

MINUTES OF THE 16th GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA)

TYPE OF MEETING: REGULAR GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

DATE: 21st AUGUST 2024; **TIME:** 2.00 PM ONWARDS

VENUE: 1ST FLOOR, MANOHAR PARIKAR SABHAGRUHA, RAVINDRA BHAVAN BAINA, VASCO - GOA

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY SHRI. JOHNSON FERNANDES, CO-CHAIRPERSON, GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE (GC) OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA).

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri. Johnson Fernandes, Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Member Secretary, Goa State Wetland Authority(GSWA)	Co-Chairperson
2.	Adv. Sapna Mordekar	Member
3.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Head of Nodal Agency (HNA) for GSWA & Member Secretary (MS), Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB)	Convenor
4.	Premkumar Singh, Avval Karkun, representative of The Collector, North Goa	Representative of Collector North Goa
5.	Ms. Nadia Shekoli, Deputy Director, Department of Urban Development	Ex-officio member
6.	Shri. Mayur Borkar, Junior Engineer, Water Resource Department	Representative of WRD
7.	Smt. Senia Pereira, Sarpanch, Village Panchayat Cortalim	Special Invitee
8.	Shri. Francisco X. Fernandes, Chairperson, Biodiversity Management Committee Cortalim	Special Invitee

- The attendance for the Grievants present for the 16th GC meeting is attached herewith.



At the onset, Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA extended a warm welcome to the members of the Grievance Committee of GSWA. Co-Chairperson was authorized by the Chairperson of the Grievance Committee to Chair the meeting through valid communication. The following Agenda was transacted:

Agenda 1: Personal hearing to the objections regarding draft notification of Vhodle-Dhakte Lake (Cortalim)

At the onset HNA, GSWA explained in brief the entire process of Wetlands Identification & Notification in the State of Goa as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017. He informed that Space Application Centre in year 2009 prepared National wetlands Atlas and depicted the presence of 550 waterbodies in the State of Goa. Further Government of Goa entrusted the task of segregation of these waterbodies and preparation of Brief Documents to CSIR- National Institute of Oceanography. After the segregation and removing the waterbodies falling under CRZ Regulations, Forest laws and mining pits, temple ponds, Goa State Wetland Authority finally identified 44 waterbodies as wetlands. The Brief documents Once approved by GSWA the wetlands are draft notified for 60 days wherein its open to receive objections & suggestions. After receiving the grievances, the grievances are addressed by the Grievance committee of GSWA. Once the Grievances are addressed, GSWA takes final decision regarding final notification of Wetland.

Following which the grievances were addressed.

Dattaram Raul

The grievant was present in person and informed that he has ongoing construction of house and has necessary documents and permissions for the construction.

The GC decided to refer the grievance to the GSWA.

Isidoro A. Tome Carvalho

The Grievant was represented by his son Adv. Laban Carvalho, presented that view that the 5 meter setback allowed to the existing structure should be circulated to the grievants. HNA, GSWA informed that 5 meter setback from the existing structure is decision of the authority taken in the 7th Authority meeting and the same is available on the GSWA official website.

Pramod Motisingh Chatri & Rupa Pramod Chatri



The grievant was present in person and informed the committee that he has plot in survey no.218/1 and has valid sanad and he intends to construct in the same area which falls in wetland notification.

The GC decided to refer the grievance to the GSWA as it is beyond the purview of Grievance Committee.

Tyrone D'Souza

The grievant was present in person and informed that he already has existing house in the wetland notification and if he intends to sell or renovate and repair whether he will be allowed.

GC informed that there is no bar on selling of the property under Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 and repair/renovation of the existing house is allowed subject to the permission from other concerned authorities.

Surendra B. Naik

The grievant was present in person and informed that there is already existing house and has already renovated the house whether he will be affected by wetland notification.

GC informed that he won't be affected by the wetland notification and all the pre-existing rights & privileges will be protected.

Sanjay N. Patil

The grievant was present in person and informed the committee that he has plot and has and he intends to construct in the same area which falls in wetland notification in future.

The GC decided to refer the grievance to the GSWA.

Adv. Timple represented that following grievants namely Jogi V. Naik, Manuel Vaz, Vithal Angadkar, Aninha Silva, Jasmina D'costa, Francisquinha Mendes, Joaquim Vaz, Filipa Azredo, Navnath Dhuri, Antonio Gomes Evaz, Diogo Vaz, Joaquina Gomes, Alice Fernandes, Francis Lobo, Mariana Lobo, Joao Mendes, Caitana Moura, Joaquina eVaz, Antonio Vaz, Joaquim Vaz, Pedro Vaz, Aninha Aninha Silva, Bento Mendes.

