

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI.

Original Application No. 3/2015 (WZ)

Cavelossim Villagers Forum

Applicant

Versus

Village Panchyat of Cavelossim & Ors.

Respondents

CURRENT STATUS REPORT ON BEHALF OF GCZMA
IN RESPECT OF RESTORATION OF SAND DUNE IN
PROPERTY BEARING SURVEY NO. 109/2 OF VILLAGE
CAVELOSSIM IN SALCETE TALUKA OF DISTRICT
SOUTH GOA.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR

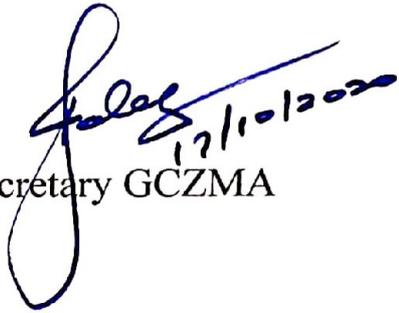
- 1) The Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 05.10.2020 was pleased to direct the concerned party to file the current status of the restoration of the sand dune in property bearing Survey No. 109/2 of Village Cavelossim in Salcete Taluka of District South Goa.
- 2) The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) vide letter dated 14.10.2020 immediately called upon the Goa State Bio-diversity Board (GSBB) to tender the present status of the restoration process as the work of restoration of the sand dune was entrusted to them.
- 3) A joint inspection was conducted on 14.10.2020 by the Expert Member GCZMA, BMC of Cavelossim, VP Cavelossim, officials from PWD, Member Secretary and other officials from GSBB, representative of Shree Sai Champions Family Trust, complainant and few other villagers. The site was revisited and inspected on 16.10.2020 by the officials of GSBB, Local Biodiversity Management Committee Chairperson, representative of Sree Sai Champions family trust and Technical Officer from PWD.

Jalee
17/10/2020

4) The GSBB has given a report dated 16.10.2020 now specifying as to what is the current status of the sand dune which is placed as ANNEXURE "A" to this report alongwith the photographs of the site and the attendees who were present on the date of inspection.

5) It is most humbly submitted before this Hon'ble Tribunal to take on record the Joint Inspection Report dated 16.10.2020 and the opinion rendered by the Scientist Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas (*who has been specifically assigned this task by this Hon'ble Tribunal*) and dispose of the matter in terms thereof.

Place : Panaji Goa.
Date:17/10/2020


17/10/2020
Member Secretary GCZMA

Report of the joint inspections on the “Restoration of Sand dune and riverside area at Survey No. 109/2, Village Cavelossim, Salcete in the property of M/S Sree Sai Champions Family Trust. With reference to Hon. NGT Order dated 10/02/2017 in application of 3/2015.

Case reference and background: Hon. NGT Order dated 10/02/2017 in application of 3/2015. Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority vide letter dated 11/07/2017 requested Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) to take up the work of restoration of the sand dunes including preparation of report of restoration to be placed before Hon. NGT. This communication was based on order of Hon. NGT dated 10/02/2017 in application of 3/2015 which had specifically mentioned liberty to engage competent expert Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas to undertake the study and was involved and consulted since inception by GSBB. GSBB had conducted site inspection along with Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas and submitted preliminary report for restoration to GCZMA dated 21/07/2017 and subsequent visits to monitor the area and also on 24/05/2019 activity of cleanliness drive and sand dune vegetation restoration was taken up by GSBB in collaboration with local Biodiversity Management Committee and volunteers around area under consideration and adjoining areas wherein it was observed that the nature is slowly taking over in this area.

Meanwhile, as a part of soft measure, on 09/07/2018 Goa State Biodiversity Board communicated to M/S Sree Sai Champions Family Trust to dismantle riverside structures as well as shed within 10 days from receipt of the letter. M/S Sree Sai Champions replied to the letter dated 09/07/2018 vide letter dated 23/08/2018, stating that they have dismantled the shed and further during an inspection as a part of monitoring of the restoration of sand dunes in Cavelossim on 27/09/2018, it was observed that M/S Sree Sai Champions Family Trust had removed westward side structures but still there was need to restore the storm drain nallah like channel and foundations of the parking

area which appeared to be of permanent nature. But due to removal of jetty and shed, there will be further change in scope of work and estimates.

