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Minutes of the First Meeting of South Goa District Tree Authority held under the Chairmanship of Shri. Puneet Kumar Goyal, IAS, Principal Secretary (Forests) on 27/04/2021 at 12:00 Noon in the Main Conference Hall, Secretariat, Porvorim-Goa

The list of participants who attended the meeting is at Annexure.

While welcoming Chairman & Members of the South Goa District Tree Authority DCF (South)/Member Secretary briefed about duties of the Tree Authority as given in Section 7 of the Goa, Daman and Diu Preservation of Trees Act, 1984.

Following points were discussed in detail and the action to be taken thereon.

1. The Chairman desired that Forest Department may compile comprehensive data pertaining to the duties of the Tree Authorities vis-à-vis work done in that direction by the Forest Department.

**Action by: DCF (P&S)**

2. Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble Minister/ MLA, Curchorem suggested that quality of the planting materials being supplied by private nurseries in the State need to be verified and database of such private nurseries to be made available to the Tree Authority. On deliberation, the Chairman directed Forest Department to prepare the data on number of private nurseries functioning in the State and update the forum during next meeting.

**Action by: DCF (North/South)**

3. Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble Minister/ MLA Curchorem suggested to update the Forest Department website with useful links of the forest nurseries with every information on availability of planting materials. Further, photographs of the plant nurseries, location map and contact details for the information of public may also be uploaded.

**Action by: All DCFs/ DCF HQ**

4. Shri. Clafasio Dias, Hon'ble MLA of Cuncolim suggested to issue felling permissions for dangerous trees on emergency basis. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests informed that under section 12A of Goa, Daman and Diu Preservation of Trees Act 1984, Tree Officer or the Deputy Collector is vested with the power to issue written order to fell trees in ruinous state or is in such condition that it is likely to fall and thereby cause injury to a person living or

carrying on business in the neighborhood or passerby or to a building or a house or any public place. He appraised the forum that under section 8 of the Goa, Daman and Diu Preservation of Trees Act 1984, owner of a land may take immediate action to fell such a tree, which if not immediately felled, there would be grave danger to life or property or traffic, and report the fact to the Tree Officer within twenty-four hours of such felling. It was decided that tree felling application process to be made online immediately.

**Action by: DCF (South/North)**

5. Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble Minister/ MLA, Curchorem suggested Forest Department to take over the task of beautification and plantation along the dividers of the roads from GSIDC and entrust it to Social Forestry, Parks & Garden Division. The Chairman suggested to obtain Government approval for such works.

**Action by: DCF P&S /DCF (SFP&G)**

6. Adhyaksha, South Goa Zilla Panchayat was requested to identify feasible areas where plantation in the form of roadside/ gardens can be taken up in South Goa District. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests informed that Forest Department will provide quality planting material and technical support to raise the plantations. However, the responsibility for protection & maintenance of the plantation may be entrusted with concerned local bodies.

**Action by: Z.P. (South)/ DCF (South)**

7. Principal Secretary (Forests) suggested to procure/hire sufficient number of water tankers under suitable schemes for watering of the plantation during summer season.

**Action by: DCF (South)/DCF (SF, P&G)**

8. Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble Minister / MLA, Curchorem suggested to increase the interface with public by giving wide publicity about different forest establishments like plant nurseries/ protected areas/ arboretum/ bio diversity park/ botanical garden/ Zoological park etc. for the benefit of the public through media and website of the department.

**Action by: DCF [North/ South/ WL& ET (North/ South), DCF (HQ)]**

9. Principal Secretary (Forests) directed to complete the process of development of online portal on Goa Online to receive online applications seeking permission of felling/ transportation of trees through Goa Electronics Ltd. within a month. Necessary amendment in GPTA 1984 may be proposed for reducing the time limit of permission from 60 days to 30 days. Hon'ble Minister suggested incorporating a dashboard on status of the online applications in the portal so that the service can be offered in a time bound manner.

**Action by: DCF (P&S)**

10. The forum was appraised about the Green cover of the State. The Tree Authority has taken a view that the decrease in tree cover outside the forest is due to the development pressures. Therefore, to insist plantation of saplings against each felling permissions, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests suggested for raising a Corpus fund from the Security Deposits and utilizing the same for replantation activities. The Chairman suggested Forest Department to make a proposal and to collect details of the saplings planted by the individuals/ User Agencies in lieu of the trees felled by them.

**Action by: DCF (North/South)**

11. Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble Minister / MLA, Curchorem suggested to revise the existing powers vested with the Tree Officer. The Chairman directed Forest Department to move a proposal to revise the powers of Sub-Divisional Forest Officer and Tree Officer suitable to the requirements.

**Action by: DCF (P&S)**

12. Shri. Nilesh Cabral, Hon'ble Minister for Power/ MLA Curchorem suggested that the Biodiversity Management Committee of concerned village to be informed of the felling permissions granted in a village. BMC of the village in turn shall follow up replanting of the saplings with the concerned applicant/owner of the property. This arrangement may ensure replantation of the saplings as per the conditions of the felling permissions.

**Action by: DCF (North/South)**


13. The forum reviewed composition of the Tree Authority for the Districts and observed that a Tree Authority at the State level may be appropriate instead of separate Tree Authorities for the Districts. Further, the Chairman suggested to co-opt Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Wildlife Warden, Member Secretary of the Goa State Biodiversity Board and a representative of non-official organization to the Tree Authority as expert members.

**Action by: DCF (P&S)**

14. Principal Secretary (Forests) directed to conduct next meeting of tree authority of South Goa District preferably after 4 weeks.

**Action by: DCF (South)**

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

  
(Jiss K. Varkey, IFS)  
Dy. Conservator of Forests (P&S)  
Van Bhawan, Altinho, Panaji-Goa.

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Dated:- 19-05-2021

**Encl:-** List of participants at Annexure.

**Copy to:-**

1. The Hon'ble Minister for Power/ MLA, Curchorem Constituency.
2. The Hon'ble MLA, Cuncolim Constituency.
3. The PS to the Principal Secretary (Forests) Secretariat, Porvorim
4. The Collector, South Goa District, Margao-Goa.
5. The Chairperson, Margao Municipal Council, Margao-Goa.
6. The Adhyaksha, South Goa Zilla Panchayat, Margao-Goa.
7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Altinho, Panaji-Goa.
8. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Altinho, Panaji-Goa.
9. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Altinho, Panaji-Goa.
10. The Conservator of Forests (Conservation), Altinho, Panaji-Goa.
11. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division (Member Secretary of Tree Authority), Margao-Goa.
12. The Deputy Conservator of Forests (All)
13. Guard file.

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**Annexure**

**List of participants who attended the First Meeting of the Tree Authority of South Goa District held on 27/04/2021 (Tuesday) at 12:00 Noon in the Main Conference Hall, Secretariat, Porvorim-Goa**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Shri. Nilesh Cabral	Hon'ble Minister / MLA, Curchorem Constituency
2.	Shri. Clafasio Dias	Hon'ble MLA, Cuncolim Constituency
3.	Roshell Fernandes	Dy. Collector & DRO (South) representing the Collector South
4.	Priya P. Naik	Head Clerk of Margao Municipal Council representing Chairperson of Margao Municipal Council
5.	Shri. Subhash Chandra, IFS	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Goa
6.	Shri. Santosh Kumar, IFS	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Goa
7.	Shri. Anil Shetgaonkar	Deputy Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division
8.	Shri. Jiss K. Varkey, IFS	Deputy Conservator of Forests, Planning & Statistics