

Karnataka Biodiversity Board

Proceedings of the 19th board meeting held on 20/01/2012 – 12.00 Noon

The 19th Board Meeting was held on 20/01/2012 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. Kaushik Mukherjee, IAS Addl.Chief Secretary to government Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept. M.S.Buildings, Bangalore.	Member
4. Sri. Kanwar Pal, IFS, Secretary to Government (Ecology and Environment) Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept. M.S.Buildings, Bangalore.	Member
5. Sri. Avani Kumar Varma, IFS PCCF Head of Forest Force), Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore	Member
6. Dr. M.D. Subhash Chandra, Environment Specialist, Kumuta, Uttara Kannada District	Member
7. Sri. K.S.Sugara IFS, APCCF & Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bangalore	Member Secretary

The following Members were absent:

Dr. Sandeep Dave, IAS, Principal Secretary, Dept of Agriculture, M.S.Buildings, Bangalore	Member
Sri. G.N.Sreekantaiah,, IFS Director, Dept. of Indian System of Medicines and Homeopathy, Bangalore	Member

Reading and recording of 18th Board Meeting held on 14.09.2011

Since there were no comments from the members, the proceedings of the 18th Board meeting were adopted.

1. Discussions and Action taken on 18th Board Meeting proceedings (held on 14.09.2011)

8/11 – Providing suitable staff to Karnataka Biodiversity Board

It was decided that efforts may be made to fill up all the vacancies in the Board. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division who are appointed as Nodal Officers in the respective districts shall be directed to pursue the matter assigned to them by the Board.

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

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the Board that directions have been issued to the concerned field officers in the matter. Progress report on raising RET species will be brought in the next meeting of the Board.

12/22 – Protection of Mangroves.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the Board that action will be taken to notify Mangrove patches as protected forest. PCCF (HoFF) is requested to pursue the proposals and furnish details in next meeting of the Board.

13/6 – Declaring Ambargudda as Heritage Site

The Board was informed that final notification declaring Ambargudda as Heritage Site has been issued by Government.

13/11 – Bt. Brinjal – Bt. Crop

The subject was deliberated and it was clarified that the subject comes under the purview of National Biodiversity Authority. Therefore it was resolved that it is for the National Biodiversity Authority to take necessary action at their end against institutions/companies regarding alleged violations of provisions under Biodiversity Act 2002.

13/12 – Vegetation Mapping by Forest Survey of India

The Board noted the report of PCCF(HoFF) regarding decrease in forest cover in some districts due to harvesting of mature plantations by MPM Ltd & KFDC Ltd and increase of forest cover in some districts due to afforestation by forest department.

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

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the Board that action taken a report on regulation of harvesting of *Cinnamomum species* and method of extraction of *Curcuma angustifolia* will be brought in the next meeting of the Board.

14/3– Declaring Heritage Sites.

It was decided that the State Government would wait for the final disposal of PIL filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka for taking further action in the matter.

14/4– Heritage Site Management Rules.

It was decided to send draft Heritage Site Management Rules to Ministry of Environment and Forests for consultation as per section-37(2) of Biodiversity Act 2002.

14/5– Declaring Heritage Trees.

It was decided to send draft Heritage Tree Management Rules to Ministry of Environment and Forests for consultation as per section-37(2) of Biodiversity Act 2002.

14/8– Protection of Estuaries.

The Board was informed that the consent of individual stakeholders associated with Aghanashini and Kali river estuaries is essential for declaration of these sites as Biodiversity Heritage Sites. Additional Chief Secretary, Dept.of FEE suggested that the implications of declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites may be informed to the stakeholders before seeking their consent.

14/9– Preparation of Documentary Film.

The Board was informed that M/s Shramajeevi Agri Films has been awarded with the tender.

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

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) agreed to provide resources of Forest Department in organizing the Conference of Biodiversity Management Committees in Bangalore.

14/11– Amendment to Karnataka Tree Preservation Act.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the Board that final view on the matter will be informed to the Board in the next meeting.

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

It was decided that a model guidelines for preparation of District level Action Plan on Biodiversity may be drafted by a Committee headed by Dr Ramakrishna with Dr. Subhash Chandran as member.

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.

The board noted the action taken.

15/2– Declaration of Agro Biodiversity Heritage Site.

It was decided to wait for the final report of the proposed Project on Conservation and Utilization of Deep water Rice Genetic Resources of the Varada River Course in the Western Ghats of Karnataka to be implemented by Dr. Mohan G. S, Junior Rice Breeder, Ponnampet.

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

Declaration of these river patches as Heritage Sites implies restrictions and prohibition on fishing thus affecting basic livelihood of local people and fishermen community. Hence it was resolved to drop the subject.

