

MINUTES OF THE 12th MEETING OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSA)

TYPE OF MEETING: REGULAR MEETING.

DATE: 21st September 2022;

TIME: 4.00 PM Onwards

VENUE: "2nd FLOOR, SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM, BARDEZ, GOA

THE 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 for Environment & Climate Change	Chairperson GSWA
2.	Shri. Arun Kumar Mishra IAS, Secretary (Environment & Climate Change)	Member (Ex-Officio)
3.	Shri. Sandip Jacques IAS, Secretary (Revenue)	Member (Ex-Officio)
4.	Shri. Ravi Dhawan IAS, Secretary (Tourism)	Member (Ex-Officio)
5.	Secretary (Water Resources), Represented by Chief Engineer Shri. Pramod Badami, Water Resource Department.	Member (Ex-Officio)
6.	Chief Wildlife Warden represented by Shri. Anand S. Jadhav, Deputy Conservator of Forest (HQ), Department of Forest.	Member (Ex-Officio)
7.	Shri. Dasharath Redkar, Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change	Member Secretary, GSWA
8.	Shri. Sanjeev C. G. Dessai, Additional Collector North Goa	<i>Special Invitee</i>
9.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board	Member (Ex-Officio), Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA
10.	Dr. G. N. Nayak, Retd. Professor, Department of Marine Science.	Expert Member
11.	Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Department of Economics, Goa University	Expert Member
12.	Shri. Devanand Kavlekar, Senior Technical Officer, CSIR-NIO, Dona Paula	Expert Member
13.	Dr. Sreekanth G.B., ICAR-CCARI, Ela Old Goa	Expert Member
14.	Shri John M. Fernandes, Range Forest Officer (Wildlife Campal), Department of Forest	Representative of Department of Forest

15.	Smt. Asavari Kulkarni, Environment Officer, V.M. Salgaocar & Brother Pvt. Ltd.	Co-opted Member
16.	Smt. Anisha Matondkar, Assistant Survey & Settlement Officer, Directorate of Settlement & Land Records.,	Special Invitee
17.	Arch. Hyacinth Pinto, PWD, Sustainable Architect empanelled by GSWA	Special Invitee
18.	Dr. Mandar Nanajkar, Scientist, CSIR- NIO	Special Invitee
19.	Dr. Akhil Valiya Parambil Scientist, CSIR- NIO	Special Invitee
20.	Shri. N. Vaz, Executive Engineer, Water Resource Department	Representative from WRD

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 12th Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) Meeting.

The following Agenda was transacted:

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 11th Authority Meeting.

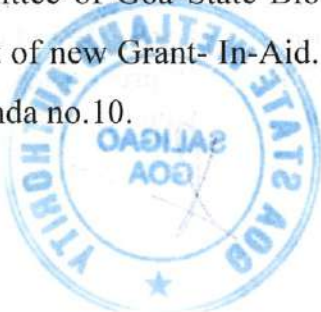
The Minutes of the 11th Authority Meeting of GSWA were placed before the Authority members for confirmation. The same was confirmed.

Proposed by Dr. G. N. Nayak, Retd. Professor, Department of Marine Science.

Confirmed by Prof. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Department of Economics, Goa University

Agenda 2: Action Taken Report of the 11th Authority Meeting

Action Taken Report of the 11th Authority Meeting of GSWA was placed before the Members present for perusal. Agenda No. 1,2,3,4,8,11 were complied & approved. Regarding Agenda 5 the proposal for notification of *Shram Shakti Se Jal Samrudhi* scheme, Finance Department has recommended the convergence with Directorate of Rural Development Agency hence the scheme will be revised as per the recommendations. With regard to agenda no.6 it was informed by HNA, GSWA that proposals received for restoration of waterbodies will be taken up under Green Skilling Committee of Goa State Biodiversity Board(GSBB) and the GSWA is awaiting the receipt of new Grant- In-Aid. Agenda 7 was discussed in detail further in the meeting at agenda no.10.



With respect of agenda 9 on ATR, HNA, GSWA informed that the preparation of Integrated Management Plan is ongoing. Agenda 10 is discussed further in the meeting.

Dr. G. N. Nayak at the onset of the meeting congratulated the GSWA members for recognition of 1st Ramsar Site designation for Notified wetland Nanda Lake in the State of Goa. He appreciated the entire team & expressed satisfaction.

Chairperson GSWA, Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon. Minister of Environment & Climate Change recommended the acquisition of land of the Ramsar site may be explored by Secretary(Revenue) for better implementation of Ramsar site norms and development. Authority members also decided to officially communicate to the Revenue Department to obtain clarity regarding land titles of the notified wetlands, and further possibilities.

Agenda 3: Approval for 17 waterbodies identified by TC for Draft Notification.

GSWA members unanimously decided to discuss the above agenda in next GSWA meeting.

Agenda 4: Approval for Final Notification of Bondvol Lake

HNA, GSWA informed that Bondvol Lake was redraft notified on 28th April 2022 in the official gazette. The Grievance Committee meeting regarding the same was held on 13th July 2022. The grievances were satisfactorily dealt with by the Grievance Committee of GSWA. The authority members unanimously recommended Bondvol Lake for Final Notification.

