



ASSAM STATE
BIODIVERSITY BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT
2014-15



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OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

Introduction

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life forms at all levels of organization, from gene through species to higher taxonomic forms and includes the variety of ecosystems and habitats besides the processes occurring therein. Biodiversity is fundamental to the fulfillment of human needs –

a biodiversity rich region offers wide options and opportunities for sustaining human welfare including adaptation to changes.

India is one of the 17 Mega biodiverse countries in the world (as per Conservation International 1998) and accounts for 7-8 % of the recorded species.

North-eastern India in general and Assam in particular is a constituent unit of the Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity Region; one of the two biodiversity “Hot Spots” in the country.

The State also falls in the transitional zone between the Indian, Indo- Malayan and Indo-Chinese Biogeographical regions. The climatic condition and wide variety of physical features witnessed in Assam have resulted in a diversity of ecological habitats such as forests, grasslands, wetlands, which harbour and sustain wide ranging flora and fauna. About 37.27% of State's geographical area is under green cover (as per India State of Forest Report 2015). The Protected Area Network of the State comprises of 5 National Parks and 20 Wildlife Sanctuaries. Besides, Assam has the distinction of having 2 UNESCO World Heritage sites (Manas And Kaziranga), 2 Biosphere Reserves (Dibru- Saikhowa and Manas), 3 Tiger Reserves (KNP, Manas and Nameri) and 5 Elephant Reserves.

There has been a growing concern worldwide for depletion of biological diversity, which 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. With this objective the Government of India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, in 2002. This Act provides for conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of commercial use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. At the national level, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) oversees implementation 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:

The Government of Assam constituted “Assam Biodiversity Board” on 29th September 2010 as per Section-22(1) of the Biological Diversity Act-2002 (Act 18 of 2003) to promote biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of its components besides equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and its associated traditional knowledge.

Composition of the Board:

The Board is headed by a Chairman in the rank of Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam. During the year 2014-15, Shri Subhash Chandra Das, IAS, held the Chairmanship of the Board. Apart from the Chairman, the Board has six Ex-officio members from related Departments of Government of Assam and five Expert Members. The officer in-charge of Biodiversity in the Forest Department is the Member Secretary to the Board.

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Expert Members:

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

Special Invitees:

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.

Permanent Invitees:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forests Force-Assam;
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Assam;
3. Chairman, State Pollution Control Board-Assam;
4. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wetlands) and
5. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Research Education & Working Plans), Assam.

Functions of the Assam State Biodiversity Board

*Without prejudice to the provisions of the Act in general,
the Board has following functions:*

- 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 committees 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:
 - a. Provided that no such posts of any nature, whether temporary or permanent, shall be create without the prior approval of the Government,
 - b. To approve the method of recruitment to such posts;
- xxii. To co-ordinate the activities of the Biodiversity Management Committees,
- xxiii. 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,
- xxiv. To report to the Government and the National Biodiversity Authority about the functioning of the Board and Implementation of the Act,
- xxv. To recommend, prescribe or modify collection fee of biological resources from time to time;
- xxvi. To sanction grants-in-aid and grants to the Biodiversity Management Committees for specific purposes;
- xxvii. To undertake physical inspection of any area within its jurisdiction in connection with the implementation of the Act;
- xxviii. 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 is situated at
 Paryatan Bhawan, 1st Floor,
 A. K. Azad Road, Rehabari,
 Guwahati -781008.

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. Scientific Officer – 1
- ii. Junior Accountant - 1
- iii. PS/Administrative Assistant-II -1
- iv. Office Attendant - 1

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board meets quarterly to take its mandate forward. Following meetings of the Board took place during 2014-15

11th Board meeting:

The 11th meeting of the Board was held on 6th May 2014 at the Board office under the Chairmanship of Shri Subhash Chandra Das, IAS, Additional chief Secretary-Assam and Chairman, Assam State Biodiversity Board. The following are the main issues discussed during the meeting:

- i. Progress on the Projects undertaken by the Board
- ii. Grants received by the Board from NBA
- iii. Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May, 2014.
- iv. Ratification of Expenditure Statement of the Board
- v. Research Permissions and IPR Issues
- vi. Status on Implementation of Technical Works shortlisted from the offers received in response to the NIO of the Board.
- vii. Draft Cabinet memorandum for amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010.
- viii. Constitution of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Board
- ix. Biodiversity Internship Programme (BIP)
- x. Recommendation of HR Committee



Shri Subhash Chandra Das, IAS, A.C.S & Chairman - Assam State Biodiversity Board presiding over the meeting



Chairman and members discussing the key issues in the meeting

12th Board meeting:

The 12th Meeting of the Board was held on 12/09/2014 at Board Office, Rehabari Guwahati from 11.30 hrs onwards under the Chairmanship of Shri Subhash Chandra Das, IAS, Additional chief Secretary-Assam and Chairman, Assam State Biodiversity Board.

