



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/2143 Dated:- 01/07/2025
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To,
The Dy. Conservator of Forests,
North / South Goa Division,
Ponda / Margao - Goa.

Sub:- Minutes of the meeting of the Tree Authority held on 17th July 2025 at 4.00 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 17th July 2025 at 4.00 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.

Copy also to:

1. The Principal Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Altinho, Panaji – Goa
2. The Managing Director, Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation, Panaji – Goa.
3. The Chief Officer, Bicholim Municipal Council, Bicholim Goa
4. The Director (IT), Dept. of Information & Technology, IT Hub, Altinho – Panaji Goa
5. The Director (Admn.), Goa Medical College& Hospital, Bambolim – Goa
6. The Dy. Collector & SDO Bicholim, Sub-Division Bicholim Goa
7. The Director, Directorate of Civil Aviation, Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa
8. The General Manager (Project), Rail Vikas Nigam Limited Margao Goa.
9. The Commander Works Officer, for Commanding Officer, INS Mandovi, Verem Goa.
10. Shri Nitin Agarwal, Authorized Signatory Goa Tamnar Transmission Project Limited, DB Marg, Miramar, Panaji – Goa.
11. Shri Yatin G. Kakodkar, Alto Porvorim, Bardez –Goa
12. The Maj, OIC, NFS Comdt., Bambolim Tiswadi Goa
13. The Managing Director, GTDC, Patto Panaji – Goa
14. The Lieutenant Colonel, Quarter Master for Commanding Officer, 3 Military Training Regiment.
15. The Member Secretary, Greater Panaji Planning and Development Authority, Panaji –Goa.

Minutes of the 9th meeting of the Goa Tree Authority held on 17-07-2025 at 4:00 p.m.
under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Goa

The list of participants is at **Annexure “A”**.

The Chief Secretary and Chairperson, Goa Tree Authority welcomed the members.

Member Secretary briefed the Authority members about meeting agenda. She apprised the members about the present status and progress made on the recommendations made by the Tree Authority in its 8th meeting, as shown below:

Sl. No.	Recommendations made by the Tree Authority in the 8 th meeting	Current Status
1	Permission to GSIDC to fell 192 trees and translocate 2 tree to construct Road over bridge at crossing gate No. 37 (Railway Chainage) at Old Goa.	Proposal received for obtaining Government approval. GSIDC has now proposed to plant 350 seedlings out of 396 nos. of pending plantings on 1300 sq m area at Saligao.
2	Permission to PWD to fell 222 trees for widening and repair of road in Cacora, village of Quepem Taluka	Proposal submitted by PWD was returned for want of scheme/plan of undertaking pending plantings as per decision taken in 8 th TA Meeting.
3	Permission to Shri. Suraj N. PrabhuDessai r/o. Kharegal, Canacona for felling 154 trees for cultivation purpose in <i>Eco-sensitive Zone areas</i>	Proposal for obtaining State Government approval not received.

AGENDA 1: NEW PROPOSALS

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

1. **Permission to fell 97 trees for construction of Unity Mall GOA for promotion of Skill India, Make in India and One District One Product venture of GoI, at Sy. No. 40/1 of Chimbhel village, Tiswadi, North Goa**

The project proponent, GTDC (Department of Tourism), through a power point presentation briefed the members regarding the various aspects of their proposal. Queries posed by the members were answered by the project proponent. Threadbare discussion was held to understand the necessity of felling of 97 trees. GTDC submitted that the project is being executed under a central scheme, it had to create a substantial space for housing different display areas inside and outside, with multiple approaches and evacuation pathways, and that they have made provisions for underground parking as well to ensure minimum number of trees are felled.

After detailed discussion, the Authority decided to recommend felling of 97 numbers of trees for the current proposal, subject to the following conditions:

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- i. The project proponent shall ensure planting of trees three times in lieu of trees felled. The species of trees to be planted be decided in consultation with Forest Department and Goa State Biodiversity Board. This shall be apart from planting of equal number of coconut trees for the coconut trees recommended for felling. A detailed plan of plantation alongwith KML file of the site of plantation shall be submitted along with the instant tree-felling proposal, before this proposal is finally submitted to the State Government for its approval.
- ii. GTDC shall translocate trees as per feasibility and in consultation with GSBB and the Forest Department.
- iii. During felling of trees, special care shall be taken by the project proponent to ensure that no wildlife is harmed or injured in anyway, including their nests and young-ones.
- iv. The project proponent shall carry out planting of only indigenous mixed tree species suitable to the site selected for planting. A geotagged accounting of the trees planted in lieu shall be maintained for the purpose of monitoring.
- v. The project proponent shall maintain the seedlings planted, at their own cost and management, over a period of five years from the year of planting.

