

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD

Report of Activities
from
2008-2009 to 2018-2019

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March 2020

Message from the Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Chairman of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

Conservation of our environment and forests has been an integral part of Tamil culture. Our ancient scholar Thiruvalluvar to our revolutionary poet Bharathiyar had emphasised that, it is the duty of human society to live according to the principles of nature and deviating from these principles will have adverse effects on the entire country. Today, we see no better example than the global pandemic caused by COVID-19 and the challenges faced by the world in controlling and combating the devastating effects of the virus. We have witnessed the entire world coming to a standstill which inadvertently is aiding the restoration of nature.



Over the past few decades, nature and natural resources have been under severe pressure to keep up with the demand for resources and supplies to aid in the development and growth of human activities. Our lives are closely linked with nature and natural resources, which need to be conserved and sustainably used. Forests are a source of food, water and livelihood to many people. Thousands of people are dependent on traditional systems of medicine that involve medicinal plants collected from the wild. For instance, there are about 1,840 species of medicinal plants used as a part of local health traditional practices in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu, home to a diverse spectrum of ecosystems from forests to coastal plains, has the highest number of flowering plants in the country. Western Ghats, spanning the entire State is one of the global hotspots of biodiversity and has a large range of endemic species. This wide range of biodiversity in the State has various traditional practices and cultures associated to it, which need to be protected along with conserving our biodiversity.

The Government of India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002, in line with our commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992. The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was established to implement the Act in the state of Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has been working closely with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and other government line departments in implementing the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to conserve and sustainably use our bioresources as well as share the benefits arising from their use with the providers of the resources.

This report highlights the various activities of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and indicates the progress made by Tamil Nadu State to ensure the compliance of the Act throughout the State.

A handwritten signature in green ink, which appears to read 'D. Sreenivasan'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Thiru. DINDIGUL C. SREENIVASAN
Chairman, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board



Foreword by the Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forest Department

Tamil Nadu, the sixth largest state in India, contains a wide range of ecosystems from forests and rivers, to coastal plains, brackish waters, coral reefs and hills like the Nilgiris. The state is also known for ranking first in the country with angiosperm diversity and has a large number of endemic flora and fauna. This biodiversity is often associated with the culture and traditions of the local people, which form the basis of traditional knowledge and traditional medicinal and agricultural practices.



The Biological Diversity Act enacted in 2002 and its associated Rules and Guidelines focus on the conservation and sustainable use of this biodiversity and all knowledge associated with it. The third objective of the Act is the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of these bio-resources. To implement this Act at the state level, the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was formed in 2008.

Since then, the Board has been functioning to effectively implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 within the state. The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules were notified in 2017 to complement the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations which was brought out by National Biodiversity Authority in 2004, to ensure proper functioning of the Board and its activities.

The Board has grown in its capabilities and its range of activities since its formation and has now successfully constituted Biodiversity Management Committees in all the local bodies to ensure the implementation of the Act at the ground-level. They regularly receive and process applications for access to biological resources in the state, conduct consultations with relevant providers of bio-resources, and are currently in the process of identifying and declaring Biodiversity Heritage Sites within the state. The Board has also conducted several trainings and workshops for different actors in the ABS process in partnership with the ABS Partnership Project under the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme, which are detailed in the report.

The report provides a brief description of the activities of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board from its inception in 2008 till 2019 and showcases the growth of the Board and its members to ensure the effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in Tamil Nadu.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shambhu Kallolikar'.

Thiru. SHAMBHU KALLOLIKAR, IAS
Principal Secretary



Foreword by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

Tamil Nadu has a rich culture and heritage associated with forests and the environment. Due to the current overexploitation of biological resources obtained from these environments, we have been striving to conserve and protect our resources to ensure that it is available for many years to come.



India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 to conserve our biological resources, to ensure its sustainable use and for the equitable sharing of benefits arising from its use. The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was established in 2008 to implement the provisions of this Act in the state.

Over the past decade, the Board has been supported closely by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, through various collaborative activities conducted. Senior officials and the Forest Department have been Member Secretaries of the Board and District Forest Officers are nodal officers to facilitate and manage the BMCs within each district and various officials have been designated as Secretaries of Biodiversity Management Committees in the rural and urban BMCs of the state.

TNBB has conducted several trainings and workshops to create awareness and develop the capacities of various actors involved in the implementation of the Act. The Board processes several applications for access to biological resources and facilitates the Access and Benefit Sharing process within the state.

This report describes the various activities of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board conducted since 2008 and indicates the progress of the Board with its activities and achievements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. P. Durairasu', written over a diagonal line that extends from the bottom right towards the center of the page.

Dr. P. DURAIRASU, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Head of Forest Force



Preface by the Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was constituted and has been functional since 2008-2009. I wish to acknowledge and thank all my predecessors for their contributions to the Board, most importantly, through the formulation and notification of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules in 2017. Their efforts in organising trainings and workshops, constituting BMCs and ensuring its functioning, has laid a congenial foundation to further the implementation of the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in the state. The Hon'ble Chairman and the esteemed Board members have played a significant role in the functioning and achievements of the Board and its continued progress.



Since 2017, the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has been working in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Germany under the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme to collaboratively implement the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project. With support from the ABS Partnership Project, the Board has conducted a number of trainings and workshops on ABS and other provisions of the Act for different actors in the process such as Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) members, Range Forest Officers, Block Development Officers, District Forest Officers, companies using biological resources, etc. which has set the pace for implementing the provisions of the Act.

The Board has worked closely with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, RDPR, MAWS and the State Government (Department of Environment and Forests) to achieve significant milestones such as issuance of government orders for designating secretaries to various BMCs, constitution of Technical Support Groups (TSGs), opening Local Biodiversity Fund (LBF) accounts, and to ensure working autonomy of the Board, etc.,. The timely issuance of these Government Orders has facilitated the formation of BMCs and TSGs, and the preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) as mandated in the Act. The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and the MAWS departments have also played a very active and effective role in constituting BMCs in all rural and urban local bodies of the state.

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has prepared a consolidated report for the period 2008-09 to 2018-19 by compiling all information and audited account details available in the office to showcase its activities and progress in implementing the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in the state.

I thank the staff of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and all others who have contributed to the preparation of this report.


T.V. MANJUNATHA, IFS

Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As human beings, we are heavily dependent on obtaining resources from nature to support our lives. Over the past few decades, human exploitation of our environment has been vast, and we are now facing the consequences of overexploiting nature and its resources. Habitat degradation, climate change and air, soil and water pollution are some of the many challenges we are striving to combat today.

The UN Conference for Environment and Development in 1992 brought forth several international agreements and guidelines to address these challenges, the most widely encompassing of which is the Convention on Biological Diversity. India was one of the first signatories to the Convention and subsequently enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 with the aim of conserving biological resources, ensuring its sustainable use and the facilitating the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use within the country.

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has established three decentralised institutional structures for its implementation – National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the national-level, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) at the state-level and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local level. The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB) was formed in 2008 to implement the provisions of the Act in the state of Tamil Nadu.

This report summarises various activities of the Board since its formation in 2008, from the creation of the logo and key decisions taken by the Board, to the various activities to create awareness or build capacities of various actors in the implementation of the Act, and the activities of the Board supported by the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme.

In the eight meetings of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board between 2008 and 2019, the Board has created five sub-committees to focus on specific functions – Access and Benefit Sharing, BMC Constitution and PBR Documentation, Agro-biodiversity, Legal Advisory and Biodiversity Heritage Sites. Through these sub-committees and the various Board meetings, the Board has achieved several milestones. Some of TNBB's key achievements are:

- Formation and notification of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules, 2017 to support the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in Tamil Nadu.
- Constitution of BMCs at the rural-level (385 Block level) 664 urban level in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- Processing of applications requesting access to biological resources under various sections of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. TNBB has received 5 applications directly under the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules, 2017. In addition to this, the Board has processed 114 applications forwarded by NBA, of which 114 have been recommended for further action.

- Processing of proposals to declare specific areas of cultural or religious significance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS). The Board is currently processing 18 proposals to declare locations as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

In 2017, the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project was implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in partnership with National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and three State Biodiversity Boards of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. The project has supported the activities of the Board through conducting several trainings and workshops to create awareness and develop the capacities of the various actors involved in the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) process, from Range Forest Officers and Block Development Officers, to District Forest Officers and businesses. The project has also undertaken the development of 10 BMCs in the state as model BMCs and has overseen the preparation of PBRs in these BMCs. Through these activities, the Board has developed a good practice case study on snake venom trade in Tamil Nadu.

The Board has hosted and participated in various events at the state, national and international arenas, most notably the co-hosting of the 3rd Indian Biodiversity Congress in December 2014 and the Member Secretary's participation in the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in November 2018.

This report also contains the details of prosecutions secured under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in Tamil Nadu initiated by the Forest department and provides detailed audited financial reports from 2008-09 to 2018-19.

The report showcases the development of the Board and its activities through the years of its functioning and highlights all the milestones achieved so far. The report also details all the ongoing activities of the Board to implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in Tamil Nadu.

II. INTRODUCTION

As one of the 17 mega-diverse countries of the world, India is known for its rich biodiversity, culture, and heritage. Biodiversity in India, along with its associated traditional knowledge, is vast and encompasses the various species, sub-species, varieties and breeds of animals and plants native to the country. This biodiversity supports the lives and livelihoods of many people in the country. Overexploitation of biological resources, in addition to environmental degradation and climate change, has brought to the fore the need to protect and conserve our natural resources. To this end, India became party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and subsequently to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing in 2010. India is a signatory to several other international conventions focusing on conservation and management of biodiversity such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, among others.

With a progressive approach to ensuring compliance to these international agreements, India has passed several Bills and Action Plans for in-situ conservation of biodiversity. In keeping with the commitments to the CBD, India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 to focus on the conservation of bio-resources, its sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from its use. Supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Act is implemented through decentralised institutional structures – National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the national level, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) at the state level and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local level. NBA has, over the past decade and a half, gained a position of prominence in the world by building a robust system for the conservation of biodiversity based on advances in the sciences, stakeholder participation and cutting-edge legal framework. To implement the access and benefit-sharing (ABS) provisions of the Act, India notified the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations in 2014. These guidelines provide the procedure for access to bio-resources and guide the benefit-sharing obtained through this to the providers of the resources.

Tamil Nadu, the sixth largest state in India, is home to several unique species of wild and domesticated plants and animals, as well as agricultural crops. It is well-known for its myriad ethnographical records concerning plants, animals and cultural practices associated with these bio-resources. Implementing the Biological Diversity Act in the State will provide for and strengthen existing conservation measures for bio-resources, particularly those used commercially. It will also help engage local communities to sustainably manage and use their resources, and more importantly, will ensure that the benefits obtained from using these resources are shared with the providers appropriately.

III. TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was constituted on 29 April 2008 vide G.O. (Ms) No. 38 Environment and Forests (FR-5) Department under Section 22 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, with the Hon'ble Minister for Forests as the Chairman of the Board. Since its constitution, senior IFS officers have been appointed as the Member Secretaries to the Board and until 2017, these officers also held additional charges. Through the efforts of the various Member Secretaries over the years, the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules were notified on 9 November 2017 through G.O. Ms. No. 137, Environment and Forest (FR-5). The Rules came into effect from 6 December 2017 after which the Boards' activities took off to achieve new heights.

Functions of the Board:

- i. Advise the Government of Tamil Nadu on matters related to conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and access and benefit-sharing.
- ii. Provide technical assistance and guidance to various departments of the Government on the implementation of the Act.
- iii. Regulate requests for commercial utilisation or bio-survey and bio-utilisation of any bio-resources under the Act by Indians (Section 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002).
- iv. Facilitate the updating and implementation of the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.
- v. Take steps to build a database and create an information and documentation system for bio-resources and associated traditional knowledge, through biodiversity registers and electronic databases, to ensure effective management, promotion, and sustainable use of these bio-resources.
- vi. Advise and direct local bodies and Biodiversity Management Committees to effectively implement the Act and to facilitate their meaningful participation in all activities relating to conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit-sharing.
- vii. Ensure that biodiversity and biodiversity-dependent livelihoods are integrated into all sectors of planning and management, from local to state levels, to enable them to contribute effectively towards conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- viii. Recommend in consultation with local bodies, the notification of areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites, as directed under Section 37(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, and aid in the management and conservation of these heritage sites.

a. The logo and its Rationale

The logo of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board represents the state's vital landscapes, wildlife, rich agricultural and livestock diversity, and the people's close connection with nature.



The **hills and the rain bearing cloud** symbolise both the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats with the Nilgiri hills being the only connecting link between the two ranges, making Tamil Nadu geographically unique.

The **Palmyrah palm** is the state tree of Tamil Nadu, ubiquitously distributed, its three leaves depicting the significance of the tree in ecological security and for securing livelihoods.

The **Nilgiri Tahr** is the state animal of Tamil Nadu and the **Indian Gaur** is a majestic animal of the forested ecosystem; they together denote the rich faunal diversity of the state.

Tamil Nadu is well-known for its rich agricultural and horticultural diversity, and **paddy and millet** signifies its value in maintaining food security and calls for its conservation.

People play a crucial role in the conservation of biodiversity, through protection as well as maintaining genetic varieties through agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, apiculture, sericulture, and other practices to secure livelihoods. The artistic graph of a **human-being** is a reminder of the close link with nature for survival and well-being.

The depiction of a **water body** highlights its crucial support to all life forms and ecological processes.

The **foliage green colour** on the logo symbolises the rich spectrum of vegetation types in Tamil Nadu and stands for environmental awareness.

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board acknowledges the contribution of Mr. K. Dileep of M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) for the initial design of the logo. Substantial improvement was made by the Board to bring it to its current form.

b. Board Meetings – Key decisions and members (2008 – 2019)

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has conducted eight meetings between 2008 and 2019 which have focused on the various aspects of the functioning of the Board. The expert members of the Board have identified and ensured the constitution of BMCs, preparation of PBRs and processed ABS applications received by the Board, among other tasks. The Board meetings have served to highlight issues and problems when implementing the provisions of the Act in Tamil Nadu. Through discussions and suggestions obtained from experts and special invitees, the Board has taken significant decisions regarding BMC constitution, PBR preparation, BHS declaration and processing ABS applications.

1. First Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

The first meeting upon constitution of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held on 14 October 2008 at Chennai.

Key Decisions:

- Constitution of a sub-committee of the Board to examine and suggest the staffing pattern and structure for the Board's activities. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden was determined as the convenor, Prof. S. Natarajan, Dr. A. Manickam and Mr. Subramaniam as members, and nominees of the Principal Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department and the Vice-Chancellor of TANUVAS as part of the sub-committee.
- Constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) in each district under the Chairmanship of the District Collector initially, and then after creating awareness about the Act and its functions, constituting BMCs at the Panchayat Union level.
- Determine criteria for declaring Biodiversity Heritage Sites and establishing People's Biodiversity Registers as well as drafting the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules.

Members:

Sl. No.	Name	Role
1	Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Tamil Nadu	Chairperson
2	Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Ex-officio Member
3	Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department	Ex-officio Member
4	Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry Department	Ex-officio Member
5	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)	Ex-officio Member
6	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden	Ex-officio Member
7	Dr. A. Manickam, Ph.D. Professor and Head, Department of Biochemistry Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	Member
8	Dr. P. Thangaraju, Ph.D. Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	Member
9	Thiru S. Subramaniam Member, National Biodiversity Authority	Member
10	Dr. S. Natarajan Head of Department of Botany, Palani Andavar College of Arts, Palani	Member
11	Thiru S. Kondas, IFS Retd. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai	Member

First Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

The first meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held on 29 October 2012 at Chennai.

Key Decisions:

- Creating the State Biodiversity Fund for the Board to undertake its activities, including the constitution and functioning of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)
- Constitution of BMCs at the Village Panchayat level in all districts where there is a possibility for access and benefit-sharing. A sub-committee of five expert members will provide a list of potential districts and places for BMC constitution.
- Obtain technical support from NGOs and academicians who can mobilise communities to prepare People's Biodiversity Registers.
- Forwarding the drafted Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules to the State Law Department for vetting.
- Constitution of a sub-committee to process the 26 applications for access to bio-resources received from NBA under Section 3 of the Biological Diversity Act.
- For the smooth functioning of the Board, until the Rules are notified, it was suggested that the Board meetings will take place once in 3 months.

Members:

Sl. No.	Name	Role
1	Thiru C.V. Sankar, IAS., Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Ex-officio Member
2	Thiru Gautam Dey, IFS., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)	Ex-officio Member
3	Thiru Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS., Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department	Ex-officio Member
4	Thiru R. Gunasekaran, IFS., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden	Ex-officio Member
5	Tmt R. Vasuki, IAS., Additional Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department	Ex-officio Member
6	Thiru R.K. Upadhyay, IFS., Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity)	Member Secretary
7	Dr. D. Narasimhan Associate Professor, Centre for Floristic Research, Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai	Member
8	Dr. V. Arivudai Nambi, Ph.D. Principal Scientist, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai	Member
9	Prof. (Dr.) M.B. Viswanathan Principal Investigator DBT Project, Centre for Research and Development of Siddha – Ayurveda Medicines (CRDSAM) Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli	Member
10	Dr. Juliet Vanitharani Professor and Head, Zoology Department and Research Centre (Recognised Research Centre under Manomanium Sundaranar University) Sarah Tucker College (Autonomous), Tirunelveli	Member
11	Dr. G. Balan Samson, IFS (Retd) Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai	Member

2. Second meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

The second meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held on 1 March 2013 at Tirunelveli.

Key Decisions:

- Constitution of BMCs at the Village Panchayat level through the coordination of expert members of the Board.
 - Dr. D. Narasimhan in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Vellore, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai and Cuddalore districts.
 - Dr. Juliet Vanitharani in Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga districts.
 - Dr. M.B. Viswanathan in The Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts.
 - Dr. V. Arivudai Nambi in Namakkal, Tiruchi, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Perambalur, Ariyalur and Tiruvarur districts.
 - Dr. G. Balan Samson in Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Pudukottai and Karur districts.
- Processing of 25 applications received from NBA on access to bio-resources. 22 applications were recommended and 3 were returned as they were incomplete.
- Declaration of Senthirankillai sacred grove in Cuddalore district as a Biodiversity Heritage Site upon obtaining consent from the Panchayat. Recommended that the Member Secretary visits the site as well as other potential BHS locations to identify their suitability as BHS.

Members:

Sl. No.	Name	Role
1	Thiru K.T. Pachamal Hon'ble Minister (Forests)	Chairperson
2	Thiru Gautam Dey, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)	Ex-officio Member
3	Thiru Bhagwan Singh, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden	Ex-officio Member
4	Thiru V. Palani, IFS Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity)	Member Secretary
5	Dr. D. Narasimhan Associate Professor, Centre for Floristic Research, Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai	Member
6	Prof. (Dr.) M.B. Viswanathan Principal Investigator DBT Project, Centre for Research and Development of Siddha – Ayurveda Medicines (CRDSAM) Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli	Member
7	Dr. Juliet Vanitharani Professor and Head, Zoology Department and Research Centre (Recognised Research Centre under Manomanium Sundaranar University) Sarah Tucker College (Autonomous), Tirunelveli	Member
8	Dr. G. Balan Samson, IFS (Retd) Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai	Member

3. Third meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

The third meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held on 4 July 2014 at the Secretariat, Chennai.

Key Decisions:

- Obtain a separate administrative order (Government Order) to ensure compliance from District Collectors, associated line departments and local bodies regarding the constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs, until the notification of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules.
- Declaring Gudiyam of Tiruvallur, Kullar cave of Tiruvannamalai and MCPA, Kolli hills as Biodiversity Heritage Sites subject to obtaining consent from the local Panchayat. Local bodies and stakeholders of Senthirankillai sacred grove of Cuddalore district were not in a position to provide consent to declare the area as BHS.
- Development of a coffee table book on 'Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu' for airport lounges in Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Coimbatore airports. The book will discuss the wild biodiversity of Tamil Nadu, coastal and marine biodiversity of Tamil Nadu, agro-biodiversity of Tamil Nadu, fish biodiversity of Tamil Nadu, and biodiversity of domestic animals of Tamil Nadu.
- Expert members coordinating BMC formation in different districts expressed the need for full-time manpower, coordination with line departments and constant monitoring for the process. The Board agreed to constitute a sub-committee to select civil society organisations to undertake the task of constituting BMCs and preparing PBRs in all districts.
- Processed 13 applications received from NBA on access to bio-resources. 12 applications were recommended, and one was returned as it was incomplete.
- Organisation of awareness programmes on the Act and its provisions, through various civil society organisations approved by the sub-committee.

Members:

Sl. No.	Name	Role
1	Thiru Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Ex-officio Member
2	Thiru V. Chandrasekaran, IAS, Special Secretary, Agriculture Department	Ex-officio Member
3	Thiru E. Sivagurunathan Additional Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department	Ex-officio Member
4	Thiru Vinod Kumar, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)	Ex-officio Member
5	Thiru Lakshmi Narayan, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden	Ex-officio Member
6	ThiruAo. Limatoshi, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity Conservation) and Member Secretary (i/c)	Member Secretary

7	Dr. D. Narasimhan Associate Professor, Centre for Floristic Research, Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai	Member
8	Dr. V. Arivudai Nambai, Ph.D. Principal Scientist, M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai	Member
9	Prof. (Dr.) M.B. Viswanathan Principal Investigator DBT Project, Centre for Research and Development of Siddha – Ayurveda Medicines (CRDSAM) Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli	Member
10	Dr. Juliet Vanitharani, Professor and Head, Zoology Department and Research Centre (Recognised Research Centre under Manomanium Sundaranar University) Sarah Tucker Collage (Autonomous), Tirunelveli	Member
11	Dr. G. Balan Samson, IFS (Retd) Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai	Member

4. Fourth meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

The fourth meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held on 17 December 2014 at the Secretariat, Chennai.