The following are the main issues discussed during the meeting:

- i. Launching of Biodiversity Research Associate Programme (BRAP) & Biodiversity Volunteer Initiative Programme (BVIP).
- ii. Formation of a Technical Advisory Committee for evaluation of Project proposals.
- iii. Divisional Workshops for sensitizing the BMC members and their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act - 2002 & Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010.
- iv. Update on Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC)
- v. Update on Peoples' Biodiversity Register (PBR)
- vi. Celebration of the International Biological Diversity Day on 22nd May, 2014 at Burhachapori WLS, Sonitpur on the theme - Island Biodiversity.
- vii. Progress on the ongoing research project works of the Board.
- viii. Ratification of Research Permissions and IPR applications
- ix. Ratification of Expenditure Statement of the Board
- x. Status on Implementation of Technical Works shortlisted from the offers received in response to the NIO.
- xi. Re-appropriation in the Plan Scheme for the financial year 2013-14.



Chairman and members interacting during the meeting



Chairman and Member Secretary discussing some key issues of the meeting

13th Board meeting:

The 13th Meeting of the Board took place at the Interpretation Centre, Pobitora WLS, Morigaon, on 6th of January, 2015. The meeting was chaired by Shri S. C. Das, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary and Chairman-ASBB.

The following are the main issues discussed during the meeting:

- i. Three pending proposals of the Board in the Government.
- ii. Update on the ongoing zonal and divisional level workshops.
- iii. Status of BMC and PBR.
- iv. Status on the progress of the ongoing projects of the Board:
 - a. Nagaon District PBR
 - b. Spider Project
 - c. Insect fauna documentation Project
 - d. Documentation of Wild-edible Bio-resources project.
 - e. Study of fish diversity of Brahmaputra
- v. Publications of the Board.
- vi. Draft Annual Report 2013-14.
- vii. Ratification of Research Permissions granted approval by the Board.
- viii. Ratification of Expenditure Statement of the Board



Chairman and Members of the Board along with DFO Guwahati Wildlife Division at Pobitora WLS



Distribution of registration certificate to BMC

MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD DURING THE YEAR 2014-15

I. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC):

a. Constitution:

The Board constituted 32 new Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) during 2014-15 covering 7 Districts namely Dhubri, Bongaigaon, Jorhat, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Karimganj. A list of the newly constituted BMCs are given at Annexure-I.

b. Strengthening of the new Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC):

With a view to strengthen and operationalize the newly constituted BMCs of the above mentioned 7 Districts, the following financial assistance was provided:

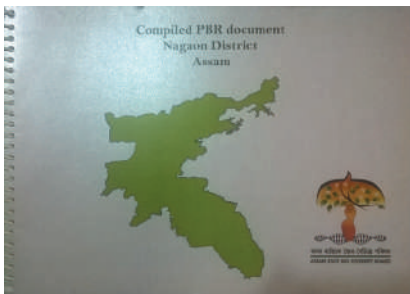
- i. As amount of Rs 5000/ BMC has been provided for opening of BMC accounts and setting up of BMC office.
- ii. An amount of Rs 20,000/ has been provided to each Forest Division for organizing Divisional and Sub-divisional level awareness workshops for members of the newly constituted BMCs.

II. People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR):

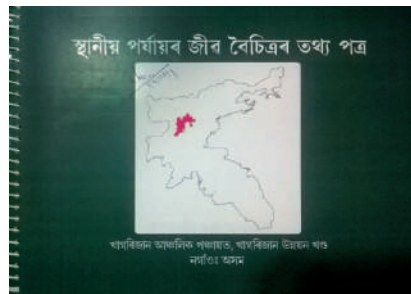
a. Completed PBR:

A total of 6 PBRs including 1 District Level and 5 Anchalik Panchayat Level PBRs of Nagaon District namely Dhalpukhuri, Koliabor, Khagorijan, Lowkhowa and Pakhimoria Anchalik Panchayat BMCs are completed during the year 2014-15. The PBRs are duly vetted by the District Technical Support Group for correctness and completeness. The task was assigned to the Society for Socio-Economic Awareness & Environment Protection (SSEAEP), Nagaon after competitive bidding in the previous financial year.

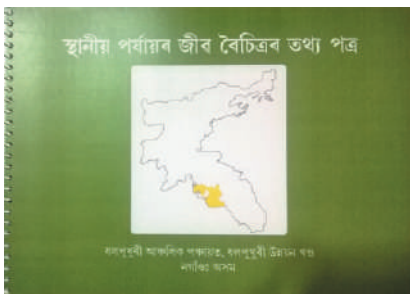
Completed Peoples' Biodiversity Registers



