

AGENDA FOR THE 6th MEETING OF THE TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD

Agenda 1:	Review of action taken on decisions of the 5th Board meeting of TNBB held on 21.04.2017
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Sl. No	Decision taken during 5th Board Meeting	Action taken
1	<p>Agenda 1(a)(iii): Framing of 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</p>	<p>The matter is being pursued with the Government for early notification.</p>
2	<p>Agenda 1(a)(iv): Formation of Biodiversity Heritage Sites: Member Secretary informed that three sites have been identified. Concerned Conservator of Forests have been requested to submit proposals so that further action can be pursued</p>	<p>The notification of the Biodiversity Heritage Sites will be taken up after the notification of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules.</p> <p>The sites identified earlier were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Gudiyam, Thiruvallur district ii. Kullar Cave, Tiruvannamalai iii. MPCA, Kolli Hills <p>The above three sites fall in Reserved Forest areas. Reserved Forests and Protected Areas are areas which have been notified to protect and conserve wild biodiversity and are already governed by other Acts like the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882 and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Hence, considering Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, it is suggested that the Biodiversity Heritage Sites should be notified in areas outside forests and Protected Areas and should concentrate on the conservation of agro and livestock diversity and wild diversity outside RFs and PAs including sacred groves. (Copy of Section 37 attached).</p> <p>It is suggested that a small study could be undertaken through a consultant to identify such suitable sites to be declared as</p>

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		Biodiversity Heritage Sites. The criteria suggested by the NBA for the identification of Biodiversity Heritage Sites will be used for identifying the sites.
3	<p>Agenda 1(a)(v): 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 job was entrusted to former Member Secretary. He has been reminded to submit it in full shape.</p>	The contents of the book have been finalized and a rough copy printout is placed before the Board for seeking approval for printing.
4	<p>Agenda 1(a)3: Review of the Web-Pages developed for Website of TNBB: 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.</p>	<p>The website development work was initiated in the year 2013-14. All the works in connection with the design and launch of the TNBB Website have been completed; the website may be launched.</p>
5	<p>Agenda 4: Strengthening the functioning of the board: It is felt 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.</p>	<p>1) A proposal was sent to Government Vide PCCF and CWLW, Ref. No. WL4/37326/2016 dated.27.06.2017, for appointing Nodal Officer in each district for constitution of the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) and implementation of the Biodiversity Act (copy enclosed). A Deputy Conservator of Forest level officer in each district has been proposed as the nodal officer.</p> <p>2) Another proposal was sent to Government vide PCCF and CWLW, Ref. No. WL4/26945/2017 dated.20.07.2017 for</p>

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		<p>the formation of a Technical Support Group in each district for BMC formation assistance, maintenance of People's Biodiversity Registers, authentication and assistance to the BMC in listing local names of flora, fauna, traditional knowledge relating to flora and fauna (copy enclosed).</p> <p>District level officers of various departments including Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Animal husbandry, Health, Sericulture and Professors of Botany and Zoology from local college/University have been proposed as members of the Technical Support Group. The Government is examining the proposal.</p>
6	<p>Agenda 5: List of Industries registered under the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Commissioner of Industries and Commerce: 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.</p>	<p>The list of industries from the Commissioner of Industries and Commerce has been obtained and 68 companies likely to be using bio-resources have been identified.</p> <p>A notice will be issued to the companies soon after the notification of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules.</p>
7	<p>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.</p>	<p>The list of Bio-Resource based industries/companies in the state that are registered in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Chennai has been obtained. The list of industries using bio-resources has also been obtained from the Indian Medical Practitioners' Cooperative Pharmacy and Stores has been received. A notice will be issued to the companies soon after the notification of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules.</p>

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8	<p>Agenda 7: Constitution of Block level Bio Diversity 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.</p>	<p>The constitution of the Biodiversity Management Committees at the block level and in the biodiversity rich areas will commence on the completion of the Local Body elections. The necessary preparatory works are being undertaken.</p>
9	<p>Agenda 9: Constitution of Expert Committees: The Board approved the constitution of following Expert committees. 1) Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Expert Committee 2) Expert Committee on BMC Constitution and documentation of PBRs. 3) Legal Advisory Committee 4) Agro-biodiversity Committee. 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.</p>	<p>The draft TOR for the Expert Committees and the other suggested members (apart from the Chairperson and NBA nominee) is placed for approval as Agenda item No.5.</p>
10	<p>Agenda 10: Meetings with sector-wise industries</p>	<p>The process of identification of the Companies/Enterprises using bio-resources</p>

