

Agenda notes for the 28th Board Meeting

1. Reading and recording of proceedings of the 27th Board meeting:

The proceedings of the 27th Board Meeting held on 03/03/2015 were communicated to all the members, and as there were no comments from the members, the proceeding may be adopted. (Annexure-I)

2. Action taken on 27th Board Meeting Proceedings:

Action taken on proceedings of 27th Board Meeting is placed in Annexure-II

3. Technical Staff on Contract:

I. Sanction of Technical Staff by NBA:

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has sanctioned Rs. 9.50 lakhs to engage four outsourcing/contract personnel for mandatory works of Karnataka Biodiversity Board for the year 2015-16 (Annexure – III). The grant for engaging 4 personnel to State Biodiversity Boards is given by NBA to support the Boards. The average remuneration for each contract technical executive under this program will be less than Rs. 20,000 per/month which is not sufficient for engaging and retaining quality Technical Executives. This fact is informed to the NBA requesting for additional fund for engaging four personnel with average emoluments of Rs. 25000/month.

The matter is submitted before the Board for information

II. Rationale for salary structure:

The Board is depending upon personnel from bioscience background holding Ph.D/PG degrees for various technical requirements of the Board. Whenever there are vacancies, it is advertised and the candidates are called for an interview. Finally, based on the performance in interview and their academic performance they are selected. In the last one year, several such interviews have been conducted to recruit the Technical Executives and Research Associates. The selection and attrition is given in a table (Annexure – IV).

There are 2 posts of Research Associates, 4 posts of Executive Assistants, 4 posts sanctioned by National Biodiversity Authority. In addition to these, the Board in its 26th meeting has resolved to create a cell headed by an officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary with two Technical Executives for taking care of ABS. Further, another two posts have been provided in the project sanctioned by National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi for the project on “Assessment of population status and removal of bioresources from forest with special emphasis on Medicinal Plants in Karnataka”. At present, there are only 6 Technical Executives/ RAs against 12 presently required Technical posts. During past one year, the Board had advertised several times for selection of various vacant posts.

The suitable candidates were not found enthusiastic when applying for the post of Technical Executive/ Research Associate except in one case in which recruitment was done for UNEP-MoEF-GEF project. The candidates applying and continuing to serve the Board after selection has direct correlation with the remuneration they are getting. Generally the remuneration to Technical Executives (PG Freshers/having one year experience) was Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 20,000 and those taken under the outsourced support programme for NBA was Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 18,000. The Board also has resolved during its 21st meeting that the payment to Post Graduate incumbents is not commensurate to their skill and should be more.

To discuss the issue of attracting good technical personnel and to retain their services for longer duration, a committee comprising of Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board | Director, IWST | Conservator of Forests, Working Plan and Deputy Director, Agriculture was constituted which met on 14/05/2015. The proceedings of the meeting is placed at Annexure – V. The members agreed that there should be a need for fixing better remuneration based on the number of years of experience and the talent which is noted below:

Sl. No.	No. of years of Experience	Remuneration
1	Freshers	Rs. 20,000/-
2	1 Year	Rs. 22,000/-
3	2 Years	Rs. 23,500/-
4	3 Years	Rs. 25,000/-
5	4 Years	Rs. 26,000/-

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and suitable decision.

III. Supporting Staff Salary Enhancement:

The supporting staff viz peons/drivers are also requesting for enhancement of their emoluments. This needs to be considered and it is proposed that their emoluments may be increased to neutralize the increase in dearness (equivalent to DA given by Government of Karnataka in last one year plus an increment of 3% for every completed year of service.

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and suitable decision.

IV. Outsourcing the required manpower to KEONICS:

It has been our experience that recruiting personnel through advertisement is not successful. In view of this it is proposed that we engage a manpower supply agency to provide on kinds of staff to the Board. KEONICS is a Government of Karnataka enterprise and is providing manpower services to various organizations. M/S KEONICS has submitted a quotation in this regard. It is mandatory for the employer to contribute 12% on basic salary to

Provident Fund (PF) for those who are drawing salary less than Rs. 15000. Further, employer also contributes an ESI of 4.75 % on gross. Including these figures, a detailed quotation is submitted by KEONICS (Annexure-VI). In case the personnel drawing salary more than Rs. 15000, contribution of EPF is optional for the Staff and the Board.

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and approval of KEONICS, a Government of Karnataka enterprise, as an agency for providing manpower services to the Board.