District PBR of Nagaon



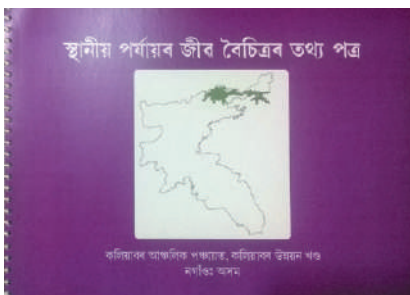
PBR of Khagorijan AP BMC



PBR of Dhalpukhuri AP BMC



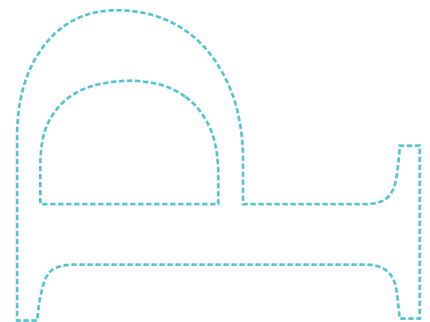
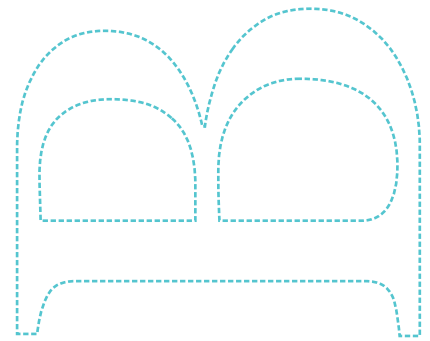
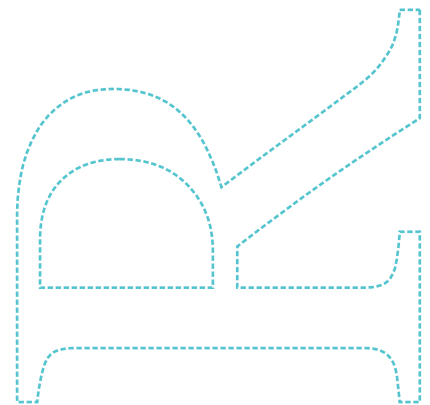
PBR of Pakhimoria AP BMC



PBR of Koliabor AP BMC



PBR of Laokhowa AP BMC



b. Financial Assistance for preparation of PBR:

An amount of Rs 50,000/ BMC has been sanctioned to 68 BMCs for starting the work of preparation of PBR during 2014-15. The following are the District-wise number of BMCs where the financial assistance for preparation of PBR has been sanctioned:

Name of District	Number of BMCs
Kamrup	6
Barpeta	3
Darrang	4
Nalbari	4
Sonitpur	14
Lakhimpur	4
Dhemaji	5
Morigaon	1
Cachar	15
Karimganj	7
Hailakandi	5

Total number of BMCs



c. PBR Digital Database:

The Board with the help of AMTRON has developed, a Digital Format for the State Level Biodiversity Database. This database is proposed to be linked with PBRs for generating information both for conservation of biodiversity and for disposal of proposals seeking access to biological resources in the State. The database is in progress.

d. Biodiversity Research Associate Programme (BRAP):

The Board with a view to assist the BMCs in preparation of PBR, launched a new programme called Biodiversity Research Associate Programme (BRAP) during 2014-15. Under the Programme, B.Sc. /M.Sc. Life Sciences Students were engaged for short duration, with a view to allow the interested persons an opportunity to utilize their free time (summer vacations / winter vacations / time between two semesters / time while preparing for competitive exams etc.) and work productively in the field of biodiversity.

i. Objective of the Programme:

To inculcate scientific temper amid the youth in the state of Assam and provide them an opportunity to work for conservation of biodiversity. This program would enhance the understanding of the Associate about the present day challenges in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, besides enabling them to meet those challenges.

- ii. Time duration:
Program is for short duration (3 - 6 months).
- iii. Fellowship:
 - a. For 3 months Program (Rs 5,000/- pm + total contingency of Rs 10,000/- towards field visits, documentation etc.)
 - b. For 6 months Program (Rs 5,000/- pm + total contingency of Rs 20,000/- towards field visits, documentation etc.)

For the FY 2014-15, 3 Fellows under the Program have been engaged to assist BMCs of Hajo Anchalik Panchayat, Kamrup District and Mayong Anchalik Panchayat, Morigaon District in preparation of their PBR and BMC management plans.

III. Sensitization Workshops:

The Board organizes Zonal and Divisional Level Workshops from time to time for sensitization of BMC and Panchayat members about the Biological Diversity Act-2002, Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010, besides the roles and responsibilities of Biodiversity Management Committees in implementation of the Act.

a. Divisional Level Workshops:

The following four workshops were organized during the year 2014-15:

- i. **25th June, 2014:** Divisional Workshop for Dhemaji District at DRDA conference hall in collaboration with office of Conservator of Forests, Northern Assam Circle.

- ii. **14th July, 2014:** Divisional Workshops for Sivasagar & Jorhat Districts at Forest Range Office, Sivasagar in collaboration with Office of Conservator of Forests, Eastern Assam Circle.

- iii. **15th July, 2014:** Divisional Workshop for Dibrugarh District at DFO Office, Dibrugarh in collaboration with Office of Conservator of Forests, Eastern Assam Circle.

- iv. **24th August, 2014:** Divisional Workshop for Sonitpur District at Biswanath Chariali, Tezpur in collaboration with Office of Conservator of Forests, Northern Assam Circle.

More than 100 participants from BMCs of the respective districts, representatives from panchayats, members of local NGOs and experts attended these workshops.

b. Zonal Level Workshop:

A Zonal workshop was held on 30th October, 2014 for Dima Hasao Autonomous Council at Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests office, Dima Hasao, Haflong. Around 80 Delegates including Senior Government Officers from Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Education & Research Departments, representatives of Panchayats, Prominent Local NGOs and Eminent Citizens of the Council took part in the workshop.

c. Other Sensitization

Workshops/Seminars/Meetings:

- i. A meeting of Board Members and other stakeholders with the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Shri Jitesh Khosla, IAS was held on 19/09/2014 to discuss the mandate of the Board, its progress and associated constraints.
- ii. A Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise meeting cum workshop for Hajo Block BMC was held on 16/10/2014, wherein, Member Secretary-ASBB, Board Staff and BRAP Fellows demonstrated PRA exercise to the BMC and Panchayat members.
- iii. A workshop cum demonstration on preparation of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) for each BMC under Nagaon South Division, Hojai was held on 12/12/2014 at Modertoli Bodo Community Hall, Modertoli, Daboka. The members of BMCs, Technical Support Group (TSG), local village people, Forest Department and local media were present at the workshop wherein the TSG members vetted five (5) PBRs of Nagaon District prepared by SSEAEP, Nagaon.
- iv. An Interaction meeting with faculty of major institutions, research scholars and students was held at Cotton College on 06/01/2015.
- v. A seminar on "Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation" was organized by ASBB on 13/02/2015 during the 2nd International Agri-Horti Show 2015 at Khanapara, Guwahati. Sri Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Padma Bhushan awardee was the Chief Guest of the Seminar.
- vi. The Board participated in the National Biodiversity Congress 2015, organized by Kerala State Biodiversity Board, held at Kanakakkunnu Palace, Thiruvanthapuram from 23/02/2015 to 27/02/2015. A special meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) was organized during the conference on 26th and 27th February 2015 to discuss about the Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS) Mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and other related issues.

Divisional Workshops at Dhemaji on 25/06/2014



Deputy Commissioner of Dhemaji
District addressing the gathering



Meeting in progress

Divisional Workshops at Tezpur on 24/08/2014



Member Secretary-ASBB
addressing the gathering



BMC Members
and other participants

Zonal Workshop at Haflong on 30/10/2014



Addl. PCCF- Dima Hasao and
Member Secretary-ASBB
addressing the participants



Other Sensitization Workshops/Seminars

Meeting with Chief Secretary- Assam
on 19/09/2014



Shri Jitesh Khosla, IAS,
Chief Secretary-Assam
and other Officials
at the meeting



Member Secretary-ASBB
presenting the key issues
of the meeting

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise workshop for Hajo BMC held on 16/10/2014



Member Secretary- ASBB and BMC Members at the workshop



Board Staff and BMC Members making a resource map as part of the PRA exercise

Technical Support Group (TSG) Workshop at Nagaon on 12/12/2014



Member Secretary-ASBB,
TSG members and BMC members
at the workshop



Vetting the PBRs of
five Anchalik Panchayat BMCs
by TSG

Interactive Meeting at Cotton College on 06/01/2015



Shri Anil Kr. Goswami,
Retd. Principal, Cotton College &
Expert Member-ASBB interacting
with faculty and students
at the meeting

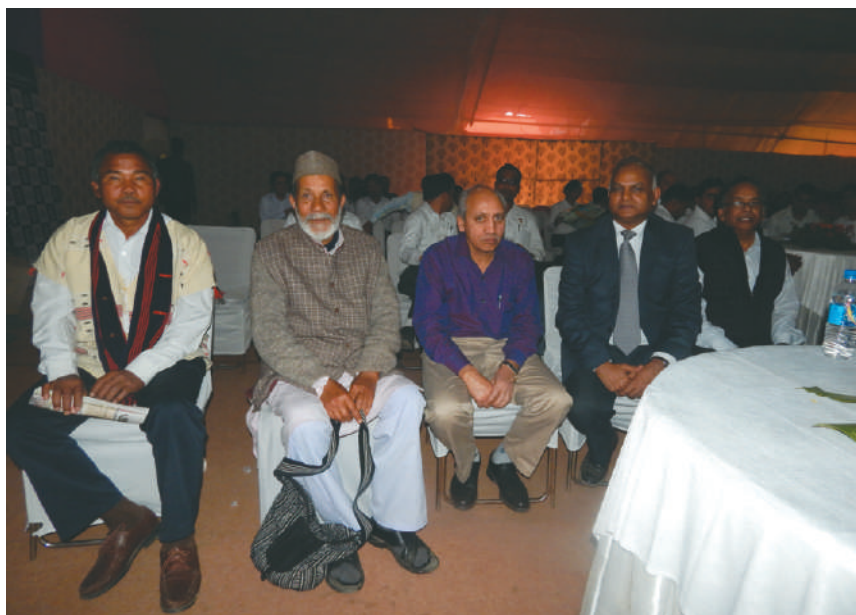


Shri Abhay Kr. Johari, IFS, APCCF
(Biodiversity & CC) and
Member Secretary-ASBB
interacting with faculty and
students at the meeting

Seminar on Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation on 13/02/2015



Officials releasing a booklet "Assam- Land of Blue Hills and Red River" during the function



Main Speakers of the Seminar



Shri Jadav Molai Payeng,
Padma Shree awardee,
Environmental Activists and
renowned 'Forest man of India'
sharing his experiences
at the seminar



Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt,
Padma Bhushan awardee and
Eminent Gandhian Environmentalist
and Social Worker, recipient of
Gandhi Peace Prize, giving a talk
on Himalayan Biodiversity
at the Seminar



