

Karnataka Biodiversity Board
Agenda notes for 43rd Board Meeting

43/1-Reading and recording of Proceedings of the 42nd Board Meeting:

The proceedings of the 42nd Board meeting held on 07/09/2019 were communicated to all the members on 09/12/2019.

As there were no comments from the members, the proceedings may be adopted. **(Annexure-I)**

43/2- Action taken on 42nd Board meeting proceedings:

Action taken on proceedings of 42nd Board meeting are placed in **(Annexure-II)**

43/3- Status of Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) and Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR):

The comparative statement of periodic progress, for each quarter of the financial year with regard to the formation of the BMCs, PBRs, the achievements and the comparative statement of the budget sanctioned, expenditure incurred in each quarter of the FY 2019-20 is as below:

BMC quarterly progress for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 (From April- 2019 to January - 2020)								
Month	GP		TP		ZP		ULBs	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
April to June	15	48	1	2	-	-	-	-
July to September	3	93	1	1	2	3	1	0
October to December	11	408	0	23	-	11	-	30
January to March	412	74	8	-	1	-	-	249
Total	441	623	10	26	3	14	1	279

PBRs quarterly progress for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 (From April -2019 January - 2020)								
Month	GP		TP		ZP		ULBs	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
April to June	66	19	1	-	-	-	-	-
July to September	45	19	-	-	-	-	-	-
October to December	66	52	-	-	-	-	-	-
January to March	14	29	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	191	119	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 ZP level PBRs are in progress								

Budget Sanctioned for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20

Budget Sanctioned	2018-2019 (Rs. In lakhs)	2019-2020 (Rs. In lakhs)	Amount released for the year 2019-2020 (Rs. In lakhs)
		429 lakhs	376 lakhs

Statement of Quarterly Expenditure					
2018-19			2019-2020		
Quarter	Months	Total	Quarter	Months	Total
1st	Apr-Jun	6,897,172.00	1st	Apr-Jun	11,055,794.00
2nd	July-Sep	7,795,816.00	2nd	July-Sep	6,533,889.00
3rd	Oct-Dec	4,726,143.00	3rd	Oct-Dec	8,356,096.00
4th	Jan-Mar	8,237,738.00	4th	Jan-Mar	-
	Total	27,656,869.00		Total	25,945,779.00

Status of Biodiversity Management Committees

Panchayats	Total No. of BMCs	No. of BMCs Constituted	Balance to be constitute
Grama Panchayat	6020	6018	2
Taluka Panchayat	176	175	1
Zilla Panchayat	30	30	0
Urban Local Bodies	280	279	1
Total	6506	6502	4

Status of People's Biodiversity Registers

Panchayats	Total No. of BMCs	No. of PBRs prepared	Balance to be prepare
Grama Panchayat	6020	2064	3956
Taluka Panchayat	176	24	152
Zilla Panchayat	30	5 (Under progress)	30
Urban Local Bodies	280	0	-
Total	6506	2088	4138

The subject is placed before the Board for information.

Further required to write **4065** number of People's Biodiversity Registers at Zilla Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat, Grama panchayat and Urban Local bodies is Rs. **14.9230** crores. Balance funds available with the Board Rs. 7.00 crores till now. The balance of funds required to be released to write People's Biodiversity Register's during 2020-2021 Rs. **8.00** crores. The subject is placed before the Board for approval to send the proposal to the Government.

43/4- Trainings / Workshops/ Video Conference / Meetings conducted by the Board from September 2019 to January 2020.

