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Environment and Forests (FR.5)
Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.

Letter No.10965/FR.5/2014-6, dated 12.09.2014

From
Thiru K.P. Vijayan, M.A., B.G.L.,
Deputy Secretary to Government

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
Chief Wildlife Warden,
Chennai - 15. (w.e.)

Sir,

Sub: Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board Third Meeting
held on 04.07.2014 at 03.00 P.M. under the
Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Forests) - Minutes
of the Meeting - Communicated - Regarding.

Ref: 1. Government letter No. 10965/FR.5/ 2014-1,
dated 17.07.2014.
2. Your letter No. TNBB/27/2014, dated 12.08.2014.

I am directed to enclose a copy of minutes (both English and Tamil) of the third meeting of Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board held on 4.7.2014 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Forests) and the same may be communicated to all the members of the State Biodiversity Board.

Yours faithfully,

for Deputy Secretary to Government

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initials
appropriate &
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12/9/14*

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**Minutes of 3rd Board Meeting of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board
held at 1st floor, Namakkal Kavingar Maligai, Secretariat, Chennai-9
on 04.07.2014 at 03.00 PM**

As per the Government Lr.No.10965/FR.5/2014-3, dated: 25.06.2014.
The 3rd Board Meeting was held at Secretariat, Chennai 600 009 on 04.07.2014.

The Hon'ble Minister (Forests), Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board presided the meeting and the following ex-officio members and Expert members attended the meeting.

S. No.	Name of Officers	Designation
1	Thiru.Hans Raj Verma, I.A.S., Principal Secaretry to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Ex Officio Member
2	Thiru.V.Chandrasekaran, I.A.S., Special Secretary Agricultural Department.	Ex Officio Member
3	E.Sivagurunathan, Additional Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department	Ex Officio Member
4	Thiru. Vinod Kumar, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)	Ex Officio Member
5	Thiru.Lakshmi Narayan,I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wild Life Warden	Ex Officio Member
6	Thiru.Ao.Limatoshi, I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity Conservation) and Member Secretary (i/c)	Member Secretary
7	Dr.Arivudai Nambi, Principal Scientist, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai	Member

8	Dr.D.Narasimhan, Associate Professor, Centre for Floristic Research Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology Madras Christian College, Tambaram Chennai-3	Member
9	Dr.Juliet Vanitharani, Professor and Head Zoology Department and Research Centre (Recognized Research Centre under Manonmaniam Sundaranar University) Tirunelveli Sarah Tucker College (Autonomous) Tirunelveli 627007	Member
10	D.G.Balan Samson, IFS., (Retd) Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, 2F. Sreshta Euphoria, 63 Nerkundram Road, Chinmaya Nagar, Chennai 600 092	Member
11	Prof.Dr.M.B.Viswanathan, Principal Investigator DBT Project Centre for Research and Development of Siddha Ayurveda Medicines, (CRDSAM) Department of Plant Sciences. Bharathidasan University, Thiruchirappalli 620 024	Member

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wild Life Warden welcomed the Hon'ble Minister (Forests) and Board Members.

Thiru. Ao. Limatoshi, I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity Conservation) and Member Secretary (i/c) briefed about the details of the Biodiversity in the State of Tamil Nadu. He also made a Power Point Presentation about the activities carried out by the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board so far. Subsequently agenda items were taken for discussion and the following decisions were taken.

Agenda 1(a) : Follow-up action taken on Board meeting held on 29.10.2012

Item 1: Follow up action to address NBA for release of Rs.32.25 lakhs to Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in Ramnad District:

Member Secretary informed that the sub-committee of the Board after examining the proposal decided that since these BMCs were not formed as per the guidelines issued by NBA, authentication of the proposal of TNBB for onward transmission to NBA at this point of time may not be correct. Hence, the fund could

not be released. Further action, to form BMCs as per guidelines will be initiated. The Board resolved to pursue action accordingly.

Item 2: Allotment of space to TNBB office in one portion of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TNBB) office.

