

MINUTES OF 14th MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE PRIVATE FOREST AREAS IDENTIFIED BY STATE LEVEL EXPERT COMMITTEE (THOMAS AND ARAUJO COMMITTEES) ON PRIVATE FOREST HELD ON 19.04.2022

A meeting of the Review Committee was held on 19/04/2022 at 11.30 am in the Conference Hall of the Forest Department, Goa Van Bhavan, Altinho, Panaji under the Chairmanship of Chief Conservator of Forests.

Following members attended the meeting:

1	Mr. Surendra Naik, Additional Collector, South Goa District	Member
2	Mr. Vithal A Joshi, Asst. Director of Agriculture Representative of Director of Agriculture, Panaji Goa.	Member
3	Mr. Vishwas Chodankar, Asst. Conservator of Forests Headquarters, North Goa Division.	Member
4	Mr. Dhyaneshwar Kudalkar, Asst. Conservator of Forests, Headquarter, South Goa Division.	Member
5	Mrs. Pratima Kavlekar, Representative of Director of Settlement and Land Records, Panaji Goa.	Member
6	Mr. Jiss K. Varkey, IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Goa	Spl Invitee
7	Mr. Minguel Fernandes, Asst. Conservator of Forests, Headquarter, South Goa Division.	Spl Invitee
8	Mr. Dilesh A. Gauns Desai-Chief Forest Surveyor Working Plan Division, Panaji	Spl Invitee
9	Mr. Anisha Kalkoor, M., IFS Dy. Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Division, Panaji.	Member Secretary

At the outset the Member Secretary welcomed all the members of the Committee and informed about the action taken on decision of the previous meeting of the Review Committee held on 29/12/2021. Subsequently, fourth interim report was submitted for Government approval and uploaded on the Forest Department website on 23.02.2022 after Government approval and approval of Election Commission of India to upload it during the period of Election Code of Conduct.

Member Secretary informed the members that till now the review committee has prepared four interim reports disposing 1459 survey numbers out of total 3349 (3195 survey numbers provisionally identified by Thomas and Araujo Committees plus 154 Survey numbers provisionally identified and excluded by Thomas and Araujo Committees) provisionally identified by North Goa and South Goa Forest Division committees (also known as Thomas and Araujo Committees) and all the four interim reports have been uploaded on the website of Goa Forest department after Government approval.


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Member Secretary also informed that Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 27/01/2022 in the instant matter has directed to submit compliance report by 30/4/2022 and that outcome of this meeting along with subsequent actions taken will form the basis for the compliance report.

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

Agenda item no 14.1 Review of progress of ongoing field verification & survey of Private Forest.

As per the status update received by Dy. Conservator of Forests (North) and Dy. Conservator of Forests (South), out of an area around 9183 Ha corresponding to 3195 sy Nos which qualify canopy and area criteria, the ground verification, enumeration & survey of area of approximately 8984 hectares have been completed as on 15.03.2022. Thus, enumeration of around 98% area is complete. The ground verification in the balance area could not be completed due to strong public opposition in the field. The progress in field verification & survey of Private Forest as on 19.04.2022 is given below:

Particulars	North Goa	South Goa	Total
Area enumerated (in Ha)	2252.03**	6731.513	8983.543**
Area qualified (in Ha) *	1035.14**	1848.98	2879.12**
Area for which plan prepared (in Ha)	897.60	475.106	1372.70**

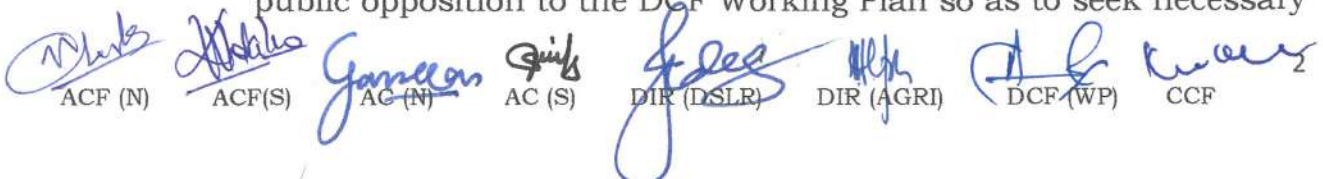
*Final status to be determined after preparation of all maps, hearing of the objectors/representations and total enumeration, if required.

