

**Karnataka Biodiversity Board**  
**Proceedings of the 29<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**  
**Venue: Meeting room, Ground floor, Vanavikas Building,**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 003.**

The 29<sup>th</sup> Board meeting was held on 06/10/2015 in the Karnataka Biodiversity Board meeting room, Ground floor, Vanavikas Building, 18<sup>th</sup> Cross Malleshwaram, Bengaluru– 560 003.

**Members 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 Vinay Luthra, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and (HOFF) Aranya Bawan, 18 <sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-1	Ex-officio Member
4	Sri. Ramachandra, IFS Secretary to Government. Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
5	Sri P.C Ray, Special Commissioner, Dept. of RDPR, M.S Building, Bengaluru-1. (Representing Sri Subash Chandra, Principal Secretary, RDPR, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru)	Ex-officio Member
6	Sri. Syed Ahmed, Director, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Dept. Vikas Soudha, Bengaluru. (Representing Dr. N. S. Chanappa Gowda, IAS, Secretary to Govt., Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Dept. Vikas Soudha, Bengaluru.)	Co-opted Member
7	Dr. H.Y. Rathod, Drug Controller, Representing Director, Dept. of Ayush, Bengaluru	Special Invitee
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 – 560 034	Non-officio Member
9	Dr. M.D. Subash Chandran Environment Specialist. C- 789, Viveknagar, Kumta – 581343, Uttara Kannada District.	Non-officio Member
10	Dr. H. Shivananda Murthy Professor & Head, Department of Aquaculture. College of Fisheries, Kankanady, Mangalore – 575 002	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 - Convenor
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**Leave of absence was granted to the following members/special invitee:**

1	Sri N. Manjunatha Prasad, Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture, M.S Building, Bengaluru.	Ex-officio Member
2	Dr. M. Sanjappa CSIR Emeritus Scientist. No:504, Block C-7, Kendriya Vihara, Yelahanka, Bengaluru -560 034.	Non-officio Member
3	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 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 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting:**

The proceedings of the 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting was communicated to all the members. As no comments were received, the proceedings are hereby adopted.

**2. Action taken on 28<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Proceedings:**

Action taken on proceedings of 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, as reported in Annexure-II of the agenda, was noted by the Board. The members deliberated on following agenda of 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

a) 28/9 Committee on Animal Husbandry:

The Member Secretary informed the Board that the committee on Animal Husbandry has submitted the copy of guidelines on 05/10/2015. A copy of the same was circulated among the members. Sri Syed Ahmed, Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services representing the Secretary, AH&F explained the salient features of the guidelines. The Additional Chief Secretary, (FEE) suggested that the members may go through the guidelines and it may be taken up during next Board meeting. It was therefore resolved to discuss the guidelines on Artificial Insemination (AI) and its regulation

during next Board meeting. In the meantime Member of the Board may send their comments to the Member Secretary which can sent to the AH&V Department for their comments.

b) 28/15 Any other subject with permission of the chair.

iii) Tathaguni Estate:

The Member Secretary brought to the notice of the Board that the jurisdictional Biodiversity Management Committee of Agara Grama Panchayath has resolved to constitute the Tathaguni Estate as Biodiversity Heritage Site under Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The matter was deliberated in detail and it was resolved that the proposal for notification of Tathaguni Estate as Biodiversity Heritage Site should be sent to Government for taking further action to notify the area as 'Biodiversity Heritage Site'.

