

# Karnataka Biodiversity Board

## Proceedings of the 31<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting

Venue: Meeting room, Ground floor, Vanavikas Building,  
18<sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 003.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Board meeting was held on 07/04/2016 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.	Chairman
2	Sri Mahendra Jain, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government. Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru.	Ex-officio Member
3	Sri Ramachandra, IFS Secretary (Ecology and Environment), Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru.	Ex-officio Member
4	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
5	Dr. M.D. Subash Chandran, Environment Specialist. C- 789, Viveknagar, Kumta – 581343, Uttara Kannada District.	Non-officio Member
6	Dr. M. Sanjappa, CSIR Emeritus Scientist. No: 504, Block C-7, Kendriya Vihara, Yelahanka, Bengaluru	Non-officio Member
7	Director, Dept. of Ayush, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru (Represented by Dr. H.Y. Rathod, Asst. Drug Controller, Dept. of Ayush)	Special Invitee
8	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

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

1	Sri Subash Chandra, IAS Additional Chief Secretary to Government. Dept. of Rural Development and Panchayath Raj, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru.	Ex-officio Member
2	Sri N. Manjunatha Prasad, IAS., Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru.	Ex-officio Member
3	Sri A.K. Singh, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and (HOFF) Aranya Bhavan, 18 <sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.	Ex-officio Member
4	Dr. U.V. Singh, Chief Executive Officer, KAMPA, Bangalore	Special Invitee
5	Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Dept., Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru.	Co-opted Member

6	Dr. K.N. Ganeshiah Professor & Head, Department of Forest & Environmental Sciences, GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru – 560 065.	Non-officio Member
7	Dr. H. Shivananda Murthy Professor & Head, Department of Aquaculture. College of Fisheries, Kankanady, Mangalore – 575 002	Non-officio Member

The meeting commenced with a formal welcome of the members by the Chairman. He also recalled the excellent contributions made by the two ex-officio Members, namely Sri M. Madan Gopal, IAS, ACS (FEE) and Sri Vinay Luthra, IFS, PCCF & HoFF, who have since retired from service. The Board acknowledged their contributions and requested the Chairman to convey the appreciation of the Board to them. Thereafter, the agenda for meeting was taken up for discussion and decisions.

**1. Reading and recording of proceedings of the 30<sup>th</sup> Board meeting:**

The proceedings of the 30<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting held on 08/12/2015 were communicated to all the members. As there were no comments from the members, the proceeding, as reported in Annexure-I of agenda notes, was adopted.

**2. Action taken on 30<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Proceedings:**

Action taken on proceedings of 30<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, as reported in Annexure-II of the agenda, was noted by the Board.

**3. Expenditures 2015-16 and Budget 2016-17:**

(i) The Board noted the total unaudited expenditure of Rs. 296,40175 up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 for the financial year 2015-16.

(ii) The Board noted the budget proposal of Rs. 6.73 crore submitted to the Government for the year 2016-17. Secretary, Environment informed that the additional requirement for the preparation of PBRs will be met, which he may submit to the finance department as additional budget, depending upon the requirement at the time of re-appropriation in budget.

#### **4. Status of People's Biodiversity Registers:**

The Member Secretary explained the process of documentation of PBRs and informed about the role of Technical Support Group (TSG) and Technical Expert Committee (TEC) for vetting the technical content of the PBR. After detailed deliberation, the members noted the commendable effort in documenting the PBRs during 2015-16. Total number of PBRs written before 2014-15 through various agencies from inception is 389, whereas a total of 1120 PBRs have been attempted during 2015-16 (up to February 2016) including 612 PBRs which are at draft stage. Additional Chief Secretary asked to explore the possibility of involving people from different professions to take the assignment of preparation of PBRs. After detailed discussion, taking into account the challenges of getting interested and qualified persons (Coordinators) for taking up documentation of PBRs, the Board resolved to fix a target of 1200 PBRs per year and set a target of completing all the PBRs by 2019-20.

#### **5. Biodiversity Management Committee:**

##### **i) Status:**

The Board noted the steps taken to constitute BMC in all the local bodies.

##### **ii) Tenure of BMC:**

The difference in the wording of Section – 21(2) of Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules, 2005 in Kannada and English versions, was deliberated in detail. The Secretary, FEE informed that English version is written first and that is considered authentic. In case of differences in the translation, the same should be informed to Government for further action. It was also deliberated that the number of members of BMC in both versions mentioned are different and still both are not contradicting each other. Therefore, the format which is being followed at present with 6 members including chairperson conforms to the requirements of both versions of the rule – 21(2). The

members also discussed the guidelines for operationalization of BMCs issued by National Biodiversity Authority in 2013. After detailed deliberations, it was resolved to adopt the tenure of the BMC as given in the guidelines for operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committee. Accordingly, the tenure of BMC will be five years/co-terminus with the tenure of the local body. However, the existing BMC will continue to operate, until a new committee is constituted.

