



GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

C/o Department of Science, Technology & Environment
Opp. Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Bardez, Goa – 403511.
Website: www.gsbb.goa.gov.in E-mail: -goanbiodiversity@gmail.com

No. 21-1-2025/GSBB/Meet/ 603
To,

Dated: 31.12.2025

1. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Goa Forest Department, Van Bhavan, Althino-Panaji - Goa
2. The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Porvorim- Goa
3. The Director, Directorate of Agriculture, Panaji - Goa
4. The Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Panaji- Goa.
5. The Director, Directorate of Fisheries, Panaji- Goa.
6. The Director, Directorate of Panchayat, Panaji- Goa
7. The Director, Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Panaji- Goa.
8. Dr. Nelson Figuieredo, Aldona Bardez Goa - Expert Member, GSBB
9. Dr. Prof. M. K. Janarthanam, Bambolim, Goa – Expert Member, GSBB
10. Shri. Rajendra Kerkar, Keri, Sattari- Goa. - Expert Member, GSBB
11. Dr. Manoj Borkar - Expert Member, GSBB
12. Dr. Parveen Kumar, Director, ICAR-CCARI, Old Goa. – Expert Member, GSBB
13. Dr. Akshatra Fernandes, Mapusa– Goa - Expert Member, GSBB

Sub: Minutes of the Meeting of 45th Board Meeting (Regular Meeting) of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 17th November 2025 in the 'Conference Hall', Mantralaya, Porvorim, Bardez-Goa.

Sir,

With reference to the above mentioned subject, please find attached vide email the **Minutes of the Meeting of 45th Board Meeting (Regular Meeting) of Goa State Biodiversity Board(GSBB)** held on 17th November 2025 in the 'Conference Hall', Mantralaya, Porvorim, Bardez-Goa.

Please note that the hard copy of the Minutes shall not be circulated unless specifically requested. Kindly acknowledge the receipt of this communication.

Thanking you.



Yours faithfully,

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary, GSBB

Copy to: - O.S.D to Hon. Chief Minister of Goa; Minister for Environment & Climate Change; Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB).

जीववैविध्यरक्षास्यात्जनानां भाविभूतये

ध्यानसेसंवर्धनजैव-विविधताका
उज्वलभवितव्यहोगाअगलीपीढीका

जतनायेनसांबाळजैव-विविधतायेचो
परजळीतफुडारफुडलेपिळगेचो

काळजीपूर्वकजतनजैव-विविधतेचं
उज्वलभवितव्यपुढच्यापिढीचं

Careful Conservation of Biodiversity
Bright Future for Prosperity!

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 45th BOARD MEETING OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

TYPE OF MEETING: Regular

DATE: 17th November 2025

TIME: 8.10 PM

VENUE: 3rd FLOOR "CONFERENCE HALL" MANTRALAYA,
PORVORIM, GOA

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY DR. PRAMOD SAWANT, HON'BLE
CHIEF MINISTER OF GOA AND MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT &
CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF GOA, CHAIRPERSON, GOA
STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD.

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1	Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa and Minister for Environment & Climate Change, Chairperson Goa State Biodiversity Board	Chairperson GSBB
2	Shri. Sachin Desai, Director, Department of Environment & CC	Ex-officio Member
3	Shri. Ramesh Kumar IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Goa Forest Department, Van Bhavan, Panaji Goa	Ex-officio Member
4	Dr. Parveen Kumar, Director of CCARI - ICAR	Expert Member
5	Shri. Sandeep Faldessai Director, Directorate of Agriculture,	Ex-officio Member
6	Shri. Mahadev Arounkar Director, Directorate of Panchayat	Ex-officio Member
7	Chief Engineer – WRD	Ex-Officio Member

8	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board Goa	Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board & Convenor
9	Rep. from Dept of Fisheries	Ex-officio Member
10	Shri. Rajendra Kerkar	Expert Member
11	Shri. Nelson Figueredo	Expert Member
12	Ms. Akshatra Fernandes	Expert Member

Department of Tribal Affairs, Directorate of AHVS,Expert Member Dr. Manoj Borkar, were unable to attend the meeting.

At the onset, Dr Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Chairperson of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB), extended a warm welcome to the members of the Board for the 45th Board Meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board.

