

**Agenda for the 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the TNBB on 20.12.2018**

**Agenda – 1**

The minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting held on 20.11.2018 communicated in Govt. letter No. 19062/FR.5/2018-3 dated 27.12.2017 may be confirmed.

**Agenda – 2**

**Action taken on decisions of the 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting of TNBB held on 20.11.2017**

Sl. No.	Decision taken during 6th Board Meeting	Action taken
1(b)	Formation of Biodiversity Heritage sites	<p>A fresh exercise to identify potential Biodiversity Heritage Sites has been initiated and the proposals will be sent soon to the Government for notification.</p> <p>Letters have been sent to all 32 District Collectors, District Nodal Officers of BMCs, Ex-officio Members of the Board, Principal Secretaries of stake holder departments, Expert Members of the Board and NGOs seeking proposals for Biodiversity Heritage Sites.</p> <p>This is dealt in Agenda No. 6 in the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p>
1(c)	A brief coffee table book on "Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu"	<p>The Hon'ble Minister of Forests and Chairperson, TNBB released the Coffee Table book on "Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu" on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 during the event of International Biodiversity Day Celebrations 2018 held in Chennai.</p>
1(d)	Review of the Web-Pages developed for Website of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	<p>The Hon'ble Forest Minister of Tamil Nadu and Chairperson, TNBB launched the website of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (<a href="http://www.tnbb.tn.gov.in">www.tnbb.tn.gov.in</a>) on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 during the event of International Biodiversity Day Celebrations 2018 held in Chennai.</p>
1(e)	Strengthening the functioning of the board	<p>To Strengthen the functioning of the board, action has been taken to appoint Nodal Officers in each district, vide PCCF ref No. WL4/37326/2016-2 dated 20.03.2018 (copy enclosed Annexure 1).</p> <p>Proposals have been sent to Government for the formation of Technical Support Group in each district vide PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden Ref No. WL4/26945/2017 dt: 20.07.2017 (copy enclosed Annexure 2) for which Government order is awaited. This Technical support group will assist the BMCs especially in the preparation of the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR).</p> <p>As per government directions, the above proposals placed as Agenda No. 4 in the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to send the recommendation of the Board to the Government for further action.</p>

1(f)	List of Industries registered under the Tamil Nadu Pollution control Board and Commissioner of Industries and commerce.	List of companies registered under the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Commissioner of Industries and Commerce using Bio-resources have been identified. Compliance notices have been issued to such companies to follow the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules and the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017.
1(g)	List of Bio-Resource based industries / companies in the state that are registered in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Chennai.	List of Bio-resources based industries / Companies registered at Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Chennai, have been collected. Compliance notices have been issued to such companies to follow the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules and the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017. In total, Compliance notices have been issued to 338 Companies till date. Details given in Agenda No.7 of 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting
1(h)	Constitution of Block level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC)	As per the Director, Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Chennai Lr. No. 8164/2018PRI 4-1 dated 21.05.2018, BMCs at the Block level to a total of 385 nos. have been formed in Tamil Nadu. As per the Principal Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MA.IV) Department letter No. 7767/MA.IV(2)/2018-7, dated 10.10.2018, all the Urban Local Bodies (124 Municipalities, 11 Municipal Corporations, 528 Town panchayats and one Greater Chennai Corporation) under control of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MA.IV) Department have completed the constitution of 664 BMCs. In total 1049 BMCs (385 + 664) BMCs have been formed in Tamil Nadu.
1(i)	Meeting with sector-wise industries to discuss the compliance under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) provisions	In this regard, a first workshop has been held on 01.08.2018 at Panagal Malagai, Saidapet, Chennai with the Irula Snake Catchers Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd., and a meeting was also held subsequently on 24.10.2018 with the companies purchasing snake venom for implementation of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and provisions of Access and Benefit Sharing. More such meetings with other sectors have been planned

