

**Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board held on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 at Biodiversity Conference hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board was held on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 in the Conference Hall of the Board, at Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari.

A list of the Members and invitees present in the meeting is at **Annexure-I**.

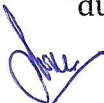
At the outset, the Board felicitated Smt. T. Y. Das, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam as the new Chairperson of the Board.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone present in the meeting and requested the Member secretary to initiate Agenda-wise discussions.

**Agenda Item-2:** The Minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Board were confirmed.

**Agenda Item-3:** The Board was informed of the following actions taken on agenda of previous meetings:

- i. The proposal of the Board for notification of seven floral and seven faunal species u/s 38 of the BD Act 2002 as 'Threatened Species' had been forwarded by the State Government to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- ii. All documentaries of the Board had been uploaded on its official website and also on YouTube and Facebook.
- iii. The following proposals of the Board were under consideration of the Government:
  - a. Amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010. A revised Cabinet Memorandum submitted to GoA on 03/04/2018.
  - b. Organizational structure and draft Service Regulation of the Board.
    - The presentations on the above matters shall be made in the first week of June before the Additional CS (E&F) as suggested by the Board.
- iv. Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees was completed by formation of following remaining BMCs
  - a. Dima Hasao Autonomous Council - 3
  - b. Bodoland Territorial Council - 5
- v. 2 new Technical Support Group (TSG) notified in Dibrugarh and Majuli District. For remaining the matter is being actively pursued with Deputy Commissioners concerned.
- vi. Regarding establishing the sub-centres of NLC-Assam, many sites including Sankardeb Kalakshetra are being explored.
- vii. The publications of the Board 'Wild Orchids of Assam' and 'Assam Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan' were released on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018 during the celebrations of World Wetland Day 2018.



**Agenda Item- 4:** The Board was informed that:

- i. 2<sup>nd</sup> Internship Programme on Biodiversity conservation was completed and 16 draft People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) were received.  
*It was suggested to have digital library of PBRs for proper storage and easy access.*
- ii. All proposed 229 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), have been constituted in the State as per details given below:
  - a. 189 BMCs in 189 Anchalik Panchayats of the state.
  - b. 21 BMCs in BTC
  - c. 10 BMCs in KAAC
  - d. 9 BMCs in DHAC.BMCs are constituted at Forest Range level at the Autonomous Councils.
- iii. The following was the status on preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers in the State:
  - a. Approved by the TSG: 25
  - b. Final draft received: 68
  - c. Works on going: 48
- iv. The status of formation of Technical Support Group (TSG) in the State is as below:
  - a. TSG notified: 24 Districts
  - b. Yet to be constituted: 9 Districts (List at **Annexure-II**)
- v. The progress on research projects/ studies:
  - a. Plant Diversity Assessment of Dima Hasao district: second half yearly Progress Report was received.
  - b. Enhancing conservation efforts in Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary: a rough cut of the documentary was received. The duration of the project extended till August 2018 with no additional costs.
  - c. Assam Biodiversity Portal: Portal developed through French Institute Pondicherry funded by APFBC, will be launched by the Hon'ble CM on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- vi. Nature Learning Centre (NLC), Assam: The MoEF & CC, had sanctioned a proposal for 'Establishment of Nature Learning Centre', in Assam under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS). To be jointly implemented by the Board, BMCs and Forest Department.  
The Board noted the following progress of the project:
  - a) The website and Logo developed and will be launched on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018
  - b) Contractual staff engaged was in position; equipments procured.
  - c) Work for Ex-situ conservation and NLC started.
- vii. Documentation of tradable bio-resources and associated traditional knowledge from the local communities of Assam for establishing Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Provisions: the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai had sanctioned this project for an amount of Rs. 16.67



lakh. The Principal Investigator is Dr. O. Sunanda Devi, Scientific Officer, ASBB.

