

The Minutes of the Meeting are as follows

The Chairman welcomed all the committee Members and Invitees of the Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone Monitoring Committee.

The Chairman introduced himself and on his request all the other members introduced themselves.

1) Zonal Master Plan :

The Review of last meeting proceeding started with the discussion of the progress of the Zonal Master plan as per the Notification. The Chairman directed the representative of the MMRDA (Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority) to present the complete information regarding the progress of Zonal Master plan in the next meeting and complete it as early as possible

About the sub Zonal master plan, Chief Officer, Matheran explained that Town planning Department, Alibaug is preparing Sub Zonal master plan of Matheran, work is in process and it will be complete till 31st December, 2009.

2) Tourism plan :

As regards of Tourism plan, Tourism Department explained that because of funds they are unable to make Tourism plan, The Chairman suggested that with the help of MMRDA try to complete Tourism plan and put it in front of Monitoring Committee.

3) Sewerage Treatment Plan :

Chief officer explained that Municipal Council has given work order to NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute) Mumbai to make the DPR the for Sewerage system for

Matheran City. It will be complete before 31st December 2009. The after the DPR will be put before the Council for administrative and financial sanction and when the suitable & immediate funds will be available work will be started.

On the question of the Kirti Unwala about the discharge of effluence for private hotel owners, Chief Officer explained that regarding this issue pollution board is taking action, The Chairman directed to present master plan regarding this issue to the MPCB in next meeting.

About the Gobar gas issue, Chief Officer explained that the Municipal Council will put the central line of the gas pipeline and after word it will distributed to the consumer. Regarding this the Municipal Council will call the meeting of interested consumers in the next week.

4) Renovation of Bandstand :

Chairman advised to puts this proposal in front of next Heritage Meeting.

5) Quarry Site :

Mr. Shyam Chennani opposed the Quarry and mining site in the Matheran because it is the eco Sensitive Zone. So it should not be allowed. As per the notification the Chairman explained that the permission for quarry and mining sites will be depend upon the decision of the monitering Committee.

6. Inner road :-

To prevent erosion of the inner road of matheran city the Chairman advised to take proper guidance of CRI and MMRDA

7. Erosion Control Technology :-

The Chairman suggested The Enviro – vigil to conduct survey of matheran regarding the prevention of erosion and present the exact expenditure of survey and detail project report within one month to the Chairman Muncipal Council and Directed to the Muncipal Council to present detail project report in the next meeting. Erosion control must be the main part of the Zonal master plan.

8. Reliance Tower :-

Shri Chenani and Mrs. Zenobia Lord suggested that there should be only on tower in the matheran. The Chairman directed to give letter to Reliance company whether they can share the same tower which is in the matheran. And also told to call company representatives in the next meeting.

9. Funicular railway :-

The Chairman directed to the Suyog Funicular Ropeways Pvt. Ltd. & PWD department , Thane to give the details about the proper expenditure of rope way project and how much will be they charge for each person to use the rope way and send the copy of detail report to all committee members within one month.

10. Luthra :-

The Chief Officer answered that the matheran is declared as Eco sensitive zone and as per notification dated 4.2.2003, the new building construction permission cannot give after finalise of zonal master plan.

The Chairman directed to call the permission can be given Mr. Luthra with all detail documents in the next meeting.

11. MTDC :-

The Chairman directed MTDC department to put all documents in front of Heritage committee regarding the restaurant reconstruction and Chief Officer should write to MTDC to submit all documents eith the plan to Municipal council.

12) Rope Way :-

According to CEC report, supreme Court has not permitted the rope way so matter is pending before the supreme Court, so no discussion will be there about the issue.

13) Enviroment awareness

- a) There should be 10 lakh Rs. Provision for the environment awareness programme in DPDC budget.
- b) The collector should give the direction to all the department to make the provision for environment awareness programme and direct them to enhance the protection and promotion of eco sensitive Zone.
- c) Forest department should do the energy plantation to avoid deforestation.
- d) To prevent soil erosion agricultural and forest department should work together.
- e) Permanant nature interpretation center will be opened by municipal council Three stages will be there in it
 - i) Butter Fly park
 - ii) Bio diversity survey
 - iii) Meditional plant guarden

The Chairman directed the Chief Officer to present whole project

report in the next meeting

14) Ambulance

The Chairman directed to the Chief Officer to do administration of both the ambulance according to the notification

15) Unauthorised construction

The Collector directed to the sub Divisional officer Panvel to form a Committee to do survey & take action against on unauthorized construction under MRTP Act.

The Chairman directed to revive the supredent post in the Matheran.

16) The Chairman directed to the collector to give responsibility of conducting and co-ordinating the meeting of monitoring committee to any responsible officer.

Collector explained that the Resident entail Deputy collector will be appointed for it.

17) The Chairman directed that in the next meeting Representatives of MMRDA, Town planning, ecology and environment department, SDO of Ulhasnagar will be permanent invitee.

1	Smt. V Ranganathan	Ex. Chief Secretary, Govt of Maharashtra
2		
3		
4	Smt. Kirti U	
5		
6	Mrs. Zenobia Lord	
7	Smt. R.D. Khabare	Additional collector, Raigad
8		
9		
10	Representative of the Secretary of environment Department, Government of Maharashtra.	Member
11	Smt. Suvarna Ogale	Chief Officer Matheran Municipal Council
12	Smt. Arvind Prasanna	From Planning Division, M.M.R.D.A.
13	Representative of the	M.P.C.B.

Draft Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on Saturday, 21st, November, 2009 AT 1.00 P.M. at Mount Bungalow, Matheran.

The Following were present for the Meeting

Sr.no	Name	Designation	Designation in monitoring committee
1	Shri. V Ranganathan	Ex. Chief Secretary, Govt of Maharashtra.	Chairman
2.	Shri. Devarath Mehta	Ex. Additional Secretary (Home) Govt. of Maharashtra	Chairman, Heritage Committee, Matheran.
3.	Shri. Subhash Sonavane	Collector, Raigad.	Member Secretary
4.	Smt. Kirti Unwalla	Conservation Architect	Member
5.	Shri. Shyam Chainani	Honorary Secretary, Bombay Environment Action Group	Member
6.	Mrs. Zenobia Lord	---	Member
7.	Shri. R.D.Khadatare	Additional collector, Raigad.	Invitee
8.	Mr. S.U.Hivalekar	Deputy Conservator of Forest, Alibaug	Invitee
9.	Mr. Girkar	Assistant Director of Town Planning	Invitee
10.	Representative of the Secretary of environment Department, Government of Maharashtra.	----	Member
11.	Smt. Suvarna Ogale	Chief Officer Matheran Municipal Council	Invitee
12.	Shri. Arvind Prasina	From Planning Division, M.M.R.D.A.	Invitee
13.	Representative of the	MPCB.	Invitee

Draft Minutes of the 2nd Monitoring Committee of the Matheran Eco-Sensitive Zone held on Saturday 6th, February, 2010 At.11-00 a.m. at Mount Bangalow, Matheran,

Sr.No.	Name	Designation in Monitoring Committee.
1	Shri . V. Rangnathan IAS. Retd. Retired Chief Secretary Govt. of Maharashtra	Chairman
2	Mr.S.O.Sonavane, Collector Raigad District, Maharashtra	Member Secretary
3	Mr.Neeraj Khatri, Deputy Director ,Ministry of Environment and Forest	Member
4	Mr. Shayam Chainani, Honorary Secretary, Bombay Environment , Action Group	Member
5	Mrs. Zenobia Lord ,	Member
6	Mr. Girkar Assistant Director of Town Planning	invitee
7	Shri. Arvind Parula Planner , Planning Division M.M.R.D.A.	invitee
8	Shri.Dev Mehata, Retd. I.A.S.	invitee
9	Shri.P.S. Magdum S.D.O. Panvel	invitee
10	Shri.Kiran Panbude S.D.O. Ulhasnagar	invitee
11	Shri. Jagatshing Girase Tahsildar Karjat	invitee
12	Smt.Suvarna Ogale Chief Officer, Mathran Municipal Council	invitee
13	Shri. Waghai ACF Panvel Division	invitee
14	Exicutive Eng. P.W.D.	invitee
15	Shri.Bhagat ACF Thane Region	invitee

The Minutes Of the Meeting are as follows

The Minutes of the meeting of Monitoring Committee of Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on Saturday , 6th February, 2010 at 11 a.m.Mount Bunglow, Matheran.

1) Modification

The Minutes of the 2nd Monitoring Committee were approved with one minor modification as follows.

Issue No.14

Trolley service from Dasturi to Railway Station . The Word ' Trolley' is modified with the word 'Shuttle' so issue no.14 will be read as –

Shuttle Service from Dasturi to Railway Suation

2) Zonal Master Plan

Shri Arvind Parula , Planner ,Planning, M.M.R.D.A. was to prepare the Master Plan and the Additional Director of Town planning (ADTP) was to prepare a Sub Zonal Master plan for the Matheran Municipal Council area which is to be a component of the Zonal Master plan . The Master plan was held up pending receipt of the Sub Zonal Master Plan for the Matheran Municipal Area.

Shri. Shyam Chainani suggested that at least the Master Plan for the area out side Municipal limits should be prepared and circulated, and the Matheran Municipal Area Sub Zonal Plan could follow.

In response to a query from the Chairman, Shri.Arvind replied that the Master Plan minus the Sub Zonal Master plan would be ready in two months to witch the Chairman directed that this should be circulated by the end of March.

3) Sub Zonal Master Plan

It was stated that the ADTP has prepared the draft Sub Zonal Master Plan and submitted it to the Deputy Director of Town Planning , Kokan Divison on 30th November, 2009.

The ADTP said that the Sub Zonal Master Plan has been submitted to the Director of Town planning who will be coming to Matheran on 10th February, and after that would be meeting with the Collector , Raigad.

Shyam Chainani pointed out that at the last meeting it had been agreed that three major points had to be incorporated .Viz.

- a) The surplus land to be marked out
- b) The deemed Forest land has to be demarcated
- c) Special Development Control Rules for Matheran are required.

The Chairman said that the typing building regulation should not be

made applicable to hill Stations like Matheran but special D.C. Regulations would have to be framed making stipulation like maximum number of storey should be ground +1 , FSI not to exceed 0.125 FSI to be calculated after excluding surplus land and building to be of laterite stone.

Shyam Chainani pointed out that a study on leasehold properties in Mahabaleshwar had been carried out by Government in the late 1960s. A similar study needs to be carried out for Matheran. He would make available a copy of the study. This study had recommended that 8 times the area of the original structures would be retained by the lessee and the rest of the lands treated as “surplus”. The Regional Plan had stipulated that these lands be kept as **green**

Shri.Dev Mehata said that Heritage Regulation incorporating the comments of the Heritage Committee. Also need to be incorporated into the Development plan.

4) **Tourism Master plan**

Shri. Dev Mehata said that Shri.Anant Kulkarni, Secretary (Tourism) had written to him to say that MTDC has been directed to release funds for the Tourism Master Plan of both Mahabaleshwar and Matheran.

It was agreed that the draft Terms of reference for the Tourism Master plan should be prepared and got approved from the Chairman within is days .

5) **Forest Master Plan**

Shri.Waghai, ACF, Panvel Region said that the Forest Master plan has been submitted to the Chief Conservator of Forest.

- a) Forest Plan should be done by 1st March,2010.
- b) To do survey of the deemed forest area of the municipal limit with the coordination of Tahsildar, Karjat, Raigad and T.I.L.R. and submit the report to the Collector , Raigad before 31st March, 2010 and circulated it to the all members of the Monitoring Committee.
- c)To energy plantation in village side and foot hills till the approval of the forest plan
- c) Further,Collector directed to prepare Protection plan for

ECO Sensitive Zone region and submit it to him and all members of the Monitoring Committee.

6) Sewerage Treatment Plan

Chief Officer informed that within three month DPR for Sewerage Treatment Plan will be prepared by NEERI, and thereafter further procedure will be followed.

Shri. Devrath Mehta directed that Municipal Council should impose Compulsory Sewerage Treatment Plan to all according to the occupancy.

7) Soil Erosion Control

The Chief Officer stated that the matter has been pending for want of funds. The cost quoted for preparation of detailed Project Report was stated to be Rs.1.49 crores. Shri.Khatri pointed out that both IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay would have the expertise in this regard. It was pointed out that IIT Bombay is closer and approach would be better to them.

8) Expenses

The Chairman stated that members of the committee are experts in their own fields and are giving up their professional work to come here and that too at their own expense .Chairman expressed that there should be some provision to give lump sum honorarium of Rs.2000 /Rs.2500 per meeting to all the members of the Monitoring Committee.

It was stated that the Collector's office has written to Government requesting that Rs.10 lacs be made available for this purpose and other expenses of the eco sensitive zone.

9) Shuttle Service

Shri. Devrath Mehta pointed out that there was no need for one more track but that some space was needed for turning of the train .Mrs. Lords pointed out that the Railway had said that they can move the arch at Dasturi Station and replace it. The Chairman stated that since the gate had been installed by the family of Adamjee Peerbhoy, the family had gone to the High Court and obtained a stay. He had requested that Railways could go to the High Court and if need be raise the height of the arch.

It was suggested that the MMRDA should take up with the Railways saying that they had given money for this purpose and asking what is being done? It was suggested, and the Chairman agreed, that he would meet the General Manager of Central Railway in this regard.

It was pointed out that this would mean more construction and development in this regards.

10) **Plastic Waste**

The Chief Officer stated that plastic waste is being crushed and that the plastic bags are being soil since they are difficult to crush.

11) **Biomass / Vermi Composting**

Chairman suggested that at reasonable distances, there should be small pits where fallen leaves and vegetation should be put and the whole be vermi composted. Within there months time this should produce fertilize.

12) **Special Development Control Rules For Matheran**

The Chairman once again stressed the need for these special regulations and pointed out that if the normal FSI was made permissible and if deemed forests and surplus lands were allowed to be built upon, the area would be very heavily congested. The ADTP stated that the this special regulations would be obtained by 31st March.

13) **Funicular Railway**

Monitoring Committee members directed to the project Proponent to send clearance letter copies to them. It was pointed out that the project has received environmental clearance but the Chairman stated that the forest clearance would have to be given by following the sanctuary procedure. The project proponent stated that the Central Empowered Committee had said that the Monitoring Committee should give their approval. However, it was agreed that if there was such a decision the CEC should write to the Monitoring Committee in this regard.

A query was raised by Mr. Khatri as to whether this Funicular Railway was really needed since there are 2,600 steps and there area number of religious places with 5,000- 7,000 steps. Furthermore, the commercial developments that will following would be harmful to the Eco Sensitive Zone.

14) **Nature Interpretation Centre**

The Chief Officer of Matheran Municipal Council stated that they had a details project report and have obtained funds to the tune of Rs.6 lacs. In response to a query from the Chairman , she replied that some construction would be required .Since the members have not seen this proposal earlier, Chairman directed to the Chief Officer to circulate the report regarding the Nature Interpretation Center before the next meeting .

15) Unauthorized Construction

Committee headed by SDO, Panvel and Chief Officer has carried out a survey and issued notices. It was stated that 81 notices have been issued. The action regarding this will be taken accordingly.

A 30 days period has been given for receipt of party's say and this period has expired . The Chief Officer replied that they have asked for police protection as some of these are heavy structures . The protection is likely be provided next week.

Shri. Devrth Mehta stated that some prosecutions should be launched under the relevant section of the Maharashtra Regional & Town Planning Act, 1966. The Act also provides for imprisonment for the unauthorized development and this would serve as a deterrent to others.

The Collectors directed that a detailed report should be give to the Committee at the next meeting.

16) Noise Pollution

It has been stated that the API and his staff are patrolling every day to stop all loud music after 10 p.m. and further that the Municipal Council has declared a Silence Zone to maintain silence in the sensitive area. Shyam Chainani Pointed out that it was not only in the night time that noise has to be controlled , but throughout the entire day.

Shyam Chainani stated that at the last meeting when he had complained, he had been asked to give specific names of violators. He said that the previous day when he had come in from Dasturi at 4.15 p.m. very loud music was being played and noise coming from the Hotel Preeti Lodge which could be heard a very long distance away. Similarly there was loud music at night but he could not identify the source.

17) Littering

Shri. Devrath Mehta suggested that in the Hill Station of Kasauli there was a fine Rs.5,000 leviable for littering .A similar fine should be levied in Matheran .

18) Superintendent of Matheran

The Collector's Office stated that the proposal for reviving the post of Superintendent had been sent to Government on 18th May 2008. The Chairman said that a copy of this letter should be given to him and he would take up the matter with the Revenue Secretary.

19) **Ambulance**

An order had been issued by the Collector regarding the use of ambulance as had been decided at the last meeting of the Monitoring Committee. Shri. Shyam Chainani stated that he saw the ambulance operating the previous day on two occasions. Chief Officer stated that the ambulance was now fully under control . Shri Shyam Chainani suggested, and it was agreed, that it has to be checked up as to whether the operation of the ambulance the previous day was in order.

Shri. Devrath Mehta stated and it was agreed, that the ambulance should not go to Bombay but to the closest hospital.

20) **Head loaders**

Shri Shyam Chainani stated that the he had raised the issue at the last meeting and it has been agreed that action would be taken by the Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF). However, the previous day he had seen several head loaders walking openly in the bazaar , and later in the evening.

It was agreed the Forest Department would take action to control the head loaders.

21) **Verandah in the Forest / Barr House**

Chief Officer stated that the Heritage Conservation Committee has approved three cases Viz Bar House, Radha Cottage , Salmona Bungalow.

Only the Project Proponent of Barr House was present. He stated that the Hotel has 11 rooms and 22 beds. The Chairman said that permission could be given for 11 rooms and 22 beds.

22) **Radha Cottage and Salmona Bungalow**

The Chief Officer stated that the did not have any details of Salmona Bungalow .Both the project proponents were not present.

The collector directed that in the next meeting the project proponents should be asked to be present and they should send the details in advance.

23) **Veterinary Hospital**

Chairman stated that this proposal did not require approval of the Monitoring Committee and that they should go to the Heritage Conservation Committee.