1(k)	Designing a logo for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	The Hon'ble Forest Minister of Tamil Nadu and Chairperson, TNBB launched the logo of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board on 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2018 during the event of International Biodiversity Day Celebrations 2018.
3A	The Member Secretary then mentioned that a detailed proposal for salary and Non salary expenditure for 2017-18 was submitted to the Government for a 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 of the Government is awaited	Rs. 31.31 Lakhs was sanctioned vide in G.O. (D) No. 66 E&F (FR-5) Department dated 19.03.2018
4	Appointing staff to Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board - 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 assistant 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.	Vide PCCFs Proceedings No. W2/27333/2017 dated 15.05.2018, one Assistant has been deputed from Forest Department to Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board. As per the directions of the PCCF, one Assistant during October 2018 was repatriated back to the Forest department. The posts of Assistant - 2, Data Entry Operator / Console Operator - 1, Office Assistant-2 still remain vacant.

**Agenda 3: Constitution, strengthening and functioning of the Block level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)**

1. The Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department has taken active action with the district level administration in the state to form BMCs at the Block level and 385 Nos. of BMCs were constituted in the state. The list of BMCs constituted is provided in Annexure 3.
2. As per the Principal Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MA.IV) Department letter No. 7767/MA.IV(2)/2018-7, dated 10.10.2018, all the Urban Local Bodies (124 Municipalities, 11 Municipal Corporations, 528 Town panchayats and one Greater Chennai Corporation) under control of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MA.IV) Department have completed constitution of 664 BMCs. In total 1049 BMCs (385 + 664) BMCs have been formed in Tamil Nadu.

**For kind information of the Board.**

#### **Agenda 4: Strengthening the functioning of the BMCs**

##### **A. Recommendation of appointing the Forest Range Officer as Secretary of BMC**

As per Rule 20(9) of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017, the Government on the recommendation of the Board may designate an officer as the Secretary of the Biodiversity Management Committee. The Secretary of the BMC will assist/guide the BMC in the tasks/role listed out in Rule 21, 22 and 23 of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017.

As per the Director, Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Chennai Letter No. 8164/2018PRI 4-1 dated 07.02.2018, instructions were issued to all Collectors to form BMCs at the Block level with the Range Officer from Forest department functioning in the Block to act as Secretary of the BMC.

**Hence, it is requested that the Board may recommend the Forest Range Officer functioning within/close to each Block to be designated as the Secretary of the concerned Biodiversity Management Committee.**

The list of Range Officers to be designated as the Secretaries of the various BMCs is provided in Annexure 3.

##### **B. Recommendation of appointing the DFO in each district as Nodal Officer for BMCs**

As per Rule 20(10) of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017, the Government on the recommendation of the Board may designate Nodal officer for each district to oversee the various matters of the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) within the district.

In this regard proposals have been submitted to the Government by PCCF & CWLW in ref. No. WL4/37326/2016 dated 28.05.2018 (Annexure 1).

**The functions of the Nodal officer** are proposed as follows:

- i) Oversee the functioning of the Biodiversity Management Committees in their district
- ii) Supervise the implementation of the tasks allotted to the Secretary (Forest Range Officers) of the Biodiversity Management Committees in their district.
- iii) Coordinate with the officers of the line departments in providing necessary guidance to the BMCs in their district for carrying out the roles and responsibilities as listed in the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017.
- iv) Providing necessary guidance to the BMC in the preparation of the People's Biodiversity Register.
- v) Report to the District Collector regarding the above every month.
- vi) Report to the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and carry out the tasks and responsibilities entrusted to them by the Board.

In the Government letter No: 10464/FR.5/2018-2 E&F Department Dated: 06.08.2018, it has been directed to place this proposal before the Board during its meeting and send the recommendation of the board to the Government.

**Apart from the above reasons and as the Forest Range Officer has also been proposed to be the Secretary of the BMCs, it is requested that the Board may recommend the District Forest officer in each district as the Nodal Officers for each district.**

The list of DFOs recommended as Nodal Officers by the PCCF is provided in Annexure 1.

