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**MINUTES OF THE TREE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD UNDER THE  
CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY ON 13/01/2023 AT 1100 HRS  
IN THE MINI-CONFERENCE HALL, SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM**

The list of participants is enclosed.

At the outset, Chief Secretary and Chairman, Tree Authority welcomed the members of the Tree Authority. Thereafter, the agenda was discussed and the decisions taken thereof are as under:

**1. Briefing on Tree Authority:**

The Goa Preservation of Tree Act, 1984 and the provision of Tree Authority therein was explained in the meeting for the convenience of the new members of Tree Authority. The two Tree Authorities (each district) which were functional earlier have been merged and a single Tree Authority for the entire State of Goa has been constituted as per the Goa Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Act, 2022 amended on 30/09/2022.

**2. Confirmation of the Last Minutes of the meeting (29<sup>th</sup> July, 2022):**

- a. The Status of Tree Census as on 31/12/2022 was updated in the meeting. A total of 3,62,025 trees have been covered in the entire State of Goa.
- b. The compensatory plantation against the felling of trees by Government Departments was assured by PWD with the help of State Biodiversity Board in the last meeting. The Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board informed that plantation work will be carried out after onset of Monsoon. He assured that the plantation will be done with the involvement of Local People. He also added that PWD may be asked to provide a compiled list so as to enable the Biodiversity Board to complete the task.
- c. The revision of the Tree Felling Fee and Security Deposit for planting was discussed along with the extant rates in other



States. All the Hon'ble MLAs were in consonance that the rates in Goa are very less. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Security Deposit for planting may be increased to ₹1000 for Individuals and ₹5000 for Commercial & Govt. Dept. per tree to be planted and Forest Department is asked to prepare a suitable proposal for approval of the Government.

**3. New amendment to Goa Preservation of Tree Act:**

The members were briefed about the changes made in Goa Preservation of Tree Act through new Amendment (Goa Act No: 24 of 2022) which was notified on 30/09/2022.

**4. Duties of Tree Authority:**

The revised mandate of Tree Authority as per the new amendment was briefed to the members which has basically been changed from executive to advisory in nature. The removal of Tree Census from the purview of Tree Authority and critical study of the proposals involving felling of trees spread over an area admeasuring more than one hectare by Tree Authority were elucidated.

**5. Compliance of Hon'ble High Court Directions:**

The directions of the Hon'ble High Court on the PIL Writ Petition No: 08 of 2021 filed by Living Heritage on 17/08/2022 were submitted in the meeting. The regular update of the Tree Census on the Web Portal once in four months is being done regularly and the latest Tree Census status was updated on 12/01/2023. Also, the Hon'ble High Court has asked to complete the Tree Census and the compliance was asked to be submitted on or before 30/07/2023.

Meanwhile, a scientific proposal on "Assessment of Trees and Timber availability in Goa" is received from Forest Survey of India, Dehradun with the objectives to assess the number of trees in entire Goa (Forest and outside Forest) including the volume of timber available and the



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annual yield of timber in Goa by using remote sensing techniques. The timeline proposed is tentatively 06 months' period. It is decided that the proposal may be submitted for the approval of the Government and the assessment should be completed well in time.

After detailed deliberations, it is decided that the reconstitution of the Tree Authority for the entire state of Goa along with the duties of Tree Authority may be brought to the notice of the Hon'ble High Court.

6. **Proposals discussed:**

A total of four proposals were discussed in the meeting.

a. Construction of International Standard Cricket Stadium in Goa:

The Secretary, Goa Cricket Association has submitted a proposal for felling of 598 trees for the purpose of Construction of International Standard Cricket Stadium. The Deputy Conservator of Forest (North) recommended for felling of 499 trees after examining the proposal.

After detailed deliberation, the authority **recommended** the proposal of felling of 499 trees for construction of International Standard Cricket Stadium in Goa by Goa Cricket Association.

b. Railway Doubling Project -Curcholrem:

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has submitted a proposal for felling of 120 trees for the purpose of Kulem - Madgaon Railway Doubling. The Deputy Conservator of Forest (South) after examining the proposal suggested for 74 trees felling.

