

PROCEEDINGS OF XVIITH GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) MEETING HELD ON 14TH JUNE, 2013 AT 4:30 PM UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SMT. ALINA SALDANHA, HON. MINISTER FOR FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT, CHAIRPERSON GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT, SALIGAO BARDEZ-GOA

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 R.R. Yaragatti (Representing in place of Shri Sandeep Nadkarni)	Member
4.	Shri Sanjeev Joglekar (Representing in place of Shri Levinson Martins)	Member
5.	Dr. Joe D'Souza	Member
6.	Shri Mahesh Kandolkar	Member
7.	Dr. Bhiva Malik	Member
8.	Dr. Nitin Sawant	Member Secretary

Shri Levinson Martins, MS, (GSPCB) and Director / ex- Officio Jt. Secretary (STE); **Shri Satish Tendulkar**, Directorate of Agriculture, Member; **Shri Sandeep Nadkarni** CE, WRD and **Shri Celso Dias** could not attend the meeting and were granted leave of absence.

At the outset, Smt. Alina Saldanha, Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Environment and Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board welcomed the members.

1. Confirmation of the proceedings of the last (XVI) meeting held on 25th January, 2013 at Secretariat

The proceedings of XVI meeting of GSBB held on 25th January, 2013 were placed before the Board and the same were confirmed. Taking into consideration the suggestions from the board members the Chairperson suggested that the proceedings of the meeting should be circulated amongst the members and they should be given 15 days time to respond on the same. Further it was decided that if the members fail to respond within stipulated time the same may be considered deemed. Subsequently with due permission from the chair, The Member Secretary (GSBB) proceeded further with the agenda.

2. The report of the First National Biodiversity Congress 2012, held at Kanakakkunnu Palace, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala from December 21st to 30th, 2012 (attended from December 27th to 30th, 2012)

The Member Secretary briefed about the events of the First National Biodiversity Congress 2012. Members suggested that the report of the visit be prepared and circulated amongst the members.

The Member Secretary requested Dr. Bhiva Malik to present the report. It was suggested by members that in order to save time the copies of all such reports should be maintained in GSBB library for reference purpose

3. Report of 8th National meeting of State Biodiversity Boards at Chennai- Dr. Bhiva Malik

The Member Secretary informed the Board that the 8th National meeting of State Biodiversity Boards was held at Chennai. Due to busy schedule Chairperson could not attend the same and thus, Dr. Bhiva Malik accompanied the Member Secretary.

It was also suggested by all the members that all the Board members should be informed about the major events, seminars, national workshops etc organized by National Biodiversity Authority and Goa State Biodiversity Board. The Chairperson suggested that all the members should be given the opportunity to participate in the State and National level programmes.

The Chairperson also suggested that a notice board can be put up in the office premises so that all the notices can be put up on the notice board. The members could be informed about the activities through telephone. The same was agreed

4. Report on the 23rd meeting of expert committee on Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) for processing the applications received by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), from different stake holders for permission held from 5-6 April 2013 at Chennai

The Member Secretary briefed the Board that he has been appointed on ABS Expert Committee. He further informed the Board that The Biological Diversity Act 2002, Section 21 should be implemented in the State towards Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) and circular may be sent to the concerned stake holders utilizing the Biological resources on commercial scale and permission from GSBB may be made mandatory.

Dr. Joe D'Souza informed the Board that cashews are being exploited for commercial purpose and inquired whether the cashew crop comes under the perview of this Act. Shri Richard D'souza and the Member Secretary informed that cashew does not come under the perview of The Biological Diversity Act 2002 and further stated that it is not a threatened or endangered species.

Member Secretary informed the members that a project, " Documentation, Study and Utilization of Local Plants for Natural Dyeing", which is sponsored by Department of Science, Technology & Environment has been put up by Goa College of Home Science. The project has been submitted to GSBB for technical comments. He also informed that it is a good opportunity for employment generation and most of the species used are cultivable except few which are wild species.

5. Report of the activities conducted for last 4 months (Jan 2013 – 5th June 2013)

- a) The Member Secretary informed that in the interest of stake holder education and awareness about the oyster *Placuna placenta*, 4 sign boards were erected at Chicalim & Sancoale Bay on 10th May 2013 at the hands of Smt. Alina Saldanha Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Environment; Chairperson, Goa State Biodiversity Board. He further said that local fisher folk community and other stakeholders appreciated the efforts taken by Board and showed lots of interest towards conserving their marine biological diversity.
- b) Member Secretary, briefed the Board on the event of the celebration of the "International Day for Biological Diversity 2013". Various competitions such as poster & painting, quiz, photography and snake awareness programme were held for school students & general public. Desilting and restoration of water bodies at Cuchelim, Dhawe, Navelim and Shel was carried out. Workshop on biodiversity awareness was conducted at Dhawe. He further informed the Board that GSBB had received amount of Rs. 2.5 lakhs from National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) to celebrate the IBD 2013. The Chairperson suggested that a small report on the activities conducted on this event be prepared and circulated. This was agreed to be circulated along with the minutes.
- c) The Member Secretary also informed the Board that a major sand dune at Colva was destroyed by private owner and the same was restored by the Board and Forest Department was requested to carry out the plantation to avoid sand erosion.
- d) Member Secretary, GSBB was invited by IGBC to give presentation on "Wildlife of Goa", at Kala Academy on 31st May 2013.
- e) A crocodile was rescued at Ecoxim in association with the Forest Department. The crocodile had entered into a trench and the people were panicky. The same was immediately handed over to the Forest Department for release.
- f) During the above mentioned period as requested by The Chairperson various site inspections were conducted viz; Carambolim, Nuvem, Benaulim, Aroshi, Colva, etc. to check the violation and to assess the damage to Biological Diversity.
- g) The Member Secretary also informed that as requested by Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board he attended the Planning Commission meeting held at The Secretariat on 5th June 2013 at 03:30 pm.

