

Karnataka Biodiversity Board

Proceedings of the 20th board meeting held on 22/09/2012 – 11.00 AM

The 20th Board Meeting was held on 22/09/2012 in the chambers of the Hon'ble Minister for Ecology Environment, Planning and Statistics and Chairperson, Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

The following Members were present:

1. Sri. S Shivanna, Hon'ble Minister for Ecology, Environment, Planning and Statistics, Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore.	Chairman
2. Sri. Ananth Hegde Ashisar, Chairman, Western Ghat Task force, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore	Co-Chairman & Member
3. Sri Sridharan R, IAS Principal Secretary to government Forest, Ecology and Environment Dept. M.S.Buildings, Bangalore.	Member
4. Sri. Kanwer Pal, IFS, Secretary to Government (Ecology and Environment) M.S.Building, Bangalore.	Member
5. Sri. Avani Kumar Varma, IFS PCCF(Head of Forest Force), Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore	Member
6. Dr Ramakrishna, Director, ZSI(Retd) Emeritus Scientist, UAS, GKVK, No 169, 2nd Cross, 4 th Main, ITI layout, Maalathahalli, Bangalore-56	Member
7. Dr. M.D. Subhash Chandran, Environment Specialist, Kumuta, Uttara Kannada District	Member
8. Sri. K.S.Sugara IFS, APCCF & Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bangalore	Member Secretary

The following Members were absent:

9. Sri Bharat Lal Meena, IAS, Principal Secretary, Dept of Agriculture, M.S.Buildings, Bangalore	Member
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9. Sri. G.N.Sreekantaiah,, IFS Director, Dept. of Indian System of Medicines and Homeopathy, Bangalore	Member
11. Dr D K Ved, IFS(Retd) D-6, Aditya Nest, 13 th Cross, Malleshwaram Bangalore-560003	Member

A) Reading and recording of 19th Board Meeting held on 20.01.2012

Since there were no comments from the members, the proceedings of the 19th Board meeting were adopted.

B) Discussions and Action taken on 19th Board Meeting proceedings (held on 20.01.2012)

8/11 – Providing suitable staff to Karnataka Biodiversity Board

It was decided that efforts be made to fill up all the vacancies in the Board. As per the Government order No. FEE17 ENV 2009 Bangalore Dated 03.08.2009, all the Deputy Conservators of Forests (Social Forestry) in addition to their present duties shall act as Nodal Officers and link between Karnataka Biodiversity Board and BMCs. They will attend formation of BMCs and assist KBB in preparation of PBRs and all other activities pertaining to biodiversity and related issues. PCCF agreed to monitor performance of DCFs (SF) as per Government order. Principal Secretary FEE suggested that the Reporting Authority of DCFs (SF) will be asked to make entries in their Annual Performance Report, relating to performance of duties assigned in above mentioned Government order. He further suggested that there should be awareness program for CEOs of ZPs. The Board resolved that these suggestions be implemented.

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

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the Board that nurseries have been raised in three Circles and progress report from remaining ten Circles 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 forests. He promised to furnish draft notifications along with maps before next meeting of the Board.

13/11 – Bt. Brinjal – Bt. Crop

In the light of letter dated: 01.06.2012 received from the Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority Chennai, the decision taken by the Board in 19th Board Meeting was reviewed. After due deliberations, the Board authorized Member Secretary to permit Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bangalore and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Dharwad Forest Division, Dharwad to act as co-complainants along officers of National Biodiversity Authority in the said case. The Board resolved that Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board shall give necessary technical and logistical co-operation to the officers of National Biodiversity Authority during the filing of the said complaint against M/s Mahyco and

other institutions/companies and the legal proceedings thereafter, regarding alleged violations of provisions under Biodiversity Act 2002. It is further resolved that the PCCF(Head of Forest Force), Karnataka Forest Department shall issue immediate directions to concerned jurisdictional forest officers and provide all necessary technical and logistical co-operation to the officers of Karnataka Biodiversity Board and National Biodiversity Authority till the completion of legal proceedings in the case.

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 harvesting of *Cinnamomum species* is banned for a period of 5 years in Shimoga, Chickmagalur, Kodagu and Canara Circles. He promised that action taken report on regulation of and method of extraction of *Curcuma angustifolia* will be brought in the next meeting of the Board. The Board resolved that these species shall be propagated by the forest department in the field and in agro-forestry programmes.

14/3– Declaring Heritage Sites.