The felling of 74 Trees for Railway Doubling project (Curcholrem) by RVNL is **recommended** by this authority after discussion.



c. Railway Doubling Project – Vasco:

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited has submitted another proposal for felling of 305 trees for Kulem – Vasco Railway Doubling. The DCF (South) has observed that this proposal is part of the Railways Doubling project and he recommended 305 trees for felling as the alignment is fixed one. DCF (South) has also observed that the Agency has not submitted the replantation plan for the proposal.

After detailed deliberation, this proposal of 305 trees felling for Railway Doubling Project (Vasco) by RVNL is **recommended with the condition** that the replantation plan has to be submitted to the DCF concerned.

d. Development of Land for Residences:

M/s, Zuari Global Limited has submitted a proposal for felling of 200 trees for the purpose of development of residences in 194/1-A-2, Sancoale, Mormugao, South Goa. The total area of the Survey Number 194/1-A is 23.70 Ha. whereas the area of this particular subdivision (194/1-A-2) is 0.534 Ha. The Deputy Conservator of Forest (South) has also observed that the Agency has not submitted conversion and construction related specific documents as sought.

After detailed discussion, the proposal is **recommended with the condition** of obtaining concurrence of Town and Country Planning Department for the project and submitting the conversion and construction related specific documents as sought by DCF (South).

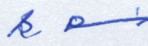
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**7. Others, if any:**

- a. Inclusion of the District Collectors and the Deputy Conservators of Forest as Special Invitees for the Tree Authority Meeting was discussed and the Chairman desired that, District Collectors and Deputy Conservator of Forests will be included as permanent invitees and suitable changes may be made in the Act through necessary amendments.
- b. The proposals for the critical study submitted before Tree Authority should also include the projects involving felling of more than 100 trees irrespective of extent of land area. Till necessary amendment in the Act is made, administrative orders may be issued with Government approval.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

 19/01/23  
Dr.S.Dinesh Kannan  
Member Secretary



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**Annexure**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE TREE AUTHORITY FOR THE STATE OF GOA SCHEDULED ON 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2023 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, O/o CHEF SECREATRAY, SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM - GOA.**

**Chairman**

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

**Members**

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|----|---------------------------|--|
| 2  | Smt. Deviya Rane          | Hon'ble M.L.A., Poriem Constituency, Valpoi Goa                |
| 3  | Shri. Ganesh C. Gaonkar   | Hon'ble M.L.A., Sanvordem Constituency, Sanvordem, Sanguem Goa |
| 4  | Shri. Pravin Arlekar      | Hon'ble M.L.A., Pernem Constituency, Pernem Goa.               |
| 5  | Shri. Menino D'Souza, IAS | Secretary (Panchayat)  |
| 6  | Shri. Sandip Jacques, IAS | Secretary (Revenue)  |
| 7  | Shri Ramesh Verma, IAS    | Secretary (Urban Development)                                  |
| 8  | Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam     | Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board                 |
| 9  | Shri. Anil Karkar         | Councillor, Valpoi Municipal Council, Valpoi                   |
| 10 | Shri. Sagun Wadker        | Zilla Panchayat Member, North Goa                              |
| 11 | Dr. S Dinesh Kannan, IFS  | Conservator of Forests (Conservation) (Member Secretary)       |

**Special invitees**

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|----|----------------------------|---|
| 12 | Ms. Mamu Hage, IAS         | Collector, North Goa District                                     |
| 13 | Shri. Srineth Kothwale     | Collector, South Goa District                                     |
| 14 | Shri. Jiss K. Varkey, IFS, | Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division (Member Secretary) |
| 15 | Shri. Prem Kumar R, IFS    | Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division (Member Secretary) |
| 16 | Shri. Santosh H. Fade      | Dy. Conservator of Forests, Planning & Statistics                 |