Visitors scanning
ASBB publications during the
Agri-Horti Show 2015



Senior Government and Forest
Officials attending the Seminar
on 13/02/2015

National Biodiversity Congress
23rd - 27th February 2015

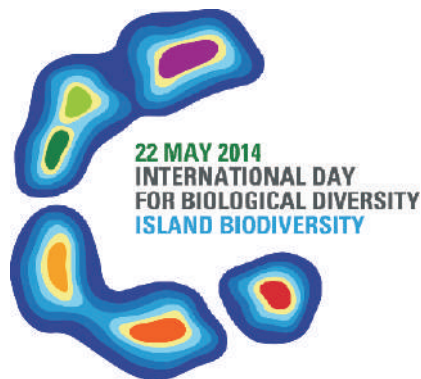


Shri Balakrishna Pisupati,
Former Chairman-NBA giving
a lecture on Access &
Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism
during special meeting of SBBs
on 26/02/2015



Mr. Shamnad Basheer,
Professor of IP Law, Ministry of HRD,
giving a lecture on Patents and
Biodiversity during special meeting
of SBBs on 26/02/2015

IV. Celebration of International Biological Diversity Day



With a view to generating awareness about the importance of biodiversity, the Board organized celebrations of International Day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May 2014 at Dhania Range Office Campus, Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuary, Sonitpur District on the theme “Island Biodiversity”.

- i. The Chairman - Assam State Biodiversity Board, Shri Subhash Chandra Das, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, Government of Assam presided over the function. The other dignitaries included the Shri V.K. Vishnoi, IFS, PCCF & HoFF-Assam, Dr. A.K. Goswami, Member-ASBB, Shri Sahajananda Ojah, Chairman, Laokhowa & Burhachapori Conservation Society, Shri Lalit Gogoi, Deputy Commissioner, Sonitpur District, Shri Nurul Huda, President, Nagaon Zilla Parishad and Shri A. K. Johari, CCF-Biodiversity & Member Secretary, Assam State Biodiversity Board
- ii. The function was also attended by Additional PCCFs, CCFs, CFs, all local DFOs, ACFs and Range Forest Officers of the Forests Department. Besides, representatives of Government Departments such as Agriculture, Fishery, Horticulture, Veterinary, Educational Institutions, NGOs, Presidents & Members of Anchalik Panchayats and Members of Biodiversity Management Committees (Sonitpur, Nagaon and Morigaon Districts), EDC members and over 500 school children and local people participated in the programme.
- iii. The Chief Guest released the following publications:
 1. Booklet: “*Wonder Island Burhachapori*”, giving a pictorial overview of Island Biodiversity of Burhachapori.



Shri Subhash Chandra Das, IAS,
Chairman-ASBB &
Addl. Chief Secretary to
Govt. of Assam addressing the
gathering at the function

2. Assamese translation of the story book: “*The Land where the sticker tree grows*” by Malvika Tewari published in English by the NBA.
3. Special Calendar on “*200 birds of Laokhowa & Burhachapori Wild Life Sanctuaries*” by the Nagaon Wildlife Division.

As part of the celebrations, Painting and Quiz competitions for school children from fringe villages were organized for generating awareness amongst the school children and local people. About 2200 school children from 58 government schools participated in the competitions. A state level photography competition was also organized as part of the celebrations.



Release of booklet
"Wonder Island Burhachapori"
at the function



Visitors at the Painting exhibition



DFO - Nagaon (WL) Division
briefing about the Painting and
Quiz Competitions



Shri Subhash Chandra Das,
Chairman-ASBB &
Addl. Chief Secretary to
Govt. of Assam giving prizes to
winners of Painting Competition

Painting Competition held on the occasion of IBD 2014





Quiz Competition held on the occasion of IBD 2014



Quiz: Preliminary Round



Quiz: Final Round

Prize winning photographs of the State Level Photography Competition held on the occasion of IBD 2014



1st
Prize

Dr. Rajeev Basumatary



2nd
Prize

Bidya Sagar Baruah



3rd
Prize

Rajib Rudra Tariang

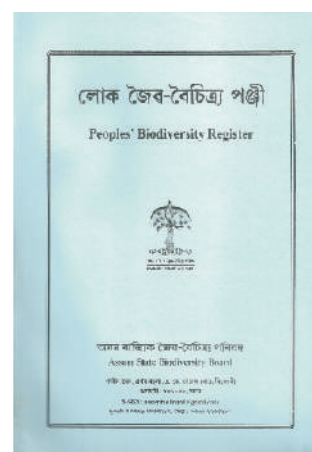
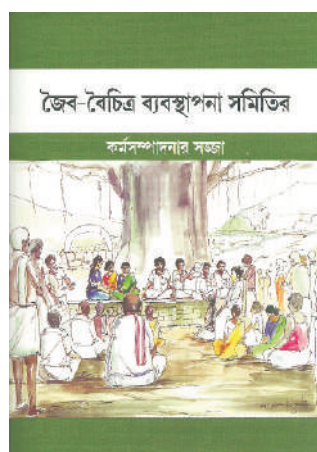
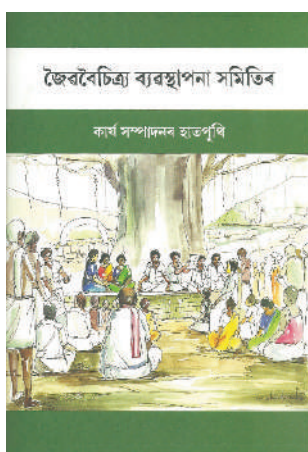
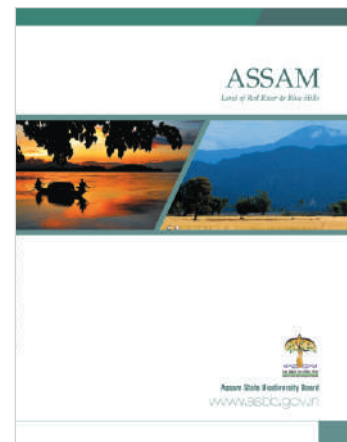
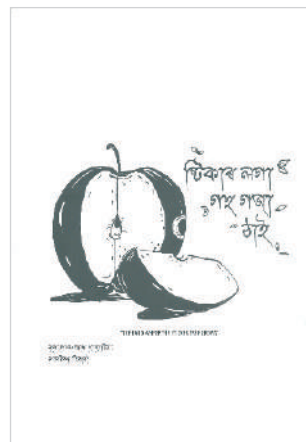
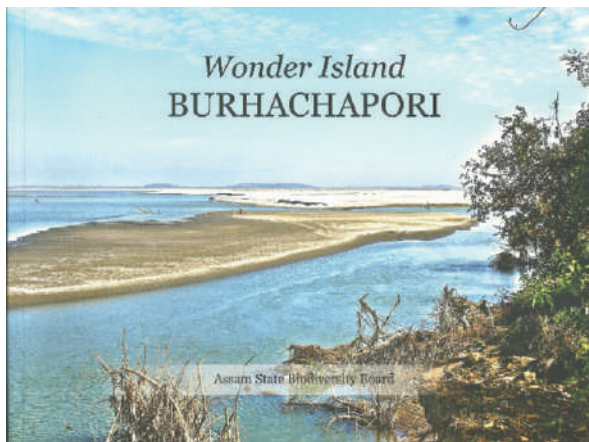
Exhibitions of photographs on 22nd May 2014



