



Government of Goa
Office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Department
Goa Van Bhawan, Old IPHB Complex;
Altinho, Panaji Goa – 403 001



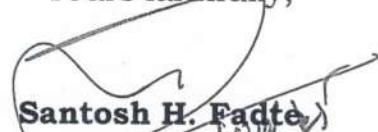
No.5-43/Tree Authority Correspondence/VOL-III/25-26/FD/245 Dated:- 17/04/2025

To,
The Dy. Conservator of Forests,
North / South Goa Division,
Ponda / Margao – Goa.

Sub:- Minutes of the meeting of the Tree Authority held on 27th March 2025 at 2.30 p.m. in the Conference Hall, Secretariat, Porvorim.

Find enclosed herewith the Minutes of the meeting of the Tree Authority held under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. Candavelou , IAS, Chief Secretary on 27th March 2025 at 2.30 p.m. for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


Santosh H. Fadte
Dy. Conservator of Forests
Planning & Statistics

Encl :As above.

To,

1. Shri. Ganesh C. Gaonkar, Hon'ble MLA Sanvordem Constituency, Sanvordem, Sanguem - Goa.
2. Dr. Deviya Rane, Hon'ble MLA Poriem Constituency, Valpoi - Goa.
3. Shri. Pravin Arlekar, Hon'ble MLA Pernem Constituency, Pernem - Goa.
4. Dr. Chandrakant Shetye, Hon'ble MLA Bicholim Constituency, Bicholim-Goa.
5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Altinho, Panaji - Goa.
6. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Forests Department, Altinho, Panaji - Goa.
7. The Secretary (Forests), Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa.
8. The Secretary (Urban Development), Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa.
9. The Secretary (Revenue), Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa.
10. The Secretary (Panchayat), Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa.
11. Shri. Anil Katkar, Councilor, Valpoi Municipal Council, Valpoi.
12. Shri. Sagun Wadkar, Zilla Panchayat Member, North Goa.
13. The Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Saligao, Bardez Goa.
14. The District Collector (North), Special invitee.
15. The District Collector (South), Special invitee.

Copy to:

The P.S. to Chief Secretary, Secretariat, Porvorim Goa, for information of Chief Secretary.

**Minutes of the 8th meeting of the Goa Tree Authority held on 27-03-2025
at 2.30 p.m. under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Goa**

The list of participants is at Annexure "A".

Welcoming the members, the Chief Secretary and Chairperson, Goa Tree Authority asked Member Secretary to proceed with the meeting.

Member Secretary briefed the Authority members about meeting agenda. She apprised the members about the status and progress made on the decisions taken in the previous meeting of the Goa Tree Authority.

The members of the TA were informed that the necessary notifications seeking change in the rates of the security fees and tree felling fees have since been issued and the same is now being followed.

The Authority was apprised that three new project proposals have been submitted for their consideration:

1. **Permission sought by the Dy. Manager (Civil), GSIDC, for felling of 194 nos. of trees in Sy. No.70, 69, 65, 64, 26 and 66 of Ella village, Tiswadi in North Goa to construct road over bridge along Old Goa Cumbharjua road level crossing gate No.37.**

The User Agency presented a power point presentation on the said project and briefed the members regarding the various aspects of their proposal. Queries posed by the members were answered by the project proponents. The members also were apprised of the past permissions of tree felling awarded to GSIDC in their major projects and it was observed that mandatory compliance of re-planting against the trees felled were not submitted by them to the concerned authorities. GSIDC also could not substantiate if they had actually carried out any plantings against the tree-felling permissions given to them in the past five years.



Authority decided to recommend felling of 192 numbers of trees for the current proposal, subject to the following conditions:

- i. User Agency shall ensure re-planting of trees three times in lieu of trees felled in consultation with Forest Department and Goa State Biodiversity Board. This shall be apart from replanting of equal number of coconut trees as recommended for felling.

- ii. They shall carry out planting of tree species of indigenous mixed species suitable to the area.
- iii. UA shall ensure at their own cost and management, establishment of the new plants by way of maintenance over the next five years from the year of planting.
- iv. Since there already exists a backlog of trees to be planted against the tree felling permissions granted to GSIDC in the past five years, the Authority directed the project proponent to submit a detailed plan of plantation towards compliance of the same, along with the instant tree-felling, before this proposal is finally submitted to the State Government for its ascent.
- v. Incase, compliance has already been done, the same shall be intimated to the concerned Division(s), verified on ground by the concerned Division(s) and the report be submitted alongside for seeking Government approval in the instant case.

