

**AGENDA FOR 4th TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD MEETING ON
17.12.2014 IN THE CHAMBERS OF PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO
GOVERNMENT, E&F DEPARTMENT, VII FLOOR, SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI-9.**

Agenda 1: Review of action taken on decisions of the 3rd Board meeting of TNBB held on 04.07.2014

Sl. No	Decision taken during 3 rd Board Meeting	Action taken
	Agenda 1(a): Follow up action taken on Board meeting held on 29.10.2012	
1	Follow up action to address NBA for release of Rs.32.25 lakhs to Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in Ramnad District	The TNBB has initiated action to form the BMCs as per the guidelines of NBA. Necessary action will be pursued once the BMCs started to function as per the guidelines of NBA. This was also informed in this office ref. No. TNBB/31/2014, dated: 24.07.2014 and 17.10.2014 (Copy enclosed). Further, the BMCs are also covered under the Draft Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules, 2014, submitted to National Biodiversity Authority for vetting. Any further action will be appropriate only on notification of the rules.
2	Allotment of TNBB office in one portion of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TNBB)	The Member Secretary in his letter No. TNBB/218/2013, dated: 01.12.2014 has submitted proposal to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Project Director to earmark office accommodation for the TNBB in the TBGP Office being constructed at Nanmangalam, in pursuance of the decision of the Board. The construction of the TBGP building is expected to be

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		completed by 31.03.2015. Orders are awaited from PCCF and CPD, TBGP.
3	Employing all Staff in the Office of TNBB	Was brought as Agenda-5 in the 3 rd Board meeting.
4	Creation of State Biodiversity Fund	Was brought as Agenda-3 in the 3 rd Board meeting.
5	Constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)	
6	Establishment of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)	
7	Framing Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules	The draft rules were sent to NBA for suggestions and comments in TNBB Ref. No.TNBB/28/2014, dt. 30.06.2014. Apart from personal contact by Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, the PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden also requested the Member Secretary, NBA, to send the suggestions and comments early so that the draft notification can be sent to Government for further process. On receipt of the comments and suggestions from NBA, the draft rules will be sent to the Government at the earliest.
8	Granting permission for access to Bio-resources under Section 3 and 6 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002	Was brought as agenda-4 in the 3 rd Board meeting.
9	Draft guidelines for BMC prepared by BMC Task Force	Since provisions have been incorporated in the Draft Tamil Nadu Biological diversity rules, 2014, no further action is required.

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10	Launching of Website for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	M/s. ELCOT, Chennai has entrusted the work to M/s. Onward eServices Limited in their ref. No.EG/458/TN-Biodiversity/2013-14, dt. 26.09.2014. The website is under development. The matter has been brought in as new agenda item No.4 in the 4 th Meeting to review the draft web-pages.
Agenda 1(b): Follow up action taken on Board meeting held on 01.03.2014		
1.	Formation of One Heritage Site	<p>The Member Secretary and other Expert Committee members have visited the following 3 places for declaring as Biological Heritage Sites.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gudiyam - Tiruvallur 2. Kullar Cave - Tiruvannamalai 3. MPCA, Kolli hills - Namakkal <p>Suitable instructions were issued to the Conservators of Forests, Chennai, Vellore and Erode circles and the District Forest Officers, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai and Namakkal through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) to send the proposals for declaring the above said areas as Biological Heritage Sites as per the NBA guidelines. Necessary action will be taken once the proposals received from them.</p>
2	Formation of 15 BMCs and preparation of PBRs with technical help from scientific institutions	Was brought as Agenda-3 in the 3 rd Board meeting.

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3	Providing infrastructure facilities to TNBB	It was decided in the 3 rd Board meeting that furniture, equipment can be purchased once the office is shifted to a new place after allotment of the space. Hence no action is required at present.
4	Payment of TA and Honorarium to the expert members for attending Board meeting	Was brought as Agenda-10 in the 3 rd Board meeting.
5	Granting permission for access to Bio-resources under Section 3 and 6 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002	Was brought as Agenda-4 in the 3 rd Board meeting.
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.	The structure of the book has been finalized and the quality photographs are being collected from specialists. The draft book is expected to be ready by 28 th February, 2015.
6(b)	Purchase of two vehicles for the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	The Government order for procurement of vehicle has been received and one car has been purchased. Hence, no further action is required.
Agenda 2: Follow up action taken on 3rd Board meeting held on 04.07.2014		
2.	Financial Statement of TNBB 2013-14	Since the Board has taken note of the financial transactions on record and ratified the expenditure incurred by the Member-Secretary, no further action is required.
3.	Creation of the State Biodiversity fund and constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)	The provisions for creation of the State Biodiversity fund and constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) have been appropriately included in the draft Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2014 have

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		been under active consideration of the National Biodiversity Authority. In the meantime, in anticipation, process has been initiated to form committee as approved in the last Board Meeting for selection of Civil Society organizations for constitution of BMCs.
4.	Granting of permission to access bio-resources under section 3 and 6 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002	12 applications (in complete) shape were sent to National Biodiversity Authority for further action. The incomplete application was sent back without processing. We have also requested NBA to intimate the action taken on the applications already submitted in this office Ref. No. TNBB/03/2014, dated: 31.01.2014 and 31.03.2014.
5.	To strengthen functioning of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board by employing all staff in the Office.	Brought as new agenda-2 in this meeting.
6.	Awareness creation	Once the rules are published, the exercise for awareness creation will be taken up by printing sufficient copies.
7.	Printing of awareness material	The sealed quotations have been invited. Last date 15.12.2014. Process will be completed in one month time.
8.	Special invitee one officer from NBA to attend TNBB meeting from next board meeting	The decision has been communicated to the National Biodiversity Authority. Further, Secretary, NBA has been invited to attend the 4 th meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board as Special Invitee.