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

The Board agreed with the suggestions made by the Addl.Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment and directed that the project works be expedited and draft report must be submitted by Principal Investigator within the stipulated time.

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

It was resolved to obtain the approval of BBMP and Urban Development Department for Declaration of Sri. Lakshmikantha swamy, Medicinal Eco-park, Devaragudda (Sri giri), Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore as heritage site as BBMP is the jurisdictional local body under Biodiversity Act 2002.

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 13 in situ conservation sites.

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

It was decided to defer the matter till the outcome of the project “*Genetic diversity studies of the Mango plantation in Kirugavalu village of Malavalli taluk, Mandya district*”, to be implemented by Dr.Nandini Associate Professor, GKVK, UAS, Bangalore.

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 the Board that proposal is approved and communication is being issued to the Member Secretary.

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

It was resolved to take help of NGOs to select 100 Eco clubs formed in different high schools and pre-university colleges across the state by EMPRI, which is nodal agency in Karnataka state for the National Green Corps Programme of Central

Government and it was resolved to provide Rs.2500/- financial assistance to each eco club for conducting Biodiversity awareness programs in selected Eco-clubs.

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

The Board agreed to provide onetime cash reward of Rs.5,000/- along with a plaque and a certificate depicting GPS coordinates of the Heritage Tree pending approval of Heritage Tree Management Rules.

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

The Board was informed of the financial assistance of Rs.1.00 lakh provided to Balliganur BMC in Kadur taluk of Chikkamagalur district through deputy conservator of forests (Social Forestry) for Biodiversity conservation activities to be taken up in Hogarekhan Biodiversity Heritage Site.

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

The Secretary (E&E) informed the Board that additional details have been asked by the Finance Department and same is being pursued.

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

The Board welcomed the new non-official member Dr.Ramakrishna nominated in place of Dr.Sukumar.

17/5 - Biodiversity Atlas

The Board was informed of execution of MoU with ATREE, the project implementing agency and release of Rs.9.23 lakhs as first installment.

17/6 – Proposal for training farmers and local communities

The Board noted the action taken.

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

It was decided that as Agriculture Department is conducting workshops and seminars related to the seed Bill and there is no necessity to conduct a seminar separately by Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

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

The matter may be pursued with Dr.Vasanth Kumar, Additional secretary, Department of Agriculture, Bangalore.

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

It was resolved by Board that study project should be sanctioned by Member Secretary duly prescribing the terms of reference and the same should be placed in the next Board meeting.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

2. Agenda for 19th Board meeting

19/1 Biodiversity Awards

It was resolved to review the existing system of awards by reducing the number of awards as below:-

1. Biodiversity – general
2. Agro Biodiversity
3. Award to a woman who has made outstanding contribution in conservation of biodiversity.
4. Award to best Biodiversity Management Committee.

Revised proposal along with proforma and guidelines should be placed before in the next meeting.

19/2 - Translation of People’s Biodiversity Register into Kannada language.

The Board approved proposal for translation PBRs into Kannada language @ Rs. 5,000/- per PBR.

19/3- Biodiversity Awards for best documentary films on biodiversity.

The Board approved the proposal for giving an award to a Best film on Biodiversity which creates awareness among general public on biodiversity, its conservation, sustainable use of its components and benefit sharing. This agenda may be clubbed with agenda no.19/1 above and considered accordingly.

19/4 - Regular payment of Salary to Supporting staff of Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

The Board did not approve the proposal for regular payment of salary to outsourced personnel directly from the Board due to legal complications that may arise in future. In case of complaints against the manpower agency, the said agency may be changed by the Member Secretary.

19/5 - Purchase of a new vehicle for the Board.

The Board approved the proposal for purchase of new Hyundai Verna Fluidic Petrol (VTVT 1.6) for use of Member Secretary and suitable proposal is sent to the Government for approval by the Finance Department.

19/6 Protection of *Nothapodyets nimmoniana* an anti cancer medicinal plant.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the Board that Forest Department will take necessary action to regulate collection of *Nothapodyets nimmoniana*. PCCF (HoFF) should bring action taken report in the next meeting of the Board.

19/7 Submission of Utilization Certificate and vouchers for the works on dryzone insitu conservation sites and infrastructural facilities to Biodiversity Management Committees

The Board agreed with the suggestions of the Addl. Chief Secretary, Dept. of FEE and asked the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) to issue show cause notices to Deputy Conservators of Forests, Territorial and Social Forestry Divisions, who have not submitted utilization certificates and vouchers for the released amount as reported by Member Secretary. It was also resolved to direct DCFs to return the amount released to them and spend the funds meant for strengthening of BMCs directly by the Member Secretary.

The meeting ended with 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

Additional Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests and Member Secretary
Karnataka Biodiversity Board
Bangalore