

KARNATAKA BIODIVERSITY BOARD

PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 30/01/2009

The 10th Board Meeting was conducted on 30/1/2009 in the chamber of the Principal Secretary, Dept of Forest, Ecology & Environment as Chairperson. The Member Secretary welcomed the Chairperson and all the members of the Board, The following subjects were discussed in the meeting.

1. Reading and recording of the 9th Board meeting held on 17/10/2008

Since no comments were received from the members. The proceeding of the 9th Board meeting held on 17/10/2008 was adopted.

II Action taken on meeting proceedings held on 17/10/2008

8/2 - Position of pending projects.

1. The Board was informed by the Member Secretary that the Workshop on Traditional Local Knowledge related to Biodiversity is fixed for 26/2/2009 at Hotel Atria, Bangalore. The Board noted the same.
2. Regarding establishment of Urban Botanical Garden in Cholanayakanahalli, Bangalore the subject was discussed and the Board was informed that the project proposal is pending with Government of India. The Chairperson suggested that since the amount required is around Rs. 12.00 lakhs only the project may be implemented out of state fund and action may be taken to get the amount reimbursed from Government of India. Provision may also be made for modification if suggested by Government of India.

8/4 - Biodiversity Heritage Site (Nallur Tamarind Groves)

1. The Board was informed that the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has done Carbon dating to assess the age of Tamarind trees. In one sample the age was found to be 410 years. Other samples are under investigation. The Chairperson suggested that action may be taken to construct Eco friendly toilets for the visitors so that the Heritage site is not spoiled. The suggestion to develop tourism was not agreed as the area will be spoiled by Polythene bags, water bottles and other litters. The tourists may be allowed to visit the site to have a look and get the details and come back. It was suggested to give the details along with some photos of the site to the Tourism Department for popularizing the Heritage site which will be good from the Biodiversity conservation point of view.

8/5 Developmental works of Kuvempu Bio-park:

The Board was satisfied about the completion of various works at Kuvempu Bio-park except construction works. The Member Secretary informed the Board about various works and the inauguration of the park by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka on the occasion of Kuvempu birthday on 29th December 2008. The Board noted the same.

8/6 Levy of Cess on Pharmaceutical products:

1. The Secretary, Environment and Ecology informed the Board that the matter was referred to the Department of Ayush for their opinion. After their opinion is received the matter will be referred to Law department and the action will be taken accordingly. The same was noted by the Board.
2. The Board was informed about the Notification issued by the Government of India, accordingly to the notification scientist not below C grade have been authorized to file complaints with regard to offences punishable under the Biological Diversity Act 2002. The Board suggested to verify the scale of C grade Scientists and reconsider the level of “Authorized officers” in the state. The proposal should be sent to Government for notifying the officers as Authorized officers of the Board for the purpose of the Act. The Chairperson suggested that the Karnataka Biodiversity Board should also send the proposal to Government to declare Authorized officers to file complaints with regard to offences in the forest areas also.

8/7 Preparation of People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)

- a. The progress in respect of the preparation of People’s Biodiversity Registers was discussed and noted by the Board. The Chairperson suggested to complete the exercise at the earliest. The Member Secretary explained that since the exercise of People’s Biodiversity Registers is undertaken by Biodiversity Management Committees, NGOs, who are not under our control hence the delay. However efforts are going on to expedite the same so far 50 PBRs are completed.

The Board has noted the revised format prepared by National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for collecting data and linking the People’s Biodiversity Registers from the State to the national level. The suggestion of Member Secretary to incorporate the collected data in the English format for linking the People’s Biodiversity Registers at National level was approved.

- b. The action taken by the Member Secretary to send the list of areas suggested by Prof. Madhav Gadgil and company requiring special attention from Biodiversity point of view to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests was noted by the Board.

8/11 Providing suitable staff to Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

1. The Board noted the amendment in the previous Government order on the subject of posting the middle level officers to Karnataka Biodiversity Board instead of officers of Joint Director level.
2. The Job Chart of various Executive officers was gone through and the same was approved.

8/12 Publication of News letter

The Board was informed that the first Newsletter from Karnataka Biodiversity Board will be released in March 2009. The action is being taken in this direction. The Board noted the same.

8/13 Outsourcing of Biodiversity Documentation works.

