

**Recommendation of the Tree Authority on the proposal received from
M/s Goa Tamnar Transmission Project Ltd. for tree-felling at Amona
village of Bicholim Taluka (North Goa)**

A proposal of tree felling was received from M/s Goa Tamnar Transmission Projects Ltd. (M/s GTTPL) seeking cutting permission of 94 additional trees, in different survey numbers of Amona village, Bicholim taluka, Keri Range under North Goa Division for the project of "Construction of 400 KV Xeldem-Mapusa Transmission Line".

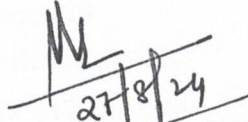
A proposal was earlier submitted by M/s GTTPL under the same project for tree-felling in Non-forest areas under GPTA, 1984, which was placed before the Tree Authority (TA) for its consideration. The Tree Authority had examined the proposal on 28.2.2024 in its 5th Meeting and had recommended the felling of 593 trees and pruning of 1384 number of trees for the project "Construction of 400 KV Xeldem-Mapusa Transmission Line in North Goa (Non-forest area)". The State Government had subsequently approved felling and pruning of recommended number of trees on 14.5.2024. The final permissions were issued on 12.06.2024.

Further, a case is pending for final disposal before the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa (PIL WP No. 1407 of 2024) in the matter of Yeshwant Hari Gawas and 29 Ors Vs Union of India & Ors, pertaining to alignment of the transmission line being installed by M/s GTTPL. The Hon'ble High Court has passed an *interim order* dated 14.06.2024 wherein no interim relief/stay was granted. However, Para 8 states as follows, 'Respondent No. 6 (GTTPL) will carry out the works in question through the properties of the Petitioners wholly at their own risk. The works carried out by the Respondent No. 6 shall be subject to the outcome of this Petition'.

The Tree Authority has noted that the additional 94 Nos. of trees in different Sy.Nos. of Amona village, Bicholim taluka, which were proposed to be felled, were inspected by the officers of the Forest Department and the concerned DCF (North Goa Division) has since recommended the felling.

The Tree Authority, taking into consideration all the aspects of the proposal of M/s GTTPL w.r.t. felling permission sought for additional 94 number of trees in different Sy.Nos. of Amona village, Bicholim taluka, under Keri Range of North Goa Division for construction of 400 KV Xeldem-Mapusa Transmission Line, has recommended the proposal, **subject to the following conditions:**

- i. M/s GTTPL shall try transplantation of the trees intended to be removed as far as practical under supervision of Forest Department and Goa Biodiversity Board.
- ii. M/s GTTPL 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. M/s GTTPL shall also ensure planting and maintenance (for 5 years) of atleast equivalent number of coconut trees as being removed, apart from the above.
- iii. A detailed report on plantations undertaken by M/s GTTPL against the earlier felling approvals received by them since 2022 under the Goa Tree Preservation Act, 1984 shall be submitted by the M/s GTTPL 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.
- iv. Permission to fell trees on ground shall be subject to the outcome of the petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa (PIL WP No. 1407 of 2024).


27/8/24
Nabanita Ganguly, IFS
CF (Conservation) &
Member Secretary (Tree Authority)

File no.5-43/2024-25-Vol III/FD/2259

Date: 27.08.2024

Copy to:

1. PS to the Chief Secretary for information of Chief Secretary / Chairperson, Tree Authority
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Altinho Panaji – Goa, Member, TA
3. The Principal Secretary (Forests), Goa, Member, TA
4. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Forest Department, Altinho Panaji – Goa, Member, TA
5. Dr. Deviya Rane, Hon'ble M.L.A., Poriem Constituency, Valpoi – Goa, Member, TA
6. Dr. Chandrakant Shetye, Hon'ble M.L.A., Bicholim Constituency, Bicholim Goa, Member, TA
7. Shri. Ganesh C. Gaonkar, Hon'ble M.L.A., Sanvordem Constituency, Sanvordem, Sanguem Goa, Member, TA
8. Shri Pravin Arlekar, Hon'ble M.L.A., Pernem Constituency, Member, TA

9. Shri Sagun Wadkar, Zilla Panchayat Member, Member, TA
10. Shri Anil Katkar Councillor, Valpoi Municipal Council, Member, TA
11. Secretary (Revenue), Secretariat, Porvorim – Goa, Member, TA
12. Secretary (Urban Development), Goa, Member, TA
13. Secretary (Panchayat), Goa, Member, TA
14. Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Goa, Member, TA

Copy also to:

1. DC (North Goa), Panjim
2. DCF (North Goa Division), Ponda