

REPORT OF INAUGURATION OF BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (BMC) - COTOREM BMC.

Goa State Biodiversity Board is implementing the UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project on **“Strengthening the implementation of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provision (ABS)”** under this Cotorem- Biodiversity Management Committee was constituted and was inaugurated on 27th May 2015 at Village Panchayat hall.

As per the section 41 of the BD Act 2002 this BMC will help in promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of the biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of the animals and micro-organisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

Shri. Suresh Zarekar a villager, welcomed the gathering and floral bouquets were presented to all the dignitaries present and members of the Biodiversity Management Committee. Miss. Valanky Bothello, Scientific/ Technical Assistant, UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project, spoke on the genesis of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and conservation, sustainable use of Bio-resources. She also conveyed the objectives of documentation of Biological Diversity in the Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) and urged the villagers to support/help the BMC to document the same.

Further she explained about the Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) under section 37 of the BD Act 2002 and preserving of habitats, conservation of domesticated stock and breeds of the animals. She also guided the BMC about utilization of funds. Further she highlighted on UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project, ABS agreements and issues.

Subsequently the BMC Certificate and 1st instalment cheque was handed over to the Chairman and BMC members by Miss. Valanky Bothello, Scientific/ Technical Assistant, UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Secretary of the Cotorem- BMC.