

**Karnataka Biodiversity Board**  
**Proceedings of the 44<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**  
**Venue: Meeting Room, Ground Floor, Vanavikas Building**  
**18<sup>th</sup> cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003**

The 44<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting was convened at 3.00 PM on 26-06-2020 at the Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Ground Floor, Vanavikas Building, 18<sup>th</sup> cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.

**Members Present:**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1	Sri. Anantha Hegde Ashisar, Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bangalore	Chairman
2	Sri. Sandeep Dave, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, MS Building, Bengaluru-01	Ex-officio Member
3	Sri. Vijay Kumar Gogi, IFS Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, MS Buildings, Bengaluru.	Ex-officio Member
4	Smt. Meenakshi Negi, IFS, Commissioner, Indian System of Medicine & Homeopathy, Dhanvantari Road, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
5	Secretary to Government, Agriculture Dept. MS Building, Bengaluru-01 represented by Smt. Laxmi Ghargi, Technical Officer, Dept. of Agriculture.	Ex-officio Member
6	Smt. Anita, K. Arekal, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry), Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-03	Special Invitee
7	The Drugs Controller, Drugs Control Department, Palace Road, Near Karnataka Public Service Commission, Bangalore, represented by Sri. S. Venkatesh, Asst. Drugs Controller.	Special Invitee
8	Dr. Virender Singh, IFS, Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Ground Floor, Vanavikas, 18 <sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-	Member Secretary & Convener

**Leave of absence was granted to the following members:**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Aranya Bhawan, Malleshwaram, Bangalore	Ex-officio Member

Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board welcomed all the members to the 44<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and the agenda points were taken up for discussion.

#### **44/1: Reading and recording of the Proceedings of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting:**

The proceedings of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting held on 31-01-2020 were communicated to all the members. The proceedings as reported in **Annexure I** of the agenda notes, was adopted.

#### **44/2: Action taken on 43<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting proceedings:**

Action taken on proceedings of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting as reported in **Annexure-II** of the agenda was noted by the Board.

#### **Action points discussed:**

#### **37/4 & 42/8: Establishment of Biodiversity parks in the State/Conducting floral and faunal survey in the sites proposed for establishment of Biodiversity Parks:**

Member Secretary informed the Board that the concept note along with the approximate cost for Rs. 145.00 lakhs has been submitted by DCF (Territorial), Hassan as the Detailed Project Report (DPR). The Board took cognizance of the action taken. ACS, FEE expressed dissatisfaction that despite more than a year no concrete steps have been taken. He opined that no separate DPR is required and the DPR given by the DFO should suffice to commence the work after taking due approval and considering the availability of funds with Forest Department.

Further, permission from the PCCF (HoFF), Karnataka Forest Dept. may be obtained to establish a Biodiversity Park at Gendekatte, under the supervision of the CCF and DCF (Hassan) with technical support from the Karnataka Biodiversity Board.

It was also suggested that Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board may visit the site and give suitable suggestions on the same.

#### **43/34: Constitution of Expert Committee to update the list of threatened species notified under Section 38, of BD Act 2002.**

The Board deliberated on the matter and approved of the budget for Rs. 1.10 lakhs required for the remuneration.

#### **44/3- Status of Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) and Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR):**

The Member Secretary informed the Board regarding the training programs organised for documenting PBRs to BMCs, officials of the Panchayat Raj Department, Forest Department and the co-ordinators, the SATCOM trainings, preparation of the toolkit, brochures for BMCs and monitoring of progress of PBR documentation via video conferences with the DCF (SF) of all the Districts, day to day monitoring and facilitation of writing PBRs attended to by the Technical Executives of the Board. Training through video conferencing was also organised for the officials of the Urban Development Department and to Technical Assistants working in the DCF (SF) offices. Trainings to document PBRs have also been uploaded on YouTube and communicated to the Principal Secretary, RDPR and the Principal Secretary, Urban Development and the DCF(SF) who are the nodal officers for the Board at the Districts.

The Board appreciated the action taken to impart training to BMCs with respect to the documentation of PBRs in the State. The Chief Secretary of Karnataka appreciated the efforts by the Board taken on preparation of PBRs in the review meeting held on 21/03/2020. The Board expressed concern in the delay to comply with the orders passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal regarding preparation of the PBRs as the Board had failed to meet the deadlines given by the Chief Secretary even after Board's persuasion of the matter with Rural Development Department and Urban Development Department through series of Meetings, Video Conferences and Trainings. The Board asked the Member Secretary to ensure and follow up with Rural Development Department, Urban Development Department and DCF (SF) for quick preparation of the remaining PBRs within July 2020 positively. The Member Secretary also informed the Board about the affidavits filed in the Hon'ble NGT for the exemption of the penalty and also for permitting additional time to complete the process of PBR documentation as per the Government order.