**C. Formation of Technical Support Group (TSG) in each district consisting of people having vast expertise in the Biodiversity issues to guide Biodiversity Management Committee.**

The BMC requires considerable technical support in documenting the Biodiversity in the areas of its jurisdiction and as per the 'Guidelines for Operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees' issued by the National Biodiversity Authority, it has been mentioned that the BMC formation can also possibly be mediated through Technical Support Groups (TSG). The TSG is expected to comprise officials/ institutions/ people of excellence and expertise in the biodiversity issues at local level and should guide the BMC in its operation. The Technical Support Group is to be formed at district level including representative from the department of Forests, Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary and Fishery, Local Educational and Research Institutions, Autonomous District Councils, Non-Governmental Organizations, Herbal Practitioner etc., based on the local conditions.

Accordingly, it is requested that Technical Support Groups may be constituted in each district of the State with the following objectives:

- (i) The BMC formation shall be assisted by the TGS.
- (ii) The People's Biodiversity Register shall be maintained, authenticated and validated by the Biodiversity Management Committees with the assistance/guidance of the Local TSG.
- (iii) The TSGs established shall assist BMCs with regard to collection fee, benefit sharing and management of heritage sites, sacred groves and water bodies.
- (iv) The TSG shall assist the BMC in listing local names of flora, fauna, traditional knowledge relating to flora and fauna, and current practices of communities regarding conservation within its territorial jurisdiction, to be included in the PBR.

A Technical Support Group may be constituted with following members in each district:

1. Nodal officer from the Forest Department.
2. Joint Director, Agriculture Department
3. Joint Director, Horticulture Department
4. Joint Director, Fisheries Department
5. Joint Director, Animal Husbandry Department
6. Medical Officer, Siddha Medicines, Health Department
7. District Sericulture Officer, Sericulture Department
8. Senior Lecturer / Professor in Botany from local College / University
9. Senior Lecturer / Professor Zoology from local College / University

Accordingly, proposals have been sent to Government for the formation of Technical Support Group in each district vide PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden Ref No. WL4/26945/2017 dt: 20.07.2017 (copy enclosed Annexure 2). In the Government letter No: 10464/FR.5/2018-2 E&F Department Dated: 06.08.2018, it has been directed to place this proposal before the Board during its meeting and send the recommendation of the board to the Government.

**Hence, it is requested that the Board may recommend the constitution of Technical Support Groups (TSG) in each district.**

## **Agenda 5: Biodiversity Management Committees to be developed as Model BMCs**

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board is currently developing guidelines to guide the overall functioning of Biodiversity Management Committees from an implementation perspective and the Standard Operating Procedures for activities to be undertaken by the BMCs. The Board in close coordination with the District Nodal Officers will be shortly undertaking infrastructural development and capacity building initiatives for at least one Biodiversity Management Committee in each district of the state to be developed as Model BMC using the funds provided by the Government, NBA as well as through the Access and Benefit sharing project being implemented with GIZ and NBA. This will help in streamlining the functioning of the BMCs and would encourage the other BMCs in the district to follow suit.

This will involve direct engagement with BMC members on various operational aspects such as conducting meetings, maintenance of records, chronicling the knowledge related to the bio-resources of the area in the form of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) and implementation of the Access and Benefit Sharing provisions.

In this regard, Nodal officers were requested to propose two or three potential BMCs in their district that could be developed as Model BMCs. The indicative criteria for selection of Model BMCs are as follows:

1. Areas with substantial sourcing/trade of biological resources including NTFPs, medicinal plants for commercial utilisation (biological resources and commercial utilisation as defined in Section 2 of the BD Act, 2002).
2. Areas providing supplies to or with biodiversity-based businesses (industries or companies) – for e.g., Pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, cosmetics, colours, enzymes, Oleoresins, extracts (viz. sea weed extracts, agar production using sea weeds).
3. Areas known for export of biological resources for use in pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, cosmetics, colours, enzymes, Oleoresins etc.
4. Areas that have potential to be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (preferably focussing on agro, horti, livestock and wild biodiversity outside PAs and RFs)
5. Areas with active local communities showing considerable interest or initiatives in biodiversity related matters.

The tentative model BMCs proposed in each district is provided in Annexure 4.

