



Goa State Biodiversity Board

(An Autonomous Statutory Body, Government of Goa)

First floor, Department of Science, Technology & Environment
Opp. Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Bardez – Goa 403 511

CITIZEN CHARTER

जीववैवधरक्षास्यात्जनानां भाववभूतये

ध्यानसेसांवर्धनजैव-ववववर्तिका
उज्ज्वलभवतव्यहोगाअगलीपीढीका

जतनायेनसांबाळजैव-ववववर्तयेचो
परजळीतफुडारफुडलेवपळगेचो

काळजीपूवधकजतनजैव-ववववर्तेचां
उज्ज्वलभवतव्यपुढच्यावपढीचां

Careful Conservation of Biodiversity
Bright Future for Prosperity!

INTRODUCTION

Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) is an autonomous body of Government of Goa under Department of Environment and Climate Change, situated in the premises of Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Saligao, Bardez- Goa. As per the provision made in Section 22 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for the establishment of State Biodiversity Boards, the State Government of Goa constituted the Goa State Biodiversity Board in the year 2004 vide Notification No. 07/17/92/STE/PART/858 dated: 02/12/2004, Gazette No. Series II No. 37 dated: 13/12/2004 Extraordinary No. 3. Later the Board was reconstituted vide Notification No. 07/17/92/STE/PART/625 dated: 29/08/2012, Gazette No. Series II No. 22 dated: 06/09/2012. Board was reconstituted vide Notification No. 07/17/92/STE/PART/1294, Gazette No. Series II No. 38 dated:17/12/2015. Board was reconstituted vide Notification No. 07/17/92/STE/PART/827, Gazette No. Series II No. 38 dated:29/01/2019. Board was reconstituted vide Notification No. 7/17/92/STE/Part/975, Gazette No. Series II No. 38 dated: 23/12/2021. Board was reconstituted vide Notification No. 7/17/92/STE/Part/1715, dated 20/12/2024, published in Government Gazette, Series II No. 39, dated 26/12/2024.

The Board works under the Chairmanship of Hon. Minister for Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of Goa and Dr. Pradip V. Sarmokadam is the Member Secretary of the Board. There are nine other actively involved Members on the Board, which includes 5 ex-officio members representing the concerned department of the State Government.

The Board consists of the following members:

Sr. No	Name of the Member	Address	Designation
1.	Dr. Pramod Sawant	Hon'ble Chief Minister, Secretariat – Porvorim Goa	Chairperson
2.	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests	'Van Bhavan' Goa Forest Department, Government of Goa. Panaji.	Ex-officio Member
3.	Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department	Water Resources Department, Government of Goa. Porvorim- Goa.	Ex-officio Member
4.	Director, Directorate of Agriculture	Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Goa. Panaji.	Ex-officio Member

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5.	Director, Directorate of Fisheries	Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Goa, Panaji.	Ex-officio Member
6.	Director, Directorate of Environment & Climate Change	Directorate of Environment & Climate Change, Government of Goa Panaji- Goa.	Ex-officio Member
7.	Director, Directorate of Panchayats	Directorate of Panchayats, Government of Goa Panaji- Goa.	Ex-officio Member
8.	Director, Directorate of Tribal Welfare	Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Government of Goa Panaji- Goa.	Ex-officio Member
9.	Dr. Manoj Borkar	Betalbatim, Salcete Goa,	Expert Member
10.	Shri Nelson Figuredo	Aldona, Bardez-Goa	Expert Member
8.	Prof. M. K, Janarthanam	Dona Paula, Goa	Expert Member
9.	Shri. Rajendra Kerkar	Keri, Sattari- Goa	Expert Member
11.	Dr. Parveen Kumar – Director ICAR- Goa	ICAR, Old Goa	Expert Member
	Ms. Akshatra Fernandes	Paroda Quepem Goa	Expert Member
12.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam	Curca Bambolim Goa	Member Secretary

Functions of the Board:

As per section 23 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the functions of the Board are:

- Advise the State Government, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources;
- Regulate by granting of approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization or bio- survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians;
- Performs such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 or as may be prescribed by the State Government.

