



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

Letter No.14065/FR.5/2017- 3, Dated 27.12.2017.

From  
Thiru V.Chinnappaian, M.A.,B.L.,  
Deputy Secretary to Government

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

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

Sir,

Sub: Meeting – Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board – Sixth Board  
Meeting held on 20.11.2017 – Minutes sent – Regarding.

Ref: Your letter No.WL4/23778/2017, dated 29.11.2017.

I am directed to enclose the minutes of the sixth meeting of the Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board held on 20.11.2017 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Forests) and request you to communicate the same to all members of the Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board. The action taken report on the minutes of the meeting may be sent to Government early.

Yours faithfully,

*W. Chinnappaian*  
29/12/17

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*W. Chinnappaian*  
for Deputy Secretary to Government  
29.12.17

**MINUTES OF 6<sup>th</sup> TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD MEETING ON 20.11.2017 IN  
THE NAMAKKAL KAVIGNAR MALIGAI, VII FLOOR, SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI-9**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held at Secretariat, Chennai-9 on 20.11.2017 and was presided by the Hon'ble Minister for Forests & Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board. The following members and special invitees attended the meeting:

| Sl. No. | Name of Officer  | Designation                  |
|---------|--|------------------------------|
| 1.      | Thiru Hans Raj Verma, IAS.,<br>Additional Chief Secretary to Government,<br>Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department   | Special invitee              |
| 2.      | Thiru Mohd. Nasimuddin, IAS ,<br>Principal Secretary to Government ,<br>Environment and Forest Department  | Ex-officio Member            |
| 3.      | Thiru P.C. Tyagi, IFS<br>Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife<br>Warden (Head of Forest Force)  | Ex-officio Member            |
| 4.      | Dr. H. Basavaraju, IFS<br>Principal Conservator of Forests (Head of Department)  | Ex-officio Member            |
| 5.      | Thiru P. Mani Maran<br>Deputy Secretary, Animal Husbandry Department,<br>Chennai<br>(Representing the Secretary to Government,<br>Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department) | Ex-officio Member            |
| 6.      | Thiru J. Ganesan<br>Deputy Secretary, Agriculture Department<br>(Representing the Secretary to Government,<br>Agriculture Department)  | Ex-officio Member            |
| 7.      | Dr. D. Narasimhan,<br>Tambaram, Chennai  | Member                       |
| 8.      | Dr. Jayashree Vencatesan,<br>Care Earth Trust, Chennai   | Member                       |
| 9.      | Thiru K Chidambaram IFS. (Retd)<br>Retd. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests<br>Chennai   | Member                       |
| 10.     | Thiru T.S, Srinivasamurthy, IFS (Retd)<br>Retd. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai  | Member                       |
| 11.     | Dr. C.P. Raj Kumar,<br>Nalam Hospital, Sriram Nagar, Theni   | Member                       |
| 12.     | Thiru. A. Udhayan, IFS.,<br>Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity)  | Member-Secretary<br>Convener |

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At the outset, the Member-Secretary welcomed the Hon'ble Minister (Forests) and Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and the esteemed Members and presented the Action taken Report on the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21.04.2017 and the agenda items of the meeting. After due deliberations, the following decisions were taken:

| Agenda 1: |   | Review of action taken on decisions of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Board meeting of TNBB held on 21.04.2017   |
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| Sl. No    | Decision taken during 5 <sup>th</sup> Board Meeting       | Action taken  |
| a         | Framing of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules                  | The Member-Secretary informed that the Rules were notified by the Government in G.O. (Ms) No.137 dated 09.11.2017.  |
| b         | Formation of Biodiversity Heritage Sites                  | <p>The Member-Secretary mentioned that suitable sites as Biodiversity Heritage Sites would be selected from areas primarily outside PAs and RFs and with greater focus on scared groves, agro and livestock diversity and requested approval from the Board to conduct a small study to identify such sites.</p> <p>The Board conveyed its approval</p> |
| c         | A brief coffee table book on "Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu" | The Member-Secretary presented a rough copy printout as well as the soft copy of the book and the Board conveyed its approval for its printing after including appropriate messages from dignitaries.   |
| d.        | Review of the Web-Pages developed for Website of TNBB     | <p>The Member-Secretary briefly presented the website prepared for the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and explained its features.</p> <p>The Board conveyed its approval and resolved that the website would be formally launched by the Chairperson.</p>  |

