

# Karnataka Biodiversity Board

## Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting held on 02/07/2010 – 3.30 PM

The 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting was held on 02/07/2010 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, IAS Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept, M.S.Buildings, Bangalore. ....Member
4. Sri. Muniyappa, IAS Principal Secretary to Govt. Department of Agriculture & Horticulture, M.S.Buildings, Bangalore. ....Member
5. Sri. Kanwar Pal, IFS, Secretary to government (Ecology and Environment) Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept. M.S.Buildings, Bangalore. ....Member
- Sri. Sundar Nayak, IFS, APCCF, Deve. Dept. of Forest, Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore on behalf of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. ....Member
6. Sri. Srikantaiah, IFS. Director, Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy, Dhanvanthri Road, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore .....Member
7. Sri.D.K.Ved, IFS (Retd) Advisor, FRLHT, Govt. of India. Jarkbande, Yelahanka Bangalore. ....Member
8. Dr. M.D. Subhash Chandra, Environment Specialist, Kumuta, Uttara Kannada District .....Member
9. Dr. R.C.Prajapati IFS, APCCF & Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bangalore .....APCCF & Member Secretary

### The following Member was absent:

Prof. R. Sukumar, Chairman, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Bangalore

At the outset the member secretary welcomed chairman and all other members of the board and requested the Chairperson to preside over the 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The meeting was started and the following subjects were discussed.

### 1. Reading and recording of 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting held on 26-02-2010.

Since there were no comments from the members, the proceeding of the 13th Board Meeting was adopted.

### 2. Action taken on 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting proceeding held on 26-02-2010

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

The subject was discussed in details. In view of non availability of officers on deputation the board approved the proposed to appoint officers on deputation. The Director (ISM) stated that he may provide a Deputy Director on deputation. He also stated that he will provide a better person not like previous officer. It was decided to accept good working person from ISM department if available otherwise appoint through news paper advertisement as proposed.

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

The Board noted the progress made in Survey of Bio-industries utilizing Bio resources sponsored by National Biodiversity Authority.

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

The Board noted the progress made in inventorisation in Dry zone Biodiversity conservation network. The Board was informed that 2<sup>nd</sup> round of inventorisation will be done after rainy season under the supervision of Center for Sustainable Development.

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

The Board accepted the proceedings of the Workshop on Bt. Brinjal conducted on 26/5/2010.

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

The Board noted the action taken to get the research work completed in Nallaur Tamarind Heritage Site.

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

The Board discussed this matter and desired that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests may be ask to submit report early.

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

Board noted the action taken to release the amount to Eco-watch for spreading the conservation message in North Karnataka.

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

The Board noted the action taken to release the amount to Karnataka Grameena parmprika Vydya Parishath, Gadag for training programme for Rural Traditional Vydyas.

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

The Board approved the action taken in this.

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

The Board accepted the proceeding of the Consultative Meeting on Biodiversity Conservation conducted on 5/4/2010.

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

The Board noted the action taken to declare Ambargudda as Heritage Site.

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

The Board noted the proposed action.

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

The Board noted the action taken to release fund to Bangalore University to conduct 1 day Seminar on Environmental Impact on Biodiversity.

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

The matter was discussed in detail and the Board was informed that the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai has asked some details from University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad to reply to the letter written by Karnataka Biodiversity Board dated 18/3/2010.

Further the Board was of the opinion that presently the research work is going on. As per the Biological Diversity Act the permission of Government of India has been taken by University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. The permission of National Biodiversity Authority / State Biodiversity Board is not required as per the act for the research purpose. The presentation by Environment Support Group was listened by the Board members and some clarifications was also taken. In view of the above Board was of the opinion that since the reply is awaited from National Biodiversity Authority. It is better to get the reply from National Biodiversity Authority before taking further action.

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

The Board discussed the matter and desired an early report from Principal Chief Conservator of Forests on the issue of loss of forest cover in Karnataka State.

### **14/1 – Removal of some species from the purview of Biological Diversity Act 2002 under section- 40.**

The subject was discussed by the Board in-detail on the complaint of Environment Support Group. The Board considered the action of Government of India ordering that the provision of Biological Diversity Act shall not apply to 190 species, provided that they are traded as commodities. (Govt. Notification dated 26/10/09). Members were of the opinion that most of species listed by Environment Support Group are cultivated and traded as commodity and banning such species will create problem of livelihood and cultivation and harm the export and the same will not be accepted by the people concerned. The species such as Aegle Marmelos are really rare in Karnataka, Valeriana Jatamansi are available mostly in Himalaya. Since the matter is complex one the Board decided to refer the matter to Technical Experts such as

Botanical Survey of India and Botany Department of various universities for their opinion before taking further action.

#### **14/2 – Instituting Award for Agro Biodiversity and Animal Diversity.**

The Board approved the proposal to institute the following awards in addition to general awards.

- 1. Agro Biodiversity Award...**
- 1 for Cereals crops.
  - 1 for Vegetables crops.
  - 1 for fruit crops.

For outstanding work in conserving local traditional Agriculture and Horticulture crop Variety and knowledge associated with it.

