

Karnataka Biodiversity Board

Proceedings of the 28th Board Meeting

Venue: Meeting room, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Ground floor, Vanavikas Building, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 003.

The 28th Board meeting was held on 27/05/2015 in the Karnataka Biodiversity Board meeting room, Ground floor, Vanavikas Building, 18th Cross Malleshwaram, Bengaluru– 560 003.

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	Dr. H. Shivananda Murthy Professor & Head, Department of Aquaculture. College of Fisheries, Kankanady, Mangalore – 575 002	Non-officio Member
4	Dr. M. Sanjappa CSIR Emeritus Scientist. No:504, Block C-7, Kendriya Vihara, Yelahanka, Bengaluru -560 034	Non-officio Member
5	Dr. K.N. Ganeshiah Professor & Head, Department of Forest & Environmental Sciences, GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru – 560 065	Non-officio Member
6	Dr. M.D. Subash Chandran Environment Specialist. C- 789 Viveknagar, Kumta – 581343, Uttara Kannada District.	Non-officio Member
7	Sri R. K. Singh, IFS, Member Secretary. Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Ground floor, Vanavikas, 18 th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003	Member Secretary - Convenor
8	Sri. Harsha Gupta. IAS., Secretary, Dept. of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries	Special Invitee.
9	Project Director, A.H Department. K.L.D.A , Bengaluru.	Special Invitee

Leave of absence was granted to the following members/special invitee:

1	Sri. G.V. Sugur, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Aranya Bhavan, 18 th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 003	Ex-officio Member
2	Principal Secretary, RDPR, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru (Representing ACS, RDPR, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru)	Ex-officio Member
3	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
4	Sri. Ramachandra, IFS Secretary to Government. Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
5	Sri. Vijay Kumar Gogi, Director, Department of Ayush, Bangalore	Special Invitee.

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 the proceedings of the 27th Board meeting:

The proceedings of the 27th Board meeting was communicated to all the members. As no comments were received, the proceedings are hereby adopted.

2. Action taken on 27th Board Meeting Proceedings:

Action taken on proceedings of 27th Board meeting as reported in Annexure-II of the agenda was noted by the Board.

3. Technical Staff on Contract:

I. Sanction of Technical Staff by NBA:

National Biodiversity Authority supports the State Biodiversity Board for engaging four contract personnel on outsource basis with a cost of 9.5 lakhs per annum. Member Secretary explained that during 2014-15, NBA had sanctioned Rs. 9.72 lakhs, whereas Rs. 9.5 lakhs is provided for engaging four technical personnel for the current year. Further, there is a need to increase the remuneration to experienced personnel and also on account of increased cost of living. The cost of engaging personnel in different parts of the country also varies as cost of living is not uniform everywhere. The Board noted that this issue is already taken up with NBA and resolved that, in case NBA does not approve of the required additional amount, the fund required in addition to Rs. 9.5 Lakhs for 12 months for four personnel will be supported by the Board subject to an average emolument limit of Rs. 25000 per month per person.

II. Rationale for salary structure:

- a. Member Secretary explained that the Board has taken up a project on 'Assessment of population status and removal of bioresources from forest with special emphasis on medicinal plants in Karnataka'. In addition to this, as resolved in 26th Board meeting, a cell on ABS is to be created subsequent to the regulation on ABS issued by NBA with two Technical Executives headed by a person not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to State Government. The time bound constitution of BMC and preparation of PBRs is another major work, the Board is embarking upon. As a result, the workload in the Board has

increased many-fold. To take up all these activities, competent and experienced Technical Executives are required. The Board noted the fact that the attrition in the Organization is very high and lack of experienced Technical Executives will impact the output of the Board.

- b. Additional Chief Secretary, Forest Ecology and Environment (ACS, FEE) suggested that remuneration to the Technical Executives should be increased. However, they should be interviewed by a committee and their performance should be reviewed twice a year which should be reflected in their remuneration at the end of each completed year of service. This was agreed by all members. For the year 2015-16, the Board deliberated the remuneration to be given to staff with a P.G Degree in life sciences and with different years of experience as suggested by the committee constituted by the Member Secretary and resolved to fix the remuneration as noted below.

Sl. No.	No. of years of Experience	Remuneration
1	Freshers	Rs. 20,000/-
2	1 Year	Rs. 22,000/-
3	2 Years	Rs. 23,500/-
4	3 Years	Rs. 25,000/-
5	4 Years	Rs. 26,000/-

The Board also resolved that those personnel who have cleared NET/JRF may be given corresponding remuneration as fixed by the examining body, provided the candidate gives an undertaking of serving a minimum period of 2 years.