1	03/09/2019	ABS Expert Committee Meeting.
2	04/09/2019	Hon'ble Chief Ministers Review Meeting at Vidhana Soudha.
3	05/09/2019	Stakeholders Consultation Meeting at A.Bhavan, Blore.
4	07/09/2019	42nd Board Meeting in KBB.
5	20/09/2019	Technical Expert Committee meeting on Research at KBB.
6	23/09/2019	Video conference to review the BMC and PBRs.
7	01/10/2019	Meeting with Chief Secretary discussion on BMC and PBRs.
8	03/10/2019	Terminal Evaluation of the project "Strengthening the implementation of BDA and Rules with focus on its ABS provisions" at Capitol Hotel, FRLHT, Bangalore.
9	04/10/2019	Meeting with Principal Secretary, RDPR review of BMC and PBR at M.S.Bldgs, Bangalore.
10	05/10/2019	Meeting with ACS and Development Commissioner discussion on NGT order for constitution of BMCs and Preparation of PBRs.
11	9/10/2019	Video Conference conducted by RDPR
12	16/10/2019	Satcom Training Programme for BMCs.
13	22/10/2019	Chief Secretary Meeting to review the BMCs.
14	24/10/2019	Video Conference conducted by RDPR
15	05/11/2019	ACS and Development Commissioner Meeting to review the PBR and BMCs.
16	08/11/2019	Meeting on Threatened Species.
17	11/11/2019	Video Conference conducted by RDPR
18	14/11/2019	Co-ordinators training at Turuvekere taluka
19	14/11/2019	Co-ordinators training at Tiptur taluka
20	20/11/2019	Co-ordinators training at Madhugiri taluka
21	20/11/2019	Co-ordinators training at Kortagere taluka

22	20/11/2019	Co-ordinators training at Tumkur taluka
23	02/12/2019	Co-ordinators training at Chikkanayakanahalli taluka
24	02/12/2019	Co-ordinators training at Pavagada taluka
25	02/12/2019	Co-ordinators training at Gubbi taluka
26	03/12/2019	Co-ordinators training at Sira taluka
27	03/12/2019	Co-ordinators training at Pavagada taluka
28	21/11/2019	Video Conference to review the BMC and PBRs with DCF (SF).
29	25/11/2019	Circle Level Workshop at Chamarajanagar
30	26/11/2019	Legislative Assembly Meeting to review the Notifications issued by the Government.
31	13/12/2019	Training programme to NGOs/Institution for writing of PBRs.
32	19/12/2019	Book release programme by Hon'ble Chief Minister at Krishna. Video conference by National Biodiversity Authority to review the BMC and PBRs.
33	20/12/2019	ACS and Development Commissioner Meeting to review the progress of BMCs and PBRs.
34	20/12/2019	Co-ordinators training programme at Belgaum.
35	24/12/2019	Video Conference by Urban Local Bodies to constitution of BMCs at Urban Local Bodies.
36	26/12/2019	Video Conference by RDPAR to review the PBR and BMC progress.
37	30/12/2019	Review of BMC,PBR Progress and BHS Management Plan of Ambaragudda at Zilla Panchayat, Shimoga.
38	02/01/2020	Research Advisory Committee Meeting at Aranya Bhawan, Bangalore
39	03/01/2020	Sustainable Development Goals Meeting at Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore
40	06/01/2020	ACS and Development Commissioner meeting to review the progress of BMC and PBR.
41	07/01/2010	Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation by the Chairman at Sirsi.

42	09/01/2020	Video Conference to review the progress of BMC and PBRs with all DCFs (Social Forestry)
43	22/01/2020	Video conference by National Biodiversity Authority to review the BMC and PBRs.
44	21/01/2020	Biodiversity conservation workshop at Bellary by Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board
44	22/01/2020	Biodiversity conservation workshop at Koppal by Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board
45	24/01/2020	ACS and Development Commissioner Meeting to review the progress of BMCs and PBRs.

43/5: Preparation of PBR's in Town Municipal Council/Town Panchayats, City Municipal Council/ City Corporation, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP):

Karnataka Biodiversity Board is to prepare guidelines and cost estimate for writing of PBRs for Urban Local Bodies. The letter received from National Biodiversity Board dated on 4/01/2020 is placed as **(Annexure-III)**.The subject is put up for discussion and approval.

