

Karnataka Biodiversity Board
Proceedings of the 45th Board Meeting
Venue: Meeting Room, Ground Floor, Vanavikas Building
18th cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003

The 45th Board Meeting was convened at 11.00 AM on 22-10-2020 at the Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Ground Floor, Vanavikas Building, 18th cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.

Members Present:

Sl. No	Board Members	Designation
1	Sri. Anantha Hegde Ashisar, Chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Bengaluru	Chairman
2	Sri. Vijay Kumar Gogi, IFS Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, MS Buildings, Bengaluru	Ex-officio Member
3	Sri. Sanjai Mohan, IFS., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Aranya Bhawan, Malleshwaram, 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	The Drugs Controller, Drugs Control Department, Palace Road, Near Karnataka Public Service Commission, Bengaluru, represented by Sri. S. Venkatesh, Asst. Drugs Controller.	Special Invitee
6	Dr. Virender Singh, IFS, Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Ground Floor, Vanavikas, 18 th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.	Member Secretary & Convener

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

Sl. No	Board Members	Designation
1	Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, MS Buildings, Bengaluru-01	Ex-officio Member

2	Secretary to Government, Agriculture Dept. MS Buildings, Bengaluru-01	Ex-officio Member
3	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry), Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-03	Special Invitee

Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board welcomed all the members to the 45th Board Meeting and the agenda points were taken up for discussion.

45/1: Reading and recording of the Proceedings of the 44th Board Meeting:

The proceedings of the 44th Board Meeting held on 26/06/2020 were communicated to all the members. The proceedings as reported in **Annexure I** of the agenda notes, was adopted.

45/2: Action taken on 44th Board Meeting proceedings:

Action taken on proceedings of the 44th 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:

The Board took cognizance of the action taken and communication received from the APCCF (Projects) and resolved to request PCCF (HoFF) to cause for necessary implementation whenever resources are available with the Department for the establishment of the Biodiversity Parks during 2020-2021.

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

The Board noted the matter and it was suggested that the Committee while deliberating may also consider the reports of the Institutions like the Botanical Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, the data available from the NMPB project executed by the Board and the Working Plan of the Forest Department. Further, the Board also resolved that the IUCN criteria may be referred to in the process of selection/identification of the Threatened species and also scientific processes may be adopted for the same.

The PCCF (HoFF) also placed on record appreciation and congratulated the Board for the successful completion of the NMPB Project on estimating the population status of the medicinal plants in the State.

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

The Member Secretary informed the Board of the progress of constituting BMCs at all the elected body levels and that the Board has achieved the completion of documentation of PBRs in 97.8% of the BMCs constituted. It was also briefed that the percentage of PBRs completed is being updated on a daily basis and 100% may be achieved by the end of the month.

44/4- Utilisation of the State CAMPA funds:

The Member Secretary briefed the Board that an in-principle sanction of Rs.5.00 crores has been granted by the CAMPA. The Board noted the matter.

44/6 – National Medicinal Plants Board Project:

The Board noted the action taken in requesting the NMPB for extension of one year period to consolidate the State wide report.

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

It was decided to take up regeneration and augmentation of species which have contributed accrual to ABS funds in the place of their natural occurrence from out of the above mentioned category of ABS funds.

44/10- Model Biodiversity Management Committees:

The Board noted the matter on the action taken on the agenda no. 44/9 and 44/10.

The PCCF (HoFF) opined that bio-resources like Teak, Rosewood and other selected species may also be considered as High Economic Value bio-resources for consideration under the ABS Regulations, 2014 and a proposal may be made to the next Board meeting and the State Government for declaration.

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

The Board noted the matter and suggested to mark it as the agenda point for the 45th meeting. Therefore, the agenda no. 44/22 was re-numbered as 45/9 and brought forth for discussion.

Additional Agenda

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

The Board noted the matter.

