

Minutes of the 10th Board Meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board

The 10th Meeting of the Biodiversity Board was held on 11th February 2014 at Board Office, Paryatan Bhawan 1st Floor, Rehabari Guwahati. A list of Members / Invitees present is at **Annexure-I**.

At the very beginning it was informed that the minutes of the 9th 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:

- a. Engagement of Taxonomist and Zoologist: Board agreed to await assistance from NBA .
- b. Amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010: The proposal for Amendment is required to be submitted as a draft Cabinet Memorandum combining the amendments proposed by the NBA and the earlier ones proposed by the Board. The NBA suggested Amendments may be scrutinized before proposing amendment.
- c. Secretarial posts for the Board: The Board was informed that the Govt. has suggested that Secretarial posts may be taken from the strength of Forests Department. A request has been made for sanction of Technical posts as these do not exist in the ROP of Forests Department. The Board emphasis on the need for sanction of posts for the Board and desired for active persuasion in the matter.
- d. Draft Recommendations of HR Committee: The Board was informed that in formulation its recommendations the HR Committee has taken help of:
 - i. The Assam Secretarial Service Rules, 1963- for Gazetted Officers
 - ii. The Assam Secretarial Sub-ordinate Service Rules, 1963 (2)
 - iii. The final draft Pollution Control Board, Assam (Employees' Service) Regulation, 2012

The Committee has suggested two Cadres for the Board and Keeping a ten year's perspective recommended following a tentative strength of various posts:

1. Technical Cadre:

i. Chief Scientific Officers-	1	Promotion Post)
ii. Senior Scientific Officers-		(Promotion Post)
iii. Scientific Officers-	4	(3 DR 1 P)
iv. Senior Scientific Assistant-	2	(Promotion Post)
v. Scientific Assistant –	4	(DR)

2. Administrative Cadre:

i. Registrar	1	(100% P)
ii. Superintendant	1	(100% P)
iii. Senior Admin. Assistant	4	(100% P)
iv. Junior Admin. Assistant- (including Accountant)	4	(25% P 75% DR)
v. Grade-III- Driver	1	(100% DR)
vi. Grade- IV employees (Chowkidar-2, Cleaner-1, and Office Attendant-1)	4	(100% DR)

It was informed that the Final recommendations would be submitted by the Committee in a fortnight. The Board in principle agreed to the recommendations in the Draft Report but suggested that:

- i. Recommendations may include details to “essential qualifications and ‘desirable qualifications’ in such a manner that requirement of the Board for human resource with sufficient background of Social Sector, Accounts, Computer, Law may be met.
- ii. Requirement for human resource with specialized knowledge may be proposed to be met through Committee of Experts / Subject Matter Specialists.

2. **Information placed before the Board:**

- a. The Board was informed about the 9th National Meeting of State Biodiversity Boards, and celebration of 10th Anniversary of establishment of NBA at Chennai in which the Member Secretary took part.
- b. The Board was informed about the progress of 2 projects, one on Preparation of PBR in Nagaon District and the other on the Spider diversity at Kaziranga National Park.

3. Ratification by Board

a. The Board ratified the a total expenditure of Rs. 11,35,071 (Rupees eleven lakh thirty five thousand seventy one) with following details:

- Expenditure

- State Grant:

• Library	Rs	74,475
• Travel	Rs	78,467
• Technical Works	Rs	96,017
• PBRs	Rs	72,000
• OE	Rs	4,72,943
• Publication	Rs	49,770
• Board Meetings	Rs	39,062
<u>Total:</u>	<u>Rs</u>	<u>8,82,734</u>

- NBA Grant:

– Website	Rs	32,337
– Remuneration	Rs	2,20,000
<u>Total:</u>	<u>Rs</u>	<u>2,52,337</u>

b. The Chairman re-emphasized that the expenditure details must also be worked out for each Quarter of the Financial Year.

c. The Board ratified the Scheme for the financial year 2014-15 for an amount of Rs. 124.00 lakh as per details at **Annexure-II**.

d. The Board ratified grant of no objection to 3 proposals for IPR and 2 proposals for Research as per the details in the Agenda note.

4. Receipt of Grant: The Board noted receipt of total grant of Rs 93.00 lakh by the Board that included Rs 50.0 lakh from the State Grant for the year 2013-14 and RS 43.0 lakh from NBA for preparation of Peoples biodiversity Registers in 35 Anchalik Panchayats.

