

KARNATAKA BIODIVERSITY BOARD PROCEEDINGS OF EIGHTH BOARD MEETING HELD ON 3-6-2008

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Member Secretary, KBB, welcomed the members of the board and requested the Chairman to conduct the 8th Board meeting. Accordingly the meeting started.

1. Reading and recording the proceedings of the 7th Board Meeting held on 04/02/2008

The proceedings of 7th Board meeting held on 4/2/2008 was read and recorded.

2. Action taken on meeting proceedings held on 4/2/2008

1. Reducing quorum for Karnataka Biodiversity Board Meeting:

The subject is pending with the Government. The Secretary (Ecology & Environment) stated that he will look into the matter & issue the necessary order shortly.

2. Position of pending Projects:

a) The Board was informed that the project proposals submitted to the National Biodiversity Authority have not been considered due to non availability of funds. The Board noted the same.

b) 1) In respect of Tathaguni Estate the board was informed that the case is in the Supreme Court and there is a stay order. Further, the Tathaguni Estate Executive Officer has informed that they have prepared a plan for the development of Tathaguni Estate. Therefore, the Karnataka Biodiversity Board need not take up development works separately. The Chairman desired that the documentation of biodiversity can be taken up and the Supreme court will not come in the way. The board was informed that the floral biodiversity of Tathaguni Estate has already been documented by Karnataka Biodiversity Board and the same has been published. However, the Chairman desired that the Secretary, (Ecology & Environment) should conduct a meeting of all concerned and decide the issue.

2) The board was informed that the National Biodiversity Authority agreed to provide Rs.2.00 lakhs for conducting training programme as against the request of Rs.3.00 lakhs. The funds are still awaited from National Biodiversity Authority.

3) The board was informed that the project on development of bamboo has been rejected by the Government of India. Board noted the same. The board suggested that in future while sending the projects to various agencies for approval (Government of India, National Biodiversity Authority etc.,) a financial sharing of the project cost should also be suggested.

3. Action against Sri. Gangadhar V. Maddikery:

1) In this regard, the Board was informed that the Charge Sheet has been prepared and submitted to the Government for further action. The board noted the same.

2) Repatriation of Dr Sathyanarayana Bhat, Executive Officer (ISM&H)

The board was informed that Dr Sathyanarayana Bhat, Executive Officer (ISM&H) has completed 5 years in Karnataka Biodiversity Board on deputation. However, after transfer from Karnataka Biodiversity Board he has managed to return back to KBB again.

The Board was informed that Dr Sathyanarayana Bhat, Executive Officer (ISM&H) has not been doing the Government work assigned to him from time to time such as preparation of directory of Medicinal Plants based on their usage as suggested by Expert Committee of the board. The monitoring and regulating the harvest of bio-resources by the pharmaceutical companies. The pharmaceutical companies are not giving the details of the sources of harvest of bio-resources. They are simply stating that they are receiving from the suppliers and dealers. They are not disclosing the names of suppliers and dealers. This information is required as per the Biological Diversity Act. The harvest of bio-resources is going on in an uncontrolled way. Dr. Sathyanarana Bhat, Executive officer (ISM) has been instructed to take action to bring the situation under control and protect the valuable bio-resources and regulate their harvest so as to avoid the loss of revenue to the state and depletion of the resources.

This has been neglected by the Executive Officer (ISM). The board was informed that the Executive Officer has been attending the Workshops, Seminars and conducting Ayurved Melas only instead of attending to his assigned and legitimate duties.

In case, Dr. Sathyanaraya Bhat was not given permission then he attends Workshops, Seminars by applying leave. It is not known as to who bears the expenses. He has been going out of the states also without prior permission and accepting the courtesy of others by way of free air travel etc. which is against the conduct rules.

It was also informed that the Executive Officer has been recklessly traveling by Air and claiming exorbitant taxi charges even between the places connected by the public transport against the provisions of KCSR. There are lot of observations raised by AG Audit in this respect. Dr. Sathyanarayana Bhat, Executive Officer (SIM&H) has informed the Member Secretary that some one else has come in the way of his posting to Bellary. Therefore he has to return back to the same place in KBB. This has been clarified from the Director, ISM who informed that Dr. Sathyanarayana Bhat, Executive Officer (ISM&H) doesn't want to go to Bellary and so in violation of the Government order manage to continue in Bangalore.

In view of the above the board resolved to repatriate Dr. Sathyanarayana Bhat, Executive Officer (ISM&H) back to his department. The Member Secretary is asked to take further action and to relieve Dr. Sathyanarayana Bhat, Executive Officer from KBB and then ask for a replacement.

4. Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Site:

1. The board desired that the proposal to declare the Biodiversity Heritage Site should be expedited.
2. The release of Rs. 1.50 lakhs to University of Agriculture Science, Bangalore for conducting the Research on Nallur Tamarind Groves was noted.
3. The release of Rs. 42,000/- to the Conservator of Forest, Bangalore for providing protection to Nallur Tamarind Groves – Biodiversity Heritage Site was noted by the board. Further the subject of fencing was discussed and it was observed that Rs. 28.72 lakhs for chain link fencing is very high. Therefore board resolved to provide funds for barbed wire fencing with Rs. 4.00 lakhs in lieu of chain link fencing. Board desired that the in addition to barbed wire fencing the watcher should also be provided for effective protection.

3. Developmental works of Kuvempu Bio-park:

The board was informed that the Conservator of Forests, Shimoga and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shimoga have been asked to expedite the works and submit the completion report along with Utilization Certificate and the details of accounts for audit.

The board observed that the field officers are not submitting the progress report from time to time. In this respect the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest asked for a note from Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board for instructing the concerned officers to comply.

4. Levy of Cess on Pharmaceutical Products:

1) In respect of Levy of Cess on Pharmaceutical products the Secretary (Ecology and Environment) stated that he will look into the matter.

2) The board was informed that the Pharmaceutical companies are not furnishing the details such as sources, location, name of the dealers, suppliers etc., for the bio-resources they have receiving. They are just paying Rs.1,000/- and giving other details and want to get away with this. The uncontrolled harvest of Bio-resources needs to be controlled. The option left is to file the cases in the court of law as per Biological Diversity Act. As discussed, proposal has been sent to the Government to declare the Executive officers as authorized officers for conducting the cases in the court of law for areas outside the forests. The Secretary (Ecology and Environment) stated that the orders will be issued shortly.

As regards the forest areas the board decided that Principal Chief Conservator of Forest should be addressed in the matter. PCCF has agreed to issue necessary orders after receipt of the proposal from KBB.

5. Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs):

The board was informed about the progress of People's Biodiversity Register works and the details of review meeting conducted by Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India at Ooty on 28th & 29th of April 2008 to review the working of Biological Diversity Act, National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards. The board was informed that the People's Biodiversity Registers are not required to be prepared for each Biodiversity Management Committee area as per the discussion in the review meeting. The Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India suggested to select representative Grampanchayats and prepare the Biodiversity Registers for such BMCs only. The PBRs should be integrated and district PBRs should be prepared accordingly. In view of the above around 200 PBRs may be required in Karnataka state. The board noted the same.

Further, Biodiversity Management Committees have to be formed by Zilla Panchayat at district level for negotiations and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection in respect of Bio-resource of the districts. Action has been taken accordingly. Further the board allowed Rs. 2,000/- per district as miscellaneous expenses for conducting the district level Zilla Panchayat meeting and formation of BMCs at district level.

Further, in view of the difficulties faced by Deputy Conservators of Forests in documenting the Biodiversity due to multidisciplinary nature of work the board approved the proposal to involve NGOs in consultation with the Deputy Conservators of Forests.

In respect of the districts which have not been selected for preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers so far the board has approved the proposal to involve the following NGOs.

SI No	Name of the District	Name of the Agency
1	Bagalkote	Bijapur Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS) Hungund "Atmasakshi" HRD Training Centre, Near Nagalinganagar, Hungund -587118
2	Belgaum	Bharat Janaseva Society, At. Sp, Manihal, District Belagum
3	Bijapur	Institute for Rural Development (IRD) Shahpet Galli Main Road, Bijapur – 586101.
4	Chikkaballapur	Pragathi Rural Development Society and Gerehalli, Chickballapur
5	Gulbarga	Sanjeevini Education Society, Brahmapur Gulbarga
6	Kolar	Social & Rural Development, Association Saraswathipuram, Manchenahalli – 561211, Gowribidanur.
7	Koppal	Sri. Swamy Ramananda Thirtha Grameenabhiruddi

		Sangha, Gangavati.
8	Ramanagar	Karnataka Unani Medical Association, Bangalore
9	Raichur	Samaparna Abhivruddi Samsthe, P.B.11, Gangavathi Road, Sindhanur – 584128.
10	Belgaum	Chetana Rural Development Trust ® Sri. Balaji Building H.N. 1, 1st Floor, APMC Road, 1st Cross, Neharu Nagar Manoli, Saudatti taluk, Belgaum District
11	Haveri	Navodaya Educational And Environment Development Service (NEEDS) M.A.building, Behind Sangam Talkies, Ranebennur – 581115.