Site address: Survey No. 109/2, Village Cavelossim, Salcete in the property of M/S Sree Sai Champions Family Trust.

Date of inspection: 14/10/2020 from 10:30 am onwards and revisited on 16/10/2020.

Revisited and inspected on 16/10/2020 by officials of GSBB, Local Biodiversity Management Committee Chairperson, Representative from Sai Champions Trust and Technical Officer from Public Works Department (PWD)

Members present for the inspection: The following members were present during the joint site inspection on 14/10/2020

- Shri. Irish Passanha, Complainant.
- Shri. Dionizo Dias, Sarpanch of VP Cavelossim
- Shri. Dixon Vaz, Chairperson, BMC of Cavelossim.
- Shri. Sujeetkumar Dongre, Expert Member GCZMA.
- Shri. Subhash L.Pagi, AE, SD II, Div. XIV(NH), PWD, Fatorda Goa.
- Shri. Jeromineo Vaz, JE, SD II, Div. XIV(NH), PWD, Fatorda Goa.
- Shri. Vaibhav M. Representative of respondent M/S Sree Sai Champions Family Trust.
- Dr.. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB); HOD, GSWA.
- Smt. Reshma Kerkar , Scientific & Administrative Officer, GSBB

- Adv. Joyce, Legal Assistant, GSWA from GSBB.

Few other villagers were also present during the inspection as shown in attendance sheet.

Observations: During the site inspection the following observations have been made:

- The area was seen to have considerable vegetation including bushes, shrubs and local sand dune specific vegetation and ecosystem features were seen to emerge including butterflies.
- Members of inspection team visited both riverside as well as coastal side areas under restoration.
- Complainant Shri. Irish Passanha, pointed out about need to remove concrete floors, trash, restoration of broad storm drain resembling nalla like structure, shifting out of caravans and parked vehicles on beachward side in property, removal of parking area floor and scooping out of mud from the area.
- PWD officials said that Goa schedule of Rates are revised after the last estimates and process of actual work had been held up due to reasons such as technical sanction, tendering process for selection of contractor and also Covid 19 pandemic. They said that the team will revisit on 16th October 2020, to take exact measurements again and submit the exact estimates as per the new scope of work along with the timelines required for completion under the supervision of Goa State Biodiversity Board. The planned visit was held on 16/10/2020.
- The expert of GCZMA opined that, it would **not be appropriate** to scoop or remove the top soil at the site of restoration which has integrated with nature as is seen to have growth of local vegetation.
- GSBB experts observed the growth of Ipomoea species of creeper not only on sand dune part but also on soil compacted area which is prominent of sand dune vegetation along with other indicator sand dune species were also observed.
- Soon after the inspection, GSBB sought opinion from former expert member GCZMA and GSBB Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas on the situation who advised that "Natural growth of floral assemblages is welcome; let it remain as it is. Disturbing the frontal dune at this time will prove more

detrimental to the welfare of the dune; new sand will come over it. In fact, it may even fix the dune to some extent. Ipomoea that is thriving at the moment is a good sign; this carpet alone can ensure the stability of any sandy coast." This opinion strengthened the scientific basis to retain the existing soil which has compacted over period of more than three years and removal of such soil with vegetation will disturb the stability of sand dune and also enhance further erosion due to wind and rainwater.

- Based on above, GSBB ascertained to PWD about the proposed scope for restoration work as
 - a. Removal of concrete floors and parking floor on beachward side with asphalted like compacted platform and restoration of area to normal.
 - b. Removal of boulders and red and prominent coarse rocks protruding from soil which may not mingle with sand dune ecology.
 - c. Carting away and disposal of debris arising out of restoration of concrete platforms or broad storm waterway existing on the site.
 - d. Making Bamboo fence from coastal side to prevent access to sand dune.

And associated work related to the main task as mentioned above.

 - e. Avoid use of heavy earth moving equipment (HEME) which may result in further instability for sand dune ecosystem. The job has to be mainly executed manually except for concrete platform removal which may be taken up by breaker machines but not HEME.