Board may consider cost of writing PBRs for Urban Local Bodies as below:

Sl. No	ITEM	Town municipal council/Town Panchayats	City municipal council/ City corporation	Hubli Dharwad city corporation	Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara palike (BBMP)
1	Awareness PRA Exercise	10,000	15,000	75,000	1,00,000
2	Skill development field visit meetings	10,000	20,000	75,000	1,25,000
3	collection of primary data	20,000	35,000	1,00,000	1,25,000
	Phase 2				
4	Processing of data documentation /drafting	30,000	40,000	50,000	75,000
5	Printing cost of PBR	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
6	Remuneration/ TA/DA to Technical support group/ Personnel	25,000	40,000	1,50,000	2,75,000
7	Miscellaneous charges	15,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Total	1,30,000	2,00,000	500,000	7,50,000

43/6 - Investment of Surplus funds in fixed deposits:

Available surplus funds after meeting all the expenses of the Board are kept in fixed deposits as per the Government Order issued by the Finance Department vide FD 5 TAR 2017 dated: 30/01/2017 and circular No.FD 38 TAR 2018 dated:27/08/2018 states that surplus funds must be invested in FDs. if it is more than a crore, after calling for competitive interest rates from public and private Sector banks through e-procurement portal. Accountant General during previous audit has instructed to follow the guidelines issued by the Finance department. On these lines it has been decided to invest surplus funds after keeping amount for execution of projects, working capital requirement etc., Board approval is sought to keep this surplus funds in fixed deposits in the Public sector/Private sector banks shortlisted by calling tender through e-procurement portal.

43/7: Constitution of internal investment committee:

Circular issued vide No.FD 38 TAR 2018 dated:27.08.2018 para8 (ii) reiterates that the Board at its discretion may constitute an internal investment committee and delegate powers to make investment of surplus funds upto one year period and short term investments. Accountant General in his inspection reports for the year 2018-19 instructed the Board to follow the guidelines issued by the Finance department in investment of surplus funds. Karnataka Biodiversity Board is to constitute an internal investment committee comprising of the following Officers of the Board.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Member Secretary | - Chairperson |
| 2. Deputy Conservator of Forests | - Member |
| 3. Deputy Director(Horti/Agri) | - Member |
| 4. Deputy Director(Ayush) | - Member |
| 5. ACF & AO | - Convenor/Secretary |

Once Accounts Superintendent is posted in the Board, he/she will also be member of this committee. The matter is placed before the Board for kind approval.

43/8 - Proposal for creating the Posts of Research Associate (Botany) and Research Associate (Zoology):

Government has sanctioned one post for Reader/Associate Professor (Botany) and one post for Reader/Associate Professor (Zoology) in the Board. These posts could not be filled on deputation. As resolved in the 15th Board meeting held on 30/09/2010 the posts of Research Associate, (Botany) and Research Associate (Zoology) were filled from outsource agency against the vacant posts of Reader/Associate professor, Botany and Zoology. Board

approval is sought to make a proposal to the Government for creating these posts of Research Associate (Botany) and Research Associate (Zoology).

43/9 - Sanction of vehicles for the use of Officers of the Board:

Board has the sanction of following group 'A' cadre officers for the implementation of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and related Rules for smooth functioning of the Board. 1. Deputy Director (Ayush) 2. Deputy Director (Horticulture), 3. Deputy conservator of forests and 4. Assistant conservator of forests. These posts are Executive in nature and all Officers including the staff have to travel across State for execution of Board activities such as imparting trainings to various implementing agencies for BMCs, writing of PBRs, facilitating BMCs at Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and Gram Panchayat levels to implement Biological Diversity Act and Rules in conserving the rich biodiversity, to facilitate benefit sharing of the ABS funds, to take legal action against defaulting companies in the court of law etc., To carry out all these functions of the Board, it has only one vehicle for the use of all these officers and office use. Even this vehicle is also due for condemnation, as this vehicle was purchased during 2007. It has run for 2,50,000 Kms and it is not in good condition. All officers of this cadre are provided with vehicles in their respective departments and other Boards and Corporations. Approval of the Board is sought for purchase of 2 vehicles Mahindra Bolero/Scorpio for the use of Group 'A' cadre officers of the Board. Government in its order dated 19/06/2003 sanctioned 3 vehicles for the Board.

