

**MINUTES OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSA)**

TYPE OF MEETING: REGULAR MEETING.

DATE: 13th June 2022;

TIME: 4.30 PM Onwards

VENUE: "2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR, 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 & Climate Change	Chairperson GSWA
2.	Shri. Sandip Jacques IAS, Secretary (Revenue)	Member (Ex-Officio)
3.	Shri. Ravi Dhawan IAS, Secretary (Tourism)	Member (Ex-Officio)
4.	Secretary (Water Resources), Represented by Chief Engineer Shri. Pramod Badami, Water Resource Department.	Member (Ex-Officio)
5.	Chief Wildlife Warden represented by Shri. Paresh C. Porob Assistant Conservator of Forest, Wildlife and Eco-tourism, Department of Forest, Govt. of Goa	Member (Ex-Officio)
6.	Shri. Dasharath Redkar, Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change	Member Secretary, GSWA
7.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board	Member (Ex-Officio), Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA
8.	Dr. Shamila Monteiro, Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board	Member (Ex-Officio)
9.	Dr. G. N. Nayak, Goa University	Expert Member
10.	Arch. Manguesh Prabhugaonker, Landscape Architect	Expert Member
11.	Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Goa University	Expert Member
12.	Shri. Devanand Kavlekar, Senior Technical Officer, NIO, Dona Paula	Expert Member
13.	Smt. Asavari Kulkarni, Environment Officer	Co-opted Member
14.	Arch. Hyacinth Pinto, Sustainable Architect	Special Invitee
15.	Dr. Mandar Nanajkar, CSIR- NIO	Special Invitee
16.	Dr. Akhil Valiya Parambil	Special Invitee



17.	Shri. N. Vaz, E. E. Water Resource Deptment	Representative from WRD
18.	Shri G.R. Teli, Deputy Director, Department of Tourism	Representative from Tourism Dept.
19.	Mrs. Reshma Kerkar, Scientific and Administrative Officer , GSBB	GSBB staff
20.	Dr. Varsha Raikar Hoble, Project Assistant I, GSBB	GSBB Staff

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 to 11<sup>th</sup> Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) Meeting.

The following Agenda was transacted:

**Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 10th Authority Meeting.**

The Minutes of the 10th Authority Meeting of GSWA were placed before the Authority members for confirmation. The same was confirmed.

Proposed by Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Goa University

Confirmed by Arch. Mangesh Prabhugaonker

**Agenda 2: Action Taken Report of the 10th Authority Meeting**

Action Taken Report of the 10th Authority Meeting of GSWA was placed before the Members present for perusal. Agenda No. 1,2,3,5,6,9 were complied & approved. With regard to agenda no.4 it was discussed in detail further in the meeting at agenda no.9.

With respect of agenda 7 HNA, GSWA informed that complaint was forwarded to WRD. Chief Engineer Shri. Pramod Badami, Water Resource Department also informed that WRD is in receipt of letter from Goa Heritage Action Group. Shri. Sandip Jacques IAS, Secretary (Revenue) was of opinion that the complainants need to define the heritage value & facts need to be ascertained. Chairperson GSWA Shri Nilesh Cabral Hon. Minister of Environment & Climate Change stated that WRD should clear the apprehensions of the complainant Goa Heritage Action Group. Authority members agreed to the same. Authority suggested that WRD should avoid using/minimise the use of concrete for the modification proposed. C.E. WRD agreed to the same.





In regard to Agenda No. 8 the it was informed by HNA, GSWA that WRD is yet to update the GSWA with the status of compliance with regard to OA 325/2015 before the Hon'ble NGT Principal Bench Delhi, WRD ensured that status will be shared in a usable format.

