

Resource Efficiency Initiative Goa

Stakeholder consultations

Executive Summary

Goa has been chosen as one of three States in India to pilot Resource Efficiency (RE) and Circular Economy (CE) to foster efficient and sustainable use of natural resources for sustainable consumption and production (SDG goal 12). Target sectors for Goa are Tourism, Construction and Waste, with special attention to Marine Litter. In April 2019, stakeholders from these sectors along with civil society members were brought together for two participatory multi-stakeholder workshops to provide inputs to the Goa RE strategy. The workshops yielded the following discoveries.



The time & stakeholder ecosystem is "ripe" for Resource Efficiency

There is urgent need for RE within the target sectors of Tourism and Construction and Waste Management

These three sectors are all interrelated, with Tourism being the cause of much of Goa's construction and its waste. There is a sense that the wasteful and unmanaged approach to resources cannot go on any longer and that it is time to manage resources more responsibly and fairly, take care of Goa's future and ensure that future generations have access to the resources we enjoy today, as well as ensure there is a sustainable future for the tourism industry in the State. RE economic activity is welcomed in Tourism and Construction where helps regenerate natural resources not deplete them and where it can provide economic opportunities for local people.

A more conscious approach to balancing the resource needs of local communities with those of the industry is needed.

Goa has a rich community of aware businesses and social innovators already working on RE models and ready to support RE and CE in Goa

Stakeholders from the hospitality sector, architects, waste management professionals are already engaging in a number of RE activities and are ready to work together, share information and support one another. They just need opportunities to do this and were appreciative of the opportunity the participatory consultations provided.

There is appetite for more collective and collaborative action to change the current direction and scale up RE activities to reach operators who are not currently working to an RE model and make a difference in Goa at state level.

Tourism & Construction sectors prioritize Resource Efficiency in Water, Sewage & Electricity

Whilst the national strategy focus is *abiotic* resources such as plastics, sand, steel etc, industry stakeholders from Goa's Tourism and Construction businesses named their **pain-points as inefficient management of "the basics" of Water, Sewage and Electricity - all critical for a prosperous tourism business, functional buildings and community wellbeing.**

New developments and communities are all struggling to get adequate access to water and electricity. **Opportunities for localized resource efficiency in water and renewable power exist within the state and should be scaled up to meet industry and community needs and sustainable development goals 6 (Clean water and sanitation) and an 7 (Affordable clean energy)** .A government mandate for RE in water, sewage and power alongside abiotic resources (such as plastics & e-waste etc), can make a difference as part of a broader RE approach to material recovery and reuse especially when combined with a supportive ecosystem of providers who can also support monitoring.

Prototype RE at the Village level to foster rural RE/CE prosperity and ensure new economic opportunities for Goans

Goa's village identity includes indigenous resource efficiency know-how, Goa's rural setting is at the heart of the tourism offer to visitors; Goa's villages are struggling to provide young people economic opportunities; Panchayats are struggling to deal with the complexity and scale of the tourism and construction footprint. Goa's RE strategy must support and engage local people, improve local lives and provide livelihood opportunities. Awareness and support is needed at the village level where much of the Tourism/ Construction/ Waste is happening.

Discovering ways for villages to prosper through RE/CE will support local people, boost economy/industry, protect environmental assets and help make headway on grass-root implementation of the Sustainable development Goals.

Actionable projects have been suggested and outlined. A few stakeholders are already aligned and interested in executing these ideas. Three such ideas, ranging from simple to complex are:

- ✓ **A directory of businesses and social innovators working in RE in Goa**
- ✓ **A simple RE rating system for the hospitality sector**
- ✓ **A prototype RE Village project in Calangute** to focusing initial efforts in Goa's most heavily Tourism/ Construction/Waste affected village to learn how RE and CE can work at / for the grassroots and where it is needed most. The Calangute Sarpanch who participated in the consultation said "if it can work here, it can work anywhere!"

Other actionable ideas can be found in the the last section of this report – Suggested action



Awareness & behaviour change needs to address people's aspirations as part of an integrated holistic approach to RE

Lack of awareness of the problems and opportunities of RE was repeatedly stated as a key obstacle. However, **removing the awareness obstacle alone will not make a difference as critical systemic barriers exist, incentivizing inefficiency** - such as advertising, the prestige of "use and throw" and aspirations based on "greed not need". Whilst RE is part of Goa's cultural heritage, modern global consumption aspirations are move people in the opposite direction.

Awareness raising therefore needs to include a new narrative around RE that and progress, which can remind people of what they know as "common sense" and inspire people to change at all levels of society. A public information campaign would be effective if supported by the following: (outlined in detail in chapter 3 of the report)

- ✓ **Enabling policy which is actually enforced** eg new policy such as removing GST on recycled goods, enforcing existing waste policies & bans
- ✓ **The right incentives** - including tax breaks for RE options, financial credits for recovering materials/ waste, recognition schemes such as ratings & RE labeling
- ✓ **Further research** in key areas such as the health/ environmental implications of plastic being used as a secondary material in other uses eg construction, roads
- ✓ **Careful use of technology** particularly for i) monitoring/tracking of resources through the lifecycle, ii) transparency & quality tests iii) connecting stakeholders/ the RE ecosystem iv) supporting incentives & credit systems
- ✓ **Incubation of specific new markets/ skills/ businesses** including RE services needed to help business change practice, village level waste entrepreneurs, logistics networks etc
- ✓ **Innovation** such as bio-plastics and plastic alternatives, uses for construction debris
- ✓ **Access to examples of RE Business Practice and Operations in Goa**
- ✓ **Opportunities for stakeholders to share information, collaborate & dialogue and learn together**
- ✓ **Infrastructure & transport logistics needed mostly at the village level**
- ✓ **A new story for Goa, Goa's Tourism industry and Goan entrepreneurship**

Multi-stakeholder collective action to shift at the system level

All parts of society have a role to play, and there is enthusiasm to get going

- ✓ **Business** needs to retrofit operations for RE. RE Champions exist and can share their experience and lead others. Tourism & construction businesses can influence their suppliers. **RE communications materials are needed** for business including SMEs at village level
- ✓ **The panchayat/municipality** has a pivotal enabling role to play in raising awareness and being a centre point for people to learn & connect on RE
- ✓ **Government** can create an enabling environment through incentives & dialogue and working with other stakeholders., and monitoring and enforcement
- ✓ **Monitoring and Enforcement can be a shared responsibility**, not only governments and should include IT solutions.
- ✓ **Educators** to change their syllabus to include RE/CE & encourage research
- ✓ **Incubation hubs in the villages** to support RE/CE enterprise development
- ✓ **Civil society to segregate waste** & work with government to spread the message , change behaviours
- ✓ **Social innovators to provide a supportive ecosystem** to enable RE/CE

Working together collaboratively across sector divides can mobilise stakeholders to do their part. Implementation requires people for cooperation, communication and ongoing working and a collaborative infrastructure which can support SDG implementation.

Outcomes of the stakeholder outreach also included identification of

1. **Key stakeholders** including a database of contact details, understanding of motivations to participate and networking and co-working initiated
2. **Key materials** in the relevant industries most in need of resource efficiency
3. **Key areas to address** with suggested action plans for each
 - Awareness & Behaviour change:
 - Policy & enforcement:
 - Infrastructure & Logistics:
 - Innovation and Technology
 - Incentives and schemes
 - Business Operations & New markets:
 - Partnerships and pilot projects:

(Details of all of the above can be found in the full report)

The events generated excitement about and momentum towards RE and CE in Goa and the start of an RE/CE conversation in Goa