43/10 - Approval of Budget for the year 2019-2020:

Board has approved in the Special Board meeting held on 29/04/2019 for the budget of Rs. 7.8826 crores for the year 2019-20. But Government has sanctioned the budget of Rs. 3.74 crores for the year 2019-20. As per the Government sanction and budget estimate has to be revised. The revised budget estimation for the total of Rs. 5.264 crores is prepared and brought to the approval of the Board. **(Annexure - IV)**

43/11- Presenting Bank account details of the Board:

Government in its Order No: FD 5 TAR 2017 Dt:30/01/2017 vide part A-III Para 4 reiterated that list of bank accounts must be included as an agenda and brought before the Board. Hence the list of bank accounts and fixed deposits are brought before the Board for perusal. **(Annexure-V)**

43/12 - Appointment of company secretary for smooth functioning of the Board:

For efficient administration of the Board, particularly with regard to ensuring compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and

ensuring that the Board procedures are both followed and regularly reviewed and provide guidance to the Chairman and the members, on their responsibilities under various laws. Advising the Board on Compliance of legal and procedural aspects, particularly representing before Tax Authorities, other quasi-judicial bodies and Tribunals. Advising on arbitration, negotiation and conciliation, drafting Arbitration/Conciliation agreement, Internal Audit, Secretary to Audit Committee, Working capital. Determination of an appropriate capital structure, Analysis of capital investment proposals, budgetary controls, Accounting and compilation of financial statements.

Advising on Legal Structure of the organization, Business policy strategy and planning, Formulation of the organizational structure. Communication with Government and Regulators, Authorities, etc., Advisory services for Brand equity and image building.

Manpower planning and development, Audit of the HR function, Performance appraisal, Motivation and remuneration strategies, Industrial relations, Office management, work studies and performance standards, Advising on labour laws, Compliance with cyber laws, Advising on software copyright and licensing, Development of management reports and controls, Maintenance of statutory records in electronic form, to perform the above mentioned activities of the board requires post of company secretary. It is brought to the notice of the board for approval to submit a proposal to the government for the post of company secretary.

43/13 - Appointment of scientific officers at each district for the activities of the Board in the office of Deputy Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry)

Board has to facilitate and impart training to the local bodies under Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department in writing and help in vetting of PBRs. Board has only one consultant and two technical executives to facilitate for the documentation of PBRs throughout the state. Hon'ble NGT has ordered for time bond completion of constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees and writing of People's Biodiversity Registers. It is proposed to appoint Scientific Officers with MSc in Bio-sciences stream / Phd Qualification with the following responsibilities:

1. To act as a liaison officer between the Board and the Biodiversity Management Committees.
2. To co-ordinate with Deputy Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) and the local bodies regularly, to complete the process of documenting biodiversity in the districts / talukas / Gram Panchayats.

3. To help the BMC / Board in the identification of bioresource using Companies/entities/traders/manufacturers etc.,
4. To empower the Biodiversity Management Committees by conducting meetings/maintaining accounts/conducting training programmes /collecting levy fees etc., regularly.
5. To co-ordinate and correspond with the territorial officer of the districts for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
6. To conduct regular training programmes for sensitizing the BMCs and the local bodies on the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002.
7. To perform any other activities entrusted by the Board/Member Secretary/Officers of the Board for realizing the objectives of the Act.

Approval of the Board is sought to make the proposal to the Government for appointment of 30 scientific officers, one each for each district under the administrative control of Deputy Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the district.

43/14 - Appointment of ABS officer to look after ABS Section in the Board:

The Board in its 32nd Board meeting has approved to recommend to Government for appointment of CCF/CF cadre officer for the Board. Board has also written letter to the Government vide No KBB/ADM/A01/32BM dated:31/12/2019 to sanction and appoint on deputation CCF/CF cadre post to the Board. But so far order has not been issued in this regard. Taking note of short fall of CCF/CF cadre posts in the Forest Department, it is requested that for smooth implementation of ABS matters, if CCF/CF cadre officers, is not available in the Forest Department this post may be filled on Deputation of Joint Director (Agri) from Agriculture Department. Hence it is put before the Board for the approval to make proposal to the Government to appoint on deputation CCF/CF cadre post of Forest Department as ABS officer to the Board. In case Forest Department is not able to appoint on deputation of CCF/CF cadre officers, Joint Director (Agri) from Agriculture department may be appointed to the post on deputation.