6. 2007-2008 Action Plan.

As no action is required the subject stands deleted.

7. Audited Accounts and Annual Reports for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

1) The board was informed that the Audited Accounts and Annual Report for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 along with audit certificate from Accountant General, Karnataka has been printed and same is being submitted to legislature. The board noted the same.

2) The board has considered the Annual report for the year 2006-07 and the replies to audit observations and authorized the Member Secretary to send the same to Accountant General for further action.

3) The suggestion of Accountant General to obtain Income Tax exemption certificate was noted and Member Secretary was ask to do the needful in consultation with the Chartered Accountant.

8: Appointment of Consultants for arranging Training:

As no action is required the subject stands deleted.

9: Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Site:

a) Board was informed that the proposal has been received from the Conservator of Forests, Sirsi to declare certain areas as Biodiversity Heritage Site. The same have been sent to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for opinion. After PCCF's opinion the proposal will be submitted to Government. The PCCF informed that he will look into it and do the needful at the earliest.

b) Declaration of Netrani Island as a Biodiversity Heritage Site:

The Board resolved to recommend to government to declare the Netrani Island as Biodiversity Heritage Site under the Biological Diversity Act. The Secretary (Ecology and Environment) suggested to submit the proposal along with the Revenue Records.

10: Providing TA to the driver:

As no action is required the subject stands deleted.

11: Providing Housing facilities to the Member Secretary KBB:

The Member Secretary informed that the problem of his residential accommodation is still unsettled since one year. In this respect the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in the meeting has agreed to provide accommodation to the Member Secretary. Therefore, the subject was not discussed further.

12: Documentation of Biodiversity in Forest areas:

The board was informed that the documentation of Biodiversity other than trees, animals with in the forest areas and inventorisation of herbs, shrubs, NWFPs has been sent to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest. The PCCF agreed that this has to be done. This will be incorporated during working plan preparation / review.

13: Providing financial assistance to Mangalore University for conducting workshop on Biodiversity.

The Assistance provided to Mangalore University has been noted by the Board.

14: Providing suitable staff to Karnataka Biodiversity Board:

1) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has agreed to provide one Assistant Conservator of Forests in place of Administrative Officer and one First Division Assistant in place of Data Entry Operator on deputation basis to Karnataka Biodiversity Board. The board suggested to provide FDA who knows the account work also.

The Secretary (Environment & Ecology) informed that earlier Government order in respect of providing supporting staff needed amendments to make provision to provide staff on deputation basis. The Secretary informed that the order is being issued.

The board was informed that due to incapability of the Accounts Supervisor from Man Power agency every year the account has been long delayed, which as attracted adverse comments from AG. In view of this the board suggested to get one Account Superintendent from State Accounts Department then Account Supervisor from Manpower agency will not be required. The Secretary (Ecology & Environment) informed that the State Accounts Department has been addressed in the matter.

2) Engaging the services of Chartered Accountant to finalize the account:

The board approved the suggestion to hire the services of a Chartered Accountant to avoid the delays in preparation of Accounts and submission of the same to Accountant General and to furnish proper reply to audit observations which is hampered presently because of the inefficiency and incapability of Accounts Supervisor.

The board was informed that accounts for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was prepared and submitted to Accountant General in 2007. The account for 2006-07 has been submitted to Accountant General in 2008. In order to avoid delays in future the board has approved the lowest quotation of Rs. 24,000/- given by Sri. Umpathi Desai and Company, Chartered Accountant, Bangalore to assist in all account matters.

Further the board desired that the internal audit should also be included in the terms of reference. Accordingly the following works should be entrusted to the Chartered accountant.

1. Finalization of Annual Account
2. Receipt and Payment Accounts
3. Income and Expenditure statement
4. Balance Sheet (Including schedules)
5. Filing of returns, Income Tax and TDS.
6. Reply to audit observations.
7. Internal audit from time to time.

15: Budget provision for 2008-09:

The budget provision for 2008-09 has been noted.

16: Any other subjects with the permission of the chair

1) Publication of News letter from Karnataka Biodiversity Board:

The board was informed that the action is being taken in this respect.

2) Publishing the proceedings of National Seminar.

The board suggested not to spend money in publication of proceedings of the National Seminar after lapse of 2 years. The papers received should be put on the website.

New subject

1. Outsourcing of Biodiversity Documentation works:

The board after deliberation approved the proposal for outsourcing following Biodiversity documentation works.

1. Availability, distribution of Medicinal Plants, aromatic plants and their Utilization pattern by Pharmaceutical companies, cosmetic industries.
2. Preparation of district-wise directory on Traditional local knowledge relating to bio-resources including Medical practices.
3. Documentation of district-wise Horticulture biodiversity of Karnataka.
4. Documentation of district-wise Fresh water fish biodiversity of Karnataka.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests suggested that in view of the Karnataka Transparency Act we should go for tender. The Secretary (Ecology and Environment) suggested to call for expression of interest to shortlist the agencies for regular bid.

2. Allowing pre paid Auto rickshaw charges on tour:

The board after discussion suggestion to adopt the Auto and Taxi rates as approved by the Transport Commissioner from time to time. The taxi journey shall be strictly in accordance with the KCSR. The taxi journey is not allowed for the places connected by public transport.

3. Action Plan for 2008-09:

The action plan for 2008-09 was noted by the Board.

4. Release of People's Biodiversity Registers and other Reports of Karnataka Biodiversity Board:

1) Board was informed that a programme was conducted on 25/4/2008. The People's Biodiversity Registers in respect of 4 districts comprising 8 Gramapanchayats were released. In addition, KUIDFC Biodiversity documentation report, Netrani Island Biodiversity Survey Report and Karnataka Coastal Biodiversity Information System (KCBIS) was also released.

A brief presentation was given on KCBIS and Coastal Biodiversity. The delegates from 15 districts comprising NGOs, BMC members, head of local bodies, University Professors and students, Government Servants, Media and TV representatives also participated. Prof. Madhava Gadgil was the special guest who came all the way from Pune and delivered key note address on Biodiversity and PBR. Prof. Madhava Gadgil did not accept the Air fare so in consultation with the Secretary (Environment and Ecology) he was paid Rs.3,000/- as a special honorarium. The Board appreciated the programme and approved the payment of Rs. 3,000/-. The board suggested that more such programmes should be organized depending upon the availability of budget to give publicity for Biodiversity protection.

5. Documentation of Coastal Biodiversity:

The Board discussed in detail the non furnishing of the Utilization Certificate and statement of Accounts by CMFRI, ISRO and EMPRI. Board was informed that KUIDFC accounts have to be audited by ADB for that KUIDFC is insisting for submission of the above. As a result the KUIDFC has not released the balance amount. All the reports have been received and published, KCBIS has been installed. The board after discussion decided that the implementing agencies must submit the details of expenditure as asked by the KUIDFC. The Secretary (Ecology & Environment) suggested that he will discuss the matters with the concerned agencies to resolve the issue.

The EMPRI has expressed inability to complete People's Biodiversity Registers for want of funds. Karnataka Biodiversity Board has released the remaining fund Rs.2,33,500/-out of Karnataka Biodiversity Board regular budget. In order to complete the incomplete work of People's Biodiversity Register. The Board approved the same.

Board further noted that EMPRI has charged Institutional charges before completion of the works which is improper. The Institutional Charges are some percentage of actual works done. Therefore, the institutional charges can be claimed only after completion of the works. The EMPRI has adjusted Rs.10.30 lakhs as against eligible amount of Rs. 5.212 lakhs. The same has been objected by Accountant General. The board desired that the additional Institutional charges adjusted by EMPRI needs to be recovered from them.

6. Conducting of Workshop

The board has agreed to the proposal to conduct the following workshops/Seminars during the year depending upon the availability of funds.

1. Availability , harvesting and utilization trend in NWFP,
2. Local Traditional Knowledge and medical practices.
3. Heritage sites and their management.

7. Providing Vehicle facilities for attending the office and going back to home.

The board discussed the matter and was of the opinion that minimum facility should be provided to the officers. Board was informed that as per the communication received from the office of the Secretary (Ecology & Environment) the pool vehicle cannot be provided to some category of officers to come to office and go back to homes. The board after detailed discussion allowed the facility of pool vehicle to the Executive Officers to come to office and go to their homes. The Member Secretary informed the board that previously the officers were using the vehicles but were not doing any Government work. They were taking the vehicle and going away and passing the time in different offices. The board noted the same seriously and instructed to provide the pool vehicle facilities within Bangalore and instruct the officers to do the works sincerely.

