

# Karnataka Biodiversity Board

## Proceedings of the 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting

Venue: KSFIC Meeting Hall, Third floor, 'Vanavikas', 18<sup>th</sup> Cross,

Malle/shwaram, Bangalore – 560 003

The 21st Board Meeting of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board was held on 21/02/2014 in the KSFIC Meeting Hall, 3rd Floor, Vanavikas Building, Malleshwaram 18th Cross, Bengaluru.

The following Members were present:

1	Sri. R.M.N. Sahai, I.F.S (Retd.), No.1 'D', 1 <sup>st</sup> Main Road, 14 <sup>th</sup> Cross, M.C.H.S Colony, H.S.R Layout, Sector-6, Bengaluru – 560102.	Chairman
2	Sri. M. Madan Gopal, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, MS Building, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
3	Sri. Ramachandra, IFS Secretary to Government Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, MS Building, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
4	Sri. G.V. Sugur, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) Aranya Bhavan, 18 <sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003	Ex-officio Member
5	Director Sri Vijayakumar Gogi, IFS Department of AYUSH Danvantari Road, Andanda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560009	Ex-officio Member
6	Dr. H. Shivananda Murthy Professor & Head, Department of Aquaculture College of Fisheries, Kankanady, Mangalore - 575002	Non-officio Member
7	Dr. M. Sanjappa CSIR Emeritus Scientist No:504, Block C-7, Kendriya Vihara, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560034	Non-officio Member
8	Dr. M. H. Swaminath, IFS (Retd.) No: 19A, 1 <sup>st</sup> 'B' Main, 6 <sup>th</sup> Sector, H.S.R. Layout, MCHS Colony, Bengaluru - 560034	Non-officio Member
9	Dr. K.N. Ganeshiah Professor & Head, Department of Forest & Environmental Sciences, GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru - 560065	Non-officio Member
10	Dr. M.D. Subash Chandran Environment Specialist, C- 789 Viveknagar, Kumta - 581343, Uttara Kannada District.	Non-officio Member
11	Sri R. K. Singh, IFS, Member Secretary Karnataka Biodiversity Board Ground Floor, Vanavikas, 18 <sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003	Member Secretary - Convener

The following Members were absent:

1	Sri Bharat lal Meena, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government Agriculture Department, MS Building, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
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The meeting commenced with the formal welcome of the members by the Chairman.

This being the first meeting of the Board after its reconstitution, the Chairman requested the members to introduce themselves. After the round of introductions, the agenda for the meeting was taken up for discussion and decisions.

**a) Reading and recording of the proceedings of 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting held on 22/9/2012**

Since there were no comments from members, the proceedings of 20th Board meeting was adopted.

**b) Discussions and action taken on the proceedings of the 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting (Held on 22/9/12)**

**Subject: 8/11 – Filling up of staff vacancies in Karnataka Biodiversity Board.**

The Board noted the action taken on the subject. On further deliberations the Board felt that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) may not be the proper authority to monitor the performance of Deputy Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry), in so far as their activities relating to the Biodiversity act, 2002 are concerned, as they work under the control and supervision of Rural Development Department. It is, therefore, appropriate that a circular jointly signed by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department and the Principal Secretary, RDPR Department is issued authorizing suitable officers of the RDPR Department to monitor the performance of Deputy Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) with respect to the Biodiversity Act, 2002. The Board also felt that it is difficult to get suitable officers from various departments to work in Karnataka Biodiversity Board on deputation as these departments are themselves short of staff and no department agrees to spare the services of good and committed officers. It was therefore decided that Karnataka Biodiversity Board should appoint suitably experienced persons on contract, whenever needed.

In view of the fact that the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) are to be involved extensively in implementation of the Biodiversity Act, 2002. The Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department strongly contended that the Principal Secretary, RDPR Department should be a member on the Board. Hence a proposal should be submitted to the Government accordingly, and pending issue of Government orders, he should be associated with the Board as special invitee. This suggestion was unanimously agreed to.

