



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

Letter No.15554/FR.5/2019-2, Dated.11.10.2019

From
Thiru. Deepak Srivastava, I.F.S.,
Special Secretary (Forests).

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



659 ✓ The Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board,,
TBGP Campus, 2nd Floor,
Velachery – Tambaram Main Road,
Nanmangalam, Medavakkam Post,
Chennai – 100 (w.e).

Sir,

Sub: Meeting – Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board – Eighth Board Meeting
held on 18.09.2019 – Approved Minutes sent – Regarding.

Ref: From the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, Letter No.TNBB/572/2019, dated
19.09.2019

I am directed to enclose the approved minutes of the eighth meeting of Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board held on 18.09.2019 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Forests) and request you to communicate the same to all members of the Board. The action taken report on the minutes of the meeting may be sent to Government early.

Yours faithfully,

B. Subbalingam

for Special Secretary (Forests).

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16/10/19

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**MINUTES OF 8th MEETING OF THE TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD ON
18.09.2019 IN THE NAMAKKAL KAVINGNAR MALIGAI, II FLOOR, SECRETARIAT,
CHENNAI – 9**

The 8th meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board was held at Secretariat, Chennai-9 on 18.09.2019 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Forests & Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, Chennai. The following Members and Special Invitees attended the Meeting:

Sl. No.	Name of Officer	Designation
1.	Thiru. Shambhu Kallolika I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department	Ex-officio Member
2.	Thiru. Hans Raj Verma, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Departemnt	Ex-officio Member
3.	Dr. P. Durairasu, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department)	Ex-officio Member
4.	Thiru. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden	Ex-officio Member
5.	Thiru. C. Munianathan Spl Secretary to Government, (Representing the Principal Secretary to Government Agricultural Department)	Ex-officio Member
6.	Thiru. T.S. Srinivasamurthy, I.F.S., (Retd), Retd. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai	Member
7.	Dr. D. Narasimhan, Tambaram, Chennai.	Member
8.	Dr. C.P. Raj Kumar, Nalam Hospital, Sriram Nagar, Theni	Member
9.	Dr. (Mrs). Jayashree Vencatesan, Care Earth Trust, Chennai	Member
10.	Dr. V.B. Mathur, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai	Special Invitee
11.	Dr. C. Balachandran, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University	Special Invitee
12.	Dr. K. Gopal, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries Department)	Special Invitee

13.	Thiru. C. Senthil Kumar, Under Secretary, MA & WS Department (Representing the Principal Secretary to Government Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department)	Special Invitee
14.	Thiru. S. Ganesh, IAS., The Managing Director, TAMCOL.	Special Invitee
15.	Thiru. K. Srinivasa Raghavan State Information Officer, DDG & SIO, NIC, Chennai	Special Invitee
16.	Thiru Praveen P Nair, I.A.S., The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, Chennai	Special Invitee
17.	Thiru. Sadasakthi, Professor, TNAU, Coimbatore.	Special Invitee
18.	Thiru. Manohara Singh, Director, State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj	Special Invitee
19.	Mrs. P. Reena Selvi, Joint Director of Fisheries, Chennai.	Special Invitee
20.	Dr. N.S. Manoharan, Additional Director, Animal Husbandary, Chennai.	Special Invitee
21.	Dr. R. Ramesh, Assistant Director, Planning	Special Invitee
22.	P.Selvarajan, Additional Director, TNCDW, Chennai.	Special Invitee
23.	Dr. M. Pitchiah Kumar, State Licensing Authority (Indian Medicine), Director of Indian Medicine, Chennai.	Special Invitee
24.	Thiru. N. Selvam, Under Secretary, Environment & Forest Department, Chennai.	Special Invitee

25	Mrs. R. Gayatri, Senior Technical Director, NIC, Chennai	Special Invitee
26.	Thiru. M. Santhanam, Programmer, Than Foundation, Chennai	Special Invitee
27.	Dr. D. Manikandavelu, Professor, Department of Aquatic Environment Management, Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalitha, Fisheries University.	Special Invitee

At the outset, Thiru T.V. Manjunatha, IFS., the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, (TNBB), welcomed the Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Chairperson, of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, the esteemed Members and Special invitees.

