

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF GOA STATE WETLAND  
AUTHORITY (GSWA).**

**TYPE OF MEETING:** REGULAR MEETING.

**DATE:** 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020; **TIME:** 4.00 PM

**VENUE:** "1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR, MINISTERIAL BLOCK, SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM,  
BARDEZ, GOA

**MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY SHRI. NILESH CABRAL, 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 Nilesh Cabral, Hon. Minister of Power and Environment	Chairperson
2.	Secretary (Environment) Shri. Kunal, IAS.	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member
3.	Secretary (Fisheries) Represented by Smt. Sharmila Monteiro (Director-Dept. of Fisheries)	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member
4.	Secretary (Water Resources) Represented by Shri. P.B. Badami, Chief Engineer, Water Resource Department	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member.
5.	Shri Keshav Kumar, Rep. of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forest	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member.
6.	Dr. Sharmila Monteiro, Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board-	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member.
7.	Shri Johnson Bedy Fernandes Director of Department of Environment, Member Secretary, GSWA	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member.
8.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam (Member Secretary, GSBB)	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member.
9.	Shri. Sreepada Anantha R. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NIO	Expert Member





10.	Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Goa University	Expert Member
11.	Dr. Vinod Dhargalkar, Former Scientist, CSIR-NIO	Expert Member
12.	Shri. Devanand Kavlekar, CSIR-NIO	Expert Member*
13.	Dr. Mandar Nanajkar, CSIR-NIO	<i>Special Invitee</i>

*\*Shri Devanand Kavlekar attended the meeting online via Google meet while other Members were unable to attend.*

At the outset, Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board and Head of Nodal Agency (HNA, GSWA) extended a warm welcome to the Chairperson and the Members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) Meeting.

**The following Agenda was transacted:**

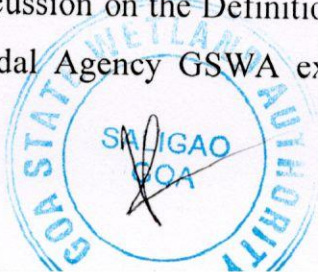
**Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Authority Meeting.**

The Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Authority Meeting of GSWA were confirmed by the Members present during the meeting. Proposed by Dr. Vinod Dhargalkar and confirmed by Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay.

Action Taken Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Goa State Wetland Authority Meeting was placed before the Members by the Head of Nodal Agency (GSWA), Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam for perusal of the Members present. The same was approved.

**Agenda 2: Progress of identification and notification of wetlands in the State of Goa.**

The Members were provided with the copy of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and Guidelines for implementation of Wetland Rules, 2017. There was a brief discussion on the Definition of Wetland and the Zone of Influence. The Head of the Nodal Agency GSWA explained the roles of the Technical and



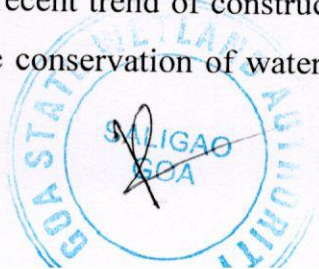


Grievance Committees which have representatives from the stakeholder Government Departments such as WRD, Fisheries, Town and Country Planning Department.

The Secretary of Environment, Shri. Kunal, IAS inquired on the current status of Wetland Identification with Dr. Mandar Nanajkar (CSIR-NIO). Dr. Nanajkar specified that 250 Wetlands were identified out of which 85 waterbodies have been selected for ground truthing due to their fulfillment of prerequisites and a time period of 6 months will be required for completion of the same. Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA further explained the criteria used for the selection of identification of Wetlands. Presently, the most significant and those with larger area waterbodies are selected on priority for ground truthing and preparation of Brief Documents as per the Criteria specified by the MoEFCC. The Secretary also asked Dr. Nanajkar to submit regular monthly progress Reports so that Authority is updated of the status off wetland identification. Dr. Monteiro (MS, GSPCB, Director of Fisheries Department) suggested that fish seeds could be stocked into the identified waterbodies which would provide livelihood opportunity to the local, and generate income thus ensuring conservation and protection of waterbodies.

