

471

DRAFT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) HELD ON 27th DECEMBER, 2013 AT 11.00 AM IN THE CHAMBER OF HON. MINISTER FOR FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT AT THE SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM, BARDEZ-GOIA 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.	Smt. Alina Saldanha Hon. Minister for Forest and Environment	Chairperson
2.	Shri Richard D'Souza Principal Chief Conservator of Forests	Member
3.	Shri S. V. Prabhavalkar (Representative from Department of Water Resources)	Member
4.	Dr. P. K. Tufani Director, Directorate of Agriculture	Member
5.	Dr. Joe D'Souza	Member
6.	Shri Celso Dias	Member
7.	Dr. Bhiva Malik	Member
8.	Dr. Nitin Sawant	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 this special meeting has been called to decide on the policy decisions over project proposals and to seek inputs from members on urgent matters.

1. Policy decision over project proposals received from different stakeholders:

Dr. Nitin Sawant, Member Secretary informed the Board that as deliberated and discussed in the XIXth Goa State Biodiversity Board meeting held on 13th December 2013 the final report based on expert views and suggestions of the invited and in house members is prepared and same was placed before the Board.

a. Goa College of Home Science, Campal, Panjim-Goa

Member Secretary briefed and placed the scientific and technical facts received from the experts and requested the member for queries and suggestions. Dr. Joe queried whether the proponent would take care of the pollutants that would be used and generated during the dyeing process. Chairperson clarified that since the permission is being sought purely for research purpose the experiments would be conducted in the institute itself on a small scale. Shri Richard added that it falls in the ambit of the Pollution Control Board and proponents should take prior permission from GSPCB before setting up big industry.

Chairperson stated that at this stage we are only concern and approving the proposal for research purpose and not for any commercial utilization or large scale setting up of industry.

The Board unanimously granted the **permission purely for research purpose only, for commercial utilization separate permission of the Board has to be sought by the proponent.**

b. M/s Marina India infrastructure Pvt Ltd., Britona Bardez-Goa

Member Secretary appraised the Board about the project proposal and scientific, technical inputs received from experts after several deliberations. Shri Richard informed the Board that the project proponent was requested to show the site but he failed to do so.

Member Secretary informed the Board members that, the proponent during his presentation had agreed to the fact that the proposed site is an ecofragile maritime zone.

After taking into consideration the scientific views and reading the impact on ecology of river in general and biodiversity in specific the Board **rejected the proposal.**

c. M/s Reliance Industries Ltd, Andheri (E) Mumbai

The Member Secretary explained the project proposal submitted by reliance and requested the Board members to suggest on a strategy for regulating the sample collection by the proponent. Dr. Bhiva Malik suggested that the proponent should be cautioned to intimate the Board about time of sample collection and if possible a member could accompany them during sample collection. The Chairperson agreed to the same.

The Chairperson enquired whether the proponent has to inform the Board if they are interested in patenting the research. The Member Secretary informed the Chairperson that it is mandatory for the proponent to inform NBA towards IPR process mandatory under Section 6 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002. He further added that the proponent has to seek separate permission from NBA if they are interested in commercial utilization of the bio resource.

The Board granted **permission purely for research purpose only and requested project proponent to seek separate permission for commercial utilization.**

d. Evonik Industries AG, Germany

The Member Secretary informed the Board members that the proponent has a tie up with M/s Avesthagen Ltd., Bangalore who in turn collects the culture of *Schizochytrium limacinum*-SC 1 from National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa. He further specified that it is not very clear from where the wild strain of organism is being primarily collected by NIO. He informed the Board members that since sample collection are for commercial utilization in animal feed sector, necessary access benefit sharing needs to be shared with the Goa State Biodiversity Board/ Biodiversity Management Committee.

The Board members suggested Member Secretary to communicate with NIO regarding the collection of fungi *Schizochytrium limacinum*. Dr. Joe D'Souza informed the Board that the said strain has already been isolated by NIO scientist from marine waters of Goa and has been deposited in the laboratory at Chandigarh.

Shri Richard suggested that it is important to know whether there is any agreement signed between the proponent and NIO in terms of financial transaction. Chairperson suggested that details could be sought from NIO.

The permission was granted on the condition that the details must be furnished to the Board by the proponent regarding the exact locations of sample collection from wild.

e. M/s Yacht Haven (Goa) Private Limited, Vasco da Gama, Goa

The Member Secretary placed before the Board the views and comments of the experts. Considering the scientific views all the members opined that the proposal would lead to the irreparable ecological damage to the fragile marine ecosystem and would be detrimental to the biological endowments of the Sancoale Bay and the nearby areas. Board unanimously **rejected the proposal**.

2. Sitting fee for Board members

As discussed during the XIIIth Board meeting the details regarding the sitting fee for non official members was sought from Finance Department (Debt, Secretariat). The Finance Department in its response clarified that the Government has fixed Rs. 800/- towards sitting fee which is inclusive of Travelling allowance (TA) and as such Board cannot take any such resolution to increase the fee. The response letter was placed before the Board for information.

3. Board resolution for opening a bank account for access to biological resources

The Member Secretary informed the Board members that a separate bank account should be opened to deposit the fees received from the institutes/ companies utilizing the biological resources under Section 14 of Biological Diversity Rules, 2004. Shri Richard suggested to open an account in the nationalized bank. The Member Secretary informed that it is a mandate that the account should be opened in nationalized bank. The Chairperson inquired how these funds would be utilized and also suggested the Member Secretary to enlighten the Board about this matter in the next meeting.

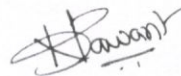
4. Finalization of budget for the financial year 2014-15

The Member Secretary briefed the Board about the budget for the financial year 2014-15. Dr. D'Souza suggested that the Board has to deal with the Chartered Accountant who is approved by the Board. Shri Richard suggested the Member Secretary to get the accounts audited.

The Member Secretary informed that the Board is in the process of appointment of additional staff for which additional office space is required. He further informed that the request for additional office space was not accepted by the Department of Science and Technology. Member Secretary suggested that the alternative arrangement could be erecting cubicles outside in open space near existing GSBB office. The Chairperson objected saying that shiftable partitions could be a better option.

Dr. D'Souza inquired about the funds available with the Board at present. Member Secretary replied that Rs. 2.92 Lakhs and 2.17 Lakhs are available of the butterfly conservatory and herbal garden project respectively.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair



Dr. Nitin S. Sawant
Member Secretary (GSBB)