Key Decisions:

- Suggestion to include the Secretaries to the Government from the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and the Municipal Administration as ex-officio members of the Board. Until the constitution of the new Board, they are to be invited as Special Invitees.
- Detailed proposal regarding the removal of fruit bats from Schedule V of the Wildlife Protection Act submitted to the PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden.
- Contractual appointment of staff at TNBB for the functioning of the Board for positions fully supported by NBA.
- The Board has been permitted to participate in the 3rd Indian Biodiversity Congress as an associate sponsor – funding obtained through the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project.
- Processed 15 applications on access to bio-resources received from NBA.

Members:

Sl. No.	Name	Role
1	Thiru Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Ex-officio Member
2	Dr. S. Vijayakumar, IAS Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department	Ex-officio Member
3	Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Administration) O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai	Representative of PCCF & HoFF
4	Tmt. Kannama Administrative Officer National Biodiversity Authority	Special Invitee (Representative) NBA
5	Thiru Rakesh Kumar Dogra, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Project Director (Biodiversity)	Member Secretary (i/c)
6	Dr. D. Narasimhan Associate Professor, Centre for Floristic Research, Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai	Member
7	Dr. V. Arivudai Nambi, Ph.D. Principal Scientist, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai	Member
8	Prof. (Dr.) M.B. Viswanathan Principal Investigator DBT Project, Centre for Research and Development of Siddha – Ayurveda Medicines (CRDSAM) Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli	Member
9	Dr. Juliet Vanitharani Professor and Head, Zoology Department and Research Centre (Recognised Research Centre under Manomanium Sundaranar University) Sarah Tucker College (Autonomous), Tirunelveli	Member
10	Dr. G. Balan Samson, IFS (Retd) Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai	Member

5. Fifth meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

The fifth meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held on 21 April 2017 at the Secretariat, Chennai.

Key Decisions:

- The drafted Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules were submitted to the Government for notification.
- Webpages of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board website were reviewed.
- Suggestion for the appointment of a district-level coordination officer or nodal officer to facilitate the constitution of BMCs, coordinate between BMCs and assist in the preparation of PBRs. The nodal officer can be the Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry/ District Forest Officer (Territorial)/ Wildlife Warden.
- All industries using bio-resources, including the list of industries registered under the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, to be approached to comply with ABS regulations.
- Suggestion for constitution of BMCs at the block-level as BMCs at the local-level may be difficult to monitor.
- Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project under the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme is being implemented in the state. The Project is a technical cooperation between the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, as well as three State Biodiversity Boards of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand.
- Constitution of four new expert committees in place of the current sub-committee to carry out the functions of the Board. It was suggested that all expert committees have one representative from NBA. The four new expert committees are:
 - Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. D. Narasimhan, Madras Christian College, Chennai.
 - Expert Committee on BMC Constitution and Documentation of PBRs under the chairmanship of Mr. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
 - Legal Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. K. Chidambaram, IFS (Retd), Former PCCF.
 - Agro-biodiversity Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth, Chennai.
- Conduct sector-wise meetings with industries to discuss compliance under the Act and its ABS provisions. The Board discussed and agreed that enforcement through prosecution will be the last resort and will be used only after exhausting other methods of persuasion.
- Conduct regional trainings for line department officials on the Act and its ABS provisions with the assistance of the ABS Partnership Project.

Members:

Sl. No.	Name	Role
1	Thiru Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department	Special Invitee
2	Thiru Md. Nasimuddin, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Ex-officio Member
3	Dr. H. Basavaraju, IFS, Principal Conservator of Forests (Head of Department)	Ex-officio Member
4	Thiru K. Ezhilarasu Joint Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department	Special Invitee
5	Dr. B. Meenakumar Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai	Special Invitee
6	Thiru. Syed Muzammil Abbas, I.F.S., Special Secretary, Environment and Forest Department	Special Invitee
7	Thiru Subrat Mohapatra, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Project Director (Biodiversity)	Member Secretary
8	Dr. D. Narasimhan Associate Professor, Centre for Floristic Research, Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai	Member
9	Dr. Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth Trust, Chennai	Member
10	Thiru K. Chidambaram, IFS (Retd) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Former Chief Project Director (TBGP), Chennai	Member
11	Thiru T.S. Srinivasamurthy, IFS (Retd) Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chairman (Retired), Arasu Rubber Corporation, Chennai	Member
12	Dr. C.P. Raj Kumar Nalam Hospital, Sriram Nagar, Theni	Member

6. Sixth meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

The sixth meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held on 20 November 2017 at the Secretariat, Chennai.

Key Decisions:

- Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund sanctioned, and funds allotted for strengthening the institutional mechanism for ABS in Tamil Nadu.
- Processed and recommended three applications on access to bio-resources received from NBA.
- Suggestion to utilise the assistance of the ABS Partnership Project which has formally commenced, to establish a good number of BMCs and ensure their functioning as per the Act.
- The Terms of Reference and members of the four newly formed expert committees deliberated and approved.

Members:

Sl. No.	Expert Committee	Role
1	Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Expert Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. D. Narasimhan, Associate Professor, MCC - Chairperson 2. Dr. Arivudai Nambi, Independent Expert, Chennai – Member 3. Thiru S. Elumalai, Assistant Professor, School of Excellence in Law, Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai – Member 4. Wildlife Warden, Chennai – Member 5. Member Secretary, TNBB – Focal Point
2	Expert Committee on BMC Constitution and documentation of PBRs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thiru Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Additional Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department – Chairperson 2. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Protection and Vigilance) and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Wetland Authority – Member 3. Chief Conservator of Forests (Research) – Member 4. Deputy Director, Advance Institute for Wildlife Conservation (Research, Training and Education), Vandalur, Chennai – Member 5. Member Secretary, TNBB – Focal Point
3	Legal Advisory Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thiru K. Chidambaram, IFS (Retd), Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & CPD – Chairperson 2. Thiru S. Elumalai, Assistant Professor, School of Excellence in Law, Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai – Member 3. Chief Conservator of Forests (Headquarters) 4. District Forest Officer – Tiruvallur Forest Division – Member 5. Member Secretary, TNBB – Focal Point
4	Agro-biodiversity Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth, Chennai – Chairperson 2. Dr. R. Rangalakshmi, Director, MS Swaminathan Research – Member 3. Dr. Arivudai Nambi, Independent Expert, Chennai – Member 4. District Forest Officer, Chennai Forest Division – Member 5. Member Secretary, TNBB – Focal Point

- Decision to take action to conserve the gene pool of historically significant dog breed 'Kombai' of Theni district, potentially under Biodiversity Heritage Sites.
- Coffee table book 'Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu' to be released and TNBB website to be launched during International Day for Biodiversity Celebrations 2018 in Chennai.

Members:

Sl. No.	Name	Role
1	Thiru Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Special Invitee
2	Thiru Md. Nasimuddin, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Ex-officio Member
3	Thiru P.C. Tyagi, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden (Head of Forest Force)	Ex-officio Member
4	Dr. H. Basavaraju, IFS, Principal Conservator of Forests (Head of Department)	Ex-officio Member
5	Thiru P. Mani Maran Deputy Secretary, Animal Husbandry Department, Chennai (Representing the Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department)	Ex-officio Member
6	Thiru J. Ganesan Deputy Secretary, Agriculture Department (Representing the Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department)	Ex-officio Member
7	Thiru A. Udhayan, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity)	Member Secretary Convenor
8	Dr. D. Narasimhan Associate Professor, Centre for Floristic Research, Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai	Member
9	Dr. Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth Trust, Chennai	Member
10	Thiru K. Chidambaram, IFS (Retd) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Former Chief Project Director (TBGP), Chennai	Member
11	Thiru T.S. Srinivasamurthy, IFS (Retd) Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chairman (Retired), Arasu Rubber Corporation, Chennai	Member
12	Dr. C.P. Raj Kumar Nalam Hospital, Sriram Nagar, Theni	Member

7. Seventh meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

The seventh meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held on 3 January 2019 at the Secretariat, Chennai.

Key Decisions:

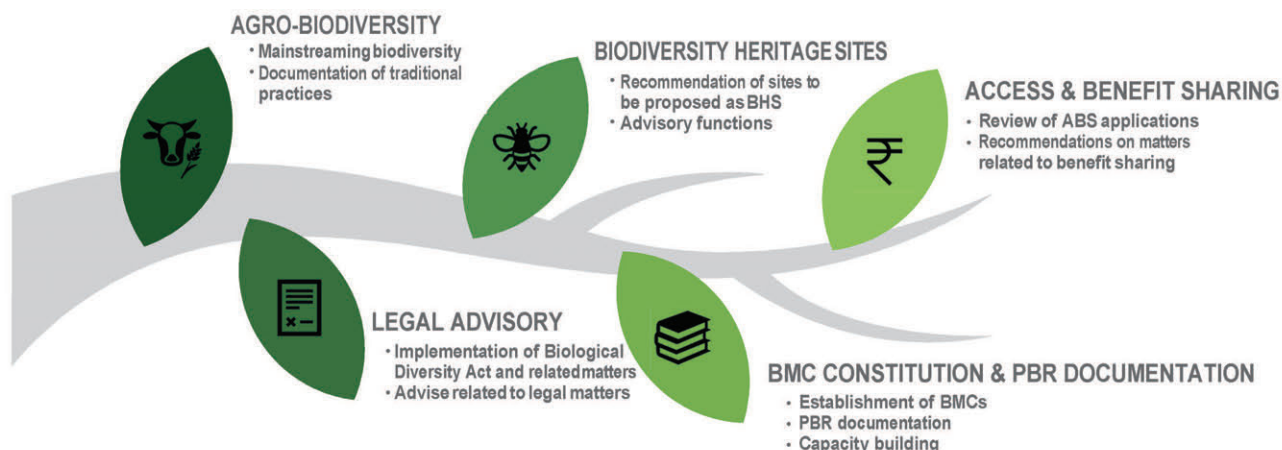
- Appreciated the efforts of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department to form a total of 1049 BMCs (385 rural and 664 urban) in the state. Requested that they direct the local bodies under their control to provide office premises for BMCs.
- Secretaries for urban BMCs to be decided based on consultations with the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Municipal Administration and Water Supply. Secretaries for rural BMCs are to be the Range Officers from the Forest Department.
- District Forest Officers are appointed as nodal officers for each district to oversee the functioning of the BMCs within the district.
- As BMCs require considerable technical support to carry out their functions, Technical Support Groups (TSGs) are to be constituted at each district with the following members:
 - Nodal Officers from the Forest Department
 - Joint Director, Agriculture Department
 - Joint Director, Horticulture Department
 - Joint Director, Fisheries Department
 - Joint Director, Animal Husbandry Department
 - Medical Officer, Siddha Medicines, Health Department
 - District Sericulture Officer, Sericulture Department
 - Senior Lecturer/Professor of Botany from local College/University
 - Senior Lecturer/ Professor of Zoology from local College/ University
 - Sociologist/ Social Scientist or College lecturer with Sociology specialisation
- One BMC from each district will be selected and developed as model BMCs wherein the ABS Partnership Project will assist with streamlining the functioning of BMCs to encourage other BMCs to follow suit. This will include direct engagement with BMC members for various operational aspects of BMC functioning.
- Formation of a committee to examine proposals received for BHS declaration and to shortlist sites for eventual notification by the government.
- Conducting several capacity development activities for various stakeholder groups with the ABS Partnership Project, and expand project activities to support 10 selected BMCs, their functioning and to organise awareness workshops to cover all 385 block-level BMCs in all districts.

