

Karnataka Biodiversity Board
Agenda notes for 46th Board Meeting

46/1-Reading and recording of Proceedings of the 45th Board Meeting:

The proceedings of the 45th Board meeting held on 22/10/2020 were communicated to the members on 27/10/2020.

Corrections on the proceedings received from Principal Secretary (Ecology and Environment) Dept.of FEE were incorporated and final proceedings were sent to all the members on 28/10/2020.

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

46/2- Action taken on 45th Board meeting proceedings:

Action taken on proceedings of 45th Board meeting are placed in **(Annexure-II)**

46/3-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 BMCs and preparation of PBRs achievements and the comparative statement of the budget sanctioned expenditure incurred in each quarter from FY 2020-2021 to till date is as below:

BMC quarterly progress for the year 2020-2021 to till date								
Month	GP		TP		ZP		ULBs	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
April to June	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
July to September	5	-	50	-	-	-	7	-
October to December	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
January to March	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5		50		-		7	

PBRs quarterly progress for the year 2020-2021 to till date								
Month	GP		TP		ZP		ULBs	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
April to June	618	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
July to September	3245	-	180	-	27	-	97	-
October to December	23	-	22	-	03		189	-
January to March	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3886		202		30		286	

Budget Sanctioned for the year 2019-20 and 2020-21

Budget Sanctioned	2019-2020 (Rs. In lakhs)	2020-2021 (Rs. In lakhs)	Amount released for the year 2020-2021 (Rs. In lakhs)
	376 lakhs	424.21 lakhs	253.59 lakhs

Statement of Quarterly Expenditure					
2019-20			2020-2021		
Quarter	Months	Total	Quarter	Months	Total
1st	Apr-Jun	1,10,55,794.00	1st	Apr-June	1,77,58,963.00
2nd	July-Sep	65,33,889.00	2nd	July-Sep	2,10,52,591.00
3rd	Oct-Dec	83,56,096.00	3rd	Oct-Dec	1,26,33,071.00
4th	Jan-Mar	1,94,42,785.00	4th	Jan-Mar	-
	Total	*4,53,88,564.00		Total	5,14,44,625.00

Note: * The excess expenditure incurred was from the previous financial year unspent balance.

Status of Biodiversity Management Committees

Panchayats	Total No. of BMCs	No. of BMCs Constituted
Grama Panchayat	6012	6012
Taluka Panchayat	226	226
Zilla Panchayat	30	30
Urban Local Bodies	286	286
Total	6554	6554

Status of People's Biodiversity Registers

Panchayats	Total No. of BMCs	No. of PBRs prepared
Grama Panchayat	6012	6012
Taluka Panchayat	226	226
Zilla Panchayat	30	30
Urban Local Bodies	286	286
Total	6554	6554

100% BMC & PBR progress has been achieved.

The subject is placed before the Board for information.

46/4 - (A) Trainings/Workshops/ Video Conference/Meetings conducted and Field Vistis by the Board from October 2020 to January 2021

1	22/10/2020	45 th Board Meeting
2	29/10/2020	Video Conference under the Chairmanship of Chairman, NBA to review the progress of BMC, PBR and ABS.
3	19/11/2020	3 rd Meeting of the ABS Expert Committee.
4	21/11/2020	NMPB Workshop under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chairman, KBB
5	24/11/2020	Video Conference under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary and Chairman, KBB to review the progress of BMC and PBR.
6	27/11/2020	Video Conference under the Chairmanship of Chairman, NBA to review the progress of BMC PBR and ABS.
7	08/12/2020	Video Conference under the Chairmanship of Chairman, KBB to review the progress of BMC and PBR.
8	21/12/2020	Interaction meeting with Dept. of RDPR and other officials related to BMC and PBR.

(B) Trainings/Workshops/ Video Conference/Meetings and Field Vistis by the Hon'ble Chairman, KBB from October 2020 to January 2021

1	06/11/2020	Meeting with DCF, Honsanagar and RFO Sagara related to Khan Development and New proposals for conservation.
2	13/11/2020	Visited Asisara village, Kailasa Gudda at Sirsi taluk discussed about Bird diversity.
3	27/11/2020	Meeting with DC, CEO, DCF (Territorial), DCF (SF), Officers of Pollution Control, District Horticulture Officers, Officers of Agriculture Karwar related to CRZ and visited Vanikarana yojana place and Thadi Salt preparation Unit.
4	03/12/2020	Visited Marnakuli Areha Village, Sagara taluk discussed with ACF, RFO, Tahasildar / Revenue Inspector about conservation of varieties of Cattle breed.

