

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DoE & CC) VISION DOCUMENT**

1. **Vision:** To take the State of Goa in the forefront of sustainable development through the applicability of various laws which already exist through judicious environmental management to conserve the rich ecology of Goa. The motto is to achieve development through conservation.

2. **Objective:** To create and implement environmental awareness/matters, and enforcement of “environmental protection/pollution control” laws.

### **3. Short term goals (to be achieved by 2021):**

- 1) Preparation and finalisation of the “Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP)” for the State of Goa of 2011.
- 2) Finalisation of State Action Plan on Climate Change.
- 3) Identification of wetlands in the State of Goa to harness water.
- 4) Noise Monitoring mechanisms to effectively implement the Noise Rules, 2000; in the State of Goa.
- 5) Preparation of Action Plan for Noise Level Monitoring in the State, in line with other states.
- 6) Preparation of People’s Biodiversity Register.
- 7) Preparation of Turtle Nesting and conservation plan.

### **4. Medium term goals (to be achieved by 2023):**

- 1) Bring about complete ban on plastic and strictly implement the ban on one time use of plastic by propagating alternate sources.
- 2) Khazan Lands Management Plan.
- 3) Comprehensive Plan for Fisherman Community living in CRZ Areas.
- 4) Mangrove Management Plan.
- 5) Demarcation of Ecological Sensitive Zones (ESZ) of wildlife sanctuaries.

### **5. Long term goals (to be achieved by 2025):**

- 1) Study of Sand Mining.
- 2) Action Plan for restoration of polluted river stretches.
- 3) Establishment of seed bank for preservation of Germ plasm which is endemic and endangered.
- 4) Blue Flag certification.
- 5) Smart Eco Village - Agonda.
- 6) Commissioning of various projects under the ICZM through SICOM.
- 7) Demarcation of Ecological Sensitive Areas (ESAs) of Western Ghats.

### **6. & 7. Strategic Planning & Action Plan for each of the Goals:**

1) The Department is in constant touch with the NCSCM as well as Water Resource Department & Directorate Settlement & Land Records for the purpose of marking the bunds and mapping the khazan lands. These efforts from our side would be completed by the mid or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November 2020. This would enable NCSCM to prepare the draft CZMP which will be put in public domain. Once the same is finalized. Many infrastructure and development projects which have been stuck up would be cleared by the MoEF & CC New Delhi.

1) The State Action Plan on Climate change (SAPCC) envisages to focus on various areas which may seem to be of no much significance as regards Climate Change is concerned. The Action Plan once enforced would give impetus towards restoration of the environment which by far and large has impacted the climate.

2) Scarcity of water and its proper and wise use can be done only if the wetlands are protected. Indiscriminate release of sewage and/or other waste only leads to contamination of wetland. Protecting such areas by prohibiting any development in and around the wetlands would harness the water which could be used by the future generations for posterity.

3) Right to have a peaceful life is one of the ingredients of Right to Life. Use of loud sound is detrimental to one's well being and hence curbing usage of sound through means of sound limiters and by having monitoring mechanisms is one of the goals of the Department. We wish to complete this task no sooner the CPCB informs us the specifications of the Noise Monitoring devices.

4) Biological Resources of the State are of great significance which if not utilized in a scientific manner would be lost forever. The Biodiversity Management Committees of each village are formed to map the resources. This would ensure wise use of the resources and help in curbing exploitation or over exploitation by unscrupulous elements. This exercise of preparing PBR's would be achieved in one year's time.

Status of PBRs as on 04/11/2020: Total BMCs across Goa are 205. (i)191 village panchayats, (ii)13 municipal council, (iii)1 Municipal Corporation Level, (iv)Goa State Biodiversity Board follows three level PBR Validation:

A) BMC level,

B) Gram Sabha Level and

Final validation by GSBBs State Committee for PBR.

(i) All 205 BMCs have validated PBRs at BMC level.

(ii) 8 VP BMC PBRs validated at Gram Sabha level and GSBBs State Committee for PBR and its validation (at stage I)- 24 VP BMC PBRs and 1 Municipal Corporation BMC PBR,

(iii) 6 VP BMC PBRs awaiting compliance to suggestions made by PBR & validation Committee.

5) There has always been a conflict between humans and animals. Tourism has been the backbone of the State's economy. If the turtles are not protected then it is going to have wide ramifications on the geo-morphological resources and at the same time if the locals are not allowed to carry out tourism related activities, it would result in conflict. The need to blend the two is what would enhance conservation steps towards the turtle nesting & breeding sites. A comprehensive plan would be prepared by the Department within a period of 6 Months so that the conservation & livelihood is protected.

