

Karnataka Biodiversity Board

Proceedings of the 16th board meeting held on 03/02/2011 – 12.30 PM

The 16th Board Meeting was held on 03/02/2011 in the chamber of the Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Ecology, Harbor and Inland water Transport, Fisheries and Chairperson, Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

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

The following Members were present:

1. Sri. Krishna Palemar, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Ecology, Harbor and Inland water Transport, Fisheries, Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore.Chairman
2. Sri. Ananth Hegde Ashisar, Chairman, Western Ghat Task force, Vidhana Soudha, BangaloreCo-Chairman
3. Sri. Kanwer 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 DistrictMember
5. Sri. C.M. Jagadish Kumar, Agriculture dept on behalf of Principle Secretary. Agriculture and horticulture department
6. Dr. Rafia Begum, Deputy Director, Ayush Department, on behalf of Director, (ISM&H) Dhanvanthri Road, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore
7. Sri. K.S.Sugara IFS, CCF, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, BangaloreMember Secretary

The following Members were absent:

1. Sri. Kaushik Mukherjee, IAS Principal Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept, M.S.Buildings, Bangalore.Member
2. Sri.D.K.Ved, IFS (Retd) Advisor, FRLHT, Govt. of India. Jarkbande, Yelahanka Bangalore.Member
3. Sri. Indu B.Srivastava, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore.Member
4. Prof. R. Sukumar, Chairman, Centre for Ecological Sciences, BangaloreMember

The following subjects were discussed in the meeting.

1. Reading and recording of 15th Board Meeting held on 30/09/2010.

Since there were no comments from the members, the proceedings of the 15th Board Meeting are adopted.

1. Action taken on 15th Board Meeting proceeding held on 30/09/2010:-

8/11 – Providing suitable staff to Karnataka Biodiversity Board

The representative of Director, Ayush Department informed the Board that the process of deputing a Deputy Director cadre officer from their department is under process and shortly an order will be issued to this effect. The Board approved the proposal of recruiting Research Associates for Botany and Zoology on contract basis. Regarding appointing District Coordinators, the Secretary (E&E) informed that final decision will be taken after discussion with Principal Secretary, FEE.

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

As per resolution of the Board, PCCF has been requested to raise seedlings of RET species and propagate them in the field. PCCF is again requested to inform the Board about the action taken at the earliest.

12/22 - Protection of Mangroves

As per resolution of the Board, PCCF has been requested to identify the Mangrove patches for bringing the same under forest Act for protection and conservation irrespective of their size. PCCF is again requested to inform the Board about the action taken at the earliest.

13/6 – Declaring Ambargudda as Heritage Site

The Board was informed by Secretary (E&E) that the preliminary notification is being issued by Government.

13/12 – Vegetation Mapping by Forest Survey of India

The report on reduction in forest cover is awaited from Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

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

The Board was informed that botanical survey of India and department of Botany of various universities have been addressed for their opinion. The reply received from professor from Dept. of Botany, Gulbarga University was perused. Dr Subhash Chandra promised to provide some more information in consultation with experts. It was resolved by the Board that sufficient scientific data is required for taking further action.

14/3– Declaring Heritage Sites.

The Board deliberated on the representation of Naval base, Karwar. The Chairman stated that the security & territorial integrity of Nation is of paramount importance and in view of the strategic reasons in West Coast, the historical claim of Indian Navy to the Nethrani Island needs to be recognized. Hence, Board resolved the matter of declaring Nethrani Island as Biological Heritage Site is dropped. It was also decided that Karnataka Biodiversity Board and Naval Base, Karwar should prepare a joint monitoring plan for conservation of biodiversity of the Island & surroundings.

14/4– Heritage Site Management Rules.

The Board noted the action taken.

14/5– Declaring Heritage Trees.

The board noted the action taken. It was decided that further action will be taken after framing the Karnataka Heritage Tree rules 2010 and all the proposals will be considered together in a comprehensive manner.

14/6– Accounts for 2009-10.

The board noted the action taken.

14/8– Protection of Estuaries.

The board noted the action taken

14/9– Preparation of Documentary film.

The Board noted the action taken and directed Member Secretary to call for Expression of interest.

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

It was agreed that there is urgent need to strengthen BMCs by taking Capacity Building programmes and in-situ and Ex-situ conservation works. Once some level of progress is achieved, conference may be called in Bangalore by entrusting work to an institute. The Chairman Western Ghats Task Force suggested that meetings and awareness programmes in the District level may be continued.

14/11– Amendment to Karnataka Tree preservation Act.

The Board was informed that in the interest of conservation of tree species, the PCCF has been addressed in this matter to take necessary action. It was resolved to request PCCF again to inform the Board about on the action taken at the earliest.

