

KARNATAKA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
14th BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Date : 02/07/2010 - Time : 3.30 PM

**Venue: Chamber of Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Ecology,
Room No.141, 1st Floor, Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore.**

1. **Reading and recording the proceeding of 13th Board Meeting** – The proceedings of the 13th Board Meeting held on 26/2/2010 was communicated to all the members. Since no comments were received from the members, the proceeding may be adopted.

Action taken on 13th Board Meeting proceeding.

Sl. No.	Subject	Action taken
8/11	Providing suitable staff to Karnataka Biodiversity Board	It is informed that the post of Associate Professor Botany, Associate Professor zoology and Deputy Director (Ayush) are vacant for want of officers from the concerned organizations/universities. It is suggested to appoint Associate Professor Botany and Deputy Director (Ayush) with Phd qualification on contract basis for a period of Two year on consolidated amount in the pay scale Rs 18,150-26,925 (Go No. FD 31 SRP 2007 (VIII) dt 14/8/2008 with provision of TA/DA as applicable from time to time applicable to the concerned scale. The retired officers and those having experience will be given preference. (Annexure -1)
9/1	Survey of Bio industries utilizing Bio-resources	The field data has been collected and report writing is in progress.
10/1	Establishment of Dry Zone Biodiversity Conservation Site networks	The first round of data collection by the field staff of the Forest Department under the supervision and guidance of Center for Sustainable Development has been completed and 2 nd round will be taken up after rainy season.
11/13	Conducting of Workshops in 2009-10	A workshop was conducted on Bt.Brinjal and Bt.Crop on 26 th May 2010 the proceeding of the same is placed at (Annexure-2)
12/1	Research project on Nallur Tamarind Heritage Site	As decided by the Board an amount of Rs. 60,000/- has been released to University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore for completing the Research work and the University of Agriculture Sciences has been asked to submit the final report.
12/21	Biodiversity Award	As decided by the Board the Award is being given.

12/22	Protection of Mangroves	The matter has been referred to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and report from PCCF is awaited.
13/1	Providing financial assistance to Eco-watch Programme	As decided by the Board an amount of Rs.1.00 lakh was released to Chairman, Eco-watch as a contribution for spreading the biodiversity conservation message in North Karnataka
13/2	Providing financial assistance to Karnataka Grameena Paramprika Vydy Parishath, Gadag	As decided by the Board an amount of Rs. 25,000/- was released to Karnataka Grameena Paramprika Vydy Parishath, Gadag for conducting the Awareness Training programme for Rural Traditional Vydyas.
13/3	Field study on Cultural Biodiversity in Karnataka	Action has been taken as decided by the Board
13/5	Conducting Consultative Meeting on Biodiversity.	One day consultative Meeting on Biodiversity conservation was conducted by inviting Environmentalists, Govt. officers, Scientists and others on 5/4/2010.The proceedings of the same is placed at Annexure-3 .
13/6	Declaring Ambargudda as Heritage Site	As decided by the Board proposal after clearance from Expert Committee has been submitted to Government to declare Ambargudda as Heritage Site under Biological Diversity Act 2002.
13/7	Conducting meeting of Biodiversity Management Committee members	Arrangements are being made to conduct a meeting of Biodiversity Management Committees at Sirsi, Mangalore, Bellary, Shimoga in the month of August 2010 through the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) who are nodal officers.
13/10	Seminar on Environmental Impact on Biodiversity.	As decided by the Board an amount of Rs.30,000 was released to Bangalore University to conduct one day seminar on Environmental Impact on Biodiversity.
13/11	Bt. Brinjal – Bt. Crop	In response to our letter the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad has informed that permission was taken from Dept. of Bio technology, Govt. of India for conducting research of Bt. Brinjal. The Mahyco has informed that they have not violated any provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002. The National Biodiversity Authority vide their letter dated 19/4/2010 has informed that the matter is being examined and they will give their comments in due course, after getting some clarification from University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad.