Member Secretary of Goa State Biodiversity Board introduced all the members present for the meeting. With the permission of Chairperson of GSBB, M.S. of GSBB presented the agenda of the meeting to all the members of the Board for detailed discussion and deliberation.

Following agenda items were taken for discussion

1. Confirmation of the proceedings of 44th Board Meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held on 16.12.2024.

M.S of GSBB presented minutes of 44th Board meeting held on 16/12/2025 and the same was proposed by Dr. Baban Ingole Expert Member of GSBB and seconded by Shri. Rajendra Kerkar.

The Minutes of 44th Board meeting held on 16/12/2025 were unanimously approved by all the members of GSBB.

2. Action Taken Report of 44th Board Meeting of GSBB held on 16.12.2024.

M.S. GSBB presented the action taken Report of 44th Board Meeting of GSBB held on 16.12.2024 was explained in detail.

The action taken report was discussed in the meeting as given below:

a) Regarding the handover of write-up by Chairperson to WRD from GSBB on Mhadei River diversion

Draft resolutions have been submitted to Chairperson of GSBB for handing them over to WRD and GSBB to follow up the Matter. Hon. Chief Minister assured to do the needful as Chairperson GSBB.

b) Guidelines for management of BHS

Draft of BHS guidelines is to be reviewed by Board members, as the inputs from Legal Advisory Group (LAG) are included (Guidelines have been vetted by LAG) and then to be sent for legal vetting to the Law Department. GSBB to follow up on the same.

c) Chicalim Bay: Habitat of the endangered species of Goa (*Placuna placenta*). GSBB to write letter to Captain of Ports (COP) with a request to demarcate the exact extent of area to be declared as BHS for presence of *Placuna placenta* at Chicalim Bay and submit the plan on file for further process.

d) Rivona Plateau

The past efforts and activities were briefed to the GSBB members and it was decided in the meeting that since area proposed for BHS is large area and the species of *Dipcadi Goanese* is also sighted at few more locations in Goa, there is need to decide about the extent of area to be considered for notification and it was felt advisable to have one consultation with local MLA of that area regarding finalising BHS area therefore GSBB to fix one meeting with local MLA, Sarpanch and BMC to discuss on declaring BHS in Rivona Village. This meeting could be attended by expert members of GSBB.

Above agenda items were unanimously approved by the members of GSBB.

3. Suo-Moto approval for nominations of Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards 2025.

M.S. of GSBB presented the recommendations of Award Screening Committee headed by PCCF and explained in detail the different categories of annual awards of GSBB. MS GSBB provided details of all the awardees nominated for this year under various categories of GSBB Awards. The details were displayed on the screen for the information of all the members present. He further sought advice from Chairperson, whether these awards should be clubbed with awards given during Goa Liberation day, to which Chairperson of GSBB suggested that GSBB award function is unique and awaited by biodiversity enthusiasts and lovers and hence there should be a separate award function for GSBB awards as per the ongoing precedent. He further reiterated that the necessary funding shall be ensured by Govt. of Goa through grants.

The list of awarded approved by GSBB as suggested by award screening committee are placed below.

Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards 2025

BMC CATEGORY (NORTH GOA)	
WINNER (Manpatra, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 50000/-)	Parcem BMC
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Siolim Sodiem BMC
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	NIL
BMC CATEGORY (SOUTH GOA)	
WINNER (Manpatra, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 50000/-)	Navelim BMC
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Verna BMC
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Barcem Quedem BMC
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Cana Benaullim BMC

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY (NORTH GOA)	
WINNER (Manpatra, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 25000/-)	Dr. Baban Ingole
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Chetan Shantaram Talwar
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Romaldina Fernandes

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY (SOUTH GOA)	
WINNER (Manpatra, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 25000/-)	Datta Shambhu Naik
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Vaidya Rohidas G. Gaude
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Vaidya Francisca Gaude
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Pandurang Patil

APPLIED BIODIVERSITY RESEARCHER	
WINNER (Manpatra, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 25000/-)	Dr. Bernard Felinov Rodrigues
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Dr. Sujata Dabolkar
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Dr. Suhas Shetye

GREEN JOURNALIST	
WINNER (Manpatra, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 25000/-)	Gauree Malkarnekar
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Prasad Ravindra Sawant
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Gurupreet Singh
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Nidha Sayyad

