



Annual Report

2011-2012



ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD
GUWAHATI, ASSAM



Annual Report

2011-2012



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

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



Contents

Overview of the Board 3
Board Office5
Staff of the Board 2
Board Meetings5
Activities of the Board 6
Audit Report 8



Overview of the Board

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 concerns 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 these resources and matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

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 and 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 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.
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 (ASBB):

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-resource 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 created 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.

Setting up of Board Office:

After the notification of the Board in 2010, the Assam State Biodiversity Board was working from the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Rehabari till February 2012. With the help of infrastructure development grant from National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai, the Independent 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:

ASBB with the help of staffing support from NBA was able to appoint two contractual staffs during the year 2011-12 as below:

- " Steno-cum Personal Secretary - 1
- " Dak runner-cum Office Attendant - 1

Board Meetings:

Ever since its inception the Board has been having its quarterly meetings to take its mandate forward. Accordingly, three Board Meetings were held during the year 2011-12:

1st Board Meeting:

The First Board meeting of the Board was held on 11th August, 2011 at the Conference Hall, 3rd floor, F-Block, Assam Secretariat, Dispur.

Key Issues of the Meeting:

1. Discussions on the Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2010.
2. Framing of necessary guidelines for operationalising Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2010.
3. Budget of Assam State Biodiversity Board.

4. Sensitization of Policy planners and administrators.
5. Opening of Bank account of Assam State Biodiversity Board.
6. Office space and supporting staffs of the Board.

2nd Board Meeting:

The Second Board meeting was held on 16th November, 2011 at the Conference Hall, 3rd floor, F-Block, Assam Secretariat, Dispur.

Key Issues of the Meeting:

1. Actions taken report:

The following issues were discussed:

- a. Seeking comments on Assam Biodiversity Rules-2010.
- b. A Proposal to be submitted for Corrigendum with respect to Para 31 of the Rules wherein it has been mentioned "Assam Biodiversity Rules 2008" instead of "Assam Biodiversity Rules 2010".
- c. Assamese version of the Act and Rules.
- d. Issue of framing suitable guidelines for implementation of Assam Biodiversity Rules.
- e. Approval of Government of Assam for opening of an account of the ASBB in a Nationalized Bank. Bank account will soon be opened.
- f. Office space for the Board has not been finalized as yet.

2. ASBB Website:

There is a need to have wider consultations with varied stakeholders in the functioning of the Board. At the same time, for the sake of transparency, it is also necessary to put in the public domain various actions / activities contemplated and taken by the Board. For this purpose it is necessary to create a bilingual website of the ASBB. It is proposed that the Board may consider launch of a website of the ASBB by engaging a professional designer and taking cue from the existing websites of other States.

3. ASBB Logo:

Board approval for designing of a Logo for the ASBB.

4. Support Staff of the Board:

To begin with the Board also needs some support staff for its day to day functioning. Later on the Board would also require services of subject matter specialists/consultants for undertaking specific assignments. For the present the Board may allow hiring of following support staff on contractual basis:

- a. UDA / Accounts Person- 1
- b. LDA / Data Manager -1
- c. Computer Operators -2
- d. Peon / Dak Runner-1
5. Budget for the Board:

The Government of Assam have not made any allocation in the Budget for the ASSB. The Board will not be able to meet any of its objectives if necessary financial support is not forthcoming. The Board may consider appropriate strategy / action in this regard.

6. Immediate tasks before the Board:

- a. Constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees is the foremost requirement for implementing biodiversity Rules. These Committees are to be constituted by the local bodies. The Forest Department can play a significant role in this process. A State level Workshop for sensitization of the forest officials can be helpful. The Board may consider and recommend suitable strategy for initiation and timely completion of the task.
- b. The three major Autonomous Councils may require different strategy for constitution of BMCs. The Board may like to specifically discuss this matter and consider appropriate action.
- c. The Board may also like to prioritize further actions such as creation of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers, initiation of biodiversity inventory, study existing and potential commercially exploitable bio-resources and creation of expert groups if considered necessary.



7. **Ratification by the ASBB:**

Ratification of permission granted by the Member Secretary on behalf of the Board since its last meeting.

3rd Board Meeting :

The Third Board meeting was held on 26th March, 2012 at the new office premises of Paryatan Bhawan, 1st Floor, Rehabari.

Key Issues of the Meeting:

1. Action taken report on the issues taken up in the second Meeting
2. Informing the Board about:
 - a. Grants received by the Board
 - b. Expenditure made
 - c. Staff engaged
 - d. Staff proposed to be engaged
3. Ratification by the Board on the:
 - a. Expenditure
 4. Creation of secretarial posts for the Board
 5. Approval on contents to be put on Website particularly the Vision / Mission / Objectives of the Board
 6. Considering application of
 - a. NGO 'Aaranyak' for research study in certain Protected Areas of the State.
 - b. Upasana Talukdar and two others for IPR
7. **Selection of Logo for the Board.**

Activities of the Board during the financial year 2011-12:

Financial Progress:

1. State Government Financial Assistance:

The State Government sanctioned Rs 5 Lakh for the Year 2011-2012 which has been utilised by the Board for the purposes for which the grant had been sanctioned and a Utilization Certificate has already been submitted to Government of Assam.

