

KARNATAKA BIODIVERSITY BOARD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 12th BOARD MEETING HELD ON 08/09/2009

The 12th Board Meeting was conducted on 08-09-2009 in the chamber of the Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department as Chairperson, Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

The Member Secretary welcomed the Chairperson and all the Board members.

The following subjects were discussed in the meeting.

1. Reading and recording of 11th Board Meeting held on 04-05-2009.

Since there were no comments from the members, the proceedings of the 11th Board Meeting was adopted.

2. Action take on 11th Board Meeting proceeding held on 04-05-2009

8/4 – Biodiversity Heritage Site – Nallur Tamarind Groves

The progress in respect of barbed wire fencing of Nallur Heritage Site was noted. The Member Secretary informed the Board that the fencing will be completed this month. The Chairperson desired to visit the heritage site and fixed the visit for 15-09-2009. It was clarified that Biodiversity Management Committee has been formed in Nallur Gram Panchayat and Peoples Biodiversity Register has also been prepared.

8/6/1 – Levy of Cess on pharmaceutical products.

The Secretary (Ecology & Environment) informed the Board that he will look into the matter as this is pending with the Health Department.

8/6/2 – Declaration of Authorized Officers

The notification of Central Government declaring various officers as authorized officers to file the cases under Section 71A of Biodiversity Act 2002 was noted by the Board.

8/11 – Providing suitable staff to Karnataka Biodiversity Board

On the subject of appointing one Deputy Director (ISM) in Karnataka on contract basis, the Board was informed that this is pending with the Government. The Secretary (Ecology & Environment) promised to look into the matter.

8/12 – Publication of Newsletter

The action taken by the Member Secretary to get the newsletter registered was noted by the Board.

8/14 – Documentation of Coastal Biodiversity

While discussing the subject, the Board members were unhappy to know that the balance amount of Rs.16,269 lakhs has not been released by the KUIDFC so far. As a result the balance payment due to CMFRI, EMPRI and ISRO is still pending. The Member Secretary informed that he will meet the Managing Director, KUIDFC in

person and discuss the issue. The Secretary, (Ecology & Environment) stated that he will also take up the matter with the Managing Director, KUIDFC.

8/15 – Conducting of Workshop on Coastal Biodiversity.

The successful conduct of workshop on Coastal Biodiversity by Karnataka Biodiversity Board in association with Fisheries College, Karwar was noted by the Board.

8/18 – Internal Audit and Control Mechanism

The action taken by the Member Secretary to designate one Executive Assistant as Executive Assistant (Accounts) to look after the job of Internal Audit was noted by the Board.

8/20 – Institution of Biodiversity Award

The presentation of Biodiversity Award by Karnataka Biodiversity Board on the occasion of Environment Day 2009 was noted with pleasure by the Board.

8/22/1 – Formation of Biodiversity Management Committee/Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers.

The issue of Government Order dated 03-08-2009, appointing the Deputy Conservator of Forests - Social Forestry, in all districts to act as nodal officer and assist the Karnataka Biodiversity Board and guide the Biodiversity Management Committees in various activities was noted by the Board.

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

The action taken by the Member Secretary in getting the survey of bio-industries utilizing bio-resources sponsored by the National Biodiversity Authority was noted by the Board.

10/1 – Establishment of Dry Zone Biodiversity Conservation site network.

The action taken by the Member Secretary to get the establishment of dry zone biodiversity conservation site network involving documentation, soil and water conservation through Deputy Conservator of Forests – Territorial in 13 dry districts under the overall supervision of Center for Sustainable Development was noted by the Board.

11/6 – Annual Accounts for 2008-09

The Board was informed that the account for 2008-09 was prepared with the help of present Chartered Accountant and was submitted to Accountant General for audit. The Audit is completed and audit report from Accountant General is awaited. After getting the audit report the replies will be prepared. The Board authorized the Member Secretary to submit the replies to Accountant General and inform the Board.

11/7 – IPR permission.

The action taken by the Member Secretary in clearing the IPR applications with conditions for consideration by the National Biodiversity Authority was noted.

