

Agenda notes for the 29th Board Meeting

1. Reading and recording of proceedings of the 28th Board meeting:

The proceedings of the 28th Board Meeting held on 27/05/2015 were communicated to all the members, as there were no comments from the members, the proceeding may be adopted. (Annexure-I)

2. Action taken on 28th Board Meeting Proceedings:

Action taken on proceedings of 28th Board Meeting is placed in Annexure-II.

3. Access and benefit sharing:

i) Status:

Out of 103 companies which have submitted the information in Form-I for 2014-15 for accessing bioresources, 68 have made the payment towards access and benefit sharing. In pursuance of the resolution of 26th Board meeting, companies have been asked to pay the ABS obligation for the year 2014-15 vide OM dated 27th March, 2015. Following is the details of companies which have submitted Form-I.

Year	No. of companies submitted Form-I	Companies made payment before final notice	Companies made payment after final notice.
2014-2015	103	24	44
2015-2016	92	-	-

The companies have sought several clarifications about ABS. These have been clarified through group meetings on phone and also through letters. Some of the companies have asked to defer the implementation of the regulation on ABS as Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturer's Association (ADMA) has represented to MoEF&CC (Annexure – III). Member Secretary called on the Chairman, NBA and Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC and discussed about the representation from ADMA. The Chairman informed that a committee has been constituted for discussing ABS issues but as per the Act, ABS obligation cannot be exempted for those who are accessing the resources for commercial purposes (Annexure IV).

While issuing clarification to various companies, the deadline for making payments has been extended for a couple of times. Those companies which have not paid the ABS, have been given final notice and were requested to pay the same by 31st July, 2015. Some of the companies have not yet responded. The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and decision on further course of action.

ii) ABS received:

As on 30/09/2015, Rs. 15,12,693 has been received towards ABS obligation for commercial utilization of bioresources. The companies, while submitting Form-I have not mentioned the place from where they are procuring the bioresources. Therefore, it is difficult to make provisions for the proceeds received under ABS for any particular Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC).

The guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014, R- 15 (2) states that;

“Where approval has been granted by State Biodiversity Board under these regulations.—

The sharing of accrued benefits shall be as under.— the SBB may retain a share, not exceeding 5% of the benefits accrued towards their administrative charges and the remaining share shall be passed on to the BMC concerned or to benefit claimers, where identified:

Provided that where any individual or group of individuals or organizations cannot be identified, such funds shall be used to support conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and to promote livelihoods of the local people from where the biological resources are accessed.”

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

iii) Submission of Form-I by new companies:

There are still several companies who need to submit Form-I, reporting the access to biological resources. Notices have been issued to some companies requesting them to comply with the provisions of the Act (Annexure – V).

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation on the starting year of submission of Form-I and suitable decision in this regard.

4. Project on medicinal plants – “Assessment of population status and removal of bioresources with special emphasis on medicinal plants in Karnataka”.

Implementation of this project is in progress. Data from seven divisions have been collected and software for processing the data is being developed with the help of Chief Conservator of Forest, ICT. The project envisaged to take the services of students from forestry colleges for field work. However, with the experience of fieldwork in few divisions where fieldwork has been taken up, it is noticed that the students are not equipped with the basic skills of identifying the medicinal plants. It has been difficult task to arrange required number of taxonomist who can help in identifying the medicinal plants during the field work. Therefore, it is proposed to get students/Ph.D scholars who have completed post graduation and who have the basic skills of understanding the identification of plants. Such students are to be identified and taken for eight to ten months, they can be stationed at different Circle Head Quarters. These students can be given field orientation for 15 days in the forest of specific area (zone) and they can keep on doing the field work along with the field staff (forester/guard/watcher) of the Forest Division. This will help in maintaining continuity of trained students who can do the assessment works of Forest Divisions one after the other. While selecting such students for eight to ten months, it will be kept in mind that the total expenses on their emoluments does not exceed the remuneration fixed for the students for the number of beats. A remuneration of Rs. 16,000 – 20,000/month can be fixed for such Taxonomists/Botanists. The Member

Secretary has personally discussed the issue with Chief Executive Officer, NMPB. She is also of the opinion that so long as the work is completed within the stipulated fund for given number of beats, there should not be any problem in going for fixed number of students in each region.

