

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
WESTERN ZONE BENCH AT PUNE  
(Original Application No. 91/2025 WZ)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**IN RE: "20K SQM PILERNE HILL CONVERSION RISKS  
LANDSLIDES THREATENS LAKE"**

VERSUS

1. Goa Town and Country Planning Department,
2. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Goa
3. Goa State Pollution Control Board,
4. Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority

**NDOH: 02.02.2026**

S. No.	Particulars	Pg. No.
1.	Reply Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No. 4- Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority	1-6
2.	<b><u>ANNEXURE R4/1:</u></b> A copy of the Notification No. 11- 2/GAWA/2021-22/Notification/897 dated 09.12.2021 issued by the Goa State Wetland Authority	7-11

Filed on 27.01.2026

Filed By:



**NAYAN GUPTA**  
Advocates for the Respondent No.4  
**Office at:** 6, Birbal Road,  
Jangpura Extension,  
New Delhi-110014  
**Mob No:** 9810868216  
**Email:** nayangupta.law@gmail.com



**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
WESTERN ZONE BENCH AT PUNE**

**Original Application No. 91/2025 WZ**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**IN RE: "20K SQM PILERNE HILL CONVERSION RISKS  
LANDSLIDES THREATENS LAKE"**

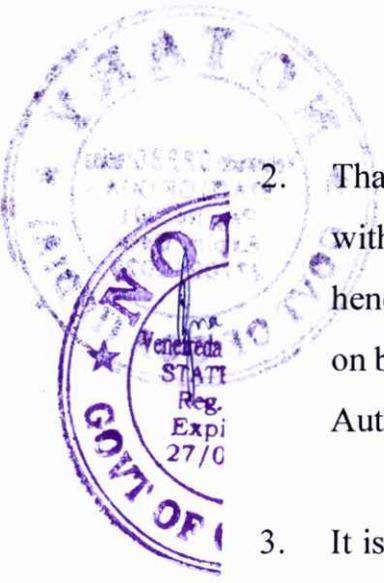
**VERSUS**

1. Goa Town and Country Planning Department,
2. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Goa
3. Goa State Pollution Control Board,
4. Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority

**REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 4-  
GOA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

I, Sachin S. Desai, major in age, holding the post of Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change, having office at 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dempo Towers, Patto, Panaji, Goa, Respondent No. 4, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. I say that I am holding the post of Director, Department of Environment & Climate Change. I say that the term of the GCZMA expired on 26/12/2025 and the proposal for reconstitution of the GCZMA is already sent to MoEF & CC.

- 
2. That in my official capacity as stated above, I am conversant with the facts of this case based upon official records and hence, competent and authorised to swear the present affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.4- Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority.
  3. It is submitted that the present matter arises from OA No. 372 of 2025 registered *suo moto* by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi on the basis of the news item titled "20K sqm Pilerne Hill conversion risks landslides threatens lake" appearing in Times of India dated 19.07.2025.
  4. Vide Order dated 28.07.2025, the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi, observed that the aforesaid news article discloses that there is proposed land conversion of 20,000 square meters on Pilerne Hills in Bardez Goa, which is an ecologically sensitive area lying within the buffer zone and catchment of Pilerne's Saulem lake, raising serious concerns about landslides, deforestation and environmental damage. It was further observed that the said land includes steep slopes falling under the no-development zone as per the Goa Regional Plan 2021.
  5. The Hon'ble Principal Bench of this Tribunal observed that as per the information mentioned in the aforesaid news articles, it indicates that there is violation of provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and raises substantial



issues relating to compliances with the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

6. Accordingly, vide the same Order dated 28.07.2025, the Hon'ble Principal Bench of this Hon'ble Tribunal impleaded GCZMA as Respondent No.4 and the matter was transferred to this Hon'ble Bench for adjudication which was numbered as OA No. 91 of 2025 (WZ).
7. On 23.09.2025, the matter was listed before this Hon'ble Court wherein the Respondent No.4 was granted time to file the present reply affidavit.
8. It is submitted that the Saulem Lake in the Pilerne Hills, Bardez Taluka, North Goa District, State of Goa has been declared to be wetland vide Notification No. 11-2/GAWA/2021-22/Notification/897 dated 09.12.2021 by the Goa State Wetland Authority and thus, does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Answering Respondent No.4. The said land exclusively falls within the jurisdiction of Goa State Wetland Authority which is a distinct Authority from the Answering Respondent No.4.
9. It is submitted that the Respondent No.4 regulates only those areas which are covered by the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011. Furthermore, as per Clause 1.2(c) of the said notification, no area of the said land, which is the proposed wetland, falls within the jurisdiction of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 thereby implying that the Respondent