43/15 - Audit Inspection Report of Accountant General for the year 2018-19:

Auditor General has audited Financial and administrative accounts and transactions of the Board for the year 2018-19 from 09/09/2019 to 27/09/2019. Accountant General has given the Audit report on 20/11/2019. Board has replied for the Audit report along with all annexures with a copy submitted to the Government. Board has also replied for the Draft Separate Audit of the Auditor General. Both parawise reply for

Audit Report of 2018-19 and Draft Separate Audit is placed before the Board for perusal and approval. **(Annexure-VI)**

43/16-For effective implementation of Biodiversity Act 2002 Nomination of certain officers as “Special Officers” to the Board.

Board has to implement biodiversity act, rules and guidelines issued from time to time by the Governments and National Biodiversity Authority. Board has to advise on the matters relating to the conservation of Biodiversity. Sustainable use of bio-resources etc., to perform all these functions effectively Board has limited number of officers and staff with state wide jurisdiction. Forest department is the custodian of all kinds of Forests, which is biodiversity rich. It has information and sufficient staff to look after at grass root level. The Forest Officers of the cadre of CCFs, CFs, DCF, ACFs/RFOs, of Territorial, Wildlife, KFDC (equivalent cadre) may be nominated as special officers of the board in their respective jurisdiction for effective implementation of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and for biodiversity conservation. The proceedings of the meeting conducted by PCCF (HoFF) dated:11/12/2019 were in consensus of PCCF(HoFF), APCCF(legal), APCCF (FRM), APCCF(HQ&C) officers who were present was obtained. Proceedings put up as **(Annexure-VII)**.

The matter is put up before the Board for approval to make proposal to the Government for suitable order to declare Deputy Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Chief Conservator of Forests of Circles, Deputy Conservator of Forests of KFDC, KCDC and Chief Conservator of Forests rank officers in KFDC, KCDC as Special officers of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board for the purpose of implementing the Biological Diversity Act in their jurisdiction.

43/17 - Recruitment of PBR Consultant:

The Board has appointed a Consultant for PBR and agreement period is closed on 31/12/2019. It is essential for the Board to continue the post for another 11 months for effective functioning of the Board. The subject is placed for the approval of the Board.

43/18 - Recruitment of Legal Consultant:

To attend to the legal matters of the Board, it has appointed legal consultant and the agreement closes on 31/12/2019. It is essential to continue the appointment for another 11 months. The legal consultant of the Board may also be permitted to file vakalath and plead the cases on behalf of the Board in JMFC Court. The subject is put up for Board's approval.

43/19 - Constitution of internal audit committee:

Accountant General in its office audit inspection report for the year 2018-19 has instructed to constitute an internal audit committee for internal audit of the office. Hence the Karnataka Biodiversity Board is to constitute the internal audit committee comprising of the following officers of the Board:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Member Secretary | - Chairperson |
| 2. Deputy Conservator of Forests | - Member |
| 3. Deputy Director(Horti/Agri) | - Member |
| 4. Deputy Director(Ayush) | - Member |
| 5. ACF & AO | - Convenor/Secretary |

Once Accounts Superintendent is posted in the Board, he/she will also be member of this committee. The subject is placed before the Board for approval.

43-20 - Recruitment of Office Assistant ('C' Group)

Government vide its Order No.FEE 244 ENV 2016 dated:30/08/2019 sanctioned 6 'C' group post to be recruited on outsource basis. Government vide order No. FEE 92 ENV 2019 dated:18/12/2019 sanctioned remuneration and facilities to Chairman of the Board. Both these orders states that expenditure for these posts has to be borne by the Board from its own source of income, but Board does not have regular source of income to bear these expenditures. Proposal has been submitted to the Government mentioning the same and requesting to issue orders to release funds from Government funds. This is put up before the board for kind perusal and approval.