The Chairperson briefed the members about the functioning of the TNBB and the reason for convening the board meeting in view of the Hon'ble NGT order dated 09.08.2019, and to discuss the strategy and action plan to comply with the orders of the Hon'ble NGT.

The Secretary then initiated the meeting proceedings as below and after due deliberations, the following decisions were taken:

Agenda – 1	The minutes of the 7 th Board meeting held on 03.01.2019 communicated in Govt. letter No. 22794/FR.5/2018-2 dated 13.02.2019 was confirmed.	
Agenda – 2	Review of action taken on decisions of the 7th Board meeting of TNBB held on 03.01.2019	
3 (2)	The Board was requested the ACS, RD & PR Department and the Principal Secretary, MA & WS Department to direct the local bodies under their control to provide office premises for the BMCs.	In this regard the Secretary, TNBB has submitted a proposal to the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department for provide and establish Office premises for every BMCs vide TNBB Ref No.400/2018 Dated: 13.03.2019. It was decided to follow up the case.
4(a)	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	The Government has been addressed to designate the Forest Range Officer as Secretary to BMCs and District Forest Officers as Nodal Officers in this office Ref No. The Director, Town Panchayat, Chennai has reported about the appointment of secretaries from the department of Forest, Agricultural, Horticulture Municipal Administration and Executive Officer for various Town Panchayat

	<p>Diversity Rules, 2017. He also mentioned that 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. The list of Range Officers to be designated as the Secretaries of the various block level BMCs was provided. 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. It was also decided that for the urban BMCs, the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Municipal Administration and Water Supply may be consulted to decide on the appropriate Secretary for the urban BMCs.</p>	<p>BMC in his letter ref. C.No.5443/2018/E4 dt.28.08.2018.</p>
4(b)	<p>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 with the list of District Forest Officers to be designated as Nodal Officers and their functions. 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. The list of DFOs recommended as Nodal Officers by the PCCF was placed before</p>	<p>In this regard a proposal has been submitted to the Government through PCCF & CWLW Chennai Vide this office Ref.No. TNBB/90/2018/ dated: 03.10.2018. Pending with the Government.</p>

	<p>the Board.</p> <p>The Board also conveyed its approval.</p>	
4(c)	<p>Formation of Technical Support Group (TSG) in each district consisting of people having vast expertise in the Biodiversity issues to guide Biodiversity Management Committees.</p> <p>That BMCs require considerable technical support in carrying out its functions and as suggested by NBA this can 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. A Technical Support Group may be constituted with following members in each district:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Accordingly, proposals have been sent to Government for the formation of Technical Support Group in each district vides PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden Ref No. WL4/26945/2017 dt: 20.07.2017. In the Government letter No: 10464/FR.5/2018-2 E&F Department</p>	<p>As decided in the 7th board meeting, a revised proposal including a Sociologist had been sent to Government for formation of Technical support Group in every district of Tamil Nadu vide TNBB Ref. No. 183/2017 dated: 25.06.2019. The Government has suggested that a Environmental expert may be included in the Technical support Group vide Govt. letter No. 21502/FR.5/2018-4, dated.03.07.2019. The TNBB submitted its reply to the Government that "the members already proposed will be sufficient" vide TNBB Ref. No. 182/2017 dated: 01.08.2019.</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>In this regard the Board conveyed its approval and also decided that a Sociologist / Social Scientist or College lecturer with Sociology specialisation may be included in the TSG.</p>	
5	<p>The 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 tentative model BMCs proposed in each district was placed before the Board.</p>	<p>In this regard 100 Nos Modal BMC are identified in the Block level.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In this identified 100 Nos BMCs 10 Nos of BMCs were funded by GIZ and 90 Nos of BMCs were funded by NBA. 2. As per BD Act works under progress for best functioning of this 100 Nos of Model BMCs.