24) Proposal by Minor Irrigation Department

The project proponent stated that this was in the buffer zone. In regard to the query as to whether the Eco Sensitive Zone Notification also applies, to the buffer zone, Dr. Khatri replied in the affirmative.

In response to a query, the project proponent answered that the SLAO had said that approval of the Monitoring Committee is required.

25) Power Grid Corporation Proposal

The project proponent stated that they were laying a power line from Vapi to Navi Mumbai which was a distance of 200kmtrs. The clearance of the Forest Department was needed and 10kmtrs was to pass through the Eco Sensitive Zone.

The Chairman asked as to why an alternative alignment cannot be selected to which the project proponent answered there was no scope. They were directed to submit a detailed note with all possible alignment.

26) Issues Raised by Forohar Charitable Trust

a) The Chief Officer suggested that paver blocks should be used to which it was pointed out that the Monitoring Committee had recommended the use of laterite stone from outside. The Chief Officer stated that local political are completely against it, so cannot be used. The Chairman stated that the use of laterite stone is necessary on environmental Grounds.

b) **Stray Dogs** -it was decided that Municipal Council and Zilla Parishad will go ahead with sterilization and anti rabies vaccination to the dogs, with microchips being inserted.

c) The third complaint relating to the scratching of the bonnet of the car parked at Dasturi by Monkeys. It was pointed out that the parking was entirely at the owner's risk.

It was also pointed out that the parking of car goes into the wooded area and it has been suggested that more space should be provided .ADTP said that they had identified space for parking in the Parsi Sanatorium area. Shyam Chainani however pointed out that this may be a deemed forest and this would not be possible. It was decided that a Board be put to say parking is at owner's risk.

27) Environment Tax

Shri. Khatri Suggested that Municipal Council should charge environment tax of Rs.10 be levied over and above entry tax.

28) **Biogas Plant**

The Municipal Council stated that they have agreed with three hotels to supply biogas on the condition that the pipeline will be installed the hotels.

29) **Pollution Issues**

At the last meeting, it had been decided that the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should empower the Municipal Council to take action.

The Chief Officer replied that they have not received any such resolution.

The Chief Officer added that only four hotels have installed their own Sewerage Treatment Plant. Shri. Devrath Mehta drew attention to the High Court Order which had said that all hotels were to install Sewerage Treatment Plants and if they were not doing so, action needed to be taken against them.

Shri.Devrth Mehta Pointed out that in Mahabaleshwar , the hotel licenses were not being renewed if the Sewerage Treatment Plants were not installed by the hotels .The same practice should be followed here.

Shri. Neeraj Khatri stated that the occupancy rate of the hotels needed to be checked and the Treatment Plant should be provided on that basis. He agreed to send the relevant norms.

It was decided

- a) that norms would be sent by Shri Neeraj Khatri
- b) MPCB would monitor the working
- c) If the hotels did not install the sewerage treatment plants, their hotel licenses would be cancelled.

30) **Band Stand renovation**

It was stated that the Heritage Conservation Committee in its meeting on 5th December,2009 had granted permission for the renovation of the Band Stand.

Shri Devrath Mehta stated that the work had been done very well.

31) **Quarrying Sites**

It was stated that the Mining Officer, Forest Officer and MMRDA had opined that no proper quarrying sites are available in Matheran.

The Chairman stated that in earlier days. Stones which fell down the hill sides were used and the same technique should be followed today.

At the last meeting it had been decided that MMRDA would be requested to follow up the matter. Shri Arvind of MMRDA stated that the Monitoring Committee should approach the Central Road Research institute since MMRDA does not have the technology. The Chairman stated that Consultants could be hired. It was pointed out that the Municipal Council could not do the task since the engineers and the Chief Officer are not local residents.

It was suggested that the MMR Environment Society be approached for funds for this purpose. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Chief of the planning Division of MMRDA in this regard.

Dr. Khatri pointed out that if there was a Thermal Power Plant within 100 kilometers radius, the fly ash could be used for making paver blocks. To this the Chairman responded that use of such material was not desirable since it would not be in keeping with the special features and hill station character of Matheran. One portion should be sheer earth or laterite stone or mud.

Ms. Lord pointed out earlier the whole road was to be of paver blocks but the horse owners had objected. However the current position is that the horses were going on the paver block and the pedestrians had to walk in the centre. The consensus was-

- a) that paver blocks should be used only where is a large concentration of people and horses, such as the bazaar and the vicinity of the Railway Station.
- b) that the stones which are used should be of laterite. These laterite stones should be obtained from outside.
- c) Enough space should be left to allow percolation of water.

32) **Reliance Tower**

The Municipal Council stated that they had sent a communication on 16th January, 2010 to Reliance Infocom to see if they can share the existing BSNL tower.

Shyam Chainani pointed out that as per his information, a tower has also come up in Scott Bungalow, which was confirmed by Tehsildar of Karjat / Superintendent of Matheran.

Shri Devrath Mehta pointed out that it had come up without permission. Superintendent of Matheran stated that the tower had come up more than a year ago and that a notice has been issued to demolish it.

The Chairman pointed out that rather than merely issuing a notice the tower should be demolished. It was further decided that the Tehsildar, Karjat will move for the cancellation of the lease of the plot.

33) **Ropeway**

Dr. Khatri said that the matter was with the Central Empowered Committee and the hearing had been scheduled for the previous day. Dr. khatri stated that the CEC had queried as to why the notification has been changed for this purpose.

The Chairman said that the party had said that the CEC wanted clearance from the Monitoring Committee .However, there was no such written communication in this regards.

The Chairman stated that the HLMC was of the view that the Ropeway was not desirable since it would add to the congestion in Matheran.

34) **Budget**

The Chairman queried whether a provision has been in the DPDC budget for the eco sensitive zone.

Shri. Devrth Mehta pointed out that the Forest Department should make a special provision since this is an Eco Sensitive Zone.

Action needs to be taken by the Collector's office in this regards.

35) **Forest Work.**

The representatives of the Forest Department said that since the surrounding areas are of industrial nature, the workers in the surrounding areas get almost 1 ½ times to two times the amount that the Forest Department pays. The Chairman asked whether any action has been taken as discussed at the last meeting to increase the rate. He suggested that the staff should be increased and the DPDC should be approached for funds since this is an eco sensitive zone.

The representative of the Forest Department further stated that they have prepared a protection plan for the eco sensitive zone. In response to the suggestion, from Shyam Chainani, it was agreed that this plan be circulated to the members

36) **Pending proposal**

The members stated that they have not received copies of any proposals at all. Shyam Chianani stated that in case, these proposals should not be considered.

The collector directed that such proposals should be sent to him at least 15 days in advanced of the meeting and his office would send them to the members at least 10 days in advance.

37) **Meeting Frequency**

It was stated that the Ministry of Environment's view was that frequency of meeting that needs to be reduced i.e. the gap between the meeting should be longer. To this it was pointed out that 2 ½ months have elapsed since the last meeting and regular follow up was required, which was only possible with regular meeting.

38) Chairman directed that in future only members of the Monitoring Committee should be allowed to attend meetings. Others with pending proposals or those who have made proposals would be asked to remain outside and be called in when their items come up for discussion.

39) **Next Meeting**

Chairman Fixed the date of the 20th March 2010 for the next meeting of Monitoring Committee and directed to send proceeding and action taken report before is 15 days of the meeting.



Member Secretary
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone
& Collector Raigad

Chairman ,
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone

Draft Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on Saturday, 20th March, 2010 At-11-00 a.m. at Mount Bungalow, Matheran.

The Following were present for the Meeting

Sr.No.	Name	Designation in Monitoring Committee.
1	Shri . V. Rangnathan IAS. Retd. Chief Secretary Govt. of Maharashtra	Chairman
2	Shri.Hegade Ministry of Environment and Forest	Member
3	Mrs. Kiriti Unawala Conservation Architect , 5/7, Oak Lane,Kothari House 2nd Floor , Mumbai 400 001	Member
4	Mr. Shyam Chainani, Honorary Secretary, Bombay Environment , Action Group	Member
5	Mrs. Zenobia Lord ,	Member
6	Mr.J.Virkar, Residential Deputy Collector, Raigad	
7	Mr. Girkar Assistant Director of Town Planning	invitee
8	Shri. Arvind Parula Planner , Planning Division M.M.R.D.A.	invitee
9	Shri.Dev Mehata, Retd. I.A.S.	invitee
10	Shri.P.S. Magdum S.D.O. Pannel	invitee
11	Shri. Jagatshing Girase Tahsildar Karjat	Invitee
12	Shri. Khutwad, Tahsildar Ambernath	Invitee

13	Smt.Suvarna Ogale Chief Officer, Mathran Municipal Council	invitee
14	ACF Panvel Division	invitee
15	Exicutive Eng. P.W.D.	invitee
16	Shri.Bhagat ACF Thane Region	invitee

The agenda for the meeting is as follows

- 1) Confirmation of proceedings of last Monitoring Committee meeting.
- 2) Grant of Land At- Vaje, Tal- Panvel Sr.No.191 & Sr.No.192 Total Area 13-03-0 Hecter Demand by Commisionar of Police, Navi Mumbai, for the Firing Butt.
- 3) Any other issues with the permission of the Chairman.

The Minute of the meeting of Monitoring Committee of Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on Saturday, 20th March, 2010 at 11-00 a.m. at Mount Bungalow, Matheran.

Chairman welcomed all the members, Matheran invitees and started the meeting with the reading of last meeting proceeding

1) Draft Minutes of the meeting of Monitoring Committee held on 6th February

The note written by Shri Shyam Chainani about the amendments needed to the draft minutes of the above meeting had circulated and was discussed in detail.

The Chairman stated that the draft minutes needed to be changed .He directed that the changes suggested by Shri Shyam Chainani , with some minor modification , be incorporated into the minutes. Since the additions were many, he directed that revised minutes should be issued.

2) Shuttle Service from Dasturi to Matheran.

- a) In response to a query, the difference between the "Trolley Service" and " Shuttle Service" was explained.
- b) Chairman requested that Ministry of Environment & Forest take up the matter of the shuttle service with the Ministry of Railways in Delhi.
- c) He would himself take up the matter with the General Manager on the Central Railway in Mumbai.

3) Steam Engine for Neral – Matheran Service

Chairman stated that several foreign tourists came to Matheran for travelling on the Neral – Matheran railway . However , they felt disappointed since the steam engines had been changed to diesel. The steam engine had apparently been taken away for the Darjeeling Hill Railways. Chairman requested that Ministry of Environment & Forest take up with the Ministry of Railways the question of returning the steam engines to the Neral – Matheran Railways.

It was pointed out that a few days earlier a steam engine had come to Matheran . Some sparks had come out of the engine and some of the hill side had burnt down. Thirty years ago, the same thing had happened and the village of Jumappatti, which had come up close to the railway line, had been gutted.

The experience of Leighton Buzzard Railway in England was mentioned.

The need for appropriate precaution while using the steam engine was stressed.

4) Zonal Master Plan

Chairman said that the Zonal Master Plan had not yet been prepared, but had been pending for three reasons.

- a) ADTP had to prepare the land use plan;
- b) The Forest Department had to prepare the forest plan, and
- c) Tourism Department had to prepare the Tourism Master plan.
- d) The MMRDA had to prepare the Sub Zonal Master Plan for Matheran Municipal Area.

In addition, in the Sub Zonal Master Plan, three items had to be taken care of as pointed out by Shri Shyam Chainani at the last meeting viz.

- a) " Surplus" lands to be marked out.
- b) The deemed forest land had to be demarcated , and
- c) Special Development Control Regulation for Matheran were required. In particular it should be stipulated that the buildings should be of laterite stone , the coverage should be 1/10th and so on.

As regards " Surplus" lands, Shri Shyam Chainani handed over to the ADTP Shri Girkar, a copy of the Study of Leasehold Lands carried out by Maharashtra Government for Mahabaleshwar.

It was said that the visit of the Director of Town Planning to Matheran for the Sub Zonal Master Plan had been postponed to 25th March.

At the end of the meeting a brief presentation was made by Shri Arvind of MMRDA regarding the Zonal Master Plan. He agreed to give a full detailed presentation at the next meeting.

5) Tourism Master Plan

Shri. Dev Mehta said that MTDC had said that they have no funds to prepare the Tourism Master Plan. The Chairman stated that he had not asked for the preparation of the Master Plan at this stage but only for preparation of the Terms of Reference. Shri. Devrath Mehta suggested that Chairman should write to the Chief Secretary regarding the non – performance of MTDC.

It was suggested that MTDC should contact MMRDA for the funds, However, it was felt that MMRDA should engage the consultants themselves . Shri Shyam Chainani suggested that terms of reference for the Tourism Master Plan for the Mahabaleshwar Panchgani Eco Sensitive Zone should be furnished by Shri Devrath Mehta . In response to a query , Shri Devrath Mehta said that there were Tourism Master Plans in the Country but not for such an area.

It was decided a Steering Committee would be set up to oversee the preparation of the Terms of Reference and the Tourism Master Plan. This Steering Committee should consist the following

- 1) Shri. Devrath Mehta
- 2) Assistant Director of Town Planning
- 3) MMRDA Representative
- 4) MTDC Representative
- 5) Smt. Kirtida Unwalla
- 6) Smt. Zenobia V. Lord.

A consultant would be appointed by the MMRDA whose work will be overseen by the Steering Committee. The Master Plan should be prepared within four months.

6) Forest Master Plan

Shri. Hivalekar stated that the Forest Master Plan had been approved, but he did not have a copy . Chairman directed that a copy should be obtained and circulated to the Committee.

7) Heritage Regulations

In response to a query from Shri Devrath Mehta , the ADTP, Shri. Girkar stated that the comments of the Matheran Heritage Conservation Committee had been forwarded to Government . It was decided that these comments should be incorporated into the heritage regulations , which should be a part of the Development Control Regulations and Sub Zonal Master Plan for Matheran Municipal area.

8) Special Development Regulations for Matheran

The ADTP stated that MMRDA had said that they cannot frame special Development Control Regulations for Matheran.

Shri Shyam Chainani stated that this could be based on the earlier. regulations for Matheran and Mahabaleshwar.

Shri Shyam Chianani requested that copies of the earlier regulations for Mahabaleshwar and Matheran be sent to him and would make a preliminary kutcha draft of some stipulations incorporated.

9) Deemed Forest Demarcation

Collector's Office sated that they have not gone into the field to do this survey but they had worked from the old surveys. Chairman directed that the Forest Department and the TILR be involved and that

the survey be carried out by 20th April. This was agreed to by the Collector's representatives.

Shri Devrath Mehta pointed out that this was regarding the deemed forests in the municipal areas . What was also needed was a study of the deemed forests in the non –municipal areas.

10) Energy Plantations

Shri. Hivalekar of the Forest Department stated that at least 20 hectares of land were needed for this purpose. But they were getting only patches of land.

Chairman sated that we were dealing with only a small population and about one hecters should suffice for this purpose . The representative of the Forest Department said that they have to do it under the joint Forest Management plan.

11) Eco Sensitive Zone protection plan

This had been mentioned in the Action taken Report.

Chairman asked as to what the position was to which the representative of Forest Department stated that this would be checked.

Chairman stressed the needs for this, since otherwise the whole hill slope would be eroded and that there will be no hill station.

12) Sewerage Treatment Plants.

It was pointed out that for bungalows in remote areas, it will be difficult to connect there the sewerage treatment facilities to the central facilities. It was also queried as to how different bungalows can have their own sewerage treatment plants. It was pointed out that technology was there now and needs to be implemented.

13) Cost of Soil Erosion Measures

The Chief Officer of the Matheran Municipal Council told that the cost of Rs.1.49 crores was the cost of the lowest tender. It was clarified that this was not the cost of implementing the project, but only cost of preparing the detailed project report. In addition, the project proponent had no experience in this and had said that they would approach IIT Mumbai. It has therefore been decided that IIT Mumbai could be independently approached.

Dr. Haq mentioned that if the cost of the DPR was quoted as Rs.1.49 crores, the whole project cost would be much more. By the time the project came about , many things may have changed . Hence at least for the interim period, it would be better to do mitigation measures such as tree planting etc.

14) **Funds requirement for Eco Sensitive Zone /DPDC Budget**

Chairman stated that some provision should be made in the DPDC budget for the expenditure on the Eco Sensitive Zone Since many of the implementing agencies said that they do not have funds for the various projects and activities. He clarified that the figure of Rs.10 lacs which had been mentioned was not only for the reimbursement to the members but for other expenses of the Eco Sensitive Zone as well. This figure would include the amount needed for holding seminars, carrying out studies etc.

The representative of the Collector's office stated that the DPDC Planning Officer had rejected this item. It was stated that as scheme should be prepared to which Shri Devrath Mehta said that for Mahabaleshwar, Rs.10 lacs has been sanctioned for awareness, Rs.10 lacs for maintenance of rides and walks and so on for Matheran, Rs.20 lacs should be asked for items such as training programmes, awareness, consultancy and so on. As discussed later, the item of conservation of public structures should be included.

MMRDA representative stated that the Resident Deputy Collector had written to the MMRDA for a provision of Rs.10 lacs. This has been put up to the Metropolitan Commissioner.

Coming to the reimbursements to the members, the Chairman suggested a flat rate of Rs.2,500/- per member to cover the honorarium plus expenses for non- official members who are bearing their own expenses for coming to Matheran and giving their time and professional expertise.

Dr. Haq mentioned that in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, they were giving a sitting fee of Rs.1,000/- to the members plus actual TA /DA. The Chairman stated that in the Monitoring Committee for Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani, many people were coming in their own vehicles and hence a provision of a flat fee had been suggested .

The Chairman said that the Collector should write to the MMRDA requesting them to release funds and make them available to the Collector.

15) **Shuttle Service between Dasturi and Matheran**

Chairman said that MMRDA has provided Rs.65 lacs to the Railways. But the Railways had however said that the commemorative arch has become an obstruction. The Adamjee Peerbhoy family had gone to the High Court saying that this would be erasing Adamjee Peerbhoy's contribution and had obtained a stay order. However, the contribution was not being erased and the arch could be raised by a jack.

