

Assam State Biodiversity Board
Minutes of 15th Meeting of the Board held on 28th August 2015

The 15th Meeting of the Board was held at the Board Office, Rehabari, Guwahati under the Chairmanship of Shri S. C. Das, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary and Chairman-Assam State Biodiversity Board. A list of members and invitees present is at **Annexure-I**.

The Chairman welcomed all the Members and Invitees to the meeting. With the permission of the Chair agenda wise discussions were initiated by the Member Secretary, and following observations made /decisions taken:

1. The Minutes of the 14th Board Meeting were confirmed.
2. **Action taken on agenda items of previous meetings:**
 - a. The Board noted the following issues:
 - i. While noting the progress in preparation of PBR through the Biodiversity Research Associate Program (BRAP), the Board suggested to continue with the Programme by adding a few more Associates along with the earlier ones.
 - ii. **Panel of Experts:** As not enough nominations have been received for empanelment, the Board suggested that correspondence be made with Head of Departments of specialized subjects and with the Registrars of Universities, colleges and other Institutes. The Members of the Board may also take up the matter with their colleagues in Universities.
 - iii. **Declaration of Threatened Species of the State:** The Board noted that Government response was still awaited on the list submitted by the Board.
 - iv. **Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS):** The Board was informed that 39 nominations have been received. The Board was of the opinion that some of the nominated sites including Joysagar, Sibsagar *Pukhuri*, may be visited and detailed proposals be worked out.
 - v. Proposals under consideration with the Government:
 - a. **Amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010:** It was learnt that certain additional information has been sought by the Finance Department on the proposal.
 - b. **Creation of Secretarial posts for the Board:** It was informed that the proposal for creation of two posts has been concurred to by the Finance

Department. It was agreed to initiate process for recruitment against these posts once official communication was received.

c. **Organizational structure and draft Service Regulation of the Board:**

Matter was reported to be under consideration.

3. **The Board noted:**

a. **The Status on Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs):** 185 BMC had been set up against target of 187. Committees could not be set up in the Autonomous Councils / District till date.

b. **Status of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) preparation:** Works were currently on for preparation of 105 PBR and that draft PBRs for Hajo and Mayong BMCs were ready for vetting by Technical Support Group.

c. **Status of Projects Undertaken** and progress in four research projects.

d. **Publications of Booklet** “ Biodiversity for Sustainable Development” in English and Assamese language for generating awareness about biodiversity amongst various stakeholders, specially the children.

e. **Following Grant received by the Board:**

i. National Biodiversity Authority- Rs. 57.55 lakh

ii. State Government: Rs 50.00 Lakh for 2014-15

iii. Assam French Project (APFBC): Rs. 71.50 lakh for 2013-14 & 2014-15

The Board requested the Member Secretary to pursue the matter for release of State Grant for the current financial year 2015-16.

f. **Information regarding the Divisional Level Workshops** held at Dibrugarh and Golaghat Forest Divisions during May, 2015.

g. **Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity** at Joypore Reserve in Dibrugarh District.

h. Participation by the Board in the NE Summit held at Khanapara from 26th -27th May, 2015.

i. Participation by Board in the workshop on BMCs and PBRs on 9th and 10th July 2015 at Kolkata organized by IBRAD sponsored by NBA.

