

Annual Report

2012-13



ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD
GUWAHATI, ASSAM



Annual Report

2012-2013



অসম ৰাজ্যিক জৈৱ-বৈচিত্ৰ্য পৰিষদ
ASSAM STATE BIO-DIVERSITY BOARD

ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD
GUWAHATI, ASSAM
website : www.asbb.gov.in



Annual Report 2012-2013

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INTRODUCTION:

Biological diversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this include diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. In short, Biodiversity is the vast array of all the plants, animals, insects and micro-organisms inhabiting the earth either in the aquatic or terrestrial habitats. The human civilization depends directly or indirectly upon this biodiversity for their very basic needs of survival - food, fodder, fuel, fibre, fertilizer, timber, liquor, rubber, leather, medicines and several raw materials. This diversity is the condition for the long term sustainability of the environment, continuity of life on earth and the maintenance of its integrity. People are now aware of the fact that habitat degradation, loss of wild stock is association with loss of local traditional knowledge led to rapid degradation of biological resources all over the globe.

The growing concern for depletion of biological diversity world-wide led to the establishment and adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992. This Convention recognizes the sovereign rights of the states over their biological resources. Taking the Convention's provisions and to deal with management of our biological resources, Government of India has enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The Act provides for conservation of Biological Diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge. At the national level, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has been established to implement the Act with headquarters in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) under Sec. 8 of the Act. The State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) are formed at state level and Biodiversity Management committees (BMC) are constituted by the local bodies to decentralize the implementation of the Act.

Assam State Biodiversity Board:

In exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (1) of Section 22 of the Biological Diversity

Act, 2002 (Act 18 of 2003), the Government of Assam constituted the "Assam Biodiversity Board" on 29th September 2010 to promote biodiversity conservation in the State of Assam, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources of the state and traditional knowledge associated with it.

Members of the Board:

The present chairman of the Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) is Shri P. P. Varma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam. The Board comprises of five Ex-officio members from related Departments of Government of Assam and five Expert Members from different aspects of biodiversity management.

Ex-Officio Members:

1. Principal Secretary/ Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam, Environment and Forest Department.
2. Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam, Agriculture Department.
3. Chief Conservator of Forests, Biodiversity & Climate Change.
4. The Director, Agriculture Department, Government of Assam.
5. The Director, Fisheries Department, Government of Assam.

Expert Members:

1. Prof. Sarat Borkotoky, Principal, Nowgong College, Nagaon.
2. Shri R. C. Goswami, Chief Conservator of Forest (Retd.).
3. Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee, (Retd) Professor, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University.
4. Prof. Anil Goswami, Trustee, The Rhino Foundation of North East, Silpukhuri / Retd. Principal, Cotton College, Guwahati.
5. Dr. Aparajita De, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Assam University, Silchar.



Special Invites:

1. The Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam, Finance Department.
2. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department.
3. In addition, the PCCF & HoFF Assam; PCCF (WL); CCF (REWP); CCF (wetlands) and Chairman (State Pollution Control Board) are permanent invitees to Board Meetings.

Functions of the Assam State Biodiversity Board:

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Act in general, the Board may perform the following particular functions, viz.

- i. To lay down procedure and guidelines to govern the activities under section 23 of the Act.
- ii. To advise the government on any matter concerning conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge;
- iii. To provide technical assistance and guidance to the departments of the State Government.
- iv. To regulate by granting of approvals or otherwise, on requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indian Nationals.
- v. To facilitate in updating and implementation of State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.
- vi. To constitute expert committee consisting of experts and persons having local knowledge, commission studies and sponsor investigation and research.
- vii. To engage consultants for a specific period, not exceeding three years, for providing technical assistance to the Board in the effective discharge of its functions:

- provided that if it is necessary and expedient to engage any consultant beyond three years, the Board shall seek prior approval of the Government for such an engagement.
- viii. To collect, compile and publish technical and statistical data, manuals, codes and guidelines relating to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resource and knowledge.
- ix. Inventorization, cataloguing of biodiversity, monitoring the rate of depletion, awareness creation in public, decision makers and planners and initiating scientific, administrative, legal and socio-economic measures for the protection of biodiversity.
- x. To compile a database on the biodiversity resources in the State.
- xi. Development of state wide strategy for implementing biodiversity programmes.
- xii. To identify the natural habitat of useful biological communities by enlisting the services of the locally available experts.
- xiii. Preparation of an exhaustive inventory of the species available in the natural habitat of useful biological communities and take steps to preserve them.
- xiv. To take steps to build up database and to create information and documentation system for biological resources and associated traditional knowledge through biodiversity registers and electronic database to ensure effective management, promotion and sustainable uses.
- xv. To devise methods to ensure protection of rights including intellectual property rights over biological resources and associated knowledge including systems of maintaining confidentiality of such information as appropriate including



