

**MINUTES OF THE 9<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF GSBB HELD ON 10-02-2006 IN THE OFFICE OF DST&E**

At the outset the Chairman extended a warm welcome to all participants (please see the Annexure). The following Official Members could not attend the meeting.

1. Representative of the Directorate of Agriculture
2. Representative of the Directorate of Fisheries
3. Representative of the Directorate of Technical Education

The Chairman whilst confirming the Minutes of last meeting, informed that a letter was received by him from Dr. Manoj Borkar (Member) indicating an omission in recording of the Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting. It was pointed out that no mention was made that Dr, Manoj Borkar handed a letter of "Chicalim Villagers' Action Committee" addressed to the Chairman, Goa State Biodiversity Board, regarding the imminent proposal for the construction of a Jetty at Chicalim. The Chairman pointed out that a reply was sent to Dr, Borkar accepting the said omission and informing that the Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting will be modified to add as follows : "Dr. Manoj Borkar (Member) handed over a letter from the Secretary of "Chicalim Villagers' Action Committee" addressed to the Chairman GSBB. Dr. Nandkumar Kamat (Member) also handed over another letter brining to the notice of the Board, the following projects which could be detrimental to biodiversity.

- 1) Construction project initiated by Hara Company, in Santa Cruz, Tiswadi, Goa.
- 2) Extension of an existing jetty and an imminent new jetty at Chicalim

Subject to these changes, the rest of the Minutes were approved by the Members.

The Chairman informed that four projects prepared by various Members were sent to the National Biodiversity Authority for approval and sanction of funds by the Scientific Officer. Response from the National Authority is awaited Dr. Janarthan who is a member of the Expert Committee of the National Biodiversity Authority is likely to attend a meeting called by the National Authority. Dr. Janarthan was therefore requested to take up this issue with the Member Secretary of the National Authority. He will be given all details in this connection.

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It was also informed that the Board has received a proposal from Shri Rajendra Kerkar on the subject "Sacred Groves" and put up the same before the Members for perusal. It was agreed to submit the same to the National Authority for approval and sanction of grants. The Botanical Society of Goa was approached to ascertain whether they can take up the project on "Documentation Sustainable Economic Exploitation and Conservation of Agro-Biodiversity of Goa", in view of the inability expressed by the Department of Agriculture to undertake the work. A reply received from the Botanical Society of Goa was put up before the members. It was agreed that the Botanical Society of Goa may be assigned the job of preparing the said project for submission to National Authority.

The Chairman informed that a proposal requesting the release of a grant-in-aid of Rs.28.50 lakhs to establish the office of the GSBB has been submitted to the Government. It is expected that the grant will be released in the current year itself, by March 31, 2006. If so, the same could be used to initiate some projects proposed by the GSBB, in the interim period, till the grant from the NBA is received.

It was pointed out that the Government has approved in principle the allotment of an office space for the Board in the Extension wing of Government Polytechnic at Altinho, Panaji, which was earlier occupied by the Kala Academy. However, the Principal, Government Polytechnic, has to seek the approval of his higher authorities before handing over the premises to the GSBB. Further, the Chairman stated that during their enquiry with respect to office furniture, it was found that "DAMRO" has a good collection of such items. It was also suggested that a small library should be set up in the new office premises. The process of calling quotations for purchase of office furniture has been initiated by the Scientific Officer.

The information sent by the Conservator of Forests on "Wildlife of Goa" was shared with the Members and it was decided to prepare a brochure on the same with the consent of Forest Department. It was also suggested that the report should have a covering page showing Bison – the State Animal of Goa. Dr. Bernard Rodrigues added that this brochure should include a Map showing Wildlife Sanctuaries as well as demography of Fauna in the same.

Dr. Janarthanan proposed the organization of a workshop with the participation of twenty selected panchayats. This was seconded by Dr. Kamat who suggested that twenty two panchayats (two per taluka) could be selected for the workshop with an idealistic approach. The main objective of



he Workshop will be to make the villagers aware of the unique and rich Biodiversity of Goa and provisions of the Biodiversity Act for conservation and sustainable utilization of the same. The workshop will also help the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity of two Biodiversity committees, one each for North and South Goa districts.

Dr. Kamat added that the workshop may be followed up with a meeting of the key persons of the localities under Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for STE and vice-Chairmanship of the Ho'ble Minister of panchayatas with the aim of finalizing the strategy to conserve and sustainably use the biodiversity resources at the rural level.

It was decided to purchase both the English and Konkani editions of "Matoli" a publication available at P.E.S. College, Farmagudi, as well as the publication of WWF, Goa state Division, on "Biodiversity Kit".

During the discussion on the contemplated developments in Chicalim and Santa Cruz, which were pointed out by Dr. Borkar and Dr. Kamat, the Member Secretary clarified that at the moment no work was going on both the sites. Regarding the Hara project in Santa Cruz, the DSTE has already sent a communication to the concerned Panchayat and the TCP Department to suspend the work pending the examination of all approvals obtained by the developer.

With respect to Chicalim, so far, there is no proposal before any Authority of the government requesting approval for the contemplated jetty. However, the DSTE has already advised the MPT, within whose jurisdiction the Chicalim area falls, not to allow any activity unless the Project Proponent obtains all statutory clearances after carrying out a detailed EIA study.

Dr. Janarthanan and Dr. Borkar suggested that a letter conveying the above may be sent in response to the representation received from the villagers. Dr. Nandkumar Kamat added that unless the situation demands, the GSBB may not carry out any site inspection and study. Dr. Borkar was requested to give a scientific note on the present status of marine fauna in the locality, so that a suitable letter of advice could be sent to the concerned authorities from the angle of biodiversity.

It was brought to the notice of all Members that no representative from Higher Education attends the meetings. It was therefore decided to send a suitable letter to the Director of Higher Education.