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**Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of Tree Authority for the State of
Goa held on 04.05.2023 at 11.30 A.M. under the
Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Goa.**

The list of participants is at Annexure - A.

At the outset, Chief Secretary and Chairman, Tree Authority welcomed all present and asked Member Secretary to brief the committee about the agenda.

2. Member Secretary briefed Authority on the meeting agenda and following actions taken in compliance to directions of Tree Authority meeting held on 13th Jan 2023.

i) A proposal for increasing Security Deposit to Rs.1000 for individuals and Rs.5000 for Commercial & Govt. Dept. per tree to be planted has already been sent for consideration and approval of the Government.

ii) Regarding census of trees in Goa, Forest Survey of India was requested to submit detailed project proposal including financial implications. The project proposal for Tree Census in Goa is received from Forest Survey of India on 31st March 2023 and department sought some clarification in response to which, FSI furnished all relevant information on 18th April 2023.

iii) Hon'ble High Court will be apprised on Goa Preservation of Trees Act (Amendment) Act, 2022 and Forest Survey of India proposal on Tree Census inside and outside forest area during filing of compliance report in July, 2023 or earlier as per advice of Learned Ad. General.

iv) Tree census is being conducted and uploaded regularly on the Department website as per the order of the Hon'ble High Court. Till 30th April 2023 census of 3,81,385 trees is completed. Authority was informed that due to fire season and recent

incidents of fires all across the State the forest frontline staff were engaged in fire prevention and control duties. Due to this the census process was slow during recent months.

3. Tree Authority observed that the tree census process in the last quarter was slow and should be expedited. Regarding manpower Dr. Ganesh Gaonkar, Hon'ble M.L.A suggested that feasibility of deployment of additional manpower on contract basis may be examined by the Forest Department.
4. The Tree Authority considered that in addition to increase in security deposit, increase in felling and license fees could also be one important aspect to ensure only genuine and bare minimum trees are felled and subsequently required compensatory tree plantation is carried out by user agency. Committee asked Forest Department to examine the matter referring provisions of license/ felling fee in other states/ UTs and, submit a proposal in next meeting of authority.
5. The Chairman suggested that a software based tool may be attempted by Forest Department for effective and real time monitoring of compensatory replanting which is mandatory under Goa Preservation of Trees Act 1984.
6. Member Secretary with the permission of the Chair requested DDG, FSI to present their proposal for conducting Tree Census in Goa. The DDG FSI, Mr. Prakash made a presentation and briefed committee in detail about the project including its objectives, methodology, training details, duration of the project and financial implications. During discussion, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board sought clarifications on LISS IV data and stated that the timeline must be arrived after taking the field data collection constraints into account. Chairman directed Forest department to provide all necessary support as desired by FSI. Authority considered the proposal and asked Forest Department to put for approval of Government.

7. The Tree Authority then considered the following proposals for critical study.

i. State of the art Centre of Excellence in partnership of Indo-Israel Agricultural Projects – Codar village, Dharbandora:

The Director of Agricultural Department, Government of Goa, submitted a proposal for felling of 288 nos. of trees for the purpose of establishment of State of the Art Centre of Excellence an Indo- Israel Agricultural Projects. This project is a partnership project of Indo-Isreal Agriculture Projects for vegetables and flowers with Hi-Tech interventions under the Centrally sponsored scheme, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). The project is for the benefit of farming community of the State of Goa, with Hi-Tech interventions in Agriculture sector. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Division recommended 209 trees for felling after examining the proposal. After detail deliberations Tree Authority considered and accepted the recommendation of DCF North.

ii. Railway development and electrification works of Indian Railways from Majorda to Vasco section.

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited submitted a proposal for felling of 153 nos. of trees for the purpose of Railway development and electrification works of Indian Railways from Majorda to Vasco section. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Division recommended 153 for felling trees after examining the proposal. After detailed deliberations, the Authority considered and accepted the recommendation of DCF South.

iii. Extension of Time Limit application by Daffodil Hotels Pvt. Ltd., Arossim village – Mormugao.

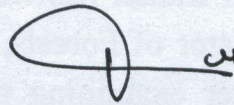
The Authority was briefed about the project. In 2020 felling permissions were issued by DCF South for different survey numbers spread in more than one Ha area of the project separately. However, user agency has felled only 18 number of tree and as felling could not carried out within stipulated time period, user agency applied for

extension. In light of the amendments made in Goa Preservation of Trees Act 1984 in 2022, all development projects involving area more than one-hectare area to be referred to the Tree Authority. As the proposed project area is 2.735 ha, this case is taken as a new proposal before the Tree Authority. Daffodil Hotels Pvt. Ltd., Arossim village – Mormugao, (user agency) has proposed for felling of 136 no of trees for the development of land for construction of resort. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Division recommended for felling of 105 trees only after carefully examining the proposal. After detailed deliberations, the Authority considered and accepted the recommendation of DCF South.

8. Others, if any

Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, suggested to have a format for abstract of trees proposed for felling. Chairman requested Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board to prepare a proforma for the same and share with Forest Department for necessary action.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.



Yasodha K., IFS
Conservator of Forests (Conservation)
Member Secretary

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTENDED THE 2nd MEETING OF THE TREE AUTHORITY FOR THE STATE OF GOA HELD ON 04.05.2023 AT 11.30 A.M. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY, GOA

Chairman

1. Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel, IAS Chief Secretary /Principal Secretary (Forests)

Members

2. Dr. Ganesh C. Gaonkar Hon'ble M.L.A. Sanvordem Constituency, Sanvordem, Sanguem-Goa
3. Dr. Chandrakant Shetye, Hon'ble M.L.A., Bicholim Constituency, Bicholim -Goa
4. Shri. Praveen K. Raghav Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Altinho-Panaji
5. Shri. Saurabh Kumar Chief Wildlife Warden, Forest Department, Altinho-Goa
6. Shri. Ramesh Varma, IAS Secretary (Urban Development), Secretariat, Porvorim-Goa
7. Shri. Menino D'Souza Secretary (Panchayat), Secretariat, Porvorim-Goa
8. Shri. Sandip Jacques Secretary (Revenue), Secretariat, Porvorim-Goa.
9. Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Saligao Bardez Goa.
10. Shri. Anil Katkar, Councillor, Valpoi Municipal Council, Valpoi
11. Sagun S. Wadkar Zill Panchayat Member, North Goa
12. Smt. Yasodha K, IFS Conservator of Forests (Conservation) (Member Secretary)

Special invitees

13. Shri. Jiss k. Varkey, IFS Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division
14. Shri. Prem Kumar R., IFS Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division
15. Shri. Asvin Chandru, IAS District Collector, South Goa
16. Shri. Sanjeev C. G. Desai Addl. Collector, North Goa District