

**DRAFT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) HELD ON 08<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2013 AT 11.00 AM IN THE CHAMBER OF HON. MINISTER FOR FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT AT THE SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM, BARDEZ-GOA UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SMT. ALINA SALDANHA, HON. MINISTER FOR FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT, CHAIRPERSON, GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD.**

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	<b>Smt. Alina Saldanha</b> Hon. Minister for Forest and Environment	Chairperson
2.	<b>Shri Richard D'Souza</b> Principal Chief Conservator of Forests	Member
3.	<b>Shri Sandeep Nadkarni</b> Chief Engineer, Department of Water Resources	Member
4.	<b>Shri. Ulhas Pai Kakode</b> (Representing in place of Dr. P. K. Tufani, Director, Directorate of Agriculture)	Member
5.	<b>Dr. Joe D'Souza</b>	Member
6.	<b>Shri Celso Dias</b>	Member
7.	<b>Dr. Bhiva Malik</b>	Member
8.	<b>Dr. Nitin Sawant</b>	Member Secretary

**Shri Levinson Martins**, MS, (GSPCB) and Director / ex- Officio Jt. Secretary (STE) and **Shri Mahesh Kandolkar** could not attend the meeting and were granted leave of absence.

At the outset, Smt. Alina Saldanha, Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Environment; Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board welcomed the members. She further informed that these special meeting has been called to discuss and sought inputs from members on urgent matters.

1. Presentations by various proponents/ agencies to sought approval for utilization of bioresources

Dr. Nitin Sawant, Member Secretary informed the Board that as discussed in the XVIII<sup>th</sup> Goa State Biodiversity Board meeting the presentations of the project proposals by proponents viz Goa College of Home Science, Campal, Panjim- Goa; M/s. Marina India Infrastructure Pvt Ltd., Britona Bardez- Goa; M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd., Andheri (E), Mumbai; M/s. Yacht Haven (Goa) Private Limited, Vasco da Gama, Goa and M/s. Evonik Industries AG, Germany has been scheduled on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 from 2:00 pm to 5:45 pm at the Conference Hall of Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Saligao. He further stated that M/s. Yacht Haven (Goa) Private Limited has requested to postpone their power point presentation in order to allow them to make necessary arrangements for the same.

The request was granted by the Board and presentation by M/s. Yacht Haven (Goa) Private Limited was tentatively fixed on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013 by the Chairperson.

Dr. Joe D'Souza enquired whether a committee has been constituted to evaluate EIA reports submitted by the proponents. He was informed by the Chairperson that this matter will be discussed later in the agenda.



Dr. Joe D'Souza further questioned the appointment of certain members of GSBB in many committees. He further queried as to how these members will devote their time for the activities of the various committees/ Boards. He was acquainted by the Chairperson with the fact that the Board was non-functional for past 8 years, thus in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the Board, meetings have been called more often. Once the functioning of the Board is stabilized the Board members will meet as per the mandate of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Shri Celso Dias further added that, the Chairperson and the Member Secretary has the authority to take the decision on different issues of day to day activities of the Board and in case of matter involving urgent/ immediate action of the Board, a special meeting can be convened.

2. Intimating letter to utilize bio resources and to create awareness amongst the stakeholders. (For information under section 7, 22, 23 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules, 2004)

Member Secretary informed the Board that, the intimation letter to inform about the regulations imposed on utilization of bio resources of the state will be circulated to different stakeholder's viz. Government Departments, colleges, research institutes, industries, NGOs etc. This action will generate awareness on the implementation of Biological Diversity Acts and Rules amongst the stakeholders.

3. Constitution of committee to evaluate EIA reports received from different agencies for utilization of bio resources.

Member Secretary informed the Board that the committee has to be constituted to evaluate EIA reports received from different agencies for utilization of bio resources.

The Chairperson, suggested a standard committee comprising of 3- 4 scientists or experts should be constituted. Shri Celso Dias further added that 3 members would be adequate for the purpose. Shri Richard D'Souza recommended to consult specialist in assessing EIA reports. Mr. Ulhas Pai Kakode proposed to involve Goa University, National Institute of Oceanography and NGO for the same.

Dr. Joe D'Souza informed the Board that, EIA report involves different fields such as physical, chemical, biological parameters, etc. Thus appointing a person specialist in a particular field would not be appropriate. The Chairperson suggested that the experts from the Department of Marine Sciences, Chemistry Department and other related departments at Goa University can be appointed.