## **6. Research studies:**

i) Dr. M D Subhashchandran presented the concept note for creating database on ethnomedicine and accreditation of folk healers. The matter was discussed at length and it was resolved to request Dr. M D Subhashchandran to submit a strategy for taking up the creation of database, during next Board meeting.

ii) The Member Secretary explained that the Board is implementing a project on ABS funded by MoEF-UNEP-GEF-NBA. A series of meeting has taken place in the Board with the stakeholders from different sectors who are utilizing the bioresources for commercial purposes. The project mandates to have ABS agreements under three ecosystems viz wetland, agriculture and forestry. However, the guidelines issued by NBA in 2014 are more of medicinal plants centric. In order to secure the obligation of ABS from marine sector, several meetings have taken place, but there is always a knowledge gap about kind of companies involved in manufacturing various marine products. There is a need to have more detailed information in the sector and hence, Sri Ramchandra Bhatta, Rtd. Professor, Emeritus Scientist (Economics), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, College of Fisheries, Mangalore was requested to prepare a ToR for a study encompassing various issues in the industry. A project proposal was invited from universities, Government organizations etc. which was reviewed by a committee chaired by Dr. H. Shivananda Murthy, Professor and Head, College of Fisheries, Mangalore and Member of the Board. The committee recommended for re-notification for calling the proposal on the subject. On re-notification, projects proposals were received from

Central Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and from P.G Centre, Department of Studies in Marine Biology, Karnataka University. The Board discussed the matter in detail and felt that the CMFRI is a leading research organization under Indian Council of Agricultural Research and is equipped with the requisite manpower and other infrastructure to successfully handle the study. After detailed deliberation it was resolved to approve the research proposals given by CMFRI with the cost limited to Rs. 5.00 lakhs, subject to technical review of both the proposals by the committee chaired by Dr. H. Shivananda Murthy, Member of the Board.

iii) Baseline data:

The Board has collated baseline data in different disciplines of Biological Sciences by engaging the experts from various parts of the country. It was resolved in 29<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to pay an honorarium to each expert who has led the team in preparation of the baseline data. The recommendations of the committee was discussed by the members and it was felt that the honorarium was not according to the number of species documented in various disciplines. Dr. Sanjappa informed that generally, for collation of such data, an honorarium is fixed per species, which can be followed here also. Member Secretary explained that approved amount has already been paid to the students for collecting data under the supervision of the experts. In some of the fields, where there is very small number of species, pro rata honorarium will be ridiculously low while in some fields, it can be very high. After detailed deliberations, the Board resolved to authorize Chairman for taking a considered decision for payment of honorarium to various experts.

iv) Concept note on research study requirement:

The Board noted the fact that the proposals received from various agencies have been shortlisted by the committee and sent to the experts for review. It has further noted that the honorarium for involving experts for reviewing such projects is also not fixed earlier. After detailed deliberation, it was resolved to pay an honorarium of Rs. 2000/- and additional amount of Rs. 1000/- as secretariat

charges for each project to the experts. The Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board was authorized to take further needful action in the matter.

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

### **(i) ABS applicability to the Government Central Pharmacy, Department of AYUSH:**

In reply to the final notice to submit ABS obligation for the year 2014-15, the Government Central Pharmacy, AYUSH Department has addressed a letter stating that the products manufactured by them are given free of cost to the Government hospitals. The raw material is procured through tender and is not accessed directly. They have therefore contended that “ABS does not arise to this unit”. After a lengthy discussion, the members felt that in the law, there is no exemption to anybody accessing bioresources, and therefore, the Government Central Pharmacy, AYUSH Department needs to meet the ABS obligation as per the guidelines of MoEF. The Board therefore resolved and authorized the Member Secretary to bring the matter to the knowledge of Government for further action.

### **(ii) Legal action against other Government corporations:**

The Board noted the fact that the Government Corporations has not met the ABS obligation. After detailed discussion, it was resolved to refer the matter to the Government for necessary action.

### **(iii) ABS Agreement:**

The Board noted the fact that several companies have paid ABS for the year 2014-15 without agreement. The matter was deliberated in detail and it was resolved that since the companies have already paid ABS, there is no need of entering into agreement for 2014-15 and 2015-16.

(iv) ABS agreement format:

The Member Secretary submitted that the existing model agreement is quite elaborate and lengthy and the companies were finding it intimidating to sign such lengthy agreement. Accordingly, a precise and focused agreement copy is drafted in consultation with legal advisor which may be adopted. After detailed discussion, the Board resolved to adopt the copy of the agreement, as placed in Annexure – XVIb of the agenda notes.

(v) ABS agreement when paid under protest:

The Board noted the content.

(vi) Yearly submission of Form-I:

Rule 15(1) of the Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules, 2005 mandates that prior intimation must be submitted for access to biological resources along with a fee of Rs.1000. But the Rules or the prescribed Form-I does not indicate the timeline in terms of fiscal/financial years.

After detailed deliberation, the Board resolved to fix the financial year as the timeframe for the companies for seeking permission to access the bioresources during that financial year. The Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board was advised to give publicity to this decision in the leading newspapers of Karnataka.