5	07/12/2020	Meeting with CEO, DCF (Territorial), DCF (Social Forestry, District Pollution Controller at Mandya discussed on conservation of Biodiversity.
6	10/12/2020	Discussed with Forest Officers Megaravalli division about conservation of biodiversity and visited Kundadri Hill, Kattekoppa village and Mastikatte.
7	19/12/2020	Meeting with DC, Hubbli, Forest Officers and Urban BMC discussed on Smart city.
8	24/12/2020	Visited Rorich Tataguni Estate discussed with DFO (Territorial) related to declaration of BHS.
9	05/01/2021	Visited Davanagere DC Office discussed with DC, DCF (Territorial) and (Social Forestry, District Agriculture and Horticulture Officers related to conservation of Biodiversity.

46/5: Proceedings of the ABS Expert Committee meetings held on 19th November 2020 and 13th January 2021:

The Proceedings of the 3rd and 4th ABS Expert Committee meetings held on 19th November 2020 and 13th January 2021 and the recommendations of the Committee are put up to the Board for approval. **(Annexure-III)**

46/6: Approval of the Board for the expenditure of ABS funds to establish Model BMCs in the State:

1. A total amount of Rs. 4.27 crores under the ABS funds and Rs. 10.00 Lakh from Form-I fee has been collected in the Board. The ABS funds have to be disbursed to the concerned BMCs or in areas of conservation importance in the State. An administrative charge of not more than 5% can be retained by the Board from the total ABS funds accrued.

The proposal and the BMCs to which the ABS funds may be disbursed (as per the resolution of the 44th Board meeting, model BMCs may be constituted in each of the 4 revenue divisions of the State) was discussed during the 4th meeting of the ABS Expert Committee held on 13th January 2021.

The ABS Expert Committee upon due deliberation has recommended the utilization of the ABS funds for the activities detailed under the

notification of the Government (Government order dtd 19/11/2020) to the Taluk BMCs of Shivamogga District from the Bangalore Revenue Division, Uttara Kannada District from the Belgaum Revenue Division, after detailed discussion on the action plans submitted by the BMCs. **(Annexure-IV** proceedings of the ABS Committee)

It is also put up to the Board that, Bantwal (Dakshina Kannada Dist), Periyapatna (Mysore Dist) and Chincholi Taluk (Kalaburgi Dist) were identified as biodiversity rich talukas of the State and approved in the 35th Board meeting held on 22/08/2017 for the disbursement of the ABS funds. Detailed action plans as per the Government notification will be obtained from these Taluk BMCs for the conservation activities with the ABS funds.

The proceedings of the meeting and their recommendations are put up to the Board for approval to establish model BMCs in the State.

2. Similarly, after many field visits across the state and consultation with stakeholders, it is deeply felt that there is a need for taking up immediate conservation efforts in many biodiversity rich ecosystems, for example, mangrove and estuaries in coastal districts, *Myristica* swamps & Sacred Groves Western Ghats districts and Kava, grasslands, ponds with bird nesting areas, *Gundu-topus* etc in Central-plain districts. Several threatened species also need conservation interventions, which may otherwise disappear. For example, endemic *Cycas* species in Mandya district, Citrus species in Western Ghats area and so on.

The approval of the Board is also sought for the identification of Ten Grama Panchayat BMCs, one District level BMC and one Corporation BMC, considering parameters like ensuring state wide representation, strength of the BMC, the ecological significance of the given area etc, for developing Model BMCs and to undertake conservation activities in line with the State Government notification dtd 19/11/2020.

Each selected GP BMC may be given Rs. 5.00 Lakh and the District and Corporation BMCs may be given Rs. 10.00 Lakh based on the action plans submitted by the BMCs, which may be reviewed by the ABS Expert Committee for recommendations and suggestions.

ABS amount of Rs. 1.52 crore is available with the Board, accrued from the auctions of the Red Sanders and Sandalwood from the

Mysore, Bangalore, Dharwad Divisions of the Karnataka Forest Department.

A letter dtd 21/09/2018 from the office of the APCCF (FRM) also states that “since the Red Sanders was confiscated material which was seized in various Police cases & forest Offence cases across the State and difficult to conclusively trace the origin of the Red Sanders. In view of the Section 80 of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963, it is legally presumed that all belong to Karnataka”.

Further, the National Biodiversity Authority vide their letter no. NBA/TechGen/22/161/KA/20/3520 dated 28/12/2020 has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 58,49,526/- (the Board is to retain Rs.1,22,334/- as administrative charges from the sanctioned amount) as benefit sharing component to be released to concerned BMCs or benefit claimers in Karnataka.

