

INAUGURATION OF RACHOL BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON 23/12/2014

The village panchayat of Rachol inaugurated its Biodiversity Management Committee on 23rd December 2015, at 4:30 pm in the presence of Shri Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, Curtorim MLA; Shri Joseph Vaz, Sarpanch Village Panchayat Rachol; Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas, Former Scientist, NIO and Member of GCZMA; Dr. Nitin Sawant, the Member Secretary of Goa State Biodiversity Board.

Shri. Joseph Vaz welcomed the gathering and floral bouquets were presented to all the dignitaries present and members of the Biodiversity Management Committee. This was followed by lighting of the traditional lamp by the dignitaries. Shri Joseph Vaz then explained the significance of the Biodiversity Management Committee as well as the need to protect and preserve the rich biodiversity of the village.

Emphasising on the urgent need to document the heritage and traditional knowledge. Curtorim MLA Shri Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco urged the village elders to share any information they posse with the GSBB.

Dr. Antonio Mascarenhas appreciating the villagers for planting mangroves urged them to continue it and help the GSBB in identifying the khazan lands and their biological wealth. Dr. Nitin Sawant also appreciated the local's efforts in mangroves afforestation and urged the people to educate and involve the youth for the same purpose.

Later, the certificate and cheque of Rs.30,000/- (Thirty Thousands only) start up fund was handed over to the Rachol Biodiversity Management Committee members by Dr. Nitin Sawant, who congratulated the BMC members and villagers for forming the first BMC under the UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project.

Also present were the local chaplain Fr. Erodino Fernandes, Parish priest Fr. Roque Costa, social worker John Monteiro, Sarpanch and panch members of the village panchayats of Rachol, Curtorim, Raia and Curtorim.

Staff of GSBB/ UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project Present:

1. Ms. Valancy Bothello – Scientific/Technical Assistant
2. Ms. Sonali Padyardesai- Financial Assistance
3. Rupesh Desai.