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	<p>to discuss the compliance under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its Access and Benefit sharing (ABS) provisions</p> <p>The Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board informed that this is a new Act and its enforcement will commence after methods of prosecution to comply with provision of the act are exhausted. The prosecution should be resorted to as last resort. The members agreed to this issue.</p>	is nearly complete. The Meetings will be held shortly.
11	<p>Agenda 11:</p> <p>Regional training on Biological Diversity Act and Access and Benefit sharing Mechanism for line department officials:</p> <p>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 für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board assured that it will be held shortly.</p>	The meeting was held successfully at Theni on 29.04.2017 with the help of GIZ. A brief report on the meeting is attached.
12	<p>Agenda 12:</p> <p>Designing a logo for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The notification was issued inviting entries and the last date for the receipt of entries was fixed as 31.08.2017. An amount of Rs.10,000/- was also announced as prize money for the accepted entry. The notification was also uploaded on the TN Forest Dept. Website. The notification was also communicated to all the major colleges in Chennai, Staff of all the Forest Divisions and NBA.</p> <p>Over 200 entries were received by the due date and the committee constituted selected the most appropriate logo and made further</p>

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		improvements and recommended for adoption. The selected logo may be approved and launched.

Agenda 2: Brief report on the activities of the TNBB subsequent to the 5th meeting

a. International Biodiversity Day 2017 Celebrations:

The International Biodiversity Day, 2017 was celebrated on 22.05.2017 at the conference hall of the TBGP Office complex, Chennai-100. The theme for this year's IDB was "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism". The Hon'ble Minister Forests, Tamil Nadu and Chairperson, TNBB, the Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department, the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Tamil Nadu, the PCCF & CWLW (HoFF), PCCF (HoD), and other senior officers graced the occasion. The importance of the theme "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism" was emphasized by all the speakers. On the morning of 22.05.2017, a **Biodiversity walk** was also organized on the occasion at Beasant Nagar beach involving school and college students and others supporting biodiversity conservation. This is for kind information of the Board.

b. Strengthening Institutional Mechanism for Access and Benefit sharing for Biodiversity Conservation in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs.70.00 lakhs

As per G.O.No.147/E&F(FR.5) Department dated 09.12.2016, Rs.70.00 lakhs was sanctioned for Strengthening Institutional Mechanism for Access and Benefit sharing for Biodiversity Conservation in Tamil Nadu.

In this regard TNBB sent a proposal to Government through the PCCF and CWLW vide ref.No.194/2015 dated 09.5.2017, seeking revalidation of G.O.No.147 E&F (FR.5) Department dated 09.12.2016 for the year 2017-18. The Government has authorized the expenditure to be incurred in letter (D) No. 181 dated 28.07.2017 (Copies attached).

The works sanctioned in the above G.O. are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Description	Nos.	Rate	2015-16	2016-17	Total budget
1.	Grant – in – aid to the State Biodiversity Board for creation of independent office of the State Board	1	LS	5.00	5.00	10.00
2.	Formation of BMC in the prioritized Bio-diversity Rich	25	0.60	5.00	10.00	15.00

	Areas					
3.	Creation of Peoples Biodiversity Registers in 25 BMCs	25	1.20	-	30.00	30.00
4.	Massive Awareness Programme for the local bodies, District/block level officials	5	1.00	1.00	4.00	5.00
5.	Declaration of Biodiversity heritage sites	5	2.00	1.00	9.00	10.00
	Total			12.00	58.00	70.00

The sanctioned works will commence shortly. There will be rapid progress once the notification for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity rules is issued and Biodiversity Management Committees are constituted.

c. Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund – Bank account opened, proposal for revalidation

In the G.O.(D) No. 39 Environmental and Forest (FR.V) Department, dated 10.02.2014, the Government directed that the "Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund" be established in public account with provision of Rs. 1000/-. As per this Government order, a new Bank account was opened in the name "Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund" on 12.07.2017. The details are as follows:

Name of Bank and Branch : Indian Bank, Medavakkam Branch, Chennai-100

Account No : 6544932952

Proposals have been submitted to the Government vide PCCF & CWLW Ref. No. WL4/27990/2017 dated 1.08.2017 for revalidation of the above G.O. As per the provisions of the G.O. the existing funds with the Board under the component 'Access and Benefit Sharing' will be transferred shortly to be above account. A copy of the G.O. is attached. The government has to revalidate the above G.O.

This is brought to the notice of the Board for information.

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

The Sub-committee meeting was conducted on 19.06.2017. Less three applications received from the National Biodiversity Authority and the Proceedings of the committee are placed before the Board.