- protection of information recorded in People's Biodiversity Register.
- xvi. To ensure that biodiversity and biodiversity dependent livelihoods are integrated into all sectors of planning and management and at all levels of planning from local to state to enable such sectors and administrative levels to contribute effectively for conservation and sustainable use
 - xvii. To plan and organize training programmes for personnel engaged or likely to be engaged in programmes for the conservation of biological biodiversity and sustainable use of its components
 - xviii. To generate public awareness for conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resource and knowledge.
 - xix. Setting up sufficient infrastructure and strengthening technology base in biochemistry and biotechnology including molecular systematizer.
 - xx. Preparation of annual budget of the Board incorporating its own receipts as also devolution from the Central and the State Governments and the National Biodiversity Authority.
 - xxi. To recommend creation of posts to the Government for the effective discharge of functions by the Board and to create such posts.
 - xxii. Provided that no such posts of any nature, whether temporary or permanent, shall be create without the prior approval of the Government.
 - xxiii. To approve the method of recruitment to such posts.
 - xxiv. To co-ordinate the activities of the Biodiversity Management Committees.
 - xxv. To give directions to Biodiversity Management Committees in writing and through appropriate oral means for effective implementation of the Act and to facilitate their meaningful participation in all measures relating to conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing,
 - xxvi. To report to the Government and the National Biodiversity Authority about the functioning of the Board and Implementation of the Act.
 - xxvii. To recommend, prescribe or modify collection fee of biological resources from time to time.
 - xxviii. To sanction grants-in-aid and grants to the Biodiversity Management Committees for specific purposes.
 - xxix. To undertake physical inspection of any area within its jurisdiction in connection with the implementation of the Act;
 - xxx. To do such other functions as may be directed by the State Government from time to time.

Board Office:

The Office of the Assam State Biodiversity Board has been set up at Paryatan Bhawan, 1st Floor, A. K. Azad Road, Rehabari, Guwahati- 781008 in March 2012. Since then, the Board has been functioning from this office.

Staff of the Board:

There are three part time office bearers from the O/o PCCF Assam:

- i. Range Officer (HQ)
- ii. Accounts Officer
- iii. Junior Assistant

In addition, the Board has following contractual staffs:

- i. Technical Associate 1
- ii. Administration cum Accounts Assistant 1
- iii. Steno-cum Personal Secretary 1
- iv. Dak runner-cum Office Attendant 1



BOARD MEETINGS:

4th Board Meeting:

The 4th Meeting of the Board was held in the Campus of the Tezpur University, Tezpur on 12th July 2012. This meeting had two sessions, the First Session was for the Board Members and some select invitees and second was an open Session with representatives of the University.

KEY ISSUES OF THE MEETING:

1. Action Taken Report:

The Board was informed that:

- a. A proposal for correction in para-31 of Assam Biodiversity Rules was already with the Government.
- b. Translation of Biological Diversity Act-2002 and the Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2010 into *different local* languages was being pursued.
- c. Construction of ASBB Website by the NIC was on.
- d. Four contractual staffs of the Board with the support of Grant from NBA has been engaged:
 - i. Technical Associate
 - ii. Administrative-cum-Accounts Assistant
 - iii. Steno-cum-Personal Secretary
 - iv. Dak Runner/Office Attendant
- e. A Proposal for creation of seven (7) regular posts for the Board has been submitted to the government for approval.
- f. Finalization of 'Vision' and 'Mission' Statements of ASBB is included as different agenda item:

Vision:

Bountiful, secured and economically rewarding biological diversity **Mission:** Ownership rights to

people for conservation and wise-use of biological resources and equitable sharing of benefits on commercial utilization.

- g. Constitution of One Expert Group to examine application received by the Board for grant of permission.
 - h. ASBB Logo was released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 22nd May 2012.
 - i. So far 15 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) have been constituted in Kamrup District with active support of the forest Department, The Deputy Commissioners, the Panchayat Presidents and the Anchalik Parishads.
2. Collaborative efforts for preparation of Biodiversity Registers is the main focus of the Meeting.
 3. Information on the Statement on receipt of Grants by the Board since its last Meeting.
 4. Approval of statement on expenditure incurred by the Board since its last Meeting.
 5. Discussions on the Status of Applications before the Board for permissions:
 - i. Aaranyak: Research on population genetics of Tiger and Great one horned Rhinos in Assam
 - ii. Aaranyak: Monitoring and control of invasive species in grassland ecosystem of Manas NP.
 - iii. Gauhati University: permission to carry certain plant extract to Brunel University, London.

Discussions on Preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Registers in collaboration with Universities, Research Institutions, NGOs etc.



FEW PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 4TH BOARD MEETING HELD AT TEZPUR UNIVERSITY



Board Meeting Under Progress



Chairman-ASBB interacting with V.C. of Tezpur University



MS-ASBB addressing the Meeting



V.C. & Registrar of Tezpur University



Chairman Presenting a Memento to V.C



Member Secretary Presenting a Memento D.C. Sonitpur Dist.



Follow up meeting of the 4th Board Meeting :

A follow-up meeting of the Board was held on 3rd August, 2012 at 11.00 am at the office premises of the Assam State Biodiversity Board.

The main focus of the meeting was on the following main issues:

1. Finalizing Model Format for Biodiversity Database.
2. Finalizing Information Broachers in Assamese and English.
3. Finalizing Vision and Mission Statement of the Board.
4. Preparing MoU for collaboration between the Board and Universities for the purpose of preparation of PBRs.
5. Issues regarding the orchid trade cases in the State from the biodiversity preservation point of view.

Workshop cum 5th Board Meeting :

A state level workshop on Biodiversity for sensitization of stakeholders was held on 28th September, 2012 at NEDFi House, Guwahati.

