

MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY
(GSWA)

TYPE OF MEETING: REGULAR MEETING.

DATE: 10th FEBRUARY 2021;

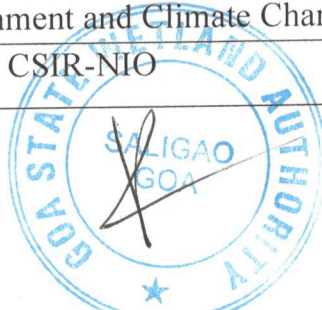
TIME: 3.00 PM Onwards

VENUE: "1ST 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 Environment and Climate Change	Chairperson GSWA
2.	Shri. Kunal, IAS, Secretary (Environment & Climate Change)	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member
3.	Secretary (Fisheries) Represented by Smt. Shamila Monteiro (Director, Department of Fisheries and Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board)	<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.	Chief Wildlife Warden represented by Shri Jebastin, A., Deputy Conservator of Forest (Wildlife- North)	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member,
6.	Dr. G.N. Nayak, Former Professor, Goa University	Expert Member
7.	Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Goa University	Expert Member
8.	Arch. Manguesh Prabhugaonker, Landscape Architect	Expert Member
9.	Shri. Devanand Kavlekar, CSIR-NIO.	Expert Member
10.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board and Head of Nodal Agency GSWA	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member
11.	Shri. Dashrath Redkar, Director and Joint Secretary, Department of Environment and Climate Change	Member Secretary
12.	Dr. Mandar Nanajkar, CSIR-NIO	<i>Special Invitee</i>



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 8th Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) Meeting. Arch. Manguesh Prabhugaonker (Landscape Architect) introduced himself as the newly inducted Expert Member of GSWA

The following Agenda was transacted:

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 7th Authority Meeting.

The Minutes of the 7th Authority Meeting of GSWA were placed before the Authority members for confirmation. Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay proposed that the word 'deficit' be corrected by the word 'scarce' on Page 4, line 2 of the 7th MOM of GSWA. The Members approved the Minutes along with the correction.

Proposed by Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay

Confirmed by Shri Devanand Kavlekar.

Agenda 2: Action Taken Report of the 7th Authority Meeting.

Action Taken Report of the 7th Authority Meeting of GSWA was presented and discussed before the Members by the Head of Nodal Agency (GSWA), Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam for perusal of the actions taken. On the Agenda No. 7, the chairperson suggested that GSBB and BMCs should be involved in identifying waterbodies for restoration project of "*Shram Shakti se Jal Samrudhi*". The same was approved.

Agenda 3: Approval of 14 Wetlands that have been identified by Technical Committee of GSWA.

The Members were briefly explained the Definition of Wetland and the Zone of Influence by the Head of the Nodal Agency (GSWA) and the roles of the Technical and Grievance Committees in identification and Notification of Wetlands in the State of Goa.

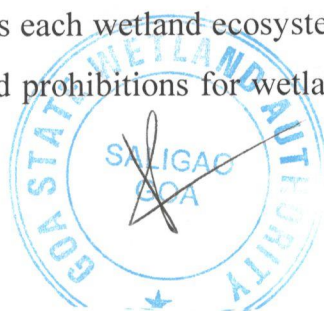
The following 14 identified Wetlands were presented before the GSWA Members for approval for Draft Notification.



Sr. No	Name of the water body	District
1.	Talaulim Lake	South Goa
2.	Sulabhat Lake	North Goa
3.	Mayem Lake	North Goa
4.	Curtorim Lake	South Goa
5.	Sonbem Lake	South Goa
6.	Macasana Lake	South Goa
7.	Mai tollem	South Goa
8.	Bandolem Lake	South Goa
9.	Ambulor Lake	South Goa
10.	Pali Lake	South Goa
11.	Kamala Lake	South Goa
12.	Udden Lake	South Goa
13.	Orlim Lake	South Goa
14.	Tarvale Lake	South Goa

Expert Member Dr. G.N. Nayak submitted that “Restrictions of activities in wetlands” provided under 4(vi) of Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 is not applicable to zone of influence and apprehension in public on this should be addressed by the Authority. The same was agreed by Chairperson. He further suggested that these guidelines for regulations within the zone of influence, such as mandatory STPs for new constructions, schemes for alternatives of soak pits etc., should be worked out together by the Technical Committee along with the Expert Members of the Authority and shall be retrospective in nature. Chairperson also directed that the inputs from the TCP Department be considered by the Technical Committee of GSWA during its next meeting and specific guidelines shall be prepared to derive mechanism for regulation of activities in Zone of Influence. Chairperson also directed Department of Environment to prepare schemes for construction in Zone of Influence to reduce impacts on ecological character of notified Wetlands.

