

**MINUTES OF 15th MEETING OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY
(GSA)**

TYPE OF MEETING: REGULAR MEETING.

DATE: 24th JANUARY 2024;

TIME: 3.30 PM Onwards

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

**THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY SHRI. ALEIXO SEQUEIRA, HON.
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND
CHAIRPERSON OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY.**

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri. Aleixo Sequeira, Hon. Minister for Environment & Climate Change	Chairperson GSWA
2	Shri. Johnson Bedy, Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Member Secretary, Goa State Wetland Authority (GSA)	Member Secretary, Goa State Wetland Authority (GSA)
3	Dr. Shamila Monteiro, Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board	Member (Ex-Officio)
4	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board	Member (Ex-Officio)
5.	Shri. Krishnakant S. Patil, Superintending Engineer, representative of Chief Engineer, Water Resource Department	Member (Ex-Officio)
6.	Smt. Preetam Naik, Supdt. Of Fisheries, Representative of Directorate of Fisheries	Member (Ex-Officio)



7	Shri Pravin Parsekar, Assistant Engineer, Water Resource Department.	Special Invitee
8.	Dr. G. N. Nayak, Retd. Professor, Department of Marine Science.	Expert Member GSWA
9	Arch. Mangesh Prabhugaonkar, Landscape Architect	Expert Member, GSWA
10.	Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Department of Economics, Goa University	Expert Member, GSWA
11.	Shri. Devanand Kavlekar, Senior Technical Officer, CSIR-NIO, Dona Paula	Expert Member, GSWA
12	Shri. Sreekanth G.B. ICAR-CCARI,	Expert Member, GSWA
13.	Smt. Asavari Kulkarni, Environment Officer, V.M. Salgaocar & Brother Pvt. Ltd.	Co-opted Member, GSWA
14.	Arch. Hyacinth Pinto, PWD, Sustainable Architect empanelled by GSWA	Special Invitee
15	Shri Chandan Shirodkar, Asst. Supdt Fisheries	Representative of Directorate of Fisheries
16	Shri. Mayur M. Borkar, (JE) S.D. WDXII, WRD Quepem	Representative of WRD
17	Shri. Apricio D'Costa, SD I, WD II WRD	Representative of WRD
18.	Dr. Mandar Nanajkar, Scientist, CSIR- NIO	Special Invitee
19.	Dr. Akhil V.P., CSIR-NIO	Special Invitee

Note - For the meeting Secretary (Forests), Secretary(Urban Development), Secretary (Rural Development), Secretary (Water resource), Secretary (Tourism), Secretary (Revenue), Director, State remote sensing centre, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the regional center of MOEF&CC, Shri. Mahesh Patankar (coopted member GSWA), were unable to attend.

At the outset, Chairperson GSWA, Shri. Aleixo Sequeira, extended a warm welcome to the Chairperson and the Members to 15th Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) Meeting.

The following Agenda was transacted:

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 14th Authority Meeting.



The Minutes of the 14th Authority Meeting of GSWA were placed before the Authority members for confirmation. The same was confirmed.

Proposed by Dr. G. N. Nayak, Expert Member GSWA, Retd. Professor, Department of Marine Science.

Confirmed by Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Expert Member GSWA, Department of Economics, Goa University

Agenda 2: Action taken report of 14th GSWA meeting

HNA, GSWA informed the authority that agenda no.1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10 were complied with and agenda no 4 and 8 are in progress.

Agenda 3: Final notification of wetlands without any grievances during draft notification period.

The wetlands, for which no grievances were received during the draft notification period were presented to the authority. The Authority deliberated and agreed that Parra lake (Parra Bardez), Macasana lake (Macasana Salcete), Bandolem lake (Sancoale Mormugao), Sapu lake (Ambelim Salcete), Talaulim lake (Wadi Talaulim Ponda) are approved for final notification.

Regarding Lamgao Lake authority directed to communicate to the Directorate of Mines & Geology and confirm whether the Lamgao lake belongs to any mining lease.

Regarding Lakes in Shiroda it was informed to the Authority that communication was received from the local Member of Legislative Assembly by the chairperson GSWA that more time is required to conduct the public consultations with the locals and hence the same may be kept aside on hold for more time. Members deliberated and unanimously decided to accept the request.



Agenda 4: Decision regarding consideration of recommendations by the Technical Committee and Grievance Committee.

The Authority members deliberated and decided that the above agenda will be decided in consonance with Agenda no.6.

Agenda 5: Discussion about final notification of wetlands wherein the grievances are resolved by the Grievance Committee in the Grievance Committee Meeting.

The HNA, GSWA and MS GSWA presented before the Authority the Wetlands for which Grievance Committee resolved the grievances and recommended the following for final notification namely Kolamwada Lake (Bicholim), Panchami Lake (Ponda), Karmale Lake (Ponda), Betal Lake (Ponda). After deliberations, authority members unanimously approved the above lakes for final notification.

