

Karnataka Biodiversity Board

Proceedings of the 32nd Board Meeting

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

The 32nd Board meeting was held on 18/08/2016 in the Karnataka Biodiversity Board meeting room, Ground floor, Vanavikas Building, 18th Cross Malleshwaram, Bengaluru– 560 003.

Members Present:

1	Sri R.M.N. Sahai, I.F.S (Retd.), Karnataka Biodiversity Board, 4th floor, Vanavikas, 18 th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.	Chairman
2	Sri T.M Vijay Bhaskar, 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 st 'B' Main, 6 th 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 Smt Saraswathi, Deputy Director, (Ayurveda), Dept. of AYUSH)	Special Invitee
8	Dr. U.V. Singh, Chief Executive Officer, KAMPA, Bangalore	Special Invitee
9	Dr. H. Shivananda Murthy Professor & Head, Department of Aquaculture. College of Fisheries, Kankanady, Mangalore – 575 002	Non-officio Member
10	Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Dept., Vikasa Soudha, Bengaluru.(Represented by Dr. Dwarkanath, Dy. Director, Dept of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science)	Co-opted Member
11	Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru. (Represented by Sri Parandamaiah, Joint Secretary, Dept of Agri.)	Ex-officio Member
12	Sri Virender 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	Ms Nagambika Devi, IAS Principal Secretary to Government. Dept. of Rural Development and Panchayath Raj, M.S Buildings, Bengaluru.	Ex-officio Member
2	Sri R.S. Suresh, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HOFF), Aranya Bhavan, Bangalore.	Ex-officio Member
3	Dr. K.N. Ganeshiah, Professor, School of Ecology and Conservation, Department of Forest and 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. A special welcome was given to Sri T.M Vijay Bhaskar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest Ecology and Environment Department as this is his first meeting as a member of Karnataka Biodiversity Board. The Board also noted with gratitude, the services rendered by Sri Mahendra Jain, IAS, Former ACS, FEE department who has since been transferred and of Sri A.K Singh, IFS, PCCF & HoFF who has retired from service.

In order to brief and update the members, a presentation on the activities of Karnataka Biodiversity Board was made which was appreciated by all. Some discussions also took place and thereafter, the agenda for meeting was taken up for discussion and decisions.

32/1. Reading and recording of proceedings of the 31st Board meeting:

The proceedings of the 31st Board Meeting held on 07/04/2016 was 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.

32/2. Action taken on 31st Board Meeting Proceedings:

Action taken on proceedings of 31st Board meeting, as reported in Annexure-II of the agenda, was noted by the Board. Further discussions took place on some of the issues in the 'Action taken report' which is as below:

31/4 - Status of People's Biodiversity Registers:

The matter of PBRs documentation was discussed at length by the Board. Dr. M. Sanjappa brought to the notice of the Board that the availability of the expert taxonomists is poor in the State which is a serious constraint in preparation of PBRs. Additional Chief Secretary, FEE Department suggested to speed-up the work on PBR documentation with the help of Pre University Colleges, Degree College and University lecturers in all districts. A letter with Joint signature of ACS, FEE and ACS, Higher Education may be addressed to all the colleges and universities to have a panel of at least 3 coordinators in each taluk for documentation of PBRs. He suggested that along with the services of DCF (SF), the services of Deputy Conservator of Forests (Territorial) may be utilized in the process and a monthly video conferencing may be arranged from Aranya Bhavan to assess the progress of PBR documentation. Member Secretary, KBB was authorized to take further action in the matter.

31/5 - Biodiversity Management Committee:

The Board noted the action taken. On further discussion regarding constitution of Biodiversity Management Committee as per NBA guidelines, the ACS (FEE) suggested for amendment in Rule – 21 of Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules, 2005 to clearly specify for nomination of 6 members as mentioned in the NBA guidelines viz members of Participatory forest/natural resource management committee, local vaidas/hakeems, progressive farmers, agriculture specialists, foot botanist, tribal heads etc., based on the local conditions. ACS (FEE) further informed that another letter with joint signature of himself and ACS (RDPR) may be sent to expedite the formation of Biodiversity Management Committees. Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board was authorized to take further action in the matter.