### **3. Access and benefit sharing:**

i) Status:

The Member Secretary brought to the notice of the Board about the progress of implementation of OM dated 27/03/2015 for implementing the ABS obligation as per the regulation (Guidelines) issued by Ministry of Environment and forests & Climate Change (MoEF-CC) under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. He further informed that despite making several clarifications to the companies, still there are 35 companies which have submitted Form-I for accessing biological resources, but have not yet paid the ABS obligation. The matter was deliberated in detail and resolved to issue a show cause notice to all such companies by giving one month time to pay the ABS, failing which legal action may be initiated as per Section 55 and 56 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002. It was further resolved to authorize Member Secretary to take the services of some competent Advocate to handle the case in appropriate court of law.

ii) ABS received:

The Member Secretary brought to the notice of the Board that as on 30/09/2015, Rs.15,12,693/- has been received as ABS obligation from the companies. He further pointed out that as per the guidelines on Access to Biological resources, associated knowledge and benefit sharing regulations – 2014, R-15(2), it is mentioned that 95% of the ABS received should go to the concerned Biodiversity

Management Committee etc., Since the companies are not furnishing the information regarding the source of the bio resources procured, it is difficult to implement, this part of the guidelines. After detailed deliberation, the members felt that there should be a mechanism to identify the BMCs from where the Biological resources are removed, in case the companies are not providing this information. The Board authorized the Member Secretary to identify a few BMCs which have large bio-resource transactions and submit a proposal for utilization of the ABS by these identified BMCs.

iii) Submission of Form-I by companies:

The Member Secretary submitted that advertisement in leading newspapers have been made on 07/05/2015 about the submission of Form-I by those who are using Biological Resources for commercial utilization. There are companies who have not yet submitted Form-I but are using the bio-resources. They need to submit the Form-I. The matter was deliberated about fixing the starting year of submission of Form-I. After detailed deliberation, it was resolved that, as the guidelines on ABS was issued in 2014-15, to begin with the companies may be asked to submit the Form-I at least from 2014-15.

**4. Project on medicinal plants – “Assessment of population status and removal of bio-resources with special emphasis on medicinal plants in Karnataka”.**

Member Secretary brought to the notice of members that the implementation of the project is in progress. However, there are certain problems in carrying out the survey work in the forest area. The project envisaged to take the services of students from forestry colleges for field works. However, it was subsequently found that the students are available for very short time and by the time their field skills are developed, these students are no longer available for the survey work. Therefore, it is necessary to have a Botanist/Taxonomist/Ayurvedic Doctors for a period of 6-8 months depending upon the requirement. These personnel can be suitably stationed at different zones in circle headquarters. These Botanists/Taxonomists/Ayurvedic Doctors can be given field orientation about the identification and survey of Medicinal Plants and their services utilized till the end of the project.

The members deliberated the matter in detail and suggested that very good experts are available who are retired and are free to involve themselves for such survey work. However, for doing

everyday field survey a Botanist/Taxonomist may work under their guidance. It was also mentioned that the services of teachers from Botany/AYUSH can also be availed for this purpose. After detailed deliberation, the Board authorized Member Secretary to select such field Botanist/Taxonomist/ Ayurvedic doctors for different circles wherever needed. The Board has further approved the remuneration of Rs. 15,000 to 20,000 per month depending upon experience to such Botanist/Taxonomist / Ayurvedic doctors subject to overall budget earmarked under the project. The remuneration for an individual may be decided by the selection committee.

#### **5. Compilations of Basic data on flora and fauna:**

The Member Secretary brought to the notice of the members that the Board has undertaken the compilation of Baseline data of different fields of Biodiversity of the State. Leading experts from each field of Biodiversity have been selected from the country for taking up the compilation work in each discipline. The issue was discussed in a meeting of experts on 14/3/2014 in which it was recommended that for compilation of data, the experts may be given support of students who will be collecting information from various sources and student should be paid a remuneration of Rs. 10,000/- per month for 2-3 months depending upon the work involved in the particular field. The requirement of students for given number of months was decided in the said meeting itself as decided in Annexure-VII of the Agenda Notes.

