

Tentative Agenda for the 9th Board Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board											
Agenda – 1											
The minutes of the 8 th Board meeting held on 18.09.2019 communicated in Govt. letter No. 15554/FR.5/2019-2, dated 11.10.2019 is placed for confirmation.											
Agenda – 2 (a)											
Follow up action taken on decisions of the 7th Board meeting of TNBB held on 03.01.2019											
Sl. No.	Decision taken during 7th Board Meeting	Action taken									
3 (2)	The Board 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, a letter has been written to ACS, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and the Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department to give appropriate direction to the Collectors of all districts to establish Office premises for every BMC vide TNBB Ref No.400/2018, Dated: 13.03.2019 and the last reminder has been sent on 26.08.2020. Government order is awaited.									
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 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. 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.	<p>The proposal As per the Government Order (Ms) No. 10 Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department dated 30.01.2020; the Block Development Officers of 385 Blocks in the rural local bodies were designated as the Secretary of the rural Block level Biodiversity Management Committees as per Rule 20 (9) of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017.</p> <p>As per the recommendations of Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Municipal Administrative and Water Supply (MA.IV) Department, Letter No. 7767/MA.IV (2) /2018-13, Dated: 16.12.2019, the following officers are nominated as secretaries for the Biodiversity Management Committees of the Urban local bodies vide G.O (Ms) No. 26 Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department dated: 10.03.2020.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No</th> <th>Name of the ULB</th> <th>Designation of the officer suggested as Secretary</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Greater Chennai Corporation</td> <td>Deputy Commissioner (Health)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Coimbatore and Madurai</td> <td>Deputy Commissioner</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sl. No	Name of the ULB	Designation of the officer suggested as Secretary	1.	Greater Chennai Corporation	Deputy Commissioner (Health)	2.	Coimbatore and Madurai	Deputy Commissioner
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	<p>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>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="880 152 967 448">3</td> <td data-bbox="967 152 1235 448">Erode, Salem, Trichy, Dindugal, Avadi, Nagercoil, Thanjavur, Vellore, Hosur, Tiruppur, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli</td> <td data-bbox="1235 152 1514 448">Commissioner of concerned Municipal Corporation.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="880 448 967 560">4</td> <td data-bbox="967 448 1235 560">Municipalities</td> <td data-bbox="1235 448 1514 560">Commissioner of concerned Municipality</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="880 560 967 672">5</td> <td data-bbox="967 560 1235 672">Town Panchayat</td> <td data-bbox="1235 560 1514 672">Executive Officer of concerned Town Panchayat</td> </tr> </table>	3	Erode, Salem, Trichy, Dindugal, Avadi, Nagercoil, Thanjavur, Vellore, Hosur, Tiruppur, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli	Commissioner of concerned Municipal Corporation.	4	Municipalities	Commissioner of concerned Municipality	5	Town Panchayat	Executive Officer of concerned Town Panchayat
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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.</p> <p>The list of DFOs recommended as Nodal Officers by the PCCF was placed before the Board.</p> <p>The Board also conveyed its approval.</p>	<p>Further as per G.O (Ms) No. 52 Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department dated: 04.09.2020, the Village Panchayat Secretary is nominated as the Secretary of the Village Panchayat Biodiversity Management Committee and the District Panchayat Secretary is nominated as the Secretary of the District Panchayat Biodiversity Management Committee.</p> <p>As per Government Order (Ms) No. 10 Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department dated 30.01.2020, order has been issued, designating the District Forest Officers / Wildlife Wardens in each District as nodal officers to oversee the various matters of the Biodiversity Management Committees within the District as per rule 20 (10) of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017. The order has been communicated to all the nodal officers in this office ref. No. TNBB/129/2016 dated 03.02.2020.</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>The BMCs require considerable technical support in carrying out its functions and as suggested by NBA and 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 per the Government Order (Ms) No. 134 Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department dated 13.11.2019, Technical Support Group has been constituted in each District to assist the Biodiversity Management Committees for its effective management with the following members.</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 / Deputy Director / Assistant 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 10. Sociologist / Social Scientist or College Lecturer with Sociology / Social Work specialization. 11. Expert in Environmental Science. <p>The order has been communicated to all the nodal officers in this office ref. no. TNBB/572/2019 dated 03.01.2020. As per government order, the Nodal Officers have been requested to nominate the TSG members under S.No.8, 9, 10, 11 for the Technical Support Group, in consultation with the ex-officio members of the TSG as per the above Government Order.</p>
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	<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</p>	<p>In this regard 100 No's Model BMCs are identified in the Block level. As per Government Order (Ms) No. 22 Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department dated 02.03.2020, the Nodal officers are asked to take action to open bank account in all BMCs and various capacity building measures are under progress for the best functioning of these 100 Nos of Model BMCs.</p>