43/21 - Temporary Appointment of Technical Assistant in ABS section in lieu of the person maternity leave:

Technical assistant who was working in ABS section has gone on leave from 01/07/2019 to 31/12/2019. For smooth functioning of the ABS section Technical Assistant has been appointed on temporary basis after obtaining approval of the Chairman.

Matter is brought before the board for kind approval.

43/22- Temporary Appointment of consultant in ABS section in lieu of the person on maternity leave.

ABS Consultant who was working in ABS section has gone on leave from 07/09/2019. For smooth functioning of the ABS section other experienced person has been appointed as ABS Consultant on temporary basis for six months, after obtaining approval of the Chairman. Matter is brought before the Board for kind approval.

43/23- Proceedings of the 11th and 12th ABS Expert Panel Sub-committee meetings:

The sub-committee of the ABS Expert Panel met on 03/09/2019 and 12/11/2019 for scrutiny and approval of Form-I applications from commercial entities and execution of ABS Agreements. A total of 22 Form 1 submissions were examined and based on the recommendations of the committee all the 22 applications were considered for execution of ABS Approval-Agreements. Proceedings of the meeting submitted as **(Annexure-VIII)**

The subject is submitted for the approval of the Board to authorize ACF/Administrative Officer to sign agreements in absence of Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBB.

43/24 - Proceedings of the Official Workshop with Legal Advisory Group (LAG) to discuss on the issues & challenges pertaining to ABS Agreements

An official workshop with the Legal Advisory Group of Karnataka Biodiversity Board in association with the National Law School of India University was organised on 3rd January, 2020 at the National Law School to deliberate on the issues and challenges of the Board in execution of ABS Agreements. The proceeding of the same is put up for the information of the Board **(Annexure-IX)**

43/25-Disbursement of benefits shared by M/s. Himalaya Drug Company to benefit claimers:

M/s. Himalaya Drug Company, Makali, Bangalore (File No. TEC/C06/HDC/04) is an Indian entity based at Bangalore, a major producer of herbal healthcare products and ayurvedic formulations which falls under the ambit of Section 7 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for compliance. The company has been meticulously submitting Form-I and sharing ABS regularly since 2014-15 and there are no dues from the company's side till date. The total amount of ABS accrued in the Board as ABS share from the company amounts to Rs. 41.12 lakhs, 95% of which totals to 39.06 lakhs.

This accrued amount of Rs. 39.06 lakhs needs to be shared with respective BMC/benefit claimers as per Regulation 15 of ABS Regulations, 2014 that reads *95% of the ABS amount accrued in the State Biodiversity Board is to be disbursed to the BMC concerned or to the benefit claimers, where identified.* The detailed report has been submitted as **(Annexure-X)** for perusal and approval of the Board.

43/26- Advertisement in leading news papers (both English & Kannada) on compliance of Access and Benefit Sharing provisions:

Advertisements both in English (Deccan Herald) & Kannada (Vijaya Karnataka) was published in leading news papers on 06/01/2020 sensitizing the entities that are accessing biological resources for commercial purposes on the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and the existing stringent penal provisions for non compliance (**Annexure-XI**)

The matter is submitted for the information of the Board.

43/27- Request for supersession of Rule 15 of Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules, 2005:

The amendments made to Rule 15 of Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules, 2005 was discussed in detail and a request was made to Government of Karnataka asking for a supersession of earlier three amendments with modifications, because during the course of earlier amendments made, certain relevant sub rules were deleted, which is creating ambiguity in discharging the duties of Access and Benefit Sharing provisions.

In pursuance to this, legal opinion was sought during the Legal Advisory Group (LAG) meeting on making amendments in Rules, if the matter is sub judice in the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka. Hon'ble Justice, Dr. N. Kumar recommended to the Board to discharge its duties as per the provisions laid down under the Act and stressed upon the point that, Rule 15(5) has been deleted in earlier amendments, though the Board has never placed a request to the Government asking for deletion of Rule 15(5), and hence needs to be restored at the earliest, in light of giving approvals for access/otherwise. The matter is submitted for information of the Board

43/28- Integration of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 provisions in the Licensing procedures of the State:

In pursuance to the meeting that was held on 11th April 2019 at MS Buildings under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary to bring Biological Diversity Act 2002 Compliance into line with the licensing procedures, streamlining effective implementation of the Act, departments were requested to share the list of licensed entities and support the Board integrating Biological Diversity Act 2002 compliance as a check list in the licensing procedures. Further, during the meeting, it was suggested that, as the Licensing departments function in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Central Government for issuing licenses, any additions to the same can be done only through an order from the concerned Ministry.

