



**MINUTES OF THE 41ST BOARD MEETING (REGULAR MEETING)
OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB)**

TYPE OF MEETING: Regular

DATE: 13th January 2023

TIME: 04.00 PM

**VENUE: "PAC CONFERENCE HALL", GOA LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY, ASSEMBLY BLOCK, PORVORIM, GOA**

**MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY SHRI. NILESH CABRAL, HON'BLE.
MINISTER FOR 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 for Environment & Climate Change, Chairperson Goa State Biodiversity Board | Chairperson, GSBB |
| 2. | Shri. Arun Kumar Mishra, IAS, Secretary, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Secretary Agriculture, Government of Goa | Special Invitee |
| 3. | Dr. Parveen Kumar, Director, ICAR-CCARI | Expert Member, GSBB |
| 4. | Dr. Shamila Monteiro, Director, Directorate of Fisheries | Ex-officio Member, GSBB |
| 5. | Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary (MS), Goa State Biodiversity Board | Member Secretary, GSBB |
| 6. | Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest represented by Shri. D.G. Pednekar | Expert Member, GSBB |
| 7. | The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, represented by Shri. Merwyn Caldeira, Asst. Engineer, WRD | Ex-officio Member, GSBB |

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|-----|---|-------------------------|
| 8. | Director, Directorate of Agriculture represented by Asst. Director of Agriculture Shri. Anant Hoble | Ex-officio Member, GSBB |
| 9. | Dr. Baban Ingole | Expert Member, GSBB |
| 10. | Shri. Parag Rangnekar | Expert Member, GSBB |
| 11. | Shri. Nirmal Kulkarni | Expert Member, GSBB |
| 12. | Arch. Manguesh Prabhugaonkar, Senior Sustainable Architect, Expert Member GSWA | Invitee |
| 13. | Arch. Hyacinth Pinto, Sustainable Architect, PWD | Invitee |
| 14. | Dr. Bappa Das, Scientist, ICAR-CCARI | Invitee |
| 15. | Dr. Sujeet Desai, Scientist, ICAR-CCARI | Invitee |
| 16. | Shri. Suraj Sukhtankar, Company Secretary, invited to Explain Regarding Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) | Invitee |

At the onset, Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary (MS), Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) extended a warm welcome to the Board members and special invitees.

Goa State Biodiversity Board unanimously passed the resolution congratulating **Shri. C. A Reddy IFS, former MD of Goa Forest Dev. Corporation on his appointment as Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority.**

MS, GSBB also apprised the Board members that GSBB is the first Biodiversity Board in the Country to provide **the Voluntary Certification Scheme for the Traditional Healthcare Providers (VCSTCHP) by Quality Council of India (QCI)** for the successful completion of first batch of **30 Traditional Healers** selected through BMCs from Goa State. The certificates have been



rewarded to the successful healers during World Ayurveda Congress in Goa.

MS, GSBB further informed that Gazette notification of the **Guidelines to draft rules for sustainable utilization, conservation and management of Bioresources regarding harvesting of clams from the State of Goa has been gazettenotified.**

He also announced that GSBB along with Abhivyaktee have launched the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2023 pre-events at national level in collaboration with NBA which had participation of 500-600 youth in the past few years prior to pandemic. The virtual launch was held on 12th January 2023 on the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and was also attended by Dr. Sangita Mitra, Consultant-SBB, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of 40th Board Meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 03.10.2022.

The Minutes of the 40th Board meeting were presented to the Board members and the same were:

Proposed by Shri Anant Hoble from Department of Agriculture &

Seconded by Dr. Baban Ingole, Expert Member, GSBB.

Agenda 2: Action Taken Report (ATR) of 40th Board Meeting held on 03.10.2022.

MS, GSBB presented the ATR of the 40th Board meeting to the members present. He briefed about the points which are already complied with. Regarding proposed Biodiversity Heritage Site at Chicalim, communications have been made to MPT again and their reply is awaited. Regarding the theme park at Mopa Airport, approval is awaited from Director Civil Aviation,



following which ideas for the theme park would be invited from public. Regarding proposed BHS at Rivona, MS, GSBB informed that final area Statement is awaited from DSLR. He also informed that Mrugaya expeditions proposal will be placed before ABS committee for scrutiny. With respect to Agarwada Chopdem land MS, GSBB informed that NOC from forest department is awaited.