- 2. Animal Biodiversity Award...** 1 for conserving and developing the local breed.

#### **14/3– Declaring Heritage Sites.**

The Board discussed the matter for declaring the following as Heritage Sites under Biological Diversity Act 2002

1. Netrani Island, U. K. District
2. Vegetation area GKVK Campus, Bangalore
3. Hogrekhan, Chikmagalore District
4. Ambargudda, Shimoga District

The subject was discussed in detail. The Board was informed that an Expert Committee was formed by the Government. The subject was placed before the committee. The Expert committee in its meeting dt 7/6/2010 considered the issue in detail and decided that the above sites are appropriate for declaration as Heritage Site under the act. The proceeding of the committee was noted by the Board. Secretary (Ecology and Environment) suggest to take the opinion of Revenue Department as Revenue Department is the owner of the sites in Hogrekhan and Ambargudda. It was clarified that Revenue Department is not the owner of the land. It is the trustee of the land and the land belongs to the Government.

The members were of the opinion that preliminary notification, in respect of Natrani Island, Hogrekhan and GKVK Campus was published in the News papers and Government Gazette and objections were called for giving time limit for 30 days no objections were received. The proposal has been given wide publicity.

In case of Netrani Island the Member Secretary clarified that this was informed to the Commander in Chief, Karwar vide our letter dated 5/5/2010. The letter was acknowledged. There were no objections received. The members were of the opinion that due publicity has been given. Hence the above three sites may be declared as Heritage Site under the Biological Diversity Act. The Secretary (Ecology and Environment) suggested to take the opinion of Revenue Secretary in the file for which the Principal Secretary clarified that there is no necessity for the same as proper procedure has been followed.

After detailed discussion the chairman and all members agreed to declare the above sites as Heritage Sites. In case of Ambargudda a preliminary notification should be

issued by the Government calling for objections if any. Then further action be taken as per procedure already decided.

#### **14/4– Heritage Site Management Rules.**

It was informed that as the Biological Diversity Act 2002 (Section 37(2)) the State Government has to frame the rules for Conservation and Management of Heritage Site in consultation with Central Government. The draft Management Rules for Heritage Sites was gone through and the Board decided to recommend the same to Government for consideration and further action.

#### **14/5– Declaring Heritage Trees.**

The Draft Karnataka Preservation of Heritage Trees Rules 2010 was considered by the Board and the Board decided to recommend the same to Government for consideration and issue notification under section 63(2) (i) for the same.

Further the Board decided to declare the following trees as Heritage Trees.

<b>SI No</b>	<b>Name of the Tree</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Girth in meters</b>	<b>Height in meters</b>	<b>Approximate Age as reported by locals.</b>
1	Adansonia Digitata - Malvaceae	Bijapur District, Bijapur taluk,	10.84	5	600 years
2	Adansonia Digitata - Malvaceae	Bijapur District, Bijapur taluk.	9.20	7	359 years
3	Tamarindus Indica	Bijapur, Sindagi taluk, Devarahippuragi village	7.78	39.39	883 years
4	Azadirachta Indica – (Bevu)	Chickballapur district, Sidlagatta Taluk, T.Venkatapura village	5.4	25	200 years
5	Ficus Begalensis – (Alada Mara)	Mysore district, Mysore taluk, Chickkahally	11.2	30	260 years
6	Ficus Relegiosa – (Peepal)	Mysore district, Mysore taluk, Manasagangothri Campus	8.80	32	160 years
7	Kempu Booraga Mara	Mysore district, Mysore taluk, Palace Gate	28	19.4	130 years
8	Ficus Bengalensis (Doddaalada Mara)	Bangalore (U), Kethohalli	NA	30	400 years
9	Araucaria cookie	Bangalore, Lalbagh	7	50	140 years
10	Pilali	Shimoga District, Soraba taluk, Banavasi	NA	5-6	400 years

#### **14/6– Accounts for 2009-10.**

The Board noted the Accounts for 2009-10 and resolved to authorize the Member Secretary to send the Accounts to Accountant General Karnataka for audit.

#### **14/7– TDS Payment through Internet Banking.**

The Board noted the action taken.

#### **14/8– Protection of Estuaries.**

The Board considered the subject and approved the project proposal of the Department Marine Biology to Survey Estuarine beds of Kali and Agnasini river at a cost of Rs. 35,200/- to identify the patches which are threatened due to many factors for the purpose of considering the same to declare such patches as Heritage Site.

#### **14/9– Preparation of Documentary film.**

The subject was discussed by the Board. In view of the necessity of presentation before the Conference of Parties in 2012 to be held in Delhi where the representative of 192 countries will be participating, the Board decided to get a documentary film prepared on various components of Biodiversity of the State, Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees, preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers, Heritage Sites, Threatened Species and various eco-systems of the state. The Member Secretary will take further action.

#### **14/10– Conference of Biodiversity Management Committees in Bangalore.**

The Board after discussion agreed to conduct Conference of BMC members to make the BMCs in the state operational and active in conservation of Biodiversity and other related issues and to create mass awareness. The budget proposal of Rs.1.70 lakhs was approved for this purpose.