** Includes 419.24 Ha area which were demarcated by the State level demarcation team and will be excluded in calculation of final additional area qualified as Private Forests.

14.1.1 ACF (HQ) of both the territorial divisions informed that presently enumeration through sampling is almost completed in the field, except for area under public protest and the work of preparation of enumeration reports and plan preparation works were going on, which are being submitted by sub-committees through concerned DCF. They informed that presently they are taking all out efforts to complete the field exercise at the earliest.

Both the ACFs expressed that in a few villages public opposition is faced by the Sub Committee for enumeration exercise and due to which the survey and enumeration in few villages could not be taken up. Committee was informed that efforts were also taken by the divisions and sub-committees to consult the owners/representatives of the land area which are to be surveyed. At few places the owners got convinced after these consultations and allowed to conduct enumeration but at some other places the enumeration could not be conducted due to strong public opposition.

a. DCF (North/South) were directed to submit the reports on such public opposition to the DCF Working Plan so as to seek necessary



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police protection for completing the exercise in a time bound manner.

- b. Further, the preparation of maps for the areas which are qualifying after field verification shall be completed immediately and in any case before the onset of Monsoon and submitted for further action on the matter. North Division should complete it by April end as committed by them.
- c. The manpower should be suitably rotated so that the sub-committees having more area for field enumeration are having sufficient manpower to undertake the exercise. Further, the services of the field surveyors may be utilized efficiently to complete the work of preparation of plans for the qualifying areas at the earliest. Even Surveyors in North Division can be deputed to South Division after work of plan preparation is complete.
- d. In cases where the review committee has decided for reverification/ 100% enumeration, action should be started.
- e. It should be ensured that objectors are informed of field exercise being undertaken and their presence must be recorded by their signature or photographs.
- f. In certain cases where Court directions have been received must be expedited.

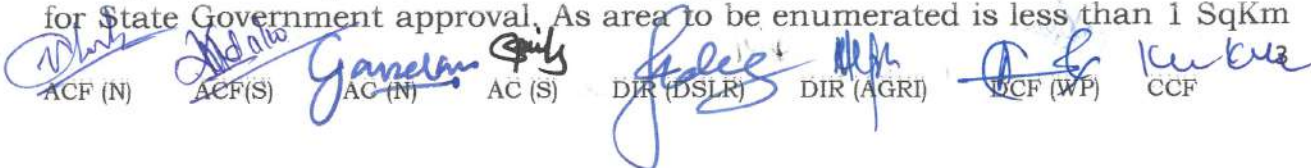
(Action: DCF (North)/DCF (South)/RFOs and MS of Sub-committees)

14.1.2 The Member Secretary pointed out that a large number of plans are yet to be prepared for the area which are qualifying in the ground verification. Since hearing of objections can only be held after receipt of plans from the field, all the sub-committees and both the divisions were asked to expedite the preparation of maps by deploying additional manpower. Further, DCF, South Goa has been asked to effectively utilize the services of the additional four Field Surveyors provided by DSLR for immediate preparation of pending maps in South Goa Division. It was informed by ACF South Goa Division that one out of additional four Field Surveyors deputed have been transferred out by DSLR. The representative of DSLR was requested to post substitute Surveyors.

Further, DCF (North/South) are once again directed to ensure that all the field reports are properly prepared and authenticated by members of the committee before sending it to the DCF (Working Plan).

