

Minutes of the 19th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board held on 29th November 2016 at Conference Hall of Chief Secretary, C- Block, Assam Secretariat, Dispur

The 19th meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board was presided over by Shri V. K. Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam and Chairman of Assam State Biodiversity Board. A list of members and invitees present in this meeting is at **Annexure-I**.

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 18th Board meeting were confirmed.
2. The Board was informed of the actions taken on agenda of previous meeting as below:
 - i. Under Biodiversity Research Associate Program, 10 Fellows completed their term. Nine (9) Fellows have submitted their final draft PBR that are under examination.
 - ii. The Internship Program on Biodiversity Conservation was launched and a Panel of Experts prepared for assisting the programme.
 - iii. The following proposals of the Board were still under consideration of the Government:
 - a. Amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010.
 - b. Organizational structure and draft Service Regulation of the Board.
 - c. Notification of Threatened Taxa u/s 38 of BD Act 2002 for Assam.

The Chairman requested the Forest Department for immediate action on all the three proposals and sought a status report within 15 days time.

- iv. The final draft of English translation of Assamese Documentary "Amulya Jaibabaichitra" was received.
 - v. The work of preparation of Assam Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (ABSAP) by Wildlife Institute of India was progressing as planned and stakeholders' meetings have been planned in BTAD and DHAD.
 - vi. A 'Working Group' has been constituted for addressing the problem of Alien Invasive Species in the State. The Group would meet shortly.
3. The Board was informed that:
 - i. The Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) were functional in all 189 Anchalik Panchayats in the State. Regarding the 3 Autonomous Councils, it was noted that:
 - a. 4 BMCs have already been constituted and 12 more will be constituted within a fortnight in the Bodoland Territorial Council against a total of 21 BMCs to be formed at Forest Range jurisdictions.

- b. *The Member Secretary would take up the issue for constitution of BMCs in Dima Hasao Autonomous District and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council by making personal visits.*
- ii. Drafts of 50 Peoples' Biodiversity Registers (PBR) were ready and works going on in 78 BMCs. Financial assistance and technical assistance would be provided to the remaining BMCs soon.
- iii. Technical Support Group were in place in 19 Districts and efforts being made for formation of TSGs in the remaining 14 Districts.
- iv. Regarding the Projects:
- a. The final technical report on 'Insect Fauna Documentation Project' has been received and it will be examined and improved for publication.
- b. The mid-term report on the Project on Fish Diversity of Brahmaputra Valley has been received and the fifth quarter report is due on December, 2016.
The Board suggested that the Project may be reviewed to sort out tax deduction matters.
- c. The final report on consultancy study conducted by the Board on Biodiversity Assessment of Dumpa Tiger Reserve in Mizoram has been accepted by the Power Grid Corporation of India and by the World Bank. The assignment is completed.
- v. The Expert Committee meeting regarding declaration of Majuli as Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) has been scheduled on 15th December, 2016 at Majuli.
Invitation was extended to all the Members to take part in tghis meeting at Majuli.
- vi. Following Grants/Funds were received:
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. State Government | : Nil (for FY 2016-17) |
| 2. NBA | : Rs. 06.66 lakh |
| 3. APFBC Society | : Rs. 20.0 lakh |
| 4. *Others | : Rs 127.11 lakh |
- (*Tender Fee, NTPC, Bank Interest)
- vii. The Board participated in the following events:
- a. Exposure visit to ONF International Paris
- b. Workshop on Biodiversity Governance, Bangalore
- c. 24th Children Science Congress, Dibrugarh
- viii. The book "Edible Bio-resources & Livelihoods" was released by the Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests on 12th November, 2016.
- ix. The Accounts of the Board for the financial years 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14 were audited by the CAG, Assam. There were no major observations.
- a. *The Board suggested to maintain high standards of financial discipline and learn from the observations made by the audit team.*

- b. *All transactions of funds shall be made electronically and practice of issue of cheques shall be discontinued forthwith.*
- x. Regarding Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) the Board had completed registration with EPFO; opened CPF account for 3 regular employees and one new account for the Board.