	<p>tentative model BMCs proposed in each district was placed before the Board.</p> <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, for 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>The 1st Meeting of the BHS expert committee to identify potential BHS was held on 23.10.2019. The PCCF & CWLW discussed with all the other members of the committee in detail and it was decided that all the proposals which are part of the Reserve Forests or PAs need not be considered for now, as they are already under legal protection. Hence, after due deliberations, considering the uniqueness and special features related to biodiversity, the committee finally shortlisted the following BHS proposals:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No</th> <th>Name of BHS selected for Field Inspection</th> <th>Place/District</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Arittapatty</td> <td>Melur, Madurai</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Sambai Uthu Recharge Kanmois</td> <td>Sakkottai, Sivagangai</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Vagaikulam</td> <td>Vagaikulam, Tirunelveli</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Tamilnadu Agricultural University</td> <td>Telungupalayam, Coimbatore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Sendirakkillai Sacred Grove</td> <td>Chidambaram, Cuddalore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.</td> <td>Unique Paddy Cultivation fields of Kolli Hills</td> <td>Vazhavanthinadu/ Thiruppulinadu, Namakkal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.</td> <td>Adyar Poonga</td> <td>Adyar, Chennai</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8.</td> <td>Papanasam</td> <td>Papanasam, Tirunelveli</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.</td> <td>Odiyur and Mudalaiyarkuppam</td> <td>Cheyyur, Kancheepuram</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10.</td> <td>Etho Medicinal Forest (EMF)</td> <td>Pudukottai</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The BHS Committee members were requested to submit the detailed report of the above mentioned BHS after making field visit. Dr. Narasimhan and Dr. C.P. Rajkumar, MD, have completed the field inspection on the BHS site Arittapatty and Vagaikulam. The inspection reports are awaited.</p>	Sl. No	Name of BHS selected for Field Inspection	Place/District	1.	Arittapatty	Melur, Madurai	2.	Sambai Uthu Recharge Kanmois	Sakkottai, Sivagangai	3.	Vagaikulam	Vagaikulam, Tirunelveli	4.	Tamilnadu Agricultural University	Telungupalayam, Coimbatore	5.	Sendirakkillai Sacred Grove	Chidambaram, Cuddalore	6.	Unique Paddy Cultivation fields of Kolli Hills	Vazhavanthinadu/ Thiruppulinadu, Namakkal	7.	Adyar Poonga	Adyar, Chennai	8.	Papanasam	Papanasam, Tirunelveli	9.	Odiyur and Mudalaiyarkuppam	Cheyyur, Kancheepuram	10.	Etho Medicinal Forest (EMF)	Pudukottai
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7	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.	The following departments have been requested vide this office reference no. TNBB/221/2019 dated 12.11.2019 that NOC from Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board may be made compulsory for the companies using biological resources when applying for license or renewal of license to these companies. This will enable Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board to implement ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing) provisions of the B.D acts smoothly. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Industries and Commerce Department, 2. Department of Environment, 3. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, and 4. State Licensing Authority (Indian Medicine)
14	Strengthening the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board with additional administrative and technical capacity	Vide this Office ref No. TNBB/603/2019, Dated: 26.09.2019, a proposal has been submitted to Government for additional administrative and technical capacity. Government in the letter No.16918/FR.5/2019-5 Dated 10.06.2020 has informed that the proposal for creation of 11 regular posts on contract basis in the office of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board may be deferred as per the orders of Government issued in G.O. (Ms) No. 248, Finance (CMPC) department, dated 20.05.2020.
16	TA, DA & other allowances and sitting fees of non-official members of the board	Vide this office ref No. TNBB/90/2018 dated: 05.03.2019, proposals have been submitted to Government for TA, DA & other allowances and sitting fees of non-official members of the board. Government sought some clarification and it has been replied vide this office ref No. TNBB/90/2018 dated: 16.03.2020 and last reminder letter has been sent on 26.08.2020. Government order is awaited.