(Action: DCF (North)/DCF (South)/DSLRL)

14.1.3 Proposal for inviting objections for starting field exercise to find out species composition of 58 survey numbers which were provisionally identified and excluded by the Thomas and Araujo committees in the final report and falling in patches qualifying area and canopy density criteria has been submitted for State Government approval. As area to be enumerated is less than 1 SqKm


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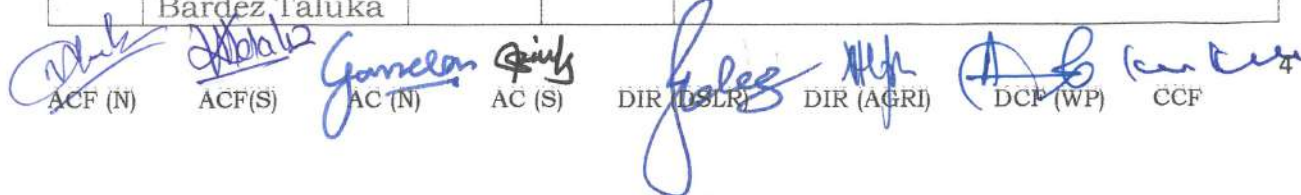
it was expected that enumeration exercise for this area may be completed in 15 days.

14.1.4 The Review Committee has decided to conduct random test checks of the reports of the sub-committees received on sample points through ACFs/SDFOs of both the territorial divisions for the verification of the findings of these sub-committees in the field before taking decisions on these survey numbers. Accordingly, ACFs/SDFOs of both the territorial divisions were directed to randomly inspect the sample points and submit their findings to the Member Secretary within two days. Verification reports of ACFs/SDFOs of both the territorial divisions are attached as **Annexure I**.

Agenda item no 14.2: Review of area qualified as per field verification and after hearing of affected persons.

The Review Committee discussed the decisions taken in the public hearings called vide notice no. MS/Rev-PF/DCF/WP/2021-22/1170 dated 23/02/2022 conducted on 02.03.2022 and decided the following:

Sr. No.	Village-Taluka	Survey Nos.	Area	Decision of the Review Committee
1.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	239(P)	4.452 4 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 239(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
2.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	267(P)	0.97 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 267(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
3.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	268(P)	11.91 4 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 268(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
4.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	269(P)	6.227 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 269(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
5.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	281(P)	0.52 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 281(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
6.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	296(P)	7.695 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 296(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
7.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	299(P)	2.100 4 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again





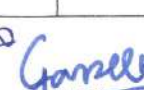
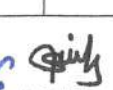
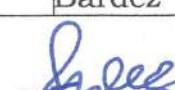
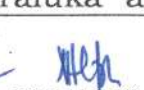
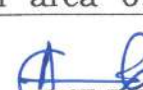
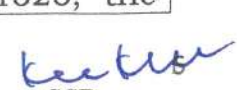
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				in survey number 299(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
8.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	306(P)	2 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 306(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
9.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	307(P)	1.712 7 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 307(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
10.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	311(P)	1.185 6 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 311(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
11.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	313(P)	1.071 5 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 313(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
12.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	337(P)	1.647 1 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 337(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
13.	Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka	338(P)	1.871 3 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 338(P) Salvador do Mundo Village Bardez Taluka.
14.	Socorro Village of Bardez Taluka	204	5.466 7 Ha	An area of 5.4667 ha is qualified as private forest in Survey Number 204 (P) of Socorro Village of Bardez Taluka. As some portions were excluded while preparing the map by the sub-committee, the review Committee decided to give additional points in survey number 204 (P) of Socorro Village of Bardez Taluka.
15.	Curpem Village of Sanguem Taluka	31(P)	0.012 5 Ha	Since there were no objections for Survey Number 31(P) of Village Curpem of Sanguem Taluka, the committee finalised that an area of 0.0125 ha is finalised as private forests.
16.	Curpem Village of Sanguem Taluka	37(P)	6.14 Ha	Since there were no objections for Survey Number 37(P) of Village Curpem of Sanguem Taluka, the committee finalised that an area of 6.14 ha is finalised as private forests.