Agenda 6: Deliberation regarding grievances received by the various stakeholders to allow construction of permanent structures in Buffer Zone in own plots/land owners, in line with prohibited and regulated activities as per Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 and pre-existing rights and privileges.

MS GSWA and HNA, GSWA informed that Grievance Committee, after hearing the grievances during the last meeting recommended that authority may consider approval to the individuals to build single dwelling units wherein locals have bought or are owning the land around the lake in the buffer zone and aspire to keep it for their future generation. Authority members deliberated in detail about the possibility whether it can be incorporated in brief document of each wetland and considered as on “account of pre-existing right or privilege” as mentioned in sub rule 1 (d) of rule 7, which deals with “delegation of powers and functions to the State Governments” read along with (e) list of site-specific activities to be permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence; (f) list of site specific activities to be regulated within the wetland and its zone of influence; and (g) modalities for enforcement of regulation; However further members also discussed about the restrictions enlisted in under Rule 4 of Wetlands



(Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 which states that under rule 4.sub rule 2 (vi) any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules is prohibited. While the authority members were inclined to help the aggrieved individuals and families owning the area in the buffer zone, members unanimously felt that main mandate of GSWA is conservation and wise management of wetland and that authority cannot contradict the Wetland (C & M) Rules 2017. Hence finally it was decided that GSWA should obtain legal opinion on this matter and take up this agenda in the next meeting of authority.

Agenda 7: Grievance hearing forwarded by the Grievance Committee regarding Orlim Lake (Orlim – Salcete), Diuler Lake and Vodle Lake (Benaulim – Salcete) and Maem Lake (Mayem – Bicholim)

MS GSWA and HNA, GSWA informed the Authority that grievance committee has forwarded few grievances related to Orlim Lake, Diuler Lake, Vodle Lake & Mayem Lake. The same were invited for hearing in order as given below.

Orlim Lake:

The members present from Orlim were namely Roy Miranda, Jeremy Miranda, Saimon Pereira, Kim Miranda, Ida Dias, Donato D'Costa & Keith Gracias.

Keith Gracias presented the view that as per Code 1903 Comunidade was dissolved in Orlim and it was decided that owners/ farmers will manage the lake by themselves and that the locals do not support the wetland notification. Further the prohibition of new construction in the buffer zone will also affect the residents who have their properties in the buffer zone with the intentions to build for future generation.

Kim Miranda informed the Authority about the Gram Sabha resolution not to mark the area of Orlim lake as Wetland and further denotify the wetland notification. She presented her view in detail that the Orlim Lake does not categorise as wetland as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017. She further pointed that there



exist many errors whilst preparing the Brief Document by CSIR-NIO. Members also heard the other members in detail who had similar views.

Chairperson GSWA, after hearing directed CSIR-NIO to re visit Orlim lake and prepare the Brief Document and present it again to the Technical Committee of GSWA for re-confirmation whether Orlim Lake qualifies as wetland as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 and then refer the same back to the Authority for final decision.

Lakes in Benaulim:

From the Village of Benaulim there was no representative for the Authority meeting.

Mayem Lake:

Kapil Painguinkar and Vinita Shetye were present representing GTDC.

Authority decided that GSWA shall defer the matter for this meeting and take it in the next authority meeting.

Agenda 8: Matter regarding addition of extra area and Survey numbers in the draft notification of Kodal Lake and submission of undertaking by Shri. Prakash Hede.

The matter was explained by Member Secretary GSWA and HNA GSWA about inputs from grievance committee to decide about adding extra area and survey numbers in draft notified Kodal lake which is placed for final notification. After reading the order by District Magistrate and assurance by the land owner that the flowing stream will be maintained. Additionally there are guidelines to demarcate Zone of Influence formulated by GSWA Experts & Technical Committee constituted by GSWA hence the members of the authority collectively decided that GSWA shall adhere to the original draft notification of Kodal Lake but shall not add additional area. However, WRD may be informed to monitor to ensure the compliance to the existing order and maintaining ecological character of notified wetland. Also communication was made to Water



Resource Department to protect water resources beyond the notified wetlands. , the same was approved for final notification without additional area.

Agenda 9: Condonation of delay with respect to finally notified wetlands.

HNA, GSWA informed about a communication received from owner Shri Dr.A.G. Kamat Dhakankar of plot at finally notified Carambolim Lake, who the proposes that his grievance be considered even after expiry of draft notification period. The Authority decided that once the final notification is published, further grievances cannot be considered in such matters.

Agenda 10: Presentation by WRD regarding proposed beautification at Nanda Lake(Ramsar site)

The Authority unanimously decided that since in the previous authority meeting the Framework Management Plan prepared by Arch. Hycinth Pinto, was already approved in principle, the officials of Water Resource Department and Arch. Hycintha Pinto should collaborate and formulate a common proposal for the Nanda Lake for presentation to the authority by ensuring that there should be no duplication.

Agenda 10: Any other matter with the permission of chair

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Member secretary, GSWA.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pradip Sarmokadam", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam
Head of Nodal Agency,
Goa State Wetland Authority