

**MINUTES OF THE 8th GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF GOA STATE
WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA)**

TYPE OF MEETING: REGULAR GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

DATE: 24TH February 2023;

TIME: 3.00 PM ONWARDS

VENUE: CONFERENCE HALL, 3rd FLOOR, OFFICE OF GOA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, OPP. SALIGAO SEMINARY, SALIGAO, BARDEZ, GOA

THE MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY RTD. JUDGE SHRI DESMOND D' COSTA, CHAIRPERSON, GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE (GC) OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA).

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Hon'ble Rtd. Justice Desmond D'Costa	Chairperson
2.	Adv. Sapna Mordekar	Member
3.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Head of Nodal Agency (HNA) for GSWA & Member Secretary (MS), Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB)	Convenor
4.	Shri Naveed Tahasildar, Sarpanch of Village Panchayat Curti Khandepar	Invitee
5.	Dr. Kiran Suresh Gaude, Chairperson, Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) Curti Khandepar	Invitee
6.	Shri. Sachin P. Naik, Secretary, Village Panchayat Curti Khandepar	Invitee
7.	Dr.Akhil V.P. Scientist, CSIR-NIO	Representative of CSIR-NIO
8.	Mr.Conroy Alvares, CSIR-NIO	Representative of CSIR-NIO
9.	Miss.Prerna Shet, CSIR-NIO	Representative of CSIR-NIO

The Representatives from Water Resource Department and Revenue Department were unable to attend the meeting.



At the onset, Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, HNA, GSWA extended a warm welcome to the members of the Grievance Committee of GSWA and members of Village Panchayat Curti Khandepar. The following Agenda was transacted:

Agenda 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 7th GC Meeting held on 11th January 2023

The minutes of the Seventh GC Meeting were circulated before the Committee Members for confirmation.

Proposed by: Adv. Sapna Mordekar (Member)

Seconded by: Hon'ble Rtd. Justice Desmond D'Costa (Chairperson)

The same was approved by all the members present at the meeting.

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

The details of the action taken on the agenda points of the 7th GC Meeting were placed to the members for information and perusal. All the points on ATR were complied and approved.

Agenda 3: Personal hearing of the objectors regarding draft notification of Panchami Lake as Wetland under Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017

Initially Head of Nodal Agency (HNA), Goa State Wetland Authority(GSWA), introduced to the grievants the process of Wetland Notification as per Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017. He further informed the grievants that the status quo of traditional rights and privileges with respect to the wetlands are maintained in the notification.

1. Shri Ashok B. Khedekar

Shri Ashok Khedekar was represented by his son Shri Atikesh Khedekar, he informed that he intends to put up a cowshed and is in process of acquiring permissions from concerned other authorities. GC informed that proposed cowshed may be permitted subject to the provisions of the laws applicable and that the solid and liquid waste is not released in the wetlands and does not affect the ecological character of wetland.

GC informed that cultivation is allowed in the buffer as it is traditional activity. Only new constructions of permanent nature within the buffer zone is prohibited. The Grievant further



conveyed his intention to erect a farmhouse in this area. The GC members informed that the proposed farmhouse which is permissible as per law may be permitted subject to the approval of GSWA and solid and liquid waste arising from these activities shall not be allowed to enter the wetland

Decision: the GC members decided that the proposed cowshed and farmhouse may be permitted subject to approval from GSWA, permissions from other concerned authorities, ensuring that solid and liquid wastes shall not be released in the wetland and the activity should not affect the ecological character of the wetland.

2. Shri Yogiraj Gobre

The Grievant appeared in person. The Grievant informed the GC that major part of his area falls in the buffer zone of the wetland and he intends to do cultivation of species which may not be indigenous species. GC members permitted the cultivation of non-indigenous species provided such cultivation shall not affect the ecological character of the wetland.

The Grievant also informed that he intends to construct farm house, cowshed and agri-store room in the area falling in buffer zone may be permitted subject to the permissions from other concerned authorities, however the proposed structures should also attain the approval of GSWA.

GC further informed that the Lake Management Committee of the Wetland will comprise of 2 major stakeholders (One women member), an Assistant engineer, a head of local educational institute, BMC chairperson, councilor/Panch, GSWA nominated member, in case of more than one panchayat involved than co-opted members and Wetland mitra who will be entrusted with job of maintaining the wetland as per the integrated management plan.

All the charges made by Yogiraj Gobre were addressed by CSIR-NIO by showing evidence of field report signed by Chairperson of local Biodiversity Management Committee.

Decision: The proposed farm house, cowshed and agri-store room may be permitted subject to approval from GSWA, permissions from other concerned authorities, ensuring that solid and liquid wastes shall not be released in the wetland and the activity should not affect the ecological character of the wetland.

3. Residents of Panchami Khandepar



There was no representation for the Grievant no. 3 for the meeting, however written grievance was discussed by GC members. Also informed by Sarpanch & secretary of Village Panchayat Curti Khandepar their major concern was regarding of the expansion of existing temple structure. GC deliberated and decided that the proposed Expansion of the temple may be allowed however solid and liquid waste should not be released in the wetland and the activity should not affect the ecological character of the wetland and subject to the approval from GSWA.

Decision: The proposed expansion of existing temple may be permitted subject to approval from GSWA, permissions from other concerned authorities, ensuring that solid and liquid wastes shall not be released in the wetland and the activity should not affect the ecological character of the wetland.

It was brought to the notice of GC by locals that there are incidences of poaching activities in and around Panchami Lake forest area, GC directed to communicate to the Forest Department to ensure necessary vigilance, mechanism adopted by Forest dept. to monitor such activities and obtain the action taken report.

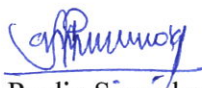
Conclusion: The grievant/ complainants/ Objector agreed that their objections were resolved and satisfactorily dealt with hence GC decided to propose the Panchami Lake for final notification after addressing all the grievants. It was decided that this opinion of GC be referred to GSWA for final decision in this matter.

Agenda 4: Any other matter with the permission of the chairperson.

Nil.

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




Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam
Head of Nodal Agency, GSWA