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| e  | Strengthening the functioning of the board   | <p>The Member-Secretary informed that proposals have been sent to the Government for appointing Nodal Officer (Deputy Conservator of Forests) in each district for constitution of the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) and implementation of the Biodiversity Act.</p> <p>He informed that proposal has also been sent to the Government for 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.</p> <p>The approval from the Government is awaited.</p> |
| f  | List of Industries registered under the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Commissioner of Industries and Commerce.        | The Member Secretary informed that certain companies likely to be using bio-resources have been identified and that a notice will be issued such companies under the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules.   |
| g  | List of Bio-Resource based industries/ companies in the state that are registered in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Chennai. | The Member-Secretary informed that the list of Bio-Resource based industries/companies in the state registered at Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Chennai and the Indian Medical Practitioners' Cooperative Pharmacy and Stores has been collected and that a notice will be issued to such companies under the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules.   |
| h. | Constitution of Block level Bio Diversity Management Committees (BMC)  | The Member-Secretary informed that 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.  |

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| i  | Meetings with sector-wise industries to discuss the compliance under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its Access and Benefit sharing (ABS) provisions | The process of identification of the Companies/Enterprises using bio-resources is nearly complete and that the Meetings would be held soon   |
| J  | Regional training on Biological Diversity Act and Access and Benefit sharing Mechanism for line department officials  | It was informed to the Board that the meeting was held successfully at Theni on 29.04.2017 with the help of GIZ.   |
| k. | Designing a logo for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board  | The Member- Secretary explained the process by which the logo was selected and placed the logo before the Board for its approval. The Board discussed on this issue and suggested that the Nilgiri tahr, a prominent marine life form of TN, and hill profile etc., may be incorporated into the logo. |

| <b>Agenda 2:</b> |   | <b>Brief report on the activities of the TNBB subsequent to the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting</b> |
|------------------|---|--|
| <b>Sl. No</b>    | <b>Report</b>   | <b>Decision / Observation</b>  |
| a                | The Member-Secretary briefed the Board about the International Biodiversity day celebrations on 22.05.2017, which included a major function chaired by the Hon. Minister for Forests and Chairperson, TNBB at the Conference hall of TBGP building, Nanmangalam and a biodiversity walk organized at the Beasant Nagar beach with school and college students in the morning of 22.05.2017. | The Board noted the report   |
| b                | The Board was also briefed on the sanction accorded in G.O.No.147/E&F(FR.5) Department dated 09.12.2016, in which Rs.70.00 lakhs has been allotted for Strengthening Institutional Mechanism for Access and Benefit sharing for Biodiversity Conservation in Tamil Nadu. The Member Secretary mentioned that necessary preparatory works are in progress                                    | The Board noted the report   |

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| c | The Board was also briefed on the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund sanctioned in G.O. (D) No. 39 Environmental and Forest (FR.V) Department, dated 10.02.2014 for which a bank account has been opened and the proposals for the revalidation of the G.O. have been sent to the Government.   | The Board noted the report |
| d | The Board then approved the action taken by the Sub-committee on 19.06.2017 in which three applications received from the National Biodiversity Authority for granting permission for access to Bio-resources under Section 3 and 6 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 were processed and recommended to NBA.  | The Board noted the report |
| e | The Board then noted the fact that an approximate amount of Rs. 8,79,917/- is required to be paid to TBGP from 01.01.2016 to 31.03.2018 for rent and other charges for the TNBB office to be housed in the TBGP building.   | The Board noted the report |
| f | The Member-Secretary briefed the Board about the technical project between the MoEF & CC and GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Germany) on Access and Benefit Sharing in which NBA and three states (Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra) are the formal partners and that the formal signing of the project was done on 9th November, 2017 and that the project implementation will formally commence in Tamil Nadu. This was noted and the Board members mentioned that the project should be utilized to the maximum extent to establish a good number of BMCs and ensure their functioning as per the Biodiversity Act, 2002. | The Board noted the report |

| <b>Agenda 3: Proposals sent to the Government for Salary and Non salary expenditure</b> |   |   |
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| <b>Sl. No</b>   | <b>Details</b>  | <b>Decision / Observation</b>   |
| a   | The Member-Secretary then mentioned that a detailed proposal for Salary and Non salary expenditure for 2017-18 was submitted to the Government 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 and that the sanction is awaited   | The Principal Secretary (E & F) mentioned that the sanction would be accorded soon. |
| b   | The Board was also informed that due to the inadequate allotment in the past as 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, a detailed proposal from the Board was sent and the Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 10,05,655/- (Rupees Ten lakhs five thousand six hundred and fifty five only) as reimbursement. | The Board noted the sanction accorded by the Government                             |

| <b>Agenda 4: Posting staff to TNBB</b> |  |   |
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| <b>Sl. No</b>                          | <b>Details</b>   | <b>Decision / Observation</b>   |
|  | The Board was informed that the sanctioned supporting staff for functioning of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was in the cadre of Administrative officer/Personal Assistant (Cadre post)-1, Superintendent-1, Assistant-3, Data entry operator/Console operator-1, Office Assistant-2 and that 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. It was mentioned that one more Assistant and one office assistant are absolutely essential for functioning of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board. | During the discussion that ensued, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD) assured that the matter would be looked into and necessary staff would be deputed to the Board. |

**Agenda 5: Constitution of expert committees: The TOR of the four Expert committees and the suggested members of the expert committees**

The Board in its meeting on 21.04.2017 approved the constitution of four Expert committees to be headed by various Board Members to enable the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board to carry out the activities as per the mandate of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions.