(vii) Selection of Advocates:

The Member Secretary explained that Karnataka Forest Development Corporation (KFDC) has empanelled advocates for representing the corporation for the cases in the court. Same empanelment can be adopted for the Board. After detailed deliberation, it was resolved to follow the procedure to identify the advocates suitable for defending cases related to biodiversity. However, it was also resolved that in case of urgency, the services of the advocates empanelled with KFDC may be taken in one or two cases during the process of identifying the panel for the Board.

## **8. Biodiversity Heritage Sites:**

### **(i) Nallur Tamarind Grove:**

The members discussed about the urgency of fencing, watch and ward and weeding the area constituting the Biodiversity Heritage site. After detailed deliberation, the Board resolved to support the BMC for these activities subject to availability of the fund. The proceeds of tamarind auction of BHS area shall be utilized for these purposes through the nodal officer of concerned district.

### **(ii) Devika Rani Roerich Estate (Tathaguni Estate):**

The Board noted the action taken.

## **9. Projects:**

### **(i) Project on Climate Change:**

The Board noted the fact that EMPRI has invited a project for National Adaptation fund for climate change from Karnataka Biodiversity Board and accordingly, a project titled “Building resilience to climate change through revival of traditional agro fishery system, restoration of mangroves in coastal Karnataka” for revival of traditional rice cultivation cum fishery system - Gazani, in the coastal districts of Karnataka was prepared and submitted to EMPRI. This was discussed in the State-Level Steering Committee (SLSC) chaired by Chief Secretary. After detailed deliberation, the Board approved the action taken in this regard.

### **(ii) Status - NMPB project:**

The Board noted the status of the project.

### **(iii) Status of UNEP – GEF – MoEF - ABS Project:**

The Board noted the status of the project.



## **10. Awards:**

A committee was constituted to decide the categories and select the awardees. The committee has recommended for giving awards in the category of a) Biodiversity Conservation, b) Research and c) Awareness dissemination. After detailed deliberation, the Board resolved to accept the recommendation of the committee constituted for deciding Biodiversity Awards to the following awardees.

1. Sri. Kodlu Thota Ramesh, in the field of Biodiversity conservation.
2. Dr. K. V Gururaja, research in the field of Biodiversity conservation.
3. Dr. Pushpa. H.K, in the field of awareness creation.

The Board also resolved to give a cash award of Rs. 50,000 and a citation to each awardee.

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

Supplementary agenda:

### **1. Publications by the Board:**

The Board noted that expert authors from different disciplines submit proposal about their documents in the field related to biodiversity for publication and such documents can be useful reference material. The matter was discussed in great detail and the Board resolved to accept publishing such documents after a review by a committee chaired by Dr. M. Sanjappa, Member of the Board and two domain experts. The committee should look into the scientific relevance and quality of the publication along with the disclaimer of content and reasonability of the royalty requested for.

### **2. Herbal Mandi:**

The concept of having a common market for all bioresources, especially the medicinal plants was discussed and the Board noted the fact that presently, the harvest and collection of most of the

Bioresources are done in an informal way which creates a challenge in monitoring the sustainability of the resource. After detailed deliberation, the Board resolved to authorize the Member Secretary to find out the status in other states and develop a strategy for creating a Mandi in Karnataka.

### 3. IPR issues:

The Board noted the proceedings of the committee constituted for looking into the issues related to access and IPR regarding giving consent in absence of timely reply from concerned BMC from where the resources are used and noted the action of Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board in conveying the decision of the committee to NBA, wherever the recommendations are positive. However, the following cases where favorable recommendations are not made by the committee, were discussed by the Board:

#### i. Access related to *Salacia reticulata*:

The Board approved the committee's decision to decline the consent until the conservation status of *Salacia reticulata* is obtained.

#### ii. Data collection for research on plant insect interaction:

Leading the discussion, the Secretary (Ecology & Environment) explained in detail that, there appears to be no harm in recommending the permission requested for. The Chairman suggested that the committee may like to have a review of the decision taken. Dr. Swaminath, Chairman of the committee, however insisted that the recommendation made are correct and review is not necessary. In view of this the Board resolved to recommend the view of the committee to NBA.

#### iii. Application by FRLHT:

The Board noted the committee's recommendation for communicating with National Biodiversity Authority for seeking clarification from FRLHT. The Board authorized the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board to take further action as decided above.

4. Repair of vehicle:

The matter of repair of vehicle Tata Sumo bearing No. KA 04-MB-6160 certified by Regional Transport Officer was discussed and it was noted that the estimated cost of repair is Rs. 1,72,309 + 4.5% tax for the vehicle which has completed 1,84,343 Kms which is 15,600 Km short of 2,00,000 Kms. As per the estimate of Karnataka Government Insurance Department, the depreciated value of the 2005 mode vehicle, is Rs. 1,54,176. After detailed deliberation, it was resolved to replace the vehicle with permission from Government.

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

Sd/-  
Member Secretary  
**Karnataka Biodiversity Board**

Sd/-  
Chairman  
**Karnataka Biodiversity Board**