

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY HELD ON 19/08/2016 AT 3:30 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE HALL, 1ST FLOOR, MINISTERIAL BLOCK, SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM GOA.

The first meeting of the Goa State Wetland Authority was held on 19/08/2016 at 3:30 p.m. in the Conference Hall, 1st Floor, Ministerial Block, Secretariat, Porvorim Goa.

The list of the members present for the meeting is annexed herewith.

At the outset, the Director, (Environment) informed the members that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in Application No. 501 of 2015 has directed the Principal Secretary (Environment) to file an Affidavit on the following points.

The Space Application Centre, Indian Space Research Organization, Ahmedabad, on the request of Ministry of Environment and Forest has prepared a National Wetland Atlas for all the States in the Country.

The Director, Department of Environment informed the Members that the Member Secretary of Goa State Biodiversity Board has prepared the PowerPoint Presentation with regard to the National Wetland Atlas for the State of Goa. He requested the Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board to make a presentation. The Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board made a PowerPoint Presentation and explained the details as follows.

- 1) 383 wetlands have been delineated which have area more than 5 hectares and 167 wetlands which have areas less than 2.25 hectares, thus totalling to 550 in the State of Goa covering an area of 213.77 sq.kms.
- 2) There are 101 Inland Wetlands, wherein 29 are located in North Goa and 72 in South Goa District. Further, there are 282 Coastal Wetlands, wherein there are 112 in North Goa and 70 in South Goa District.
- 3) Wetlands cover about 136.93 sq. kms in North Goa and 76.44 sq. kms in South Goa.

- 4) The 4 Wetlands as identified in the Atlas namely Salaulim Reservior, Anjunem Reservior, Carambolim Lake & Chorao Wildlife Sanctuary to be recommended to Central Government for declaration as Wetlands.
- 5) The Study has revealed four major types of Wetlands.
 - (i) Mangroves
 - (ii) Intertidal Mud Flats.
 - (iii) Salt pans
 - (iv) Reservoirs.

Agenda Item No.1

The Secretary (Environment) informed the members that the State Government is required to designate a Nodal Agency to carry out the work of Identification & Notification of Wetlands in the State of Goa.


He suggested that the Goa State Biodiversity Board should be designated as a Nodal Agency for the purpose of Identification & Notification of Wetlands in the State of Goa.

Dr. Nandkumar Kamat was of the opinion that the Water Resources Department is having a list of Notified Water Bodies in the State of Goa and this Department should be considered as a Nodal Department / Agency.

The members were of the opinion that since this activity would require multi-department participation; the Goa State Biodiversity Board should be designated as a Nodal Department and should carry out the task with the assistance of Water Resources Department and Town and Country Planning Department and any other Agency / Department as per requirements.

Agenda Item No.2

The Authority decided to adopt the National Wetland Atlas prepared by the Space Application Centre, Indian Space Research Organization, Ahmedabad as a "Baseline Document" for Identification of Wetlands in the State of Goa and based on this the Goa State Biodiversity Board shall take forward the activity to finalise the criteria for identification of the Wetlands in the State.



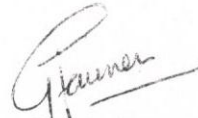
Dr. Nandkumar Kamat stated that this exercise should also involve consultation with the local bodies and Institutes such as Comunidade. The members decided that the Goa State Biodiversity Board may be asked to coordinate this activity for preparation of detailed Report in consultation with all stake holders concerned by carrying out specific site visits and detailed surveys with Expert Agencies to begin 4 sites proposals to be prepared.

Agenda Item No. 3

The Authority decided to initiate process for Notification of 4 important wetlands as identified in the Wetlands Atlas i.e. Salaulim Reservior, Anjunem Reservior, Carambolim Lake & Chora Wildlife Sanctuary and instructed the Goa State Biodiversity Board to take the necessary steps and studies for the following:-

- (i) broad geographic delineation of the wetland;
- (ii) its zone of influence along with a map (accurate and to scale);
- (iii) the size of the wetland;
- (iv) account of pre-existing rights and privileges, consistent or not consistent with the ecological health.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.



(Vikas S. N. Gaunekar)
Director (Environment) Ex-officio,
Jt. Secretary to Government