He presented inquired how the extent of the wetland was decided and the said area was paddy field, and after the railway line passed the water logging started.



Member Secretary, GSWA informed that as per Rule 4(2)(VI) of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 the extent is decided by mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of wetland rules.

The legal counsel further stated that it is the water logging which is considered as wetland & entire paddy field area is marked as wetland is incorrect and needs to re-examined and reduce the core wetland.

It was decided by GC that viewpoint needs to be heard by the authority hence referred the same to the Authority.

Vincent Pereira Verbina Emelia Rodrigues Diego Gama: absent

St. Philip & James Church

The Grievant was represented by Reverend Prof. R. Diniz presented the view that the use of google imagery of mapping of the waterbody may be erraraneous.

Member Secretary, GSWA explained that LISS- IV data is used for the preparation of brief document by the CSIR-NIO and not mere google imagery.

He further stated that his plot falls in survey no.124/1 and 127/1 and the wetland notification puts undue restrictions on the usage of their land for agriculture purpose.

The GC informed that the pre-existing rights & privileges are protected and included in draft notification and farming/agriculture is permitted activity within wetland notification as per Rules 7(1) d of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017.

Ramkrishna Yeshwant Narvekar

The Grievant stated that has existing house and whether there will additional permissions required to be taken for renovation.

GC informed that repair/renovation of the existing house is allowed subject to the permission & compliances from other concerned authorities and applicable laws governing the activity.

Melwyn Vaz

The Grievant stated that has existing house and whether there will additional permissions required to be taken for renovation.



GC informed that repair/renovation of the existing house is allowed subject to the permission & compliances from other concerned authorities and applicable laws governing the activity.

Maria Bertha Monetiro

The grievant was present in person and informed that if she can construct and if she intends to sell whether it will be allowed in the plot no.17.

GC informed that there is no bar on selling of the property under Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 and repair/renovation of the existing house is allowed subject to the permission from other concerned authorities.

GC decided to refer the matter to authority regarding new construction in the 50 meter from mean high flood level.

Ana Francisca Mascarenhas

The grievant was present in person and informed that if she can construct and if she intends to sell whether it will be allowed in. the plot no.126/1-O.

GC informed that there is no bar on selling of the property under Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 and GC further informed that repair/renovation of the existing house is allowed subject to the permission & compliances from other concerned authorities and applicable laws governing the activity.

GC decided to refer the matter to authority regarding new construction in the 50 meter from the mean high flood level.

Jude Pereira

The grievant stated that his grievances are already resolved during the previous grievance redressal.

He also placed the fact before the committee that most pollution caused in Lake is due to Railway line passing through the lake and how it will be addressed.

GC committee informed that once waterbody is notified as wetland a Framework Management Plan/ Integrated Management Plan will be formulated with a specific approach and such issues will be dealt in the same.

Fr. Dr. E. Miranda



It was informed by the grievants present that Fr. Dr. Miranda the grievant had filed written submission but was absent for the meeting.

Dionisio Carvalho

Represented by Adv. Laban Carvalho and stated that he supports the submission put forth by Adv. Timble that it is the water logging which is considered as wetland & entire paddy field area is marked as wetland is incorrect and needs to re-examined and reduce the core wetland.

Hence GC decided to refer the matter to Authority.

The Comunidade of Cortalim

The Comunidade of Cortalim was represented by its president Adv. Laban Carvalho. He presented the view that wetland formation is due to water logging and needs to be re-examined and that he also supports the proposition put forth by the Adv. Timble. He said that there many errors in brief Document of Vhodle Dhakte Lake.

It was decided by GC that viewpoint needs to be heard by the authority.

Convenor for protection of Vodle Dhakte Lake & villagers & Residents of Chauder represented by Sunil Naik & 273 ors

No representation from the above group however it was informed by the Adv. Timble few of his clients are signatory to this grievance.

Senia Pereira, Sarpanch, Village Panchayat Cortalim

Sarpanch put forth the viewpoint that Vhodle Dhakte Lake is not permanently inundated lake. She further enquired whether once wetland notification is published if water can be used by farmers. She also informed that there are other properties around wetlands whose owners are currently living abroad and are unaware of notification and may want to construct when they return. She also informed that some mega project may come up is the fear among the locals.

Member Secretary, GSWA informed that the wise use of the wetland is permitted activity, and the matter of new construction in the buffer zone will be referred to the authority and decision will be taken. HNA, GSWA said that she had adequately put forth all the possible grievances before the Grievance Committee, representing all those who could not file grievances as they are settled abroad.



GC informed regarding mega projects that they are not allowed within 50 meter from mean high flood level as per Rule 4(2)(VI) of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017.