	<p>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.</p> <p>The Board conveyed its approval</p>	
6	<p>Biodiversity Heritage sites could be declared by the State Government under Section 37(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, in consultation with the local bodies. He further briefed that 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 seeking proposals for Biodiversity Heritage Sites and that several proposals have been received in this regard.</p> <p>The Board conveyed its approval.</p> <p>The Board also appreciated the efforts taken by Dr. C.P. Rajkumar, Member TNBB, in sending several proposals for BHS sites.</p> <p>The Hon'ble Minister (Forests) & Chairman of TNBB desired that speedy action may be taken to notify BHS.</p>	<p>Total 30 Nos of Heritage sites are identified. As decided in the 7th Board meeting the committee under the PCCF and Chief Wild life Warden has been formed vide PCCF and CWLW Ref. No WL4/42542/2018 dated: 04.06.2019. In this regard action has been taken to place the BHS proposals before the committee for eventual declaration BHS.</p>
7	<p>TNBB briefly explained that compliance notices were issued to 328 companies in connection with the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules and that some companies have already submitted Form 1 with requisite fees and several other companies have sought clarifications from the Board and the same are being processed.</p>	<p>After the 7th Board Meeting 39 Nos of compliance notices in connection with implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules have been issued.</p>

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8	Celebration of International Biodiversity Day 2018	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.
9	Workshops conducted to implement the Biodiversity Act and Access and Benefit Sharing provisions.	The Secretary, TNBB briefly explained about the various workshops/ activities conducted since the 6 th Board meeting primarily through the Access and Benefit sharing project being implemented with the support of GIZ and NBA.
10	Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund	As per this Government order, a Bank account was opened in the name "Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund" in Indian Bank, Medavakkam Branch.
11	Granting permission for access to Bio-resources under Section 3 and 7 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002	The Secretary, TNBB briefly explained about the meetings of the Expert Sub-committee on ABS conducted on 15.03.2019, 10.09.2019 and 30.07.2019 to process 16 applications received from the National Biodiversity Authority & companies and the proceedings of the committee were placed before the Board.
12	Proposal sent to the Government for salary and Non Salary expenditure (2018-2019)	A proposal sent to government for sanction of an amount of Rs. 57.45 Lakhs as grant-in-aid for the payment of salary, allowances and non-salary expenditure for the year 2018-19 and that Rs. 42.12 Lakhs was sanctioned vide G.O. (D) No. 316 E&F (FR-5) Department dated 09.11.2018. As the expenditure incurred for the year 2018-19 was Rs. 39.84 lakhs, the un spend amount of Rs. 2.27 Lakhs was remitted in the government account in Chelan No. 129 (PAO- South) dated: 27.05.2019.
13	Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Project with GIZ and National Biodiversity Project	GIZ selected 10 Model villages and implementation of BD Act in those Villages under the (ABS) project is in progress.

14	Strengthening the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board with additional administrative and technical capacity	In the 7 th Board Meeting the Board conveys its approval. Proposal preparation under progress.
15	Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board 2016-17, 2017-18 financial statement.	No further action is required on this item
16	TA, DA & other allowances and sitting fees of non-official members of the board	The detailed proposal submitted to the Principal Secretary, E&F Department through PCCF & CWLW

Agenda 3: Compliance of the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, Order dated 09.08.2019 in respect of OA No.347/2016 & I.A.No.471/2019