The Member-Secretary briefed the Board about the Terms of reference drawn for the four Sub-committees and the suggested members for the Sub-committees. The Board deliberated on the issue and the suggested Terms of Reference and members of the Sub-Committee were approved. The approved Members of the four committees are as below:

| Sl.No. | Expert Committee   | Members  |
|--------|--|--|
| i      | Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Expert Committee              | 1. Dr. D. Narasimhan,<br>Associate Professor, MCC- Chairperson<br>2. Dr. Arivudainambi<br>Independent Expert, Chennai-Member<br>3. Thiru S.Elumalai<br>Assistant Professor ,School of Excellence in law,<br>Dr.Ambedkar Law University ,Chennai - Member<br>4. Wildlife Warden , Chennai- Member<br>5. Member Secretary, TNBB- Focal Point   |
| ii     | Expert Committee on BMC Constitution and documentation of PBRs | 1. Thiru. Hans Raj Verma, IAS,<br>Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural<br>Development and Panchayat Raj Department- Chairperson<br>2. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,<br>(Protection and Vigilance) and Member Secretary,<br>Tamil Nadu Wet Land Authority- Member<br>3. Chief Conservator of Forests (Research)- Member<br>4. Deputy Director,<br>Advance Institute for Wildlife Conservation (Research,<br>Training and Education), Vandalur, Chennai- Member<br>5. Member Secretary, TNBB- Focal Point |

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| iii | Legal Advisory Committee    | 1. Thiru K Chidambaram IFS (Retd.) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department)- Chairperson               |
|     |                             | 2. Thiru S.Elumalai<br>Assistant Professor, School of Excellence in Law,<br>Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai - Member |
|     |                             | 3. Chief Conservator of Forests (Headquarters)  |
|     |                             | 4. District Forest Officer -Tiruvallur Forest Division- Member  |
|     |                             | 5. Member Secretary, TNBB- Focal Point  |
| iv  | Agro-biodiversity Committee | 1. Ms. Jayashree Vencatesan,<br>Care Earth, Chennai- Chairperson  |
|     |                             | 2. Dr.R. Rangalakshmi,<br>Director, MS Swaminathan Research- Member   |
|     |                             | 3. Dr. Arivudainambi<br>Independent Expert, Chennai - Member  |
|     |                             | 4. District Forest Officer, Chennai Forest Division- Member   |
|     |                             | 5. Member Secretary, TNBB- Focal Point  |

| Agenda 6: |  | Proposal for purchase of a Jeep for TNBB   |
|-----------|--|--|
| Sl. No    | Details  | Decision / Observation   |
|           | The Member Secretary briefed the Board that TNBB does not have a vehicle 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 and requested approval for a proposal for purchase of a Jeep for the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board with funds from the Government. | The Board deliberated on the issue and it was decided that taxis may be availed for the various Board activities at present and the purchase of a jeep may be considered in future based on availability of Board funds. |

| <b>Agenda 7:</b> |   | <b>Any other matter</b>   |
|------------------|---|---|
| <b>Sl. No</b>    | <b>Details</b>  | <b>Decision</b>   |
| a                | Dr C.P. Rajkumar, Member brought to the notice of the board about the endangered 'Kombai' dog of Theni district and requested that efforts should be made to conserve the gene pool of this special and historically significant dog breed of Tamil Nadu.   | The Board agreed to the proposal and suggested that action may be initiated under Biodiversity Heritage sites to conserve this breed. |
| b                | Dr. Jayshree Vencatesan, Member mentioned that Board could accord priority to wetlands and the traditional fisher folk and that a study could be taken up to document the tools used by the fisher folk and their traditional knowledge and practices.  | The Board noted the suggestion  |
| c                | Thiru Hansraj Verma, Special Invitee, mentioned that ensuring livelihood and involvement of the community is crucial for biodiversity conservation and action should be focused accordingly. He also suggested that a presentation should be made by the four expert sub-committees during the next meeting of the Board. | The Board agreed and resolved that the next meeting would be held on February 12, 2018.   |

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

**MD. NASIMUDDIN**  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

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*uf. Ammy*  
29/12/17  
*29.12.17*  
**Section Officer**