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. Member Secretary stated that the matter is being pursued with Principal Secretary, RDPR for issuing necessary Government order.

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

Action taken by the Board is noted.

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

Secretary (E&E) informed that Government order will be issued shortly.

15/1– Declaration of Natural Heritage Site.

Sahasralinga in Sirsi comes under Reserved Forest as per the information received from DCF, Sirsi. As per the guidelines issued by MOEF, Gol, for implementation of Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act 2002 *“Areas which have already been designated, identified or notified (for example as protected area, biosphere reserve etc) under other Acts or programmes may not be considered under this provision. The idea is to identify those areas important from biodiversity point of view which do not enjoy protections/support under any other Act of programme”*. Hence, Board

resolved that the areas coming under notified forests need not be declared as Heritage Sites. Regarding others the Board decided that the Member Secretary to collect the relevant information and submit the same to the Board with justification and recommendations of the Expert Committee.

15/2– Declaration of Agro Biodiversity Heritage Site.

In river basin of Varada about 35 local varieties of rice are grown by over 9000 farmers in 91 villages spread over one lakh acres of paddy area. Hence, the matter needs extensive study and survey by Experts. The Board was informed that Assistant Directors of Agriculture of Sagar, Soraba, Sirsi and Hangal taluk have been asked to collect relevant information to declare Varada river basin as Agro Biodiversity Heritage Site for its unique flood resistant varieties of rice and associated traditional knowledge. They have also been directed to send the proposals through concerned nodal officers i.e. DCFs (SF) for submitting the comprehensive proposals to the Board for taking further necessary action in the matter. The subject will be placed before Expert Committee after receipt of comprehensive proposals.

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

The Fisheries Department with lot of persuasion has declared 7 patches out of identified 16 patches as Fish sanctuaries under Karnataka Inland fisheries Conservation Development and Regulation Act – 1996.

As decided in the 15th Board Meeting, opinion of Director, Dept. of Fisheries was sought for the remaining 9 patches. His reply is awaited. Further, it was informed to the Board that under Section-7 of Karnataka Inland Fisheries Conservation Development and Regulation Act – 1996, fishing is prohibited in the Fish sanctuaries. The Chairman stated that before declaring Fish sanctuary, department must consult local people who are fishing in these locations for bonafide use and livelihood support.

15/4– Dryzone Forest Biodiversity Conservation Sites Network.

Since these areas are inside Reserved Forests, as decided by Board in agenda No 15/1 supra, these areas need not be declared as Heritage Sites.

15/6– Conservation of Traditional Varieties of paddy.

Action taken by the Board is noted.

15/7– Composition of Expert Committees.

Secretary (E&E) informed that necessary Government order is being issued to nominate Dr. Krishna Murthy, as Chairperson of the Agro biodiversity Expert Committee.

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

Action taken by Board is noted. It was informed to the Board that organizers of Lake 2010 Symposium at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore had not invited important Line Departments to the Symposium. This is improper. Hence Board directed organizers of the symposium to circulate copy of the recommendations emerged in symposium to all Line Departments for further action.

15/10–Integrated ecological carrying capacity study of Uttara Kannada District.

The Board was informed that the 2nd Installment will be released after receipt of UC and progress report.

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.

Action taken by Board is noted.

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

Since the land belongs to BBMP, the Member Secretary should obtain the opinion of the BBMP within one month, regarding declaring this land as Heritage Site.

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

The Board directed that Deputy Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) Raichur should be sent last reminder to send report on the matter.

16/1 Establishment of Dry Zone Biodiversity In-situ Conservation sites network

The project was conceived as a collaborative project of Karnataka biodiversity board, Karnataka forest department and centre for sustainable development, Bangalore. It was approved in the 11th board meeting held on 4th May 2009. Under this project in 13 selected in-situ conservation sites in dry districts of Karnataka for Rs.29.06 lakhs to be spent during 2009-10. Additional Rs 50000/- is provided for maintenance from 2nd year to 5th year. The activities are soil and water conservation, protection and maintenance and & monitoring of biodiversity through botanisation. Draft final report is received from CSD with recommendations to continue the project.

The proposal under discussion includes remaining 5 dry districts with some modification based on the feedback and experience of implementing officers. The proposed permanent sample plot size is 50mx50m because in dry areas smaller plots will not be adequate to capture species diversity. 10 sample plots will be laid in each site. The Board approved the proposal submitted by Member Secretary as under:-

1. Herbarium Assistance - Rs. 36,000/-
2. Botanical Survey- Rs. 1.75 lakh per site for 13 sites for two seasons.
3. Identification and establishment of five in- situ conservation sites.

This work is proposed in the districts of Ramanagar, Chikkaballapur, Haveri, Gadag, & Yadgir at rate Rs. 2.413lakhs /site with total cost of Rs. 12.065 lakhs including botanisation.

