



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

Letter No.22935/FR.5/2014 - , dated :21.01.2014

42/2014

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From

Thiru. Syed Muzammil Abbas, I.F.S.,
Special Secretary (Forests)

To

The Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and
Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board,,
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and
CPD (TBGP)
Joint Forest Management Training,
Velachery Main Road, Chennai – 32. (w.e.)



Sir,

Sub.: Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board Fourth Meeting held
on 17.12.2014 at 02.00 P.M. under the Chairmanship of
Hon'ble Minister (Forests) – Minutes of the Meeting –
Communicated – Regarding.

Ref: 1. Government letter No. 22935/FR.5/2014-2, dated
24.12.2014.
2. Your letter No. TNBB/42/2014, dated 02.01.2015.

I am directed to enclose the minutes of the Fourth meeting of Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board held on 17.12.2014 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Forests) and request to communicate the same to all the members of the State Biodiversity Board. The action taken report on the minutes of the meeting may be sent to Government early.

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Yours faithfully,

for Special Secretary (Forests)

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**MINUTES OF 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.**

The 4th Meeting of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held at Secretariat, Chennai-9 on 17.12.2014 as per the Government Letter No. 22935/FR.5/2014-1 dated: 10.12.2014.

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

S.No	Name of Officer	Designation
1.	Thiru. Hans Raj Verma, IAS., Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forest Department	Ex-officio Member
2.	Dr S. Vijayakumar, IAS , Secretary to Government , Animal Husbandary, Dairying and Fisheries Department	Ex-officio Member
3	Dr. Arivudai Nambi, Principal Scientist, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai	Member
4.	Dr. D. Narasimhan, Associate Professor, Centre for Floristic Research Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai	Member
5	Dr. Juliet Vanitharani, Professor and Head Zoology Department and Research Centre (Recognized Research Centre under Manonmanium Sundaranar University)	Member

	Tirunelveli Sarah Tucker College (Autonomous) Tirunelveli 627007	
6	Dr. G. Balan Samson IFS., (Retd) Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, 2F, Sreshta Euphoria, 63 Nerkundram Road, Chinmaya Nagar, Chennai 600 092	Member
7	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
8	Tmt. Kannama, Administrative Officer, National Biodiversity Authority	Special Invitee (Representative) NBA
9	Dr. N. Krishnakumar, IFS., Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Administration) O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai	Representative of PCCF and HoFF.
10	Thiru. Rakesh Kumar Dogra, IFS., Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Project Director (Biodiversity)	Member Secretary (I/C)

At the outset, the Member Secretary (I/C) welcomed the Hon'ble Minister (Forests) and Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and esteemed Members for the meeting and briefed about the constitution of Biodiversity Board in the State of Tamil Nadu since its inception. The Principal Secretary elicited the views and suggestions of the members on the activities of the Board and lively

discussion took place, wherein all the members participated and the following suggestions were made by the members.

1. The Secretaries to the Government Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Municipal Administration should be included as *ex officio* Members of the Board. Till such time the new Board is constituted, they may be invited to attend the meeting of the Board as Special Invitee.

2. The Biodiversity Management committees (BMCs) should have ownership by the Panchayat and local bodies Presidents/Chairpersons, then only their effective functioning can be ensured. Their formation is a process and technical facilitation is required to accomplish the massive task. Considering the enormity of the task, there should be prioritization in establishment of active BMCs in biodiversity rich areas that require urgent attention.

3. There is an urgent need to document the Bio-resources used by the industry, so that it can be properly monitored. Similarly, the animal genetic resource documentation, especially for domesticated breeds by animal husbandry department will require support from the Board through National Biodiversity Authority.

4. The technical support from the line departments like agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, Fisheries etc is must for the activities of the Board and their officers must also be part of the administrative structure of the board to strengthen decision making.

5. The TNBB function as independent autonomous body and must enhance its outreach for better appreciation by public at large.

Subsequently, agenda items were taken for discussion and the following decisions were taken.

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

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 Member Secretary TNBB informed that necessary action will be pursued once the BMCs started to function as per the guidelines of NBA after their constitution as per the rules framed and this has also been informed in ref. No. TNBB/31/2014, dated: 24.07.2014 and 17.10.2014. 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. The board took note of the action taken.

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 completed by 31.03.2015. Orders are awaited from PCCF and CPD, TBGP.