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The Review Committee discussed the decisions taken in the public hearings called vide notice no. MS/Rev-PF/DCF/WP/2021-22/1283 dated 23/03/2022 conducted on 30.03.2022 and decided the following:

Sr. No.	Village-Taluka	Survey Nos.	Area	Decision of the Review Committee
1.	Rivem Village Sattari Taluka	11	92.86 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in Survey No 11 Rivem Village Sattari Taluka.
2.	Assagao Village Bardez Taluka	59	2.4 Ha	Since there were no objections for Survey Number 59 of Assagao Village of Bardez Taluka, the review committee finalised the area admeasuring 2.4 Ha as private forest per the plan prepared for area qualified.
3.	Assagao Village Bardez Taluka	62	1.238 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in Survey No 62 Assagao Village Bardez Taluka.
4.	Assagao Village Bardez Taluka	63	-	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in Survey No 63 Assagao Village Bardez Taluka.
5.	Assagao Village Bardez Taluka	67	9.95 Ha	An area of 9.95 ha is qualified as private forest in Survey Number 67 of Assagao Village of Bardez Taluka, the review committee has finalised an area admeasuring 9.95 Ha as private forest as per the plan prepared for area qualified.
6.	Assagao Village Bardez Taluka	68	0.3023 Ha	An area of 0.3023 ha is qualified as private forest in Survey Number 68 of Assagao Village of Bardez Taluka. The Review Committee finalized an area of 0.3023 Ha as private forest as per the plan prepared for area qualified.
7.	Siolim Village Bardez Taluka	306	8.896 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 306 Solim Village Bardez Taluka.
8.	Siolim Village Bardez Taluka	307	6.338 Ha	The objector has requested for re-survey to verify the area once again in survey number 307 Solim Village Bardez Taluka.
9.	Siolim Village	309	0.1325 Ha	Since there were no objections for Survey Number 309 of Siolim Village of Bardez Taluka an area 0.1325, the

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	Bardez Taluka			review committee has finalised an area of 0.1325Ha as private forest as per the plan prepared for area qualified.
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The Review Committee discussed the decisions taken in the public hearings called vide notice no. MS/Rev-PF/DCF/WP/2022-23/25 dated 11/04/2022 conducted on 19.04.2022 and decided the following:

Sr. No.	Village-Taluka	Survey Nos.	Area	Decision of the Review Committee
1.	Corla Village Quepem Taluka.	10(P)	6.968 Ha	An area of 6.968 ha is qualified as private forest in survey number 10(P) of Corla Village of Quepem Taluka. The review committee has finalised an area of 6.968 ha as private forest as per the plan prepared for the qualified area.
2.	Nagorcem-Palolem Village of Canacona Taluka	159(P)	5.902 Ha	An area of 5.902 Ha is qualified as private forest in survey number 159(P) of Nagorcem-Palolem Village Canacona Taluka. The review committee has finalised an area of 5.902 ha as private forest as per the plan prepared for the qualified area.
3.	Nagorcem-Palolem Village of Canacona Taluka	159(P)	0.58	The objector has requested for complete enumeration of his (Approx.0.58 ha) area in Survey No 159(P) of Nagorcem- Palolem Village of Canacona Taluka.
4.	Nagorcem-Palolem Village of Canacona Taluka	162(P)	1.185 Ha	Since there were no objections for Survey Number 162(P) admeasuring an area of 1.185 Ha of Nagorcem-Palolem Village of Canacona Taluka, the review committee has finalised the area admeasuring 1.185 Ha, as private forest as per the plan for the qualified area.
5.	Socorro Village of Bardez Taluka	204	6.2385 Ha	Since there were no objections for Survey Number 204 in Socorro Village of Bardez Taluka admeasuring an area of 6.2385 Ha, the review committee finalised the area admeasuring 6.2385 Ha, as per the plan as private forest.

Agenda item no 14.3: Review of non-qualifying areas, remaining portion of repeated, adjoining survey numbers and Govt Forests, etc. and survey numbers which were provisionally identified and later excluded by Thomas and Araujo Committee.

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I. Review of the remaining portion of repeated, adjoining survey numbers and Govt Forests, etc.