**Agenda 3: Eight waterbodies namely Talaulim lake (Wadi-Talaulim, Ponda); Pali Lake (Dicarpale, Salcete); Tarvale Lake (Shiroda, Ponda), Udden Lake (Shiroda, Ponda), Sulabhat Lake (Aggacaim, Tiswadi), Mayem Lake (Mayem, Bicholim), Sancole Lake (Sancaole, Marmugao) and Macazana Lake (Macazana, Salcete) with revised Zone of influence for draft notification.**

HNA, GSWA presented the following waterbodies to the Authority Members explained that these waterbodies were approved by the authority for draft notification in the 8<sup>th</sup> GSWA meeting, but were needed to be presented after revision of Zone of influence as per approved zone of influence guidelines and re-presented to authority for approval. Chairperson informed that the pre-existing traditional rights and privileges are protected under the notification. Below brief documents of the waterbodies with revised maps were presented for the approval of GSWA.

Sr.No.	Name of the waterbody	Location
1	Talaulim lake	Wadi-Talaulim, Ponda
2	Pali Lake	Dicarpale, Salcete
3	Tarvale Lake	Shiroda, Ponda
4	Udden Lake	Shiroda, Ponda
5	Sulabhat Lake	Aggacaim, Tiswadi
6	Mayem Lake	Mayem, Bicholim
7	Sancole Lake	Sancaole, Mormugao
8	Macazana Lake	Macazana, Salcete

Each waterbody was discussed in detail and GSWA members unanimously approved the above waterbodies for draft notification.

**Agenda 4: Approval of 3 waterbodies namely Coneix (Conem) Lake (Priol, Ponda), Panchami Lake (Curti – Khandepar, Ponda), and Dhulpe Lake (Shiroda, Ponda) for draft notification.**

HNA, GSWA informed authority members that these 3 waterbodies namely Coneix (Conem)Lake (Priol, Ponda), Panchami Lake (Curti – Khandepar, Ponda), and Dhulpe Lake (Shiroda, Ponda) were identified by the Technical Committee (TC) of GSWA as



wetlands in the 5<sup>th</sup> TC. These lakes belong to the pristine category. He also informed the authority about the various ecological services provided by these lakes and geographical characteristics of the area around wetland. Authority unanimously approved these identified wetlands for draft notification.

**Agenda 5: Regarding GSWA scheme “*Shram Shakti se Jal Samrudhi*” for restoration of water bodies and approval for scheme “Waste water treatment facility” for notified wetlands.**

Chairperson, GSWA explained the scheme “*Shram Shakti se Jal Samrudhi*” and its functioning to the Authority. Restoration of waterbodies was funded by Department of Environment & Climate Change through Grant in Aid.

Dr. G. N. Nayak also suggested that even the identified and notified wetlands are silted and require restoration. HNA, GSWA informed that the draft of scheme also provides for restoration of notified wetlands. Authority unanimously agreed to notify the initiative of GSWA as waterbody restoration as scheme.

Further HNA, GSWA explained the waste water treatment scheme to the authority in brief. It is based on the already identified and notified vendors of GSPCB and treatment utilising nature-based solutions for the notified wetlands. This scheme will be extended to settlement within the buffer zone and Zone of influence of the notified wetlands which may discharge untreated waste waters into the wetlands. HNA, GSWA stated that draft of scheme for waste water treatment will be circulated to the authority members for their inputs.

**Agenda 6: Proposals received for restoration of water bodies under the project “*Shram Shakti se Jal Samrudhi*”**

HNA, GSWA put forth the new proposals received for restoration authority members. Chairperson, GSWA directed to expedite the same and complete the action on proposals that are received.

**Agenda 7: Regarding recruitment of scientific staff for GSWA as per the advice of the Technical Committee (TC) and after completion of the project “Identification**





**of Wetlands in Goa” by CSIR – NIO and for preparation of Integrated Management plan (IMP).**

HNA, GSWA informed the authority that CSIR-NIO has completed the project “Identification of Wetlands in Goa”. However the report submitted by NIO does not satisfy to the revised zone of influence guidelines. It was advised that CSIR- NIO may continue its support till this project completes & complies with revised zone of influence guidelines without any further financial implications. Authority members unanimously agreed to the same.