The Main objectives of the Workshop are:

1. Sensitizing the Stakeholders, primarily the State Government Departments, NGOs, Research and Educational Institutes about the concerns of Biodiversity.

2. Familiarize the Stake Holders with the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act-2002 and the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010 - spelling out roles and responsibilities, and
3. Working out collaborative approaches for implementations of the Act and the Rules.

Key Issues of the Meeting:

1. Biodiversity Act & Rules: Roles, Responsibilities and Tasks ahead.
2. Discussions on:
 - a. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)
 - b. People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)
 - c. Biodiversity Heritage sites (BHS)
 - d. Local/ State Biodiversity Fund
3. Presentation by Shri O. P. Pandey, IFS Addl. PCCF (Projects) on details about various components of the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC), supported by French Development Agency: Possibilities and Preparedness.
4. Documentation of Local Traditional Knowledge
5. Access and Benefit Sharing Regime.

FEW PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE WORKSHOP CUM 5TH BOARD MEETING



Felicitation of Chief Guest - Shri Rakibul Hussain, Hon'ble Minister Environment & Forest, Panchayat & RD



Welcome Address by Dr. Ranjana Gupta CCF- Wetlands



Release of Information Brochure of Board by the Chief Guest



Release of Website of Board by the Chief Guest



Address by Hon'ble Minister during the function



Address by Chairman-ASBB During the Function



Address by Member secretary-ASBB



Forest Officers and Participants of the Workshop



Address by Dr. Deepa Dutta, Director IRDIS at the Function



Interaction with participants during the Technical Session

6TH BOARD MEETING:

The 6th meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board was held on 9th January, 2013 at the office premises of the Board.

Key Issues of the Meeting:

1. Action Taken Report: on issues discussed in previous meetings.
2. Preparation of a model PBR at Kamrup District with the help of the Forest Department, some NGOs and Guwahati University. For this exercise:
 - a. Use of the NBA format of PBR for the time being.
 - b. Inclusion of the details of the PBR in the digital format once the software is ready to use.
 - c. Proposal for handing over the charge of developing the digital format to other agency, in the event that the AMTRON is not in a position to develop the software timely/fully.
3. Discussions on the provisions in the Biological Diversity Act that need legal advice for better understanding:
 - a. When permission of the Board is sought by an Indian for a research proposal that requires access of some biological resource, following is the rule position:

A prior approval of NBA is required for access to any biological resource for any purpose (research or commercial) by a non-Indian {Rule-3(1) and (2)(a) and (b) of the Biological Diversity Act} or such Indian organization that has any non-Indian participation in its capital share or management- Rule (3)(2) (c) (ii) of Biological Diversity Act.

For Indian (individual or organization) seeking access to biological resource for commercial gains a prior intimation to the State Biodiversity Board is necessary Rule(7) of Biological Diversity Act .

That means access for commercial utilization by Indians requires a prior intimation and access for non-commercial purpose by an Indian does not require a prior intimation.

However in terms of Rule(23) (a) The State Boards are supposed to 'regulate by granting of approval or otherwise, requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey or bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians'

The contradiction may kindly be noted in Rule-7 which requires prior intimation by Indians and the Rule 23-a which requires State Boards to regulate commercial utilization etc by Indians by way of grant of permission

Rule-14 (1) of Biodiversity Rules, 2004 (Central Government) states "Any person seeking approval of the Authority for access to biological resources and associated knowledge for research or for commercial utilization shall make an application in Form I".

- b. Information regarding the recommendations made during the Workshop organized by Board on 28th September, 2012 relating to Biological Diversity Act-2002 and Assam biodiversity Rules-2010.
- 4. Matters for information of the Board:**
- a. State level Workshop organized by the Board for sensitization of the stakeholders.
 - b. Participation of the Board in Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CoP 11 to CBD) at Hyderabad by way of putting up 7 theme-based posters depicting biological diversity of Assam. In addition the Member Secretary and one nominee of the Chairman (CCF-Wetlands) Participated in the high level segment of the Convention.
 - c. Extension of Contractual Staff of the Board for six months.
 - d. Submission of a progress report to the Government of Assam since the inception of the Board.
5. Grants received by the Board from the NBA.
 6. Non receipt of the State Government grant of Rs. 50.00 Lakh for the year 2012-13 till the date of the meeting.
 7. Discussions on the matter for consideration/ decision by Board:
 - a. Regarding various permissions.
 - b. Draft Agreement in terms of Rule 18 (4) for grant of permission by Board/agreement for approval.
 - c. Deciding an amount as application fee from the applicants seeking permission from the Board as per Rule 18(1).
 - d. Assam French Project: Biodiversity Component-discussions on methodology of implementation.

FEW PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 6TH BOARD MEETING



Chairman-ASBB inauguration the Meeting



Principal Secretary & PCCF along with other Officials at the Meeting



Member Secretary Presenting the key issues



Chairman - ASBB addressing a key issue



MD-AMTRON presenting the digital format of PBR at the meeting



Dr. P.C. Bhattacharjee speaking on a key issue at the meeting

ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD DURING THE YEAR 2012-13:

1. Special Events organized/ attended:

I. Celebration of International Biological Diversity.

With a view to generating awareness about the biodiversity the Board organized celebrations of International Day for Biological Diversity at Shankardev Kalakhetra, Guwahati on 22nd May 2012.