He further informed that Grievance committee to address the grievances raised for draft notification of Curtorim BHS was conducted.

The project proposal on research study on Pomburpa spring was circulated among the Board members, however, inputs received from only one Board member.

MS, GSBB informed that Dr. Nandkumar Kamat will give his presentation on activities and progress before March 2023.

Long lease to be signed regarding communication received from Green Ray Foundation is in process. Advisory to be issued towards fire crackers is under consideration. Engaging the services of Shri. N.D. Agarwal for exploring possibility of SPV for management of bioresources of Goa is in process.

Agenda 3: Colva Lake Study – Final Decision from Board Members based on inputs presented by the Special Committee of Sustainable Architect.

Initially MS GSBB explained the chronology about long pending matter under consideration by GSBB and was being continuously being followed by GSBB in its numerous board meetings, several site visits, coordination, deliberations, discussions and lots of efforts were taken to reach the concluding phase of this matter. The order of Hon. NGT was read and thereafter presentation was made by the team of architects constituted to advise GSBB in this matter.

MS GSBB explained in chronology, that this matter was first discussed in the 19th Board Meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board on 13th December 2013 wherein the complaint was made by Colva Civic and Consumer Forum Colva

on 8/10/2013 and joint inspection was conducted on 5th December 2013. This matter also was mentioned in 23rd Board Meeting held on 12th December 2014. Subsequent to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (WZ), Pune Bench, Order No. 7, dated 26th September, 2014 in M.A. No. 96/2014 in Appeal No. 13/2014(WZ) Village Panchayat of Colva, Sernabatim, Vanelim, & Gandaulim V/s GSBB &Ors. (Annexure A) wherein it was stated that "the GSBBDB (GSBB) may consider to undertake specific study through the Expert Agency, before taking final decision in the matter...", was discussed at the special meeting of GSBB held on 9th October 2014 (Annexure-B), and accordingly GSBB had approached Goa University and TERI to conduct the necessary study. However, Goa University and TERI expressed inability to conduct the study. GSBB then invited Expression of Interest as per decision taken during the Special Meeting held on 26th March, 2015 and subsequent Board meeting held on 10th April 2015.

Further, in the 25th Board Meeting held on 6th January, 2016, it was decided not to open the Expression of Interests received, as there was no budget allocation and instead an expert committee may be appointed from State Departments & experts within the State to carry out time bound study after taking legal opinion. At the 27th Board Meeting (continuation meeting) held on 19th October, 2016, Member Secretary briefed the member on a preliminary visit conducted by GSBB to Colva lake with same experts who were part of inspection that was basis of order of Hon. NGT. Efforts were also made to approach BITS, Piloni as well as seek legal opinion in this matter.

Based on above, then Chairperson, GSBB, who was also Hon'ble Chief Minister, Goa State, requested to take advice from Learned Attorney General of Goa and GSBB was directed by Hon'ble. Chairperson, GSBB, to float EOI through open tendering, in a transparent manner. Hence e - tender based on 'Quality & Cost Based Selection' (QCBS) was initiated in August 2018 and the



vendor (Eco Care Ecology Consultants) was selected by e - tender scrutiny committee comprising of four members in October 2018. Eco Care Ecology Consultants, started the work of study of Colva Lake and had submitted their report based on one year study. Meanwhile the progress of the study was reported at GSBB board meeting from time to time, such as on 32nd Board meeting held on 23rd Oct, 2019.

The completed study report was presented to GSBB and they were requested to cover more areas, provide various options in their study, during subsequent board meetings.

In 38th Board meeting of GSBB held on 6th July 2021 this matter was discussed to ensure the need for presentation of study report to VP Colva, Colva Civic Forum and also public. The same was done and reported in 39th Board meeting held on 6th June 2022 and it was informed that since there was no consensus amongst all the stakeholders, it was decided to constitute a committee of architects to advise GSBB in this matter.