4. Access and Benefit Sharing:

1. Action taken on Special Agenda:

A special agenda for ABS obligations for access to bioresources for commercial utilization and for biosurvey and bioutilization for commercial utilization was circulated on 25/03/2015 among the Board members which was duly approved by the members. (Annexure- VII). The approved OM was sent to all the 170 companies (Annexure – VIIa) which have reported for accessing of Bioresources in Form-I requesting them to pay for the ABS obligation as per the OM. 30th April, 2015 was fixed as the deadline for furnishing the ABS obligation. The companies who responded to the OM falls under three categories:

1. Twelve companies have paid the ABS obligation. (Annexure – VIIb)
2. Thirteen companies have sought further clarification. (Annexure – VIIc)
3. Ninety five companies wanted to extend the deadline for payment of ABS obligation. (Annexure – VIId)

Some of the companies have not yet responded. A reminder has been sent to all after extending the date till 30th May, 2015 to meet ABS obligation.

2. Signing agreements on ABS:

As per the regulation on Access and Benefit Sharing dated 21/11/2014, an agreement needs to be signed between the Board and the bioresource users. A copy of format of such agreement, after vetting by the Legal Advisor of the Board, is submitted. (Annexure – VIII)

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and approval.

3. Collection of fee by Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC):

Section 41(3) of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 provides for collection of fee by the BMC from any person for accessing or collecting any biological resource for commercial purposes from areas falling within its jurisdiction. As per Karnataka Biodiversity Rule 13(XIV), the Board is to recommend, prescribe, modify, collection fee of the BMC

from time to time. This fee is in addition to the access and benefit sharing obligation which the bioresource users are paying to the Board. This fee needs to be collected by the BMC which is in initial stage of functioning.

The matter was also discussed during the meeting of committee on ABS on 21/01/2015 (Annexure – IX).

The subject is placed before the Board for deliberation and suitable decision for recommending collection fee to the BMC.

4. Access and Benefit Sharing on high economic value Bioresource:

As per the Regulation 3(3) on ABS issued by NBA, MoEFCC dated 21/11/2014, it is mandatory for successful bidder or purchaser of Biological resources having high economic value such as Sandalwood, Red Sanders etc. and their derivatives to make an upfront payment of not less than 5% on the proceeds of the auction or sale amount. It is imperative to identify other high value Bioresources which are being used commercially. The subject is placed before the Board for deliberation of fixing the upfront payment by such users and for determining any other high value biological resource used in the State. Copy of the NBA guidelines on ABS is placed at Annexure – X.

5. Access and Benefit Sharing for marine products:

The Board is implementing a project on ABS funded by UNEP-GEF-MoEF. One of the objective of the project is to lead to agreement with bioresource users under three ecosystems viz wetland, forest and agriculture. The Office Memorandum on ABS dated 27/03/2015 has dealt about assessing the ABS obligation related to commercial utilization of plants. The project unit under GEF has done lot of preparatory works to lead to an agreement with companies dealing in marine products (Proceedings of meeting with Marine products industries: Annexure – Xa). As per the OM (Annexure – IIb), the following rates of ABS obligations were approved:

Sl. No.	List	Trader/Manufacturer not entered in prior agreement with VFC/Forest dwellers/Gram Sabha etc.		Trader manufacturer in prior agreement with VFC/Forest dwellers/Gram Sabha etc.	
		Trader	Manufacturer	Trader	Manufacturer
1	3A	3%	5%	3%	5%
2	3B	2%	4%	3%	5%
3	3C	1%	3%	3%	5%
4	3D	Nil	Nil	NA	NA

Since there is no list of species for marine products as in the case of plants, a flat rate of 3% and 5% for trader and manufacturer respectively may be approved as the rate for ABS obligation for the marine products. And the other option of ABS obligation based on annual gross ex-factory sale product as given below may also be approved.

Annual Gross ex-factory sale of product	Benefit sharing component
Up to Rupees 1,00,00,000	0.1 %
Rupees 1,00,00,001 up to 3,00,00,000	0.2%
Above Rupees 3,00,00,000	0.5%

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and approval of the ABS obligation for marine products.

5. Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) Status:

1. During its 25th meeting, the Board noted the methodology adopted for preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) which are being facilitated by professors and students of Bioscience Departments. The success of the completion of PBRs depends upon cooperation and services extended by professors, lecturers and students of Bioscience departments from various Universities/Institutions/Colleges etc. The matter was advertised seeking the help of Professors and students in writing the PBRs. Letters were also addressed to all the DCF-SFs who are also the Nodal Officer for the activities of the Board, to select such interested professors who can render their services in this venture. However, it is noticed that very few persons came forward to take up this task. Considering the urgency as a pilot test case, couple of enrolled Ph.D Research Scholars were given the task of assisting in writing the PBRs. It was found that their performance towards writing PBRs is satisfactory.