Shri. Shyam Chainani stated that the complaint of the family was that they wanted Matheran Railway Station named after Adamjee Peerbhoy. Chairman stated that it was the railways policy not to name the station after individuals . Chairman added that he would try and meet the General Manger of the Central Railway . On a suggestion made , he said that he would try also and meet the family

16) Plastic

It was agreed that as a first step , the shop should be asked not to sell their goods in plastic bags.

17) Biomass / Vermi Composting

Chief Officer stated that she had written to all hotels to implement this scheme.

Chairman directed that they seek advice from expert , Shri Avinash Kubal, Deputy Director , Mahim Nature Park who was MMRDA employee. In addition workshops etc. should be held.

Chairman added that if the compost is used as fertilizer. There would be several beneficial impacts, including the fact that the soil texture would improve , the water requirement would be less and the greenery would be better.

18) Nature Interpretation Centre

Shri Vivek Kulkarni of the Panchayat Trust briefly explained this Proposal. The proposal was for a Nature Interpretation Center at Charlotte Lake. However, there was no land available and hence some forest department land would be needed. The land required for the butterfly garden and medicinal plant garden would be one acre. The area of construction required would be 400 square meters of a semi permanent nature. They had received Rs.25 lacs from the Department of Environment.

Shri Shyam Chainani felt that Charlotte Lake was not a good location specially if construction was needed . Shri. Devrat Mehta felt that the center of the town would be a better location. At the site of the temporary construction , the records of the Eco Sensitive Zone , etc. could be maintained. He suggested that the Library could be renovated , and part of it used for this purpose. Shri Shyam Chainani expressed concern about the use of the Library for this purpose.

The Chief Officer suggested that the garden near Aman Lodge can be used and Shri Vivek Kulkarni stated that this used to be old forest park. Representative of the Forest Department said that no construction could be permitted there and the land cannot be handed over, since it was to be used for forest purpose only.

Shri. Devrth Mehta said that while the Forest Department would not hand over the land, as in the case of Mahabaleshwar , the work could be carried out under their supervision. Shri Vivek Kulkarni added that for the Nature Interpretation Centre in Sanjay Gandhi National Park, there had been a tripartite agreement between the Forest Department, British Gas (who was the funder) and the Bombay Natural History Society.

The Chairman stated that there were three possible options viz.

- a) Charlotte Lake
- b) Garden in the center of the town + Library
- c) Park near Aman Lodge.

Regarding funding, the Chief Officer stated that the funding would be from the MMRDA. The original funding proposal to MMRDA had been Rs. 30 lacs, but they had cut it down to Rs. 6 lacs . In response to a question by Dr. Haq, the Chief Officer stated that the recurring cost would be borne by the Matheran Municipal Council.

It was agreed that a committee would be set up to examine the option . The Committee would consist of

- a) the Chief Officer, Matheran Munciapal Council
- b) Smt. Zenobia Lord
- c) Range Forest Officer
- d) Shri Vivek Kulkarni

The Chairman stated that the committee set up could also look at the recurring cost such as electricity etc. and as to how that would be met.

19) **Charlotte Lake**

It was mentioned that MMRDA could be approached for funds for desilting and other improvements to Charlotte lake.

20) **Permanent Invitee**

The Chairman stated that Shri Devrat Mehta who is the Chairman of the High level Monitoring Committee for the Mahabaleshwar – Panchagani Eco Sensitive Zone, Chairman of the Heritage Committee for Matheran, and former Managing Director of MTDC and also former Metropolitan Commissioner of MMRDA should be a Permanent Invitee so as to avail of his experience and expertise.

21) **Funicular Railway**

There was some doubt as to whether Haji Malang was outside the Eco Sensitive Zone but from the study of the map, it was established that it was inside the main Eco Sensitive Zone.

b) It was noted that the forest clearance has not been obtained. The project proponent stated that they had approached the Bhopal Office of the Ministry of Environment & Forest who has said that they should approach the Supreme Court and the Central Wild Life Board. Since the area is within the Eco Sensitive Zone, they must follow the sanctuary procedure and follow the regulations relating to the sanctuaries, Wildlife Protection and the Eco Sensitive Zone.

They had got a letter from the Chief Wildlife Warden to the effect that the National Wildlife Board has said that the matter should be placed before the Monitoring Committee.

c) The project proponent stated that the steps to Haji Malang had become rough and the pilgrims demand easier access. The PWD had stated that the road would require too much land and hence the funicular railways was essential.

d) The project proponent added that in one hour, 7,000 people can be transported . In response to a query as to how they will handle the peak load, the answer was that they would have a second trolley working 18 hours a day. It was also clarified that the pilgrims go even at night , during the eight days long Urs.

e) Tehsildar, Ambarnath stated that the access was needed both when communal issues arise and also in the arise and also in the question of emergencies such as injuries etc.

f) The Forest Department representative said that the pilgrim movement and the time spent by the pilgrim would be reduced.

g) The question of safety was raised. The project proponent stated that there was no legislation covering funicular railways, but they are following Hingkong standards , since the climate is similar. There were a thousand such project in the world. It was stated that the RITES had certified the safety to which it was pointed out that they were only consultants to this project. Similarly the brakes etc. were certified by IIT Bombay, to which again a point was made that they were only consultants . It was suggested that the safely aspect be certified by the District Magistrate.

h) A fear was expressed that the main object of the project was the commercial development.

i) Replying to a query, the project proponent stated that the amount of construction planned was 12,000 square feet of 10x10 square metres (ie.100 square metre) blocks.

The Committee felt that this was very high.

j) The project proponent clarified that there will be no advertisements.

k) The Project proponent was asked to furnish the business plan of the proposal including sources of income and details of structure which had to be built.

They said that they would give this within three or four days.

i) It was agreed that a Sub Committee Consisting of the Chairman, Smt. Kirtida Unwalla and Shri. Shyam Chainani would initially scrutinize the plan.

22) **Unauthorized Construction**

The Chief Officer stated that a survey of the unauthorized construction has been completed and 81 show causes had been issued. In 5-7 cases, the Court had issued orders stating that the status quo should be maintained. It was stated that police protection had been asked for, but had been withdrawn due to official tour programmes of Ministers and non availability of police bandobast.

The provisions of the Maharashtra Regional & Town Planning Act 1966 (MRTP Act) relating to prosecution and imprisonment as a penalty for unauthorized construction were pointed out.

The Chairman stated as follows.

- a) The SDO should be the focal point for this demolition action.
- b) Police protection should be asked for and the Collector should personally request the Superintendent of Police for this police protection.
- c) Criminal cases should be filed against the owners, architects and contractors.
- d) In response to a query , the Revenue Department officer said that action would be taken by 20th April. The Chairman directed that a report be furnished to him.
- e) Where the plots were leasehold , the leases should be cancelled and the plots resumed . Shri Devrat Mehta said that this had been done in the case of one plot in Mahabaleshwar.
- f) The list of 81 plots should be circulated to the Committee members.

23) **Illegal Hotels / Lodging Houses**

As regards hotels , Shri Shyam Chianani stated that there were complaints from local residents that people who have unauthorized constructions , or are running hotels without permission were being rewarded .

It was mentioned that the legitimate hotel industry in Matheran was suffering due to illegal lodging houses and hotels . The legitimate

hotels have to pay commercial rates for water and so on whereas the illegal ones do not.

It was decided out that a survey should be made of those hotels / lodging houses which are violating the law, either in terms of unauthorized construction, or are operating without proper licenses, or are in violation of lease conditions and so on.

24) Proposal by M/s Switch for Electric Tow Wheelers within Mathran

The party had come to the previous meeting of the Monitoring Committee where it had been including to him that the proposal was not acceptable.

The project proponent , M/s Switch said that this was a regular scooter run on battery (with charging required after 100 Kilometers running) and would cause no pollution.

The Chairman pointed out that right, since the time the Hill Station had been establishment, in order to preserve the peace and tranquility of the Hill Station, no mechanized vehicles had been permitted. This was regardless of the question of whether or not pollution was caused . The Eco Sensitive Zone Nitification also did not permit this, nor did the Development Plan. This item should not have been placed on the agenda at all.

Hence this request was rejected.

25) Salmonella Bungalow

Shri. Nihalani Stated that the bungalow has four rooms with outhouses of 8 rooms. The plot size was 5 acres . They wanted to have bed- butter breakfast scheme in four of the rooms. The bed and breakfast proposal was being made to meet the running cost of the house. It was stated that the Heritage Conservation Committee had recommended the case of 15th November 2009.

Shri Nihalani also said that 14 NOCs were required and they had obtained all the NOCs except the permission from the Municipal Council.

Chairman stated that the Municipal Council should give their remarks within one week and they could then apply to the MTDC, who should give their remarks within a week.

The representatives of the Collector's office stated that since it was Collector's land and the use was being changed to commercial , permission from the Collector was also required.

Since the papers had not been submitted to the Committee in advance , it was agreed that all relevant documents including the permission given should be furnished to the Committee members at

least two weeks in advance. The proponent could then be called to the subsequent meeting of the Committee.

Shri Devarat Mehta pointed out that in Mahabaleshwar because of misuse the bed and breakfast scheme had been confined to two rooms and not five rooms.

26) Radha Cottage

In response to a query, Shri Manoj Khedkar stated that though he had no permission, he was running it as hotel. He said that he had been running it in this fashion for a year and a half and had been paying commercial rates for water.

Shri Khedkar gave the example of Barr House, which according to him, also did not have the requisite permission, but was running as a hotel. It was pointed out that Barr House had permission for a bed and breakfast scheme. In the case of Radha Cottage, there was no such permission and the party was trying to regularize his illegal action.

Chairman pointed out that we still do not have any idea of the carrying capacity of Matheran and hence it would be difficult to approve any hotels till that is done. The Matter cannot be considered in the absence of the Tourism Master Plan. Shri Devrat Mehta clarified that the Heritage Conservation Committee only clears the project from the heritage point of view. It was stated that 70 hotels and more than 80 eating houses have applied for hotel licenses.

It was stated that several houses were vacant and that the built from of the houses, after conversion to heritage hotels, remains the same. It was pointed out however that the number of people using it would increase dramatically, thereby increasing the strain on the environment.

Chairman pointed out that there are several types of illegalities. A list has been made of some of the unauthorized construction, but nothing seems to have been done about those hotels which are running without a license.

Chairman directed that at the next meeting of the Committee before any hotel license can be sought for approval, several items of information were needed viz.

- a) Whether the permission of the Revenue Department / Collector had been obtained as required by the Lease Agreement ?
- b) Whether the permission from the police has been obtained ?
- c) Whether it was running illegally as a hotel ?
- d) Whether there were any unauthorized construction? Chairman directed that this information should be given within a month.

27) List of NOCs required

It was decided that a list should be made of all the permissions / NOCs required for running a hotel so that applicants did not have to run pillar to post.

28) Representation from the Matheran Hotel and Restaurant Association / Encroachments on Forest Lands.

The Association had addressed a letter to the Collector complaining that 1,100 rooms have been constructed unauthorizedly and that there are encroachments in forest land. In addition, these illegal hotels were paying no taxes and were stealing power and water, because of which the residents were also suffering. These illegal hotels / lodging houses should be charged commercial rates of electricity and water.

The Chairman asked how forest lands were permitted to be encroached upon. The representative of the Forest Department replied that there were no encroachments on forest lands, to which it was pointed out that a list of alleged encroachment had been given to them. Chairman added that care should be taken, since in some cases multi storeyed building had come up on forest lands.

The representative of the Forest Department said that if there had been any encroachment, they would take action.

It was decided that

- a) As decided earlier, the Collector should carry out a survey regarding unauthorized running of hotels/ lodging houses.
- b) The Forest Department should check whether there were any encroachments on forest lands.

29) **Noise Pollution**

It had been stated that the API and the staff are patrolling every day to stop the noise after 10 p.m. and the Municipal Council has declared a Silence Zone.

Smt. Zenobia Lord confirmed that regarding noise after 10 p.m. at night, the police clamped down.

Shri Shyam Chianani however reiterated his earlier statement that the noise has to be controlled, not only after 10 p.m. at night, but during the day as well. It was stated that the decibel level permitted during the day is less than 50 decibels.

30) **Littering**

The Chief Officer stated that the Municipal Council did not have the power to levy fines for littering.

It was pointed out that the MPCB Rules and Solid Waste Rules give ample authority for this purpose . For plastics, the relevant rules should be followed.

31) **Superintendent of Matheran**

Chairman stated that he has received a copy of the letter sent by the Collector's Office to Government on 18th March, 2008 . He would take up the matter with Government.

32) **Head Loaders**

Representative of the Forest Department stated that they have seized the loads of 70-80 head loaders.

33) **Proposal by Minor Irrigation Department**

Chairman directed that the last sentence in the draft minutes of the earlier meeting needs to be deleted.

The Revenue Authorities stated that only a portion of the backwaters will come into the Eco Sensitive Zone, but 400-500 acres of buffer zone land would be needed.

Chairman directed that the proposal should be obtained and examined by the Monitoring Committee.

34) **Power Grid Corporation Proposal**

It was stated that there have been no come back from the party on this.

35) **Laterite Stone**

The Chairman reiterated that the use of laterite stone was necessary since with use of other material like cement concrete , paver blocks etc. water will not percolate into the ground , In many case, this been used and trees are dying.

36) **Ambulance**

As regards the observation made by Shri Shyam Chainani at the last meeting the Chief Officer stated that she had checked up and on that occasion the ambulance had been used by patients. Smt. Zenobai Lord confirmed that the misuse of the ambulance had now been controlled.

37) **Pollution**

It was stated by the MPCB representative that only three hotels have sewerage treatment plants and the others have only soak pits and septic treatment tanks.

In response to a query about the remaining hotels , MPCB representative said that samples have not been collected for the last two days, surveyers were surveying the hotels and checking whether any sewerage was flowing out.

The Chairman queried that since the MPCB does not have adequate number of field officers, whether it was possible to give power to the Municipality to check the pollution. MPCB representative clarified that they have field officers for Pen, Karjat and Alibag talukas.

38) **Quarrying Sites / Road Construction**

Chairman stated that technologies for construction of roads without using cement concrete exist , but they had fallen into disuse.

Reference the point made at the last meeting , it was stated that there are no power plants within 100 km. of Matheran.

It was agreed that the Central Road Research Institute could be approached in this regards.

39) **Reliance Tower**

It was stated that a notice had been issued to the parties and the electricity had been cut. However, the Collector is representative said that if they pay a penalty of Rs.2.4 lacs, they could be allowed to continue.

It was felt very strongly that action should be taken to remove the tower . Representative of the Revenue Department said that they would give the party time for compliance.

40) **Ropeway**

The decision taken at the earlier meeting was reaffirmed.

41) **Proposal of Police Department for Firing Butt**

The Chairman directed that when a proposal is put to the committee, the following are among the information that needs to be furnished.

- a) Numbers of trees to be cut
- b) Effect on wildlife
- c) Whether alternate land is available.

Detailed information on this proposal would be needed for it to be considered.

42) **Cemetery lands / Heritage Site**

Smt. Kirtida Unawalla mentioned the case of cemetery land which have been identified as preservation plots. The European Cemetery and the two Hindu Cemeteries were the oldest part of Matheran . While heritage buildings were being maintained, these were going derelict

Chairman suggested that in the DPDC budget , the item of conservation of public structures should be included.

43) **Construction on Scenic Points / Heritage Site**

In response to a query as to how this has been done, the Chief Officer stated that they had received Rs.60 lacs from MMRDA to beautiful the points. Shri Devrat Mehta stated that the Heritage Conservation Committee had approved only the provision of railing and signage. The Chief Officer stated that the work had already been carried out at Rambagh Point. Alexander Point , Lousia Point and One Tree Hill. She said that they have stopped the work at Echo Point . It was stressed that the Chief Officer should not have permitted this as she is the Secretary of the Heritage Committee.

The Committee noted that only railings and signage had been authorized by the Heritage Conservation Committee, but in violation of that larger steps have been permitted. It was surprising that this has been done on a large scale. It has to be examined whether anything done can to reverse the damage.

44) **Awareness**

Shri. Devrat Mehta questioned how the Monitoring Committee can come into contact with people in the Eco Sensitive Zone outside Matheran town . Smt. Zenobia Lord mentioned the need to have awareness even with Matheran town.

Chairman suggested that there should be a two days workshop on the Thursday and Friday before the Monitoring Committee meeting and the municipality should provide Rs.50,000 for that.

45) Representation dated 8th March, 2010 from Shri Vivek Chaudhary , Vice President of the Municipal Council

Shri. Vivek Chudhary had addressed a letter saying that since Shri. Devrat Metha, who is not a member has been invited to the meeting of the Matheran Monitoring Committee, the local MLA, the President of the Municipal Council and the Vice President of the Municipality should also be made special invitees.

As earlier discussed, Shri Devrat Mehta has been invited in his capacity as an expert on Hill Stations and as Chairman of the Heritage Committee of Matheran.

There was no provision for making permanent invitees of the names suggested . However , they can be heard whenever warranted.

46) **Representation by Aziz Amreliwala**

Several Points had been made by Shri Amreliwala including

- a) The three Municipal gardenes were not in good shape,
- b) The need for Dasturi – Marheran train services.
- c) Saraswati Vidya Mandir School – Funds were needed.
- d) Matheran Talao need to be cleaned.

In response to the first point, Shri Devrat Mehta and Smt. Zenobai Lors said that, that was not the case.

In regard to the second point the Committee was already seized of the matter.

As regards Matheran Talao, the Chief Officer stated that it has not been desilted for seven years and one crore was needed for this purpose .

47) It was decided that the next meeting of the Monitoring Committee would be held on Saturday, 15th May 2010.



Member Secretary
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensetive Zone
Zone & Collector Raigad



Chairman,
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensetive

क्र.मशा/जमीन/अ-२/मा.मॉ.क./इतिवृत्त/१०
जिल्हाधिकारी कार्यालय रायगड
अलिबाग दि.२१/७/२०१०.

