



अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक, कांदळवन कक्ष, मुंबई यांचे कार्यालय,  
३०२, वेक फिल्ड हाऊस, ३ रा मजला, ब्रिटानिया रेस्टोरंट जवळ, बॅलार्डइस्टेट, फोर्ट, मुंबई ४०० ००१.  
दूरध्वनीक्र. ०२२-२२६९४९८४, २२६९४९८५, Email: ccfmumbai@gmail.com/ dcfmangrovecell@gmail.com

विषय:- कांदळवन संरक्षण व संवर्धन सनियंत्रण  
समितीच्या बैठकीचे मंजूर इतिवृत्त.

जा.क्र./ल. ले/१५१ /सन २०१८-१९

फोर्ट, मुंबई ४०० ००१ दिनांक: २९/११/२०१८.

प्रति,

१. विभागीय आयुक्त, कोकण विभाग, नवी मुंबई.
२. अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक, कांदळवन कक्ष, मुंबई.
३. मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (प्रादेशिक) ठाणे.
४. जिल्हाधिकारी, मुंबई/ मुंबई उपनगर/ ठाणे/ पालघर / रायगड / रत्नागिरी / सिंधुदुर्ग.
५. पोलिस आयुक्त, मुंबई/ठाणे/ नवी मुंबई यांचे प्रतिनिधी.
६. आयुक्त, महानगरपालिका बृहन्मुंबई / ठाणे / कल्याण-डोंबिवली /मिरा-भाईंदर /वसई-विरार / नवी मुंबई / पनवेल /भिवंडी-निजामपूर / उल्हासनगर यांचे प्रतिनिधी. (उप आयुक्त व त्यावरील दर्जाचे अधिकारी)
७. मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (प्रादेशिक) कोल्हापूर किंवा त्यांचे प्रतिनिधी (विभागीय वन अधिकारी व त्यावरील दर्जाचे अधिकारी)
८. पोलीस अधिक्षक,ठाणे(ग्रामीण) रायगड/पालघर/रत्नागिरी/सिंधुदुर्ग यांचे प्रतिनिधी (पोलीस उप अधिक्षक व त्यावरील दर्जाचे पोलीस अधिकारी)
९. सदस्य सचिव, महाराष्ट्र सागर तटीय क्षेत्र व्यवस्थापन प्राधिकरण (MCZMA)
१०. मुंबई महानगर प्रदेश विकास प्राधिकरण (MMRDA) चे प्रतिनिधी.
११. शहर आणि औद्योगिक विकास महामंडळ (CIDCO) चे प्रतिनिधी.
१२. महाराष्ट्र गृहनिर्माण व क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकरण (MHADA) चे प्रतिनिधी.
१३. झोपडपट्टी पुनर्विकास प्राधिकरण यांचे प्रतिनिधी.
१४. महाराष्ट्र औद्योगिक विकास महामंडळ (MIDC) यांचे प्रतिनिधी.
१५. विभागीय वन अधिकारी, मुंबई कांदळवन संधारण घटक, मुंबई.
१६. महाराष्ट्र प्रदुषण नियंत्रण मंडळाचे क्षेत्रिय अधिकारी
१७. नवी मुंबई एन्व्हारमेंट ऍक्शन ग्रुप यांचे प्रतिनिधी
१८. बॉम्बे एन्व्हारमेंट ऍक्शन ग्रुप यांचे प्रतिनिधी
१९. वनशक्ती (NGO) यांचे प्रतिनिधी
२०. महाराष्ट्र मच्छिमार कृती संघ यांचे प्रतिनिधी
२१. संचालक, बॉम्बे नॅचरल हिस्ट्री सोसायटी (BNHS)

संदर्भ :- शासन निर्णय क्र. एस-३०/२०१५/अनौ.३०/प्र.क्र.४६२/फ-३, दि. १६ ऑक्टोबर, २०१८.