Agenda 5: Notification of wetlands falling in Curtorim Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

HNA, GSWA brought to the notice of authority members that Goa State Biodiversity Board has Draft notified Curtorim as Biodiversity Heritage Site(BHS) under section 37 of Biological Diversity Act 2002. Within the Biodiversity Heritage site few wetlands Identified by GSWA are included. HNA, GSWA proposed that the protection received under Biological Diversity Act 2002 may be regarded as higher than the protection under Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017. Authority members unanimously decided that there may be no need to apply Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 to these wetlands falling within BHS area.



924

Agenda 6: Post-Facto approval of Clause 14 of wetland notification and Blue line depicting the waterbody.

HNA, GSWA informed that clause "All the pre-existing ownership rights and privileges pertaining to identified and notified wetlands will be maintained. Further, no pre-existing ownership rights or property will be transferred to GSWA as a part of this notification. The status quo of the existing ownership of the notified property will be maintained." was introduced in the wetland notification to clear apprehension in the public that "GSWA will acquire their private property and hamper their privileges." Authority members collectively approved the introduction of above clause.

HNA, GSWA added that in the 6th GC meeting it was observed by a grievant that the waterbody boundary was not clearly mentioned though depicted in blue line as waterbody. There was no mention of mean high flood level. Considering the apprehension HNA, GSWA proposed that henceforth the blue line in the wetland map should be clearly mentioned as mean high flood level while publishing wetland in the gazette. Authority members unanimously agreed to the same.

Agenda 7: Deputation of field surveyor for GSWA from Directorate of Settlement and Land records

HNA, GSWA put forth the information that GSWA is in receipt of inquires about the verification of boundaries of Notified wetlands so he proposed that as DSLR has deputed a surveyor in Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority, similar way a Field surveyor could be deputed to GSWA. It was informed by Director (Environment & Climate Change), Shri. Dasharath Redkar that communication was already made to the DSLR regarding the deputation of field surveyors, to that Shri. Sandip Jacques IAS, Secretary (Revenue) further added that the same would be verified and complied with. Until such deputation was done, any requirement of Field surveyors concerning wetlands could be communicated to Revenue Department.

Agenda 8: Cognisance of new construction in the notified wetland area.

HNA, GSWA informed that GSWA is in receipt of certain illegal constructions in the area of notified wetland in the State. GSWA has requested law department to guide

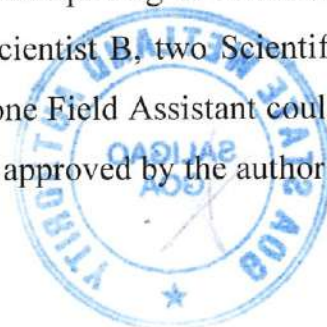
GSWA in forming Modalities for implementation of Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017. With regard to this it was informed by Law Secretary Shri. Sandip Jacques IAS that the Law Department will not be able to specify the action. However the same may be forwarded to District Collectors who has the necessary arrangements to execute desired action on ground. The same was unanimously approved by the authority members.

Agenda 9: Sahbhagita Presentation.

HNA, GSWA informed authority members that GSWA is in receipt of communication from Central Government (CG) regarding Mission *Sahbhagita*. Under Mission *Sahbhagita* CG has directed state wetland authorities to appoint *Amrit Dharohar Prabhari* for coordinating site management with *Wetland Mitra* network, knowledge Partners and line departments. Authority members decided that Assistant Engineers of Water Resource Departments could be assigned as *Amrit Dharohar Prabhari*. Local Educational institutes and Biodiversity Management Committee could be roped in as Knowledge Partner including local voluntary organization if interested & capable. HNA, GSWA suggested that induction programme could be conducted for WRD Engineers to introduce them to Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 and various roles of *Amrit Dharohar Prabhari*. The same was unanimously approved by the authority members.

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

HNA, GSWA put forth that creation of posts at GSWA as recommended by Technical Committee for the preparation & implementation of Integrated Management Plan for Notified wetlands. Authority members unanimously decided that till the staff is deputed by the parent department, recruitment could be done on contractual basis. HNA, GSWA read out the posts in addition to existing staff comprising of Scientific officer, Project Assistant and Legal Assistant that are one Scientist B, two Scientific Assistant, one Architectural Assistant, one Accountant and one Field Assistant could be absorbed on contractual basis. The same was unanimously approved by the authority members.



422
HNA, GSWA informed that waste water treatment scheme proposed by GSWA will be circulated vide email among authority members for inputs. The same was unanimously approved by the authority members.

Chief Engineer Shri. Pramod Badami Water Resource Department presented proposals regarding Carambolim lake and Batim lake which were already presented to TC of GSWA and minutes along with inputs were communicated.

Inputs given by the authority members for Carambolim lake are as follows:

- a. Avoid erection of rubble wall
- b. Avoid using concrete material
- c. Two Cantilevers of 2-3 meters length only along roadside of the lake
- d. Dissolved oxygen meters to be introduced to detect the oxygen level so optimum aeration should occur.
- e. Desilting only wherever necessary
- f. Incoming nallahs should be provided with screening mechanisms.
- g. Ambient Lighting only along roadside of the lake

Inputs given by the authority members for Batim lake are as follows:

- a. Arch culvert to be strengthened internally however should maintain the original archaeological design.
- b. Incoming nallahs should be provided with screening mechanisms.

Both the proposals by WRD were approved by authority members provided WRD incorporates above inputs. The same was unanimously approved by the authority members.

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



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam'.

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