

**Minutes of joint meeting of the Tree Authorities of North & South Goa Districts held under chairmanship of Shri Puneet Kumar Goel, IAS, Chief Secretary/ Secretary (Forests) on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at 03:00 pm  
In the conference hall, Secretariat, Porvorim-Goa**

The list of participants is at Annexure.

At the outset, Chairman welcomed members of Tree Authorities of North & South Goa Districts. Following points were discussed / decision taken during meeting;

**1. Agenda No. 01: To review the Progress of Tree Census being conducted across the State, as per the direction of Tree Authority:**

The progress of Tree Census was apprised to both the Tree Authorities. PCCF informed that Tree Census work is continuing as per direction of the authorities. However, due to monsoon, time bound plantation works and Vanmahotsav celebration all across state progress of census work in July was little slow. Tree Authorities while appreciating efforts of Forests Department asked to continue the work as per directions of Hon'ble High Court.

**2. Agenda No. 02: To consider the Proposals submitted by Individuals/User Agencies under Section 7 (i) of Goa (Preservation of Tree) Act, 1984 for various Development Projects:**

Since last meeting of authorities in April, 22 fourteen (14) applications were received for critical study by Tree Authority under Section 7(i) of the Goa Preservation of Trees Act 1984. The proposal submitted by the Executive Engineer, Works Division XIV (NH), PWD, Fatorda, Margao [User Agency] was scrutinized. The User Agency have

applied for felling of 326 trees spread in an area of 59.47 Ha. The purpose is construction of Margao Western NH Bypass for NH-17 from KM 26/200 to Km 38/100. The Tree Officer scrutinized have proposed 296 trees for felling and 3 trees for transplantation. After detailed deliberations, Tree Authority agreed to the recommendations of Tree officer and asked User Agency to ensure for successful transplantation of 3 trees. Further, Tree Authority decided to defer other proposals with direction to respective Tree Officers to re-submit proposals as per applicable guidelines along with all relevant information's and documents for further study by Tree Authorities.

**3. Agenda No. 03: To update Tree Authorities about the ongoing Court Case in Hon'ble High Court:**

Compliance of directions of the Hon'ble High court was briefed by Member Secretaries of North and South Goa District Tree Authorities. The Hon'ble Court in Order dated 27<sup>th</sup> April,2022 have observed that:

*"At least, Prima facie, we are satisfied that there are compliances. Steps are being taken to ensure the compliances. The efforts taken this far are required to be appreciated."*

Meanwhile the petitioner filed a written reply on 28<sup>th</sup> June,2022. Points raised by petitioner were apprised to the authorities.

The next date of hearing is fixed on 02<sup>nd</sup> August,2022. The Chairman reiterated that case should be followed up closely at a senior level in Forests Department.

#### **Agenda No. 04: Other Issues:**

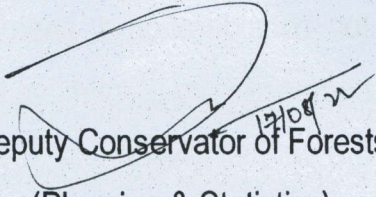
4. The status of the compensatory plantation in lieu of the trees felled in Private and Government Lands since last five years may be updated to authorities in next meeting. The Hon'ble Minister for PWD & MLA, Curchorem suggested that such backlog plantation pertaining to PWD may be carried out by Biodiversity Management Committees of State Biodiversity Board and gave directions to Engineer, Works Division XIV (NH) present during the meeting to compile all such information and put for consideration / approval of Government. Further, directed that backlog of compensatory plantations by Government and private persons may be completed at the earliest feasible.
5. It was further directed to setup an institutional mechanism to monitor compensatory plantation by Government and private persons on regular basis so that such backlog situation may be checked in future. As per requirement, representatives of other Departments including Biodiversity Board may be suitably included in the monitoring team.
6. Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam mentioned that BMC's are notified about the tree felling proposals through the permission letter of Tree Officer and suggested that they should be informed earlier in the process. Authorities asked Tree Officers to look into the matter and take appropriate action to ensure better coordination between Board and Department.
7. The Hon'ble Minister for PWD & MLA, Curchorem enquired about existing applicable charges levied while giving tree permission and suggested that felling charges,

security fee may be revised as per best practices in the Country. Chairman suggested to develop an appropriate model for revising applicable fees. Forest Department to submit a proposal in this regard in next meeting of Tree Authority.