Agenda – 2 (b)**Action taken on decisions of the 8th Board meeting of TNBB held on 18.09.2019**

Sl. No.	Decision taken during 8th Board Meeting	Action taken
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>As per the Hon NGT order dated 09.08.2019, the Tamilnadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB) held a meeting on 18.09.2019 to discuss about the Hon NGT order. It was decided that though the task of constitution of BMCs is achievable, preparation of PBRs may require some more reasonable time. However, it was also resolved that all necessary steps will be taken to prepare the PBRs and that the TNBB will engage/advise the BMCs by involving the Knowledge Partners (KP) and the Technical Support Group (TSG) members in the preparation of PBRs.</p> <p>Consequent to the decision taken by the above TNBB meet, the Board has taken concrete steps by convening six meetings with the KP members and the senior State level representatives of the TSG at the TNBB office in Chennai, since September 2019 and deliberated on the processes and responsibilities of each of the members for preparation of PBRs for the Block and Urban local bodies.</p> <p>In Tamilnadu state, RD&PR department has constituted BMCs at all the 385 rural blocks, 12524 village panchayats and 31 of 37 districts panchayats and the Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department has constituted 664 Urban Local Bodies. The TNBB has provided necessary technical guidance and support to the state government, the BMCs the TSG members and the District nodal officers in the constitution of BMCs and in the preparation of the PBRs. The present status of BMCs and the PBRs in the state is given below:</p>

		Sl.No	Particulars	Total numbers in the State	Total No of BMC Formed as on date	Total No of BMCs to be formed	Total No of PBRs formed
		1	Village Panchayat	12524	12524	-	12524
		2	Block level Panchayat	385	385	0	385
		3	District level Panchyat	37	31	6	37
		4	Urban level: Town Panchayat / Municipality / Corporation	664	664	0	664
			Total	13610	13,604	6	13610
4	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 .	In the state of Tamilnadu District / Corporation / Municipality / Block / Town Panchayat and Village Panchayat level a 13604 BMCs formed. Due to administrative reasons the formation of 6 District level BMCs is under progress.					
5	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,	Vide this Office ref No. TNBB/603/2019, Dated: 26.09.2019 a proposal submitted to Government for the post of Deputy director and Additional Director, Agriculture, Horticulture, Ayush, TAMCOL and DCF and ACF in Forest Department. In this regard the Government allowed TNBB to fill up the posts from other Government department on deputation basis after following due procedure vide Government letter No.16918/FR.5/2019-5, Environment and Forests (FR.5) department, Dated: 10.06.2020. Further action will be taken by Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board.					

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 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,

	<p>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.</p> <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>	
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>Vide Office ref No. TNBB/604/2019 dated: 26.09.2019 proposal submitted to Government for additional administrative and technical capacity. The Government have informed vide Govt. letter No.16918/FR.5/2019-5, Environment and Forests (FR.5) department, Dated:10.06.2020 that the creation of regular posts on contract basis may be deferred as per the orders of the government issued in G.O.(Ms) No.248, Finance (CMPC) department, dated: 20.05.2020 due to impact of covid-19.</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 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.

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.

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.