Prof. Mukhopadhyay suggested that blanket prohibitions and restrictions for all wetlands should be avoided as each wetland ecosystem has different requirements and hence specific restrictions and prohibitions for wetlands are to be examine on case to



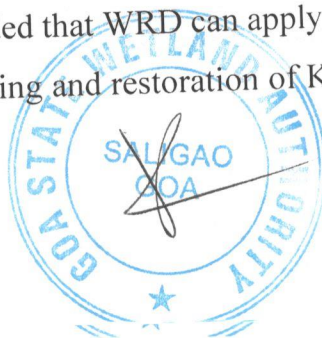
case basis. He further added that restrictions in zone of influence would apply if there is a possibility of change in ecosystem services or structure of ecosystem as per definition 1(j) of Wetland Rules, 2017. HNA, GSWA clarified that the same is already being done based on the Brief documents that are prepared by empaneled Agency and the inputs will be incorporated.

HNA, GSWA also shared his experience at the public meetings wherein he observed that the public vehemently opposing notification of wetlands as the waterbodies have been used as paddy fields pre-monsoon and post monsoon and such declaration may adversely affect their cultivation.

Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Chairperson GSWA, directed Dr. Nanajkar to enlist all the waterbodies identified in Goa based on the report of Space Application Center, Ahmedabad. Subsequently prepare the list and mention the criteria based on which the waterbodies could be derived by eliminating those not qualifying as Wetland. This will bring more clarity and exact number can be released for public to understand the complete process of Wetland Identification within the State. Shri P.B. Badami submitted that WRD has a list of waterbodies that can be referred by CSIR-NIO. The Chairperson directed that the GSWA should communicate to WRD requesting the list of waterbodies and further directed WRD to submit the information at the earliest. To this HNA, GSWA reiterated that the request is already placed to WRD and soft copies are awaited. SE, WRD assured to provide the same at the earliest.

Furthermore, the Chairperson and the Members resolved to use the term 'Wetlands' instead of lakes for the waterbodies once they are declared as "wetlands". The same to be followed in the Brief Document and notification. It was also directed that names of the lakes from Curtorim village should be verified by CSIR-NIO.

Shri. P.B. Badami pointed out that Kamala Lake has been severely eutrophicated. Dr. Monteiro added that WRD can apply to Department of Fisheries and avail up to 40% funds for desilting and restoration of Kamala Lake, which was agreed



by Shri. P.B. Badami. It was decided that WRD will further approach Director, Fisheries and ensure further action.

Shri Kunal, IAS, Secretary (Environment & Climate Change) suggested that GSWA should identify and propose at least one wetland in the State of Goa as a Ramsar Site. HNA, GSWA submitted that Curtorim wetlands or any other suitable wetland such as Nanda Lake with characteristics of a Ramsar site may be considered. The members agreed for the same.

Agenda 4: Final notification of 3 Wetlands which have not received any grievances and remaining 7 to be placed before Grievance Committee.

The Authority Members unanimously approved the three Draft Notified Wetlands namely, Xeldem Lake (Quepem, Quepem Taluka, South Goa), Nanda Lake (Quepem, Quepem Taluka, South Goa) and Dashi Lake (Revora, Bardez Taluka, North Goa) for final notification as no objections/grievances have been received with regard to these three waterbodies.

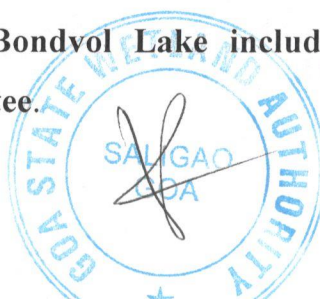
Agenda 5: Extension of Identification of Wetlands and preparation of Brief Documents Project to CSIR-NIO.

The Authority Members agreed to extend the project of Identification of Wetlands and preparation of Brief Documents to CSIR-NIO for a period of 6 months as delay in the project was caused due to Covid-19 Pandemic situation.

Agenda 6: Approval for advisory to the concerned Government Departments regarding restriction and regulations in draft notified areas including temporary restrictions pending final notification.

The Members deferred to the suggestion to issue an advisory in such nature.

Agenda 7: Re-notification of Bondvol Lake including zone of influence as suggested by Grievance Committee.



HNA informed that the Grievance Committee has recommended to re-notify Bondvol Lake with Zone of Influence as per the Brief Document prepared by CSIR-NIO. Dr. Nayak suggested that the Authority should go ahead with the findings of the CSIR-NIO as it is the agency appointed to conduct the identification process in the State of Goa. The Chairperson and the Secretary (Environment & Climate Change) further added that re-notification is required as Zone of influence had not been notified in the previous draft notification of Bondvol Lake, which is mandatory for wetlands as per Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Hence it was unanimously decided to re-notify Bondvol Lake including zone of Influence.

Agenda 8: Extension of time period for filing grievances regarding Carambolim Lake from Villages Carambolim- from Village Panchayats of Carambolim, Se Old Goa and Batim Lake.

The Chairperson and the Members agreed to grant the villagers of Batim Lake and Carambolim Lake and those villages which come within the zone of influence additional 30 days to raise their grievances.

Agenda 9: Creation of permanent posts of Scientific Officer, Scientific Assistant, Junior Law Officer and Multi-Tasking Staff at GSWA.

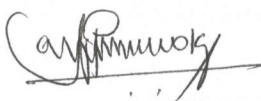
The Chairperson insisted to list of posts along with the Recruitment Rules to be put up to the Director.

Agenda 10: Any other matter with the permission of Chair.

Nil.

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




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