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**MINUTES OF 6<sup>th</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 18.09.2020**

A meeting of the Review Committee was held on 18.09.2020 at 11am in conference hall of Forest Department, Goa Van Bhawan, Altinho, Panaji under the chairmanship of Chief Conservator of Forests. Following attended the meeting:

1	Mr. Dashrath Redkar, Director of Settlement and Land Records, Panaji Goa	Member
2	Smt. Shoban Ugvenkar, Representative of Director of Agriculture, Panaji Goa	Member
3	Mr. Anisha Kalkoor (IFS) Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division, Ponda Goa	(Special Invitee)
4	Vandana Rao, IAS, Additional Collector, (Revenue), North Goa District	Member
5	Mr. Vishal C. Kundaikar, Representative of Additional Collector (Revenue), South Goa District	Member
6	Mr. Anant Samant Asst. Conservator of Forests, Headquarters, North Goa Division	Member
7	Mr. Deepak Pednekar Asst. Conservator of Forests, Headquarters, South Goa Division	Member
8	Mr. Kuldeep Sharma (IFS) Dy. Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Division, Ponda.	Member Secretary

At the outset the Member Secretary welcomed all the Members of Committee and informed about the action taken on decision of the previous meeting of Review committee held on 13/07/2020. It was also informed that the minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> meeting has been officially communicated to all the members.

Thereafter agenda-wise discussion held. Following was discussed /decided

**Agenda item no 6.1: Update on program made for 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting till date**

-A total of 10,578 nos. of correspondence related to Private Forest have been received till cut-off date of 31/08/2020. After scrutinising, it is found that out

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of 10,578 correspondences, 7812 are objections related to Private Forest and remaining are General correspondences related to Private Forest. Out of 7812 no. of objections, 1759 nos. pertains to Thomas Committee and 6053 nos. pertain to Araujo Committee.

-It was decided that details of all these 7812 objections to be uploaded on Departmental official website and Notice to that effect be published in daily newspaper (English, Marathi and Konkani) so that all those objectors who have submitted their objections by cut-off date, may like to verify the receipt of their objections as well as others details such as survey number, contact details, etc on Forest Department website. In case any objector, who submitted his objection by cut-off date but finds that his objection details have not been included herein, he/she may contact Dy. Conservator of Forests, Working Plan or they can send proof of submission of objection before 15<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2020.

-Digitization work is 100% complete.

-If was informed by Member Secretary that Forest Cover Map (FCM) of LISS IV satellite images were received from FSI, Dehradun on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2020. The dataset also provides information about patches having min 5 ha area and canopy density 40% and above. It was clarified that 2014-15 FCM is being used as this is around middle of the field visit conducted by Thomas and Araujo Committee.

-The superimposition work of digitised survey no. of DSLR provided data on Forest Cover Map (FCM) has been carried out and the analysis work is in progress which shall be completed latest by 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

-However GIS lab can provide draft data sheets of desk analysis completed on weekly basis to the Review Committee, so that the Committee can start public hearing as well as share data sheets along with Map, KML file etc to concerned territorial Dy. Conservator of Forest for ground verification.

-Also a demo of superimposition maps was shown to Review Committee from GIS lab.

-As per preliminary analysis done from FCM of year 2014-15 received from Forest Survey of India (FSI), there are a total of 242 numbers of patches (North - 80, South - 162), each consisting of multiple survey numbers qualifying min 5 ha area and 40% canopy density. Around 180 patches have been analysed. Further, there are additional 100 no. patches (North - 28, South - 72) with more than 40% canopy but less than 5 ha area. The interpretation work to analyse all the Survey no. (Total 3233 Nos of which North - 929 Nos, South - 2304) shall be completed by **31<sup>st</sup> October, 2020**.

**(Action: Member Secretary and Dy. Conservator of Forest (Working Plan).)**

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**Agenda item no 6.2:- Discussion on formation of SOPs for coordinating public hearing of the Representation:**

After detailed discussions the committee finalised Standard **Operating Procedure (SOP) for vetting of map and analysis and holding hearing of objections (copy enclosed as ANNEXURE I)**

The chairman, with mutual consent of all Committee members fixed that the Committee shall meet at least twice a week after 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 to verify the data sheets and maps prepared by GIS lab and after approval, provide them to concerned Dy. Conservator of Forest for initiating ground verification. Also it was agreed to carry out public hearing of objectors of a particular patch qualifying 2 criteria's (area and density) in desk analysis.

**Agenda item no 6.3: Discussion on formation of SOPs for site inspection.**

After detailed discussion SOP for site inspection was approved. **(copy enclosed as ANNEXURE I).**

Since, there are only 8 surveyors against 14 nos. of Committees, the chairman requested DSLR to provide additional surveyors so that a sub-committee work is not hampered due to want of surveyors. DSLR agreed to engage additional surveyors on contract basis.