5. a. Recommendation of the Evaluation Committee on offers received against NOI for various technical works of the Board: The Board examined the recommendations of the Committee and accepted them for assignment of tasks as proposed but at the same time made following observations / suggestions:

i. Negotiations on, wherever required, may be done by a Committee comprising of the following:

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| i. Dr R M Dubey, IFS, Addl. PCCF & Chairman SPCB | Chairman |
| ii. FAO in the Office of the PCCF-HoFF-Assam | Member |
| iii. Shri A K Johari, IFS CCF & MS-ASBB | Member Secretary |

- ii. In all the assignments there should be provision for submission of six- monthly Progress Reports and all payments shall be progress-linked.
- iii. The Assam Science Society, that has a State wide presence may be approached for assisting the Board in undertaking awareness generation programmes.
- iv. For documentation of biodiversity it was suggested that consultations be made with concerned Departments in various Universities and required manpower resource be provided by the Board for mutually agreed work-plan.
- v. A 'Base Paper' approach may be initiated where a theme be highlighted for projecting significance of the topic and thereafter an Expert Group be constituted to develop it into detailed Report.
- vi. The proposal of making of a Video Documentary/Quickies may be advertised afresh by breaking it into two separate components, first the making of the videos specifying the contents and the second, costs on dissemination i.e. telecast etc.
- vii. Costs on telecast may be found out from the local cable operators.

5. b. Board accorded 'No Objection' for IPR to a proposal "A Herbal composition for the treatment of pneumonia by administering an effective amount of the composition comprising of Root of *Zanthoxylum hamiltonianum*, Shoot of *Zingiber officinalis* and leaves of *Terminalia bellerica*" received from Mr. Tapan Hira, S/o Shri (Late) Bhula Hira, Village: Hira Gaon, Taluka: Aamguri, PO: Borbam, District: Sivasagar. Assam 785680.

The Member Secretary informed the Board that the NBA has been requested to approach the National Innovation Foundation to undertake some preliminary investigation about the research works, location of the biological resource and address details of the applicants before forwarding applicant for those cases where for IPR.

6. The Amendments proposed by the NBA to the Assam Biodiversity Rules 2010.

An analysis of the proposed amendments was presented before the Board. The Board recommended that the amendments, as per the analysis may be taken up together with the earlier proposal that is to be submitted to the Government in the form of a Cabinet Memorandum. It was suggested that if any Member/Invitee has any specific comment on the NBA-proposed amendments, the same may

be conveyed to the Member Secretary in 10 days time after which the proposal may be finalized for submission to the Government.

7. Agenda-6: Any other issue:

- i. The Board agreed to changes in the designations of the present contractual positions with the Board in terms of the draft recommendations of the HR Committee.
- ii. The PCCF-HoFF Assam suggested that a study may be commissioned on the Diversity and Nutritional value of edible fruit varieties of Assam specially non-conventional, endemic fruits. Projects may be invited with details on costs etc for this purpose.
- iii. Board was informed about a proposal has been received for making a short animation video on the Logo of the Board. The Board suggested to undertake the work on competitive price basis. The Chairman suggested that the Board may prepare a write up on the theme behind the Logo.

8. Next Board Meeting – Date and venue to be decided in due course of time.

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

Few Photographs of the 10th Board Meeting



Annexure-I

List of members present in the 10th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board 11th February 2014

Name	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail Id
Official Members			
S. C. Das, IAS	Chairman-ASBB & Addln. Chief Secretary, Assam	0361-2237054	subhashdas55@gmail.com
A. K. Johari, IFS	Member Secretary-ASBB	8876565345	johari60@yahoo.com
I. S. Mazoomdar, ACS (Representative of Principal Secretary-Env. & Forests, Assam)	Deputy Secretary-Environment & Forests, Assam	9854016375	indirasingha@hotmail.com
Lily Choudhury, ACS	Deputy Secretary-P & RD Deptt.		singer10me@yahoo.com
Dr. S. Purkaystha	Joint Director-Fishery Deptt.	9435115971	sadhu293@rediffmail.com
Ramanana Boarh	Deputy Director-Fishery Deptt.	9435195808	ramaborah@gmail.com
R. Mahanta	Joint Secretary-Agriculture Deptt.	9435015914	
Ex- Officio Members			
Dr. P C Bhattacharjee	Member-ASBB	9435148702	bhattapc@sify.com
Dr. Anil kr. Goswami	Member- ASBB	9864021714	akgoswami@gmail.com
R. C. Goswami, IFS (Rtd.)	Member- ASBB	9435044818	rcgoswami37@gmail.com
Special Invitees			
V. K. Vishnoi, IFS	PCCF & HoFF-	9435530031	pccfassam@gmail.

	Assam, Rehabari		com
Juri Gogoi, ACS	Deputy Secretary- Animal H. & Veterinary Deptt.	9864046349	
Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS	CCF (Wetlands)	8876565344	ranjanagupta2001@yahoo.com
Madhusudan Sinha, IFS (Representative of PCCF (wildlife), Assam)	Sr. Wildlife warden, O/o PPCF (WL), Assam, Basistha	9435079982	