Since, Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) has been monitoring the situation at the site of restoration. It was observed that the monsoon in the year 2019, there were heavy incessant and cyclonic rains, also this year in 2020, there were maximum rainfall recorded by IMD. These incidents have enhanced the process of restoration of the sand dunes at the restoration site has been gradually taken over by nature due to non-interference of human

activities and also as a result of Pandemic in the year 2020.

The best way of restoration would be to facilitate the natural restoration with least interference except as mentioned above.

Suggestions & recommendations:

The work of restoration would be mainly to facilitate the natural process of regeneration of sand dune ecosystem and riverside areas which is already being initiated by nature. The removal of top soil shall be detrimental to the objective hence should be avoided. The work of PWD will ensure removal of unwanted platforms and trash / debris at the earliest after receiving revised estimates within one week with time bound plan of execution. Till the natural regeneration takes place, this area would be naturally fenced to prevent interference.



**Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam,
Member Secretary, GSBB**

Enclosed:

Annexure I: Photo Plate

Annexure II: Attendance sheets of inspection held on 14/10/2020 and 16/10/2020

PHOTO PLATE 1

Photographs taken at the Beach Side area of Sy. No. 109/2 of Cavellossim village during site inspection held on 14.10.2020:



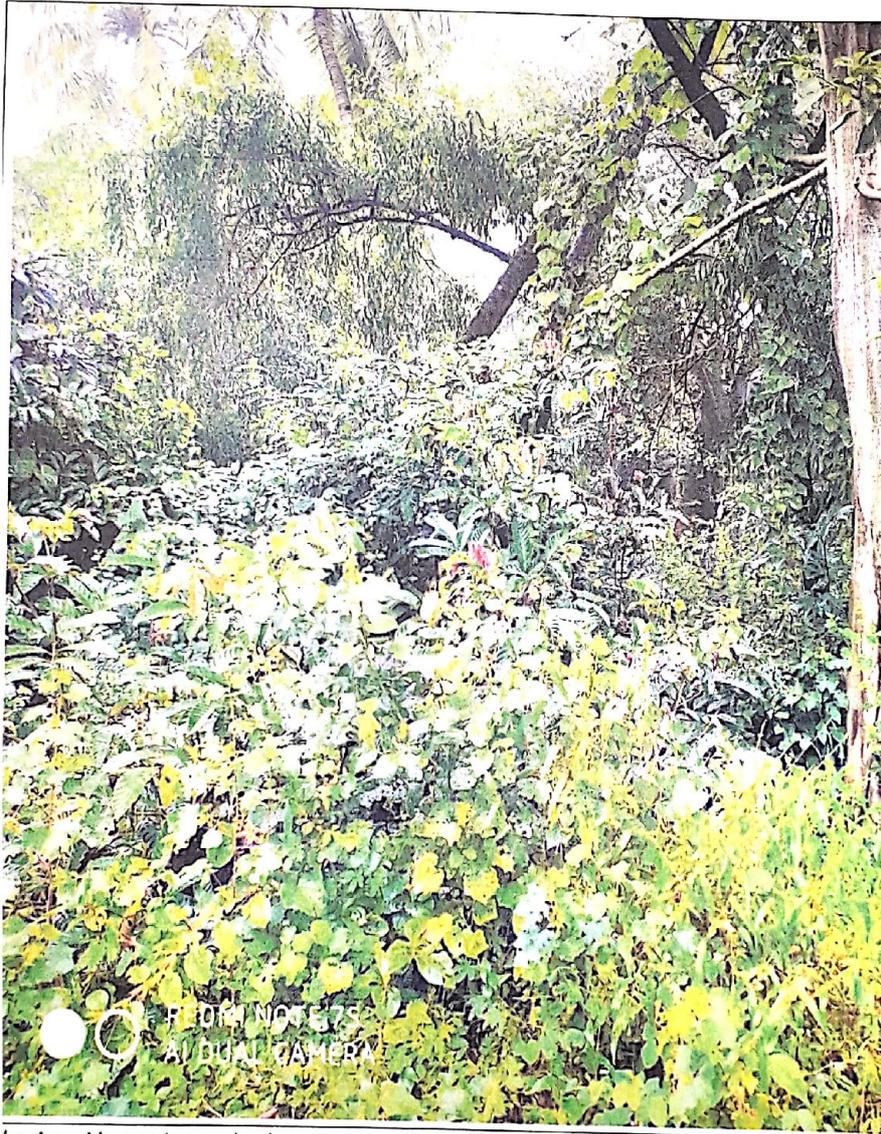
Suaeda frutescens and other sand dune vegetation in the Beach side area



