

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB)

The 2nd meeting of the Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB), was held on 14th January, 2005 at 3.30 p.m. in the Conference Hall of 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.

At the outset, the Chairman, extended his best wishes for the New Year (2005) to all the Members of the Board and appreciated the fact that all members of the Board were present for the meeting. Thereafter, the Chairman and the Member Convenor initiated the deliberations in accordance to the Agenda, circulated in advance.

ITEM No. 1

Confirmation of the Minutes

ITEM No.2

Further steps taken since the last meeting

The Chairman was pleased to present the various steps undertaken since the last meeting, and the same are summarized as under:

1. Discussions were held with the Member Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and he was urged to release an initial grant of Rs 5.00 lakhs to the GSBB. It was informed by the MS (NBA), that since the Chairman, (NBA) is yet to be appointed, the funds cannot be released in the immediate future.
2. The basic requirements of stationery such as stamps, files, letter head, pads, receipts, etc have been purchased on credit from reputed suppliers and the bills towards the same will be settled as soon as the ad-hoc funds requested from the DSTE are released. The Members appreciated the work put in by the Board to make available to them various stationery items in a short span of time.
3. The Chairman has requested the DSTE to release ad-hoc funds to the tune of Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only) which will be reimbursed to the Department as soon as the NBA releases the first installment of Rs. 5.00 lakhs.
4. The Chairman and the Member Convenor met the Hon'ble Minister for Environment to brief him about the contemplated activities of the GSBB and thanked him for his support.
5. A meeting has been fixed with the Hon'ble Chief Minister to appraise him about the GSBB mandate and to seek the support required from the State Government to achieve the same.
6. Efforts are on to identify a suitable office space for the GSBB in Panaji city through the State Government.

7. The Board has already short listed the office furniture to be acquired and a survey of available furniture in the market will be taken up shortly. The Board has approved the purchase of a Qualis (AC) model and letters in this regard will be sent to M/s Sharayu Toyota showroom located at Verna.
8. The Principal of College of Arts (Altinho) has been requested to conduct a competition amongst the final year students to suggest a "Logo" for the GSBB. The creator of the selected Logo will be suitably rewarded and all the participants will be given participation certificates. The last date for receiving the entries is 31st Jan '05.
9. As requested by some of the Members, written requests have been made to the Heads of their respective Institutions to permit them to attend the meetings, site inspections and other affairs of the Board, as and when required by the GSBB.

ITEM No. 3

Framing of Goa Biological Diversity Rules, 2005.

The Member Convenor informed that the process of framing Goa Biodiversity Rules 2005 is in progress and a draft will be circulated amongst the members in due course. However, he shared certain difficulties with respect to the envisaged enforcement of the Act, which are listed below:

1. The desired level of functioning of State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) shall depend on the status of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).
2. Presently only six States have constituted the SBBs and the Chairman of the NBA is yet to be appointed.
3. The mandate of the SBB is to control the exploitation of a variety of native "floral/faunal" germplasm and to protect the same against unscrupulous, and unauthorized users. Further, the SBBs also have the task of protecting the rights of native and traditional users of location specific germplasm for their livelihood. This is a complex task given the facts that the available native "varieties/species" of germplasm are located in the open and unprotected locales and the genuineness of traditional users is difficult to establish.
4. The constitution of the contemplated Local Management Committee (LMC) at the Panchayat level and activation of the same will be a daunting task vis-à-vis the priorities of Local Authorities.
5. The framing of Rules governing the appropriate and sustainable use of Biological Diversity requires a thorough knowledge of repositories ("hot spots") of both floral & faunal biodiversity including the microbial world.
6. Dr. Nandkumar Kamat opined that in the course of time and experience gained by the GSBB all the difficulties could be sorted out. He added that the immediate task before the GSBB is to study the present status of the "hot spots" of biological

diversity in Goa, identify the traditional users of native germplasm and undertake a massive awareness campaign through schools, colleges and NGOs for its conservation. He lamented that the incidents of accidental as well as deliberate bush fires have shown a dramatic increase, in recent years, threatening the extinction of some of our floral species. Consequently, Dr. Kamat proposed the preparation of a Biodiversity Status Report.

ITEM No. 4

Formation of Sub-Committees to prepare a Statewide Biodiversity Status Report

The Member Convenor requested the Members (named below) to form individual committees of two or three individuals each for 'documenting/identifying' specific localities which could be termed as the repositories or "hot spots" of diverse species of herbs, shrubs, ornamentals, trees, wild animals, agricultural crops, birds, reptiles, mushrooms, amphibians, marine life, etc.

1. Dr. M. K. Jamarathanam
2. Dr. Nandkumar Kamat
3. Dr. (Mrs) Kasturi N. Dessai
4. Dr. Bernard F. Rodrigues
5. Dr. Manoj Borkar

The said members agreed to prepare a preliminary status report on identification, documentation, availability, vulnerability and exploitative potential of various species of germplasm, native to Goa, by 20/02/05. It was also decided to prepare a Detailed Report by 31/05/05.

ITEM NO.5

Any other point

The Chairman requested the Members to present their views on other topics, if any. The suggestions made by the members and accepted by the GSBB are listed below:

- i) During the interim period, until the said Biodiversity Status Report is submitted, the GSBB shall use the Goa Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (GBSAP) prepared through the scheme jointly funded by DSTI (Goa) and supported by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (GoI) as its preliminary "guide book".
- ii) The GSBB shall use the services of 350 schools enrolled under the National Green Corps (NGCs) scheme implemented by the DSTI, to undertake a massive awareness drive concerning the unique and rich biodiversity of Goa and its

enormous potential to usher in an era of socio-economically rich and ecologically sustainable development.

- iii) The GSBB, through a field survey shall prepare a "Illustrated Guide Booklet" of Biodiversity "hot spots" as well as a herbarium for the purposes of exhibition and documentation.
- iv) Initially the GSBB shall identify twenty two (2 for each Taluka) Village Panchayats (VP) where awareness programmes could be initiated with the active participation of NGOs.
- v) A Circular will be issued to all line Departments and other relevant entities informing them about the constitution and mandate of GSBB and urging them to make available any 'information/material' sought by the Board.
- vi) The Fisheries Department shall make available to GSBB the required information on the biological diversity of inland fresh water lakes, rivers and sea.
- vii) To Forest Department shall demarcate private forest areas so that the GSBB can take up the identification of certain wild species with the help of forest officials.

The next meeting of the Board was fixed on 4th Mar' 05 at 3.30 p.m. in D31E, Saligao-Goa.

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

ANNEXURE

2nd Meeting of the GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) held on 14th Jan'05 at DSTE, Saligao – Goa.

Sr.No.	Name of the participant	Designation
1.	Dr. Heman Y. Karapurkar	Chairman
2.	Dr. N.P.S. Varde, Director/Jt. Sec (STE)	Member Convenor
3.	Dr. S.L. Narayanamurthy, Advisor & Director, Technical Education	Member
4.	Mr. P.P. Kumbhare, Dy. Director of Agriculture	Member
5.	Mr. N.V. Verlekar, Dy. Director of Fisheries	Member
6.	Mr. Cedric S D'Souza, Asst. Conservator of Forests	Member
7.	Dr. M.K. Janarthanam, Goa University	Member
8.	Dr. Nandkumar Kamat, Goa University	Member
9.	Dr. (Mrs) Kasturi N. Dessai, PES College	Member
10.	Dr. Bernard F Rodrigues, Goa University	Member
11.	Dr. Manoj Borkar, Carmel College	Member
12.	Mr. Satej Kamat, Agriculture Officer (GSCST/DSTE)	Special Invitee