No.4 does not have jurisdiction over the said land. The relevant clause of the notification is extracted herein below:

**“1.2 Boundary of area already designated under provisions of other Acts and Rules.**

*1.2 (c) Area designated under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and amendments thereof.*

*No area of the proposed wetland known as Pilerne Lake fall under the above mentioned Act.”*

A copy of the Notification No. 11-2/GAWA/2021-22/Notification/897 dated 09.12.2021 issued by the Goa State Wetland Authority is marked as ANNEXURE R4/1.

10. It is further submitted that as per *Guideline No. 4* of the *Guidelines for implementing Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017* only those lands can be notified under the Wetland Rules which does not fall, *inter alia*, under the *Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011*. Similarly, as per *Rule 3* of the *Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017* provides that these Rules are not applicable to wetlands/areas falling under the jurisdiction of Respondent No.4. This clearly shows that there cannot be overlapping of jurisdiction between the Respondent No.4 and Goa State Wetland Authority. The relevant provisions of the said Rules are extracted herein below:

**“Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017**

*3. Applicability of rules.—These rules shall apply to the following wetlands or wetlands complexes, namely:—*

*(a) wetlands categorised as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention;*

*(b) wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration:*

*Provided that these rules shall not apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Indian Forest Act,*



1927, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Forest Acts, and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 as amended from time to time.

**Guidelines for implementing Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017**

4. All wetlands, irrespective of their location, size, ownership, biodiversity, or ecosystem services values, can be notified under the Wetlands Rules, except:

.....  
**j) Wetlands falling within areas covered under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and amendments thereof.”**

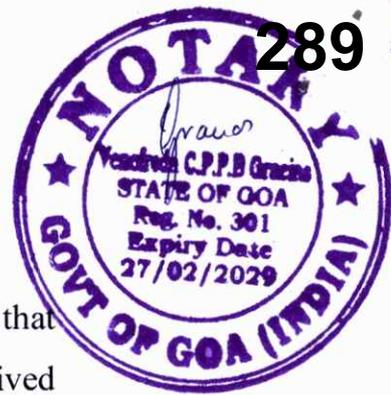
11. In light of the above-mentioned facts and circumstances, it is submitted that the subject-land of the present case does not fall within the jurisdiction of Respondent No.4 and hence, it is not a necessary or proper party for the adjudication of the matter by this Hon'ble Tribunal.
12. Accordingly, the Respondent No.4 prays that this Hon'ble Tribunal may consider deleting the said Respondent from the array of parties. It is submitted that no prejudice would be caused to any concerned party if the Respondent No.4 is deleted as a party Respondent in the present matter.



**DEPONENT**



VERIFICATION:



Verified at Panaji, Goa on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2026 that the contents of this Affidavit are based on information derived from the official records of the department. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed or suppressed therefrom.



*[Signature]*

DEPONENT



*[Handwritten signature and scribbles]*

Solemnly affirmed before me

Sachin S Desai

Who is identified before me by

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ At Calangute - Goa

Sr. No. 064/01/2026

Date. 22/01/2026

*[Signature]*  
Venefrada C.P.P.B Gracias  
Advocate & Notary Goa State

**Notification**

No. 5-516-2021/ARQZ/GEN/1626

In exercise of the powers vested in me under Section 8 of Goa Co-operative Societies Act, 2001, "Jai Durga Mata Self Help Group Co-op. Society Ltd.", Tembewada, Nagarcem, Canacona-Goa is registered under Code Symbol No. GEN-(C)-516/Quepem-Goa/2021.

Sd/- Suraj S. Ghaisas, Asst. Registrar, Quepem Zone (Co-op. Societies).

Quepem, 08th January, 2021.

**Certificate of Registration**

"Jai Durga Mata Self Help Group Co-op. Society Ltd.", Tembewada, Nagarcem, Canacona-Goa has been registered on 08-01-2021 and it bears registration Code Symbol No. GEN-(C)-516/Quepem-Goa/2021 and it is classified as "General Society" under sub-classification No. 12-(C)-other society in terms of Rule 8 of Goa Co-operative Societies Rules, 2003.

Sd/- Suraj S. Ghaisas, Asst. Registrar, Quepem Zone (Co-op. Societies).