2. Permission to fell 195 trees for Development of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum. at Sy No. 228/1-A of Bandora village, Ponda Taluka

The project proponent, GTDC (Department of Tourism), briefed the members regarding the various aspects of their proposal through a power point presentation. Through maps and images of blueprint, GTDC submitted that it intends to create a landmark tourist site at Farmagudi wherein the hill above the current statue shall be put to use by creating a new bigger statue at the top with an approach road suitable for buggies. Project proponent informed that they have applied for bare minimum felling of trees towards creation of a pathway leading to the top of the hill, and that as stipulated in project at point number 1, they undertake to plant tree species three times the number of trees proposed to be felled.

After a detailed discussion, the Authority decided to recommend felling of 195 trees for the current proposal, subject to the following conditions:

- i. The project proponent shall ensure planting of trees three times in lieu of trees felled. The species of trees to be planted be decided in consultation with Forest Department and Goa State Biodiversity Board. A detailed plan of plantation alongwith KML file of the site of plantation shall be submitted along with the instant tree-felling proposal, before this proposal is finally submitted to the State Government for its approval.

- ii. GTDC shall translocate trees as per feasibility and in consultation with GSBB and the Forest Department.
- iii. During felling of trees, special care shall be taken by the project proponent to ensure that no wildlife is harmed or injured in anyway, including their nests and young-ones.
- iv. The project proponent shall carry out planting of only indigenous mixed tree species suitable to the site selected for planting. A geotagged accounting of the trees planted in lieu shall be maintained for the purpose of monitoring.
- v. The project proponent shall maintain the seedlings planted, at their own cost and management, over a period of five years from the year of planting.

3. Permission to fell 1449 trees for Construction of MIT - World Peace University
Campus for MAEER at Sy. No. 88/1-B, Tivim village in Bardez Taluka

The project proponent, Registrar, Maharashtra Academy of Engineering and Educational Research (MAEER), MIT Group of Institution, Pune before the Authority submitted that they intend to utilise an area of about 200000 sq m for setting up a university with residential facilities, and other academic institutional amenities. They mentioned that the area has been leased out to them by the concerned Comunidade and accordingly they shall be taking up the establishment of this university. They also mentioned that they have requested the Directorate of Mines & Geology to remove an old mine dump within the said comunidade land which has about 614 standing trees on it, of mostly *Acacia* species. Justifying the high number of trees proposed for felling, the project proponent mentioned that they shall take up construction in phased manner and they are seeking to take felling permissions at one go.

After a thorough discussion, the Authority decided to recommend felling of 1149 trees for the current proposal, subject to the following conditions:

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- i. The project proponent shall fell the 614 trees on the said mine dump (as per map shown) only after obtaining all necessary clearances from the concerned authorities to remove the said mining dump.
 - ii. The project proponent shall ensure planting of indigenous forest trees species five times in lieu of trees of species other than *Acacia* to be felled. For the trees of *Acacia* species to be felled, they shall plant 3 times in lieu of those trees. A detailed plan of plantation, including KML file of the site of plantation shall be submitted along with the instant tree-felling proposal, before this proposal is finally submitted to the State Government for its approval. Phase-wise felling proposed, is to be projected accordingly.

- iii. The project proponent shall translocate trees as per feasibility and in consultation with GSBB and the Forest Department.
- iv. During felling of trees, special care shall be taken by the project proponent to ensure that no wildlife is harmed or injured in anyway, including their nests and young-ones.
- v. The project proponent shall carry out planting of only indigenous mixed forest tree species suitable to the site selected for planting, in consultation with the Forest Department and the Goa State Biodiversity Board. The list of geotagged locations of the trees planted in lieu of the trees felled shall be maintained for the purpose of monitoring.
- vi. The project proponent shall maintain the seedlings planted, at their own cost and management, over a period of five years from the year of planting.

AGENDA 2: REVIEW OF PLANTING OF TREES BY VARIOUS AGENCIES AGAINST TREE FELLING PERMISSIONS GIVEN IN LAST 5 YEARS

As was directed by the Chair in the last meeting, a list of pending plantings in lieu of major felling permissions accorded to various agencies/Departments in the past five years was presented to the Tree Authority based on records available. Eight agencies were called in for ascertaining the status of plantation and their further plan to attain the target set as per the terms on which permissions were accorded to them earlier. The following directions were given:

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1. **PWD :** The Authority noted that there is a backlog of 33351 trees in North District and 1162 trees in South District to be planted by PWD. Since no official was present for the review and the fact that PWD functioned through multiple divisions, it was decided that the pendency of each PWD Division be calculated and communicated to PWD separately. It was also decided that the concerned Division EE needs to be present for the next review meeting by Tree Authority and submit their plan of execution and progress.

(Action: PWD, DCF North/South)

2. **RVNL:** No officials were present. A pendency of 666 trees and 1152 trees to be planted in North and South district respectively was noted against the agency. RVNL to submit compliance and plan of execution immediately for verification.

