

Karnataka Biodiversity Board

Proceedings of the 26th Board Meeting

Venue: Committee room, Aranya Bhavan, 8th floor, 8th Cross,
Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 003.

The 26th Board meeting of KBB was held on 24/12/2014 in the committee room of Aranya Bhavan, 8th floor, 18th Cross Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 003

The following members were present:

1	Sri. R.M.N. Sahai, I.F.S (Retd.), Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Fourth 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, MS Building, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
3	Sri Bharat Lal Meena, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government Agriculture Department, MS Building, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
4	Sri. Ramachandra, IFS Secretary to Government Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, MS Building, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
5	Sri. G.V. Sugur, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) Aranya Bhavan, 18 th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560003	Ex-officio Member
6	Director Sri Vijayakumar Gogi, IFS Department of AYUSH Danvantari Road, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560009	Ex-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 - 560034	Non-officio Member
8	Dr. M. Sanjappa CSIR Emeritus Scientist No:504, Block C-7, Kendriya Vihara, Yelahanka, Bengaluru -560034	Non-officio Member
9	Dr. H. Shivananda Murthy Professor & Head, Department of Aquaculture College of Fisheries, Kankanady, Mangaluru - 575002	Non-officio Member
10	Dr. K.N. Ganeshiah Professor & Head, Department of Forest & Environmental Sciences, GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru - 560065	Non-officio Member
11	Dr. M.D. Subash Chandran Environment Specialist, C- 789 Viveknagar, Kumta - 581343, Uttara Kannada District.	Non-officio Member
12	Sri R. K. Singh, IFS, Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Ground Floor, Vanavikas, 18 th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003	Member Secretary – Convenor

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

1	Sri T.M. Vijaybhaskar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Dept. of Rural Development and Panchayath Raj, M.S Building, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
---	---	-------------------

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

1. Reading and recording of 25th Board meeting:

The proceedings of the 25th Board meeting were communicated to all the members. As there were no comments from the Members, the proceedings are hereby adopted.

2. Access and benefit sharing:

The Chairman briefed the members about the regulations issued by National Biodiversity Authority on access to biological resources, associated knowledge and benefit sharing. This regulation was issued under Section 64 read with subsection 1 of Section 18 and Section 21(4) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. After deliberating the subject at length, following decisions were taken:

- (I) Additional Chief Secretary - Forest, Ecology and Environment informed that wide publicity should be given to the regulation and it should be translated in Kannada and circulated among all the stakeholders for their knowledge, information and necessary action. Since the Biodiversity Management Committees of Gram Panchayaths are involved in the benefit sharing for access to the bioresources in their jurisdiction, the Kannada version will be helpful in creating awareness about the regulation. Hence, it is resolved to give wide publicity and to translate the regulation in Kannada for wider circulation.
- (II) Under regulation 4, the slab has been fixed for sharing the benefit based on ex-factory annual gross sale, which is 0.1 to 0.5% depending upon annual gross sale of the product. In the case of direct access to biological resources for commercial utilization or for biosurvey and bioutilization for commercial utilization, there is no such fixed slab. Under regulation 3, the share of the benefit may be from 1% to 5% of the purchase price of the biological resources. After detailed deliberation it is resolved that the sharing for access to biological resources should be determined by considering the species used,

quantity used, threat status of the species etc. The Chairman pointed out that the Board does not have data on the status, availability and sustainable harvest of the medicinal plants. Dr. Ganeshiah said that they have worked extensively on the subject in Western Ghats and have all the necessary data. The Additional Chief Secretary - Forest, Ecology and Environment stated that a committee may be constituted to look into the available data and recommend the graded percentage for collection of benefit sharing. Dr. Swaminath was of the view that a Committee may not be necessary and this work can be done by the Member Secretary in association with experts in the Board. The Additional Chief Secretary - Forest, Ecology and Environment, however expressed that to carry out exercise in a focused scientific manner, it is good if a committee consisting of Dr. Swaminath, Dr. Sanjappa and Dr. Subhas Chandran is constituted with Member Secretary as Convener. This suggestion was generally agreed upon. The Board authorized Member Secretary to sign the agreement with the individual organization etc. on behalf of the Board.

(III) The Board also deliberated the issue of threatened species being used commercially by several companies. It took note of the meeting proceedings dated 15/12/2014 of final hearing for the notice given to the pharmaceutical companies. Member Secretary submitted to the Board to constitute a committee to decide different threat statuses of 40 species which are being used commercially in the State. The committee shall recommend to the Board about the timeframe given to the company for different species to find out the alternative species before the threatened species is banned for certain period. After detailed discussion it is resolved that the aforesaid committee may look into the issue and submit a report on this.

(IV) Member Secretary submitted to the Board that there will be several companies falling in the scope of the Act which will come forward for sharing of benefits under this regulation. He proposed to constitute a cell by engaging two persons for this purpose in due course of time depending upon the increase in Work load. The Board after detailed discussion resolved that a cell of two persons may be headed by a

retired officer from State Government of the rank equivalent to and not less than Deputy Secretary to the Government.

(V) Dr. Ganeshiah informed the Board that there are several species in the list of exemption under Section 40 which are endangered for example – *Garcinia indica* and *Garcinia cambogia* and submitted to the Board that such species should be listed and informed to National Biodiversity Authority to remove from the list of exempted species under Section 40. Member Secretary informed the Board that a Special Leave Petition (SLP 7951/2014) is filed by Environmental Support Group before the Honorable Supreme Court and since the matter is sub judice, the discussion may be deferred.

(VI) Monitoring Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC):

The Board noted the fact that the Biodiversity Management Committees have been constituted in 4467 out of 5624 Grama Panchayaths but the awareness creation and capacity building exercise for the members of Biodiversity Management Committees is required. In order to maintain the transaction of bioresources from their jurisdiction and levying fee under Section 19(1) and receiving the benefits arising out of access to biological resources etc, the Board felt that there should be mechanism to monitor and guide the Biodiversity Management Committees throughout the State. It is resolved that Taluk Executive Officer of each taluk shall be monitoring and guiding the activities of all the Biodiversity Management Committees of all Grama Panchayaths in its jurisdiction. Monitoring of all Biodiversity Management Committees by Taluk Executive Officers will be done under overall supervision of Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Panchayath. The Biodiversity Management Committees at Taluk Panchayaths and Zilla Panchayaths will be monitored and supervised by Chief Executive Officer of the concerned Zilla Panchayath.

(VII) Additional Chief Secretary - Forest, Ecology and Environments informed the Board that Administrative Training Institute, Mysuru is having programs for imparting training to different stakeholders about issues related to environment, forest, biodiversity etc. After deliberation on training requirement under the Biodiversity Act - 2002, it is resolved that Member Secretary will request the Director General of Administrative Training Centre, Mysuru to conduct different training programs to different stakeholders under the existing program of the Institute.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Sd/-

Member Secretary

Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

Sd/-

Chairman

Karnataka Biodiversity Board.