

15/1  
⑦

**MINUTES OF 1<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE TO REVIEW  
THE PRIVATE FOREST AREAS IDENTIFIED BY STATE LEVEL EXPERT  
COMMITTEE (THOMAS AND ARAUJO COMMITTEE) ON PRIVATE  
FOREST HELD ON 29.01.2020**

A meeting of the Review Committee appointed by the Government of Goa vide Notification No. DCF(WP)/Pvt.For/16(THC)/2013(WZ)/19-20 dated 21/01/2020 to review the provisionally identified Private Forest areas by Thomas & Araujo Committee, was held on 29.01.2020 at 11.00 am in the chamber of Conservator of Forests (Conservation), Junta House, Panaji Goa under the chairmanship of Conservator of Forests (Conservation), Panaji Goa.

Following attended the meeting:

1	Additional Collector, North Goa District	Member
2	Additional Collector, South Goa District	Member
3	Head Surveyor North and South, Representative of Director, Settlement and Land Records	Member
4	Asst, Director, Representative Director of Agriculture	Member
5	Asst. Conservator of Forests, Headquarters, North Goa Division	Member
6	Asst. Conservator of Forests, Headquarters, South Goa Division	Member
7	Dy. Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Division, Ponda.	Member Secretary
8	Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division, Margao Goa	Special Invitee

**Agenda item No. 1:-** Member Secretary of the committee Dy. Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Division, Ponda introduced the private forest concept and overview of the work to be carried out to all the members of the committee.

**Agenda item No. 2:-** Chairman of the committee, Conservator of Forests, (Conservation), introduced the methodology to be adopted by present Review Committee to review the provisional private forest areas identified by Thomas and Araujo committee.

Chairman stated the basic three Criteria for inclusion of any land in Goa as private Forest, which are as follows:

- i) 75% of the tree composition n of such lands should be of Forestry species.
- ii) The area should be either contiguous to the Government Forest lands or if in isolation, the minimum area identified should 5 ha; and
- iii) Canopy density should not be less than 0.4.

Member Secretary briefed the methodology adopted by earlier review committee for reviewing the Sawant and Karapurkar committee identified private forest areas. Thereafter detailed discussion a methodology was prepared, based on utilization of available forest cover map and satellite data (enclosed at **Annexure-I**). Although the methodology was adopted and passed by all the members but it was felt that by using high quality forest cover map methodology can be further improved.

**Agenda item No. 3:- Time frame to complete the task assigned:** After detailed discussion estimated time to complete the task with present methodology was found to be three years i.e., 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. However, with improved forest cover map different methodology can be followed in which much less time will be required.

13/c  
5

**Agenda item No. 4:-** Following important observations were made by the committee members:

Head Surveyor North, DSLR raised the issue that the industrial Zone should be excluded from Private Forests. Chairman expressed his concern; if such order exists it should be brought to the notice of the committee.

Member Secretary explained the requirement of sub division survey plans of the provisionally identified survey no. by Araujo & Thomas Committee. The chairman viewed that same may be provided by Director of Settlement & Land records by free of cost within time frame.


**(Action Taken:** Head Surveyor North DSLR and ACF (HQ) NGD)

Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division, asked public hearing whether it should be done before or after the ground verification. It was decided that it should be done at the time of inspection/survey in presence of the owners and the signature of the owners should be obtained on field data recording sheets. In case of any objection the land owner can file his/her representation to review committee within stipulated time limit.

Collector South raised his concern in case of conversion/sanad matter, when the land in question is private forest. Member Secretary, DCF, Working Plan, clarified that such cases can be brought to the notice of the department and action will be decided accordingly.

Member Secretary expressed her concern over requirement of clerical & Technical staff for private forest work and requested to provide two additional clerks and four technical staff in GIS Lab for the work of private forest.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks.

  
31/1/2023  
**Deep Shikha Sharma IFS**  
**Member Secretary/Deputy Conservator**  
**of Forests (Working Plan), Ponda**

**No. MS/REV-PF/DCF/WP/2019-20/854**

**Dated:- 31.01.2020**

To

- 1 Conservator of Forests, Conservation, Junta House, Panajim
- 2 Director, Settlement & Land Records, Panaji
- 3 Director Agriculture
- 4 Additional Collector, Revenue Department, Margao South
- 5 Additional Collector, Revenue Department, Panaji North
- 6 Asst. Conservator of Forests Head Quarter, North Ponda
- 7 Asst. Conservator of Forests Head Quarter, South Margao
- 8 Office copy.
9. DCF HQ
10. Legal Cell, Forest Dept.



