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Minutes of 6th meeting of the Goa Tree Authority held on 21.05.2024 at 1145 hrs under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Goa

The list of participants is at Annexure – A.

Welcoming the participants, the members were apprised of the status and progress made on the decisions taken in the 5th meeting of the Goa Tree Authority.

In the last meeting held on 28.2.2024, seven proposals were considered by the Authority. Out of seven proposals, four proposals, i.e., one proposal of Public Works Department (PWD) Goa, two proposals of Railways Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), and one proposal of Goa Tamnar Transmission Project Limited (GTTPL) have been considered and approved by the Government of Goa. Rest three proposals, one each belonging to PWD, GTTPL and Ports Department are in various stages of meeting the compliances before the same could be put to the Government for its consideration.

Further on the decision of DCFs certifying the land status before submitting the proposal to Government, the Authority was apprised that the same is being ensured.

On the decision regarding associating the Goa Biodiversity Board (GBB) during field verification and enumeration and while drawing the enumeration plan, it was informed that a formal letter has already been issued to the Member Secretary, GBB for needful. The field functionaries have also been instructed alongside.

Moving on the next agenda, the Authority was apprised that three new project proposals have been submitted for their consideration. Each proposal was deliberated upon threadbare and following has been decided:

1. Permission sought by the Commanding Officer, 6 Tech Trg Regiment, Ponda for felling 192 nos. standing trees in Sy. No. 6/0, 7/0, 8/1-A of Curti village, 64/0 and 65/1 of Ponda village and 235/0 of Bandora village of Ponda Taluka

Authority decided to recommend felling of **153 number of trees** against 192 trees applied for, subject to the following conditions:

- a. User Agency shall ensure re-planting of **460** number of mixed local forestry species, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board. This shall be apart from planting of equal number of coconut trees, if any, recommended for felling.
- b. User Agency shall ensure at their own cost establishment of the new plants by way of maintenance over the next five years from the year of planting.

c. A detailed report on plantations undertaken by the User Agency against the earlier felling approvals received by them since 2022 under the Goa Tree Preservation Act, 1984 shall be submitted by the User Agency to the concerned DCF for ground verification. The verification report of the concerned DCF shall be submitted alongwith the proposal for taking approval of the State Government in the instant case.

2. Permission sought by AE, WD VII (NH), PWD Goa for felling of 404 nos. of standing trees for Construction of four lane Assonora Bypass road of State Highway-1 connecting Bicholim and Bardez talukas

Looking into the requirement of the public at large, the Authority agreed to recommend felling of **376 number of trees** against the 404 trees applied for, subject to the following conditions:

- a. User Agency shall ensure planting of **1130** number of mixed local forestry species, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board. This shall be apart from planting of equal number of coconut trees, if any, recommended for felling.
- b. User Agency shall ensure at their own cost establishment of the new plants by way of maintenance over the next five years from the year of planting.
- c. A detailed report on plantations undertaken by the User Agency against the earlier felling approvals received by them since 2022 under the Goa Tree Preservation Act, 1984 shall be submitted by the User Agency to the concerned DCF for ground verification. The verification report of the concerned DCF shall be submitted alongwith the proposal for taking approval of the State Government in the instant case.

3. Permission sought by AE, Sub-Div-II, Works Division (NH), Mapusa for construction of 6-lane elevated corridor and maintenance, management and operation of NH-17 (new NH- 66) on the stretch of land between KM 508.00 to KM 513.150

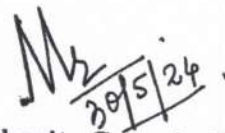
The Authority was apprised that the instant proposal is in lieu of the erstwhile proposal submitted by the same User Agency in 2018 for felling of 275 number of trees for construction of four lanes of NH-17 (now NH-66). In the instant proposal,

the scope of the work has changed and hence more number of trees are required to be felled as observed during field verification.

Members of the Authority deliberated on the bottle necks faced by public during peak traffic hours and the dire requirement of de-congestion of the stretch of NH-17 (now NH-66) under contention. Therefore, citing the necessity of extending the infrastructure for larger public good, the Authority agreed to recommend felling of **616 number of trees** (including translocation of 4 trees bearing local importance due to heritage and religious sentiments and larger ecological role of the species), subject to the following conditions:

- a. User Agency shall, at their own cost, ensure transplantation of all the ecologically important trees intended to be removed as far as practical under supervision of Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board.
- b. User Agency shall ensure planting of **1850** number of mixed local forestry species, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board. This shall be apart from planting of equal number of coconut trees, if any, recommended for felling.
- c. User Agency shall ensure at their own cost establishment of the new plants by way of maintenance over the next five years from the year of planting.
- d. A detailed report on plantations undertaken by the User Agency against the earlier felling approvals received by them since 2022 under the Goa Tree Preservation Act, 1984 shall be submitted by the User Agency to the concerned DCF for ground verification. The verification report of the concerned DCF shall be submitted alongwith the proposal for taking approval of the State Government in the instant case.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.


20/5/24

Nabanita Ganguly, IFS
Conservator of Forests (Conservation) &
Member Secretary (Tree Authority)

ANNEXURE - A
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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE TREE AUTHORITY FOR THE STATE OF GOA SCHEDULED ON 21-05-2024 AT 11.45 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, O/o THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM - GOA.

Chairman

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

1.	Shri. Kamal Datta	Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Altinho Panaji - Goa.
2.	Shri. Praveen K. Raghav	Chief Wildlife Warden, Forest Department, Altinho Panaji - Goa
3.	Dr. Deviya Rane	Hon'ble M.L.A., Poriem Constituency, Valpoi - Goa
4.	Dr. Chandrakant Shetye	Hon'ble M.L.A., Bicholim Constituency, Bicholim Goa
5.	Shri. Ganesh C. Gaonkar	Hon'ble M.L.A., Sanvordem Constituency, Sanvordem, Sanguem Goa
6.	Shri. Sandip Jacques	Secretary (Revenue), Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa
7.	Dr. Pradeep V. Sarmokadam	Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Saligao Bardez Goa.
8.	Ms. Nabanita Ganguly	Conservator of Forest (Conservation), Member Secretary

Special Invitees

1.	Ms. Sneha Gitte	Collector & District Magistrate, North Goa
2.	Shri. Jiss K. Varkey	Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division
3.	Shri. Anand Jadhav	Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division