Representative of Anton Vas MLA, Cortalim constituency:

Paulo D'souza represented MLA and stated that Lake acts as reservoir for the entire village and supports around 200 odd farmer not only from Cortalim but also from Sancoale. Two crops are supported by the lake hence the conservation of wetland is necessary. However GSWA should also consider the needs of the local community and the people who intend to construct in their plots falling within the Draft notified wetland. He also said that few grievants should not decide that fate of this important waterbody even if it due to water logging or other reasons as the livelihoods of many farmers depend upon it.

Kokan Railway corporation Limited

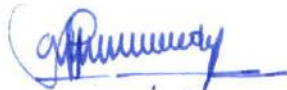
No representation from above grievant.

Conclusion: The GC informed that the pre-existing rights & privileges are protected and farming/agriculture is permitted activity within wetland notification. GC informed that the repair/renovation of the existing house is permitted subject to the permissions from other concerned authorities and also 5 meter setback is allowed wherein expansion of the existing structure is allowed also subject to the permissions & Compliances from other concerned authorities and prevailing laws. GC decided to refer the matter to authority regarding new construction in the 50 meter from mean high flood level. GC tried to bring clarity to many grievants who wanted to protect their pre-existing rights & privileges but with respect to grievance that is new construction within 50 meter from mean high flood level to be referred to authority. GC decided to that final decision regarding final notification to be taken by authority.

Agenda 2: Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.

Nil. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA.




Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam
Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA



GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY

GRIEVANTS PRESENT FOR THE 16TH GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY HELD ON 21ST AUGUST 2024 IN IN 1ST FLOOR, MANOHAR PARRIKAR SABHAGRUHA, RAVINDRA BHAVAN - BAINA, VASCO - GOA FROM 2.30 P.M. ONWARDS.

Sr. No.	Grievants	Signature
1	Comunidade of Cortalim represented by President	
2	Isidoro Agostinho Tome Corvalho represented by L. Corvalho through LCA	14.42 pm 21-08-24 [Representation Pending]
3	Sunendra D. Naik	
4	Tyrone D'Souza Erasmuna D'Souza (wife)	ED'Souza
5	DOMNIO L MONTEIRO (deceased) wife Maria Bertha Monteiro	Monteiro
6	Antonio Philip Cruz Mascarenhas wife Ana Francisca Mascarenhas	Alhas
7	Rupa Chetry	
8	pramila Ramkeshna Meisvelcar	
9	Jude Pereira	
10	Nitin Navanath D'Almeida	
11	MELWYN VAZ	
12	Pedro Vaz	
13	Jagat D'Almeida	



14	Alice J. Fernandes	Henry
15	Paulo Afonso Souza (PA, MLA)	Paulo
16	Neves Coutinho	Neves
17	F. Suresh Singh	F. Suresh Singh
18	Vicente Jacinto Amiz	Vicente Jacinto Amiz
19	Joaquina Gomes	J Gomes
20	Transquinha Mendes	
21	Anastacia Grama.	Anastacia
22	Diogo VAZ	D. VAZ
23	MANUEL VAZ	MAZ
24	Sanjay Patel	Sanjay
25	Beate-Michele	Beate
26	Vithal P. Anugadham	Vithal
27	Fulba Azavedo	Azavedo
28	Jogin Vaz	
29	Antonia Gomes.	
30	Dattaram Raul	Dattaram
31	P Seema S. Nair	P Seema
32	Senia Pereira	Senia
33	Francis X. Fernandes.	Francis
34	Adv. M.R. Timble	M.R. Timble
35	Adv. Vinaj Timble	Vinaj Timble
36	Mangala Pujari	Mangala
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BMC
CP



14	Alice J. Fernandes	Henry
15	Paulo Afonso Souza (PA, MLA)	Paulo
16	Neves Coutinho	Neves
17	Fernando Simão	Fernando
18	Vicente Jacinto Simão	Vicente
19	Joaquina Gomes	J Gomes
20	Transquinha Mendes	
21	Anastácia Grama	Anastácia
22	Diogo VAZ	D. VAZ
23	MANUEL VAZ	MVAZ
24	Sanjay Patel	Sanjay
25	Beate-Michele	Beate
26	Vithal P. Anugadikar	Vithal
27	Fátima Azevedo	F Azevedo
28	José Vaz	
29	Antonia Gomes	
30	Dattaram Raul	Dattaram
31	P. Seema S. Nair	P. Seema
32	Senia Pereira	Senia
33	Francis X. Fernandes	Francis
34	Adv. M. R. Timble	M. R. Timble
35	Adv. Vinaj Timble	Vinaj Timble
36	Mangala Pujari	Mangala
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