Quepem, 08th January, 2021.

**Notification**

No. ARCS/OZ/YSMSHGCSL/2021/1627

In exercise of the powers vested in me under Section 8 of Goa Co-operative Societies Act, 2001, "Yuva Swaraj Mahila Self Help Group Co-op. Society Ltd.", Vastwada, Curchorem-Goa is registered under Code Symbol No. RCSQZ2021220002.

Sd/- Suraj S. Ghaisas, Asst. Registrar, Quepem Zone (Co-op. Societies).

Quepem, 30th June, 2021.

**Certificate of Registration**

"Yuva Swaraj Mahila Self Help Group Co-op. Society Ltd., Vastwada, Curchorem - Goa has been registered on 30-06-2021 and it bears registration Code symbol No. RCSQZ2021220002 and it is classified as "General Society" under sub-classification No. 12-(C)-Other Society in terms of Rule 8 of the Goa Co-operative Societies Rules, 2003.

Sd/- Suraj S. Ghaisas, Asst. Registrar, Quepem Zone (Co-op. Societies).

**Department of Education, Art & Culture**

Directorate of Higher Education

—

**Relieving Order**

No. 8/1/2017-Filling/Principal/5184

Read: (1) Memorandum No. 8/1/2017-Filling/Principal/3157 dated 31-08-2021.

(2) Order No. 8/1/2017-Filling/Principal/5014 dated 23-11-2021.

Dr. Shashank Shamrao Maktedar, Associate Professor in Vocal and holding the post of Principal on officiating basis in Goa College of Music, Altinho, Panaji-Goa, hereby stands relieved with immediate effect from his duties to join as Principal in Goa College of Music, Altinho, Panaji-Goa.

Prasad Lolayekar, IAS, Director (Higher Education).

Porvorim, 29th November, 2021.

**Department of Environment & Climate Change**

—

**Notification**

No. 11-2/GSWA/2021-22/Notification/897

- Whereas, there exists a water body known as Pilerne Lake or Saulem tollem admeasuring an area of 46010 sq. mts. located in village Pilerne of Bardez Taluka, North Goa District, State of Goa, which is considered to be critically significant for its ecosystem services and biodiversity values for the local communities and society at large (hereinafter referred to as the "Said Pilerne Lake"); which is more particularly described in Schedule I herein under;
- And whereas, it is considered that for sustaining these values, the ecological character of wetland ecosystem needs to be maintained by regulating developmental activities within the wetland as well as within its zone of influence;
- And whereas, in terms of sub-rule (1) of Rule 7 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017, the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Goa, through GSWA by engaging services of CSIR-NIO prepared a Brief Document for identifying the said Pilerne Lake as wetland;

4. And whereas, based on the Brief Document, Goa State Wetland Authority (GWSA) in the 10th meeting of the GWSA has recommended the Government of Goa to notify the said Pilerne Lake as wetland under the provisions of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017;
5. Now therefore, the State of Goa accepts the recommendation to declare the said wetland for being covered under the provisions of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017;
6. Whereas, the draft of the notification, which was published in the Official Gazette of Government of Goa 19-11-2020 for general public with a view of inviting objections in respect thereof as required under sub-rule (6) of Rule 5 of Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 hereinafter referred to as the said rules;
7. And whereas, the time for receiving objections is now over in the fixed duration the objections of the general public have been heard and decided, according to the said rules;
8. Hence this Notification, is issued by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DoE&CC), Government of Goa, in the exercise of powers conferred under Rule 7 of Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 read with Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), is hereby published for the information of persons;
9. The extent of the wetland and its zone of influence is described in Schedule I of this notification;
10. Activities prohibited within the wetland and its zone of influence is listed in Schedule II of this notification. Such prohibitions shall not apply for areas designated under other Acts and Rules, and listed at para 1.2 (a), (b) and (c) of Schedule I. Relevant provisions of respective Acts and Rules shall apply in such areas;
11. Activities regulated within the wetland and their zones of influence, i.e. permitted only with permission of State Government are listed in Schedule III of this notification. Request for permissions can be made to the Member Secretary, Goa State Wetland Authority, C/o Department of Environment and Climate Change, O/o Goa State Biodiversity Board, opposite Saligao Seminary, Saligao, Bardez, Goa 403511 or at email—ms-gswa.goa@gov.in/goa wetland@gmail.com Such regulations shall not apply for areas designated under other Acts and Rules, and listed at para 1.2 (a), (b) and (c) of Schedule I. Relevant provisions of respective Acts and Rules shall apply in such areas.
12. Activities permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence are listed in Schedule IV of this notification. Such permissions shall not apply for areas designated under other Acts and Rules, and listed at para 1.2 (a), (b) and (c) of Schedule I. Relevant provisions of respective Acts and Rules shall apply in such areas.
13. The Goa State Wetland Authority and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall monitor the enforcement of the provisions of this notification.
14. All the pre-existing ownership rights and privileges pertaining to identified and notified wetlands will be maintained. Further no pre-existing ownership rights or property will be transferred to GWSA as a part of this notification. The status quo of the existing ownership of the notified property will be maintained.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Goa.

