

KARNATAKA BIODIVERSITY BOARD

PROCEEDINGS ON NINTH BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17/10 /2008

The 9th Board Meeting was conducted on 17/9/2008 in the chamber of Principal Secretary, Dept of Forest, Ecology & Environment and Chairperson, Karnataka Biodiversity Board. As per the Government order No FEE 125 ENV 2003 dt. 2/11/2007 the Principal Secretary chaired the meeting. The Member Secretary welcomed the Chairperson and the members of the Board, The following were discussed in the meeting.

I Reading and recording of the 8th Board Meeting held on 3/6/2008.

Since no comments were received from any members. The proceedings of the 8th Board Meeting held on 3/6/2008 was read and recorded.

II Action taken on Meeting proceedings held on 3/6/2008.

1. Reducing quorum for Karnataka Biodiversity Board Meeting:

The Board noted the Government order reducing the quorum for Board Members from 5 to 3 till the Board is reconstituted.

2. Position of Pending Projects:

1. The Board advised the Member Secretary to conduct the Workshop on Biodiversity related to Traditional Knowledge out of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board budget without waiting for Budget from National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai. After approval from NBA the Accounts and Utilization Certificate can be sent to NBA.

2. The subject of submission of revised project on Herbal RET Botanical Garden in Cholanyakanahalli, in Bangalore district to the Government of India was noted by the Board. The Board desired that this should be perused with the Government of India.

3 (1) Action against Sri. Gangadhar V. Maddikery:

Since no action is required. Hence the subject has been dropped.

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

On this subject the Board was of the opinion that since Dr. Sathyanarayana Bhat has served in Karnataka Biodiversity Board for 5 years at a stretch. Based on his performance as stated in the Board Meeting his reposting in Karnataka Biodiversity Board will not be appropriate. The Member Secretary informed that since officers are not available from Department of Indian System of Medicines so one person of appropriate qualification can be appointed on contract basis as suggested by the Director, ISM&H. The Board agreed for the same and asked the Member Secretary to submit the proposal to the Government accordingly.

4. Biodiversity Heritage Site (Nallur village, Bangalore District):

1. On the subject of Research Project to determine the age of Tamarind trees in Nallur Biodiversity Heritage Site the Board desired that the same may be expedited and visit to Nallur Biodiversity Heritage Site may be arranged to see the progress

2. On the subject of Barbed wire fencing of the Nallur Heritage Site the Board desired to expedite the progress of works.

5. Developmental works of Kuvempu Bio-park.

The Board noted the development works completed and progress in Kuvempu Bio-park of Thirthahalli taluka and desired that the Conservator of Forests, Shimoga, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Territorial) Shimoga and Kuvempu Prathistana may be asked to complete all the works by December 2008 as the works are going on since long.

6. Levy of Cess Pharmaceutical Products

1. The Member Secretary informed that the clarification asked by the Government is being submitted. The Board was of the opinion that the cess should be collected at the point of the Registration of the Companies. Therefore the opinion of the registering Authority should be obtained. The Secretary, Forest informed that the matter will be referred to the Director ISM&H and Drug controller for their opinion.
2. The action taken by the Member Secretary to address the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to declare the Territorial Range Forest officers as Authorized officers under Biological Diversity Act 2002 in respect of Biodiversity within the forest area was noted by the Board.

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

The progress in the preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers was noted by the Board. Further the following NGOs proposed for preparation of PBRs was approved by the Board. The Member Secretary was asked to reconsider the NGO BIRDS in view of past reports. The Member Secretary informed he will re-look the same and change the NGO.

Sl. No	Name of the District	Sl. No	Name of the NGOs
1	Bagalkote	1	Sarvodaya Mahila Gramina Abhivruddi Samsthe (R) Madiwalar Building, Maigur Road, Jamkhandi – 597301
2	Bijapur	1	Institute for Rural Development (IRD), Shahpet Galli Main Road, Bijapur-586 101.
3	Gulbarga	1	Sri Banashankari Women Welfare Society, Sisarmanti Gudam, Jagat, Gulbarga
		2	Kiran Rural Reconstruction Society, Plot No.51, Kahmat Nagar, Gulbarga.
4	Koppal	1	Sri. Swamy Ramananda Thirtha, Grameenabhiruddi Sangha, Gangavathi.
5	Raichur	1	Award, No. 10/1/78, Kumar Oni, Kakhalpet, Raichur-2

8. Audited Accounts and Annual Report:

The action taken to submit the Audited accounts and Annual report for 2006-07 to Legislature was noted by the Board.

