

# Karnataka Biodiversity Board

## Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting held on 26/02/2010

The 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting was held on 26/02/2010 in the chamber of the Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Ecology, Harbor and Inland water Transport and Chairperson, Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

### The following Members are present:

1. Sri. Krishna Palemar, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Ecology, Harbor and inland water Transport, Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore .....Chairman
2. Sri. Ananth Hegde Asisar, Chairman, Western Ghat Task force, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore .....Co-Chairman
3. Smt. Meera Saksena, Principal Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept, M.S.Buildings, Bangalore .....Member
4. Sri. Kanwer Pal, Special Secretary to government (Ecology and Environment) Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept. M.S.Buildings, Bangalore .....Member
5. Prof. R. Sukumar, Chairman, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Bangalore .....Member
6. Dr. M.D. Subhash Chandra, Environment Specialist, Bangalore .....Member
7. Dr. R.C.Prajapati, Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bangalore .....APCCF & Member Secretary

### The following Members were absent:

1. Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Agriculture & Horticulture.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Aranya Bhawan, Bangalore
3. Sri. D.K..Ved, Director, FRLHT, Bangalore.
4. Director, Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy, Bangalore

The Member Secretary welcomed the Chairperson and all the Board members including newly appointed members and requested the Chairperson to preside over the meeting. The meeting was started and the following subjects were discussed in the meeting.

### 1. Reading and recording of 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting held on 08-09-2009.

Since there were no comments from the members, the proceeding of the 12th Board Meeting was adopted.

### 2. Action taken on 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting proceeding held on 08-09-2009

#### 8/4 – Biodiversity Heritage Site – Nallur Tamarind Groves

The Board was informed that the fencing work is completed by the Deputy Conservator Bangalore Rural in Nallur Tamarind Heritage Site. The Board noted the same.

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

The contents of the Government letter dated 23/9/2009 was noted by the Board

### **8/6/2 – Declaration of Authorized Officers**

The Board noted the action taken by Government of India in declaring some officers as Authorized officers under the Biodiversity act.

### **8/11 – Providing suitable staff to Karnataka Biodiversity Board**

The action taken by Agriculture Department in posting a Deputy Director (Agriculture) to Karnataka Biodiversity Board was noted by the Board.

### **8/12 – Publication of Newsletter**

The Board was pleased to know the publications of quarterly News letters by Karnataka Biodiversity Board. It was suggested in the meeting that the News letter should be posted on the website of Karnataka Biodiversity Board for wide circulation.

### **8/14 – Documentation of Coastal Biodiversity**

The Board noted the action taken in settling the accounts with KUIDFC.

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

The action taken by the state Government in nominating the Deputy Conservators of Forests (Social Forestry) in the state as Nodal officers for all Biodiversity activities in their districts was noted by the Board.

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

On this subject the Board was informed that the above report will be ready by June 2010 as the survey work is in progress. The Board noted the same.

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

The action taken in establishment of dry zone biodiversity conservation site network was noted by the Board.

### **11/6 – Annual Accounts for 2008-09**

The action taken to submit the Audited Accounts for 2008-09 with Annual report to the Legislature was noted by the Board.

### **11/8 – Audit observation.**

The Board was informed that Accountant General is being addressed in the matter separately. The Board noted the same.

### **11/13 – Conducting of Workshops in 2009-10**

The Board after discussion advised to conduct the workshop without further postponement.

### **12/1 – Research Project on Nallur Tamarind Heritage Site**

The Board was pleased to note that the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has conducted the Research on Tamarind groves. The Board agreed to provide additional amount of Rs. 60,000/- to complete the work on identification of Elite trees through phenological studies for multiplication of trees of superior variety.

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

The Board noted the action taken to submit the project on Rice Genetic Resources to National Biodiversity Authority for funding.

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

The subject was discussed and the members were informed that in the pre budget meeting at the Government level, the matter was discussed and the government is considering to provide separate funding under state budget for Establishment of Center in Pilikula for studies and research on Biodiversity and Conservation of Western Ghat. The Board noted the same.