उपरोक्त संदर्भान्वये कांदळवन संरक्षण व संवर्धन सनियंत्रण समितीची पहिली बैठक सोमवार, दिनांक १२/११/२०१८ रोजी दुपारी ३.०० वाजता, मा. विभागीय आयुक्त, कोकण भवन, सी.बी.डी. बेलापूर, नवी मुंबई येथे घेण्यात आली.

सदर बैठकीचे मंजूर इतिवृत्त आपणास माहिती व पुढील कार्यवाहीसाठी पाठविण्यात येत आहे.

  
सदस्य सचिव

कांदळवन संरक्षण व संवर्धन सनियंत्रण समिती

तथा

उपवनसंरक्षक कांदळवन कक्ष, मुंबई.

# Minutes of first meeting of State Mangrove Protection Monitoring Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The chairman has briefed all the members regarding the directions of Honourable Bombay High Court and asked all the concern authority to take mangrove issue very seriously and to comply the directions of Honourable court. The Member Secretary presented the observations, clarifications and directions given by Honourable High Court in its interim and final orders of PIL 87/2006. Later the discussion was held on specific agenda item and directions were issued.

## Item No: 1

### Subject: Constitution of Sub Committee at District and Taluka Level.

As per the directions of Honourable Bombay High Court, the Maharashtra state government has authorised Divisional Commissioner, Konkan Division to constitute sub -committee at District and Taluka level vide its GR dated 16<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2018.

**Decision taken:** The Divisional Commissioner has already formed a subcommittee both at the District and Taluka Level and the same has been communicated (vide Letter...) to all the District Collectors of Coastal Districts. The same has been briefed before the committee and discussion was held regarding its composition. The committee has recommended few suggestions and changes as follows

- a) To make Assistant Conservator of Forest and Range Forest officer as Member Secretary at District and Taluka Level subcommittee respectively.
- b) To include few NGO and Fishermen representatives in District and Taluka level subcommittee. It is left to the collector to nominate these members to the subcommittee.

The role of these sub-committees includes

- a) Periodical conduct of meetings at least once in a month.
- b) Redress of Complaint regarding mangrove destruction
- c) Protection and conservation of mangrove
- d) Restoration of reclaimed mangrove patch
- e) Implementation of the directions of the Honourable High court

## Item No: 2

### Subject: To set up Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Honourable Court has directed the state government to create a Grievance Redressal Mechanism for enabling the members of the public to lodge complaints about the activity of destruction/removal of the mangroves. The matter was discussed and the committee has setup following mechanism to redress the complaint.

### Decision taken:

- a) In order to take immediate action/response on the complaints related to destruction of mangroves, the committee has set up a following mechanism



*Complaint Received (through Toll free number 1926/through website/through mail/through post)*



*The Nodal officer (Revenue/Police/Forest) him/herself (whoever is available) or their team to inspect the site within 48 hours and to take cognizance of the offence. It is the duty of Police (Concerned nodal officer/ Deputy Superintendent of Police) to provide protection to the concerned officer who is doing site inspection. The site inspection shall be done along with the Complainant.*



*A. on Non- notified mangrove land and Private mangrove:*

- *Police to complete the investigation within a month and submit the charge sheet/complaint including all the documents supporting investigation to authorised officers (Regional officer MPCB or Sub Divisional Magistrate) on the complaints on private mangrove or non-notified mangrove area*
- *The authorized officer (Regional officer, MPCB or SDM) will submit the complaint before the Honourable court for prosecution under EPA, 1986 within 2 month.*

*B. B. on Notified mangrove land:*

- *The concerned Forest officer will submit the complaint within three months before the court for prosecution of offence under respective Forest Acts.*

b) Whenever the complaint is received before the State monitoring committee then it will be transferred to Sub Committee (Member Secretary) at the district level .The Subcommittee will dispose all the complaints under their jurisdiction at their local level and report back to State monitoring committee headed by Divisional Commissioner. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of subcommittee then they can approach State monitoring committee.

c) Creation of Separate Website: The Member Secretary has informed the committee that a separate website has already been created to receive the complaints of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai region and the same can be used to receive the complaints of other district. The committee has consider this and directed to use the same website by changing its domain name to WWW.KONKANMANGROVES.COM. The provision of uploading Geo coordinates; photographs and other documents are made through the website.