*Dasharath M. Redkar*, Director & ex officio  
Jt. Secretary (Environment & CC).

Panaji, 29th November, 2021.

Schedule I: Location and Extent of Wetland and its Zone of Influence

#### 1.1 Wetland

The said Pilerne Lake admeasuring an area of 46010 sq. mts., surveyed under Survey No.

Taluka Village	Survey No./Sub- Div. No.	Approximate area in sq. mts.
Bardez/ Pilerne	205/1	850
	205/2	40850
	205/3(P)	860
	205/4	3100
	205/5	350
	Total	46010

#### 1.2 Boundary of area already designated under provisions of other Acts and Rules.

1.2 (a) Area designated under Indian Forest Act, 1927; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; State Forest Act and amendments thereof.

No area of the proposed wetland known as Pilerne Lake fall under the above mentioned Act.

1.2 (b) Area designated under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and amendments thereof. No area of the proposed wetland known as Pilerne Lake fall under the above mentioned Act.

1.2 (c) Area designated under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and amendments thereof.

No area of the proposed wetland known as Pilerne Lake fall under the above mentioned Act.

### 1.3. Zone of influence:

The Zone of influence of the said Pilerne Lake admeasuring 132825 sq. mts., includes the properties surveyed under the following Survey No.

Taluka Village	Survey No./Sub- Div. No.	Approximate area in sq. mts.
Bardez/ /Pilerne	Buffer Zone	
	36/1(P)	50
	37/1(P)	17306
	196/1(P)	604
	197/1(P)	588
	204/1(P)	7289
	205/3(P)	115
	206/2(P)	1010
	206/2-B	495
	206/2-A(P)	797
	206/3(P)	2354
	207/1(P)	465
	207/2(P)	461
	207/3(P)	3740
	207/4	125
	208/1(P)	523
	208/2(P)	768
	208/3-A(P)	9667
	208/3(P)	8514
	Area Outside Nos. (Roads and nalla)	3823
Zone of Influence		
	33/1(P)	269
	34/1(P)	1146
	35/1(P)	1326
	36/1(P)	4908
	36/4(P)	760
	36/4-D(P)	45
	37/1(P)	15630
	206/3(P)	125

206/4(P)	163
207/1(P)	123
207/2(P)	323
207/3(P)	375
207/5(P)	272
208/2(P)	480
208/3-A(P)	214

Area outside survey  
No. (Roads and nallahs) 1962

Total 132825

The map of wetland boundary of the said Pilerne Lake with the Zone of influence is at Annexure I. (For Enlarged to scale map kindly visit <https://gswa.goa.gov.in/>)

1.4 For the purpose of this wetland known as the said *Pilerne Lake* the same is located within Revenue village of Pilerne.

1.5 For the purpose of this wetland known as the said *Pilerne Lake* the zone of influence is located within Revenue village of Pilerne.

Schedule II: List of activities prohibited within wetland boundary

1. Conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
2. Setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries; with the exception of modernization of existing industries which will not affect the ecological balance of the wetland under consideration.
3. Manufacture and/or handling and/or storage and/or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans boundary Movement) Rules, 2008; Hazardous and other Wastes (Management, Handling and Trans boundary Movement) Rules, 2016; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016; and other acts and rules as notified by Central Government and State Government applicable to wetlands.
4. Solid waste dumping and plastic waste dumping covered under Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016;

5. Discharge of untreated wastes, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, effluents and any other chemicals effecting the ecological character of the wetland from industries, cities, towns, villages and any other human settlements and/or activities;
6. Any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty meters (demarcated as buffer zone on Annexure -I) from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and,
7. Poaching and illegal hunting covered Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and amendments thereof;
8. Extraction of Soil, Mud, Rock and sand for commercial purpose.  
[Any other activity other than mentioned above if taken up in the surrounding area that will have a direct or an indirect adverse effect on the ecological character of the wetland including water quality the same shall be prohibited.]
- Schedule III: List of activities regulated within the boundary of wetland and its zone of influence and for which prior approval of [State Government/UT Administration/MoEFCC] is required to be obtained.