- i. The Event was inaugurated by Shri Tarun Gogoi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam. Shri Rakibul Hussain, Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests, Panchayat and RD and Shri Abu Taher Bepari, Parliamentary Secretary, Environment and Forests also attended the function. More than 300 people including the members of newly constituted Biodiversity management Committees, NGOs, school children and senior government officials participated in the event.
- ii. During the event, the Logo of the Board was released by Hon'ble Chief Minister. In addition, a bilingual handbook (in Assamese and English) on Biological Diversity Act-2002 and Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010 was also released.
- iii. A documentary film on biodiversity produced by the Board in Assamese language for spreading awareness amongst masses was released and screened at the function.

II. State level workshop on Biodiversity for Sensitization of Stake holders:

The Board organised a State level Sensitization workshop for all the stakeholders of biodiversity on 28th September 2012 at NEDFi House Guwahati. The main objectives of the Workshop were:

- i. To sensitize the Stakeholders, primarily the State Government Departments, NGOs, Research and Educational Institutes about the concerns of Biodiversity
- ii. To familiarize the Stake Holders with the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act-

2002 and the Assam Biodiversity Rules 2010 - spelling out roles and responsibilities, and

- iii. Working out collaborative approaches for implementations of the Act and the Rules

About 300 delegates representing various government departments, NGOs, educational and research institutes took part in the Workshop. Board released its Information Brochure on 'Biodiversity Management Committees' both in English and Assamese language.

III. CoP-11 Conference at Hyderabad:

The Board participated at the 11th Conference of Parties (CoP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which was held at Hyderabad from 1st to 19th October 2012. The Assam State Biodiversity Board participated in the Biodiversity Exhibition by putting up following seven 'theme-based' posters designed to depict rich biological diversity of Assam and its interface with local people:

- i. Assam's Muga Silk and associated livelihood.
- ii. Lesser known globally Threatened Mammals of Assam
- iii. Rice Varieties of Assam
- iv. Bird Diversity of Assam
- v. Small yet Significant (species of Assam)
- vi. Success story of Rhino
- vii. Assam State Symbols

IV. 8th National Meet of the State Biodiversity Boards at Chennai:

The Board participated at the 8th National meet of the State Biodiversity Boards held at Chennai from 15th to 16th March, 2013 at Chennai. Various pending issues of the Board were presented by Member Secretary at the Meeting.

2. Website of the Board:

The official website of the Board, www.asbb.gov.in was launch, on 28th September 2012 by Hon'ble Minister Environment & Forest Government of Assam.



3. Publications of Board:

- a. A Bilingual book on Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Assam Biodiversity Rules 2010, both in English and Assamese language.
- b. Information Brochure of the Board both in English and Assamese language.
- c. A documentary film on Biodiversity Act and Rules in Assamese.

4. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC):

With a view to involving local people in conservation endeavours it has been provided in the Assam Biodiversity Rules 2010 [Rule 25(1)] that the local bodies would constitute Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs). Accordingly, the Board has so far constituted 46 BMCs covering 6 Districts namely Kamrup, Nagaon, Sonitpur, Jorhat, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji. It is proposed to constitute 195 BMCs at Anchalik Panchayat level including the Autonomous Council Areas.

5. People's Biodiversity Register (PBR):

In terms of the Rule 25 (9) of Assam Biodiversity Rules 2010, the Board has to facilitate preparation of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR). The Board targets to prepare 27 Biodiversity Registers, one each for the all the Districts, including the three Autonomous District Councils. The process of preparation of PBR is progressing. Discussions had been held with the University of the Tezpur for coordinating and preparing a Biodiversity Register for Sonitpur District. However, the process would require grant for facilitating the process of preparation of PBRs.

6. Permissions sought/granted:

The Biological Diversity Act and the Assam Biodiversity Rule regulate access to biological resources, and prescribe manner in which the access could be allowed. The Assam Biodiversity Board received several applications seeking access to biological resources for various purposes. The applications were disposed off in terms of various provisions of the Act/Rules.

7. Financial Progress:

i. State Government Financial Assistance:

The State Government sanctioned Rs 34.22 Lakh for the Year 2012-2013.

ii. Assistance from National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai:

The Board receives financial assistance from the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai for conducting specific activities. So far, the Board has received grant from NBA for the following purposes:

- i. Infrastructure Grant for setting up of the Office of the Board.
- ii. Grant for Support staff* on contractual basis for one year

[* Board has submitted a proposal to the Government of Assam for creation of 7 secretarial posts for smooth running of the Board]

- iii. Grant for Awareness Generation: State Level Workshops / Biodiversity Day celebration / CoP 11 to CBD

Grant for designing Website and for Publications



CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL DAY 22ND MAY, 2012



Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Tarun Gogoi and Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forest, Shri Rakibul Hussain at the International Biological Day Celebration Function at Kalakshetra, Guwahati



Hon'ble Chief Minister Inaugurating the function.



Hon'ble Chief Minister and Forest minister distributing plant saplings to school children during the function.



Hon'ble Minister Shri Rakibul Hussain planting a sapling on the occasion.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Tarun Gogoi addressing the function.



Hon'ble Forest Minister Shri Rakibul Hussain addressing the function.



Shri Abu Taher Bepari, Parliamentary Secretary, Environment and Forests addressing the function.