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9.	To remove the fruit bats from Schedule-V of the Wildlife Protection Act as proposed by the Expert Member Dr. Juliet Vanitharani	The proposal note and connected research papers have been received from the Expert Member on 12.12.2014. A detailed proposal will be submitted to PCCF and CWLW to take up the matter with MoEF, Government of India.
10.	Payment of TA and Honorarium to the expert members for attending sub-committee meetings in the Board Office	Since TA and Honorarium has been paid to the expert members as per the decision taken during the 3 rd Board meeting, no further action is required.
11.	<p>Any other item with permission of chair</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Autonomous and independent functioning of TNBB as stated in the Act. 2. Appointment of Officers in TNBB from other related Biodiversity Departments like Agriculture, Fishery, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture, etc. 	<p>For autonomous and independent functioning of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, it is imperative that the Board has its an independent office and staff. However, financial support from Government is requested for initial five years, for the Board to be able to generate self-sustaining resources.</p> <p>Detailed proposal by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) has already been submitted to the Government in WL4/7789/2014, dated: 05.09.2014.</p> <p>Once this happens, officer can be appointed from the other department in the Board. The proposal also being pursued for the independent office space and a proposal has been submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief</p>

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	3. Posting of sufficient supporting staff to the TNBB for effective implementation of the Act.	Project Director. The proposal to approve the modalities for appointment of support staff has been in active consideration of the Government. Orders are awaited
	4. Appointment of full time Chairperson and Member-Secretary to TNBB as per the Biological Diversity Act for effective functioning and implementation of the Act.	Proposal to create independent post of Member Secretary at the level of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests is in active correspondence with the Government by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force).

Agenda 2: Strengthening the functioning of the Board

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) in his lr. No. WL4/7789/2014 dt. 05.09.2014, has requested the Government to issue orders on the following :

A) Sanction of Member-Secretary in the rank of Addl. PCCF (ex-cadre post) in the scale of pay HAG 67000-79000 as per item No.5 of the Schedule to the Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Regulations, 1956 to TNBB.

B) Continuation of the posts sanctioned in G.O.Ms.No.44, E&F (FR-5) department, dt. 14.05.2009 for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board upto 31.3.2019.

C) Combined financial support for sanction of Rs.4.40 crores towards the payment of salary to the Officer and staff of the Board from 2013-14 to 2018-19.

Government orders are awaited.

Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forests Force) in his lr. No. A3/124960/2014, dated: 27.08.2014 has informed the Member Secretary

that appropriate action will be initiated to fill up the vacant post of Administrative Officer (in the rank of Personal Assistant) in TNBB once the panel for the year 2014-15 is approved.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) in his Ir. No.A1/7789/2014, dated: 30.10.2014 has requested the Government to issue appropriate orders to continue the following posts:

1	Personal Assistant/AO	1
2	Superintendent	1
3	Assistants	3
4	Office Assistant	1

The Government has also been requested to permit contractual appointments in the Board on outsourcing basis for supporting and Technical Staff, in PCCF and CWLW Ref No TNBB/23/2013 dated 23.06.2014, in line with procedures followed in National Biodiversity Authority, so that working hands are provided. The Agenda is placed before the Board to press for early permission, so that the functioning of the Board is strengthened.

Agenda-3: Sponsoring III Biodiversity Congress as co-sponsor, being held at Chennai from 18th-20th December, 2014.

The Government vide letter No.21339/FR-6/2014-2, dated: 4.12.2014, has permitted Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board to participate in the 3rd Biodiversity Congress, being held at Chennai for 18th – 20th, December 2014 as Associate sponsor and also sanctioned a sum of Rupees (Rs.5,00,000/-) Five Lakh from Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project to participate in the congress. The amount has been obtained from the PCCF and CPD, TBGP and released to the organizers of the Congress as per TNBB Proceedings Ref No TNBB/45/2014 dated 15.12.2014. It is placed for information of the Board.

Agenda-4: Review of the Web-Pages developed for Website of TNBB

M/s. ELCOT, Chennai has been entrusted with the work to develop website of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board. M/s.ELCOT has outsourced development of web-pages to M/s. Onward eServices Limited. The draft web-pages have been developed

and are displayed for review and suggestions by the Chairman and Members of the Board.

Agenda-5: Granting permission for access to Bio-resources under Section 3 and 6 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002

The Sub-committee meeting has been fixed on 15-12-2014 to process 15 applications received and the Proceedings of the committee will be placed before the Board.

Agenda-6: Preparation of Pictorial Guide Book for Endemic and Threatened Angiosperms of Tamil Nadu.

Of 16,809 species of flowering plants in India, Tamil Nadu ranks first in species richness with 5,674 taxa. Out of these, 270 taxa are known to be strict endemics to the state. For better assessment, conservation and management of our endemic species, there is need to

- Prepare an updated list of strict endemic angiosperm taxa for Tamil Nadu.
- To provide detailed plant description, phenology, location, elevation and uses of these strict endemic species.
- To assess the taxa based on latest version of IUCN categorization
- To prepare a guidebook on endemic taxa for Tamil Nadu.

The proposal is placed before the board to permit Member Secretary to approach the National Biodiversity Authority for funding.