

# Karnataka Biodiversity Board

## Proceedings of the 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting held on 30/09/2010 – 11.00 AM

The 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting was held on 30.09.2010 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 were 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. Sri. Kanwar Pal, IFS, Secretary to government (Ecology and Environment) Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept. M.S.Buildings, Bangalore. ....Member
4. Dr. M.D. Subhash Chandra, Environment Specialist, Kumuta, Uttara Kannada District .....Member
5. Deputy Secretary, Agriculture dept on behalf of Principle Secretary. Agriculture and horticulture department
6. Dr. R.C.Prajapati IFS, APCCF, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bangalore .....Member Secretary

### The following Members were absent:

1. Smt. Meera Saksena, IAS Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept, M.S.Buildings, Bangalore. ....Member
2. Sri. Srikantaiah, IFS. Director, Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy, Dhanvanthri Road, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore .....Member
3. Sri.D.K.Ved, IFS (Retd) Advisor, FRLHT, Govt. of India. Jarkbande, Yelahanka Bangalore.
4. Sri. Indu B.Srivastava, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore. ....Member
5. Prof. R. Sukumar, Chairman, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Bangalore .....Member

### 1. Reading and recording of 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting held on 02.07.2010.

Board was informed that comments were received from secretary (Ecology & Environment) on financial assistance to Pilikula Nisarga Dhama (R) Society same were incorporated and revised proceeding was circulated. Since there is no comments, the revised proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting may be adopted.

## **2. Action taken on 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting proceeding held on 02.07.2010:**

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

The board was informed that Director, (AYUSH) is yet to take action to provide a Deputy Director (AYUSH) to the Board.

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

The member secretary informed the board that the report on the survey report has been prepared and submitted to National Biodiversity Authority. This survey report gives information on quantity of resources used by bio industries. This help in regulating the bio resources use. The National Biodiversity Authority has released the same at Chandigarh and asked other state also the similar report.

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

On this the secretary (Ecology & Environment), suggested to write a letter to PCCF (Head of Forest Force) asking to raise the seedlings of RET species mentioned in the survey report of Centre for sustainable development. Board accepted the suggestion.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

### **12/21 – Biodiversity Award**

The Board noted the action taken Prof. Subash Chandra asked for clarification whether Agro Biodiversity Award will include the domestic animals also. The Member Secretary clarified that for conservation of domestic and local breeds of animals separate award will be given.

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

The board was informed that the report from the PCCF is awaited. Action will be taken on receipt of the same.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

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

The board was informed that preliminary notification has to be issued by the government. Sri. Kanwarpal, Secretary (Environment & Ecology) informed that it is under process. The board noted the same.

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

The Board noted the action taken to asking DCFs (Social forestry) who are nodal officers to conduct meeting of BMCs members at various levels.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

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

The board was informed that opinion of National Biodiversity authority is awaited. And action will be taken after receipt of the same.

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

The board opined that PCCF (Head of Forest Force) may be asked to send the report on the reduction in forest cover and action taken thereon.

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

The board was informed that opinion from botanical survey of India and department of Botany of various universities have been called is awaited Action will be taken after receipt of the opinions.

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

The board was informed that awards for agro biodiversity and animal diversity have been instituted and will be presented from next year onwards.

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

The board was informed that Hoglekan in Chikmagalur district and GKVK in Bangalore have been declared. The process in case of Netrani island in Uttara Kannada district and Ambargudda in Shimoga district is under progress. The Board appreciated the action taken.

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

As per suggestions of National Biodiversity Authority, Heritage site management rules are being modified. Secretary (Environment & Ecology) suggested to send the modified rules to National Biodiversity Authority, get the same approved and then place it before the board. After board's approval the same may be sent to the government for consideration and notification.

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

On this matter the Hon'ble minister for (Ecology and Environment) and chairman of the board suggested to write a letter to PCCF (Head of Forest Force) asking for details of trees with special significance and consider to declare the same as Heritage Trees. The Hon'ble minister for (Ecology and Environment) informed that in Muthodi Forest in Chickmagalore district there is a huge tree which can also be declared as Heritage Tree. Similarly such trees may be available in different region of the state. The Member Secretary informed that a request will be made through the News paper calling for the proposals and suggestions. The Board accepted the same.