Member Secretary-ASBB Shri A. K. Johari giving welcome address at the function.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Tarun Gogoi and Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forest, Shri Rakibul Hussain releasing the logo of the Assam State Biodiversity Board on the occasion.



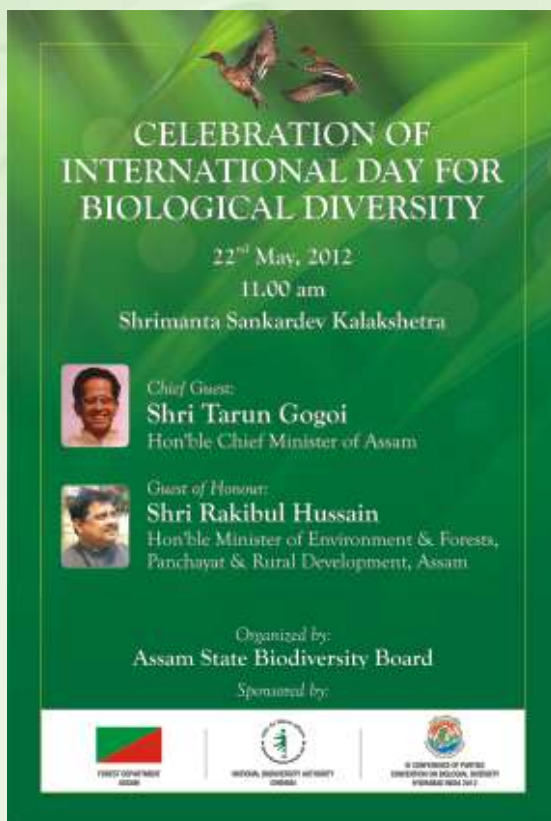
Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Tarun Gogoi and Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forest, Shri Rakibul Hussain releasing the bilingual Information Brochure of the Board.



Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Tarun Gogoi distributing Certificates and Memento to the Presidents of the newly constituted Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).



Forest Officials, Invited Guests and participants of the function.



Poster Advertisement



Newspaper Advertisement



Seven Posters exhibited at the CoP-11 Conference in Hyderabad



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)



(g)

- a) Assam's Muga Silk & associated livelihood;
- b) Birds Diversity of Assam;
- c) Assam State Symbols;
- d) Lesser known Globally Threatened Mammals of Assam;
- e) Small yet Significant;
- f) Success story of Rhino conservation;
- g) Rice Varieties of Assam.



FEW PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE 8TH NATIONAL MEET OF SBBS HELD AT CHENNAI ON 15TH- 16TH MARCH, 2013



Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India at the Meeting.



NBA Chairman Mr. Balakrisna Pisupathi interacting with the Officials of State Biodiversity Boards present at the Meeting.



Mr. A.K. Johari, Member Secretary-ASBB highlighting key issues of the Assam State Biodiversity Board at the Meeting.



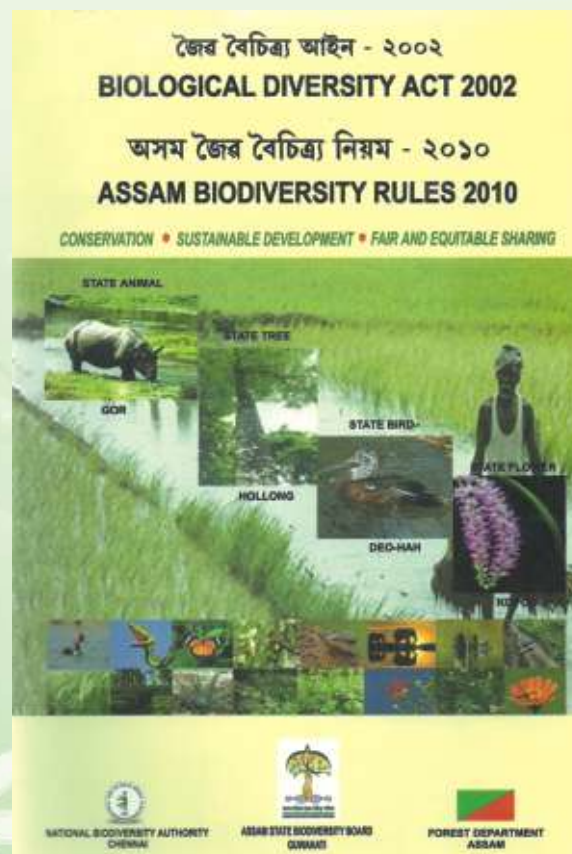
Chairman, Member Secretaries and Officials of SBBs at the Meeting.



PUBLICATIONS OF THE BOARD A DOCUMENTARY FILM ON BIODIVERSITY ACT AND RULES IN ASSAMESE



PUBLICATIONS OF THE BOARD A BILINGUAL BOOK ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT- 2002 AND ASSAM BIODIVERSITY RULES-2010





PUBLICATIONS OF THE BOARD ASBB INFORMATION BROCHURE IN ENGLISH

* The BMCs and local committees are responsible for ensuring the protection of the knowledge recorded in the People's Biodiversity Registers especially to regulate its access to outside agencies and individuals.

* The BMCs are to advise on any matter referred to it by the State Biodiversity Board for granting approval, to maintain data about the local Vaid/ Buz/ Ojha and practitioners using biological resources.