4. **KFW project:** The Board was of the opinion that the Terms of Reference specially the role of the Board may be very specifically defined and approval of the Board taken.
5. **Consultancy Offer:** The Board was informed that the Power Grid Corporation has requested the Board for carrying out Biodiversity Assessment of one of their projects in Mizoram. The Board suggested to accept the assignment.
6. **Awareness Documentary:** The Board was informed that the work for preparation of a short 25-30 minutes documentary/semi-documentary video of the Board has been awarded to M/s. Neel Akash Creation, Nagaon through competitive bidding. The Board ratified the same.
7. **The Board ratified the Permissions granted to:**
 - i. Dr. Shailendra Singh, Programme Director, Turtle Survival Alliance, Lucknow: Conservation and rediscovery of Black soft-shell Turtle, *Nilssonia nigricans* in Assam (Survey purpose only).
 - ii. Ms. Yashodhara Aditi Dutta, M.Sc. Student, School of Public Health & Zoonoses GADVASU, Ludhiana: Collection of blood and fecal samples of *Rhesus macaque* from Assam State Zoo and CWRC, Kaziranga, Assam for her M.Sc Dissertation Project “Studies on enteric viruses among non-human primates and wildlife workers: Exploring occupational risks”.
 - iii. Miraj Hussain, PhD Scholar, Assam University Silchar: Ecology of Rufous necked Laughing thrush *Garrulax ruficollis (Jardine & Selby) in Barak valley, Assam.*
8. **Board accorded consent to the following:**
 - i. **IPR application** on “*Semi synthetic non-natural compounds as potential anti-malarial*” made by the Defence Research & Development Organization, New Delhi, for access to *Gomphostemma niveum* (Bhumi teeta), to be collected from wild from Demaji District
 - ii. **Research Permission** for study on “*Phylo-geographic Distribution and variation of Primates in Assam*” to Dr. Jihosuo Biswas, Coordinator, Primate Research Centre for access to faecal samples of Primate species such as Pig-tailed Macaque, Stump-tailed Macaque, Capped Langur & Hoolock Gibbon, from RFs, PRFs and USFs under Territorial Divisions of Assam

9. The Board ratified following Expenditure incurred during 1015-16:

1. State Grant: Rs.31,22,986/-
 2. NBA Grant: Rs.18,33,059/-
- Total Rs.49, 56, 045/-**

10. The Board approved the work-plan for utilization of funds received from the “Assam project on Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Society:

- Strengthening & Capacity Building of BMC:
 - 20 workshops at BMC level @ Rs. 25,000 – Rs. 35,000 each
- Awareness Generation through:
 - A short documentary
 - Biodiversity Awareness Booklets/Posters-proposed
 - Exposure visits of staff and BMC members to see and learn from the success stories of other States such as Rajasthan, Gujarat Andhra Pradesh and other.
- Biodiversity Inventory Projects: through NIO and contacts with Universities and Institutes.
- Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan: with the help of an expert group and in consultation with national Institute (e.g. WII).
- Support Staffs: 2 support staffs
 - i. One Account Assistant: already engaged initially for 6 months
 - ii. One Technical Assistant: to be engaged within a week’s time.

Date and Venue for the next Board meeting:

It was agreed to hold the next Board Meeting in Manas National Park. It was suggested to make efforts for setting up BMCs and start PBR works in BTAD on a mission mode. Some major activity / workshop / awareness-camp may be planned in conjunction with the proposed Board Meeting at Manas.

The meeting ended with thanks from the Chair to everyone present.

Approved

-Sd-

(S. C. Das)

ACS & Chairman-ASBB

Annexure-I

List of Members/ Invitees present in the 15th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board 28th August, 2015

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail Id
Official Members				
1	Shri S. C. Das, IAS	Chairman-ASBB & Addl. Chief Secretary, Assam	0361-2237054	subhashdas55@gmail.com
2	Shri Imdadul Hoque, IAS	Secy.- Finance Deptt.	9706052589	
3	Smt. Rita Das	Joint Secretary- Agriculture Dept.	9854065613	
4	Shri Gagan Sarma	Deputy Director- Fisheries Dept.	9954131080	assamfishery@gmail.com
5	Shri Satyajit Sarmah	Lecturer, RFTI, Guwahati	9435060414	
6	Shri A. K. Johari, IFS	Member Secretary- ASBB	8876565345	johari60@yahoo.com
Ex- Officio Members				
7	Shri R. C. Goswami, IFS (Retd.)	Member-ASBB	9435044818	rcgoswami37@gmail.com
8	Dr. Anil Kr. Goswami	Member- ASBB	9435063014	akgoswami@gmail.com
9	Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee	Member- ASBB	9435148702	bhattapc@gmail.com
Special Invitees				
10	Dr. R. M. Dubey, IFS	Chairman, Pollution Control Board- Assam	9435067690	rudramanidubey@yahoo.com
11	Shri S. K. Srivastava, IFS	Addl. PCCF (Planning) O/o the PCCF & HoFF- Assam	9435080510	ccf.plan@gmail.com
12	Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS	Addl. PCCF (Wetlands)	8876565344	ranjanagupta2001@yahoo.com
13	Dr. Alka Bhargava, IFS	Addl. PCCF (REWP)	9435568923	alka_b87@yahoo.com

Few Photographs of 15th Board Meeting