3	<p>The National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi, in its order cited above, has observed that there is non-compliance of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 by many States specifically with respect to the implementation of Section 41(1) of the Act and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004. Besides making several remarks, the NGT has set a time line to ensure compliance with 100% constitution of BMCs and documentation of PBRs by 31.01.2020 failing which coercive measures will be considered against the defaulting states. The Chief Secretaries, the RD & PR Departments and the State Biodiversity Boards of the concerned states to evolve mechanism to ensure compliance starting from September, 2019.</p> <p>In view of the above cited order, the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of RD & PR, Chennai has initiated the process in consultation with the Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board, to evolve mechanism for compliance of the said NGT order within the time line. (Agenda moved by the ACS, RD&PR Dept, Chennai)</p>	<p>The ACS, RD & PR Department briefly explained about the contents and implications of the Hon'ble NGT order dated: 09.08.2019 and opened the subject for discussion. The Hon'ble Chairman initiated the discussion and asked the NBA Chairman to offer his remarks. The NBA Chairman briefed about the mandates of the Biodiversity Act and the need to comply with the NGT order and all the members expressed that the NGT order should be seen as an opportunity to accomplish the statutory provisions of the Biodiversity Act in our state.</p> <p>The Secretary, TNBB presented the Road Map through Power point presentations showcasing the involvement of "Knowledge Partners" and the step wise field works and documentation to be done by various institutions in a time bound manner. It was also presented about the approximate cost involved in the preparation of PBRs. It was informed to the house that in other states, like, Goa and Kerala, the NIC has developed a Digital Platform through which the digital PBRs are being prepared. Hence, the NIC has to assist the Tamilnadu BB also in a similar manner. Then Thiru. K. Srinivasa Raghavan, DDG&SIO, NIC, Chennai agreed to offer all necessary assistance. With respect to the estimated fund requirements, the Chairman, NBA offered to fund the PBR preparation process as per the existing NBA guidelines. Then the ACS, RD&PR Dept informed the house that the RD&PR Dept will meet the additional fund requirement.</p> <p>After a detailed discussion, it was decided to appoint the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University</p>
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(TNAU), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu veterinary and Animal Science University (TANUVAS), Chennai and TAMCOL, Chennai as "Knowledge Partners" for the preparation of PBRs in Tamil Nadu State. Members also suggested to take information help with regard to biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge from various Scholarly Researchers, NGOs etc., who have done research in the field since several years.

It was decided to setup a "Special cell" at TNBB Office involving the representatives of Knowledge Partners (KP) to plan and take up field / documenting works on a "Mission Mode". A Member from the TNBB will coordinate to conduct the meetings regularly under the guidance of Secretary TNBB. All the KP members agreed to contribute constructively. It was also decided to co opt any expert or department, as and when necessary, whose contributions will enrich the quality of PBRs in consultation with the Secretary, TNBB.

Finally, it was decided that the Tamil Nadu state will make sincere efforts to comply with the orders of the Hon NGT within the time frame. NIC also made a PPT presentation about the e-PBRs that are being prepared in the states of Kerala and Goa. The house informed the NIC to make a similar software available for Tamil Nadu state, both in Tamil and English, which can be used to prepare e PBRs immediately. The NIC agreed to work with TNBB and evolve software for Tamil Nadu state.

Members also expressed that the PBR is not a static/frozen document and it has to be updated from time to time as per the changing conditions. May have to add new information like Biodiversity heritage Sites etc, as and when they are notified. Another member suggested that along with the BHS, Heritage Animals also can be notified which are endemic, unique and genetically superior in Tamil Nadu state. The house unanimously accepted the suggestion. It was decided that the sub-committee headed by the PCCF&CWLW for BHS ca also look into this suggestion.