Other responsibilities of BMC:

The BMCs shall be responsible to maintain local Biodiversity fund and utilized the same for the mandated functions of the committees. They shall maintain proper accounts to be audited and incorporated into the annual reports to be submitted to the local bodies.

Tenure of BMC:

The Chairperson and the non-official members of the Biodiversity Management Committee shall have tenure of five years or co-terminus with the tenure of the local elected body whichever is lesser.

Financial Resources for BMCs:

The BMCs shall generate funds through the following modes:

- * Receipts (grants and loans) from National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Board (SBB) and State Government.
- * The BMCs may access funds from various sources including raising donations, line departments of Government of India and State Governments, other Central and State Boards, institutions and corporate bodies.
- * Receipts from fees, license fee, levies, royalties and other receipts.

Operation of Local Biodiversity funds:

The local Biodiversity Fund shall be deposited in a Nationalized Bank approved by the Biodiversity Management Committee and it shall be operated by the Chairperson under his seal and signature or any other officer of the Biodiversity Management Committee as may be authorized in this behalf.

Making complaint and manner of giving notice:

If violation of any provision of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is detected or observed by any person or groups of persons or communities or local bodies or BMCs in matters falling within the jurisdiction of the State Biodiversity Board, a complaint may be made to the State Biodiversity Board of Assam in Form-VII appended to these Rules by giving a thirty days' time.



The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was negotiated and signed by nations at the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil on June 5, 1992. The convention came into force on December 29, 1993. India became a party to the convention on February 18, 1994. At the present there are 193 Parties to this Convention. Under the convention there are two protocols: Cartagena Protocol (to deal with bio-safety issues) and the Nagoya Protocol (on Access and benefit Sharing).



For further details please contact:

Member Secretary,
Assam State Biodiversity Board
Parvaton Bhaswan, 1st Floor,
A.K. Aul Road, Rehahari,
Guwahati- 781009
E-mail: assambiodiversity@gmail.com
Website: www.asbb.assam.in
Phone: 0361- 2753917; Fax: 0361- 2753780





ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD
(A Statutory Body of Government of Assam)



Our Vision
"Bountiful, secured and economically-rewarding biodiversity"

Our Mission
"Ownership rights to local people for conservation and wise-use of biological resources and equitable share in benefits on its commercial utilization".

Front Side

ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

Biological diversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this include diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. In short, Biodiversity is the vast array of all the plants, animals, insects and micro-organisms inhabiting the earth either in the aquatic or terrestrial habitats. The human civilization depends directly or indirectly upon this biodiversity for their very basic needs of survival- food, fodder, fuel, fibre, fertilizer, timber, liquor, rubber, leather, medicines and several raw materials. This diversity is the condition for the long term sustainability of the environment, continuity of life on earth and the maintenance of its integrity. People are now aware of the fact that habitat degradation, loss of wild stock in association with loss of local traditional knowledge led to rapid degradation of biological resources all over the globe.

Thus, the growing concern for depletion of overall biological diversity world-wide led to the establishment and adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992. This Convention recognizes the sovereign rights of the states over their biological resources. Taking the Convention's provisions and to deal with management of our biological resources, Government of India has enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The Act provides for conservation of Biological Diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge. At the national level, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has been established to implement the Act with headquarters in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) under Sec. 8 of the Act. The State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) are formed at state level and Biodiversity Management committees (BMC) are constituted by the local bodies to decentralize the implementation of the Act.





In exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (1) of Section 22 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Act 18 of 2003), the Government of Assam constituted the "Assam Biodiversity Board" on 29th September 2010 to promote biodiversity conservation in the State of Assam, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources of the state and traditional knowledge associated with those resources and matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

Members of the Board:

The Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) is headed by a Chairperson who is the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam. It consists of five Ex-officio members from related Departments of Government of Assam and five Expert Members who are experts in different aspects of biodiversity management.

Functions of the ASBB:

- * Advise the government on any matter concerning conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge;
- * Regulate by granting of approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio- utilization of any biological resource by Indian Nationals;
- * Inventorize, catalogue, of biodiversity; monitoring the rate of depletion, awareness creation in public, decision makers and planners and initiating scientific, administrative, legal and socio-economic measures for the protection of biodiversity;
- * Co-ordinate the activities of the Biodiversity Management Committees;
- * Give directions to Biodiversity Management Committees in writing and through appropriate oral means for effective implementation of the Act and to facilitate their meaningful participation in all measures relating to conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing;

Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC):

The Biodiversity Act and Rules provide that the local bodies shall constitute Biodiversity Management Committees within its area of jurisdiction. The Assam State Biodiversity Board proposes to facilitate constitution of BMCs at Anchalik Panchayat level in the state. These committees shall work for the purpose of preserving conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

Members of BMC:

The Biodiversity Management Committees constituted under sub-rule (1) shall have seven persons nominated by the local body headed by a Chairperson, of which not less than one third shall be women. Seven local knowledgeable persons being so nominated should be drawn amongst the herbalists, agriculturists, Non-Timber Forest produce collectors, community workers, fisher folk, representatives of user associations, community workers, academicians and any person/representative of organization whom the local body trusts that he/she can significantly contribute to the mandate of the Biodiversity Management Committee. The proportion of members belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe shall not be less than Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe population percentage of the district where such a committee is set up. All the above should be residents within the said local body limits and be in the voter's list.

