



Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

தமிழ்நாடு உயிரிப்பல்வகைமை வாரியம்

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



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Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

Annual Report

2019-2020

TBGP- Office Complex, II floor,
Velachery - Tambaram main Road,
Nanmangalam, Medavakkam Post,
Chennai - 600100

December 2021

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Introduction

Tamil Nadu is one of the mega bio-diverse states of the country, being endowed with a bounty of rich biodiversity right from coastal marine ecosystems in the Gulf of Mannar to terrestrial evergreen forests in the Western Ghats. Out of the 16809 species of flowering plants in India, Tamil Nadu ranks first in species richness with 5674 taxa. The faunal diversity is also equally impressive which includes 165 species of fresh water fishes, 76 species of amphibians, 177 species of reptiles, 454 species of birds and 187 species of mammals.

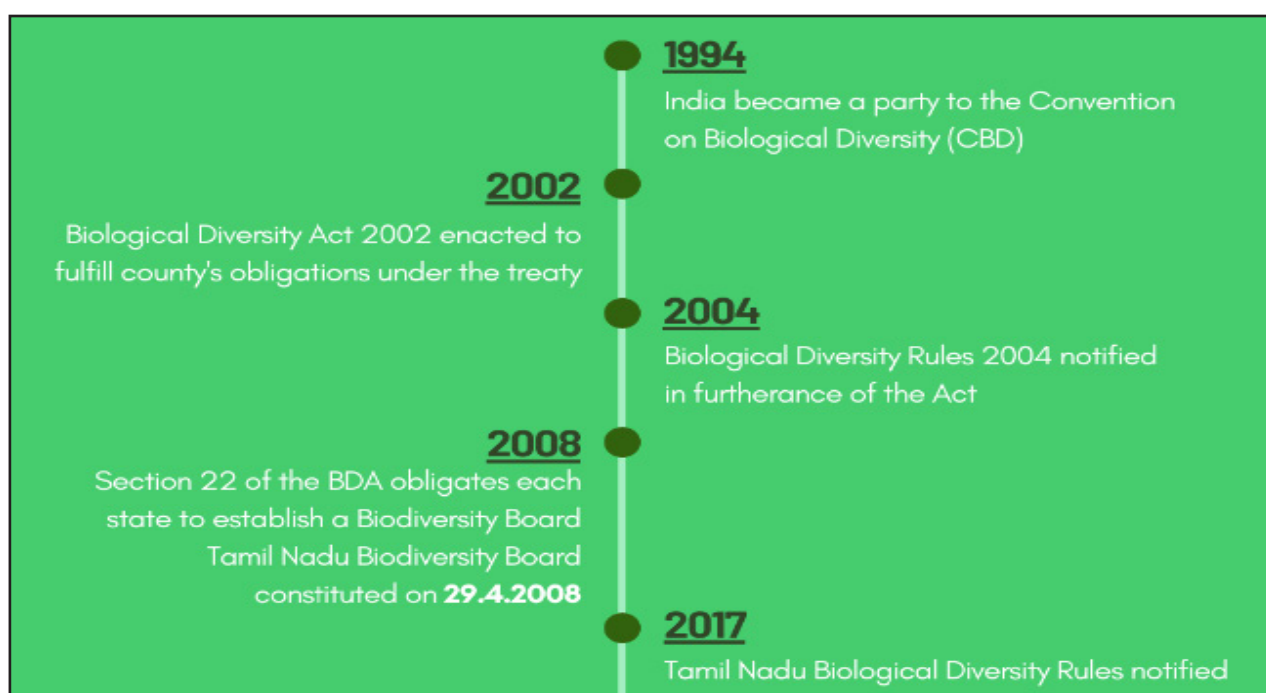
The rich biodiversity of the state is faced with increasing pressure on account of habitat destruction, degradation, fragmentation, overuse of resources, invasion of alien species, pollution and climate change which threatens to push a number of endemic species to the verge to extinction and seriously impact the ecosystem services which are vital to human existence and well-being. While efforts at biodiversity conservation date back to times immemorial, they have been flagship species centric and area-based approaches, at best. The signing of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992 signified the world-wide dawning of the realisation that biodiversity has to be conserved and sustainably used across landscapes.

Towards fulfilment of its national commitments as a signatory to the treaty (CBD), India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in the year 2002. Established in 2008 as per section 22 of the Biodiversity Act 2002, the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has come a long way. In course of its journey spanning a period of 13 years, the Board has ensured the constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees across the state and preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers, organized training and capacity building programmes for stakeholders involved in the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) process, notably the Forest Range Officers (FROs), Block Development Officers (BDOs), District Forest Officers (DFOs) and companies using bio-resources.

Be that as it may, there is still a long way to be traversed before the BMCs are strengthened to become decentralised, grassroot level, self-sustaining institutions for conserving biodiversity on a sustainable basis through community participation, and biodiversity conservation becomes institutionalised and mainstreamed into the planning and programme implementational frameworks of the State. The Board is poised to walk these infant institutions through their teething phase on the path to the envisioned goals, extending necessary handholding support as required.