Agenda 4: Constitution, Strengthening and functioning of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMCs) & Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBR)

4	<p>The Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department has taken effective action with the district level administration in the state to form BMCs at all the Blocks level and as a result 385 BMCs have been constituted in the state. Similarly, the actions initiated by the Principal Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MA&WS) 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 MA&WS Department, have completed the constitution of 664 BMCs as below. As on today, the preparation of PBRs has not yet started and the strategy and action plan has to be devised.</p>	<p>The Secretary, TNBB presented the information on the number of BMCs constituted at Block, Municipal and Urban levels as informed by the Commissioner, Municipal Administration, Chennai and the Director, RDPR, Chennai. However, the details of the members of the BMCs have not been received by 10 Districts. Further, on scrutiny of the BMC details, certain variations/discrepancies have been noticed by TNBB and the same have been informed to the Director, RDPR, Chennai for taking necessary corrections.</p>
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Agenda 5: Need for Technical & Administrative Officers at the office of the Secretary, TN State Biodiversity Board, Chennai, as per the agenda 14 of 7th Board meeting.

5	<p>The Secretary, TNBB office functioning at Chennai has to be supported by a set of subordinate officers from Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture, Ayush, etc departments who will assist the Board to implement all the provisions of the Biodiversity Act and Rules in an effective and time bound manner. Since this office is tasked to initiate, train, implement, regulate and monitor the proper implementation of the provisions of the Biodiversity Act and Rules in the entire state involving thousands of growers, processors, manufactures, traders etc., who are using various bio-resources for trade and commerce, the Board needs to have technical officers to carry out all the tasks in the entire state. In the absence of such a technical support, the Board may fall short of achieving its</p>	<p>The Secretary, TNBB informed that the office of the TNBB should have Technical officers support in Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Industries and TAMCOL in the Rank of Assistant Directors working in the respective Departments to deal with the Technical matters, as is being done in others states.</p> <p>The house agreed to strengthen the TNBB by taking all the Technical officers on Deputation basis for Three Years in the beginning and that can be extended by another Two years, based on the requirements and performance. The TNBB should make a proposal with the details of officers, Rank, Pay scale, duration etc., to the State government immediately.</p> <p>Similarly, one State DCF and one ACF from the Forest Department can be taken on</p>
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statutory functions. At present, there are no technical and administrative officers in the TNBB office to perform day to day activities relating to implementation of the Act. Hence, the following proposal is made:

1. One post of State DCF (level 25) from the State Forest Department is necessary to assist the Secretary, TNBB in the matters relating to monitoring/regulating the use of Bio-resources which constitute wild flora & fauna originating from forest and non-forest areas in the state.
2. One post of DD or AAO from the State Agriculture Department to assist the Secretary, TNBB in the matters relating to monitoring/regulating the use of Bio-resources which constitute Agro-biodiversity in the state.
3. One post of DD or AHO from the State Horticulture Department to assist the Secretary, TNBB in the matters relating to monitoring/regulating the use of Bio-resources which constitute Horticulture-biodiversity in the state.
4. One post of DD from the State Animal Husbandry Department to assist the Secretary, TNBB in the matters relating to monitoring/regulating the use of Bio-resources which constitute Domestic faunal-biodiversity in the state.
5. One post of Assistant Conservator of Forests (level 22) from the State Forest Department to assist the Secretary, TNBB in the matters relating to day to day functioning of the Secretary's office in Chennai. He shall be in charge of the administrative and financial transaction involved in the office of the Secretary, TNBB. The present post of Administrative Officer (AO) in the office which is held by a PA ranked officer can be replaced with the new ACF rank officer.

deputation. The house accepted the proposal and instructed the TNBB to send proposal accordingly.

The Secretary, TNBB requested to provide a separate office building to accommodate all the officers on deputation and the Ministerial staff with suitable vehicles and the required assisting staff. The Chairman expressed that the Board should function independently and be situated in a visible and easily accessible to people and agreed to the proposal and suggested to shift to a mainstream place nearer to the Secretariat, choose an existing government building or to look for a suitable building on rental basis. It was also suggested to occupy DMS building in Teynampet for the time being with certain modifications suiting to the requirements. The principal Secretary, Forests & Environment suggested to occupy two floors in Panagal Building, Saidapet, after the Forest department shifts to its own new building in Velachery. But till then DMS building can be one of the options as it will be in the city limits and will help people to access/reach the TNBB easily. The Hon Chairman's suggestion is accepted. Action will be taken to shift the office of TNBB to a suitable location early. Also, proposals will be made to provide the vehicles for the officers and technical experts. Suitable proposals will be submitted to the Government with regard to the need of ministerial staff to deal with the office transactions along with the budget requirements.