**Subject: 10/1 – Establishment of dry zone Biodiversity conservation site networks.**

After some discussion the Board noted the action taken in the matter.

**Subject: 12/22 – Protection of Mangroves.**

After detailed deliberations, the Board felt that the Mangroves in Karnataka are covered under various regulations and hence Karnataka Biodiversity Board need not worry about their protection. The Secretary (Ecology & Environment) informed that the coastal zone regulations itself is sufficient to take care of the conservation of Mangroves in Karnataka.

**Subject: 13/11 – Bt. Brinjal – Bt. Crop.**

After due deliberations, the Board noted the action taken in the matter.

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

After due deliberations, the Board noted the action taken on the subject.

**Subject: 14/3 – Declaring Heritage sites.**

After detailed deliberations, the Board noted the action taken on the subject.

**Subject: 14/5 – Declaring Heritage Trees.**

After due deliberations, the Board noted the action taken on the subject.

**Subject: 14/8 – Protection of Estuaries.**

After due deliberations, the Board noted the action taken on the subject.

**Subject: 14/11 - Amendment of Karnataka Tree Preservation Act.**

After due deliberations, the action taken was noted by the Board.

**Subject: 14/13 – Preparation of District level Action plan on Biodiversity**

After detailed deliberations it was resolved that one model district action plan on Biodiversity for Chamarajnar District may be prepared jointly by Dr. M.H. Swaminath and Dr. M.D. Subash Chandran, member of the Board, within a period of 3 months. They may co-opt experts for the purpose, if required. The two Board members were also requested to prepare a set of guidelines for preparation of the District Action Plans of Karnataka customizing the National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans (NBSAP) guidelines. Dr. Swaminath and Dr. Subash Chandran agreed to take up the work and submit their report within time.

**Subject: 14/14 – Project proposal on Establishment of Herbarium and a Botanical Museum of plants from Western Ghats in Pilikula Nisargadhama Society (R)**

The action taken in the matter was explained by the Member Secretary and after due deliberations the same was noted by the Board.

**Subject: 14/16 – Project proposal of Baseline profiling of Cultural-Heritage Biodiversity Resources in select Eco-Zones of Karnataka.**

The Board noted that the subject is taken up in the agenda no. 21/22

**Subject: 15/1 – Declaration of Natural Heritage Site.**

After detailed discussions, the Board resolved that Hosagunda sacred groove in Sagar taluk need not be declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site. The Board further cautioned that ample precautions should be taken before declaring any site as Biodiversity Heritage Site. All the concerned stakeholders should be consulted and they must assure its protection and conservation of the proposed Biodiversity Heritage Site in perpetuity. The stakeholders or the concerned Biodiversity Management Committee should also indicate as to how the financial requirements of maintaining the proposed Biodiversity Heritage Site will be met with before any such proposal is placed before the Board for consideration.

**Subject: 15/2 – Declaration of Agro Biodiversity Heritage site.**

After due deliberations, the Board resolved that the matter should be placed before Board again with report of the expert committee on declaration of Agro Biodiversity Heritage site.

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

The Board noted that the subject is taken up in the agenda no. 21/22.

**Subject: 15/12 – Declaration of Sri Lakshmikantha Swamy, Medicinal Eco-park, Devaragudda (Sri Giri), Padmanabhanagara, Bengaluru as Heritage site.**

The Board noted that the matter is pending with the Government. However, the Board further cautioned that very unique areas only should be declared as heritage sites and all precautions must be taken to ensure that the private interests do not creep in.

**Subject: 16/1 – Establishment of Dry Zone Biodiversity In-situ Conservation sites network.**

The Board noted that the subject is taken up in the agenda no. 21/22.

**Subject: 16/3 – Declaration of Mango Farm as Agro Biodiversity Heritage Site.**

After detailed discussions, the Board advised to place the matter before the expert committee for opinion keeping in mind the feasibility of maintaining the proposed site in perpetuity as it is on a private land.