2. 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. Based on this the Board will engage the following staffs:
 - a. Technical Associate
 - b. Administrative-cum Account Assistant
 - c. Steno-cum Personal Secretary
 - d. Dak runner-Office Assistant
- iii. Grant for designing Website of Assam State Biodiversity Board.
- iv. Grant for Translation and Publications of BD Act 2002 and Assam Biodiversity Rules 2010.



CA. NAVNEEN GARG
B.Com (H), FCA, DISA(ICA), AIT
Membership No- 060338, PAN ACMTG6539L
M-9864035670 Email- ganavgarg@gmail.com



NAVEEN ATMARAM GARG & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
457 Sreemanta Market Annex, A. T. Road, Guwahati-
781001. Ph- 2549593, garg.ajitents@gmail.com, FRN-324383E

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO
ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD** which comprises the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2012 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 statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance of the Board in accordance with the Accounting Standards referred to by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements 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 statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing 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 amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, 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 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 statements.

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





CA. NAVEEN GARG
B.Com (H), FCA, DISA(ICAI), AITF
Membership No- 660338, PAN-ACMPG65391
M-9864035670 Email- canavgarg@gmail.com



NAVEEN ATMARAM GARG & CO
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
457 Sreemanta Market Annex, A. T. Road, Guwahati-
781001. Ph- 2549503, garg.clients@gmail.com, FRN-324383b

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:

- a) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Board as at March 31, 2012;
- b) 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:

- a) 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;
- b) 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.
- c) the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account dealt with by this Report are in agreement with the books of account.
- d) in our opinion, the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account comply with the Accounting Standards;

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



(Signature)
NAVEEN GARG
(Proprietor)
Membership No: 660338

Place: Guwahati
Date: 13/05/2013





ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

Balance Sheet as on 31.03.2012

Liabilities	Amount (Rs)	Assets	Amount (Rs)
Capital & Grants		Fixed Assets	
Excess of income over expenditure	20,49,082.00	Gross Block	4,95,661.00
		Less : Depreciation Reserve	1,02,952.00
		Net Block	3,92,709.00
		Amount receivable against the excess payment	4,035.00
		Cash in hand	14,243.00
		Cash at Bank	16,38,095.00
			20,49,082.00
			20,49,082.00

In terms of our report of even date
For NAVEEN ATMARAM GARG & CO
 Chartered Accountants
 FRN-324383E



(NAVEEN GARG)
 Proprietor
 M. No.- 660338
 Date : 13/05/2013
 Place: Guwahati

for Assam State Biodiversity Board

P P Verma

P P Verma
Chairman

A K Jothari

A K Jothari
Member Secretary



ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

Income and Expenditure Account for the period 01.04.2011 to 31.03.2012

Expenditure	Amount (Rs)	Income	Amount (Rs)
Salaries for contractual staff	15,060.00	<u>Grants received from NBA</u>	
Board Meeting Expenses	1,500.00	Fund for engagement of contractual staff	8,00,000.00
Bank Charges	50.00	Fund for establishment of infrastructure facilities	10,00,000.00
Depreciation	1,07,952.00	Fund for Design & launch of website	80,000.00
Computer Accessories	2,520.00	Translation and Publication of BD Act and Assam Biodiversity Rule	3,00,000.00
Office Accessories	13,108.00	Interest on saving bank account	
Telephone Expenses	500.00		
Excess of income over Expenditure	20,49,082.00		
	21,84,712.00		21,84,712.00

In terms of our report of even date

For **NAVEEN ATMARAM GARG & CO**

Chartered Accountants

FRN-324333E

(NAVEEN GARG)

Proprietor

M. No.- 060338

Date: 13/05/2013

Place: Guwahati

for Assam State Biodiversity Board

P P Sharma
Chairman

A K Jolani
Member Secretary



ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

Receipt and Payment Account for the period 01.04.2011 to 31.03.2012

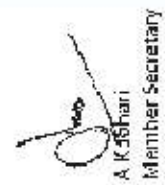
Receipt	Amount (Rs)	Payment	Amount (Rs)	Schedule-I Schedule-II	Amount (Rs)
To Opening Balance	-	Payment against grant Received from NBA			15,000.00
Cash in hand	-	For engagement of Contractual staff			5,11,789.00
Cash at Bank	-	For establishment of infrastructure facilities			
Grant Received from NBA	8,00,000.00	Board and other meeting expenses			1,500.00
Fund for engagement of Contractual staff	10,00,000.00	Bank Chqques			50.00
For establishment of infrastructure facilities	80,000.00	Excess Payment- Receivable	21,89,000.00		4,035.00
For Design & launch of website	5,00,000.00	Closing Balance		14,243.00	
For Translation and Publication of BB Act and Assam Biodiversity Rule		Cash in hand	4,712.00	16,39,095.00	76,52,358.00
Bank instalment received		Cash at Bank			
			21,84,712.00		21,84,712.00

In terms of our report of even date
 For NAVEEN ATMARAM GARG & CO
 Chartered Accountants
 FERN-224383E

 NAVEEN GARG
 Proprietor
 M. No. 180214

for Assam State Biodiversity Board


 P. P. Veera
 Chairman


 A. K. Saha
 Member Secretary

Date : 13/05/2013
 Place: Guwahati



ASSAM STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

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

e-mail : assambioboard@gmail.com :: Website : www.asbb.gov.in

Phone : 0361-2733917 :: Fax : 0361-2733780