The Member Secretary has informed that he has requested the Chief Project Director (TBGP) for allotment of accommodation in the newly constructed building since there is sufficient space in the building. In pursuance of this, the CPD has informed in his letter No.TBGP/Pa/6470/2013, dt. 29.11.2013 that the accommodation for TNBB office in one portion of new building which is under construction can be decided after the construction works are completed. The Board directed the Member Secretary to take further action accordingly.

Item 3: Employing all the Staff in the Office of TNBB:

The Member Secretary has informed that a request letter in reference No.TNBB/23/2013, dt.23.06.2014 has been sent to Government for permitting him to employ staff through outsourcing agency by calling open tender adopting NBA method. The Board directed the Member Secretary to pursue the matter with Government and get necessary Government Orders early and take follow up action.

Item 4: Creation of State Biodiversity Fund:

Item 5: Constitution of Biodiversity Committees:

Item 6: Maintenance of People's Biodiversity Register:

subject is brought as new
Agenda 3

Item 7: Framing Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules:

A) The query raised by the law department has been addressed in the revised draft and also the Guidelines for Operationalization of BMCs were included. The draft rules were sent to NBA for comments in Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board Ref.No.TNBB/28/2014, dt.30.06.2014.

B) The Draft guidelines for Operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committee were approved by NBA in 2013. Though guidelines provisions have been incorporated in the Tamil Nadu Biological diversity Rules, a separate administrative order from the Government is necessary in order to comply with the guidelines in the process of BMC formation and preparation of PBR till the notification of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules. According to the guidelines, District Collector, local bodies, line departments play an important role in the BMCs. Without the administrative order they may not comply with the NBA guidelines provisions therein.

The Board directed the Member Secretary to take further action and get Government Orders on the issue and also approval of the Biodiversity Rules early.

Item 8: Granting permission for access to Bio-resources under Section 3 and 6 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002:

Subject is brought as new Agenda 4.

Item 9: Draft guidelines for BMC prepared by BMC Task Force:

The draft guidelines for Operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committee is approved by NBA in 2013. Guidelines provisions have been incorporated in the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules. No further action required.

Item 10: Launching of Website for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board:

The Expert Committee Member Dr. M.B.Viswanathan advised the Member Secretary to design the Website with a qualified Engineer for updation of website. The website creation was entrusted to M/S ELCOT in Letter No,192/2013 dt.18.02.2014. An amount of Rs.1,17,976/- (Rupees one lakh seventeen thousand nine hundred and seventy six only) has also been released to ELCOT on 18.02.2014. The Website is under development by ELCOT. The amount paid to ELCOT will be got reimbursed from NBA. Board requested the Member Secretary to pursue further action in this regard to get the Website launched at the earliest.

Agenda 1 (b): Follow up action taken on the Board Meeting held on 01.03.2014

Item 1: Formation of One Heritage Site:

The Member Secretary has informed the Board that a joint inspection of Sendirakillai area in Cuddalore District on 08.02.2014 was done. During the visit the matter was discussed with Dr.D.Narasimhan, Panchayat members, leader of the village and stakeholders of Senthirakillai. The villagers were not in a position to take decision immediately. The Member Secretary requested the consent of the Board to proceed further for declaration as Biological Heritage sites for the following 3 sites which have been visited by the Members Secretary and other sub-committee members already.

TABLE:1

Sl. No.	Name	District	Status	Remarks
1	Gudiyum	Tiruvallur	Reserve Forests	Paleolithic age cave
2	Kullar cave	Tirvannamalai	Reserve Forests	Artificial cave
3	MPCA, Kolli hills	Namkkal	Reserve Forests	Medicinal Plants

TABLE :2

The sub committee has not recommended following sites;

Sl. No.	Name	District	Remarks
1	Villivakkam	Chennai	Water body, polluted and encroachments at may places
2	Vagaikulam	Tirunelveli	PWD tank, Conservator of Forests, Tirunelveli Circle is interested to send proposal to the Government to declare it as community Conservation Reserve for better protection.
3	Adyar Poonga	Chennai	Development still under progress. It is under the control of Chennai River Restoration Trust and Adayar Poonga, Chennai 600 028.The proposal is for the development of the entire stretch of river Adayar.

The Board accepted with the view of the Member Secretary and directed him to proceed further for the Table 1.