Genesis of the 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 Chairperson of the Board. Since its constitution, senior IFS officers have been appointed as the Secretaries to the Board. 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 Board's activities gathered momentum to achieve new heights.



Functions of the Board

Section 23 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 states the following functions of the State Biodiversity Board:

- a. Advise the State Government, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources;
- b. Regulate by granting of approvals or otherwise, requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians;
- c. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act or as may be prescribed by the State Government.

Rule 13 of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules 2017 states the following 27 functions:

- i. lay down the procedure and guidelines to regulate the activities provided under Section 7 of the Act;
- ii. advise the Government, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on any matter concerning conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resource and knowledge;
- iii. provide livelihood support to those villagers, who have shifted or are in the process of shifting from unsustainable livelihoods to sustainable livelihoods or as Trekking Service Providers;
- iv. promote and strengthen individuals and institutions who are already working towards conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing of biological resources;
- v. provide technical assistance and guidance to various departments of the Government in connection with implementation of provisions of the Act;
- vi. regulate by granting of approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilisation or bio-survey and bio-utilisation of any biological resources under the Act by Indians;
- vii. facilitate updating and implementation of State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- viii. commission studies and sponsor investigations and research;
- ix. engage consultants, for specific period, not exceeding three years, for providing technical assistance to the Board in the effective discharge of its functions;
- x. collect, compile and publish technical and statistical data, manuals, codes or guides relating to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resource and knowledge;

xi. organise through mass media, a comprehensive programme regarding conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge;

xii. plan and organise training of personnel engaged or likely to be engaged in programmes for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components;

xiii. prepare the annual budget of the Board incorporating its own receipts and also the funds or grants from the Central Government, State Government and National Biodiversity Authority;

Provided that such allocation by the Central Government or State Government or National Biodiversity Authority shall be operated in accordance with the budget provisions approved by the Central Government or State Government or National Biodiversity Authority, as the case may be;

xiv. approve the en-bloc sanction of the annual budget and work programme;

xv. recommend to the Government, for creation of posts of the officers and employees of the Board for effective discharge of the functions by the Board and to create such posts, provided that no such post whether permanent, temporary or of any nature, shall be created without prior approval of the Government;

xvi. approve the method of recruitment to the officers and employees of the Board;

xvii. take steps to build up database and to create information and documentation system for biological resources and associated traditional knowledge through biodiversity registers and electronic databases, to ensure effective management, promotion and sustainable use;

xviii. give advice and directions to the local bodies, Biodiversity Management Committees in writing for effective implementation of the Act and to facilitate their meaningful participation in all measures relating to conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing;

xix. report to the Government about the functioning of the Board and implementation of the Act and the rules made thereunder;

xx. devise methods to ensure protection of rights including intellectual property rights over biological resources and associated knowledge including systems of maintaining confidentiality of such information as appropriate, including the protection of the information recorded in People's Biodiversity Registers;

xxi. sanction grants-in-aid and grants to Biodiversity Management Committees for specific purposes;

xxii. undertake physical inspection of any activity or work to check whether it is in accordance with the provisions of the Act;

xxiii. ensure that biodiversity and biodiversity-dependent livelihoods are integrated into all sectors of planning and management, and at all levels of planning from local to State, to enable such sectors and administrative levels to contribute effectively to conservation and sustainable use;

xxiv. award individually or as a group, or both for innovation and contribution in the biodiversity sector of the State;

xxv. formulate guidelines to the settlement of disputes between the Biodiversity Management Committees and to evaluate the performance of the Biodiversity Management Committees and annually reward the best performing Biodiversity Management Committee at each level in the State;

xxvi. recommend in consultation with the local bodies for notifying the areas of biodiversity importance as biodiversity heritage sites under sub-section (1) of Section 37 of the Act and for the management and conservation of the heritage sites;

xxvii. perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as may be assigned or directed by the Government from time to time.

Board Members

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB) was constituted as per the G.O. (Ms) No.38 Environment & Forest (FR.5) Department Dated: 29.04.2008 with the following composition:

Sl.No.	Name of the Officer	Designation
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	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 Bio-Chemistry, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	Member
8	Dr. P. Thangaraju, Ph. D. Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	Member
9	Thiru. S. Subramaniyan, Member, National Bio-Diversity Authority	Member
10	Dr. S. Natarajan, Head of Department of Botany, PalaniAndavar College of Arts, Palani.	Member
11	Thiru. S. Kondas, I.F.S., Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai.	Member

RECONSTITUTED TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD

The Board was reconstituted in G.O. (Ms) No. 08 Environment & Forest (FR-5) Department dated: 28.01.2020