**The Board may approve action to be taken to select one BMC for each district from the list and take further action in this regard.**

## **Agenda 6: Formation of Biodiversity Heritage Sites**

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 37(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the State Government in consultation with the local bodies may notify areas of biodiversity importance (wild or cultivated/domesticated) as "Biodiversity Heritage Sites" under this Act. Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems - terrestrial, coastal & inland waters and marine having rich biodiversity with some special component as elaborated in the enclosure.

**The potential BHS site could be private, community or government owned land / water body and the status of ownership will not change in case of notification as a Biodiversity Heritage Site. The BHS will continue to be managed by the present owner with assistance from the concerned Biodiversity Management Committee and the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board.**

A detailed format and information on Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) for the identification and declaration process of BHS has been sent to all Principal Secretaries of the stake holder departments, District Collectors, District Forest Officers and line departments besides ex-officio and Expert members of the board requesting them to identify and propose suitable sites as BHS in their District by using all available resources.

The proposals for the following sites have been received till date:

Sl. No.	Name of the Site	District	Significance
1.	Arittappatti	Madurai	Raptors, Pandian dynasty temple
2.	Kandanur	Sivaganga	Sacred grove
3.	Kundrakudi	Sivaganga	Agricultural landscape with avian fauna etc
4.	Paikarumbu	Ramanathapuram	Temple tamarind grove with rare spiders and other fauna
5.	Samanatham	Madurai	Tank with fishes, birds and other fauna
6.	Sambaiuthu	Sivaganga	Kanmai with variety of fauna
7.	Solaiandavar	Sivaganga	Avian fauna and slender loris
8.	Vagaikulam	Tirunelveli	Heronry
9.	TNAU Campus	Coimbatore	Plant, insect and microbial
10.	Niligiri Biosphere Nature Park	Coimbatore	Flora and Fauna
11.	Idamalai Mahalinga Maya Karuppasamy Kovil	Dindigul	Sacred grove
12.	Medicinal Plants Conservation Park, Sevaiyur	Virudhnagar	Medicinal plants
13.	Ethano medicinal forest	Pudukottai	Medicinal Flora, Fauna
14.	Point Calimere wetland and wildlife Sanctuary	Nagapattinam	Avian fauna
15.	Vaduvur, Udhayamarthandapuram and Pt. Calimere wildlife sanctuary block A	Thiruvarur	Avian fauna
16.	Chithali Reserved Forest	Perambalur	Wetland and herbivores
17.	Siruvachur Sacred grove	Perambalur	Sacred grove

**It is requested the Board may approve the formation of a Committee by the PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden to examine the proposals for BHS and short list the sites for eventual notification by the Government.**

#### **Agenda 7: Issuing Compliance notices to the Companies for the implementation of BD Act.**

Compliance notices were issued to several companies in connection with the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules. The following provisions of the Act were brought to the notice of the Companies:

a) This is to bring to notice that the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board is implementing the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017 and Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014 in the State of Tamil Nadu.

b) Section 3 and 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 mandates any person/s and entities referred therein to submit the prescribed form(s) along with fees for accessing biological resources and/or associated knowledge for purpose referred in Section 2(d), 2(f) and 2(m) to National Biodiversity Authority or Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board as the case may be.

c) Section 23 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 Act read with Rule 15 of Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules 2017 mandates the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board to regulate by granting approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization (Section 2(f)) or bio-survey and bio-utilisation for commercial utilisation (Section 2(d)) of any biological resources obtained from Tamil Nadu by Indians. Such applications from individuals, body corporates, associations or organizations referred in Section 7 and Section 24 should be in Form-I along with a fee of Rs. 10,000/- in favour of “**Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board**” as prescribed in Rule 15 of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules 2017.

d) Section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, provides exemptions to certain biological resources notified as ‘normally traded as commodities’. However, such items are treated as ‘normally traded as commodities’ only when it is traded as a matter of common practice. This is dealt in Government of India notifications dated 7th April, 2016 and its amendment dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

e) Section 55 to 59 of the Biological Diversity Act deal with the penal provisions for any omission /commission by individuals/companies which is in contravention of the above provisions.

f) In view of the above, the companies and associates were informed to comply with provisions of the Act, Rules and related notifications and submit the prescribed Form-1 for accessing biological resources to National Biodiversity Authority or Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board as the case may be. In this regard compliance notices have been issued to over 328 Companies.

