

Minutes of the 9th Board Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board
29th October, 2013

The 9th Meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board took place at the Board Office Rehabari, Guwahati on 29th October, 2013, under the Chairmanship of Shri Subash Chandra Das, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary-Assam and Chairman, Assam State Biodiversity Board. A list of those present in this Meeting is at **Annexure-I**.

At the very beginning it was informed that the minutes of the 8th Board meeting were duly circulated and no comments have been received. These Minutes were taken as confirmed.

Following is the gist of Agenda-wise discussions and decisions taken:

1. Action Taken Report:

Actions taken on the previous minutes with respect to the following were noted:

- a. Engagement of a Taxonomist & Zoologist for field trial of digital format of the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) was approved from State Government fund.
- b. For approval of the draft amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010 submitted to Government, a draft cabinet memorandum needs to be prepared.
- c. Board noted non-execution of Agreement by the NUR Society for PBR preparation despite being allowed exemption from Bank Guarantee. Board suggested that whenever exemption from Bank Guarantee is considered it should be linked to non-release of mobilization amount.
- d. Proposal for creation of Secretarial posts for the Board will be pursued.

2. Matters brought for Information of the Board were noted with following observations:

- a. The Board welcomed government of Assam decision to extend tenure of its existing Expert Members and inclusion of representative of Planning & Rural Development Department into the Board.
- b. In addition to Kokrajhar and Haflong the Zonal workshops may be planned at Diphu. It was suggested that the Assam University may be approached to help the Board in this task.
- c. Regarding proposed works for which Notice Inviting Offers has been issued:
 1. For Biodiversity Inventory, considering the enormity of the task it may be useful to work out a feasible approach, i.e. whether to go by geographical unit wise or organism group (phylum) wise. Instead of a unified task it may be taken up on Project mode. A detailed Project Report accordingly may be prepared considering available expertise and availability of Secondary data. Collaboration with Universities, Research Institutions, national organizations such as Forest Research Institute (FRI), Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Forest Survey of India may be worked out.

2. Response to the NIQ may be awaited for other proposed works. In case of inadequate response the Universities /Research Institutions may be approached.
3. It was suggested that the State level Inventory and the Peoples' Biodiversity Registers may be linked as complimentary data bases.

3. Matters for ratification by the Board:

a. the Board ratified a total expenditure: Rs. 24, 43,134/- as per details below

i. From State Grant: Rs. 19,17,333/-

1. Strengthening of BMCs:	Rs. 8,75,000/-
2. Zonal Workshops:	Rs 1,80,000/-
3. <i>Research Projects:</i>	<i>Rs 38,000/-</i>
4. <i>PBR:</i>	<i>Rs. 24, 000/-</i>
5. <i>Office expenses (including Rent etc):</i>	<i>Rs. 7,35,333/-</i>
6. <i>Publication:</i>	<i>Rs. 65,000/-</i>

ii. From NBA Assistance Rs. 5,25,801/-

7. Publication / Awareness (Bio Day) :	Rs. 3,64,401/-
8. Staff remuneration:	Rs. 1,61,400/-

b. It was suggested that henceforth quarterly expenditure report along with cumulative expenditure may be put up before the Board.

c. The Board ratified grant of permission to two IPR applications of Sivasagar district and four Research proposals

4. The Board noted grant released by the NBA and desired that release of Grant-in-Aid from State Government for current financial year may be pursued.

5. i. The Board granted no-objection to the CSIR Application to obtain an IPR for the invention titled 'Antimicrobial and anti-cancer lactone metabolite from *Aspergillus elegans*, growing in *Asparagus racemosus*, Wild.

ii. Regarding the second IPR application "BRAIDED Antheraea Assam SILK SUTURES", it was suggested that:

- a. the application be forwarded to Boko Anchalik BMC for their approval as the said material was acquired from Boko markets.
- b. Official letters be sent to Director of Sericulture, Khanapara, Director, Central Silk Board and Director, ASTEC, seeking their comments on the issue

iii. Board allowed following research proposals:

