

Assam State Biodiversity Board

Minutes of the 12th Board Meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board held on 12th September, 2014

The 12th Meeting of the Board was held at Board Office, Rehabari Guwahati from 11.30 hrs onwards. List of the Members and Invitees present in the Meeting is at **Annexure-1**.

Agenda item-wise proceedings of the meeting are given below:

1. Action taken on agenda items of previous meetings:

- a. The Board noted progress in Biodiversity Research Associate Programme (BRAP) and accepted the recommendation for fellowship award to the shortlisted candidates.
- b. The Board requested the Joint Secretary Forest to look into the following matters:
 - i. Proposal of the board for amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010.
 - ii. Proposal for creation of Secretarial posts for the Board.
 - iii. Proposed organizational structure and the draft service regulation of the Board.

2. Matters for Information of the Board: The Board noted the following:

- a. Organization of three Divisional level workshops for sensitizing the BMC members about their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the BD Act 2002 & Assam Biodiversity Rules 2010.
 - i. The Member Secretary informed the Board about his recent visit to Biswanath Chariali in connection with sensitization Workshop for the BMCs. During this workshop a proposal for establishing a 'Biodiversity Garden' with focus on Local Fruit varieties at Biswanath Chariali, was made by the delegates. This facility would not only conserve the local fruit and medicinal plant varieties but also promote their propagation. The DFO Sonitpur (East) Division had suggested a land adjacent to the Circuit House of Biswanath Chariali.
 - ii. This proposal was discussed by the Board and it was agreed that the Board shall take up this project in partnership with the local Forest Department. The BMCs would be involved in planning and thereafter in management and maintenance of the Garden. The Board will make a formal request to the Government of Assam for allotment of about 8-10 hectare of land near Circuit House of Biswanath Chariali

- b. Progress in constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs): to a total of 158 BMCs.
- c. Initiation of works of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) preparation: by 66 BMCs.
- d. Celebration of International Biological Diversity Day on 22nd May, 2014 at Burhachapori WLS, Sonitpur on the theme of "Island Biodiversity".
- e. Progress in implementation of following Projects was noted:
 - i. Preparation of PBR for Nagaon District- extended till 15th November, 2014 with a draft of the Register for Pakhimoria BMC having been received.
 - ii. Receipt of the final report for the project "Identification & documentation of spider fauna of Kaziranga National Park".
 - iii. Initiation of Project on "Insect Fauna Documentation" by Dr. Moushumi Das.
 - iv. Awarding the work for Biodiversity Awareness Campaign to Asian Institute of Management & Technology, Guwahati.
- f. Regarding the matter of application by Dr. Girindra Kalita, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Guwahati College, for "*sending fixed tissue fragments of freshwater planarian worms for Phylogeographical study to University of Barcelona, Spain as part of the scientific collaboration work*".
Since the issue is pending with the NBA, the Board suggested to take up the matter through a DO letter from the Chairman ASBB to the Chairman NBA.
- g. The Board was informed that a grant of Rs 5.0 lakh from NBA was received for celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity. It was also informed that an allocation of Rs 50.00 lakh has been made by the State Government. The State funds were yet to be received.

3. The Board ratified the following actions:

- a. Conditional no objection granted on IPR application of Shri Joynoram Dibraged for "*A herbal composition for treatment of Jaundice*" derived from Biological Resources namely *Huottuyunia cordata*, *Chelidonium majus*, *Trichosanthes anguina*, *Oxalis corniculata*, *Aloe barbadensis*, *Hygropila spinosa*, *Berberis vulgaris*, *Lannea coromandelica*, *Grewia hirsuta*, *Erythrina stricta*, *Cissampelospareria*, *Clerodendrum minfortunatum*, *Dillenia indica* and *Ajuga bracteosa*.

- b. Research Permissions granted to three applications:
 - i. Dr. Swati Diwakar, Asst. Professor, University of Delhi: for access to bio-resources (On Insect- *Wetas*) in Protected Areas of Assam”.
 - ii. Dr. A.A. Mao, Scientist E, H.O.O. BSI, Shillong: Research survey on Flora of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary, Kamrup District, Assam.
 - iii. Shri Daimalu Baro, Research Scholar, Dept. of Botany, GU: Studies on Macrophytic Diversity in Baksa District, BTAD, Assam.
- c. Expenditure incurred:
 - 1. Quarter from April-June 2014- Rs 13,79,310/-
 - 2. Quarterly from July-September (till date)2014- Rs 38,33,233/-

4. Status on Implementation of Technical Works shortlisted from the offers received in response to the NIO:

i. Project “ *Study on the Fish Diversity in Brahmaputra River inside Assam to identify the threatened species, evaluate and determine their present conservation status and needs*” submitted by Dolphin Foundation, and revised on the basis of recommendations of the Expert Committee was examined by the Board specially with reference to its expected outcomes. The Board approved the project with following suggestions:

- a. A component shall be added on identification of fish species / varieties that have the potential of commercial use and to make recommendations on strategies for ex-situ conservation and propagation of such species / varieties.
- b. A payment schedule be worked clearly stating the bench-marks & deliverables on the basis of which the quarterly- review of progress would be made.
- c. The Expert Committee that had reviewed the project proposal would also review the progress of the project works on the basis of the agreed benchmarks and deliverables.
- d. A Bank Guarantee of Rs 5.00 lakh may be accepted
- e. Mobilization amount including the costs of equipments may be released at the time of signing of the agreement
- f. Member Secretary of the Board to approach the Department of Panchayat & rural Development for seeking financial support for the project under convergence model.