	<p>The above mentioned arrangements are in practice in the state of Karnataka where they are able to perform the day to day functions smoothly, effectively and in a time bound manner. Hence, the proposal is made. The financial requirements for this purpose (salary, Vehicle and Non-salary) will be submitted to the government for consideration.</p>	
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Agenda 6: Hiring of technical staff at the TN State Board on a Contractual basis – as per the agenda 14 of 7th Board meeting.

6	<p>Due to pure technical nature of the tasks to be carried out in the Board, it is required to hire technical staff, technical executives, to efficiently perform all mandated activities under the Act. Following contractual staff structure is proposed.</p> <p>1. One ABS Consultant (full-time) – will be in charge of the ABS unit. Main duties will be to carry out technical and legal review of Form-1 applications submitted by the companies and answer queries raised by the applicants (viz., companies, bio-survey, bio-utilization for commercial utilization etc.) on legal compliance, carrying out research on use of various bio-resources (listed or otherwise), taking necessary action to enlist all the users to comply with the relevant provisions of the BD Act and Rules in force. And perform such other function(s) as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as may be prescribed by the TN Biodiversity Board from time to time.</p> <p>2. One BMC cum PBR Consultant (full-time) – will be in charge of the BMC & PBR units. Will coordinate BMC constitution in the state, maintain database on BMCs, BMC members, conduct of meetings, etc. To Liaison with other departments, district officials and ensure compliance of Act. Also will coordinate</p>	<p>The Secretary, TNBB informed the house that the matters relating to implementation of the provisions of the Biodiversity Act, are very technical and other states are hiring Technical Consultants, Subject Matter Experts on Contractual basis to deal with the files, applications and the transactions. On similar lines, TNBB also needs technical expertise in its office to implement the Act. The Hon Chairman and the members agreed to the proposal and instructed the Secretary to send proposals to the government with fund requirement details for consideration.</p>
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	<p>with the BMCs and the Technical groups for documentation of quality PBRs in the state. And perform such other function(s) as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as may be prescribed by the TN Biodiversity Board from time to time.</p> <p>3. One Legal Consultant (Full Time) - To take care of the legal aspects of the implementation of the BD Act by all the relevant parties. And to represent the Board in all court cases that would arise as a consequence of enforcement / implementation of the BD Act. And perform such other function(s) as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as may be prescribed by the TN Biodiversity Board from time to time, in the matters relating to legal / court / tribunal / any legal body involving TN Biodiversity Board, Chennai.</p> <p>4. Technical Executives (4 posts) – Technical executives will support the Consultants of the ABS and the BMC/PBR units and to carry out field visits, collect field data, report the status of compliance on a weekly basis, etc. in their allotted jurisdiction. And perform such other function(s) as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as may be prescribed by the TN Biodiversity Board from time to time.</p> <p>Above proposed staff structure is existing in many other State Biodiversity Boards such as Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala etc. and has been found to be necessary and effective.</p> <p>Details of Qualification, mode of appointment, job description and the financial outlay will be prepared and submitted to the state government for consideration and fund allocation.</p>	
Agenda 7: Progress of GIZ project.		
7	<p>Access and Benefit Sharing –The project is in its final phase, will conclude in April 2020. The project has made significant contribution in capacity development through various trainings,</p>	<p>The Secretary, TNBB presented the progress made by the GIZ project in conducting field studies, awareness/ Training programmes to various stakeholders in the state relating to ABS, BMC and PBR preparations. Members</p>