Sl. No.	Name of Officer	Designation
1.	Hon'ble Minister (Forest)	Chairperson
2.	Principal Secretary to Government, RD&PR Department	Ex-officio Member
3.	Principal Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department	Ex-officio Member
4.	Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department	Ex-officio Member
5.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD)	Ex-officio Member
6.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden	Ex-officio Member
7.	Dr. D. Narasimhan, Associate Professor, MCC, Tambaram.	Member
8.	Mr. K. Chidambaram, IFS., PCCF (Retd)	Member
9.	Mr. T. S. Srinivasamurthy, IFS, PCCF (Retd),	Member
10.	Dr. C. P. Raj Kumar, Nalam Hospital, Theni	Member
11.	Dr. (Mrs). Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth Trust, Chennai	Member
12.	Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department	Permanent Special Invitee
13.	Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Industries Department	Permanent Special Invitee
14.	The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board	Permanent Special Invitee

Expert Committees

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has so far constituted five Expert Committees to guide and advise the Board on different technical matters relating to implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

AGRO-BIODIVERSITY

- **Mainstreaming biodiversity**
- **Documentation of traditional practices**



BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITES

- **Recommendation of sites to be proposed as BHS**
- **Advisory functions**



ACCESS & BENEFIT SHARING

- **Review of ABS applications**
- **Recommendations on matters related to benefit sharing**



LEGAL ADVISORY

- **Implementation of Biological Diversity Act and related matters**
- **Advice related to legal matters**



BMC CONSTITUTION & PBR DOCUMENTATION

- **Establishment of BMCs**
- **PBR documentation**
- **Capacity building**

Expert Committee on Access & Benefit Sharing

TNBB receives applications for access to biological resources under several sections of the Act, either directly or through the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA). This 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 biological resources.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Expert Committee was constituted on 30.01.2018

Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing

Sl.No.	Name of the Member	Designation
1	Dr. D. Narasimhan Associate Professor (Retd), Madras Christian College	Chairperson
2	Dr. V. ArivudaiNambi- Independent Expert on Biodiversity, 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	Secretary Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Focal point

The Expert Committee has met several times to provide recommendations regarding the applications received by the Board. The following table depicts the details of the applications processed during the year 2019-2020:

Meeting Date	Number of applications processed	
	NBA	TNBB
10.06.2019	3	8
30.07.2019	6	-
23.10.2019	3	3
12.03.2020	8	-

Expert Committee on “Agro-Biodiversity”

The Expert Committee focuses on the aspects of biodiversity associated with agriculture and food. It considers TNBB’s activities associated with mainstreaming conservation of agro-biodiversity, conserving agricultural practices and associated traditional knowledge as well as suggesting areas of agro-biodiversity that can be protected as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

Agro-Biodiversity Expert Committee was constituted on 30.01.2018

Expert Committee on “Agro-Biodiversity”

Sl.No.	Name of the Member	Designation
1	Ms. Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth, Chennai	Chairperson
2	Dr. R. Rangalakshmi, Director, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation	Member
3	Dr. V. ArivudaiNambi Independent Expert on Biodiversity, Chennai	Member
4	District Forest Officer –Chennai Forest Division	Member
5	Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Focal point

Expert Committee on “BMC Constitution and Documentation of PBRs”

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 biodiversity conservation, 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 Committee oversees the constitution of BMCs and the preparation of PBRs by BMCs. It also supports BMCs with their functioning, through trainings and workshops as required.

Expert Committee on BMC Constitution and Documentation of PBRs was constituted on 30.01.2018

Expert Committee on “BMC Constitution and Documentation of PBRs”

Sl.No.	Name of the Member	Designation
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	Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Focal point

Expert committee on “Legal Advisory”

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 provides official interpretations of the provisions of the Act in specific situations as required.

Legal Advisory Expert Committee was constituted on 30.01.2018

Expert Committee on “Legal Advisory”

Sl.No.	Name of the Member	Designation
1	Thiru. 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, Thiruvallur Forest Division.	Member
5	Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Focal point

Expert Committee on “Biodiversity Heritage Site”

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has constituted a committee for examining the proposals for BHS and shortlisting of suitable sites. The Committee meets as and when necessary, scrutinizes proposals and sends reports to the Board.

Biodiversity Heritage Site Expert Committee was constituted on 30.01.2018

Expert Committee on “Biodiversity Heritage Site”

Sl.No.	Name of the Member	Designation
1	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden	Chairperson
2	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)	Member
3	Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Member
4	Dr. D. Narasimhan, Member, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Member
5	Dr. C. P. Rajkumar, Member, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Focal point

Board Meetings

Eighth Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

The eighth Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held on 18th September 2019 at the Secretariat, Chennai.

Meeting highlights and key decisions

- Infrastructural development and capacity building initiatives for at least one Biodiversity Management Committee in each district - In this regard 90 numbers of Model BMCs were identified at the Block level..
- Board noted that International Biodiversity Day 2018 celebrations had been held in all districts of Tamil Nadu in well organized functions. Painting, Quiz, poster and debate competition had been held for the students along with awareness and cleaning campaigns.
- A Bank account was opened in the name “Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund” in Indian Bank, Medavakkam Branch.
- It was decided to appoint the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu veterinary and Animal Science University (TANUVAS), Chennai and TAMPCOL, Chennai as “Knowledge Partners” for the preparation of PBRs in Tamil Nadu State and set up a “Special cell” at TNBB Office involving the representatives of Knowledge Partners (KP) to plan and take up field / documenting works on a “Mission Mode”. It was also decided to co-opt any expert or department, as and when necessary, whose contributions would enrich the quality of PBRs in consultation with the Secretary, TNBB.
- The Board accepted the proposal to appoint one State DCF and one ACF from the Forest Department on deputation for the purpose of strengthening the technical capability of the board. It was also agreed to strengthen the TNBB by deputing Technical officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Industries and TAMPCOL in the Rank of Assistant Directors.
- Proposals may be submitted to shift the TNBB office building to a suitable location, to post ministerial staff, hire technical consultants and subject matter specialists and also to provide sufficient budgetary where withal for the optimal functioning of the Board.
- The Chairman instructed the TNBB to send a suitable proposal to the Government to reduce the Application fee for ABS Form-1 submission from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1,000.

Members:

Sl. No.	Name of Officer	Designation
1.	Thiru. Hans Raj Verma, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department	Ex-officio Member
2.	Thiru. Shambhu Kallolika I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Ex-officio Member
3.	Dr. P. Durairasu, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department)	Ex-officio Member
4.	Thiru. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden	Ex-officio Member
5.	Thiru. C. Munianathan Spl Secretary to Government, (Representing the Principal Secretary to Government Agricultural Department)	Ex-officio Member
6.	Thiru. T. S. Srinivasamurthy, I.F.S., (Retd), Retd. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai	Member
7.	Dr. D. Narasimhan, Tambaram, Chennai.	Member
8.	Dr. C. P. Raj Kumar, Nalam Hospital, Sriram Nagar, Theni	Member
9.	Dr. (Mrs). Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth Trust, Chennai	Member
10.	Dr. V. B. Mathur, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai	Special Invitee
11.	Dr. C. Balachandran, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	Special Invitee
12.	Dr. K. Gopal, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries Department)	Special Invitee
13.	Thiru. C. Senthil Kumar, Under Secretary, MA & WS Department (Representing the Principal Secretary to Government Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department)	Special Invitee
14.	Thiru. S. Ganesh, IAS., The Managing Director, TAMPCOL.	Special Invitee
15.	Thiru. K. Srinivasa Raghavan State Information Officer,	Special Invitee

	DDG & SIO, NIC, Chennai	
16.	Thiru Praveen P Nair, I.A.S., The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, Chennai	Special Invitee
17.	Thiru. Sadasakthi, Professor, TNAU, Coimbatore.	Special Invitee
18	Thiru. Manohara Singh, Director, State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj	Special Invitee
19.	Mrs. P. Reena Selvi, Joint Director of Fisheries, Chennai.	Special Invitee
20.	Dr. N. S. Manoharan, Additional Director, Animal Husbandry, Chennai.	Special Invitee
21	Dr. R. Ramesh, Assistant Director, Planning	Special Invitee
22.	P. Selvarajan, Additional Director, TNCDW, Chennai.	Special Invitee
23.	Dr. M. Pitchiah Kumar, State Licensing Authority (Indian Medicine), Director of Indian Medicine, Chennai.	Special Invitee
24	Thiru. N. Selvam, Under Secretary, Environment & Forest Department, Chennai.	Special Invitee
25	Mrs. R. Gayatri, Senior Technical Director, NIC, Chennai	Special Invitee
26.	Thiru. M. Santhanam, Programmer, Than Foundation, Chennai	Special Invitee
27.	Dr. D. Manikandavelu, Professor, Department of Aquatic Environment Management, Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalitha, Fisheries University.	Special Invitee

Activities of the Board

Highlights

- Constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees
- Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register
- Processing Access & Benefit Sharing applications
- TNBB – GIZ ABS Partnership Project

Biodiversity Management Committees

Implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is carried out by a three tier mechanism with National Biodiversity Authority at the National Level, State Biodiversity Boards at State Level and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) at Local Level.

Biodiversity Management Committees are the grass root level institutions that are responsible to carry out necessary works to fulfil the primary objectives of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 i.e., Conservation of Biological Diversity, Sustainable use of its Components and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising out of use of Biological Resources. Hence constituting and strengthening these committees is inevitable for successful implementation of mandates of the Act.

In this process, the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has completed constituting Biodiversity Management Committees at all levels of local bodies (Corporation, Municipality, Town Panchayat, District Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Village Panchayat) and is in the process of strengthening them to make these institutions self-sustainable.