Therefore, the matter is put up to the approval of the Board to utilize the ABS amount received from successful bidders of Sandalwood & Red Sanders for the conservation activities and overall biodiversity conservation with special emphasis on medicinal plants, Sandalwood and Red Sanders in the concerned districts where these bio-resources occur in the State. Such model schemes will help in generating success stories in achieving the objectives of ABS fund.

The details of the funds accrued from Sandalwood and Red Sanders:

Divisions	HEV Bio-resource	ABS Amount	Total ABS
Shimoga	Sandalwood	12904822	1,42,50,989
	Red Sanders	1346167	
Mysore	Sandalwood	6824687	80,64,150
	Red Sanders	1239463	
Bangalore	Sandalwood	0	58,51,922
	Red Sanders	5851922	
Dharwad	Sandalwood	417320	12,92,520
	Red Sanders	875200	
Total ABS	As on Dec 2020	2,94,59,581	2,94,59,581

46/7: Increase in sitting fees of subject experts of the Expert Committees of the Board:

The Chairperson of the Expert Committee on ABS during its meeting held on 13th January 2021, has expressed that the sitting fees paid to the subject experts of the Expert Committee is very low given the expertise and the valuable time that the members invest in providing the recommendations to the Board and has submitted that the same maybe suitably enhanced.

As per the Govt Order No: FEE 180 ENV 2017 dated 11/12/2017 the sitting fees of Rs. 3000/- for Members of the Expert Committees of the Board was approved. **(Annexure – IV-A)**

The matter is placed before the Board for information.

46/8: Constitution of Expert Committee to update the list of threatened species notified under Section 38, of BD Act 2002.

In continuation of 45th Board meeting and as per the discussion held in the 43rd Board Meeting, Expert Committee has been constituted vide No:TEC/C05/THR/01 dated 10/06/2020 for updating of plant and animal species notified under Section 38 of Biological Diversity Act 2002. Chairman of EC on animal species has submitted final report on 12/01/2021.

Similarly, Chairman of EC on plant species has submitted the final report on 11/01/2021. **(Annexure-V)**

The subject is placed before the Board for approval.

46/9: Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers and strengthening the Biodiversity Management Committees. (BMCs)

Karnataka Biodiversity Board has achieved 100% progress in constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees and preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers as per the Section 41 of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rule 21 of Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules 2005.

Presence of Biodiversity Management Committees at local body level makes it easier for the implementation of Biological Diversity Act 2002 in its true sense & spirit. But, Biodiversity Management Committees lack awareness with reference to its roles and responsibilities. BMC draws its power from the BD Act, 2002, wherein, as per the Section

41(3), the BMCs may levy charges by way of collecting fees for collecting bio-resources for commercial purposes which is in addition to the benefit sharing payable to the National Biodiversity Authority / State Biodiversity Board. BMCs can even advice SBB in policy formulation with respect to the local biodiversity (as per the Rule 21(8) of KBD Rules, 2005). Along with that, BMCs should be consulted on certain issues by SBB or the State government.

Though BMCs has wide range of powers & responsibilities, it is remaining dormant due to lack of awareness. Hence, it is the duty of the Board, specifically Technical Executives of PBR Section, to provide training to BMCs & create awareness in order to strengthen them.

Proposed BMCs Awareness Programmes

1. Awareness Programme to all Taluka Panchayat BMCs (226).
2. Biodiversity Awareness Programme (Campaign for “Best out of waste”) for School and College Students at selected 2 Grama Panchayat at each of the Taluka Panchayat levels.
3. 13 Circle Level workshops for Natividyas and Traditional Knowledge Holders.
4. Awareness Programmes from Resource persons over Doordarshan /Radio Programmes.
5. Publicity of Biodiversity Conservation through Jingles at Railway Stations / Busstands.
6. SATCOM Training Programmes in Collaboration with ANSSIRD to 286 Urban Local Bodies in 2 stages.
7. Handbooks on Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable use, duties and responsibilities of the BMCs.
8. Posters on the activities of the BMC at all Districts (30) Taluks (226) and ULBs (286)
9. Awareness Programme to all Zilla Panchayats (30) and BBMP level.

The Estimated Budget required for the above detailed programmes is Rs. 20.00 lakhs.

The subject is placed before the Board for approval.