Some companies have submitted Form 1 with requisite fees and several other companies have sought clarifications from the Board and the same are being processed.

**This is for kind information of the Board.**

**Agenda: 8 International Biodiversity Day 2018 Celebrations:**

The International Day for Biological Diversity 2018 was celebrated through a state level function on 22nd May 2018 at The Raintree Hotel, Anna Salai, Chennai. The theme for IBD 2018 '**Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity**', was highlighted during the function. The Hon'ble Minister of Forests and the Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was the Chief Guest and addressed the audience. The Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Environment and Forests, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (HoD), the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department were on the dais and delivered their messages on the occasion. The importance of Biodiversity and its sustainable use was emphasized by the various speakers during the state level function. **Further it is informed to the Board that for the first time the IBD celebrations have been held in all districts of Tamil Nadu in well organized functions. Painting, Quiz, poster and debate competition have also been held for the students along with awareness and cleaning campaigns.**

Further the Hon'ble Minister of Forests and Chairperson, TNBB launched the logo and website (<http://www.tnbb.tn.gov.in>) of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board. The coffee table book on the biodiversity of Tamil Nadu by the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board along with book on the Butterflies of Tamil Nadu written by Thiru. N. Satheesh IFS, were also released by the Hon'ble Minister of Forests.

**This is for kind information of the board.**



**Agenda: 9 Workshops conducted to implement the Biodiversity Act and Access and Benefit Sharing provisions.**

The following workshops/ activities were conducted since the 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting primarily through the Access and Benefit sharing project being implemented with the support of GIZ and NBA.

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place of workshop/ meeting/ Training conducted</b>	<b>Description of Workshop</b>
1	09.02.2018	Coimbatore (Workshop)	Workshop to create awareness on provisions and mandate of the Biological Diversity Act for the District-level officers in various line departments of the three districts, viz. Coimbatore, Tirupur and Nilgiris on <b>9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (10:00 hrs to 17:30 hrs)</b> was held at the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, R.S.Puram, Coimbatore.
2	20.02.2018	Chennai (Workshop)	Regional Consultation workshop on biodiversity held in Hyderabad on 21 & 22 September, 2017 was aimed primarily for seeking inputs for preparing India's sixth National report to the CBD, while also enhancing awareness about the National Biodiversity Targets. In order to complete the worksheets exercise undertaken by the participants at the workshop, the state has been requested to organize similar workshops and the National Biodiversity Authority would be providing technical and financial support for such a workshop. A one day State level workshop was held at the Conference Hall of TBGP, Nanmangalam, Chennai on <b>February 20, 2018 (Tuesday)</b> aimed at obtaining inputs for preparation of India's sixth National report to Convention on Biological Diversity, while also enhancing awareness about the National Biodiversity Target. The following departments and agencies were involved in the workshop: Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Energy, Environment and Forests, Health and Family Welfare, Horticulture, Industries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Planning, development and Special Initiatives, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Sericulture, Tourism, Culture and religious Endowments, Tamil Nadu Medicinal Plant Board and Anna Institute of Management
3	27.02.2018	Chennai (Workshop)	The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board is implementing Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership (ABS) Project in partnership with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), New Delhi. The project aims to strengthen the statutory institutions including National Biodiversity Authority based in Chennai and State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees of three pilot states viz. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. The objectives