### **12/4 – Financial assistance regarding publication of books.**

The Board noted the action taken on the subject.

### **12/5 – Declaring the Threatened species.**

The Board noted the action taken on the subject.

### **12/10 – Creation of Biodiversity Park in Gundya**

The Board noted the action taken to submit the project proposal for Establishment of a Bio-park in Gundya at a cost of Rs. 400.00 lakhs.

### **12/12 – Preparation of Biodiversity Atlas**

The subject was discussed and Board was informed that some clarification is asked from ATREE and further action will be taken after clarification is received. The Board noted the same.

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

The Board noted the action taken by Government in issuing preliminary notification.

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

The Board noted the action taken by the Government in issuing the order to entrust the work on integrated ecological carrying capacity study of Uttara Kannada district Karnataka to the Centre for Ecological Sciences, (Indian Institute of Science), Bangalore at a cost of Rs. 40.00 lakhs and duration 2 year. The board decided to conduct similar study for other district in Western Ghat in a phased manner.

### **12/15 – Preparation of accounts manual**

The proposal to get the Accounts manual prepared by entrusting the same to a Retired Account/Audit officer on quotation basis was approved by the Board.

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

The Board noted the action taken by Government in issuing preliminary notification.

### **12/18 – Declaring Hoglekan as Biodiversity Heritage Site.**

The Board noted the action taken by Government in issuing preliminary notification.

### **12/19 – Progress of Work**

The progress of work in formation of Biodiversity Management Committees and preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers in various Gram panchayats was noted by the Board.

### **12/21 – Biodiversity Award**

The action taken to increase the number of Awards and the amount was noted by the Board. It was suggested that a good memento may be got designed by engaging a good artist highlighting the issue of Biodiversity Conservation and need for protection. The same should be given every year.

### **12/22 – Protection of Mangroves**

The Board was informed that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has asked the Conservator of Forests (Coastal area) to identify the Mangrove patches for bringing the same under forest act for protection and conservation. The Board member suggested that the Mangrove patches should be identified irrespective of their size. The Member Secretary informed that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests will be addressed accordingly.

### **12/24 – Workshop on prevention of Coastal Erosion**

The Board noted the action taken in submitting the proceeding of the workshop to the Government for further action.

### **13/1 - Providing financial assistance to Eco-watch programme.**

On this, the Board, after discussion decided to provide Rs. 1.00 lakh to Eco-watch programme as a contribution for spreading the Biodiversity conservation message in North Karnataka.

### **13/2 - Providing financial assistance to Karnataka Grameena Parmprika Vydyha Parishath, Gadag.**

The Board considered the request and decided to provide Rs. 25,000/- as contribution to conduct the Awareness Programme for Rural Traditional Vydyhas.

### **13/3 - Field study on Cultural Biodiversity in Karnataka**

The Board after discussion suggested to advise the concerned to approach the Department of Kannada and Culture in this respect.

### **13/4 - Formation of Expert Committee**

After discussion the Board formed the following Expert Committees.

#### **1. Expert Committee on Heritage Sites.**

1. Dr. Gladwin Joseph, Director, ATREE, Bangalore.....Chairman
2. Dr. D.K. Ved, Director, FRLHT.....Member
3. Dr. M.D. Subhash Chandra, Environment Specialist.....Member
4. Sri. K.A.Prabhakar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBB.....Convener

#### **2. Expert Committee on Agro Biodiversity**

1. Dr. Ganeshiah, Professor Dept of GPB UAS, Bangalore.....Chairman
2. Dr. Balakrishna Gowda, Professor of Botany UAS, Bangalore.....Member
3. Dr. Krishna Murthy, Professor of Agronomy UAS, Bangalore.....Member
4. Dr. G.S. Mohan, Junior Breeder (Rice) ARS, Ponnampet.....Member
5. Sri. H.S.Devaraj, Deputy Director (Agriculture). KBB..... ..Convener

The above committees are given the following assignment

#### **1. Expert Committee on Heritage Sites.**

1. Identification of sites for declaration as Heritage Site / Hotspots.
2. Frame the Rules for preparation of Management plan for conservation of Heritage sites
3. Scrutinize the objections submitted by various stakeholders on declaration of Heritage Site and submit recommendation on the same.