Formation

Biodiversity Management Committees were constituted for the following local bodies as per G.O (Ms) No.10 Environment and Forest (FR.5) Department dated 30.01.2020 and RD & PR Department vide their ref. no. Rc. No. 8164/2018/PRI 4-1

S.No	Urban /Rural	Local body type	Numbers	Total	BMCs formed
1	Urban	Corporation	12	664	13607
2		Municipality	124		
3		Town Panchayat	528		
4	Rural	District Panchayat	31	12934	
5		Block Panchayat	385 + 3		
6		Village Panchayat	12524		

Designation of secretaries for BMC

S.No	Local body type	Officer designated as Secretary	Designation date
1	Block Panchayats	Block Development Officer (BP)	G.O.(Ms) No.10 E&F(FR.5) Department Dt:30.01.2020
2	Greater Chennai Corporation	Deputy Commissioner (Health)	G.O.(Ms) No.10 E&F (FR.5) Department Dt:10.03.2020
3	Corporation – Coimbatore and Madurai	Deputy Commissioner	
4	Corporation – Erode, Salem, Trichy, Dindigul, Avadi, Nagercoil, Thanjavur, Vellore, Hosur, Tiruppur, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli	Commissioner of concerned Municipal Corporation	
5	Municipalities	Commissioner of concerned Municipalities	
6	Town Panchayats	Executive Officer of concerned Town Panchayat	

People's Biodiversity Register

Preparation

As per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Biodiversity Rules, 2004 and Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules, 2017, it is mandated that every Biodiversity Management Committee shall prepare a People's Biodiversity Register. In this regard, the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has successfully facilitated the completion of preparation of PBRs of all the BMCs in the State. The activities pertaining to preparation of PBRs in the state during the time period of April 2019 – March 2021 are as follows:

In the 8th Board Meeting on 18.09.2019, it was resolved that the following departments / institutions / organizations were chosen as Knowledge Partners for preparation of PBR in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Knowledge Partners

S.No	Department / Institution / Organisation
1	Agriculture Department, Chennai
2	Animal Husbandry Department, Chennai
3	Horticulture & Plantation Crops Department
4	Central Council of Research in Siddha
5	Tribal Welfare Department
6	State Planning Commission
7	Social Welfare Department
8	Environment Department
9	National Aquaculture Authority, Govt of India
10	French Institute, Pondicherry
11	Fisheries Department
12	Zoological Survey of India
13	Botanical Survey of India
14	State Wetland Authority
15	Suganthi Devarajan Marine Research Institute (SDMRI), Tuticorin
16	Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University
17	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
18	Tamil Nadu State Medicinal Plant Board
19	Care Earth Trust
20	State Licensing Authority

As shown below a series of meetings and discussions were held with the Knowledge Partners and various other stakeholders for facilitating the preparation of PBR.

S.No	Meeting Date	Location	Meeting title
1	26.09.2019	NIC, Chennai	Consultative meeting for PBR preparation, PBR to ePBR
2	11.10.2019	TNBB, Chennai	Consultative meeting for PBR preparation and Data Entry
3	07.11.2021	TNBB, Chennai	TNBB BMC/PBR Meeting for PBR preparation and Data Entry
4	15.11.2019	TNBB, Chennai	TNBB BMC/PBR Meeting for PBR preparation and Data Entry
5	29.11.2019	TNBB, Chennai	TNBB BMC/PBR Meeting for PBR preparation and Data Entry



TNBB BMC/PBR Meeting for PBR preparation and Data Entry – With Knowledge Partners



PBR to ePBR consultation meeting – NIC Chennai

Subsequently, by 31.01.2020, 1049 Peoples Biodiversity Registers (664 Urban BMCs + 385 Rural BMCs) were completed. A National Level Monitoring Committee visited the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board on 24.02.2020 and 25.02.2020 to oversee the quality of People's Biodiversity Registers.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

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. The following table depicts the details of applications received and processed as well as the funds received and distributed.

Number of applications received	Number of agreements signed
12	10

ABS amount

2019-2020

Amount received by TNBB	Received from (Resource user / Company)	Amount Distributed to Benefit claimers
Rs 128288		-

2019-2020

GIZ-ABS Partnership Project

Objectives

The ABS Partnership project aimed at strengthening the capacity of the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards, Biodiversity Management Committees in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand as well as creating awareness among commercial users of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge for the effective implementation of ABS mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act 2002, in keeping with India's commitments under Nagoya Protocol on ABS.

Key achievements

- The project has developed communication strategy through Knowledge-Attitude-Practice (KAP) analysis of 10 key stakeholders in the ABS process which includes, the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC), commercial users of biological resources, Forest Department, legal professionals etc;
- Several capacity development trainings and workshops were conducted in Tamil Nadu for line department officials, District Forest Officers, Block Development Officers, Forest Range Officers, BMCs etc, with participation of more than 2000 people;
- Methodology for Training of Trainers (ToT) for operationalisation of BMCs was pilot tested and 50 district trainers have been trained on various aspects of BMC functions and documentation of People's Biodiversity Registers;
- Good practice case studies of ABS from the use of biological resources from forests, agriculture, animal-based derivative (snake venom) have been developed to showcase the ABS process and to serve as models for ABS compliance;
- Project has been instrumental in establishment and capacity development of 12 BMCs in 10 districts of Tamil Nadu. Model People's Biodiversity Registers have been documented and validated (location of pilot BMCs given in fig.1)
- Dialogue with businesses on ABS compliance was held in Chennai, Madurai and Nagercoil.

