

Minutes of 22nd Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board
held on 18th January, 2018 at conference hall of Chief Secretary, Assam, Dispur

The 22nd Meeting of the Assam State Biodiversity Board was held on 18th January, 2018 at the Conference Hall of the Chief Secretary, Assam, Dispur.

A list of those present in this meeting is at **Annexure-I**.

At the outset, the Board felicitated its new Chairperson Shri V. K. Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone present in the Meeting and requested the Member Secretary of the Board to initiate Agenda-wise discussions.

Agenda item-2:

1. The Minutes of the 21st Board Meeting were confirmed.

Agenda item-3:

2. The Board was informed of the actions taken on agenda of previous meeting as below:

- i. The proposal of notification of threatened species of plants and animals was forwarded to the MoEFCC, New Delhi for consideration.
- ii. The final version of short documentary films on following selected themes were received:
 - a. Subsistence value of Forests (11.35 minutes documentary)
 - b. Traditional Knowledge (11.04 minutes documentary)
 - c. Human-Animal conflict (11.30 minutes documentary)
 - d. Protected Area community interface (12.54 minutes documentary)
 - e. Life of a Forest Guard (12.50 minutes documentary)

➤ It was suggested to upload all documentaries on the ASBB website, Facebook and 'YouTube' for awareness and easy accessibility by stakeholders.

- iii. The following proposals of the Board were under consideration of the Government:

- a. Amendment to the Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010.
- b. Organizational structure and draft Service Regulation of the Board.

➤ It was suggested a presentation be made to Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Forests on both the proposals for expediting approval.

Agenda item-4:

3. The Board was informed that:
 - i. The 2nd Internship Program on Biodiversity Conservation held from on 7th of August to 9th November 2018, in which 16 interns participated and sixteen draft PBRs were prepared by these interns.

- ii. As desired by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), documentary on Internship Programme on Biodiversity Conservation' that has been taken as the 'Best Practices' was shared with NBA and all State Biodiversity Boards.
- iii. Regarding Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), the Board was informed about the following status:
 - a. BMCs have been constituted in all the 189 Anchalik Panchayats of the state.
 - b. BTAD: Against 21 Forest Ranges 16 BMC notifications have been received.
 - c. KAAC: Against 10 Forest Ranges 10 BMC notifications have been received.
 - d. DHAC: Against 9 Forest Ranges 6 BMC notifications have been received.

➤ The Board desired that attempts be made to complete constitution of the remaining 5 BMCs of BTAD and 3 BMCs of DHAC within a period of one month.

- iv. The Board noted the following status on preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR):

a) Approved by the TSGs	:	25
b) Final draft received	:	60
c) On-going works	:	48

The Board desired that PBRs preparation for remaining BMCs expedited.

- v. The Board also noted the status of formation of Technical Support Group in the State:
 - a. TSG constituted : 22 Districts
 - b. Yet to be formed : 11 (List at **Annexure-II**)

➤ The Board suggested that a final attempt be made to complete constitution of TSGs at the remaining districts as soon as possible and in case of non-compliance by the districts the Board may issue the order of constitution of TSG in these districts.

- vi. On the status of research projects undertaken, the Board was informed that:
 - a. Final Report of the 'Insect Fauna Documentation Project' was received and being edited for publication of a user friendly book.
 - b. Final Report of 'Fish Diversity Project' implemented by Dolphin Foundation has been received and placed before the Board.
The Board accepted the Final Report.
 - c. The second half yearly report of the project 'Plant Diversity Assessment of Dima Hasao District, Assam' is due in January 2018. The 2nd installment has been released.

- d. Final Report of 'Assam Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (ABSAP)' document prepared by WII has been received and placed before the Board.

The Board accepted the ABSAP document.

- e. The second quarter progress report of the 'Assam Biodiversity Portal' has been received. Accordingly, a new website has been launched <http://assambiodiversity.indiabiodiversity.org> for uploading data in the portal by users.

- f. The Board noted the progress of the project 'Enhancing conservation efforts in Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary' implemented by Aaranyak, Guwahati.

- g. The work for publication of the multi coloured pictorial guide book 'Wild Orchids of Assam' has been completed and the Book was placed before the Board.

➤ *The Board suggested that 'new publications' may be formally released at the upcoming function of "World Wetland Day" on 2nd February 2018.*

- vii. Nature Learning Centre (NLC), Assam: The Board was informed that the MoEFCC, Delhi had sanctioned a proposal for 'Establishment of Nature Learning Centre' in Assam under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) and sanctioned an amount of Rs 3,76,34,312/- for the three year project. The Principal Investigator is Mr. A . K. Johari, IFS PCCF & Member Secretary, Assam Biodiversity Board.

➤ *The Board suggested to send the acceptance of the project by signing the necessary 'Bond' and start the project. The Board also suggested to set up an Orchidarium at the proposed Ex-situ conservation site of Assam State Zoo cum botanical garden. The Board also suggested to expedite the possibility of developing the NLC at Sankardev Kalashetra where tourist inflow are good and at some other suitable locations other than Guwahati. The Board agreed that the works already sanctioned to the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati under the APFBC may be modified to conform to the requirements of NLC Project.*

- viii. A new project on 'Documentation of tradable bio-resources and associated traditional knowledge from the local communities of Assam' for establishing Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Provisions' has been approved and sanctioned by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

- Principal Investigator: Dr. O. Sunanda Devi, Scientific Officer
- Duration: 1 year

- Budget: Rs 16.67 lakh

➤ The Board noted the development and approved to start the project.

ix. It was informed that following Grants were received by the Board:
2nd quarter (July, 2017 to September, 2017)