Member Secretary provided a copy of the response filed by the KBB in WP No: 39065/2011(GM-RES). Dr M D Subash Chandran, Member expressed disagreement with the contents of the Reply affidavit, especially the proposal to the Hon'ble High Court to order that the Netrani island should be under the joint custody of the Govt agencies including the Naval authorities. It was decided that the matter would be examined again and a Revised Affidavit filed in the Court at the earliest, after also considering the inputs from Dr Subash Chandran.

14/4– Heritage Site Management Rules.

The Board noted the action taken.

14/5– Declaring Heritage Trees.

It was decided to send draft Heritage Tree Management Rules with suitable modification 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/departments associated with Aghanashini and Kali river estuaries is essential for declaration of these sites as Biodiversity Heritage Sites. Member Secretary is asked to expedite the matter with local officers.

14/9– Preparation of Documentary Film.

The Board was informed that the work of documentary film is completed by M/s Shramajeevi Agri Films. The documentary film is released by the Hon'ble Minister for Ecology Environment, Planning and Statistics and Chairperson, Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

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

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) agreed to provide manpower and resources of Forest Department in organizing the Conference of Biodiversity Management Committees, preferably during the month of November.

14/11– Amendment to Karnataka Tree Preservation Act.

The Principal Secretary FEE and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) informed the Board that the matter is under consideration of the Hon'ble Minister for Forest.

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

It was decided by the Board in 19th meeting that 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. For this purpose, the committee may visit several BMCs, Zilla Panchayaths, Rural Development & Panchayath Raj Department, line departments, Institutions and stakeholders for consultation etc. The Board resolved that members of Committee shall be paid sitting allowance Rs 1000 per meeting, actual travelling expenses on field visits at the prevailing rates allowed to non-official members of Expert Committees on Agro biodiversity and Biodiversity Heritage Site. The Member Secretary shall reimburse sitting allowance and actual travelling expenses and also make payment of such other expenses for preparing the report, purchase of stationary etc. The Committee should complete the task within six months and submit the Draft District Level Action Plan to the Member Secretary.

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

The Secretary Environment informed the Board that the project needs to be reviewed by calling a meeting. It is decided by the Board that a team of experts comprising of Dr Ramakrishna, Member KBB, Dr Sanjappa, Retd Director BSI and DCF, KBB shall visit Pilukula Nisarga Dhama Society (R), Mangalore and evaluate the Project works. The actual expenses incurred during field visits and travelling will be reimbursed to the non-official members by the Member Secretary.

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 explore the possibility of any other Scientist, qualified in the field for taking up the Research project.

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

The Board directed that the completion of project report be expedited and draft report must be submitted by Principal Investigator within two months.

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

The Board resolved to recommend to Government for declaration of Sri. Lakshmikantha swamy, Medicinal Eco-park, Devaragudda (Sri Giri), Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore as Biodiversity Heritage site. The management of the site will be with BMC constituted by BBMP which is the jurisdictional local body under Biodiversity Act 2002.

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

The Board decided that CCNR-IAIM should expedite the work and submit the draft final report to the Member Secretary at the earliest.

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

It was decided to wait for the outcome of the project, "*Genetic diversity studies of the Mango plantation in Kirugavalu village of Malavalli taluk, Mandya district*", being 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.

It was decided to explore the possibility of any other Scientist, qualified in the field for taking up the Research project.

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

The Board noted the action taken. The Hon'ble Minister for Ecology Environment, Planning and Statistics and Chairperson, Karnataka Biodiversity Board has kindly agreed to address letter to Sri Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri, Hon'ble Minister for Primary & Secondary Education in order to enlist the support of Education Department for conducting Biodiversity awareness programmes in selected Eco-clubs.

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.

17/5 - Biodiversity Atlas

The Board noted the action taken.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

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

The Board noted the action taken.

19/1- Biodiversity Awards

The Board approved the proposal along with proforma and guidelines and decided the following Biodiversity Awards one in each category:-

1. General Biodiversity
2. Agro Biodiversity
3. Biodiversity Award for Woman
4. Award to best Biodiversity Management Committee
5. Award for Best film on Biodiversity
6. Award to Forest Guard for best nursery of RET and Endemic species

Each award consists prize money of Rs.25,000/-, a citation and a certificate.

The following Sub-Committee is constituted for evaluation of Biodiversity Awards:-

1. Sri. R M N Sahai, IFS, Director General EMPRI, Bangalore, Chairperson
2. Sri. K S Sugara, IFS, Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board
3. Dr. Ramakrishna, Member, Karnataka Biodiversity Board
4. Dr. Subhash Chandran, Member, Karnataka Biodiversity Board

The Board further resolved that Member Secretary shall pay sitting allowance Rs 1000 per meeting, actual travelling expenses to the non-official members of the Sub-Committee, at the prevailing rates allowed to no-official members of Expert Committees on Agro biodiversity and Biodiversity Heritage Site.