Meetings

The following are the workshops and trainings that were conducted under the GIZ ABS Partnership project during the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

S.No	Date	Location	Title
1	08 April 2019	Chennai	Operationalisation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) – Training for Secretaries of BMCs
2	24th September 2019	Chennai	Implementing the Access and Benefit-sharing provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002: From principles to practice – Training workshop for District Forest Officers designated as Nodal officers
3	16 October 2019	Madurai	Business dialogues for ABS compliance in Tamil Nadu
4	22 October 2019	Nagercoil	Business dialogues for ABS compliance in Tamil Nadu
5	24 October 2019	Chennai	Business dialogues for ABS compliance in Tamil Nadu
6	8 August 2019	Kodaikanal	Consultation meeting with Kodaikanal Biodiversity Management Committee to obtain feedback on ABS application
7	27 June 2019	Chennai	Orientation workshop for trainers and Range Forest Officers for Operationalising Biodiversity Management Committees in Tamil Nadu
8	26 - 28 August 2019	KILA Centre for Tribal Development and Natural Resource Management (KILA - CTDNRM), Agali, Kerala	Training on Operationalisation of Biodiversity Management Committee and Documentation of People's Biodiversity Registers
9	29 August 2019	Attapadi, Kerala	Pilot testing of training modules on operationalisation of Biodiversity Management Committees
10	11 th – 13 th Nov 2019 14 th – 16 th Nov 2019 29 – 30 Nov 2019	SIRD Chennai	Training of Trainers Programme for operationalising BMCs in Tamil Nadu



Training to Forest Range Officers – 08-04-2019



Orientation workshop for ToT programme on operationalisation of BMC
The GIZ – ABS Partnership Project ended in December 2020.

Capacity Building

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board organized a State level virtual meeting on 11.01.2020 for the District Forest Officers to create awareness on provisions and mandate of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, constitution, roles and responsibilities of Biodiversity Management Committees and preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Register, guidelines for Biodiversity Heritage Sites, provisions of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and about Traditional Knowledge (TK) in Tamil Nadu. The resource persons who delivered the talks were Dr. D. Narasimhan, Dr. Jayashree Vencatesan, Dr. C.P. Raj Kumar, Dr. V. ArivudaiNambi, Dr. S. Elumalai, Dr. C. Manjula and Dr. Jayanthi M. IFS.



Prosecutions launched and convictions secured

1. BDOR.No 1/2019 Dated 15/05/2019
District: Thiruvallur
Forest Division: Thiruvallur Forest Division
Forest Range: Gummudipoondi Range

An offence was booked under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 on 15.05.2019 for illegal transportation of Polychaet (சிவப்புநிற உவர் நீர் மண்புழு) since obtaining biological resources for commercial utilization, or bio survey or bio utilization for commercial utilization without giving prior intimation to State Biodiversity Board is a crime in accordance with Section 7 of the act and subsequently the offence was booked under Section 7 and Section 55(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The accused was transporting Polychaet(சிவப்புநிற உவர் நீர் மண்புழு) in 20 jute bags in a Toyota Innova car in the Gummudipoondi – Chennai Highway on 14.05.2019. At around 4:30 pm on 14.05.2019, the vehicle mentioned above was stopped for routine checking by the Sub-Inspector at the Police Check Post near Elavur, when it was found that illegal transportation was being done. Subsequently, the accused were arrested and remanded in the Ponneri Sub Jail and the bio-resource (Polychaet) along with the car and other materials (Cell phones and SIM cards) were confiscated. The bio-resource (Polychaet) captured was destroyed in line with order of court arbitrator. Further investigations are being made in this regard.

2. BDOR.No 2/2019 Dated 22/05/2019
District: Thiruvallur
Forest Division: Thiruvallur Forest Division
Forest Range: Gummudipoondi Range

An offence was booked under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 on 22.05.2019 for illegal transportation of Polychaet(சிவப்புநிற உவர் நீர் மண்புழு) since obtaining biological resources for commercial utilization, or bio survey or bio utilization for commercial utilization without giving prior intimation to State Biodiversity Board is a crime in accordance to Section 7 of the act and subsequently the offence was booked under Section 7 and Section 55(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The accused was transporting 30 Kgs of Polychaet(சிவப்புநிற உவர் நீர் மண்புழு) in 5 thermocol boxes in a Mahindra TUV 300 Plus car in the Gummudipoondi – Chennai Highway on 21.05.2019. At around 4:00 pm on 21.05.2019, the vehicle mentioned above was stopped for routine checking by the Sub-Inspector at the Police Check Post near Elavur, when it was found that illegal transportation was being done.

Subsequently, the accused were arrested and remanded in the Ponneri Sub Jail and the bio-resource (Polychaet) along with the car and other materials (Cell phones and SIM cards) were confiscated. The bio-resource (Polychaet) captured was destroyed in line with order of court arbitrator. Further investigations are being made in this regard.

