

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Assam Biodiversity Board held on August 11th, 2011 in the Conference Hall, 3rd floor, F- Block, Assam Secretariat

Members Present:- List of members present in the meeting is appended.

Record of deliberation:-

At the very onset the Addl.Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Health and Family Welfare Department and Chairman, Assam Biodiversity Board extended warm welcome to the members present in this first meeting of the Board. After a round of self introduction by members, C.C.F. (Biodiversity) and Member Secretary with permission from chair explained the agenda of the meeting.

Discussion on Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2011:

As desired by members the provisions made in the Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2010 were discussed clause by clause and clarifications sought by members were made.

Framing of Guidelines:

It was unanimously agreed that necessary guidelines may be framed for operationalising Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2010. The Chairman advised the Member Secretary to get in touch with the NBA and other state boards in the matter.

Budget:-

It was informed by the Member Secretary that no provision is made in the current year's budget of Assam for the Board and therefore the State Government will have to be approached for making budgetary allocation through Supplementary Demand.

The Chairman then requested the members to give a thought to likely schemes and activities that can be undertaken in the remaining months of 2011-12 and take some time out to discuss the same in small groups or exchange through net. The proposals would be discussed in the next meeting of the Board to give them a final shape for placing before the State Government for budgetary allocation through S.D. In this context, the Chairman underscored the need of consultation with other departments in the State Government as well as other organizations including NGOs working for the cause of biodiversity conservation to achieve a coordinated approach.

Sensitization of policy planners and administrators:-

Assam, being part of Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity hot spot, has a special role to play in conservation and sustainable use of its biological heritage for betterment of her people and mankind at large and to emerge as the front runner. It was therefore, felt necessary to organize and hold meeting with concerned departments in the State Government about the provisions made in the Biological Diversity Act-2002 and Rules made there under as well as in the Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2010.

Opening of bank account:-

In accordance with provisions made in subsection (1) of section 17 of the Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2010 an account in a Nationalized bank will be opened to deposit and operate funds received by the Board. The chairman advised the Member Secretary to initiate steps in the matter.

Office space and support staff:-

In order to run smoothly the affairs of Assam Biodiversity Board; office space and support staff for maintenance of records, correspondences and accounts will be essentially required. The chairman advised the Member Secretary to take up the matter with the Forest Department.

Next meeting:-

The Chairman opined that though the Board is required to meet at least four times in a year it should meet more frequently for enhanced interaction, effective implementation of decisions and activities as well as required follow up action. Members readily agreed to the suggestion of the Chairman and it was agreed to hold the next meeting in the 3rd week of October, 2011 exact date for which shall be intimated in advance.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Member Secretary

List of Members present

1. Sh.P.P.Varma IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam-Chairman.
2. Sh.O.P.Pandey, C.C.F.(Biodiversity)
3. I.S. Mazumdar, The Deputy Secretary, Environment and Forest Department to the Government of Assam.
4. I.Haque, The Director, Department of Fisheries, Government of Assam.
5. Dr. Sarat Borkataki, HoD, Botany Department, Nowgong College, Nagaon
6. Dr. Aparajita De Ph.D. Department of Ecology and Environment Science, Assam University, Silchar.
7. R.C.Goswami IAS, CCF (Retd.)
8. P.C.Bhattacharjee, Professor (Retd.) Department of Zoology, Gauhati University