Member Secretary informed the Board that as per the requirement the Board can depute the consultant/ expert in the related field from time to time. Chairperson informed that the Board may not meet every time to decide upon the expert, to this Shri Nadkarni added that, the Chairperson and the Member Secretary could decide on the same.

4. Special invitee for the presentations by proponents/ agencies

Member Secretary further informed the Board that as the presentations by the proponents is scheduled on the same day (8<sup>th</sup> October 2013) the Board has to decide upon the committee at very short notice. Thus in such circumstances 1) Dr. C.U. Rivonkar 2) Dr. Manoj Borkar and 3) Shri Amol Navelkar could be called upon.



c/52

Member Secretary further specified that this committee would be functional solely for the presentations to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

5. Finalizing TA/ DA for special invitees

Member Secretary sought suggestions from the Board for providing the TA/DA for the special invitees. Shri Richard D' Souza informed the Board that the Government rules have to be followed and Rs. 800/- could be paid to them as sitting fees.

6. Resignation of Project Assistant II

Member Secretary placed the resignation letter of Project Assistant II, Shri Sahil Warang for acceptance before the Board and the same was accepted.

All the Board members suggested that a new Project Assistant II could be appointed.

Dr. Joe D'Souza requested for the list of employees with designation and qualification presently employed at Goa State Biodiversity Board. The same was disallowed by the Board.

Dr. Joe D'Souza further queried about the Board staff that interacted with the NIO Scientist. Mr. Nadkarni informed that this does not come under the purview of the Board. He further added that the Member Secretary is responsible for the day to day activities.

Member Secretary asked if he has to inform about the day to day decision taken by him. Mr. Nadkarni informed the Board that the Board members are involved in policy making only and the administrative activities of the Board do not fall under the purview of the Board members accountability.

Dr. Joe D'Souza inquired about the project proposal submitted by Reliance Industries Ltd. and also asked about the staff that had approached the NIO Scientist without taking prior permission of NIO Director.

Member Secretary said that Form I of Reliance Industries Ltd. was circulated to the Board members in the last meeting. Member Secretary clarified that Reliance Industries Ltd. are not taking any samples from NIO and the Board has not given any permission for commercialization purpose, further the Board cannot stop the research work that they would be undertaking.

Member Secretary further informed the Board that Dr. Joe D'Souza has also forwarded a letter to The Chairperson in this regards.

Mr. Nadkarni said that if the issue of policy making arise then only the Board members could be informed.

The Chairperson stated that on the routine basis Member Secretary has to be given independence to take certain decisions. Mr. Celso Dias informed that the Member Secretary has certain powers and he would be responsible for the same.

Dr. Joe D'Souza further queried about the name of the NIO Scientist who was consulted by the Member Secretary. Member Secretary informed the Board that he consulted Dr. Manguesh Gawas, Senior Scientist at NIO and it was just a verbal communication. Dr. Nadkarni said that the Board members cannot ask the executive the reason why and with whom he had consulted. Dr. Joe D'Souza further stated that the discussion with NIO scientist is not conveyed to the Board. Shri Richard D'Souza said that the papers of Reliance Industries Ltd. could be produced.



Further, Dr. Joe queried as to how the Board can approach NIO, Scientist without informing NIO Director. Shri Nadkarni replied saying that the Board members are not concerned about how Member Secretary approached NIO. Whether he has consulted Director or not is not our concern.

7. Outsourcing of staff (NBA)

Member Secretary informed the Board that the funds of Rs. 9,50,000/- has been given by NBA for outsourcing staff. He further stated that the following staff could be recruited:

- 1) Driver
- 2) Retired Government Accountant
- 3) Liaison Officer
- 4) Scientific /Personal assistant


Shri Nadkarni suggested that a legal counsel could also be included in the list.

Shri Richard D'Souza advised the Member Secretary to find out the salary structure for the above recruits from National Biodiversity Authority. Member Secretary told the Board that the essential Government procedures would be followed. All the members agreed to the same.

The Chairperson informed the members that all the members are free to ask questions and all the queries will be answered. She further stated that a report could be presented on the decisions and actions taken by the Board and during the Board meeting the Board can revoke the matter.

Dr. Joe D'Souza suggested that the proponent should be asked to submit 10 copies the project proposal and the same could be circulated amongst the Board members. Member Secretary said that he will send the detailed proposal and further added that it is not possible to convey all the matter in the Board meeting.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair

  
Dr. Nitin S. Sawant  
Member Secretary (GSBB)