PHOTO PLATE 2

Photographs taken at the River Side area of Sy. No. 109/2 of Cavelossim village during site

inspection held on 14.10.2020:



he river side area is completely overgrown with vegetation and access will be possible with clearing/ cutting of the bushes

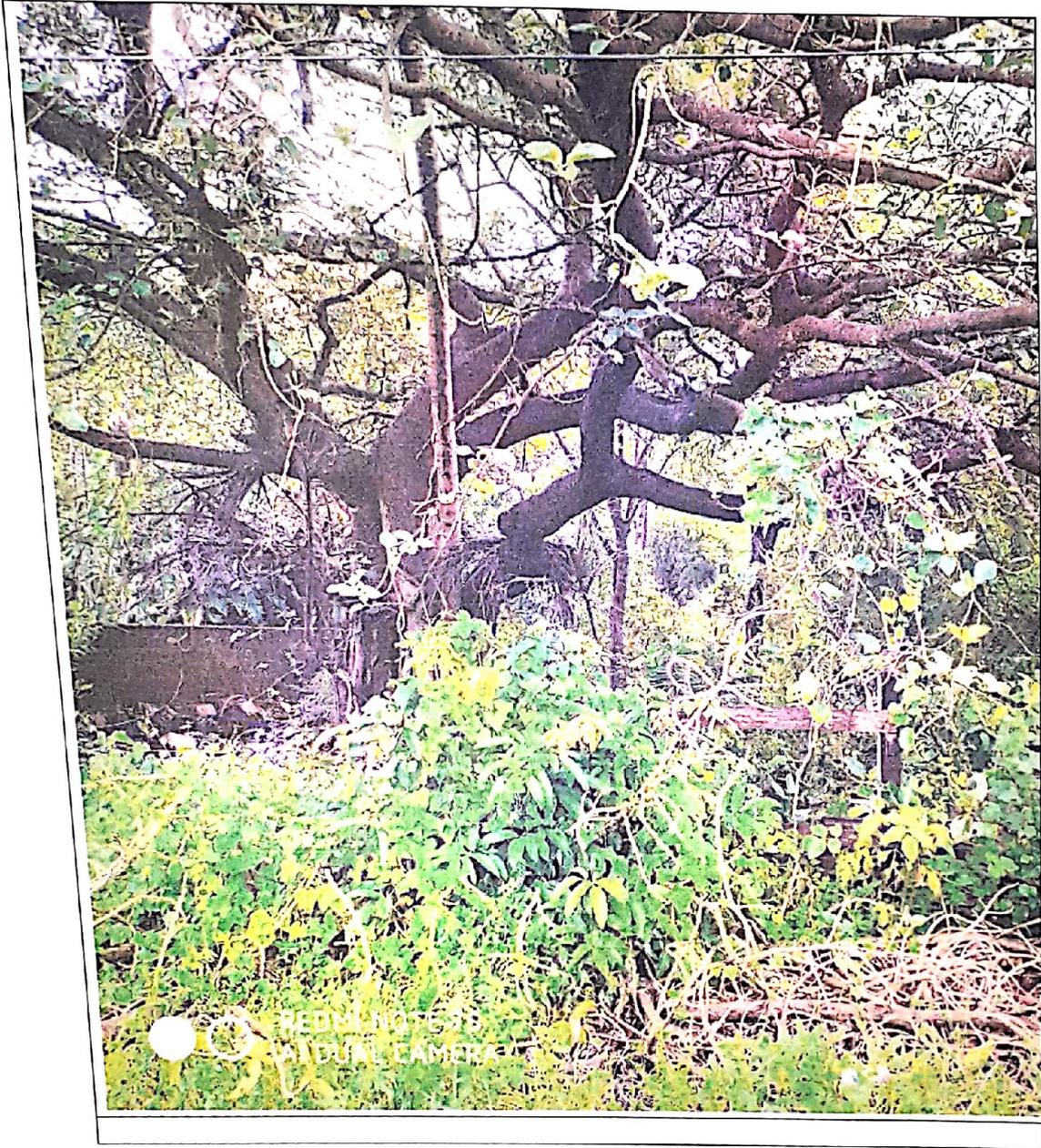
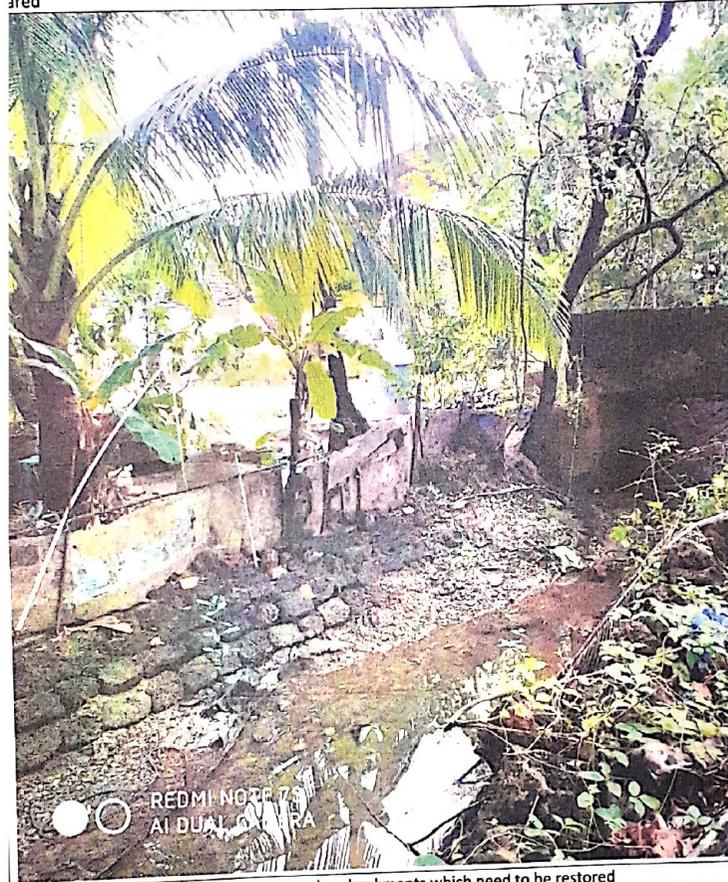


