	Member Secretary GSBB & Convener
5	Directorate of Fisheries represented by Shri Chandresh Haldankar, Supdt. Of Fisheries	Ex Officio Member
6.	The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests represented by Shri John Fernandes, RFO Campal	Expert Member
7.	Dr. Praveen Kumar, Director, CCARI-ICAR, represented by Dr. Manohara K.K.	Expert Member
8	Dr. Baban Ingole.	Expert Member

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



Agenda 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of 38th Board Meeting

The minutes of the 38th Board Meeting were confirmed by the Board Members present at the meeting,

Proposed by – Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, MS GSBB

Seconded by – Shri Nilesh Cabral, Chairperson GSBB

Agenda 2: Action Taken Report of 38th Board Meeting

The action taken report was presented to the members present. Action Taken Report regarding Status of proposal of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) at Rivona, Shristhal and Chicalim was discussed. MS, GSBB informed that based on the report of and requests of Shristhal BMC, several meetings were conducted with villagers and VP in presence of BMC. But was finally BHS proposal was differed by locals due to reasons which they feared will take away sacredness of the place and other reasons like outside control in their sacred spaces which they were apprehensive about BHS. Hence MS GSBB recommended the Board to accept and respect the decision by villagers which was accepted by BMC. The same was agreed by the members. Proposed BHS at Chicalim falls within Mormugao Port Trust's (MPT) jurisdiction, BMC as well as GSBB has written to the MPT and their reply is awaited. Intervention was requested by Hon. Chairperson GSBB.

About Rivona BHS, the meeting was held with the local comunidade office bearers who refused to sign the meeting attendance sheet but the meeting was held in presence of BMC and VP secretary. The comunidade office bearers did not agree to provide land for BHS in spite of explaining them the importance of the species under consideration and also that the same is not available in such a large area of almost 70,000 square meters. After the meeting, the local BMC requested GSBB to acquire the land, however land is owned by Comunidade. Chairperson suggested to acquire the land with the help of Department of Environment & Climate Change and initiate the process of BHS notification. To this Director Environment and climate change explained the process wherein the same can be done.

Regarding Automated Storage and retrievability units for seed bank, MS GSBB informed that the concept paper and basic figures / drawings are ready. Seed bank is also a part of budget assurance. Main aim is to conserve indigenous germ plasm. GSBB proposes a two way concept, conserving seeds, reviving and distribution. This project requires association with CCARI-ICAR and Agriculture Department. MS,



GSBB suggested that the committee can visit a facility wherever this system is functional. One is in Archaeology Dept. Goa and also at Pandharpur of vegetable and fruit seeds preservation. Shri Baban Ingole, Board member inquires as to who will manage the facility as the management could be outsourced. MS GSBB replied that there will be project management unit or scientific staff required as per the proposal approved by the past Board. Also, he said that CCARI and Dept. of Agriculture could be made part of central committee for seed bank. Director Agriculture said that in the coastal climate as that of Goa seeds lose their viability very quickly hence its important to replenish the seeds variety and conserve the germ plasm. To this MS GSBB informed that there will be involvement of local farmers for further propagation and multiplication of seeds in line with CCARI.

MS, GSBB informed the Board that Peon vacancy at GSBB is filled.

Regarding the ABS proposals from plantify Laboratories & Mrugaya retreat concerning ABS component, MS recommended that as decided in the last meeting, the ABS committee of the GSBB may decide about percentage of ABS and model. MS GSBB also informed about other proposals received from BRC, Goa University and Shri. Charloo regarding request for funding. Board member Dr. Baban Ingole suggested that proposals related to study of coral patches in Goa needs to be taken up as its of importance in terms of ecology and tourism. MS, GSBB informed that Board that present proposals available will be circulated to the board members to receive inputs if any.

Agenda 3: International Day of Biodiversity 2022, (IDB 2022) Celebration observed on 5th June 2022 along with Biodiversity Conservation Awards 2022.

MS, GSBB informed the Board about the IDB 2022 Celebration that was observed on 5th June 2022 (world environment day) along with conferring Biodiversity Conservation awards 2022 which was held at CSIR - National Institute of Oceanography.

