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**MINUTES OF THE 11TH MEETING OF THE GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD,
HELD ON 12/12/2006 AT SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM – GOA**

The 11th meeting of the Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) was held in the Conference Hall (Ministerial Block) of the Secretariat, Porvorim-Goa on 12th December 2006 at 10.30am. Dr. Wilfred de Souza, Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister/Chairman (GSBB) chaired the said meeting.

The following members attended the meeting

Sr. No	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. Wilferd de Souza, Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister /Minister for Environment	Chairman
2.	Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt of Goa	Member
3.	Director of Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Goa	Member
4.	Director of Fisheries, Govt. of Goa	Member
5.	Dr. Irene Furtado, Reader, Dept. of Microbiology, Goa University, Bambolim Goa	Member
6.	Dr. M.K.Janarthanam, Reader, Dept. of Botany, Goa University, Bambolim Goa	Member
7.	Dr (Mrs) Kasturi Desai, Reader, Dept. of Botany, PES College, Ponda Goa	Member
8.	Dr. S.K Naik, Senior Fishery Scientist, Fishery Survey of India	Representative from Fishery Survey of India
9.	S.K Waradhar, DCF, C/o CCF Panaji	Representative from Chief Conservator of Forest
10.	Shri Joseph S. Rauto de Souza	Member Secretary

In addition, the following officials attached to GSBB, also attended the said meeting.

1. Shri Deepak K. Parab
2. Mrs. Pansy Pinho
3. Mrs. Prateema Kotharkar

The following members expressed their inability to attend the said meeting due to pre-occupation.

- i. Director, National Institute of Oceanography,
- ii. Dr. Baban Ingole, Senior Scientist NIO,
- iii. Director, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) Old Goa
- iv. Director/ Ex-officio Jt. Sec, Science, Technology & Environment Saligao, Bardez-Goa

Dr. Wilfred de Souza, Chairman GSBB, welcomed the members. Thereafter, the Member Secretary expressed regrets for the inability to convey the meeting at an earlier date. The agenda items were deliberated as under:

Agenda No 1

Activities conducted by GSBB :

1. "Tree Planting Program":

On 05th June 2006, to commemorate **World Environment Day**, a Tree planting programme was held at DST&E, premises, Saligao – Goa. The members expressed satisfaction on the said program and

proposed that aggressive tree planting schemes/drives could be undertaken during the ensuing monsoon season, which was agreed.

2. **"Million Seed Ball Campaign"**: On 14th August 2006, BITS, Pilani-Vasco, in collaboration with BCIL, Bangalore and Goa State Biodiversity Board initiated this program. This campaign had also been initiated on trial basis in the mining belt of Goa. The Chairman desired that the GSBB may ascertain sustainability of this seed culture and promote this new concept to other terrains. The Members agreed to the said proposal.
3. **Coastal Afforestation Program"**: The Program was held on 24th August 2006, at Kerim Beach. The programme was launched in association with the Forest Department. The Member Secretary requested the Forest Department, Govt. of Goa, to submit a detailed project proposal for undertaking the plantation in a phased manner for the entire coastal stretch of Goa. The members agreed to the same.

Agenda No 2

Proposed activities/events to be undertaken by GSBB

1. **Environmental Teachers Training Workshop:**

The Member Secretary, informed that three Environmental Teachers Training collaborative programmes, initiated by the GSBB were proposed to be organized in association with the C. P. R. Environment Education Centre, Chennai, in the month of January/February 2007. Approval was also conveyed to partly fund this event from the NBA funds being a collaborative program. The members appreciated the said initiation.

2. **Beach Cleaning Drives:**

It was proposed to organize beach-cleaning drives in selected beaches in Goa as a collaborative programme (NGC +Goa State Biodiversity Board) with the help of school students. Dr. Janarthanam opined that school children should be involved/motivated & sensitized to boost the awareness at school, community & village level. The members agreed to the proposal.

3. **Establishment of a "Medicinal & Herb Park" at DST&E:**

The members agreed to the proposal, to establish a "Medicinal & Herb Park" at the DST&E. However, the Chief Conservator of Forests suggested that the GSBB members should visit the Medicinal Park developed by the Forest Department, so that constructive inputs can be obtained for development of the GSBB Park. The Member Secretary also sought approval to obtain the landscape plan & budget constraint from the PWD.