प्रति,

मा. श्री. व्ही. रंगनाथन, (भा.प्र.से.)
निवृत्त मुख्य सचिव,
अध्यक्ष, माथेरान मॉनेटरींग कमिटी माथेरान
१३- सनफ्लॉवर, जी.डी.सोमाणी मार्ग,
कफ परेड, मुंबई ४०० ००५

विषय :- माथेरान मॉनेटरींग कमिटीच्या सभेचे इतिवृत्त
मान्यतेसाठी सादर करणेबाबत.

माथेरान मॉनेटरींग कमिटीची चौथी सभा दिनांक १५/५/२०१० रोजी आपले अध्यक्षतेखाली संपन्न झाली आहे. सदरच्या सभेचे इतिवृत्त मा. सदस्य सचिव, तथा जिल्हाधिकारी रायगड यांचे मान्यतेने आपले मान्यतेसाठी दि. २३/६/२०१० रोजी सादर केले होते. त्यानुसार सदर सभेचे इतिवृत्त मान्य होवून या कार्यालयास प्राप्त झाले आहे. तथापि आपलेकडील दि.१४/६/२०१० रोजी सदर सभेचे इतिवृत्त दुरुस्त करणेबाबत या कार्यालयास कळविण्यांत आले आहे.

आपले सुचने प्रमाणे दि.१५/५/२०१० रोजी माथेरान मॉनेटरींग कमिटीची संपन्न झालेल्या सभेचे दुरुस्त केलेले इतिवृत्त या सोबत मान्यतेसाठी सादर केले आहे. त्यावर कृपया स्वाक्षरी होवून मिळणेस विनंती आहे.

नोडल अधिकारी
माथेरान मॉनेटरींग कमिटी तथा
निवासी उप जिल्हाधिकारी
रायगड - अलिबाग

- 7 -

Draft Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on Saturday, 15th May, 2010 At. 11.00 a.m. at Mount Bungalow, Matheran.

The Following were present for the meeting

Sr.No.	Name	Designation in Monitoring Committee.
1	Shri.V.Rangnathan Ex. Chief Secretary , Govt. of Maharashtra	Chairman
2	Mrs. Zenobia Lord	Member
3	Mrs Kirtida Unwala	Member
Invitees present for the Meeting		
1	Shri. P.S.Magdum	S.D.O.Panvel, Representative of Collector Raigad
2	Shri. Shinde	A.C.P. Navi Mumbai - Pnavel
3	Shri. Girkar	A.D.T.P. Alibag
4	Shri. Hivalekar	DCF Alibag
5	Shri. Devrath Mehata	Retd. IAS, Chairman ,Heritage Committee
6	Shm. Suvarna Ogale	Chief Officer,Matheran Municipal Council

The Minutes of the Meeting of Monitoring Committee of Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on Saturday, 15th May.2010 at 11-00 a.m. at Mount Bunglow, Matheran

Chairman welcomed the members and invitees and started the meeting. Sub Divisional Officer, Panvel informed the Chairman that according to the notification the quorum for the meeting has to be 50 %, but today quorum is incomplete .After waiting for some time Chairman, decided to continue the meeting with the present members as an adjourned meeting.

The meeting started with the reading of last meeting proceeding. The following issues were discussed in the meeting.

1) Chairman started that from the next meeting Monitoring Committee will concentrate on other places other than Municipal area of Matheran of Eco Sensitive Zone and will monitor the issues of these places.

2) Shuttle Services -

Chairman stated that he will meet the concerned department about the starting of shuttle services in Matheran.

3) Forest Plan-

Shri. Hivalekar, D.C.F. Alibag stated that forest plan is ready and submitted to CCF (Chief Conservator of forests) .The Government has approved the work, but have not approved the plan yet and further informed that Supreme Court has ordered to identify private lands and demarcate the deemed forest land. So they have mentioned it into plan.

Shri. Dev Mehta stated that to locate the forest area M.M.R.D.A. will be prepare to provide the satellite maps to the forest department.

4) Tourism Plan-

Monitoring Committee appointed the Committee of Chairman (Monitoring Committee), Shri. Devarth Mehta, Managing Director, M.T.D.C., Mrs. Kirtida Unwala and Mrs.Lords. This Committee will work for master plan for tourism and technical advice will be given by M.M.R.D.A.

To complete tourism plan M.T.D.C. and M.M.R.D.A. will work jointly Chairman informed that Commissioner, M.M.R.D.A. informed that M.M.R.D.A. will not provide the funds to M.T.D.C. as M.T.D.C. has its own sufficient funds to prepare Tourism Master Plan.

Chairman stated that if till 15th June the progress of tourism plan has not seen, the Committee will take legal action against MTDC.

Representative of M.M.R.D.A. explained that sub zonal master plan has been prepared and submitted to Additional Metropolitan Commissioner (AMC), he will add some imputes into it. So after incorporation of input addition, will revise the plan, it will take around two months.

5) Eco Sensitive Zonal Master Plan-

Chairman stated that to prepare Eco Sensitive Zone Master Plan, M.M.R.D.A. has to incorporate all plans into it viz. Forest Plan, Tourism Plan,

Zonal Master Plan. Chairman again warned that Tourism Master Plan has to submit in the next meeting.

Chairman stated that Collector office has to coordinate all plans and prepare it before the next meeting.

6) Deemed Forest Survey-

Chairman stated that forest department has to take satellite images of deemed forest area before the monsoon and the regarding report should be submitted in the next meeting.

7) Energy Plantation.-

Chairman asked the Shri. Hivalekar about the percentage of deforestation and use of wood taken by villagers. DCF, Alibag explained that wood used as fuel purpose in hotels & at home and when the forest guards are not present at the site then only theft of woods happen. So forest department is recruiting more staff to prevent wood cutting.

Chairman stated that wood cutting mostly happen in night time. So provide forest guards in night time mainly and Forest department has to contact with Supply department to provide LPG Connection to all.

DCF stated that forest department is taking action against woods cutters, 187 cases have been launched against them.

8) Soil Conservation-

Chairman stated that forest department has to appoint protection staff and staff for soil conservation. Shri. Hivalekar DCF stated that there are two Range offices and staff of 150 staff for Matheran and Karjat. Chairman stated that Forest Department has to take extra efforts to control soil erosion for Eco Sensitive Zone and first step is to make work plan for soil conservation, have funds for it from DPDC and submit it to the Collector before the next meeting.

9) Forest Master Plan-

Shri. Hivalekar, DCF, Alibag stated that forest plan has been prepared. The CCF has approved work, but has not sanctioned the plan.

Mrs. Kirtida Unwala told Shri.Hivalekar to give the whole work reports, records and physical output of whole Eco Sensitive area before the next meeting. Shri. Hiwalekar answered that he will give all detail reports before next meeting.

10) Sewerage Treatment Plan -

Chief Officer stated that DPR for STP is completed. The DPR will be put forward in front of General body of Municipal Council for sanction of funds for the proposal will put forward under the Nagarotthan Scheme and the further implementation will be done by Municipal Council. Chairman suggested that such plan implementation has to be done by Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran. But Chief Officer stated that the decision regarding this will be finalized by General body of Municipal Council Chairman suggested that the council has to take technical guidance for STP from Dr. Malini Shankar and again suggested to use Vibrator roller to pack up the sewerages line.

11) Funds -

Chairman stated that 1% budget provision of DPDC should be there for Eco Sensitive Zone and informed that Dr. Haqe in last meeting suggested that

Monitoring Committee has to request MOEF to issue instructions about how the funds to be provided for Eco Sensitive Zone.

Sub Divisional Officer stated that the file asking for funds of 10 lack for expenditure of Monitoring Committee is pending with Commissioner, M.M.R.D.A. Chairman stated that this is important to check the technical authority to provide the funds. Committee then decided that Collector, Raigad should talk to Environment Secretary and ask to the MPCB Secretary . The Chairman requested that the Collector should ascertain from the Government . The agency which would pay the Honorarium to the members of the committee.

12) Nature Interpretation Center-

Chairman stated that the place for nature interpretation has to be finalized before the next meeting.

13) Dumping Ground-

Chief Officer stated that Matheran Council has asked for the plot for dumping ground Viz.mp-102 by Survey No.229 to the Collector, Raigad. It is order of Government that for the dumping ground advance possession must be given. Town Planning has given consent for this plot for dumping ground. Shri.Hivalekar stated that this is being a government land, forest department has no any objection for the use of this land for dumping purpose.

In Development Plan this plot has been reserved for the dumping ground.

14) Charlotte Lake desolating-

Chief Officer stated that for this purpose Municipal Council has been called the tenders but they are above the estimate rate. So Municipal Council has rejected the tender. Work is not yet started. Chairman stated that Municipal Council has to check out whether the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran can do this work.

Mrs.Kirtida Unwala stated that this work is ecological disaster. So it has to come before the Monitoring Committee before implementation with following details.

- a) Conservation Report
- b) DPR of work
- c) Details about forest land.
- d) Will such work spoil the water of lake
- e) Construction specification.

So it was decided that the appointed PMC proponent Smt. Pallavi Latkar will give the detail presentation in the next meeting.

15) Funicular Railway-

No any project proponent was present for the meeting. The Committee decided to give the approval for the project, but they have to discuss the project's technical matter with Mrs. Unwala. The Committee approved the plan with the condition that the construction will be ground +1 not more than that and for further detail the Chairman and Mrs.Unwala will check the other technical issues, then further action will be proceed.

16) Unauthorized Constriction -

Chief Officer gave the detail about the demolition occurred on 4th May, 2010 by the Committee headed by Sub Divisional Officer, Panvel.

Chairman stated that criminal action has to take against the owner, architect, contractor who is responsible for unauthorized construction and the lease of such property. Shri.Dev Mehta mentioned that the schedule of demolition should be kept confidential next time and legal action has to be take against the Councillor who tried to stop the demolition of unauthorized construction.

Chairman stated that next action against unauthorized construction should be take in the month of September.

17) Unauthorized Hotel -

Sub Divisional Officer stated that they have issued notices to 43 unauthorized hotel and informed that they will give opportunity to hear and after it appropriate action will be taken. It will then be decided whether their lease has to be regularized or cancelled.

The Chairman stated that the action taken regarding unauthorized construction has to come in before of Monitoring Committee in the next meeting.

18) Salmona Bungalow-

Monitoring Committee has given approval for the bed and breakfast scheme to the Salmona Bungalow. The No Objection Certificate will be issued by Chairman.

19) Radha Cottage / Bar House-

Chairman stated that it will take around 4 to 6 month to prepare Tourism plan Committee has decided to give NOC to Radha Cottage, Bar House and Salmona Bungalow.

20) Grant of land for the Firing Butt-

Shri.Shinde, ACP, Navi Mumbai Panvel present the issue in front of Committee that police department wants land for the Firing Butt at Vaje, Tal. Panvel, Sr. No.191& 192, total areas 13-03-0 Hecter. The land is just touching the Buffer Zone of Eco Sensitive area. The proposal approved by the Committee but suggested that they have to give the details of construction and cutting of trees within 15 days to the Collector and the Committee members.

21) Mahavitaran -

The Superintendent Engineer, Mahavitaran stated that the company need permission of vehicle for the transport of machinaries which are required to do work in Matheran. Committee stated that such permission can not be given according to the notification.

The Company is putting electricity wires in Matheran underground,so Chairman stated that there must be correct compacting as to control soil erosion. They should take the help of Municipal Engineer and submit the detailed report about the work proposed to be done in next meeting.

22) Power Grid Corporation-

The project proponent stated that only 10 k.m. line is coming in Eco Sensitive Zone and it can not be diverted.Mrs.Kirtida Unwala stated that the project proponent has to submit the specific map of the affected area with the

information of how many trees can be cut at the area? How the high tension line will affect the birds and trees?

DCF, Panvel stated that the forest department has already inspected the area. So the very less area will be affected and the line is difficult to divert from the mentioned in the project as it is the possible area.

So Chairman stated that the work should go ahead with minimum disturbance to the ecological system.

23) Horse-

Chairman stated that there are only 460 authorized license holders are there in Marheran. So police department has to take legal action against the unauthorized horse owners. No further license should be given by Revenue department.

24) Encroachment of Indira nagar -

Chairman stated that the encroachment on forest land has to be removed by the forest department DCF, Alibag explained that Forest Department will remove all the encroachment of the Indira nagar before the next meeting.

Chairman at last read the letter written by the President and Vice President of Municipal Council letter about unauthorized hotels by Shri. Palekar and letter of Shri. Kondiba Bhosale.

Committee decided that the next meeting will be in the month of September.

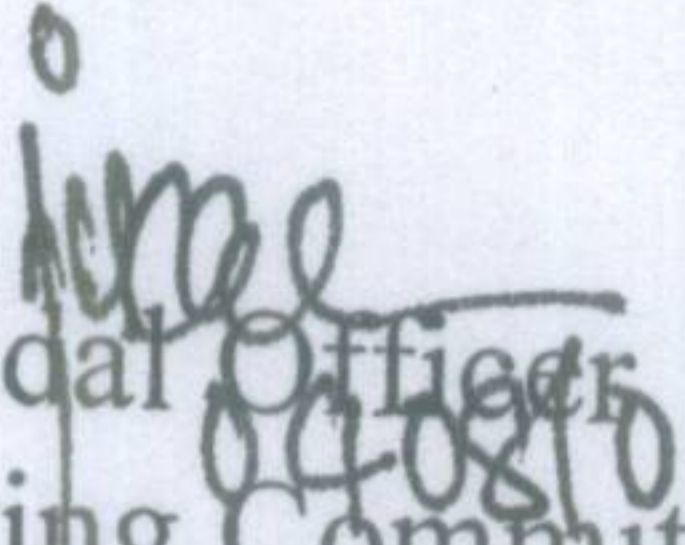
25) Development Plan.-

Shri. Girkar gave the presentation of Development Plan of Matheran, had discussion regarding the reservations and other issues regarding Development Plan.

Shri.Girkar stated that the Development Plan will be put in front of Municipal Council and after suggestion and objection it will be finalized.

Sd/-xxx
Member Secretary
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone
& Collector Raigad

Sd/-xxx
Chairman
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone


Nodal Officer
Monitoring Committee
Mahteran Eco Sensitive Zone
& Resident Deputy Collector
Raigad Alibag

The Minutes of the Meeting of Monitoring Committee of Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on Saturday 30th October, 2010 at 3.00 p.m. at Modi Resort, Karjat

Draft of the 5th Meeting of Monitoring Committee of the Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on Saturday, 30th October, 2010 At 3-00 p.m. at Mody resort, Karjat

The Following were present for the meeting

Sr. No.	Name	Designation in Monitoring Committee
1	Shri. V. Rangnathan Ex. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra	Chairman
2	Mrs. Kirtida Unwalla	Member
3	Mrs. Hema Ramani, Representative of Bombay Environmental Action Group	Member
4	Mrs. Zenobia Lord	Member
5	Shri. M.M. Ngullia Scientist Grade-1, Representative Govt. of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai	Member
6	Shri. P.S. Magdum,	S.D.O. Panvel, Representative of Collector Raigad
Invitees present for the Meeting		
1	Shri. Girkar	A.D.T.P. Alibag
2	Representative	D.C.F. Alibag
3	Shri. Jagatshing Girase	Tahasildar - Karjat
4	Shri. Khutvad	Tahasildar - Ambarnath
5	Shri. Sudam S. Dhupe	Chief Officer, Matheran Hill Station Municipal Council.
6	Shri. Girkar	Asst. Director Town Planning
7	Shri. Dhananjay Pawar	(Town Planner, MMRDA)

Senior Manager, Development, MTDC, informed the Committee that procedures for tender documents have already been finalised and they have written to the State Government requesting for necessary funding. An extension of further 2 months was sought from the Committee.

During this discussion, representative from Environment Department, Shri. Ngullia, Scientist I, informed the Committee that during the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel Seminar at Pune on 29th Oct 2010, Dr. G.V. Subrahmanyam, Adviser Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), remarked that the State Government was dragging its feet in the preparation of the Zonal and Sub-Zonal Master Plans despite the

The Minutes of the Meeting of Monitoring Committee of Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on Saturday 30th October, 2010 at 3.00p.m. at Modi Resort , Karjat

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Chairman welcomed the members and invitees at Panvel Rest House at 8.30 a.m. and decided to visit villages in eco sensitive zone in panvel and Khalapur tahsils. After visiting the village, the meeting was held at Karjat at 3.00 p.m. at Modi Resort, Karjat.

Chairman stated that he will next meeting of Monitoring Committee will be held on Dt.4/12/2010 at 3.00 p.m. at Mount Bunglow Matheran. Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

A Matters arising out of the Minutes of the last Meeting

1. Shuttle services:

The Chairman stated that he has spoken to the Railway authorities and the matter will be looked into by the Railways.

2. Forest Plan:

The Chairman stated that he was not clear as to what the minutes meant. The new ACF (Additional Conservator of Forests), Panvel (Shri. Ashok Waghaye) had no clue as he had just taken charge.

Before next meeting of Monitoring Committee Forest Department should be submit plan to Collector with following information.

- A) Identify private Land and demarcate the deemed forest land on forest plan.
- B) Contact to M.M.R.D.A. for satellite plan and take satellite images of deemed forest area.

Clarifications were sought from the ACF and the same to be presented at the next meeting.

3. Tourism Plan:

Senior Manager, Development, MTDC, informed the Committee that procedures for tender documents have already been finalised and they have written to the State Government requesting for necessary funding. An extension of further 2 months was sought from the Committee.

During this discussion, representative from Environment Department, Shri. Ngullia, Scientist I, informed the Committee that during the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel Seminar at Pune on 28th Oct 2010, Dr. G.V. Subrahmanyam, Adviser Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), remarked that the State Government was dragging its feet in the preparation of the Zonal and Sub Zonal Master Plans despite the

notification's mandate of preparing the same within 2 years from the date of notification.

The Chairman observed the following, with explicit instructions that the same be minuted.