V. Publications of Board:

The following publications were made by the Board during 2014-15:

- i. Booklet: “*Wonder Island Burhachapori*”, giving a pictorial overview of Island Biodiversity of Burhachapori.
- ii. Story book: “*The Land where the sticker tree grows*” by Malvika Tewari (Assamese).
- iii. Booklet: *Assam- Land of Red River & Blue Hills* (English)
- iv. *BMC Operational Toolkit* translated and published in Assamese.
 - i. *BMC Operational Toolkit* translated and published in Bengali.
 - ii. *PBR format* translated and published in Assamese.



VI. Projects Undertaken:

The following three projects have been undertaken by the Board during 2014-15:

- i. Documentation of the commonly traded rare and endemic wild edible bio-resources from local markets of central Assam.
 1. Project Duration: 1 Year
 2. Budget: Rs 3.2 Lakh
 3. Principal Investigator: Puspa Komor, R/s, Dept. of Geography, Gauhati University (GU).
- ii. Inventory and documentation of Insect fauna of Assam from existing entomological resources/information.
 1. Project duration: 2 years
 2. Budget: Rs 7.89 Lakh
 3. Principal Investigator: Dr. Moushumi Das, Asst. Professor, University of Science & Technology (USTM).
- iii. Study of fish Diversity in river Brahmaputra of Assam, to identify the threatened species, evaluate and determine their present conservation status and needs.
 1. Project duration: 2 Years and 6 months
 2. Budget: Rs. 38.77 lakh
 3. Implementing Agency: Dolphin Foundation, Guwahati.

VII. Permissions sought/ granted:

The Biological Diversity Act 2002 and the Assam Biodiversity Rules 2010 regulate access to biological resources and prescribe manner in which the access could be allowed. The Board received several applications seeking access to biological resources for various purposes. The following applications have been approved during 2014-15:

1. IPR applications - 1 (One)
2. Research Proposals – 10 (Ten)

The details of the IPR and Research Applications approved by the Board are given below:

IPR Application:

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Applicant	Name of Process	Biological Resources Access
1	Shri Joynoram Dibraged NC Hills District	A herbal composition for treatment of jaundice	Leaves of <i>Houttuynia cordata</i> <i>Chelidonium majus</i> , <i>Oxalis corniculata</i>

Research Applications:

Sl. No.	Name of the Applicant	Designation & Address	Duration	Title of Research/ bio-resources to be accessed
1	Dr. Swati Diwakar	Asst. Professor, Dept. of Env. Sciences, Delhi Univ.	6 months	Studies on insect group called 'Wetas' in PAs of Assam
2	Dr. A. A. Mao	Scientist-E & H.O.O, BSI, ERC, Shillong	36 months	Survey & collection of Plant samples from Amchang WLS Kamrup Dist., Assam
3	Daimalu Baro	Research Scholar, Dept. of Botany, GU	36 months	Studies on Macrophytic diversity of Baksa District, Assam
4	J. Lyngdoh	Scientist-C, ZSI, Shillong	36 months	Studies on Faunal resources of Bornadi WLS
5	Dr. D. Raychoudhury	Prof. Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Calcutta	12 months	Taxonomic studies of spider fauna of Assam
6	Dr. S. K. Singh	Scientist-D, BSI, ERC, Shillong	8 days	Botanical Exploration in Dullung Reserve Forest, N. Lakhimpur
7	Mitrajit Deb	Research Scholar, Dept. of Life Sciences, AU	36 months	Studies on Western Hoolock Gibbon at PAs of Cachar District Assam
8	Dr. D. R. Singh	Director, National Research Centre for Orchids	12 months	Survey and collection of Orchid Germplasms in Assam
9	Jintu Sarma	Research Scholar, Dept. of Env. Science, Tezpur Univ.	36 months	Dicot Flora of Sonitpur District
10	Ranju Chetri	Research Scholar, Dept. of Zoology, NEHU	36 months	Studies on Migratory Bird <i>Emberiza aureola</i> .