**Agenda item no 6.4: Any other item with permission of the Chairman**

Member Secretary informed that 14 sub committees have been approved by State Government and Notification has been issued by US (Forest) accordingly.

However while scrutiny of data, it has been observed that Ponda, Sattari and Bicholim Taluka and village Sangolda in Bardez Taluka has been inadvertently left out. Accordingly an Addendum needs to be published for inclusion of Sangolda in existing team and formation of following 2 more sub committees.

**ADDENDUM**

**North Goa**


<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Taluka</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Members of sub-committee</b>		
<b>4</b>	Bardez	Sangolda	ISLR Bardez	RFO Keri	Talathi Sangolda
<b>7</b>	Ponda	Betora	ISLR Ponda	RFO Ponda	Talathi Betora
		Kundaim			Talathi Kundaim

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		Priol			Talathi Priol
		Cuncolim			Talathi Cuncolim
		Adcolna			Talathi Adcolna
		Vagurme			Talathi Vagurme
		Nirancal			Talathi Nirancal
		Borim			Talathi Borim
		Queula			Talathi Queula
		Kodar			Talathi Kodar
		Panchawadi			Talathi Panchawadi
		Bandora			Talathi Bandora
		Ponda			Talathi Ponda
		Curti			Talathi Curti
8	Sattari	Keri	ISLR	RFO	Talathi Keri
		Podocem	Bicholim	Valpoi	Talathi Podocem
		Ponocem			Talathi Ponocem
		Vantem			Talathi Vantem
		Nagvem			Talathi Nagvem
		Rivem			Talathi Rivem
		Conquirem			Talathi Conquirem
		Xelpo-Curdo			Talathi Xelpo-Curdo
	Bicholim	Latambarcem			Talathi Latambarcem

The decision was unanimously adopted by Review Committee.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

  
 (Kuldeep Sharma, IFS)  
 Dy. Conservator of Forests  
 Working Plan Division &  
 Member Secretary  
 Panaji, Goa.

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No : MS/REV-PF/DCF/WP/2020-21/542

Date : 07/10/2020

To,

- 1 The Chief Conservator of Forests, Goa Van Bhavan, Panaji Goa.
- 2 The Director, Settlement & Land Records, Panaji Goa.
- 3 The Director Agriculture, Panaji Goa.
- 4 The Dy. Conservator of Forests Head Quarter, Goa Van Bhavan, Panaji Goa.
- 5 The Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division Ponda Goa.
- 6 The Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Division Margao Goa.
- 7 The Additional Collector South, Revenue Department, Margao South.
- 8 The Additional Collector North, Revenue Department, Panaji North.
- 9 The Legal Cell, Forest Department, Panaji Goa.
- 10 The Asst. Conservator of Forests Headquarter North Ponda Goa.
- 11 The Asst. Conservator of Forests Headquarter South Margao Goa.
- 12 Office copy.

APPENDIX  
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### Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for vetting of map and analysis and holding hearing of objections-

- The Chief Forest Surveyor (CFS) will submit to the Member Secretary, dully signed maps prepared based on superimposition of 2014-15 forest cover map of Goa prepared by FSI using LISS IV satellite map on digitized and geo-referenced maps of survey numbers obtained from TCP department and Municipal bodies, showing the following-
  - Survey numbers identified by Thomas and Araujo Committees,
    - Survey numbers falling under Sawant and Karapurkar committee should be clearly indicated on the map (these numbers are not being reviewed by the present committee)
  - Contours of different canopy classes as per FSI map
    - Patches having more than 5 Ha area & more than 40 percent canopy to be marked differently
  - Existing Forest area, to check whether less than 5 Ha area but having more than 40 percent canopy are adjoining Forest.
    - This will include final 46.1 Sq Km Forest area accepted by NGT as Forest. This should be marked separately.
- The CFS will also submit a dully signed statement after carrying out analysis on status of Canopy and area criteria with respect to different survey numbers to be reviewed. The statement should include the following-
  - Survey Number, Village, Taluka, Division/District
  - Status of Canopy- Whether more than 40 % -(Yes(Full), Yes (Part), No)
  - Status of area (only for the survey numbers fulfilling canopy criteria)- whether more than 5 Ha (Giving total area), Yes, No; in case of later, whether it is adjoining a Forest land.
- The Member Secretary will scrutinize the maps and statement and will schedule sittings of committee in consultation with the Chairman for vetting of maps and the analysis.
- Initially such maps to be vetted where some area qualifying canopy and area criteria is there, so that hearing of affected person could be started.
  - Copies of analysis to be made available to all members.