In 40th Board meeting of GSBB, held on 3rd October 2022, Colva Civic Forum & Village Panchayat Colva along with BMC of Colva were invited for the board meeting and they were given opportunity of being heard by GSBB. The expert agency appointed by GSBB gave presentation along with the various options. Hon'ble MLA of Benaolim constituency was also present for this meeting. In this meeting Board members unanimously decided that the plan presented by Village Panchayat and their architect will not be accepted but based on the best options no. 4 and no.7 in the report will be further improvised by considering possible impacts on biodiversity and relooked by the committee comprising of the sustainable architect of PWD, Arch. Hyacintha and Architect Manguesh Prabhugaonkar (expert member of Goa State Wetland Authority) along with expert agency should be engaged for this task on the committee and committee will submit the finally made plan for the area without use of concrete and by using local material by adhering to NGT verdict to MS



GSBB. The same will be presented in the next GSBB Board Meeting and the final decision will be taken in this regard. This decision was taken unanimously.

In the 41st board meeting, the deliberations in this matter were as given below.

Goa State Biodiversity Board, an Autonomous Statutory Body of the Government of Goa established under Section 22 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, has been directed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Western Zone Bench, Pune, to undertake a specific study of Colva Lake, through the Expert Agency vide Order No. 96/2014, in appeal to 13/2014 (WZ), Village Panchayat of Colva, Sernabatim, Vanelim and Gandaulim V/s Goa State Biodiversity Board and others.

Order no. 7 of Hon. NGT, dated 26th September 2014 wherein Hon. NGT has directed to "consider to undertake specific study through an expert agency before taking final decision in the matter, in as much as the loss of diversity is the serious issue, notwithstanding the fact that sports activities also should be given booster dose for improving health of the younger generation, but simultaneously, it cannot be forgotten that biodiversity improves environmental status of the area, which is also likely a booster dose to improve the health of younger generation. The State has to strike the balance between two such kinds of activities and therefore, an appropriate decision making is expected from the board" (excerpts from the order of Hon. NGT). The order was read before the board members during **41st board meeting**.

MS GSBB informed the board members that subsequent to the previous board meeting, the committee constituted by the board, comprising of Arch. Hyacinth Pinto – PWD and Arch. Manguesh Prabhugaonkar in presence of MS GSBB and team had invited Village Panchayat Colva as well as Colva Civic Forum and they were invited for hearing their views, opinions and stand on the matter under consideration. Subsequent to the hearing, both the architects visited the site and based on the site inspection, they were requested to present their expert viewpoint to the board members. Arch. Hyacinth as well as Arch. Manguesh



both presented the views and arrived at the conclusion that any major development of the site would lead to a permanent impact in flow of water in this area which is like a funnel to the downstream areas and upstream storm drains, surface rainfall streams which would lead to impacts on the surrounding ecosystem. Arch. Hyacinth pointed out that in the plan submitted by Panchayat, the structure of the proposed utilities are not specified. She also suggested that a full-fledged football ground with concrete structures should not be developed however, a normal playground could be made with temporary stands if required.

Further Arch. Mangesh Prabhugaonkar presented his observations in detail and recommendations for the Colva site. He informed the Board members that since 3 villages are affected by the said Colva site along with big landmarks like church and school, there is already parking and mobility pressure on the area along with tourism pressure of Colva. The said area is about 4 m below the ground level and drains from the hamlet of villages of both side of the area come into the proposed ground site. The site acts as a funnel for the flow of water which ultimately leads to the sea. The site also hosts a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna because of its aqua-marine habitat. Therefore, before any development, it is necessary to re-consider, rethink in the interest of the biodiversity of the area and the hydrology that needs to be carefully considered.

Few points given are as below:

BUILT ENVIRONMENT should be minimalistic based on only utility oriented structures which are mandatory for basic items only like peripheral fencing and controlled entry. **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT** should be conserved with recreational parks with concepts focused on sensitive wetland strategies. **Bio diversity Parks** by integrating on site existing features like catchment areas , ponds/ lagoons , green clusters of exclusive species , bird life , aqua marine life etc . Respecting Traditional community farming in the precincts and introduce positive measures to promote agricultural activities in the neighbouring areas

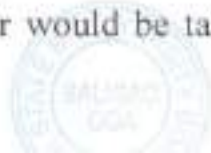
hydrology specific storm water drainage network on a holistic concept, solar grids, irrigation networks could be promoted as per WRD guidelines for smooth uninterrupted flow free of pollution.