		<p>It is stated that as per Biological Diversity Act 2002 section 5 the provision of Section 3 & 4 are not applicable to collaborative research projects involving transfer or exchange of Biological resources. This is applicable to those research works which satisfies the following conditions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. conform to the policy guidelines issued by Central Government. b. has approval by the Central Government. <p>As per guidelines issued by Government of India (So No 1911 E) vide Notification dt 8/11/2006 of MoEF. The Collaborative Research projects shall have to be approved by the concerned Ministry / Department of State or the Central Government. A copy of the approval along with all relevant details shall be sent to National Biodiversity Authority.</p> <p>The permission of National Biodiversity Authority or the State Biodiversity Board are not required as per the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and according to guidelines only intimation to National Biodiversity Authority is need.</p> <p>In case the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad has not informed the National Biodiversity Authority then it amounts to illegal action on the part of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. But the same cannot be stated as illegal under the act. However the matter is under consideration of National Biodiversity Authority.</p> <p>Therefore it is suggested to await the response from National Biodiversity Authority. It is also stated that there is a moratorium by Government of India on commercialization of Bt. Brinjal. Further action may be taken after the decision and response of National Biodiversity Authority in this case.</p> <p>In the meanwhile the Board may form its opinion on Bt.Brinjal / Bt.crop in general, as far as it affects the local/Traditional crop varieties. The Bt.Crop/Genetically Modified Crop should not be encouraged at the cost of the local / Traditional Varieties which have been conserved and grown by farmers since thousands of years. Instead of Cost and yield the effect on human health and the aspect of contamination to other crop / living beings should be given more importance. (Annexure-4) The Environmental Support Groups has been asked to give a power point presentation before the board.</p>
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13/12	Vegetation Mapping by Forest Survey of India	As desired by the Board the matter of loss of forest cover in Karnataka has been referred to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. The reply is awaited.
New Subjects		
14/1	Removal of some species from the purview of Biological Diversity Act 2002 under Section-40	The Environmental Support Group had submitted a representation, stating that Government of India vide Notification dt 26/10/09 has ordered that provisions of Biological Diversity Act 2002 shall not apply to 190 species provides that they are traded as commodities. In this connection the Environmental Support Group has stated that some of the species are threatened species in the list of 190 species. This need to be reexamined by Government of India. The Government will be requested to refer the matter to Government of India to reexamine the same in the interest of conservation of those species. The board may give consent. (Annexure- 5).
14/2	Instituting Award for Agro Biodiversity and Animal Diversity	<p>It is suggested to institute the following additional Award to encourage the conservation of local / Traditional varieties of agricultural and animal Biodiversity.</p> <p>1.Agro Biodiversity Award...1 for Cereals crops. 1 for Vegetables crops 1 for fruit crops.</p> <p>For outstanding work in conserving local traditional Agriculture and Horticulture crop Variety.</p> <p>2.Animal Biodiversity Award...1 for conserving and developing the local breed.</p> <p>The above awards will be given in addition to the Biodiversity Award already instituted for conserving the biodiversity in general.</p>
14/3	Declaring Heritage Sites	<p>The Expert Committee was formed by the Government on Heritage sites. The following proposals were placed before the Expert Committee. In the meeting held on 7/6/2010. The Expert Committee after detailed discussion recommended the following to declare the same as Biodiversity Heritage site.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Netrani Island, U. K.District 2. GKVK Campus, Bangalore 3. Hogrekhan, Chicmagalore District

		<p>4. Ambargudda , Shimoga District.</p> <p>In case of Ambargudda a preliminary notification is to be issued by the Government where as in other 3 cases final notification is to be issued. The proceeding of Expert Committee meeting is placed at (Annexure-6). The Board may accept the Expert Committee report and recommend to Government to take further action.</p>
14/4	Heritage Site Management Rules	<p>As per Section 37(2) of Biological Diversity Act 2002 the State Government in consultation with Central Government has to frame rules for management and conservation of Heritage Sites. Accordingly draft Management Rules on Heritage Site has been prepared and was placed for consideration and suggestions of Expert Committee on Heritage Site. The committee had detailed discussion and recommended the same. These will be submitted to the Government to notify the same after consultation with Central Government. (Annexure-7)</p>
14/5	Declaration of Heritage Trees	<p>There are representations stating that in various parts of the state there are exceptional trees with high significance, historical value, outstanding specimen, oldest and largest trees, the trees of distinctive informs. These trees need to be protected from human interference and threats. It is suggested to provide protection to these trees with some incentive to the owner of the trees in case these are on private lands.</p> <p>Accordingly a draft on Karnataka Preservation of Heritage Trees Rules 2010 is prepared and placed for consideration. The same has been deliberated by the Expert Committee. So that same is needed to be sent to the government for issuing Government order under Biological Diversity Act 2002 under section 63 (2 i) (Annexure- 8).</p>
14/6	Accounts for 2009-10	<p>The Accounts for 2009-10 is prepared and placed at (Annexure- 9). The same has to be submitted to Accountant General Karnataka for audit after a resolution of the Board.</p>
14/7	TDS Payment through Internet Banking	<p>It is referred that the present system of filing the Tax returns and Tax payment is changed as per instruction of Income Tax Department. The Tax is being paid through E-Tax. This is brought to the notice of the Board.</p>