The matter is placed before the Board for information and deliberation for suitable decision regarding taking up the services of Teachers and Research Scholars from various Colleges and Institutions.

2. The Board in its 25th meeting, resolved vide Agenda – 6 to implement the ABS project funded by UNEP-GEF-MoEF at the Taluk panchayat level BMCs. The writing of PBRs at taluk panchayat level in the selected taluks of the project is one of the components of the project. The cost of preparation of PBR as per the guidelines of the project is Rs. 150000. However, as per the methodology adopted by the Board, master checklist for all the agro-climatic zones is already prepared, as a result the cost of preparation of PBRs comes out to be Rs. 55000. The breakup of the cost is appended at Annexure – XI.

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and approval of the cost for preparation of PBR at taluk level.

6. Project on medicinal plant – Assessment of population status and removal of bioresources from forest with special emphasis on medicinal plants in Karnataka.

As placed before the Board vide Agenda – 5 in its 27th meeting, the project was submitted to National Medicinal Plants Board through the Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Medicinal Plants Authority (KAMPA). The project was approved by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) (Annexure – XII).

On the assurance of PCCF (HoFF), the project has been implemented in forest divisions of Honnavar, Haliyal, Karwar and Virajpet. The data from these divisions are being processed. After sanction of this project, field work is started in Bengaluru Urban and Bannerughatta Wildlife Divisions. This is being done on pilot basis and to understand the field problems and implementation difficulties. The approved project provides 7.2 lakh rupees/division for data collection and its processing. The detailed data sheet for the estimated cost for each division is placed at Annexure – XIII.

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and approval of the cost norm.

7. GEF Project status:

The UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC ABS Project is executed by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. The State Biodiversity Boards in ten states of India including Karnataka Biodiversity Board are the project implementing partners.

The project aims to access and quantify the economic value of the biological resources present at the local, state and national level using appropriate methodologies to determine benefit sharing which will help in better implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its rules 2004 and inform national decision makers on prioritizing conservation action.

Under the project, the Karnataka Biodiversity Board has taken up to facilitating the constitution of BMCs at the local level and to make an effort to recognize, empower BMCs in selected locations in Karnataka. The objectives are the project are as follows:

Identification of biodiversity with potential for ABS and their valuation in select ecosystem such as forest, agriculture and wetlands.

Development of tools methodologies guidelines framework for implementing ABS provisions of the Biological Diversity Act.

Implementation of the policies and regulatory framework (s) relating to ABS provisions at local state and national level and there by contribute to international ABS policy issues.

Capacity building and strengthening and implementation of the ABS provision of the biological diversity Act.

Increasing public awareness and educational programmes.

This project is implemented over a period of 10 months from September 2014- June 2015 and total estimated cost of this project is 70 lakhs. This is a pilot-project is being implemented in selected locations in Karnataka to cover three ecosystems: Agriculture, Forests and Wetlands (freshwater and marine).

Under this project, Karnataka Biodiversity Board has facilitated constitution of 20 taluk level BMCs and organized several capacity development workshops on role of BMCs and operationalizing the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism. Several consultation dialogues meetings with various industries such as: Agarbati, Gherkins, marine products, seeds, oleoresin, etc have been held since the inception on the project. Workshops were held to create awareness about the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 amongst various research institutions, universities, government officials.

Karnataka Biodiversity Board has also brought out various resources materials in Kannada language for increasing public awareness on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and Local Biodiversity Fund (LBF). The details of various activities taken up under the project is placed as Annexure – XIV.

The sanction of the project for the State was informed in the month of July, 2014 by NBA. The project was for duration of 11 months up to June, 2015. However, the project started in the month of September, 2014. Constituting 20 BMCs at taluk level, preparation of PBRs in the jurisdiction of 10 taluk panchayaths, finalization of ABS agreements with 6 bioresource users – 2 each from wetland, forest and agriculture ecosystems was few of the core activities taken up under the project. Meanwhile, the preparation of PBR, meetings with BMC members etc. are not taking place for almost a month as elections for local bodies is in progress and the code of conduct prohibits such meetings. In view of these facts, the project may need an extension of about four months.

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation.