	<p>workshops, exchange visits, Training of Trainers, documentation of PBRs etc.</p> <p>The TNBB through GIZ project has collaborated with SIRD to train 50 trainers empanelled by RDPR for their development programme on various aspects of Biodiversity Act, including BMCs and PBR. It is proposed to increase the number to 150, to be trained as Trainers under the "Training of Trainers" so as to have at least 3 to 5 trained persons in each district to train, guide and monitor the works of preparation of PBRs in time. Additional funding may be obtained from RDPR.</p>	<p>suggested that the knowledge and wealth of the Biodiversity is the Sovereign property of the Indian state and hence such events and programmes should be entrusted to the home grown, local organizations who have credible credentials and expertise in the fields of biodiversity, field works, research, training and extension activities. The ACS, RD&PR also agreed to the suggestion. The house endorsed the views and agreed to involve native organizations.</p>
Agenda 8: Coordinators in districts		
8	<p>Coordinators in districts – Out of 150 persons trained under ToT, it is proposed to designate at least 2 persons as coordinators for each BMC trainings and documentation of PBRs. This is crucial to meet the deadline given by NGT. These numbers can be trimmed to required levels after the completion of the preparation of PBRs in due course of time.</p>	<p>It was decide to conduct training to the needed number of persons as TOTs in consultation with the Secretary, TNBB</p>
Agenda 9: Proposal to Designate Block Development Officer as the Secretary of the BMC in place of Forest Range Officers (FRO).		
9	<p>It is seen from the field that the Panchayat level BMCs would be operating similar to the Village Forest Committees existing in the Forest Department. Now, since the BMCs are formed at the Block level only, one FRO may be having more than one Block/BMC in his jurisdiction and his active participation in ensuring timely and effective functioning of the BMCs may become difficult as the FRO has to primarily perform several Forest protection works and implement several developmental works in the TNFD. Whereas, the BDOs being the sole in-charge of their respective Blocks, would ensure compliance of the roles listed in the Rules</p>	<p>The Secretary, TNBB informed that based on the field level feed back and the workload of the Forest Range Officers in the forests areas, it was felt that the BDOs could be in a better position to act as Secretaries of the BMC as all the private members of the BMC are part of the BDOs operational areas. The suggestion was deliberated and the Chairman agreed to revise the previous proposal and to send fresh proposal to designate BDOs as Secretaries to the BMCs. The TNBB to send revised proposal to the Government for notification.</p>

	<p>21, 22 and 23 of the TNBD Rules, 2017. Moreover, most of the ABS activities, bio-resources involved, the user agencies, processing/Value addition works, etc., are non-forest, domestic species of flora and fauna which are being processed/manufactures away from the forest areas. This becomes difficult for the FROs to monitor and regulate on a regular basis, owing to his type and area of works in his parent department. The FROs shall be one of the invitees of the BMCs as per Rule 20 (6) of the TNBD Rules 2017. However, there shall be no change in designating the District Forest officers as the District Nodal Officers to oversee the matters relating to BMCs.</p> <p>Hence, the decision made in the 7th Board meeting to designate FRO as the secretary of BMCs can be reconsidered for part modification. The letter addressed to the Government to designate the FRO as Secretary is still pending with the Government.</p>	
Agenda 10: Any other item with the permission of the Chair.		
10	<p>Dr. D. Narasimhan, Member, TNBB moved an agenda with the permission of the Chair stating that the Application fee fixed under Rule 15 of Tamilnadu Biodiversity Rules, 2017 be reduced from Rs.10,000 to Rs. 1,000 as it would make all persons to apply and comply. The fee is Rs.1000 in almost all the states in the country.</p>	<p>The suggestion made by the member was accepted by the house and the Chairman instructed the TNBB to send suitable proposal to the Government to bring necessary changes immediately.</p>

DINDIGUL C. SREENIVASAN
HON'BLE MINISTER (FORESTS) / CHAIRPERSON
TAMIL NADU BIODIVERSITY BOARD

//True Copy//

B. Subbana
SECTION OFFICER

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