Item 2: Formation of 15 BMCs and preparation of PBRs with technical help from scientific institutions.

Subject is brought in Agenda 3.

Item 3: Providing infrastructure facilities to Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board:

The TNBB Office is functioning in a portion of Chief Wildlife Warden's Office. The space of the office is limited and hence there is no sufficient space for keeping furniture. Hence it was decided to purchase the furniture, equipment etc., as and when office is shifted to a new place.

Item 4: Payment of TA and Honorarium to the expert members for attending Board meeting:

TA and Honorarium to the expert member for attending Board Meeting is being paid as approved. No further Action required.

Item 5: Subject is brought in Agenda 4:

Item 6(a): A brief coffee table book on "Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu" may be kept in the lounge at the Airport of Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Coimbatore.

Based on the request of TNBB Letter No.TNBB/412/2014,13.01.2014, NBA in Letter No.FN/NBA/9/49/2005-Tech/5709,dated 17.2.2014 released a sum of Rs.3,00,000/- (Rupees three lakhs only)

The Sub Committee of the Board deliberated on the subject in detailed and decided to come out with good quality pictorial Coffee table book covering

- A) Wild Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu
- B) Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu
- C) Agro Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu
- D) Fish Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu
- E) Biodiversity of domestic animals in Tamil Nadu.

The sub committee of the Board has permitted Dr.V.Narasimhan for compilation, preparation and supply of the required number of Coffee Table Book for keeping in the Lounge at the Airports at Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Coimbatore.

The Coffee Table Book is under compilation The Board requested the Member Secretary to come out with Coffee Table Book at the earliest.

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Item 6(b): Purchase of two vehicles for the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board:

The Government have sanctioned purchase of one vehicle for the use of Member Secretary of the Board in G.O. (D) No. 457, dated 16-12-2013 at a cost of Rs. 8.70 Lakhs (Rupees Eight Lakhs and Seventy thousand only). Accordingly one car bearing Registration No.TN-09-BW-2425 was purchased and it is in use by Member Secretary.

Agenda 2: Financial statement of TNBB 2013-14:

The Board has taken note of the financial transactions on record and ratified the expenditures incurred by the Member Secretary.

Agenda 3: Creation of the State Biodiversity fund and constitution of Biodiversity Management Committee's (BMCs):

Based on TNBBs request, NBA in letter No.NBA/15/22/BMC /2012/5995, dt. 10.03.2014 has released Rs.9,00,000/- (Rupees nine lakhs only) (copy enclosed in Annexure-6) as start up fund for 15 BMCs. Dr.Juliet Vanitha Rani has identified 30 BMCs in Kanyakumari, Tuticorin, Virudhunagar, Ramnad, Sivagangai and Tirunelveli. Member Secretary inspected, some of the identified BMCs in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli Districts and interacted with the Civil Society Organization. BMCs were not formed as per guidelines.

The Expert Members have expressed their difficulties to form the BMCs and People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) as per the guidelines issued by the National Biodiversity Authority. It requires full time manpower, coordination with the line department and constant monitoring as in the guidelines. The subcommittee of the Board have suggested to form a committee for selection of Civil Society Organization through which process can be completed.

Therefore Member Secretary requested for appointment of a committee with following members;

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden-
Chairperson
2. Member Secretary
3. Joint Director, Horticulture Department
4. Joint Director, Agriculture Department
5. Joint Director, Fisheries Department
6. Mr.G.Balan Samson, IFS.,(Retired)
7. Dr. D.Narasimhan,
8. Dr.Juliet Vanitharani,
9. Dr.V.Arivudai Nambi
10. Dr.M.B.Viswanathan

The Mandate shall be

1. Parameters for selection of Civil Society Organization (CSO) for formation of BMCs and preparation of PBRs in each District at village level.
2. Job chart finalization of the Civil Society Organization (CSO)
3. Quantum of amount to be paid.

The same was accepted by the Board for effective implementation of the Act.

Agenda 4: Granting of permission to access Bio-Resources under section 3 and 6 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002:

The 13 applications received from National Biodiversity Authority, 12 applications were examined by sub-committee consisting of Thiru.Ao.Limatoshi, I.F.S., Dr.Narasimhan and Dr.V.Arivudai Nambi and they were sent to NBA with remarks for further action. One application was incomplete and hence sent back to NBA seeking further details.