- (a) MD, MTDC has never been present for a single meeting.
 - (b) The tourism plan has been pending for over 7 years from the date of Eco Sensitive Zone notification and even after directions from the Committee in the last meeting, which was 5 months ago, no consultants have yet been appointed.
 - (c) Procedure for prosecution to be initiated against the MTDC under section 19 of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
4. MMRDA representative, Shri. Pawar informed the Committee that data from Thane Forest Division was awaited. Data from Raigad Forest Division was already available and all data will be collated when data from Thane forest division was obtained. A further extension of 2 months was sought from the Committee.

When questioned from whom at the Forest Department the data was sought, the representative was not able to provide the information.

- (a) The Collector to write to Social Forestry Department to be present in the next meeting.
- (b) Mr. Ngullia informed the Committee that the Forest Management Plan for entire Thane Division for a period of 10 years has been approved by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and necessary data of Thane Eco sensitive zone forests can be obtained from this plan.

The Chairman said that:

- (a) MMRDA was sending different representatives for every meeting without proper information. Henceforth for every meeting the Chief Planner will have to be present with all necessary information.
 - (b) MMRDA to obtain Forest Plan from Forest Department, Tourism Master Plan from MTDC, Sub Zonal Master Plans (DP) from ADTP, Alibag and comply all information and an integrated plan to be ready by 20th November 2010, so that the same can be presented at the next meeting.
5. **Eco Sensitive Zone Master Plan:**

The Committee was informed that the satellite images had not been obtained from the Forest Department.

It was decided that the same to be obtained from the Forest Department and should be included in the forest Plan.

Chairman stated that following department should submit their plan to M.M.R.D.A. before 20/11/2010.

- A) M.T.D.C.- Tourism Plan
- B) Forest Deptment- Forest Plan
- C) A.D.T.P.- Sub Zonal Master Plan.

And M.M.R.D.A. has to incorporate all plan into it viz forest plan, Tourism Plan, Sub Zonal Master Plan within two months.

Also Chairman stated that Collector Office has to coordinate all plans from above department.

6. Deemed Forest Survey:

The Forest Department informed the Chairman that a survey was in progress along with Revenue department.

Chairman stated that forest department has to take images of deemed forest area from M.M.R.D.A.

7. Energy Plantation:

For preservation of forests in the eco sensitive zone, the following decisions were taken:

- (a) The Collector to write to Social Forestry Department to be present in the next meeting and adopt all padas within the Eco Sensitive Zone for this project.
- (b) Under Joint Forest Management, work with the tribals for preservation of forests.
- (c) Panvel, Neral and Karjat Range Forest Officer (RFO) to immediately give a list of people who are in need of LPG connections.

8. Soil Conservation:

The Forest Department has requested for funding from the Collector, Alibag under the DPDC, for Thane & Alibag to the tune of Rs.2 crores 11 lakhs respectively.

It was informed by the SDO that only the plan was received but not the letter requesting for funding.

It was decided that the Conservator of Forests (CF) Thane and Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Alibag will present the proposals before the respective Collectors at the earliest.

9. Forest Management Plan:

Hema Ramani informed the Committee that based on the information given by the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Thane, the finalisation of the plan was pending with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Nagpur, due to the non availability of floristic study. ACF Thane informed the Committee that the CCF Thane had approved the plan.

The Chairman asked for the study to be undertaken at the earliest.

10. Sewerage Treatment Plan

The Chief Officer, Matheran Municipal Council informed that NEERI had submitted the DPR only 2 days ago.

Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Scientist & Head, NEERI informed the Committee that there were a lot of information gaps that needed to be filled in and the same was being sought from the Municipal Council. He further informed the Committee that a centralised system was not a good one for Matheran and the treatment plant should be decentralised to the maximum extent for appropriate results. A centralised system could be adopted if there were hotels and other establishments on the same line. As for MJP taking up this contract, he informed that it was a very low capacity and MJP would not be interested in taking it up.

It was decided that:

- (a) Names of contractors would be given by NEERI.
- (b) The Municipal Council will provide NEERI with the requisite information so that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) could be prepared by NEERI at the earliest.
- (c) The Municipal Council to get approval of the DPR from the General Body of the Council with a specific condition that NEERI will be technical consultant to the contractor.

Further NEERI also spoke of horse dung causing air pollution. Disposal of the same was discussed and NEERI was asked to give a scientific plan for disposal of the same.

It was decided that the Municipal Council will give details of collection and disposal plan of horse dung to NEERI at the earliest so that NEERI can suggest appropriate decentralised solution for the same.

No. Rev-A-2/Land/Monotari/Committee/10
Collector Office Raigad
Alibag Date- 17/11/2019

The Chairman informed that as the meeting was not held in Matheran, this could not be complied with.

6. Letter from Dr. G.V.Subrahmanyam stating the following was read out:
- Gross misuse of ambulance.
 - Between 12 mid night and 5 am vehicles ply in Matheran to deliver hotel cargo.
 - Prosecution will be initiated against government for not adhering to the Supreme Court Order and *eco sensitive zone* notification.
7. Letter from Asha Ashok Kadam stating that Akbar Anwar Khan had brought his car inside Matheran. She further informed that though she got it to the notice of the Police, no FIR was lodged.

The Chairman directed that the Collector's Office should write to the Superintendent of Police.

8. Ms. Hema Ramani raised the issue of parking at Dasturi.

The Chairman instructed that

- A proper plan for parking at Dasturi should be drawn for vehicles and horses.
- The Forest Department should find out relevant provisions under which action against all illegal horses could be taken.
- Action to be reported at the next meeting.


9. Ms. Hema Ramani raised the issue of forest fires.


The Chairman instructed that the train be fitted with a cap to control fires caused by engine sparks. If the Railway does not place the cap then all damages to be recovered from Railways.

Also communities to be helped for fighting forest fires.

Awareness among tourists to be created.

10. It has been decided that the Workshop will be conducted on December 3 Friday. The Monitoring Committee meeting will be held in the first half of December 4 Saturday & the Heritage Conservation Committee meeting will be held in the second half


Member Secretary
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone
& Collector Raigad


Chairman
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone

17/11/19

**Record Note of Monitoring Committee Meeting for Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone
held on 3rd December 2010, at Matheran**

Members Present at the Meeting:

1. Shri. V. Ranganathan Chairman
2. Smt. Kirtida Unawalla Member
3. Smt. Zenobia Lords Member
4. Shri. Vikrant Chavan Representative of Collector Office
(SLAO)
5. Smt. Hema Ramani Representative of Shri. Shyam Chainani, BEAG
6. Shri Devavrath Mehta Invitee
(Chairman, Matheran Heritage Conservation Committee)
7. Shri. Girkar Invitee
(Asst. Director Town Planning)
8. Shri Ahmed Anwar Invitee
(DFO, Alibag)
9. Shri. Ashok Waghaye I Invitee
(Assistant Conservator of Forests, Panvel)
10. Shri. Jagatsing Girase Invitee
(Tahsildar Karjat)
11. Shri Sudam S. Dhupe
(Chief Officer, Matheran Hill Station Municipal Council.

1. CHARLOTTE LAKE BEAUTIFICATION PLAN:

Note for reference WRT MINUTES OF PAST MEETS:

1) This issue for Charlotte Lake was first raised during meet dated March 20 , 2010 (meet no.3 - as revised by Mr. Shyam Chainani and finalised accordingly by Member Secretary) which opens the issue and suggests funding to be made available from MMRDA for desilting and other improvements. NO WORK COMMENCED.

2) May 15, 2010 - pt. no.14 . NO WORK COMMENCED due to low tender rates and issue of no contractors wanting to apply for works etc. Committee insists on accountability and details of the project.

MONSOON BREAK

3) Meet on 30.10.2010 - PMC holder Smt. Pallavi Latkar was unable to be present. Postponed to next meet.

Note: The report submitted to the committee for review and remarks. The review to be compiled by Kirtida Unwalla by the next meeting on behalf of the Committee.

4) Meet on Dec 03, Smt. Latkar makes presentation.

To be deleted

Pallavi Latkar makes a presentation (power point on a Lap Top computer) based on the Project Report and Works undertaken thereon (as a PMC proponent for the project); titled as "Final Project Report for the Conservation and Beautification of Charlotte Lake at Matheran under the State Lake Conservation Plan".

Ms. Latkar begins with an overview of the total project Report that was prepared for the Matheran Plateau in brief (for MMR Environment Improvement Society and titled "Environment Plan for Matheran Plateau" - and discusses the context for the execution of the works at the specific Charlotte Lake undertaken by her as a PMC for the Matheran Council.

1.1 Smt. Latkar informed that the Pisarnath Stream was first de-silted as it was heavily silted due to heavy erosion of forests near its vicinity. No ecological treatment of catchments was undertaken yet. Soil catchers were put in place though not like the one constructed by the Britishers. The cost of desilting in the project is pegged at Rs. 31 lacs.

Smt. Latkar informed that the plugging of streams and plantations had taken place. Silt traps which could hold heavy soil were built in the mori style. Pisarnath catchment had good soil in it.

1.2 The Chairman inquired if the silt traps were still placed in the forests. Smt Latkar replied that they were still there and further explained that a three tier method is planned to be adopted with retention bunds, plantation and nala plugs. Smt. Latkar informed that the silt traps had to be cleaned, proper area for parking of ponies should be demarcated and an awareness programme had to be undertaken for conservation of the lake.

1.3 The Matheran Municipal Council informed the Committee that Rs. 3.62 crores were sanctioned for this project based on the BOQ raised in the Report by Ms. Latkar. The Council has received Rs. 1 crore from the State Government and spent only Rs. 50 lakhs till date. Within the next four months the balance Rs. 50 lacs needed to be spent but they did not know how to go about the same. The Municipal Council informed that transportation of goods was causing a heavy increase on item rates and that such inflation does not conform to the allocated rates and the total costs. On inquiry, the State Government would only supplement upto 10% of an increment while the Municipal council would have bear the rest from their own funds.

1.4 Smt Unwalla inquired about:

- a) Whether the work was done in basalt or laterite. Smt Latkar informed that the work was done in basalt.
- b) The sequential priority for Conservation of water bodies (Charlotte, Simpson Tank, Walkers Tank) in Matheran and if such aspect was considered in the report or while considering execution of Charlotte Lake works.

c) Sequential order for execution and priority order of works at Charlotte proper - that the report does not clearly identify such order. Smt Unwalla inquired if it was better to first have the ecological restoration of catchments prior to desilting of lake or otherwise. Which would be a better sequencing?

d) Why was the traditional form of structure of the Culverts radically demolished and replaced. That such are as a consequence to the entire storm water management as envisaged by the founders of Matheran and the removal of such would be an irreversible loss to the Station and its Heritage Value. Such aspects need to be vetted with ecologists and Conservation experts in the field. Ms. Unwalla also suggested that the systems having lasted for more than a century proves its viability and ecological value and could have been retrieved using nominal restoration' processes.

1.5 The chief concern expressed by the Matheran Council and Ms. Latkar was the aspect of poor and / or no response from contractors to quote for the tenders. They express concern over the prescribed rates in the tender and suggest that such would not be viable for their business in the subjective case of Matheran. This was mainly due to the aspects of Matheran Hill Station requiring higher expense rates for execution of construction works in relation to nominal market and /or Govt. schedule of rates.

1.6 The other concern expressed by both was the aspect of physical hazards of transportation of construction materials from Dasturi naka, especially basalt stones required for the project. This aspect is riddled with problems of undulating terrain and bad condition of roads.

1.7 The Chairman offered to speak to the Central railways for expediting the longstanding need for a Goods train special service to the station and stated that it is the job of the Matheran Council to approach the Railways for such matter. On inquiry with the Council regarding this matter, Mr. Morkhandikar stated that he did approach the Railway authorities, but that they have denied the provision of such facility.

Shri Dhupe inquired if permissions for tractor trolley could be given just as in the case of permissions for MSEB was given.

1.8 Ms. Unwalla suggested that the scope of works assigned mainly for "Eco-Conservation of the lake' can take priority for execution while diverting the funds that are marked under general beautification. In this manner the objective of completion of priority works can be achieved.

1.9 Shri Mehta suggested that the funds allocated for awareness programme should be diverted towards the cost of conservation.

1.10 Ms. Hema Ramani inquires with Ms. Latkar if the mapping of water contamination from the catchment users (hotel waste loading etc.) has been undertaken in this report? Ms. Latkar declined and said that it did not form a part of the report.

Smt. Latkar informed that she was not aware and the Municipal council would be able to answer regarding this.

Shri Dhupe replied that they were not aware and only the MPCB would be able to give information as they were in charge of pollution. The Chairman instructed that Municipal Council should take strict action and prosecute polluters under the Municipal Act

Smt. Ramani further inquired about the solar panels and windmills that are to be installed as per the beautification plan.

Smt. Latkar said that those were proposed they did not seem viable and have dropped the idea.

1.11 The Chairman summed up the issue thus:

- a) Use the allocated and approved funds for the project judiciously with the aim to complete the total scope in the amount sanctioned and can be completed with the eco-concerns taking a priority for completion.
- b) That he will take up the matter of goods train with the Railways.
- c) Suggested the role of Forests should be tapped in funding such works for the rest of Matheran. He further pointed out that landslide should be addressed in isolation for conservation of the lake. The DFO Mr. Ahmed stated that such allocations are not available for the time being but will revert in the matter by the next meeting. Shri Ahmed informed that though they had funds of Rs. 89 lacs allocated for this, no specific funds were earmarked for Matheran.
- d) That the DPDC funds could be availed for the purpose of completion of such urgent works required for eco-restoration purposes.
- e) Suggests that Ms. Latkar make a copy of the Maps (prepared in a digital version by virtue of the Management Plan Report) available on CD to the Forest DFO offices for their perusal and use for purposes of undertaking actual conservation works on the Plateau.

2. Degradation of the Plateau and need for conservation of storm water systems

Further to the issue of Charlotte Lake, the Chairman voiced his concern over heavy erosion on the Plateau and added that this issue has been discussed in almost all meetings no action has been taken on such. He further added that though this was an Eco Sensitive Zone, such action on ground is of an urgent nature. There was no proper drainage, cross drainage and gully plugging being undertaken. Due to the velocity of rain there was heavy erosion taking place. Special attention needed to be given to five /six high risk areas where houses were sliding into the valley. He suggested that proper stone pitching on the drains would also mitigate the problem to a large extent.

The Chairman further suggested to map and retrieve the original storm water drainage systems on the Plateau and restore the same.

Shri Ahmed informed that the plan was submitted to MMRDA and money was a constraint.

The Chairman asked Shri Ahmed to follow up with MMRDA and said that the cost should not be more than Rs. 5 to 6 lacs. He said that the public would appreciate such pro active stand and we could count on their support and co-operation in various other matters.

The Chairman further stated that digging of soil by contractors was causing roots to be exposed and resulting in trees falling off. Strict conditions should be imposed on contractors that only loose stones should be collected and used and no stones should be quarried. Due to heavy rain velocity the roads were getting eroded and proper protection around trees should be constructed for trees on the market road and elsewhere also. Even forest department should protect their trees.

Shri Ahmed agreed to undertake protection of trees.

3. PRESENTATION BY SHRI. BHAGAT ON 'AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON CLEANLINESS IN MATHERAN'

Shri. Bhagat detailed out the awareness programme undertaken on the issue of "Garbage Collection and Disposal methodology" and the success of segregation in Matheran. All dry waste was segregated in the Solid Waste Dumping ground but the only problem faced was that of transporting it out of Matheran. He requested the committee to look into this problem and solve the issue.

The Chairman suggested that awareness regarding using "vermiculture methods" could be introduced to people of Matheran.

The Municipal Council informed that Jain and Gujarathi Hoteliers refused to create vermin-composting pits stating religious reasons.

The Chairman noted that during his walk from Dasturi to the Council Hall he had observed garbage being dumped into valley by households and hotels. He stated that Matheran should make genuine effort so as to be declared as one of the cleanest hill stations.

Mr. Dev Mehta recommended that "special dedicated contractors" are the new field of professionals in this regard and that such facility should be tapped. He further added that the aspect of "Carbon Credits" for the purposes of Eco-Zone needs to be accrued.

Mr. Bhagwat inquires with Mr. Nirpute (Matheran Council officer-in-charge) briefs the Committee on the issue and mentions that a Report in this regards is already given to the Committee. The Report, he mentions contains all details on "Solid Waste Management in Matheran" since year 2002.

Mr. Ahmed suggests the use of new "Automisation Machines" which are now installed for dedicated hastening of Solid Waste processes. He suggests that such should be installed at the Matheran Municipal Council units.

Mr Nirpute mentions such use of piped Bio Gas has become operational with Hotel "Gujarat Bhavan" and that he has received an inquiry from Hotel Byke. He expects and hopes for an augmented response in such recycling processes. Ms. Zenobia Lords indicates an interest in the matter and mentions that she will seek the service soon.

Ms. Latkar proposes the use of dedicated special designs of "monkey proof" garbage bins for Matheran.

4. **REQUEST OF GARBUT VILLAGERS FOR LAYING OF ELECTRICITY LINES THROUGH THE FOREST:**

A request by the villagers of Garbut for 1 ha of forest land for laying of electricity lines was presented before the Committee. The Chairman asked DFO for his opinion. Shri Ahmed said that the department did not have any objection to this and approval be granted to the villagers.

5. **GRANT OF LAND FOR FIRING BUTT:**

The Chairman stated that the proposal should be first submitted to the Collector and after the same is examined by the Collector, it should be presented before the Committee.

Mr Ahmed mentioned that he will further verify in the matter and revert to the Committee.

ACTION ON MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (2010-12-30)

1. **FOREST PLAN - DEEMED FOREST SURVEY:**

It was informed by the Shri. Girase that the exercise of demarcation deemed forest area of has been undertaken by Forest Department along with the Revenue Department.

Shri. Mehta clarified that demarcation meant survey and marking on the map for each plot of the plateau irrespective of the ownership.

