

**MINUTES OF THE 16<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY  
(GSWA)**

**TYPE OF MEETING: URGENT MEETING.**

**DATE: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024;**

**TIME: 10.00 am onwards**

**VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, FIRST FLOOR, 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(GSWA).**

The following members attended the meeting:

| <b>Sr. No.</b> | <b>Name</b>   | <b>Designation</b>                  |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1.             | Shri. Aleixo Sequeira, Hon. Minister for Environment & Climate Change   | Chairperson GSWA                    |
| 2              | Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel IAS, Chief Secretary, State of Goa  | Vice Chairperson,                   |
| 3              | Shri Arun Kumar Mishra, IAS, Secretary (Environment & Climate Change)   | Member (Ex-Officio)                 |
| 4              | Shri Praveen Kumar Raghaw, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest, Goa Forest Department  | Representative of Forest Department |
| 5              | Shri. Johnson Fernandes, Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change, Member Secretary, Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) | Member Secretary                    |
| 6              | Smt. Brenda Fernandes, Director, State Remote Sensing Centre  | Member (Ex-Officio)                 |



|     |   |                     |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| 7   | Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA | Member (Ex-Officio) |
| 8.  | Shri. Jose Romeno Faleiro, Independent Consultant, IPM (Red Palm Weevil) Specialist               | Expert Member       |
| 9.  | Dr. Baban Ingole, Visiting Scientist, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Vasco         | Expert Member       |
| 10. | Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Professor, Department of Economics, Goa University                     | Expert Member       |
| 11. | Shri James Mathew, former Chief Town Planner (Administration), Town & Country Planning            | Expert Member       |
| 12. | Shri Chintamani Perni, former Dy. Director, Department of Agriculture                             | Co-opted Member     |
| 13. | Dr. Manoj Ibrampurkar, Associate Professor, Dempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar.           | Expert Member       |
| 14. | Ar. Ketak S.P. Nachinolkar, Conservation Architect  | Co-opted Member     |
| 15. | Ar. Elsa Fernandes, Lecturer, Government Polytechnic College Panaji                               | Co-opted Member     |
| 16. | Dr. Akhil Parambi, CSIR-NIO   | Special Invitee     |
| 17. | Dr. Suhas Shetye, CSIR-NIO  | Special Invitee     |

Note - For the meeting Secretary (Forests), Secretary(Urban Development), Secretary (Rural Development), Secretary (Water resource), Secretary (Tourism), Secretary (Fisheries), Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (Tourism), Member Secretary, GSPCB, were unable to attend.

At the outset, Chairperson Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA), Shri. Aleixo Sequeira, extended a warm welcome to the authority Members for the 16<sup>th</sup> Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) Meeting.

The following Agenda was transacted:

**Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 15th Authority Meeting.**



The Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Authority Meeting of GSWA were placed before the Authority members for confirmation. The same was confirmed.

Proposed by Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Department of Economics, Goa University  
Confirmed by Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Head of Nodal Agency, Goa State Wetland Authority

### **Agenda 2: Action taken report of 15th GSWA meeting**

Head of Nodal Agency (HoNA), GSWA informed the authority that agenda Nono.1,2,4,9 were complied with and regarding agenda No.3,5 & 8 it was informed that GSWA is in process of drafting final notifications, regarding agenda 6 the file is moved to law department for legal opinion, with respect to agenda 7 Chairperson directed CSIR-NIO to conduct re-survey of Orlim lake within a week & that GSWA should send the communication with date & time failing which it should not be delayed, regarding Agenda 9 is ongoing, reminder communication regarding the same are sent by GSWA.

### **Agenda 3: Discussion and Decision on inputs to be provided with respect to proposed amendment of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017**

HoNA presented before the Authority members in brief the 252<sup>nd</sup> report of the committee on subordinate legislation, Rajya Sabha on Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017. The committee on subordinate legislation referred 14 recommendations to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India on which Authority members deliberated in detail.

The Chief Secretary provided guidance that for the interpretation of powers vested under Rule 7 of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 a state specific committee can be constituted.

With respect to recommendation of inclusion of Salt pans under the purview of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 was welcomed but with respect to State of Goa the water inundated areas are due to well defined Khazan System or due to breach of Bunds. Hence as suggested by Arch. Elsa Fernandes (Expert Member,



GSWA) the state specific approach should be adopted while categorising salt pans as wetlands.

The Authority decided to recommend the formation of Lake Management Committee to the MoEF & CC for a decentralized approach and better local management.

Further SWA should be granted with funds for management of wetlands & develop models of integrated managed wetlands which will inspire community to bring more waterbodies under purview of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 eventually lead to conservation of waterbodies. Furthermore HoNA, GSWA also informed that water hyacinths can be used to make different products and the same possibility is being explored by GSWA which further open the possibility of livelihood intervention.

Further Dr. Faleiro's inputs were discussed that mining pits (Area above 5 Ha) may be considered under Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 considering all the practical aspects like the iron content of the water collected in mining pits but may not be forwarded as input. Further Dr. Suhas Shetye from CSIR-NIO suggested that Biodiesel extraction possibility using phytoplanktons can be explored.

Authority members further deliberated thoroughly on the prohibitions on new constructions in the notified wetlands. The authority members unanimously decided that 50 meter distance mean high flood level should be further divided into two zones namely first 25 meters from mean high flood level as No Development Zone where only repair of existing structure should be allowed by allowing 5 meter setback for existing structures and next 25 meter should be regulated zone where new constructions such as single dwelling unit may be allowed on case to case basis with specific restrictions, guidelines & Monitoring mechanism which will be formulated by Technical Committee of GSWA and then to be subjected to the approval of authority & ensure that there will no adverse impact on the ecological character of wetland. The authority decided to forward the following input to the MoEF & CC.



**Agenda 4: Orientation to the newly constituted Goa State Wetland Authority members.**

The HoNA, GSWA delivered a presentation on the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 & explained the rules in details & the entire process of wetlands identification & notification in the State of Goa was explained to the newly constituted members of GSWA.

Further Expert Member, GSWA Shri James Mathew suggested that an orientation is required for the TCP officials & WRD & other line departments for better enforcement of Wetland Rules. With respect to this suggestion HNA, GSWA informed that GSWA had earlier conducted orientation program for line departments on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022, again for Field Surveyors of Directorate of Settlement & Land Records and Assistant Engineers of Water Resource Department on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 further orientation for newly constituted Grievance and Technical committees was conducted in their respective first meetings after constitution. However Chairperson, GSWA directed to conduct another round of orientation programs for line departments.

**Agenda 5: Any other matter with the permission of Chair: NIL**

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



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