

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA)**

**TYPE OF MEETING:** THIRD MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

**DATE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2020; **TIME:** 10.30 AM ONWARDS

**VENUE:** "SEMINAR HALL, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR, OFFICE OF HEAD OF NODAL AGENCY OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY, GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD, OPP. SALIGAO SEMINARY, SALIGAO, BARDEZ, GOA.

**MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY MR. RICHARD D'SOUZA, CHAIRMAN, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY.**

The following members attended the meeting:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Mr. Richard D'Souza, Ex-PCCF	Chairman
2.	Director of Environment, (MS, GSWA)	Member
3.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam (Member Secretary, GSBB)	Convenor
4.	Shri. P.B. Badami, Superintendent Engineer, Circle I, WRD	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member,
5.	Smt. Vinita Kambl, rep. of Director, Department of Settlement and Land Records	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member,
6.	Smt. Rohita Naik, Superintendent of Fisheries (Aquaculture) rep. of Director, Directorate of Fisheries,	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member,
7.	Shri. Keshav Kumar, Rep. of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forest	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member,
8.	Smt. Roseann Diniz, Dy. T.P., Rep. Chief Town Planner, Town and Country Planning Department,	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member,
9.	Shri. Vithal A. Joshi, Dy. Director, Agriculture, Department of Agriculture	<i>Ex-Officio</i> Member,



10.	Dr. Mandar Nanajkar	Invitee
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At the onset, Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Head of Nodal Agency (HNA) for GSWA extended a warm welcome and introduced the Chairman, and the Members of the Technical Committee. HNA, GSWA briefly described the Wetland Rules, 2017. The Chairman explained that every waterbody is not a wetland and that the Technical Committee has authority to identify a waterbody as wetland but same has to be considered considering the rights and privileges of the people as well as conservation of water resources.

**Agenda 1: Confirmation of Minutes of meeting of the Second Joint TC and GC Meeting held on 22/07/2020.**

The minutes of the Second Joint TC and GC Meeting were circulated before the Committee Members for confirmation.

Proposed by Shri. Richard D'Souza (Chairperson of the TC, GSWA)

Seconded by Dr Pradip Sarmokadam (HNA, GSWA)

**Agenda 2: Action Taken Report of the Second Joint Committee Meeting.**

*The details about action taken on the agenda points of the previous meeting were informed to the members for information and perusal.*

**Agenda 3: Presentation of the following Brief Documents for wetlands identification:**

The brief documents of Talaulim Lake, Tarvalem Lake, Udden Lake, Sonbem Lake, Ambulor Lake, Curtorim Lake, Comunidade Lake, Orlim Lake, Kamla Lake, Sancoale Lake, Macasana Lake, Mayem Lake, Sulabhat Lake, and Pali Lake Were presented to the TC for identification of the same as Wetlands.



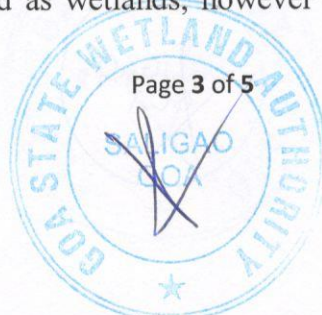
The Chairman inquired if the Sulabhat Lake is a perennial lake or if it gets dried in the summer season. Shri. Badami submitted that most lakes gets dried up in summer and hence all lakes cannot be directly identified as wetland. Dr. Nanajkar pointed out that as per the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, a wetland can be permanent or temporary waterbody. The Chairman inquired as to what is the status of the ecology in the Sulabhat Lake to which the Dr. Nanajkar submitted that there are a lot of floating hydrophytes which are indicative of the pollution in the lake.

It was deliberated that among the Members that whether demarcation of 50 mts of Buffer Zone as No development zone is mandatory and if it can be changed according to the settlement in the surrounding area of the wetland. Dr. Mandar Nanajkar informed the TC that the 50mts Buffer is kept based on the guidelines of Wetland Conservation and Management) Rules 2017.

Shri. Badami also pointed out that most of the lakes in Goa are natural springs which have been secured by constructing an embankment such as a bund or sluiceways. His contention, therefore is that only the core area may be identified as wetland. According to Shri. Badami, mere satellite images are not reliable and would require ground truthing. HNA GSWA informed that originally the Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad has submitted Report indicating 550 waterbodies in the state of Goa which even included rivers and therefore CSIR-NIO has been appointed to conduct the ground-truthing. Dr. Nanajkar specified that the Guidelines to the Wetland Rules 2017, suggest usage of LISS III data is sufficient, instead the NIO has used LISS IV data which is more accurate and reliable.

The Chairman suggested with acceptance of all the members, that the selected waterbodies may be categorized depending on the state of the waterbodies, i.e. existence of the embankments, LULC and the size of the core area of the waterbody.

The waterbodies of which the Brief Documents were presented at the meeting were identified and affirmed as wetlands, however it was decided to categorize the



identified waterbodies into two categories i.e. Category I and Category II. The Chairman suggested that the lakes and waterbodies which are situated away from the urban setting and spread over large in areas irrespective of the presence of sluice gates would come within Category I whereas the Category II would include the lakes situated in urban setting. Extensive data on flora and fauna of the waterbodies has to be collected and documented. Shri Badami submitted there are a few pristine waterbodies that contain water without the use of sluice gates, he agreed that he has a list of such pristine waterbodies which he shall submit to the GSWA. Shri Badami also insisted that an inspection is required to be taken of the waterbodies before it can be finalized for approval. He suggested that while demarcating a waterbody the base of the sluice gate should be taken for demarcation of the core area as the wetland. The Chairman and the Members agreed that the categorization of waterbodies would aid for systematic demarcation of the wetlands. It was therefore decided that while Tarvadem Lake, Pali Lake, Udden Lake would come under Category I while Sulabhat Lake, Talaulim Lake, Mayem Lake, Curtorim Lake, Orlim Lake, Sancoale Lake, Sonbem Lake, Macasana Lake, Comunidade Lake, Ambulor Lake, Sonbem Lake would fall within the - Category II.

It was decided that CSIR-NIO and WRD will have a joint meeting for revision, if there is, in demarcation of the area of all the waterbodies placed for identification as Wetland to TC.

**Agenda 4: Issues pertaining to Bondvol Lake draft notification @Grievance Committee.**

The Brief document and revised map of Bondvol Lake, as prepared by CSIR-NIO was presented to the Members. The Committee agreed that the Bondvol Lake should be treated as Category I and the revised map of Bondvol Lake along with the buffer zone and zone of influence may be draft notified again.



**Agenda 5: Issuing Advisory to Government Departments to maintain status quo or notify GSWA for granting any further permission, licenses in terms of areas surrounding the identified waterbodies.**

The Members agreed that it is indeed necessary to issue such Advisory to Government Departments to maintain status quo or, notifying GSWA before granting any further permission, licenses in terms of areas demarcated as buffer zone and zone of influence

**Agenda 6: Any other matter with the permission of the chairperson.**

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



Sd/-

Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam

**Member Secretary, GSBB**