4. **Inauguration of GSBB Office/Premises at DST&E Saligao: -**

The Member Secretary sought for a convenient date from the Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister/Chairman GSBB for inaugurating the GSBB office premises at DST&E Saligao. On finalization of the same, the date would be communicated to the members.

Agenda No 3:

A. Appointment of Contractual/Work Arrangement Staff for the GSBB:

The members were appraised upon the approval conveyed by the Government, to the proposal of the Goa State Bio-diversity Board, to utilize the services of following four officials.

Sr. No.	Name of the official	Present post held and recruiting office	Present scale	Proposed post in the GSBB
01.	Deepak K. Parab	Technical Assistant, Goa State Council for Science & Technology (GSCST) Saligao, Goa	Rs. 5,500-175-9000	Scientific Assistant-I Rs. 5,500 + allowances as applicable (Working arrangement basis)
02.	Mrs.Pansy Pinho	Junior Research Fellow, ICMAM, GSCST	Rs. 8,000/pm consolidated	Scientific Assistant-II, Rs.8,000/-pm consolidated. (On contract basis)
03	Mrs. Prateema Kotharkar	Computer Operator, S& T Mapping, GSCST	Rs. 6000/-pm consolidated	Computer Operator, Rs.6,000/pm Consolidated,(on contract basis)
04.	Vilas Kavthankar	Driver, DSTE	Rs. 4,500/pm Consolidated	Driver, Rs.4,500/pm consolidated

The official at Sr. No. 1, would be paid through the GSCST, and at Sr. No. 2 & 3 will be paid through GSBB. However, the driver at Sr. No. 04 would be paid through the DSTE, till the pattern of assistance is approved by the government and the requisite Grant-in-aid is released to the GSBB.

To facilitate the Goa State Biodiversity Board to function effectively, efficiently and attain the objectives envisaged under the Biodiversity Act and Rules, therein, the following post were proposed for the said Board.

Sr. No	Name of Posts	Nos. of posts	Proposed Scale
1	Sr. Scientific Assistant	01	Rs. 6,500 - 200 -10,000
2	Jr. Scientific Assistant (R&D)	01	Rs. 5,500 -175 -9000
3	Jr. Scientific Assistant (Database)	01	Rs. 5,500 -175 -9000
4	Computer Operator	01	RS. 4,500 -125 -7000
5	LDC/Cashier	01	Rs. 3050 - 75 - 3950
6	Driver	01	Rs. 3050 - 75 - 3950
7	Peon	01	Rs. 2550 - 55 - 2660- 60-3200

The members approved the said positions and desired that the said positions may be filled on priority in view of the Government decision to ban recruitment w.e.f April 2007 and also to attain the mandate of the GSBB.

B. Vehicle for the GSBB:

As approved by the Government, the Quails Vehicle No. GA-01/G-3757 of the Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Saligao, will be utilize/transferred to the GSBB along with the driver (as mentioned above) until a new vehicle is procured for the GSBB Office.

Agenda No 4:

Procurement of Computer System and Office Furniture for GSBB Office:

The members approved the procurement of a Computer System along with tables and chairs. The procurement of computer will be made from M/s Kendriya Bhandar, Panaji, Goa. Whilst, the Computer furniture would be procured from M/s Goa State Handicrafts, both being government undertakings.

Agenda No 5:

Constitution of Sub-Committee's:

During the 10th GSBB meeting, the Members were requested to suggest names of various prominent scientists, researchers, officials, etc., as nominees for inclusion in the various Sub-Committees associated with related subject knowledge. Only two-organisation viz. Fishery Survey of India, Vasco da Gama and National Institute of Oceanography, Goa have furnished the names of experts to be considered. Therefore, the members were once again requested to suggest the names so that the same could be finalized and the committee be constituted. The members agreed to the same.

Agenda No 6:

1. Establishment of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) in selected

Villages:

In order to initiate the PBR programme and manage the same successfully with the help of limited resources available with the GSBB, it was agreed to initially consider five villages as under. In the vicinity of North Goa for establishing the PBR's. The members approved the same and also agreed to identify additional villages from South Goa thereafter. The following villages have been approved for PBR project.