Above proposed staff structure is existing in many other State Biodiversity Boards such as Karnataka, Gujarat,

	<p>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>	
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>The Board with the support of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Partnership Project, GIZ India has identified for training Community Resource Persons (CRPs), other key persons such as Village Panchayat President and members on importance of BMCs, its functions and documentation of PBRs. These trainings may be conducted by the trainers who got trained under ToT programme. These training may be conducted in the villages where trainers are located without involving long distance travel. In this regard a letter has been sent vide this officer reference no. TNBB/60/2017, dated 02.09.2020, to the Director of State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, to facilitate in conducting these trainings. Honorarium for the trainers will be paid as per SIRD norms by GIZ through the ABS Partnership Project. GIZ India will provide technical support and coordinate these trainings.</p>
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, all the BMCs are formed at the Block level, 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</p>	<p>As per the Government Order (Ms) No. 10 Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department dated 30.01.2020, the Block Development Officers of 385 Blocks in rural local bodies nominated as the Secretary of the rural Block level Biodiversity Management Committees as per Rules 20 (9) of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017.</p> <p>The order has been communicated to all the nodal officers and the District Collectors.</p>

	<p>ensure compliance of the roles listed in the Rules 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>	
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>As per the Government Order (Ms) No. 27 Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department dated 13.03.2020, reduction of application fee prescribed under sub-rule (1) of rule 15 of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules 2017 from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 1000/- was issued by the government.</p> <p>The order has been communicated to all the nodal officers and the District Collectors vide in this office ref. No. TNBB/221/2018 dated: 17.03.2020.</p>

Agenda No 3: Status/Compliance report of the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi OA No. 347/2016 & I.A No. 471/2019.

As per the Hon NGT order dated 09.08.2019, the Tamilnadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB) held a meeting on 18.09.2019 and discuss about the Hon NGT order. It was decided that though the task of constitution of BMCs is achievable, preparation of PBRs may require

some more reasonable time. However, it was also resolved that all necessary steps will be taken to prepare the PBRs and that the TNBB will engage/advise the BMCs by involving the Knowledge Partners (KP) and the Technical Support Group (TSG) members in the preparation of PBRs.

Consequent to the decision taken by the above TNBB meet, the Board has taken concrete steps by convening meetings and providing technical support to the KP members and the senior State level representatives of the TSG at the TNBB office in Chennai for six times since September 2019 and deliberated on the processes and responsibilities of each of the members for preparation of PBRs for the Block and Urban local bodies.

Now in Tamil Nadu state, the RD&PR department has constituted BMCs at all the 385 rural blocks, 12524 village panchayats and 31 of 37 districts panchayats and the Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department has constituted 664 Urban Local Bodies. The TNBB has provided necessary technical guidance and support to the state government, the BMCs the TSG members and the District nodal officers in the constitution of BMCs and in the preparation of the PBRs.

It is necessary to bring it on record that the RDPR department, District Administration & the District Nodal Officers (DFOs) have taken suitable and concerted efforts to constitute the BMCs in time, the KP/TSG members have played a vital role in compiling/sharing the information and the Senior scientists & the Research Assistants of the Task Force and the TNBB office have worked tirelessly in a very professional manner which needs high level of appreciation. The District Nodal Officers have taken significant efforts to conduct BMC meetings and validate the PBRs.

The present status of BMCs and the PBRs in the state is given below:

Sl. No	Particulars	Numbers in the State	No. of BMC Formed as on date	No. of BMCs to be formed	No. of PBRs formed	No. of PBRs to be formed
1	Village Panchayat	12524	12524	0	12524	0
2	Block level Panchayat	385	385	0	385	0
3	District level Panchyat	37	31	6	37	0
4	Urban level: Town Panchayat / Municipality/ Corporation	664	664	0	664	0
	Total	13610	13604	6	13610	0

The NBA appointed 'PBR Quality Monitoring Committee' visited TNBB on 14.02.2020 and discussed the entire process in greater detail. The team appreciated the progress and the methodology. The same has been discussed in the National Meet held in Trivandrum on 5 – 6, March 2020.