5. Proposals for consideration/approval by the Board:

- i. The Project proposal on 'Documentation of commonly traded Rare & Endemic Wild edible Bio-Resources from the Local Markets of Central Assam, India' submitted by Ms Puspa Komor, Research Scholar, Dept. of Geography, GU, with a financial cost Rs 3, 20,000/- and 1 year duration was approved by the Board.
- ii. The Project proposal on "Macroscopic study on the Status & Diversity of Non-Conventional Edible Fruits of Assam with special reference to its Nutritional & Medicinal Value." Was not approved in its present form. It was suggested that the component of nursery and plantation of fruit varieties may be taken-out. The component of collection of local fruit varieties and their analysis for nutritional value from any Institute accredited lab (e.g. CFTRI, Mysore) may be taken up as an exclusive study / project. Accordingly realistic budget estimates may be prepared separately for the two and submitted to the Board for consideration.

The Board may consider the proposals once revised.

6. Re-appropriation in the Plan Scheme of the for the financial year 2013-14:

Budget allocation of Rs 10.00 Lakh in the staff salary head was allowed to be utilized for PBR preparation works since the secretarial posts were not yet created.

7. Biodiversity Research Associate Programme (BRAP):

The Board recommended fellowship to the shortlisted candidates. It was suggested that graduate and post-graduate students may be encouraged to take up biodiversity issues for their special assignments / projects.

8. Following additional issues were discussed and decisions taken:

- i. On the 19th September 2014 the Board is making a presentation to the Chief Secretary and other senior officers of the Government of Assam. All the board Members and Invitees were requested to take part in this Meeting. A broad outline of presentation was also discussed. Some of the issues to be flagged in the meeting e.g. the mandate of the Board, the achievements so far, the constraints and up-scaling of grant-in-aid were agreed to be included in the presentation.
- ii. The PCCF (Wildlife) informed the Board that many project proposals have a requirement for biodiversity assessment. He suggested that Biodiversity Board may take up such assignments. The Board considered and deliberated on this issue and suggested that a Panel comprising of Experts from various field may be prepared. These experts may be contacted for their willingness to be part of such assignments and thereafter with the approval of the Chairman the Panel may be Notified. The tentative costs involved e.g. field studies related expenses, sitting fee to the panelists,

administrative charges of the Board etc may be worked out. The Members of the Board in general and Dr. P.C. Bhattacharjee & Dr. Anil Goswami in particular were requested to help in drawing a broad-based panel of experts.

- iii. The Member Secretary informed the Board about the recent visit of the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary to the Government of India to the Board Office and his suggestion to the Board to capture the cultural diversity, the traditional practices and traditional knowledge of diverse communities of the State while preparing Peoples' Biodiversity registers. The Board underscored this issue and desired that this aspect must be central to the PBRs in the State of Assam.
- iv. Dr P. C Bhattacharjee briefed the Board of his recent visit Vietnam.

9. The next Board meeting will be held sometime during December. The venue and the confirmed date to be informed in due course.

The meeting ended with thanks from the Chair to everyone present.

Annexure-1**List of members present in the 12th Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board 12th September 2014**

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail Id
Official Members				
1	S. C. Das, IAS	Chairman-ASBB & Addln. Chief Secretary, Assam	0361-2237054	subhashdas55@gmail.com
2	A. K. Johari, IFS	Member Secretary, ASBB	8876565345	johari60@yahoo.com
3	Simanta Thakuria, IAS	Secretary, P & RD Deptt.	9435149743	simanta_thakuria2001@yahoo.com
4	D. K. Barua, ACS	Joint Secretary, Environment & Forests Deptt.	9435330707	
5	Rita Das, ACS	Joint Director, Agriculture Deptt.	9864065613	
Ex- Officio Members				
6	R. C. Goswami, IFS (Retd.)	Member-ASBB	9435044818	rcgoswami37@gmail.com
7	Dr. Sarat Borkataki	Member- ASBB	9435063014	saratdipika@gmail.com
8	Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee	Member- ASBB	9435148702	bhattapc@gmail.com
9	Dr. Anil Kr. Goswami	Member- ASBB	9864021714	akgoswami@gmail.com
Special Invitees				
10	R. K. Agarwalla, IFS	PCCF (Wildlife)- Assam, Basistha	9435049534	pccf.wl.assam@gmail.com
11	Dr. R. M. Dubey, IFS	Chairman, Pollution Control Board- Assam	9435067690	rudramanidubey@yahoo.com
12	S. K. Srivastava, IFS	Addl. PCCF- (Planning)	9435080510	sksrivastavaam85@gmail.com
13	Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS	Addl. PCCF- (Wetlands)	8876565344	ranjanagupta2001@yahoo.com
14	Dr. Alka Bhargava, IFS	CCF (REWP)	9435568923	ccf.rewp.assam@gmail.com

Few photographs of 12th Board Meeting

