

**Minutes of the special 7th Board Meeting for interaction with the Chairman, National
Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**
15th May 2013.
Board Office, Guwahati

A special Board Meeting was convened inviting all the Board Members and senior officials of the Assam Forest Department for interaction with Chairman-NBA. (The list of those present is at **Annexure- I**).

Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee Expert Member of ASBB welcomes the Chairman-NBA to Assam. He brief about significant activities of the Board and some of the pressing constraints.

The Chairman in his address briefly mentioned the historical background which led to enactment of Biological Diversity Act-2002 and the consequent obligations, both National and International. He mentioned about the role India has played in shaping the International Conventions on biodiversity conservation. The Chairman stressed upon the need to implement the Act and its true spirit through involvement of local people.

He explains the three tiers of implementation mechanism namely, the NBA at National level, the State Biodiversity Board at the Middle and the local bodies at the grass root level. Narrating some of the significant provisions of Act, he mentioned, NBA and SBBs have to perform three kinds of roles:

1. Advisory role
2. Regulatory role
3. Facilitatory role

He emphasized that though it would be a combination of all the roles but it would be the facilitatory role which would be the cutting edge of success in achieving the three broad objectives of the Act namely,

1. Conservation of Biodiversity
2. Its Sustainable utilization
3. Benefit shearing on commercial use

The Chairman for the sake of clarity mentioned that in regulatory process the provisions in the Act required that

1. All IPR applications would be decided by NBA
2. All non Indians need to seek prior approval for access to resources
3. The Indian applicants need to informed SBBs if they access resources for commercial use.

He made it clear that access to resources by Indians for research purposes does not required permissions of the SBBs.

The Chairman desired that the State Governments provide adequate financial resources for enabling the SBB to perform its varied statutory functions.

He placed full support to the SBBs, within the financial capability to NBA in this regard.

2. After the address by the Chairman, the Member Secretary, Assam State Biodiversity Board made a brief presentation on activities of the Board.

3. An Interactive sessions followed:

The main issues raised included:

1. Research proposal of Indian NGOs fully supported by Foreign fund
2. Intensive Biodiversity inventory and mapping of North east on the lines of Western Ghats
3. Documentation of Traditional Knowledge- the enormity of tasks
4. Inadequacy of support staff in the Board
5. GM crops and the provisions of BD Act
6. Routine survey and documentation activities by the amateurs and professionals – and the provisions of BD Act
7. Lack of motivational avenues for the BMC members/local peoples
8. Red sanders smuggling- and the provisions of BD Act

The Chairman explained the provisions of the Act in satisfying the above queries.

The Member Secretary presented the formal vote of thank.

Few Photographs of the Special 7th Board Meeting







Annexure- I

List of Invitees present in the special Meeting of the Board: 15th May, 2013

| Sr. No. | Name | Designation |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | V. K. Vishnoi, IFS | PCCF & HoFF, Assam |
| 2 | Suresh Chand, IFS | PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Assam |
| 3 | D. Mathur, IFS | Additional PCCF(A&V), Assam |
| 4 | O. P. Pandey, IFS | Additional PCCF (Project), Assam |
| 5 | B. B. Dhar, IFS | Additional PCCF (Legal), Assam |
| 6 | M. M. Sharma, IFS | Additional PCCF (SF), Assam |
| 7 | S. S. Rao, IFS | CCF (HRD), Assam |
| 8 | Dr. Alka Bhargava | CCF (REWP), Assam |
| 9 | J. M. Kouli, IFS | CCF (T) UAZ, Assam |
| 10 | S. K. Srivastava, IFS | CCF (Planning), Assam |
| 11 | Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS | CCF (Wetlands), Assam |
| 12 | A. K. Johari, IFS | CCF (B & CC), Assam |
| 13 | Y. Suryanarayana, IFS | CCF (CAC), Assam |
| 14 | R. P. Singh, IFS | CCF (Border), Assam |
| 15 | Mufakher Ali, IFS | CF (Nodal), Assam |
| 16 | K. N. Barman, IFS | CF (SFM), Assam |
| 17 | Utpal Bora, IFS | CF (HQ), Assam |
| 18 | Dr. Vinay Gupta, IFS | CF(CSASF Circle), Assam |
| 19 | Dr. R. M. Dubey, IFS | Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Assam |
| 20 | R. C. Goswami, IFS | CCF (Retd), Assam |
| 21 | Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee | Member- ASBB |
| 22 | Dr. Sarat Borkataki | Member-ASBB |
| 23 | Moloy Bora, ACS | Joint Secretary, Environment & Forest Dept., Assam |
| 24 | Juri Gogoi, ACS | Deputy Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Dept, Assam |
| 25 | Er. Habiba Ullah | Developer, AMTRON |