The Board also noted the following progress of the project:

- a) Two Project Assistants engaged from 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- b) 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter progress report submitted.
- c) Market surveys were going on to identify tradable bio-resources.
- d) Works progressing for identifying market linkages of selected bio-resources.

viii. The Board was informed that the following Grants were received by the Board:

4th quarter (January 2018 to March, 2018)

- From NBA: Rs. 8,08,660/-
  - Engagement of contractual staff = Rs. 1,41,860/-
  - Tradable Bio-resources Project = Rs. 6,66,800/-
- From State Grant (Salary of Staff): Rs. 34,43,000/-
- Bank interest: Rs. 1,49,413/-
- From NTPC (Liability): Rs. 1,05,01,400/-
- Others:
  - From MoEF&CC for NLC : Rs. 1,31,20,000/-

ix. The Board Participated in the following:

- a. INTERACT Bio – Workshop on LBSAP & NBSAP held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018, at Kochi.
- b. Divisional level Capacity building workshop at Baksa Division, BTC on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- c. Vibrant North East 2018, held at Khanapara from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 along with NBA and other NE SBBs.

x. Following publications were placed before the Board:

- a. Annual Report FY 2016-17.
- b. A Brochure on Assam State Biodiversity Board in English language.

xi. The Board noted the engagement of Shri Nayan Das as Technical Assistant on contract basis for a period of 6(six) months from APFBC grant.

**Agenda Item-5:** The Board ratified the following:

i. Expenditure incurred:

4th quarter (January 2018 to March 2018)

a. State Grant	:	Rs. 4,70,443/-
b. NBA Grant	:	Rs. 7,42,326/-
c. APFBC Grant	:	Rs. 9,72,167-
Total :		Rs. 21,84,936/-

➤ Others:

- Nature Learning Centre-Assam project: Rs. 16,315/-

ii. Adjustment of expenditure of Rs 25,35,016/- against the APFBC Grant due to non-release of State Grant for the year 2017-18 for works.

iii. The transfer of Rs 2.00 crore in April 2018 from SBI to Yes Bank for better interest rates.

iv. Research Permissions granted by the Board to the following :

Dr. H. Lalthanzara, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology  
Pachhunga University College, Aizawl: Sampling of Earthworm from  
Assam.

**Agenda Item-6:** The following matters were placed before the Board for consideration and approval:

a. An additional cost of Rs 6,04,152/- was approved for the Project "Fish Diversity documentation of Brahmaputra River" implemented by Dolphin Foundation, Guwahati.

b. Proposals received by the Board for research/studies:

- Publishing a 'Four Volume Set of Free e-Books for Identification of Indian Butterflies'- Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand. Duration 3 years, budget Rs 23.5 lakh.
- Study of Biodiversity of Medicinal plants and utilization pattern by the different tribes of Assam and their Conservation, by Expert Member- Dr. Ajit Kr. Das, Assam University, Silchar. Duration 2 years, budget Rs 43.65 lakh.
- An Assessment of Herpetofauna of Kaziranga National Park by Dr. Jayaditya Purkayastha, Help Earth, NGO, Guwahati. Duration 2 years budget Rs 9.52 lakh.

*It was pointed out that some works had already been done on this subject, therefore, the work if considered, shall be in the areas where no such works has been undertaken.*

- Bridging the gap between traditions and conservation: The role of Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage System of the Karbis of Assam and their role in Biodiversity Conservation, by Dr. Smarajit Ojah, Asst. Professor, Nagaon Girls College. Duration 2 years, budget Rs 19.00 lakh.
- Ethnic plant foods in Karbi Anglong district, Assam: Diversity, Traditional Knowledge and local health by Dr. Robindra Teron, Asst. Professor, Life Sciences & Bioinformatics, Assam University. Duration 2 years budget Rs 8.23 lakh.

➤ *The Board suggested to ascertain whether BSI, ZSI or any other Government organization have publications related to above proposed research projects/studies.*

➤ *It was also suggested to constitute a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Board for prioritising and examining all such proposals for their utility, cost-effectiveness, and contribution to the mandate of the Board. The studies may be taken subject to budget provision. The RAC could have some regular members and some specialist invitees. The recommendations of the RAC could be placed before the Board for approval.*



*The Board members may suggest 'Members' for the RAC.*

- c. Regarding payment of arrears of salary (during FY 2018-19) to the Ex-Chairman Shri D. Mathur, it was agreed that:
- For the period from 21st Dec – 31st Dec 2016: Rs 87,113/- to be paid by the Board.
  - Period from 1st July – 29th August 2017: Rs 1,15,644/- to be paid by his Parent Department i.e. O/o. the PCCF & HoFF, Assam.