Agenda 4: Suo Moto nominations from Board members for various state awards of GSBB.

MS, GSBB informed the board that the suo moto nominations from the Board members were considered based on the meeting of board members held on 30th May 2022 at GSPCB conference hall and the same were referred to the award screening



committee during its meeting at Van Bhavan under the chairpersonship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) and the final awards were conferred on most deserving candidates. MS GSBB informed that during the meeting of Board members held to discuss about criteria and reviewing of the applications, the recommendation was made to ensure that the applications of sitting Board members for the awards conferred by GSBB shall not be considered as it creates conflict of interest. The same was accepted by awards screening committee. This was further approved unanimously by the Board members.

Agenda 5: Status of

1. Mopa Airport Plantation Program

MS GSBB informed the board that as on date, number of plants attained is over 5 lakhs under the Mopa airport compensatory plantations. He further informed that IWST – Bengaluru has been appointed by Dept. of Civil Aviation to monitor the survivability of the plants. 1st draft report depicted around 75% survivability. The plants maintained by individual farmers showed maximum survivability. Final report of IWST is awaited.

2. New Theme Based Plantation Scheme of GSBB

Plantation scheme of GSBB was explained in detail by Chairperson GSBB and MS, GSBB to the Board members. An amount of Rs.7000 per tree in hard rock topography and 5000 per tree soft rock topography is charged by GSBB. Out of above, some amount (Rs.2000 out of Rs.7000 and Rs.1500 out of Rs.5000) were proposed to be retained by GSBB as overhead, contingencies and for use towards replacement of plant if it dies or take such measures as felt appropriate to ensure survivability of tree for the period of 25 years as per the scheme. Various themes under plantation scheme including smruti van wherein interested persons could plant a tree in the memory of their beloved individuals were explained. GSBB has signed a MOU with Adani spelling out in details the terms and conditions of functioning.

Chairperson GSBB informed that Agriculture and Forest Departments has land available under their control and that any possibilities of taking up plantations under this scheme by these departments should be immediately communicated to GSBB so that dedicated plantations could be taken up under GSBB plantation scheme. MS, GSBB informed Board that GSBB is advertising requesting for voluntary organizations /agencies to maintain and monitor the plantation in various locations. GSBB has received assurance from Verna Industries Association for plantation of about 150 trees



in Verna & 40 trees in Chicalim under this scheme.

All the above propositions were discussed and unanimously approved by the Board members.

3. Colva Lake Study

MS GSBB informed the board about the order of Hon. NGT wherein a specialized agency was appointed by GSBB and they have submitted the report with various options which were presented to locals. The meetings held with people and MLA were attended by GSBB including MS GSBB. However, the locals could not arrive at consensus. Chairperson suggested to bring a Sustainable architect's opinion on Board and arrive at give final decision regarding the same during the next Board meeting.

Above decision was approved by the Board members.

Agenda 6. Revision of Travel rates for using of personal vehicle for office work.

Board members discussed about the current rates for travel reimbursement and agreed that considering the rise in fuel prices it necessary to raise the travel allowance. Such utilisation of personal vehicle also helps to expedite the office work. Board agreed to raise the travel rate of two-wheeler from Rs.3 to Rs.5 and 4-wheeler travel rates from Rs.13 to Rs.18 per Km. Director Environment suggested that the seating fees as revised by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority could be adopted by GSBB. The Board members approved contents in above agenda point.

Agenda 7: Status of other Projects of GSBB

1. GoVan Project / SFURTI Cluster

Regarding Pontemol multiprocessing centre, MS, GSBB informed the Board that GSPCB consent is received and NOC from health department and Food & Drug Administration (FDA) are in process. Sales of amount 1.8 lakhs was achieved this month of GoVan products which is so far highest but the same is expected to be more. GSBB is currently negotiating with Bagayatdar to get a dedicated rack for GoVan products. Goa Shipyard limited has sponsored trip to Gandhi nagar for deputed staff to set up stall there for expo of PSUs.