9 (1) Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Site.

- a. The action taken to call for proposal from Biodiversity Management Committees through Zilla Panchayath and Deputy Commissioner with the assistance of NGOs and experts in respect of areas which have no protection under any act as suggested by National Biodiversity Authority was noted by the Board.
- b. The suggestion to send the list of areas selected by Prof. Madhav Gadgil and his team to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for special attention from Forest Department was agreed by the Board.

9 (2) Declaration of Netrani Island as a Biodiversity Heritage Site.

The Member Secretary informed the Board that the Zilla Panchayath, Karwar has passed a resolution and recommended for declaring the Netrani Island as a Heritage Site. The Secretary, Ecology and Environment has informed that action will be taken after receipt of proposal from the Karnataka Biodiversity Board

10. Documentation of Biodiversity in Forest areas:

The action taken by the Member Secretary to address the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to consider the documentation of other Biodiversity such as Herbs, Shrubs, Medicinal Plants and Minor Forest produce also in the working plans was noted by the Board.

11 (1) Providing suitable staff to Karnataka Biodiversity Board:.

1. Regarding posting of supporting staff the Board was informed that the matter is being perused with other Departments.
2. The Board was informed that the Forest Department is posting One Assistant Conservator of Forests against the post of Administrative Officers, one First Division Assistant against one vacant post of Executive Assistant and one Deputy Conservator Forests against the one post of Executive Officer.

11 (2) Engaging the services of Chartered Accountant to finalize and timely submission of accounts:

The action taken to engage the services of Sri. Umpathy Desai & Company, Bangalore Chartered Accountant as consultant on Accounts matter was noted by the Board.

12. Publication of News letter:

Action taken to publish the News letter was noted by the Board. The suggestion to appoint Dr.A.K. Chakravarthy, Prof. of Entomology, Dept. of Agricultural Entomology, UAS, GKVK, Bangalore as Chief Editor on payment of an honorarium of Rs.2000/- per month was approved by the Board.

13 Outsourcing of Biodiversity Documentation works:

The Board was informed that the Expression of interest was called through News paper advertisement for documentation of Traditional Local Knowledge related to Bio-resources. There has been no response to the advertisement. The suggestion to issue one more advertisement in this respect was agreed.

14. Documentation of Coastal Biodiversity:

Regarding accounts problem in KUIDFC project the Member Secretary informed that the KUIDFC conducted a meeting in 2007 and as per the meeting decision the KUIDFC asked to furnish the Utilization Certificate, Reports and Photographs. Conservation strategy and Recommendation on Coastal Biodiversity, Training Modules, Model Peoples Biodiversity Registers etc., subsequently during 2008 KUIDFC has been insisting for photocopies of the Accounts vouchers and Ledger extract in addition to others. The CMFRI, ISRO and EMPRI are insisting that Vouchers, Ledger extract can not be furnished as the same are required for audit and record in their office. The KUIDFC has informed that the project will be closed in March 2009. The above are required for reimbursement from ADB. The Board after detailed discussion desired that the matter should be resolved in a meeting with KUIDFC. The Secretary, Ecology & Environment has stated that he will take up the issue with KUIDFC.

15. Conducting of Workshop in KBB:

On this the Chairperson desired that the workshop should be conducted as early as possible.

16. Providing vehicle facilities to Executive Officers:

The action taken to provide the Vehicle facilities to the Executive Officers for coming to office and back to home as requested by them was noted by the Board. The Member Secretary informed that after the vacant posts are filled up and as per Government orders one Vehicle will be hired in addition to one existing vehicle and will be provided to Executive Officers for sharing the same. Thus two vehicles as per Government sanction already given will be shared by the Executive officers and also for office use. The proposal to hire one vehicle as per Government sanction was approved by the Board

17. Website of updating of Karnataka Biodiversity Board:

The action taken to get the Website created from NIC was approved by the Board

18. Internal Audit and Control Mechanism:

The action taken to submit the proposal to Government by the Member Secretary to create one post of Audit Superintendent in Karnataka Biodiversity Board which is being insisted by Accountant General was noted.