Sl. No.	Sub-committee meeting date	No. of applications received
1	19.06.2017	3

Brief details of the three applications is provided below:

- i. M/s Tata Chemicals – Research and Food trial purpose of Pomegranate and Spirulina
- ii. M/s Laurus Labs Limited – Research on bioresources (Moringa oleifera, Terminalia chebula and Cassia angustifolia) for food, nutrition and personal care products.
- iii. M/s Laurus Labs Limited – Commercial utilization of Cassia angustifolia and Terminalia chebula for development of new ingredients for promoting human health

The sub-committee processed the applications based on the NBA guidelines on access to biological resources and associated knowledge and benefit sharing regulations, 2014 (copy attached) recommended to NBA for further action. The statement of the sub-committee, in respect of the three applications is provided as annexure.

This is for kind information of the Board.

e. Payment of Rent for TNBB office

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Project Director, TBGP vide Ref.No.TBGP7/365/2016 dated 29.05.2017 fixed an amount of Rs.17,969/- per month as Rent for the TNBB office located in the TBGP building complex and separate charges for EB, Security and housekeeping has also been fixed. An approximate amount of Rs. 8,79,917/- is required to be paid to TBGP from 01.01.2016 to 31.03.2018 and a proposal was sent to the Government vide PCCF and CWLW Ref.No. WL4/21556/2017 dated 09.06.2017.

This is for kind information of the Board.

Agenda 3: Proposals sent to the Government for Salary and Non salary expenditure

a. Proposals for Salary and Non salary expenditure during 2017-18

i) Government has sanctioned supporting staff for functioning of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board in the cadre of Administrative officer/Personal Assistant (Cadre post)-1, Superintendent-1, Assistant-3, Data entry operator/Console operator-1, Office Assistant-2. Out of the 8 sanctioned posts in the Board, only the Administrative Officer, Superintendent and one Assistant are in position as on 01.06.2017. The other posts i.e. 2 Assistants and two office assistants have not been filled up till date.

ii) A sum of Rs. 43.00 lakhs (Forty Three Lakhs only) is required for the payment of salary and allowances, pension contribution to the staff for the year 2017-18.

iii) A sum of Rs.14.00 lakhs (Fourteen lakhs only) is required for the Non salary expenditure of the Board for the year 2017-18.

iv) A detailed proposal for Salary and Non salary expenditure for 2017-18 was submitted to the Government vide PCCF and CWLW in WL4/21556/2017 dated 09.06.2017 for an amount of Rs. 57.00 Lakhs (Fifty Seven lakhs only) for sanction as

grant in aid for the payment of salary and allowances and non-salary expenditure for the year 2017-18. The matter is pending with Government.

This is brought to the notice of the Board for information.

b) Proposals for reimbursement of expenditure incurred in previous years from NBA funds for salary and administrative expenses

In the recent past, due to the inadequate allotment in the grant in aid to the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, the Board was forced to make payment towards salaries and non-salary expenditure by utilizing the funds allotted to it by the National Biodiversity Authority for various other sanctioned activities of the Board. Hence, this payment needs to be reimbursed towards the funds allotted by the National Biodiversity Authority so that the sanctioned activities can be carried out smoothly. A detailed proposal for the total expenditure amount that needs to be reimbursed by the Government to the funds of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was submitted to the Government vide PCCF and CWLW Ref. No. WL4/27916/2017 dated 27.07.2017 for an amount of Rs. 10,05,655/- (Rupees Ten lakhs five thousand six hundred and fifty five only). The matter is pending with Government.

This is brought to the notice of the Board for information

Agenda 4: Posting staff to TNBB

The Government has sanctioned supporting staff for functioning of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board in the cadre of Administrative officer/Personal Assistant (Cadre post)-1, Superintendent-1, Assistant-3, Data entry operator/Console operator-1, Office Assistant-2. Out of the 8 sanctioned posts in the Board, only Administrative Officer, Superintendent and one Assistant are in position as on 11.07.2017. The other posts i.e. 2 Assistants, DEO/Console operator and two office assistants have not been filled up so far.

At present, one more Assistant and one office assistant are absolutely essential for functioning of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board. In this regard, a reference was submitted to The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD) vide in TNBB Ref.No.182/2017 dated.12.07.2017. The G.O. sanctioning the staff is enclosed as an annexure.

This is for kind information of the Board.

Agenda 5: Constitution of expert committees: The TOR of the four Expert committees and the suggested members of the expert committees are placed before the Board for approval

The Board in its meeting on 21.04.2017 approved the constitution of following Expert committees:

- 1) Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Expert Committee
- 2) Expert Committee on BMC Constitution and documentation of PBRs.
- 3) Legal Advisory Committee

4) Agro-biodiversity Committee.