Based on the recommendations of the aforementioned special committee of architects and based on the study report of expert agency, it was unanimously decided by the Board members that above recommendations of expert committee are accepted and decision is that minimal compaction of the minimal area required for playing football by kids / school students may be done by rearranging existing soil and creating drains on sides without bringing the soil from the surrounding area and basic temporary amenities like sitting chairs for watching children playing, temporary space for changing and toilets could be allowed using nature-friendly material. These guidelines would be communicated by order by MS GSBB, to VP Colva with guidelines and map (prepared by team of architects) as resolved in this meeting. Dr. Baban Ingole suggested that the work on the ground should be done in a supervised manner to which Hon'ble Minister, Shri Nilesh Cabral suggested that PWD shall be directed to nominate the JE of the area to supervise as well as ensure the work on ground is carried out as per the guidelines suggested above for the specified Colva site. This long pending issue was disposed off by the Goa State Biodiversity Board in today's meeting as decided above.

Agenda 4: Mhadei River Diversion – Previous action by GSBB and further strategy

MS, GSBB informed the Board members that a letter to Hon'ble. Prime Minister in regards with the agenda matter was made in 2016 and the same will be circulated to the Board members for their perusal.

All the members unanimously agreed that a resolution along with extract from all the PBRs with data pertaining to Mhadei, from all the BMCs regarding the Mhadei matter would be taken, and reports and comments from ex-officio of



other departments and experts would be compiled into a single final report. The report would be sent to Hon'ble. Prime Minister, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Central Water Commission and Mhadei Tribunal.

Dr. Baban Ingole suggested that he along with the fisheries department could create a supplementary report on the importance of freshwater fishes and their importance to local communities. Dr. Parveen Kumar, ICAR submitted their inputs on the impact of Mhadei river diversion on the agriculture. Shri. Parag Rangnekar and other board members were requested to submit their report highlighting the migratory birds and other biodiversity related impacts expected and aspects associated with Mhadei River and the impact of diversion on these birds.

Board unanimously decided to resolve its firm stand that Mhadei diversion will severely impact biodiversity in the State of Goa and hence should be opposed. The inputs from ex-officio and expert members should be submitted within 7 days and by the BMCs within 15 days of the receipt of draft of proceedings of the board meeting.

Agenda 5: Project Proposal –

- i. 'Understanding & Evaluation of ecological aspects of spring water resources – case study of Pomburpa – by Govt. College of Arts Science & Commerce, Khandola Marcela.
- ii. Proposal received by GSBB for financial assistance to "Write and Publish 04 Children's books on the theme- Goa's Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)' from Shri. Nirmal Kulkarni, Expert Board Member, GSBB.
- iii. Proposal received by GSBB for financial assistance to "Publish book regarding Sacred Grove' – by Shri. Nanda Majik

- iv. Request for sanction of additional funds for the project namely – 'Impact of Climate Change on Ichthyofauna along the coast of Goa India' submitted by Dr. Nitin Sawant, Asst. professor, Goa University.

Regarding proposal no. i. Already discussed under Agenda no. 2 ATR- Action Taken Report (ATR) of 40th Board Meeting held on 03.10.2022. It was decided to get board members inputs and process on file for Chairpersons approval in year-wise manner based on progress.

Proposal ii was unanimously approved.

Regarding proposal no. iii and iv it was decided that Shri. Nirmal and Shri. Parag could look into the proposed publication and provide approval accordingly. Regarding proposal no. iv, it was suggested that the approval for additional funding could be considered after April 2023 and the project maybe completed in the next financial year, however, the final decision regarding the approval would be given after circulation of progress report to all the Board members.

Agenda 6: Progress of Goa State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (GSBSAP).

MS, GSBB informed the Board members that the sub-committees have been working on the submission for GSBSAP, however, some sub-committees have been working at a slower pace. The timeline for submissions has been communicated to the sub-committees. He also suggested that a meeting of all the sub-committees for the preparation of GSBSAP be held in presence of Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), during his visit to Goa.



Agenda 7: Status of other projects of GSBB: GoVan Project/ SFURTI/ Atmanirbhar Bharat-Swayampurna Goem:

MS, GSBB informed the Board members that a new drier is coming up in Pale MPC under GoVan, sponsored by GEDA. Board members unanimously expressed their appreciation to GEDA for this support.

Agenda 8: Recognition related to IPR under GoVan Project, endorsement of decision by ABS committee of GSBB.

MS, GSBB informed the Board members that currently there are two criteria for IPR provision- one with due credit to the original information holder but no monetary benefit and other criteria is with monetary benefit. Dr. Baban Ingole suggested that some percentage of IPR be given to the original creator. Dr. Parveen Kumar suggested that one-time payment be made to the original IPR holder, as a token of recognition; however, continuous payment need not be made. MS, GSBB informed that currently non-monetary criteria was being followed. Hon'ble. Minister suggested that the criteria would be followed from case-to-case basis. Hence it was unanimously resolved to refer such cases to ABS committee of GSBB and based on their recommendation, MS GSBB and Chairperson could take decision on file and the board members to be apprised about such decisions.

Agenda 9: Revenue sharing model of GoVan and System for new FPO under GSBB project.

Company Secretary Shri. Suraj Sukhtankar, empanelled by GSBB for incorporating GoVan Multi-bioresource-based Producer Company Ltd. FPO was present for the meeting. He informed the Board that the name of the FPO is registered and he has been approved. He said that the drafting the Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association of the FPO is ongoing and will be



provided to GSBB. The Board discussed and unanimously decided that the ex officio members of the Board should be directors of the FPO and private individuals could be members or subscribers till the period of three years or tenure of GSBB and GSBB could appoint new board members in their place. Details in this regard may be decided by Chairperson GSBB and conveyed to the board in next meeting.

Agenda 10: Approval for sustainable and non-destructive guidelines for GoVan Project.

MS, GSBB informed the Board members that the draft guidelines would be circulated with the Board members for their inputs and then approved on file by Chairperson.

Agenda 11: Approval for BHS rules for Goa State

MS, GSBB informed due to non receipt of inputs from Board members, the BHS guidelines of NBA & those notified by other states will be circulated again among the Board members and 15 more days would be given to the Board members for suggestions and inputs regarding the BHS guidelines to be drafted for Goa State.

Agenda 12: Developing detailed BMC guidelines for Goa State.

MS, GSBB informed that BMC guidelines of NBA & those notified by other states will be circulated among the Board members for suggestions and inputs regarding the BMC guidelines to be drafted for State of Goa.

Agenda 13: Bird Institute of Goa - Empanelment as Technical Support Group (TSG) for People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)



All the Board members granted their approval for the empanelment of Bird Institute of Goa as Technical Support Group (TSG) for People's Biodiversity Register (PBR).

Agenda 14: 05 years Comprehensive Annual Report of GSBB.

Board unanimously decided that the progress of the Board is appreciated and report is approved in principle for submission before higher authorities.

Agenda 15: Any other point with permission of Chairperson.

i. Request from Maina Paddy Cultivators

Regarding Maina Paddy cultivators, it was agreed by all the Board members that since the subject does not come under the mandate of GSBB, the matter would be directed to other technical authorities/ forest department.

ii. Clarity regarding balance leave available with the staff before the receipt of OM regarding leaves availability for contractual staff (whether the leave balance available with the staff can be utilized for current contract period in addition to the number of leaves Stated in the OM)

The matter was not discussed since official from personnel department were not present for the Board meeting. This matter being administrative should be resolved by moving file and getting decision.

iii. Procedures of Biodiversity Management Committee Constitution & BMC chairperson election in cases not defined in the Biological Diversity Act, Rules and Guidelines.

MS, GSBB informed that tentative guidelines on certain crucial aspects of BMC functioning required to be informed to concerned BMCs urgently have been drafted and these would be circulated



among the Board members, for comments and suggestions, and approval would be sought for the same via e-mail.

iv. Discussion with Board regarding inputs sought from Board members on

1. Biodiversity Heritage Site guidelines

2. Amendment to the Goa Agriculture Tenancy Act, 1964 (Act 7 of 1964) to include pisciculture/shrimp culture/ aquaculture as an allied agricultural activity &

3. Vetting of taxonomic floral and faunal diversity in the States of India

All the Board members were requested to submit their inputs regarding the above matters.

v. Proposal of Sateri Lake at Penha De Franca to be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site as recommended at the GSWA 7th Technical Committee Meeting held on 12/01/2023.

As recommended by Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA), it was decided by the board members that Sateri Lake at Penha De Franca be considered to be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) after following the BHS procedure.

Meeting ended with Vote of Thanks by MS, GSBB.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Pradip Sarmokadam'.

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