4. The Board ratified the following

- i. Expenditure incurred during FY 2016-17
- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| i. State Grant | : Rs 9,04,897/- |
| ii. NBA Grant | : Rs 8,60,496/- |
| iii. APFBC Grant | : Rs 23,23,460/- |

5. Following matter were placed before the Board for consideration and decision:

- a. The draft of the Annual Report of the Board for 2015-16: The Members were requested to email their comments, if any, on the draft within 7 days time. Thereafter the report to be taken up for publication.
- b. Notification of Threatened Taxa: The Forest Department would take necessary approval on the proposal and sent it to Gol for Notification at an early date,
- c. Inclusion of BD Act 2002 in the syllabus of M.Sc. courses: The Board suggested to prepare a module for this purpose and approach all colleges and universities..

d. New works / Projects:

i. Plant Diversity Assessment of Dima Hasao District of Assam: A proposal received from 'CSIR- National Botanical Research Institute', Lucknow.

a. Budget: Rs 29.7 Lakh

b. Duration: 2 Years

c. Principal Investigator: Dr. L. B. Chaudhary, Principal Scientist, NBRI, Lucknow.

This proposal was approved by the Board with a suggestion that as an outcome a comprehensive publication be brought out by the Board.

ii. Preparation of 5 short documentary films: Collaborative work proposed by North East Network under 'Green Hub Project' for developing short documentaries on following 5 themes:

i. Subsistence value of Forests.

ii. Traditional Knowledge

iii. Human-Animal Conflict

iv. Trades in NTFP

v. Life of a Forest Guard.

The total cost of the project is Rs 31.25 lakh of which Green Hub would contribute 17.5 lakh and Board Rs 12.5 lakh.

This proposal was approved by the Board.

iii. **Nature and Wildlife Education Programme:** A proposal for grant received from Wild Trail, Guwahati for publication of nature education books for school children.

a. Grant requested: Rs 9,34,800/- (for Book Publication)

b. For two trainers: Rs 2,40,000/-

This proposal was not approved by the Board

iv. **Convergence of Traditional Knowledge Systems for Sustainable Development in the Indian Himalayan Region:** A proposal for Prior Informed Consent (PIC) received for documentation of TK of Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Councils from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

This proposal was approved by the Board.

e. **Other Technical matters:**

i. Delegation of Power for passing out payment of bills to staff of the Board was not agreed to by the Board.

ii. **Revision of remuneration of 6 contractual staff of Board for FY 2016-17 after enrollment for CPF:** The Board approved the proposal as per the details below:

a. **NBA Grant: 4 staff with effect from 1st April 2016.**

Sl. No.	Position	Revised Remuneration
1	Technical Associate	Rs 22,500/-
2	Technical Assistant	Rs 17,800/-
3	Accounts Assistant*	Rs 17,800/-
4	Office Attendant	Rs 12,500/-

* Account Assistant from date of joining i.e. 12th August 2016.

b. **APFBC Grant: 2 staff with effect from 1st November 2016.**

Sl. No.	Position	Revised Remuneration
1	Technical Assistant	Rs 17,800/-
2	Technical Assistant	Rs 17,800/-

6. **Any other Issue with the Permission of the Chair.**

i. The Board suggested that a committee be constituted for consideration of applications for access to biological resource. The Committee may co-opt subject matter specialist as and when required. The recommendation of this Committee shall be placed before the Board for taking a final view on applications.

ii. The Board shall create an Expert Group for handling all matters related to Intellectual Property Rights Preparation (IPR) on bio-resources.