**Subject: 16/4 – Project of Conservation and utilization of Deep water Rice Genetic resources of the Varada River Course in the Western Ghats of Karnataka.**

The Board advised that the project should be evaluated by experts and thereafter placed before the Board for a suitable decision.

**Subject: 16/14 – Annual plan of operation for balance amount of Rs. 22.393 lakhs.**

The action taken in the matter was noted by the Board.

**Subject: 17/5 – Developing a web based Atlas depicting the spatial patterns of the Biodiversity of Karnataka.**

The Board noted that the subject is placed in agenda no. 21/22.

**Subject: 18/7 – Project proposal on “Genetic diversity studies of the Mango plantation in Kirugavalu village of Malavalli taluk, Mandya District”**

The Board noted that the subject is placed in agenda no. 21/22.

**Subject: 19/6 – Protection of *Nothapodyets nimmoniana*, an anti cancer medicinal plant.**

The Board noted the action taken in the matter. Some of the members pointed out that if there is demand in the market; any species whether threatened or otherwise, will be removed and sold. If there is a legal ban on removal, such species are removed stealthily and such a harvest is bound to be unscientific. Hence, it may be desirable in the interest of conservation that the species in high demand are removed in a controlled & sustainable manner by Government approved agencies with simultaneous encouragement for cultivation of such species in private lands. However, there were views contrary to this opinion and some other members felt that authorized removal would be a greater threat and may lead to extinction of threatened species. In view of the divided opinion in the house, the matter was deferred for a detailed consultation on the issue in the next meeting of the Board.

**Subject: 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 noted the action taken.

**Subject: 20/2 – Provisions of Biodiversity Act, 2002 and Karnataka Biodiversity Rules, 2005 and issue of manufacturing license to Bio resource based industries (Form -1)**

The Board deliberated the matter in detail. The Director of AYUSH department informed the Board that his Department will extend full co-operation in this matter. A committee, comprising of members representing various associations of pharmaceutical industries along with drug controller from AYUSH Department and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Karnataka Biodiversity Board is formed to advise the Board on use of bioresources under Section 7 of Biodiversity Act, 2002. He further assured that companies using bioresources shall be asked to comply with the requirement of the Biodiversity Act, 2002. The Board advised the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to keep a close contact with the Director, AYUSH department and use his support in obtaining the required information under the Biodiversity Act, 2002 for further needful action.

**Subject: 20/6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Biodiversity Congress in December – 2012**

The Board noted the action taken.

**Subject: 21/1 (a): Board constitution**

The contents of the Government order were noted by the Board.

**Subject: 21/1 (b) – Appointment of Chairman to Karnataka Biodiversity Board**

The Board noted the contents of the Government order regarding the appointment of the Chairman.

**Subject: 21/2 (a) – Chairman office.**

The Board noted the action taken in setting up of the office of the Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board in Vanavikas, Malleshwaram, 18<sup>th</sup> Cross, Bengaluru.

**Subject: 21/2b – Vehicle for Chairman.**

The Board deliberated on the subject and noted that in view of recent reduction in excise duty the price of the vehicle may come down to some extent. Thereafter, the Board resolved to procure a Toyota Innova, 2.5 E Diesel, 7 Seater, BS4 PS AC priced at Rs. 9,09,630 (Including VAT and excluding other taxes).

**Subject: 21/3 - Filling up of the vacancies in Karnataka Biodiversity Board.**

When subject 8/11 was under discussion, it was expressed by the board members that there are difficulties in getting suitable staff on deputation from relevant Government departments, they themselves are short of staff and no Department wishes to spare the services of good and competent officers. The Chairman suggested that as an alternative, it may be useful to engage a retired officer of the relevant discipline who is given a team of 3-4 young researchers to work under his guidance. The money, so spent may be limited to the salary and perks to be paid for the vacant post. The Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, agreed to it and advised that a transparent procedure should be followed. While engaging such personnel, they should be appointed purely on temporary basis. In their work contract, it must be clearly stated that their services are purely temporary and can be terminated any time by giving one month's notice or a month's salary in lieu of the notice. It should also be explicitly stated that such of the personnel, shall never ask for permanency in Karnataka Biodiversity Board or in Government. Such work contract should not be for a period exceeding 11 months. The Board endorsed the above suggestion and directed the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to take action accordingly. While discussing about the Technical staff taken on contract with financial support of National Biodiversity Authority, the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department felt that the remuneration paid to the people with Master's Degree is very less and should be increased considerably so that they continue to be with Board for longer duration. The Chairman explained that the current remuneration should be considered as an initial salary and can be increased any time if the staff proves his/her worth.