List of newly constituted BMCs during 2014-15

| Annexure-I

Sl No.	Name of the BMC	District	Registration No.	Notification details
1	Srijangram Anchalik BMC	Bongaigaon	ABB/BON/1/7	SJG/BMC/2014/1 Dated 01.11.2014
2	Dangtal Anchalik BMC	Bongaigaon	ABB/BON/2/7	BP/1/BMC/2014/1 Dated 11.11.2014
3	Boitamari Anchalik BMC	Bongaigaon	ABB/BON/3/7	BTM/1/BMC/14/1 Dated 30.09.2014
4	Tapattary Anchalik BMC	Bongaigaon	ABB/BON/4/7	TDB/1/BMC/14/1 Dated 14.10.2014
5	Manikpur Anchalik BMC	Bongaigaon	ABB/BON/5/8	MAP/1/2014/01 Dated 21.11.2014
6	Mankachar Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/1/22	MKR/1/BMC Dated 20.11.2014
7	South Salmara Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/3/22	SS/1/BMC/1 Dated 14.10.2014
8	Birsing Jarua Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/4/22	B/Bio Diversity 4036/67 Dated 10.10.2014
9	Jamadarhat Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/5/23	JAP/Bio-Diversity/2014/19 Dated 23.09.2014
10	Gauripur Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/6/23	GP/1/BMC/01 Dated 21.09.2014
11	Golokganj Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/7/23	GB/1/BMC/2014-15/1 Dated 13.10.2014
12	Agomoni Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/8/23	A/B-1/BMC Dated 14.10.2014
13	Hatidhura Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/9/24	HB/1/BMC Dated 16.10.2014
14	Mahamaya Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/10/24	MYA/BMC/1/1/2014-15 Dated 28.09.2014
15	Nayeralga Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/11/24	NLG/03/BMC/2014/02 Dated 17.10.2014
16	Bilasipara Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/12/24	BR/1/BMC Dated 18.10.2014

| Annexure-I

SI No.	Name of the BMC	District	Registration No.	Notification details
17	Chapar Salkocha Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/13/24	SK/1/Bio-Diversity/1 Dated 17.10.2014
18	Debitola Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/14/24	DB/1/BMC Dated 10.10.2014
19	Rupshi Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/15/24	RB/1/BMC Dated 11.10.2014
20	Fekamari Anchalik BMC	Dhubri	ABB/DHU/2/22	Fekamari/BMC/1/903 Dated 10.01.2015
21	5 No. Jorhat, A. P. BMC, Baghchung	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/J(5 No.)/2/37	JDB.G/23/2008-09/2737 Dated 01.09.2014
22	East Jorhat, Selenghat Anchalik BMC	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/J(E)/1/37	EJDB/RD/BD/14-15/7020 Dated 15.07.2014
23	Kaliapani A. P. BMC, Kaliapani	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/3/37	KDB/RD/42/BMC/2012-13/1945 Dated 28.08.2014
24	Titabor A. P. BMC, Titabor	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/4/37	TAP/Forest/28/2014/8 Dated 18.07.2014
25	Uttar Pachim A. P. BMC, Dhekorgorah	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/J(NW)/6/38	NWJAP/14/BMC/2014-15/181 Dated 03.09.2014
26	Madhya Jorhat A. P. BMC, Chipahikhola	Jorhat	ABB/JOR/J(C)/7/38	CJD/RD/42/BMC/2012-13 Dated 12.08.2014
27	Sapekhati Anchalik BMC	Sivasagar	ABB/SIV/1/67	SPB/22/2013-14/1295 Dated 21.07.2014
28	Tingkhong Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Dibrugarh	ABB/DIB/7/26	BMC/TINGKHONG/01 Dated 27.01.2015
29	Lahowal Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Dibrugarh	ABB/DIB/8/27	BMC/Lawhal/01 Dated 20.11.2014
30	Panitola Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Dibrugarh	ABB/DIB/9/27	PAP/01/BMC/2014/01 Dated 11.12.2014
31	Guijan Anchalik Panchayat BMC	Tinsukia	ABB/TIN/T (Dibrugarh Div)/8/77	GAP/01/BMC/2014/0131 Dated 05.12.2014
32	Dullavcherra Anchalik BMC	Karimganj	ABB/KAR/6/51	CH/01/BMC/Dullav. Dated 02.04.2014

Visits of distinguished Dignitaries



Shri S. S. Garbyal,
Director General of Forests,
Ministry of Environment & Forests and
Climate Change
visiting the Board office
on 04/09/2014



Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt,
Padma Bhushan awardee visiting
the Board Office
on 10/10/2014



Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt
planting a sapling at Pobitora WLS,
Morigaon

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To,
ASSAM STATE BIO DIVERSITY BOARD

We have carried out the audit of the accompanying financial statements of **ASSAM STATE BIO DIVERSITY BOARD** which comprises of Balance sheet as at 31st March 2015, Income & Expenditure Account for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these Financial Statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in India and other applicable standards. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Auditing Standards generally accepted in India and other applicable standards. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Board's preparation and presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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



P. GAGGAR & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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PANBAZAR, GUWAHATI -781 001
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FAX : (0361) 2545558
e-mail : gaggarp@gmail.com

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 in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India.