This is for kind information of the Board.

Agenda No 4: BMC Details from RD&PR Department

During the 1st Sub-committee meeting of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board regarding the Constitution of BMC and Documentation of PBRs held on 09.01.2020, the chairman, Additional Chief Secretary Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, has informed the committee that the BMCs will be constituted in all the 12524 Gram Panchayats (GPs) and the 37 District Panchayats (DP) on or before 24.01.2020, by doing so, the Tamilnadu state will achieve 100 percent achievement and will comply with one of the requirements of the Hon NGT order.

Sl. No	Particulars	Total numbers in the State	Total No of BMC Formed as on date	Total No of BMCs to be formed
1	Village Panchayat	12524	12524	0
2	Block level Panchayat	385	385	0
3	District level Panchayat	37	31	6
	Total	12946	12940	6

In this regard, Director RD&PR Letter No. 8164/2018/PRI 4-1 dated: 03.02.2020. The Biodiversity Management committee at the District level has been formed in 31 Districts. In the newly created 6 Districts, the District Panchayat will come into force only after the due elections to the rural local bodies. In terms of Village Panchayats, the Bio-Diversity Management committee has been formed in all the Village Panchayats comprising 7 members with following composition.

1. One member from Village Forest Committee (VFC) President
2. Three women members from community based organizations
3. A farmer representative
4. An Animal Farmer / Fisher Folk
5. A NGO representative.

This is for kind information of the Board.

Agenda No 5: Expenditure details for the Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register

As per the Hon NGT order dated 09.08.2019, it was resolved that all necessary steps will be taken to prepare the PBRs and that the TNBB will engage/advise the BMCs by involving the Knowledge Partners (KP) and the Technical Support Group (TSG) members in the preparation of PBRs. As it is a time bound task and was proposed to engage Senior scientists/experts, Research Assistants and create a task force at TNBB to complete the task in time. Accordingly, the TNBB created the Task Force and got to business immediately and provided all necessary technical support. The honorarium / fellowship given to the Task Force members, is as per the UGC/DST, GOI norms. The TNBB has purchased 4 Nos of computers and allied equipments for the purpose. It is necessary to provide financial assistance to the BMCs/TNBB to print the PBRs for ready reference. This has been informed to the Principal Secretary Environment and Forests.

The actual expenditure incurred from October 2019 to March 2020, for the Task Force activities, is

Name of the Work	Numbers	Rate (Rs)	Total (Rs)
Senior Scientists Honorarium *	Four	50,000/Month	8,00,000
Fellowship to Research Assistants **	Four	20,000/Month	4,80,000
Computers & equipments	Four		2,58,100
Total (Rs)			15,38,000

*** The Senior Scientists were engaged from October 2019 to January 2020**

**** The Research Assistants have been engaged from October 2019 to March 2020**

It is informed that the state government had sanctioned funds for PBR preparation, sanctioned in the G.O. (Ms) No.147 Environment and Forests (FR.5) Department, dated 09.12.2016, an amount of Rs.70.00 lakhs for Strengthening Institutional Mechanism for Access and Benefit Sharing for Biodiversity Conservation in Tamil Nadu. Out of this, an amount Rs. 30.00 lakhs is sanctioned for preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Register. From this fund, an amount of Rs16,10,329/- has been spent so far.

This is for kind information of the Board.

Agenda No 6: Reconstitution of the Tamilnadu Biodiversity Board members

As per G.O (Ms). No. 14 Environment and Forests Department (FR-5) Department dated 31.01.2017, the Tenure of the non-official member has expired on 31.01.2020. The government reconstituted the TNBB vide in the G.O (Ms). No. 8 Environment and Forests Department (FR-5) Department dated 28.01.2020, (Annexure - III).

This is for kind information of the Board.

Agenda No 7: Annual report and Audit report

Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Audit reports from 2009 – 2010 to 2018 - 2019 is placed before the board (Annexure - II). The annual reports of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board are under preparation and will be completed shortly and placed before the board.

