

KARNATAKA BIODIVERSITY BOARD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 11th BOARD MEETING HELD ON 04/05/2009

The 11th Board Meeting was conducted on 04/05/2009 in the chamber of the Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department as Chairperson KBB. The Member Secretary welcomed the Chairperson and all the Board Members. The following subjects were discussed in the meeting.

1. Reading and recording of 10th Board Meeting held on 30/01/2009.

Since there was no comments from the members the proceedings of 10th Board Meeting was adopted.

2. Action taken on the meeting proceedings held on 30/01/2009.

8/2/1 - Conducting of workshop

The Board noted the action taken to conduct the workshop on local traditional knowledge on 26/02/2009 in Bangalore.

8/2/2 - Establishment of RET Garden

The Member Secretary informed the Board that on inspection, it is found that there is no land available for establishment of RET Garden in Cholanayakanahalli village, Bangalore. The area has been encroached and some construction works have taken place. Further the Bangalore University and FRLHT have already established RET Garden, hence proposal of another RET Garden may be dropped. The Board agreed to the same.

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

The action taken by the Member Secretary to release Rs.1.76 lakhs to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Rural Division, Bangalore to complete the barbed wire fencing in Nallur Tamarind Grove (Heritage Site) was approved by the Board.

8/5 - Development works of Kuvempu Bio-Park

The Board was informed that the Deputy Conservator of Forests and Conservator of Forests, Shimoga have been asked to complete the work at Kuvempu Bio-Park in Kuppalli village, Shimoga district. The Officers of the department have promised to complete the work soon and close the project. The Board noted the same.

8/6/1 - Levy of Cess on Pharmaceutical products.

On this subject the Secretary (Ecology & Environment) informed the Board that the matter is pending with Finance Department and it will be reminded.

8/6/2 - Declaration of Authorized Officer

On this subject the Secretary (Ecology & Environment) informed the Board that the orders are being issued shortly to declare the Assistant Conservator of Forests and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karnataka Biodiversity Board also as Authorized Officers under the Biodiversity Act 2002.

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

The progress made in documentation of Biodiversity in 69 Gram Panchayats (preparation of PBRs) was noted by the Board. The Member Secretary informed that in 101 Gram Panchayats the work is going on. The Secretary (Ecology & Environment) wanted to know whether PBRs will be in one language only. The Member Secretary informed that the PBRs are being prepared as per National Biodiversity Authority guidelines; same will be available in Kannada and English both in hard copy and soft copy.

8/11 - Providing suitable staff to Karnataka Biodiversity Board

1. The Board was informed that the Agriculture Department is being requested to post one Officer of the rank on Deputy Director, Agriculture in Karnataka Biodiversity Board against the vacant post.
2. As regards Deputy Director ISM, the Board was informed that the ISM Department has expressed its inability to post the Officer due to shortage of Officers in the Department. The Board suggested to get an Officer on contract basis as suggested by the ISM Department for ISM works. The Member Secretary informed that the proposal is pending for approval with the Government. The Secretary (Ecology & Environment) informed to look into the matter.
3. As regards the Executive Officer, Botany and Zoology the Board was informed that the universities were addressed in the matter. Some universities have informed that the professors are not willing for deputation to Karnataka Biodiversity Board. In some cases there is shortage of Professors in universities as a result the posts of Executive Officer Botany and Zoology are vacant in Karnataka Biodiversity Board. The Board after discussion suggested that the work pertaining to Botany and Zoology may be outsourced by Karnataka Biodiversity Board to the universities as and when necessary.

8/12 - Publication of Newsletter

The Board was happy to note the issue of Newsletter by Karnataka Biodiversity Board The Board was informed that the same will be registered.

8/13 - Outsourcing of documentation of local traditional knowledge related to biodiversity

The Board was informed that in response to the Newspaper advertisement some expression of interest have been received by the Board, the same are under processing and after processing the meeting of the committees will be called to shortlist the agencies for financial bidding. The Board noted the same.

8/14 - Documentation of Coastal Biodiversity

The Board was informed that after the meeting was conducted by the Principal Secretary (Forest ,Ecology and Environment) on accounting problem under KUIDFC project the implementing agencies i.e., CMFRI, ISRO, EMPRI have submitted the utilization certificate and statement of account, the same has been sent to KUIDFC. KUIDFC has been requested to release balance amount ie Rs.5.89 lakhs which is due to the implementing agencies. The Board advised to ask the balance amount from KUIDFC and in case there is further delay the amount may be given to implementing agency out of Karnataka Biodiversity Board budget as the work has been completed .This is necessary to avoid the audit problems to the implementing agencies on their accounts.

