

**MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD,
HELD ON 12/06/2008 AT SECRETARIAT, PORVORIM – GOA**

The 12th meeting of the Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) was held in the Conference Hall (Ministerial Block) of the Secretariat, Porvorim-Goa on 12th June 2008 at 3.00pm, Shri. Aleixo Sequeira, Hon'ble Minister for Environment/Chairman, Goa State Biodiversity Board, chaired the said meeting.

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No	Name of official who participated	Designation
1.	Shri. Aleixo Sequeira, Hon'ble Minister for Environment	Chairman
2.	Dr. Baban Ingole, Sr. Scientist N.I.O, Goa	Representative of N.I.O, Goa
3.	Dr. J R Faleiro, Principal Scientist, Scientist, ICAR, Goa	Representative of ICAR
4.	Shri. Karmi Prakash, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, Goa.	Representative of Forest Department
5.	Shri. Michael M D'Souza, Director Ex Offico Jt. Sec DST&E	Special Invitee
6.	Dr. Joseph S. Rauto De Souza, Chief Scientist (GSCS&T)	Member Secretary

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

1. Shri. Deepak K. Parab, Technical Assistant (GSCS&T)
2. Mrs. Pansy Pinho, Scientific Assistant (GSBB)
3. Shri. Arjun Shetye, A.A.O (GSBB)

The following members did not attend the said meeting:

- i. Zonal Director, Fishery Survey of India
- ii. Shri Dattaraj Salgaocar Industrialists
- iii. Dr. Jaiwant Sardessai, Margao
- iv. Shri. Celso Dias, Headmaster, Our lady of Socorro High School Verna.
- v. Shri. Jitendra Deshprabhu, Hon'ble, Ex-M.L.A, Pernem
- vi. Shri. Subash Shirodkar, Hon'ble, Ex M.L.A, Shiroda.

At the outset, Shri. Aleixo Sequeira, Hon'ble Minister for Environment/Chairman, GSBB, welcomed the members and requested the members to introduce themselves, since this was the first meeting of the newly constituted board. Thereafter, the Member Secretary, Dr. Joseph De Souza, gave an overview of the functioning of the GSBB. The following agenda items were addressed at the meeting.

1. **Agenda No.1: Confirming of the 12th Board meeting minutes:** The minutes of the 12th Board meeting were read and approved by the members. The follow up action was also discussed.

2. **Agenda No. 2: Review of the progress of ongoing Board activities**
 - a. **Establishment of Herbal/ Medicinal Park:** The member's were informed that the proposal was submitted to the Forest Department, Government of Goa. The Representative of the Forest Department opined that the matter was under scrutiny and the detailed document would be submitted to the GSBB in a period of fifteen days. The members of the board expressed their total dissatisfaction of the pace at which the Forest Department was dealing with the matter.

 - b. **Environment Education and outreach program**
 - i. **Teachers / students education workshop:** The Members opined that a series of teachers / students interactive workshops, and programs be frequently organized, in order to sensitize the students on their commitment towards a better environment, as also, to generate an environment awareness and consciousness. The members suggested that the students should be taken on nature trails and eco-excursions. In addition, they should be exposed to national laboratories and institutions so as to be acquainted on the functioning of the said institutions and also undertake micro level projects. Shri. Karmi Prakash, ACF, Forest Department, suggested that collaborative programs and nature trails could be organised.

 - ii. **School outreach program:** The members were appraised on the ongoing scheme adopted regarding the Environment Education program conceived by the GSBB, and expressed their satisfaction.

 - iii. **Documentary and audio section:** The members were also informed on the micro data bank (audio-visual) established regarding exchange programs, where environment related films and documentaries have been procured, which would be screened in selected academic institutions.

 - iv. **Global Climatic Change program:** The proposal prepared by the GSBB was also agreed to and the GSBB would submit the proposal to the DST&E, for GIA.

 - v. **Beach Cleaning program:** The members suggested that the students of neighbouring coastal villages could undertake beach cleaning drives along with the GSBB.

 - vi. **Waste Disposal and Awareness Program:** The members felt that due to the trends in waste menace, the students should be appraised on the basic hygiene and waste management methods at school level.

1. Accordingly, environmental talks, events and programs, as proposed, would be organized.

3. **Strengthening of the Human Resources and Infrastructure development of the Board.**

a. **Strengthening of the Human Resources:** The members agreed to the proposal that the board need to be strengthened and desired that the proposed "Contract Posts" recruitment be based on application themes / areas of thrust. Director DST&E, Shri. Michael D'Souza, suggested that the human resource component in the Board be structured on subject base needs. Accordingly the proposal would be prepared and re submitted for the consideration of the Board.

b. **Infrastructure support & development of the Board.** The members agreed in principle to the procurement of the following hardware required by the GSBB. However, Director, DST&E opined that the NBA funds be utilized for the said procurement. The procurement of the hardware requirement would be finalized by the Member Secretary & Director (ST&E).

- i. LCD projector
- ii. Lap Top computer
- iii. Digital Camera
- iv. Fax machine
- v. STD and Broad band connection
- vi. Furniture of proposed staff
- vii. Exchange procurement of Cell phone for M.S (GSBB)

4. **Any other matter with the permission of the Chair**

a. **Chicalim Village Action Committee requests regarding the protection of the Chicalim Bay.** The Chicalim Villager Action Committee submitted a letter to the Board and desired that the areas around Chicalim Khazan and Vareg Island being ecologically fragile and the marine biodiversity around needs to be protected and accordingly conserved. After in depth deliberations, on the subject, the board felt to seek the assistance of experts in the field. It was therefore decided to approach the Department of Environment to seek necessary assistance from organizations like; the National Institute of Oceanography, to carry out studies along the estuaries and rivers of Goa.

b. **Operation of Accounts of the GSBB.** The Chairman suggested that the current Bank Account of the GSBB be operated under any of the two signatories, viz; Member Secretary (GSBB), Assistant Accounts Officer (GSBB). The specimen signatures would be obtained and the respective banks would be informed about the said transactions/decision. Accounts to be opened in Nationalized Bank.

The members suggested that the board meets more often to review the progress.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.