46/10: Conservation of primeval swamps in Kathalekan comprising the relics of Myristica trees and other associated species, by declaring the areas as Biodiversity Heritage Sites:

A field visit was made to Myristica Swamps in Kathalekan, Sirsi, Uttara Kannada district on 08.01.2021 followed by which, an on site

meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Sri Anantha Hegde Ashisara, Chairperson, Karnataka Biodiversity Board. The Forest officials, Board Members and Experts in the field of Ecology also attended the meeting. About 188 swamps are reported to be present scattered in this region which are of quite a significance. The Myristica Swamp present in the vicinity (on either sides) of the Bengaluru-Honnavar highway is facing huge anthropogenic stress and threats in the form of shifting cultivation and encroachments. The seed succession and regeneration of the Myristica sps. is very low as opined by the experts and care needs to be taken protect these remnant species and associated fauna (Ex: *Idea malabarica* – Endemic butterfly sps) help in pollination of Myristica flowers and the Lion Tailed Macaque (*Macaca silenus*) and Great Pied hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) which play a major role in seed dispersal. The primate is also an endangered fauna and a flagship species with a dwindling population of about 3500-4000 species in wild. Studies have revealed that the Myristica swamps also harbour about 40 species of amphibians which are endemic to the region.

In the meeting held on 08/01/2021, it was opined that as a preliminary step towards conservation of these unique swamps, a particular patch of Myristica Swamp present along the Bengaluru-Honnavar highway must be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) under section 37(1) of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 since the area meets the criteria under definition of BHS for the presence of “*species of evolutionary significance and ancestors of domestic species, areas represented by fossil beds having a significant cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human association with them*”. The brief details of the Myristica swamps are placed as **(Annexure-VI)**

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and suitable decision on declaring the area as BHS.

46/11: Conservation of urban green area - Roerich and Devika Rani Roerich Estate (Tataguni Estate) by declaring the area as Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS):

The matter on declaration of Roerich and Devika Rani Roerich Estate as Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) was discussed in the 28th Board meeting. The Board had resolved to consider the area for declaration under Section-37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 since the estate is having great Biodiversity as well as heritage value.

Subsequently, the jurisdictional BMC of Agara Grama Panchayath, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and the BMC of Zilla Panchayath, Bengaluru Urban District also recommended for considering the area for BHS tag, but the matter was dropped since there was another proposal for development of the area as film city. Subsequently, the film city project also could not be achieved due to objections from public in the interest of preservation of estate and also considering that the area has already been declared as deemed forests, its mandatory to take Forest clearance from the central Government and the Hon'ble Supreme Court under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for any non forestry activities.

The Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board visited the site on 24/12/2020 and discussed the matter with the Chief Executive Officer, Roerich and Devika Rani Roerich Estate Board, who informed that biodiversity rich estate is facing various threats such as dumping of garbage and municipal solid wastes. The area is also under high risk of encroachments. During the visit, the Chief Executive Officer, Roerich Estate Board also expressed interest in conserving the areas as BHS. The extent and brief details of the site enclosed as **(Annexure-VII)**

The matter is placed before the Board for suitable decision on declaring the area as BHS.

46/12: Conservation of Kondajji Lake at Davangere District

Kondajji Lake located in Kondanji village of Harihar taluk, Davangere District of Karnataka. On the request of the Deputy Commissioner and Local Officers of the district, Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, visited Kondajji Lake on 5th January 2021. The surroundings of the lake are rich in biodiversity and diversity of Odonates is also considerable. Conservation of biodiversity at the site is important and since local officers have requested for declaration as BHS, the same may be considered by the Board for recommendation to the State Government as a Biodiversity Heritage Site.

The subject is placed before the Board for information.

46/13: The Draft Audited Accounts Report for the year 2019-20:

The Draft Separate Audit report on the accounts of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bengaluru for the year 2019-20 was submitted by Accountant General (Audit-II), Karnataka vide No: AG (Audit-II)/AMG/Co-ord/B/2020-21/44 dated: 06/11/2020. **(Annexure-VIII)**

The remarks to the Draft Separate Audit report sent to Accountant General Office on 13/11/2020.

And the Budget and Expenditure details of Karnataka Biodiversity Board for the financial year 2019-20 is also placed before the Board for information. **(Annexure -IX)**

46/14: Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity.

Karnataka Biodiversity Board is celebrating May 22nd of every year as International Day for Biological Diversity. On the occasion of IBD, Chairman, KBB is planning to conduct awareness programmes, Campaigns on Biodiversity and sapling plantation with the involvement of Biodiversity Management Committees and the local communities in all the districts of Karnataka. The total amount required for the programme is Rs. 30.00 lakhs. Programme details mentioned as in **(Annexure-X)**

The subject is placed before the Board for approval.

46/15 -Any other subject with the permission of the Chair.

Sd/-

Sd/-

**Chairman
Karnataka Biodiversity Board**

**Member Secretary
Karnataka Biodiversity Board**