- c. The Board further resolved that a committee to review the performance should be constituted by the Member Secretary and should consist of the following members:
1. Smt. Vanashree Vipin Singh, Conservator of Forest (Working plan) - Chairperson
 2. Deputy Director, AYUSH, Karnataka Biodiversity Board - Member
 3. Deputy Director, Agriculture, Karnataka Biodiversity Board - Member
 4. Assistant Conservator of Forests, Karnataka Biodiversity Board – Member-Convenor
- d. Member Secretary informed that a committee consisting of Dr. U V Singh, CEO, KAMPA, Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Ms. Vanashree Vipin Singh, Conservator of Forests (Working Plan) and Sri Thimmaiah AG, Deputy Director, Agriculture as member, conducts the interview for

selection of required technical staff. He further submitted whether the Board would like to consider a change in the constitution of the committee. After detailed deliberation, the Board resolved to adhere to the same composition of the committee. It was further resolved and the Member Secretary was advised that the emolument of a new entrant should be fixed as per the above scale keeping his/her experience in view. Even a higher remuneration for a particular candidate can be considered if recommended by the selection committee subject to approval of the Board.

III. Supporting Staff Salary Enhancement:

The Board discussed about the enhancement of emoluments to the supporting staff and resolved that it should be enhanced to neutralize the increase in dearness (equivalent to DA given by the Govt. of Karnataka in last one year) plus an increment of 3% for each completed year. This should be a general policy for supporting staff till further revision of this policy takes place.

IV. Outsourcing the required manpower to KEONICS:

It was submitted to the Board to engage a manpower supply agency to provide all kinds of staff to the Board. KEONICS is a Govt. of Karnataka enterprise and is providing manpower services to various organizations. The matter was deliberated in detail and it was decided to ascertain whether KEONICS is having 4G exemption under KTPP Act. The ACS, FEE suggested to find from other Corporations of the Government who would have engaged some manpower agency. Since they would have already undergone the process of KTPP Act with due diligence in selecting the agency, Karnataka Biodiversity Board can take the services of any one of those manpower agencies selected by Corporations/Departments/KFD. This was agreed to by all the members and advised the Member Secretary to come up with a proposal in the next meeting after ascertaining from other Government Corporations/Departments etc. It was also advised that as an alternative, due procedure may be followed to identify an agency for the Board.

4. Access and Benefit Sharing:

1. Action taken on Special Agenda:

Special agenda on ABS obligations for access to bioresources for commercial utilization and for bio-survey and bio-utilization for commercial utilization was approved by the Board through circulation. The Board appreciated the timely action of requesting the companies which are using bioresources for commercial purposes to pay for ABS obligation. The Board also noted the status of response from different companies and resolved to approve the deadline of submitting ABS obligation till 30th May, 2015. Dr. Ganeshiah asked as to what should be done if some of the companies fail to pay the ABS

obligation. This issue was deliberated in the Board and it was resolved that in spite of persuasion, if a company does not pay the ABS obligation then the penal provisions of the law should be invoked. Member Secretary was authorized to take further needful action in this matter.

2. Signing agreements on ABS:

After detailed deliberation, the Board resolved to approve the draft agreement between the Board and the Bioresource users and further authorized the Member Secretary to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board

3. Collection of fee by Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC):

Member Secretary explained that as per rule 13(XIV), the Board is to recommend, prescribe and modify the collection fee of the BMCs. Though over 4514 BMCs at GP level 103 at TP level and 14 at ZP level are constituted, they are in initial stage of functioning and all BMCs at GP level will be reconstituted after the present Grama Panchayat elections. The Board deliberated the subject at length. A doubt was raised whether the collection fee should be linked with 'Sustainability angle' and 'threat perception' of a species. It was clarified that these angles will be addressed at State Biodiversity Board level. At BMC level, at least to start with, the arrangement should be easy to understand and implement. After detailed deliberations, it was agreed that a simple flat rate for fee collection will be feasible in the present circumstances. The Board resolved to recommend to the BMCs the following fee:

Sl .No	Quantity procured	Fee
1	Up to 50 Kg	Rs. 100
2	50 to 250 Kg	Rs. 500
3	More than 250 Kg	Rs. 1000

4. Access and Benefit Sharing on high economic value Bio-resource:

As per the Regulation 3(3) on ABS issued by NBA - MoEFCC dated 21/11/2014, it is mandatory for successful bidder or purchaser of Biological resources of high economic value such as Sandalwood, Red Sanders etc. and their derivatives to make an upfront payment of not less than 5% on the proceeds of the auction or sale amount as benefit share. The Board deliberated the subject in detail. Dr. Ganeshiah was of the view that *Nothapodytes nimmoniana* may be one such species to be considered as of a high economic value bioresource. After further detailed deliberations, it was resolved to fix an upfront payment of 5% on the proceeds of auction sale or sale amount for Sandal wood and Red Sanders and to

request the Forest Department to collect and remit the ABS amount to Karnataka Biodiversity Board before release of the material. The Board further resolved to ask the following Departments to inform about any other Biological resource, which can be considered to be of having high economic value for the purpose of ABS guidelines. The Departments are as follows:

1. Forest Department
2. Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department (AH&F)
3. Agriculture Department
4. Horticulture Department
5. Sericulture Department
6. AYUSH Department

5. Access and Benefit Sharing for marine products:

It was submitted before the Board that in implementation of the GEF project, we need to enter into an agreement with two bio-resource users each from Wetland, Agriculture and Forest ecosystems. The process meeting with different companies using Bioresources from these three ecosystems have been held. The ABS obligation for those companies, who are dealing with marine products needs to be finalized as it was done for plant based bioresource users through the OM on ABS dated 27/03/2015. The matter was discussed in detail and it was resolved to fix the ABS obligation to the minimum of the slab of 1% and 3% for trader and manufacturer respectively if they choose to pay ABS obligation on the value of the produce. If they choose to pay the ABS obligation on ex-factory sale of the product, the benefit sharing component will continue to remain between 0.1% to 0.5% as the case may be. It was further resolved to seek opinion from various Departments to suggest the percentage of ABS obligation to be levied on Bioresources dealt in their Departments.

5. Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) status:

1. As resolved in its 25th meeting, the Board noted the progress of preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Registers and the difficulty in getting the cooperation and services from Professors/Lecturers and students of Bioscience Departments, Universities and Institutions and Colleges. After detailed deliberation the Board approved the involvement of Ph.D/enrolled Ph.D research scholars as Coordinators for assisting in writing the PBRs and asked the Member Secretary to explore the possibility of getting suitable assistance from other competent personnel from different types of Institutions.

2. The Member Secretary submitted the Datasheet of expenses on preparation of PBRs at taluk level under UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC project which is Rs. 55000 against an upper limit of Rs. 150000 sanctioned by the NBA. He explained that the Board has resolved to adopt a methodology of preparation of PBRs based on Agro-climatic zones. As the Master checklist for the preparation of PBRs for each Agro-climatic zone is already prepared, the whole process of writing PBRs becomes economical, and that is how Rs. 55000 is required for completion of the PBR. The Board deliberated on the subject in detail and found that the honorarium to resource persons for conducting training and for the professor/lecturers/enrolled Ph.D scholars (Coordinators) is less. After detailed discussion, the Board resolved to approve the data sheet as per the Annexure of these proceedings with powers to the Member Secretary to incur expenditure up to 20% over and above the approved rates in special circumstances to be recorded in writing.

6. Project on medicinal plant – Assessment of population status and removal of bioresources from forest with special emphasis on medicinal plants in Karnataka.

The Member Secretary presented the status of implementation of the project on “Assessment of population status and removal of bioresources from forest with special emphasis on medicinal plants in Karnataka” and explained that the datasheet for cost of the project is included in the approved project. It provides Rs. 7.2 lakh per division for data collection and processing. The field work in Honnavar, Haliyal, Karwar and Virajpet forest divisions and Bannerughatta wildlife division is completed. During the field work, it was felt that since the cost proposed in the project was an estimation and general in nature, taking into account the field problems and implementation difficulties, there need to be a different expense schedule for each division and hence, the cost norm on different items will vary for each division. Further, some new expenditure items may arise and need to be met with. After detailed deliberation on the subject, the Board resolved to authorize the Member Secretary to incur/spend as per the requirement within overall budget of Rs. 7.2 Lakhs for each division. A committee consisting of the Board officials will examine the situations as and when it arises and proposes the expenditure to the Member Secretary for approval. The committee will consist of (i) Deputy Director, AYUSH, Karnataka Biodiversity Board as Chairperson (ii) Deputy Director, Agriculture, Karnataka Biodiversity Board as a member and (iii) Assistant Conservator of Forests, Karnataka Biodiversity Board as Member-Convenor.

7. GEF Project status:

Member Secretary submitted the status of the GEF project and informed that the sanction of the project was intimated in July, 2014. However, after completion of initial process of recruitment etc., the project could start in the month of September, 2014. Meanwhile, fieldwork during last few days could not be taken up because the Code of Conduct (CC) is in force due to elections for local bodies, and hence the

project needs to be extended by atleast 4 months to achieve its targets and objectives. After a detailed deliberation, the Board resolved to recommend the NBA to extend the project by 4 months and authorized the Member Secretary to take up correspondence in this regard.