2. Permission sought by the Executive Engineer, Works Division XXV(Road), PWD, Fatorda Goa for felling of 224 numbers of trees in Sy. No. 129/3-A of Cacora, Quepem, South Goa for widening and improvement of PWD road.

The User Agency apprised the Authority about the said project and various aspects of the proposal. The members deliberated on different factors involved in the said tree felling proposal submitted.

The Authority was also apprised of the pending compliance of mandatory re-planting against the tree felling permissions given to PWD for major projects across the state in the past five years. The Authority took a serious view of the pendency and the following was decided:

- i. Authority decided to recommend felling of 222 numbers of trees, including translocation of two *Ficus* trees, however, PWD shall have to ensure re-planting of trees three times in lieu of trees felled, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa State Biodiversity Board.
- ii. Since there already exists a backlog of large number of trees to be planted against the tree felling permissions granted to PWD against major projects in the past five years, the Authority directed PWD to

submit a detailed plan of plantation towards compliance of the same alongside the current proposal, before the instant proposal is finally submitted for approval to the State Government. PWD was advised to submit a cogent plan to meet the backlog in phase-wise time bound manner.

- iii. Authority also advised the project proponent to engage well-known and expert agencies and take up translocation of *matti* and *Ficus* trees.
- iv. For the current proposal, PWD shall ensure re-planting of trees three times in lieu of trees recommended to be felled, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa State Biodiversity Board. This shall be apart from replanting of equal number of coconut trees as recommended for felling.
- v. They shall carry out planting of tree species of indigenous mixed species suitable to the area. UA shall ensure, at their own cost and management, establishment of the new plants by way of maintenance over the next five years from the year of planting.

3. Permission sought by Shri Suraj N. Prabhudessai r/o. Kharegal, Canacona in Sy. No.169/2, 167/1, 174/9, 179/2, 168/4 of Cotigao village Canacona Taluka in South Goa to cultivate Cashew, Coconut, Arecanut and Teak trees from Eco-Sensitive Zone.

Shri Suraj N. Prabhudessai apprised the Authority about his proposal of tree felling in his owned land for the purpose of growing cash crops like teak, cashew, betelnuts, etc. He informed that the Eco-Sensitive Zone Management Committee has already recommended the felling.

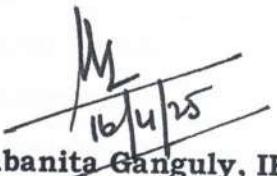
Authority decided to recommend felling of 154 numbers of trees subject to the following conditions:

- i. User Agency shall ensure replanting of trees ten times in lieu of trees recommended to be felled, in consultation with Forest Department and Goa State Biodiversity Board.
- ii. Authority advised the project proponent to consider translocation of immature trees, if any, towards the periphery of his plot and stressed on the planting of commercially viable indigenous tree species in the re-planting scheme.

Regarding the agenda of overview of compliance of planting of trees by various agencies against tree felling permissions given in last 5 years for major projects across the state of Goa, the Authority directed that the concerned Divisions write individually to each of the agencies and seek their written compliance against each such project and the same shall be taken up for review in the next periodic TA meeting.

The Chairman advised the Member Secretary to call in all the defaulting agencies in the next meeting with their full plan of compliance towards re-planting against the tree-felling permissions awarded to them for all major projects in the past five years.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.



Nabanita Ganguly, IFS

CF (Conservation) &
Member Secretary (Tree Authority)

No.5-43(Meeting Tree Authority)-2024-25-Vol.III/FD
Dated: .04.2025

**ATTENDEES OF THE MEETING OF THE TREE AUTHORITY HELD ON
27.03.2025 AT 2.30 P.M. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CHIEF
SECRETARY, GOA**

1	Sh. Candavelou. V	Chief Secretary /Principal Secretary (Forests)	Chairperson
2	Sh. Kamal Datta	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests	Member
3	Sh. Praveen K. Raghav	Add. Chief Conservator of Forests/ Chief Wildlife Warden	Member
4	Dr. Ganesh C. Gaonkar	Hon'ble M.L.A., Sanvordem Constituency, Sanguem	Member
5	Sh. Sandeep Jacques	Secretary (Revenue)	Member
6	Dr. Pradeep Sarmokadam	Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board	Member
7	Ms. Nabanita Ganguly	CF (Conservation)	Member Secretary
8	Ms. Sneha Gitte	Collector, North Goa District	Special Invitee
9	Ms. Egna Cleetus	Collector, South Goa District	Special Invitee
10	Sh. Jiss K. Varkey	Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division	Special invitees
11	Sh. Santosh Kumar Reddy	Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division	Special invitees