**Subject: 21/4 - Creating two Regional Zones of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board.**

The Board appreciated the need for regional or zonal offices as the onus of preparing good quality People's Biodiversity Registers and motivating Biodiversity Management Committees in discharging their statutory responsibilities cannot be addressed from Bengaluru office alone. The Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department suggested that, if the Board felt that the regional or zonal offices are necessary, and then instead of asking staff on contract, the Government may be requested to create the zonal offices with permanent establishment. Dr. Swaminath agreed to this view and stated that Karnataka Biodiversity Board should have some permanent staff in order to carry the Institutional memory forward. The Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board appreciated the suggestions and said that he would discuss the matter internally and submit a suitable proposal to Government in this regard indicating the number of offices, its staff requirement and the financial implications. The Chairman suggested that since creation of permanent posts and recruitment of staff

may take considerable time, the Board may agree for engaging the personnel on contract as suggested. After detailed deliberation, the Board agreed to the above suggestion and authorized the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to appoint 2 expert consultants, 1 for northern zone office to be located at Dharwad and another for southern zonal office to be located at Mysore. The expert consultants should be appointed by following a transparent procedure, with following broad terms of reference of appointment:

1. The consultant for each Zone shall be monitoring and supervising the task of formation of Biodiversity Management Committees and writing of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).
2. He shall coordinate with the representative or agency fixed by Karnataka Biodiversity Board for conducting Training Programs for creating awareness among people, members of Biodiversity Management Committees, Government officials etc.
3. The consultant shall promote to organise at least meeting of 5 such Biodiversity Management Committees in a month which are dormant. The local staff of Social Forestry Divisions will be assisting him for such meetings.
4. The consultant will be given an all inclusive emolument of Rs. 30,000/- per month. Any Statutory deductions shall be made out of the above amount. In addition to this, he will be provided upto Rs.15,000/- per month for secretarial expenses including stationary and manpower support. He has to submit vouchers for such expenses.
5. Actual Travelling allowances will be paid to the consultant who will be entitled to TA of Group 'B' officers of State Government.

Chairman may add any other conditions, if required, at the time of signing the MoU with Consultant.

**Subject: 21/5 – Methodology for preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers:**

Board discussed the matter in detail and the methodology adopted by the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board for People's Biodiversity Registers was approved. Board also approved the rates of stipend, TA and honorarium etc. as mentioned in the agenda notes as below.

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|---|---|---|
| 1. Stipend and TA to Student            | - | Rs. 6000 + 2000 = 8000/- per month.                                       |
| 2. TA and Sitting fee to Co-ordinator   | - | Rs. 3000/- Rs. 1000/- per sitting<br>For 5 sittings Rs. 5000/- per month. |
| 3. TA and Sitting fee to Co-coordinator | - | Rs. 3000/- Rs. 750/- per sitting<br>For 5 sittings Rs. 3750/- per month.  |

**Subject: 21/6 – Prosecution for violation of Section 7 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002**

Board noted the contents of the agenda notes for information.

