



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

Letter No. 3488 /FR.5/2017-2, Dated.19.05.2017.

From
Thiru. Md.Nasimuddin, I.A.S.,
Principal Secretary to Government.

To
✓ The Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board,
TBGP Campus, IInd Floor,
Velachery – Tambaram Main Road,
Nanmangalam, Medavakkam Post,
Chennai – 600 100.(w.e.).



Sir,

Sub: Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board – Fifth Meeting held on
21.04.2017 at 2.00 P.M. under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble
Minister (Forests) – Minutes of the meeting – Communicated
- Regarding.

Ref: 1. Government Letter No.3488/FR.5/2017-1, dated
07.04.2017.
2. Your Letter No.TNBB/27/2016, dated 10.04.2017.

I am directed to enclose the minutes of the fifth meeting of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board held on 21.04.2017 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Forests) and request to communicate the same to all members of the State Biodiversity Board. The action taken report on the minutes of the meeting may be sent to Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

up/ *[Signature]*
22/5/17

for Principal Secretary to Government

[Signature]
22/5/17

**MINUTES OF 5th TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD MEETING ON
21.04.2017 IN THE NAMAKKAL KAVIGNAR MALLIGAI,**

VIIth FLOOR, SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI-9.

The Fifth Meeting of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held at Secretariat, Chennai-9 on 21.04.2017 as per the Government Letter No. 3488/FR.5/2017-1 dated: 07.04.2017.

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

Sl. No	Name of Officer	Designation
1.	Thiru. Hans Raj Verma, IAS., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department	Special invitee
2.	Thiru Md. Nasimuddin, IAS , Principal Secretary to Government , Environment and Forest Department	Ex-officio Member
3.	Dr. H. Basavaraju, IFS Principal Conservator of Forests (HoD)	Ex-officio Member
4.	Dr. D. Narasimhan, Associate Professor, Centre for Floristic Research Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai – 600 042.	Member
5.	Ms. Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth Trust, Chennai	Member
6.	Thiru K Chidambaram IFS. (Retd) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Former Chief Project Director (TBGP), Plot No.94/95, Door No.5-A, Sapthagiri Street, Annai Indira Nagar, Baby Nagar (Annexe), Velachery, Chennai – 600 042.	Member
7.	Thiru T.S. Srinivasamurthy, IFS (Retired) Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chairman (Retired), Arasu Rubber Corporation, 1224, Ground Floor, 17 th Street, Anna Nagar West End Colony, Padi.P.O., Chennai – 600 050.	Member
8.	Dr. C.P. Raj Kumar, Nalam Hospital, Sriram Nagar, Theni – 625531	Member

9.	Dr. B. Meenakumari Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.	Special invitee
10.	Thiru Syed Muzammil Abbas, I.F.S., Special Secretary, Environment and Forests Department	Special Invitee
11.	Thiru K. Ezhilarasu Joint Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department.	Special Invitee
12.	Thiru. Subrat Mohapatra, IFS., Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Project Director (Biodiversity)	Member Secretary Convener

At the outset, the Member Secretary 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 Member Secretary also informed that the board meeting is being held after a gap of more than two years. 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 made valuable suggestions. The Member Secretary made a power point presentation on the agenda items already circulated.

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

- (i) Follow up action to address National Biodiversity Authority for release of Rs.32.25 lakhs to Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in Ramnad District:

The Member Secretary stated that the amount under Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) has been released to the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board on 31.03.2017.

- (ii) Allotment of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board office in one portion of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TBGP)

The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board informed the members that Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board office has since been shifted to Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project (TBGP) Office campus and functioning in 2nd floor from January.2016.

- (iii) Framing Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Draft Rules were drafted and submitted to the Government for notification. The action for notification is being taken by the Government.

(iv) Formation of Heritage Site

Member Secretary informed that three sites have been identified. Concerned Conservators of Forests have been requested to submit proposals so that further action can be pursued.

(v) A coffee table book on "Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu" may be kept in the lounge at the Airports of Chennai, Madurai, Trichy and Coimbatore.

The job was entrusted to former Member Secretary. He has been reminded to submit it in full shape.

2: Follow up action taken on Board meeting held on 17.12.2014

C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai-18 has submitted to Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board the proceedings of the Indian Biodiversity Congress-2014. It is available in Board office.

3: Review of the Web-Pages developed for Website of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

M/s. Electronic Corporation of Tamil Nadu (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 eServices Limited. The issue was recently reviewed by Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and the website shall be launched shortly.

Agenda 2: Granting permission for access to bio-resources under Section 3 and 6 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002

The details of the above were placed before the member of the board for record.

Agenda 3: Counter Affidavit Filed before to the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi on behalf of the Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board

The Counter Affidavit, expenditure and other details were placed before board for record.

Agenda 4: Strengthening the functioning of the Board

The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board informed that the Board has been functioning with skeletal staff and the staffs on deputation from Forest Department have not received this month salary. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD) informed that the action is being taken in this regard. Meanwhile, the Board should utilize its existing funds for salary.

The work of constitution of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) has not made substantial progress in the past 6-7 years. The District Collectors

of each district were instructed to constitute Biodiversity Management Committees at block level vide G.O. (Ms) No. 101, dated: 24.08.2009. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board suggested that District level Coordination Officer/Nodal Officer may be appointed in each District to facilitate the functioning of the Board and implementation of Biological Diversity Act. The functions of District level Coordination Officer/Nodal Officer shall be to take steps to constitute Biodiversity Management Committees, to act as Coordinator between different Biodiversity Management Committees and to assist in preparation of People's Biodiversity Register. It is felt that in each district, **Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry / District Forest Officer (Territorial) / Wild life warden may be made the District level Coordination Officer/Nodal Officer.** He will look after the interest of the Board in each district. It was resolved that this should be done as soon as possible for early constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees.