11/8 – Audit observation.

The action taken by the Member Secretary on audit para regarding the recovery of excess traveling allowance paid to Dr.Sathyanarayan Bhat, the then Executive Officer (ISM) was noted by the Board.

11/11 – Celebration of Biodiversity Day

The action taken by the Member Secretary to celebrate Biodiversity Day in various districts was noted by the Board.

11/13 – Conducting of Workshops in 2009-10

The action taken by the Member Secretary to conduct the following workshops in 2009-10 was noted by the Board.

1. Heritage Site/Heritage Trees - October 2009
2. Genetically modified food/crops- December 2009
3. Dry Zone Biodiversity - February 2010

12/1 – Research Project on Nallur Tamarind Heritage Site

The action taken by the Member Secretary in asking the University of Agricultural Sciences to finalize and submit the final report was noted by the Board.

12/2 – Project of Rice Genetic resources of Central Western Ghat

On the project proposal submitted by Dr.G.S.Mohan, University of Agricultural Sciences, Ponnampet, Kodagu, the Board desired that the concerned should give a power point presentation before taking decision.

12/3 – Project proposal for establishment of Center for Studies of Research on Biodiversity and conservation of Western Ghat of Karnataka in Pilikula.

On the above subject the Board was of the opinion that the project involves huge amount of money, the same cannot be provided by the Board. Further Board desired that the concerned should give a power point presentation first, then the matter will be discussed.

12/4 – Financial assistance regarding publication of books.

On the above subject the Board after detailed discussion decided that the Member Secretary should ask the concerned writer to submit the manuscripts for examination. The Board should select the manuscripts which are relevant and useful in biodiversity conservation and management for taking further action. As far as other subjects are concerned the author may be advised to approach Sahitya Academy or some other institution.

12/5 – Declaring Cycas as threatened species.

The Board was convinced that the cycas need to be protected. The action taken by the Member Secretary in proposing to Central Government to declare cycas as threatened species in Karnataka was noted.

12/6 – Financial Assistance for celebration of Darwin's Day.

The Board after discussion approved the proposal to contribute Rs.10,000/- to the Breakthrough Science Society for celebrating Darwin's Day.

12/7 – Financial Assistance for Biodiversity programme.

The Board after discussion approved the contribution of Rs.10,000/- to KLE College, Bangalore for conducting seminar on Biodiversity and its conservation.

12/8 – Financial assistance for conducting State Level Seminar of Nati Vaidyas

The Board after discussion approved the proposal to give Rs.20,000/- as the contribution to Nati Vaidyas for conducting the state level seminar on biodiversity.

12/9 – The destruction of soil samples

The Board noted the action taken by the Member Secretary on the request of National Biodiversity Authority to get the soil samples destructed.

12/10 – Creation of Biodiversity Park in Gundya

The Board noted the action taken by Member Secretary in preparation and submission of a project proposal for establishing Biodiversity Park and orchidarium in Gundya in connection with Gundya Hydro-Electricity project.

12/11 – Declaration of Anekere as Heritage Site.

The subject was discussed in detail and the Board was of the opinion that Anekere is not suitable for declaration as heritage site. However the Board decided that this subject may be referred to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for consideration and inclusion of Anekere in wet land project which is funded by the Central Government.

12/12 – Preparation of Biodiversity Atlas

The proposal of Bangalore University and ATREE on preparation of biodiversity atlas was discussed in detail. The amount quoted is high. The Board desired that the information, photos and data already collected by the certain organizations in this respect should also be utilized which will reduce the cost. Further the Board desired to have a power point presentation on the above subject from the concerned.

12/13 – Declaration of Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra(GKVK) as heritage site.

The Board discussed the subject in detail and decided to recommend the proposal to the Government. The Chair person instructed the Secretary (Ecology and Environment) to publish the preliminary notification in the gazette and relevant newspapers calling for objection on the subject, if any. After objections are received and addressed further action may be taken to notify the area as heritage site.