Agenda 5: To strengthen functioning of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board by employing all staff in the Office:

The Member Secretary stated that he has requested Government in the letter No.TNBB/23/2013, dt.23.06.2014 for engaging supporting staff through outsourcing agency by calling open tender. Government Orders are awaited. A request letter was also send from PCCF and CWLW in letter No.WL4/7789/ 2014, dated.30.04.2014 to Government for redeployment of a post from Forest Department for a full time Member Secretary of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board for effective functioning. The Board Directed Member Secretary to pursue the matter with the Government so that full time Member Secretary and required staff are in place for effective functioning of the Board.

Agenda 6: Awareness creation:

The Board accepted the proposal of the Member Secretary to organize awareness programme through Civil Society Organizations as approved by the Sub-Committee in the State on following aspects.

- 1) The Biological Diversity Act 2002
- 2) Biological Diversity Rules, 2004
- 3) Guidelines for operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)
- 4) Guidelines for Selection and Management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites.
- 5) Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) guidelines and mechanism, among all stake holders in the State, especially to the local people, Government Officials, Bio-resources users, Corporate, Business houses etc.,

Agenda 7: Printing of Awareness material:

The Board permitted the member Secretary to print sufficient copies of A) Guidelines for Selection and Management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (2000 copies) and B) Guidelines for operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC's- 2000 copies) from the NBA fund.

Agenda 8: Special invitee one officer from NBA to attend TNBB meeting from next board meeting:

The Board accepted the proposal of the Member Secretary to invite Secretary of the NBA or any other officer nominated by NBA to the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board meeting from next meeting onwards. This will benefit TNBB in clearing doubts and also information about implementation of Biological Diversity Act in other States can be accessed.

Agenda 9: To remove the fruit bats from Schedule V of the Wild Life Protection Act as proposed by the Expert member Dr.Juliet Vanitharani:

The Board has accepted the proposal of Dr.Juliet Vanitharani and requested her to submit proposal for the same for examination and for taking further action.

Agenda 10: Payment of TA and Honorarium to the expert members for attending sub-committee meetings in the Board office:

The Board accepted the proposal of the Member Secretary to pay to the expert members of the sub-committee attending meeting in the Office of the Board TA and Honorarium as approved for the members attending Board meeting.

Agenda 11: Any other item with permission of Chair:

All the Expert members stated that in the recent past many news item has appeared in the .press about the slow progress on the implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in Tamil Nadu. The Expert Members felt that for effective functioning of the Board following steps need to be taken urgently;

(1) Functioning of Board office may be autonomous and independent as stated in the Act.

(2) Officers from other related Biodiversity Department like Agriculture, Fishery, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture etc., may be appointed to the Board.

(3) Sufficient supporting staff may be posted to the Board for effective implementation of the Act.

(4) Full time Chairperson and Member Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board may be appointed as per the Biological Diversity Act for effective functioning and implementation of the Act

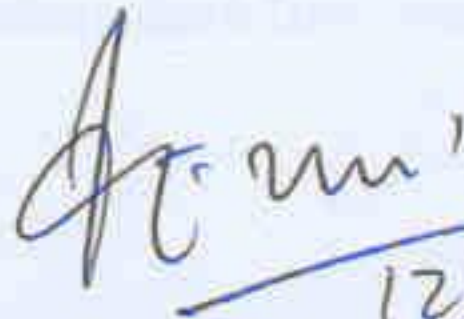
The Board directed the Member Secretary to send suitable proposals to the Government on the above.

Release of Books by the Hon'ble Minister for Forests and the Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board:

1. Endangered Species of Plants and Animals of Tamil Nadu in English

2. Guidelines for Identification, Notification and Management of
Biodiversity Heritage Sites in Tamil

The Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity) proposed vote of thanks
and meetings was concluded.


12/8/14

**Chief Conservator of Forests
(BioDiversity Conservation) and
Member Secretary (i/c)
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board**

Approved by


11/9/2014

**Hon'ble Minister for Forests
and
Chairperson,
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board**

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