In the previous reports 121 Sy Nos were identified and reported, part of which were already reviewed by the previous review committee and accepted by NGT. In case of remaining portion of these survey numbers which were not reviewed by earlier review committee, the present Review Committee found total 10 Survey Numbers are not having any additional area of Private Forest after detail analysis through Google Timeline change corroborated by LISS III FCM 2012-13, Division offence case, Tree Felling, FCA & Court order etc. **(Annexure II)**

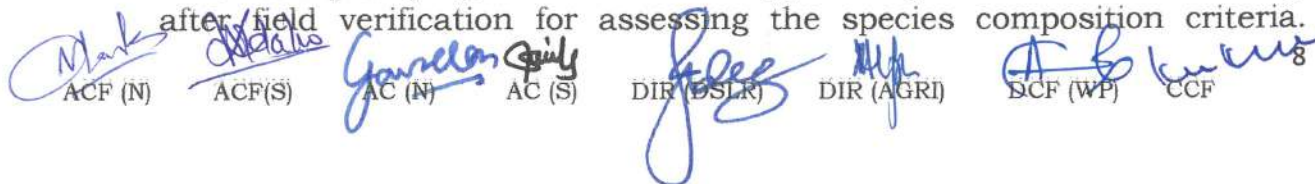
II. Review of survey numbers found non-qualifying areas after field verification

The field reports submitted by Sub-Committees after ground verification were placed before the Review Committee and after detailed analysis based on LISS IV FCM 2014-15 (FSI), analysis through Google Timeline change corroborated by LISS III FCM 2012-13, Division offence case, Tree Felling, FCA & Court order etc if any, the review Committee found additional Survey Numbers which are not qualified for all three criteria after evaluation, deliberations and discussion on each reports, committee sought the report of ACFs from territorial Division after random checking of enumeration reports of Sub-committees on 151 Survey Numbers is enclosed herewith **(Annexure III)**.

III. Survey numbers which were provisionally identified and excluded by Thomas and Araujo Committee in its final report.

As decided in the 10th, 12th and 13th meeting of the review committee, the committee has taken up review of all such survey numbers which were excluded from the list of provisionally identified survey numbers of private forest as per the methodology adopted by the committee. There were a total 154 provisional Survey Nos. identified by the Thomas and Araujo committee which were excluded in the final report. All those survey numbers were digitized and analyzed in detail.

The Member Secretary informed that after detailed analysis, the review committee found that 96 survey numbers are not meeting area & Canopy density criteria as per LISS IV Forest Cover Map 2014-15 (Forest Survey India) and based on the analysis of LISS IV Forest Cover Map 2014-15 (Forest Survey India, Google Timeline changes corroborated by LISS III Forest Cover Map 2012-13, North & South Goa Divisional history for offence cases, illegal felling, Tree Felling permissions, FCA & Court orders (if any) etc. and after detailed discussion and deliberations the committee decided that the 96 survey numbers are not qualifying the criteria to be identified as Private Forests. The review of balance 58 survey numbers (except those which are already obtained finally after acceptance of the report of the previous review committee under DCF (WP) by NGT) which are qualifying the area and canopy density criteria will be taken up after field verification for assessing the species composition criteria.


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Accordingly, a proposal seeking Govt approval for inviting representations/objections & contact details of the land owners through public notice and issue of addendum to the notification dated 18.09.2020 including three more villages for the purpose of ground verification has been sent to the Government (**Annexure IV**).

- IV. Further, the Member Secretary brought to the notice of the committee that an area of 419.24ha in Keri (Querim) Village Sattari Taluka which was already demarcated by an earlier demarcation team of the Forest Department has been verified after getting the maps from North Goa Division. As the area admeasuring 419.24 Ha in Sy. No.102 in Village Keri (Querim), Sattari Taluka is part of 41.2 SqKm area demarcated by Forest Department Demarcation team and included in the report of the previous review committee headed by DCF (Working Plan) and finalized as per NGT order on O.A. No. 479/2018, the review committee can't review such area and status will remain the same as private forests. This area will be excluded from area to be enumerated/plan prepared etc.

