

# Karnataka Biodiversity Board

## Proceedings of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting

**Venue: Additional Chief Secretary's Chamber, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, # 448, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Gate-2, M.S. Buildings, Bangalore.**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board was held on 24/06/2014 in the chambers of Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, # 448, 4th Floor, Gate-2, M.S. Buildings, Bangalore.

The following members were present:

1	Sri. R.M.N. Sahai, I.F.S (Retd.), Karnataka Biodiversity Board, 4th floor, Vanavikas, 18 <sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003	Chairman
2	Sri. M. Madan Gopal, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government. Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
3	Sri. Ramachandra, IFS Secretary to Government. Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, M.S Buildings, 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	Dr. H. Shivananda Murthy Professor & Head, Department of Aquaculture. College of Fisheries, Kankanady, Mangalore - 575002	Non-officio Member
6	Dr. M. Sanjappa CSIR Emeritus Scientist. No:504, Block C-7, Kendriya Vihara, Yelahanka, Bengaluru -560034	Non-officio Member
7	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
8	Dr. M.D. Subash Chandran Environment Specialist. C- 789 Viveknagar, Kumta - 581343, Uttara Kannada District.	Non-officio Member
9	Sri Prabhash .C. Ray, IFS, Special Commissioner, RDPR, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru	Representative of ACS, RDPR
10	Sri R. K. Singh, IFS, Member Secretary. Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Ground floor, Vanavikas, 18 <sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003	Member Secretary

Leave of absence was granted to the following:

1	Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture, GoK, M.S.Buildings, Bangalore	Ex-Officio Member
1	Dr. K.N. Ganeshiah Professor & Head, Department of Forest & Environmental Sciences, GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru - 560065	Non-officio Member
2	Sri Vijayakumar Gogi, IFS, Director, Department of AYUSH, Danvantari Road, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560009	Special Invitee

The meeting commenced with the formal welcome of the members by the Chairman, and the agenda for the meeting was taken up for discussion and decisions.

### **1. Reading and recording of 22nd Board Meeting**

The proceedings of the 22nd Board Meeting held on 22/04/2014 were communicated to all the members. As there were no comments from the members, the proceeding was adopted.

### **2. Action taken on 22nd Board Meeting Proceedings.**

Action taken on proceedings of 22<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting was noted by the Board.

### **3. Issues related to Access and Benefit Sharing:**

#### I. On scope and coverage of Biodiversity Act:

Initiating the discussion, the Chairman drew the attention of the Board to annexure-III of the agenda notes which is a copy of the opinion on the subject from the legal advisor. The Chairman informed that in the previous Board meeting, it was decided that to start with only three industries namely (I) Ayurvedic Pharmaceuticals (II) Nutraceuticals and (III) Cosmetics, should be addressed for obtaining Form-I and taking action as per law. The legal advisor is of the opinion that the Board has no powers to initially identify only some industries as against all covered by Section 7 of the Biological diversity Act. Detailed deliberations took place on the subject. The members felt that the Board is not excluding any industry. However, given the constraints, the Board wants to pick up some important industries to begin with while others can be covered in a phased manner, taking learnings from enforcement on the three aforesaid industries. In view of this, the Board resolved that the decision taken in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting holds good and requires no modification.

#### II. On incomplete reporting in Form-I:

In pursuance of the decision taken in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting regarding incomplete reporting in form-I by the industries, the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board (KBB) along with two Board members had taken a meeting with the stakeholders and informed them about the provisions of the Act. The representatives of the Pharmaceutical industries pointed out that they obtain raw materials from suppliers and hence they can furnish the names of the suppliers but the exact location of the resource is not available with them and hence cannot be furnished. They also pointed out that the Department of AYUSH is procuring raw material worth about Rs. 3 crores and they being the Government agency should be asked to furnish the source of the raw materials. The Board deliberated on the subject and felt that the industries have genuine difficulties in furnishing the information and hence they may be asked to disclose the name and address of the suppliers from whom they are procuring the raw materials. The Karnataka Biodiversity Board should go to next level and ask the raw materials suppliers to disclose the location from where they are sourcing the materials. Further discussions took place on the subject and the members pointed out that the data of raw material collection by the LAMP Societies and resource map prepared

by the Village Forest Committees (VFC) maybe used to build up database on availability of resource and on status of harvesting. This could also help in cross checking the information furnished by the suppliers of the raw materials.

The Board also felt it appropriate to issue an advisory to the Department of 'AYUSH' to include a 'resource disclosure' clause in their tender document for procuring medicinal plants by which the supplier could be bound by the agreement to disclose the location of the raw material procurement.

The PCCF (HoFF) stated that it would be extremely useful if Karnataka Biodiversity Board takes up a study on availability and harvesting status of various forest raw materials under use in Karnataka forests as it has been done in Madhya Pradesh where studies have been carried out up to forest beat level. He assured that he would support any such study taken up through an appropriate agency and would be ready to spend any amount of money on the same. This was appreciated by the Board members and the Members Secretary, KBB was authorized to take up further action in this regard in consultation with Karnataka State Medicinal Plants Authority (KaMPA) and Karnataka Forest Department (KFD).