Functions of the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC):

- * The BMCs shall facilitate preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) in consultation with local people; which comprises of comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other use or any other traditional knowledge associated with them.



Inner Side

LISTS OF 57 BMCS CONSTITUTED IN THE YEAR 2012-13

The Board so far has constituted 57 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at Anchalik level covering six districts viz: Kamrup, Morigaon, Nagaon, Jorhat, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji Districts. Processes are going on for formation of BMCs in other districts of Assam.

Sl No.	Name of the Committee	Name of the District	Registration No	Details of Notification
1	Dimoria Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(E)/1/42	DAP-10/2010-11/104 Dated.19-05-2012
2	Boko Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(W)/2/42	BPB/Misc/12/2009-10/8412 Dated.19-05-2012
3	Chayani Borduar Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(W)/3/42	CBDB/AP/01/2010-11 Dated 19-05-12
4	Chaygaon Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(W)/4/42	CBD/AP/gel/2011-12 Dated.19-05-12
5	Sualkuchi Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(W)/5/42	SDB/AP-34/pt-2/2011-12/81 Dated.18-05-12
6	Bihdia Jajikona Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(W)/6/42	BJDB/GK/163/12-13 Dated. 19-05-12
7	Hajo Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(W)7/42	HAP/15/BMC/2011-12 Dated.18-05-12
8	Kamalapur Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(W)/8/43	KAP/G/17/2010-11/3025 Dated.19-05-12
9	Goroimari Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(W)/9/43	GAT/GD/36/2012 Dated.18-05-12
10	Rampur Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(W)/10/43	RDB/RD/MISC/2004/2 Dated. 18-05-12
11	Rani Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(E)/11/43	RDB/MISC/190/2007-08 Dated. 17-05-12
12	Chandrapur Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(E)/12/43	CDB/(AP)32/2005-06/1091 Dated. 18-05-12
13	Chamaria Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(W)/13/43	M6c AP/BMC/1 Dated. 19-05-12
14	Rangia Anchalik BMC	Kamrup	ABB/KAM/K(N)/14/44	RDB/DEV/20/2011-12 Dated 19-05-12
15	Selenghat Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/J (E)/1/37	BDO/MISC/.... Dated 29-06-12
16	Baghcheng Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Jorhat	ABB/ JOR/2/37	JDB//G/23/2008-09 Dated 26-0-12
17	Kaliapani Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/3/37	KDB/MISC/2/2009-10 Dated 06-07-12
18	Titabor Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/4/37	TAP/Bio-Div/2012-13/2 Dated 2-07-12
19	Majuli Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/5/37	MAP/66/2010-11 Dated 3-07-12
20	North west div. Block Dhekorgarah Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/J (NW)/6/38	NWJDB/Bio-Div/2012-13 Dated 2-07-12
21	Madhya Jorhat Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/J (C)/7/38	CJDB/RD/42/BMC/2012-13 Dated 03-07-12



Sl No.	Name of the Committee	Name of the District	Registration No	Details of Notification
22	Jengraimukh Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Jorhat	ABB/ JOR/8/38	UMDB/BDO/3/2011-12/677 Dated 29-06-2012
23	Murkongselek Anchalik C Panchayat BM	Dhemaji	ABB/DHE/ DHE (D.R.)/1/19	MSTD/BMC/115/2012-13/111
24	Dhemaji Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Dhemaji	ABB/DHE/ DHE (D.R.)/2/19	Dated 6-9-12
25	Bordoloni Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Dhemaji	ABB/DHE/ DHE (D.R.)/3/19	Dated 23-9-12
26	Sissibargaon Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Dhemaji	ABB/DHE/ DHE (D.R.)/4/19	Dated 26-9-12
27	Machkhowa Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Dhemaji	ABB/DHE/ DHE (D.R.)/5/19	Dated 18-9-12
28	Nowbaicha Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Lakhimpur	ABB/LAK/L (L.Dv)1/55	NDB.155/2012-13 Dated 30-08-12
29	Karunabari Anchalaik Panchayat BMC	Lakhimpur	ABB/LAK/L (L.Dv)2/55	KAP/BMC/89/2012-13/2 Dated 4-07-12
30	Narayanpur Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Lakhimpur	ABB/LAK/L (L.Dv)3/55	NDB/AP/43/2012-13 Dated 15-08-12
31	Bihpuria Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Lakhimpur	ABB/LAK/L (L.Dv)4/55	Date 09-07-2012
32	Lakhimpur Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Lakhimpur	ABB/LAK/L (L.Dv)5/56	Dated 17-07-12
33	Boginodi Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Lakhimpur	ABB/LAK/L (L.Dv)6/56	BDB/B146/01/2011 Dated 6-07-12
34	Telahi Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Lakhimpur	ABB/LAK/L (L.Dv)7/56	Dated 4-9-12
35	Ghilamara Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Lakhimpur	ABB/LAK/L (L.Dv)8/56	GDB/Biodiversity/2012-13 Dated 20-08-12
36	Dhakuakhana Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Lakhimpur	ABB/LAK/L (L.Dv)6/57	DAP/209/2010-12/503 Dated 3-9-12
37	Moirabari Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Morigaon	ABB/MOR/M (N.D)/1/58	Dated 10-07-12
38	Laharighat Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Morigaon	ABB/MOR/M (N.D)/2/58	Dated 10-07-2012
39	Bhurbanda Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Morigaon	ABB/MOR/M (N.D)/3/58	BDB/RD/MISC/55/2004-05 Dated 11-07-12
40	Mayong Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Morigaon	ABB/MOR/M (N.D)/4/58	MAP Part III 313/96-97/423 Dated 9-07-12
41	Kapili Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Morigaon	ABB/MOR/M (N.D)/5/59	Dated 26-9-12
42	Kathiatoli Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (N.D)/1/61	KAP-65/2010/1145 Dated 8-7-12
43	Bajiagaon Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (N.D)/2/61	Dated 10-07-2012
44	Lowkhowa Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (N.D)/3/61	
45	Kapili Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (N.D)/12/61	Dated 26-09-12
46	Lumding-2 Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (S)/5/62	LAP/BMC/2012-13/ LNK-2/4645 Dated 11-07-2012