45/3 - Status of Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) and Preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR):

The Member Secretary informed the Board of the progress of constituting BMCs at all the elected body levels and also the completion of documentation of PBRs in 97.8% BMCs that have been constituted. It was also briefed that the percentage of PBRs completed is being updated on a daily basis and 100% may be achieved by the end of the month and also that at the Taluk Panchayat BMC level, PBRs are pending from 7 TPs each from Mandya and Mysore and that PBR of the Mysore ZP and 142 Urban Local Bodies is pending.

The Board noted the action taken and the expenditure statement. The Board resolved that the APCCF (SF) may be requested for the effective completion of the documentation and also that the National Biodiversity Authority may be informed immediately upon completion of 100% PBR documentation.

45/4 - Trainings / Workshops/ Video Conference / Meetings conducted by the Board from June 2020 to October 2020:

The Board noted the matter and appreciated the efforts undertaken by the Board in creating awareness about the BD Act, 2002 at the local level.

45/5 - Directions of the State Government under sec 49(1) of the BD Act, 2002:

The Board noted the matter and the action taken in communicating the information to the Licensing Authorities of the State and their licensees about the advertisements issued.

The members also agreed that a request may be sent to the Forest Department to depute IFS probationary officers to the Board during their training period and also that a workshop may be held during the annual conference of DCFs. The Board opined that this may help in spreading effective awareness of the provisions of the BD Act, 2002 and the forest officers are made aware of their roles and responsibilities under the BD Act, 2002.

The Member Secretary also informed that Circle-wise trainings regarding Biological Diversity Act and ABS issues have been conducted for all Forest Officers above the rank of Range Forest Officers.

45/6 – Amendment to the Rule 15 of the Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules, 2005:

The Board noted the matter.

45/7 - Resolution of the Board to conduct litigations:

The Board noted the matter and approved the same. The Board also resolved that legal opinion on Biological Diversity Act and other legal issues may be sought from expert legal advisors and the advisory fee may be borne by the Board instead of getting such advice from the empanelled advocates for litigation.

45/8 – Identification and conservation of Special Ecosystems:

The Board deliberated on the matter and appreciated the fact that protection and conservation of areas under the Forest Department is detailed in the Forest code and manuals.

The Board resolved that current status studies may be conducted and feasibility of forming community reserves or village common areas may be explored with the support of the Expert Committee and recommend to the State Government.

The PCCF (HoFF) also opined that such areas may also be covered under Forest Beat perambulation points for effective monitoring and a request may be made to the Forest Department to delegate specific responsibilities to concerned Territorial Divisions.

The Board also resolved that a meeting may be organised with the PCCF (HoFF), PCCF (Wildlife), Principal Secretary (Forest) and Principal Secretary (E&E) for a focussed discussion on the issue of Special Eco-Systems and submit recommendation to the State Government.

45/8/1 – Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites:

The Chairman of the Board briefed the Board on the importance of each of the proposed sites listed in the agenda. The Board deliberated on the proposed areas for declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) and asked for detailed proposals to be discussed.

Kagga paddy region of the Aghanashini estuary, Antargange Hill in Kolar District, Sri Lakshmi Adinarayana hill in Gudibande Taluk, Mahima Ranga Hill in Kuluvanahalli Gram Panchayat, were approved for the preparation of detailed proposal for BHS.

The Board also resolved that the Mundige-jaddi bird nest area can be pursued with the Wildlife Board of the Forest Department to demarcate as a conservation reserve or a community reserve.

Further, since Shakunagiri Hill in Sakrayapatna of Chikkamagalur District is near the Hogarekhan Biodiversity Heritage Site, the area of the BHS may be extended to include and link Shakunagiri Hill under the same BHS.

The Urumbi village stretch of Kumaradhara River in Kadaba Taluk was approved for the preparation of the detailed proposal for BHS. It was also decided to take precaution of excluding the agricultural and private lands from the scope of BHS while declaring the boundaries of the BHS.