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The Goa State Biodiversity Board is acting on the following lines to achieve the goal:

- a) To make people aware of the biodiversity and its importance for human well being
- b) Constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC's) at the Panchayat and Municipal level for decentralized management of Bio-resource.
- c) Documentation of Biodiversity, its uses, traditional knowledge and practices associated with it, in the form of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), involving local peoples through the concerning BMCs.

Goa SBB Mandate

Goa state is one of the richest repositories of biological diversity. It has six wildlife sanctuaries including one bird sanctuary and one National Park. The primary mandate of the Board is to conserve biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources. This Board is a body corporate under the Biological Diversity Act 2002.

GSBB has also charge of:

- 'Nodal Agency' for Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA), Govt. of Goa.
- Climate Change Secretariat / Cell and MS GSBB is 'Nodal Officer' for State Level Steering Committee for National Adaptation Funds for Climate Change (SLSC & NAFCC), Govt. of Goa.
- 'Nodal Agency' for Atmanirbhar Bharat Swayampurna Goa with DRI as knowledge partner".
- 'Key State Technical Institute' for One District One Product (ODOP) under Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME) Scheme.

CONSTITUTION OF BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (BMC):

Is a Statutory Body, Constituted under Section 41 (1) of Biological diversity (BD) Act 2002

Section 41 of BD Act 2002:

- (1) Every local body shall constitute a BMC within its area for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, Conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

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Role and Responsibility of BMCs:

1. **Conservation and sustainable utilization** of bio resources within its area of jurisdiction to ensure **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** arising out of the use of accessed Biological Resources their by -products, innovations and practices associated with their use, applications and associated knowledge.
2. Stop illegal access of bio resources within its area of jurisdiction.
3. The BMC will be involved in documentation of biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge thereby generating comprehensive information in the form of register know as **Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR)**. The prioritized list of focus areas for conservation, sustainable utilization, strengthening of traditional livelihood linkages of biodiversity should be derived from PBR leading to successful area specific conservation programmes.
4. Identification of Biodiversity Heritage Site within its area of jurisdiction.
5. **Levying charges** by way of collection fees for accessing/collecting bio-resources for commercial purpose within its area of jurisdiction, as per the provisions of the BD Act and rules.
6. Management and judicious use of Local Biodiversity Fund as per guidelines provided by the NBA and GSBB from time to time.
7. Maintain data about local **vaidyas** and **traditional practitioners** using biological resources.
8. Maintain register containing information about details of access of biological resources and traditional knowledge granted, details of collection fee imposed and **details of benefits derived and mode of their sharing**.
9. Furnishing of opinion to NBA, Chennai and GSBB on various subjects as and when required.

Ensure active participation in **decision making processes and platforms** of Local Body to uphold the objectives of biodiversity conservation and sustainability as mentioned in the prevailing legal framework with complete alertness and inclusive participatory approach at ground level.

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GSBB has constituted all the 191 Biodiversity Management Committee's (BMCs) at village panchayat level, 01 BMC at Corporation of the City of Panaji and 13 Municipal Council BMCs in the State of Goa. In all 205 BMCs are constituted at Local Body.

Local Body	No's of BMCs	One Time Start up Fund for Functioning of BMC	Funds earmarked for Documentation of PBR
Village Panchayat Level	191	₹. 60,000/- for each BMC	₹. 1,15,000/- for each BMC (₹.15,000/- from this amount apportioned to GSBB)
Municipal Council Level	13	₹. 80,000/- for each BMC	₹. 1,50,000/- for each BMC (₹.20,000/- from this amount apportioned to GSBB)
Corporation Level	01	₹. 1,00,000/- for each BMC	₹. 2,30,000/- for each BMC (₹.30,000/- from this amount apportioned to GSBB)
Total	205 Nos. of BMCs		

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SCHEMES UNDER GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

PLANTATION SCHEME:

GSBB has been entrusted with the task of taking up systematic plantation program as a part of compensatory afforestation for Mopa Airport by Director, Directorate of Civil Aviation, Govt. of Goa.