Sl No.	Name of the Committee	Name of the District	Registration No	Details of Notification
47	Lumding -3 Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (S)/6/62	LAP/BMC/2012-13/ KK-2/4646 Dated 11-07-12
48	Udali-1 Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (S)/7/62	OAP/BMC/2012-13/ KK-1/144 Dated 11-07-12
49	Udali-2 Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (S)/8/62	OAP/BMC/2012-13/ LNK-1/143 Dated 11-07-12
50	Bimakandi Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (S)/9/63	BAP/MISC/161/ 2010-11/545 Dated 11-07-12
51	Jogijan Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (S)/10/63	APJ/03/12 Dated 8-09-12
52	Dhalpukhuri Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (S)/11/62	DAP/03/2012-13 Dated 8-9-12
53	Pakhimoria Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (S.R)/12/64	Dated 25-09-12
54	Raha Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (S.R)/13/64	Dated 26-09-12
55	Barhampur Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (S.R)/14/64	Dated 25-09-12
56	Koliabor Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon Dated 24-09-12	ABB/NAG/N (N)/15/65	KAP-1/09/12
57	Pachim Koliabor Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Nagaon	ABB/NAG/N (N)/16/65	Dated 27-9-12



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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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Ph.- 2549593, garg.clients@gmail.com, FRN -324383 E

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR REPORT

TO

ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

We have audited the accompanying financial Statement of Assam State Biodiversity Board which comprises the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2013 and income & Expenditure Account for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements :

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance of the board is accordance with the Accounting Standards refereed by Institutes of Chartered Accountants of India. This responsibility included the design, implementation and maintence of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statement that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility :

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards on Audition issued by the institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amount and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's statements, where due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Board's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion :

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give the information required by the Act in the manner so required and give a true and fair view conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India.

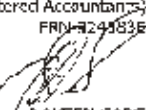
- In the case of Balance Sheet, of the Board as at March 31, 2013
- In the case of the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date; and

Report on other Legal and regulatory requirements :

We report that,

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- In our opinion proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Board so far as appears from our examination of those books.
- The Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account dealt with bye this Report are in agreement with the books of account.
- In our opinion, the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account comply with the Accounting standards..

Place : Guwahati
Date : 13/05/2013

For NAVEEN ATMARAM GARG & CO.
(Chartered Accountants)
FRN-324383E

NAVEEN GARG
(Proprietor)
Membership No: 060338



ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

Income and Expenditure Account for the period 01.04.2012 to 31.03.2013

Expenditure	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)	Income	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)
Grants utilised			Grants received from NBA		
Assistance for exhibition material COP - 11	1,09,010.00		Financial Assistance for exhibition material COP - 11		1,20,000.00
For International Biological Day 2012	4,57,402.00		Fund for Celebration of International Biological Day 2012		4,50,000.00
For State level sensitization workshop for design and launch of website	2,22,643.00		Fund for state level sensitization workshop		2,40,000.00
Computer Accessories	20,000.00		less: refund of unutilised Fund		7,99,010.00
Office Accessories		8,09,055.00			
New Telephone Connection Charges		25,850.00			
Board meeting expenses		2,000.00			
Office interior work		500.00			
Books and periodicals		83,248.00			
Cleaning and Sweeping		4,23,378.00			
Electricity Expenses		2,314.00			
News Paper & Magazine		17,000.00			
Office Rent		31,016.00			
Postage & Courier		11,315.00			
Stationery Expenses		96,000.00			
Telephone Expenses		2,588.00			
POL		55,367.00			
Other Expenses		18,905.00			
Utilisation Certification fees		24,800.00			
Audit fee		2,820.00			
Bank charges		28,090.00			
Depreciation		11,236.00			
Salaries for contractual staff		135.00			
Excess of Income over Expenditure		1,54,315.00	Fund received from State Govt.		39,22,000.00
		4,80,671.00	Interest on saving bank account		56,948.00
		24,97,355.00			
		47,77,958.00			47,77,958.00

In terms of our report of even date

For NAVEEN ATMARAM GARG & CO

Chartered Accountants

FRN - 324383E



(NAVEEN GARG)
Proprietor

M. No. - 060338

Date : 13/05/2013

Place: Guwahati

for Assam State Biodiversity Board

P P Verma
Chairman

A K Johari
Member Secretary



ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

PARYATAN BHAWAN, 1st FLOOR, A.K. AZAD ROAD, REHABARI, GUWAHATI-781008

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