Members:

Sl. No.	Name	Role
1	Thiru Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department	Ex-officio Member
2	Thiru Shambhu Kallollikar, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Ex-officio Member
3	Thiru H. Malleshappa, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden (Head of Department)	Ex-officio Member
4	Thiru T.P. Raghunath, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden	Ex-officio Member
5	Thiru P. Mani Maran, IAS., Deputy Secretary, Animal Husbandry Department, Chennai (Representing the Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department)	Ex-officio Member
6	Thiru S. Mathevanpillai, Deputy Secretary, MA & WS Department (Representing the Principal Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department)	Special Invitee
7	Thiru A. Udhayan, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity)	Secretary TNBB Convenor
8	Dr. D. Narasimhan Associate Professor, Centre for Floristic Research, Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai	Member
9	Dr. Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth Trust, Chennai	Member
10	Thiru T.S. Srinivasamurthy, IFS (Retd) Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chairman (Retired), Arasu Rubber Corporation, Chennai	Member
11	Dr. C.P. Raj Kumar Nalam Hospital, Sriram Nagar, Theni	Member

c. Sub-committees

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board constituted four expert committees in its 5th board meeting held on 21 April 2017 and an additional expert committee in its 7th meeting held on 3 January 2018 to guide and advise the Board on different matters relating to the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its provisions. The expert committees meet regularly to discuss the specifics of applications received by TNBB from NBA under Sections 3 and 6 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 as well as applications directly received by TNBB under Section 7 of the Act.



The five expert committees, their members and functions are as mentioned below:

1. Expert Committee on Agro-biodiversity

The expert committee focuses on the aspects of biodiversity associated with agriculture and food. Agro-biodiversity includes this biodiversity along with all associated local knowledge, cultural practices and traditions associated with it. Traditional varieties of crops and live stock are continuously being improved through scientific advances to create high yielding varieties. More than 90% of all crop varieties and half of the domestic breeds of animals are already extinct. This has brought about concerns to ensure that these traditional varieties and the knowledge associated with them is conserved for future use. This sub-committee considers all aspects of TNBB's activities associated with mainstreaming conservation of biodiversity, conserving agricultural practices and all associated traditional knowledge as well as suggesting areas of agro-biodiversity which can be protected as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

Members:

Sl. No.	Name	Role
1	Dr. Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth, Chennai	Chairperson
2	Dr. R. Rangalakshmi, Director, MSSRF, Chennai	Member
3	Dr. Arivudainambi - Independent Expert, Chennai	Member
4	District Forest Officer – Chennai Forest Division	Member
5	Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Focal Point

Functions of the committee:

- To deal with matters relating to agro-biodiversity i.e. agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, etc.
- To advise and provide recommendations to mainstream conservation concerns in relation to agro-biodiversity, such as breed of animal species/cultivar/landraces/folk variety/strain of microbes, in collaboration with the relevant line departments of the state.
- To propose measures and create awareness on the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 among line departments of the state.
- To propose measures to preserve and document traditional practices associated with agro-biodiversity.
- To propose important areas of agro-biodiversity which can be designated as Biodiversity Heritage Sites under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- To deal with any issues having implications for the above.
- Any other functions as assigned by the Board.

2. Legal Advisory Committee

The highly technical nature of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has led to the formation of the legal advisory committee which advises the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board on the various provisions of the Act relevant to specific situations. The Act has a very broad scope which can lead to many interpretations by different actors involved in the ABS process. To support the Board on this, the legal advisory committee can provide official interpretations of the provisions of the Act in specific situations as required.

Members:

Sl. No.	Name	Role
1	Mr. K Chidambaram IFS (Retd.) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests	Chairperson
2	Thiru. S. Elumalai – Assistant Professor, School of Excellence in Law, Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai	Member
3	Chief Conservator of Forests (Head Quarters)	Member
4	District Forest Officer – Tiruvallur Forest Division	Member
5	Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Focal Point

Functions of the committee:

- To advise the Board on matters related to the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and any related matters thereof.
- Any other functions as assigned by the Board.

3. Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing

The third objective of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources to the providers of the biological resources. TNBB receives several applications for access to biological resources under several sections of the Act, either directly or through National Biodiversity Authority. This sub-committee processes these applications to either recommend or return them. Once recommended, ABS agreements are signed between the applicant and TNBB to ensure that the received benefits are shared with the providers of the biological resources.

Members:

Sl.No.	Name	Role
1	Dr. D. Narasimhan, Associate Professor Madras Christian College, Chennai	Chairperson
2	Dr. Arivudainambi – Independent Expert, Chennai	Member
3	Thiru. S. Elumalai – Assistant Professor, School of Excellence in Law, Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai	Member
4	Wildlife Warden, Chennai	Member
5	Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Focal Point

Functions of the committee:

- To make recommendations on applications forwarded by National Biodiversity Authority seeking Prior Informed Consent (PIC) to access bio-resources occurring or obtained from Tamil Nadu.
- To deal with matters relating to Section 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- To make recommendations on benefit-sharing as per the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014 for access applications received from persons referred in Section 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- To provide and record the reasons or basis on which decisions such as restrictions for access, conditions for access, contravention of the Act, rejection, etc. are taken for applications forwarded by NBA or received by TNBB.
- To provide recommendations or advice on matters relating to access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Act as and when needed.
- To deal with any matters having implications for the above.

4. Expert Committee on BMC Constitution and Documentation of PBR

Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are the ground-level institutional structures formed under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. BMCs have important roles and functions under the Act, such as ensuring local area conservation and sustainable use of bio-resources within their jurisdiction and the documentation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) which is a dynamic record of all biological resources and associated traditional knowledge and knowledge holders within the jurisdiction of the BMCs. This sub-committee oversees the constitution of BMCs and the preparation of PBRs within each BMC. The sub-committee also supports BMCs with their functioning, through trainings and workshops as required.

Members:

Sl.No.	Name	Role
1	Thiru. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department	Chairperson
2	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Protection and Vigilance) and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Wetland Authority	Member
3	Chief Conservator of Forests (Research)	Member
4	Deputy Director, Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (Research, Training and Education), Vandalur, Chennai	Member
5	Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Focal Point

Functions of the committee:

- To recommend locations rich in biodiversity for the constitution of BMCs as per the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- To prioritise BMCs for documentation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).
- To propose or examine proposals regarding Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) including heritage trees, animals, microorganisms, etc. and sacred groves, sacred water bodies, etc. as mentioned under Section 37 of the Act.
- To make recommendations for the disbursement of benefit-sharing amount to the concerned BMCs or locations or benefit-claimers as per the provisions of the Act.
- To assist the board in the preparation of the annual plan for organising awareness workshops and training of BMCs and other key stakeholders in the state.
- To deal with any matters having implications for the above.
- Any other functions as assigned by the Board.

IV. OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD

a. Establishment of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are one of the decentralised institutional structures established by the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. They are constituted at the local level, and have seven members including the Chairperson, all of whom are registered in the local electoral roles. BMCs in Tamil Nadu were constituted and established following the notification of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules in 2017.

Tamil Nadu has constituted BMCs at the block-level rather than the village panchayat level to establish of BMCs and support their functioning. A total of 385 BMCs were constituted in rural Tamil Nadu by June 2018, followed by 664 urban BMCs by December 2018. The urban BMCs were constituted in 528 Town Panchayats, 124 Municipalities, 11 Municipal Corporations and one Greater Chennai Corporation under the control of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department.

b. Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)

Access and benefit-sharing (ABS) is the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge with the providers of these resources.

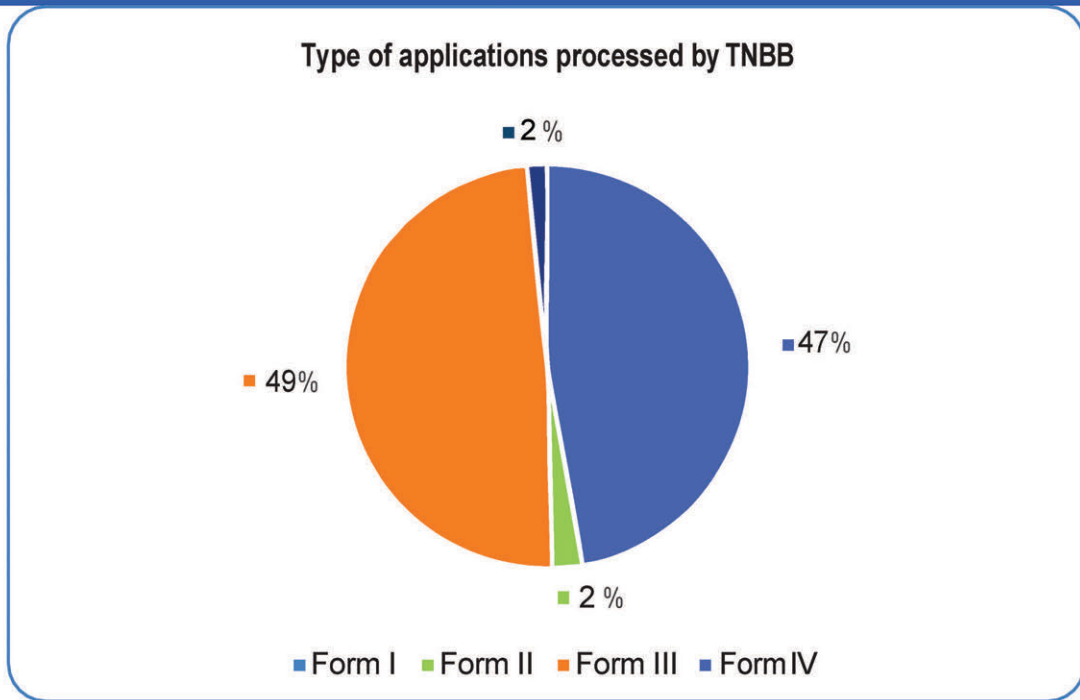
The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board receives applications for access to bio-resources under two sections of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 – Section 3 and Section 7. Users who are non-Indians or organisations with non-Indian participation submit their requests for access to bio-resources to the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) under Section 3, whereas users or user organisations registered in India apply directly to the respective State Biodiversity Board (TNBB). NBA forwards applications under Section 3 to TNBB for their recommendations. NBA also forwards applications under Section 6 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 dealing with intellectual property rights to TNBB when necessary.

TNBB also receives ABS applications as per Rule 15 of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules, 2017. Under this Rule, TNBB has received 5 Form-1 applications and these ABS applications are being processed.