It was also discussed that as on date, no space has been allotted at Nanmangalam. The Principal Secretary and other members of the Board were of the view that office space at JFM Training Centre, Velachery, will be much appropriate place for independent office of the Board and it should function from that building, once vacated by PMU, TBGP by shifting to new office. The members unanimously accepted and the Board approved the setting up of office of Tamil Nadu

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Biodiversity Board in the first floor of JFM Training Centre, after vacation by PMU, TBGP.

3. Employing all Staff in the Office of TNBB

Was brought as Agenda-5 in the 3rd Board meeting. Hence this may be treated as closed.

4. Creation of State Biodiversity Fund

5. Constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

6. Establishment of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

Was brought as new agenda-3 in the 3rd Board meeting, hence items 4, 5, 6 may accordingly be treated as closed here.

7. Framing Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules

The draft rules were sent to NBA for suggestions and comments in TNBB Ref. No. TNBB/28/2014, dated. 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. The special invitee of National Biodiversity Authority informed that the comments on Draft Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules have been approved by the Chairman National Biodiversity Authority, and will be sent to the TNBB shortly. On receipt of the comments and suggestions from NBA, the draft rules will be sent to the Government at the earliest.

The TNBB requested Member Secretary to pursue further action in this regard.

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 3rd Board meeting, hence no further action is required on this item here.

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.

10. Launching of Website for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board.

M/s. ELCOT, Chennai has entrusted the work to M/s. Onward e Services 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 4th Meeting to review the draft web-pages. Hence no further action is required for this item here.

Agenda 1(b): Follow up action taken on Board meeting held on 01.03.2013

1. Formation of One Heritage Site

The Member Secretary and other Expert Committee members have visited the following 3 places for declaring as Biological Heritage Sites.

1. Gudiyam - Tiruvallur
2. Kullar Cave - Tiruvannamalai
3. MPCA, Kolli hills - Namakkal

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. It was also informed by the Member Secretary that any notification of the site should be carried out only after notification of the rules and following the due procedure as laid therein, to which the Members of the Board agreed. The TNBB requested the Member Secretary to pursue further action accordingly.

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

Was brought as new agenda-3 in the 3rd Board meeting, hence no further action is required on this item here.

3. Providing infrastructure facilities to TNBB

It was decided in the 3rd 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 3rd Board meeting, hence no further action is required on this item here.

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

Was brought as new agenda-4 in the 3rd Board meeting, hence no further action is required on this item here.

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 Member Secretary informed that 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 28th February, 2015. The TNBB took note on the progress and requested the Member Secretary to pursue further action in this regard.

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 here.

Agenda 1 (c): Follow up action taken on 3rd Board meeting held on 04.07.2014

1. 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.

2. 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 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. The TNBB requested Member Secretary to pursue further action in this regard.

3. Granting of permission to access bio-resources under section 3 and 6 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

12 application (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. Hence, no further action is required on this item here.

4. To strengthen functioning of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board by employing all staff in the Office.

Brought as new agenda-2 in this meeting, hence no further action is required on this item here.

5. Awareness creation.

The Member Secretary informed that once the rules are published, the exercise for awareness creation will be taken up by printing sufficient copies in Tamil and also by use of website and e-media etc. The TNBB requested Member Secretary to take action on this item accordingly.

6. Printing of awareness material.

The Member Secretary informed that sealed quotations have been invited. Last date 15.12.2014. Process will be completed in one month time. The TNBB requested Member Secretary to take action on this item accordingly.

7. 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 4th meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board as Special Invitee. Since the Secretary NBA was out of station, his nominee Tmt. M Kannamma, Administrative Officer attended the TNBB meeting. Hence, no further action is required on this item.

8. To remove the fruit bats from Schedule-V of the Wildlife Protection Act as proposed by the Expert Member Dr. Juliet Vanitharani

The Member Secretary informed that 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. The TNBB requested Member Secretary to take action on this item accordingly.

9. Payment of TA and Honorarium to the expert members for attending sub-committee meetings in the Board Office

The Member Secretary informed the TNBB that TA and Honorarium has been paid to the expert members as the decision taken during the 3rd Board meeting, no further action is required.

10. Any other item with permission of chair

1. Autonomous and independent functioning of TNBB as stated in the Act.

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.

2. Appointment of Officers in TNBB from other related Biodiversity Departments like Agriculture, Fishery, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture, etc.