Taking this as opportunities and to further enhance the green cover of the State to achieve larger goal of conservation of indigenous forest species, GSBB has accepted this responsibility & following action plan is proposed for implementation.

- GSBB will be the nodal institution to steer the plantation scheme.
The person or institution or any other entity desirous of planting a tree and ready to pay the stipulated amount per plant will be called as **applicant** under this scheme. The person, agency, institution, department or any other entity ready to offer the space / land / area for taking up plantation, ready to take responsibility for ensuring care, healthy growth, ensuring survivability, taking up all the necessary actions towards the activities involved in nurturing the plant as well as enjoy the benefits of plantation will be called as **beneficiary** under this scheme. The Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) is the **implementing agency** for this scheme who will ensure formalities, implementation and monitoring of this scheme as per the laid down scheme.
- Procedure for availing scheme & List of Species to be planted are annexed to this scheme as schedule I (Details available on website)
- GSBB will maintain all the necessary records of the activities done and regarding the plantation scheme. Applicant will be able to know the progress of the plantation and such information will be provided to the applicant.
- The applicant shall not receive any other benefits other than the assured benefit of planting a tree in the memory or purpose as per the theme. The right to enjoy benefits of fruits, physical parts of tree and all associated benefits of tree shall be with the possessor of the land i.e., either land owner or lease holder of the land during such time. Except in case when the applicant is the beneficiary or implementing agency itself is beneficiary.
- The period of execution of this scheme will be till the feasibility of such activity.
- The arbitrations or disputes related to any aggrieved party under this scheme shall be settled by the Chairperson GSBB or by competent authority as prescribed in the prevailing legal provisions if the grievances are against GSBB.

Sub schemes with names and explanation are proposed below:

- 1. Vriksha Maitra**—Plant a sapling and treat it as a friend. One could tie a band, tree tag of friend, visit, speak to the tree and share experience on the wall specially dedicated on the website for sharing experiences on this platform exclusively treating a tree as a friend. The person has to choose one of the financial models from the table regarding cost aspects.
- 2. Smruti Van**—Plant a sapling in the memory of beloved person. Proper signage with message could be provided for display. This tree will be planted in exclusively designed Smruti Van area.
- 3. ChiranjeeviVruksh / AradhyaVruksh Yojana** - All these are for programs for newly born baby

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to commemorate lifetime association with tree. In Vrukhsa Vardhapan – Every birthday of the baby will be celebrated by celebrating birthday of a tree on same day as the birthday of baby. Photos and growth of tree will be shared with the family supporting the plant.

- a. Chiranjeevi Vruksh – The sapling will be planted with the birth of child and funds will be deposited for full life of the tree. In this scheme the trees having long life will be planted.
 - b. Aradhya Vruksh Yojana - Rashivan based on birthtime zodiac of child for those who believe will be planted as mentioned in the zodiac of a child. This tree will be part of Rashi Van only and the child / person for whom it is planted can come and worship / sit below this tree whenever desired.
- 4. Milestone Tree** – On achievements or on reaching particular age – anniver saries etc. a sapling could be planted and could become a witness to commemorate the milestone. One may have many milestones and accordingly many trees.
- 5. Specific Theme based plantations/ Earth day, World Forestry day, International Day for Biological Diversity, World Sparrow day, etc. Valentine forest, etc.** (However proposed theme should not lead to any disrespect to any other faith / belief – shall be accepted subject to approval by the committee headed by MS GSBB)
- 6. Institutional Memories**– Last day of batch or favourite teacher, departmental campus could plant a tree in memory of retired staff in his/her hands, could plant in the institute or space allocated for such plantation.
- 7. Swadesh Vriksha** - for Person of Goan Origin settled, or outsiders with roots in Goa, who wish to plant a tree in particular village in association with BMC.