14.3.1 Further, the Hon'ble NGT in EA 21/2021(PB) in OA 478/2018 filed by Goa Foundation in its order dated 27.01.2022 has ordered to file compliance report by 30.04.2022. Therefore, it was decided by the committee to submit the 5th Interim Report to the Government to put on record the progress achieved by the review committee as on date in reviewing the areas provisionally identified by Thomas and Araujo committees.

(Action: DCF (Working Plan))

Based on the analysis, the status report on the progress achieved in review of private forest areas as on date is shown as under:

Division	Status of review after completion of field enumeration		
	Total area enumerated*	Area qualified in field survey*	Plan completed
North	2252.03 (1832.79)**	1035.14 (615.90)**	897.60(478.36)**
South	6731.513	1843.98	475.106
Total	8983.543	2879.12 (2459.88)**	1372.70(953.466)**

*Final status to be determined after hearing of the objectors/representations and total enumeration, if decided

** 419.24 Ha area in Sy. No.102 in Village Keri (Querim), Sattari Taluka is part of 41.2 SqKm area demarcated by Forest Department Demarcation team and included in the report of the previous review committee headed by DCF (Working Plan) and finalized as per NGT order on O.A. No. 479/2018.

Detailed Status of Qualifying area is as follows-

- i. Approximate qualifying area- Gross area 2879.12 Ha which includes 419.24 Ha of already finalized area thus giving a net area of approx 2459.88 Ha.



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ii. 2459.88 Ha area included 953.466 Ha (excluding 419.24 Ha area in Sy. No.102 in Village Keri (Querim), Sattari Taluka is part of 41.2 SqKm area demarcated by Forest Department Demarcation team) area for which Divisions have reported that plan has been prepared and 1506.414 Ha notional area based on qualifying points for which preparation of plans is in progress and exact area will be known on preparation of plan.

iii. Out of 953.466 Ha area for which it has been reported that plan has been completed by the Divisions, plans for 710 Ha have been received to the review committee/ DCF (Working Plan).

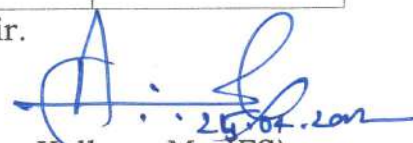
iv. Hearing for a qualified area of 710 Ha has been held till date after which 328 Ha has been finalized in all respect and reverification/100% enumeration ordered for the remaining 382 Ha after hearing of objectors.

CUMULATIVE PROGRESS AS ON DATE

Cumulative progress achieved in survey and demarcation of Private Forest Areas as on 19.04.2022 is given below:

	Total number of Sy. Nos finalized by review committee	Qualifying Sy. Nos	Non qualifyin g Sy. Nos	Repeated/ Adjoining Sy Nos & Govt. Forests
1 st Interim Report	858	10	750	98
2 nd Interim Report	1236	15	1101	120
3 rd Interim Report	1306	24	1162	120
4 th Interim Report	1459	31	1307	121
Cumulative Progress as on 19.04.2022	1630	41	1458	131

Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.



(Anisha Kalkoor M., IFS)
Dy. Conservator of Forests,
Working Plan Division &
Member Secretary
Panaji-Goa.

No: MS/REV-PF/DCF/WP/2021-22/81

Dated 25/04/2022


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ACF (S)


AC (N)


AC (S)


DIR (DSL)


DIR (AGRI)


DCF (WP)



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To,


1. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Goa Van Bhavan, Panaji, Goa.
2. The Director Settlement & Land Records Panaji, Goa.
3. The Director of Agriculture Panaji, Goa.
4. The Dy Conservator of Forests Head Quarter Goa Van Bhavan, Panaji, Goa.
5. Deputy Conservator of Forests (North)/(South)
6. The Additional Collector North, Revenue Department, Margao, South.
7. The Additional Collector South, Revenue Department, Panaji, North.
8. The Asst. conservator of Forests Headquarter (North), Ponda, Goa.
9. The Asst. conservator of Forests Headquarter (South), Margao, Goa.
10. Office copy.


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