The committee has directed member secretary to make changes in the website to intimate the progress of the complaint to the complainant at three stages (complainant will receive the status of complaint as: **Site inspection done, Offence has been registered and Complaint has been filed before Honourable Court**)

d) Toll Free Number to receive the complaint: **1926 Service** already in place to receive the complaints from public. The committee has directed Collector, Deputy Conservator of Forest and Superintendent of Police to nominate nodal officers from each district (one officer each from Revenue, Police and Forest) and to share their mobile numbers, office contact numbers and e-mail id to the Member Secretary. The call centre (1926) will directly communicate the complaint details to concerned district nodal officers.

e) The committee has directed Member Secretary to create a separate E-mail ID to receive the complaints.



f) Mr Debi Goenka has brought to the notice of the committee that there is less awareness towards mangrove issue among the public prosecutor and their sensitization is need of the hour. He has asked to nominate prosecutor who can deal with mangrove issue. After discussion, committee is of the opinion that it would be better to have one court from each district which can hear the complaints of mangroves. All the concern coastal police station and authorized officer under EPA, 1986 can file the complaints before this Honourable Court. A public prosecutor from these courts can be sensitized regularly regarding the issues related mangroves and laws of Forest and Environmental; so that the public prosecutor can plead better before the Honourable Court.

Hence the proposals are being sought from each Superintendent of Police of coastal districts to designate a single court from each district to hear the cases of mangroves .The proposal can be submitted to government for its approval.

**Item No: 3**

**Subject: Publicity regarding the availability of Grievance Redressal Mechanism.**

Honourable Court has directed State Government to provide adequate publicity regarding the availability of the Grievance Redress Mechanism in leading newspapers as well as local newspapers. Information also to be displayed in the offices of District Collectors, Sub Divisional Officers, Tehsildhars in the coastal districts as well as in the offices of the MPCB, MMB and Municipal Corporations/Municipal Councils of coastal districts.

The publicity shall be given at regular intervals of at least six months to the details of the grievance redress mechanism in leading newspapers having good circulation in the coastal areas.

**Decision taken:** The committee has directed Member Secretary to prepare a content of press note (Information on committee, toll-free number, website and E-mail Id) and give it for publication through publicity department. The content will be shared with all the District Collectors to publicise the same. The Committee has directed all above mentioned authority to comply the directions of Honourable High Court regarding publicity.

**Item No: 4**

**Subject: Restoration of Mangroves.**

Honourable High Court has asked state to replant destructed mangroves and to restore mangrove areas which are illegally reclaimed. The said areas shall be restored to its original condition. In what manner restoration shall be done must be decided by the committee headed by the Divisional Commissioner after consulting experts in the field.

**Decision Taken:** Discussion was held regarding the immediate restoration of mangrove area. In most of the cases immediate availability of fund to restore the mangrove land is not available and especially in private area the authority will face problem. Even if the restoration cost of land is recovered from the offender as an arrears of land revenue under Maharashtra Land Revenue Code but restoration work will get affected because of immediate unavailability of fund.

Hence Committee has directed respective Municipal Corporations to take up responsibility of restoration of destructed areas in their jurisdiction (Urban area).The necessary funds can be demanded from the government. For the rural areas, Mangrove Foundation will initially use its resources for restoration and if such funds are not sufficient, additional grants will be sought by Mangrove Cell from the government.