**Agenda 3: Presentation and approval for Draft Notification of 10 waterbodies identified as Wetlands by CSIR-NIO and further approved by GSWA- Technical Committee in the Second Joint Meeting of Technical and Grievance Committee.**

The Brief Documents of 10 waterbodies identified as Wetlands were placed before the GSWA Members present. Subsequently, the Secretary (Environment) stated that the demarcation of the zone of influence should be done systematically to minimize the inconvenience to the local population/stakeholders and harmonize developmental activities of property as well as conservation of wetland. Expert Member, Dr. Mukhopadyay submitted that Goa is a freshwater scarce state and as State Wetland Authority we are duty-bound to conserve it considering the future water security. Senior Engineer, Shri Badami (representative of Secretary, Water Resource Department) added that there is recent trend of constructing at the edge of waterbodies is posing a serious threat to the conservation of waterbodies and as an Authority, GSWA has to





take this suggestion into consideration while demarcating the Zone of influence. Hence buffer zone of 50m should be crucially protected and demarcated in the identified wetlands.

After a detailed deliberation on this topic, it was unanimously decided that in the interest of public, the existing residential houses and buildings to be excluded while demarcating Zone of Influence and a maximum 5m setback maybe left towards wetland side based on availability of space by keeping maximum buffer of at least 50m as far as possible. This will enable GSWA to protect the wetlands with minimal grievances from owners of the property. In such cases there shall be relaxation of rules w.r.t. the existing residential houses and building situated within the Zone of Influence.

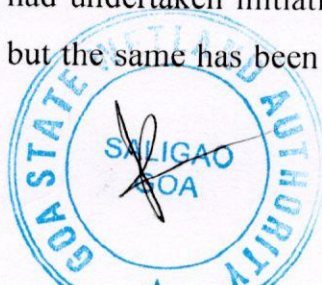
GSWA directed CSIR-NIO to revise the wetland maps according to the decision made by the Authority before being considered for Draft Notification. It was to be noted by CSIR-NIO that the Zone of Influence based on contour is to be marked which will not be extended beyond the point of inversion of contours. Additionally a buffer zone of 50 m surrounding the identified wetland was also to be demarcated on the maps.

**Agenda 4: Corrigendum to the draft notification of Bondvol Lake.**

Copy of the Corrigendum to the Draft Notification of Bondvol Lake as Wetland, published in the Official Gazette was circulated among the Authority members. Head of the Nodal Agency informed that a revision in Draft Notification was needed as some survey nos. were inadvertently left out from the Notification. Hence a Corrigendum had to be published to rectify the same, which has been further kept for public consultation for a period of 60 days. The proposal was accepted by GSWA members.

**Agenda 5: Legal matter OA 141/2017(WZ) Kashinath Shetye & Ors. Vs. State of Goa & Ors.**

Head of the Nodal Agency informed the Members of GSWA that the in the Legal matter Original Application 141/2017(WZ) filed by Kashinath Shetye & Ors. Vs. State of Goa & Ors., the GSWA had undertaken initiative to Notify 35 wetlands within 6 months as draft notification but the same has been delayed as the work of CSIR-NIO





was suspended and Ground truthing by way of Public consultation could not be carried out due to Covid-19 Pandemic situation for at least 4 months. The Head of the Nodal Agency, GSWA also informed about erroneous order which has been requested for amendment by GSWA.

**Agenda 6: Applying Pay Scales to the existing staff of GSWA.**

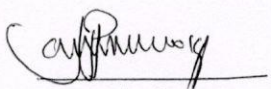
HNA, GSWA, informed that 3 Staff (Scientific Officer, Project Assistant and Legal Assistant) were hired for regular working of the Office of the GSWA. The same was approved to be paid by consolidated pay. Hence he requested that the staff may be given a pay scale based on Office Memorandum No. 10/1/77-PER(Part) dated 21/08/2018. The Secretary for Environment submitted that since the appointment has been done with consolidated remuneration, it is advised that an enhanced consolidated remuneration may be applied instead of applying Pay Scales to the staff of GSWA. The same was agreed by the members present.

**Agenda 7: Any other matter with the permission of Chair.**

The Uniqueness of Goan Wetland was explained by Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA and recommended that GSWA should write a letter to the Central Government regarding the unique characteristic of the wetland and waterbodies in the state of Goa. The restoration project *Shram Shakti se Jal Shakti* was discussed and approved.

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



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