Activity	Restrictions	
	Within the Boundary of wetland as shown in Annexure I	Within the Zone of influence as shown in Annexure I
Cultivation of Crops	Prohibited	Existing traditional crop cultivation practices in the low-lying areas downstream within the zone of influence will be allowed.
Fishing	Regulated by Fisheries Department and local bodies	Regulated by Fisheries Department Existing traditional practices may be permitted.
Aquaculture	Regulated as per norms of Fisheries Department and in consultation with local bodies.	Permitted.

Approval of the GSWA shall be obtained for any other activity proposed to be conducted other than those mentioned above which may adversely affect ecological character of wetland.

Schedule IV: List of activities permitted within the boundary of wetlands/wetlands complex and its zone of influence.

Activity	Levels and types not requiring permission	
	Within the Boundary of wetland as shown in Annexure I	Within the Zone of influence as shown in Annexure I
Withdrawal of water	Water is used for agriculture and horticulture purposes and existing traditional practices will continue. However, any new permissions shall be granted by WRD and LMC in consultation with GSWA	Permitted with the approval of GSWA and WRD.
Religious practices	Existing religious practices such as Ganesh idols immersion (except PoP) will be allowed. No activity that will adversely affect the ecological character of the wetland	Permitted.
Grazing and wallowing	Permitted	Permitted.
Preservation of this water body and maintaining quality of its significant	The boundary of the wetlands may be reinforced using natural means	Permitted.

catchment area especially no development zone, steep slopes and tree cover areas to ensure sustainability of this water body for future water security of local area

so as to not disturb the ecological character of the water body

Plantation of trees

Prohibited

Planting of indigenous species of plants is permitted in zone of influence, excluding water channels.

Deciding best possible wise use of wetland without affecting or impacting its ecological character and services offered presently

Permitted

Permitted.

Approval of the GSWA shall be taken for any other activity to be conducted other than those mentioned above.

### Department of Home

Home—General Division

#### Order

No. 19/6/2020-HD(G)/4039

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 (Central Act 46 of 1988) (hereinafter called as the "said Act") and in supersession of the Government Order No.19/1/2003/HD(G) dated 18-06-2003, published in the Official Gazette, Series II No.12 dated 19-06-2003, the Government of Goa hereby specially empowers the Secretary (Home), Government of Goa, for the purpose of said Section 3 of the said Act.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Goa.

*Pritidas U. Gaonkar*, Under Secretary (Home-I).

Porvorim, 1st December, 2021.

### Department of Personnel

#### Order

No. 7/3/2019-PER/3027

Director, Information Technology shall hold the charge of the post of Managing Director, Goa Information Technology Development Corporation (GITDC), in addition to her own duties, with immediate effect.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Goa.

*Vishal C. Kundaikar*, Under Secretary (Personnel-I).  
Porvorim, 24th November, 2021.

#### Order

No. 22/10/2018-PER/3039

Shri Abhishek Dhanias, IPS (AGMUT 2012), Superintendent of Police (HQ) shall hold the additional charge of Superintendent of Police (South), Goa, in addition to his own duties, with immediate effect.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Goa.

*Nathine S. Araujo*, Under Secretary (Personnel-II).  
Porvorim, 26th November, 2021.

#### Order

No. 5/1/2018-PER/3068

On the recommendation of the Goa Services Board and with the approval of the Government, the transfer and posting of the following Junior Scale Officer of Goa Civil Service is ordered in public interest:-

Sr. No.	Name and present posting of the officer	Posted as
1.	Shri Pandurang T. Talgaonkar, General Manager, GIDC with additional charge of SLAO, Tourism	Deputy Collector & SDO, Sanguem.

Shri Sohan Uskaikar, Deputy Director (Agriculture) shall hold the charge of General Manager, GIDC in addition to his own duties.

Shri Raju R. Dessai, Deputy Director (Panchayat), South shall hold the charge of Administrator of Comunidade, South Zone in addition to his own duties.

Shri Aleixo Vaz, Deputy Director (Admn.), Fire & Emergency shall hold the charge of SLAO, Tourism in addition to his own duties.