#### **2. Expert Committee on Agro Biodiversity**

1. Identification of Agro Biodiversity Hotspots on various Agriculture/Horticulture crops including local varieties /land races
2. Recommend action to be taken on conservation and sustainable utilization of the concerned crops variety.
3. Advise the Government on geographic indicators and IPR issues in respect of the above.

Further it was decided that the Expert Committee members shall be paid Rs. 1,000/- per meeting as sitting fee. In case of field visits the actual TA will be provided.

### **13/5 – Conducting Consultative Meeting on Biodiversity**

The Board approved the proposal of Chairman, Western Ghat Task Force to conduct a consultative meeting by inviting Environmentalists, Govt. Officers, Scientists and others in respect of Biodiversity conservation. An amount of Rs. 60,000/- was approved for the meeting. Further it was decided the TA and Honorarium shall be paid as below:

### **1. Traveling Allowance:**

Bus....Actual

Train.....Actual or limited to 3 tyre AC which ever is less.

### **2. Honorarium: Rs. 500/- for those who make Presentation and submit paper**

### **13/6 – Declaring Ambargudda as Heritage Site**

The Board after discussion decided to recommend to Government to declare Ambargudda as Heritage Site, in order to prevent the landscape from soil erosion, protect the shola forest and the corridor for wild animals and watershed value of the region.

### **13/7 – Conducting meeting of Biodiversity Management Committees**

The Board approved the proposal to conduct the meeting of Biodiversity Management Committee Chairpersons at Sirsi, Mangalore, Bellary, Shimoga and other places as and when required. The budget of Rs. 60,000/- for each such programme was approved.

### **13/8 – Vision document of Biodiversity 2020**

The action taken to submit the Vision Document 2020 on Biodiversity was noted by the Board.

### **13/9 – The International year of Biodiversity**

The Board was please to note the action taken in preparing the programme for celebration of International year of Biodiversity in each district.

### **13/10 – Seminar on Environmental Impact on Biodiversity**

The Board after discussion decided to provide Rs.30,000/- as contribution to Bangalore University to conduct 1 day Seminar on Environmental Impact on Biodiversity.

### **13/11 – Bt. Brinjal – Bt. Crop**

The issue of Bt. Brinjal and the representation of Environmental Social Justice Group (ESG) was considered by the Board. The Board was of the opinion that in respect of Bt. Brinjal the Board holds the same opinion as that of the Government of Karnataka. Further the Board desires that any Bt.crop which endangers the local and traditional verities available in Karnataka which have been raised by the farmers and others since centuries and provide livelihood will not be acceptable. In respect of the representation submitted by ESG the Board decided to call for the opinion and action taken by National Biodiversity Authority on the subject and the details should also be called from University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad as to whether the approval of Government of India was taken and whether the collaborative research conforms to the policy guidance of the Government of India and whether permission of National Biodiversity Authority was taken or not as there is an element of commercialization of the research result and involvement of foreign firm.

The above information should be collected and placed before the next Board meeting for discussion. Further the ESG may be asked to give a presentation before the Board.

### **13/12 – Vegetation Mapping by Forest Survey of India**

The Board has decided that the matter of loss of forest cover is serious one and this may be referred to Forest Department for investigation and submission of a detailed report.

### **13/13 – Furnishing of information by Bio-Industries.**

On the subject, the Board was of the opinion that the legal action may be taken against the companies / firms for not furnishing correct and complete information as per Biological Diversity Act 2002. Further the Member Secretary informed that a meeting of the representatives of Pharmaceutical companies will be called to discuss the issue and also the Board was informed that after survey work is completed the report will be placed before the Board. The Board noted the same.

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

**Chairperson**  
Karnataka Biodiversity Board  
and Hon'ble Minister for Environment  
and Ecology, Harbor and Inland  
water Transport, Govt. of Karnataka  
Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore