

## Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2013

The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board took place at the Board Office Rehabari, Guwahati on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Shri P. P. Varma, Additional Chief Secretary-Assam and Chairman Assam State Biodiversity Board. A list of those present in this Meeting is at **Annexure-I**.

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

### **Agenda -1: Action Taken Report**

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

- i. Research Proposals referred to NBA
- ii. Digital format of the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) by AMTRON.
- iii. The draft proposal for amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010
- iv. Website of the Board
- v. Status of earlier BMCs.

### **Agenda- 2: The Research Proposals of Aaranyak involving foreign funding:**

The Board examined the letter from NBA addressed to the NGO clarifying that

- i. *funds/ donation from foreign countries for the purpose of research do not construe foreign share capital.*
- ii. *if there is no foreign participation in its share capital on its management, then research permission may be granted*
- iii. however, if research results are to be transferred, then prior approval of NBA is required.

#### 2.2. After careful examination the Board decided that:

- a. a copy of this letter may be sent to government clarifying that such research proposals that are funded by foreign agencies would be eligible henceforth.
- b. while according such permissions it may be reiterated that transfer of research results would require permission of NBA

**Agenda- 3: The Board ratified the following:**

- i. Draft of the Annual Reports for the financial Year 2011-12 & 2012-
- ii. The audited Annual Accounts for the financial year 2011-12 & 2012-13
- iii. No-objections granted to 2 proposals
- iv. Research permissions granted to 10 proposals.

3.2. On this agenda following suggestions were made:

- a. While granting research permissions a condition may be imposed that the proposers would share research findings with the Board.
- b. Board may develop its data base/ library based on these research finding.
- c. On the innovative research findings the State Innovation Council to be kept informed about the innovative research and may be approached to popularise the findings and encourage the researchers.

**Agenda- 4: The Board was informed about grants received**

- i. From the State Government
- ii. From the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai

4.2. On the issue of conditions imposed by the NBA for utilization of Grant meant for PBRs the Board was of the opinion that:

- a. BMC members / local people must be fully involved in awareness building and while doing PRA exercises the focus should be on women.
- b. Attempts be made to involve women/ grass root women's groups into PBR exercise specially in the traditional knowledge documentation.
- c. The funds to the BMCs may be released in installments and on the basis of utilization/ progress made.

**Agenda- 5: The Board was informed about the following:**

- i. Extension to Contractual Staff for 11 months and their revision of their remunerations
- ii. Visit of the Chairman NBA to Assam.
- iii. Celebration of the International Biological Diversity on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2013 at Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok.
- iv. Organization of Zonal Workshop at Jorhat on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013.
- v. Publications:

- a. "Bengali version of the Biological Diversity Act-2002 & Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010" and its release by the Chief Guest, Sri Rakibul Hussain, Hon/ble Minister Environment & Forests, Panchayat and Rural Development during the IBD Day celebration on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2013.
- b. "Glimpses of Biodiversity in Assam" and its release by the Chief Guest, Sri Rakibul Hussain, Hon/ble Minister Environment & Forests, Panchayat and Rural Development during the IBD Day celebration on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2013.
- c. Bodo version of the Biological Diversity Act-2002 & Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010. Release planned during Zonal Workshop at Kokrajhar.

**Agenda-6: Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC):** The Board was informed that post (Panchayat) elections 103 BMCs have been constituted.

**Agenda-7:** The Board noted the progress on preparation of PBR.

7.2. Following observations were made by the Board.

- a. **Nagaon PBR:** the remaining BMCs may be constituted at the earliest.
- b. **Sonitpur PBR:** The Nature & Undeveloped-people Reformatory Society (NUR Society), Nagaon may be exempt from the clause of Bank Guarantee. They shall however not be entitled to 10% mobilization advance and instead will be paid in installments, on the basis of progress of their works.
- c. **Kamrup PBR:** Once the NBA support for Taxonomist and Zoologist is available the works maybe started.

**Agenda-8:** Following Issues were discussed as additional agenda items:

- i. The Board noted that a proposal of the Board for creation of Secretarial Posts for the Board was still under consideration of the government. Considering the fact that it may take quite sometime in getting the proposal through, the Board suggested that in consultation with Forest Department certain posts that are lying vacant or have become redundant may be identified and efforts be made to get these posts transferred to the Board. In lieu, the Board may provide contractual assignments to the Forest Department, if required.

- ii. The issue of 33% reservation of women in skill up-gradation program, as a component of Hon'ble Chief Ministers' vision 2016 was taken up for synergies with BMC functioning was raised by the CCF (REWP) & OSD to CM. After a detailed discussions the Board reiterated that:
  - a. the works of awareness building / PRA and documentation of traditional knowledge should have a focus on women and attempts be made to make these programmes broad based, that is, not limited to members of BMC alone.
  - b. Whenever there is possibility of commercial gains in biological resource utilization, priority shall be on involvement and capacity building of women either by the Board itself or through the concerned organization.
- iii. As regards focus on agricultural biodiversity aspects, It was suggested that the Agriculture Department may designate a Nodal Officer either in the Directorate or in the Department to participate in the Meetings of the Biodiversity Board.
- iv. The Commissioner Agriculture suggested an exclusive meeting of Board with the Agriculture department
- v. The Board suggested holding of Zonal Workshops at BTC and Barak Valley on priority.
- vi. The Board suggested that a proposal may be moved to the Government for allotment of land for establishment of Board Office/Biodiversity Museum/NE Regional Office of NBA at Guwahati.

**Agenda-9:** Date for next Board meeting would be decided during mid August.

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

**Few Photographs of the 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**



**Annexure-I****List of members present in the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013:**

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail Id
<b>Official Members</b>				
1	P. P. Varma, IAS	Chairman-ASBB & Addln. Chief Secretary, Assam	0361-2237289	ppvarma@gmail.com
2	A. K. Johari, IFS	Member Secretary-ASBB	8876565345	johari60@yahoo.com
3	Santanu Thakur, IAS	Commissioner & Secretary- Agriculture Deptt.	9435087266	thakur.santanu@gmail.com
4	Moloy Bora, ACS	Joint Secretary- Environment & Forest Deptt.	9435048623	mloygovt@gmail.com
5	Asim Kumar	Dy. Secretary- Environment & Forest Deptt.	9678921576	
<b>Ex- Officio Members</b>				
6	R. C. Goswami, IFS (Retd.)	Member-ASBB	9435044818	rcgoswami@gmail.com
7	Dr. Anil Kr. Goswami	Member- ASBB	9864021714	akgoswami@gmail.com
<b>Special Invitees</b>				
8	Suresh Chand, IFS	PCCF (WL)	0361-2306042	pccf.wl.assam@gmail.com
9	Juri Gogoi, ACS	Deputy Secretary- Animal H. & Veterinary Deptt.	9864046349	
10	Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS	CCF (Wetlands)	8876565344	ranjanagupta2001@yahoo.com
11	Dr. Alka Bhargava, IFS	CCF ( RE & WP)	9435568923	ccf.rewp.assam@gmail.com