

# Karnataka Biodiversity Board

## Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting held on 05.05.2011 – 12.30 PM

The 17<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting was held on 05.05.2011 in the chambers of the Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Ecology, Harbor and Inland water Transport and Fisheries & Science & Technology 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 Fisheries & Science & Technology and 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. Sri.D.K.Ved, IFS (Retd) Advisor, FRLHT, Govt. of India. Jarkbande, Yelahanka Bangalore.	.....Member
5. Dr. M.D. Subhash Chandra, Environment Specialist, Kumuta, Uttara Kannada District	.....Member
6. Dr. B.K.Dharmarajan, Addl. Director, Dept of Agriculture, Bangalore on behalf of Principal Secretary to Government, Dept of Agriculture, Bangalore.	
7. Sri. C.S.Raju, IFS APCCF (Head Quarters & Co ordination), Arnaya Bhavan, Bangalore on behalf of PCCF, (Head of Foret Force), Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore	
8. Dr. N.Rafia Begum, Deputy Director, Dept of AYUSH, Bangalore on behalf of Director Dept of AYUSH, Bangalore.	
9. Sri. K.S.Sugara IFS, CCF, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bangalore	.....Member Secretary

### The following Member was absent:

1. Sri. Kaushik Mukherjee, IAS, .....Member  
Principal Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Dept., Bangalore
2. Prof. R. Sukumar, Chairman, Centre for Ecological .....Member  
Sciences, IISc., Bangalore

### 1. Reading and recording of 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting held on 03.02.2011

Since there were no comments from the members, the proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> board meeting were adopted

## **2. Action taken on 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting proceeding held on 03.02.2011:**

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

The Representative of PCCF informed the board that during the general transfers one Deputy Conservator of Forests would be deputed to the board. The representative of the Director, Dept of AYUSH informed the board that the process of deputing one Deputy Director from their department to board is underway. The board was informed about the publishing of advertisement for appointment of research associates of Botany & Zoology in Kannada and English dailies and the applications are being processed.

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

The representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the board that the matter has been referred to the concerned officials and information on raising RET species by Forest department will be furnished to the board shortly.

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

The representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the board that the matter has been referred to the concerned officials and shortly information will be furnished to the board in this regard.

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

The board was informed that preliminary notification has been issued on 31.01.2011 by government vide G.O.No.FEE/21/ENV-2010 and till now no objections have been received to the notification declaring Ambargudda as Heritage Site.

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

The board was informed that replies have been received from M/s MAYHCO and M/s Sadguru regarding information asked by National Biodiversity Authority. However the reply from UAS, Dharwad is awaited. Further the contents of letter dated: 25-04-11 were read in the meeting by the Member Secretary. It was resolved to report the information received from all the parties to the agreement on Bt. Brinjal Project, to National Biodiversity Authority and to seek their guidance regarding the actions to be taken on violation of the provisions of the Act. The Addl. Director, Dept of Agriculture who was present in the meeting, informed the board that Bt.Brinjal field trials are monitored by UAS, Dharwad officials and not by the Dept. of Agriculture.

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

The representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the board that the report will be furnished shortly.

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

The board was apprised of the report furnished by Dr. Subhash Chandra and it was decided to ask forest department for regulation of harvesting of *Cinnamomum* sps. And in case of *Curcuma angustifolia*, forest department should be asked about the

method of extraction in order to reduce the over exploitation of the species. It was also decided to write to central government to exclude *Curcuma angustifolia* from the list of 190 plant species notified u/s 40 of the Biodiversity Act 2002.

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

The board was informed regarding letter dated: 14-03-2011 of the Chief Secretary, GoK to Defence Secretary, GOI requesting to give necessary direction to Naval Authorities not to take up firing in the proposed Heritage Site in view of the invaluable biodiversity of the Netrani island and to request them to find out any other suitable land for firing practice in consultation with the District Magistrate. Since the matter concerns strategic defence of the Nation, it was resolved to wait for the directions from Defence Secretary, GOI.

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

The board noted the action taken.

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

The board noted the action taken.

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

It was resolved to remind Dr. V.N. Nayak, Dept of Marine biology, Karnataka University PG Centre, Karwar to submit the survey report as early as possible

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

The board noted the action taken.

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

It was decided to conduct the conference in Bangalore inviting board members, Biodiversity Experts, Members of active Biodiversity Management Committees, line department officials. Detail proposal may be prepared on the matter.

#### **14/11– Amendment to Karnataka Tree preservation Act.**

The representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the board that the proceedings of the consultative workshop involving farmers, NGOs, Environmentalists and Senior forest officers has been submitted to government and government would take action after discussion in the cabinet.

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

The member secretary informed the board about the circular issued by RDPR department regarding district level action plan on biodiversity and CEOs of all ZPs have been requested to prepare the action plan as early as possible.

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

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 secretary (E&E), Dept of FEE informed the board that a government order has been issued in this regard.

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

The board noted the action taken. It was decided to send the reminder.

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

The board noted the action taken. It was decided to send the reminder.

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

It was resolved to refer the copies of Government order declaring 7 patches in Karnataka as fish sanctuaries to know about activities prohibited in those areas after declaration. It was also decided to send remainder to Director of Fisheries and to get the opinion regarding declaration of remaining 9 patches as fish sanctuaries by department of fisheries under Karnataka inland fisheries conservation, development and Regulation Act 1966.

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

The board noted the action taken.

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

It was resolved to request the principal investigator of the project to make a presentation in the chambers of Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Dept. before release of second installment.

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

It was resolved that if the opinion from Commissioner, BBMP, Bangalore regarding declaring the said land as biodiversity heritage site is not received in a week, the process of declaring the land as heritage site may be initiated by the concerned authorities.

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

Since no response is received from Deputy Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry), Raichur district even after two letters, it was decided to drop the matter.

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

In view of the unavailability of funds, the board approved the modified proposal prepared in consultation with the FRLHT :

1. Herbarium Assistance = Rs. 36,000/-
2. Cost of protection and maintenance for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>  
= Rs. 10.01 lakhs for 13 sites in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
3. Botanical Survey (Rs. 1.50 lakh+ Rs 25000)=Rs 1.75 lakh for 13 sites for two seasons
4. Transportation Charges for two seasons = Rs. 52,000/-
5. Honorarium for local experts – 2 persons for 6 days including travel @ Rs.500/- per site = Rs. 78,000/-
6. Institutional Charges 10% = Rs.30,500/-

The total cost of Rs. **13.725** lakhs of this project was approved by the board.

The proposal to take up works in five districts of Ramnagar, Chickballapur, Haveri, Gadag & Yadgir may be taken up if sufficient funds are available at a later stage.

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

The board noted the action taken. It was decided to send remainders to concerned Sr. Asst. Director of Horticulture and Deputy Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) to get the proposal as early as possible.

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

The member secretary informed the board that project proposal submitted by Dr..G.S.Mohan, Junior Breeder (Rice), Agriculture Research Station, Ponnampet, Kodagu, (U.A.S. Bangalore) was discussed in the meeting of Expert Committee on Agro biodiversity held on 21/3/2011. As per the recommendation of the Expert Committee a revised project proposal costing Rs. 7.905 lakhs has been submitted by the Principal Investigator and the same is put for the consideration of the Board.

The revised proposal was discussed in the board and it was suggested that the duration of the project should be one year instead of two years proposed now and stipend should be reduced to Rs 6000/- pm. Further, the purchase of laptop was not agreed by the members. It was decided that the project proposal should be resubmitted duly incorporating the above suggestions.

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

The board noted the action taken.

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

The board was informed about the decision taken in the agro biodiversity expert committee meeting to prepare a comprehensive proposal in consultation with the experts in the field. It was resolved to involve agriculture department to implement recommendations that would emerge in the expert committee meeting.

### **16/7 - Biodiversity Awareness programmes in Eco clubs established under NGC programme.**

The board noted the action taken.

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

The board was informed that as resolved 16<sup>th</sup> board meeting the matter was referred to expert committee on heritage site and following suggestions were emerged:

- 1) The expenses required to maintain and to protect Heritage Trees from biotic and abiotic pressures, on request of the owner of such trees.
- 2) Symbolic one time reward as incentive to protect the Heritage trees.
- 3) Reward by District Incharge Minister on special occasion like Biodiversity day, Earth day, Environment day and honoring the owners of Heritage tree by local dignitaries'.
- 4) Publishing photograph of the owner along with Heritage Tree in leading dailies.

The board approved the suggestions and directed to fix signage and boards in the vicinity of heritage trees. It was also resolved to quantify the incentives and expenses as far as possible.

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

The board noted the action taken.

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

The board noted the action taken.

### **16/11 - Organizing Awareness Programmes on Environment throughout state by Vanamitra organization**

As Vanamitra organization did not submit the requirements of the equipment needed by them, the board decided to defer the proposal.

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

The board noted the action taken.

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

The board noted the action taken.

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

It was decided that the amount of Rs. 22.393 lakhs can be spend by the member secretary. The Secretary (E&E) informed the board that the matter will be pursued with Department of Finance for necessary revalidation.

### **New Subject:**

### **17/1 - Budget allocation for the year 2011-12**

The board noted the budget allocation of Rs.129.50 lakhs for the year 2011-12 and approved the Annual Plan submitted by Member Secretary.

**17/2 - Continuous absence of non-official member in Karnataka Biodiversity Board meetings.**

It was decided to take action after getting opinion from Prof. Sukumar regarding his continuation as board member.

**17/3 - Project on improving livelihood opportunities for rural people by conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.**

The board noted the livelihood project proposal submitted to National Biodiversity Authority. The abstract of the project proposal is as under:

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Ecosystem</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Amount (in Rs lakhs)</b>
1.	Agro Ecosystems	Encouragement of agro forestry	2004.00
		Encouragement to Organic farming/on-farm conservation work	15.00
		Diversified farming systems	12.50
		Focus on conservation of genetic diversity	10.00
		Establishment and Maintenance of community seed banks:	10.00
		Promotion of biodiversity linked tourism in Biodiversity Heritage Sites/trees	22.00
2.	<b>Forest Ecosystem</b>	Adoption of improved fuel wood efficiency devices	10.00
		Providing alternative energy devices (Solar Cookers)	20.00
		Promotion of conservation of biodiversity outside the protected area network on private property/common lands/water	30.00
		Utilization of invasive species for furniture making, Basket weaving etc	10.00
3.	<b>Mountain Ecosystems</b>	Conservation of sacred groves	511.00
		Strengthening traditional practices of Rain water harvesting	8.00
4.	<b>Desert (dry land) Ecosystem</b>	Encouraging local breeds of chicken and promoting cultivation Alovera	30.00
5.	<b>Wetland Ecosystem</b>	Studies on fish and hydrophytes	10.00
	<b>Coastal Ecosystem</b>	Awareness training to stakeholders on coral reef	5.00
		Mangrove restoration activities	18.00
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>2,725.50</b>

**17/4 - Permission to Submit of Karnataka Biodiversity Annual Accounts to Accountant General Karnataka for every financial year**

It was resolved to give one time authorization to Member Secretary to submit the Annual Accounts and revised Accounts (if any) for every financial year directly to the accountant general, Karnataka for audit and further action.

### **17/5 - Biodiversity Atlas**

The board members deliberated proposal submitted by ATREE at revised cost of **Rs. 32.338 lakhs** for the work which includes all the components of Biodiversity of Karnataka. It was resolved to request ATREE to reduce the salary component which is Rs 19.32 lakhs.

### **17/6 – Proposal for training farmers and local communities**

The board approved the proposal submitted by Environment Support Group, a Bangalore based NGO, to conduct one day training for fifty participants at the cost of Rs. 40,000/- per training. The target group involve members of BMCs, local village panchayath's, District Planning Committees, Farmer Committees, Forest Dwelling Committees, Media, Civil society etc. It was decided to provide the funds to the NGO to conduct two trainings.

### **17/7 – Financial assistance to “Parisara – Nisaraga Samrakshna Samsthe”**

The board members deliberated the proposal submitted by the “Parisara – Nisaraga Samrakshna Samsthe” and it was decided to provide fund of Rs. 30,000/- to print leaflets containing information on importance and conservation of biodiversity, with related photos.

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, and Fisheries  
Govt. of Karnataka, Vikasa Soudha,  
Bangalore.