The Board resolved that since Karikanamana Temple Hills and Jogimatti fall under Wildlife Sanctuaries, these areas are dropped from consideration for BHS.

45/8/2 – Declaration of Geographical Indicators:

The Board deliberated on the matter and approved the proposal for the recommendation of the Eeshad Mango variety of Ankola Taluk, Kagga Paddy of Kumata Taluk and Rajamudi Paddy of Hassan District, and directed to consolidate information regarding the guidelines, procedure and feasibility as under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, and to follow up on the same with the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments.

45/8/3 – Declaration of Fish Sanctuaries (Mathsyadhama):

The Board deliberated on the matter and resolved to send the proposal to the Department of Fisheries for the declaration of the proposed sites as Fish Sanctuaries (Mathsyadhama) under the Rule(7) of the Karnataka Inland Fisheries (Protection, Development & Regulation) Act, 1996, stressing on the

importance of conservation of the native/endemic fish species in these riparian ecosystems.

44/22 & 45/9 - Expansion of the ABS Cell in the Board:

The Board discussed the matter and approved of the same to be submitted to the State Government for consideration and sanction of three additional Technical Executives with M.Sc in Life Sciences, on outsource basis, for the ABS Cell of the Board.

45/10 – Additional Agenda – Conservation of Heritage Trees:

The Board deliberated on the matter and accorded in-principle approval for the same and opined that since Section (37) of the BD Act does not provide for Heritage Trees, separate guidelines on the lines of the Uttara Pradesh State and Chandigarh UT model, is to be prepared and the detailed proposal be submitted to the Department of FEE, GoK for Government Order.

45/11 – Travelling Allowance & Remuneration for the experts for invited meetings/field visits:

The Board approved the same and resolved to adopt and extend the provision to pay allowances and fees as under Rule (12) of the Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules, 2005, to the experts for attending meetings and their assistance to the Board as and when invited by the Chairman of the Board.

45/12 – Validation of Marine and Riparian Management Plan of Second Stage Development of Commercial Port at Karwar:

The Board noted the matter and the letter of the Principal Secretary, Ecology and Environment, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment dtd 03/10/2020, was deliberated in detail. It was also noted that Karnataka State Coastal Zone Management Plan (KSCZMA) and the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) approvals have been obtained for the project and that the project is of National importance.

After detailed presentation and appreciation of the schemes/themes for Biodiversity conservation, it was resolved that the approval of the Board may be communicated with certain conditions as detailed below:

- a. The project proponent shall establish/constitute an Environment Management Cell in their organisation for the purpose of implementation of Marine and Riparian Biodiversity Management Plans.

b. The Annual Action Plan for the above mentioned purpose for the next 10 years have to be prepared in consultation with the Local Fisheries Department and also the PG Centre in Marine Biology, Karwar (Karnatak University, Dharwad) and submit the same to the Biodiversity Board for general approval on Annual basis.

c. Annual Action Plans have to be submitted to Karnataka Biodiversity Board for approval each year and approved plans have to be mandatorily implemented by the Project proponent.

45/13 (A) and (B) – Regularize the Supporting Staff Posts sanctioned by the Government and the Posts of Research Associates, Consultants and Technical Executives:

The Board deliberated on the matter and accorded ‘in-principle’ approval for the same. Further, it was also noted that a similar action was taken to retain institutional expertise and knowledge base by way of Special Recruitment Rules by the AYUSH Department and the Jungle Lodges.

Therefore, it was resolved to draft the Cadre and Recruitment Rules for the Board as well as Special Recruitment Rules for the absorption of existing experienced outsourced employees/Contract employees and that a detailed proposal for the same may be submitted to the State Government for consideration.

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman, Shri. Ananth Hegde Ashisara, formally felicitated the Member Secretary, Dr. Virender Singh, IFS, in the light of his superannuation from the Indian Forest Service (IFS) and congratulated for his relentless work and achievements in furthering the activities of the Board over the past four years.

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