**Agenda Item- 7:**

Local Biodiversity Fund: It was suggested that the Board may take up the matter with the Government.

**Agenda Item-8:**

The Board was informed that International Biological Diversity Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018 shall be celebrated at 'Recreation Park cum Medicinal Garden' Diphu, Karbi Anglong, on the theme "*Celebrating 25 years of Action for Biodiversity*". All members and invitees of the Board were requested to join the function.

**Agenda Item-9: Other Issues**

The Board shall organise awareness program for the matters related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

The date and venue for the next meeting to be decided in due course.

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


Approved

-sd-

(Smt. T. Y. Das, IAS)

Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam &  
Chairperson-ASBB

Issued

  
9/06/2018



Members/ Invitees present in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board: 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

Sr.	Name	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail Id
<b>Official Members</b>				
1	Smt. T. Y. Das, IAS	Chief Secretary-Assam & Chairperson, ASBB	0361-2261120	cs-assam@nic.in
2	Shri Alok Kumar, IAS	Addl. Chief Secretary, Environment and Forest Department, Assam	0361- 2237260	acs.pwd-as@gov.in
3	Shri A. K. Johari, IFS	Member Secretary-ASBB	8876565345	johari60@yahoo.com
<b>Ex- Officio Members</b>				
4	Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee	Expert Member- ASBB	9435148702	bhattapc@gmail.com
5	Dr. Ajit Kumar Das	Expert Member- ASBB	9435077427	dasajitkumar15@gmail.com
6	Dr. Nirmali Medhi	Expert Member- ASBB	9435011083	nirmali_medhi@yahoo.com
7	Dr. Bijoy Neog	Expert Member- ASBB	8638571325	bijoyneog@dibru.ac.in
8	Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar	Expert Member- ASBB	9435113139	bibhab@aaranyak.org
<b>Special Invitees</b>				
9	Shri M. Rahman	Dy. Secy., Finance Dept (EC-1), Assam	8011223095	
<b>Permanent Invitees</b>				
10	Shri N. K. Vasu, IFS	PCCF & HoFF- Assam	9435077396	pccfassam@gmail.com
11	Shri D. P. Bankhwal, IFS	PCCF (Wildlife)- Assam	9678887103	pccf.wl.assam@gmail.com
12	Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS	Spl. PCCF (Wetlands)- Assam	8876565344	ranjanagupta2001@yahoo.com
<b>Others</b>				
13	Shri J. M. Kouli, IFS	Spl. PCCF- Assam	9435061860	
14	Shri S. S. Rao, IFS	Addl. PCCF (Legal), Assam	9435347483	
15	Shri M. K. Yadava, IFS	Addl. PCCF (REWP), Assam	9435012458	mkyadava.ifs@gmail.com
16	Shri Y. Suryanarayana, IFS	Addl. PCCF (SF), Assam	9435078867	surya.assam01@gmail.com
17	Shri Prantosh Roy, IFS	Addl. PCCF (FC Act), Assam	9435309670	rprantosh@yahoo.com
18	Shri Utpal Bora, IFS	CCF (R & E)- Assam	9435146167	ubora_forest25@yahoo.com
19	Shri S. Ahmed, IFS	CCF (IT)- Assam	9864060061	
20	Shri Hirdesh Mishra, IFS	CCF (T), CAC- Assam	9435104711	central-assam-circle@gov.in
21	Dr. S. U. Choudhury	CF (NTFP)- Assam	9435071654	drsouchoudhury@gmail.com

**List of Districts where Technical Support Group (TSG) yet to be constituted**

1. Chirrang
2. Udalguri
3. Baksa
4. South Salmara-Mankachar
5. Hojai
6. Biswanath
7. Karbi Anglong
8. West Karbi Anglong
9. Dima Hasao