**Subject: 21/7 – Formation of Technical committees/Groups**

After detailed discussions the Board resolved to constitute a Technical Expert committee as per section 13/2 of the Biological Diversity Act with the following members:

1. Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board – Convener
2. Dr. R.C. Prajapathi, IFS (Retd.), Bangalore
3. Prof. Channabyregowda, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore
4. Dr. Ramakrishna, Ex-Director, Zoological Survey of India and Emeritus Scientist, Botanical Garden, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore

5. Dr. K. Chandrashekar, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore.
6. Dr. V.N. Nayak, Professor and Chairman, Dept. of Studies in Marine Biology, Karnataka University Post Graduate Centre, Kodibag, Karwar-581303
7. Dr. N.A. Madhyastha, "Inchara" Srinivas Nagara, Chitpadi, Udupi - 576 101.
8. Dr. V. Bhaskar, Retired Professor of Forestry and Environment, No 33, Udaya Ravi, 2<sup>nd</sup> main road, Chola Nagar, R. T. Nagar post, Bangalore – 560 032.

The Board further resolved to authorize the Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to constitute specialized sub-committees as and when required for specific purposes.

**Subject: 21/8 – Renovation of Karnataka Biodiversity Board office for proper utilization of space.**

The Board approved the proposal.

**Subject: 21/9 – National Biodiversity Authority's support for preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers, formation of Biodiversity Management Committee and additional supporting staff on contract.**

After detailed deliberation, the Board approved the proposal. The Board also noted the assistance received from National Biodiversity Authority and authorised Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to carry out the work as per the guidelines of National Biodiversity Authority.

**Subject: 21/10 – Karnataka Biodiversity Board supporting staff.**

The Board asked the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to give the details of persons working on contract/those required to be taken on contract in the next meeting for deliberations and decision.

**Subject: 21/11 – Post Facto approval.**

The Board noted the actions taken by Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board and approved proposals as placed in the agenda notes from 21/11 (I) to 21/11(V)

**Subject: 21/12 – Sentence has to be changed in agenda No.17/4 i.e., Permission to submit the Karnataka Biodiversity Annual Accounts to Accountant General Karnataka for every financial year.**

The Board deliberated on the issue and in view of the recommendations made by the Accountant General the following resolution was made:

"It is hereby resolved to give one time authorization to Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to submit the Annual accounts and revised accounts (if any) directly to the Accountant General, Karnataka for audit and further action."

**Subject: 21/13 – Approval of budget and expenditure for the year 2013/14 and 2014/15**

After detailed deliberations the Board in expenditure for the year 2013/14 and further approved the budget for year 2014-15 as placed in the annexure 14 of the agenda notes.

On further discussion, the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department advised that the audited accounts for year 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 should be place before the Board for *post facto* approval. Secretary (Forest, Ecology & Environment Department) Stated that the reply to the audit notes should be re-examined and submitted to the Government for further action.

**Subject: 21/14 – Enhancement of delegation of powers to Member Secretary.**

The Board noted that certain powers were delegated to the Member Secretary of Karnataka Biodiversity Board in its first meeting held on 12/12/2003. This was further modified in the 5<sup>th</sup> Board meeting held on 6/9/2006. Now as per the proposal, certain financial powers of Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board is resolved to be modified to the following extent:

**Sl. No. 8** - To sanction employment of skilled part time menials, unskilled part time menials payable out of contingencies Rs. 2.500/ per month to Rs. 10,000/- per month.

**Sl. No. 37** - To sanction expenditure for participating in World Environment Day.

Seminars/Workshops exhibitions within the State and miscellaneous functions and poojas – Rs. 10,000/- each time subjected to a maximum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs per annum to Rs. 50,000/- each time subjected to a maximum of Rs.10.00 lakhs per annum.

**Subject: 21/15 – General Delegation of common financial powers to Heads of Departments.**

After detailed deliberations the Board resolved as follows:

“It is hereby resolved:

1. To adopt and delegate the powers of Heads of Departments as per Government Order no. FD 2 TFP 2010 Dated. 30.4.2010 to the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board.
2. To authorize the Chairman of the Board , to allow the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to proceed on duty outside the state within India for a period up to 15 days” (Under KCSR Rule 16b)

The Secretary (Ecology & Environment Department) further suggested that the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board may require some more powers in addition to the powers mentioned above for efficient discharge of duties in Karnataka Biodiversity Board. Such of the items, if any, should be listed and be placed before the Board for deliberations and decisions.