Smt. Ramani informed that 'forest' as per definition of Supreme Court Order in Godavarman Case no. 202/95 had to be undertaken and showed sample maps of Mahabaleshwar where deemed forest areas were demarked plot wise.

Shri Girase informed that this was not feasible to conduct such survey and that satellite imaging was the only way out.

Shri. Mehta further informed that the MMRDA had commissioned Science and Technology Park, Pune to map areas and these satellite imagines are already available with MMRDA. If the exact boundaries were given to STP, they would give larger resolution images an all that would be needed was to marry the physical maps and the satellite images.

Shri. Ahmed said that while he now clearly understands the issue and its applicability to an eco-sensitive zone and its management there was a slight confusion in the matter of available data with them and he will get back on this issue.

Shri. Mehta requested Shri. Ahmed to co-ordinate between agencies and undertake this task at the earliest. Mr. Mehta further suggested that Dr. Jagdale and MMRDA can co-ordinate in the matter and hasten the process.

2. TOURISM MASTER PLAN:

a) Mr. Chairman inquires if there are any representatives present from the MTDC. There are none. He says he has received the TOR and Bidding Documents (copies) from the MTDC. In this regard he says that the 'overlap' aspects between the components of the Tourism Plans can be effectively structured within a clearly outlined 'Structure' of the Zonal / Sub-Zonal (DP) Plans. The Forest Plan too should fall within such structure.

b) Mr Dev Mehta suggests that the process can be simplified in two ways:

- i) To refer to the already existing model of Mahabaleshwar Tourism Plan and TOR and find ways for adaptation.
- ii) The consultants appointed by MTDC for the Tourism Plan will be asked to interact with the HLMC prior to commencement of the project and later make presentations to the HLMC at regular intervals.

The Chairman allocates this task to the Collectors office (Member Secretary) of co-ordinating the above two processes with the MTDC and keep the HLMC informed of the same.

3. ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE MASTER PLAN :

The Chairman reiterates the MMRDA's inability to prepare the Master Plan in adequate time and their inability to remain present for the meetings.

The Chairman quotes from the statement made by Mr Ngullia (Dept of Environment, Mantralaya), under this topic during the previous meeting (Oct.30, 2010) - "during the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel Seminar at Pune on Oct. 28, 2010, Dr. G.V. Subrahmanyam, Advisor MoEF, remarked that the State Govt. was dragging its feet in the preparation of the Zonal and Sub-Zonal Master Plans despite the Notification's mandate of preparing the same within 2 years from the date of Notification" - and insists that MMRDA needs to be more proactive in the matter to expedite a timely completion of the Zonal Master Plan.

He further mentions that he has received a letter from the Chief Planner, Ms. Uma Udusumilli in this regard and which identifies MMRDA's inability to complete the tasks of preparing the Zonal Master Plan on account of lack of co-operation and supply of adequate data etc from the Thane Forest division etc. The Chairman reads out this list for the HLMC members.

The Chairman suggests that the MMRDA on their accord can convey their requirements to each authorities by providing previews of their needs & processes and suggests that the MMRDA can also take up workshops with such authorities to engage them in a fruitful manner.

The Chairman said that letters to Thane district to be re-sent again as follow up for receiving details.

The Chairman suggests that the 'Forest Plan' by the Forest Department and the Sub-Zonal Plan (DP) be forwarded to the MMRDA in urgency. Mr. Ahmed (DFO) and Mr. Girkar (ADTP) agree to do so.

(note for us - members still at this time do not know of the publication of the DP!)

The Chairman states that he will hold a meeting with the MMRDA in Mumbai and look into the details / issues.

4. ENERGY PLANTATIONS:

Shri. Kevte, Dy. Director, Social Forestry, Alibag, informed the Committee that plans for energy plantation on 150 hectares belonging to private and social lands with cost estimation of Rs. 1.8 crores has been submitted for approval.

The Chairman inquires on the aspects of implementation and asked Mr. Kevte to write to the Collector and MMRDA for approval of these plans and instructed that there should also be an overseeing agency appointed.

As regards requirement for LPG connections at concessional rates, RFO, Neral stated that names from 11 villages (of some 600 houses) was collated and details of Panvel range will be obtained in the next two days. Mr. Ahmed said that he too will look into the matter.

The Chairman asked the Shri. Girase to look into the matter for further action.

5. SOIL CONSERVATION PLAN:

Mr. Ahmed requested for time in the matter and that he would revert in the matter during the next meet.

6. SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT:

The Chairman inquires if as per the previous meet requirements has the List of NEERI registered Contractors been prepared? MC says that such has not been done.

7. DISPOSAL OF HORSE DUNG:

Mr. Nirpute of the Municipal Council mentions that the horse dung was being treated at the Council's Treatment Plant. A quantity of approx. 2.5 tons is being collected, of which 1 Ton is treated while 1.5 Tons is converted into pellets.

The Chief Officer informed the Committee that effective steps were taken in the disposal of horse dung and only about 2 to 2.5 km stretch may be left out but the quantity was not so huge so as to cause any pollution.

The Chairman stated that dung was being collected only from roads and not from forest areas. An effective method has to be evolved to ensure 100% collection of dung.

Mr. Dev Mehta suggests using "Shit Bags" as used in Europe (to be tied to the body of the horses).

Ms. Zenobia mentions that such use of 'Bags' was initiated in Matheran in the past and that it did not prove to be efficient. That the animals experienced extreme discomfort and turned hostile towards users and passerbys both.

8. FUNDS:

Shri. Mehta queried as why funding for ESZ activities was rejected by the DPDC Committee and the Guardian Minister as they were required for various activities in the ESZ and not for their personal purposes. These funds were provided for the High Level Monitoring Committee and Heritage Committee of Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani Region.

The Chairman stated that funds were required for conduction various workshops for creating awareness and education of the locals. A serious effort had to be once again made to obtain funds.

9. NATURE INTERPRETATION CENTER:

The Chairman suggests to send an invite to experts in the field and mentions Mr. Avisnash Kubal from the Mahim Nature Park.

The Chief Officer and Mr. Nirpute informed that Mr. Avinash Kubal from Mahim Nature Park and Mr. Mane (for birds/ Orinthologist?) have been already contacted and that they will give details in the next meeting.

The Chairman suggests an induced process at awareness initiatives amongst the citizens and users of Matheran. He proposes to explore the feasibility to prepare an "exhibition" on such topics and have open to public on significant day like the "Maharashtra Day" - May 01.

The Chairman stated that the Center should be thrown open on 1st May 2011.

10. LANDFILL SITE: (NOT DUMPING GROUND)

The Chief Officer that he had no objection to the site.

The Chairman said that since the site was approved by the Chief Officer, the Monitoring Committee was also giving its approval.

11. UNAUTHORISED CONSTRUCTIONS:

The Chairman informed that on his way from Dasturi to the Municipal Hall, he saw several G+2 constructions namely Vanashree, Hunjar House, Madhumati, at Shivaji Nagar and also the stall belonging to Nariman Chikki extending on to the footpath which was not demolished as per report given at the last Monitoring Committee meeting.

Smt. Lords informed that the problem was due to having a Superintendent at Matheran.

Shri Girase informed that 9 properties were sealed and another demolition drive would be undertaken soon. All licenses for legal hotels will be renewed by 31st December. If criteria are not met with, possession of the property will be taken by government.

Shri Mehta insisted that action should be taken under MRTP against at least one person so that it acts as deterrent.

Shri Girkar informed that action can be also taken under section 52 as well as under section 53 of the MRTP Act.

It was decided that

- Immediate action against atleast a few blatant violators under section 52 and 53 of the MRTP Act.
- Cutting off electricity and water supply.
- Leases to be cancelled immediately.
- Revenue department to undertake immediate demolition.

12. HORSES:

It was reiterated by the Chairman that no unauthorised horses which did not display licenses around their neck should be allowed to ply and should be confiscate immediately and auctioned off. The proceeds of the auction will be given to kondwada. No new licenses would be given and no licenses will be transferable.

13. NOISE POLLUTION:

It was decided that action against Hoteliers must be taken under Environment Protection Act, where they are fined upto Rs.1 lac and imprisoned upto 3 years.

14. The Chairman informed that since Shri. Shyam Chainani was not keeping good health, Smt. Hema Ramani will be attending all meetings on his behalf as a special invitee.

15. It was decided that the Collector would write a letter to the UDD drawing their attention regarding the absenteeism of Committee Members i.e Secretary Environment, MPCB, UDD and Sujit Patwardhan.

16. A letter from Matheran Bachao Samiti was read out whereby they have offered to be help in any way in the protection of Matheran.

Shri. Mehta suggested that they should help in undertaking awareness programmes at different levels ranging from schools to gram panchayats and fund various studies that need to be undertaken.

17. A Letter from Mr. Shyam Chainani, BEAG, drawing the attention of the Committee regarding a press item from Sakal which stated pumps for pumping water from Ulhas River to Charlotte was not functioning causing inconvenience to residents.

The Chief Officer informed that a MJP have obtained sanctions for the new system and that the pumps were repaired and the pumping has been resumed.

18. A letter from the Guardian Minister was read out where a request for allowing plying of bullock cart for kindergarten children was put forth to the Committee.

It was decided that the comments of the Collector would be first sought before arriving at a decision.

19. A letter from a local resident complaining about the constructions at Hermitage was read out.

It was decided that the personal complaints against the developer cannot be addressed by the Committee. It was further decided to take this up as a test case for illegal constructions and a report to be submitted to the Committee against all irregularities and action taken against the developer.

20. Smt. Lords complained that there along with not having a Superintendent there was also no Doctor available at the hospital.

The Chief Officer informed that the deputation of the Doctor was cancelled. The local doctor was appointed as a stop gap arrangement. He informed the Committee that he will speak directly to the Director of Municipal Administration.

21. **AMBULANCE:**

It was decided that the keys would be kept with the Forest Department to avoid misuse of ambulance.

22. **DASTURI PARKING:**

Shri Ahmed informed that it was not possible to *handover the land to council*.

23. **MAHAVITARAN**

The following words to be inserted in the minutes of the last meeting.
"Permission from MoEF to be sought through Collector to consider allowing the plying of trolley tractor for transportation of cable reels."
Mahavitaran to be informed about the same so that this could be followed up by them.

24. **TOILETS AT DASTURI NAKA:**

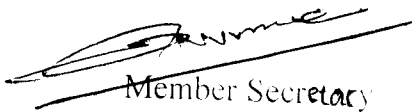
The Chairman inquired about the progress of the toilets being constructed at Dasturi. The Municipal Overseer informed the Committee that these toilets were almost ready and only doors were to be fixed. The Chairman instructed that proper system for disposal of sewage like septic tanks/soak pits to be put in place and that the toilets should be opened by the 1st January 2011.

25. Shri Mehta inquired about funds being given to Forest Department by MTDC for some beautification of a garden.

It was decided that funds should not be used for facilities that would not be used, but should be used for purposes like prevention of soil erosion which was the immediate need of the hour.

26. Smt Unawala brought to the attention of the Committee that MMRDA never received invites for the meeting and she also forwarded the same.

It was decided that from the next time onwards all invites will be posted, send by e-mail and a phone call would also be made.



Member Secretary
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone
& Collector Raigad



Chairman
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of Monitoring Committee of the Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on 29th January, 2011 at- Matheran Municipal Council Hall
The Following were present for the meeting

1. Shri. V. Ranganathan Chairman
2. Smt. Kirtida Unwalla Member
3. Smt. Zenobia Lord Member
4. Ms. Hema Ramani Representative of Shri. Shyam Chainani, BEAG
5. Shri. Ngullia Representative of Secretary (Environment), Scientist Grade-1, Government of Maharashtra.
6. Shri. Girkar Invitee (Asst. Director Town Planning, Alibag)
7. Shri. P.S. Magadum Invitee (Sub Divisional Officer Panvel)
8. Shri. Ashok Waghaye Invitee (Assistant Conservator of Forests, Panvel)
9. Shri. Sudam S. Dhupe Chief Officer, Matheran Hill Station Municipal Council.
10. Representative of MPCB

Chairman welcomed the members and invitees and one minute silence was observed for Mr. Shyam Chainani, Member of the Committee who passed away on 25th December 2010

The meeting started with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. The chairman suggested the following changes in the minutes:

1. Page 1: The box should be deleted as it was just a record and need not be a part of the minutes.
2. Page 5: The spelling of Shri Bhagat to be corrected to Bhagwat.
3. Page 14: Sr. no. 15 : MPCB to read as CPCB.
Sr. 18 to read as "Letter from local municipal councillor received through the office of the Guardian Minister was read out..."
4. Page 15: Sr.no. 22: Dasturi Parking : "Shri Ahmed informed that it was not possible to transfer forest lands to municipal council" The meeting started with the following issues:

- o. High F.S.I proposed for Matheran plots.
- p. Possible misuse of features such as basements/stilts.
- q. Exemption of activities such as ropeways and helipads from regulations.
- r. Commercialization and inappropriate uses within residential Bazaar and Matheran plots.
- s. Inappropriate location of Solid waste management site.
- t. Reservations within Heritage sites.
- u. Inadequate regulations to protect Environment and Natural Heritage.
- v. Impact on natural springs, streams and reservoirs.

Further to the above points, it was suggested

- a. Derelict bungalows which could have alternate use should also be a part of the Development Plan.
- b. No reservation should be made for Ropeway station at Madhavji Point as Tourism Plan was not put in place.
- c. Two members of the Committee to present the views of Monitoring Committee to the Planning Committee of the state govt with the help of Mrs. Unwalla.

It was informed by the SDO, Panvel that proposal for converting Wadia Bungalow into a parking for ponies and the land approved for dumping ground by the Monitoring Committee was sent to the State Government for approval.

The Chairman stated the management plan proposed to be undertaken should be the basis on which the state government should give its approval.

4. Proposals from Mr. Vinay Kothari:

- a. A proposal for restoration of Bejon Villa at CTS 229 was placed before the Committee. The Chairman stated that the right procedure was to get the clearance from the Heritage Committee and then place it before the Monitoring Committee.
- b. As the matter of Ropeway was pending before the Supreme Court, Mr. Kothari requested the Committee to write to Supreme Court to speed up the process. The Chairman stated that this issue was not on the agenda and as a principle, the Monitoring Committee cannot intervene or discuss matters that was sub-judice.

5. Compilation of minutes:

Ms. Ramani handed to the Chairman a compilation of minutes (in an Excel Chart format) of the previous six meetings which was Xeroxed at circulated to the members present for discussion. The Chart basically identified the number /types of issues that have been discussed within the

meetings and led to an appraisal of achievements and /or shortfall of final decisions in such issues.

It was observed / concluded by the Chairman, vide the chart that on ground there was very little effort undertaken by the administration to act on instructions given by the Committee.

The Chairman further observed that no funds had been apportioned for expenses of members, or for studies that the Committee would like to undertake or for any awareness programmes. Agencies were being insensitive and sending different representatives for every meeting which was further hampering follow up actions.

Based on the compilation, review of all issues discussed and implementation by agencies were discussed:

a. **Zonal Master Plan:**

Since MMRDA has continually indicated that the Plan cannot be enabled by them on account of non availability of data from the forest department, Thane Division, it was decided that available data should be enabled and incorporated and submitted immediately.

b. **Decisions taken after visit by the Monitoring Committee to ESZ:**

It was decided that:

- Publication for creating awareness regarding ESZ boundaries to be provided to public for a minimal cost.
- SDO to give MMRDA details regarding survey numbers, ghat numbers for demarcation on ground site.
- FD to place marking post at ESZ boundaries.
- 7/12 Extracts to be updated indicating areas falling into ESZ/Buffer Zone.

It was noted that no action so far was taken by the administration.

c. **Soil Erosion:**

It was decided that Forest Department will approach IIT-Bombay

d. **Shuttle Service:**

The Chairman informed that the Railways had replied stating that there was goods carriage available in every train to Matheran. The capacity utilised was only about 10% to 20%. Further the Railways have given an assurance that if they would provide for further service if there was more demand.

e. Sewage Treatment Plants:

It was informed by the municipal council that no action has been taken so far as this matter was pending before the General Body for discussion and approval.

f. Plastic Waste:

It was informed by the municipal council that no plastic bags were being used in the Matheran.

g. Noise pollution:

Police department to give its report at the next meeting, with a special mention of action taken against Hotel Point view.

h. Littering :

The Municipal Council informed that only letters were issued to various hotels and establishments but no one was caught or fined for the same.

i. Pollution Issues:

This could not be discussed as the representative of MPCB had already left the meeting.

j. Disposal of Horse dung:

It was decided that one more pelting machine will be installed at Dasturi and will form a part of the management plan to be prepared for Dasturi.

k. Construction on Scenic Points/Heritage Sites: presentation to come from Heritage Committee:

Mrs. Unwalla informed that a presentation will be made before the Heritage Committee on the 5th February 2011, and the same report will then be submitted at the next Monitoring Committee meeting.

l. Towers at Reliance/Scot Bungalow: *To use single towers*

m. Constructions a Hermitage:

Though this was supposed to be taken as a test case for illegal constructions, no report had been submitted.

The municipal council informed that 8 rooms were demolished on 21/09/2009 and no construction was going on.

It was pointed out to the municipal council that a very high compound wall was built and a complaint was received at the last meeting regarding constructions.

It was decided that the municipal council to submit a report at the next meeting.

n. **Nature Interpretation Center:**

The municipal council informed the Committee that Mr. Vivek Kulkarni was not reachable as he has been unwell for quite some time and hence this project has not proceeded any further.

o. **Unauthorised Hotels:**

A report to be submitted by the SDO, Panvel at the next meeting.

p. **Complaints of Encroachment from Hotel Anand Ritz:**

A report to be submitted by the SDO, Panvel at the next meeting.

The SDO said as a follow up to this discussion, meetings with heads of departments will be held at two different levels where issues that needed to be followed up at the district level and the issues that had to be pursued with the State Government at Mantralaya would be tackled.

6. **Social forestry:**

It was informed by the Collector's Office that letters were sent to seven village panchayats and the proposal will be put for funding. The Chairman observed that the no provisions were made and hence no plantation was being undertaken.

