

Karnataka Biodiversity Board

Proceedings of the 23rd Board Meeting

Venue: Additional Chief Secretary's Chamber, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, # 448, 4th Floor, Gate-2, M.S. Buildings, Bengaluru.

The 23rd 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, Bengaluru.

The following members were present:

1	Sri. R.M.N. Sahai, I.F.S (Retd.), Karnataka Biodiversity Board, 4th floor, Vanavikas, 18 th 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 th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 003	Ex-officio Member
5	Dr. H. Shivananda Murthy Professor & Head, Department of Aquaculture. College of Fisheries, Kankanady, Mangalore – 575 002	Non-officio Member
6	Dr. M. Sanjappa CSIR Emeritus Scientist. No:504, Block C-7, Kendriya Vihara, Yelahanka, Bengaluru -560 034	Non-officio Member
7	Dr. M. H. Swaminath, IFS (Retd.) No: 19A, 1 st 'B' Main, 6 th Sector, H.S.R. Layout, MCHS Colony, Bengaluru – 560 034	Non-officio Member
8	Dr. M.D. Subash Chandran Environment Specialist. C- 789 Viveknagar, Kumta – 581 343, Uttara Kannada District.	Non-officio Member
9	Sri Prabhash .C. Ray, IFS, Special Commissioner, RDPR, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru (Representing ACS, RDPR, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru)	Ex-officio Member
10	Sri R. K. Singh, IFS, Member Secretary. Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Ground floor, Vanavikas, 18 th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003	Member Secretary

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

1	Sri Vijayakumar Gogi, IFS, Director, Department of AYUSH, Danvantari Road, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru – 560 009	Special Invitee
2	Dr. K.N. Ganeshiah Professor & Head, Department of Forest & Environmental Sciences, GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru – 560 065	Non-officio Member

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 22nd 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 pick up 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 leaving aside 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 22nd Board meeting holds good and requires no modification.

II. On incomplete reporting in Form-I:

In pursuance of the decision taken in the 22nd 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 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 a 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, 5th 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, Joint Director of Agriculture (Rtd.), #55, Prakruth, 4th 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, (E&E) 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) TA Rules -

Member Secretary
Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

Chairman
Karnataka Biodiversity Board.