**Subject: 21/16 – Reimbursement of medical claims.**

After detailed deliberations the Board resolved as follows:

“It is hereby resolved that the Karnataka Government Servants Medical Attendant Rules 1963 be adopted for the medical reimbursement claim of the permanent and deputed staff of Karnataka Biodiversity Board.”

**Subject: 21/17 – Sponsorship of Nallur Biodiversity Heritage site for Fencing.**

After detailed deliberations, the Board decided that it should not take up the maintenance of any Biodiversity Heritage Site directly. This should be taken up by the concerned Biodiversity Management Committee and they may generate funds for the purpose from different source including private sponsorships. The Karnataka Biodiversity Board may extend a helping hand to the concerned Biodiversity Management Committees in this regard.

**Subject: 21/18 – Financial assistance for awareness campaign on Biodiversity Conservation in Aghanashini, Uttara Kannada District on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 by Eco-watch.**

After detailed deliberations the Board agreed to extend financial support limited to 50,000 to Sri. Suresh Heblikar, Chairman, Eco-Watch for organizing an awareness campaign on Biodiversity Conservation in Aghanashini River, Uttara Kannada District on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014.

**Subject: 21/19 – Saving the Nutmeg gene pool in Ankola taluk, Uttara Kannada**

The subject was discussed in detail. Dr. M.D. Subash Chandran, Member of the Board, explained the need for conserving the private nutmeg garden which is being taken over by the Project Seabird in Ankola taluk. After deliberating the matter in the detail, the Board decided that the concerns of conserving the Nutmeg garden should be conveyed by the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to the Deputy Commissioner of Uttara Kannada District to do what best can be done in this matter.

**Subject: 21/20 – Construction of new road over Bridge in GKVK campus.**

After detailed deliberation the Board resolved to permit the construction of a new road over bridge in GKVK Campus which is a Biodiversity Heritage Site declared by Karnataka Biodiversity Board subject to the following conditions:

1. A committee comprising of one member from Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Experts from University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru should inspect the land for construction of road over bridge.
2. Construction of new road over the bridge should not harm the biodiversity of Biodiversity Heritage sites.
3. The area should be restored after 4 months by GKVK and the expenditure shall be borne by the railways.
4. The estate wing of the University of Agricultural sciences will submit an estimate for restoration of the site in advance. The Railways has to bear all the cost for the restoration.

The committee should keep Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board informed about the status of the project. The Board further approved the proposal for construction of the temporary level crossing till the completion of new road over bridge and allow removal of 7 trees required for the purpose subject to provisions of Karnataka Tree Preservation Act.

**Subject: 21/21 – Project on the river diversion of Netrawathi/Yettinahole in Western Ghats.**

The matter was deliberated in detail and it was felt that the Karnataka Biodiversity Board is not an appropriate forum to address the issue and it would be dealt best by the Department of Water Resources. The Board therefore directed the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to forward the letter and its enclosures received from the National Biodiversity Authority to the Principal Secretary, Water resources Department for further action under intimation to National Biodiversity Authority.

**Subject: 21/22 – Formation of expert committee to the reports on various projects of the research/studies submitted by various agencies.**

The Board deliberated the matter in detail and authorized the chairman to constitute a committee for each of the projects mentioned in the agenda with atleast one member of the Board in each committee to review the work carried out and submit their views for consideration of the Board.

**Subject: 21/23 – Any subject with the permission of the Chair.**

1. Dr. M.H. Swaminath circulated a paper for perusal of the Board members wherein he has listed priority action to be taken by the Board. After some deliberations, the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department requested Dr. Swaminath to submit project proposals in pursuance of his paper duly indicating the financial implications, expertise available for work and timeline for the same. This was endorsed by the Board.
2. It was decided that the next Board meeting will be held on 22/4/14 at 11 a.m.

With no other subject for discussion, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-  
Member Secretary  
Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

Sd/-  
Chairman  
Karnataka Biodiversity Board.