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

The Board directed Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) to bring action taken report in the next Board meeting regarding regulating collection of *Nothapodyets nimmoniana*, its protection and propagation in the field.

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 directed Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) to bring action taken report in the next Board meeting regarding status of show cause notices issued to Deputy Conservators of Forests, Territorial and Social Forestry Divisions who have not submitted utilization certificates and vouchers for the funds released by, Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

C) New Agenda for 20th Board Meeting

20/1 - Approval of Annual plan of Operation for the year 2012-13

The Board approved .Annual Plan of Operation for Rs. 170.00 lakhs for the year 2012-13 submitted by Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

20/2- Provisions of BD Act 2002 and KBD Rules 2005 and issue of manufacturing license to Bio resource based industries

The agenda item is directly concerned with Director of AYUSH and he, being a Member of the Board is absent today. The Hon'ble Minister for Ecology Environment, Planning and Statistics and Chairperson, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, expressed displeasure over continuous absence of Sri. G.N.Sreekantaiah, Director, Dept. of Indian System of Medicines and Homeopathy, Bangalore and it was decided to report the matter to Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare.

The Board decided that Director of AYUSH must consult KBB to ensure compliance of the provisions of BD Act and Rules thereof by bio-resource based industries before issuing manufacturing licenses and also to cancel manufacturing licenses of those bio resources based industries who are not complying with provisions of BD Act and Rules thereof. Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board is directed to initiate legal proceeding against all the bio resources based industries, ayurvedic companies, traders, suppliers regarding violations of provisions under Biodiversity Act 2002 and Karnataka Biodiversity Rules 2005.

20/3- Construction of Laboratory building at E-6 Block (Biodiversity Heritage Site) of GKVK Campus, by 'InStem'

The Principal Secretary FEE informed the Board that 'InStem', an institute of Department of Bio Technology, has decided to shift the location of the proposed lab building outside the GKVK Biodiversity Heritage Site and they have also informed in writing to this effect.

20/4- Science Express : Biodiversity Special

The Board noted the action taken.

20/5 - Conference of Parties (CoP)-11 at Hyderabad

The Board noted the action taken.

20/6- 2nd Indian Biodiversity Congress in December 2012

Kerala Biodiversity Board has proposed holding of 2nd Indian Biodiversity Congress from 27th to 30th December 2012 in Tiruvananthapuram on **Marine and Coastal Biodiversity**, coordinated by National Biodiversity Authority and Chaired by Ministry of Environment & Forest. They have asked for financial assistance of Rs one lakh. Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board informed the Board that another proposal has been received from President **CISSA** to hold 2nd Indian Biodiversity Congress in Bangalore during 8-12 December 2012, with focal theme as **Biodiversity Heritage Western Ghats: Challenges for Conservation and Sustainable Management**. This event is organized by CISSA, FRLHT in collaboration with ATREE, CES, IISc, UAS etc.

Since both these events are bearing identical title ie **2nd Indian Biodiversity Congress**, the Board decided that Member Secretary may seek clarification from National Biodiversity Authority before taking further action in the matter.

The Board is informed that CISSA has not submitted accounts and vouchers for Rs two lakh released to them in December 2010 for 1st Indian Biodiversity Congress.

20/7- Enhancing sitting allowance for members of Karnataka Biodiversity Board

At present sitting allowance is being paid to the members Rs 500 per meeting vide Government order dated: 25.09.2008 issued by Department of Public Enterprises. This order is revised and rate is enhanced to Rs 1000/- per meeting vide Government Order dated: 22.10.2011. Therefore the Board approved the enhancement of sitting allowance from existing Rs 500/- per meeting to Rs 1000/- (Rs one thousand) per meeting.

20/8- Declaring non-forest lands around Siddharabetta, Korategere Taluq in Tumkur district as Biodiversity Heritage Site

The Board decided that Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board should initiate process to declare non-forest lands around Siddharabetta, Korategere Taluq in Tumkur district as Biodiversity Heritage Site in view of the outstanding biodiversity value of the landscape. Member Secretary may also conduct necessary survey and studies with the help of experts.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
Chairperson,
Karnataka Biodiversity Board and Hon'ble
Minister for Ecology, Environment, Planning and
Statistics, Govt. of Karnataka,
Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore.

(K.S.Sugara)IFS
Additional Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests and Member Secretary
Karnataka Biodiversity Board
Bangalore