In continuation to the discussions made and in consonance with Section 23 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 letter No: TEC/C06/License Dept/18-

19/572 dated 31/12/2019 has been sent to Principal Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, soliciting kind support to represent the concerns and the challenges of the Board in effective implementation to the Ministry of Forest, Ecology and Environment & Climate Change (MoEF & CC) for integrating Biological Diversity Act 2002 compliance as part of the licensing procedure while issuing licenses. **(Annexure-XII)**

The matter is submitted for the information of the Board.

43/29- Payment Gateway Integration:

Online application portal is hosted on KBB website for submission of Form 1 applications by compliant industries/entities. For transparent and easy implementation, there is a need to integrate payment gateway to make the submission process more effective. The matter is submitted for the kind approval of the Board.

43/30- Expansion of ABS cell in the Board:

An ABS Cell has been constituted in the Board with an ABS Consultant and two technical executives to carry out the activities right from reviewing applications submitted by various industrial sectors, updating ABS database, to follow up on the NBA correspondences etc. Apart from this, conducting ABS Expert Panel meetings, ABS Dispersal committee meetings, Case hearing committee and Legal Advisory Group meetings, executing ABS agreements with compliant industries/entities and to file cases against defaulting companies is also an important task entrusted to the ABS cell. The quantum of work is huge and hence there is a need for expansion of the ABS cell with five Scientific Advisors to handle each sector independently (ie., Pharmacy, Food & Safety, Fisheries/Veterinary, Biotech and Others).

The matter is submitted for the kind perusal and approval of the Board.

43/31 – Filing cases against defaulting companies:

As per resolution of the 37th Board Meeting held on 27/03/2018 (Agenda No.37/5/1) and in pursuance to the legal advice received, defaulting companies that were given opportunity of being heard are shortlisted to file cases (49 companies) and needs to be considered for legal action. Letter was written to the Commissioner, Department of Ayush requesting to provide true and authenticated copies of Schedule – TA and present status of the companies (Letter No:TEC/C01/Case hearing/17-18/489 dated 06/12/2019 and letter No TEC/C01/Case hearing/17-18/568 dated 23/12/2019) Response from the Commissioner on the status is submitted as **(Annexure-XIII)**.

Total expenses to file 49 cases amounts to Rs.4,90,000/- (Approximate) in addition to Rs. 500/- per hearing. The matter is submitted for the approval of the Board.

43/32 – Appointment of advocate to represent in the case at Hon’ble NGT, Chennai.

Hon’ble National Green Tribunal has issued a notice to Karnataka Biodiversity board represented by Member Secretary in application No.10 /2014 to appear in person or through an advocate to represent the case on 06/02/2020.

Hence the board approval is sought to appoint an advocate to represent in this case at Hon’ble NGT, Chennai.

43/33 - Extension of the Study duration of the Project “Establishment of Herbarium and Botanical Museum of plants of Western Ghats in Pilikula Nisargadhama and Survey, Identification and preparation of Report on Sacred Grooves in Coastal Karnataka of Western Ghat Region” till March 2020.

Karnataka Biodiversity Board has sanctioned the project titled “Establishment of Herbarium and Botanical Museum of plants of Western Ghats in Pilikula Nisargadhama and Survey, Identification and preparation of Report on Sacred Grooves in Coastal Karnataka of Western Ghat Region” submitted by Pilikula Nisargadhama Society, Mangalore, for grant of Rs.120.00 lakh vide order CÅÄfÅ 54 EPÉÆÅ 2009, dated:27/11/2010. The project was sanctioned for a period of five years and extended for an additional period of two years i.e., till March-2018 as per the request of Principal Investigator. The project period further extended till December, 2018 as there was delay in getting permission by the concerned authority to enter Protected Areas for specimen collection as requested by the Principal Investigator. Subsequently, the Technical Expert Committee on Research Studies of the Board has visited the project site on 11/01/2019 to review the project and suggested to submit draft final report by incorporating few modifications. Accordingly, the Principal Investigator has submitted draft final report on 27/05/2019 along with compliance report.