- iii. The Board shall endeavour to development 'Biotechnology Policy for the State' for the state.
 - iv. Efforts shall be made have tie-ups with top international institutions in the field of biodiversity conservation. A list of ten such institutes be placed before the Board with suggestive scope of collaboration.
 - v. The Board shall develop a 'Tea Museum' or 'Tea Gene-bank' in collaboration with Toklai Tea Research centre, Jorhat.
 - vi. The Board shall, in collaboration with Forest Department and private entrepreneurs, create of nurseries of 'Traditional Bio-resources', in collaboration with of the state.
 - vii. Similarly, the Board shall also endeavour to create 'Cane and Bamboo' preservation centre.
 - viii. A suggestion was made for creation of 'Corpus Fund' for the Board by sanction of a one-time grant. A proposal to be submitted to the Government for this.
 - ix. The Board shall bring all its publications for online sale on Board's website Tie-up with Flipkart & Amazon Merchandise Companies may be tried..
 - x. The Board noted that some members were not attending the meetings for quite some time. The Chairman suggested that if any Member is absent from three consecutive meeting, without prior written intimation, government may be moved for a suitable substitution.
7. The date and venue of the next meeting to be decided in due course.

The meeting ended with thanks from Chair to everyone present.



(Shri V. K. Pipersenia, IAS)
Chief Secretary-Assam & Chairman-ASBB

Members/ Invitees present in the 19th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board: 29th November, 2016

Sr.	Name	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail Id
Official Members				
1	Shri V. K. Pipersenia, IAS	Chief Secretary-Assam & Chairman, ASBB	0361-2261120	cs-assam@nic.in
2	Shri V. B. Pyarelal, IAS	Addl. Chief Secretary, Agriculture, P & RD, Finance Department.	9401017865	vbpyarelal@nic.in
3	Md. Ali Askar, ACS	Secretary, E & F Department.	9453066601	aliaskar2020@gmail.com
4	Shri M. Gogoi	Commissioner & Secretary, A H and Veterinary Department-Assam	9435419864	muktigogoi11@gmail.com
5	Smti. Sajeeda Islam Rashid	Secretary, Agriculture Department	9435557697	sajeedarashid@yahoo.com
6	Shri J. P. Medhi	Deputy Director-Fisheries Dept. Assam	9435144523	assamfishery@gmail.com
7	Shri A. K. Johari, IFS	APCCF & Member Secretary-ASBB	8876565345	johari60@yahoo.com
Ex- Officio Members				
8	Dr. Anil Kr. Goswami	Member- ASBB	9864021714	akgoswami@gmail.com
9	Shri R. C. Goswami, IFS (Retd.)	Member-ASBB	9435044818	rcgoswami37@gmail.com
10	Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee	Member-ASBB	9435148702	bhattapc@gmail.com
Special Invitees				
11	Shri D. Mathur, IFS	PCCF & HoFF- Assam	9435525094	pccfassam@gmail.com
12	Dr. Alka Bhargava, IFS	Addl. PCCF (RE & WP), Assam	9435568923	alka_b87@yahoo.com
13	Shri Utpal Bora, IFS	CCF (HQ)	9435146167	ubora_forest25@yahoo.com
14	Hridesh Mishra, IFS	CCF o/o CWLW Assam	9435104711	Hirdesh.ifs@gmail.com



ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

ARANYA BHAWAN, 2nd FLOOR

PANJABARI, GUWAHATI-781037

www.asbb.gov.in

ABB/Meetings/ 2011

Tel- 0361- 2333917; Fax: 2333788

Email: assambioboard@gmail.com

Date: 05/12/2016

Corrigendum

Kindly refer the the minutes of 19th Meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board circulated on 3rd December, 2016. In this regard, this is to inform that, in para-5. (e) ii. b. of the Minutes of the 19th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB), kindly read as "APFBC Grant:2 staff with effect from 10th November, 2016," instead of APFBC Grant:2 staff with effect from 1st November, 2016.

(A. K. Johari).

Member Secretary-ASBB

Some photographs of the 19th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board

