

# Karnataka Biodiversity Board

## Proceedings of the 18<sup>th</sup> board meeting held on 14/09/2011 – 11.00 AM

The 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting was held on 14.09.2011 in the chambers of the Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Ecology and Fisheries 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 Ashisar, Chairman, Western Ghat Task force, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore	Co-chairman & member
3. Sri. Kanwar Pal, IFS, Secretary to government (Ecology and Environment) Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept. M.S.Buildings, Bangalore.	.....Member
4. Dr. G.K. Vasantha Kumar, Additional Secretary, Dept of Agriculture, Bangalore on behalf of Principal Secretary to Government, Dept of Agriculture, Bangalore.	
5. Sri. C.S.Raju, IFS APCCF (Head Quarters & Co ordination), Arnaya Bhavan, Bangalore on behalf of PCCF, (Head of Foret Force), Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore	
6. Dr. H.T. Srinivas, Joint Director, Dept. of Indian System of Medicines and Homeopathy, Bangalore on behalf of Director, Dept. of Indian System of Medicines and Homeopathy, Bangalore	
7. Dr. M.D. Subhash Chandra, Environment Specialist, Kumuta, Uttara Kannada District	.....Member
8. Sri. K.S.Sugara IFS, CCF, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bangalore	.....Member Secretary

### The following Members were absent:

1. Sri. Kaushik Mukherjee, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Dept., Bangalore	.....Member
2. Sri.D.K.Ved, IFS (Retd) Advisor, FRLHT, Govt. of India. Jarkbande, Yelahanka Bangalore.	.....Member
3. Prof. R. Sukumar, Chairman, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc Bangalore	.....Member

## **1. Reading and recording of 17<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting held on 05.05.2011**

Since there were no comments from the members, the proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting were adopted

## **2. Action taken on 17<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting proceeding held on 05.05.2011:**

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

The Board noted the action taken on recruitment of Research Associates for Botany & Zoology. The decision regarding appointing District Coordinators is deferred since Principal Secretary has to take the decision in the matter.

### **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 field officers 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 officers 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. Secretary (E&E) has informed that action will be taken regarding final notification.

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

It was decided to wait for further intimation / guidance from National Biodiversity Authority regarding initiating legal action against violators of provisions of Biological diversity Act 2002.

It was also decided in the meeting that in future for research & development and bio safety trials of any bt.crop to be conducted in Karnataka state, prior permission from the KBB is required and this may be communicated to Central Government.

### **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. On receipt of the report, Member Secretary should send it to French Institute of Pondichery for opinion.

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

It was informed to the board that PCCF has been requested for regulation of harvesting of *Cinnamomum sps*, and to come out with the method of extraction in order to reduce over exploitation of the species. It was decided that action taken by Forest Department should be brought in the next meeting.

Secretary (E&E) dept of FEE has agreed 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 subject was deliberated in the board meeting. Since the matter concerns strategic defence of the Nation, it was resolved to wait for the opinion of Defence Secretary, GOI.

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

It was decided to wait for approval of Rules by National Biodiversity Authority.

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

It was decided to wait for approval of “The Karnataka heritage tree Rules, 2010” by National Biodiversity Authority.

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

Survey report of Kali and Aganashini estuaries is received on 13/9/2011 from Dr. V.N. Naik, Department of Marine Biology, Karnataka University, P.G.Center, Karwar. Member Secretary was directed by the board to place the report in the next board meeting for further action.

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

The member secretary informed the Board of the EOI called for production of documentary film for the second time, since the tender who applied in the first tender couldn't fulfill the requirements. The Board noted the action taken.

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

It was decided that Member Secretary may call meeting of Experts, Members of active Biodiversity Management Committees, NGOs and line departments.

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

The representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the board that workshop of Senior Forest Officers was held in Bangalore recently wherein the issue is discussed at length. Hence it was decided to ask PCCF to submit a final view on the matter.

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

It was decided to prepare guidelines for preparation of district level action plan on biodiversity. An Expert group may be constituted to draft such guidelines.

#### **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 board noted the action taken.

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

It was decided to pursue the matter with DCF, Sagar Division.

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

It was decided to pursue the matter with Assistant Directors of Agriculture, Soraba and Sagar taluks.

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

It was decided to send remainder to Director of Fisheries to get the opinion in consultation with concerned villagers regarding declaration of remaining 9 patches as fish sanctuaries under Karnataka Inland Fisheries Conservation, Development and Regulation Act 1966.

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

The Board expressed displeasure that quarterly progress report is not being furnished by the principal investigator of the project and directed the Member secretary to remind the Registrar IISc on the issue.

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

The board was informed about the orders dt 26/8/2011 of Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in Writ Petition No. 20078/2010 (GM-RES-PIL), the operative portion of which is as under:-

*“We, therefore, dispose of the instant writ petition, by directing the respondents to maintain status quo, as it exists today, with a liberty to take any further action that may be called for, after obtaining express concurrence of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board”.*

Therefore, on receipt of proposal from DCF (Social forestry), Bangalore Urban district, the matter to be processed for declaring the site as Biodiversity Heritage Site.

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

The board was informed of the botanical survey work being done by CCNR-IAIM in the 13 in situ conservation sites.