(Action: RVNL)

3. **Commander Works Officer, INS Mandovi:** The Authority noted that there is a backlog of 1137 nos. of trees to be planted in North district by the Naval authorities. Noting the outstanding compliance of plantation target, the representative of the Navy who attended the meeting agreed to immediately find a suitable space within their

premises to plant 1137 trees of indigenous mixed tree species, in consultation with DCF (North).

(Action: Commdr WO, INS Mandovi)

4. **GTTPL :** A total pendency of 1029 trees to be planted was noted by the Tree Authority against GTTPL. DCF (North Goa) informed that a report on compliance has been received very recently from GTTPL and the same is under verification. The Authority directed DCF (North) to inform the details after field verification in the next meeting.

(Action: DCF North)

5. **Director (Civil Aviation):** A pendency of 450 no. of trees was noted against the agency. No official was present. The Authority directed to take up the plantation of mixed forest tree species on a suitable site without any further delay and report compliance for verification.

(Action: Director, Civil Aviation)

6. **Dy. Collector & SDO, Bicholim:** A pendency of 450 no. of tree was noted against the SDO Bicholim. The SDO, Bicholim, who attended the meeting, agreed to find suitable land to plant 450 number of plants mixed forestry tree species in this monsoon season.

(Action: Dy. Collector & SDO, Bicholim/Chief Officer, Bicholim Municipal Council)

7. **GSIDC :** A pendency of 396 no. of trees was noted against the agency. Representative of GSIDC apprised the Authority that they have already selected a site at Saligaon and propose to plant 350 neem trees there in close spacing over an area of 1300 sqmetre. The Authority observed that the planting of the remaining 46 trees to be taken up simultaneously on any suitable site. The Authority also desired that instead of only neem, mixed tree species be planted at the site selected at Saligao. GSIDC was directed to submit an undertaking to this effect for further consideration of their current proposal under submission.

(Action: MD, GSIDC)

8. **GTDC :** A pendency of 291 no. of trees was noted against GTDC. The representative of GTDC agreed to plant the outstanding 291 numbers of plants as a compensatory plantation to be submitted along with the two proposals (discussed under Agenda 1) and comply with the terms of the earlier felling permissions accorded.

(Action: MD, GTDC)

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9. The pendency of plantation against other agencies/entities was also discussed, as tabulated below:

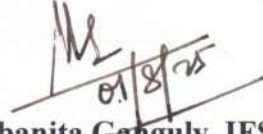
Sl. No.	Agency	Pendency	
		North Division	South Division
9	Captain of Ports	-	219
10	ONGC	-	1497
11	YatinKakodkar	381	-
12	Director (IT)	360	-
13	Director (Admn), Goa Medical College & Hospitals	240	-
14	MS, Greater Panaji Planning and Development Authority	207	-
15	Chief Officer, Municipal Council, Bicholim	183	-
16	OIC, NFS Commandant, Bambolim	177	-
17	CO, 3 Military Training Regiment	-	150

The Tree Authority noted the pendency against each of the agency as mentioned in the table above and directed that the agencies shall attend to the pendency and draw plan of execution and submit the same in the next review meeting. In the meanwhile, any progress made and plantation undertaken should be brought to the notice of the concerned Forest Division for verification.

(Action: Agency, as per table)

It was reiterated that non-compliance to the terms & conditions stipulated by Tree Authority could lead to adverse ramification against the agency/organisation, while considering their future proposals.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks and gratitude to the Chair and a word of appreciation for the participants.


(Nabanita Ganguly, IFS)
CF (Conservation) &
Member Secretary (Tree Authority)

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

Dated: 01.07.2025

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ATTENDEES OF THE MEETING OF THE TREE AUTHORITY HELD ON 17-07-2025 AT 4.00 P.M. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GOA.

1.	Sh Candavelou. V	Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary (Forests)	Chairman
2.	Sh Kamal Datta	Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Altinho Panaji – Goa.	Member
3.	Sh Ramesh Kumar	Add. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Chief Wildlife Warden	Member
4.	Sh Sandip Jacques	Secretary (Revenue),Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa	Secretary (Revenue),Secretariat, Porvorim - Goa
5.	Dr. Pradeep V. Sarmokadam	Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board, Saligao Bardez Goa.	Member
6.	Ms. Nabanita Ganguly	Conservator of Forest (Conservation)	Member Secretary
7.	Ankit Yadav	Collector & District Magistrate, North Goa	Special Invitees
8.	Nadia Shekoli	Dy Director, Urban Development	Member
9.	Siddhi Halarnkar	Directorate of Panchayat	Member
10.	Shri. Jiss K. Varkey	Dy. Conservator of Forests, North Goa Division	Special Invitees
11.	Shri. Santosh Kumar Reddy	Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Goa Division	Special Invitees