			<p>of the project are:</p> <p>Awareness raising, communication and stakeholder dialogues for creating better understanding of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, ABS Guidelines and Nagoya Protocol on ABS amongst different actors and stakeholder groups;</p> <p>Development of good practices of benefit sharing with communities, based on utilization of biological resources for commercial and/or research purposes;</p> <p>Development of an ABS monitoring system for National Biodiversity Authority that enables the effective monitoring of the use of biological resources in ABS processes.</p> <p>An event to formally launch the project in Tamil Nadu was organised on <b>27<sup>th</sup> of February 2018</b> and the Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Hon'ble Minister for Forest was the Chief Guest of the inaugural session of the project launch and inception workshop. Dr Konrad, Director GIZ was also present during the workshop.</p> <p>After the inaugural session, several technical talks by Experts were made.</p>	
4	20.04.2018 & 21.04.2018	Chennai (Training)	A Training programme for the District Forest Officers and Wildlife Wardens was held on the concept and protocol in constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and other relevant issues under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was organised on 20 & 21 of April, 2018 in Chennai. The training also dealt with understanding of various provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, process of constitution of BMCs and documentation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). This training programme was organised under the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership (ABS) Project.	
5	21.06.2018	Madurai (Workshop)	The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board organised workshops to create awareness on provisions and mandates under the Biological Diversity Act for district-level officers of line departments (Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries & Forests and Assistant Director (Panchayat)) The workshop covered the various aspects of functioning of the Biodiversity Management Committees already formed at the Block level. For the Chennai workshop, the Heads of the various stakeholder departments, members of the Board and certain NGOs were also invited for the workshop.	Madurai, Dindugal, Sivagangai, Theni & Virudhunagar districts.
6	26.06.2018	Krishnagiri (Workshop)		Krishnagiri, Dharamapuri, Tiruvanmalai and Vellore districts.
7	05.07.2018	Tuticorin (Workshop)		Thoothukudi Tirunelveli Ramanathapuram Kanyakumari districts.
8	13.07.2018	Thanjavur (Workshop)		Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Tiruchirappalli, Ariyalur, Nagapattinam & Tiruvarur districts.
9	25.07.2018	Namakkal (Workshop)		Erode, Namakkal, Salem & Karur districts.
10	26.07.2018	Villupuram (Workshop)		Perambalur, Cuddalore & Villupuram districts.
11	02.08.2018	Chennai (Workshop)		Chennai, Kancheepuram & Thiruvallur districts.

12	01.08.2018	Chennai (Workshop)	The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board has undertaken a study for operationalisation on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) provisions on snake venom extraction and trade. As per the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, snake venom qualifies as a Biological Resource and users accessing biological resources have to comply with Section 3 or 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Keeping in view the provisions of the Act, the Board held a consultation meeting with the senior officers of the various Departments and key members of Irula Cooperative Society. This meeting was held with providers of the biological resources i.e., Irula community to discuss the aspects of operationalisation of ABS provisions. The concerned senior officials from Forest department and Department of industries and Commerce attended this meeting. Was held as part of the Access and Benefit Sharing Project (GIZ)
13.	24.10.2018	Chennai	A meeting was conducted with the companies purchasing snake venom from the Irula Cooperative Society to comply with the provisions of Section 3 and 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The meeting was chaired by the PCCF & CWLW.
14.	26.10.2018	Chennai	A meeting was held with companies that could provide a digital platform for the easy preparation and maintenance of the Peoples Biodiversity Registers.
15.	13.11.2018	Chennai	A meeting was held with all District Forest Officers (Nodal Officers) regarding the preparation of the People's Biodiversity Registers. The DFOs were also addressed by the Principal Secretary, E & F.
16.	14.11.2018	Madurai	A one-day Training needs assessment workshop was held for the BMC members of the Madurai district.
17.	16.11.2018	Thoothukudi	A one-day Training needs assessment workshop was held for the BMC members of the Thoothukudi district.
18.	23.11.2018	Namakkal	A one-day Training needs assessment workshop was held for the BMC members of the Namakkal district.
19.	14.12.2018	Salem	A one-day Training workshop on Operationalisation of Biodiversity Management Committees was held for the Secretaries of BMCs/Forest Range Officers for four districts (Salem, Namakkal, Tiruppur and Erode).
20.	18.12.2018	Madurai	A one-day Training workshop on Operationalisation of Biodiversity Management Committees for Secretaries of BMCs/Forest Range Officers for four districts (Madurai, Dindigul, Theni and Virudhnagar)

**This is for kind information.**

**Agenda: 10 Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund –**

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**

A sum of Rs. 3714277/- received from the National Biodiversity Authority as Access and Benefit sharing amount for the extraction of sea weed from the certain districts of Tamil Nadu, originally deposited in the regular bank account of TNBB was deposited in the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund.