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

It was decided to place this matter before the board after obtaining opinion of Joint Director, Biotechnology Centre, Department of Horticulture, Hulimavu, on agenda No18/7.

### **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 Secretary (E&E) informed that the approval of Government will be issued shortly.

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

It was decided to wait for the report of Agro Biodiversity Expert Committee.

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

It was decided to pursue with the Commissioner, Department of Public Instructions, requesting to send list of 100 active eco clubs formed in different schools and colleges across state to pursue this cause.

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

The board agreed to provide onetime cash reward of Rs.5,000/- along with other recommendations placed and approved on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

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

The board was informed of the approval of the action plan submitted by Nallur Biodiversity Management Committee. The board was also apprised of work of one row planting of indigenous species all along the periphery and removal of *Prosopis juliflora* in the Nallur tamarind grove, to be taken up by social forestry division. 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 Member Secretary should prepare an action plan for 2011-12 for Rs.22.393 lakhs and submit to Secretary (E&E) for obtaining necessary revalidation from Finance Department.

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

Since Prof. R. Sukumar has expressed his desire to step down as Board member, it is decided to nominate Dr. Ramaksrihna, former Director, Zoological Survey of India as a new Non-official member of the Board in place of Prof. R.Sukumar.

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

The board approved the revised proposal submitted by ATREE at the cost of Rs. 29.233 lakhs for preparation of Biodiversity Atlas.

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

The board noted the action taken.

### **18/1 Project submitted by Association of Scientists for Managing Agriculture, (ASMA), UAS Layout, 6<sup>th</sup> Cross, RMV II Stage, Bangalore – 94**

Since the proposal does not come strictly under biodiversity conservation, the board did not approve the proposal.

### **18/2 Project on “Propagation of pearl spot (*Etroplus suratensis*) for diversified fish production in Karnataka”.**

Since the proposal does not come strictly under biodiversity conservation, the board did not approve the proposal.

### **18/3 Proposed seeds bill 2010 and enumeration of reservations on field trials of Bt. Maize.**

The Board deliberated on the matter and to have wider consultation, it was decided to conduct one day workshop on this issue inviting experts in the field, stake holders, concerned department officers and NGOs at the Aranya bhavan.

### **18/4 Providing financial assistance for Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees and Preparation of People’s Biodiversity Registers.**

The subject was deliberated among the members and it was decided to sanction the enhanced rates as under:-

<b>Formation of BMCs</b>	<b>Preparation of PBRs</b>	<b>Awareness Training &amp; Skill Development programme</b>
1. At GP level - Rs. 1,000/- per BMC	Rs. 55,000/- per PBR	Rs 25,000/- per training per 50 participants for general training and skill development programme.
2. At TP level – Rs. 1,500/- per BMC		
3. At ZP level – Rs. 2,000/-per BMC		

### **18/5 Proposal for organizing Capacity Building Workshops on Preparation of People’s Biodiversity Register for the Panchayat Raj Functionaries of Karnataka.**

The board did not agree with the proposal since it is found to be costly. The board further directed that Capacity Building programme should aim at producing the output in the form of People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).

### **18/6 Financial support to Sahaja Samrudha NGO for Geographical indication (GI) of Rajamudi rice.**

After due deliberation among the members, the proposal was agreed in principle and it was decided that Dr. Vasanth Kumar, Additional Secretary, Department of

Agriculture, will coordinate the matter with University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and Sahaja Samrudha NGO for further necessary action.

**18/7 Project proposal on “Genetic diversity studies of the Mango plantation in Kirugavalu village of Malavalli taluk, Mandya district”.**

It was decided to refer the project proposal to Joint Director, Bio technology centre, Hulimavu, Horticulture Department, for his opinion. After receiving his opinion the project may be placed before the board for consideration.

**18/8 Project Proposal on “Integrated research into the Peculiar features and the Complex biodiversity of the Tamarind grove in Nallur – Devanahally taluk”.**

It was decided to recommend the proposal to Dept. of Science and Technology, Government of India, for financial assistance through Secretary (E&E) Govt. of Karnataka.

**18/9 Office space for Karnataka Biodiversity Board**

The action taken by Member Secretary is duly ratified by the board.

**18/10. Project proposal on “Building Civil Society (BMCs) Capacity for Biodiversity Assessment, Monitoring and Conservation in the Tumkur district Karnataka.**

The proposal is deferred. The Member Secretary is directed that if TERI can prepare People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), work of one PBR preparation can be entrusted to them on pilot basis.

**18/11 Printing of study report on Amritmahal Kaval and its biodiversity.**

Sri. Anantha Hegde Ahsisar, Chairman, Western Ghat Task Force and Co-chairman of Karnataka Biodiversity Board, requested the Chairman, Biodiversity Board to consider the representation submitted by Sri. Monohar Patel, Mythrea Parisara Adhyayana Kendra, Tiptur, regarding printing of study report on Amritmahal Kaval and its biodiversity.

After due deliberation among the members, it was decided that Member Secretary, KBB should take necessary action to print the booklet on behalf of the KBB after following due procedure. Sri Monohar Patel, Mythrea Parisara Adhyayana Kendra, Tiptur should submit soft and hardcopy of the study report to the Member Secretary.

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