3. BDOR.No 3/2019 Dated 15/09/2019
District: Thiruvallur
Forest Division: ThiruvallurForsest Division
Forest Range: Gummudipoondi Range

An offence was booked under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 on 15.09.2019 based on the information that Polychaet(சிவப்புநிற உவர் நீர் மண்பழு) was found discarded in 23 polythene bags in a Mahindra Xylo car. Since obtaining biological resources for commercial utilization, or bio survey or bio utilization for commercial utilization without giving prior intimation to State Biodiversity Board is a crime in accordance to Section 7 of the act, an offence was booked under Section 7 and Section 55(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

On 14.09.2019, the Gummudipoondi Range office was informed by Kavarapetai Police Sub Inspector that Polychaet(சிவப்புநிற உவர் நீர் மண்பழு) were found in 23 polythene bags in a Mahindra Xylo car. There were no accused found in the car and hence no one was arrested in this regard. The bio-resource (Polychaet) along with the car was confiscated. Further investigations are being made in this regard.

4. BDOR.No.1/2019 dated 11/11/2019
District: Ramanathapuram
Forest Division: Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park
Forest Range: Mandapam Wildlife Range

An offence was booked under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 on 15.09.2019 based on the information that Lugworms (பாலி புழுக்கள்) were being packed and attempted to smuggle in Valayarvadi region of Mandapam. Since obtaining biological resources for commercial utilization, or bio survey or bio utilization for commercial utilization without giving prior intimation to State Biodiversity Board is a crime in accordance to Section 7 of the Act, an offence was booked under Section 7 and Section 55(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The accused were packing the 158 Kgs of Lugworms (பாலி புழுக்கள்) in thermocole boxes and polythene bags in a coconut farm in Valayarvadi region of Mandapam. A team from Mandapam Wildlife Range inspected the region based on a tip-off and surrounded the accused red handed and arrested them. The materials were confiscated. Later the confiscated materials were destroyed in presence of court arbitrator.

Audit report

TAMILNADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD		
2nd Floor, TBGP Campus, Tambaram - Velachery Main Road Medavakkam, Chennai, Tamilnadu - 600 100		
Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31-Mar-2020		
	Particulars	INR
I	Income	
	GRANT IN AID - NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY - Salary & Non Salary	64,20,642
	Sub - Total (I)	64,20,642
II	Other Income	
	Interest on Savings Ac	6,65,389
	Form - 1 Application Fees	1,47,700
	Sub - Total (II)	8,13,089
III	TOTAL INCOME (I + II)	72,33,731
IV	EXPENSES	
	BOOKS AND PUBLISHING EXPENSES	5,346
	BOARD MEETING EXPENSES	22,933
	RENT AND MAINTENANCE	3,44,398
	SALARIES AND WAGES - STAFF	25,34,362
	SALARIES AND WAGES - OTHERS	1,50,240
	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	13,65,203
	DEPRECIATION	2,80,840
	TOTAL EXPENSES	47,03,323
V	Excess of income over Expenditure	25,30,408

Financials include Notes forming parts of accounts

As per the Report of Even Date

For SLS ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants

Firm Reg. No : 05951S


S. Lakshmisubramanian
Partner

Membership No. : 028927

Place: CHENNAI

Date: 11-12-2021

For Tamilnadu Biodiversity Board


Debasis Jana
SECRETARY


R. Kumaresan (11221)
Administrative Officer

TAMILNADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD

2nd Floor, TBGP Campus, Tambaram - Velachery Main Road
Medavakkam, Chennai, Tamilnadu - 600 100

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MAR 2020

	Particulars	INR	INR
I	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
1	Reserves and Surplus		
	ACCOUNT OPENING FUND - 2009		1,000
	GENERAL RESERVE		
	Opening balance	1,61,03,398	
	Add : Excess of income over Expenditure	25,30,408	
	Less: Unspent amount Return to NBA	1,75,308	
	Less : Transferred to GRANT IN AID - NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY - BMC	10,95,208	
	Less: Transferred to GRANT IN AID - NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY - ABS	37,14,277	1,36,49,013
	GRANT IN AID - NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY - BMC	61,04,792.00	
	Transferred From General Reserve	10,95,208	72,00,000
	GRANT IN AID - NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY - ABS		
	Transferred From General Reserve	37,14,277	37,14,277
2	Non - Current Liabilities		-
3	Current Liabilities		-
	TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		2,45,64,290
II	ASSETS		
1	Non - Current Assets		
	Fixed Assets		11,35,148
2	Current Assets		
	Short Salary Deductions		78,230
	Cash and Cash Equivalents		2,33,50,912
	TOTAL ASSETS		2,45,64,290