31/6 – Research Studies:

iii. Baseline data:

In the 31st Board meeting, the Board had resolved to authorize the Chairman for taking a considered decision on making payment of honorarium to the experts involved in documenting the baseline data

of Bioresources in Karnataka. The Chairman has also indicated his decisions. However, it was brought to the notice of the Board that the payment for baseline data compilations are pending due to non-availability of photographs. The matter of obtaining the photographs was discussed among the Board members. Dr. Sanjappa, Board Member and himself an Expert Member for Compilations of baseline data on Angiosperms and Gymnosperms, stated that it would be difficult to provide with photographs as no field level study was conducted. Dr. M.D Subash Chandran advised that photographs with citation could be obtained from Dr. T.V Ramachandra from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and from other secondary data sources. Dr Sanjappa agreed that he will try his best to arrange for photographs, as far as possible. The ACS (FEE) suggested that the outcome of the studies, reports etc., should be put in public domain through the Website of KBB so that people at large are benefited. However, such of the information which is treated as confidential/sensitive need not be put in public domain. This was agreed by the Board and the Member Secretary was authorized to take further needful action in the matter.

31/7 - Access and Benefit Sharing:

The Board noted the action taken and resolved to authorize the Chairman to determine the fee for advocates. The Chairman, however, informed that in several cases, the fee for advocate and other costs involved in filing a case may be higher than what is expected by way of recovery. Hence, it may be desirable to put pressure on the defaulting companies through Government Department controlling them. This was agreed by the Board and it was decided that further action may be taken by the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board accordingly.

31/8 -Biodiversity Heritage Sites:

i. Nallur Tamarind Grove:

The Board noted that the estimated cost of Rs. 50 Lakhs involved in fencing the Nallur Tamarind Grove is beyond the financial resource of Karnataka Biodiversity Board. The Secretary, Environment and

Forests informed that it has not been possible for him to secure funds under 'Corporate Social Responsibility'. The ACS (FEE) suggested that PCCF (HoFF) may be requested to take up this work under an appropriate head of account. This was agreed by the Board.

31/11 - Any other subject with permission of the chair.

ii. Herbal Mandi:

The Board noted the action taken and the Members suggested to request Department of AYUSH in this regard as the matter falls within their domain.

32/3. Research Studies:

The matter of creating the database on ethno-medicine and accreditation of folk healers was deliberated and the efforts of Dr. M.D Subash Chandran was appreciated by the Board. Further, Dr. Subash Chandran explained that his responsibility of documentation of traditional knowledge in five districts on pilot bases has been completed and the data is now safe with Karnataka Biodiversity Board. However, it is noticed that there are many national and international institutions trying to obtain such data, refine the same and apply for patents. A strategy to create a database for saving such knowledge from theft was discussed at length. The Board noted that the information given by the folk healers are not considered authentic and that their scientific validity is questionable. In response to this, Dr. Subash Chandran suggested that a taluk level committee may be constituted to review and scrutinize the information obtained from folk healers which is safeguarded since generations and may have played a major role in development of Ayurveda. The same had even inspired Dr. Carl Linnaeus to formulate the binomial nomenclature which is the basis for plant classification and taxonomy. Dr. Subash Chandran concluded that all the traditional and folk healers are to be identified and registered with Karnataka Biodiversity Board so that their knowledge is safeguarded and put to right use. The Board members were of the opinion that an external agency viz Janapada Vishwa Vidyalaya folklore University, Hubballi might be of some help. The Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board informed that a

correspondence has been made with CSIR who are maintaining the Digital Library on Traditional Knowledge (TKDL) and they are likely to formulate a policy to safeguard the undocumented traditional knowledge. The suggestion of Dr. Subash Chandran to register the folk healers was not agreed by the Board as it may go against some legal provisions and court orders. The ACS (FEE) desired that further discussion in the matter may be continued associating KAMPA, AYUSH Department, FRLHT, Department of AYUSH, Government of India etc., so that the matter is viewed from all angles and an appropriate decision in this regard can be taken.

32/4. Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees at Corporation/Municipality levels.

It was suggested that the Deputy Conservator of Forests working with BBMP should be requested to coordinate in formation of BMCs in Bengaluru City Corporation. Respective DCF (SF) may also take up the matter in their jurisdiction with the other Municipal bodies /Corporations.

32/5. Expert Committee on Agro Biodiversity:

The Board deliberated on the matter and the first list of six farmers shortlisted by the Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity in its 23rd meeting, was accepted by the Board and authorized the Chairman to decide quantum of incentives to these farmers. It was discussed that in future, the Board may advertise in newspapers seeking applications for such incentives to the farmers who are maintaining traditional varieties of crops. Board noted the action taken by the Agro Biodiversity Expert Committee on documenting the land races and Traditional varieties of crops and domestic animals.

32/6. Access and Benefit Sharing:

a) Updated list of Normally Traded as Commodities (NTAC) under Section 40 as notified by MoEF on 7th April 2016.