#### **14/6– Accounts for 2009-10.**

The board noted the action taken. The Board advised the Member Secretary to take further action to place the Audited Account and Annual report before the Legislature after receipt of the same from Accountant General, Karnataka.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

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

Dr. R.C.Prajapathi, Member secretary informed the board that report on survey work of kali and Aghanashini estuaries has come and this report would be placed before the expert committee on heritage sites to consider to declare some patches as heritage sites. The decision of the expert committee will be placed before the board. The Chairman, Western Ghat Task Force stressed that certain patches of Kali and Aghnansihin river are very important from Biodiversity angle as these patches have important and endemic fish and other aquatic species and needs to be conserved and protected from interference and high level of pollution.

The Board appreciated the sentiments and agreed to consider the report of Expert Committee with all the details to declare the same as Heritage Site.

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

Sri. Ananth Hegde Ashisara suggested to include the details of heritage sites, declared by the government, in the documentary film. Sri. Kanwarpal, Secretary (Environment & Ecology) suggested to prepare the documentary film both in English and Kannada. The board accepted the suggestions. The Member Secretary informed the Board that the expression of interest is being called through News paper and same will be placed before the Board in the next meeting. The documentary film will be a show piece showing various aspects of Biodiversity of Karnataka to the delegates of Conference of Parties (CoP) in 2012 which will be attended by delegates from 192 countries.

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

The Board decided to conduct the conference of BMC in Bangalore after agriculture season is over.

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

The board noted the action taken.

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

The board noted the action taken.

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

The Board was informed that the CEOs of all the ZPs in the state have been asked to prepare district biodiversity action plan as early as possible and submit the same to the board.

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

Secretary (Environment & Ecology) informed that in the first year Rs. 24/- lakhs will be provided to Pilukula Nisarga Dhama Society for establishment of and a botanical museum of the plants of Western Ghats and Rs.2.00 lakhs separately for survey and identification of sacred groves one time and next four years only Rs. 24/- lakh will be given and in this connection a government order will be issued. The board noted the same.

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

The board noted the action taken.

#### **14/16– Project proposal of Baseline profiling of Cultural-Heritage Biodiversity Resources in select Eco-zones of Karnataka**

The project proposal submitted by INDICUS was discussed. The Member Secretary informed that the project is for profiling the cultural expression of the people related to various aspects of Biodiversity and associated Traditional Knowledge. The project is very important.. The Board considered the same and in view of importance of the project Board agreed to provide Rs. 5.00 lakhs for the project.

#### **15/1– Declaration of Natural Heritage Site.**

On the above subject the Board agreed in principle to consider the suggestion of Chairman, Western Ghat Task Force to consider the same as Heritage Site. The Board desired the Member Secretary to collect the relevant information and submit the same to the Board with justification and decision in the Expert Committee.

### **15/2– Declaration of Agro Biodiversity Heritage Site.**

The suggestion of Chairman, Western Ghat Task Force to declare Varda river basin area as Heritage Site was favourably considered by the Board. The Chairman, Western Ghat Task Force stressed the point that the basin is very important from the point of view of Traditional Local variety the growers and conservers need to be motivated. The Board desired the Member Secretary to collect the relevant information and place the same before the Board in the next meeting. Opinion of the Expert committee and the Agriculture Department may be obtained.

### **15/3– Declaration of selected river patches as Heritage Site.**

The Board desired that the opinion of the Fisheries Department should be obtained and reason for not declaring the same as Fish sanctuaries by the Fisheries Department should be obtained and placed before the Board.

### **15/4– Dryzone forest Biodiversity Conservation Sites Network.**

The Secretary (Environment & Ecology) was of the opinion that it would not be proper to declare some areas within the reserve forest in 13 districts as heritage sites. The Board was informed that the Dryzone conservation sites network consisting of many endemic and endangered species which are very useful in health system and will be appropriate to declare the same as Heritage Site under the Biological Diversity Act 2002.