BIODIVERSITY ENTHUSIAST (NORTH GOA)	
WINNER (Manpatra, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 15000/-)	Gajanan Shamsundar Shetye
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Ali Sab (rescuer Forest Dept)
Other Names suggested	
APPRECIATION	Jairam Gaonkar
APPRECIATION	Alkesh Mistri
APPRECIATION	Sanjay Hondkar
APPRECIATION	Vishal Rawley
APPRECIATION	Vinay Gauns

BIODIVERSITY ENTHUSIAST (SOUTH GOA)	
WINNER (Manpatra, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 15000/-)	Rocky D'Costa
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Francisco Camilo Fernandes (Pele)
APPRECIATION (Certificate, Memento and Cash prize of Rs. 10000/-)	Joao Souza Mergullao
Other Names suggested	
APPRECIATION	Vishant Bandekar
APPRECIATION	Dristhi Marine
APPRECIATION	Reef Watch

**Special recognition for the Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards 2025
(Certificate & Memento only)**

This will be decided on file approval based on review by GSBB mentors and MS GSBB

Special Appreciation for contributing to BMC (2025) (Certificate, memento, cash prize)

Names	BMC	Designation
This will be decided on file approval based on review by GSBB mentors and MS GSBB		

GSBB members unanimously approved the above agenda.

4. Goa State Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan – Status for information & approval to hold stakeholder meeting for (HODs & MLAs).

MS of GSBB, informed that Goa State Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (GSBSAP) can be finalized after including the inputs from various consultations. He informed that the consultations were carried out at various levels in both districts. He also informed that as approved on file by the previous chairperson CEE was appointed to prepare a chapter on public consultations and send it to Subcommittees and the core committee for approval. However, during the consultations with voluntary organisations, the additional consultation was demanded specifically with the MLAs of the State along with HoDs before final approval of GSBSAP. Chairperson and members approved the same and decided that after incorporation of inputs and after validation by sub-subcommittees as well as core committee members, it could be circulated vide email to the Board members and thereafter put up to Govt. for final approval.

5. Extension of the terms of ten committees of GSBB.

M.S. GSBB presented the details of different committees and members constituted under GSBB and their advisory roles. The details were displayed on the screen for the information of all the members present. M.S. GSBB informed that there are almost ten committees constituted under the Board to work in different fields; however their terms had expired and same need to be extended for further period to be co-terminus with term of GSBB. MS GSBB suggested present members of all ten committees may be continued; however requested all members of Board to suggest changes in any member from any of the committees within 7 days from the date of

the communication after which the same will be approved on file for approval of all ten committees and the Hon. Chairperson shall decide the final constitution.

6. Decision regarding skeletal Staff of GSBB.

M.S. GSBB informed Board members that all the staff working under Goa State Biodiversity Board including State funded staff, state funded project staff, staff under the outsourced staff grant scheme of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Staff of Climate Change Cell funded under Dept. of Science and Technology, Delhi under NMSKCC central scheme are all on contract. The few staff members granted through State grants under Pattern of Assistance, who have been working for more than 7 to 10 years could be considered for regularisation of service as skeletal staff. M.S. GSBB requested that services such as contract staff may be regularised in GSBB. All the members deliberated and, after a detailed discussion, decided to approve the skeletal staff for GSBB from the state-funded staff, those who are in a prolonged period of Staff. Also, Chairperson, GSBB and members approved the applicability of Provident Fund to the eligible staff of GSBB and suggested to get advice from the Personnel Dept. and move the file for approval.

The members of GSBB approved the above agenda unanimously.

7. Regarding initiatives of GSBB: (GoVan Project; NMSKCC Project; Key State Agency for ODOP; Branding & Marketing PMFME Project; Salt Pans Task Force; Land Slide Committee; Calangute Community Seed Bank; Ranbhaji Mahotsav; Mopa Road Median plantation)

The above initiatives of GSBB were presented to the board members. Further, it was decided that since there are separate meetings on the GoVan project and Salt Pan task force, those aspects would be discussed during the separate meetings soon after GSBB meeting. Board members were informed about these initiatives of GSBB.

Brief presentation on activities of GSBB –

MS GSBB gave a brief presentation on all the activities and programmes conducted by GSBB in various fields and on different platforms. GSBB is working at the grassroots level for conservation, awareness and sustainable use of Biodiversity.