The Chairman, KBB suggested to the Board that in the present situation, Deputy Conservator of Forests (SF), in the districts are busy in the duty of Covid-19 and other activities. Due to the Pandemic the Co-ordinators (High School teachers, Life Science Lecturers Rtd. Professors, Phd. Scholars) Students and field staffs are not willing to visit fields for preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers. In the Board Hon'ble Chairman, PCCF and Member Secretary, PBR concerned Officer, Consultant and Technical Executives are continuously writing letters and are in touch with the Gram Panchayat, Taluka Panchayat, Zilla Panchayat, Urban Local bodies officers, RDPR who are all involved in the writing of PBRs and sincere efforts are made to complete the PBRs at the earliest. The Chairman, KBB has been conducting meeting with DCFs (SF) and series of Biodiversity conservation trainings and writing of PBRs to the BMCs in the districts in the month of May and June 2020. Since it is the time of State health emergency period. Hence, the time required to expedite the writing of PBRs upto December 2020.

Since the Board has shortage of funds for the documentation of PBRs, it was resolved to write to the Urban Development Department to bear the expenditure of writing PBRs for their Urban Local Bodies.

#### **44/4- Utilisation of the State CAMPA funds:**

The Board noted the matter.

#### **44/5 - Trainings / Workshops/ Video Conference / Meetings conducted by the Board from September 2019 to January 2020**

The Board noted the matter.

#### **44/6 – National Medicinal Plants Board Project:**

The Board appreciated the efforts undertaken to complete the reports of the 40 Forest Divisions and noted the submission of the same to the NMPB, New Delhi. The Board also decided to make these reports available to the Karnataka Forest Department, KAMPA and the Aranya Bhavan Library. Further the Board advised that the comprehensive report of the State may be prepared and also that the NMPB may be requested to extend the project for one year i.e., upto March 2021.

A stakeholders' consultation meeting must be conducted initially to, decide upon the further course of action.

**44/7 - Biodiversity Award 2019-20:**

The Board noted the matter and approved of the same.

**44/8 – Celebration of the International Biodiversity Day 2020:**

The Board appreciated the efforts made to celebrate the IDB 2020 in various parts of the State and in the process, making the public and the BMCs aware about the importance of documenting the PBRs and the objectives of the BD Act, 2002.

**44/9 – Disbursement of ABS funds accrued in the Board wherein the sources of bio-resource are unknown:**

The Board noted the matter and approved of the constitution of the Expert Committee to look into the agenda and suggest suitable mechanism to disburse the ABS funds when the source of bio-resources is not known as bio-resources are purchased by the industries from traders and ABS is paid on the ex-factory sale of the products. The committee should give its report within one month from the date of constitution.

**44/10- Model Biodiversity Management Committees:**

The Board noted the matter and resolved that the Expert Committee to be constituted for the disbursement of ABS funds, under agenda no. 44/9, may deliberate on the matter. The Board also resolved that in cases wherein the sources of bio-resources are not known, the action plan submitted by the biodiversity rich talukas may be examined by the Expert Committee as per the ABS Regulations, 2014. The Board further resolved that BMCs may be selected from all the Revenue Divisions of the State so that there are representative BMCs from different types of landscapes and that conservation of biodiversity in heterogeneous landscapes is also addressed.

**44/11 – Conservation of RET Species:**

The Board deliberated on the matter and resolved to request the AYUSH Department for suggestions and support in identifying the areas with rare medicinal plants for conservation.

The information on the list of RET species may also be obtained from the Expert Committee Constituted by KBB for this purpose. And the suggestions for areas to be protected for conserving may be sought from Deputy Conservator of Forests, Department of Forest and independent field experts.

**44/12 – Budget Estimate Details of Karnataka Biodiversity Board for the Financial Year 2020-21:**

The Board deliberated on the Budget estimate and noted that the increase in the budget from the previous FY is due, the expenditure involved in the PBR documentation works and approved of the same.

The details of the Budget Estimate as below:

<b>Sl No</b>	<b>Budget Head</b>	<b>Budget Code</b>	<b>Allotment</b>
<b>1</b>	Supporting Staff	<b>115</b>	
a	Supporting Staff Salary		11,800,000.00
b	District level Technical Assistant Remuneration		1,500,000.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Grant in Aid - Salaries</b>	<b>101</b>	
a	Officers on Deputation		14,200,000.00
b	Leave Salary Encashment		
c	Home Orderly Allowances		126,000.00
d	Medical Expenses		100,000.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Grant in Aid - General</b>	<b>103</b>	
a	Travelling Allowance		300,000.00
b	Training Programs & Conservation works in BMC's		500,000.00
c	PBR Documentation		62,404,000.00
d	Workshop and Seminar		500,000.00
e	IBD Celebration-2020		120,000.00
f	Identification & Maintenance Of Biodiversity Heritage sites		1,000,000.00
g	Projects & Sepcial Studies		7,000,000.00
h	Office Rent		3,600,000.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Maintenance Expenditure</b>	<b>200</b>	
a	Repairs & Maintenance		200,000.00
b	Electricity & Water Supply Exp.		300,000.00
c	Telephone Expenses		300,000.00
d	Computer Maintenance		200,000.00
e	Stationery Charges		300,000.00
f	Postage & Stamp Charges		500,000.00
g	Website Expenses		250,000.00