Prof. Subash Chandra stressed that by declaring the same under Biological Diversity Act these areas will receive higher level of protection and conservation. The Member Secretary informed that there is no restriction in the act to declare such areas. The Secretary (Ecology and Environment) stated that the Board should not encroach upon the jurisdiction of other departments.

The Board decided the same favorably and desired that the opinion of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests may be obtained before taking further action.

### **15/5– National conference on climate change and its impact on Natural Resources from 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010.**

The board considered the request of Bangalore University and agreed to provide Rs. 25,000/- financial assistance to organize the seminar on Climate change.

### **15/6– Conservation of Traditional Varieties of paddy.**

The board was informed the a workshop on “Conservation of traditional varieties of paddy” was organized at Banavasi. The board agreed to give Rs.25000/- to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi to meet the expenditure on workshop.

### **15/7– Composition of Expert Committees.**

The board was informed that chairman of the agro biodiversity expert committee has resigned expressing his inability to spend time to chair the meeting of expert committee due to personal reasons. The board decided to nominate Dr. Krishna Murthy, as chairperson of the Agro biodiversity expert committee.

### **15/8– National Award.**

The Board was informed that the Government of India and National Biodiversity Authority at the 6<sup>th</sup> National Meet at Chandigarh has given the Best Biodiversity Board Award of Karnataka Biodiversity Board. This is the 1st Award given by National Biodiversity Authority (Govt. of India) to any Board. The Board members congratulated Dr. R.C.Prajapati, Member Secretary for the same and placed on record the service rendered by the Member Secretary.

### **15/9– Financial assistance to the Lake 2010 Symposium.**

The Board decided to provide financial assistance of Rs. 40,000 to the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore to organize Symposium on Wetland Biodiversity and climate change in December 2010.

### **15/10–Integrated Ecological carrying capacity study of Uttara Kannada District.**

The Board was informed that the Center for Ecological Sciences of IISC, Bangalore is conducting Ecological carrying capacity study of Western Ghat. The Board desired that the Center for Ecological Sciences should make a presentation on the work done so far before release of 2<sup>nd</sup> installment.

### **15/11– “Project on floristic diversity, ecological uniqueness, and Conservation strategies of riparian flora of Netravathi river system in Western Ghats” range of Dakshina Kannada.**

The Board discussed the project submitted by Prof. Korse and agreed to provide Rs.82,000/- for the Research work.

### **15/12–Declaration of Sri. Lakshmikantha Swamy, Medicinal Eco-park, Devaragudda (Sri giri), Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore as heritage site.**

The board was informed that a proposal has come from Sri. Dashavathara Lakshmikantha swamy temple trust, Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore, for declaring Devaragudda/Srigiri, about 1.46 acres of hillock in that area as heritage site. In the proposal the temple trust has informed that the BBMP has undertaken a project to convert this area into a high tech park with decorative lights. This project by BBMP destroys the Biodiversity of the park.

The Member Secretary informed the Board that the Assistant Conservator Forests, Karnataka Biodiversity Board has been asked to conduct an enquiry to collect the opinion of BBMP and other stakeholders and submit the report. The report is still awaited. The Board desired that the enquiry report should be placed before the Board in the next meeting. Meanwhile the BBMP should be addressed to safeguard and conserve the present Biodiversity of the Park.

**15/13– Financial assistance to Raichur Vignana Kendra for establishment of biodiversity park.**

A letter was addressed to the Hon'ble Minister, Environment & Ecology, from the Hon'ble Minister, Fisheries, Science and Technology and in charge minister Raichur district to provide financial assistance to Raichur, Vignana Kendra for establishment a bio diversity park in an area of 50 acres.

The Secretary, Environment and ecology suggested to write to Deputy Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry), Raichur, asking him to provide details about the landscape of the place and give information on amount of money needed in establishment of such biodiversity park. The board accepted the suggestion.

**Chairperson**

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