

DRAFT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF XXTH GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) MEETING HELD ON 21ST FEBRUARY, 2014 AT 03:30 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 (Representative from Water Resource Department)	Member
4.	Dr. P. K. Tufani Director, Directorate of Agriculture)	Member
5.	Dr. Joe D'Souza	Member
6.	Dr. Bhiva Malik	Member
7.	Dr. Nitin Sawant	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.

After deliberations on the agenda, following decisions/resolutions were taken:

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the XIXth Board meeting held on 13th December 2013 and the Special meeting of GSBB held on 27th December 2013

The Board approved the proceedings of the XIXth Board meeting and special meeting held on 13/12/2013 and 27/12/2013 respectively and reviewed the Compliance.

2. Information on action taken on the agenda points of XIXth Board meeting

Action taken in respect of Item No's. i (ii) to i (v) and ii to iii were noted by the members with satisfaction.

Regarding Item No. i (i) it was put forth by a member that the board should have conducted scientific study before taking the final decision and the same was decided during the earlier Board meetings. It was informed by the Chairperson and other Board Members that due to financial constraints and the cost of time involved it was decided to appoint expert scientific/ technical members to scrutinize the project proposals and hear the concerned stakeholders and based on the report of the expert members the final decision

was arrived and the same has been noted in the proceedings of the earlier meetings held.

After deliberations, the action taken report of the XIXth meeting of the Board was approved.

3. **Biodiversity strategy and action plan and the constitution of Biodiversity Management Committee's (BMC's) in the State**

The Board was informed regarding the 2 days Orientation programme proposed to be conducted for the members of the Board and Village Panchayats for the formation of BMC & PBR and regarding the approval and grants received from NBA for the formation of additional 50 BMC's.

The same was noted by the Board.

Discussion on Biodiversity strategy and action plan was deferred for discussion in the next meeting to be held in future.

4. **Projects on Biodiversity conservation and management**

Item No's. a) i to iii; b) i and iii were noted by the members with satisfaction.

Regarding Item No. b) ii, the members were informed regarding the latest position of construction of shed for butterfly conservatory project; the matter has been pending for long. It was resolved to continue with the construction of shed as per the quotation approved for the said project provided the rates quoted are within the budget. In case if the budget for the said work exceeds than the payment for work which is already carried out may be settled and the remaining amount should be returned to the funding agency.

5. **Biodiversity Rules for the State of Goa**

The rules were approved and it was decided to submit the same through proper channel for vetting prior to being placed before the State Legislature for approval.

6. **Staff Contract renewal**

The renewal of the following staff purely on contractual basis was noted by the Board

- i) Steno
- ii) Accounts Clerk
- iii) LDC
- iv) Peon

7. New Staff recruitment

The Member Secretary informed that the post of Scientific Officer and Driver has been filled on contractual basis. He further informed that the interview for filling up the post of Programme Officer and Project Assistant II was held on 11th February, 2014. The file of the selected candidates has been forwarded for approval. The members noted the progress.

It was also informed that the post of retired Government accountant has not been filled due to non-availability of the suitable candidate. Regarding the appointment of retired accountant, it was resolved that since no suitable candidate was found the requirement of the Retired Accountant post may be changed to Accountant post and the same may be re-advertised as per the RR set by the State Government.

8. Selection of Logo

The logo entries received by the office of GSBB were circulated amongst the Members and the logo entry no. 1 submitted by Mr. Ketan Kalidas Khorjuvekar from Shantinagar, Vasco- Da- Gama was selected by the Board with minor suggestions. It was decided that the appearance of the tree in the logo be changed. With this observation the logo was approved.

9. Complaints Received

In respect of Item No's. i) to ii) and iv) to v) it was decided to conduct a site inspection (a team of scientific staff and a Member of GSBB) with other concerned Government departments and the report received from the concerned Govt. department may be compiled and submitted to the Board Members, complainants and the concerned Government Authorities.

It was resolved that in order to avoid delay in compliance to the complaints received, the Member Secretary henceforth in consultation with the Chairperson shall adopt the above procedure and may not wait for the consent of the Board.

Regarding Item No. iii, it was decided to request Dr. Mascarenhas (Scientist) to conduct a survey/study on the impact of mechanized cleaning on the coastal area of Goa and submit a report to GSBB. The same may be submitted to the concerned Government departments for necessary action.

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10. Right To Information

The Board was appraised on the RTI applications received by the office. The same was noted by the Board.

11. New account for RTI

The opening of new bank account to deposit the fee of the RTI applications was approved by the Board.

12. Goa State Pollution control Board

The Board was informed regarding the operation of Pontoon "Pit Stop" in Morjim, Chapora River by M/S Marina India Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. thus causing gross indifference to the concerns raised by GSBB in their submission to GSPCB vide letter No. 7/17/2013-14/GSBB/Apl/023/323 dated 30/12/2013. GSPCB was informed regarding the same vide letter No. 7/17/2013-14/GSBB/ISS/006/354 dated 14/01/2014 and that action taken report from GSPCB is awaited.

The Chairperson, GSBB; Hon'ble Minister for Forest & Environment through telephonic communication instructed the concern GSPCB officer to take necessary action in this regards.

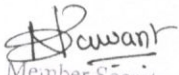
13. DGS & D rates

The Board was informed regarding the proposal to NBA for procurement of two PC's and a laptop. It was further informed that DGS&D rates are not available for laptop. It was suggested to take prior approval from the State Government for procuring the laptop at market rate by inviting quotations.

14. Any other points with the permission of the Chairperson.

- i) The Board was informed regarding the letter received from Member Secretary, Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board regarding the Implementation of ABS in the State. The same was noted by the Board.
- ii) It was proposed to create a permanent post of Member Secretary, GSBB. The same was approved by the board. It was resolved to send a proposal to the State Government in this regards.

The Meeting ended with Thanks from the Chair.


Member Secretary
Goa State Bio-diversity Board