**Item No: 5**

**Subject: To Identify Vulnerable mangrove areas and their constant surveillance.**

Honourable court has asked the committee

- a) To identify the vulnerable mangrove areas in the state and direct its constant surveillance by the Police/Forest Guards/security Guards of the Maharashtra Security Corporation.
- b) To ensure that barricades are erected for preventing the entry of vehicles in such vulnerable areas.
- c) The committee shall also consider of installing CCTVs along the vulnerable stretches to keep a vigil.
- d) The committee shall also cause to undertake satellite mapping of mangroves area in the state at periodical intervals of not more than six months by using resolutions as suggested in paragraph no 28 of the note submitted by the learned senior counsel appearing for the petitioner. Any changes seen shall be considered by the committee and remedial measures shall be taken. The State Government shall sanction necessary amount for that purpose.

**Decision Taken:**

- a) After discussion the committee is of the opinion that this exercise will require sufficient time to identify most vulnerable sites from each district. Hence it has directed concern forest division of each district will make a survey and identify these areas and the action plan will be prepared accordingly to have constant vigil these lands.
- b) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Mangrove Cell has informed that, the Mangrove Cell will take the responsibility of satellite mapping. Mangrove Foundation has already given mapping of mangrove project to Indian Institute of Space science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram (Institute under ISRO).

**Item No: 6**

**Subject: Transfer of Government Mangrove Land to Forest Department and Consequential making revenue entries**

The Honourable court has directed all the authorities to transfer Government mangrove land to Forest Department and consequential directions regarding making revenue entries shall be complied within a period of three months from the date on which judgement and order is uploaded.

**Decision Taken:** Transfer of the entire notified areas other than the area excluded from Section 4 of IFA, 1927 should be completed before the deadline given by the Hon. High Court, i.e. by 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Wherever areas notified u/s 4 has been excluded after inquiry by the Forest Settlement Officer, the orders should be shared with Forest Department, so that wherever felt necessary by the latter, an appeal can be made.

**Item No: 7**

**Subject: Nomination of Nodal officers to the committee.**

The composition of the committee includes the representatives from MMRDA, CIDCO, MHADA, MIDC, SRA, Police Commissioners etc. It is important to have senior officers to be part of the committee and also the same officer can able coordinate better than presence of different officers in each meeting of the committee.

**Decision Taken:** The chairman has directed each authority to nominate a senior officer (not below the rank of Deputy Commissioner) probably second in command from each office to attend the meeting regularly. The nomination has to be made by post/designation and it has to be communicated to Member Secretary. Only with prior approval he/her can nominate other officer to attend the meeting in his/her absence (only in case of emergency).

**Item No: 8**

**Subject: Mangrove mortality due to Kharland bunds.**

It is of the opinion that large scale mangrove mortality is occurring due to kharland bunds (both new and existing) which completely blocks the tidal flow into the mangrove patch. Hence necessary directions are required to concerned authority to allow proper tidal flow.

**Decision Taken:** As the Kharland bunds are necessary and being promoted to avoid influx of marine water into agriculture land. It is of the observation that wherever existing bunds are there the MCZMA may give permission to kharland board for repair of bunds without considering the impact on mangroves.

Hence Committee has decided to appraise these facts to MCZMA and kharland board to examine each cases of Kharland bund construction in consultation with Mangrove Cell. Proper culvert provisions are made to allow tidal water for the growth of mangroves while constructing the kharland bunds.

**Item No: 9**

**Subject: To notify all government mangrove land into Reserve Forest.**

All mangroves on government land are to be notified as Reserved Forests and transferred to the Forest Department, as per the directions of the High Court. This applies to Revenue land as well as mangrove land in the possession of Municipal Corporations and government agencies like CIDCO, MMRDA, MHADA, MIDC etc.

**Decision taken:** For the process of identification of such land, their notification as Reserved Forest and subsequent transfer, the chairman has directed that, the forest official shall identify such areas to be notified with details thereof with the help of RDC. The concern RDC of the district will be the nodal officer from Revenue Department for speeding up the entire process.

 29.11.18  
Chairman

State Mangrove Monitoring Committee  
And  
The Divisional Commissioner,  
Konkan Division