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Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of Tree Authority for the State of Goa held on 25.08.2023 at 04.30 P.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 about the meeting agenda. She also informed the Authority about the actions taken in compliance to directions of Tree Authority meeting held on 4th May 2023.
 - i. Proposal on increasing Security Deposit to Rs.1000 for individuals and Rs.5000 for Commercial & Govt. Dept. per tree to be planted has already been approved by the government. As suggested by the chairman, file presently with the Law Dept. for notification, may be followed up and notified in a week's time.
 - ii. Forest Survey of India proposal regarding Tree Census in entire Goa has been approved by the Govt. and the Work Order has already been issued to Forest Survey of India by the department. MoU will be signed shortly.
 - iii. Compliance Report filed in Hon'ble High Court in which amendment made in Goa Preservation of Trees Act, 1984 and work awarded to Forest Survey of India on Tree Census in entire Goa are included. In the compliance report it is requested that instead of ongoing voluminous manual exercise of Tree Census, use of modern technology including satellite-based tools used by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun may be permitted. Matter yet to be listed in Hon'ble High Court.
 - iv. Manual exercise of Tree Census by front line staff is under way. Meanwhile, to complete the tree census / estimation in entire State at the earliest using modern technologies i.e. Remote Sensing and GIS technology the work is awarded to FSI, as approved by the Govt. of Goa. As per the proposed MoU the work will be completed in about twelve months.

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- v. Tree Authority has considered that increase in tree felling fees is one important aspect to ensure only genuine and bare minimum number of trees are felled and subsequently required compensatory tree plantation is carried out by the User Agency. The suggestion has been examined by the department and discussed in the meeting. The Chairman directed to submit proposal for increasing the tree felling fee for the government approval on priority.
 - vi. Goa Electronics Ltd. (GEL) has been approached by the department for development of software based tool for effective and real time monitoring of compensatory replanting which is mandatory under the Goa Preservation of Trees Act 1984. GEL has been requested to submit their proposal indicating scope of work.
3. The Tree Authority then considered the following proposal for critical study:

1. Infrastructure development in IPSEM, ONGC at Betul, Quepem.

- 1. The Institute of Petroleum Safety, Health and Environment Management (IPSEM), ONGC a central PSU, has submitted a proposal for felling of 993 nos. of trees in its premises. The proposal envisages development of infrastructure for International Energy Week (IEW) 2024 event, which is being organized by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas- GoI, in February 2024 where in more than 20 countries are likely to participate. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Division has recommended 499 trees for felling/transplanting after examining the proposal. The Authority has critically examined the proposal. After detailed deliberations Tree Authority has recommended for felling of 279 trees and transplantation of 220 trees at the identified site as per specified terms and conditions.


Member Secretary, Goa State Bio Diversity Board suggested to have a small patch of *Dipcadi sp.* and *Cadli musli* species spared and saved which are endemic to Goa found within the proposed landscape. User Agency may be suggested not to take up construction in the said patch identified by Biodiversity Board. The Authority suggested that the identified area should be fenced suitably to save and to avoid any damage to the patch.

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4. Others, if any

1. Matter related to uprooting of trees especially along Miramar road in Panaji was discussed during the meeting. As per report of DCF (N), all fallen trees were matured ones and few were also infested with one or the other pest and diseases. Chairman directed Forest Department to study the Delhi model/guidelines regarding de-concretization around the trees and to prepare an appropriate proposal suitable to Goa to ensure adequate space allowing percolation of water to tree roots for its healthy growth. Proposal may be prepared at the earliest and put up for government approval.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.


30/8/23

Yasodha K., IFS

Conservator of Forests (Conservation)
Member Secretary

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE TREE AUTHORITY FOR THE STATE OF GOA SCHEDULED ON 25.08.2023 AT 04.30 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 3rd FLOOR, O/o THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM – 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. Deviya Rane Hon'ble M.L.A., Poriem Constituency, Valpoi-Goa
4. Shri. Rajiv Kumar Gupta., IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Altinho-Panaji
5. Shri. Umakant., IFS Chief Wildlife Warden, Forest Department, Altinho-Goa
6. Shri. Saurabh Kumar., IFS Chief Conservator of Forests (Wild Life)
7. Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Saligao Bardez Goa.
8. Shri.G.P. Pilarnekar Director, Urban Development
9. Smt. Yasodha K, IFS Conservator of Forests (Conservation)
(Member Secretary)

Special invitees

10. Shri. Prem Kumar R., IFS Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division
11. Ms. Mamu Hage., IAS District Collector, North Goa
12. Shri. Asvin Chandru, IAS District Collector, South Goa