Most of the compilations by the experts are ready and it was required to review the output before making the payment of stipend to students and honorarium to the experts. A Committee consisting of two experts, i.e, Dr. V Bhaskar, Prof. of Forestry and Environment (Rtd.), GKVK and Dr. Madhyastha, Prof. of Zoology (Rtd.), from plant and animal sciences respectively, was constituted. This Committee has Dr. Sanjappa, Former Director of Botanical Survey of India and member of the Board, as a special invitee. Committee suggested some changes, which will be taken care by the experts.

The matter was discussed by the Board members in great detail and the need for such baseline data for the State for different fields was appreciated. After detailed deliberations, the Board resolved to approve the stipend of Rs. 10,000/- per month to the students and an honorarium of Rs. 10,000 –

25,000 to experts depending upon the quantum of works in preparing the baseline data based on the recommendation of the aforesaid committee of experts.

#### **6. Project on 'Collection, conservation and characterization of 'Appemidi':**

The Member Secretary brought to the notice of the members that a project proposal is received from Director, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) for 'Collection, conservation and characterization of Appemidi' requesting for funds of Rs. 5 Lakh for a duration of 1 year. The subject of research is discussed by the members in detail and it was suggested that the quantum of Appemidi being consumed by different sectors should also be assessed. The ACS, FEE remarked that this needs collection of huge information which is not within the scope of scientific study. After detailed deliberations, it is resolved to approve the project submitted by IIHR as they are an institute of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Appropriate Terms and Conditions may be incorporated while sending to approval to the project.

The Member Secretary informed the members that another project on documentation of traditional knowledge of livestock keepers of Karnataka State at a cost of Rs. 4.95 Lakh for a period of 6 months was received on 05/10/2015 from Dr. K.P. Ramesh, Principal Scientist and In-charge, Dairy Production Section, NDRI, Bengaluru for the sanction of the Board. Since this project is received late, it could not be included in the agenda. The project is circulated for taking up as a special agenda. The members deliberated on the need of such study. Documenting the traditional knowledge is one of the main thrust areas of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and such documentation will be very helpful in protecting the interest of traditional holders. After detailed deliberations, it is resolved to sanction the project for funding subject to recommendation from the competent authority of National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal.

#### **7. Status of Technical Staff:**

The Member Secretary brought to the notice of Board about the selection of short term project based/special activity based services of 14 Technical Personnel from different disciplines. Since such personnel are having different degrees and different levels of experiences from various organizations including Karnataka Biodiversity Board, the Committee reviewing the performance suggested for holding the interview afresh for all technical personnel. The salary of these personnel

along with the new entrants needs to be fixed. The members discussed the fixing of the salary on case by case basis as provided in Annexure-X and approved it as per the following table:

Sl. No.	Name	Remuneration
1	Sri Pritham S Research Associate – Zoology	Rs. 25,000/-
2	Sri Prasanna Kumar C. N Research Associate – Botany	Rs. 25,000/-
3	Ms Ishwarya B N Gowda Technical Executive – Applied Botany	Rs. 22,000/-
4	Ms Shruthi S Technical Executive – Taxonomy	Rs. 22,000/-
5	Ms Rajeshwari Hosmani Technical Executive – Horticulture	Rs. 25,000/-
6	Ms Nischitha N Technical Executive – Applied Botany	Rs. 20,000/-
7	Ms Priyadarshini I Patil Technical Executive – Agriculture	Rs. 20,000/-
8	Ms Rajamma R Technical Executive – Forestry	Rs. 23,500/-
9	Ms Vinanthi A.C Technical Executive – Microbiology	Rs. 22,000/-
10	Sri Vishak N. D Technical Executive - Wildlife	Rs. 22,000/-

The Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment suggested that those people who have not reported within the stipulated time, some substitute can be taken by short interview by the Chairman. He further stated that there is no need to go through the detailed process of selection for such vacant positions. This was agreed to by all Board Members.