This is for kind information of the Board.

Agenda No 8: TNBB Office Space, and Staff requirements.

At present Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board functioning in the small portion of the TBGP Office campus at Medavakkam, Chennai – 100. New building is being constructed at Velachery for the State Head quarters of Tamil Nadu Forest Department, which is at present functioning in Panagal Maalagai, Saidapet, Chennai – 15. When the Forest Department office moves to new building, office space in Panagal Maalagai may be allotted to TNBB. Proposals in this regard have been submitted to the government vide this office reference no. TNBB/121/2020, Dated: 11.03.2020.

Staff requirement

As per Government Order (3D) No. 39 Environment and Forests (FR.2-II) Department dated: 27.12.2019. the Government has sanctioned supporting staff for functioning to Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board in the cadre of Administrative / Personal Assistant (Cadre post) -1, Superintendent -1, Assistant – 3, Steno Typist Grade – III -1, Data entry operator / Console operator – 1, Driver -1, and Office Assistant – 2. Out of the 10 sanctioned posts in the Board, only one Superintendent and one Assistant are in position as on date. The other posts i.e Administrative / Personal Assistant (Cadre post) -1, Assistant – 2, Steno Typist Grade – III -1, Data entry operator / Console operator – 1, Driver -1, and Office Assistant – 2 have not been filled up so far. The G.O Sanctioning the staff is enclosed as an annexure - III.

This is for kind information of the Board.

Agenda No 9: Research projects and Awareness creation publicity materials.

The Tamil Nadu state has notified significant number of vulnerable species of flora and fauna in the entire state as per Government of India notification. There is a need to carryout research on these species for their conservation. For this purpose, Rs. 75.00 lakhs is essential.

Conducting training workshops with the line departments and Biological resources utilization industries for implementation and awareness creation of Biodiversity Act 2002 and Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules 2017, in entire state of Tamil Nadu is required. For this awareness creation, Rs. 50.00 lakhs is essential to the TNBB.

The Board may accept the proposal for seeking necessary financial support from the Government.

Agenda No. 10: Indo-German Biodiversity Partnership Project

The Access and Benefit Sharing partnership project commissioned under the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme was implemented in partnership by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and National Biodiversity Authority with the three pilot State Biodiversity Boards of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. 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 Access and Benefit Sharing mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act 2002, in keeping with India's commitments under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board along with GIZ India has organised many awareness workshops for the Nodal officers, district officers of the stake holder departments and others in all the districts of the State and this was very successful. The project is completed as per MoU in the Month of April 2020.

This is placed for information of the Board.

Agenda No.11: Celebration of International Day of Biodiversity

Every year, the International Day of Biodiversity that falls on 22nd May is being celebrated by Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board. Due to the COVID-19 related lockdown and regulations, the TNBB decided to celebrate virtually online by conducting essay competitions for the School/College students & the public of the state. 2227 persons

participated in this online essay competition. TNBB has requested NBA to sanction an amount of 2.00 lakhs for the celebration of the International Day of Biodiversity - 2020.

This is placed for information of the Board.

Agenda No.12: Proposal to Designate Village Panchayat Secretary to the Secretary of the Village Panchayath BMC and District Panchayath Secretary to the Secretary of the District Panchayath BMC as per Rule 20 (9) of the Tami Nadu Biodiversity Rules, 2017.

A proposal was sent to government to designate **Panchayath Secretary** of Village panchayat local body as the Secretary of Village Panchayath Biodiversity Management Committee and for the District Panchayath local bodies, **District Panchayath Secretary** as Secretary of District Panchayath Biodiversity Management Committee as per Rule 20 (9) of the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Rules, 2017.

The Government vide G.O (Ms) No. 52 Environment and Forests (FR-5) dated 04.09.2020 has accepted the proposal.

This is for information of the Board.

Agenda No. 13: Any other item with the permission of the Chair.