



TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD

NEWSLETTER

December 2022

Volume 2 issue 4

Idayapatti BHS, Madurai

Asian Water Bird Census 2023

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB) received communication from the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) regarding involvement of Local Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) in the Asian Water Bird Census 2023. Subsequently, the Board communicated with the State Coordinator of Asian Water Bird Census 2023 for collaboration in the exercise.

India Biodiversity Awards Field Validation - TNPL

As part of the India Biodiversity Awards program for the year 2022-23, Tamil Nadu Newsprints and Papers Limited (TNPL) was shortlisted under the category 'Conservation And Sustainable Use of Biological Resources'. To carry out field validation of the shortlisted Site, members from the jury panel Dr A K Gupta IFS (Retd) - Ex- PCCF (Tripura), Dr Ruchi Pant , Head- NRM and Biodiversity, UNDP and Dr Neelima Jerat, Director, Pushpa Gujral Sciences City, Punjab visited the TNPL campus on 30th October who were assisted by Varsha, NBA-UNDP BSIP Intern from TNBB.

Notification of Arittapatti BHS

Tamil Nadu's first Biodiversity Heritage Site

Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district was notified as a Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage Site on 21 November 2022 by the Government of Tamil Nadu vide G.O. (Ms).No.201 dt. 21.11.2022 under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

What is Biodiversity Heritage Site ?

“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 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 and having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values and are important for the maintenance of cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human association with them.

Significance of Arittapatti BHS

Arittapatti in Madurai has a rich biological, geological and historical significance with the presence of around 250 bird species including 3 flagship raptor species - Laggar Falcon, Shaheen Falcon and Bonelli's Eagle and wildlife such as Indian Pangolin, Python and Slender Loris. It consists of 7 granite inselbergs and supports 72 lakes, 200 natural spring pools and 3 check dams.



SBSAP – Whitepaper outline

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has initiated the process of formulating the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP). In this regard, a committee was setup and it was decided to bring out a white paper for the formulation of SBSAP. The technical team from TNBB made an outline draft of the white paper and submitted it on 18th October, 2022. It is being further developed based on review from SBSAP of other states and other pertinent documents

Field visit for UNDP-GEF project

Meeting with NBA regarding ABS fund

The NBA held a meeting with all SBBs on 21 November 2022 regarding the status of distribution of ABS funds with the benefit claimers.

Dr Ruchi Pant from UNDP along with Thiru Ajeeth from TNBB undertook field visits to Erode and The Nilgiris Districts on 14th and 15th of December to carry out consultations with some stakeholders for selecting the villages/ GPs for the project “Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Securing Biodiversity Commitments”. The team had consultation meetings with DFO – Nilgiris, DFO, Sathyamangalam, Principal - RIRD campus, Bhavanisagar and Keystone Foundation. A report of the field visit was submitted to TNBB and UNDP on 19.12.2022



Field visit for UNDP-GEF project

Field visit to Villupuram and Cuddalore District

A team from TNBB comprising of Thiru A. Kalaiarasan, Thiru Ajeeth A. N and Selvi S.Varsha headed by the PCCF & Secretary, TNBB Dr Shekhar Kumar Niraj, IFS undertook field visits in Villupuram and Cuddalore Districts on 5th & 6th December 2022 for assessing the proposed BHSs and conducting interaction meeting with BMCs. The team conducted a BMC interaction meeting at Kunimedu Village in Marakkanam Block of Villupuram District in which 3 village BMCs participated. The BMCs had put forward some important requests like start funds, technical support and provision of continued trainings. On the second day, BMC interaction meeting was conducted in Parangipettai BDOs office in Cuddalore District in which 5 BMCs participated. Subsequently, the proposed BHS at Sendirakillai was visited for assessment and instructions were given to the ACF and Range Officer to send the necessary further details



BMC Training at Marakkanam, Villupuram District on 05.12.2022



BMC Training at Parangipettai, Cuddalore District on 06.12.2022

Review meeting by Minister for Forests

A review meeting was conducted by the Hon'ble Minister for Forests Dr Mathiventhen on 21 December, 2022 to all the HODs of Forest Department. The PCCF & Secretary, TNBB participated & made a presentation about the activities undertaken and challenges faced by TNBB. The copies of Annual Report 2021-22 of TNBB and the project proposal entitled "Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board: Strengthening and Restructuring Project 2022-25" were also submitted to the Hon'ble Forest Minister, Tamil Nadu.

Assessment of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

On 5th December 2022, proposed BHS at Keelputhupattu was assessed by the TNBB team and the range officers were instructed to gather and send the necessary details to further process the proposal. Sendirakillai BHS proposal was received from Cuddalore Forest Division, and was assessed on 06.12.2022 by a team from TNBB for its suitability for notification as a BHS.

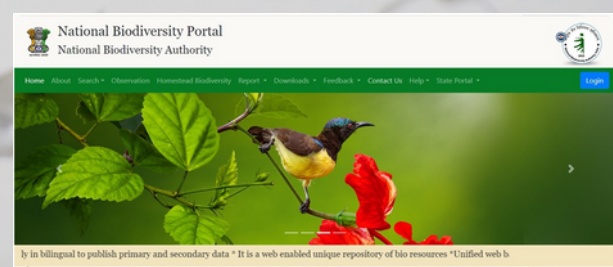
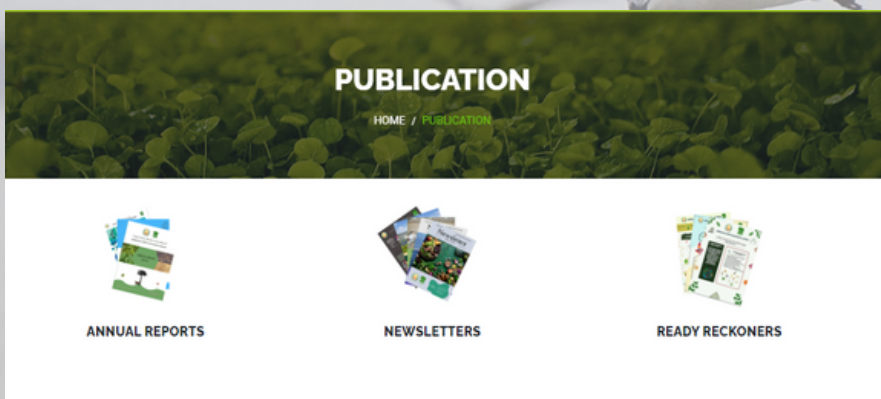


Uploading publications on TNBB's website

On November 30th 2022, TNBB communicated with their website vendor to upload TNBB recent Publication materials, including Annual Reports, Newsletters and Ready Reckoners in the official website. The website vendor successfully uploaded the materials

Notification for engagement of Data Entry Operators (DEO) for e-PBR

PBRs are being digitized to e-PBR by uploading in BIOMIS portal (<https://biomis.nic.in/>). So far, PBRs of 165 BMCs have been uploaded in the portal. Hence, The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board released a notification for engaging 3 Data Entry Operators (DEO- Technical) for the purpose of uploading PBR data in BIOMIS portal. The advertisement was put in the TNBB and TN Forest Department websites.



Financial sanctions by NBA

The National Biodiversity Authority provides financial assistance to all the State Biodiversity Boards for engaging contractual staff to carry out its operations. This year, TNBB had submitted a proposal of Rs 14, 80,800. In response to this, NBA had made a grant of Rs 5,32,558 as the third instalment on 30.12.2022 towards engaging contractual personnel in connection with mandatory works of the Board. So far an amount of Rs 13.5 Lakhs has been received for the year 2022-23.

Did you know?



Tamil Nadu notifies India's first Dugong conservation Reserve

India gets its first Dugong Conservation reserve in Tamil Nadu. 448 square kilometers in 'Palk Bay' area of Gulf of Mannar covering coastal waters of Thanjavur and Pudukkottai districts have been notified as the reserve.

What is Dugong? Why it is important?

The Dugong referred as sea cow (Dugong dugon) is a strictly marine mammal living in coastal areas, where they feed on shallow-water grasses. Dugongs are seagrass specialists and frequent coastal waters. Major concentrations of dugongs tend to occur in wide shallow protected bays, wide shallow mangrove channels and in the lee of large inshore islands. Dugongs are also regularly observed in deeper water farther offshore in areas where the continental shelf is wide, shallow and protected. The dugong's fecundity is very sensitive to the availability of its seagrass food. When dugongs do not have enough to eat they delay breeding, making habitat conservation a critical issue. Dugongs are vulnerable to anthropogenic influences because of their life history and their dependence on seagrasses that are restricted to coastal habitats and are often under pressure from human activities. The seagrass ecosystems on which dugongs depend are very sensitive to human influence. Larger numbers of this animal were once found along coastal areas of the Indian Ocean, Red Sea, and South China Sea. Today the species is endangered and found only in isolated areas of its once extensive range. They have been continued to be hunted, trapped, and netted for food, and human activities of many kinds have modified or otherwise degraded their habitat. So Tamil Nadu takes the initial step to protect this mammal in their own habitat. According to the order in the gazette, protecting dugongs and seagrass beds in this area will also help in the breeding of commercially valuable finfishes, crabs and shrimps, thereby benefiting thousands of small scale and marginal fishermen, who depend on fishery productivity for their daily livelihood in the nearshore areas

References

1. "Dugong Status Report and Action Plans for Countries and Territories" Compiled by HELENE MARSH Action Plan Coordinator IUCN/SSC Sirenia Specialist Group HELEN PENROSE, CAROLE EROS, AND JOANNA HUGUES.
2. <http://www.thehindu.com>



Important days Oct-Dec 2022

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**Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board,
TBGP Campus, II Floor,
Velachery-Tambaram Main
Road, Nanmangalam,
Chennai- 600100
Contact No.: 044-22782730
E-mail: secy.tnbb@tn.gov.in**

**October 3 : World Nature Day
October 4 : World Animal Welfare Day
October 7 : World Habitat Day
October 12 : World Migratory Birds Day
October 13 : International Day for Disaster Reduction
October 16 : World Food Day
October 24 : World Development Day
November 5 : World Tsunami Awareness Day
November 7 : International Cancer Awareness Day
November 10 : World Science Day for Peace and Development
December 2 : National Pollution Control Day
December 5 : World Soil Day
December 11 : International Mountain Day
December 14 : World Energy Conservation Day**

