

Minutes of 20th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board held on 7th April, 2017
at Conference Hall, Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari

The 20th Meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board was presided over by Shri D. Mathur, IFS, newly appointed 4th Chairman of the Assam State Biodiversity Board. A list the members and invitees present in the meeting is at **Annexure-1**.

After welcoming the members and invitees present in the meeting the Chairman requested the Member Secretary of the Board to initiate Agenda-wise discussions. The Agenda-wise proceedings and decisions are as under:

1. The Minutes of the 19th Board Meeting were confirmed.
2. The Board was informed of the actions taken on agenda of previous meeting as below:
 - i. Launch of Internship Programme on Biodiversity Conservation and selection of 20 Interns as 1st batch of which 14 are presently working with the Board.
 - ii. The following proposals of the Board were still under process with the Government:
 - a. Amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010.
 - b. Notification of Threatened Taxa u/s 38 of BD Act 2002 for Assam.
 - c. Organizational structure and draft Service Regulation of the Board.
 - iii. The Final edited version of '*Invaluable Biodiversity*' was received and screened and distributed in the meeting.
 - iv. A panel of Experts constituted to review the progress of the project Assam Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (ABSAP) had its 1st meeting on 30th March, 2017 at Board office.
 - v. An 'Advisory Committee' headed by Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee, Expert Member-ASBB was constituted for evaluation of applications received by the Board for access to biological resources for research and commercial purposes.
3. The Board was informed that:
 - i. Re-constitution of Board: The Board requires to be re-constituted after September, 2016. A proposal has been sent to the Government.
 - ii. A meeting of Technical Support Group (TSG) of Sonitpur District was held at Tezpur and the following seven (7) PBRs were approved:
 - a. Bihaguri Anchalik BMC
 - b. Balipara Anchalik BMC
 - c. Sootea Anchalik BMC
 - d. Baghmora Anchalik BMC
 - e. Behali Anchalik BMC
 - f. 7 No. Naduar Anchalik BMC
 - g. Biswanath BMC



- iii. The Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) were functional in all 189 Anchalik Panchayats in the State. Regarding the three (3) Autonomous Councils, it was noted that:
 - a. 16 BMC have already been constituted and 5 more will be constituted within fortnight in Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) against 21 BMCs to be formed in Forest Range Jurisdiction.
 - b. 10 BMC have already been constituted against 10 Forest Range Jurisdiction of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC).
- iv. Drafts of 43 People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) are ready for TSG vetting and works going on in 78 BMCs.
- v. Technical Support Group (TSG) were in place in 20 Districts and efforts being made for formation of TSGs in remaining 13 Districts.
- vi. Regarding the Projects:
 - a. Final report of 'Insect Fauna Documentation' is under process for publication in book form.
 - b. Final report of 'Fish Diversity of Brahmaputra Valley' is due in May, 2017.
 - c. MoU was signed with the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow for the 'Plant Diversity Assessment of Dima Hasao district in Assam'. Work initiated from 06/01/2017. 1st installment released.
 - d. The Board started a collaborative project 'Short documentary films on selected theme in Assamese' with the North East Network (NEN) under the Green Hub Project, Tezpur, on the following 5 selected themes:
 - i. Subsistence value of Forests,
 - ii. Traditional Knowledge,
 - iii. Human-Animal conflict,
 - iv. Protected Area community interface
 - v. Life of a Forest Guard respectively.

The draft and story-line have been made. 2nd installment released.
- vi. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam declared "Majuli as Biodiversity Heritage Site" on 21st March, 2017, at a function for celebration of International Day for Forests. Notification order received.
- vii. The Assam Biodiversity Portal is a database being developed by the French Institute of Pondicherry (IFP), funded by the Assam Project on Forests and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) Society.
 - a. This project will be managed by the Board in collaboration with Assam Forest Department.
 - b. The Chief Conservator of Forests, IT, o/o the PCCF and HoFF-Assam, has been appointed as Nodal officer to look into the matter.
- viii. Grants received by the Board:

a. From State Government:	Rs. 50.00 lakh
b. From NBA:	Rs. 28.97 lakh
c. From Power grid:	Rs. 1.67 lakh

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| d. From other income (adv.) | Rs. 0.40 lakh |
| e. Interest earned: | Rs. 3.3 lakh |
| f. From Others: | |
| a. Application fee: | Rs. 3.9 crore |
| b. NABARD (Climate change) | Rs. 7.71 crore |
- ix. The Board organized interaction meeting on 2nd March, 2017 with 6 BMCs of Sonitpur East Division, Biswanath Chariali on handling of accounts related matters.
- x. Regarding Publications of the Board:
- The print copy of Annual Report for FY 2015-16 placed before the Board and circulated in the meeting.
 - 'Amulya Jaibabaichitra'- Precious Biodiversity: A half yearly Newsletter of the Board has been launched.
- Following are in the Technical Team:
- Chief Patron: Hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forest- Assam
 - Advisors: Chairman- ASBB, PCCF & HoFF- Assam & Member Secretary- ASBB.
 - Editor: Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS, Addl. PCCF (Wetlands)
 - Assistant Editors: Dr. O. Sunanda Devi, Scientific Officer- ASBB and Dr. Mazedul Islam, Technical Associate-ASBB.

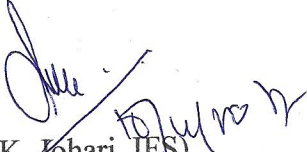
The draft was circulated and approved by the Board.

