

MINUTES OF THE XIV GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) MEETING
HELD ON 25TH OCTOBER 2012 AT 04:00 PM UNDER THE CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF
SMT. ALINA SALDANHA, HON' BLE MINISTER FOR FOREST & ENVIRONMENT,
AT SECRETARIAT

The following members attended the meeting:

Sr. No	Name	Designation
1	Smt. Alina Saldanha Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forest	Chairperson
2	Mr. Richard D'Souza Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest	Member
3	Mr. R. R. Yaragatti Suptd. Engg. (WRD) representing Chief Engineer (WRD)	Member
4	Mr. Satish Tendulkar Director, Directorate of Agriculture	Member
5	Mr. Michael D'Souza Director, Dept of Science, Technology & Env.	Member
6	Mr. Sanjiv Joglekar, Env. Engg (GSPCB) representing MS (GSPCB)	Member
7	Dr. Joe D'Souza,	Member
8	Shri. Mahesh Kanolkar,	Member
9	Dr. Bhiva Malik,	Member
10	Dr. Nitin S. Sawant	Member Secretary

Shri. Celso Dias, Member, Could not attend the meeting and was granted leave of absence.

At the outset, Smt. Alina Saldanha, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forest/Chairperson, GSBB welcomed the members and requested members to introduce themselves, since this was the first meeting of the newly reconstituted board. Thereafter, the Member Secretary, Dr. Nitin Sawant, gave an overview of the functioning of the GSBB.

The following agenda items were addressed at the meeting.

Agenda item 1: Discussion on the previous working of the board. Matters pending from previous board (Research projects and activities)

Members were informed that board was inactive for quite a long time and expressed hope that the newly reconstituted board will fill the gap. It was also informed that most of the original documents are missing and only photocopies are available in the files, the Grant – in – Aid proposal copy of State Government and NBA are also untraceable. The Chairperson and members suggested that an official letter, enquiring about the same should be sent to former Member Secretary and an explanation sought on the matter. The records should be updated on this account.

Agenda item 2: Mandatory Permissions from Biodiversity Board as applicable to GSPCBs well as GCZMA (Coastal)

Dr. Joe D'Souza suggested that any project should be appraised by GSBB on similar lines as that done by GSPCB and GCZMA. Similarly projects approved by GSPCB/GCZMA should also be reviewed by GSBB. Mr. Michael D'Souza suggested that both the authorities function under separate statutes and Biological Diversity Act, may not provide for review or appraisal of project for purpose of clearance. Suggested that the copy of Biodiversity Act and copies of other relevant documents of the GSBB may be circulated to all the members. This was agreed upon by Chairperson.

Agenda item 3: Role of GSBB in preservation of and proper clearance of mining projects in sensitive areas. E.g. Forest, River, Sand etc.

Dr. Joe D'Souza emphasized the need of pro-activeness and intervention in the project implementation by State Government. As there are no approved biodiversity rules and regulations for the State, members suggested that they should be formulated at the earliest. It was decided that biodiversity rules need to be framed and get approved by Law Department for proper regulation by GSBB and for making the approvals by the GSBB definite.

Agenda item 4 & 5: Marina project. & Chikhalim project.

Member Secretary informed the members that the Chairperson has already expressed her concerns through a letter to Hon'ble CM. She also expressed her concern towards traditional fisher folk community in particular and biodiversity in general. Mr. Michael informed that the site hosts the endangered species *Placuna placenta* (Window Pane Oyster) which needs to be protected at the chikalim project area of Pinky shipyard. He further explained that the natural water flow will be affected, which has not been properly dealt in EIA report of the Marina project. He also suggested that Secretary should put forth the proposal with prior consent of Chairperson to identify biodiversity hot spot areas and to conduct scientific studies by the Board for further conservation initiatives of these prime areas.

Agenda item 6: State specific biodiversity conservation plan with special reference to Western Ghats.

As discussed in agenda item number 3.

Agenda item 7: GSBB office infrastructure and Staff recruitment.

Member Secretary requested Chairperson to provide supporting staff and other infrastructure facilities for the smooth working of the Board. He further informed that the request has already been made through proper channel. Chairperson agreed and assured to provide the same at the earliest.

Agenda item 8: Newsletter/Annual report etc.

Member Secretary suggested that newsletters and annual report will effectively bring the information and functioning of the Board to the public notice and requested members to contribute. All the members welcomed and encouraged this idea and agreed to contribute.

Agenda item 9: Identifying new Eco-sensitive areas.

As discussed in agenda item 3, 4 & 5. Dr. Joe D'Souza suggested that the project work should be given to Goa University and to get the work done by them. Further Mr. Michael suggested that a precise 5 page report on details of study area can be produced by student's involvement. Chairperson encouraged this idea and said it can be taken up by higher secondary school students rather than giving it to secondary students. Further Dr. Bhiva Malik suggested that the schools from remote areas may be encouraged and data pertaining to these remote areas can be procured and compiled.

Agenda item 10: Biodiversity Rules for the state

Member Secretary informed the members that the State Rules have been framed by the previous board members and have been sent to Law Department for vetting, which may need to be reexamined. It was suggested that the copy of the same may be circulated to all the members for further examination and approval.

Agenda item 11 & 12: Formation of BMC (Biodiversity Management Committees) & PBR (Public Biodiversity Register)

Member Secretary informed members that the previous MS took initiative in forming five BMC, and PBR, in the State which need to be revived. He further informed that initiative will be taken to outline BMC & PBR all over the State in a phase wise manner.

Agenda item 13: Creating website (Data base on biodiversity)

Member Secretary informed members that the website will be created on priority basis to highlight the functioning of GSBB and the rich biodiversity in the state.

Agenda item 14: Restoration of Mining belt

Member Secretary suggested that in future, the board can try and take up restoration of mining affected areas, by selecting certain areas on pilot basis.

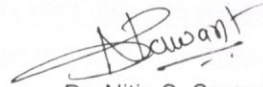
Agenda item 15: Bio-data of all the members with specific proficiency in biodiversity area.

Member Secretary requested all the members to kindly submit their bio-data for the official records.

Chairperson suggested that board should meet immediately within a month to ensure the smooth working of the board and to ensure that all the documents are in place. Therefore it was decided to have next meeting on 26th November 2012

Agenda item 16: Thank you

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



Dr. Nitin S. Sawant

Member Secretary (GSBB)