14/8	Protection of Estuaries	It is stated that there are several Estuaries which are highly productive eco-system. These are threatened due to high interference, pollution etc. In order to protect the Estuaries and conserve the Biodiversity of Estuaries some measures are required. It is proposed to identify such Estuaries through College of Fisheries, Mangalore and declare some important estuaries as Heritage Site. The Board is requested to approve the same. The college of fisheries has given a project proposal. This may be approved.
14/9	Preparation of documentary film	The National Biodiversity Authority has informed that the Conference of Parties (CoP) is being held in Japan in 2010 October and in 2012 the CoP will be held in India. The National Biodiversity Authority has suggested to prepare some material to display in the Conference which will be attended by delegates from 192 countries. It is necessary to showcase some important achievements on the implementation of Biodiversity act and rules. The action on Conservation and Management of Biodiversity by various stake holders needs to be highlighted. In this respect it is proposed to prepare documentation film on biodiversity available in Karnataka giving emphasis on various eco-systems, Local and Traditional verities, Traditional Knowledge, Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers, Process in formation of Biodiversity Management Committees and Heritage Sites, Board may give its consent to prepare the same.
14/10	Conference of Biodiversity Management Committees in Bangalore	On the advice of the Co-chairperson it is proposed to arrange a Conference of Biodiversity Management Committees of the state by calling the Chairperson, Secretaries and other members of Biodiversity Management Committees. The Conference will be arranged in Banquet hall of Vidhana soudha. Around 300 Biodiversity Management Committee members @ 10 members from each district will be invited. Some scientists working on Biodiversity of Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Medicinal Plants, Animal Diversity etc will be invited in addition to some officers from various department. There will be around 400 participants. The conference will be arranged in the 3rd week of August 2010.

		<p>Appropriate expenditure may be as below: (Rs. in lakhs)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Journey fair to BMC Members.....1.20 2. Working lunch..... 0.30 3. Honararium for PPT presentation.....0.10 4. Other Expenditure or decoration etc... ..0.10 <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Rs.1.70</u></p> <p>This is required for vide publicity of various aspects of Biodiversity and the needs for its conservation and to clarify the Roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, Biodiversity Management Committees so that their participation can make Biodiversity Conservation people's movements. The Board is requested to approve the proposal.</p>
14/11	Conducting workshop on Agro Biodiversity	<p>The Agriculture Biodiversity is very important for the survival of human beings. Large number of farmers are conserving and growing important local/Traditional varieties of various food crops. This is happenings since time immemorial, the spread incoming of hybrids and Genetically modified Crop / Bt. Crop is posing serious threat of extinction of local / Traditional varieties. In order to popularize the message of conservation of the local / Traditional varieties, it is proposed to conduct a workshop titled “Workshop on Agro Biodiversity Heritage Sites” This will be done by inviting Agriculture, Animal Scientists and farmers from various districts / institutions for discussion on various aspects of Local / Traditional Agro biodiversity and need ways for its conservation. Proposals for declaring certain areas / pocket as Agro Biodiversity Heritage Site under Biological Diversity Act 2002 will be called for. There will be discussion on incentive needed to conserve the local varieties and protect the same from extinction. The workshop will be conducted in Arnaya Bhavan, Conference hall an amount of Rs.40,000/- is required. The Board is requested to approve the same.</p>
14/12	Amendment to Karnataka Tree preservation Act .	<p>A communication is received from Environmental Support Group in which they have stated that Forest Department has prepared a proposal to amend the Karnataka Tree Preservation Act by removing 41 species of trees from the purview of the Act. As a result of the amendment permission of Tree officers will not be required to cut those trees. This is being done to avoid the harassment to the people by the officials when they asked the department for permission to cut the trees. This matter needs to</p>

		<p>be referred to the forest department for clarification.</p> <p>After the clarification the matter will be placed for discussion. Meanwhile it is suggested to ask the Forest Department not to take further action without clearance from the Biodiversity Board.</p> <p>As the above step will be harmful and against the conservation of Biodiversity (Annexure- 10)</p>				
14/13	Preparation of district level Action plan on Biodiversity	In view of the importance of Biodiversity and need for its conservation, it is proposed to ask the Zilla Panchayath Chief Executive Officers to prepare and submit Action plan on conservation and development of biodiversity and associated knowledge in line with the state Biodiversity strategy and action plan. This will create good awareness among the officers of Zilla Panchayath and integrate the Biodiversity concern in the developmental activities of Zilla Panchayath in the district. The Board is requested to approve the same.				
14/14	Project proposal of Pilukula Nisarga Dhama Society (R)	<p>The Pilukula Nisarga Dhama Society, Mangalore has submitted a project proposal for.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of a Herbarium and a Botanical Museum of the plants of Western Ghats. 2. In-situ conservation of selected sacred groves / Devarakadu/ Nagabanas etc. <p>They have asked for funding as below:</p>				
Sl. No	Particulars	Rupees in lakhs				
		1st Year	2nd year	3rd Year	4th year	5th year
1	Establishment of a Herbarium and a Botanical Museum of the plants of Western Ghats.	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
2	In-situe conservation of selected sacred groves / Devarakadu/ Nagabanas etc.	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
3	Establishment costs	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20
	Total	47.20	47.20	47.20	47.20	47.20
	Grand Total	2.36 Crores				
		<p>It is stated that the budget of Karnataka Biodiversity Board is limited and just sufficient for its important activities like preparation of PBRs, Formation of BMCs and Awareness creation. We have already committed for Western Ghat Ecological Carrying Capacity Study.. It is difficult to provide funds as required by The Pilukula Nisarga Dhama Society. The funds can be provided partially as required as below.</p>				
1	Establishment of a Herbarium	12.00 per year for 5 years. The rest of the fund				

