

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF KARNATAKA BIODIVERSITY BOARD HELD ON 12-12-2003.

List of participants is enclosed as Annexure-1.

The Hon'ble Minister for Information, Ecology & Environment and Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board welcomed the members.

1.0 The Karnataka Biodiversity Information System developed for Western Ghats was presented to the committee by Dr.Swaminath, Director General, EMPRI and Dr.Balakrishne Gowda, Associate Professor, UAS, Bangalore, who worked on the project. Dr.Dwarakinath suggested that information on Agro-biodiversity and allied activities should also be covered. The Secretary, DEE informed the committee that the same system would be adopted for Eastern Plains and agro-biodiversity and allied activities would be studied.

2.0 The Secretary, DEE informed the committee about the notification regarding the Kuvempu Memorial Bio-park on the occasion of the birth centenary celebrations of Kuvempu, providing an amount of Rs.100.00 lakhs for conservation, maintenance & consolidation of this Bio-park and proposals have been called from the concerned officers of Shimoga and Chikmagalore districts.

The members of the Board desired to know the legal status of the Biopark. The Principal Secretary, FEE informed the committee that the constitution of Kuvempu Memorial Biopark (Biosphere Reserve) would not in any way change the status of legal ownership of land nor affect the rights of the local people and initiating conservation measures apart from creating awareness to various stakeholders on biodiversity related issues. The Member Secretary, KBB was asked to place detailed activities proposed under the project before the next Board meeting.

3.0 The Member Secretary explained the various activities proposed for biodiversity conservation in the Eastern Plains at a cost of Rs.132.00 lakhs for financial assistance under JBIC. After discussing the various activities proposed, the committee resolved to approve the same and to recommend for assistance under JBIC.

4.0 The Secretary (E&E) briefed the committee on the importance of the Western Ghats as one of the world's 18 Biodiversity hotspots. The committee was informed that project proposal on Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Coastal Karnataka at a cost of Rs.2420.00 lakhs was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) for approval.

5.0 The Member Secretary of the Board informed the committee about loss of endemic fish species in the state and the need to protect by declaring them as fish sanctuaries. The Board resolved to recommend to the Government to take appropriate steps to declare following areas as fish sanctuaries apart from taking protective measures.

No.	Sanctuary	River	Taluk	District
1.	Muthatti to Shivanasamudra	Cauvery	Malavalli & Kollegala	Mandya & Chamaraja Nagar
2.	Nisargadhama	Cauvery	Kushalnagar	Madikeri
3.	Sringeri	Tunga	Sringeri	Chikmagalur
4.	Jammatagi	Tunga	Koppa	Chikmagalur
5.	Chippalgudda	Tunga	Theerthahalli	Shimoga
6.	Bachanayakana gundi	Kumaradhara	Sullya	D. Kannada
7.	Todikana	Chandragiri	Sullya	D.Kannada
8.	Thinagle	Seethanadi	Karkala	Udupi
9.	Bhagavathi Chaya Kolla	Krishna	Surpura	Gulbarga
10.	Dharmastala Bathing Ghat	Netravathi	Belthangadi	D. Kannada
11.	Nalkur	Kumaradhara	Sullya	D. Kannada
12.	Uppukala, Balugodu	Kallaje	Sullya	D.Kannada
13.	Ramaguli	Gangavali	Ankola	U.Kannada

6.0 Ratification of actions taken by Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

- a) Ratified
- b) Ratified
- c) Approved

7.0 The committee after examining the various administrative and financial powers proposed, approved the delegation of powers to Member Secretary of KBB as detailed in annexure -2 appended to this proceedings.

8.0 The matter on registration of Karnataka Biodiversity Board under Indian Companies Act or Karnataka Societies Act was discussed at length and decided to refer the matter to law department for opinion.

9.0 The Member Secretary of the Board informed that Government had accorded permission to open an account in any nationalized Bank and accordingly a savings bank account has been opened in Vijaya Bank, Mayo Hall Branch, Bangalore-1.

10.0 Prof. Madhav Gadgil, IISc briefed the committee about preparation of the Karnataka Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (KBSAP) and suggested that the Board take suitable follow up actions on various strategies proposed. The Principal Secretary, FEE opined that KBSAP should become a basis for working out strategies for the conservation of biodiversity.

The Chairman felt that various subcommittees on different disciplines like Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Patents etc., need to be constituted. It was suggested that the commissioner for agriculture could head the subcommittee on agriculture and horticulture and the opinion of Principal Secretary animal husbandry and fisheries be obtained in the subcommittee pertaining to animal husbandry. The Secretary, DEE agreed to examine the same and issue appropriate orders.

11.0 Prof. Madhav Gadgil, brought to the notice of the committee about the provisions under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for the development of a well-designed Biodiversity Information System to serve as a knowledge base. He also suggested compiling all the information available with different institutions/departments on Biodiversity and creating a network. The Member Secretary, KBB to obtain from Prof. Madhav Gadgil, the required information pertaining to institution/organisation, who have developed information systems on biodiversity and examine how this information system could be networked and brought into a common platform.

12.0 Prof. Madhav Gadgil, informed committee about efforts made in developing a model on methodology for documenting local Biodiversity by High school students in the form of School Biodiversity Registers.

13.0 Prof. Madhav Gadgil also suggested for establishment of BMCs at all PRIs and local bodies as per provisions under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. He briefed the committee about engaging CES, IISc, Bangalore by MoEF to develop the modalities for preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR).

He has volunteered to prepare a position paper on People's Biodiversity Registers and School Biodiversity Registers for circulating among the members of the Board.

14.0 Dr. Mahalingappa stressed the need for systematic inventory of medicinal Plant wealth in natural forests of Karnataka and the necessity for assessing the sustainable use. The Chairman opined that systematic inventory of medicinal plants is very important and the information on medicinal plants already available in different institutions should be compiled and documented.

15.0 Dr. Sharathchandra stated that the process of obtaining a patent is a long and costly affair and there is a need to create awareness on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and procedures. Further, he suggested collecting information from the patent cell of IISc, National Law School, eminent patent lawyers and others. The Chairman agreed to invite IPR experts like, Dr. Ramakrishna, Mrs. Sangeetha Udgoankar, Dr. Kiran Mujumdar, Dr. Prakash and others for the next meeting to deliberate on the issue.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks.

Sd/-
Chairman
Karnataka Biodiversity Board
and
Hon'ble Minister for Information,
Ecology and Environment

Annexure – 1

List of Members present for the first meeting of Karnataka Biodiversity Board held on 12-12-2003

1. Hon'ble Minister for Information,
Ecology and Environment,
Govt. of Karnataka,
Bangalore.
2. Principal Secretary to Government
Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept.
3. Secretary to Government
Ecology & Environment
Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept.
4. Representative of Principal Secretary
Agriculture and Horticulture Dept.
5. Representative of Director
Indian System of Medicine & Homeopathy Dept.
6. Prof. Madava Ghadgil,
Centre for Ecological Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore – 12.
7. Dr. Dwarkinath, (Ex-Vice Chancellor)
UAS, Bangalore.

8. Prof. H.Sharath Chandra
Micro Biology &Cell Biology Laboratory
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore.

9. Dr.M.S.Mahalingappa
Hullekere, Turuvekere Taluk,
Tumkur District.

10. Member Secretary
Karnataka Biodiversity Board

Leave of Absence:

1. Sri. Darshan Shankar
Director
FRLHT, Bangalore.

Invitees Present:

1. Dr.M.H.Swaminath
Director General, EMPRI
2. Dr.Balakrishna Gowda
Associate Professor
UAS, Bangalore.