8. Purchase of equipments for Karnataka Biodiversity Board:

The purchase of LCD projector, Digital Camera and overhead projector was noted by the board. In order to further strengthen and improve the working the board approved the proposal to purchase one Laptop for use by Member Secretary.

As regards to the purchase of Manual typewriter the board was of the opinion that the manual typewriters are not allowed in Government Offices. Therefore to meet the problems of frequent power failures and to get the important works done. Karnataka Biodiversity Board can purchase higher end UPS (3 hours).

9. Revision of salary of staff from Manpower Agency:

On the revision of the salary the board was of the opinion that the present salary of the staff does not require any revision at this stage.

Further the board was informed that due to inability and incapability of Accounts Supervisor the accounts was getting delayed as usual. So in order to get the accounts expedited this year and submit the same in time, the services of one Executive Assistant knowing the Accounts work has been taken through Man power agency. He is being paid Rs. 9000/- per month as against the request of, Rs. 10,000/-. The board suggested to give Rs. 9,500/-. Further the board stated that since the services of Chartered Accountant will be availed in Accounts matter and one Executive Assistant is already there for accounts. So after posting of one Account superintendent from State Accounts Department the present Accounts Supervisor should be relieved.

10. Content updation of Karnataka Biodiversity Board Website

The board was of the opinion that the amount Rs.35,000/- quoted by M/s. Lousungen Inc, R.T.Nagar Bangalore for updation of website is very high. Karnataka Biodiversity Board should negotiate for lower prices and consult NIC in this respect.

11. Proposal to charge Biodiversity Fee:

The board suggested to defer the subject.

12 Internal Control Mechanisms:

The Board suggested to include the Internal audit also in the terms of reference while engaging the services of Chartered Accountant.

13. Accounts for the year 2007-2008.

The Board discussed and resolved to approve the account for 2007-08 subject to audit and authorized the Member Secretary to submit the same to Accountant General for further action.

14. Significant Accounting Policy

After a short discussion the Board approved the significant accounting policy which was prepared in consultation with Chartered Accountant.

15. Inspection Report of Accountant General, Karnataka for the year 2006-07

The board perused the observation raised by audit and reply prepared by Karnataka Biodiversity Board and authorized the Member Secretary to submit to the same to Accountant General for further action. Further the board desired that the irregular and excess amount claimed and paid should be recovered from the concerned.

16. Institution of Cash prize, appreciation Certificate for distinguished services for the conservation of Biodiversity, Documentation of Traditional Knowledge, Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and creating awareness on Biodiversity conservation for public, students and stakeholders of Biodiversity.

The board after discussion approved the proposal for giving Award which consists of cash prize and appreciation certificate for distinguished services in respect of documentation and conservation of Biodiversity and Traditional knowledge, Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers and creating awareness on Biodiversity conservation and development. The award will be in terms of cash price of Rs.10,000/- and appreciation certificate in respect of the following categories.

1. Educational Institutions
2. Government organizations / Local Bodies / Corporation board etc.
3. Non Government organization.
4. Individual.

One award will be given in each category. For selection of the awardees the board approved the constitution of selection Committee as below.

1. Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity BoardChairman
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest.....Member
3. Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity BoardMember
4. Secretary (Ecology and Environment).....Member
5. One Professor from the University.....Member

The Member Secretary will call and invite the proposals and place the same before the committee for selection. The awards will be presented on the occasion World Biodiversity day.

17. Payment of salary directly to the Supporting Staff

The staff which is on deputation from Manpower Agency working in the Karnataka Biodiversity Board has submitted representations with a request for the payment of monthly salary directly from the Board instead of making payment through the Manpower Agency after deduction of 7.1% as Agency service charges. The proposal was deliberated by the board and board stated that since the staff is taken through Manpower agency hence the question of making payment directly avoiding the manpower agency does not arise.

18. Financial Assistance to Natyvaidayara Sammelana

The board was informed that the Principal, Dhanvantari Ayurveda College & Hospital, Siddapur has submitted the proposal for conducting two days workshop on "Nati Vaidyara Sammelana (Traditional Practitioners Meet) on 16th & 17th June 2008 at Siddapur. The estimated cost of workshop is Rs.2.5 lakhs. In this connection, he has requested some financial assistance from Karnataka Biodiversity Board. The Board after discussion resolve to release Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand) for this purpose.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the Executive Officer (Botany), Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

**Chairman
Karnataka Biodiversity Board
and
Principal Secretary
Department of Forests, Environment & Ecology
Government of Karnataka,
Bangalore.**