

MINUTES OF THE VII MEETING OF THE GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) HELD ON 11th NOVEMBER 2005 AT DSTE, SALIGAO

The seventh meeting of the Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) was held on 11th November '05 in DSTE, Saligao at 4.00 pm. This meeting was held after a gap of five months due to delay in clearing important files put up to the Government by the Board pertaining to the availability of office space, fund requirement, staff allocation, vehicle for the Board, etc.

The names of the officials who attended the said meeting are listed in the annexure. The following members could not attend the meeting due to other important engagements.

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| 1. Dr. N.P.S.Varde | Member Convener |
| 2. Representative of Agriculture Department | Member |
| 3. Representative of Fisheries Department | Member |
| 4. Representative of Higher Education Department | Member |

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the members who were present and took up the Agenda points one by one.

ITEM NO. 1

Confirmation of the minutes of the VI meeting of the Board

The minutes were approved unanimously.

ITEM NO.2

Action taken so far by the Board

- The Chairman gave a brief report of the action taken up by the Board.
1. The Draft Rules have been submitted to the Government for its approval
 2. The files put up to the Government since June '05 have been returned with certain Comments and the same have been resubmitted after due clarifications.
 3. The Honorable Chief Minister desires to have a monthly report of various activities undertaken by the Board.
 4. Regarding office space availability the government has agreed in principle to allot suitable premises from the suggested list of four places.
 5. Proposals for purchase of vehicle, fund allotment for the financial year 2005-06 and staff for the Board is still pending and likely to be cleared in due course of time.

ITEM NO3.

Project work allocation to the Members of the GSBB

The Chairman emphasized that this was the main issue for today's meeting and placed before the members a list of identified projects which could be taken up by the Board. He then tentatively assigned various projects to each Member taking into account their experience in the said subject matter.

After due discussion on these projects and suggestions received from the members, the following projects were assigned to respective members as under.

1. **Dr. Nandakumar Kamat**
"Documentation of native edible mushroom species of Goa, their economic importance sustainable exploitation and conservations".
2. **Dr.(Mrs.) Kasturi N. Desai**
"Conservation of Sand due of ecosystem of Goa vis-à-vis economic importance of its floral and faunal component and their conservations".
3. **Dr. Bernard Rodrigues**
"Documentation of Medicinal and Aromatic plants in Goa".
4. **Dr. Manoj Borkar**
"Documentation of flora and fauna prevalent to mangrove of ecosystem of Goa – their economic importance, sustainable management and conservation".
5. **Dr. M. K Janarthanam**
"Documentation of medicinal ^{entire species} flora of Goa their economic importance and sustainable exploitation".
6. **Representative of Agriculture Department**
" Documentation of sustainable economic exploitation and conservation of agro-biodiversity of Goa – field and plantation crops".
7. **Representative of Fisheries Department**
"Effective enforcement of mesh size restriction of fishing nets and realistic period for a total ban on fishing activities during monsoons need for an awareness campaign".

The Chairman further added that each member may convey to the Board on or before 30th November '05 a brief outline of the project including the financial requirement to take up the said project to its logical conclusion within a period of four months.

The members were of the opinion that such projects may require at least one year for completion and requested the Board to consider the same. This was agreed to by all. The project proposals, after due scrutiny, will be forwarded to the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at Chennai, for approval and financial sanction.

ITEM NO.4.

Other points raised by the Members of the Board

1. The members requested to know the position of visiting cards, identity cards, etc from the Scientific Officer of the Board. The Scientific Officer told them that all this had to wait since the office of the board had not been designated so far. He requested them to please give their recent photos, and promised to at least give them the visiting cards during the next Board meeting.
2. The Members were interested in having photographs taken of certain important species and for their project and wanted the Board to procure a good camera for this purpose. The Scientific Officer told them that a digital Camera will be procured for the Board or the services of a professional photographer would be sought for the project work assigned to each Member as per their need, during the next few months.
3. The Chairman told the Board that the Member Convener had received a brochure from the Law Books Center, Mumbai, entitled "Biodiversity Law and Practice" by Yeshwant Shenoy. In this context, he further added that the Board has already indented a copy of the same since it will be a useful for the Board and that the Scientific Officer has already done the necessary spadework to procure the book at the earliest.
4. The Chairman informed the Members that so far only Agriculture Department has submitted a brief list of the germplasm to the Board based on our earlier two letters to them. He directed the representative of the Forest Department to please submit the required information pertaining to poaching of wild animals in the state. He also directed the Scientific Officer to send another letter to the Fisheries Department and ICAR, to submit the required information.
5. The Chairman finally added that the subject matter on Sacred Grooves and trees could be assigned to Shri Rajendra Kerkar, an environmentalist who has executed a number of 'studies/campaigns' on this subject matter. This was approved by the Board. The Chairman directed the Scientific Officer to forward a letter on this subject matter to Shri Kerkar at the earliest.

6. The Chairman made a point that except for one Board meeting, neither the Director (Higher Education) nor any of his representatives has attended the meeting. He directed the Scientific Officer to forward a letter on behalf of the Board regretting their absence and requesting them to attend the subsequent meetings. Since important decisions are being taken and there is no feedback from their side, so far, their presence is important.

ITEM NO 5.

It was proposed that the next Board meeting will be held on 16th Dec'05. The Scientific Officer informed all the members that a letter in this regard will be sent to all, in due course of time.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chairman.

ANNEXURE

Names of members who participated in the VII meeting of the Goa State Biodiversity Board, (GSBB) held at DSTE, Saligao, on 11th Nov'05 at 4.00 pm.

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| 1) Dr. H.Y. Karapurkar | Chairman |
| 2) Dr. M.K. Janarthanam, | Member |
| 3) Dr. Nandakumar Kamat | Member |
| 4) Dr. (Mrs) Kasturi N. Desai. | Member |
| 5) Dr. Bernard F. Rodrigues, | Member |
| 6) Dr. Manoj Borkar, | Member |
| 7) Mr. Cedric D'Souza | Member |
| 8) Mr. Satej Kamat | Special invitee |