#### **8. PF & ESI to supporting staff:**

The Board has identified Aishwarya Facility Services for providing the services of supporting staff to the Board. For those supporting staff whose salary is less than Rs. 15,000/-, it is mandatory for the employee to contribute to PF & ESI to the extent of 12% and 1.75% respectively. The personnel represented that they are getting less salary and after making the mandatory contribution to PF &

ESI, their take home salary will further go down. The Board deliberated the matter in detail and felt that it may not be appropriate to pay the employee contribution from the Board side. However, in order to mitigate their hardship, the Salary of such of the persons, who are drawing below Rs.15,000/- may be enhanced by 13.75%. So their take home salary of the employee is not affected. Further, if any anomaly arises on account of their enhancement, the same may be brought before the Board for suitable correction. After detailed deliberation, the Board approved to raise the salary to the extent of minimum contribution required to be paid by the employees towards EPF & ESI to all those who are getting less than Rs 15,000/-.

#### **9. Reconstitution of Technical Expert Committee:**

Member Secretary explained that in view of the project on Medicinal Plants being implemented by the Board, a Technical Expert Committee which was resolved to constitute in 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting as per Section -13(2) of Biological Diversity Act, 2002, needs to be reconstituted. The members suggested that scientists like Dr. K.C. Veeranna, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Shivamogga, Dr. Jayashankar, Genetics & Breeding, Hebbal, may be included in the Technical Expert Committee. Member Secretary further informed that the Board has authorized Chairman to constitute the specialized sub-committees as and when required for specific purposes and submitted that such authorization needs to be altered to constitute any technical committees under Section-13(2) of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 instead of specialized sub-committees. After detailed deliberation, the Board resolved to authorize the Chairman to constitute committees under Section-13(2) as and when required.

#### **10. Any other subject with the permission of the chair:**

Member Secretary from the Chairman, Member Secretary submitted the Board following subject for consideration of the Board.

##### **i) Reimbursement of charges for accommodation outside Bengaluru while on duty for Board's work:**

The Member Secretary submitted that the Technical Executives and other officials from the Board visit different places in the State for attending the Board's work of writing PBRs, organizing trainings programmes etc. The Board in its 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting has approved a maximum of Rs. 500/- towards hotel accommodation. The Member Secretary informed that the officials have represented that it is



difficult to get a reasonable accommodation in Rs. 500 and hence it should be increased. After detailed deliberation, members expressed that Rs. 500 per night may not be adequate in certain places in the State. Hence, it was resolved that Member Secretary should submit a proposal for differential rate of expenses towards accommodation for different cities in the next meeting.

ii) Honorarium for newsletter:

The Member Secretary submitted that the Board was publishing quarterly newsletter which is stopped for some time. The information for newsletter was being collated and edited by Dr. A.K. Chakravarthy, Head, Division of Entomology and Nematology, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hessaraghatta lake post, Bangalore and an honorarium of Rs. 2000 was sanctioned by the Board in its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for each issue. With the passing of time, the honorarium of Rs. 2000 appears less as it was fixed more than 7 years back. He therefore recommended that this may be revised to Rs. 3000. After detailed deliberation, the Board resolved to raise the honorarium to Dr. Chakravarthy, for collecting the information and editing the quarterly newsletter to Rs. 3000 per issue.

iii) Authorizing a signatory to sign agreements etc on behalf of the Board:

The Member Secretary explained to the Board that there are many agreements to be undertaken by the Board, especially regarding Access and Benefit Sharing. The Member Secretary, now being the only signatory, has to spend a lot of time on this as he has to often wait for the industry representatives to come. In view of this, he recommended that the Deputy Conservator of Forests in Karnataka Biodiversity Board may also be authorized to sign the agreements on behalf of Karnataka Biodiversity Board, In addition to the Member Secretary, once decision of the Member Secretary is recorded and process in the file is over. After detailed deliberations, it was resolved to authorize the DCF, Karnataka Biodiversity Board also to sign the agreements on behalf of the Board.

iv) The next Board meeting is fixed on 8/12/2015 at 12.00 noon.

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

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