**This is for kind information.**

**Agenda: 11 Granting permission for access to Bio-resources under Section 3 and 6 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002**

The meetings of the Expert Sub-committee on ABS were conducted on dates 14.11.2017, 08.05.2018 and 21.08.2018 to process 12 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	14.11.2017	1
2	08.05.2018	6
3	21.08.2018	6

Brief details of the three applications are provided below:

**On 14.11.2017**

- i. M/s. Kancor Ingredients Ltd - Access to leaves of three biological resources from Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan states for commercial utilization, i.e. the biological resources to be purchased and powdered and sent to the client in France for cosmetic applications.

**On 08.05.2018**

- i. M/s. Indian Herbs Specialities Pvt.Ltd., - Accessing 36 biological resources from the different in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh states and New Delhi for commercial utilization. i.e. manufacturing of health safety and food supplements for human and animals.
- ii. Dr. Chris Hauton Ocean and Earth Science, University of Southampton - Accessing the biological resources from the Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh states for the purpose of research.
- iii. M/s. Pioneer Hi-Bred Private Limited - For screening efficacy and durability of insect resistant rice, maize, soybean and cotton crop varieties and insect control technologies. For testing efficacy of insecticidal proteins, non-protein actives with target crop plants and model plant systems. For testing the efficacy semi-synthetic diets with insect control actives. For extracting insect tissues for taxonomy and understanding the mode of action of

actives. For understanding the biology and behavior of insect species reared under lab, green house net house and field conditions.

- iv. Dr. Sergey Shabala Scientist - Access to 20 units of whole plant of *Oryza coarctata* for undertaking research, titled "Development of salt-tolerant rice for food security in Indian and Australia" to be conducted in collaboration with the MSSRF, Taramani, Chennai.
- v. M/s. L'Oreal SA - Access is requested for investigating the cosmetic properties of the various bioresources for possible skin and hair care benefits.
- vi. M/s. DCM Shriram Limited - For accessing the biological resources to isolate, purify and characterize microorganism(s) from air, water and soil samples for identification of any useful gene and or activity. To protect intellectual property arising out of the research project. To commercialize the outcome of the research project.

#### **On 21.08.2018**

- i. M/s. Hayleys Agro Farms Pvt. Ltd - Access to 20,000 kg of fresh red algae (*Kappaphycus alvarezii*) from different locations in Pudukottai-District, Tamil Nadu for commercial utilization.
- ii. M/s. Coromandel International Ltd, - Isolation, identification, characterization and formulation of microorganisms for use as bio-fertilizer, bio-pesticides and bio- fungicides in agriculture.
- iii. Mr. Gideon Oyeshina Oyeku Ora-ekiti lane - Access to water and sediment from the state of Tamil Nadu in Mandapam, Rameswaram, Tutucorin, Kunthukal and Thopputhurai for research purpose. i.e to study the impact of climate change on the algal bloom formation. a) To study algal population dynamics in relation to climate change and the interaction between bloom forming organism with the physico-chemical parameters of their respective environment. b) To isolate and develop pure culture for marine phytoplankton. c) Growth parameters responsible for triggering bloom. d) To investigate the role of temperature, nutrients and light intensity in bloom formation. e) To detect algal bloom using Remote Sensing technology.
- iv. French Institute of Pondicherry - Access is requested to study the community ecology, forest dynamic and vegetation (land cover and land use changes) for academic research in Western Ghats and peninsular India. ((Western Ghats Region Name of Districts in Tamil Nadu: Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Dindugal, Erode, Kanniyakumari, Madurai, Salem, The Nilgiris, Theni, Tirunelveli and Virudhunagar), (Coastal area Region, Peninsular India Districts in Tamil Nadu: Chennai, Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Thiruvallur and Villupuram)).
- v. M/s Indian Herbs Specialties Pvt. Ltd - To access the biological resources for Manufacturing of health safety and feed supplements primarily for animals.
- vi. Sea6 Energy private Limited – Access to 5000 tons /per year of seaweed *Kappaphycus alvarezii* from coastal districts of Tamil Nadu for commercial utilization (Food ingredients, Agricultural products ,Animal feed, Cosmetics, Bioplastics, Biofuel)