Applications received by TNBB, either directly or from NBA, are processed by the various expert committees and recommendations are provided.

Year in which the sub-committee meeting was held	Total No. of applications processed	Total No. of applications recommended	Form I	Form II	Form III	Form IV	No. of applications returned
2012	25	22	7	2	16	0	3
2014	30	27	10	0	20	0	3
2015	16	15	3	0	12	1	1
2016	18	17	3	1	13	1	1
2017	7	7	7	0	0	0	0
2018	11	11	11	0	0	0	0
2019	7	7	7	0	0	0	0
Total	114	106	48	3	61	2	8

The following chart details the type of applications processed by TNBB between 2012 to March 2019. As observed from the chart below, majority of the applications processed were Form I for access to biological resources and Form III for obtaining intellectual property rights.



c. Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are well-defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems – terrestrial, coastal & inland waters and marine – having rich biodiversity and comprising of any one or more of the following components:

- Richness of wild as well as domesticated species or intra-specific categories
- High endemism, presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance
- Wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties
- Past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds
- Having significant cultural, ethical, or aesthetic value and important for the maintenance of cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human associated with them

In addition to this, the following characteristics may also qualify an area as a Biodiversity Heritage Site.

- Areas that contain a mosaic of natural, semi-natural, and man-made habitats, which together contain a significant diversity of life forms
- Areas that contain significant domesticated biodiversity component and/or representative agro-ecosystems with ongoing agricultural practices that sustain high diversity
- Areas that are significant from a biodiversity point-of-view and important cultural spaces such as sacred groves, trees or sites, or other large community conserved areas
- Areas including very small ones that offer refuge or corridors for threatened and endemic fauna and flora, such as community conserved areas or urban greens and wetlands
- Various legal land uses whether government, community, or private land
- Sites outside Protected Area Network and Reserved Forests
- Areas that provide habitats – aquatic or terrestrial, for seasonal migrant species as feeding or breeding grounds
- Areas maintained as preservation plots by the research wing of the Forest department or research institutions or universities
- Important Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas

To declare an area as a Biodiversity Heritage Site, TNBB should first receive a proposal suggesting the area, following which the Board will consult and discuss with the concerned local bodies, authorities, and communities. The Board may also conduct surveys and map the location and specify any restrictions (if any) for the management of the site. In case of lands owned by communities and individuals, their suggestions and objections are obtained and considered.

Every area designated as a Biodiversity Heritage Site will have a detailed management plan, and the state government or NBA may also provide them with a budget to protect and manage the site.

The declaration of a site as a Biodiversity Heritage Site will not affect the land's ownership, i.e. if a private land owner wishes to include an area from their personal property under BHS, the ownership of the land remains with the owner and does not get transferred to the State Biodiversity Board or the Forest Department.

Till date, the Board has received 18 proposals which are being processed before they can be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

V.PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE BOARD

a. Indo-German Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project

The Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Partnership Project, commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) under the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), with three pilot State Biodiversity Boards namely, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

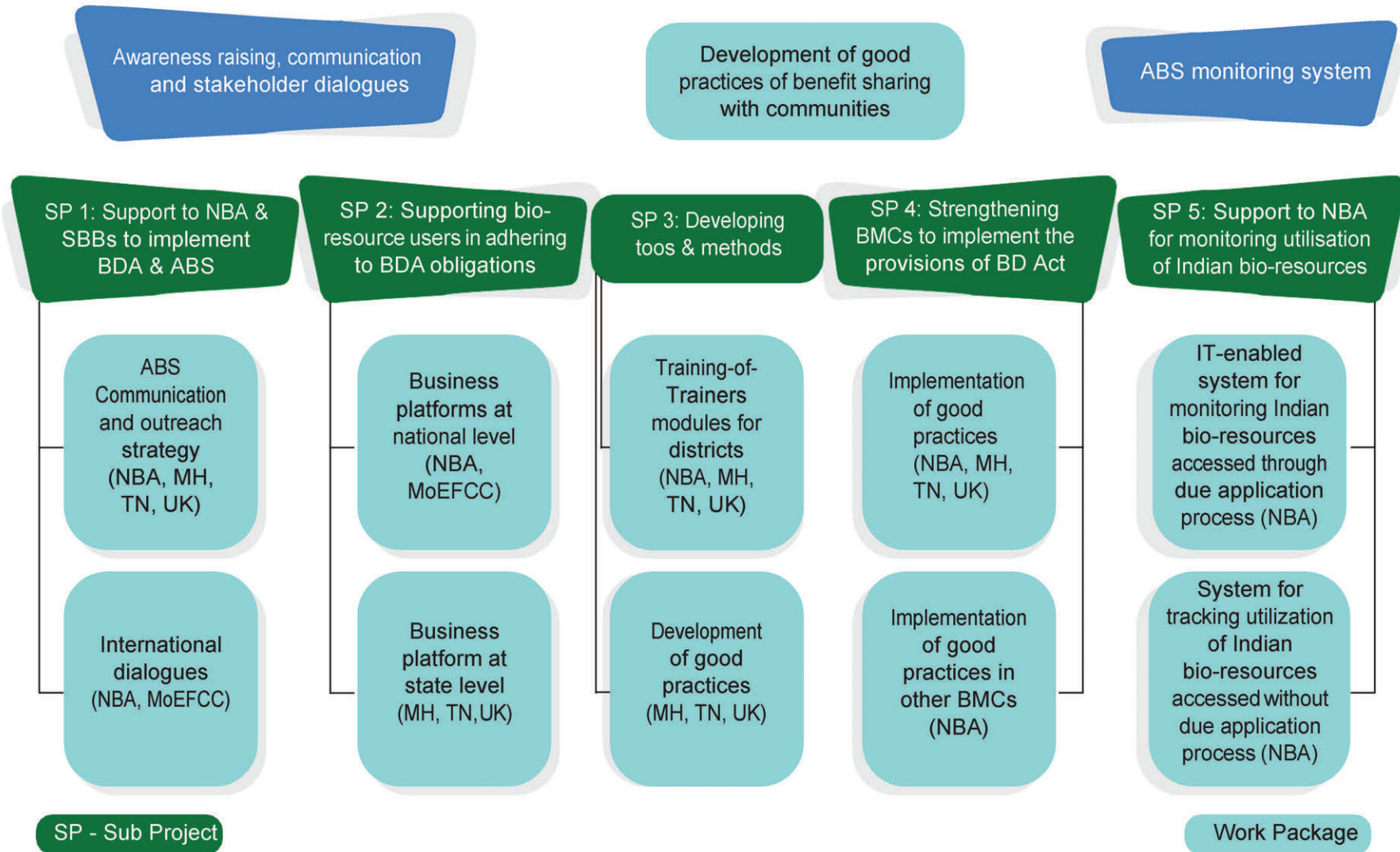
The project aims to strengthen the capacities of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), as well as the capacities of commercial and research user groups of biological resources and associated knowledge, for effective implementation of the ABS mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, in keeping with India's commitments under the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.

The objectives of the project are:

- Awareness raising, communication and stakeholder dialogues for creating better understanding of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, ABS Guidelines and Nagoya Protocol on ABS amongst different actors and stakeholder groups.
- Development of good practices of benefit-sharing with communities, based on the utilisation of biological resources for commercial and/or research purposes.
- Development of an ABS monitoring system for National Biodiversity Authority that enables the effective monitoring the use of biological resources in the ABS processes.

Tamil Nadu has a high potential for ABS in marine and animal-based bio-resources, and a significant potential to develop the capacities of other village-level committees dealing with natural resources. The ABS Partnership Project in Tamil Nadu intends to conduct awareness and capacity building workshops for all stakeholders involved to facilitate the implementation of the Act. The project also intends to create a database of bio-resource user industries in the state, invoke ABS applications from Section 3(2) and Section 7 companies, identify the potential bio-resources for ABS and bio-resource rich areas for BMC constitution as well as to develop awareness and education material.

Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project



Operational Plan for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

Sl. No	Sub-Project	Activities
1	ABS communication and outreach for NBA and SBBs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholder Identification and Mapping 2. Development of Communication Strategy 3. Development and translation of communication tools and knowledge products 4. Training by trainers using the developed communication material
2	Dialogue forums with commercial users of bio-resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business dialogues conducted
3	Training of Trainers (ToT)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity Needs Assessment (NBA/SBB/BMCs) 2. Identification of training institutions, master trainers and trainers 3. Curriculum development and translation for ToT
4	Development and implementation of good practices of benefit sharing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selection of BMCs based on bio-resource mapping 2. Good practice framework testing with pilot BMCs 3. PBR documentation in pilot BMCs 4. ABS agreement between SBBs and user groups with feedback from pilot BMCs

Launch of Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project in Tamil Nadu and Inception Workshop

Date and Location: 27 February 2018, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai

Objective: To officially launch the ABS Partnership Project in Tamil Nadu

Overview: The Hon'ble Minister for Forests inaugurated the inception workshop of the ABS Partnership Project. He also released a book titled "Compendium of Biological Diversity Act 2002, Biological Diversity Rules 2004, Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules 2017 and other notifications". A case study on the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act in Uttar Pradesh was presented by Mr. Pawan Kumar, Member Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Biodiversity Board, focusing on the lessons learnt from the awareness and capacity development initiatives undertaken by the Board. Dr. Geetha Nayak, Team Leader, ABS Partnership Project, spoke about the key components of the project designed to support the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board.

Dignitaries: Thiru. Dindigul C. Srinivasan, Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Tamil Nadu; Mr. Pawan Kumar, Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Biodiversity Board; Dr. Konrad Uebelhör, Director, Indo-German Biodiversity Programme

Participants: 80

Outcome: The workshop officially launched the ABS Partnership Project and its activities.





b. Capacity Development Initiatives

State-wide workshops on implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and access and benefit-sharing mechanisms in Tamil Nadu for line department officials

Date and location: 9 February 2018 at Coimbatore, 21 June 2018 at Madurai, 26 June 2018 at Krishnagiri, 5 July 2018 at Tuticorin, 13 July 2018 at Thanjavur, 25 July 2018 at Namakkal, 26 July 2018 at Villupuram and 2 August 2018 at Chennai.

Objective: To create awareness about the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and to form a network of various line departments to plan future capacity development programmes for BMCs.

Overview: The workshop consisted of technical sessions focused on implementing the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the process of constituting BMCs, compliance procedures for access to biological resources by users, notifying Biodiversity Heritage Sites, and documenting People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) by the BMCs. Interactive group sessions were conducted to discuss the implementation of the Act, through case studies.

Dignitaries: Senior officials from the District Collectors offices, and the District Forest Officers from the various districts.

Participants: 327 officials from various government departments including Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Forest, Horticulture, Sericulture, and District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) and representatives from the Police Department, Revenue Department, Animal Welfare Board of India, educational institutions, research institutes and local NGOs.

Outcome: The workshops had high participation and feedback received from the participants indicated that 72% of participants heard about the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for the first time during the workshop and 89% indicated that the workshop helped them understand the implementation of the Act and the formation of BMCs.