MS GSBB provided the details of compensatory plantation as part of Mopa airport project, supported by the Director of Civil Aviation and initially by GMR for plants purchase, wherein over 6.5 lac saplings were planted through BMCs, farmers and local bodies. Also, the plantation scheme of GSBB and the progress so far was explained.

Project on 'Puran Sheti' revival & other scientific projects – Funding request

GSBB had supported the project in collaboration with Goa University for the revival of Puran Sheti which had been discontinued after 2006. He also briefed about the

financial and other administrative as well as technical support provided by GSBB and outcomes of other projects awarded. He explained that these projects were supported to institutions wherein BMCs were also roped in for research support on ground wherever it was necessary. Also it was discussed that after completion of People's Biodiversity Registers there is conservation focus derived and further conservation program or research is required. Hence initiative was taken to collaborate with Goa State Research Foundation which mainly supports academic research. However specific need based and problem based research could be initiated based on the GSBB experience on the ground. The need of funds required by GSBB was emphasized and request was made to Chairperson. Chairperson, GSBB agreed that the funds may be allotted for such activities, to which all members unanimously agreed.

Above agenda points were unanimously approved by GSBB members.

8. Regarding New Campus of GSBB - Funding request.

MS GSBB requested the need of funds for maintenance of the existing garden within GSBB office complex and also for plantation and landscaping with native plants within the new campus of GSBB, and making a compound wall for the same. It was decided to directly engage the agencies for a specific task by inviting quotations and tendering as may be desired in the codal procedures.

This agenda was approved by all members of GSBB.

9. Publications of GSBB- Funding request for reprinting.

GSBB has many informative publications on biodiversity of Goa and toolkits as well as other publications which are in demand by academicians, researchers, scientific community, students and the general public. Also, these publications are gifted to eminent personalities and dignitaries visiting Goa State by CMO and GSBB. MS GSBB suggested that these publications need to be reprinted to meet the demand, and hence there is a need for funding for the same. MS GSBB requested the Chairperson to allot finance for such publication.

The agenda was unanimously approved by members of GSBB.

10. Regarding request from GEDA for 2,000 sq metres land allotted to GSBB

The MS GSBB informed about the request by GEDA to provide an additional area admeasuring 2000 sq meters from the land already allotted to GSBB for their biomass briquetting facility established through the agency. This was deliberated and Chairperson was authorized by GSBB to take appropriate decision on file.

The agenda was unanimously approved by members of GSBB.

11. New Schemes under GSBB

- a) **Scheme of Salt Pans**
- b) **Scheme for financial assistance to BMCs for upgradation and maintenance of BMC office facilities.**
- c) **Scheme for financial assistance to BMC, PBR and Conservation initiatives.**
- d) **Scheme of Godhan.**
- e) **Scheme of Biodiversity Gardens.**

GSBB board unanimously agreed to approve all the above Schemes, and decided to put up to the Govt. for the necessary approvals from the finance department. Expert member Nelson Figueredo requested that the funds should also be allocated for conducting awareness programs by BMCs and could be clubbed in scheme for financial assistance to BMCs. The same was unanimously approved by GSBB members.

12. Approval of Annual Reports & status of Audit Reports of GSBB.

M.S. GSBB informed to Board Members Status of GSBB Audit done till year 2021 and remaining is ongoing. The annual report presented to NBA was presented and main activities were covered in aforementioned agendas.

The agenda was unanimously approved by GSBB members.

15. Briefing regarding empanelled CA, vendors & other services.

Board was informed about empanelled CA Swati Shere Rane and Associates, Pugmark Art Gallery for designing and printing of publications based on selection in previous tenders and proposed that due to their satisfactory services may be continued for further one year.

The above agenda was unanimously approved by GSBB members.

16. Any other point:

As per inputs received from Shri. Rajendra Kerkar, Expert Member, GSBB to consider proposal to explore some sites in Goa for presence of Precambrian era fossilized rocks by engaging Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow. Since GSBB is planning to revive its projects as mentioned at above Agenda, a fresh proposal may be invited from BSIP and approval may be sought for the same.

The above agenda was unanimously approved by GSBB members.

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



Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam
Member Secretary, GSBB