**This is for kind information.**

## **Agenda 12: Proposals sent to the Government for Salary and Non salary expenditure**

### **Proposals for Salary and Non-salary expenditure during 2018-19**

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 31.10.2018. The other posts i.e. 2 Assistants, Data Entry Operator/Console Operator and two office assistants have not been filled up till date.

ii) A sum of Rs. 44.00 lakhs (Forty Four Lakhs only) is required for the payment of salary and allowances, pension contribution to the staff for the year 2018-19.

iii) A sum of Rs.14.00 lakhs (Fourteen lakhs only) is required for the Non-salary expenditure of the Board for the year 2018-19.

iv) A detailed proposal for Salary and Non-salary expenditure for 2018-19 was submitted to the Government vide PCCF and CWLW in WL4/23617/2018 dated 07.06.2018 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 2018-19.

**The Government in G.O. No. 316 E & F (FR.5) Dept dated 09.11.2018 has sanctioned Rs.43,12,065/- towards salary and non-salary expenditure during 2018-19. The funds sought for meetings of TNBB and Expert Sub-committees was not sanctioned by the Government.**

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

### **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 for the year 2017-18 to the funds of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was submitted to the Government vide PCCF and CWLW Ref. No. WL4/23617/2018 dated 07.06.2018 for an amount of Rs. 3,47,571/- (Rupees Three lakhs forty seven thousand five hundred and seventy one only).

This proposal has not been taken into account by the Government while issuing G.O. No. 316 E & F (FR.5) Dept dated 09.11.2018.

**This is brought to the kind notice of the Board for information and the Board may kindly recommend to the Government for the additional sanction for 2018-19 as well as reimbursement of the additional expenditure incurred during 2017-18.**

### **Agenda 13: Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Project with GIZ and National Biodiversity Project**

The project in Tamil Nadu is strengthening the capacities of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, Biodiversity management Committees (BMCs) and commercial and Research user groups of biological resources and associated Knowledge. The project is working towards the effective implementation of ABS mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in keeping with India's commitments under the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. The project in the last 18 months has supported several capacity development activities for various stakeholder groups such as line departments dealing with biodiversity and BMCs. It is proposed to expand the project activities to support 10 selected BMCs with start-up fund as per NBA guidelines. In addition, it is proposed to organise awareness workshops to cover all 385 Block level BMCs in all the districts to be conducted by the District Forest Officers/Wildlife Wardens (Nodal officers).

**Submission of a proposal to GIZ India to obtain a grant of about Rupees forty lakhs may kindly be approved.**

### **Agenda 14: Strengthening the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board with additional administrative and technical capacity**

The day to day affairs of the TNBB is presently being managed by the Secretary at the level of APCCF and a few administrative staff. Unlike several other State Boards, TNBB does not have other technical capacity to assist in the functioning of the Board. 1049 BMCs have been established in the State and the PBRs for all 1049 BMCs need to be prepared as per the mandate of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The functioning of all 1049 BMCs also have to be monitored by the Board. In a recent case, the Hon'ble High Court questioned the Tamil Nadu Government regarding the formation of BMCs in all local bodies and preparation of PBRs.

The Board needs to be strengthened with Administrative, Technical and Scientific officers and staff to effectively function and deliver the mandate as per the Biodiversity Act and Rules. Hence the Board may approve the preparation of a detailed proposal to be submitted to the Government in this regard.

**This may kindly be approved.**

### **Agenda 15: Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board 2016-17, 2017-18 financial statement**

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board 2016-17, 2017-18 financial statement will be placed before the Board. (Annexure-V)

**For kind information.**