Further, the Technical Expert Committee on Research Studies visited the project site on 18.10.2019 and reviewed the action taken on proceedings of the previous visit and suggested to submit the final report. Presently, the Principal Investigator has submitted draft copy of final report with modifications suggested by the Technical Expert Committee. The members of the Technical Expert Committee on Research Studies were Non Officio Board Members of the Board and have been relieved from the duties as members in Government Order dated:CÅÄfÅ 54 EJfi« 2019, dated:28/11/2019.

The draft final report of the project will be finalized soon after the reconstitution of Technical Expert Committee for Research Studies. Hence, the project period may be extended till March, 2020. The matter is placed

before the Board for suitable decision regarding extension of the said project till July, 2020.

43/34-Constitution of Expert Committee to update the list of threatened speices notified under Section 38, of BD Act 2002.

The Board has been assigned to provide information on description of present situation, strategies and action plan so as to bridge the gap between the target and present status of Sustainable Development Goals-15 and indicators. The Goal 15, the indicator 15.5.1 necessariates to take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. In pursuance to the Section 38 of BD Act 2002, the Central Government in consultation with State Government has notified only 16 animals and 16 plants species as threatened species in Karnataka.

In Karnataka approximately, more than 5000 species/varities of plants (Flora of Karnataka) and 2710 speices of animals (Fauna of Karnataka) have been recorded. Notifying threatened species of plants and animals under Section 38 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 would helps to prohibit or regulate the collection of species for any purpose and take appropriate steps to preserve those species.

In view of this, the threatened species of plants and animal lists needs to be updated by constituting a committee with experts. The matter is placed before the Board for in principal approval.

43/35 - Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites by the Biodiversity Management Committees:

Biodiversity Management Committees are constituted at Gram Panchayat, Taluk Panchyat and Zilla Panchayat. In Kerala the Biodivesity Management Committees have identified the sites to declare as Bidversity Heritage sites in 10 places. The Biodiversity Management Committees may be permitted to declare BHS in their jurtisdictions for conservation purpose, without effecting livelihood of local people. **(Annexure-XIV)**

This matter is placed before the Board for approval.

43/36: Disbursement of ABS Amount accrued as upfront payment for High Economic value Bio-resources:

Karnataka Biodiversity Board has collected ABS on high economic value bioresources like Sandalwood / Red Sanders as 5% from auction sale of Sandel wood / Red sanders by Forest Department. The amount available

with the Board as on today is Rs.1.96 crores deposited by entities/companies.

Board has communicated (letter No: TEC/C06/Sandalwood/18-19/490 dated 06/12/2019-**Annexure-XV**) to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HOFF) requesting to kindly intimate the source of Sandal wood and Red Sanders, so that this ABS funds available may be disbursed to concerned Biodiversity Management Committees. Once Board receives the information, funds will be transferred to the concerned Biodiversity Management Committees in consultation with Karnataka State Forest Department for utilization. The subject is placed before the Board for information.

43/37-Local bodies under Rural Development and panchayatraj department have the obligations of utilizing 5% of its funds for biodiversity conservation through Biodiversity Management Committees:

Local bodies under Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department have the obligations of utilizing 5% of its funds for biodiversity conservation through Biodiversity Management Committees. The Board has to make sure that this order No:UÁæC¥À 75 UÁæ¥À,À 2015 çÉÁAPÀ 03/02/2018 of Rural Development and Panchayath Raj is strictly implemented by the local bodies. The matter is brought before the Board for discussion and directions. **(Annexure-XVI)**

43/38 - Any other subject with the permission of the Chair.

**Chairman
Karnataka Biodiversity Board**

**Member Secretary
Karnataka Biodiversity Board**