8. Budget and Accounts:

(i) The audited account of the Board for the year 2013-14 is submitted by the Accountant General (AG). The same is placed before the Board for information and approval. (Annexure – XV)

(ii) The accounts of expenditure for the year 2014-15 is placed before the Board for deliberation and necessary action. (Annexure – XVI)

(iii) The copy of reappropriated budget for the year 2014-15 is placed before the Board for information. (Annexure – XVII)

(iv) The Government has given a grant of Rs. 3.64 crore for the year 2015-16. The budget estimate of the Board for the year 2015-16 for Rs. 3.64 crore with different heads of expenditure is placed at Annexure – XVIII.

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and approval.

9. Committee on animal husbandry:

Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (AH&F) requested the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka to constitute a committee under Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The ACS

FEE informed the Chairman, KBB to examine to constitute such committee. A committee was constituted vide letter No. TEC/C02/ABD/65 Dated 06/05/2015 (Annexure - XIX) to regulate the activities of animal husbandry including artificial insemination in animals and semen stations.

The proceedings of the first meeting of the Committee held under the Chair of Secretary, AH&F is placed before the Board for deliberation and necessary decision (Annexure – XX).

10. Declaration of Eco-Park – Sri Lakshmikantha Swamy, Medicinal Eco-park, Devaragudda (Sri Giri), Padmanabhanagara, Bengaluru as Heritage site.

I. Secretary, Ecology and Environment forwarded a letter from Sri G Ashwathanarayan who had requested to declare Sri Lakshmikantha Swamy, Medicinal Eco-park, Devaragudda (Sri Giri), Padmanabhanagara, Bengaluru as Biological Diversity Heritage site (Annexure – XXI). This matter was discussed in the Board in its 21st Meeting and it was resolved “that the matter is pending with the Government. However, the Board further cautioned that very unique areas only should be declared as heritage sites and all precautions must be taken to ensure that the private interests do not creep in”.

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and decision.

II. Karnataka High Court in its order for the writ petition No. 20078/2010(GM-RES-PIL) directed the respondent to maintain *status quo*, as it exist today, with the liberty to take up any further action that may be called for, after obtaining express concurrence of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board. Accordingly, the Managing Trustee, in the letter dated 30/12/2014 requested for certain repair as the temple was leaking. She was permitted to take up the repair under a condition that the original structure/architecture should not be changed.

The matter is placed before the Board for information.

11. Project for establishment of Herbarium and Botanical museum at Pilikula Nisargadhama.

The Board has sanctioned an amount of 120 Lakhs for establishment of Herbarium and Botanical museum at Pilikula Nisargadhama. The project was for a duration of 5 years which is coming to an end in December 2015. As per the progress of the work, Rs. 60.20 Lakh has been released by the Board until now. The Executive Director, Dr. Shivaram Karanth, Pilikula Nisargadhama, Mangaluru vide his letter dated 6th May, 2015 requested to extend the project for two more years and release the unspent amount of Rs. 37.80 lakhs. A letter from the Executive Director, Pilikula Nisargadhama is placed as Annexure – XXII.

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and suitable decision.

12. Contribution to NPS account of working employee in KBB:

Deputy Director, Agriculture represented to the Board that the DDO code is not yet allotted for the Board under NPS. This has resulted in a loss of interest to him as the Employees contribution to his pension scheme could not be remitted to his account. Letter dated 28/03/2015 is addressed to the Government (Annexure - XXIII) in this regard to issue the DDO code. Deputy Director, Agriculture further mentioned that the officers who are working in his parent Department are getting an interest of 12.03 % on the Deposits under NPS. He further added that the Government gives an interest of 8%. Deputy Director, Agriculture requests that 12.03% is the loss of interest to him for the deposit which could not be credited to his account because of lack of DDO code and the same should be made good.

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and suitable decision.

13. Compulsory training programme for Officers from Indian Forest Service:

MoEFCC has sanctioned a two day workshop on Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for IFS Officers from different States. The training programme was conducted on 8th and 9th March, 2015. The programme was basically giving information about the Access and Benefit Sharing and related issues to the Officers. The evaluation of the training programme by the Ministry is placed at Annexure – XXIV.

14. Conservation of Rocky Shores of Dhareshwara:

The Board in its 25th meeting resolved to constitute a two member in-house committee to assess biodiversity of the Rocky Shores of Dhareshwara in Uttara Kannada. The report from Dr. M D Subash Chandran and Dr. Shivananda Murthy, Members of the committee was submitted (Annexure – XXIV). As resolved by the Board, the report is marked to Deputy Commissioner, Uttara Kannada for taking up necessary action for conservation of the Rocky shores.

The matter is placed before the Board for information.

15. Any other subject with the permission of the chair:

Member Secretary
Karnataka Biodiversity Board