8/15 - Conducting of workshops.

1. The Board noted with satisfaction the conduct of workshop on 26/02/2009.
2. The proposal to conduct the workshop on coastal biodiversity with special reference to Coastal Management Zone at Karwar was approved by the Board. It was decided to release the fund of Rs.60, 000/- as requested by the Fisheries College, Karwar at the disposal of Dr.V.N.Nayak, Professor and Chairman, Department of Studies in Marine Biology, Karwar to conduct the workshop. The persons/delegates from all the Coastal districts should be invited.

8/18 - Internal Audit and Control Mechanism

The Board was informed by the Secretary (Ecology & Environment) that the proposal to create one post of Audit Superintendent in KBB has not been agreed by DPAR. In view of this the Board suggested that one Executive Assistant of the rank of First Division Assistant (FDA) may be designated as Executive Assistant (Audit). He should take care of internal audit also along with other technical works. The official may be taken from Forest Department on deputation.

8/20 - Institution of Biodiversity Awards

Board was informed that in response to Newspaper advertisement, applications/proposals have been received for consideration. The Principal Secretary has fixed the meeting date and the proposal is being placed before the Committee for selecting the awardees. The Board noted the same.

8/22/1 - Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).

1. Formation of 1690 BMCs in Gram Panchayats and district level BMCs in Tumkur, Dakshina kannada , Hassan, Gadag and Davanagere districts was noted by the Board. The Board desired to expedite the formation of BMCs in other areas.
2. Board was happy to note the release of Rs.19.00 lakhs by National Biodiversity Authority to provide infrastructure facilities to Biodiversity Management Committees at the rate of Rs.50,000/- per BMC. The Board desired that active BMC should be selected.
3. On declaring the Deputy Conservator of Forests - Social Forestry as Nodal Officer in the district for biodiversity works and guiding the BMCs and getting the biodiversity related works done from various agencies, The Secretary (Ecology & Environment) informed that the proposal is pending with RDPR and they will be expedited on the subject. The Member Secretary informed that for want of officials at the field level the biodiversity work of formation of BMCs and preparation of PBR is moving at a very slow pace. The Secretary (Ecology & Environment) will speak to the Secretary, RDPR.

8/22/2 - Preparation of Biodiversity registers

The action taken by Member Secretary to select the NGOs for PBR documentation in Kolar, Tumkur, Chickballapur and Mysore districts was approved by the Board.

9/1 - Survey of Bio-industries utilizing Bio-resources

The Board noted the action taken on the survey of bio-industries utilizing bio-resources. Further the proposal of Karnataka Unani Medical Association to provide Rs.30, 000/- to take up the survey in respect of Homeopathy and Unani medicines was approved by the Board.

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

The Board was informed that a project proposal was submitted by the Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) for Rs.47/- lakhs to establish Biodiversity Park Network in Karnataka. According to the Project Major Amount will be spent by the Center for Sustainable Development and minor works will be done by the field level Deputy Conservator of Forests (Territorial). The proposal has been modified by Karnataka Biodiversity Board in consultation with Secretary (Ecology & Environment). As per the modified proposal the area of 100-150 hectare will be located and demarcated in the core zone in dry districts at the rate of 1 spot in each of the 13 dry districts. The biodiversity will be fully protected with fire control and other protective measures. The seed sowing of the local species growing in that area will be done. The watch and ward will be provided by the forest department out of its own pool of watchers. Full protection along with soil conservation measures will be undertaken. An amount of Rs.1.5 lakhs per site will be provided to the Deputy Conservator of Forests in the concerned districts which arrives to Rs.19.5 lakhs. Further the amount of Rs.9.56 lakhs will be provided to Center for Sustainable Development for the purpose of supervision, guidance, capacity building programme for forest officers and villagers/village forest committees, documentation and monitoring of biodiversity from time to time. The Board after detailed discussion approved the revised project proposal and desired that the funds to Center for Sustainable Development should be made available in installments based on the quantum of work.

10/2 - Proposal on diversity of Zooplankton in the lakes of Karnataka

The Board was informed that the information is still awaited from the project proposer and the same will be placed after receipt.

11/1 - National Level seminar and Mango cultivation under Natural farming

The Board was informed that the Academy of Natural Farming, Mysore is conducting the seminar in Kollegal Taluk to highlight the use of organic farming .The academy has requested for some financial support and sponsorship. The Board was pleased to provide Rs.20,000 as the assistance for the programme.

11/2 - Budget for 2009-10

The following budget proposal for 2009-10 submitted to the Government was approved by the Board.