The Board was informed by the Member Secretary that the Expression of interest was called through news paper advertisement. After second advertisement the responses have come from 27 organizations with in time. Five organizations submitted proposals after the due date. The Board suggested to constitute a committee consisting of 1) Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board. 2) Secretary, Forests 3) Secretary, Ecology and Environment to go through the proposals and shortlist the organization. The financial bid may be obtained from short listed organizations and the details should be placed before the next Board Meeting for consideration.

8/14 Documentation of Coastal Biodiversity:

The accounts problem regarding the documentation of Coastal Biodiversity was discussed in detail. The Member Secretary informed the Board that the CMFRI, RSSC (ISRO) and EMPRI were involved in the survey & documentation of Coastal Biodiversity. The project was funded by KUIDFC. The project is completed and the reports have been released the balance fund has to be released to the implementing agencies. The KUIDFC is insisting for Utilization Certificate countersigned by Chartered Accountant and the Statement of Accounts giving voucher-wise details along with the photocopies of the vouchers. The response of the implementing agencies that they have their Accounting and Audit procedures in Government of India therefore it is not possible to submit the Utilization Certificate by Chartered Accountant and Accounts vouchers can not be submitted this was informed to KUIDFC but there is no response / comments from KUIDFC. The implementing agencies are insisting for the release of balance amount. KBB has no fund.

The KUIDFC is not releasing the balance amount as per the request. The matter has come to stand still. KUIDFC has informed that the project will be closed in March 2009. The KUIDFC has to get reimbursement from ADB. The Chairperson enquired whether any MOU / agreement was signed with implementing agencies. It was informed that the MOU was signed with CMFRI which is not clear about the accounting procedure to be followed, no MOU or agreement was signed with other agencies inspite of KUIDFC giving clear instructions to Karnataka Biodiversity Board in 2005 about the accounts procedure to be followed.

It was suggested by the Member Secretary that the Government should call a meeting of KUIDFC, CMFRI, ISRO, EMPRI and KBB to sort out the issues to avoid problems in future. The Chairperson has agreed to the same. The Secretary, Ecology and Environment requested the Karnataka Biodiversity Board to send a note giving full details for calling a meeting.

8/15 Conducting of Workshop in Karnataka Biodiversity Board

- 1. Workshop on Traditional Knowledge:** The action taken by the Member Secretary to conduct one day Workshop on Traditional Knowledge related to Biodiversity on 26th February 2009 at Atria Hotel was noted by the Board.
- 2. Workshop on Biodiversity Heritage Site:** The proposal to conduct a workshop on Biodiversity Heritage Site in March 2009 with an expenditure of Rs.1.25 lakhs was approved by the Board.
- 3. Workshop on Coastal Biodiversity:** The proposal of the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board on the advice of Chairman, Taskforce on Western Ghat to conduct a workshop on Coastal Biodiversity and related issues in March 2009 with an expenditure of Rs. 1.24 lakhs was approved by the Board.

8/18. Internal Audit and Control Mechanism:

The Board was informed by the Member Secretary that the Accountant General, Karnataka during audit of Karnataka Biodiversity Board accounts every year has been insisting for appointment of an Audit Superintendent to avoid the irregularities in account. The Audit Superintendent has to come from State Accounts Department on deputation. The Secretary, Ecology & Environment informed that the matter will be referred to Department of Finance for creation of a post of Audit Superintendent.

8/19 Account for the year 2007-08

The Board was informed that the Karnataka Biodiversity Board has submitted up to date audited Accounts along with Annual Reports and the same have been placed in the Legislature. The Board members were satisfied with the same.

8/20 Institution of Biodiversity Award.

On this subject the action taken to advertise the Institution of Biodiversity Award in the Newspaper calling for the proposals / applications was noted by the Board. The Board suggested to include the following persons and officers also in the committee on Biodiversity Award.

1. Sri. Ved, Director, FRLHT, Bangalore
2. Sri. Y. B. Ramakrishna, Chairman, Taskforce on Bio-fuel,
3. Sri. Anantha Hegde, Chairman, Taskforce on Western ghats.
4. Secretary, Ecology & Environment, Department of Forest Ecology and Environment, Govt. of Karnataka M.S.Building, Bangalore.
5. Secretary, Forest, Dept. of Forest Ecology and Environment, Govt. of Karnataka. M.S.Building, Bangalore

8/22 - Progress of Works

The progress of work regarding formation of Biodiversity Management Committees, Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers and Awareness Training on Biodiversity was reviewed and the same was found to be satisfactory. However the formation of Biodiversity Management Committees needs to be expedited. The Karnataka Biodiversity Board does not have the field staff. The suggestion of Chairman, Taskforce on Western Ghats and the proposal of Member Secretary to nominate the Deputy Conservators of Forests (Social Forestry) working in Zilla Panchayaths in Karnataka to assist the Karnataka Biodiversity Board in formation of Biodiversity Management Committees, guiding and supervising the various activities of Biodiversity Management Committees monitoring and reporting about the activities related to Biodiversity was considered. The Chairperson suggested to refer the matter to Rural Development and Panchayath Raj for their consent for issuing the Government order.