19. Accounts for the year 2007-08:

The Board was informed that Accounts for 2007-08 was audited by the Accountant General and replies to observation have been furnished. Audit certificate and final Report is awaited from Accountant General. After receipt same will be circulated to the Members for adoption and then printing and submission to Legislature will be done.

20. Institution of Biodiversity Award:

The action taken to Institute the Biodiversity Award was noted. The Board was of the opinion that the distribution of Biodiversity Award can be done along with the celebration of Environment day. The Member Secretary informed that action will be taken accordingly. The proposal to appoint Dr. Nandini, Dept. of Environmental Sciences, Bangalore University as one of the member in the selection committee for Biodiversity Award was approved by the Board.

21. Financial Assistant to Nati-Vaidayara Sammelana:

The action taken to release Rs. 10,000/- as financial assistance to Nati Vaidayara Sammelana was noted by the Board.

22. Progress of works:

The progress of works was gone through. The Board desired that the same should be expedited. The Member Secretary informed that for formation of Biodiversity Management Committees in the district at Gramapanchayath level the NGOs are asking for Travel Expenses. The suggestion to provide Rs.200/-per Gramapanchayath as Travel expenses was approved by the Board.

New Subjects Discussed

1. Commissioning a study to collect information on Bio-Industries and Utilization of raw materials etc.

The action taken to submit a project to National Biodiversity Authority for collecting information on Bio-industries and utilization of Bio-resources was noted by the Board. The Board desired to expedite the same.

2. Research Project on Netrani Island

In view of the fact that the Survey work on Netrani Island has been undertaken along with Coastal Biodiversity documentation under KUIDFC Project. Therefore one more survey on Netrani Island at the cost of 19.98 lakhs is not desirable. The proposal received is dropped

3. Posting of Officers in Karnataka Biodiversity Board:

The Board after detailed discussion on the performances of officers worked in Karnataka Biodiversity Board so far desired that the Sr. level officers of the rank of Joint Directors need not be posted to the Board, it will be better to post Middle level officers of the rank of Deputy Director/ Deputy Conservator of Forests. The suggestion of the Member Secretary given below was approved by the Board.

Sanctioned post	Suggested post
1. Executive Officer (Fisheries) in the cadre of Joint Director of Fisheries Dept.	Executive Officer (Agriculture) in the cadre of Dy. Director on deputation from Agriculture Department.
2. Executive Officer (Horticulture) in the cadre of Joint Director of Horticulture Department.	Deputy Conservator of Forests from Forest Department.

3. Executive Officer (ISM&H) in the cadre of Joint Director of Indian system of Medicine and Homeopathy Department.	Deputy Director on deputation from Indian system of Medicine and Homeopathy Department.
4. Executive Officer (Botany) - (Reader / Associate Professor (Botany) from University on Deputation.	Reader / Associate Professor (Botany) from University on Deputation.
5. Executive Officer (Zoology) - Reader / Associate Professor (Zoology) from University on Deputation).	Reader / Associate Professor (Zoology) from University on Deputation.

4. Conducting Workshop on Traditional Knowledge:

On the subject of workshop on Traditional Knowledge the Board desired not to wait for funds from NBA. The Board may conduct the workshop and ask for reimbursement from NBA

5. Conducting of One day Awareness Training Programme:

On this subject the proposal to Institutionalize Awareness Training Programme by getting the Awareness Training Programme systematically conducted by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore was approved. The Member Secretary informed that the officers of various departments will be given Awareness Training by the University as per the budget proposed by the University. In each batch 30 persons will be invited. The proposal was approved by the Board.

6. The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan- Karnataka:

The Board was very happy to adopt the Biodiversity strategy and Action Plan Karnataka prepared by Prof. Madhav Gadgil and his team. Board was of the opinion that the document will go a long way in preservation and development of Biodiversity in the State.

7. Approval of Project:

The Board approved the project proposal of Dr. A.K. Chakravarthy, Professor of Entomology, Dept. of Agricultural Entomology, UAS, GKVK, Bangalore titled "Status and conservation of Gaint Indian fruit Bat (*Pteropus giganteus* Brunnich) Roosts in Southern Karnataka" for Rs. 1.00 lakh.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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