- Saligao - (Bardez- Taluka)
- Virnoda - (Pernem - Taluka)
- Merces - Ribandar (Tiswadi - Taluka)
- Mulgao - (Bicholim- Taluka)
- Velha Canca - (Bardez- Taluka)

2. Approval for establishing Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) for 05 Municipalities:

The members agreed to establish Biodiversity Management Committee's (BMC) for the five Municipal areas as enlisted below.

- Mapusa - (Bardez- Taluka)
- Bicholim - (Bicholim- Taluka)
- Ponda - (Ponda- Taluka)
- Valpoi - (Sattari - Taluka)
- Pernem - (Pernem - Taluka)

Agenda No.8:

Any other matter with the permission of the Chair:

i. Administrative & Financial Powers to the Member Secretary

The Chairman & Members of the GSBB agreed to vest the administrative and financial powers to the Member Secretary, (GSBB) for smooth functioning of the Board activities.

ii. Sitting fees for GSBB members

Sitting fees of Rs 500/- per meeting for all members of the Board was agreed upon.

iii. Providing Identity Cards (I.D) to board members

To facilitate smooth entry to the Secretariat and other Govt. Departments of the GSBB Members, it was proposed to provide Identity cards (ID) to the board members, which was agreed by the members.

iv. State Biodiversity Rules:

Dr. Janarthanam opined that for the effective functioning of the Goa State Biodiversity Board, the State Biodiversity Rules need to be notified at the earliest.

v. Release of Grant-in-Aid to GSBB.

The Chairman opined that the file under submission to the government for the release of grant-in-aid would be expedited.

vi. Participation to Workshop:

Dr. (Mrs) Kasturi Desai gave a brief overview on the " National Seminar" on Western Ghat Biodiversity, for which she had been deputed by the Board.

vii. Development of the GSBB Website:

Dr. Janarthanam (Member) desired that the Goa State Biodiversity Board should develop a website for effective documentation of the GSBB database. The proposal was appreciated and agreed upon.

viii. Database on Marine Life:

Dr. S.K Naik (Rep. From Fishery Survey of India) suggested that a database on Marine life should also be developed with priority. This proposal was also appreciated

ix. Documentation of Micro-organisms:

Dr Irene Furtado, stressed upon the necessity of documenting the "Microbes" of Goa. The members expressed their concern towards this proposal.

x. Recovery of dues from Satej Kamat, Agriculture Officer, Dept of Agriculture:

The member Secretary, GSBB appraised the Chairman and members on the honorarium of Rs. 40,000/- (Rs. Forty thousand only) drawn by Shri Satej Kamat, Agriculture Officer from Agriculture Department who functioned as "Scientific Officer" in the Goa State Biodiversity Board.

The members were of the opinion that since no "Scientific Officer" post existed in the GSBB; it was inappropriate for Shri Kamat to discharge his duties as "Scientific Officer" and also to draw an honorarium of Rs. 2500/-pm, amounting to Rs. 40,000/-. Further, the communication on the

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subject matter received from Director of Agriculture reveals that, Shri Kamat has not been authorize to function & discharge his duties as Scientific Officer and to draw any honorarium.

As such, during the discussion, the members opined that, necessary measures to seek explanation from Shri. Kamat on the said matter be sought. The Chairman desired that necessary directives be issued to the Directorate of Agriculture to initiate necessary action in the matter and recover the amount in questioned, with intimation to Directorate of Accounts and the GSBB. The members agreed to the same and desired that matter be expedited. in view of the repeated requests from the NBA to the GSBB in submission of the Utilisation Certificate (UC) & Statement of Expenditure (SE), as also as, the National Bio-diversity Authority (NBA) has also sought for submission & compliance of Audited statement of accounts of GSBB.

xi. Up dating of Accounts/ Vis-à-vis, consumables, etc.

It was opined that the entries in the "Book of Accounts" were not in accordance with the GSBB passbook. Moreover, the records on the stationary purchased & printed were also not available on record. The members opined that the stock be asssed and ascertained. Based on the same, the following stationary is unaccountable.

- a. A4 - size Xerox papers (30 rims)
- b. Files (Nos.100)
- c. Pads
- d. Letter heads

The Chairman desired that the board should meet more frequently. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Approved
Majid A. A. Souza
 26 Feb 2004

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