

Minutes of 5th meeting of Goa Tree Authority held on 28.02.2024 at 1600 hrs under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Goa

The list of participants is at Annexure – A.

Welcoming the participants, it was apprised that there were 7 proposals placed before the Committee for consideration. Each proposal was deliberated upon threadbare and following has been decided:

i) Felling 204 nos. standing trees at Aquem Margao Salcete for construction of 06-lane ROB by Executive Engineer IV, P.W.D. Fatorda Margao.

- Committee agreed to recommend felling of 136 number of trees against 204 trees applied for, subject to the following conditions:

a. UA shall ensure three times re-planting of mixed species, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board. This shall be apart from replanting of equal number of coconut trees as recommended for felling.

b. UA 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.

ii) Felling of 500 nos. of Mangroves in River Sal at Verna Salcete by Ports Department.

- Committee agreed to recommend pruning of 274 number and felling/transplantation of 167 number of mangroves against 500 trees applied for, subject to the following conditions:

a. UA shall ensure transplantation of the mangroves intended to be removed under supervision of Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board at their own cost.

b. UA shall ensure three times re-planting of mixed species of mangroves as per suitability of site, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board and subsequent maintenance for a period of 5 years from the year of planting.

iii) Felling 1485 nos. standing trees at Xeldem for construction of 220KV Xeldem - Xeldem Transmission line in South Goa by Goa Tamnar Transmission Project

- - Committee agreed to recommend felling of 1190 number of trees against 1485 trees applied for, subject to the following conditions:

a. UA shall ensure transplantation of the trees intended to be removed as far as practical under supervision of Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board.

b. UA shall ensure three times re-planting of mixed species of plants as per suitability of site, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board and subsequent maintenance for a period of 5 years from the year of planting. UA shall also ensure planting and maintenance (for 5 years) of atleast equivalent number of coconut trees as being removed, apart from the above.

c. A verification report of the earlier made plantations by UA be submitted by concerned DCF before placing the proposal for Government assent.

iv) Felling 2551 nos. of tree under private property, Government land & Comunidade land for construction of 400kv D/C Xeldem (Sangolda) Mapusa Transmission Line at North and South Goa by Goa Tamnar Transmission Project.

- Committee agreed to recommend pruning of 1384 number of trees and felling/removal of 593 trees against a total felling of 2551 trees applied for, subject to the following conditions:

a. UA shall ensure transplantation of the trees intended to be removed as far as practical under supervision of Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board.

b. UA shall ensure three times re-planting of mixed species of plants as per suitability of site, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board and subsequent maintenance for a period of 5 years from the year of planting. UA shall also ensure planting and maintenance (for 5 years) of atleast equivalent number of coconut trees as being removed, apart from the above.

c. A verification report of the earlier made plantations by UA be submitted by concerned DCF before placing the proposal for Government assent.

v) Felling of 340 nos. trees for widening of road from Sada Junction to M.P.T. Vasco by Executive Engineer, P.W.D Fatorda, Margao.

- Committee agreed to recommend felling of 340 number of trees, subject to the following conditions:

a. UA shall ensure three times re-planting of suitable mixed species, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board. This shall be apart from replanting of equal number of coconut trees as recommended for felling.

b. UA 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.

vi) Felling 915 nos. trees for construction of Majorda-Vasco Railway Doubling project by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd, Hubli.

Earlier, the proposal was being dealt as per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Following Hon'ble Supreme Court order in Writ Petition (civil) No. 202 of 1995 dated 24 January 2024, the proposal has been put up before Tree Authority.

- Committee agreed to recommend felling of 737 number of trees against 915 trees applied for, subject to the following conditions:

a. UA shall ensure three times re-planting of mixed species, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board.

b. UA 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.

vii) Felling 122 nos. trees to Majorda-Vasco Section for the execution of Railway development works and Railway Electrification work by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd, Hubli.

- Committee agreed to recommend felling of 122 number of trees, subject to the following conditions:

a. UA shall ensure three times re-planting of mixed species, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board.


b. UA 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.

Further, it has been directed that while putting up proposals to the Government for its consideration, the concerned DCF shall certify in each case that the proposed area of felling of trees is outside the ambit of FC Act 1980 and its subsequent applicable amendments.

Other directions:

It was directed that an order be issued to Goa State Biodiversity Board to depute its official for field verification alongside Forest Department for all felling proposals.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.


08/2/24
Nabanita Ganguly, IFS
Conservator of Forests (Conservation) &
Member Secretary (Tree Authority)

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE TREE AUTHORITY FOR THE STATE OF GOA SCHEDULED ON 28.02.2024 AT 4.00 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)
<u>Members</u>		
2	Shri. Ganesh C. Gaonkar	Hon'ble M.L.A.. Sanvordem Constituency, Sanvordem, Sanguem Goa
3	Umakant , IFS	Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Altinho, Panaji
4	Surendra Naik	Jt. Secretary (Revenue), Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa
5	Pradeep Sarmokadam	Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Saligao Bardez Goa.
6	K. S. Pangam	Dy. Director(Adm.) (Panchayat), Panaji-Goa
7	Shri. Sagun S. Wadkar	Zilla Panchayat Member, North Goa.
8	Shri. Anil Katkar	Councillor, Valpoi Municipal Council, Valpoi
9	Ms. Nabanita Ganguly, IFS	Conservator of Forests (Conservation) (Member Secretary)
<u>Special invitees</u>		
10	Praveen K. Raghav, IFS	Chief Conservator of Forests, Altinho-Panaji
11	Asvin Chandru, IAS	Collector & District Magistrate, South Goa
12	Sneha Gitte, IAS	Collector & District Magistrate, North Goa
13	Jiss K. Varkey, IFS	Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division
14	Prem Kumar R., IFS	Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division