(Application procedure, Schedule I – List of Trees, Formats for Availing Scheme -Form A are given in detail on GSBB website.)

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PROJECT FOR 'CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY THROUGH LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTION WITH BRAND NAME GOVAN'

GSBB started the project namely 'Conservation of Biodiversity through Livelihood intervention with brand name GoVan'. Under the project one Multiprocessing Centre (MPC) is started at Pale- Cotombi, Bicholim Goa, under which 12 women have been employed. One more MPC is under process at Pontemol, Curchorem, Goa and nine more MPCs are planned across Goa State for villages in the mining belt with support from District Mineral Fund.

Aims of the project:

1. Achieving conservation of biodiversity through livelihood interventions under the brand name "GoVan".
2. To develop a common brand which will assure that raw material to product value chain is genuinely local based and is based on principle of sustainable harvesting.
3. Developing, establishing and creating sustainable & reliable ecosystem by utilizing bioresources in appropriate manner.

Objectives of the project:

1. Livelihood generation to the people especially the women in vicinity to the MPC. Opportunities to the people in terms of employment in marketing and logistic support services.
2. Food processing and value addition of agricultural, horticultural and minor forest produce which usually gets wasted.
3. Project has many interventions such as non-destructive harvesting of minor forest produce, setting up of multiprocessing centers and buy back through direct beneficiary method.

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Goa State Climate Change Cell (GSCCC)

The Goa State Climate Change Cell (GSCCC), established under the National Mission for Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change (NMSKCC) is housed at the Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB), Saligao, Goa. The State Climate Change Cell was actuated on 10 April 2023 and acts as a bridge between research / academic institutions, government departments, voluntary organizations, Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC's), media, and the local people. The long-term mission of the State Climate Change Cell is to motivate people to protect the state's biodiversity and conserve natural resources for future generations. Further, the Cell aims to empower all with sufficient knowledge to identify the impacts of climate change in Goa and adapt to the new norms. The State Climate Change Cell works to leverage climate change-related content across all departments by promoting research, knowledge generation, and capacity building, thus connecting the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) with NMSKCC priorities of action under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

GSCCC's Focus Areas:

Climate Data Analysis: GSCCC gathers and assesses climate data from diverse sources to understand climate change impacts on Goa, driving adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Awareness and Education: The cell raises awareness about climate change among the public, government officials, and businesses. It offers training and capacity-building programs on the subject.

Policy Implementation: GSCCC aids in developing and implementing climate change policies, collaborating with government bodies and stakeholders to integrate climate change considerations into their plans.

Research and Development: GSCCC supports research on climate change science, adaptation, and mitigation, advancing understanding and fostering innovative solutions.

Key Activities:

- Crafting a state-level climate change action plan.
- Conducting vulnerability assessments.
- Advocating eco-friendly practices in agriculture, tourism, and energy sectors.
- Enhancing public awareness.
- Delivering training on climate change.
- Supporting climate change research and development.

GSCCC is a collective endeavour involving governmental entities, academic institutions, research organizations, and NGOs. It plays a crucial role in Goa's commitment to constructing a sustainable future amid the challenges of climate change.

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RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Right to information is a basic right of every citizen of India, which has been duly guaranteed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005. The Goa State Wetland Authority has appointed Public Information Officers, Assistant Public Information Officer, and First Appellate Authorities as follows:

First Appellate Authority (FAA)

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary (GSBB)
email : goanbiodiversity@gmail.com ; goa-gsbb@gov.in

Public Information Officer (PIO)

Mrs. Reshma Kerkar
Scientific and Administrative Officer, GSBB
email: goanbiodiversity@gmail.com ; goa-gsbb@gov.in

Assistant Information Officer (APIO)

Dr. Varsha Raikar Hoble
Project Assistant, GSBB
email: goanbiodiversity@gmail.com ; goa-gsbb@gov.in

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