Agenda 5: Preparation of list of Industries registered under the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Commissioner of Industries and Commerce to examine if they utilize Bioresources.

Member Secretary informed that with reference to Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board Ref. No. TNBB/143/2016 dated. 14.12.2016. A list of industries that are registered under the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has been received and form-I has been issued to Tamil Nadu Medical Plant Farms & Herbal Medicine Corporation Limited (TAMPCOL). The additional Chief Secretary Rural Development and Panchayati Raj requested that the issue may be expedited and all the industries using bio resources should be approached so as to comply with the Access and Benefit Sharing regulations at the earliest.

Agenda 6: List of Bio-Resource based industries/companies in the state that are registered in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Chennai

It was informed to the members that this list is not yet received. Member Secretary was asked to expedite.

Agenda 7: Constitution of block-level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC)

The Chairman and Hon'ble Minister (Forest) stressed the need for early constitution of Biodiversity Management Committee in each District. The chairperson National Biodiversity Authority clarified that initially in the Biodiversity rich areas in each District Biodiversity Management Committees may be constituted. Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board suggested that constitution of Biodiversity Management Committee at each local body level may cause confusion and chaos. He suggested that the Biodiversity Management Committees may be constituted at Block level so that monitoring is easy.

Agenda 8: Indo-German Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project

The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, informed that The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft fur International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is implementing a project on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) under Indo-German Biodiversity Programme. The project is being implemented in

three states: Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. This is a Technical Cooperation Project and the National Biodiversity Authority along with Gesellschaft fur International Zusammenarbeit will provide the technical assistance to the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board. The project will have specific focus on:

i) Awareness raising, communication and stakeholder dialogues for creating better understanding of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 (BDA).

ii) Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Guidelines and Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) amongst different actors and stakeholder groups

iii). Development of good practices of benefit sharing with communities, based on utilization of biological resources for commercial and/or research purposes

iv). Development of an Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) monitoring system for National Biodiversity Board and State Biodiversity Boards

Two Technical Experts from Gesellschaft fur International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) will assist the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board is carrying out the project activities. An Operational Planning Workshop for the project was held in National Biodiversity Authority during November 2016 to plan the activities for the year 2017. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board attended the Operational Planning workshop held at National Biodiversity Authority. Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board informed the Board members that the project has already taken off in December 2016.

Agenda 9: Constitution of Expert Committees:

Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board suggested that existing subcommittee may be disbanded and four new expert committees may be constituted. The Board deliberated on this in detail and it was agreed unanimously to constitute Expert Committees to enable the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board to carry out activities as per the mandate under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions. The Board approved the constitution of following Expert Committees with the Board Members as Chairperson of the Committees:

Sl. No.	Expert Committee	Chairperson
i	Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Expert Committee	Dr. D. Narasimhan, Associate Professor, Madras Christian College.
ii	Expert Committee on BMC Constitution and documentation of PBRs	Thiru. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department
iii	Legal Advisory Committee	Mr. K Chidambaram IFS (Retd.) Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.
iv	Agro-biodiversity Committee	Ms. Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth, Chennai

The Expert Committee will have 4 members in addition to Chairperson and the ToR for Expert Committees will be drafted and Members will be selected based on their expertise, in the field.

Dr. Meenakumari, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority suggested that, Expert Committees may include one member from the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai. The Board members accepted the suggestion and the Member Secretary was requested to take necessary action to approve the ToR and constitute the Expert Committees at the earliest.

Agenda 10: Meetings with sector-wise industries to discuss the compliance under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) provisions

This agenda was discussed in detail by the Board. Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department stressed the need to have an early meeting to create awareness about the Act and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) obligations. The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board informed that this is a new Act and its enforcement will commence after methods of persuasion to comply with provision of the act are exhausted. The prosecution should be resorted to as last resort. The members agreed to this issue.

Agenda 11: Regional training on Biological Diversity Act and Access and Benefit Sharing Mechanism for line department officials

The members agreed to this agenda and also agreed to conduct meetings at the places mentioned in the agenda. It was suggested that a meeting may be held at Theni district with the assistance of Gesellschaft fur International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board assured that it will be held shortly.

Agenda 12: Designing a logo for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board

The matter was discussed in detail and Dr. Narasimhan member suggested that a competition may be held at Madras Christian College, Tambaram and best entry may be chosen by a committee. The same was accepted.

Agenda 13: Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board 2014-2015, 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial statement

The Board noted the financial transactions on record and ratified the expenditure incurred by the Member-Secretary.

General :-

(1). The technical support from the line departments like agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and 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. Accordingly, it was resolved that Officials from these departments may be invited as special invitee to State Biodiversity Board.

(2). It was suggested that as the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board function as an independent autonomous body it must enhance its outreach for better appreciation by public at large.

(3). The Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority who was a special invitee raised the issue of land for office of National Biodiversity Authority and full time Member Secretary for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board. Principal

Secretary, Environment and Forests Department replied that Government is seized of the matter.

The Next Board meeting was fixed on 21.07.2017.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.

MD. NASIMUDDIN

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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22/5/17

Section Officer

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