Sl.No.	Item	Amt (in lakhs)
1	Officers salary	43.00
2	Supporting staff salary	12.00
3	TA/DA	3.00
4	Officer expenditure	9.00
5	Training workshop and seminar	8.00
6	Project studies and assistance	7.00
7	Vehicle maintenance and fuel charges	4.00
8	PBR documentation	46.00
		132.00

11/13 - Conducting of Workshops in 2009-10

The proposal to conduct the following workshop in 2009-10 was considered and approved by the Board.

1. Workshop on Biodiversity of Dry Zone.
2. Workshop on Heritage sites/trees.
3. Workshop on G.M.Crop/G.M.food.
4. Coastal biodiversity in relation to Coastal Management Zone.

The Board suggested that instead of conducting the workshop on Invasive Alien Species the programme on awareness creation may be conducted with more emphasis on Lantana and Parthenium. The Board desired to get information on the fish variety which was banned from hunting.

11/4 - Research projects

The Report on Nallur Tamarind Grove research conducted by University of Agriculture Science, Bangalore was perused by the Board. The Board desired that the final report from the UAS may be obtained.

11/5 - Annual Report of Karnataka Biodiversity Board for 2008-09

The Annual report for 2008-09 was presented before the Board and same was accepted.

11/6 - Annual accounts for 2008-09

The Board was informed that the Annual accounts for 2008-09 is under preparation. The Accounts Supervisor informed the Board that the accounts will be ready with in a week. The Board advised the Member Secretary to submit the accounts to Accountant General, Karnataka for audit and the remarks of Accountant General on the accounts should be placed before the next Board meeting.

11/7 - IPR permission

The Board was informed that some proposals were received from National Biodiversity Authority for IPR clearance. The jurisdiction of the BMCs were not mentioned therefore as suggested by the National Biodiversity Authority IPR clearances have been given by the Board with certain conditions in the interest of the state. The Board went through the conditions and approved the action taken and further desired that same conditions will hold good for future cases also.

11/8 - Audit Observation

The Board was informed that Accountant General, Karnataka while doing the Audit of accounts of Karnataka Biodiversity Board has observed that Sri.Satynarayana Bhat the then Executive Officer ISM and Sri.Gangadhar Maddikeri the then Executive Officer (fisheries) had availed taxi services on tours eventhough the public transport was available. In several cases they have not submitted the vouchers and also not given kilometers details which is against the norms. Observations were communicated to the department of ISM and Fisheries Department to convey the same to the then Executive Officers. No reply has been received from the concerned officers of the departments. As per procedure convincing reply has to be furnished by the concerned officers which needs to be placed before the Accountant General for consideration failing which the amount has to be recovered. In case the Accountant General does not drop the para the recovery has to be done. The Member Secretary informed the Board that instead of submitting the convincing reply for consideration by the Accountant General, the concerned Officer specially the then Executive Officer ISM is causing petitions against the Member Secretary. The Board after consideration instructed to recover the amount as per procedure and observation made by the Accountant General, Bangalore.

11/9 - Heritage Site declaration

On this subject the Board desired that the action should be taken as per guidelines of National Biodiversity Authority.

11/10 - Research Proposal

The proposals received from various agencies were considered by the Board and the Board accepted the following.

Sl.No.	Proposal	Amount approved
1	Documentation and Evaluation of Indigenous methods of insect pest management using Forest Flora in Western Ghats	Rs.30,000/- period 6 months
2	Impact of fragmentation in the Biodiversity of protected areas, a case study with reference to Bannerghatta National Park	Rs.30,000/- period 1 year
3	Protection, conservation and cultivation methods for wild banana in Kodagu district	Rs.40,000/- period 1 year

Following proposals were not approved.

1. Project for integrated research into peculiar features and complex biodiversity presented by Nallur Tamarind groves.
2. Documentation of Ancient Traditional Ayurvedic practices in Kodagu with reference to Aati soppu.
3. Documentation, Economic volition and inventorying of Traditional knowledge of Biological diversity of Estuarine Fish and shellfish of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi district.
4. Survey and Evaluation of indigenous flora-based methods of managing crop and tree diseases in Uttara Kannada.
5. Assessment of Diversity among the species with recalcitrant seeds in central western ghats of Uttara Kannada District.

11/11 - Celebration of Biodiversity Day

The proposal to celebrate the Biodiversity Day in various districts was approved by the Board. The Board approved the proposal to provide Rs.10, 000/- for each programme. And Rs.30, 000/- to the Christ University, Bangalore for awareness creation.

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

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