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

5. Compilations of Basic data on flora and fauna:

One of the objectives of Karnataka Biodiversity Board is to take up the study/research activities on issues related to conservation where sufficient work has not been done. For taking up any decision in this regard, it becomes handy to have the details of Basic Data of each field of biodiversity. In order to address this, a meeting of experts was called and the matter was deliberated in detail about compilation of basic data under each discipline (Annexure-VI). The work of compilation by experts has been completed, except for few, which are still being done (Annexure-VII). All such works have been placed before a committee consisting of two experts – Dr. V. Bhaskar, Professor of Forestry and Environment (Rtd.), and Dr. Madhyastha, Professor of Zoology (Rtd.) with Dr. Sanjappa, Member of the Board being Special Invitee. The committee discussed the works done by the experts and suggested certain necessary changes (Annexure – VIII). These experts have used the services of students for compilation/collation of data and it was agreed in the meeting that such students will be paid Rs. 10,000 per month through the experts for their services for three to five months depending upon the quantum of works. An honorarium to experts may also be paid. This needs to be fixed.

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

6. Project on 'Collection, conservation and characterization of 'Appemidi':

Director, IIHR, Hesaraghatta lake post, Bengaluru has submitted a project proposal on 'Collection, conservation and characterization of Appemidi' for Rs. 5 lakh (Annexure-IX). The objectives of the project is to collect indigenous Appemidi mango types from Kumta, Honnavar and Yellapur area, to characterize these types through morphological, molecular and biochemical tools, to document and print an Appemidi catalogue and to propagate selected unique types through grafting.

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

7. Status of Technical Staff:

It was resolved in 28th Board meeting to fix the remuneration of Technical Executives as per their experience. A committee was constituted to fix the remuneration based on experience. However, the committee felt that there is no clear mandate for assessing the experience of people who have worked in other organizations before joining the Board. Therefore, it is submitted to count the experience of Technical Executives outside the organization as 50% for fixing the remuneration. The salary may be fixed by adding the experience in Board plus 50% of experience outside organization. Total completed years of experience as on 01/08/15 will determine the remuneration as per the matrix approved by the Board in its 28th Board meeting. Accordingly the details of the persons taken on contract, based on short term vacant positions, under various projects, support from NBA etc is submitted (Annexure – X).

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

8. PF & ESI to supporting staff:

In pursuance of resolution of 28th Board meeting, 'Aishwarya manpower agency' which is also serving the manpower requirement of Environment Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) has been selected for providing supporting staff to the Board. As per PF & ESI Rules, those personnel who are getting less than Rs. 15,000 are mandatorily required to contribute to PF & ESI which is 12% and 1.75% respectively from the employee. However, the employees working in the Board has made a special request to submit before the Board that the employee contribution should also be taken care by the Board. This will be equivalent to raise in salary to the tune of additional 13.75% PF plus ESI (Annexure – XI).

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

9. Reconstitution of Technical Expert Committee:

The Board in its 21st meeting (Annexure – XII) resolved to constitute a technical expert committee as per Section 13 (2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. It is proposed to reconstitute the committee with following members:

1. Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board - Convenor.
2. Dr. G N Srikantaiah, IFS (Rtd.)
3. Dr. Ganeshiah, Professor & Head, Department of Forest & Environmental Sciences.
4. Prof. Channabyregowda, University of Agricultural Sciences.
5. Dr. K. Chandrashekar, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology.
6. Dr. V.N Nayak, Professor and Chairman, Dept. of Studies in Marine Biology.
7. Dr. N.A Madhyastha, Professor of Zoology and Principal (Rtd.).
8. Dr. V. Bhaskar, Retired Professor of Forestry and environment.

Further, it was resolved to authorize Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to constitute specialized subcommittees as and when required for specific purposes. It is proposed to make this authorization for constituting any committee as and when required instead of a subcommittee.

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

**Member Secretary
Karnataka Biodiversity Board**