- i. in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the Board as at 31st March 2015;
- ii. in the case of the Income & Expenditure Account, of the deficit for the year ended on that date.

For P. Gaggar & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regn. No. 318074E



Place : Guwahati
Date : 08/12/2015

Manali Gaggar
Manali Gaggar
Partner
Mem. No. 302619

ASSAM STATE BIO DIVERSITY BOARD

**SCHEDULE ATTACHED TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS ON 31.03.2015**

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES :

- A. ACCOUNTING CONVENTION
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Historical cost convention.
- B. FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION
Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost of acquisition less depreciation where applicable. Depreciation of Fixed Assets is provided on written down value basis at the rates as per Companies Act 2013.
- C. RECOGNITION OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
The Board recognizes revenue and charges all costs and expenses on accrual basis of accounting except for Grants. The Grants are recognised on cash Basis of accounting.
- D. The Excess of Expenditure over Income shown in the Balance Sheet represents the utilisation of earmarked funds and accrued income for 31.03.2015
- E. Previous year's figures have been regrouped and rearranged wherever necessary.



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ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD
PARYATAN BAWAN, 1ST FLOOR
A. K. AZAD ROAD, REHABARI
GUWAHATI

RECIEPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT
Opening Balance		Purchase of Fixed Assets	
Bank Accounts	11,716,649	Air Conditioner (State Fund)	39,600
Cash-in-hand	11,338	Book Shelf (Library)	38,700
		Computer (State Fund)	51,800
Indirect Incomes		Advances	705,588
Miscellaneous Income	213		
Bank Interest	381,434	Indirect Expenses	
State Grants in Aid	5,000,000	Bank Charges	950
Fund From National Biodiversity Authority	840,000	Expenditure Against Inter. Bio Day 2014	153,500
		Miscellaneous expenses	2,400
		Expense from Assam Govt Fund	4,580,623
		NBA Fund for Translation, Printing etc	342,000
		NBA-Preparation of PBR	1,450,000
		Remuneration	861,974
		Trans & Pub of NBA/State ACT/Rules	97,000
		Travelling Expense	71,985
		Audit Fees	37,416
		Closing Balance	
		Bank Accounts	9,491,805
		Refund to NBA unutilised grant	24,293
TOTAL	17,949,634	TOTAL	17,949,634



[Signature]
Member Secretary
Assam State Biodiversity Board

[Signature]
Chairman
Assam State Biodiversity Board

ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD
PARYATAN BAWAN, 1ST FLOOR
A. K. AZAD ROAD, REHABARI
GUWAHATI

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	INCOME	AMOUNT
To, Exp from International Biological Day Fund	500,000	Fund for translation, printing of material	340,000
To, Expense for NBA-Preparation of PBR	1,450,000	Fund for International Bio Day 2014	500,000
To, Exp from NBA Fund for Translation etc	342,000	Miscellaneous Income	213
To, Expenses Against Fund for manpower pay	861,974	Bank Interest	381,434
To, Exp from Assam Government Fund		Grants-in-aid received from Govt. of Assam	5,000,000
Board functioning and meeting expenses	203,710	Excess of Expenditure over Income	2,424,220
Library Expenses	30,115		
Office Interior expenses	21,334		
Renovation & Repairing of Office	30,660		
Maintenance Expenditure	15,430		
Office Expenses	665,290		
Indirect Expenditure	2,550		
Audit Fee	79,401		
Publication expenses - State Fund	138,000		
Publicity Expenses	50,562		
Species Based Field Studies	737,360		
Expenses for preparation of PBR	2,022,000		
PBR Related Expenses	108,000		
Field Study Expenses	154,729		
Biodiversity Inventory & Doc expense	283,800		
Travelling Expenses	79,702		
Bank Charges	950		
Miscellaneous expenses	2,400		
Expenses for strenthening of BMC	455,000		
To, Exp for Trans & Pub of NBA rules etc	97,000		
To, Refund of website designing fund	24,293		
To, Depreciation	289,607		
TOTAL	8,645,867	TOTAL	8,645,867



ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD
PARYATAN BAWAN, 1ST FLOOR
A. K. AZAD ROAD, REHABARI
GUWAHATI

BALANCE SHEET

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT	ASSETS	AMOUNT
Capital Account		Fixed Assets	
Capital and Grant	12,191,607	Less: Depreciation Reserve	1,028,112
Less: Excess of Exp over Income	2,424,220		684,181
	9,767,387		343,931
Current Liabilities		Current Assets	
Audit Fees Payable	79,401	Loans & Advances (Asset)	18,454
Bio Day Excess Expenditure	7,402	Bank Accounts	9,491,805
	86,803		9,510,259
TOTAL	9,854,190	TOTAL	9,854,190




Member Secretary
Assam State Biodiversity Board


Chairman
Assam State Biodiversity Board

News Clippings



Advertisements for celebration of International Biological Day on 22nd May 2014 (English and Assamese Newspaper)

Press Release for State Level Photography Competition



News article about celebration of International Biological Day on 22nd May 2014 at Burhachapori WLS

biodiversity is life

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