Detailed proposal by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force has already been submitted to the Government in WL4 / 7789 / 2014, dated: 05.09.2014. 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 Project Director.

3. Posting of sufficient supporting staff to the TNBB for effective implementation of the Act.

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.

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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). The action taken on above items was explained by the Member Secretary as per agenda 2 given below.

Agenda 2: Strengthening the functioning of the Board

The Member Secretary informed the TNBB that Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) in his Ir. No. WL4/7789/2014 dt. 05.09.2014, has submitted detailed proposal requesting 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, dated. 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 letter. 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 letter. 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 TNBB emphasized early action of the Government on above issues and requested Member Secretary to pursue further action on these item accordingly with PCCF and HOFF and Government.

The Member Secretary informed that 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 Principal Secretary E and F felt that such a proposal for approval of the Government through PCCF and CWLW is not necessary. Once the Board has approved the item, the action can be taken at the TNBB level itself and Government is not expected to approve such a proposal, that needs to be treated null and void. The Members of the Board also stressed that technical and administrative manpower is imperative for day to day functioning of the TNBB.

The TNBB authorized Member Secretary to go ahead with the contractual appointments in the Board on outsourcing basis in line with and following the similar procedure adopted in the National Biodiversity Authority with reference to the positions fully supported by the National Biodiversity Authority for effective functioning of the Board.

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

The Member Secretary informed that 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 Lakhs 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. The TNBB took note of the information.

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; ELCOT has outsourced development of web-pages to M/s. Onward Services Limited. The draft web-pages have been developed. The Chairman and Members of the Board requested Member Secretary to put-up for review by the TNBB during the next meeting of the Board.

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

The Member Secretary informed that Sub-committee meeting was held on 15-12-2014 to process 15 applications received and the Proceedings of the committee were placed before the Board for information. The TNBB took note of the proceedings of the sub-committee accordingly.



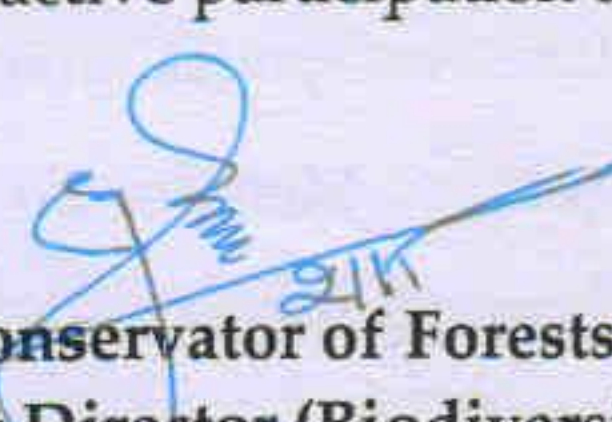
Agenda-6: Preparation of Pictorial Guide Book for Endemic and Threatened Angiosperms of Tamil Nadu.

The Member Secretary informed that out of 16809 species of flowering plants in India, Tamil Nadu ranks first in species richness with 5674 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

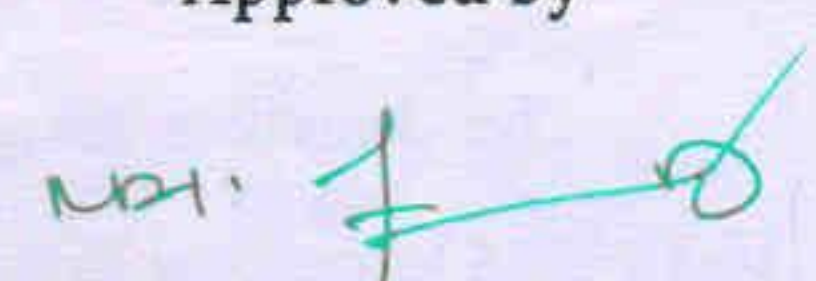
- Prepare an updated list of strict endemic angiosperm taxa for Tamil Nadu.
- To provide detailed plant description, phenology, location, elevation and uses of these strict endemic species.
- To assess the taxa based on latest version of IUCN categorization
- To prepare a guidebook on endemic taxa for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

The TNBB approved the proposal and permitted Member Secretary to approach the National Biodiversity Authority for funding.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Hon'ble Chair and esteemed members for their active participation during the meeting.


Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
Project Director (Biodiversity) and
Member Secretary (i/c)
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

Approved by


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