



TNBB

NEWSLETTER

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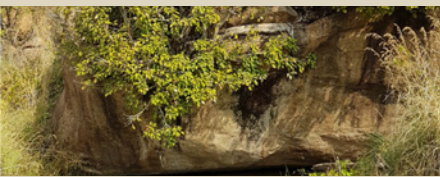
TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD



10th BOARD MEETING

TAKE A PEEK AT WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 10th Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board
- BMC training - Kanyakumari
- Reconstitution of Technical Support Groups(TSG)
- Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)



EDITORIAL

Debasis Jana, IFS, APCCF & Secretary, TNBB

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The 10th meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held at Secretariat, Chennai on 13.12.2021 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Forests & Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and was attended by Official and Non- Official members and other Special Invitees. At the outset, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Secretary of the Board (TNBB) made a power-point presentation on the agenda items, detailing the progress made by the board and the roadmap for the future. Detailed deliberations ensued on the agenda items were made and decisions were taken accordingly.

In a function held at Secretariat, Chennai after the meeting, the Hon'ble Minister of Forests who is also the Chairman of the Board, distributed Rs. 37,32,179/- to 21 Biodiversity Management

Committees (BMCs) of Ramanathapuram, Toothukudi, Thanjavur and Pudukottai districts. The amount being the benefit sharing component for accessing bioresources, had been remitted by M/s Pepsi Co and Ganeshan & Sons, Sea6 Energy Pvt Lts., to the National Biodiversity Authority which in turn transferred the same to the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board paid.

A sum of Rs. 15,55,110/- had been transferred by the National Biodiversity

Authority to the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board as benefit sharing component obtained from ten applicants for accessing biological resources for research purpose in accordance with Section 21 of Biological Diversity Act 2002 read with Rule 20 of Biological Diversity Rules 2004. Out of this, an amount of 11,83,700/- Lakh was distributed by the Hon'ble Minister to the benefit claimants.

An amount of Rs. 45,60,480/- was also disbursed on the occasion to 90 block level



model BMCs as the first instalment of the startup fund received from the National Biodiversity Authority for operationalising the BMCs. The amount would be spent by the BMCs for, among other things, their functioning, conducting meetings of BMC, and awareness creation.

The representatives of TNAU, The SIMA Cotton Development and Research Association in Coimbatore District, C. Abdul Hakeem College, Vellore District and Nellikuppam BMC, Cuddalore District, Poondi BMC, Tiruvallur District and Tirukalukundram BMC, Chengalpattu District were present to receive the amount. The function was attended by

the Principal Secretary Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tmt. Supriya Sahu, IAS, ACS, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Thiru T. S. Jawahar, IAS, Principal Secretary Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, Tmt P. Amudha, IAS, Principal Secretary Agriculture Department, Thiru C. Samayamoorthy, IAS, Thiru Ashok Upreti, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD), Thiru Debasis Jana, IFS, Secretary TNBB, Thiru J. Justin Mohan, IFS, National Biodiversity Authority, other members, and permanent and special invitees of the Board.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUPS

The Biological Diversity Act requires each local body to constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) within its area for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity.

One of the main functions of each BMC is to prepare, maintain and validate a People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) which is an inventory of biological resources available in the territory of the BMC. As the PBRs cannot be prepared without the help of domain experts, the Government has constituted a Technical Support Group (TSG) in each District with the District Collector as the Chairperson and the District Forest Officer as the Member Secretary. Apart from them, the TSG shall contain the following members:

- Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department
- Joint Director, Agriculture Department
- Joint Director / Deputy Director, Horticulture Department
- Joint Director / Deputy Director / Additional 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 / Social Work specialization.
- Expert in Environmental Science

Apart from the above mentioned members, Civil Society Organization has also been included as a 12th member of TSG due to the recognition of their role and relevance in promoting good governance, advocacy and mobilizing community participation.

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES TRAINING

During the month of November, as a means of providing necessary handholding support to the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) for their sustained functioning, a training program was conducted by the training program co-ordinator Thiru.M Prabakaran in the Blocks of Rajakkamangalam, Thovalai and Thiruvattar of Kanyakumari District.

The training was emphasizing the topics of basic knowledge of biodiversity, Biological Diversity Act, 2002, functions and operationalization of BMCs, hands-on training on record keeping and process of documentation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and provisions of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) with respect to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

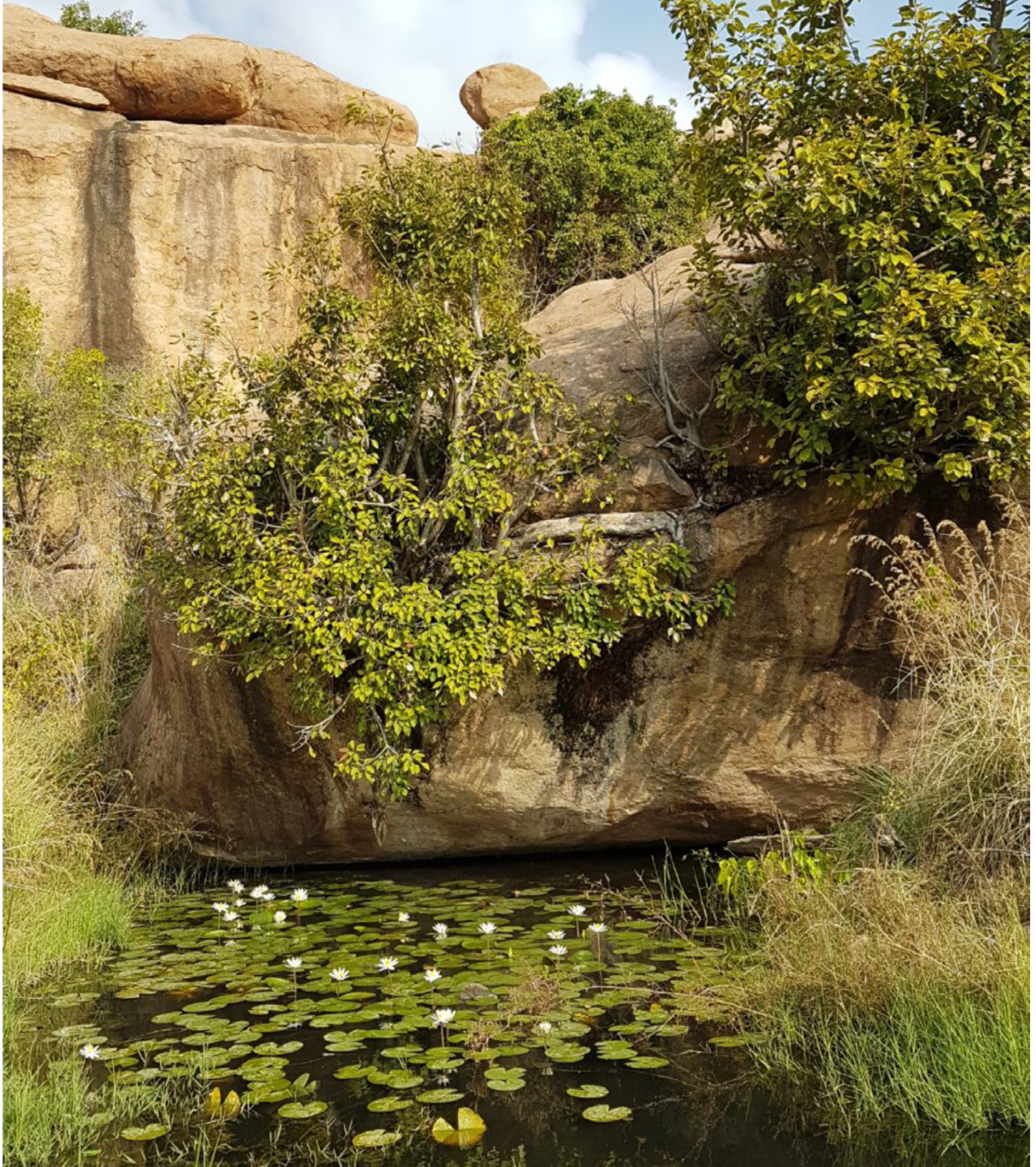


BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE SITES

Article by: Varsha S

Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources and the ecological complexes of which they are part and includes diversity within species or between species and of ecosystems. Heritage is anything of value that is inherited in the present and passed down to future

generations. India is bestowed with rich biological heritage and is one of the “megadiverse” countries containing around 8 percent and 11 percent of the faunal and floral species in the world, respectively.



ARITTAPATTI-MADURAI

Apart from this, the knowledge associated with biodiversity can be amply found across India which is indigenous and traditional. Hence, India has much to offer in terms of biological heritage. However, due to rapid industrialization and urbanization, India's biodiversity is under threat including the associated traditional knowledge which is being exploited by for-profit companies through commercialization. In this regard, and to safeguard India's natural heritage, various measures have been taken and laws enacted such as the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, and the Biological Diversity Act 2002.



TNAU

India's natural heritage is protected through a number of management paradigms, most prominently the Protected Area network as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which includes National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, Community Reserves. However, there is a vast amount of biodiversity outside the Protected Area network and formal legislation that is equally important and necessary to be conserved and protected. It is for these sites and their conservation that the concept of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) was introduced through the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and Guidelines were drawn for the same. According to the "Guidelines for Selection and Management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites" published by NBA, biodiversity heritage sites (BHS) are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems – terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and, marine – having rich biodiversity comprising of a number of components such as high endemism, presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties, having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values, etc.



ARITTAPATTI

The documentation of the biological diversity within a BHS helps immensely in furthering research and conservation of the said species and other affiliate species. Another important aspect of BHS lies in the fact that they are unlike Protected Areas (PAs) and hence the local community the decision-making power in the management of the site. They may or may not impose restrictions on access to resources and can manage the site in their own way using already existing traditional practices. Hence, Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) help achieve biodiversity conservation as well as provide agency to the local community in the management of these sites through traditional or modern means.

VAAGAIKULAM

Regarding the status of BHS in Tamil Nadu, 36 proposals were received by the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board. Three sites namely Arittapatti (Madurai), Vagaikulam (Tirunelveli), and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (Coimbatore) have been selected after review and field visits by the BHS Expert Committee. The procedure to declare them as Biodiversity Heritage Sites is in progress.