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MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD HELD ON 21/12/2004 AT 11.00 A.M. AT DSTE, SALIGAO – GOA.

The 1st Meeting of the Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB), was held on 21st Dec' 04, at 11 00 a.m. in the Conference Hall, DSTE, Saligao – Goa, under the Chairmanship of Dr. H.Y. Karapurkar. The names of other Members and Special Invitee who participated in the meeting are listed in the Annexure. The following GSBB Members sought leave of absence:

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| 1 | Dr. N.P.S. Varde, Director/Jt. Secretary (STE) | Member Convenor |
| 2 | Representative of Fisheries Department | Member |
| 3 | Representative of Higher Education | Member |

At the outset, the Chairman, extended a warm welcome to all the Members of the newly constituted Board and expressed his happiness over the appointment of various Members who are eminent personalities in the relevant field. He further expressed confidence that with their contribution and advice, the Board will be able to do justice to its mandate. Being the first meeting of the Board, the Chairman introduced himself and requested the Members as well as the Special Invitee to introduce themselves to the Board.

The Chairman then gave details regarding the background and mandate of the Board vis-à-vis the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (No.18 of 2003) and the constitution of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) which has been established at Chennai. The initial steps taken since the issue of the Order (No.7/17/92/STE/PART/858 dated.02/12/2004) constituting the Board were then put forth before the Members, which are as under:-

- i) Opening of an Account No.15109 in the Indian Overseas Bank, Panaji Branch, to facilitate receipt of funds from the NBA, the State Government and others.
- ii) Steps initiated to search for a suitable office premises measuring 150 sq.mt. in Panaji City.
- iii) Details regarding an adequate staffing pattern for the smooth functioning of the Board.

Copies of the Central Act "The Biological Diversity Act 2002", were distributed to the Members for their reference and study.

The Chairman requested the Members to express their views, if any. One of the Members, Dr. Nandkumar Kamat, spoke about the need to make the functioning of the Board different from any other Government run body and emphasized its complete autonomy.

At this juncture, the Chairman expressed that the issues before the Board are bound to be very delicate in nature and hence the Board will have to study the issues case by case when they come before it. He further added that the issue of active participation by the concerned NGOs in various parts of the State will be discussed at length during the next meeting and ways and means of assigning certain tasks to them and their implementation will be closely monitored by some individual Members of the Board. Other suggestions made by Members, Dr. Manoj Borkar, Dr. Kasturi Desai and Dr. Janarthanam regarding the generation of a data base on "hot spots" of biodiversity and the importance of safeguarding the tribal interest while permitting the "exploitation/conservation" of certain germplasm as mentioned by Dr. Kamat were discussed in brief. It was agreed that the said suggestions are to be implemented stepwise on their merits.

Dr. Borkar suggested that in course of time the Board may consider the release of a newsletter to publicise its activities.

The Chairman informed that presently the Draft Rules are being framed and the same will be put before the Board in its forthcoming meeting so that any suggestions made by the Members could be incorporated before submitting the same for the vetting of the Law Department.

He further added that a token Budget provision for the next 3 months i.e. (Jan - Mar' 05) as also the Budget for the year 2005-2006 are under preparation and the same will be put up for Government approval. It was decided to issue a press release in the local media as soon the office of GSBB is set up. The next meeting of the Board was fixed on 14 Jan' 05 at 3.30 p.m. at DSTE, Saligao - Goa.

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

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ANNEXURE

1st Meeting of the GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) held on
21st Dec' 04 at DSTE, Saligao – Goa.

Sr. No.	Name of the Participant Member	Designation
1	Dr. Heman Y. Karapurkar	Chairman
2	Mr. Cedric S D'Souza , Assistant Conservator of Forests	Member
3	Mr. Kumbhare, Deputy Director of Agriculture	Member
4	Dr. M. K. Janarthanam	Member
5	Dr. Nandkumar Kamat	Member
6	Dr. (Mrs) Kasturi R. Dessai	Member
7	Dr. Bernard F. Rodrigues	Member
8	Dr. Manoj Borkar	Member
9	Mr. Satej Kamat, Agriculture Officer (GSCST/DSTE)	Special Invitee