

**MINUTES OF THE 12<sup>th</sup> GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA)**

**TYPE OF MEETING:** REGULAR GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

**DATE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023; **TIME:** 2.30 PM ONWARDS

**VENUE:** CONFERENCE HALL, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Judge Desmond D'Costa	Chairperson
2.	Smt. Snehal S. Prabhu, Dy. Collector, (Revenue), Collectorate South Goa	Member
3.	Shri Rajesh Ajgaonkar, Dy. Collector Tiswadi	Representative of North Goa Collector
4.	Shri Ganesh K. Barve, Dy. Director, Department of Urban Development.	Member
5.	Smt. Meeksha Naik, Block Development Officer (BDO) II, HQ, Directorate of Panchayat (DOP)	Representative of DOP
6.	Adv. Sapna Mordekar	Member
7.	Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Head of Nodal Agency (HNA) for GSWA & Member Secretary (MS), Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB)	Convenor



8.	Smt. Vidya Dhavlikar, Assistant Engineer, Water Resource Department (WRD)	Representative of WRD
9.	Smt. Pravisha Bhonsle (VP Secretary)	Representative of BDO Bardez HQ
10.	Representative of Prathamesh Shankardas, Block Development Officer, Directorate of Panchayat	Member
11.	Dr. Akhil V.P, Sr. Scientist, CSIR-NIO	Representative from CSIR-NIO
12.	Shri. Vishwendra Naik. JE Goa State Pollution Control Board	Invitee
13.	Shri Xavier W. Pereira , Sarpanch, Village Panchayat Cana-Benaulim	Invitee
14.	Shri. Charles D'Silva, Chairperson, Biodiversity Management Committee Cana-Benaulim	Invitee

- The attendance for the Grievants present for the 12th GC meeting is attached herewith.

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

**Agenda 1 : Personal Hearing to the objectors regarding draft notification of Diuler Lake, Vodle Lake & Adusle Lake (Cana Benaulim, Salcete), as Wetland under Wetland (Conservation & Management ) Rules 2017.**

Head of Nodal Agency, Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, explained to the grievants the entire process of Wetland Identification & Notification in the State of Goa as per Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017.

Initially oral communication was done by Village Panchayat Cana-Benaulim for Group hearing and the Grievants were heard one by one but in group setting.



**Mr. Antonio Savio Gomes** informed the GC that he cultivates the field which is notified in the Wetland Draft Notification and there are rented residential premises in the said property. He also intends to built a security cabin to keep a watch on the fields.

GC informed that the traditional paddy cultivation is allowed and repair to the existing premises is also permitted subject to the approvals from other concerned authorities.

**Shri. Sahadev Govind Redkar** and **Harishchandra Sahadev Redkar** raised a similar query regarding repair of the the existing structures.

GC informed that repair to the existing premises is also permitted subject to the approvals from other concerned authorities.

**Pedrinha Barreto** informed GC that she cultivates in the notified area.

GC informed that cultivation will be permitted activity as it is a traditional practice & pre-existing right.

**Shri. Vinodkumar Redkar & Shri. Virendra Redkar**, informed GC that they have property at the bank of Diuler Lake and have existing residential premises, further they intend to construct in the vacant area of the plot.

GC informed that repair of existing structures is permitted subject to the approvals from other concerned authorities & GC will convey to GSWA that the grievants have intention of constructing in the notified zone for further decision in this regard.

**Mr. Patrick Fernandes** was represented by Shri Nilesh Prabhudesai and brought to the notice of GC that he has existing residential premises that fall in Buffer area of Draft notified area and further plans to repair the house.

GC informed the grievant that the repair of existing premises is permitted subject to the approvals from other concerned authorities.

**Mr. Nilesh Prabhudesai** appearing in person informed GC the actual name of the Dhakte Lake or Diuler lake is Diuler Tollem and the nomenclature needs to be corrected. He asserted that the survey no.176/4 is wrongly depicted as waterbody in the map and the water line mark does not reach the point shown in the map as per his experience hence survey no.176/4 is wrongly marked as waterbody and actually is a paddy field.

He further informed that the lake water is polluted as the feeding nallahs bring in sewage water from nearby residential areas.



GC informed that GSWA has notified Lake Management Committee consisting of local people who will deal with overall management of Lake & that CSIR-NIO will be directed to verify the point raised regarding survey no. 176/4.

**Mr. Nilesh Prabhudesai** further placed the viewpoint that Lake Management Committee should also include Health Department and TCP representatives who will ensure that the feeding nallahs do not bring sewage water in the lake. To this GC stated such issues could be raised in the LMC meetings. GC further informed that official communication regarding the issue will be made to GSPCB.

Further **John Barreto**, representing Benaolim Vodlem Tollem Cultivators informed that he cultivates in the lake, also further said that his cattle wallows in the lake water, he informed that he cultivates paddy field and stores the water through the sluice gates and also intends to construct in the buffer zone.

GC informed the grievant that cultivation and wallowing are permitted activities as per pre-existing rights & privileges. GC further informed the grievant that the repair of existing premises is permitted subject to the approvals from other concerned authorities. GC further informed that GC will convey the grievance that the grievants have intention of constructing in the notified zone to the GSWA for further decision in this regard.

**Mr. Norbert J. Fernandes alias Judas Norberto Fernandes** was present in person. He informed that he cultivates in the notified area of Diuler Lake, in survey no. 176/4 and in survey No. 176/1-H, he has his ancestral house which is in a dilapidated state which he intends to repair.

GC informed the grievant that the repair of existing premises is permitted subject to the approvals from other concerned authorities. GC further informed that GC will convey the grievance that the grievants have intention of constructing in the notified zone to GSWA for further decision in this regard.