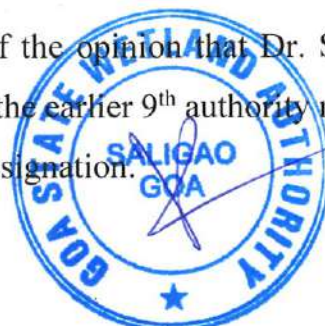
HNA, GSWA suggested that after the exit of CSIR-NIO a scientific team is required to be recruited in Goa State Wetland Authority to ensure preparation of brief documents, IMPs and implementation of IMPs for each waterbody as advised by the technical committee.

Chairperson GSWA recommended that in addition, team of expert officers deputed from various technical departments like WRD, GSPCB to ensure proper implementation of IMPs and proper management of notified wetlands. However, core team of may be recruited by GSWA on the similar lines as is done by Department of Environment & Climate Change. The same could be proposed on file with recruitment rules by HNA, GSWA through Member secretary, GSWA to Chairperson, GSWA. The same was unanimously approved by Authority members.

**Agenda 8: Regarding the nomination of Nanda Lake (Cacora, Quepem) as a potential Ramsar site (Wetland of International Importance) and other related formalities and progress.**

HNA, GSWA updated the members that as approved by State Government, the letter of intent to declare Nanda Lake as Ramsar site is submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change. It was informed that the proposal is in final stages and now comments are expected for the same.

As per discussions, Authority members were of the opinion that Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary and Carambolim lake as suggested in the earlier 9<sup>th</sup> authority meeting should also be considered and nominated for Ramsar designation.



Chairperson, GSWA and authority members unanimously agreed to approve Nanda Lake for Ramsar Nomination, complete all formalities in this regard and send a letter to Forest Department recommending Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary and Carambolim Lake to be designated as Ramsar site.

**Agenda 9: Integrated Management plan for notified wetlands with a request to avail central funds.**

Sustainable Architect Hyacinth Pinto from PWD briefly explained the Authority members different ways in which wetlands could be managed and maintained sustainably. She emphasised that the structures will be built on nature-based materials with optimum footprints without exceeding carrying capacity & local community could also be provided with livelihood opportunities with participatory and inclusive approach. Many recreational facilities like walk ways, bird towers etc could be set up around notified wetland. Prof. Mukhopadhyay also suggested that local community should be actively involved. CE WRD also gave reference to the geofabric membrane that has been successfully done by WRD, which could be implemented as nature-based structures to strengthen existing bunds at several identified wetlands. Chairperson, GSWA directed WRD to place the same before the Green skilling committee of GSBB for further validation & incorporation. Authority members recommended to prepare IMP in line with sustainable & nature-based solutions.

**Agenda 10: Decision regarding Carambolim Lake, Durga Lake, Batim Lake, and presentation from Water Resource Department regarding Carambolim Lake as per the request of Hon'ble Minister for Water Resource Department.**

HNA, GSWA explained that these three identified wetlands are already draft notified by GSWA and the locals have strongly opposed the same during the ground truthing. However Authority members unanimously approved the final notification of these three Wetlands. Then, WRD explained in brief the plans that have been tendered for Carambolim lake & Batim Lake to the authority members. Authority members decided that the proposal needs to be scrutinised by the Technical Committee (TC) of the GSWA






and decision of the TC will be conveyed to GSWA for decisions. Hence the notification could be done after the inclusion of approved modifications and approval of GSWA.

**Agenda 11: Any other matter with the permission of the chair.**

HNA, GSWA submitted to the authority members that GSWA office receives several complaints regarding illegal constructions, encroachment & other related matters within wetland boundary and requested for course of action to be taken in such cases. Authority agreed that the necessary action can be taken by Collector. Secretary Revenue suggested that all the wetlands after notification needs to be incorporated in regional plan of TCP. HNA, GSWA informed that the communication regarding the notifications of wetlands is already sent to GSPCB, TCP, WRD, Forest Department, DSLR, Directorate of Panchayat, District Magistrate North Goa and District Magistrate South Goa. Chairperson further reiterated that the wetland notifications will be forwarded & incorporated in the regional plan of TCP.

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



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