#### **14/11– Conducting workshop on Agro Biodiversity.**

The Board approved the proposal to conduct Agro-Biodiversity workshop in August 2010. It was decided to conduct on 12/8/2010. An amount of Rs.40,000/- was also approved for the same.

#### **14/12– Amendment to Karnataka Tree preservation Act.**

It was informed that the Forest Department has a proposal to amend the Karnataka Tree preservation Act. In the present amendment the provisions of Tree preservation Act will not apply to 41 species. This is being done to avoid the harassment to the people when they ask for felling permission. The Board members noted that the list includes many important species also.

If the relaxation is given then, then it will lead to large scale removal of the trees. The member opined that certain species such as Arconut, Coconut, Coffee, Erythrisia, Eucalyptus, Glyrecidia, Guava, Lemon, Orange, Rubber, Sapota, Sesbania, Silver Oak, Subabal, Prosopis etc may be considered for relaxation. This is required in the interest of maintenance of tree cover in the state. The Forest Department may be informed accordingly.

#### **14/13–Preparation of district level Action Plan on Biodiversity**

The Board approved the suggestion of Preparation of Biodiversity Action plan at the local body level in each district of the state. The Chief Executive Officers, Zilla Panchayath may be asked to get the Biodiversity Action plan prepared by forming an Expert Committee of officers of various Line Department in each district and submit the same to the Board. The action plan should be in Line with state Biodiversity action plan.

#### 14/14– Project proposal of Pilukula Nisarga Dhama Society (R)

The subject was discussed in detail, it was informed that the funds of Biodiversity Board is not much. The Board has to consider funding of Biodiversity Management Committees at various level to make the Biodiversity Management Committee operational in Biodiversity Conservation awareness generation as per the Biological Diversity Act huge. Funds cannot be given to other organization as desired by them.

However in case of Pilukula Nisarga Dhama Society it was suggested to give the funds for as below.

1. Establishment of a Herbarium and a Botanical Museum of the plants of Western Ghats	@ Rs. 12.00 lakhs per year for 5 years
---	--

2. The establishment cost can be given.

3. As far as the Management and Conservation of Sacred grove is concerned it was informed by Member Secretary that the Biodiversity Management Committee are being formed at various levels. The Management and conservation of Sacred Groves falls within the purview of BMC as per Biological Diversity Act. This aspect will be taken care of by the concerned Biodiversity Management Committee.

In view of the above the Board agreed to provide the funds to Pilukula Nisaraga Dhama Society as below.

1. Establishment of a Herbarium and a Botanical Museum of the plants of Western Ghats	@ Rs. 12.00 lakhs per year for 5 years
2. Sacred groves	Rs. 2.00 lakhs once for Survey and Identification and report on sacred groves in Coastal, Western Ghat region for declaration as Heritage Sites.

“The Secretary (Ecology & Environment) suggested that establishment of Herbarium and Botanical Museum of the plants of Western Ghats can be supported by the Karnataka Biodiversity Board since it is an activity pertaining to education, awareness and conservation of Western Ghats plants. As against the requirement of Rs. 24.00 lakhs per year in the current year 2010-11, the KBB can provide Rs. 12.00 lakhs as agreed and the rest i.e, Rs.12.00 lakhs will be re-appropriated to the Biodiversity budget head from other budget heads incase if saving occurs. For the remaining four years commencing from 2011-12 onwards the KBB shall indicate this requirement of Rs.24.00 lakhs /annum in their budget head for consideration by the Government.”

#### 14/15– Declaration from Bio Resources Industry.

The Board was informed that out of 198 Pharmaceutical Companies and 82 Cosmetic Companies in Karnataka State 37 Pharmaceutical Companies and 59 Cosmetic Companies have not given the intimation on the utilization of Bio resources as required under the Biological Diversity Act 2002, inspite of several reminders. The Board was of the opinion that the final notice may be issued to such companies and in case of non compliance the cases should be filed in the court by requesting the Government to appoint a Public Pleader.

## **Additional Subject**

14/16

Sub: Baseline Profiling of Cultural-heritage Biodiversity  
Resources in select Eco zones of Karnataka - reg

\*\*\*\*\*

The Co-Chairman, KBB had received a proposal from Institute for Indigenous Cultures and Studies, Tarikere (IINDICUS) which was handed over during the Board Meeting. The concerned organization wants to undertake a project on profiling of Cultural-Heritage Biodiversity Resources in selected Eco Zones in Karnataka. The proposal is for 2 years duration involving an amount of Rs. 4.165 lakhs for 1st year and Rs. 3.965 lakhs for 2<sup>nd</sup> year. The proposal was gone through in this respect. The Member Secretary informed that some clarification is needed regarding the present activities of the organization, details of eco-zones and villages to be selected and how it will help in conservation of Biodiversity. The Co-chairman informed that the representative of concerned organization may contact the Member Secretary in this respect. The Member Secretary informed that after clarification action will be taken to consider the proposal.

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



## **Resolution**

The Karnataka Biodiversity Board in its 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting discussed the Accounts for 2009-10 and resolved to authorize the Member Secretary to send the Accounts to Accountant General – Karnataka for audit and further action.

### **Chairperson**

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