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**DRAFT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF XIX<sup>TH</sup> GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2013 AT 4:00 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	<b>Smt. Alina Saldanha</b> Hon. Minister for Forest and Environment	Chairperson
2	<b>Shri Richard D'Souza</b> Principal Chief Conservator of Forests	Member
3	<b>Shri R.Kalaivanan</b> (Representative from Water Resource Department)	Member
4	<b>Shri Barreto</b> (Representative from Dept. of Agriculture)	Member
5	<b>Dr. Joe D'Souza</b>	Member
6	<b>Dr. Bhiva Malik</b>	Member
7	<b>Dr. Nitin Sawant</b>	Member Secretary

**Shri Levinson Martins**, MS, (GSPCB) and Director / ex- Officio Jt. Secretary (STE).

**Shri Celso Dias** and **Shri Mahesh Kandolkar** could not attend the meeting and were granted leave of absence.

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

1. Confirmation of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> Board meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Department of Science, Technology and Environment Saligao and Special meeting of GSBB held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Secretariat Bardez-Goa

The proceedings of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Saligao and Special meeting of Goa State Biodiversity Board held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at Secretariat Bardez- Goa were placed before the Board and the same were confirmed.

2. Deliberation on applications received for access of biological resource and other projects-decision to be taken.

The Member Secretary informed the Board members that the Goa State Biodiversity Board had received five applications from various institutions/ companies namely (a) Goa College of Home Science, Campal, Panjim-Goa, (b) M/s Yacht Haven (Goa) Private Limited, Vasco da Gama, Goa, (matter referred by Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB)), (c) M/s. Marina India infrastructure Pvt Ltd., Britona Bardez-Goa (matter referred by GSPCB), (d) M/s Reliance Industries Ltd, Andheri

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(E) Mumbai and (e) Evonik Industries AG, Germany, (matter referred by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)) for accessing biological resources under Section 3 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rule 14 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004. He further added that as discussed and decided during the XVIII<sup>th</sup> Board meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013, that the proponents may be given a chance to give their presentations accordingly the proponents were heard by the experts in the field of science and the Board members.

Dr. Joe D'Souza queried as to why the views and suggestions submitted by him and other members on the presentations by various stakeholders was not circulated amongst the Board members. Dr. Malik replied saying that circulating individual reports received from the members and experts is not necessary. To this the Chairperson added that circulating of the reports to all the members will delay the process of decision making hence the matter may be discussed and Member Secretary may appraise the Board on the matter.

After a through deliberation on the report, The Chairperson suggested the Member Secretary to appraise the Board before informing the final decision to the concern parties.

The Member Secretary informed the Board that a special meeting would be organized to finalize the decisions on the applications received wherein the final report would be circulated to all the members during the meeting.

### 3. Complaints received and action taken

#### i) **Sub: Save our campus road side trees to be cut for widening MDR-3**

**Complainant: Dr. Nandkumar Kamat**

The Member Secretary informed the Board members that NBA had referred a complaint received from Dr. Nandkumar Kamat on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2013 regarding the road side trees to be cut in the Goa University campus for widening MDR-3 Bambolim, Dona Paula- Goa to GSBB. He further informed that in response to the complaint, inspection was carried out in the Goa University campus on 29/10/2013 and 04/11/2013.

The Chairperson added to this saying that the assurance has been given by the concerned department that the trees will be replanted.



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**ii) Sub: Urgent inspection and report on biodiversity importance of the Colva Lake**

**Complainant: Colva Civic and Consumer Forum, Colva**

The Member Secretary informed the Board that GSBB has received a complaint from Colva Civic and Consumer Forum, Colva (vide Letter No. CCF/GBDB/27/13-14 dated 8/10/2013) on the damage to the environment and biodiversity of the Colva lake. A joint site inspection was conducted at Colva on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013 at 11:30 am jointly with The Deputy Collector, South-Goa, Water Resource Department, Panaji-Goa, Town and Country Planning, Margao-Goa, Margao-Goa, Directorate of Agriculture, Panaji-Goa.

He further informed the Board that the Village Panchayat desires to have a play ground on the proposed site. Dr. D'Souza added, saying that it is a low lying area, a water body and harbors lots of biodiversity. Shri Richard D'Souza requested the Board to verify whether the concern site is declared as wetland and fulfills the criteria under Ramsar Convention and further added that any small water body cannot be declared as wetland.

Member Secretary informed the Board that the technical reports from the concerned departments present during the joint inspection at Colva is awaited. Reminder has also been sent to the concerned departments for the same.