- From NBA: Rs. 13.00 lakh
- From advertisement in Newsletter: Rs. 0.10 lakh
- From bank interest: Rs. 19.69 lakh
- From others :
 - Wrongly deposited net Rs. 0.84 lakh

3rd quarter (October, 2017 to December, 2017)

- From bank interest: Rs. 17.11 lakh
- From others :
 - Wrongly deposited Rs. 1,000/-
 - Refunded Rs. 0.37 lakh

x. The Board participated in the following:

- a. 12th Annual Meeting of State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) held at Chennai on 7th and 8th November 2017.
- b. Capacity Building meeting and workshops with the BMCs of Eastern Assam Circle (EAC), Goalpara, Dhubri and Dima Hasao Districts.

xi. Regarding publication of the Board:

- 2nd issue of the Newsletter 'Amulya Jaibabaichitra' was under process for publication.
- The draft Annual Report 2016-17 was approved by the Board for publication.

xii. The Board noted the engagement of Ms. Rupali Barman as Technical Assistant on contract basis from NBA fund.

Agenda item-5:

4. The Board ratified the following:

i. Expenditure incurred:

- 2nd Quarter: July to September 2017

a. State Grant	:	Rs.22,42,207/-
b. NBA Grant	:	Rs.4,45,556/-
c. APFBC Grant	:	Rs.6,05,278/-
d. Bank charges	:	Rs.265.50/-
		Total : Rs 32,93,306/-

- 3rd Quarter: October to December 2017
 - a. State Grant : Rs. 11,80,474/-
 - b. NBA Grant : Rs. 3,71,778/-
 - c. APFBC Grant : Rs. 14,50,596/-

Total : Rs 30,02,848/-

Grand total: Rs. 62,96,154.50/-

ii. Permissions granted by the Board to the following application:

- Ms. Hridisha Nandana Hazarika, PhD Research Scholar, Gauhati University: Access to bio-resources Ant fauna in Kholahat RF, Nagaon.

Agenda item-6: Other Issues:

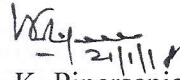
- i. The Board noted that a separate bank account was opened for the project 'Nature Learning Centre (NLC), Assam.
- ii. The Board suggested to use the interests earned from the deposits of Forest Department and other depositors.
- iii. Regarding the wrong or unidentified deposits into Board's account, the Board decided to keep the money for two financial years as liability and afterwards the amount may be transferred to 'Capital Account'.
- iv. It was suggested that Board may increase the annual activities in order to increase the 'Budget' allocation of the Board in the next financial year.
- v. It was also suggested that the Board may start granting 'Post-doctoral research fellowships' for PhD degree holders who wish to continue research in "Biodiversity Conservation" sector.
- vi. The Board also suggested to revise the proposal for Corpus Fund / Local Biodiversity Fund for strengthening the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) and submit afresh to the Government for approval.
- vii. It was also suggested that the 'Expert Members' of the Board representing different institutions may send proposals to undertake certain activities in tune with the mandate of the Board.

Agenda item-7:

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

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

Approved


(V. K. Pipersenia)

Chief Secretary & Chairman-ASBB


(A. K. Johari)

Member Secretary-ASBB

Annexure-I

Members/ Invitees present in the 22nd Meeting of Assam State Biodiversity Board: 18th January, 2018

Sr.	Name	Designation	Contact No.	E-mail Id
Official Members				
1	Shri V. K. Pipersenia, IAS	Chief Secretary-Assam & Chairman, ASBB	0361-2261120	cs-assam@nic.in
2	Shri Alok Kumar, IAS	Addl. Chief Secretary, Environment and Forest Department, Assam	0361- 2237260	acs.pwd-as@gov.in
3	Shri Joyprakash Medhi	Deputy Director, Fisheries Dept., Assam	9435144523	joyprakash_medhi@rediff.com
4	Shri A. K. Johari, IFS	Member Secretary-ASBB	8876565345	johari60@yahoo.com
Ex- Officio Members				
5	Dr. P. C. Bhattacharjee	Expert Member- ASBB	9435148702	bhattapc@gmail.com
6	Dr. Ajit Kumar Das	Expert Member- ASBB	9435077427	dasajitkumar15@gmail.com
7	Dr. Nirmali Medhi	Expert Member- ASBB	9435011083	nirmali_medhi@yahoo.com
8	Dr. Bijoy Neog	Expert Member- ASBB	8638571325	bijoyneog@dibru.ac.in
Special Invitees				
9	Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS	Commr. & Secy., Finance Department-Assam	9435119100	shyamj03@gmal.com
10	Shri Anowarul Haque, ACS	Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Vety. Department, Assam	9435054118	anarul8.haque@gmail.com
Permanent Invitees				
11	Shri Bikash Brahma, IFS	PCCF & HoFF- Assam	9435077396	pccfassam@gmail.com
12	Shri N. K. Vasu, IFS	PCCF (Wildlife)- Assam	9588865429	vasuifs@gmail.com
13	Dr. Ranjana Gupta, IFS	PCCF (Wetlands)- Assam	8876565344	ranjanagupta2001@yahoo.com
Others				
14	Shri S. K. Srivastava, IFS	PCCF (T), Upper Assam Zone, Assam	9435080510	sksrivastava@gmail.com
15	Shri Utpal Bora, IFS	CCF (HQ)- Assam	9435146167	ubora_forest25@yahoo.com
16	Sri Tejas Mariswamy, IFS	DFO, Assam State Zoo	8133010999	dfo.assamzoo@gmail.com

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

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