Minutes of the Meeting of the Sub-Committee of GCZMA held on 13/02/2014 at 3:00 pm to recommend guidelines for temporary shacks on Private Property

Conference Hall, 1st Floor, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Patto, Panaji.

The following members were present:

1. Dr. Savita Kerkar
2. Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas
3. Shri. Ragnath Dhume
4. Dr. Nitin Sawant
5. Mr. Milind Karkhanis (representative, Forest Department)

The 98th GCZMA Meeting held on 10/02/2014 in which members of GCZMA discussed and deliberated on various items in the Agenda of the meeting. In Case No. 1.1 and 1.3 under Item No.1 which concerns applications for NOC in respect of temporary shacks in private property by M/s. KHR Hospitality and M/s. Cosmos Premises Pvt. Ltd., it was decided after due discussion and deliberation that there is a need to formulate guidelines and framework governing temporary shacks in private property. It was also decided that a sub-committee consisting of 3 expert members of GCZMA who are to deliberate on the matter on 13/02/2014 at 3:00 p.m. and come up with such transparent guidelines.

Accordingly, the sub-committee shall include Director of Department Tourism, Mr. Milind Karkhanis, GCZMA member Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas, Dr. Nitin Sawant, Dr. Dhume, Dr. Savita Kerkar who are required to submit such guidelines by 14/2/2014 to the
Authority. As the above matters are pending before NGT it was also decided to seek 1 month’s time before NGT.

Accordingly, the members of the sub-committee agreed to convene a meeting of the sub-committee on 13/02/2014 for discussion and suggestions of the above matter. After taking into consideration suggestions/views/opinions of all the members of the sub-committee, it was unanimously decided to formulate following guidelines governing purely temporary shacks in private property:

1. CRZ Notification 2011 does not distinguish between private and government properties.

2. The distance of 200 m from the HTL is designated as NDZ and should be maintained as per CRZ Notification, 2011.

3. The mandate of GCZMA is to protect the NDZ from a scientific, geomorphological and ecological viewpoint.

4. The role and functions of coastal sand dunes and its associated vegetation as Nature's first natural line of defense is well known the world over. As such, there cannot be a compromise on the inherent role of beach-dune system.

5. Start of vegetation line on the beach is to be considered as zero point (HTL), and up to 200 m is the NDZ which is applicable throughout the country.

6. In case of shacks in private plots, irrespective of the often changing nature of the vegetation line, setting a purely temporary shack may be considered.
7. Anthropogenic activity on coastal sand dunes has to be banned; no shacks can be allowed on coastal dunes, as clearly notified in CRZ 2011.

8. Shacks cannot be allowed along turtle nesting sites, already designated in the CRZ 2011.

9. The shack should be located in the private plot along the landward boundary of the plot (farthest from the HTL).

10. It was decided that the structure should be purely temporary and shall not have anything permanent in nature.

11. One purely temporary seasonal shack may be allowed per plot, irrespective of the area of the plot; the shack should be removed by 31 May of the year.

12. The antecedent morphology of the plot should not be disturbed under any circumstances.

13. The dimensions of the shack should strictly be restricted to 12 x 8 m.

14. In case there is no vegetation, and for the sake of ecology and dunes stability, it shall be the bounden duty of the applicant or grantee to ensure that the sand dune part in the plot and vegetation on it is protected in toto, and not destroyed by any means.

15. Wherever the vegetation is disturbed, the grantee should encourage new vegetation by planting native dune vegetation.
16. Tourism policy 2013 - 16 are mere guidelines, and permission is necessary for any activity in the NDZ.

In light of the above guidelines, applications for permission filed on 15/01/2014 may be decided accordingly.

The members of the sub-committee Dr. Nitin Sawant and Shri. Ragunath Dhume and Antonio Mascarenhas also suggested that case by case study needs to be done by conducting inspections and carrying out analysis with proper scientific documentation.

All members suggested that such reports related to the protection of dunes should be displayed on the GCZMA website.

Eng. Raghunath Dhume

Dr. Nitin Sawant

Dr. Savita Kerkar

Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas

Mr. Milind Kharkane