The Expert Committee was to have 4 members in addition to Chairperson and members will be selected based on their expertise in the field. NBA will nominate a member in each of the expert committees.

The draft TOR for the Expert Committees and the suggested members (apart from the Chairperson) is attached.

The Terms of Reference and the members of expert committees as suggested are placed for approval by the Board.

Agenda 6: Proposal for purchase of a Jeep for TNBB

It is brought to the notice of the Board that apart from the vehicle of the Member Secretary, TNBB, the Board does not have any vehicle. One vehicle is essential for the use by the Administrative Officer and other staff of the Board to carry out activities of the Board in relation to the implementation of the Biodiversity Act (BMC formation, contacting industries and their associations for registration, awareness activities) and also to hold and attend meetings and discussions (TNBB, Secretariat, PCCF office, NBA), attending bank and post office works etc. Hence the Board may kindly approve the proposal for purchase of a Jeep to the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board with funds from the Government. The anticipated cost of such a vehicle is Rs. 7.00 lakhs.

The Board may kindly approve.

of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of biological resources, incentives for research, training and public education to increase awareness with respect to biodiversity.

(2) Where the Central Government has reason to believe that any area rich in biological diversity, biological resources and their habitats is being threatened by overuse, abuse or neglect it shall issue directives to the concerned State Government to take immediate ameliorative measures, offering such State Government any technical and other assistance that is possible to be provided or needed.

(3) The Central Government shall, as far as practicable wherever it deems appropriate, integrate the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

(4) The Central Government shall undertake measures,—

- (i) wherever necessary, for assessment of environmental impact of that project which is likely to have adverse effect on biological diversity, with a view to avoid or minimise such effects and where appropriate provide for public participation in such assessment;
- (ii) to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology likely to have adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and human health.

(5) The Central Government shall endeavour to respect and protect the knowledge of local people relating to biological diversity, as recommended by the National Biodiversity Authority through such measures, which may include registration of such knowledge at the local, State or national levels, and other measures for protection, including *sui generis* system.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section,—

- (a) “*ex situ* conservation” means the conservation of components of biological diversity outside their natural habitats;
- (b) “*in situ* conservation” means the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

37. Biodiversity heritage sites.—(1) Without prejudice to any other law for the time being in force, the State Government may, from time to time in consultation with the local bodies, notify in the Official Gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as biodiversity heritage sites under this Act.

(2) The State Government, in consultation with the Central Government, may frame rules for the management and conservation of all the heritage sites.

(3) The State Government shall frame schemes for compensating or rehabilitating any person or section of people economically affected by such notification.



TAMILNADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD

A.Udhayan, IFS.,
Member Secretary
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Ref No. TNBB/129/2016 dated:27.06.2017

To,
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment and Forest Department,
Chennai-600 009.

(Through PCCF and CWLW (HoFF))

Sir,

Sub: Provision of Nodal officer for constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) and other issues - Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board - order to be issued -regarding.
Ref: The Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forest Department, Chennai. Letter No. 3488/FR.5/2017-2 dated.19.05.2017

-X-X-X-X-

I wish to inform that the 5th meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held on 21.04.2017 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Forests and the Minutes of the meeting were communicated in the reference cited.

In this connection, it is brought to your kind notice that in respect of **Agenda item no. 4: Strengthening the functioning of the Board**, the Board decided that in each district, the Divisional Forest Officer (Social Forestry) / District Forest Officer (Territorial) / Wildlife Warden maybe made the District level Coordination Officer / Nodal Officer to take necessary steps to constitute Biodiversity Management Committees in their respective districts.

[PTO]

The following would be the tasks of the District level Coordination Officer / Nodal Officer:

- To take necessary steps to constitute Biodiversity Management Committees in their respective districts.
- To act as coordinator between the different Biodiversity Management Committees and to assist in preparation of People's Biodiversity Register.
- To facilitate the smooth functioning of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and the implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Any other task assigned by the Government or Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board in connection with implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biodiversity Conservation.