h	Audit Charges & Report Printing		300,000.00
i	Meeting Expenses		200,000.00
j	Books & Periodicals		200,000.00
k	Advertisement & Publicity/Awariness		200,000.00
l	Printing Charges		200,000.00
m	Vehicle Fuel & Maintenance Charges		1,000,000.00
n	Office Maintenance/Hospitality		300,000.00
5	Grant in Aid - Asset Creation	<b>102</b>	
a	Purchase of Equipments/Computers /Vehicles		100,000.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>107,700,000.00</b>

**44/13 – Utilisation of Karnataka Biodiversity Board Fund:**

The Board noted that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been no extra release of funds from the State Government in the current financial year, and therefore, approval of the utilisation of the funds available with the Board as per table in Agenda No 44/12 for the activities of the Board.

**44/14 – Identification and Conservation of Special Eco-systems:**

The Board noted the matter as conservation of biodiversity is the objective of the BD Act, 2002.

**44/15 – Appointment of Honorary Biodiversity Warden:**

The subject is deferred to the next meeting.

**44/16(A)–Conservation and Management of Nallur Tamarind Grove Biodiversity Heritage Site:**

The Board noted the matter and suggested that the BMC may undertake the works for Rs.5.00 lakhs with the support of the DCF (Territorial) Bengaluru Rural and approved of the same.

**44/16(B) – Conservation and Management of Ambargudda Biodiversity Heritage Site:**

The Board noted the matter and suggested that the BMC may undertake the works for Rs. 5.00 lakhs with the support of the DCF (Territorial) of Sagara and approved of the same.

**44/17 – Conservation of Natural resources and constitution of Expert Committee:**

The Board noted that the Chairman is authorised to constitute Expert Committee.

**44/18 – Appointment of Technical Consultant/Advisor to Chairman:**

The Board noted the matter and approved to hire the services of Dr. Keshava H Korse as the Technical Consultant and Advisor regarding technical matter to Chairman, KBB, as per Rule 13(vii) of the Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules, 2005, with a total monthly remuneration of Rs.45000/-

**44/19 – Appointment of Technical Assistant for PBR vetting in the District:**

The Board noted the matter and approved of the same for two months from the date of 18/05/2020 of appointment by the DCF (SF) in each District for supporting with the vetting process of PBRs with a monthly remuneration of Rs.25000, to be released to the DCF (SF).

**44/20- Pay anomaly of the Outsource Staff:**

The Board noted the matter and approved of the same to apply the annual increment of 3% and DA neutralization of the outsource staff, including Technical Executives.

**44/21: Details of FDs with the Board during 2020-21 under various schemes mentioned below:**

The Member Secretary informed the Board that Expression of Interest (EOI) was invited by the Board on 14/01/2020 and 28/04/2020. Since only one Bank participated both the times, the same was not approved by the Committee (as per the 43<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting resolution, only Public sector banks are to be approved). Since all the funds of the Board were in the savings account at the Syndicate Bank, rate quotations from various Banks were invited and since Syndicate Bank offered highest rates (@ 5.75%), fixed deposits were made at the same Bank. EOI was called again on 06/06/2020 and since no Banks participated, the fixed deposits at the Syndicate Bank (Canara Bank), 18<sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram, which is a Nationalised Bank, were continued.

The Board took serious note of the error regarding the date of investments and asked the Member Secretary to warn the concerned. ACS FEE said that for future deposits instructions of the FD should be followed regarding calling for quotation from Banks.

**44/22: Expansion of the ABS Cell in the Board:**

The Board noted the matter and resolved that the matter may be discussed in the Expert Committee on ABS, to be constituted as per agenda no.44/9, and placed before the next Board meeting.

**Additional Agenda****1. Delegation of power to engage a panel of Advocates to the Chairman of KBB:**

a. The Board noted the matter and resolved to authorise Chairman, KBB to approve the panel of advocates to handle the litigations of the Board.

b. The Member Secretary also briefed the Board that the Writ Petitions filed by the KADMA & Ors. (WP no. 6111-54/2019 and WP no. 11580/2019) against the State Government, KBB & Ors., was disposed off by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, Bangalore, and also that notices are being sent to those entities to comply with the provisions of the BD Act, 2002.

The Board noted the matter.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by the Member Secretary to the Chair and all the members present.

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

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