PHOTO PLATE 3

Photographs taken at the River Side area of Sy. No. 109/2 of Cavellosim village after clearing/ cutting of the bushes to assess the restoration requirements on 16.10.2020:



river side area was found to be having trash . debris and concrete flooring which needs to be
ared



Storm Water Carrier (Nallah like Structure) embankments which need to be restored

MEMBERS PRESENT FOR THE SITE
SAND DUNES IN PROPERTY BEARING

LOCATION: Sy.no. 109/2 Village
Champions Family Trust

DATE: 16.10.2020 TIME

PURPOSE: To arrive at revised e
compliance to order dated 10.02.2
Tribunal (Ngt), Pune, in application n

Sr. No.	Names/ Designation of the I
1.	Reshma Kerkar,
2.	Vaibhava Marathe
3.	DIXON VAR CH
4.	Subhash L. Pagi
5.	Jerominas S. Da
6.	

MEMBERS PRESENT FOR THE JOI
RESTORATION OF SAND DUNES
VILLAGE CAVELOSSIM

LOCATION: Sy.no. 109/2 Village
Champions Family Trust

DATE: 14.10.2020

TIME:

PURPOSE: To assess the complian
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Ngt)

Sr. No.	Names/ Designation of the I
1.	Vaibhav Manute for S
2.	Sujeet Kumar DOIR
3.	Sris Passantia
4.	James D Costa
5.	Charles Paul