8. Budget and Accounts:

(i) The Board noted the audited account for the year 2013-14 submitted by the Accountant General (AG) and approved the same.

(ii) The Board noted the expenditure for the year 2014-15 and approved the same.

(iii) The Board noted the action taken of reappropriation of Budget for 2014-15 and approved the same.

(iv) The Board noted the budget estimate for the year 2015-16 for Rs. 3.64 Crore and approved the same.

9. Committee on animal husbandry:

The Member Secretary informed that a committee is constituted under chairmanship of Secretary (AH&F) to regulate the activities of animal husbandry, including artificial inseminations in animals and semen stations. He requested the Secretary (AH&F) to present the related issues of regulating artificial insemination (AI). The Secretary (AH&F) explained the need for special intervention to protect the local animal germplasm. He further suggested that since, there are large number of registered agencies/persons engaged in AI, which needs to be monitored, power to regulate the implementation of guidelines may be delegated to the Commissioner, AH&F. After detailed deliberations, the Board resolved that guidelines to regulate the Bovine Breeding centers and proposal for delegation of power to regulate under section-16 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to Commissioner, AH&F should be submitted in the next Board meeting. The Secretary(AH&F) was also requested that besides regulating AI, he should mainstream the entire genetic conservation concern in his departmental programmes and submit a proposal in the next Board meeting, if anything was required from KBB.

10. Declaration of Eco-Park – Sri Lakshmikantha Swamy, Medicinal Eco-park, Devaragudda (Sri Giri), Padmanabhanagara, Bengaluru as Heritage site.

I. The Member Secretary explained that The Secretary (Ecology and Environment) has forwarded a letter from Sri G Ashwatha Narayan, who had requested to declare Sri Lakshmikantha Swamy, Medicinal Eco-park, Devaragudda (Sri Giri), Padmanabhanagara, Bengaluru as Biodiversity Heritage site. After detailed deliberation, the Board reaffirmed its resolution of 21st Board meeting and resolved that Board will not

consider small extent of land which is having limited Biodiversity to be declared as BHS and all precautions must be taken to ensure that private interests do not creep in.

II. Board noted the action taken by the Member Secretary.

11. Project for establishment of Herbarium and Botanical museum at Pilikula Nisargadhama.

It was submitted before the Board that a project on establishment of 'Herbarium and Botanical Museum at Pilikula Nisargadhama' was sanctioned for a duration of 5 years which is coming to an end in December, 2015. The project could not start well in first two years and as a result they could take up the work up to Rs. 62 Lakhs (inclusive of Rs. 1.8 Lakh interest) against a total sanction of Rs. 120 Lakhs. The Executive Director, Dr. Shivaram Karanth, Pilikula Nisargadhama, Mangaluru vide his letter dated 6th May, 2015 requested to extend the project for two more years. After detailed deliberations, the Board resolved to extend the project for two more years i.e., 2016-17 and 2017-18 for a total outlay of Rs. 120 Lakhs including interest and release the unspent amount in next two consecutive financial years.

12. Contribution to NPS account of working employee in KBB:

After detailed discussion, the Board resolved to make good the loss of interest to the Deputy Director, (Agriculture) to the extent which he could have received if working in the Agriculture Department.

13. Compulsory training programme for Officers from Indian Forest Service:

The Board noted the action taken with appreciation.

14. Conservation of Rocky Shores of Dhareshwara:

The Board noted the action taken in addressing the Deputy Commissioner, Karwar for conservation of Rocky Shores of Dhareshwara. The Board also resolved to bring the matter to the notice of the State Coastal Zone Authority and seek their appropriate directions in the matter.

15. Any other subject with the permission of the chair:

i. Co-opted members:

Looking into the sensitivity of the subject as explained by the Secretary (AH&F) and also to mainstream the conservation concern in the Department itself, the Board unanimously resolved to nominate the Secretary (AH&F) as co-opted member of the Board. The Secretary (AH&F) also consented for the same and agreed to attend the meetings of the Board.

ii. The Board noted the contents of email communication from Ms. Saswati Mishra, Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, EMPRI to the Member Secretary to extend the project on mapping the network of procurement of select bioresources by four months with an additional budget requirement of Rs. 2.5 Lakhs. After detailed deliberation, the Board resolved to extend the project by four months and to approve the additional budget requirement of Rs. 2.5 Lakhs.

iii. Tathaguni estate:

The ACS, FEE informed that the Tathaguni estate is having great Biodiversity as well as heritage value and this may be considered to be declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site under Section-37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002. After detailed deliberations, the Board authorized the Member Secretary to initiate necessary action for declaring the Tathaguni estate as BHS.

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.