9/1 - Study on Bio-industries Utilizing Bio-resources:

The Board was informed that the National Biodiversity Authority has released Rs. 3.00 lakhs to Karnataka Biodiversity Board for commissioning a study on Bio Industries utilizing Bio resources. This was noted by the Board. The proposal from Karnataka Indian Medicine Manufacturer's Association (regd.) for documenting information related to Medicinal plants and Aromatic plants was discussed.

The Chairperson wanted to know whether the department of Ayush can supply the information. The representative of Ayush department informed that these informations are not available in the department. There is no provision to collect the same from the firms utilizing the Bio-resources. It was informed to the Board that other agencies can not force the manufactures to furnish these information. The Indian Medicine Manufacturer's Association (regd) can collect the information from the firms which are the members of the Association. In view of the above the proposal of the Association for documenting the informations related to Medicinal Plant and Aromatic plants for Rs. 98,000/- and Rs. 86,000/- respectively was approved. The action taken to collect the other information on Bio-resources from Department of Bio-technology, Dept. of Horticulture, Dept. of Agriculture, Dept of Fisheries, Dept of Animal Husbandry and Karnataka Unani Medical Association was noted by the Board.

9/2- Research project on Netrani Island :

On this subject the action taken to inform the Professor and Chairman of Department of Studies in Marine Biology, Karwar that Coastal Biodiversity of Karnataka has already been documented under KUIDFC sponsored project and therefore there is no need to do another survey so soon was noted by the Board.

9/7 Conducting of Awareness Training Programmes

The suggestion of the Chairman Taskforce on Western Ghats to conduct more Awareness Training programmes on Biodiversity through NGOs, Eco Clubs and Self Help Groups was appreciated by the Board. An expenditure of Rs. 8,000/- per programme as suggested by Member Secretary was approved by the Board.

9/8 - Karnataka State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

On this subject the Action taken by the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to send the copies of Karnataka State Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan and Biodiversity Target 2010 to various departments, Boards, Corporations, Universities and Colleges was appreciated by the Board.

9/9 - Approval of Project.

The project proposal on Monitoring and Conservation of Butterfly Fauna in Coastal Karnataka at a cost of Rs. 1,01,480/- submitted by Professor of Entomology, Dept of Agricultural Entomology, UAS, GKVK, Bangalore was considered and approved by the Board.

10/1- Establishment of Dry Zone Biodiversity Parks Network in Karnataka

The project on In-situ conservation of Biodiversity in dry districts of Karnataka proposed by the Center for sustainable development was discussed in details. Under the project 100 to 200 ha forest areas will be selected in each of the 13 dry districts of Karnataka for In-situ conservation of the species which are significantly reduced in some genera. The project will be implemented by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Territorial) in the selected districts under the supervision and guidance of the Center for Sustainable Development, Bangalore. Monitoring will be done by Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

The Board was informed by the Secretary, Ecology and Environment that Rs. 20.00 lakhs has already been released to Karnataka Biodiversity Board. Further funds will be released. The Board also approved the proposal to establish a Bio-park in Bellary for Ex-situ conservation of all the species of dry areas which need serious protection.

10/2-project Proposal on Diversity of Zooplankton in the Lakes of Karnataka:

The Research project on the Study of Diversity of Zooplankton in the Lakes of Karnataka was considered by the Board. The Chairperson wanted to know how many lakes will be studied in the project, whether any study was already done by any organization, so that the repetition will not be there. Member Secretary informed that the information will be collected from various organizations such as Biology Department of Universities, Indian Institute of Science, University of Agricultural Sciences and the same will be placed before the next Board meeting for consideration and decision.

10/3 - Biological Control on insect pests- Training programme:

The project proposal regarding rearing and release for insects for Biological control of insects pests affecting the agriculture crops in cultivated fields was discussed by the Board. The Board was the opinion that this may be referred to Agriculture Department for consideration and needful.

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.**