5. The Board ratified the following:

- Expenditure incurred during FY 2016-17
(3rd Quarter & 4th Quarter: October 2016 to March 2017)
 - State Grant : Rs. 39, 49, 527/-
 - NBA Grant : Rs. 16, 68, 494/-
 - APFBC Grant : Rs. 27, 56, 686/-
 - APFBC fixed assets: Rs. 4,11, 638/-
- Following Research Permissions were granted no objection by the Board:
 - Mr. Nilutpal Mahanta, PhD Research Scholar, Gauhati University: Access to bio-resource (*Avifauna-Francolinus gularis*) in Manas National Park and Laokhowa WLS, Assam.
 - Ms Reshmi Bhattacharjee, PhD Research Scholar, Gauhati University: Access to bio-resources for study 'Insect Study of Manas national Park, Assam.
 - Dr. Namram Sushindrajit Singh, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Zoology, CCSU: Access to bio-resources for the project 'Importance of short photoperiod in reproduction of bird involving *Eurasian Tree Sparrow & Scaly-breasted Munia*' in Assam.
 - Mr. Rubul Tanti, M.Sc., Dept. of Zoology & wildlife Biology, A.V.C. College, Mayiladuthurai: Access to bio-resources for the dissertation project '*An assessment of various adaptations of fresh water air breathing fishes*' at Digboi, Assam.

6. The following matters were placed before the Board for Consideration and decision by the Board:
- a. New Research and Awareness projects:
 - i. **Enhancing conservation efforts in Hollongapar Gibbon wildlife sanctuary:** A proposal received from Shri Udayan Borthakur, Head of Wildlife Genetics Division, Aaranyak.
 - a. Principal Investigator: Mr. Udayan Borthakur, Head of Wildlife Genetics Division, Aaranyak.
 - b. Duration: 1 Year
 - c. Budget: 5.0 Lakh (Board's contribution)The Proposal was approved by the Board.
 - ii. **Edible wild plants of Karbi and Dimasa tribe:** A proposal for publication of 'Edible wild plants of Karbi and Dimasa Tribe by Ranjen Kr. Baruah, Retd Range Officer, Karbi Anglong.
The Proposal was approved by the Board.
 - iii. **Orchid Diversity of Assam:** Proposal of publication received from Shri Khyanjeet Gogoi, Orchid Society of Eastern Himalaya, NGO, Tinsukia.
The Proposal was approved by the Board.
 - b. 7th Pay and Productivity Pay Commission: The Board was informed that the State Government has accepted the recommendations of the 7th Pay and Productivity Pay Commission and made it applicable to the State Government employees. The Resolution of the Committee issued on 17th March, 2017.
The Board approved to adopt the Resolution of the 7th Pay and Productivity Pay Commission for the regular staff of the Board.
7. A presentation was made by Dr. Aparajita De, Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University & Expert Member of Board on "*Community level conservation for reintroduction of Paphiopedilum in Assam: an endangered genus of lady slipper orchids*". After the presentation it was agreed to support study on wild orchids all over Assam by engaging Research Fellow for short durations.
8. The date and venue for next meeting to be decided in due course.

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


(A. K. Johari, IFS)
Member Secretary- ASBB

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(D. Mathur, IFS)
PCCF & Chairman-ASBB

Annexure-1**Members/ Invitees present in the 20th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board: 7th April, 2017**

Sr.	Name	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail Id
Official Members				
1	Shri D. Mathur, IFS	PCCF-Assam & Chairman, ASBB	0361-2333917	dmathur003@gmail.com
2	Shri H. D Sarma, ACS	Addl. Secretary, Agriculture, Department	9435102490	hiteshsarma1961.hds@gmail.com
3	Shri M. Medhi, ACS	Joint Secretary, Environment & Forest Department, Assam	9435552456	manabendamedhi@gmail.com
4	Shri Satyajit Sarma, ACS	Joint Director, Fisheries Department, Assam	9435160414	assamfishery@gmai.com satyajitsarma2017@gmail.com
5	Dr. R. C. Barman	Nodal Officer & AFO, Fisheries Dept., Assam	9435714529	ramen67@gmail.com
6	Shri A. K. Johari, IFS	Member Secretary-ASBB	8876565345	johari60@yahoo.com
Ex- Officio Members				
7	Shri R. C. Goswami, IFS (Retd.)	Expert Member-ASBB	9435044818	rcgoswami37@gmail.com
8	Dr. Aparajita De	Expert Member-ASBB	9435579520	aparajita.dehajra@gmail.com
Special Invitees				
9	Shri H. Kalita, ACS	Joint Secretary, Finance Department, Assam	9854325706	hareswarkalita@gmail.com
10	Shri D. Malakar, ACS	Under Secretary, A H and Veterinary Dept. Assam	9435304068	malakardeben@gmail.com
Permanent Invitees				
11	Shri M. K. Yadava, IFS	Addl. PCCF (RE & WP), Assam	9435012458	mkyadava.ifs@assam.gov.in
12	Shri Utpal Bora, IFS	CCF (HQ)- Assam (Representative from PCCF & HoFF- Assam)	9435146167	ubora_forest25@yahoo.com
13	Shri D. D. Gogoi, IFS	CF- Assam (Representative from PCCF(WL)- Assam)	9435146463	pccf.wl.assam@gmail.com