**Smt. Mumtaz Ahmed Shaikh** appeared in person and informed that GC that she has an existing residential premises just on the banks of the Vodle lake and intends to do additional construction. GC informed the grievant that the repair of existing premises is allowed subject to the approvals from other concerned authorities. GC further informed that GC will convey the grievance that the grievants have intention of constructing in the notified zone to the GSWA for further decision in this regard.



**Smt. Ermelinda Rodrigues** was present in person & mentioned that she cultivates in the notified wetland area. Further she was emotional about non-receipt of payment due to land acquisition earlier by another government authority.

Regarding the above grievant GC informed that cultivation is permitted activity & regarding her dues, the appropriate authority may be approached but the issue is out of purview of GSWA.

**Sister Rosy Mascarenhas** appeared in person and raised a grievance that there exists a School and they intend to repair the existing playground falling in the zone of influence of the wetland. GC informed that repair of existing structures/amenities is permitted subject to the approvals from other concerned authorities.

**Mr. Menino S. Fernandes** informed that he has existing house and needs to repair and reconstruct the same & also further possibility of expansion beyond existing plinth. GC informed that repair of existing structures is allowed subject to the approvals from other concerned authorities & regarding the possibility of expansion, GC will convey the same to the GSWA for further decision in this regard.

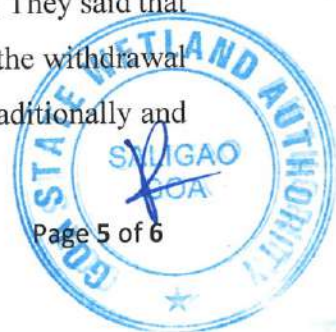
**Smt. Sheetal Gajanand Redkar & Shri. Vithal Rajaram Redkar**, represented by Veda Redkar informed that they have existing house in the buffer Zone and intend expansion beyond existing plinth.

GC further informed that repair of existing structures is permitted subject to the to the approvals from other concerned authorities & regarding the possibility of expansion, GC will convey the same to the GSWA for further decision in this regard.

**Mr. Joao Filpe Fernandes** informed that they have existing house in the buffer Zone and has intention of expansion beyond existing plinth.

GC further informed that repair of existing structures is permitted subject to the approvals from other concerned authorities & regarding the possibility of expansion, GC will convey the same to the GSWA for further decision in this regard.

**Benaulim Vodlem Tollem Cultivators** representatives put forth their grievances. They said that the withdrawal of water is regulated under the notification but the locals manage the withdrawal of water traditionally. He also informed that the locals also practice net fishing traditionally and this should be allowed.



GC informed that the traditionally practiced rights and privileges will be allowed to continue. **Benaulim Villagers** collectively informed GC that the water is highly polluted due to the untreated sewage released in the Draft Notified wetlands from the nearby residential complexes and action needs to be taken by GSPCB. GC further informed that official communication regarding the issue will be made to GSPCB.

**Mr. Soccorro Barreto**, represented by Soccorina Barreto informed that she has existing house in the buffer Zone and inquired about repairs and also has intention of expansion beyond existing plinth.

GC further informed that repair of existing structures is permitted subject to the to the approvals from other concerned authorities & regarding the possibility of expansion, GC will convey the same to the GSWA for further decision in this regard.

**Conclusion of the meeting:** GC informed that the pre-existing rights and privileges are permitted. GC further decided that 5 representatives from the grievants including Village panchayat along with Biodiversity Management Committee should place their views and grievances to the GSWA.

**Agenda 2: 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**





GOA STATE WETLAND AUTHORITY (GSWA)

ATTENDANCE

**Time:** 02:30 pm onwards

**Date:** 02/11/2023

**Venue:** 03<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Conference Hall, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Saligao, Bardez - Goa

**Purpose:** 12<sup>th</sup> Grievance Committee Meeting of Goa State Wetland Authority regarding grievances received for draft notification of Diuler Lake, Vodle Lake, Adsule Lake, Manali Lake and Ita Lake (Benaulim - Salcete) as wetland under Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017

Sr. No	Name	Contact details	Signature
1	Tukaram Kesarkar	9921651623	
2	Charles D Silva	9822185678	
3	Xavier W. Pereira (Sarpanch)	9850479768	
4	Avinash Tavares	9657210949	
5	John Barreto	9822184847	
6	Raymond Costa	7219888088	
7	Veda. Viraj Redcar	9545519581	
8	Racheal Vaz (PTA)	9823281059	
9	Sh. Elizabeth Coelho	8380058668	

10.	Ermelinda Rodrigues	8806378347	Ermelinda Rodrigues
11	JOAO FILIPE FERNANDES	7030520018	<del>Redkar</del>
12	Menino Santana Fernandes	9922861961	<del>Redkar</del>
13	Manuel Penach [Manuzinho]	8600748800	<del>M. Penach</del>
14	Harshanda A Redkar.	9923923016	Redkar
15	Mumtazbi Shaikh	9921739556 9326102029	A. A. Shaikh
16	Shubham Redkar	7030419293	Redkar
17.	Pedrinha Baretto	9850550465	Baretto
18	A. Savio Gomes	9604723084	Gomes
19	Manoel Fernandes	9890265885	Fernandes
20	Judas Norberto Fernandes	9822582920	Fernandes
21	Vinendra D. Redkar	9834121758	Redkar
22	Vinodkumar D. Redkar	9822484980	Redkar
23	Walter Fernandes	9850253040	Fernandes
24	Nilesh Pochhadani	9822134208	Pochhadani