Training on concept and protocol in constituting Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Date and Location: 20-21 April 2018 at Hotel GRT Grand, Chennai

Objective: To improve the understanding of the process involved in establishing BMCs and their role in implementing the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Overview: The provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, case studies from other State Biodiversity Boards in India and the mandates under the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules, 2017 were elaborated during the training. Interactive sessions were conducted on the operational aspects and functions of Biodiversity Management Committees.

Participants: 27 District Forest Officers (Nodal Officers) and 15 senior officials from the Forest Department.

Outcome: The nodal officers gained a clearer understanding of the key roles of BMCs in conserving and managing their bio-resources as well as their roles in supporting and facilitating the functioning of BMCs.



Workshop on Biodiversity Governance and Access and Benefit Sharing for NGOs and Community-based Organisations

Date and Location: 13 December 2018 at Salem, Tamil Nadu.

Objective: To discuss the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the operationalisation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and the role of NGOs and CBOs in achieving the objectives of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Overview: Dr. Suhas Nimbalkar, Partner, Eitimo Ventures, conducted sessions were conducted on biodiversity governance and policies in the international and national context, and on sustainable development goals. Mr. John Britto, Covenant Centre for Development, Madurai, described a case study on the medicinal plant trade in the context of ABS in Tamil Nadu, and CCD's work in the conservation of medicinal plants and ABS compliance in Madhya Pradesh. Further interactive sessions discussed the establishment of BMCs in Tamil Nadu and the processes involved in the documentation of PBRs. Moderated discussions on the role of NGOs and CBOs were also conducted.

Dignitaries: Mr. Kayarat Mohandas IFS, APCCF-Central Region; Mr. Udhayan IFS, Secretary, TNBB; Mr. A. Periasamy IFS, District Forest Officer-Salem; Mr. M. Mahendharan IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division-Salem.

Participants: 27 NGOs



Operationalisation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) – Training for Secretaries of BMCs

Date and Location: 14 December 2018 at Salem, 18 December 2018 at Madurai, 21 February 2019 at Coimbatore, 22 February 2019 at Vellore, 26 February 2019 at Trichy, 27 February 2019 at Cuddalore, 5 March 2019 at Tuticorin and 8 April 2019 at Chennai.

Objective: To provide information to the secretaries of BMCs in Tamil Nadu on the legal, administrative and financial aspects related to ABS, and other practical aspects needed to carry out the functions as mandated under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 including sessions on documenting PBRs.

Overview: The training began with an overview on biodiversity, its threats, and conservation, followed by an interactive session on the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and related notifications on ABS, Normally Traded as Commodities and threatened species of plants and animals from Tamil Nadu. Sessions were conducted on BMCs and their role in local area conservation followed by a group discussion on hypothetical case studies. Further sessions focused on the administrative and financial aspects of operationalising BMCs and documenting People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).

Dignitaries: Mr. A. Udhayan IFS, Secretary, TNBB; Mr. A. Periasamy IFS, District Forest Officer, and Mr. M. Mahendharan IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division at Salem. Mr. Debasis Jena IFS, APCCF & CCF-Madurai circle, Dr. R. Kannan, APCCF-Southern Region, Mr. A. Udhayan IFS, Secretary, TNBB and Mr. Gowtham IFS, District Forest Officer at Madurai.

Participants: Secretaries of BMCs from all districts of Tamil Nadu.

Outcome: The trainings helped secretaries of BMCs with their roles in ensuring effective functioning of BMCs in their respective regions.



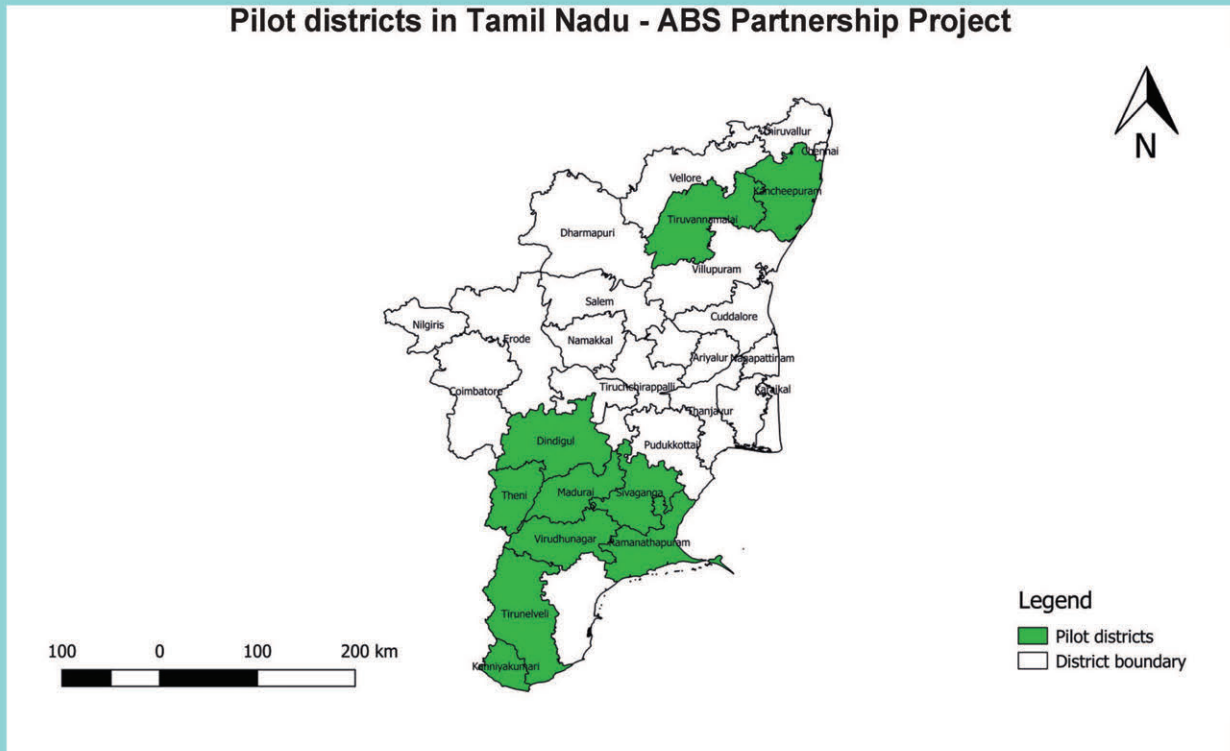
c. Model BMCs and PBRs

The project has engaged with Covenant Centre for Development, Madurai to identify and support the formation and development of 12 model BMCs in the state, including documentation of PBRs at each BMC. The nodal officers of the districts within which these model BMCs are formed, supported the BMC activities and PBR documentation. The secretaries of these BMCs – Block Development Officers and Range Forest Officers – coordinated with Covenant Centre for Development to conduct meetings with the BMCs in order to validate the prepared PBRs. The validation meetings are also attended by one member of the Forest Department who is familiar with biodiversity.

The 12 model BMCs identified and developed in Tamil Nadu are:

1. Natham from Dindigul
2. Sannarpatti from Dindigul
3. Melur from Madurai
4. Sedapatti from Madurai
5. Kariapatti from Virudhunagar
6. Periyakulam from Theni
7. Tiruppuvanam from Sivagangai
8. Radhapuram from Tirunelveli
9. Thiruvattar from Kanyakumari
10. Thiruporur from Kancheepuram
11. Madapam from Ramanathapuram
12. Chengam from Thiruvannamalai

Pilot districts in Tamil Nadu - ABS Partnership Project



Workshop on documentation of People's Biodiversity Registers for District Nodal Officers

Date and Location: 13 November 2018 at Panagal Maligai, Chennai

Objective: To discuss the processes involved in documenting PBRs with District Nodal Officers from all districts of Tamil Nadu

Overview: Dr. H. Malleshappa IFS, PCCF (HoD) and Mr. T.P. Raghunath IFS, PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden, initiated the workshop and urged the District Nodal Officers to take proactive measures in strengthening BMCs in their districts to carry out the mandated activities. Dr. Oommen provided an overview of the PBR documentation process followed by the Kerala Biodiversity Board and Dr. Kunal Satyarthi shared his experience working in Himachal Pradesh. Mr. A. Udhayan IFS, Secretary, TNBB, along with resource speakers, addressed queries on the confidentiality of PBRs, technical support from NGOs and other institutions as well as the financial resources available for documentation. The PBR formats prescribed by NBA were also presented to the nodal officers.

Dignitaries: Dr. H. Malleshappa IFS, PCCF (HoD); Mr. T.P. Raghunath IFS, PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden; Mr. A. Udhayan IFS, Secretary, TNBB; Dr. Oommen V. Oommen, Former Chairperson, Kerala Biodiversity Board; and Dr. Kunal Satyarthi, Member Secretary, Himachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board.

Participants: District Forest Officers from 32 districts of Tamil Nadu.



d. Good Practice Cases of ABS

Snakes and the Irula: making a 'bond' through Access and Benefit Sharing

Snake venom extraction is synonymous with the Irula tribal community in northern Tamil Nadu. The Irula Society is well-known, locally and internationally, for their skills as snake catchers. The Irula Snake Catcher's Industrial Cooperative Society was established in 1978 to support the sustainable trade of snake venom and support the economic development of the Irula tribal community. The Irula Society is the largest organised supplier of snake venom in the country.

Snake venom is a derivative of biological resource as defined in the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Snake venom extraction by the Irula Society is restricted mainly to four species of venomous snakes, namely, Spectacled Cobra, Common Krait, Russell's Viper and Saw-scaled Viper, collected from three districts of Tamil Nadu – Chennai, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur. The members of the society are trained to extract and then partially process the venom, specifically lyophilisation (freeze drying), in a small facility maintained in the same premises as the extraction. Industries and research institutions buy snake venom for various research and commercial purposes, to produce anti-snake venom (ASV) for treatment of snakebites.

The Wildlife wing of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and the Department of Industries and Commerce has put in a mechanism to regulate the trade and obtain fair price from the sales. However, there was no benefit-sharing arrangement in place as required under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and GIZ India facilitated dialogue among the various stakeholders, viz. Irula Society (providers or benefit-claimers as defined by the Biological Diversity Act, 2002), Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Department of Industries and Commerce, and various researchers and companies using snake venom in their operations. A study was also conducted to understand the trade of snake venom to operationalise ABS provisions as mandated under the Act.

e. Business Dialogues to facilitate ABS Compliance

Consultation meeting with Irula community to operationalise access and benefit-sharing provisions on snake venom extraction and trade

Date and Location: 1 August 2018 at Panagal Maligai, Chennai.

Objective: To facilitate the operationalisation of the ABS mechanism in snake venom trade.

Overview: A study conducted on operationalising ABS on snake venom trade was presented, and the important features of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the implications of its ABS provisions on snake venom trade were explained to the members of the society. Discussions were conducted on the impact of the trade on snake species and its habitat.

