

MINUTES OF THE VIII MEETING OF THE GOA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD (GSBB) HELD ON 16th DECEMBER 2005 AT DSTE, SALIGAO

The eighth meeting of the Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) was held on 16th December '05 in DSTE, Saligao, at 4.00 pm. This meeting was convened by the Chairman to take up important projects for the Board through its Members as well as co-opted members.

The names of the Members who attended the said meeting are listed in the Annexure. The following Members could not attend the meeting due to other important engagements, and hence sought leave of absence.

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| 1. Representative of Fisheries Department | Member |
| 2. Representative of Higher Education Department | Member |
| 3. Scientific Officer, GSBB | Special Invitee |

The Chairman informed the Members that Shri. Satej Kamat, Scientific Officer, could not make it to this meeting since he was out of town.

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the Members who were present and took up the Agenda points one by one. He then brought to the kind notice of the members that Dr. Janarthanan (GSBB Member) has been nominated as an expert member by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai, which was indeed a honour for the Board. He further added that Dr. Manoj Borkar (Member, GSBB) has received a National Award for his work as an environmentalist, which is again a matter of pride for the Board.

ITEM NO. 1

Confirmation of the minutes of the VII meeting of the Board

The minutes were read and approved.

ITEM NO.2

Examination of projects to be forwarded to NBA for funding.

The Chairman informed the Members that the project works entrusted to various members were supposed to have been submitted to the Board by 30th Nov' 05 but only two projects of Dr. Dessai and Dr. Rodrigues had been received till that date. Dr. Nandkumar requested in writing that another 10 days may be given ~~to others~~ to submit the same. As such, it was decided that 30th Dec' 05 may be fixed as the last date for receiving the same.

The projects submitted were discussed at length and it was decided to complete the proposals by the revised date alongwith other projects for final serutinization before forwarding to the NBA for requisite funding. The Chairman wanted to know from the representatives of the Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries Departments about the projects assigned to them by the Board since no acceptance letter had been written to the Board by them.

The representatives informed the Members that presently they were loaded with various schemes and that the financial year was coming to an end, and as such it was not possible for them to submit any letter of acceptance to the Board. They further added that it would be appropriate if such projects are taken up by various NGOs on their behalf. The Chairman added that since the subject matter were related to their field of specialization it was not proper for the NGOs to take up the same on their behalf. He advised that the representatives of the Departments may put in writing their difficulties so that the Board can take a suitable decision.

ITEM NO. 3

Action taken so far by the Board

The Chairman informed the Members that the Scientific Officer has already printed the visiting cards for all members and the same were given to the Members during the meeting. The 'Identity Cards' prepared by the Scientific Officer were also given for attestation of Members and the same were later countersigned by the Member Convenor. The Identity card of the Chairman and Member Convenor would be countersigned by the Secretary (Environment). These cards will be handed to the Scientific Officer for lamination and tagging purpose and will be made available to at a later date.

The action taken by the Scientific Officer was duly appreciated by all present.

ITEM NO. 4

Any other point with the permission of the Chair

1. Dr. Nandkumar Kamat submitted a Memorandum to the Board informing that a shipyard and a big housing project are proposed in Chicalim and Calapur, respectively, which are detrimental to the sensitive coastal ecosystems. He requested that the Board should initiate some action to prevent the same.

The Chairman informed Dr. Kamat that the Board is seized of this development and informed that a core team can be formed on behalf of the Board for first hand inspection and submit a report to the Board at the earliest so that it can take cognizance of alleged offences if any and lodge a complaint with and/or take up with competent authorities.

The core team was formed as under:

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| 1. | Dr. Nandkumar Kamat | Chairman |
| 2. | Dr. Manoj Borkar | Member |
| 3. | Dy. Conservator of Forests | Member |

He then informed the members that the Scientific Officer will despatch letters in this regard to the concerned associations.

2. Dr. Nandkumar, informed the members that the Forest Department has already prepared a "State Forestry Action Plan for Goa" and requested the Board to indent a copy of the same for reference of all Members. The Chairman agreed and informed that the Scientific Officer will be directed to procure a copy for the Board at the earliest.

3. Dr. Kamat also informed that many dissertations on relevant Biodiversity topics are available in the Library section of the Goa University and copies of the same could also be made available to the Board.

The Chairman once again agreed to this suggestion but informed that as soon as the Board is given an office space, all such documentations, dissertations, photographs etc will be indented by the Scientific Officer for the reference of Members.

The Chairman wished all a "VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2006".

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and it was decided to meet again on 10th Feb' 2006. The venue and time will be communicated to all in due course.

ANNEXUREList of the Members of GSBB who were present during the VIII meeting of the Board held on 16th Dec'05 at 4.00 p.m.

Sr.No.	Name of the Member	Designation
1.	Dr. Heman Y. Karapurkar	Chairman
2.	Dr. N.P.S. Varde	Member Convenor
3.	Dr. M.K. Janarthanam	Member
4.	Dr. Nandkumar Kamat	Member
5.	Dr. (Mrs) Kasturi N. Dessai	Member
6.	Dr. Bernard F. Rodrigues	Member
7.	Dr. Manoj Borkar	Member
8.	Mr. Khumbar (Representative of Agriculture Department)	Member
9.	Mr. Prasad Parab (Representative of Forests Department)	Member