#### **4. Reconstitution of Expert Committee on Agro Biodiversity:**

After detailed deliberations the Board reconstituted the expert committee on Agro Biodiversity as follows:

1. Director, Department of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bangalore
2. Director, Department of Horticulture, Lalbagh, Bangalore
3. Dr. D.M. Das, Director, Department of Animal Husbandry, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Vishweshwaraiah Mini Towers, Bangalore – 560 001.
4. Dr. S. Gangaprasad, Associate Professor, Genetics and Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture, Shimoga.
5. Dr. S.C. Chandrashekar, Plant Pathologist, (Rtd.) University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore.
6. Dr. R.G. Gollar, Rtd. Joint Director of Agriculture, #55, Prakruth, 4<sup>th</sup> Cross, Gokulnagar, Doddakallasandra, Kanakapura main road, Bangalore – 560 062
7. Dr. Gangadhar Gowda, Fisheries College, Mangalore.
8. Deputy Director, Agriculture, Karnataka Biodiversity Board - Member Convenor.

#### **5. Draft guidelines on Access and benefit sharing:**

After some deliberations, the Board felt that the draft guidelines on Access and Benefit Sharing received from the NBA may be circulated to the Board members on file for obtaining their comments. After the comments of all members are received, the same may be compiled and sent to NBA for further action.

#### **6. UNEP-GEF-MoEF ABS project:**

The Board perused the note on the project (Annexure-VIII of agenda notes) and was happy to note that the Ministry of Environment and Forests has also associated Karnataka as partners of the project and approved the same.

## **7. Biodiversity award:**

After detailed deliberations the Board constituted a sub-committee consisting of the following Board members:

- (I) Dr. M.H. Swaminath
- (II) Dr. M.D. Subash Chandran
- (III) Dr. Sanjappa
- (IV) Member Secretary, KBB - Convenor.

- (i) The sub-committee will review and reduce the number of award categories from six to four (the general category was deleted by the Board)
- (ii) The sub-committee will formulate the eligibility criteria for applying/sending the nominations for the award.
- (iii) On receipt of the applications/nomination, the sub-committee will screen the applications and select suitable candidates for the award. While recommending the candidates for award, they will ensure that at least one award goes to each revenue division jurisdiction.

## **8. Concept note from Dr. M. H. Swaminath, Board member.**

The Board perused the concept note received from Dr. M.H. Swaminath, Board member. After deliberation it was resolved that the following three topics of the concept note should be taken up for study:

1. Conservation and restoration of endangered and endemic species.
2. Developing a Karnataka Biodiversity System (GIS & MIS System).
3. Studies on unique vegetation and Biodiversity hotspots in Karnataka.

The Member Secretary, KBB was authorized to draw Terms of Reference (ToR) in consultation with Experts and to call 'Expression of Interest' for taking up of the study from the competent organizations. The studies can be awarded to suitable companies after thorough screening of the proposals.

## **9. Any other subject with the permission of the chair.**

(I) Establishing a Biodiversity Park in Karnataka - The Additional Chief Secretary, FEE informed that Dr. Kasturirangan has requested for a suitable piece of land for setting up a Biodiversity Park in Karnataka on the lines of Yamuna Biodiversity Park set up by Dr. C.R. Babu in Delhi. After deliberations, the Board requested the PCCF & HoFF to identify a suitable piece of land and inform to the Government under intimation to Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

(II) Draft report on Chamarajanagar District Biodiversity Action Plan - During 21st Board meeting, it was resolved that one model District Action Plan on Biodiversity for Chamarajanagar district may be prepared Jointly by Dr. M.H. Swaminath and Dr. M.D. Subash Chandran, Members of Board. A draft plan has been prepared and submitted by them during the meeting which was noted by the Board.

### (III) Travelling Allowance Rules -

Member Secretary informed the Board that technical staff, along with other officials of the Board are deputed to various places in the State for assisting the team for writing People's Biodiversity Registers and for other field works. They take private accommodation to stay. The Daily Allowance entitlement of KCSRs does not suffice for getting a suitable accommodation. Member Secretary further informed that EMPRI has got different set of Travelling Allowances Rules for EMPRI Employees when they are staying in a hotel and requested the Board to adopt the rates as determined by EMPRI for their staff on official tour. After detailed deliberations, the Board has agreed that Karnataka Biodiversity Board may follow Travelling Allowances Rules as decided by EMPRI for its employees for reimbursement of expenses incurred on stay in a hotel on duty which will be regulated as follows:.

<b>For Officers on Deputation (Category)</b>		<b>Limit of Reimbursement of Hotel Expenditure</b>
1	All India services of Group I A Officers	Upto Rs. 5,000/- per day
2	Group I B and II Officers	Upto Rs. 1,500/- per day
3	Group III Officers	Upto Rs. 500/- per day
4	Group IV Officers	Upto Rs. 300/- per day
<b>For Staff of KBB</b>		
1	Those drawing salary of Rs. 10,000/- (CTC) and above	Rs. 500/- per day
2	Those drawing salary below Rs. 10,000/- (CTC)	Rs. 300/- per day

The reimbursement of the expenses shall be on actual basis subject to production of Hotel Bills.

In exceptional cases, the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board is authorized to allow reimbursement of actual expenditure incurred by an employee if higher amount is paid over and above the admissible limit. Other Rules of Travelling allowance will be as per KCSRs.

(iv) **Next date of meeting:** The Board resolved to hold its next meeting on **26/8/2014 at 3.30 PM.**

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

**Member Secretary**  
**Karnataka Biodiversity Board.**

**Chairman**  
**Karnataka Biodiversity Board.**