Regarding SFURTI scheme 3 out of 6 clusters are approved. Eco farm multi fruit under Horticulture Corporation is approved as informed by Director Agriculture

Department. MS, GSBB informed that funds are deposited with GSBB and



departments needs to communicate the approvals to GSBB at the stage when such funds are needed so that GSBB can disburse the funds. Discussion was held about the Medicinal plants / Herbal cluster of GSBB wherein the name to be given to special purpose vehicle (SPV) to be set up by GSBB was discussed. Name of GoVan Farmers Producers Organization was approved and Hon. Chairperson was authorized by the board to select and appoint Board of directors, decide about model and working details of the proposed FPO and MS GSBB to carry out the process. The facility required would be established in the campus of GSBB along with seed bank and incubation centre of GSBB which is approved in principal and final approval is awaited from central Govt.

2. Transfer of Govt. land at Agarwada Chopdem survey no 18 to GSBB from Government for unique Biodiversity and livelihood related project

MS, GSBB informed that the file was received from CMO wherein it was understood that area admeasuring around 3 lac square meters at Survey No 18 at Agarwada Chopde is a Govt. property on a sea facing plateau area on the mountain. He suggested that under livelihood initiatives of GSBB, if locally suitable Indigenous plants having medicinal and other commercial as well as ecological values could be planted for livelihood, value addition and strengthen GSBB initiatives. He further suggested that if interested investors with capabilities of forward integration, execution, management, buy back etc. could be invited vide transparent tendering process without financial implications on GSBB. To this board Member Dr. Baban Ingole suggested that successful experiments are already done by ICAR could be replicated in this area however monoculture should be avoided. Director Agriculture suggested to visit the site and study various aspects and options in this regard. To this MS GSBB informed that committee comprising of CCARI-ICAR director, MS GSBB, One board member Shri. Rajendra Kerkar and Shri. Joglekar GSPCB is already constituted. Chairperson suggested that the process of land transfer to GSBB could be initiated by Director Environment. The same was unanimously agreed by the Board members.

3. Approval of theme park at Mopa.

MS, GSBB informed that Civil Aviation department has granted right of way for a plot admeasuring over 6000 square meters at Barajananchi Rai Mopa to GSBB. He also informed that there exists a Sacred groove inside and water tank after which still some



area will be available to develop unique theme park or unique concept depicting biodiversity and related aspects of Goa. Board suggested to organise a competition to invite ideas to develop the area sustainably with cash prize of 25000 Rs. Long term MOU of 99 years could be signed with Director Civil Aviation was agreed by the Board members. The detailed procedure and decision could be taken up by Chairperson GSBB.

4. Approval Of SPV for Herbal Cluster

As discussed above, the name of GoVan FPO was approved for the medicinal plants / herbal cluster of GSBB. Board agreed to the same.

Agenda 8: Status of Curtorim BHS

MS, GSBB informed the board that Curtorim BHS is draft notified. He also informed that Chairperson of Curtorim BMC brought to notice that some areas were left out or not notified in the draft notified area statement and he desired to include more areas in draft notification. MS GSBB informed that he has requested detailed communication from Curtorim BMC giving survey numbers of areas and other things left out as per them. Period of 60 days could be utilized to compile all such suggestions and present them before grievance committee for final decision to be proposed to GSBB.

Agenda 9: Renovation of Premises of GSBB & Expansion.

MS, GSBB informed the board that the renovation and expansion of GSBB premises is delayed due to enhanced work as the structural strength was found to be poor during actual execution and has led to financial implications of additional rent to GSPCB due to delay. The work is ongoing and with support of Hon. Minister who is also PWD minister it has been expedited. The same would be completed at the earliest.

Any other point with the permission of the Chairperson:

MS, GSBB informed that the guidelines for controlled harvesting and conservation of edible clams, critical bio-resources within the jurisdiction of BMCs are prepared by Clams Committee and submitted to GSBB. Board members unanimously agreed that the guidelines prepared by Clams committee are to be notified till the Fisheries Department issues guidelines for the same.



Meeting ended with vote of thanks by MS, GSBB.



Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary
Goa State Biodiversity Board