12/14 – Integrated Study of Carrying Capacity of Western Ghats (Uttara Kannada district).

The subject was discussed in detail. The Chairman Western Ghats Task Force explained all the aspects of the proposal. After detailed discussion the Board was of the opinion that huge amount needed for the project cannot be made available from the board. However the Board can provide small amount and the rest of the amount may be arranged from some other sources. As requested by the Chairman, Western Ghats Task Force, the Board agreed to provide Rs.20.00 lakhs per year for two years. The project proposer should recast the project and submit the content limited to Karnataka Biodiversity Board contribution and also inform about the other sources which they identify for the balance amount. After hearing from the project proposer making sure about the balance amount the contribution of Karnataka Biodiversity Board will be released in installments.

12/15 – Preparation of accounts manual

The proposal of the Member Secretary to prepare the accounts manual for Karnataka Biodiversity Board with the help of Accountant General was approved by the Board.

12/16 – National Seminar – Conference as Co-organizer

The above subject was discussed and the Board agreed to contribute Rs.15,000/- to International Competence Center for conducting seminar on Organic Agriculture in Bangalore.

12/17 – Declaring Nethrani Island as Biodiversity Heritage Site.

The above subject was discussed in detail and in view of clarification from National Biodiversity Authority the Board decided to recommend to the Government to declare Nethrani as heritage site under Biodiversity Act. The Chairperson instructed the Secretary (Ecology & Environment) to publish preliminary notification in the gazette and relevant newspapers calling for objections. After objections are received and disposed off, final notification may be issued.

12/18 – Declaring Hoglekan as Biodiversity Heritage Site.

The above subject was discussed in detail. The Chairman, Western Ghat Task Force also explained the need of declaring Hoglekan as heritage site. The Board after detailed discussion decided to recommend the same to the Government. The Chairperson instructed the Secretary (Ecology & Environment) to publish the same in gazette and relevant newspapers calling for objections. After objections are received and disposed off, final notification may be issued.

12/19 – Progress of Work

The progress of work as stated by the Member Secretary was noted by the Board.

12/20 – Accounts for 2008-09

The Board noted with satisfaction the preparation of accounts and completion of audit for 2008-09.

12/21 – Biodiversity Award

The Board after discussion approved the proposal of the Member Secretary to give biodiversity award as below from 2009-10.

Individual	-	3
Educational Institution	-	1
NGOs	-	2
Government Departments/Boards/Corporations	-	1

Board also agreed to increase the amount from Rs.10,000/- to 15,000/-

12/22 – Protection of Mangroves

The above subject was discussed in detail and the Board was of the opinion that the matter may be referred to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for consideration and necessary action to bring the big patches of mangroves under Forest Act, if not covered already.

12/23 – Workshop on Medicinal Plants.

The request of Nandi Vaidya Gidamulike Samshodhana Samrakshanalaya Trust, Bangalore in conducting a state level workshop on traditional knowledge on medicinal plants and contribution from the Board was considered. The Board agreed to provide Rs.10,000/- for the above purpose.

12/24 – Workshop on prevention of Coastal Erosion

The proposal of the Western Ghats Task Force on organizing a workshop on prevention of Coastal Erosion was considered by the Board. The Chairman, Western Ghats Task Force explained the details of the workshop. The Board agreed to contribute Rs.20,000/- for the above purpose. Further the Board agreed to provide Traveling Allowance and Honorarium to the participants presenting the paper in the workshop as below.

1. Traveling allowance in case of Train journey – AC 3 Tier or actual, whichever is lowest, on production of tickets and same for return journey.
2. Honorarium – The Board after detailed discussion agreed to provide Rs.750/- as honorarium.

The above will apply in all the workshop and seminars to be conducted by the Board.

12/25 – International Canopy Conference 2009

The Board discussed the subject of International Canopy Conference 2009 to be conducted by Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), and their request for contribution from the Board. The Board after discussion decided to provide Rs.25,000/- as contribution from the Board and also permitted the Member Secretary and the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to attend the same.

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.