**Methodology to be adopted by the Review Committee w.r.to private forest identified by Thomas and Araujo**

The criteria for inclusion of any land in Goa as Private Forest is as follows:

- (i) 75% of the tree Composition of such lands should be of Forestry species;
- (ii) The area should be either contiguous to the Government Forest lands or if in isolation, the minimum area identified should be 5 ha; and
- (iii) Canopy density should not be less than 0.4.

Thomas and Arauj Committees identified Private Forests primarily on ocular basis in North and South Goa Forest Divisions respectively without demarcating on ground. This Review Committee will adopt a similar methodology which was followed by Review Committee for Private Forests identified by Sawant and Karapurkar committees. However, for natural justice, concerned land owner's comments/objections will be invited; publishing the survey numbers in newspapers and they will also be invited during the field verification.

In order to achieve the stipulated TORs, the Review Committee will adopt the following methodology:-

- (i) **Digitization of Private Forest Data:** - The first step will be to digitize the survey numbers referred by Thomas and Araujo Committees using DSLR/TCP record. Survey numbers included in Sawant and Karapurkar committees will be excluded as different committee has already reviewed those survey nos.
- (ii) **Superimposing on Forest Cover Map/ Classified image:-**Second step will be to superimpose the digitized maps of Private Forest areas on the 2017 Forest Cover Map/ Classified image of FSI Dehradun (2015 satellite image data) for assessment of three criteria of Private Forest. Satellite image of 2015 is being taken as it has come to the notice that field visits of Thomas and Araujo committee took place mostly in 2015.
- (iii) **Image interpretation:-**The third step will be to carry out data interpretation of the superimposed private forest area referred by Thomas and Araujo Committees.

*D.S&L.R.*  
*29/01/2020*  
*CC(S)*  
*ACFI/HR, N-forest*  
*ACFI/HR, N-forest*  
*ACFI/HR, N-forest*

(iv) **Ground verification:** Following methodology will be adopted for field verification of canopy density and species composition on ground:

a. Ground truthing of 5% randomly selected area is proposed for species composition and canopy density, considering the extent of work, availability of resources etc. Points will be drawn for field verification across all survey numbers identified by Thomas and Araujo committees.

- Additional points will be drawn along boundary of Forest and non-forest area if objections are received/ ground condition regarding canopy cover.
- In case of objections received within one month of advertisement, 100% species composition determination will be done for areas finally identified.

b. KML files will be created for these points and will be given with GPS locations of each point to North and South Goa Forest Division.

c. Sample plot of 20m X 50m dimension will be fixed at given GPS location for verification of canopy density and species composition as per given Performa. Crown density will be estimated based on average crown diameter estimation, to check the forest canopy classification by FSI.

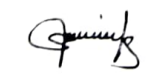
d. Ground verification will be done by concerned Divisions regarding which intimations will also be given to landowners through concerned Forest Division in advance.

- The Superintendent of Police, North Goa and South Goa shall provide, subject to advance intimation by the Member Secretary of the committee in this regard, the necessary protection to the survey team during ground verification and survey.


- Survey team will be empowered to enter into any private property for ground verification and survey work.


(v) If a patch is identified as Forest from FSI map but on ground forest is not found, concerned Division will be asked to check for any records/evidence of tree felling offence case/ court case on concerned patch besides checking the area on

  
D. S. K. R.

  
Addl. Collector (S)



  
24/9/20  
ACF-HQ, N-Goa

  
20/11/2020



  
ACF (N)

google time series data. Accordingly decision on inclusion or exclusion of concerned patch will be taken.

- (vi) On the other hand, if a patch is identified as Forest land from ground survey and not a forest land from FSI map then it will be included as Private Forest.
- (vii) Based upon the Forest Cover Map/ Classified image interpretation as well as ground verification report and survey and disposing off objections received, the Review Committee will identify the Private Forests areas fulfilling all three criteria of Govt, within the survey numbers referred by Thomas and Araujo Committees which needs to be demarcated on the ground.
- (viii) Minimum period of 2 years is required to finish the work of field verification and survey. As field verification and survey work can't be carried out during the monsoon period, the whole exercise will be carried out by March, 2023 as per tentative estimate.

*[Signature]*  
29.01.2020

*[Signature]*  
Addl. collector (S)

*[Signature]*  
(100) H/W RUMBY  
CFC

*[Signature]*  
D. SELL

*[Signature]*  
(MS)

*[Signature]*  
2/10/21  
ACF-HB-S-N-Parke

*[Signature]*  
ACD (N)