7. **Forest Management Plan:**

It was observed by the Chairman that the plans that the plans had no aspect of management in it. It was just a generalise data that was available in the plan. ACF, Panvel said that the management plan was available and will be submitted to the Committee at the next meeting.

8. **Charlotte Lake:**

Mrs Unawalla submitted her critique to the plan to the Committee. Further a set of letters from experts who were mentioned as consultants for the plan have written letters / emails to the Chairman was handed over to the Committee. The letters from every consultant stated that they were not approached and their names were mentioned fraudulently.

As a great deal of damage was already done during the process of restoration, like 150 year old culverts still functional was demolished and replaced unnecessarily, no reuse plan for silt that was cleaned, new pitching that was already falling part and the Experts stating that the plan was more detrimental that doing any good, it was decided that:

- a. The work to be temporarily suspended and reviewed.
- b. The Municipal Council will question Ms Latkar regarding the mention of Experts in her plan.
- c. The Experts had already agreed to come and give their views and only the cost of stay and travel to be borne by the municipal council.

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- d. The council to discuss further proceeds of the works in consonance of further expert advice and discuss the exact scope of work and approach the Committee after the finalisation of tender.

9. **Louisa Point:**

The Forest Department agreed to demolish the abandoned structure at Louisa Point.

10. **A complaint received from Roxanne Davar** stating vet with knowledge of equine not available in Matheran.

It was decided that this aspect will form a part of the Dasturi Management Plan.

11. **Deemed Forest:**

A letter from BEAG was given to Chairman stating that the process of demarcating of deemed forests was not yet undertaken and would amount to contempt of court.


It was decided that SDO Panvel to co-ordinate with Forest Department and immediately start mapping of deemed forests of Matheran Plateau and then undertake for the Region.

12. **Cutting of rock for stones:**

The Municipal Council requested that permission for cutting of stones above 5 ft from the ground level be granted for undertaking various road repair works.

It was decided:

- a. No cutting of any rocks and only loose stones to be collected and used.
- b. The Chief Officer to write to CRRI and follow up on alternates in construction.


Member Secretary
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone
& Collector Raigad
9/11/03.


Chairman
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone

2nd May 2011

Record Note of the Matheran Monitoring Committee meeting held on 30th April 2011, Government Rest House, Ambarnath

Members Present at the Meeting:

1. Shri. V. Ranganathan Chairman
2. Ms. Hema Ramani Representative of Shri. Shyam Chainani, BEAG
3. Shri. Ashok Waghaye Invitee
(Assistant Conservator of Forests, Panvel)
4. Shri. S.D.Narnavar Invitee
(Assistant Conservator of Forests, Murbad)
5. Shri Dyaneshwar Khutwal Invitee
(Tahsildar Ambarnath)
6. Shri Nitin Mundaware Invitee
(SDO Ulhasnagar)

The Chairman before the meeting undertook a trip to Haji Malan Gad, to the site of the Funicular Railway and also to Bandhan Wadi, a tribal hamlet within the ESZ.

The Chairman welcomed all the Committee Members and the Invitees to the meeting.

The meeting started with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

Pg 7 of the minutes, point 1. Towers at Reliance/Scot Bungalow to read as: "Matheran being an ESZ, a single communication tower to be used by all operators and the rest of the towers to be demolished. A report on action taken to be submitted at the next meeting.

The meeting started with the following issues:

1. DECISIONS AS REGARDS THE VISIT TO HAJI MALANG GAD:

It was decided that:

- a. Awareness programmes should be conducted on a priority.

- b. Village maps, Forest Maps should be updated and ESZ boundaries to be marked as a priority.
- c. Various departments to tap government schemes for creating employment for tribals so as to reduce destruction of forest for livelihood.
- d. The Forest Department to implement the Van Jwala scheme as a priority within the ESZ tribal hamlets.
- e. Tackling of forest fires, a major concern and reason for forest destruction to be addressed within the forest management plans.
- f. JFM to be encouraged within the ESZ.
- g. The issue regarding the village expansion of Bandhan Wadi to be addressed and reported back at the next meeting.
- h. In order to minimise tree cutting, fuel wood plantation should be taken in village panchayat lands in the ESZ under EGS/Social forestry programme.

2. DASTURI PARKING:

The Committee was informed that a month ago, site inspection was conducted by ADTP, Alibag along with Municipal Council and Forest Department. The plans will be prepared by the ADTP, Alibag and the same will be presented at the next meeting.

It was decided that:

- a. SDO, Panvel to conduct a site visit at Neral and report on Govt. lands available for parking and report to the Committee at the next meeting.
- b. For private lands identified for parking at Neral, funds for procedure for acquisition to be discussed.
- c. Only the built up area and open spaces of Wadia Bungalow to be included in the plans and all deemed forests to be excluded.
- d. All forest department lands which is to be part of the parking plan to be managed and the revenue to be charged and collected by the Forest Department.

3. DEVELOPMENT PLAN: (SUB ZONAL MASTER PLAN)

It was queried as to whether the suggestions and objections of the Monitoring Committee was submitted to the Planning Committee. The municipal council was instructed to inform the Committee regarding the constitution of the

Planning Committee so that the views of the Monitoring Committee could be formally presented to the Planning Committee.

On querying about the new Matheran plots, M.P. 275, M.P. 276, M.P. 277, M.P. 278, M.P. 279, M.P. 280, M.P. 281, created in forest land to the south of Olympia, the municipal council stated that information will be obtained from ADTP, Alibag and reported at the next meeting.

4. ACTION TAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON DECISIONS OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE:

It was once again reiterated by the Chairman that on ground there was very little effort undertaken by the administration to act on instructions given by the Committee and requested that any difficulties faced by the administration during implementation be got to the notice of the Committee.

SDO, Panvel gave an assurance that within the next 15 days a meeting at the District level will be held and a report will be submitted at the next meeting.

It was decided that a report to MoEF would be submitted as to the decisions, actions and achievements of the Committee.

5. ZONAL MASTER PLAN:

- a. **As regards details of Thane Forest Division:** ACF, Murbad, Mr. Narnawar, handed over to the Committee as a proof, a correspondence stating submission of details of Thane Forest Division as required by MMRDA.
- b. **As regards detailed Forest Management Plan:** ACF, Murbad informed the Committee that for his circle comprising of 19 villages which is a part of the ESZ, working plan for 5000 ha has been prepared and funds have been approved by the State and Centre. 62,000 saplings for plantations have also been undertaken by this circle. It was also further informed that MMRDA would also be providing for funds.

He further requested that the Zonal Master Plan should take into consideration ground realities and incorporate effective and practical solutions for proper protection of forests in the ESZ.

- c. **As regards Floristic Studies:** It was decided that a letter will be sent to CCF Thane querying about the status of studies.

It was decided by the Committee that most of the times representatives of MMRDA were not present a meeting with MMRDA will be held at Mumbai to discuss all pending issues relating to Zonal Master Plan and other issues relating to MMRDA.

6. Decisions taken after visit by the Monitoring Committee to ESZ:

It was noted that no action in this regard was taken by the administration. It was decided that follow should be on with MMRDA and ADTP, Alibag.

7. Soil Erosion:

As Forest Department had not yet approached IIT- Mumbai, it was decided a report in this regard will be submitted at the next meeting.

8. Sewage Treatment Plants:

It was informed to the Committee that as per the Detailed Project Report submitted by NEERI, 5 zones for treating common effluents were accepted and the same will be completed within the next 2 years. As regards commercial establishments it was decided that a deadline be indicated for setting up of STPs.

9. Noise Pollution:

Since the police department had not submitted the report, SDO, Panvel to give a report at the next meeting.

10. Construction on Scenic Points/Heritage Sites: presentation to come from Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC):

- a. **As regards presentation to the HCC:** It was informed that the report was presented by Mrs Kirtida Unwalla and approved by the HCC.

- b. **As regards plantations at viewing Points:** It was decided that only if it was desirable should there be any plantation be undertaken at the Points. ACF, Panvel to guide the municipal council in this regard.

11. Illegal constructions:

- a. **As regards unauthorised constructions:** It was informed by the SDO, Panvel and municipal council that a demolition drive is to be undertaken between 5th to 7th May 2011 and police protection was called for. The Chairman offered to talk to Home Secretary in case of any problems.
- b. **As regards Hermitage:** The municipal council informed the Committee that a site inspection of Hermitage was undertaken and there was no unauthorised constructions being undertaken. On querying about the high compound wall, the municipal to refer to the rules in the DCR and demolish the excess and report at the next meeting.
- c. **As regards encroachments on Forest Land:** It was decided that before monsoons, Forest Department should take action u/s 53 & 54 of MLRC, and report at the next meeting.
- d. **As regards encroachments on Railway Land:** The Committee was informed that the Railways had written to Revenue department and structures will be demolished during the May 2011 demolition drive.
The municipal council was instructed to take immediate action against Railways for fresh encroachments that happen on railway lands.

12. Towers at Reliance/Scot Bungalow:

It was decided that action regarding demolition will be reported to the Committee.

13. Nature Interpretation Center:

Since Mr. Vivek Kulkarni was not responding to any calls of the Council, it was recommended to contact Mr. Avinash Kubal of Mahim Nature Park.

14. Superintendent Matheran:

The Committee expressed concern that despite having followed up for the last 2 years, no action was taken by the State Government. It was decided to request the Revenue & Forest Department of Maharashtra to create this post immediately.

15. Complaints of Encroachment from Hotel Anand Ritz:

Since no report was submitted by the SDO, Panvel at this meeting, a report would be submitted at the next meeting.

16. Social Forestry:

It was observed that under the garb of lack of funds projects relating to conservation was being put on hold. It was suggested that various departments should tap funds under various schemes such as NEGS, NGRS, and also from the funds allotted to the Gram Panchayat and start implementation of various projects.

17. Forest Management Plan:

It was decided that at the next meeting detailed management plan for every circle will be presented.

18. Charlotte Lake:

It was decided that Ms Pallavi Latkar will not be involved in the plans. Shri Prakash Gole - Ecologist/Ornithologist, Prof. S.D.Mahajan - Ecologist/Botanist, Shri Santosh Tunghare - Environmental Scientist, Dr. Surendra Thakutdesai - Geo Morphologist will be approached by the Municipal Council and all the deficiency as pointed out by Ms. Kirtida Unwalla will be re-worked. This will be presented before the Committee for approval before implementation of the same.

19. Louisa Point:

Assurance was given by Forest Department that the abandoned structure will be demolished before the next Monitoring Committee meeting.

20. Deemed Forest:

The Committee was informed that 26 plots have been surveyed. A sample map and the list containing species of trees and its number were presented. The forest Department informed the Committee that the list will be attached to every map. It was observed that the legends were missing and other details like new structures and other features also need to be included into the mapping. Assurance was given that the same will be incorporated.

The Committee instructed that the process of mapping should be completed by May 2011.

21. Tourism Master Plan:

The Committee was informed that a letter was sent by the Collector to MTDC on -----, and till date there has been no response from MTDC.

It was decided that there has been no action from MTDC for over two years hence action u/s 5 of EPA should be initiated against MTDC if they do not show significant progress by 1st June 2011.

22. Landfill site:

BEAG had objected to the selection of landfill site as it was ecologically detrimental. The municipal council informed that reservation of this site has been made in the Draft DP and can be reviewed by the Planning Committee and a decision can only then be taken.

The Chairman handed over the letter to the municipal council and has asked them to reply on the suitability of the proposed site & propose alternate sites within 15 days.

23. Matheran Funicular Railway:

Though the Chairman and the Collector had written to MMRDA calling for explanation regarding the project, no response has been received from MMRDA.

24. Supply of water to Matheran plateau:

A complaint regarding irregular supply of water to the plateau was received. The council informed that since there was a problem in the water line supplying from Ulhas River, water from Charlotte Lake was distributed.

It was decided that during summer months which is also tourist season, water supply for construction should be stopped as a measure to cope with water shortage. MJP to give its feed back in this regard.

25. Approval for school and playground:

A letter was received for obtaining Monitoring Committee approval for a school and playground at Boregaon, G 2 Zone, in the ESZ. SDO, Panvel to give a report to the Committee after looking into all site, technical details and the building plans.

26. Approval for 1km changing of pipes by MJP:

MJP proposal of changing of rusted pipes on a 1km stretch between Jhumapatti and Mangoanwadi was approved with the following two conditions:

- a. No trees will be cut.
- b. All old rusted pipes will be removed immediately.

A report to be submitted to the Committee at the next meeting.

27. Roads for Matheran:

The Committee was informed that at the behest of municipal council, CRRI would be visiting Matheran in the 1st week of May 2011.

28. Tenders for various work to be undertaken by Municipal Council:

It was brought to the notice of the Committee that tenders were published by municipal council for various works to be undertaken without the permission of the Monitoring Committee.

The municipal council informed the Committee that 9 works permission of the HCC would be obtained and only for 1 work, approval of Monitoring Committee

was required. Since the funds were already disbursed by the State Government the council went ahead with issuing of tenders without obtaining of permission. At the next meeting details of the same will be presented before the Committee for its approval.

29. Electrification of tribal hamlets of Yermal, Karamboli and Bharenchiwadi, Panvel Taluka:

A letter was received seeking approval for electrification of the 3 tribal hamlets. ACF, Panvel informed the Committee that it was not approved as the area required was more than 1 ha and they did not have the powers to clear this project.

The Chairman asked for a detailed report from the Forest Department to be submitted to the Committee at the next meeting.

30. Work by Mahavitran:

Complaints were received by the Committee regarding shoddy work done by Mahavitran which included shallow depth for laying of cables, poor compacting and refilling of earth after completion work.

It was decided that at the next meeting:

- a. Photo documentation of the work to be submitted to the Committee at the next meeting.
- b. All overhead to be removed immediately.
- c. A report on work completed to be submitted by the municipal council & Mahavitran.

31. Appointment of new member:

It has been decided that Ms Hema Ramani and Mr. Ratanlalkaka will attend the meeting as Special Invitee.

It has been decided that the next meeting will be held on 4th June 2011.

Sd/-xxx
Member Secretary
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone
& Collector Raigad

Sd/-xxx
Chairman
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone

The Minutes of the Meeting of Monitoring Committee of
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on Friday 29th July 2011, at
MMRDA

Sr. No.	Name	Designation in Monitoring Committee.
1	Shri. V. Ranganathan Ex. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra	Chairman
2	Mrs. Kirtida Unwalla	Member
3	Mrs. Zenobia Lord	Member
4	Shri H. K. Jawale	Collector Raigad, Member Secretary
Invitees present for the Meeting		
1	Shri. Devavrath Mehta, Retd IAS	Chairman, Heritage Conservation Committee for Matheran
2	Shri. Girkar	A.D.T.P. Alibag
3	Representative	D.C.F. Alibag
4	P.S. Magdum	S.D.O. Panvel
5	Shri. Khutvad	Tehasildar – Ambarnath
6	Ms. Ujjwala Bhagwat	Superintendent, Matheran Council
7	Shri. Sudam S. Dhube	Chief Officer, Matheran Hill Station Municipal Council.
8	Shri. Dhananjay Pawar	(Town Planner, MMRDA)
9	Shri David Cardoz	Ex Member - Land Use Committee, Mahabaleshwar Panchgani Regional Planning Board.

1. Presentation of the Zonal Master Plan by MMRDA.

A Power Point presentation by MMRDA on the 'Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone – Draft Zonal Plan' was made by Mr. Arvind Pasule, Planner MMRDA and headed by Ms. Uma Adusumilli, Chief Planner MMRDA.

1.1. The Background of the Matheran Eco-Sensitive Zone (MESZ) and its Zonal Plan

(Draft) was given as the area boundary delineation (on maps) and encompassing a total of 251.56 Sq. Kms including a Buffer Zone.

Smt Unwalla queried regarding BEAG letter dated 27th June 2011, whereby they had asked for correction to the legend which is to read as 'Notified Eco-Sensitive including 200m Buffer Zone' instead of 'Notified Eco-Sensitive Zone'.

Ms Uma mentioned that such corrections can only be done by MoEF and cannot be done by MMRDA.

1.2. The MESZ Master Plan was introduced as principally dealing with and having

applicability to the areas excluding the Matheran Municipal Council area. It was further stated that the Draft Development Plan for Matheran Council Area along with the Tourism Master Plan will constitute the Sub-Zonal Plan as a component of the MESZ Master Plan.

The Chairman elaborated the role of the Monitoring Committee of co-ordinating the process of Planning applications in a holistic manner to the entire MESZ area and that it would be the Zonal Master Plan prepared by MMRDA that would ideally lay down the Policy to be followed concurrently for the Sub-Zonal Plans – of areas within and outside the Matheran Municipal areas. MMRDA was directed to amalgamate such Policy guidelines within the MESZ Master Plan so that the Matheran DP does not behave in an isolated manner. The Committee also asked MMRDA to provide a soft copy of the satellite imagery of the MESZ to the

Monitoring Committee.

1.3. Forests:

It was observed that the concept of '*deemed forest*' have not been included in the MESZ Master Plan. The Committee was informed by the Forest officials that the survey of '*deemed forests*' for Matheran Plateau (for Sub Zonal Plan – DP) has been completed by the Forest and Revenue departments. The Committee directed that details of this survey should officially be handed over to MMRDA, Collector Raigad, CO Matheran, ADTP Alibag and the Monitoring Committee within seven days of the meet.

- 1.4. The issue of the Neral – Matheran Railway corridor that conforms to a Heritage component was discussed and MMRDA informed that Central Railway has been approached for augmenting the infrastructure, specifically for the transport of goods upto the plateau. The Railway Authorities have suggested use of “rail buses” which are akin to bogies that can be attached to the trains and can be used for goods transport facilities. The implementation of such facility is still awaited.
- 1.5. The general issue of the recurring incidences of train service being intercepted at 'Jummapati station - 'Water Pipe' Station halt, under the pretext of 'failure' of the service was reported. The onwards journey for passengers, allegedly is availed by awaiting taxis at the spot. The Committee directed that such should be brought to the notice of the Railway Authorities immediately.
- 1.6. Open Discussions by members and invitee on the MESZ Master Plan presented by MMRDA.
 - l) Shri Devavrath Mehta had the following observations and suggestions:
 - a. Measures for air, noise pollution were missing and the same to be incorporated.
 - b. Details regarding STP & Solid Waste need to be incorporated.
 - c. The issue of Hill area excavation and existence of brick kilns in the ESZ to be identified and protection measures assured.