6. Permission to engage retired Accountant.

The Member Secretary informed that the Board is in need of retired Accountant. A list of retired Accountants was procured from Directorate of Accounts but no suitable candidate was identified. To this, it was suggested by the members to advertise the same following proper procedure.

7. New Logo for GSBB

The Member Secretary circulated the logos for GSBB received from Goa College of fine Arts, Panaji and suggested that if they are not approved by the Board members then competition for the same may be held. All the members were in the favour of the same so that it will provide wide options in selecting the new logo.

8. Proposed development of Marina at Sancoale Bay in Zuari River at Village Sancoale, Mormugao Taluka, South Goa by M/S Yatch Haven (Goa) Pvt. Ltd, Vasco-da-Gama.

The Chairperson remarked that the Chief Minister has already given comments on this issue and further stated that the site at Sancoale is rich in biodiversity. Boats and yatch will enter the area which will pollute the surrounding.

Dr. Joe D'Souza and Shri Sanjeev Joglekar suggested that the Board should carry out the study/ inventory of Biological Diversity and submit the report. Shri Sanjeev Joglekar also suggested that we have to study the NIO report and then give a third party opinion & the gist of the project report of NIO could be circulated. The Member Secretary Informed that the report is with the chairperson, which will be assessed and inputs would be given.

9. Permission to Dump Pontoon 'Pit stop" in Morjim, Chapora River

Member Secretary informed that Chapora is a turtle nesting site with approximately 3,500 people belonging to villages of Morjim, Siolim, Chapora, Kaysuva, Badem and oxel. Shri Sanjeev Joglekar suggested that scientific facts could be put across. The reply to this should go by Board decision and all the members should be involved in the process of decisions making. Dr. Bhiva Malik suggested that Project Assistant should be deputed for the said inventory. Shri Sanjeev Joglekar stressed that before coming to any conclusion scientific field study should be conducted.

The same was agreed by all the Board members, and Member Secretary assured that the study will be initiated at the earliest.

10. Circular to be sent to all concerned stakeholders for utilization of natural resources and research oriented work.

Member Secretary informed that several minor/ major research on bioresources is carried out in the State of Goa, but it is observed that none of the researcher or educational institute take prior permission from approach GSBB for approaching/ utilizing biological resource. They explore the state resources but Board and other line departments might also not be aware.

Thus to keep a check on this irregularities, a circular would be sent to all the stake holders from GSBB as per The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 & Biological Diversity Rules, 2004. Dr. Joe D'Souza, member suggested that we have to identify the Biodiversity hot spots. The Member Secretary informed that we need to identify industries in Goa utilizing natural resource at commercial scale and necessary Sections may be imposed as per the NBA Act & Rules.

11. Rules for GSBB under progress at National Biodiversity Authority

Member Secretary informed the Board that as decided in the previous meeting draft of Biodiversity Rules for the State has been send to NBA. He further added that the rules are almost ready and yet to be received from NBA.

12. Formation of BMC & PBR; request to sort assistance from Member Secretary, Madhya Pradesh

The Member Secretary requested the board members to suggest places to form BMCs and PBRs. He further informed that guidance would be sought from Member Secretary of Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board. He also briefed the members on how BMCs would be formed and circulated the guidelines regarding the same.

13. Agenda Item 13. Details of grants available & utilized

The Member Secretary informed the Board members that the amount of Rs. 7,00,000/- from predecessor was available and that part of it has been spent in setting up the infrastructure and towards office renovation.

14. Budget 2013-14

The Member Secretary submitted the budget for the year 2013-14. The Chairperson suggested to include some amount for research. The Chairperson asked for the items which are on the priority in the budget. The Member Secretary informed that this budget is a routine grant for running administrative needs & separate funds will be asked for the projects/research.

15. Status of 'Butterfly conservatory' and 'Herbal Park'

The Member Secretary informed the Board that an amount of Rs 3.5 lakhs from predecessor will be spent for setting up of butterfly conservatory at DST&E premises & also prior permission for the same has been obtained from DST&E. A project on setting up of medicinal park is ongoing for which Rs. 5,00,000/- has been sanctioned by DST&E.

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