It is also pertinent to mention that though the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules are yet to be notified, the designation of the nodal officer for each district finds mention in the draft rule 24 (d) of the draft rules submitted to the Government. The said draft sub Rule is reproduced below:

24 (d) Nodal Officer:

The State Government on the recommendation of the Board shall designate nodal officer for each district to oversee the various matters of the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)

The nodal officer proposed for each district is as follows:

Sl. No	Name of District	Nodal Officer
1	Ariyalur	District Forest Officer Ariyalur Division.
2	Chennai	District Forest Officer Chennai
3	Coimbatore	Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Coimbatore
4	Cuddalore	District Forest Officer Cuddalore Division
5	Dharmapuri	District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri
6	Dindigul	Divisional Forest Officer Inter Face Forestry Division, Dindigul
7	Erode	District Forest Officer Erode Division
8	Kancheepuram	Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Chengalpattu

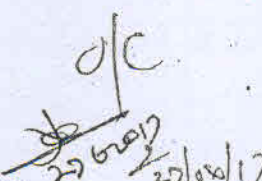
Sl. No	Name of District	Nodal Officer
9	Kanniyakumari	District Forest Officer Kanniyakumari Division
10	Karur	District Forest Officer Karur Division
11	Krishnagiri	Divisional Forest Officer Krishnagiri IFF.
12	Madurai	District Forest Officer Madurai Division
13	Nagapattinam	Wildlife Warden Nagapattinam Division.
14	Namakkal	District Forest Officer Namakkal Division
15	Perambalur	District Forest Officer Perambalur Division
16	Pudukkottai	District Forest Officer Pudukkottai Division
17	Ramanathapuram	District Forest Officer Ramanathapuram Social Forestry Division
18	Salem	Divisional Forest Officer Inter Face Forestry Division, Salem
19	Sivagangai	District Forest Officer, Sivagangai Division
20	Thanjavur	District Forest Officer Thanjavur Forest Division
21	Theni	District Forest Officer, Theni.
22	The Nilgiris	District Forest Officer Nilgiris North Division.
23	Thiruvallur	District Forest Officer Thiruvallur Division
24	Thiruvarur	District Forest Officer Thiruvarur.
25	Thoothukkudi	District Forest Officer Thoothukkudi
26	Tiruchirappalli	Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Tiruchirappalli
27	Tirunelveli	Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Tirunelveli
28	Tiruppur	DFO Tiruppur & Deputy Director, Anamalai Tiger Reserve, at Udamalpet
29	Tiruvannamalai	District Forest Officer Tiruvannamalai North Division.

Sl. No	Name of District	Nodal Officer
30	Vellore	Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Vellore
31	Villupuram	District Forest Officer Villupuram Division
32	Virudhunagar	Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Virudhunagar.

I request that Government may issue necessary orders to appoint the District level Coordination Officer / Nodal Officers.

Yours Faithfully,


Member Secretary
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board


Copy Submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wild life Warden(HoFF) , Chennai-15

Copy Submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD), Chennai-15

DRAFT

Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 read-with Section 25 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and for efficient discharge of duties and performance of functions mandated under the Sections 23, 24 of the Act and as decided by the Board in its 5th meeting held on 21st April 2017, the TNBB constitutes the "**Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing**" comprising the following members:

I. List of Members:

Sl. No.	Name and Affiliation	Role
1.	Dr. D. Narasimhan Associate Professor Madras Christian College, Chennai	Chairperson
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.	Member Secretary, TNBB	Focal Point

II. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Committee shall be as under:

- a. To consider and evaluate the Access and Benefit Sharing applications received by the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB) from the National Biodiversity Authority and provide comments / recommendations to the TNBB on the basis of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, Biological Diversity Rules 2004, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules (to be notified), Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014 and other relevant guidelines.
- b. To consider and evaluate the applications received by the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board relating to Section 7 and 24 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and advise the TNBB.
- c. To provide and record the reasons/basis on which recommendations such as restrictions for access, conditions for access, contravention of the Act, rejection etc. are taken on applications forwarded by NBA or received by TNBB.

- d. To provide recommendations/advice on the matters relating to Access and Benefit Sharing provisions of the Act as and when requested by the TNBB.
- e. The TNBB may amend the ToRs, if required.

III. Guidelines for Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing are provided below:

- a. The Expert committee is being constituted mainly to advise TNBB on technical, techno-legal and scientific matters.
- b. The Member Secretary, TNBB will be the focal point and will participate and provide his/her opinion in the Expert Committee.
- c. The focal point shall convene meetings after consulting the Chairperson of the Expert Committee and members are requested to make it convenient to attend the meetings.
- d. The Committee is expected to submit the proceedings/minutes to TNBB duly authenticated by all members soon after the meeting.
- e. The Chairperson and Members of the Expert Committee may exchange their opinion and notes through emails on the applications to be discussed during the meeting.
- f. The members are requested not to engage in any discussion individually with the applicants or non-members with regard to any of the applications placed before the Expert committee.
- g. The focal point is authorized to invite any expert for the meeting if and when the service/opinion of such expert is required.
- h. The tenure, honorarium for each sitting, travel and other allowance for meetings will be as decided by the TNBB in due course.