**iii) Sub: Construction of road through wetland at Nuvem (Rumbder) (Complaint received on 7/11/2013)**

**Complainant: Shri J. C. Milagres D'Costa and others**

The Member Secretary briefed the Board on the complaints received from Shri J. C. Milagres D'Costa and others regarding the construction of road through wetland at Nuvem. Shri Richard D'Souza suggested determining whether the said site complies with criteria of wetland. The Chairperson added that there will be adverse effect on the Sal River. Shri Richard D'Souza said that the bypass is a need. To this, Shri Barreto added that the present route is not a right location for the bypass. The Chairperson inquired if there is any alternative for the same. The Member Secretary also informed the Board members that the area gets flooded during monsoon and the proposed route is aligned parallel to River Sal. Shri Richard D'Souza suggested that the inspection could be carried out at the proposed site and the report could be passed over to Public Work Department, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Department.

Dr. Joe D'Souza suggested the Board members to consult Dr. Chachadi, Goa University for guidance. Chairperson suggested to conduct joint inspection with Department of Agriculture Public Works Department, Water Resource Development, etc.

4. Discussion of Rules for Goa State Biodiversity Board

The Member Secretary informed the Board that this matter would be discussed with the State Government to process the final draft of the Goa State Biodiversity rules for notification.

5. Additional office space to Goa State Biodiversity Board- New recruitment

6. Based on the intimation letter concerning 'unauthorized and unregulated collection of biological material and bio-exploratory surveys' following companies have approached the Board for access to the biological resources

The Member Secretary informed the Board that as per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 intimation letters were circulated to the companies/ institutes utilizing the biological resources. Based on the intimation few companies viz: Amsar Goa Private Ltd., Colvale, Goa; Vicco Laboratories, Corlim, Goa; Unichem Laboratories Ltd., Pilerne Goa and Sandu Laboratories Ltd. Pilerne Goa have approached the Board and have submitted the Form I.

The Board has to open a separate account for depositing the fee along with Form I. The funds obtained from this exercise would be utilized for the biodiversity conservation related activities.

Some schools also have informed the Board about the utilization of biological resources in their institute and specimens preserved in the laboratory.

7. Approval of budget for financial year 2014-2015

8. Staff contract renewal

9. Activities

The Member Secretary informed the Board that the following activities were taken up by GSBB during the period from October to December.

**a) Workshop:**

Goa State Biodiversity Board collaborated with Carmel College for Women, Nuvem in organizing one day Educator training workshop on "The Sahyadri Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation" at Carmel College for Women, Nuvem- Goa on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013.

**b) Awareness Programmes:**

The Member Secretary delivered a lecture on Biodiversity at Goa State Museum, Patto- Panaji.



**c) Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC's)**

Orientation meetings were held at the Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Saligao for the Village Panchayats selected for the formation of BMC's in North and South Goa. The meetings for Panchayat members and locals of Nagargao, Hassapur, Carambolim and Verem Vaghurme were also held.

He further informed the Board that NBA has given consent for formation of more 50 BMC's in addition to 12 BMC's

Dr. Malik suggested that 25 BMC's in North Goa and 25 BMC's in South Goa could be formed.

**10. Meetings attended**

Member Secretary informed the Board that he participated in 2 days National Consultation meeting on communication for Access and Benefit Sharing from 19-20 November 2013 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat and also attended two days National consultation meeting on Economic Valuation of Bio- Resources for Access and Benefit Sharing from 9-10 Dec 2013, at Chennai.

**11. Ongoing Projects at GSBB**

Member Secretary informed the Board that the GSBB is in the process of creating an inventory of Natural Habitats and Biodiversity.

He further said that developing Herbal Garden and Butterfly Conservatory at Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Saligao Bardez-Goa is in progress.

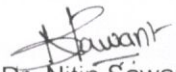
**12. Any other matter**

- Member Secretary informed the Board regarding the visit of the Chairman, NBA to Goa on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2013 to discuss issues related to effective implementation of the Biological diversity Act in Goa and also the ways in which the NBA can enhance support to the State Board in undertaking supportive actions. He further requested all the members to be present for the discussion.
- Member Secretary suggested that GSBB should organize press briefing so as to create awareness about BD Act and Rules to the public. Dr. Malik suggested that the Chairperson and the Member Secretary should brief the press.

- Member Secretary informed the Board that a website of GSBB will be created through National Information Centre after the recruitment of additional new staff so that deliberation goes to public domain to be transparent with regards to matters related to GSBB.

Agenda number 5, 7 and 8 were not taken up due to lack of time.

The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by the Member Secretary.

  
Dr. Nitin Sawant  
(Member Secretary, GSBB)