- Some hard copies of maps also to be there.
- While showing maps, arrangement for Zooming maps and calculation of area to be also done.
- Format for results of analysis to be developed. It should include disclaimers also, e.g.-
  - These findings are based on superimposition of 2014-15 forest cover map of Goa prepared by FSI using LISS IV satellite map on digitized and geo-referenced maps of survey numbers obtained from TCP department and Municipal bodies.
  - Finding regarding extent of patch as per FSI map is final but actual extent of survey numbers are subject to ground survey and status of Private Forest subject to verification of vegetation through total enumeration.
  - Concerned Territorial Division will point out any discrepancy, particularly w.r.to whether a patch having more than 40 percent canopy and less than 5 Ha area is adjoining existing forest land.
  - Division will also provide information on Tree Offence, Court cases etc for area not qualifying Forest.
- A copy of map (A4 size) showing status of concerned survey numbers should be placed in each objection file.
- Based on findings from analysis of maps from 28.9.2020 onwards, notice for hearing should be issued giving a week's time.
- A template for proceedings from hearing should be prepared. Copy of proceedings should be kept in concerned objection file.
- Initially, both vetting of maps & analysis and hearing will be held. Attempt will be made to complete the vetting exercise by October, 2020.
- After field exercise starts and final results gets starting prepared, hearing of only those persons will be conducted whose property is finally affected.
- If from desk analysis certain person is found not affected but during ground demarcation, he is found affected, he will be given hearing opportunity.
- If a certain person is heard based on desk analysis and have objections regarding enumeration exercise, committee can take a call on hearing.

### Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for field verification/enumeration -

- The Chief Forest Surveyor (CFS) will forward copy of map alongwith KML files and analysis to concerned DCF as well as RFO and Member secretary, after vetting of the same by the review committee.
- Maps are prepared based on superimposition of 2014-15 forest cover map of Goa prepared by FSI using LISS IV satellite map (FCM) on digitized and geo-referenced maps of survey numbers obtained from TCP department and Municipal bodies, showing the following-
  - Survey numbers identified by Thomas and Araujo Committees,
    - Survey numbers falling under Sawant and Karapurkar committee should be clearly indicated on the map (these numbers are not being reviewed by the present committee)
  - Contours of different canopy classes as per FSI map
    - Patches having more than 5 Ha area & 40 percent canopy to be marked differently
  - Existing Forest area, to check whether less than 5 Ha area but having more than 40 percent canopy are adjoining Forest.
    - This will include final 46.1 Sq Km Forest area accepted by NGT as Forest. This should be marked separately.
- The statement after carrying out analysis on status of Canopy and area criteria with respect to different survey numbers to be reviewed. The statement should include the following-
  - Survey Number, Village, Taluka, Division/District
  - Status of Canopy- Whether more than 40 % -(Yes(Full), Yes (Part), No)
  - Status of area (only for the survey numbers fulfilling canopy criteria)- whether more than 5 Ha (Giving total area), Yes, No; in case of later, whether it is adjoining a Forest land.
- The Territorial DCF/RFO & Member Secretary concerned will inform the objector about field exercise from the List of objectors.



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- Outer boundaries of Private Forest area as per FCM should be plotted based on KML file. However, survey numbers/parts involved should be demarcated on ground as per revenue records and their GPS coordinates recorded.
  - Subcommittee will carry out inspection of the property and survey numbers/part wise enumeration of Forestry and Non- forestry species should be done.
  - Objector/land owner will be given opportunity to remain present during the exercise. When he/she is present during enumeration, his/ her signature on enumeration sheet should be obtained. In case of denial of signature, this must be noted.
  - Definition of Tree will be as per Goa, Daman and Diu Preservation of Trees Act, 1984. Forestry and Non-Forestry species will be as per convention. However, a common list signed by DCF (North) and (South) should be submitted to the committee.
  - The sub-committee/ DCF can write to the police in case in any law and order issue arises during enumeration exercise.
  - Concerned Territorial Division will point out any discrepancy, particularly w.r.to whether a patch having more than 40 percent canopy and less than 5 Ha area is adjoining existing forest land.
  - A template for reporting from enumeration should be prepared.
  - If from desk analysis certain person is found not affected but during ground demarcation, he is found affected, a clear mention should be made.
  - Final output should be geo-referenced survey plan with details of forestry and non-forestry tree species in each part/sub-part of Survey No.
  - Entire exercise should be done by sub-committees in supervision of concerned Territorial DCFs
    - However, there will be designated Forest Guards in Working Plan Division to co-ordinate with each sub-committee.
  - The sub-committees will submit the reports to Territorial DCFs, who will further forward to the Review Committee after any scrutiny required.