Dignitaries: Mr. Rabikumar IFS, Secretary, NBA; Mr. A. Udhayan IFS, Secretary, TNBB; Mr. R.K. Upadhyay IFS, PCCF (HoFF), Tamil Nadu Forest Department; Mr. T.P. Raghunath IFS, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden; Dr. Konrad Uebelhör, Director, Indo-German Biodiversity Programme.

Participants: 32 participants including members from the Irula community and senior officials from the Forest Department.

Outcome: The members of the Irula society have a clear understanding of the Biological Diversity Act and its ABS provisions and how it affects them.



Meeting with industries and institutions accessing snake venom on ABS compliance under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Date and Location: 24 October 2018 at TNBB, Chennai

Objective: To inform snake venom users on compliance and application procedures under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Overview: A meeting was conducted with representatives from industries and institutions that accessed snake venom from the Irula Society in the years 2017-2018. Participants were introduced to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, its ABS provisions and detailed information on access regulations under the Act. Ms. Shameeka Rao, GIZ, provided details on the trade of snake venom over 6 months in 2017-2018 which highlighted the quantity of venom sold from the Irula Snake Catcher's Industrial Cooperative Society, Kancheepuram and the type of entities that procured it. Interactive discussions with the participants provided an insight into the various uses of snake venom by the different entities, the challenges they faced with procurement as well as the use of snake venom.

Dignitaries: Mr. A. Udhayan IFS, Secretary, TNBB; Mr. T. Rabikumar IFS, Secretary, NBA; Mr. T.P. Raghunath IFS, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden; Dr. Raghuram, Technical Officer – Benefit Sharing, NBA.

Participants: Members from the Irula Snake Catcher's Industrial Cooperative Society and industries and institutions accessing snake venom from them.



VI. OTHER INITIATIVES

a. Events conducted by the Board

3rd Indian Biodiversity Congress (IBC)

Date and Location: 18-20 December 2014, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai.

Objective: To formulate a vision and alternate strategic plan for the conservation of biodiversity in the context of 'development at any cost'.

Overview: TNBB co-sponsored the 3rd edition of the Indian Biodiversity Congress. The activities included a large-scale seminar with delegates from all around India, an exposition showcasing the rich biodiversity heritage and culture of the country, Children's Biodiversity Conclave, national photography exhibition, documentary film festival and capacity building workshops. A total 119 research papers were presented on topics such as 'Climate Change and Biodiversity', 'Diversity of Medicinal Plants and Sustainable Utilisation' and 'Biotechnology for Biodiversity'.

International Day for Biological Diversity, 2017 Celebrations

Date and Location: 22 May 2017 at TNBB, Chennai

Objective: To raise awareness about biodiversity and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Overview: Talks were conducted that emphasised the importance of biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilisation, and community based approaches towards conservation. The Hon'ble Minister for Forests distributed cash incentives to members of the Irula tribal community as part of a revenue sharing mechanism. He also launched the first forest drone in Tamil Nadu developed through WII, India.

Dignitaries: Thiru. Dindigul C. Srinivasan, Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Tamil Nadu; Thiru. Md. Nasimuddin IAS, Principal Secretary, Environment and Forests, Tamil Nadu; Thiru. P.C. Tyagi IFS, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden (HoFF); Dr. Basavaraju IFS, PCCF (HoD); Mr. R.K. Upadhyay IFS, PCCF; Mr. T.P. Raghunath IFS, PCCF & CPD, TBGP; and Dr. Shekhar Kumar Niraj IFS, Member Secretary in-charge, TNBB

Participants: 200



The Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Thiru. Dindigul. C. Srinivasan addressing the gathering at IDB organized by Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board



Biodiversity Walk at Elliot's Beach, Besant Nagar, Chennai

International Day for Biological Diversity, 2018 Celebrations

Date and Location: 22 May 2018 at the Raintree Hotel, Chennai

Objective: To raise awareness about biodiversity and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Overview: The logo and the website for the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board were launched by the Hon'ble Minister for Forests. He also released a coffee table book on the biodiversity of Tamil Nadu and a book on the Butterflies of Tamil Nadu. Technical talks were also conducted on livestock, fish, medicinal plants, agro-biodiversity, and its conservation in Tamil Nadu. Apart from this, painting, quiz, poster, and debate competitions were held for students in several districts along with awareness and cleaning campaigns.

Dignitaries: Thiru. Dindigul C. Srinivasan, Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Tamil Nadu; Mr. Hans Raj Verma, Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj; Mr. Md. Nasimuddin, Principal Secretary, Environment and Forests; Mr. R.K. Upadhyay IFS, PCCF (HoFF); and Mr. T.P. Raghunath, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden.



Consultation workshop on Analysis of value-chain of medicinal plant trade in Tamil Nadu

Date and Location: 1 February 2019 at TNBB, Chennai

Objective: To discuss the results of the studies on the value-chain of selected bioresources, its market linkages, source locations, information on processes and various actors involved in the trade of biological resources.

Overview: Discussions on the draft report on analysis of value-chain of medicinal plants was conducted. The analysis was conducted by the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai. Subsequently, experts and senior officials from the Tamil Nadu Forest Department provided feedback for the study.

Dignitaries: Mr. R.K. Upadhyay IFS, PCCF & Chairman – TAFCON; Dr. Durairasu IFS, PCCF & Chairman, Arasu Rubber Corporation; Mr. Sanjay Srivastava IFS, PCCF & Chief Project Director – Tamil Nadu Biodiversity and Greening Project; Mr. A. Udhayan IFS, Secretary, TNBB; Mr. K. Chidambaram IFS (Retd PCCF), Dr. V. Arivudai Nambi and Dr. D. Narasimhan, TNBB expert members, and Mr. N. Muthuvelayutham and Mr. John Britto from CCD.

Participants: TNBB Staff, officers from Tamil Nadu Forest Department, TNBB expert committee members, CCD staff.

Suggestions: The study on value-chain of medicinal plants will be used to explore practical ways to implement ABS and sustainability in the trade.



b. Other Meetings and Workshops attended by the TNBB Member Secretary

14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at Egypt

a. Side-event on insights from implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing

Date and Location: 27 November 2018 at Egypt

Objective: To discuss implementation of ABS in different countries for transfer of knowledge on its practical aspects.

Overview: Mr. T. Rabikumar, Secretary, NBA, discussed ABS implementation in India. Insights and success stories on ABS in India were provided by different project implemented in the country like the ABS Partnership Project, UNEP-GEF Programme, Indo-Norwegian Centre for Biodiversity Law and Policy (CEBPOL) and UNDP India. Mr. A. Udhayan, Secretary of TNBB, Mr. M.L. Srivastava, PCCF & Principal Secretary of Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management, Govt. of Sikkim, Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary of Goa State Biodiversity Board, and Dr. Kunal Satyarthi, Member Secretary of Himachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board described their experiences in implementing ABS in India.

The ABS Partnership Project, India, presented a country-level communication strategy developed for communicating ABS among various stakeholders. A book titled 'Regulation of Access to Biological Resources and Benefit Sharing in India – An analytical study' prepared by CEBPOL was also launched along with an online course on ABS developed by United Nations University, Institute for Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS).

Subsequently, panel discussions on the steps involved in establishing national ABS framework and on challenges in monitoring ABS compliance were also held.

Dignitaries: Ms. Beatriz Gomez, Secretariat of the CBD; Mr. Matthew Dias, Programme Officer, ABS-Clearing House; Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen, Head of Delegation COP14, Ministry of Climate and Environment (Norway); Mr. Henry M. Ndengejeho, BMCC Project Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (Namibia); Mr. Suhel al-Janabi, Co-Manager, ABS Initiative (Germany); Mr. Alex Owusu Biney, UNEP GEF Portfolio Manager; Dr. Sunita Subramanian, UNU-IAS; Mr. T. Rabikumar, Secretary, NBA; Mr. A. Udhayan, Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board; Mr. M. L. Srivastava PCCF & Principal Secretary of Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Govt. of Sikkim; Dr. Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary of Goa State Biodiversity Board; Dr. Kunal Satyarthi, Member Secretary, Himachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board; Dr. Sujata Arora, Advisor, MoEFCC; and Dr. Paul Oldham, Consultant, ABS Partnership Project

Outcome: Participants were able to discern how ABS was implemented in the different countries and the challenges faced during the same.



Mr. A. Udhayan,
Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board



Dr. Sujata Arora, Advisor,
Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change

b. Side-event on 'Community Protocols – Lessons learned for Access and Benefit Sharing' and launch of Biocultural Community Protocol Guidelines

Date and Location: 27 November 2018 at Egypt

Objective: To discuss the guidelines on 'Community Protocols for Pastoralists and Livestock Keepers' and its role in implementing ABS.

Overview: Dr. Geetha Nayak, Team Leader, ABS Partnership Project, discussed the guide on 'Community Protocols for Pastoralists and Livestock Keepers' developed by the League for Pastoral People and Endogenous Livestock Development (LPP) in which she is one of the co-authors. She explained how the guide provides communities with a legal tool for livestock breeds and management systems. The processes involved in community protocol development, and in using Community Protocols for facilitating ABS under national and international laws were also presented. Discussions were also conducted on the definition of biocommerce, possible safeguards protecting community protocols, migration of communities into an area with an existing protocol and their compliance with its contents as well as the difficulties of developing a community protocol.

Outcome: Participants were able to learn how community protocols can facilitate the ABS process.

Visit of delegates from South-east Asia in 2018

On 24th October 2018, the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was visited by delegates from ASEAN as part of their Regional Training Workshop on Development and Implementation of ABS Legal framework to implement Nagoya Protocol on Access to Benefit Sharing (ABS) & Traditional Knowledge Digital Library in Chennai. Mrs. Meenakumari, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority accompanied the delegates on their visit to Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board.

During their visit to the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, Mr. A. Udhayan, IFS, Member Secretary, TNBB provided the delegates with an overview of the various activities of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board. He highlighted the importance of the decentralised institutional structures for the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in India. He also described the processes used by Tamil Nadu to constitute Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in the state and prepare People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) as the first steps to implementing the Act and its associated Rules and Guidelines in Tamil Nadu.

Interactive discussions were conducted on the constitution of BMCs, preparation of PBRs, declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS), and the various trainings and workshops conducted to create awareness and build the capacities of the various actors involved in the ABS process in Tamil Nadu.



VII. PROSECUTIONS LAUNCHED AND CONVICTIONS SECURED

1. Pudukottai case

(BDOR No.1/2018 dated 26.07.2018)

An offence under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was booked for the first time in the state of Tamil Nadu on 26.07.2018 at Aranthangi Range (BDOR No.1/2018) related to the illegal collection and transportation of 25 kgs of 'blood worms' (Polychaete Worms) from Manalmekudi Area of Aranthangi Range in Pudukottai District of Tamil Nadu.

In this Biodiversity offence case, the Forest Ranger Officer, Aranthangi Range along with his team arrested three persons on 26.07.2018 and they were remanded to judicial custody. A Silver Toyota Etios car bearing registration No.TN 82 Z 3337 was also seized in this offence.

