

Minutes of 13th Meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board held on 6th January 2015 at Pobitora Wild-Life Sanctuary, Morigaon.

The 13th Meeting of the Board took place at the Interpretation Centre, Pobitora WLS, Morigaon, on 6th of January, 2015. The meeting was Chaired by Shri S. C. Das, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary and Chairman-ASBB.

A list of members and invitees present is at **Annexure-I**.

At the outset of the meeting, Shri D. Gogoi, DFO Guwahati (Wildlife) Division felicitated the dignitaries and welcomed the Chairman, Expert Members and Invitees to the Pobitora WLS. He gave an overview of the Wildlife Sanctuary, its management strategy and the constraints faced in conservation. Highlighting the richness of biological diversity of the area, he also briefed about the strategy adopted for involvement of local people in its conservation and management. He invited everyone for a field-trip after the Meeting for having a glimpse of rich biodiversity of the Sanctuary.

The Chairman thanked the DFO WL Division for his introductory remarks and started the proceeding of meeting. It was informed that the minutes of the 12th Board Meeting had been circulated, and that no comments have been received. Thereafter, these minutes were taken as confirmed.

Before taking up Agenda-wise discussion, the Member Secretary-ASBB informed that the Mayong Anchalik Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) President, Member-Secretary and some other Members were present in the meeting. He informed that a cheque of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) is being released to this BMC for initiating works of Peoples' Biodiversity Register.

He further informed the Board that that three Fellows of the Biodiversity Research Associate Program (BRAP) have also been invited to this Meeting for presenting their progress before the Board.

The agenda wise discussions were initiated by the Member Secretary:

Agenda 1: Action Taken Report

- a) The Board noted progress with respect to BRAP.
- b) The progress on preparation of Panel of Expert was noted by the Board.
- c) The Board noted developments regarding the proposals of the Board pending with the Government for amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010, creation of Secretarial posts and the draft Service Regulation.

Agenda 2: Matters for Information of the Board

- a) The Members of the Board were informed about the Workshops organized by the Board at Haflong and Nagaon; formation of 158 BMCs and initiation of PBR works at 69 BMCs.
- b) The Board was also informed that the draft PBR of Nagaon District has been approved by the Technical Support Group (TSG) of Nagaon District.
- c) The Board noted the progress made in 6 (six) ongoing projects.
- d) The Assamese and Bengali version of BMC Toolkit and PBR Format were presented before the Board.
- e) After reviewing the status of project proposal for street plays assigned to the Asian Institute of Management, Guwahati the Board recommended to drop the assignment.
- f) The Board was informed that so far no grant has been received from the NBA and that out of Rs. 50 lakh Grant-in-aid sanctioned by the State government, Rs 4.0 lakh has been released. Release of rest of the Grant was in process.

Agenda 3: Matters for Ratification By the Board

- a) The details of proposals on which no objection was granted by the Board were presented in the meeting and the Board ratified grant of no-objection.
- b) The Board ratified the following expenditure incurred during the third quarter (1st October to 31st December 2014):
 - a. State Grant: Rs. 8,43,913/-
 - b. NBA Grant: Rs. 3,36,000/-Total: 11,79,913/- (Rupees eleven lakh seventy nine thousand nine hundred and thirteen) only
- C) The draft annual report of the Board for the year 2013-14 was placed in the Meeting. It was decided the draft report be circulated to all the Members/Invitees for comments, if any, within 7 days' time. Thereafter, the same may be Published.