6) Plastic has been a bane and its complete ban of use has been one of the primordial aims of the Dept. Although the Department has amended the Act, that by itself would not suffice to fetch the end results. An Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy is sought to be devised by the Department which will help the State to tackle the menace of plastic by making the producer responsible to ensure that the manufactured plastic is taken

- care of till its end life. The EPR would be prepared through an agency which will have to handhold the State to implement the same because many a time policies remain only on paper rather than being implemented on ground. This will be part of the mid term goals.
- 7) Khazans are important part of the ecosystem. They seem to play a significant role but the age old Eco-system if destroyed would have impact on climate Change. They also form part of the ecologically sensitive zone in CRZ areas. These lands have not been maintained over the period of years due to breach in the bunds. A committee has been constituted to formulate action plan for its management and wise use, which we intend to achieve as part of the medium term goals.
  - 8) Comprehensive Plan for fisherman Community is one such plan where the Department is trying to provide amenities both in terms of livelihood as well as in terms of housing to the fisherman Community. The CRZ Notification 1991 and 2011 does not provide for any relief towards housing needs of the fisherman Community. In-fact they are the protectors of the coastal regions but they themselves have become insecure because of their needs of housing. The plan for fisherman community would be of great solace to them who have been struggling to live within their age old houses for generations although their families have expanded This is sought to be achieved as part of medium term goal.
  - 9) Mangroves are a important part of the coastal ecosystem which form a breeding ground for underwater life. Mangrove forests management plan is also in the offing which would encompass mangrove walks and mangroves forests to boost tourism. Never has any thought been given on this aspect by any of the departments. Once this plan is prepared the implementation agency would be the Department of Forest. This is sought to be achieved as part of medium term goal.
  - 10) The notification of Wildlife Sanctuaries in the State of Goa has been issued by the MoEF & CC way back in the year 2015 (6 notifications). As per the said notification the Department was required to prepare the ESZ map within a period of 1 year from the date of notification covering a buffer of 1 km radius. This would enable the prohibited and permissible activities to be regulated. Although considerable time has gone while the Department has taken this task on priority and would be achieved as part of the mid-term goal.
  - 11) Sand mining is one of the areas which this Department is focusing upon which study which is entrusted to NIO, Goa. The study would enable us to come to a finding as to whether sustainable mining activity can be carried out by the extractors. As part of long term goal we wish to complete this study which would enable us to achieve both livelihood and economy vision of the Department.
  - 12) Goa is blessed with 11 river stretches and about 5 to 6 rivers are polluted. Efforts are made through interventions by the GSPCB, Health Dept, SIDCGL, Panchayats & Municipalities to plug the pollutants which results in the pollution of river stretches . This is sought to be done as a long term strategy of the Department.
  - 13) Lots of varieties of plants have been witnessing a decline in the flora of our State. This endemism is sought to be protected by way of establishing a seed bank in our State through GSBB. The establishment of seed bank for preservation of germ plasm is a long term goal of the Department.
  - 15) Beaches are flaunted by the tourists which generates income to our State. Only if the quality of the beaches are maintained, the flow of high-end tourists visiting our State will increase. As part of long term goal the Department has planned to certify beaches of Goa to come under the Blue Flag Certification.
  - 16) Livelihood and ecology are to be balanced in such a manner that each of the two should be married to each other or else it will lead to death of both the two. The Department has identified Agonda village to come under the Smart - Eco Village which we intend to complete in the long term plan.
  - 17) The State Department has identified the following projects which will be partly funded by the World Bank, Central Government and State Government.
    - a) Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan of Goa.
    - b) Assessment and Documentation of Potential Fishery zones along the coast of Goa.
    - c) Restoration of damaged bunds in khazan agricultural lands in the State of Goa.
    - d) Alternate livelihood opportunities for inland fishermen and coastal communities.
    - e) Sustainable Coastal Eco-tourism in the State of Goa, India.
    - f) Construction of jetty at Sinkerim and other tourism infrastructure facilities for tourism.
    - g) Renewable Energy Sources for Tourism Industry.
    - h) Conservation and Management of Marine turtles in the State of Goa, India
    - i) Establishing and designating Coastal Sand Dune Parks in Goa.
    - j) Marine Bio-diversity of the critical Marine habitats of Goa: Status, threats, conservation measures and management plan.
    - k) Anti-sea erosion measures for beaches of North and South Goa.
    - l) Erosion / accretion assessment studies to ascertain feasibility of annual replenishment of sand along the estuarine stretches identified for sand removal by traditional methods in Goan estuaries.
    - m) Setting up of new State of Art Laboratory for monitoring Coastal water quality parameters for the Goa State Pollution Control Board.
    - n) Biogas to Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (Bio-CNG) Conservation plant at Saligao.
    - o) Education and awareness, training and capacity building of stakeholders on ICZM activities as part of ICZM initiatives.
    - p) Setting up of a State project management unit (SPMU) in DSTE under ICZM.

Demarcation of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) of Western Ghats. Though there is resentment on declaring about more than 52% of the geographical area of the State to be part of the Western Ghats, it is confident that it would limit the area by confining only to 30 villages which meet the criteria of elevation (600 mts above msl) and contiguity to the neighbouring States of Karnataka and Goa. This is sought to be part of the long term plan of the Department because a petition is also been filed by one M. Kaviya and Ors before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India where State of Goa is arrayed as Respondent No. 4