

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of Tree Authority for the State of Goa held on 11.01.2024 at 11.30 A.M. under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Goa

The list of participants is at **Annexure**

At the outset, Chief Secretary and Chairman, Tree Authority welcomed all present and asked Member Secretary to start the proceeding.

2. Member Secretary briefed the Authority members about meeting agenda. She also informed the Authority on status on compliance to the directions of Tree Authority meeting held on 25th August 2023. A brief is under:

- i. Proposal on increasing Security Deposit from Rs.200 to Rs.1000 for individuals, and Rs.5000 for Commercial & Govt. Dept. per tree to be planted was approved by the State Government and notification to this effect was issued vide No.7/2/2023-FOR/361 dated 29/11/2023.
- ii. Tree Authority was informed that the prevailing rate of Rs.100 for tree felling has been in vogue since 2003. Tree Authority appreciated that reasonable increase in tree felling fees is a significant aspect to ensure genuine and bare minimum number of trees are felled and required compensatory tree plantation is carried out by the User Agency. Accordingly, proposal for enhancement of tree felling fee to Rs.1000 per tree was recommended by the Tree Authority. Notification to this effect was issued vide No.7/2/2023-FOR/373 dated 22/12/2023 after seeking due approval of the State Government.
- iii. It was also brought to the notice of the Tree Authority that requests have come from Saw Mill Association of Goa and public representatives to revert back the recent increase in Security Deposit and also Felling Fee to earlier existing rates. The Chairman, observed that as Goa is well-forested and people across the country and abroad visit Goa for its natural beauty and therefore it needs to be conserved for posterity. Hon'ble MLA Shri Pravin Arlekar suggested that for commercial plantation fee should be even more

than the recently increased rate. Hon'ble MLA Shri Ganesh Gaonkar also agreed that increase in fee is justiciable on the ground that for last 20 years fees were not increased. The Chief Secretary directed Forest Department move file for government decision on the matter.

3. The Tree Authority considered the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) proposal: RVNL has submitted a proposal for felling of 202 nos. standing tree existing within the acquired area of 0.4825 ha in Survey No.3/0, 8/1 and 1/9 of revenue village Issorcim Mormugao Taluka, South Goa for special Railway project under Railway Act 1989. The purpose of tree felling proposal is for development works, Railway Electrification and Sankhval Yard extension works in Kulem-Vasco section in South Goa.

Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Division after inspection has recommended 136 trees for felling. After detailed deliberations, the Tree Authority recommended for felling of 136 trees subject to compensatory afforestation of 408 saplings (136×3) at the identified site on the specified terms and conditions applicable.

4. Any other issue with the permission of the Chair:

Goa Tamnar Power Transmission Limited has submitted application for tree felling permission in North and South Goa Divisions. These involve private area in both the divisions. The Chairman directed that the applications may be verified in the field and disposed of for final action of Tree Authority within next 10 days. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests directed both the DCFs to undertake inspection on priority.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.



Yasodha K., IFS

Conservator of Forests (Conservation)

Member Secretary

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE TREE AUTHORITY FOR THE STATE OF GOA SCHEDULED ON 11.01.2024 AT 11.30 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 3rd FLOOR, O/o THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM – GOA.

Chairman

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

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| 2. Dr. Ganesh C. Gaonkar | Hon'ble M.L.A. Sanvordem Constituency,
Sanvordem, Sanguem-Goa |
| 3. Shri. Pravin Arleker | Hon'ble M.L.A., Pernem Constituency,
Pernem-Goa |
| 4. Shri. Umakant., IFS | Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Altinho-Panaji |
| 5. Shri. Praveen Kumar
Ragav., IFS | Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest
Department, Altinho-Goa |
| 6. Shri. Sandip Jacques., IAS | Secretary (Revenue) |
| 7. Smt. Yasodha K, IFS | Conservator of Forests (Conservation)
(Member Secretary) |

Special invitees

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| 8. Shri. Ajit Roy.,IAS | Secretary To Chief Minister |
| 9. Shri. Jiss K Varkey., IFS | Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division |
| 10. Shri. Prem Kumar R., IFS | Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division |
| 11. Smt. Sneha S. Gitte, IAS | District Collector, North Goa |
| 12. Shri. Asvin Chandru, IAS | District Collector, South Goa |