The Principal Secretary, Environment & Forests, mentioned that wide publicity should be given on the penal sections of the Biodiversity Act, 2002 as most people were ignorant of the Act.

VIII. AUDIT REPORTS

Head Office:

S-2, RSR Plaza, 50-51, Arcot Road,
Saligramam, Chennai - 600 093.
044 - 4354 4046, 4354 4047
E-mail : lakshmi@slswin.com

SLS ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To
The Member Secretary,
Tamilnadu Biodiversity Board,
TBGP Campus, II Floor, Velachery - Tambaram Main Road,
Medavakkam, Chennai, Tamilnadu - 600 100.

05th Feb 2020

We enclose the signed Financial Statements of TAMILNADU STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD, TBGP Campus, II floor, Velachery - Tambaram Main Road, Medavakkam, Chennai, Tamilnadu - 600 100. which comprise the Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2020, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts and payments for the year then ended with Notes forming Parts of Accounts and Consolidation Receipts and Payments from 01st April 2009 to 31st March 2019.

The financial statement has been compiled from the books of accounts which have been prepared based on the normally acceptable accounting, principles and treatments. The details are given below

BASIC OF ACCOUNTING :

- I. The financial statement have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the generally accepted accounting policies under the double entry system of accounting.
- II. Unless otherwise stated here under, the Financial Accounts are drawn up on receipts and payment basis as per norms.

TREATMENT OF GRANT IN AID FROM CENTRE/STATE:

Grant-in-aid has been taken into account on actual receipt from NBA/TN GOVT/Others.

TREATMENT OF FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION:

Assets acquired under TNBB are valued at historical cost including all direct costs (i.e. Purchase price, transport expenses, installation charges and other expenses incurred for bringing the fixed asset in working condition).

Depreciation on fixed assets are made available in the books of accounts as per income Tax Act, 1961.

Head Office:

S-2, RSR Plaza, 50-51, Arcot Road,
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E-mail : lakshmi@slswin.com

SLS ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

TREATMENT OF INTEREST EARNED IN THE BANK ACCOUNT :

Interest income in the Financial Statements are earned from Savings Accounts and No fund are kept in the Fixed Deposits.

TREATMENT OF UNSPENT GRANT :

Amounts received towards sharing of benefits from PEPSICO has been formed as Tamilnadu Biodiversity Fund and kept in Indian Bank.

RECOGNITION OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE :

- i) The Grant - in - Aid is accounted on receipt basis.
- ii) 'Other Income' - Interest on Savings Ac, Application Fees and Other Miscellaneous receipts.

STATUTORY PAYMENT :

Salary Deductions (i.e. CPS, FBF, other deductions) are deducted and remitted to the Accountant General on monthly basis.

TDS has been deducted for salary payments only, TDS on other payments has not been deducted, TDS on Salary Payments, Contractual Payments and Professional services payments to be deducted under section 192, 194C & 194J of the Income Tax Act 1961, respectively,

TREATMENT OF EXPENDITURE :

The Major expenditure of TNBB are towards salary payments and International Biodiversity day Celebrations. The expenses are accounted on payments basis as per norms.

TAMILNADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD

2nd Floor, TBCP Campus, Tambaram-Velachery Road,
Medavakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 100

Consolidated Receipts and Payments A/c from 01st Apr 2009 to 31st Mar 2019

Sl. No.	Particulars	INR
I	OPENING BALANCE	
	Bank Accounts	-
	Cash	-
	Sub - Total (I)	-
II	RECEIPTS	
	Account Opening Fund	1,000
	Grant In Aid - National Biodiversity Authority ¹	90,85,719
	Grant In Aid - TN Govt	2,22,29,262
	Other Donation & Receipt	40,70,000
	Interest on Savings AC	14,91,197
	RTI Application Fees	100
	Form - 1 Application Fees	40,000
	Other Misc. Receipts	1,34,779
	Salary Deductions	26,09,070
	Sub - Total (II)	3,96,61,127
III	PAYMENTS	
	Fixed Assets	21,28,520
	Grant In Aid - Surrender - TN Govt	19,18,766
	Grand In Aid - Surrender - NBA	1,89,983
	Celebration of International Biodiversity Day	28,55,535
	Books and Publishing Expenses	7,55,195
	Board Meeting Expenses	1,79,313
	Rent And Maintenance	8,31,000
	TBGP - Biodiversity Congress	5,00,000
	Other Expenses	1,26,162
	Salaries and Wages - Staff	1,00,00,544
	Salaries and Wages - Others	6,17,933
	Administrative Expenses	16,81,577
	Salary Deductions	28,83,200
	Sub - Total (III)	2,46,67,728

Sl.No.	Particulars	INR
IV	CLOSING BALANCE	
	BankAccounts	1,49,92,235
	Cash	1,165
	Sub-Total(IV)	1,49,93,400

Financials include Notes forming part of accounts
Compiled from Information furnished.

For on Behalf of the
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

for **SLS ASSOCIATES**
Chartered Accountants
Firm Reg. No. 05951S
S. LAKSHMISUBRAMANIAN

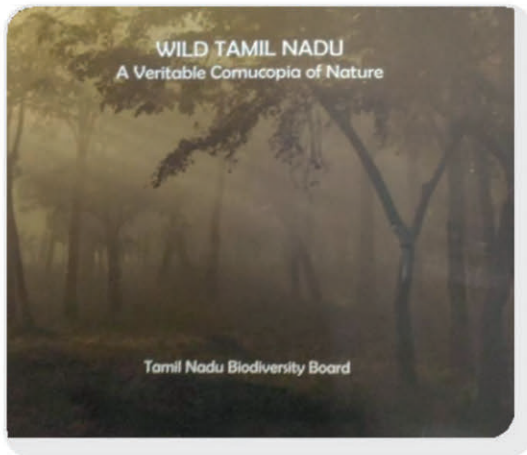
T.V. MANJUNATHA
MEMBER SECRETARY

PARTNER
Membership No. : 028927

R. RAVIKUMAR
SUPERINTENDENT

Place : CHENNAI
Date : 05-02-2020

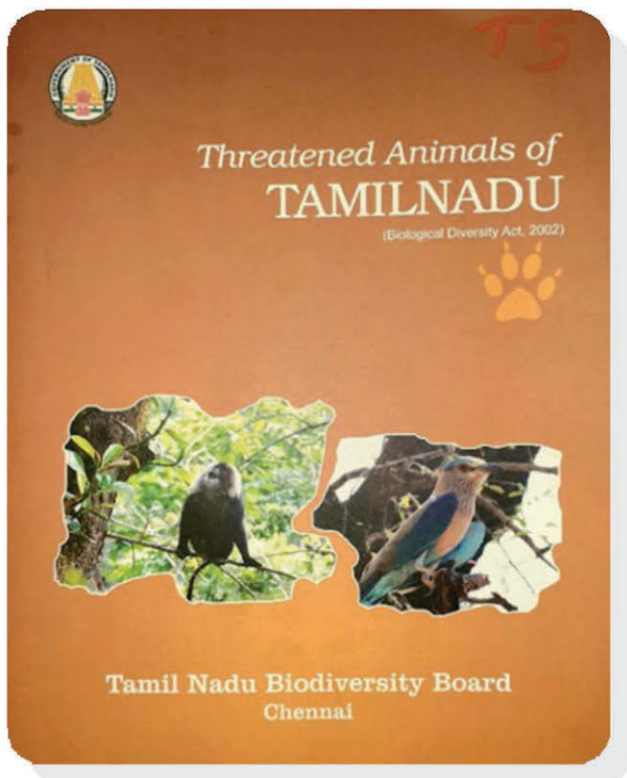
IX. PUBLICATIONS AND IN-NEWS



Coffee Table Book published by TNBB



ABS Partnership Project Brochure



Threatened Animals of Tamil Nadu



Threatened Plants of Tamil Nadu

TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD



The Board is headed by a Chairperson with five ex-officio members and five members, who are experts in matters related to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. The tenure of non-official members is three years. The Secretary of the Board appointed by the government is responsible for coordinating and convening the meetings of the Board, maintenance of the records of the proceedings of the Board and such other matters as may be assigned to by the Board.

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board is a statutory body established in 2008 in accordance with Section 22 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for implementing the provisions of the Act in the State



Buceros bicornis

'Biological diversity' means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Convention on Biological Diversity 1992).

Tamil Nadu hosts a rich diversity of wild and cultivated flora and fauna. With about 18% of the

geographical area under forest cover, Tamil Nadu hosts 3 biosphere reserves, 4 tiger reserves, 5 National parks, 15 Wildlife sanctuaries, 15 bird sanctuaries and 2 conservation reserves. With several representative ecosystems of terrestrial as well aquatic biomes such as forests, scrublands, grasslands, mangroves, beaches and inland, coastal & marine wetlands, Tamil Nadu is a treasure house for wild biodiversity including medicinal plants.

The State hosts several endangered fauna such as the Nilgiri Langur, Nilgiri Tahr, Lion Tailed Macaque, Dugong and significant population of the Asiatic Elephant, Tiger, Indian Gaur as well as several lesser known taxa.

The coastal region hosts a variety of ecosystems including brackish lagoons, estuaries, coastal marshland, mud flats, coral reefs, wetlands and mangroves that harbour a rich variety of biodiversity. The Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve is considered biologically as one of the richest coastal regions in the World. With a coastline of more than 1000 km, the coastal regions of the state

have provided sustenance to fishermen for generations and contribute significantly to the fishery production in the country.

There are several tanks, reservoirs, lakes, ponds, marshes, river systems, irrigation canals and streams that host about 9% of the freshwater fauna found in India and are crucial for the economic and livelihood sustenance for the people of the state.

The state hosts a wide spectrum of agro-biodiversity including crop plants, medicinal plants, farm animals, fishes, insects and microbes and is especially well known for its cattle livestock diversity.



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In News

TIRUCHIRAPALLI

Biodiversity board forms local committees for conservation of resources



R Rajaram

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Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board Secretary A. Uthayan presenting the law book in Tiruchi on Tuesday.

Capacity building programme for members to begin from April

Having constituted Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) at the local level involving the community for conservation and sustainable utilisation of biological resources inside and outside forest areas, besides documentation of diversity, the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board will soon embark on the task of building capacity of committee members and enlighten them about their role and responsibilities in conservation of such resources.

Consequent to the framing of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules in late 2017, the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has constituted 1,049 BMCs at 385 panchayat unions across the State and designated an officer in the rank of Forest Ranger as secretary in each committee to manage and oversee its functioning as mandated by the Rules at the rural level.

Ahead of organising capacity building programmes for the BMC members, the biodiversity board has set out on the task of training the Forest Rangers on a gamut of aspects including the provisions of the BioDiversity Act, 2002; the 2017 Rules framed by Tamil Nadu; guidelines on access to biological resources, responsibilities of the BMCs, creation of Biodiversity Fund and mode of benefit sharing to the community.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/biodiversity-board-forms-local-committees-for-conservation-of-resources/article26382316.ece>