Financials include Notes forming parts of accounts

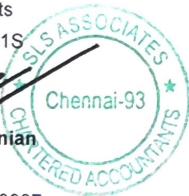
As per the Report of Even Date

For SLS ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants

Firm Reg. No : 05951S


S. Lakshmisubramanian
Partner
Membership No. : 028927



For Tamilnadu Biodiversity Board


Debasis Jana

SECRETARY


R. Kumaresan
Administrative Officer

Place: CHENNAI

Date: 11-12-2021

TAMILNADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD	
2nd Floor, TBGP Campus, Tambaram - Velachery Main Road Medavakkam, Chennai, Tamilnadu - 600 100	
Receipts and Payments A/c for the year ended 31-Mar-2020	
Particulars	INR
I OPENING BALANCE	
BANK ACCOUNTS	1,49,92,235
CASH	1,165
Sub - Total (I)	1,49,93,400
II RECEIPTS	
GRANT IN AID - NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY - Salary & Non Salary	64,20,642
Interest on Savings Ac	6,65,389
Form - 1 Application Fees	1,47,700
Salary Deductions	5,93,956
Sub - Total (II)	78,27,687
III PAYMENTS	
FIXED ASSETS	3,05,220
GRANT IN AID - SURRENDER - TN GOVT	-
BOOKS AND PUBLISHING EXPENSES	5,346
BOARD MEETING EXPENSES	22,933
RENT AND MAINTENANCE	3,44,398
SALARIES AND WAGES - STAFF	25,34,362
SALARIES AND WAGES - OTHERS	1,50,240
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	13,65,203
Salary Deductions	6,71,956
Sub - Total (III)	53,99,658
IV CLOSING BALANCE	
BANK ACCOUNTS	2,33,34,454
CASH	16,458
Sub - Total (IV)	2,33,50,912

Financials include Notes forming parts of accounts

As per the Report of Even Date

For SLS ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants

Firm Reg. No : 05951S


S. Lakshmisubramanian
Partner

Membership No. : 028927

Place: CHENNAI

Date: 11-12-2021

For Tamilnadu Biodiversity Board


Debasis Jana
SECRETARY

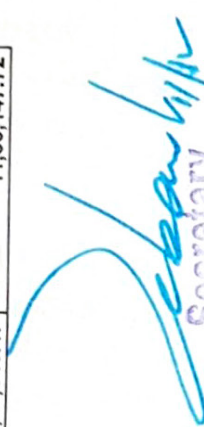

R. Kumaresan
Administrative Officer


DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE

As per Income Tax Act for FY 2019-2020

Particulars	WDV as on 31/03/2019	Addition		Deletions	Total	Rate as per Income Tax Act	Deperication	WDV as on 31/03/2020
		< 180 days	> 180 days					
Plant & Machiner	60,800.00				60,800.00	15%	9,120.00	51,680.00
Computer and Components	3,76,240.50		2,57,270.00		6,33,510.50	40%	2,01,950.20	4,31,560.30
Furniture and Fixture	6,73,727.69		47,950.00		7,21,677.69	10%	69,770.27	6,51,907.42
Total	11,10,768.19	-	3,05,220.00	-	14,15,988.19		2,80,840.47	11,35,147.72




 Secretary
 Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board
 Chennai - 600 100.


 Administrative Officer
 Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board
 Chennai - 600 100.

Visits to the Board by experts, important persons

On 04.11.2019 and 05.11.2019, a group of delegates from Nepal visited the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board for understanding implementation of Biological Diversity Act 2002 with special reference to Access and Benefit Sharing Mechanism and formation of BMCs. Visitors were briefed by Dr. Geetha Nayak, GIZ and Dr. V. ArivudaiNambi, member of the ABS and Agrobiodiversity Expert Committee. Later the delegates were taken to the Interpretation Centre at the Nanmangalam Forest.

As part of their exposure visit, the delegation visited the Thiruporur BMC and interacted with its members to understand the key functions and roles of BMC as mandated in the Biological Diversity Act. Later they visited the Irula Snake Catchers Industrial Cooperative Society located on the campus of the Madras Crocodile Bank at Vadanemeli to view the process of snake venom extraction. They met and interacted with members of the Irula Community and the Access and Benefit Sharing Component arising out of the sale of snake venom.



Nepal delegates visit to Irula Snake Catchers Industrial Cooperative Society located in the campus of the Madras Crocodile Bank



Nepal delegates visit to Thiruporur BMC

On 24.02.2020, PBR Expert Committee from National Biodiversity Authority visited the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board to check upon the preparation of PBRs in the state of Tamil Nadu.



Officer details

Tenure of Secretaries who served the TNBB during the period 2019-2021

S.No	Name of the officer	Designation	Date of joining	Date of leaving
1	Thiru.YogeshDwivedi, IFS	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Secretary, TNBB	15.03.2019	16.08.2019
2	Thiru.Yogesh Singh, IFS	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Secretary, TNBB (Additional Charge)	17.08.2019	28.08.2019
3	Dr.Shekhar Kumar Niraj, IFS	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Secretary, TNBB (Additional Charge)	29.08.2019	03.09.2019
4	Thiru.T.V. Manjunatha, IFS	Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Secretary, TNBB	04.09.2019	18.05.2020



Acknowledgements

- Dr. Arivudai Nambi
- TNBB Team - Ajeeth A N (NBA-UNDP BSIP Intern) , M Prabakaran (Program co-ordinator)
- Other TNBB staff members

Published by:



Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

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