8. Tree Authorities were also apprised about the Goa Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which was recently passed by the State Assembly during Monsoon session. Authorities asked Member Secretaries that after the Notification of Act, the amendments carried out in Act may be apprised to the Hon'ble High Court.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

This issues with the approval of Chief Secretary / Chairman Tree Authority of North & South Goa Districts of Goa.

  
Deputy Conservator of Forests  
(Planning & Statistics)

File No. 5-43-GEN-2021-22-FD/

Date:

**Copy to: -**

1. Hon'ble MLA, Curchorem
2. Hon'ble MLA, Calangute
3. Hon'ble MLA, Aldona
4. Hon'ble MLA, Cuncolim
5. The Hon'ble Mayor, Corporation of the City of Panaji, Panaji, Goa.
6. The Adhyaksha, North Goa Zilla Panchayat, Panaji.
7. The Adhyaksha, South Goa Zilla Panchayat, Margao.
8. The Chairperson, Margao Municipal Council, Margao.

9. The Collector, North Goa District-Goa.
10. The Collector, South Goa District- South Goa.
11. The President, Botanical Society of Goa.
12. The President, Mangrove Society of India, Goa Chapter – Expert Member
13. Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board –  
Expert Member
14. The PS to the Chief Secretary, Secretariat, Porvorim-Goa for kind information of  
Chief Secretary.
15. The Commissioner, Corporation of the City of Panaji, Panaji-Goa
16. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Altinho, Panaji-Goa.
17. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Altinho, Panaji-Goa.
18. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Development), Altinho, Goa.
19. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Administration), Altinho, Goa.
20. The Conservator of Forests (Conservation), Altinho, Panaji-Goa.
21. The DCF, North Goa/South Goa (Member Secretaries)
22. The Dy. Conservator of Forests (All)
23. Guard file.

**Annexure**

**list of participants present during joint meeting of Tree Authority of North & South  
Goa Districts on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at 3.00 p.m.  
in main conference hall, Secretariat, Porvorim – Goa.**

**Chairman**

- 1 Shri Puneet Kumar Goel, IAS Chief Secretary/ Secretary (Forests)

**Members**

- 2 Shri. Nilesh Cabral Hon'ble MLA Curchorem  
3 Ms. Mamu Hage, IAS Collector, North Goa District  
4 Ms. Jyoti Kumari, IAS Collector, South Goa District  
5 Mrs. Suvarna Tendulkar Chairperson, South Goa Zilla Panchayat  
6 Mr. Siddesh Naik Chairperson, North Goa Zilla Panchayat  
7 Dr. Vinod K. Dhargalkar Secretary, Mangrove Society of India  
8 Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board  
9 Shri. Jiss K. Varkey, IFS, Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa  
Division(Member Secretary)  
10 Shri. Prem Kumar R, IFS Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division  
(Member Secretary)

**Special invitees**

- 11 Shri. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
12 Shri. Santosh Kumar, IFS Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
13 Shri. Keshav Kumar, IFS Chief Conservator of Forests (Dev.)  
14 Shri. Saurabh Kumar, IFS Chief Conservator of Forests (Admn.)

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| 15 | Dr. S Dinesh Kannan, IFS   | Conservator of Forests (Conservation)  |
| 16 | Shri. Santosh H. Fadte     | Dy. Conservator of Forests, (P&S)      |
| 17 | Shri. Dttaprasad S. Kamat  | Executive Engineer, PWD.               |
| 18 | Shri. Vishwas K. Chodankar | Sub Divisional Forest Officer, Pernem. |
| 19 | Shri. Deepak Pednekar      | Sub Divisional Forest Officer, Mapusa. |