The Board noted the recent NBA Gazette notification dated 7th April, 2016 on NTAC which also exempts the products that are derived from the listed species. The matter on submission of Form-I by the Traders/manufacturers was deliberated by the Board and it was noticed that many bio-resource

users object to submission of Form-I to Karnataka Biodiversity Board and many manufacturers were observed to have paid the ABS with protest. In situations where the companies/traders/manufacturers are not revealing the usage of Bioresources through Form-I, Secretary (Ecology and Environment) suggested to explore the possibilities by accessing the ROC (Register of Companies). The ACS, FEE advised to send a demand notice for such companies who are showing non-compliance. The Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board was of the opinion that the companies may be approached through the Government Departments who give licence to such companies for submission of Form-I. The Board also resolved that ABS dues from the companies raised before the notification of 7th April, 2016 have to be collected and Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board should take needful action in the matter.

32/7. UNEP-GEF-MoEF-Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and rules with focus on ABS provisions:

a) Extension of the project:

The Board noted the action taken.

b) Status of the Project:

The Board noted the action taken.

c) Books printed under the project in local language:

The Board noted the action taken. Copies of the books published by the Karnataka Biodiversity Board were circulated among the members.

32/8. Creation of post of Chief Conservator of Forests to be taken on deputation basis:

Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board presented that since he is involved in day to day administration of the Board. It is necessary to have a senior Level officer of the cadre of Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) to assist him. Such an officer would carry the mantle of looking into operational issues at various level like co-ordinating with Circle CCFs, Zilla Panchayaths and nodal officers, training aspects of the Board, facilitating the formation of Biodiversity Management

Committees, writing of People's Biodiversity Registers, ABS issues, Biodiversity Conservation, Heritage Sites, mainstreaming the conservation concerns in various Departments etc.

The Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board further expressed that there were many important tasks in hand and several new ones need to be initiated for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. These include implementation of UNEP-MoEF-GEF-ABS project, implementation of NMPB project, conservation of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) evaluation of Medicinal and other plant resources in forests and in helping the Member Secretary in other administrative issues. Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board supported the Member Secretary in this regard and requested the Board to sanction the post of 'Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF)' on deputation basis to Karnataka Biodiversity Board. The Board discussed the matter and resolved to request the Government to transfer a post of CCF rank to Karnataka Biodiversity Board and post a suitable officer who should be interested in this specialized work.

32/9. Creation of two posts of Finance Officer and Accountant on Deputation:

The Board discussed the matter at length and agreed that, since the Board is maintaining accounts for the funds received from diverse sources, a competent unit is needed to maintain the accounts of the Board. This is also being audited by the Accountant General annually. The funding agencies need signature of Finance Officer in utilization certificate. Hence, there is a need to create a post of a 'Finance Officer' in the rank of Assistant Controller from State Accounts Department and an Accountant from Karnataka Forest Department on deputation. The ACS, FEE was of the opinion that the Financial Assistant to the PCCF (HoFF) may be asked to look after the work of Finance Officer in the Karnataka Biodiversity Board. It was finally resolved to address the Government for needful in the matter.

32/10. Creation of one post of Librarian to preserve / handle People's Biodiversity Registers documents / Research Studies / other records of the Board.

The Board discussed the matter and accepted the need for a Librarian. Since the post is not sanctioned yet, the Board resolved to approach the Government for the sanction of the same.

32.11. Creation of Support Staff for office Administration:

The Board discussed regarding the creation of various posts of supporting staff on outsource basis. The Board approved and resolved to address the Government for creation of the following posts for efficient office management:

Sl. No	Sections	Designation	No. of Supporting staff approved by the Board
1	Establishment	Office Assistant	1
2	Finance	Office Assistant	1
3	Legal	Office Assistant	1
4	PBR	Office Assistant	1
5	BMC	Office Assistant	1
6	Website / Publicity	IT Professional	1

32.12. Revised Budget Proposal for the year 2016-17.

The Board noted the revised budget and approved the same. .

32.13. Any other subject with permission from the Chair.

1. Amendment of Rule – 15 of Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules, 2005 on prior intimation for access to Biological resources for research.

While discussing about access to biological resources, it was observed that as per Rule – 15 of Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules, 2005, any person intending to obtain any biological resources and associated traditional knowledge for research etc., shall give prior intimation to the Board by submitting Form-I. However, it is noticed that Section–7 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 does not mention about prior intimation through Form-I for research purposes. The issue was earlier discussed in 25th Board meeting held on 12/11/2014 and it was decided that provisions of the Rule 15 do not require any change. The matter was deliberated by the Board and it was suggested to write to Government in Law Department through FEE Department for more clarity in the matter.

2. The repetitive numbering of the subjects in agenda notes at no.3 was noted and the Member Secretary was advised to correct the same in the proceedings.

With no other subject for discussion, the meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Member Secretary
Karnataka Biodiversity Board

Chairman
Karnataka Biodiversity Board