Agenda 4: Other Issues

1. Presentation by the BRAP Fellow: A presentation was made by the BRAP-Fellows regarding progress on their assigned task. A draft copy of the PBR of Hajo Anchalik BMC, prepared by them through active participation of the people was presented in the Meeting. The presentation included information regarding areas surveyed, methodology used and the lessons learnt by the BRAP-Fellows during the process of their work. They expressed their willingness to work with Majuli BMC for highlighting the ecological and biodiversity aspects of the site. The Board appreciated the work carried out by the BRAP fellows and after discussions on the issue took following decisions:

- i. The BRAP programme may be extended to cover each Anchalik BMC by providing one or two Fellows for each BMC.
 - ii. If needed, the Associates presently working with the Board may be engaged, subject to their availability, for further duration for training the new associates,.
 - iii. The funds available with the Board, both from the NBA and State Grant, for PBR works may be utilized to meet the fellowship cost wherever necessary.
 - iv. The Members of the Board would take initiative for identifying/recommending candidates for BRAP.
 - v. The Expert Member, Dr Aparajita De, would take initiative in identification and engagement of BRAP Fellows for PBR works in Barak Valley.
 - vi. The Board would prepare a Panel of the candidates under BRAP and engage them throughout the State as per requirement.
 - vii. The Majuli Anchalik BMC shall be approached for initiating PBR works through BRAP assistance on priority, so that the data / information could be used to strengthen the proposal to UNESCO for consideration of Majuli as a World Heritage Site.
2. The Board agreed for engagement of a Research Fellow for a short duration for completion of documentation work on the Spider Project.
3. The Chairman suggested proper cataloguing of all the Project Reports, PBRs and other documents for easy access.
4. The Board agreed for making a provision of Rs. 1500/- (Rupees one thousand five hundred) only as month sumptuary allowance for entertainment of official guests of the Board.

4. The Board reviewed the matter regarding financial assistance to be extended to the Board by the Forest Department under the externally aided Project on Forest & Biodiversity conservation. The Board was of the opinion that such financial assistance shall be used for the priority areas of the Board.

Agenda-5: The date and venue of the next meeting to be decided in due course.

The Meeting ended with thanks from the Chair to everyone present and to the DFO (Wildlife) Division, Guwahati, and his team.

**List of Members/ Invitees present in the 13th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board
6th January, 2015**

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail Id
Official Members				
1	S. C. Das, IAS	Chairman-ASBB & Addl. Chief Secretary, Assam	0361-2237054	subhashdas55@gmail.com
2	A. K. Johari, IFS	Member Secretary-ASBB	8876565345	johari60@yahoo.com
3	Md. Faizul Hussain, ACS	Joint Secy.- A H & Veterinary Deptt.	9435045348	
4	Dr. S. Rava	Joint Director- A H & Veterinary Deptt.	9435046321	
Ex- Officio Members				
5	R. C. Goswami, IFS (Retd.)	Member-ASBB	9435044818	rcgoswami37@gmail.com
6	Dr. Anil Kr. Goswami	Member- ASBB	9435063014	akgoswami@gmail.com
7	Dr. Aparajita De	Member- ASBB	9435579520	aparajita.dehajra@gmail.com
Special Invitees				
8	V. K. Vishnoi, IFS	PCCF & HoFF- Assam, Rehabari	9435530031	pccfassam@gmail.com
9	Dr. R. M. Dubey, IFS	Chairman, Pollution Control Board- Assam	9435067690	rudramanidubey@yahoo.com
10	Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS	Addl. PCCF (Wetlands)	8876565344	ranjanagupta2001@yahoo.com
11	Dr. Alka Bhargava, IFS	CCF (REWP)	9435568923	ccf.rewp.assam@gmail.com
12	B. Bordoloi (Representative from O/o PCCF-wildlife, Assam)	DCF O/o The PCCF (WL), Basistha	9435133173	
BMC Representatives				
13	Jyotshna Rani Doloi	Chairperson- Mayong Anchalik BMC	9864192241	
14	Montu Kr Borah, Fr-I	Member Secy.- Mayong Anchalik BMC	9435316827	
15	Gopeswar Paler	Member- Mayong Anchalik BMC	985451558	
16	Pradip Baruah	Member- Mayong Anchalik BMC	9435216132	
17	Dulal Ch. Boarah, Fr-I	Member- Mayong Anchalik BMC	9613874362	
18	Prafulla Deka	Member- Mayong Anchalik BMC	9678383455	

Few photographs of 13th Board Meeting