	and a Botanical Museum of the plants of Western Ghats.	may be managed from other sources.
2	In-situ conservation of selected sacred groves / Devarakadu/ Nagabanas etc.	We propose to identify and declare some Devarakadus as Heritage Sites as per guidelines of Government of India. The Devarakadu have to be managed by Biodiversity Management Committees for conservation purpose under the Biological Diversity Act 2002. The Pilikula Society may be asked to survey and list out the Devarakadus / Nagabanas of appropriate size which can be declared as Heritage Site under the act to be conserved and managed by Biodiversity Management Committees. For the identification and survey an amount of Rs. 2.00 lakhs may be provided as one time grant.
3	Establishment Cost	The establishment cost cannot be provided from Karnataka Biodiversity Board. The organization should explore other sources to meet the establishment Cost. (Annexure- 11) .
14/15	Declaration from Bio-industries	<p>There are 198 Pharmaceutical Companies and 82 Cosmetic companies in Karnataka. The companies using Bio-resources are required under the Biological Diversity Act 2002 to submit the declaration on utilization of Bio resources giving the details of the sources and the type of material being used by them. The companies are giving the details but avoiding the information on sources. The commercial trade is not included in the act. The proposal to include commercial trade also is under consideration with National Biodiversity Authority and Government of India.</p> <p>The parliamentary Committee of Rajyasabha on Subordinate legislation had a meeting with National Biodiversity Authority and Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board at Bandipur. They were informed about the necessity to include commercial trade also in the act to prevent the illegal harvesting / and use of Bio resources.</p> <p>Meanwhile it is stated that 37 Pharmaceutical Companies and 59 Cosmetic Companies as per this list (Annexure -12) have not submitted any details about them and use of Bio resources. Final notices have been issued. In case of non compliance cases will be filed in the court against them for violation of the Act and Rules. The matter is being referred to the Government to appoint a Government advocate to conduct the case. The Board may approve the same.</p>

**KARNATAKA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
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INDEX

Sl. No	Subject	Page No
1	Agenda for 14 th Board Meeting	1-9
2	Proceedings of the 13 th Board Meeting held on 26/2/2010	10-16
3	Action taken on 13 th Board Meeting	
Annexure		
1	Providing suitable staff to Karnataka Biodiversity Board	17-20
2	Conducting Workshops in 2009-10	21-24
3	Conducting Consultative Meeting on Biodiversity	25-27
4	Bt.Brinjal – Bt.Crop	28-40
5	Removal of some species from the purview of Biological Diversity Act 2002 under Section 40.	41-58
6	Declaring Heritage Site	59-60
7	Heritage Site Management Rules	61
8	Declaration of Heritage Trees	62-66
9	Accounts for 2009-10	67
10	Amendment to Karnataka Tree Preservation Act	68-74
11	Project proposal of Pilikula Nisarga Dhama Society (R)	75
12	Declaration from Bio-industries	76-83

Additional Agenda

Sub: Bt.Brinjal / Bt. Crop - reg
Ref: Agenda No. 13/11.

On this subject a reply is received from Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Ltd, Mumbai on June 25th 2010. It is placed before the Board for perusal.

**Additional Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests and Member Secretary**

Additional Agenda

Sub: Supplementary information- reg
Ref: Agenda No. 14/1

It is brought to the notice of the Board that the matter was discussed with National Biodiversity Authority. The NBA has informed that a number of species listed in Environmental Support Group letters are being cultivated, grown in various parts of the state. Some are orchids of high export value. Lot of export is going on by many growers and cultivators. In case these are included in the Biological Diversity Act 2002 the export will be adversely affected and it will lead to lot of protest from growers and cultivators leading to adverse image of Board and Government. Therefore a cautious approach is required. If necessary broad consultation may be thought off.

**Additional Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests and Member Secretary**