- d. Emphasis on occupation such as bee-keeping, social forestry plantations to be incorporated.
 - e. A clear definition of Gaothan / Non-Gaothan areas to be made and marked on maps. Inclusion of Policy guidelines on expansions and related activities to be made.
 - f. Infrastructure activities such as Ropeways, Funiculars, Ropeway, and Skywalks etc. should be barred as a Policy Guideline within the MESZ Master Plan.
 - g. Clearly defined Heritage Guidelines to be formulated and its prescription should be applied as overarching any other regulations to assure heritage protection to the maximum.
 - h. A vision and mission for the protection and sustainable development of the MESZ needs to be prescribed as a pre-requisite to the planning policy.
- II) The Collector, Raigad, had the following observations and suggestions
- a. There should be clear provisions for the Gaothans & their expansions and provide for easement rights towards burial grounds, water sources, customary use of adjoining lands etc.
 - b. Provision for roads and core network of infrastructure should be incorporated in the MSEZ Master Plan.
 - c. The status of water sources and its augmentation should be prescribed within the Plan.
- III) The Chairman had the following observations and suggestions:
- a. As decided in the earlier meetings, it was once again reiterated that physical 'Markers' should be set up to demarcate jurisdiction of Forest Lands
 - b. Identify with full clarity and demarcate on Maps and actual ground 'Areas' for 'activities allowed' and 'not allowed'.
 - c. Promotion of '*Van Jwala*' schemes of the forest within the tribal hamlets for conservation of forest.
 - d. All sources of livelihood schemes such as NREGS etc to be tapped to its full potential.

- e. Soil conservation to be addressed on top priority.
- f. *'Deemed Forest'* for the entire MSEZ (within and outside Matheran Council) must be mapped and demarcated.
- g. Proposals for augmentation of Livelihood under various time tested schemes must be undertaken, such as the 'Khadi Gramodyog Scheme' and tie it up with the Zilla Parishad of MSEZ. The 'Nehru Rojgar Yojana' to be tapped for Town Level implementation.
- h. Although the MSEZ area indicated 95% of forests cover, how is it that just 45% was being afforested?
- i. Protection of forests by fire lines and trenches.
- j. The jurisdiction of the Heritage Conservation Committee should extend to the entire MSEZ.
- k. Promoting local industries such as bee-keeping and other small scale local agro based industries.

IV) Forests:

The Chairman inquired if complete data i.e. the Forest Master Plan which was pending due to non availability of floristic studies has been made available to MMRDA for incorporation into the Master Plan. "Matheran Protection Plan" was distributed to the Committee members. Forest Department informed that a special plan with a budget of Rs. 3.86 Crore has just been formulated and the same yet to be handed over to MMRDA and Committee. On inquiry regarding the Plan, Forest Department informed about a proposal for a 'Horticulture Garden'.

It was decided that such developmental projects should be shelved and that more initiatives towards protection / conservation oriented activities should be mooted instead.

On inquiry by Kirtida Unwalla about the completion status of the MSEZ Master Plan and the level of its completion as of Date, Ms Uma Adusimilli informed the Committee that 80% of the scope has been accomplished while 20% remains for completion.

The Chairman reiterated that while the completion of the Plan is pending since 2003, it is pertinent that MMRDA completes the same

and presents it for the next meeting which will be scheduled in the third week of August 2011.

A It was informed by SDO that a district level meeting was held about 2 days back on the above issues and particularly on Social Forestry.

It was decided that that the outcome of the district level meeting be handed over to the MMRDA / Committee in the next 2 days.

BLouisa Point:

The Chairman and Smt Unwalla once again insisted on removal of the abandoned illegal structure, lying as a carcass at the Louisa Point. The forest dept continued giving reasons of not having sufficient funds for such removals.

It was decided that excuses of having no funds for such petty works of removal of the illegal structures will not be considered especially while the Forest Dept floats budgets as mentioned above. The demolition of the structure should be expedited with immediate effect.

CRailings at Points:

Mr. Devavrat Menta informed the Committee about the violation of Design and Construction methodology employed by Forest Department at various scenic Points and the Heritage Committee has ordered the Forest Department to completely remove the same. He further informed that despite such orders the same has not been undertaken for over a substantial time period now.

The Report titled 'Report – Matheran: Conservation and Enhancement of Natural Heritage Sites' prepared at the behest of the Matheran Heritage Conservation Committee by Smt Unwalla identifying the context of the railings and their design, highlight the defects and prescribes remedial approaches was handed over to the Committee.

DOther issues discussed:

- a) The Chairman welcomed the newly appointed Superintendent of Matheran – Ms. Ujjwalla Bhagwat. It was noted that this post

which was nullified earlier has been reinstated at the insistence of the Monitoring Committee led by the demands of the people of Matheran.

b) The Police department was instructed for taking action in issues pertaining to:

i. **Noise Pollution:**

The continuing nuisance of noise pollution in Matheran beyond the official prescribed hours. The Committee reiterated the complete non-action attitude of the Police Dept in spite of continued instructions.

ii. **Insists on compliance of Supreme court orders of 'No Vehicles entry' into Matheran" except the Ambulance:**

The Committee noted a recent incident of several cars entering into Matheran – the Police and the Chief Officer mentioned that the incidence as being on account of rituals held at the Hindu Crematorium on the death of a prominent Matheran citizen. The Committee insisted that such occurrences shall be stopped completely and controlled by the Police and Civic Authorities.

iii. **Unlicensed horses:**

The issue of unlicensed horses was vehemently raised once again and the Committee insisted that strict legal action be made out by the Police Department against such unauthorized activities. The Chairman insisted on Pro-active indulgence of the Police dept in this issue.

iv. **Illegal construction:**

Non-compliance of the Police department in cases of action to be taken against illegal construction activities and filing of FIR was raised by the Committee. The Chief Officer reiterated that amenable support from the Police dept. is never forthcoming in such issues.

c) **Planning Committee for Draft DP of Matheran:**

The Chairman inquired as regards the setting up of the Planning Committee for the review of Suggestions and Objections filed for the DP Matheran. ADTP Mr Girkar informed that the Planning Committee has not yet been set up but will be expedited in the near future.

The Chairman – Monitoring Committee and the Heritage Committee both raised the issue of the Suggestions and Objections filed by each of them. They reiterated that sufficient guidelines for Heritage Conservation and Development Control Regulations have not

been incorporated in the DP and that the views of the two Committees should be forwarded to the UDD even prior to the setting up of the Committee.

d) Tourism Master Plan:

The Chairman of both Committees addressed the MTDC official present and inquired on the status of the Tourism Master Plan. The Chairman insisted that the action of calling for tenders for consultants is extremely late and that the prerequisite eligibility qualifications asked of consultants was in itself ill founded.

The MTDC personnel stated having received a total of 6 Applicants for the Tenders floated and that Technical Evaluations for such is in the process.

Mr. Devavratta Mehta insisted that eligibility criteria of contending application should be of a special expertise level and that the MTDC criteria do not come to such comparable level. The Chairman, Monitoring Committee, reiterated that MMRDA's expertise in matters of special expertise, especially in Environmental aspects should be sought by the MTDC for a fruitful completion of the Tourism Master Plan.

e) Parking Plan at Dasturi

A base Plan prepared by ADTP was discussed. The Committee expressed their opinion that the Plan was merely addressing the manner in which cars can be parked in the extent of the area that is presently under use for the purpose. It was observed that the plan along with the list of trees was incomplete and a proper plan to be submitted at the next meeting.

The Committee felt that what is foremost required is a 'Management Plan' with the mission of reducing the environmental impact of the existing 'uses' that are present at the site – the loading and unloading of building materials, the tethering of horses and ponies to the trees and the ever expanding sprawl of the cars in the area.

Mr. Manoj Khedkar, citizen Matheran (ex-president of Matheran Council) made a presentation of his efforts in the management issues and mentioned that the revenue Plot No. 93 (Wadia Lodge) which lies amidst this parking area, if handover to the council and brought under the Management Plan, can then be effectively utilized for a correct

approach to solve the issue.

It was decided:

- i. The Collector to follow up with the Forest Department for obtaining details regarding conversion of Plot no. 93 to revenue plot in 1907 and the same to be presented to the Committee.
- ii. The Committee reiterated the aspect of immediately curtailing the sprawl of cars, and as discussed earlier under previous meetings, reconsider the thought of curtailing cars at Neral Town, where an appropriate space can be allocated. The SDO was instructed to look into the matter. In the mean while a correct Management Plan for the area was insisted upon, as a joint effort of all concerned.

f) Grant of land for Firing Butt:

It was decided that no permission for cutting of trees to be given except for 6 trees. An assurance was given by the police department that more trees would be planted and that only temporary tents will be put up.

g) Granting Status of Heritage Hotel:

The Chairman reiterated to the Collector that the matter of two proposals for 'Granting Status of Heritage Hotels' that have previously been approved by the Committee – the properties named 'Barr House' and "Radha Cottage" have been pending approvals at the Collector level.

It was decided that the Collector and SDO will look into this issue.

h) Public Library

Shri. Mehta raised the issue of the 'Restoration and Rejuvenation Plan' of the Public Library, located on M G Road, as having been discussed in several meetings of the Matheran Heritage Conservation Committee. Since it is a prime cultural infrastructure of the town and the proposal has been pending for some time, he suggested that;

- It should be aided by MMRDA funding and expertise.

- The project should be given a boost by making it techno-savvy and user friendly for the people of Matheran.

i) Presentation by Ecologists:

The Chairman introduced the Team of Ecologists / Experts in Environmental Sciences who have at the behest of the Monitoring Committee, been appointed by the Matheran Council to lend expertise in all matters and projects that require Ecological considerations.

The Team consists of:

Dr. Prakash Gole – Director, Ecological Society, Pune

Prof S D Mahajan – Botanist, Ecologist, Pune

Dr. Santosh Tungare – Environmental Scientist, Pune

Dr. Surendra Thakurdesai – Geomorphologist, Ratnagiri

Ms.Ketaki Ghate & Ms. Manasi Karandikar – Ecologists, Oikos for Ecological Services, Pune

The above Team is Co-Ordinated by Ms. Shweta Wagh, Conservation Architect and an expert in Ecology. The team members have also submitted their individual assessments on various issues; vide their letters to the Matheran Council.

Ms. Shweta Wagh, on behalf of the above Team made a presentation to the Committee and forwarded a hard copy of a "Report – based on the site visit of the Ecology consultants of Matheran from 18th. – 19th. June, 2011.

The issues that were discussed at length during the presentation are:

1. The Charlotte Lake Conservation Plan
2. Walkers Tank Restoration Plan
3. Proposal for Butterfly Park
4. Forest Conservation Plan for Matheran
5. Waste Management Plan
6. Car parking Proposal at Dasturi Naka
7. Sewage Treatment Proposal by NEERI.

The discussions on the above topics were appreciated as being focused and issue-centric. It was mentioned that further action related proposals will follow during the next meet of the HLMC

Member Secretary
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone

Chairman
Monitoring Committee
Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone

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(24)

The Minutes of the Meeting of Monitoring Committee of Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone held on Wednesday 24th August 2011, at MMRDA, BKC Complex, Mumbai

Sr. No.	Name	Designation in Monitoring Committee.
1	Shri. V. Ranganathan Ex. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra	Chairman
2	Shri. H.K.Jawale	Collector, District Raigad, Member Secretary
3	Mrs. Zenobia Lord	Member
4	Ms Hema Ramani	Representative of BEAG
5	Mrs. Kirtida Unwalla	Member
Invitees present for the Meeting		
1	P.S.Magdum	S.D.O. Panvel
2	Shri. Girkar	A.D.T.P. Alibag
3	Shri. Khutvad	Tehasildar - Ambarnath
4	Ms. Ujjwala Bhagwat	Superintendent, Matheran Council
5	Shri. Sudam S. Dhupe	Chief Officer, Matheran Hill Station Municipal Council.
6	Mrs.Kshipra Hake,	Manager, MTDC
7	Shri.P.R. Pavaskar	Deputy Director Social Forestry Thane
8	Shri.D.L.Rathod	RFO Badlapur
9	Shri. Rahul M. Sontakke	Asst. Superintendent, MSEB Pen
10	Shri Arvind Pasula	Representative MMRDA
11	Shri Dhananjay Pawar	Representative MMRDA

1. The Minutes of the last meeting was accepted with the following minor corrections.

2 - Sr. no. 1.2 - 2nd para.

MMRDA was directed to amalgamate such Policy guidelines within the MESZ Master Plan so that the Matheran DP does not get finalized in isolation.

b. Page 3 - Sr.no.1.6 - I) a. Measures for air, noise pollution control were missing and the same to be incorporated.

c. Page 4 - Sr.no.1.6 - II) -Additional point to be inserted.

d) The issue of deemed forest needs to be cautiously handled and this should not backfire as Zudpi Jungle in Vidharba and should also not hinder with the development of the area.

d. Page 5 - Sr.no.1.6 - IV) - Forests: 4th para:

The Chairman reiterated that while the completion of the Plan is pending since 2003, it is necessary that MMRDA complete the same by 22nd August 2011.

2. Zonal Master Plan:

A hard copy titled 'Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone - Draft Zonal Master Plan' consisting of 42 pages was handed over by MMRDA to the Committee. A typical sample map detailing village CTS nos. and boundary of a section in the Buffer Zone was shown to the Committee. The following issues were discussed in detail.

a. Zones in Buffer Zone:

MMRDA informed that lands belonging to G-1 Zones in the Buffer Zone will be converted to Forest Zone for uniform DCRs within the Region. It was further informed that areas with irrigation projects have been classified as G-2.

It was decided:

- i) No change in existing landuse within the Buffer. G-1 and G-2 Zones to continue without converting them to Forest Zones.
- ii) If irrigation projects within the G-2 are not implemented, the area to revert to G-1 Zone as it is less stringent.

iii) Special stringent DCRs to be incorporated within the existing G-1 DCRs for maintaining the eco sensitivity of the Zone.

b. Gaothan Expansion:

It was decided:

- i) Gaothan expansion to be provided for 13 villages and 82 tribal settlements.
- i. All 'pada' settlements to be listed, combined with main village gaothan and provisions for their expansion to be provided
- ii. Every village gaothan area original and additional tentative area should be shown on map.

c. Social Forestry:

Shri Pavaskar informed that for plantations, wasteland belonging to private and panchayat lands were identified in 89 villages in 3 tehsils.

It was decided that:

On immediate priority, Social forestry department to provide all details to MMRDA for incorporating the same into the Zonal Master Plan. The entire proposal for social forestry plantation on 150 HA for Raigad district to be handed over to Collector, Raigad for seeking funding for the same.

d. Afforestation by Forest Department:

It was informed that the initial plan for afforestation worked by MMRDA along with Forest Department was 300 to 400 ha. This has now been reduced to 200 ha and the reason for the same has not been given by Forest Department.

It was decided that:

Since the Forest Plan submitted was very sketchy, a holistic plan incorporating requirements of man power, measures for preventing forest fires, soil conservation, forest protection promoting of 'Van Jwala' scheme and allocation of funds for every aspect of the plan to be incorporated.

e. Fuel wood Depots:

MMRDA asked the Committee to direct the Forest Department to have fuel wood depots close to settlements so as to achieve better results for conservation of forests.

f. **Brick kilns:**

The Committee was informed that brick kilns operating in the periphery of the ESZ was causing a loss of top soil in the ESZ but was also a major source of employment. MMRDA requested the Committee to find a suitable solution

g. **Tourist Master Plan:**

The representative of MTDC informed the Committee that within a week the consultants would be finalized and the time limit for completion of the plan has not been stipulated.

h. **Deemed Forest:**

It was decided that

- i. Details regarding the concept of deemed forest to be provided by BEAG to the Collector.
- ii. A copy of the Draft Development Plan of Mahabaleshwar showing deemed forest areas to be handed over to ADTP, Alibag for understanding the marking of the same on the DP.
- iii. All details of mapping including area and no. of trees should be handed over to Collector and ADTP for incorporating the same into the Plans.
- iv. A separate appendix having the above details to form a part of the DP.
- v. Special DCRs will be formulated for protecting this area.

3. **Summary of decisions:**

After a detailed discussion on the Zonal Master Plan, the following was decided:

- i. The Committee would send in its views on the draft zonal plan which is yet to be finalized.
- ii. A vision statement incorporating objectives of conservation and sustainable development to be added as a preamble.
- iii. Adopting the model of Mahabaleshwar, Zonal Plan for Matheran ESZ to be published in parts whereby the Tourist Master Plan and the Development

(9e)

11. Representations received from locals:

a. Development Works:

Shri. Ajay Sawant & Shri. Vivek Chowdhari, Councilor Municipal Council Matheran told that there are nine development works which needs sanction from this Committee.

It was decided that the proposal details to be submitted to Smt Unwalla within three days and subject to conditions and recommendations of Smt Unwalla, the Committee gives its approval for development work to be undertaken.

b. Unauthorised Constructions:

Smt Unwalla informed the Committee that she had received telephonic complaint from a resident alleging though the Chief Officer had issued 81 notices, only selectively lodging 8 FIR against citizens who have undertaken unauthorized constructions.

The Chief Officer informed he had issued notices against all and committed that he would take strict actions against all violators.

12. TA & DA payable to Members of Monitoring Committee:

Shri. Magdum, SDO Panvel informed that based on the sanction for Mahabaleshwar, Office of Collector Raigad vide letters dated 16/10/2010, dt.15/1/2011 & 17/8/2011 have requested Environment Department, Maharashtra for sanction of budget.

dc

Member Secretary

Chairman

Monitoring Committee

Monitoring Committee

Asst

Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone

Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone

30.09.11.