- a. To carry out Inventorization, Morphometric analysis, Data collection and Sampling of Spices and non conventional fruits endemic in forests of Assam.
 - b. Studies on Leopard population monitoring in Assam.
 - c. Hornbill survey in selected RFs, NPs and WLSs of Assam.
6. The draft for Delegation of Powers (**Annexure-II**) was approved with following decisions:
- i. Against the works included in the Annual Work Plan approved by the Board, the Member Secretary would have powers to accord technical and financial sanction up to Rs. 1.00 lakh (Rupees one lakh), the Chairman up to Rs 10.00 lakh (Rupees ten lakh). For works beyond Rs. 10.00 lakh approval of the Board will be required.
 - ii. Single item purchase up to Rs 25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand) only may be done by the Member Secretary and beyond it with the approval of the Chairman
 - ii. Annual Plan to have major budget lines for seeking approval of government while minor budget lines to be approved by the Board. The re-appropriation to be approved by the Chairman.
4. **Other issue:** the Board discussed the issues and following decisions were taken
- a. A Committee for assessing HR requirement of the Board, and drafting Recruitment Policy and Recruitment Rules for the Board was constituted comprising of the following:

i. Dr R. M. Dubey, IFS, Chairman-PCB, Assam:	Chairman
ii. Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee, Board Member:	Member
iii. Shri M K Yadav, IFS CCF (RE&WP)	Member
iv. Ms. Lily Choudhury, Dy Secretary, P & RD Dept:	Member)
v. Shri A.K. Johari, Member Secretary-ASBB	Member-Secretary
 - b. Proposal for designing of Postage Stamps for release during the next Bio-day and the proposal for designing of Biodiversity Calendar for 2014 was not agreed to. It was suggested that instead awareness posters and banners and pamphlets may be designed for reaching out to end stakeholders.
 - c. Proposal for engagement of Zoologist & Botanist from State Grant was approved
 - d. The Board agreed to following payments:
 - i. Sitting fee of Rs 500 plus conveyance fee Rs 500 for non-official members.
 - ii. Local transport of Rs 500/- to Official Members
 - e. Payment of travel allowance to contractual staff in accordance with prevalent government of Assam rates. The Technical Associate to be treated as Grade-I, Accounts Assistant and PA to Member Secretary as Gr-II, Office attendant on par with Gr-III employee.

- f. Constitution of Technical Support Groups in each District may be actively pursued with DCs with the help of concerned DFOs.
5. Date for next Board meeting would be decided during mid January 2014.

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

Few Photographs of the 9th Board Meeting



Annexure-I

List of members present in the 9th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board 29th October 2013

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail Id
Official Members				
1	S. C. Das, IAS	Chairman-ASBB & Addln. Chief Secretary, Assam	0361-223705	subhashdas55@gmail.com
2	Lily Choudhury, ACS	Deputy Secretary- P & RD Deptt.		singer10me@yahoo.com
3	M. Ahmed	Joint Director- Fishery Deptt.	9613791387	assafishery@gmail.com
4	A. K. Johari, IFS	Member Secretary-ASBB	8876565345	johari60@yahoo.com
Expert Members				
5	Dr. P C Bhattacharjee	Member-ASBB	9435148702	bhattapc@sify.com
6	Dr. Sarat Borkataki	Member- ASBB	9435063014	saratdipika@gmail.com
7	Dr. Aparajita De	Member- ASBB	9435579520	aparajitadehajra@gmail.com
Special Invitees				
8	Dr. R. M Dubey, IFS	Chairman, Pollution Control Board- Assam	9435067690	rudramanidubey@yahoo.com
9	Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS	CCF (Wetlands)	8876565344	ranjanagupta2001@yahoo.com
10	M. K. Yadava, IFS	CCF (RE & WP)	9435012458	mkyadava.ifs@assam.gov.in
11	Juri Gogoi, ACS	Deputy Secretary- Animal H. & Veterinary Deptt.	9864046349	

