

Minutes of the 16th meeting of the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority
held on 01-02-2003 in Room No.401 at 4th floor, office of the Principal Secretary,
Environment Deptt., Govt.of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32

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The following were present :

- 1) Principal Secretary
Environment & Energy Department
Govt. of Maharashtra,
Mantralaya, Mumbai-32. Chairman
- 2) Principal Secretary,
Urban Development Department,
Govt.of Maharashtra,
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 32. Member
- 3) Dr.Hrishikesh Samant,
Lecturer,
Department of Geology,
St.Xavier's College,
Mumbai Member
- 4) Dr.Leela Bhosale,
Department of Botany,
Shivaji University,
Kolhapur Member
- 5) Dr.Munshi Lal Gautam,
Member Secretary,
M.P.C. Board Member-Secretary

Principal Secretary, Revenue & Forest, Govt. Of Maharashtra, Prof. S.K. Gupta, IIT, Powai, and Shri S. Ayyappan, Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Members could not attend the meeting. Leave of absence was sought by them, which was granted by the Chairman.

Shri Surendra Jadhav, Deputy Secretary (Tech.) Environment Department, Shri A.B.Jain, Law Officer MPCB and Shri Deshmukh, Dy.Secretary, Urban Development Deptt. Govt. of Maharashtra were also present to assist the Authority.

Sub: Proposal received from Irrigation Department, Govt. of Maharashtra regarding development of Khar Land in Konkan region.

Chairman of the Authority welcomed the Members and asked Dr. Leela Bhosale and Dr. Hrishikesh Samant Members to give the details of their visit to Khar Land Project in Alibaug.

Dr. Leela Bhosale Member explained the geographical features of the area visited by her along with Dr. Hrishikesh Samant, Member on 19/01/2003. The sites visited were located in Masad Khar Land Scheme, Taluka Pen, Dist. Raigad. She informed the Members that towards the sea ward side small Bandharas have been made and channels were dug. According to her lowering down the Bandhara will allow sea water ingress which will ultimately help generation of mangroves within a year's time by way of natural process.

She also drew the attention of the Members towards Environmental Impact Assessment Report submitted by the project proponent wherein positive and negative impact of the project were explained followed by mitigation measures. She opined that in mitigation measures it should be incorporated that awareness will be created for not utilizing chemical fertilizers which will damage the coastal ecosystem. She further opined that farm houses should not be allowed which will also pose danger to the coastal ecosystem.

Member Secretary of the Authority opined that the project proponent shall maintain alignment of existing bandharas and care should be taken to preserve the mangroves between the bandhara and sea ward side and also land ward side of Bandhara, if they have grown and developed due to breach in Bandhara thereby allowing the ingress of sea water.

The officials of Irrigation Department/Khar Land Development Department assured the Members that not only the existing mangroves will be preserved but mangroves plantation work will also be taken up in right earnest to protect the fragile coastal ecosystem between Bandhara towards sea side.

Dr.Hrishikesh Samant, Member endorsed the views expressed by Dr.Leela Bhosale, Member and informed the Members that strengthening of the existing bandhara is essential keeping in mind the socio-economic situation in the area as most of the habitants are dependent on agricultural activities. It is necessary to stop the Ingress of saline water to protect the soil and crops.

Chairman of the Authority opined that the proposal received from Irrigation Department, Govt. of Maharashtra may be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt.of India with due recommendations. Dr.Leela Bhosale and Dr.Hrishikesh Samant, Members were requested to submit their report on the basis of their visit to the sites and discussion held in the meeting. This was agreed by the Members.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.