4. Protection and Maintenance for 2nd to 5th
Total Cost - Rs. 10.01 lakhs for 13 sites in the 2nd year.

Since the coordinator of this project is repatriated to his parent organization i.e. FRLHT, from next year onwards the project may be implemented through FRLHT.

16/2 Calling for Expression of interests on integrating ecological Carrying Capacity study of 6 districts of Western Ghats

Secretary (E&E) suggested that we should wait for the outcome of the project on Uttara Kannada.

16/3- Declaration of Mango Farm as Agro Biodiversity Heritage Site.

The Board was informed that 116 Mango varieties existing in Mango orchard of Sri. Abdul Ghani Khan in Kirugavulu village is registered in National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi. Financial assistance of Rs. 6,960/- is provided to fix labels on all the registered trees. The Board agreed the proposal for declaration of mango orchard in Kirugavulu village of Malavalli taluk, Mandya District as Agro Biodiversity Heritage Site. Member Secretary is requested to send the detail proposal on the recommendation of Agro Biodiversity Expert Committee.

16/4 Project on Conservation and Utilization of Deep water Rice Genetic Resources of the Varada River Course in the Western Ghats of Karnataka.

A project proposal was submitted by Dr..G.S.Mohan, Junior Breeder (Rice), Agriculture Research Station, Ponnampet, Kodagu, (U.A.S. Bangalore) for Rs.6.18 lakhs, the project duration is two years. The project is linked to agenda No.15/2 supra. The proposal may be referred to Agro Biodiversity Expert Committee for their opinion.

16/5 - Financial Assistance to conduct National Seminar on Forest Resources: Diversity, Utilization and Conservation

The Board agrees to provide financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 for conducting the above National Seminar on 9th – 11th March 2001 at GKVK, Bangalore.

16/6 - Incentives to farmers who are maintaining Traditional Varieties of crops.

The proposal is agreed by the Board and it was directed to place the issue before the Agro biodiversity Expert Committee for deliberation and fixing up quantum of financial assistance.

16/7 - Biodiversity Awareness program in Eco clubs established under NGC program.

The proposal is agreed by the Board and it was decided to provide Rs. 2,500/- per Eco club per year to 100 Eco clubs in different schools in all the districts for conducting Biodiversity Awareness Programs.

16/8- Providing incentives to owners of the Heritage trees.

The proposal is agreed by the Board and it was directed to place the issue before the Expert committee on Heritage Sites for deliberation and fixing up quantum of financial assistance.

16/9- Providing financial assistance to BMCs for protection of Biodiversity Heritage Sites

The proposal is agreed by the Board to provide money to the BMCs/ Biodiversity Heritage Sites Management Committee. The amount of Rs. one lakh per site can be spent on providing watch and ward facility, fence repair, fire protection, fixing of display boards and signage.

16/10 - Construction of agriculture museum building in E-10 Block of GKVK Campus

The Member Secretary informed the Board that as reported by the Registrar, UAS Bangalore, in E-10 Block out of total 8 ha extent, only 6 ha is included in the Heritage Site and the remaining proposed for Museum building is not part of the Heritage Site. The Secretary (E&E) informed the Board that once a land is declared as Heritage Site, it is the duty of the owner to protect the land and the biodiversity and no portion of the land should be diverted for other purposes. Accordingly, directions should be issued to GKVK.

16/11 - Organizing Awareness Program on Environment throughout state by Vanamitra organization

The Board agreed to the request of Vanamitra organization and provide the Equipment and Literature, Books on Birds and Animals as and when needed for creating Awareness programmes.

16/12 - Financial assistance to “Karnataka Grameena Paramparika Vaidya Parishat (R).

The Board agreed to provide financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- to conduct State Level Conference of Natiy Vaidyas to be held in Koppal on 25th & 26th Feb 2011.

16/13 - Financial assistance to Dept. of Botany, University of Dharwad.

The Board agreed to provide financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- to conduct the National Conference Biodiversity and Biotechnology for sustainable development on 21st & 22nd March 2011 in Dharwad.

16/14 - Annual plan of operation for balance amount of Rs. 22.393 lakhs

The Action plan of operation for balance amount of Rs.22.393 lakhs under establishment of Kuvempu Bio-park project is approved in-principle by the Board. The Secretary (E&E) is requested to pursue the matter with Department of Finance for necessary revalidation.

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

Sd/-
Chairperson,
Karnataka Biodiversity Board
and Hon'ble Minister for Environment
and Ecology, Harbor and Inland
Water Transport, and Fisheries
Govt. of Karnataka, Vikasa Soudha,
Bangalore.

(K.S.Sugara)IFS
Chief Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary