

About NBA

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA is a Statutory Body and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions for the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

The Biological Diversity Act (2002) mandates the implementation of the Act through a decentralized system, with the NBA focusing on advising the Central Government on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resource. NBA also advises the State Governments in the selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified under Sub-Section (1) of Section 37 as heritage sites and measures for the management of such heritage sites.

The State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) focus on advising the State Governments, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.

The SBB also regulate, by granting approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians. The local level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are responsible for promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of landraces, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

The NBA with its headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, delivers its mandate through a structure that comprises the Authority, Secretariat, SBBs, BMCs and Expert Committees.

Since its establishment, NBA has supported the creation of SBBs in 29 States and facilitated the establishment of 2,77,329 BMCs at the local level and 2,67,585 PBRs have been prepared all over the country.

National Biodiversity Authority



2022 - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



National Biodiversity Authority

**Annual Report
2022-2023**



मंत्री
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
और
श्रम एवं रोजगार
भारत सरकार



MINISTER
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
AND
LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

भूपेन्द्र यादव
BHUPENDER YADAV



MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2022-2023 of the National Biodiversity Authority.

India is one of the recognized mega-diverse countries of the world, harbouring nearly 8% of the recorded species of the world, and representing 4 of the 36 globally identified biodiversity hotspots. India is also a vast repository of traditional knowledge associated with biological resources.

The Biological Diversity Act of 2002 was enacted and subsequently amended in 2023 to provide strong legal support to biodiversity conservation efforts. It is implemented through the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the national level; State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) in 28 states and 8 union territories; and 2,77,688 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the grassroot level. I believe that these institutions would immensely contribute to enhance the livelihood of the local communities and uplift the socioeconomic conditions through the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism provided for under the aforesaid Act by involving the local population in Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration in the true spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas'.

Government of India is committed towards conserving and making sustainable use of biological resources to ensure that while development takes place, benefits flow back to the community which protects, conserves, nurtures and restores it. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across all major sectors and promoting human well-being are keys to achieving inclusive growth and development.

Date: 12.01.2024

(Bhupender Yadav)

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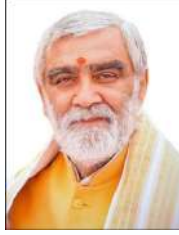
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

अश्विनी कुमार चौबे
Ashwini Kumar Choubey



आहारशुद्धी सत्त्वशुद्धिः
समृद्धिः
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

राज्य मंत्री
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण
भारत सरकार
MINISTER OF STATE
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



संदेश

जैव विविधता हमारे जीवन का आधार है और हम अपने भोजन, पानी, चिकित्सा, स्थायी जलवायु और आर्थिक विकास के लिए इस पर निर्भर हैं। वैश्विक सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का आधे से अधिक भाग प्रकृति पर निर्भर है; एक अरब से अधिक लोग अपनी आजीविका के लिए जैव विविधता पर निर्भर करते हैं।

यहां तक कि वेदों, उपनिषदों, अर्थशास्त्र, बृहत् संहिता, रामायण, महाभारत और राजतरंगिणी जैसे हमारे प्राचीन ग्रंथों में "प्रकृति के साथ सद्भाव में रहने" पर महत्व दिया गया है, जो जैव पारिस्थितिकी और इसके सतत संरक्षण की अवधारणा को दर्शाते हैं। हमारा 'स्वस्ति वचन' भी संरक्षण के विचार का प्रतीक है - हम प्रकृति, विशेष रूप से पृथ्वी, नदियों और वनस्पति (वनस्पतयः शांतिः) में शांति बनी रहे, इसके लिए प्रार्थना करते हैं।

जैव विविधता की हानि की समस्या का समाधान करते हुए प्रकृति में निवेश करना प्रभावी और लाभदायक दोनों साबित हो सकता है। भारत उन देशों में अग्रणी है, जिन्होंने इस नुकसान की भरपाई करने की चुनौती स्वीकार की है।

वर्ष 2022-2023 की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट जैव विविधता अधिनियम, 2002 की धारा 28 के अनुसार तैयार की गई है, जो राष्ट्रीय, राज्य और स्थानीय निकाय स्तरों पर जैव विविधता अधिनियम को कार्यान्वित करने पर हुई प्रगति पर प्रकाश डालती है। मुझे उम्मीद है कि यह रिपोर्ट सभी हितधारकों, जिनमें जैव विविधता संरक्षण के साथ-साथ स्थानीय समुदायों की आजीविका बढ़ाने वाले लोग भी शामिल हैं, के लिए उपयोगी होगी।

(अश्विनी कुमार चौबे)

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लीना नन्दन
LEENA NANDAN



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भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST
& CLIMATE CHANGE

Foreword

Biodiversity conservation is a high priority for India, which has a variety of ecosystems and a wide range of genetic and species diversity, all co-existing with a large human population.

The connection between climate change and biodiversity is organic. Climate change plays a significant role in the loss of biodiversity. At the same time, biodiversity offers solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change. An ecosystem approach, which involves the conservation of biodiversity through the integrated management of land, water and living resources, together with its sustainable use in an equitable way, is therefore of crucial importance.

The Kunming Montreal Global Diversity Framework (FMGBF) adopted in the COP-15 of Convention on Biological Diversity aims to support biodiversity conservation globally, together with its restoration and sustainable utilisation. The actions suggested therein would also aid in meeting the targets set forth under the sustainable Development Goals.

India, being a party to CBD, is in the process of revising its National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan in line with the KMGBF, in order to ensure that our biodiversity is effectively conserved while also safeguarding the livelihoods of the local communities, who rely on the bio-resources for their sustenance.

The Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) for the period 2022-23 highlights its contribution at the international and national levels in the areas of conservation, management and utilisation of biological resources for the benefit of our country. I am confident that the organisation would continue to play a significant role in the area of biodiversity conservation.


(Leena Nandan)

Place: New Delhi
Date: 18.01.2024





Foreword

National Biodiversity Authority, is the apex body responsible for biodiversity governance in the country. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is implemented through three tier institutional mechanism. Concrete and sincere efforts are being made to implement the Act with the generous support and guidance of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and cooperation of the State Biodiversity Boards, Biodiversity Management Committees and Expert committees of the NBA.

During the period under report, NBA had signed agreement with 1245 applicants and received a sum of about Rs 49.83 crore. Further, NBA released Rs 4.00 crores to 19 State Biodiversity Boards & one Union Territory Biodiversity Council for disbursing to the eligible beneficiaries and to support Red Sanders Research projects to the tune of Rs. 23.00 Lakhs..

On the occasion of Celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), 2022, A biodiversity exhibition was organised on theme of "Biodiversity, nutritional security and human well-being" by NBA with the participation of BMC members representing different States and Union Territories. It was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union minister. A "Special Cover", was released by the Hon'ble Union minister and the Post Master General, India Post.

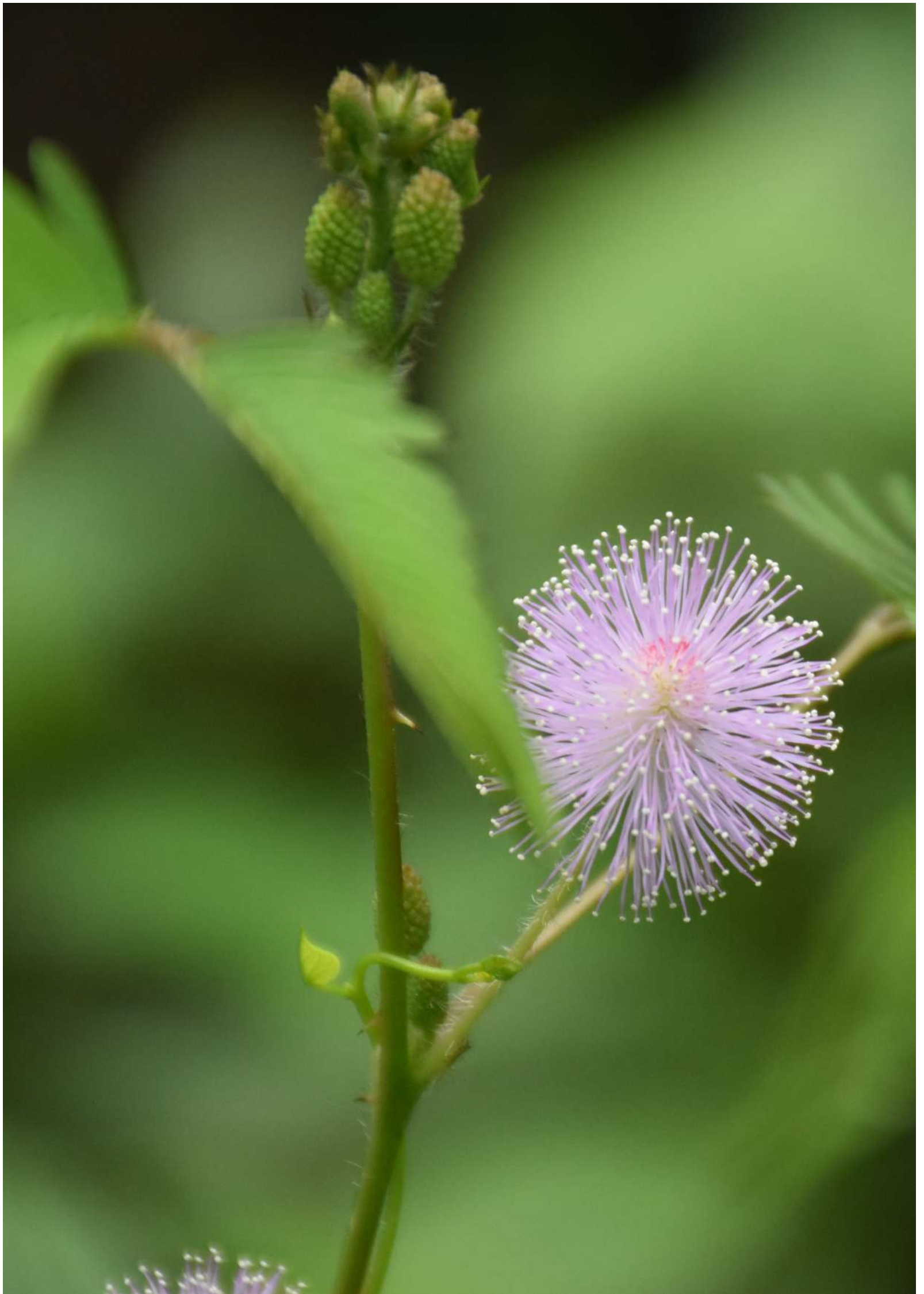
The Expert committees constituted on various subject matter have guided the NBA in discharge of the functions particularly to examine the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and to suggest modifications thereof. During the period, the Authority met three times and made decisions on the important subject. It is to mention that Herbarium of the University of Calicut has been notified as Repository under Section 39 of the BD Act, 2002 during this period.

I would like to place on record the deep appreciation and gratitude of NBA to a large number of stakeholders and professionals and especially the senior officials of MoEFCC and State Forest Departments, Chairpersons and Members Secretaries of State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Council, Chair and Co-Chair of various committees for their constant guidance and support, which has enabled the NBA to successfully achieve its mandate. I also appreciate the international partners such as the UNDP, GIZ, for their support during the period. I would also like to record my appreciation for the officers and staff of NBA for their comprehensive efforts to take the NBA forward.

I am pleased to place the Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the reporting period 2022-2023 during which the efforts for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and related legal instruments gathered further momentum.

(C. Achalender Reddy)

Chairman, NBA





Acknowledgement

Annual report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the year 2022-23 has been prepared in accordance with Section 28 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, which highlights the activities carried out by the NBA and SBBs along with glimpse of the achievements in the implementation of the Act during this period.

I sincerely thank the Chairman, NBA for his valuable advice, support and continued motivation in all our endeavours without which we could not have achieved the set goals in an effective manner.

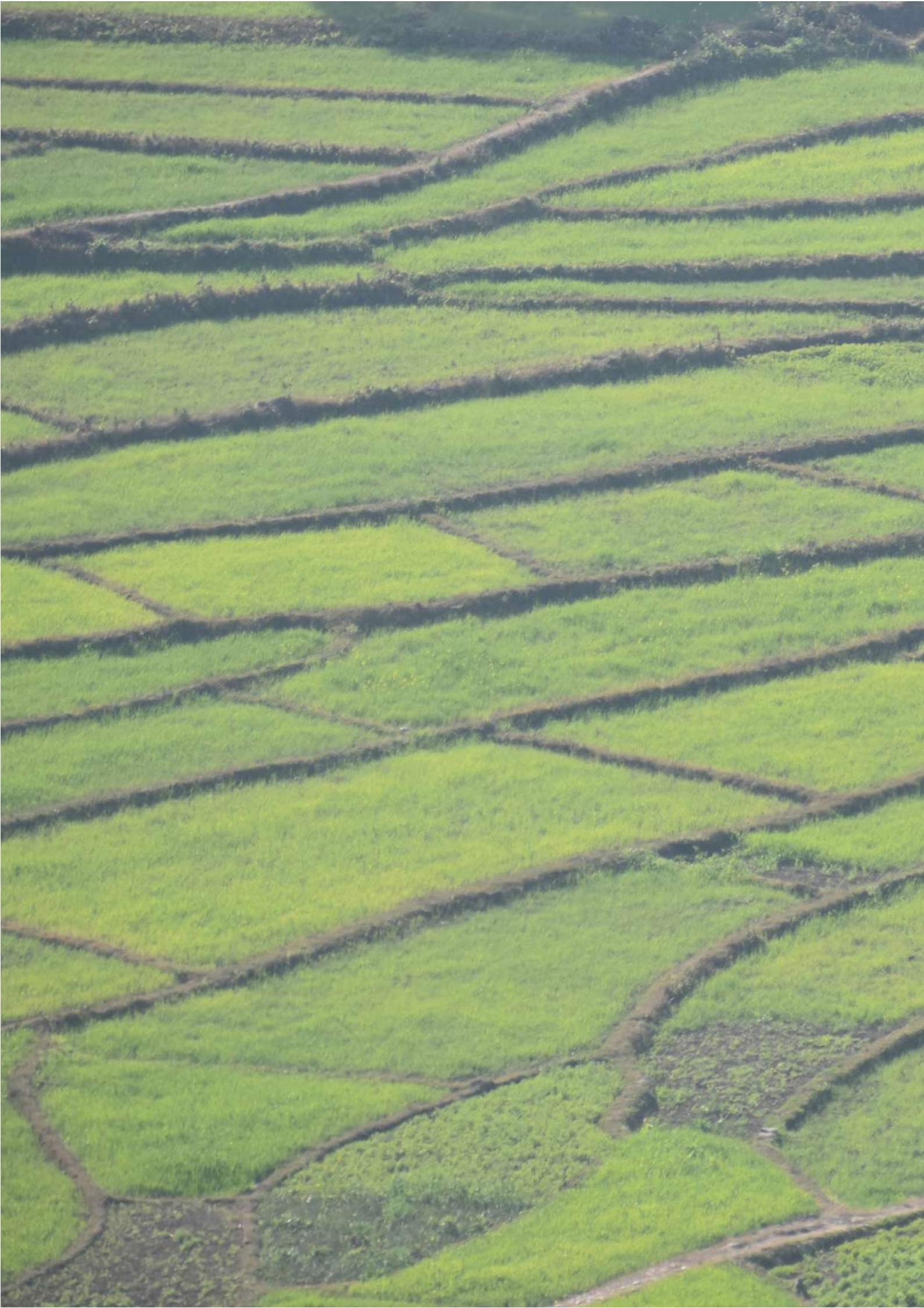
I express my deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, for the continued guidance, support and assistance extended in effective implementation of the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

I am pleased to convey my sincere thanks to the Members of the Authority and Expert Committees for rendering invaluable assistance, support and guidance in advancing the activities of the Secretariat of the NBA.

I acknowledge with gratitude the complementary role of the Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of the State Biodiversity Board in compiling this report. I also thank the Principal Director of Audit (Scientific Audit) for having furnished the Audit Certificate in time.

I record my sincere acknowledgement of all the officers and staff of the NBA Secretariat in compiling and bringing out this annual report.


(B. Balaji)
Secretary, NBA



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Executive Summary

The term Biodiversity as per the text of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 refers to every living thing, including plants, bacteria, animals except human beings. It is one of the most complex and vital features of our planet. It is estimated that there are around 8.7 million species of plants and animals in existence. However, only around 1.2 million species have been identified and described so far, most of which are insects.

The 1992 Earth Summit held at Rio de Janeiro led to the adoption of an internationally binding legal instrument, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) with the objectives of conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological diversity. Consequently, India enacted the Biological Diversity (BD) Act in 2002 and notified the Biological Diversity Rules in 2004. A three-tier institutional structure was formed for implementation of the BD Act 2002, wherein the apex body, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) headquartered in Chennai was established in 2003 under Section 8 of the Act to implement the BD Act at the national level. The second and the third tier constitute the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) at the State level and the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) at the local body level respectively.

NBA regulates the activities envisaged under the Act and issues guidelines for access to biological resources and advises the Government of India on matters relating to biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilization and equitable sharing of biological resources.

NBA, as a statutory body of the Government of India, has been following a dedicated and target-oriented plan. The highlights of the progress and achievements during the reporting period 2022-23 are briefly outlined here.

During 2022-23, the Authority met three times, deliberated various issues, directed and advised the NBA Secretariat for initiating and implementing actions as per Section 12 of the BD Act, 2002 and Rule 10 of the BD Rules.

NBA has constituted Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (EC on ABS) which met three times and evaluated 127 applications on access and benefit sharing and provided recommendations to the Authority. During the reporting period, 958 applications were received concerning the access of biological resources for research/commercial use, transfer of research results, intellectual property rights and third party transfer. In total, 1245 agreements were signed during this period. NBA has received a sum of about **Rs 194.68 crores** as benefit sharing (BS) component till date, of which **Rs 49.83 crore** has been received during the year 2022-2023. Out of the BS amount realized on the access of Red Sanders wood, NBA has supported the Red Sanders Research projects to the tune of 23.46 Lakhs to National institutes like Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding; Institute of Wood Science and Technology; and The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences & Technology as per the recommendation of the EC on Red sanders.

Out of the BS amount realized on the access of biological resources other than red Sanders, NBA has distributed the benefits sharing to the concerned benefit claimers like BMC/ Institution/ communities based on the geographical location from where biological resources were collected that has been provided in the application. During the reporting, NBA has released Rs **3,92,28,019/-** to 19 State Biodiversity Boards & 1 Union Biodiversity Councils (Andhra Pradesh , Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and UTBC Chandigarh) for disbursing the same to the eligible beneficiaries concerned towards the conservation and promotion of biological resources and socio-economic activities of the area concerned. India being a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 767 approvals granted in the ABS CH platform generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances during 2022-23. With that, India published 4934 IRCCs, so far, in the ABS Clearing house portal.

The implementation of the BD Act 2002 at the State level was initiated by establishing the SBB and locally by constituting the BMC. At the end of 2022-23, 2,77,329 BMCs at the local body level and 2,67,585 PBRs have been prepared all over the country. There has been a substantial increase in the notification of Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

During the period under report, **18** more Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) have been brought under notification by the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal under the provisions of Section 37 of the BD Act, 2002. So far 18 States and 2 Union Territories namely, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Diu and Dam islands have notified threatened species u/s 38 of the BD Act, enlisting a total of 159 Plants and 175 Animal species.

NBA has extended financial support to almost all the SBBs by Grant-in-Aid towards strengthening the institutional mechanism such as components of outsourcing, training and capacity building, peer-to-peer learning exchange visits, printing and dissemination of knowledge materials, formation of Thematic Expert Committee and website maintenance for the respective States during 2022-23. Monthly Review meetings of SBBs were convened to interact and understand the problems and challenges faced at the state and local body level.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in association with National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Wetland Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority and Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board celebrated the **International Day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May 2022** at Kalaivanar Arangam Chennai. **The Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav** was the Chief Guest to inaugurate the daylong event. **The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey** and **the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Climate Change, Govt. of Tamil Nadu Thiru Siva V.Meyyanathan** also graced the occasion. A biodiversity exhibition was organized by the NBA with the participation of BMC members representing different States and Union Territories was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister at the venue. Stalls were set up by the NBA with participation of, SBBs, UTBCs, Govt Departments and Institutions and NGOs. The participants exhibited materials on awareness, products made of bioresources and related items on this year's theme of "**Biodiversity, nutritional security and human well-being**"

The Union Minister released the publications titled, "Criteria and Guidelines for Identifying Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in India", OECMs Compendium and "India Naturally ", which are joint initiative of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

NBA had joined hands with the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, National Institute of Rural Development, and Panchayat Raj to impart training for officials of the Wildlife, Forestry, Biotechnology, Customs, and Excise Departments, along with the line departments dealing with bioresources, their conservation, and sustainable management.

Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) was launched in India in the year 2015 to enhance resource mobilization for biodiversity conservation and ensure alignment of public, private, domestic and international finance to implement India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP), and to achieve National Biodiversity Targets (NBT), and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through development of a framework that provides innovative blended financing methods. The BIOFIN India Country programme is extended to Phase II, which is being implemented from 2021 to 2025.

Under the extended phase-2 BIOFIN project in India (2021-25), the MoEFCC is designated as the host agency and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is the designated technical agency to support in the implementation of extended phase of BIOFIN project in India (2021-25).

The State Biodiversity Boards have also made significant progress in implementation of the BD Act, 2002 which includes uploading 19,907 electronic PBRs by the Andhra Pradesh SBB; notification of two Biodiversity Heritage Sites and publication of booklet **"Dima Hasao- An Unexplored Biodiversity Hotspots"** by the Assam SBB; and preparation of City Biodiversity Index of Bhagalpur by Bihar SBB. Goa State Biodiversity board conferred awards to individuals and BMCs under various categories such as "best BMC", "best Biodiversity research", "green journalist". Further, Goa SBB facilitated the Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional healthcare providers (VCSTCHP in Goa with the help of University of Trans disciplinary Health Science and Quality Council

of India, and distributed 6,39,278 tree saplings under Mopa Airport Plantation Programme. Jharkhand SBB conducted 400 capacity building & training programme to the BMCs members in 10 districts of Jharkhand covering 2000 BMCs, while facilitating the farmers involved in cultivating landraces, community seed banks, conservation of wild sugarcane. Kerala SBB formed District Level Biodiversity Coordination Committee, Virtual Biodiversity cadre and released Cochin Biodiversity Index, while proposing 14 Potential OECMs across 7 districts of Kerala. Madhya Pradesh SBB approved 877 ABS applications, notified one BHS (Amarkantak in Anuppur district), developed the Bhopal City Biodiversity Index, organized the Gram Mela Shardostav 2002, Mowgali Bal Utsav 2022, and International Herbal fair 2022. Manipur SBB published pamphlets of rare and threatened plants of Manipur. Meghalaya SBB conferred a State level award to "Aruakgre Village BMCS" for conservation of Aruakgre fish and established a turtle sanctuary at Dirik River and North Garo Hills, etc. Nagaland SBB approved 13 ABS applications. Punjab SBB published a coffee table book "Threatened flora and fauna of Punjab" implemented the project titled "development of conservation strategies for Withania coagulans: an endangered high value medicinal plants of Punjab", and planting saplings of threatened species of Punjab in villages. Tamil Nadu SBB declared Arittapatti, Madurai District as Biodiversity Heritage Site.

The Annual Accounts for 2022-23 and Annual Plan for 2023-24 are also included in this Annual Report for 2022-23.



Chapter 1

Introduction

The term Biodiversity is used to describe the enormous variety of life on Earth. It also refers to every living thing, including plants, bacteria, animals except human beings as per the text of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Scientists have estimated that there are around 8.7 million species of plants and animals in existence. However, only around 1.2 million species have been identified and described so far, most of which are insects. This means that millions of other organisms remain a complete mystery.

India is one of the most biodiverse regions of the world and include three of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots – the Western Ghats, the Eastern Himalayas, and the Indo-Burma hotspot. It is one of the 17 megadiverse countries. The country has 18 biosphere reserves and 75 Ramsar sites. India is ranked 8th of the 17 mega-diverse countries in the world in terms of species richness. India harbours around over 55,000 species of plants and over 1,03,258 species of animals. India is also rich in fauna and nearly 62 per cent of the recorded amphibian species are endemic to India which is majorly found in the Western Ghats. Inventories of both floral and faunal diversities are progressively updated with many discoveries of new species through continuous survey and exploration.

Biological resources are important for both economic and social development of the people. However, this has led to immense pressure on the biodiversity as there is also exponential increase in the population, rapid economic growth. Consequently, this has led to destruction and fragmentation of natural habitats, which alters the ecology and its inhabitants, affecting the livelihoods of millions of people. In response, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) convened the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity in November 1988 to explore the need for an international convention on biological diversity which was culminated on 22 May 1992 as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The CBD came into force on 29 December 1993 with the three main objectives viz. conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and thirdly, the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic

resources. India enacted the Biological Diversity Act 2002 to meet the obligations under the CBD. This Act was enacted by the Parliament of India for conservation and sustainable use of the biological resources and also provide mechanism for equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of traditional biological resources and knowledge.

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established by the Central Government in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA is a Statutory Body and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions for the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. The State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) focus on advising the State Governments, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources;

The SBBs also regulate, by granting of approvals or otherwise upon requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by the Indians. The local level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are responsible for promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

The current Annual report i.e. Annual report 2022-2023 is prepared as per section 28 of the Act. As it is the national report, the work done by the SBB/ UTBCs are also included.

Chapter 2

Constitution and Functions of the Authority, Statutory Bodies

2.1. Structure of the National Biodiversity Authority

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is headed by a Chairperson, a renowned person with knowledge and experience in sustainable management of biodiversity. It consists of ten *ex-officio* members from related Ministries of Government of India, and five non-official members who are experts in different aspects of biodiversity management.

2.1.1. Chairperson appointed under clause (a) of Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of BD Act

During this period, NBA was headed by three different Chairpersons namely Dr V.B. Mathur, Shri. Naresh Pal Gangwar, IAS and Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.). Dr V.B. Mathur a renowned wildlife biologist and former Director, Wildlife Institute of India headed the NBA till 31st August, 2022. The position was then handed over to Shri. Naresh Pal Gangwar, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC as additional charge. Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.) took charge as Chairperson on 1st December 2022 and he was the former Director of Centre for Innovations in Public Systems, (an autonomous Centre of Administrative Staff College of India), Hyderabad established by Government of India on the recommendations of 13th Finance Commission.

2.1.2. *Ex-officio* members representing MoEFCC and Ministry of Tribal Affairs appointed under clause (b) of Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of BD Act

Three *ex-officio* members are appointed by the Central Government, *viz.*, two representing the MoEFCC- the Additional Director General of Forests and the Joint Secretary to the Government of India, and one representing the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the rank of Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank.

2.1.3. Other *ex-officio* members appointed under clause (c) of Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of BD Act

The Central Government appoints seven other *ex-officio* members who are in the rank of Joint Secretary or an Officer of an equivalent rank and would be experts in these sectors --

- i. Agriculture Research and Education
- ii. Biotechnology
- iii. Ocean Development
- iv. Agriculture and Co-operation
- v. Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy
- vi. Science and Technology
- vii. Scientific and Industrial Research

2.1.4. Non-official members appointed under clause (d) of Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of BD Act, 2002

Five non-official members are chosen among scientists and representatives of industry, conservationists and knowledge- holders of biological resources having sound knowledge and experience in matters related to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the biological resources.

The composition of the National Biodiversity Authority during the reporting period is given below in Table 1.

Table 1: Members of the National Biodiversity Authority

S. No.	Ex-officio Members	
1	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Mrs R. Jaya, IAS, Room No. 736, A-Wing, 7 th Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi 110 001
2	Additional Director General (Forests), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, Additional Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110 003
3	Joint Secretary dealing with the subject in the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change	Dr. S. Kerketta, Advisor & Scientist G CS-III Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110 003
4	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in Agriculture Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture	Joint Secretary (Seeds) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Room No. 244, Krishi Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi 110 001
5	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in the Department of Biotechnology	Dr. Manoj Modi, Scientist F, Department of Biotechnology, CGO Complex, Block No. 2, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003
6	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in the Department of Ocean Development	Dr. M.V. Ramanamurthy, Director, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), NIOT Campus, Velachery - Tambaram Main Rd, Pallikaranai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600100
7	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	Deputy Director General (Crop Science) Division of Crop Science, ICAR, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi 110 001

S. No.		Ex-officio Members
8	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy	Prof. (Dr) Tanuja Manoj Nesari, Chief Executive Officer National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 3 rd Floor, AYUSH Bhawan, B Block, G.P.O. Complex, I.N.A., New Delhi 110 023
9	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	Dr. Akhilesh Gupta, Scientist G, Head Planning, Coordination & Performance Management, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi 110 016
10	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in the Department of Science and Technology	Dr Sanjay Kumar Director, Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Post Box No.6, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh 176 061

S. No.		Non-Official Members
1	Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.) Director, Centre for Innovations in Public Systems, Hyderabad, Telangana	
2	Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram, Professor and Dean, College of Agriculture, Central Agriculture University, Imphal, Manipur	
3	Prof. Unnat P. Pandit Controller General of Patents, Trade Marks and Industrial Design Mumbai.	
4	Dr. Alka Rao, Principal Scientist, Lab #P206, GNR Protein Centre, CSIR- Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), Chandigarh – 160036	
5	Shri. M.S. Chaitra, Director and Fellow, Aarohi, Bangalore	

2.2. Functions of NBA

- ⦿ Advise the Government of India on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.
- ⦿ Regulate activities and issue guidelines for access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge and fair and equitable sharing in accordance with Sections 3, 4 and 6 of the BD Act 2002. (Certain individuals/ nationals/ organizations require prior approval of the NBA for obtaining biological resources and/or associated knowledge for use).
- ⦿ Take necessary measures to oppose the grant of Intellectual Property Rights in any country outside India on any biological resource obtained from India or knowledge associated with such biological resources derived from India illegally.
- ⦿ Advise State Governments in the selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified as heritage sites and suggest measure for their management.
- ⦿ Provide guidance and technical support to Biodiversity Management Committees through State Biodiversity Boards for preparing People's Biodiversity Registers.
- ⦿ Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act.

2.3. State Biodiversity Boards (SBB)

The SBBs are established by the State Governments by notification in the official gazette in accordance with Section 22 of the Act. The NBA exercises the powers and functions of an SBB in Union Territories. The NBA may delegate all or any of its powers or functions to such persons or group of persons as specified by the Central Government. As per section 22 of the Act, SBBs comprise of a Chairperson, not more than five ex officio members to be appointed by the State Government to represent the concerned Departments of the State Government; and (c)

not more than five members to be appointed from amongst experts in matters relating to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

2.3.1. Functions of SBB

- ⦿ Advise the State Governments, subject to guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.
- ⦿ Regulate, by granting approvals or otherwise, the request for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resources by Indians.
- ⦿ Perform other functions necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as prescribed by the State Governments.

2.4. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

In accordance with Section 41 of the BD Act, local bodies within their areas of jurisdiction can constitute BMCs to promote conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity which includes preservation of habitats, conservation of landraces, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms, and chronicling of knowledge related to biological diversity. Each BMC consists of a Chairperson and six persons nominated by the local body of which one-third is women and 18% belong to the Scheduled Castes/ Tribes category. As of March 2021, there are 2,73,451 BMCs across India.

2.4.1. Functions of BMC

- ⦿ Prepare, maintain and validate People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) in consultation with the local people.
- ⦿ Provide advice on any matter referred to it by the State Biodiversity Board or NBA for granting approval.

- ⦿ Maintain data about local *vaids* and medical practitioners using biological resources.

2.5. Role of Central Governments

- ⦿ Establish National Biodiversity Authority
- ⦿ Develop national strategies, plans, programs for the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- ⦿ Issue directives to State Governments to take immediate ameliorative measures for the protection of biodiversity-rich habitats, threatened by overuse, abuse or neglect.
- ⦿ Integration of the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programs and policies.
- ⦿ Endeavour to respect and protect the knowledge of local people relating to biological diversity, as recommended by NBA
- ⦿ Assess the impact of projects on the environment and biodiversity and regulate, manage or control the risks or adverse impact of use/release of living modified organisms on conservation, and study the link between sustainable use of biological diversity and human health.
- ⦿ The Central Government may, in consultation with the NBA,
 - a. Designate institutions as repositories for different categories of biological resources..
 - b. Exempt certain biological resources normally traded as commodities.Exempt certain biological resources normally traded as commodities.
 - c. The Central Government may, in consultation with the State Government, notify threatened species and prohibit or regulate their collection, rehabilitation and conservation.

2.6. Role of State Governments

- ⦿ Establish State Biodiversity Boards, notify the State Biological Diversity Rules, and facilitate in constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees at local body level.
- ⦿ Develop State strategies, plans, programs for the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- ⦿ Integration of the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programs and policies.
- ⦿ Assess the impact of projects on the environment and biodiversity and regulate, manage or control the risks or adverse impact of use/ release of living modified organisms on conservation, and study the link between sustainable use of biological diversity and human health.
- ⦿ State Governments, in consultation with the local bodies, notify Biodiversity Heritage Sites, and frame rules for management and conservation of all the Heritage Sites (in consultation with Central Government) and launch schemes for compensation to / rehabilitation of affected people.

Chapter 3

Meetings of the Authority

During the reporting period, the Authority met three times and advised the NBA Secretariat for actions as per Section 12 of the BD Act, 2002 and Rule 10 of the BD Rules. Besides, the Authority considered ABS applications along with recommendations of the expert committee on ABS, and gave decisions and advised the NBA Secretariat. The agenda discussed and the outcomes of the meetings held are outlined below.

3.1. 65th Authority Meeting

The 65th meeting (Special meeting) of the Authority (Governing Body) was held on 17th May 2022 in 'virtual mode' under the Chairmanship of Shri Dr. V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:

a) All the members appreciated the efforts taken by NBA to permanently house the Office of NBA in the Anna University campus and unanimously agreed to support the proposal.



- b) The members suggested amending the Clause 2 of the MoU by providing the number of years of lease as 99 years in addition to the term “on perpetual basis”.
- c) The members endorsed the proposal of NBA using its funds for constructing the building but also recommended that MoEFCC should consider providing capital funds for construction of NBA headquarters in Chennai.
- d) The members suggested that an agency may be engaged for architectural planning and monitoring

3.2. 66th Authority meeting

The 66th meeting of the Authority was held on 17th August 2022 at MoEFCC in a hybrid mode and the meeting was reconvened on 26th August 2022 in virtual mode from NBA headquarters under the Chairmanship of Shri Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:

- a. NBA shall provide information on the number of BMCs that have been constituted and the PBRs that have been prepared across the country in different States/UTs to the members of the Authority.
- b. NBA shall obtain a report from NCSCM which is functioning within Anna University on the difficulties, if any faced by them in managing the office
- c. NBA shall obtain a clarification from Anna University if they have fulfilled the mandate of having enough area as a University as prescribed by the UGC





- d. Re-examination of Upfront Payment levied for the accessed Parental and Segregated lines:
 - The members decided that the files of these applications may be shared with the members for examination and this can be deliberated and a decision may be taken in the next Authority meeting. The files may be kept in abeyance till a decision is taken in the next Authority meeting.
- e. The recommendations of the Members of the Authority to distribute the ABS funds accrued from Red Sanders species accessed from private areas would be sent to Ministry for their final decision.
- f. Members decided that NBA Secretariat shall not invoke Section 56 of the BD Act, 2002 on any contravention case under the OM issued by the Ministry till the BD Amendment Bill is passed.
- g. The proposal for designating the Herbarium of the University of Calicut as a Repository under Section 39 of the BD Act, 2002 was approved and the proposal shall be forwarded to the MoEFCC for notification.
- h. The Authority members endorsed the revised BHS Guidelines and decided that this can be further revised to incorporate its new provisions once the BD Amendment Bill is passed in Parliament.
- i. The Authority members endorsed the Draft Record Retention Schedule proposed to be sent to the National Archives Organization for vetting

- j. The Authority members approved and endorsed the proposal of amending of the Age, Education Qualifications, Experience for the post of TO(IPR) based on Regulation 7 of the Recruitment Rules and to send it to MoEFCC.
- k. The Authority members approved the draft Annual report of NBA for the year 2021-22.
- l. The members endorsed the Annual Account for the year 2021-22 and agreed that the Annual Report along with Audited Accounts may be sent to MoEFCC after graphic designing and printing (English & Hindi) for laying in the parliament.
- m. The Authority members approved and endorsed the proposal for pilot capacity building programme for BMCs in collaboration with the ENVIS Secretariat of MoEFCC under the 'Environment Awareness Capacity Building and Livelihood Programmes Scheme.
- n. The Authority members endorsed the proposal for the 'Training of Trainers' (ToT) for Conservation and Sustainable use of biodiversity at the Panchayat Level for the effective implementation of National Biodiversity Act 2002 to be jointly conducted by NIRDPR, Hyderabad and NBA Chennai.

3.3. 67th Authority Meeting

The 67th meeting of the Authority was held on 24th March 2023 at Indus hall, MoEFCC, New Delhi in 'Hybrid mode' under the Chairmanship



of Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.), Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:

- a. The Expert Committee constituted recently will frame the Rules for the management and conservation of Biodiversity Heritage Sites as per the provisions of the Section 37(2) of the BD Act.
- b. Members approved the actions taken on the decisions of the 66th Authority meeting.
- c. The Authority members approved the enhancement of financial assistance from Rs.13.5 lakhs per annum to Rs. 14.5 lakhs per annum for engaging outsourced/ contractual staff at SBBs/ UTBCs
- d. The members approved the following guidelines for allocation of funds to BMCs through SBBs/UTBCs

Sl. No	Item	Amount (Rs.)
Amount apportioned for one BMC (village level)		20,000.00
1	Strengthening of BMC and Preparation of BMC Action plan /Local level Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	10,000.00
2.	Upgradation of PBR (village level)	10,000.00
Total amount apportioned (for 100 BMCs) for each SBB/UTBC		20,00,000.00





- e. The members approved the proposal of engaging of Experts / Subject matter specialists on various subjects for specific duration (from a few days in a month to not more than 3 months continuously (upper limit)) as per the need with specific terms of reference or on work days basis of not more than 30 work days (continuously) each time for which fees is Rs. 4,000/- per work day (Upper limit) may be paid.
- f. The members approved the proposal for collaboration between NBA and Republic of Belarus in developing an electronic system for access to genetic resources and benefit sharing after an agreement has been executed between the concerned agency of Republic of Belarus and MoEFCC, GoI. Alternatively, MoEFCC, GoI may j. authorize NBA to enter into an agreement with the concerned agency of Republic of Belarus
- g. The members approved the proposal of organizing an International conference/workshop on Red Sanders at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- h. The members approved the distribution of the ABS amount accrued from accessing Red Sanders from the patta land.
- i. The members approved the modification proposed to the Technical Officer (IPR) post in the NBA.

Chapter 4

Activities to regulate Access to Biological Resources and Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing

4.1. Expert Committee (EC) on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

Applications seeking prior approval for access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge for research, bio-survey and bio-utilization and commercial utilization, transfer of results of research for obtaining intellectual property rights for invention based on research or information on biological resources and transfer of accessed biological resources to third party which are received by the NBA are evaluated by this expert committee which then makes suitable recommendations for consideration of the Authority.

During the year, the committee met three times viz 66th meeting on 27.04.2022, 67th meeting on 21.07.2022, 68th meeting on 18.03.2023 in hybrid mode and evaluated 127 applications on access and benefit





sharing and provided recommendations to the 66th and 67th Authority. Besides at the request of the applicants M/s. East West India Pvt Ltd., and M/s. Monsanto, the 66th EC on ABS provided inputs to the issue for re-examining the upfront payment levied for M/s. East West India Pvt Ltd., and M/s. Monsanto for research activities by section 3(2) entities. In continuation to this the said applications filed by M/s. East West India Pvt Ltd., and M/s. Monsanto were once again placed before the 66th Authority meeting held on 17.08.2022, wherein the Authority directed NBA to submit all the applications before the Authority members for re-examination of levying the upfront payment for the parental and segregated lines. Subsequently, the NBA placed all the applications pertaining to M/s. East West India Pvt Ltd., and M/s. Monsanto before the 67th Authority held on 24.03.2023 and the authority members directed the NBA to furnish the information submitted by the applicant to the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) for validation of the information, which will facilitate NBA to levy the upfront payment on the Parental Lines alone

The Intellectual Property Rights Section of NBA placed an agenda before the 68th EC on ABS for providing scientific justification in order to include/exclude the indicative list of biological resources. In this regard the 68th EC on ABS suggested to form a sub-committee to examine the issue in detail.

4.2. Generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)

Under the Article 17 of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, Parties are required to issue a permit or its equivalent at the time of access as evidence that access to genetic resources was based on prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms were established. Since India is a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 4934 approvals granted in the ABS CH platform generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances (IRCCs) till date. Out of 4934, 767 IRCCs have been generated during the reporting period.

4.3. Deposition of microorganisms in other country's repository for claim of novel species for publication in journal:

The Authority in its 37th meeting held in March 2016 under agenda item 37.14.02, decided that the Indian researchers / scientists should provide prior intimation to the NBA in the prescribed format viz., Form-C for deposition of microorganisms in other country's repository for claim of novel species for publication in journals. However, if any non-Indian person/entity intends to access the deposited Indian biological resource from the foreign repository, he/she should obtain the prior approval of NBA as per Section 3 of the BD Act, 2002. NBA has received **18** such intimations during the year 2022-2023 and the details of the same has been updated in the NBA website after ratification by the Authority.



Chapter 5

Approval granted for undertaking activities as referred in Sections 3, 4, and 6 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

5.1. Approval Details

The objectives of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 are conservation of biological resources, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of the same. Accordingly, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is mandated to regulate activities of access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge for research; bio-survey and bio-utilization; commercial utilization; obtaining IP rights; transfer of results of research and transfer of accessed biological resources and/ or associated knowledge. The procedures to be followed by the applicant are outlined in the sections 3, 4, and 6 of the Act; 14, 17 and 18 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and ABS Regulations 2014.

As per the provisions of the BD Act, accessing the biological resources and associated knowledge by individuals and entities, both Indian and non-Indian as well, for carrying out certain activities as envisaged in the Act, prior approval of NBA is a pre-requisite. They need apply in four different types of Forms, specified for each activity, to the NBA and there are stipulated time lines for according approvals. The approval is granted after assessing that the biological resources are used sustainably and are conserved for future.

5.2 Classification and status of ABS Applications:

For obtaining the approval of NBA, Individuals and entities both Indian and non-Indian need to file application as prescribed in the BD Rules and the same are examined through an expert committee constituted for this purpose. The detailed information relating to different categories application is provided in Table.1.

Table 1: Category of ABS applications

Sections of the BD Act, 2002	Form No.	Purpose of application	By whom
Section 3	I	Access to biological resources and/or associated traditional Knowledge for research, commercial utilization, bio-survey or bio-utilization	Non- Indian, NRI, Foreign entity or Indian entity having non-Indian participation in share capital or management
Section 4	II	Transfer the results of the research	Any Indian/non-Indian or entity to any non-Indian, NRI, foreign entity or Indian entity having non-Indian participation in share capital or management
Section 6	III	Seeking approval to obtain Intellectual Property Right	Any Indian/ Non-Indian or entity

Since its inception, the NBA has received 6577 applications from different stakeholders under Forms I, II and III (Table 2). During the reporting period, NBA has received 958 applications (Figure 1), which were complete in all respects and were therefore taken up for processing.

Table 2 – Receipt of applications under different categories

Form	Category	Applications received since 2004
Form I	Access to biological resources and/ or associated traditional knowledge for research / commercial utilization	1262
Form II	Transferring results of research for monetary consideration or otherwise.	99
Form III	Seeking no objection to obtain intellectual property rights	5216
Total		6577

*Application received upto 31/03/2023

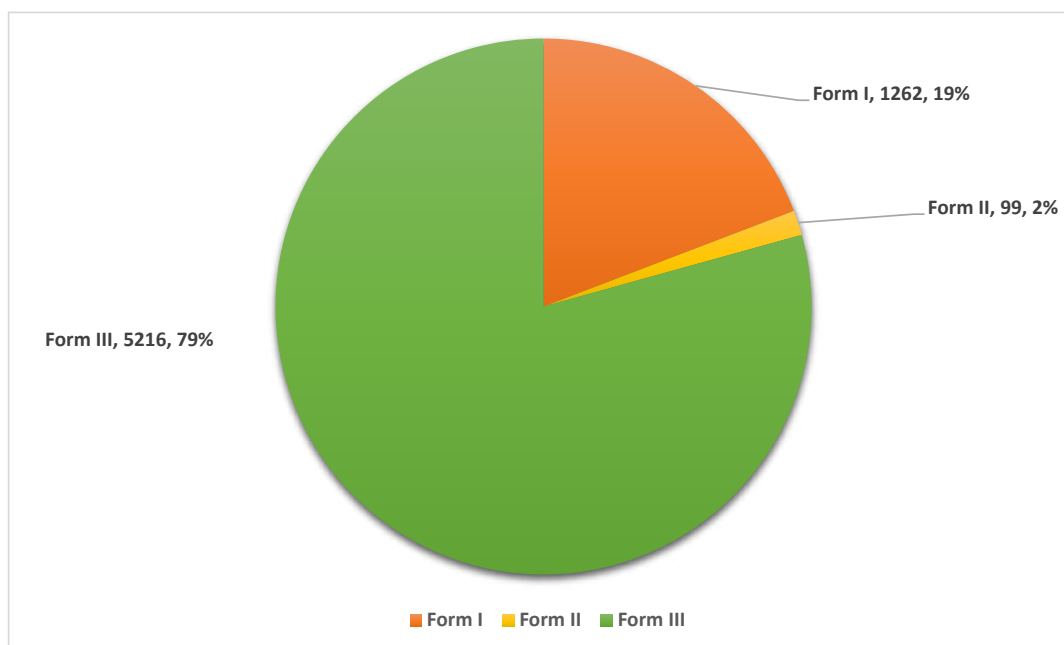


Figure 1: Receipt of Applications in different categories during the period 2022-23

5.3 e-filing of ABS applications:

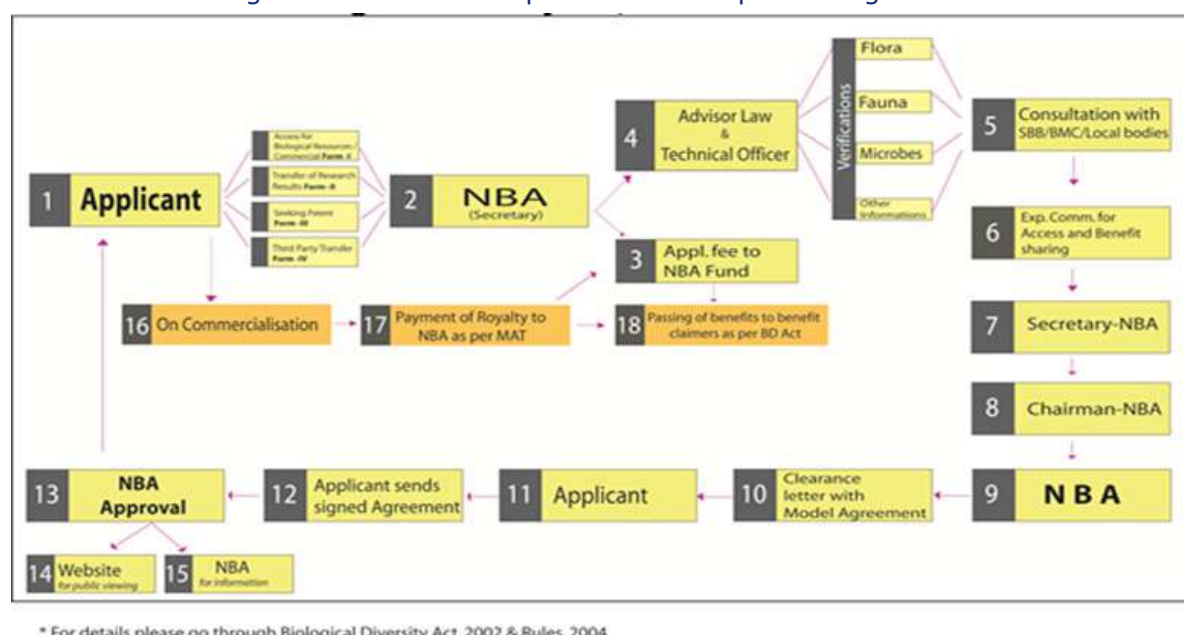
NBA have dedicated online portal "ABS e-filing system (<http://absefiling.nic.in>) for filing application to seek approval from the National Biodiversity Authority to access biological resources and associated knowledge. The portal also provides for online payment of fee for the application.

5.4 Process & Approvals granted by the Authority for Access of Biological Resources:

Applications seeking prior approval for access to biological resources and/ or associated knowledge for research, bio-survey and bio-utilization and commercial utilization, transfer of results of research, for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights for invention based on research or information on biological resources and transfer of accessed biological resources to third parties, received by the NBA are examined by the NBA and seek consent or otherwise from the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) through State Biodiversity Board (SBB). After consulting with the BMC through SBB, approval of NBA will be granted in the form of a written agreement between the NBA / SBB and the applicant. However, cases where the expertize is required to make decision will be referred to the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit

Sharing for evaluation. Based on the decisions of the Authority, approval will be granted to the applicants. The agreement executed will consist of terms and conditions including the benefit sharing component obligations which will be determined based on 2014 guidelines on ABS. A schematic presentation of processing of ABS applications is shown **Figure.2:**

Figure 2: A schematic presentation of processing of ABS



During the reporting period, the NBA received **958** applications which are complete in all respects and has taken it up for processing. The stages of processing of applications are shown in **Table 3.**

Table 3: Stages of processing of ABS applications received during 2022-2023

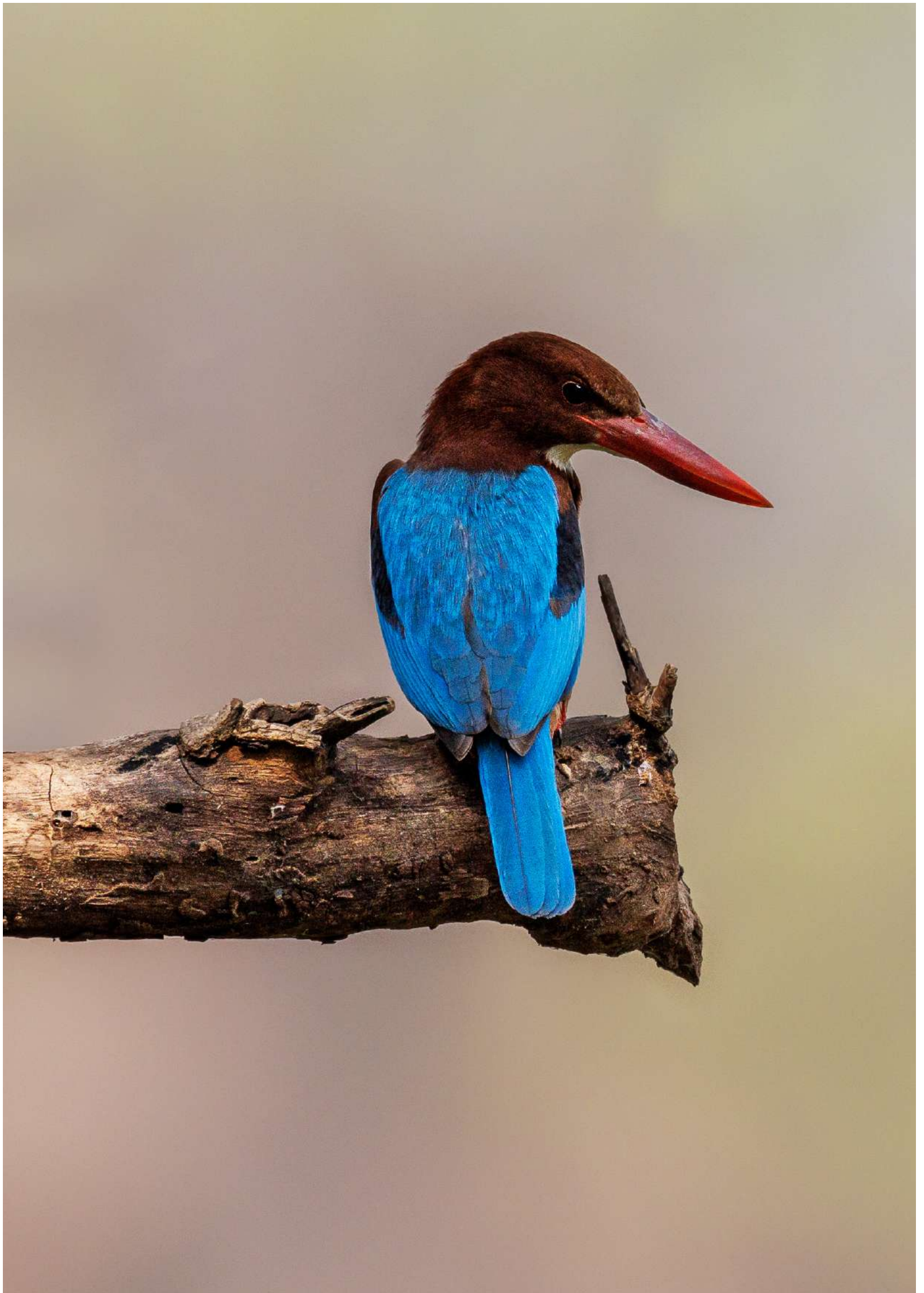
Details/ Forms	Form I	Form II	Form III	Total
Received	116	8	834	958
Cleared	78	3	751	832
Under Process	30	4	21	55
Closure/Withdrawn	8	1	62	71
Agreement Signed/ Approved	52	2	600	654
Progress made on the applications received in the previous years during the reporting period				
Cleared	32	0	144	176
Agreement Signed/ Approved	100	5	486	591
Closure/Withdrawn	38	0	174	212

5.5. Realization and distribution of benefit sharing amount to the benefit claimers

NBA has received a sum of about **Rs 194.68 crore** as benefit sharing (BS) component till date, of which about **Rs 49.83 crore** has been received during the year 2022-2023.

Out of the BS amount realized on the access of Red Sanders wood, NBA has supported the Red Sanders Research projects to the tune of **23.46 Lakhs to National institutes like Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding; Institute of Wood Science and Technology; and The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences & Technology** as per the recommendation of the EC on Red sanders with the approval of the Authority.

Out of the BS amount realized on the access of biological resources other than red Sanders, NBA has distributed the benefits sharing proceeds to the concerned eligible beneficiaries such as BMC/ Institution/ communities based on the geographical location from where biological resources were collected as provided in the application. During the reporting, NBA released about Rs **3,92 crore** to 19 State Biodiversity Boards & 1 Union Biodiversity Councils (Andhra Pradesh , Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and UTBC Chandigarh) for disbursing the same to the benefit claimers concerned towards the conservation and promotion of biological resources and socio-economic activities of the area concerned.



Chapter 6

Measures taken with respect to Intellectual Property Rights related to Genetic Resources and Associated Knowledge

6.1. Measures Initiated

Biological/Genetic resources and their associated knowledge constitute the basic components for bioprospecting, one of the fastest growing R&D sector in the world. It contributes to the creation of value added products that in turn has enormous economic potential. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is used as a legal tool to create monopoly rights over this valuable information and thereby ensure commercial success. Even though the holders of such exclusive rights have considerable benefits, the same will not be shared with the actual conservers and holders of biological resources and associated knowledge. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) aims at equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of such research and subsequent commercialisation of biological resources including through IPR among the users and providers. It attempts to balance the competing interests of these stakeholders by creation of an international mandate for access through Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and benefit sharing based on Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT). India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for implementing the three objectives of CBD viz., conservation of biological resources, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. Section 6 of the Biological Diversity Act, mandates any person applying for any Intellectual Property Right for an invention based on any research or information on a biological resource occurring or obtained from India shall obtain prior approval from the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA). Any person seeking such approval shall apply to NBA in Form III.

The Nagoya Protocol, adopted on 29th October 2010 aims at strengthening the third objective of the CBD - fair and equitable sharing of benefits upon utilization of genetic resources. In this regard, Article 15

and 16 of the Nagoya Protocol states that each Party shall take appropriate, effective and proportionate legislative, administrative or policy measures to provide that 'genetic resources' and 'traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources' utilized within its jurisdiction have been accessed in accordance with prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms have been established, as required by the domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements of the other Party. Further, parties shall take appropriate, effective and proportionate measures to address situations of non-compliance and shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, cooperate in cases of alleged violation of domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements.

The National Biodiversity Authority and the Indian Patent Office have been closely working together for effective monitoring of patent applications. For instance, Section 6 of The Biological Diversity (BD) Act, 2002 requires that any person applying for any Intellectual Property Right for an invention based on any research or information on a biological resource obtained from India, shall obtain prior approval of NBA whilst Section 10(4)(ii)(D) of the Patents Act, 1970 requires the applicant to disclose the source and origin of the biological resources used in the invention. Thus, the spirit of Section 6 of The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has been incorporated in the 'Guidelines for examination of Biotechnology applications for Patent' dated 25th March 2013 and the 'Guidelines for processing of Patent applications relating to Traditional Knowledge and Biological Material' dated 18 December 2012 issued by the Office of the Controller General of Patent, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPD TM) under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). Both these Guidelines and the Circular No: 1 of 2012 issued by CGPD TM requires that patent for inventions based on biological material obtained from India shall not be granted unless a copy of 'NBA approval' is submitted by the applicant. Further this requirement has also been incorporated as a declaration in the Form I which is to be submitted by the patent applicants. All of these measure ensures that that patent for inventions based on biological resources obtained from India will not be granted without obtaining approval from NBA.

Chapter 7

Approvals granted by the Authority for Access of Biological Resources

The National Biodiversity Authority is mandated to regulate activities related to access of biological resources and/ or associated knowledge for research; bio-survey and bio-utilization; commercial utilization; obtaining IP rights; transfer of results of research and transfer of accessed biological resources and/ or associated knowledge. The procedures to be followed by the applicant are outlined in Sections 19 and 20 of the Act; 14, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and ABS Regulations 2014.

For these activities, the NBA receives applications from different stakeholders' viz., non-Indian individual or entity; Indian individual or entity which is examined through an expert committee constituted for this purpose. The detailed information relating to application is provided in Table.4.

Table 4: Category of ABS applications

Section	Form	Category	Applications received since 2004
Section 20 of the BD Act, 2002	Form IV	Third Party transfer of accessed biological resources and/ or associated knowledge	98
Section 13 of the ABS Regulations, 2014	Form B	Conducting non-commercial research or research for emergency purpose outside India by Indian researchers/ government institutions using the biological resources	249

Since inception, NBA has received **347** applications of Form IV (98) and Form B (249) from different stakeholders. The stages of processing of applications are shown in Table-5.

Table-5: Stages of processing of ABS applications of Form IV and Form B in 2022-23

Details/ Forms	Form IV	Form B	Total
Received	1	33	34
Cleared	0	25	25
Under Process	0	1	1
Closure/Withdrawn	1	7	8
Agreement Signed/ Approved	0	25	25
Progress made on the applications received in the previous years during the reporting period			
Cleared	0	2	2
Agreement Signed/ Approved	0	2	2
Closure/Withdrawn	2	2	4



Chapter 8

Awareness relating to Intellectual Property Rights and Biodiversity Act, 2002 and Public Participation

8.1: Interactions of the High officials with different Stakeholders

- 1) A representative of NBA a lecture on "Introduction to Biodiversity Management Committees in India and documentation of PBRs" under the training programme for the Officer Trainees of the Central Academy for State Forest Service, Coimbatore on 18th November 2022
- 2) NBA organized a Training Programme to Forest Range Officer from Himachal Pradesh Forest Academy on 18.01.2023 at NBA, Chennai



- 3) The Chairman, NBA participated in the prelude meeting for Environment and Climate Change Working Group of G20 at Bengaluru on 20.01.2023
- 4) Her excellency Dr Eliska Zigova, Ambassador of Czech Republic to India visited to NBA on 24.01.2023 to discuss ABS related matters



- 5) NBA joined hands with Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun conducted a capacity building program on 09.02.2023 to the IFS probationers on Biodiversity Conservation and its Governance. Shri J Justin Mohan, IFS, Former Secretary, NBA, Prof. M K Ramesh, Shri Kunal Satyarthi IFS and Shri Pradeep Sarmokadam delivered talks on BD Act/Rules, ABS mechanism, Biodiversity Conservation and participatory approach along with case studies



- 6) G20-1st Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Groups (ECSWG) Meeting of the Working Group was held in Bengaluru from 9th to 11th February 2023. Chairperson, NBA participated and presented before the G20 Countries on the topic entitled "Biodiversity Conservation and Enrichment: Alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework, 2022





- 7) Dr B Balaji, IFS Secretary, NBA, as an Indian Delegate, attended Inter-Governmental Conference on an International legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) at New York from 20.02.2023 to 03.03.2023
- 8) On 17.02.2023, ZSI and BSI @ Hyderabad organized an Interactive Session on "It's Time for Wetlands Restoration" to commemorate World Wetlands Day. Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS., (R), Chairman, NBA, Chief Guest of the event addressed the college students, scientists of ZSI & BSI emphasizing the significance of wetlands - it's restoration & wise use. He also sighted the Kunming-Montreal declaration on Post 2020 GBF Targets 2 & 3 and also SDGs. Around 70 persons participated in the event.
- 9) The Forest Range Officer trainees from Telangana Forest Academy had visited to NBA on 02.03.2023. During the programme,



Shri J Narayanan, Admin Officer gave a welcome remark. The Technical Officer (BS) gave a detailed presentation on Biodiversity Governance with reference to BD Act. On Kunming Montreal Declaration on Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Around 50 officers from Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir participated.

- 10) Developed a proposal, "Pilot capacity building programme for Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) for effective implementation of Biological Diversity Act 2002.
- 11) Virtual Meeting was convened with the Advisor and other officers of MoEFCC to discuss the concerns which were not agreeing to addresses the Bill, 2021 Amendment to the BD Act on 10.02.2023.
- 12) Virtual Meeting was convened with the Advisor and other officers of MoEFCC to discuss on codified TK, access, VAP, Research and commercial use on 14.02.2023 and clarified the same to Senior officers of MoEFCC.
- 13) On request of Karnataka SBB, NBA Officials, IT & SBB teams had a discussion on 01.03.2023 with the officials of the Karnataka State Biodiversity Board on how to develop online platform for receipt and process of ABS applications.
- 14) A review meeting on Red Sanders was held under the chairpersonship of Shri C Achalender Reddy, IFS (Rtd), Chairman, NBA on 01.03.2023 with the officials of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department & AP State Biodiversity Board.
- 15) The Secretary, NBA participated in the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Group of National Disaster Management Authority held on 21.03.202 which intended to formulate the country position on design an operational fund that can address loss and damage due to Climate Change.

8.2 Interaction with Stakeholders / Capacity Building programmes:

- 1) NBA and IISER, Tirupathi jointly organized a symposium on conserving biodiversity of Eastern Ghats at Tirupathi on 30 April and 1st May 2022.



- 2) MoEFCC-NBA-BSI-ZSI Video Conference on "Organizing Capacity Building Programme for Representatives of the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) for preparation of Biodiversity Registers under the Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity building and livelihood Programme Scheme" held on 11th July 2022.
- 3) NIC Chennai and NIC Kerala organized a meeting with NIC units of AP, Telangana, Karnataka, Tripura, Goa, WB, Gujarat, HP, Sikkim and Odisha to give a demo on E-PBR documentation by SBBs/BMCs and other agencies on 16.02.2023 through online. These NIC units will in-turn give training and support to SBBs/BMCs/TSGs in the State for transforming manual PBR to E-PBR.
- 4) First meeting of the High Level Technical Committee on Red Oil Palm was organized on 17.02.2023 through Hybrid mode. Meeting

was chaired by Shri C Achalender Reddy, IFS., (R), Chairman, NBA. Shri Anand Kumar Prabhakar, IFS., DIG Forests, MoEFCC, member convener of the committee.

- 5) The Technical Officer (BS), NBA met Shri Kalicharan, IAS., Member Secretary, Telangana SBB at the office of the Telangana SBB and other officials on 17.02.2023 and discussed the issues such take-up E-PBR work with the support of NIC Unit, Telangana and also ABS related matters. Shri Krishnan, State NIC Coordinator also presented in the meeting and discussed the way forward. As a first step, on 20/02/23 Officers/Staff of Board will be briefed the features available in the developed E-PBR software by NIC unit.
- 6) On 17.03.2023, NIC Chennai and Kerala organized a demo for using the e-PBR software to Pilot States (12) - SBBs and NIC units of the concerned State. Around 50 represented in the meet. NBA team facilitated the discussions on data feeding, validation, roles of BMCs/TSGs/SBBs/NBA and NIC, time line, etc.

8.3 Celebration of International Day for Biological diversity (IDB)-2022

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in association with National



Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Wetland Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority and Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May 2022 at Kalaivanar Arangam Chennai. The Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav was the Chief Guest to inaugurate the daylong event. The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey and the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Climate Change, Govt. of Tamil Nadu Thiru Siva V. Meyyanathan also graced the occasion. The Resident Representative of UNDP participated in this national event. Besides, dignitaries, Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of the State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils, BMC members and representatives from stakeholder organizations from different parts of the country attended this event.

A biodiversity exhibition was set up by the BMC members representing different States and Union Territories was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister at the venue. Stalls were put up by NBA, SBBs, UTBCs, Govt Departments and Institutes and NGOs to display awareness materials and products made of bioresources or related items on this year's theme of "**Biodiversity, nutritional security and human well-being**".

The Union Minister released the publications titled, "Criteria and Guidelines for Identifying Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in India", OECMs Compendium and "India Naturally", which are joint initiative of Ministry of Environment, Forest and





Climate Change (MoEFCC), the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This year NBA joined hands with Asian Water Bird Census, nationally coordinated by Wetlands International-South Asia and Bombay Natural History Society to upscale the role of SBB and BMCs in wetlands conservation and integrate Asian Water Bird Census data in PBR and state level conservation action plans. A summary report of Asian Water Bird Census was also released by the Minister.

As part of the celebrations, a "Special Cover", was released by the Minister and the Post Master General, India Post. A special logo has been designed for the cover which signifies the integration of natural and cultural heritage and its linkages with traditional value systems.

The award for 5th cycle of India Biodiversity Awards (IBA) were announced in 2021 but could not been given on account of COVID-19



pandemic. The winners were invited in the Occasion of IDB 2022 to physically receive the awards from the Hon'ble Minister. The 4th Cycle of Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme was also launched in this occasion.



As a part of IDB 2022 celebrations, NBA launched 3 national level competitions with an aim to create awareness about environment protection and biodiversity conservation in the society. Winners were announced in this occasion, who were awarded with certificate and prize Money.

In the concluding session, BMC members from different parts of the country, SBBs, UTBCs and representatives of Indian Business and Biodiversity Initiative interacted with the Union Minister.



Chapter 9

Regulations issued under Sections 37, 38, 40 and 64 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

9.1. Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

There has been a substantial increase in the notification of Biodiversity Heritage Sites. During the period under report, **18** more Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) have been brought under notification by the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal. The list of the BHS notified in 2022-23 are as follows: -

Table 6: List of Biodiversity Heritage Sites notified in 2022-23

No.	State	Name (Area)	District	Notification
1	Assam	Hajong Tortoise Lake (526.78 ha)	Dima Hasao	No. FRM.20/2022/78- dtd 10.08.2022
2		Borjuli Wild Rice Site (0.41 ha)	Sonitpur	No. FRM.20/2022/77- dtd 10.08.2022
3	Himachal Pradesh	Sural Bhatori (0.49 ha)	Chamba	STE-A(3)- 1/2004-Loose Dtd 18.08.2022
4		Hudan Bhatori (8.53ha)	Chamba	„
5		Nain Gahar (12.3 ha)	Lahaul &Spiti	„
6	Madhya Pradesh	Amarkantak (7681.5 ha)	Anuppur	F 16-02/2021/10-2 dtd 22.07.22
7	Odisha	Mahendragiri (4250 ha)	Gajapati	FE-ENV-1- ENV-0064/2022/ 20954/FE &CC dtd 25.11.22
8		Gandhamardan Hills (18,963.898 ha)	Bolangir and Bargarh	FE-ENV1- ENV-0011-2023/ 5199/FE &CC dtd 20.03.23
9	Tamil Nadu	Arittapatti (193.215 ha)	Madurai	No.II(2)/ ECCF/878© /2022 dtd 22.11.22

No.	State	Name (Area)	District	Notification
10	Tripura	Baramura waterfall (150ha)	Khowai	No. F 24(4-3)/HER SITE/FOR-TBB/2009-10 /1198-280 dtd 12.09.22
11		Unakoti (40ha)	Unakoti	„
12		Silachari Caves (100ha)	Gomati	„
13		Debbari or Chabimura (215ha)	Gomati	„
14		Betlingshib & its surroundings (350ha)	North district	„
15	West Bengal	State Horticulture Research and Development Station (39.61ha)	Nadia	No. 508-EN/T-II-7/003-ii/2023 dtd 10.03.23
16		Namthing Pokhari (4.819 ha)	Darjeeling	No. 506-EN/T-II-7 /003-ii/2023 dtd 10.03.23
17		Char Balidanga (46.862 ha)	Nadia	No. 505-EN/T-II-7 /003-ii/2023 dtd 10.03.23
18		Amkhoi Wood Fossil Park (10ha)	Birbhum	No. 507-EN/T-II-7 /003-ii/2023 dtd 10.03.23

9.2 Expert Committee for developing a framework of management plan of BHS and review of existing BHS guidelines

Under the provisions of Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the State governments in consultation with the local bodies may notify the Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS). It is also necessary for the States and Union Territories to identify and establish BHS along with preparation of a management plan for the notified BHS as indicated in the existing BHS guidelines. In this context, NBA constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. K. Gupta for developing a framework of management plan of BHS and review of existing BHS

guidelines vide O. M. No.9/280/2020/SBB-BHS /2553 dtd 26.10.2020. The Committee met first time to discuss on management and monitoring of the BHS on 6th November 2020. Subsequently, follow up meetings were held on 3rd December 2020 for two subgroups of the committee on the existing BHS guidelines and for developing a simple framework for management plan of BHS. A draft Guidelines was prepared by the committee for Identification, Notification and Management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites. It was circulated among the SBBs and UTBCs for their comments and suggestions. The States of Kerala, Nagaland, Punjab and West Bengal shared their comments on the draft. A virtual meeting was convened among the EC members, UNDP and NBA on 10th June, 2022 to discuss and reduce the overlaps between the OECM (Other Effective are based Conservation Measures) and BHS categories. Finally, a revised draft guidelines was submitted by the Chair of the Committee to NBA for final approval and it was endorsed in the 66th Authority Meeting held on 17th and 26th August 2022. In view of the proposed amendments of the Biological Diversity Act, the Authority suggested new provisions, if any to be incorporated as soon as the Act is amended.

9.3 Notifications under Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 empowers the Central Government in consultation with the concerned State Governments to notify the species of plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in the near future as threatened species with a view to prohibit or regulate collection thereof for any purpose and take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve those species. So far 18 States and 2 Union Territories namely, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Diu and Dam islands have notified threatened species u/s 38 of the BD Act, enlisting a total of 159 Plants and 175 Animal species.

Table 7: List of States and Union Territories that have notified threatened species under section 38 of the BD Act.

Sl.No.	Notification/Order	Date	of Reference	Plants	Animals
Notification					
1.	Himachal Pradesh	17.03.2009	S.O.783(E)	8	10
2.	Kerala	15.04.2009	S.O.997(E)	26	13
3.	Uttar Pradesh	15.04.2009	S.O.998(E)	1	-
4.	Uttarakhand	15.04.2009	S.O.999(E)	16	15
5.	Mizoram	30.09.2009	S.O.2524(E)	8	8
6.	Orissa	30.09.2009	S.O.2525(E)	1	13
7.	Meghalaya	30.09.2009	S.O.2526(E)	6	5
8.	Goa	31.03.2010	S.O.770(E)	2	7
9.	Karnataka	30.10.2010	S.O.2718(E)	16	16
10.	Madhya Pradesh	07.06.2010	S.O.1329(E)	3	10
11.	West Bengal	31.03.2010	S.O.769(E)	2	17
12.	Bihar	03.02.2011	S.O.289(E)	1	6
13.	Tamil Nadu	01.03.2011	S.O.473(E)	23	16
14.	Tripura	03.02.2011	S.O.290(E)	1	2
15.	Manipur	26.10.2012	S.O.2611(E)	5	6
16.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	26.10.2012	S.O.2612(E)	5	8
17.	Punjab	04.02.2014	S.O.402(E)	8	5
18.	Daman & Diu	29.04.2015	S.O.1162 (E)	-	1
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	02.08.2018	S.O. 3845 (E)	20	10
20.	Assam	02.08.2018	S.O. 3846 (E)	7	7
	Total			159	175
	Grand Total (Plants + Animals)			334	

These notifications are available online at [http://nbaindia.org/content/18/21/ 1/notifications.html](http://nbaindia.org/content/18/21/1/notifications.html)

9.4 Notifications under Section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Section 40 the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 deals with the power of the Central Government to notify (in official gazette) to exempt, any item including biological resources from the provisions of the Act, as normally traded as commodities (NTACs), in consultation with the National Biodiversity Authority. The MoEFCC so far has issued two gazette notifications u/s 40 vide S.O.1352 (E) dated 7th April, 2016

(385 species) and S.O.3533 (E) dated 7th November, 2017 (36 species), thus listing a total of 421 plant species/biological resources as NTACs, thus exempting them from the ABS provisions of BD Act, when traded as commodity following a set of principles and criteria as recommended by the EC on NTAC through its meetings.

These notifications are available online at <http://nbaindia.org/content/18/21/1/notifications.html> [Biological Resources notified as normally traded commodities under section 40 of BD Act, 2002].



Chapter 10

Finance and Accounts

This is placed as Annexure I to the Draft Annual Report 2022-23 in the 68th Authority meeting

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY TARAMANI, CHENNAI - 600113					
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March, 2023					
(Amount in Rs)					
Receipts	Current Year: 2022-23	Previous Year: 2021-22	Payments	Current Year: 2022-23	Previous Year: 2021- 22
I. Opening Balances:			I. Expenditures:		
A) NBA Account			a) Establishment Expenses		
a) Cash in hand	40,000	40,000	i) previews year O/s Rs.	2,45,46,481	2,52,39,082
b) Stamp	1,868	707	ii) Current Year Exps Rs.24481001		
c) Bank Balances:-			iii) Current Asset Rs.65480		
NBA General A/c	1,19,74,634	1,75,14,783	b) Administrative Expenses		
NBA Salary A/c	48,43,917	48,57,891			
NBA SC SP A/c	57,280	29,323			
NBA SC STP A/c	6,160	17,426			
NBA Capital A/c	1,22,74,528	-			
B) NBF Account			General Exps		
a) Bank Balances(SB A/c & Current A/c)	1,18,53,61,540	75,41,72,943	i) previews year O/s Rs.1704737	8,46,74,641	6,31,10,290
b) Fixed Deposit A/c	20,85,000	3,34,79,408	ii) Current Year Exps Rs.82969904		
c) NBA Fund Admin A/c	1,00,468	96,282			
D) Projects			Consumption of Stamps		
i) NBA Asean Project A/c	41,793	40,566	Consumed out of Opening		
ii)GEF Bank A/c	92,68,044	90,21,973	iii) Stamp Purchased	5,286	5,980
			iv)Funding for awarness programs	3,37,500	6,65,788
			v) E- Office Development		2,764
			vi) Liaison office hyderabad Exps		
			c) Advance to Building		
			d) Fixed Assets	9,112	23,505
II. Grants:-			e)NBA Capital A/c	1,19,55,546	32050
a) Grant Received from (MoEF &CC)	15,50,00,000	15,51,99,738	i) Fixed Asset Rs.1938564		
			ii) Inventories Rs.16982		
			iii) Capital Grant refund Rs.1,00,00,000		
			f)SBB's		
			i)Strengthening of SBBs.	3,48,81,306	3,79,99,103
			ii)Constitution of BMCs.&	99,60,000	2,00,00,000
			iii)Special Compound for SC-SP	47,500	3,00,000
			iv)Special Compound for TSP	5,000	
III. Income on- Investments from			II) Refund of interest earend on GIA to Govt.	44,37,154	74,80,309
a) Earmarked /			II a) Refund of interest earend on GIA to Govt. (Capital A/c current year)	2,44,976	
Endowment Funds			III.Other Payments		
			a)Miscellaneous Expenditure/ Bank Charges on NBF A/c		
			Deposits/E.M.D.repaid	30,000	19,750
			Expenditure incurred from App.fees	48,359	67,182
			GEF NIC payable - Fixed Deposit		69,38,957
			Income Tax Refund - transferred to Fund A/c		15,21,492
IV. Interest received			IV. Project A/c		
A) NBA A/c	8,05,443	14,23,973	i)NBA Asean Project A/c		1
1) Authority General A/c Rs.412263					
2) Authority Salary A/c Rs.103678					
3) Authority SC- SP A/c Rs.72					
4) Authority STP A/c Rs.8					
5) Capital A/c Rs.289422					
a) Interest on Advances (76+322)	398	276	Refund of interest on advance to Govt.	276	-
B) Interest/ Unspend refunded by SBB's & Non SBBs Rs. 889034	8,89,034	27,91,874			
C) NBA Fund A/c			V) NBA Fund		
i) Fund A/c Savings bank Interest	1,18,326	1,17,349	a)Benefit Sharing the Payment to Stakeholders under Red Sanders	23,46,198	83,31,914
ii)NBA Sweep A/c interest	4,03,93,447	2,46,28,609			

Receipts	Current Year: 2022-23	Previous Year: 2021-22	Payments	Current Year: 2022-23	Previous Year: 2021- 22
iii) Fixed Deposit A/c Interest received/Reinvested- (Fund)	94,155	17,40,382	b) Benefit Sharing the Payment to Stakeholders under Other than Red Sanders (ABS)	3,90,89,747	1,01,30,654
D) Fixed deposit during the year- GEF (NIC payable)	71,75,657	69,38,957	c) Unclassified now classified	6,14,590	2,07,14,322
E) Fixed deposit Interest during the year- GEF (NIC payable)	2,42,986	2,36,700			
V. Income to NBF A/c			d) Bank Charges	1,189	1,732
a) Application fee	15,84,011	16,46,616			
b) ABS Upfront payment	38,97,30,903	30,70,40,955			
c) Benefit Sharing (Red Sanders)	10,86,40,033	10,18,42,642			
d) unclassified receipts	-	4,34,767			
e) Refund from IT Dept (Received from NBA authority A/c)	-	15,21,492			
VI. Other Income					
A) Refund of Expenditure					
B) Sale of Assets	1,69,688	14,001			
C) RTI filing fee	282	20			
VII. Income NBF Admin A/c					
NBA Fund Admin (ABS)	1,07,84,896	-			
Interest on NBA Fund Admin A/c	38,808	4,186			
VIII. Other Receipts:					
Earnest Money / Security Deposit / Ret. Money recd. from Contractors	44,583	38,000			
Application fee for Interns recruitment	38,701	1,30,661			
Sale of Newspaper	7,900.00	-			
Unspent amount from SC SP A/c		3,37,500			
Unencashed Receipts 2022-23		2,07,305			
Unencashed cheque Capital A/c		10,00,000			
IX _ Project Account					
GEF. Project A/c-Interest	2,52,782	2,46,071			
NBA Asean Project A/c-Interest	1,265	1,227			
Performance Guarantee					
			Stamp Consumed out of opening (6005-5286)	719	
			VII. Closing - Balances		
			a) Cash in hand	40,000	40,000
Stamp Consumed out of opening	-	1,161	b) Stamps in Hand	1,149	1,868
			c) Bank Balances (FUND)		
			1) NBA Fund A/c (Savings)	1,63,37,76,535	1,18,53,61,540
			2) In Fixed Deposit (Fund) A/c	5,21,79,155	20,85,000
			d) NBA A/c		
			1) NBA General A/c	45,69,844	1,19,74,634
			2) NBA Salary A/c	1,03,02,638	48,43,917
			3) NBA SC SP A/c	72	57,280
			4) NBA SC ST A/c	8	6,160
			5) NBA Capital A/c	56,850	1,22,74,528
			6) Admin Fund A/c	1,09,24,172	1,00,468
			7) GEF Cash & Bank A/c	95,20,826	92,68,044
			8) Asean Project A/c	43,058	41,793
			9) Fixed Deposit (GEF)	74,18,643	71,75,657
Total	1,94,20,68,530	1,43,58,15,764	Total	1,94,20,68,530	1,43,58,15,764


ACCOUNTS OFFICER


SECRETARY


CHAIRPERSON

**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113**

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st.March,2023

INCOME	Sch. No.	Current Year 2022-23	Previous Year: 2021-22
Income from Sales / Services	12		
Grants/ Subsidies:			
Grants received as per (Sch.No.13)	13	15,50,00,000	17,19,79,003
un utilized Grants for 2022-23(Sch.No.13)		2,42,02,602	
Unspent Grant refunded to Govt SCSP		52,500	
Total (Sch.No.13)		17,92,55,102	
Less: Capitalization of Fixed Assets:-			
during the year 2022-23 }		(-) 19,47,676	
add: Interest payable to govt.(Schedule 17)		16,89,904	
Net Income from Grants		17,89,97,330	
Fees / Subscription	14		
Income from Investments (Income on Investments from Earmarked / Endowment Funds transferred to Funds)	15		
Income from Royalty, Publication etc.	16		
Interest Earned	17		
Other Income	18	2,16,473	14,27,615
Increase / (decrease) in stock of Finished goods and works in-progress	19		-
Audit Fee excess Pro provided 2020-21		81,970	0
Income receivable from Govt.Gratuity & leave salary		3,73,516	16,35,830
TOTAL (A)		17,96,69,289	17,50,42,448
EXPENDITURE			
Establishment Expenses	20	2,68,63,543	2,49,03,432
Other Administrative Expenses etc.	21	8,47,79,966	6,29,00,831
Expenditure on Grants, Subsidies etc.	22	4,48,41,306	5,82,99,103
Interest	23		-
Depreciation as per Schedule 8		13,75,158	15,10,818
Accummulated Depreciation created during 2019-20 written off to the extend		11,91,195	0
Earlier years depreciation now provided from 2017-18 to 2021-22 for the asset NIC ABS Phase I			15,21,275
Income Tax Refund			15,21,492
Capital Grant refunded to MoEF & CC		1,00,00,000	0
Application Fees amount returned (2021-22)		48,359	0
Unspent Grant refunded to Govt SCSP Rs.47500 & TSP Rs.5000		52,500	0
Payable to Government: Un-Utilized Grant		1,28,32,731	2,42,55,102
Interest/sale of assets payable to Government (1689904+167849+7900-244976-276-11)		16,20,390	37,81,101
TOTAL (B)		18,36,05,148	17,86,93,154
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		-39,35,859	-36,50,706
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		


ACCOUNTS OFFICER


SECRETARY


CHAIRPERSON

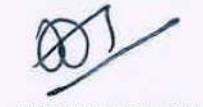
**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113**

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March, 2023

CORPUS / CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES	Sch. No.	Current Year: 2022-23	Previous Year: 2021-22
CAPITAL FUND	1	35,39,647	57,00,542
RESERVES AND SURPLUS	2		-
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FUND	3 A	165,49,59,019	114,83,41,789
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FUND ADMIN	3 B	7,98,81,765	5,49,74,052
SECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	4		-
UNSECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	5		-
DEFERRED CREDIT LIABILITIES	6		-
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	7	3,94,57,289	5,12,67,623
TOTAL		177,78,37,720	126,02,84,006
ASSETS			
FIXED ASSETS	8	45,36,399	51,55,113
Advance payment for Building		-	
NICSI total value of work Rs.4028461			
Less: Finised Phase I Application Rs.2028366		-	
Less: Work-in-Progress Rs. 199152		-	
Finished Goods Rs. 1800943			
INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED/ ENDOW MENT FUNDS	9	-	-
INVESTMENTS - OTHERS	10	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS,LOANS,ADVANCES ETC.	11	177,33,01,321	125,51,28,893
TOTAL		177,78,37,720	126,02,84,006
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		


ACCOUNTS OFFICER


SECRETARY


CHAIRPERSON

Chapter 11

Annual Plan for the Year 2023-24

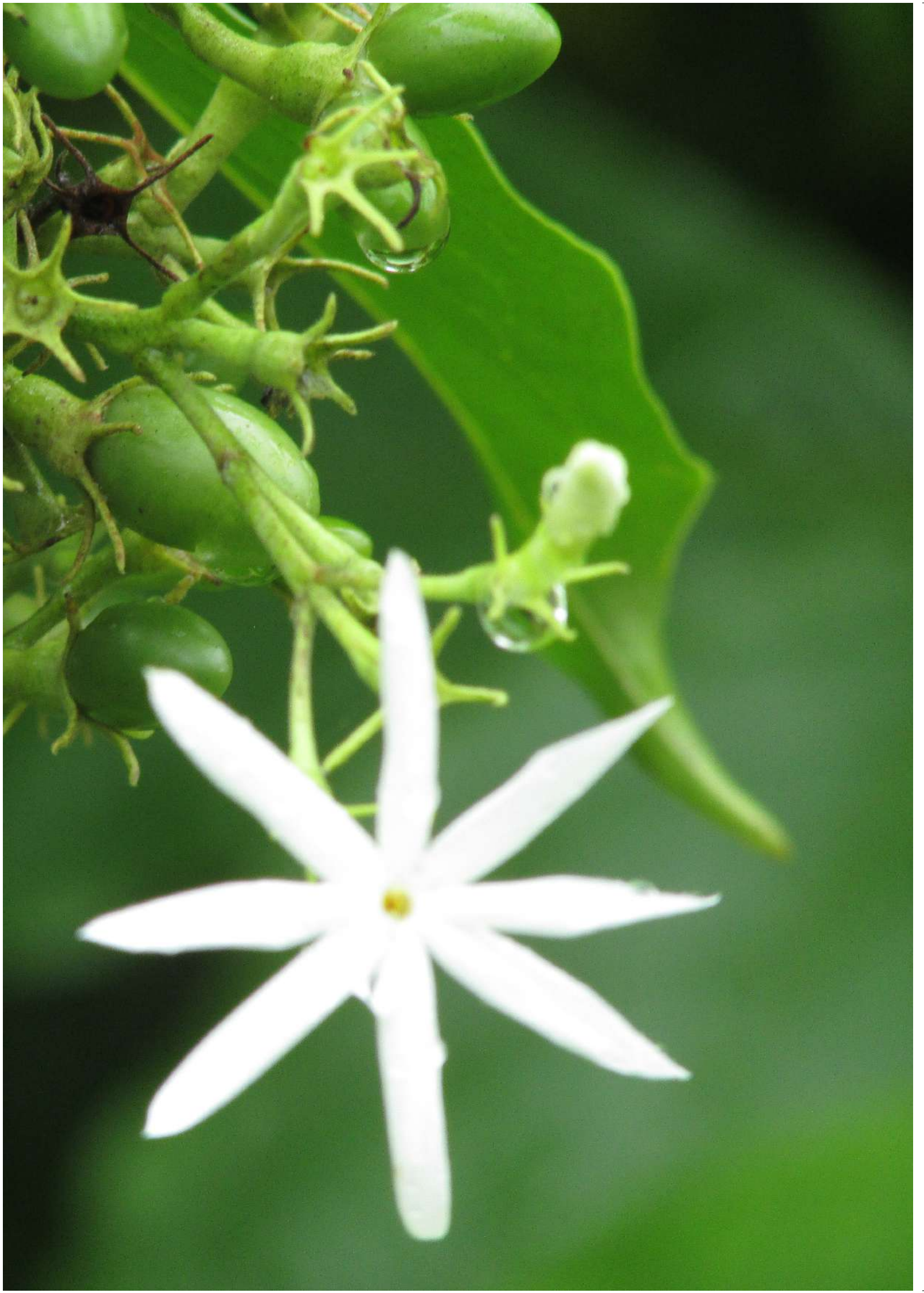
The National Biodiversity Authority sets out a list of action points every year to implement the Biodiversity Act of India and to carry out the mandate given by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The following activities are planned for 2023-24 and they will be undertaken with the active involvement of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and subject to availability of funds from MoEFCC:

- 1) Review of progress made so far in the State-wise network of BMCs and preparation of PBRs, analyzing the challenges and drawbacks in the existing operational procedure. Assessing the functional status of BMCs and prioritizing revival of defunct BMCs in and around biodiversity-rich regions of the country.
- 2) Review of the mechanism adapted towards the preparation of PBR in the States (site and State-specific methodology; authentication of captured data; utilization of financial support, need for revision of the quantum of assistance, if any etc.).
- 3) Development electronic PBR to have a uniform format for compiling data documented by SBBs.
- 4) Build a digital database of local bodies all over India by streamlining the verification process for Grant-in-Aid to SBBs for the constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs.
- 5) Impart training and workshops for officials of Wildlife, Forestry, Biotechnology, Customs and Excise Departments along with the line departments dealing with bio resources, their conservation and sustainable management.
- 6) Conduct and organize awareness programs, symposia, and seminars on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 through NGOs, research institutes, academia and government departments for different stakeholders.

- 7) Hold outreach programs through media, print, conduct capacity building and training programs for effective implementation of the BD (Amendment) Act, 2023 for diverse stakeholders.
- 8) Facilitate need-based improvement and update the list of bio resources that are classified as normally traded commodities (NTC) under Section 40 of the BD Act.
- 9) Arrange and facilitate the protection and rehabilitation of threatened species and update the list of species that are on the verge of extinction under Section 38 of the BD Act.
- 10) Implement the capacity building programs on biodiversity governance to benefit the wide spectrum of stakeholders, including local self-governance functionaries and people's representatives, in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Hyderabad.
- 11) Holding appropriate and regular expert committees meets to deliberate on subject matters and Authority meetings for decision-making.
- 12) Implement real-time processing of ABS applications at NBA Secretariat in association with NIC.
- 13) Implement the decisions suggested in the report on Red Sanders that has been adopted by the Authority and also reconstitution of the Expert Committee on Red Sanders for reviews its recommendations for address the left out issues
- 14) Sharing of benefits, accrued out of the use of biological resources and/or associated traditional knowledge with the beneficiaries, and including the benefits accrued on access to Bovine cattle embryos and Red Sanders.
- 15) Update the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) held during the second part of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 15.2) in December, 2022 at Montreal, Canada

- 16) Amending the Biological diversity rules, 2004 and Access and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014
- 17) Developing modal guidelines for management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites by the State Biodiversity Board
- 18) Reconstitution of Expert Committees to deal with different subjects such as Digital Sequences Information, ABS, review functioning of the SBB and advise NBA to effective implementation of the Act.
- 19) The Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) endorsed the concept of a National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-Being (NMB&HW) presented by the Biodiversity Science Consortium (BSC). The MoEFCC, and the Chairperson, NBA has been assigned with the responsibility of preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Memo. The goal of the Mission is to strengthen biodiversity science in India to meet our pressing challenges in the environment and human well-being. There is a need to build strong linkages between NMB&HW and PBR processes as the PBRs have the potential to document, conserve and manage biological diversity across the country. NBA will be contributing to setting up of national electronic PBR network and also help in developing an in-depth roadmap, and then begin with its implementation of the e-PBR concept.





Chapter 12

Other Important Activities of the National Biodiversity Authority

12.1. Review of the Legal and Regulatory Framework

12.1.1 Litigations currently being pursued by or against the National Biodiversity Authority

The legal Cell is responsible for dealing with litigation by or against the National Biodiversity Authority/Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change before various courts/tribunals and for assisting the Counsel appearing for the National Biodiversity Authority. The National Biodiversity Authority is taking active steps with regard to cases related to the violation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and any order or direction issued under the said Act.

Litigation currently being pursued by or against National Biodiversity Authority

Table 8: List of Pending cases in NBA before various courts/ tribunals:

Sl. No	Court	Case Number
1	Supreme Court of India	CIVIL APPEAL No 5826 of 2019
2	Supreme Court of India	CIVIL APPEAL No 5827 of 2019
3	Supreme Court of India	SLP No's 18122 of 2019 - 18127 of 2019
4	Supreme Court of India	SLP No's. 17471 of 2019 -17476 of 2019
5	Supreme Court of India	SLP No's 18141 of 2019 - 18146 of 2019
6	Supreme Court of India	SLP(CrI).No.539/2014 CrI App. 1720 of 2015
7	Supreme Court of India	SLP(CrI).No.629/2014 CrI. App.1721 of 2015
8	Supreme Court of India	Civil Appeal No. 9077 of 2019
9	Supreme Court of India	W.P. No. 852 of 2020

Sl. No	Court	Case Number
10	Supreme Court of India	CA No. 3568 & 3569 of 2020
11	Supreme Court of India	SLP C No. 000544-/2021; Diary No. 334/2021
12	HC of Delhi	W.P. No.7493/2022
13	HC of Delhi	W.P. No.7505/2022
14	HC of Bombay	W.P. No. 3590 of 2018
15	HC of Bombay	W.P. No. 129 of 2020
16	HC of Bombay, Nagpur	W.P. No.6360 of 2015
17	HC of Bombay, Aurangabad	PIL No. 63 of 2021
18	HC of Bombay, Nagpur	Suo Motu PIL 2/2021
19	HC of Assam, Guwahati	PIL No. 30 of 2020
20	HC of Uttarakhand	W.P.(MS) No. 41/2022
21	HC of Gujarat, Ahmedabad	SCA No. 6176 of 2021
22	HC of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur Bench	W.P No. 8880 of 2019
23	HC of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur Bench	W.P No. 6968 of 2017; OA. No. 31/2017
24	HC of Madhya Pradesh, Indore Bench	W.P. No. 6466 of 2020
25	HC of Andhra Pradesh (Telangana)	W.P. No. 23452 of 2018
26	HC of Andhra Pradesh (Telangana)	W.P.(PIL) No. 181 of 2020
27	HC of Andhra Pradesh (Telangana)	C.C. No. 3306 OF 2018
28	HC of Andhra Pradesh (Telangana)	W.P. No. 28517 of 2021
29	HC of Karnataka Bench, Dharwad	Crl. P.No.100616 of 2014
30	HC of Karnataka Bench, Dharwad	Crl. P.No.100618 of 2014
31	HC of Karnataka Bench, Dharwad	W.P. No.102213/2022
32	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No. 41532 of 2012
33	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No. 5546 of 2019
34	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No. 14733 of 2020
35	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.8579 of 2021
36	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.17459/2022
37	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.17421/2022
38	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.17427/2022
39	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.17271/2022
40	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.17348/2022
41	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.17234/2022
42	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.20728/2022
43	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.21795/2022
44	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.18400/2022
45	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.22235/2022
46	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.22117/2022

Sl. No	Court	Case Number
47	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.22111/2022
48	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.22275/2022
49	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.22118/2022
50	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.21862/2022
51	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.21785/2022
52	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.21778/2022
53	HC of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No.11450/2022
54	HC of Kerala	W.P (Civil) No. 41622- 2018
55	HC of Kerala	W.P (Civil) No. 41903- 2018
56	HC of Kerala	W.P (Civil) No. 41976-2018
57	HC of Kerala	W.P (Civil) No. 42017- 2018
58	HC of Kerala	W.P. (Civil) No.33501-2019
59	HC of Kerala	WP (Civil) NO. 21048-2020
60	HC of Madras bench, Madurai	W.P. (MD) No.6608/2021
61	HC of Madras	WP. No. 24688 of 2021
62	HC of Madras	W.P. No.24698/2021
63	HC of Madras	W.P. No.24696/2021
64	HC of Madras	W.P. No.24694/2021
65	HC of Madras	W.P. No.24693/2021
66	HC of Madras	W.P. No.24691/2021
67	HC of Madras	W.P. No.24688/2021
68	HC of Madras	W.P. No.26977/2021
69	HC of Madras	W.P. No.26969/2021
70	HC of Madras	W.P. No.26965/2021
71	HC of Madras	W.P. No.26962/2021
72	HC of Madras	W.P. No.26957/2021
73	HC of Madras	W.P. No.26956/2021
74	HC of Madras	W.P. No.26953/2021
75	HC of Madras	W.P. No.26948/2021
76	HC of Madras	W.P. No.26944/2021
77	NGT, Chennai	Appeal No. 54/2022 (SZ)
78	NGT, Chennai	Appeal No. 61 of 2021
79	NGT, Chennai	Appeal No. 62 of 2021
80	NGT, Chennai	Appeal No.63 of 2021
81	Principal Civil Judge J.M.F.C., Dharwad	C.C.579 of 2012

Disposed cases

Sl. No	Court	Case Number
1.	Supreme Court of India	CA. No.933 of 2020 (Disposed on 04.08.2022)
2.	Supreme Court of India	SLP.No.7951/2014 (Civil) Disposed on 22.11.2022
3.	Supreme Court of India	SLP. No. 8137/ 2018 Disposed on 22.11.2022
4.	NGT, Kolkata	O.A.No. 64/2020 Disposed on 20.03.2023
5.	NGT, Chennai	O.A. No. 10/2015 referred to HC, Karnataka

12.1.2 Right to Information Act, 2005

The RTI applications and RTI appeals received by the National Biodiversity Authority were processed by the Legal cell in consonance with the Right to Information Act, 2005 in letter and spirit and the same were disposed of by the Central Public Information Officer or the First Appellate Authority as the case may be with the assistance of Legal Cell (Table 9)

Table 9: List of RTIs received and disposed during the reporting period

S. No.	Quarter	No. of RTI applications Received	No. of RTI Appeals received	No. of RTI applications disposed	No. of RTI appeals disposed
1.	1st Quarter 01.04.2022 to 30.06.2022	08	00	07	00
2.	2nd Quarter 01.07.2022 to 30.09.2022	15	01	16	01
3.	3rd Quarter 01.10.2022 to 31.12.2022	03	02	02	02
4.	4th Quarter 01.01.2023 to 31.03.2023	16	04	16	03
	Total	42	07	41	06

The total RTI applications received in the RTI nodal login portal is 42 and the total RTI appeals received 07 were disposed within the time limit as per the RTI Act,2005

12.2 India Biodiversity Award 2023

The India Biodiversity Awards (IBA) was a joint initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority and the United Nations Development Programme. It was an innovative mechanism to identify and recognize the efforts of individuals, communities and institutions working towards biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources, access and benefit sharing and biodiversity governance. The 6th India Biodiversity Awards (2023) were announced during the celebrations of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), 2021.

- 1) The first meeting of the India Biodiversity Award (IBA) Jury 2023 to review the applications received for the India Biodiversity Awards 2023 (IBA 2023) was held on 8th and 9th April 2022 at NBA, Chennai under the chairmanship of Dr. A.K. Gupta.

The number of applications received for IBA 2023 under each category is as follows.

Categories	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Total
No of Applications received	104	06	21	29	160

- 2) Based on the review of applications and associated documents provided, the Jury members shortlisted the potential sites for field verification. Experts from the concerned sites were also consulted in a few cases for collecting further details, as and when required.
- 3) To review the progress of process, second consultation meeting of IBA jury was held on 26th August 2022 at NBA, Chennai under the chairmanship of Dr. A.K. Gupta. The jury presented the detailed report of the short listed sites that were visited during the first phase of field verification. The schedule for the site visits to be conducted in the second phase was planned during the meeting.
- 4) The field visits were carried out in two phases; Phase I was conducted in May and June 2022 and Phase II was continued during Oct – Dec 2022.

- 5) The 3rd meeting of the India Biodiversity Award (IBA) Jury 2023 to review the progress was held on 4th January 2023 in a virtual mode
- 6) There were 10 applications due for site validation and reports to be submitted by the Jury members for the site visits.
- 7) The IBA was discontinued following the official order of CS- III Division, MoEFCC (vide OM No. C-12027/25/2021-CS-II dtd 13.01.2023). In view of this, all the subsequent visits of the Jury Members with regard to field validation and further actions pertaining the ongoing cycle of IBA were cancelled.

12.3 Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) and Union Territories Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs)

NBA conducted monthly meetings to review the functioning of SBBs and UTBCs for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and also for planning of the National event of IDB 2022.

Table 10: List of meetings held with SBBs/UTBCs to review the status and progress made

Meeting	Date	Mode	Participants
Review	21.04.2022	Virtual	SBBs, UTBC
Pre IDB Meeting Review	27.04.2022	„	SBBs, UTBC
„	14.07.2022	„	SBBs, UTBC
„	29.08.2022	„	SBBs, UTBC

12.3 Financial Support extended by NBA to SBBs & UTBCs

The NBA extends financial support to the State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils for strengthening their functions and BMCs as well, engaging contractual staff, to document the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), conducting the training and capacity building programmes, undertaking peer to peer learning and exchange visits for the officials and BMC Members, developing /revamping their websites and preparation of Management Plan for Biodiversity Heritage Sites. During the Period of 2022-23, NBA released a grant to the tune

of Rs. **3,79,11,995** for strengthening of 28 SBBs and 3 UTBCs. A total sum of Rs. **1,11,60,000/-** was also released towards the preparation / upgradation of PBRs to 9 SBBs and 2 UTBCs. A total Grant-in-aid of Rs. **4,90,71,995/-** was released towards strengthening the offices of 27 SBBs and 4 UTBCs in this period. At the end of March 2023, a total of **2,77,329 BMCs** have been constituted and **2,67,585 PBRs** have been prepared all over the country (Table 11).

Table 11: State-wise BMCs constituted and PBRs prepared showing the number at the beginning of the year 2022-23, number established/opened and the number at the close of the year.

State	Total No. of BMCs constituted at all levels (2021- 22)	Total No. of BMCs constituted at all levels (2022-23)	Total No. of PBRs documented at all levels (2021- 22)	Total No. of PBRs documented at all levels (2022-23)
Andhra Pradesh	14157	14157	14157	14,157
Arunachal Pradesh	1806	1806	1806	1806
Assam	2549	2549	2549	2549
Bihar	9101	9101	9101	9101
Chhattisgarh	12004	12008	3272	4948
Goa	205	205	205	205
Gujarat	14356	14580	14716	14716
Haryana	6435	6444	6437	6444
Himachal Pradesh	3371	3471	3371	3348
Jharkhand	4684	4689	4684	4689
Karnataka	6554	6554	6554	6554
Kerala	1200	1200	1034	1034
Madhya Pradesh	23557	23557	23557	23557
Maharashtra	28649	28649	28649	28649
Manipur	2260	2260	199	199
Meghalaya	6473	6484	6473	6484
Mizoram	894	894	894	894
Nagaland	1238	1276	1238	1276
Odisha	7256	7256	7256	7256
Punjab	13599	13599	13599	13599
Rajasthan	11839	11882	11716	11882
Sikkim	196	196	196	196
Tamil Nadu	13604	13608	13604	13604
Telangana	13461	13461	13461	13461
Tripura	1264	1264	1264	1264
Uttar Pradesh	59407	59407	59407	59407
Uttarakhand	7991	7991	7991	7991
West Bengal	3830	3830	3830	3830

State	Total No. of BMCs constituted at all levels (2021- 22)	Total No. of BMCs constituted at all levels (2022-23)	Total No. of PBRs documented at all levels (2021- 22)	Total No. of PBRs documented at all levels (2022-23)
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	71	71	71	71
Chandigarh	1	1	1	1
Daman & Diu	44	44	44	44
Delhi	0	1	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir	4666	4658	4666	4366
Ladakh	100	195	0	0
Lakshadweep	10	10	10	10
Puducherry	0	1	0	0
Total	276836	277329	2,66,012	2,67,585

12.4. Important events celebrated/observed by NBA

12.4.1. Celebration of the 19th Foundation Day of NBA

The 19th Foundation Day celebrations of the National Biodiversity Authority was celebrated internally on 1st October 2022 at NBA, Chennai. Shri. J. Justin Mohan, IFS, Secretary, NBA and Shri. Kannan, Administrative Officer along with the officers and staff of NBA celebrated this event by cutting a cake and expressed their institutional memories of the journey of National Biodiversity Authority.

12.4.2. Vigilance Awareness Week (28 October-2 November 2022)

As per the direction of the Central Vigilance Commission and MoEFCC, on the Vigilance Awareness Week, the NBA staffs were administered the integrity pledge with an elucidation on the importance and significance of the function on 26th October, 2022.

12.4.3. Official Language implementation activities

NBA, like all Central Govt. offices in Chennai, is intending to meet statutory requirements of Deptt. of Official Language, MHA, Govt. of India as required under rules/guidelines issued from time to time. The following is summary of activities carried out during year 2022-23-

Conduct of quarterly meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee:

The quarterly meetings of OLIC were held in every quarter for effective implementation of Official Language policy issued by Deptt. of Official Language/Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and corrective measures were taken on decisions taken in meetings. The minutes were circulated amongst all section and copy of the same was sent to OL Division/MoEFCC. The following are dates of meetings held-

S.No.	Quarter Ending	Date of meetings	No. of Officers/Staff attended meeting
1	30.06.2022	08.08.2022	06
2	30.09.2022	25.10.2022	06
3	31.12.2022	10.02.2023	07
4	31.03.2023	12.06.2023	05

2. The Quarterly Progress Report of Hindi for submission to OL Division/MoEFCC and online submission to Deptt. of Official Language/Ministry of Home Affairs/Govt. of India:

The quarterly progress report of for progressive use of Hindi of each and every quarter were prepared and sent to OL Division/MoEFCC within the stipulated period. The reports were also sent online to Deptt. of Official Language/Ministry of Home Affairs/Govt of India.

Report – Quarter ending	Date of dispatch of report	Date of online submission of report to DOL/MHA/GOI
30.06.2022	13.07.2022	19.07.2022
30.09.2022	17.10.2022	18.10.2022
31.12.2022	17.01.2023	25.01.2023
31.03.2023	25.04.2023	26.04.2023

3. Half Yearly Report:

The Half Yearly Reports of NBA for progressive use of Hindi for discussion in Hindi Salahkar Samiti meetings of MoEFCC were submitted to MoEFCC on following dates-

Period	Date of dispatch of report
01.01.2022- 30.06.2022	25.07.2022
01.07.2022 - 31.12.2022	13.03.2023

4. Annual Assessment Report:

The Annual Assessment Report on usage of Official Language Hindi for year 2022-23 was sent to OL Division/MoEFCC on 25.04.2023.

5. Follow up action Report:

The follow up action report on decisions taken in Hindi Salahkar Samiti meeting of MoEFCC held on 04.01.2023 was sent to OL Division/MoEFCC on 22.03.2023.

6. Conduct of Hindi Workshop:

In accordance with provisions made in Annual Program issued by Deptt. of Official Language/Ministry of Home Affairs/Govt. of India 2 Hindi workshops (12.09.2022 & 17.03.2023) were conducted during the year to overcome the hesitation of staff for carrying out their official work in Hindi.

7. Conduct of Hindi Week:

In accordance with provisions made in Annual Program and as per directives of OL Division/MoEFCC, a Hindi Week was conducted at NBA from 12.09.2022 to 16.09.2022 with great enthusiasm and five competitions were conducted to encourage the staff members and prizes were given to winners in function organized on 16.09.2022 under the chairmanship of Shri J. Justin Mohan/Secretary. Shri J.R. Bhatt/Advisor/Scientist G/MoEFCC was the Chief Guest who gave prizes to winners.

8. Membership of Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) Chennai:

Upon approval of Chairperson/NBA, membership of TOLIC has been obtained. NBA has started taking part in TOLIC activities and HOD/representative will attend TOLIC meetings when conducted.

9. In service Hindi training:

Three staff members had been nominated for training in Hindi Prabodh course in January-May 2023 session. All the Three staff members have passed the Prabodh examination and admissible cash award has been given to eligible staff members.

10. Participation in Hindi Salahkar Samiti meetings of MoEFCC:

Shri C. Achalender Reddy/Chairperson,NBA had attended Hindi Salahkar Samiti meeting held on 04.1.2023 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister – MoEFCC. Therafter, Dr. B. Balaji,IFS /Secretary/NBA had attended Hindi Salahkar Samiti meeting held on 20.6.2023 under the chairmanship of HMEFCC.

11. Hindi-English-Hindi translation work:

The documents of Section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act, 1963 are translated from time to time and compliance of Section 3(3) is ensured. Apart from this, various documents of urgent nature and routine nature received from time to time such as various reports, public grievances, letters received from SBB etc. are translated by an outsourced administration staff.

12.4. Projects/ Programs

UPDATION/REVISION OF INDIA'S NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (NBSAP)

Background:

The 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (KMGBF) on December 19, 2022. The framework includes four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030 - a historic package of measures deemed critical to address the loss of biodiversity and restoring natural ecosystems.

The GBF builds on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity, ensuring that by 2050 the shared vision of 'living in harmony with nature' is fulfilled. The framework's theory of change assumes that transformative actions are taken to deploy solutions to reduce threats to biodiversity. Actions should ensure that biodiversity is used sustainably in order to meet people's needs.

Legal basis:

Being a signatory to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BD Act) to achieve the objectives of the Convention at the National level. Article 6 (a) and 6 (b) of the CBD, enjoins upon the Parties to prepare a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and ensure its implementation through mainstreaming of the strategy into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans and programmes respectively. Key instruments for the implementation of the Convention at the national level and halting the loss of biodiversity include the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 of India under Section 36 strongly reflects the spirit of Article 6 (a) and 6 (b) of the CBD and the BD Act, 2002 under its chapter(IX) duties of the central and the state governments as follows;

Section 36 (1) states: *The Central Government shall develop national strategies, plans, programmes for the conservation and promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity including measures for identification and monitoring of areas rich in biological resources, promotion of in-situ, and ex-situ conservation of biological resources, incentives for research, training and public education to increase awareness with respect to biodiversity.*

Section 36 (3) states: *The Central Government shall, as far as practicable wherever it deems appropriate, integrate the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral*

or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

The BD Act, 2002 of India through the above said statutory provisions thus provide the legal basis for the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans as well as for the mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into sectoral and cross-sectoral plan, programmes and policies. India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) came into existence, following the approval of Union cabinet, from 6th November 2008.

Preparation of a fresh NBSAP:

MoEFCC vide O.M. dated 29.03.2023 directed NBA to prepare a fresh NBSAP in alignment with national programs/policies with KMGBFs goals and targets which would help in identification of national targets as per the national priorities. MoEFCC also desired that the preparation of NBSAP needs to be organized in two-stages-NBA first to undertake the development of preliminary draft and then MoEFCC to prepare the final draft. The timeline given to NBA for finalisation of the preliminary draft of NBSAP including monitoring framework by Sep-Oct 2023.

The MoEFCC further desired to have a Working Group (WG) constituted by NBA to prepare the preliminary draft as well as for seeking inputs and compilation of all relevant policies, programs and schemes that would form the basis of NBSAP.

VI.4. GoI-UNDP: BIODIVERSITY FINANCE INITIATIVE (BIOFIN) PROJECT (EXTENDED PHASE-II 2021-25)

Background:

Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) was launched in India in the year 2015 to enhance resource mobilization for biodiversity conservation and ensure alignment of public and private, domestic and international finance to implement India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP), and to achieve National Biodiversity Targets (NBT), and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through development of a framework that provides innovative blended financing methods.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India vide its letters dated D.O.No.C-12027/1/14/CS-III dated 2nd January, 2015 and vide D.O.No.C-12027/1/14/CS-III(Pt.) dated 19th May, 2021 communicated to UNDP, the willingness of Government of India to participate in the BIOFIN. Under the extended phase 2 BIOFIN project in India (2021-25), the MoEFCC is designated as the host agency and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is the designated technical agency to support in the implementation of extended phase of BIOFIN project in India (2021-25).

As per the biodiversity expenditure review and assessments done under BIOFIN, the estimated annual average financial needs for implementing the NBAP is nearly USD 16.5 billion (2017-18 to 2021-22). Projected total public finance attributable to biodiversity conservation (from Central and State Governments) during the period (2017-18 to 2021-22) is estimated to be nearly USD 10 billion (@exchange rate of 1 USD=INR 70). While public funding is the mainstay for biodiversity financing in the country, private sector holds great potential for mobilizing resources for biodiversity conservation as well, but lack of commercially viable projects, limited technical capacities in terms of understanding the co-benefits of investing in biodiversity for sustainable businesses, is a limitation.

Based on the assessment of funding gap, as well as technical and institutional capacities for biodiversity governance and financing, a mix of financial solutions have been proposed in the Biodiversity Finance Plan in order to enhance allocations towards biodiversity conservation and for implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

The BIOFIN India Country programme is currently in its (Extended Phase II 2021-2025) which has five finance solutions under implementation, namely:

- 1) Enhancing Resources through Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Public Finance (Agriculture Sector)
- 2) Enhancing flow of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for Biodiversity Conservation based on National/subnational priorities
- 3) Enhancing Resources from Benefit Sharing from Access, Utilization

etc. of Bio-resources

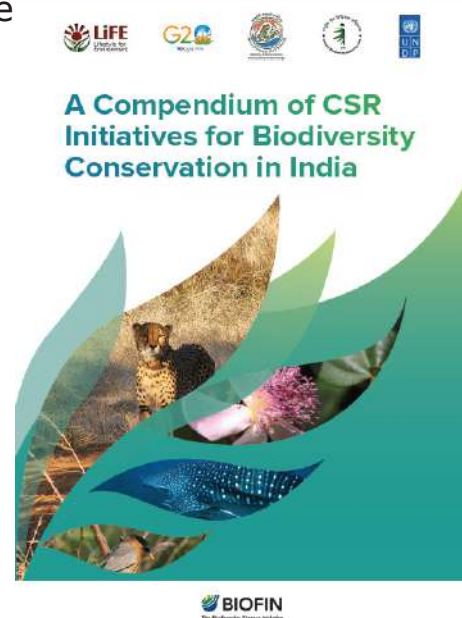
- 4) Leveraging FinTech for Biodiversity Conservation based on National/subnational priorities
- 5) Nature-related Risk Assessments and Reporting in India

Post a detailed Policy and Institutional Review to gauge the readiness among stakeholders for a nature-related financial disclosure framework, BIOFIN India, through funding from the Government of UK, added a fifth finance solution in June 2022 to its Extended Phase- *Nature-related Risk Assessments and Reporting in India*.

NBA in association with various national level premier organization and others stakeholders come out with the publications. Some of the key publications that are prepared under the BIOFIN include:

1. A Compendium on CSR Initiatives in Conservation of Biodiversity in India

In 2014, India become one of the first countries in the world to have legislated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) through its Companies Act (No. 18 of 2013). Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 deals with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), recognize and institutionalize the role of the private sector in environmental causes. Under this Section every company having net worth of Rs. 500 crores or more or turnover of Rs. 1000 crores or more or net profit of rupees five crores or more during any financial year, shall constitute a CSR Committee to recommend its activities for discharging CSR in such a manner that the company would spend at least 2 percent of its average net profits of the company made during the three immediately preceding financial years, in pursuance of its CSR policies.



This publication presents some of the best examples of CSR initiatives supporting biodiversity conservation by select corporates in India. The document is especially significant since it highlights that

corporate initiatives can have a considerable impact in conserving biodiversity. Moreover, since research on CSR reporting from corporations related to biodiversity conservation, restoration and protection is limited in India, this compendium provides an example and a basic framework to further explore this subject.

2. “A Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in the Development Schemes of the Agriculture Sector in India, 2023” (originally submitted in June, 2021) prepared by the ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad

Biodiversity is the basis of agriculture as it is the origin of all crops and domesticated livestock. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the Agriculture Sector means the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in both cross-sectoral plans such as sustainable development, food security, climate change, adaptation/mitigation trade, etc. and in sector-specific plans such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, etc. that depend heavily on biodiversity, its components, ecosystem functions, and services.

At present, biodiversity conservation-related components/activities are falling under different programmes and schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture. Mainstreaming biodiversity in sectors that have significant potential to impact biodiversity is essential for enhanced biodiversity outcomes (both in terms of conservation and financing).

As part of mainstreaming of biodiversity in the agriculture sector with particular reference to public finance, ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad, has been assigned the responsibility for developing a Status Report and to recommend reforms in identified public schemes. Through a series of expert consultations, the study, taking into account best practices, intends to recommend reforms required in the identified public schemes to ensure enhanced biodiversity outcomes through public finance for



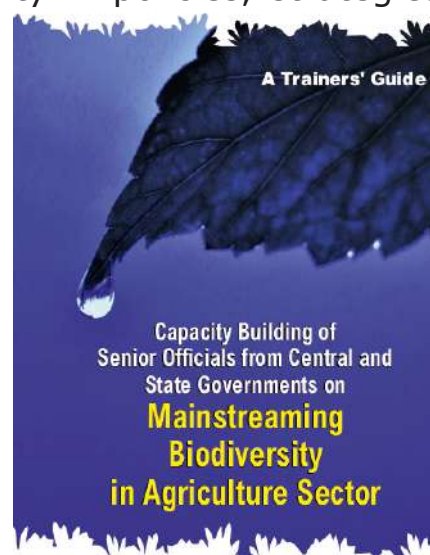
Strengthening Natural Resource Management
**A Framework for
Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation
in the Development Schemes of the
Agriculture Sector in India**



agrobiodiversity conservation. The learnings from this study would aid in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the agricultural sector in the participating States and serve as a business case for scaling up across the country.

3. 'A Trainers' Guide - Capacity Building of Senior Officials from Central and State Governments on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agricultural Sector, 2023' (originally submitted in June, 2021) prepared by the ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad

Mainstreaming means integrating or including actions related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in policies, strategies and programmes relating to production sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism and mining. Through mainstreaming, biodiversity concerns will be internalized into economic sectors, development models, schemes, policies and programmes. Integrating biodiversity concerns into production sectors can have immediate benefits in improving quality, productivity and also help incorporate lasting safeguards for sustainable development.



As part of mainstreaming of biodiversity in public finance, ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) has developed a status report through review, assessment of public schemes and documentation of best practices in biodiversity relevant agriculture sector schemes.



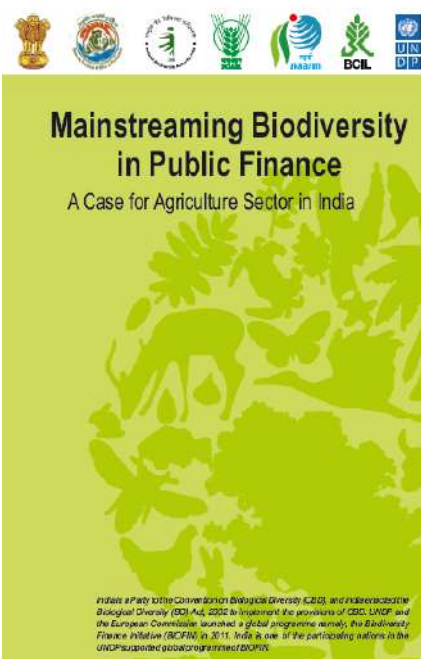
On the basis of the ICAR-NAARM report, a trainer; guide was prepared "to help to conduct practical and effective training on the issues, challenges, gaps and recommendations for mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture sector to increase the agriculture productivity and also to conserve and sustainable use of biodiversity. This manual is designed primarily for trainers who will work with farmers and, planners, monitoring teams and other stakeholders of biodiversity conservation.

4. 'Policy Brief - Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Public Finance: A Case for Agriculture Sector in India, 2023' (originally submitted in June, 2021) by the ICAR - National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad

Mainstreaming biodiversity in public finance needs to be focused on the major Schemes/programmes that have biodiversity relevance. In India, Agriculture is one of the key economic sectors. Agrobiodiversity (ABD) occupies a unique place within the overall sector of biodiversity. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) is among the top 7 Ministries with significant biodiversity attributable expenditure. Focus on biodiversity relevant components and enhancing fund flow to them is essential to prevent further agrobiodiversity erosion which could jeopardize the sustainability of agriculture.

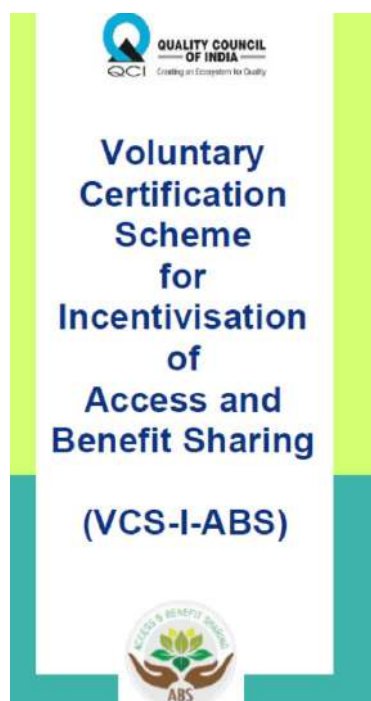
As part of mainstreaming of biodiversity in the agriculture sector with particular reference to public finance, ICAR- National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad, undertook a comprehensive study to (i) assess implementation status of biodiversity relevant public schemes of agriculture sector and identification of entry points and (ii) recommend reforms in identified public schemes to ensure, through public finance, enhanced biodiversity outcomes for agrobiodiversity conservation with regard to plant genetic resources.

The study involved extensive review, consultations with domain experts and validation by the field officers. As a part of the study, 21 schemes from across four Ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, which were contributing to biodiversity significantly, had substantial biodiversity attributable budget and scope for mainstreaming agrobiodiversity - were identified and critically reviewed.



5. A Voluntary Certification Scheme for Incentivisation of Access and Benefit Sharing (VCS-I-ABS). July, 2021. Quality Council of India, New Delhi.

VCS-I-ABS aims to incentivize businesses accessing biological resources and associated knowledge to enhance the uptake of the ABS provisions and equitably share the benefits with providers to bring about bio-resource conservation as well as community upliftment. In doing so, India would be the first country among the 196 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to have launched a dedicated voluntary scheme on ABS certification. VCS-I-ABS also aims to recognize and reward the businesses that depend on biological resources and/or associated knowledge that have been authorised by the NBA and its constituent bodies to access the biological and genetic resources who have complied with the law. The scheme aims to be inclusive involving the four key pillars in the discourse namely, communities, bio-resource management institutions, businesses and consumers.



Important Meetings:

- i. GoI-UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN: The 8th Biodiversity Finance Europe Asia Pacific Regional Dialogue was held on Nov 8-10, 2022, Manila, The Philippines. MoEFCC vide Office Memorandum F.No.C-12027/54/2022-CS-III dated 1st November, 2022 approved the participation of Secretary, NBA in the meeting and share India's experience.
- ii. As per the invitation, India's case study on a "Voluntary certification scheme for incentivization of Access and Benefit Sharing (VCS-I-ABS) prepared by the Quality Council of India (QCI)" was presented in the South Africa-European Union Dialogue: Development of a Framework for a Biotrade Standard 3rd dialogue, 15-16 November 2022 by the BIOFIN Project Officer.

- iii. The 14th Interface Dialogue Finance and Biodiversity (IDFB) was held on 22nd of November, 2022. The dialogue focused on the need to take a system change approach to ensure the alignment of all financial flows with the goals of the GBF. The meeting was attended by BIOFIN Project Officer.
- iv. A BIOFIN Side Event at COP 15.2, Montreal, Canada was organized on 7th December, 2022 entitled GEF support to the Development and Implementation of Biodiversity Finance Plans. The meeting was attended by Secretary, NBA and made a presentation entitled 'Biodiversity Finance Plan-India's Experience' assisted by the Project Officer
- v. At COP 15.2 held at Montreal, Canada, UNDP-BIOFIN hosted a High Level Event on 16th December at Montreal, Canada titled '10 years of implementing Biodiversity Finance Plans: A high-level dialogue on the past, present and future of biodiversity finance. The meeting was attended by Secretary, NBA assisted by the Project Officer.
- vi. UNDP India Country Programme Management Board (CPMB) Meeting was held on 2 February 2023. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Avanish Kumar Mishra, Deputy Director General, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. Secretary, NBA and Project Officer, BIOFIN participated in the meeting
- vii. BIOFIN Investors Meet on "Biodiversity Conservation and CSR Confluence" was held on 24 March, 2023 at "We the People Hall", UNDP, New Delhi; wherein BIOFIN Project Officer and a Young Professional from NBA participated in the meeting.

12.5. Activities of the State Biodiversity Boards

12.5.1 ANDHRA PRADESH

The Andhra Pradesh SBB has convened three board meetings during the period and have already established all the 14,157 BMCs in the State. During 2022-23 the Board has updated 602 PBRs to improve their quality and made effort to upload 13,907 electronic PBRs. In this year, the SBB produced a film on biodiversity awardees in Telugu version for wider publicity. A song on biodiversity was developed and launched in the occasion of International Day for Biological diversity 2022 for generating awareness. A total of 23 awareness and training programmes



were conducted during this period. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Sri. B. Amruth Basha Shaik graced the occasion to confer Biodiversity Conserver Awards 2022 to selected departments and organizations of the State. The Board has granted approval to the ABS applications of two entities under section 23 (B) of the Act and received prior intimation from eight Indian companies.

12.5.2 ASSAM

Assam SBB initiated the preparation of Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for 50 selected BMCs in FY 2022-23 with the financial assistance from an externally aided project of Forest Department, Assam. Two Biodiversity Heritage Sites, "Hajong Tortoise Lake" and "Borjuli Wild Rice Site" were notified under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act by Govt of Assam. One Board meeting was held in this period on 27th March 2023. Assam SBB has published a booklet, titled



“Dima Hasao - An Unexplored Biodiversity Hotspot “. ASBB sanctioned research projects for exploration of wild rice varieties, assessment of Citrus species with special emphasis on genetic diversity, studies on diversity and genetic variability of wasps and bees in urban and natural landscape, assessing the impact of urbanization on “Urban owls” and study on diversity and taxonomy of Amphibian fauna, BMC members of Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong have initiated conservation projects through community participation and for livelihood generation.

12.5.3 ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Arunachal Pradesh SBB participated in the National level programme of IDB 2022 and set up an exhibition displaying the local bioresources and outreach materials on the activities of the board. State Level programme to mark the occasion was organized at Itanagar by conduct of online competitions for the students. Inception programme to develop State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) was graced by the presence of Chief Minister, Shri Pema Khandu. District level consultation for SBSAP started in lower and Upper Subanasiri districts. In this period, nine ABS applications were granted approval under Section 7 of BD Act for access of bioresources by Indian entities.



12.5.4 BIHAR

One meeting was convened by the Bihar State Biodiversity Board on 22rd April 2022. Board has approved the preparation of City Biodiversity Index of Bhagalpur city. Bihar SBB had published a brochure on the Heritage Trees and conducted training programmes for identification and preservation of heritage trees. Training programmes for Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of BMCs were conducted.

12.5.5 CHHATTISGARH

Chhattisgarh Biodiversity Board conducted one meeting in the year 2022-23. The Board celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity 2022 and recognized four individuals, six institutions and 1 BMC by conferring awards under four categories of conservation of wild and domestic species, sustainable use of bioresources, ethnic, cultural and heritage conservation of biodiversity and the best BMC. SBB started organizing training workshops for preparation of PBRs and developed short films on Manendragarh Fossil Park, on rock arts titled, "First Manifestation" and on proposed bird awareness centre during this period.

12.5.6 GOA

Three meetings were convened by Goa SBB during 2022-23. A total of 37 electronic PBRs were prepared and uploaded on the website. The SBB followed a three stage validation process (1st Stage at BMC Level; 2nd Stage at Gram Sabha Level & 3rd Stage at State Level) for



preparation of PBRs and involved the “Thematic Expert Committee on PBR” for improving the quality of these documents. GSBB had celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity 2022, on 05.06.2022. Prior to this, a pre –IDB function, “Yuva Jagruti” -2023 was held on 11th February 2023 at Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji. The Board participated in the national event by setting up of an exhibition stall with colourful display of products made of bioresources and awareness materials. Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards 2022 were conferred during the State level celebration under various categories to individual and collective efforts like, best BMC, best biodiversity research, biodiversity enthusiast and green journalist etc. Goa celebrated World Wetland Day on 2nd February 2023 at Raia BMC.

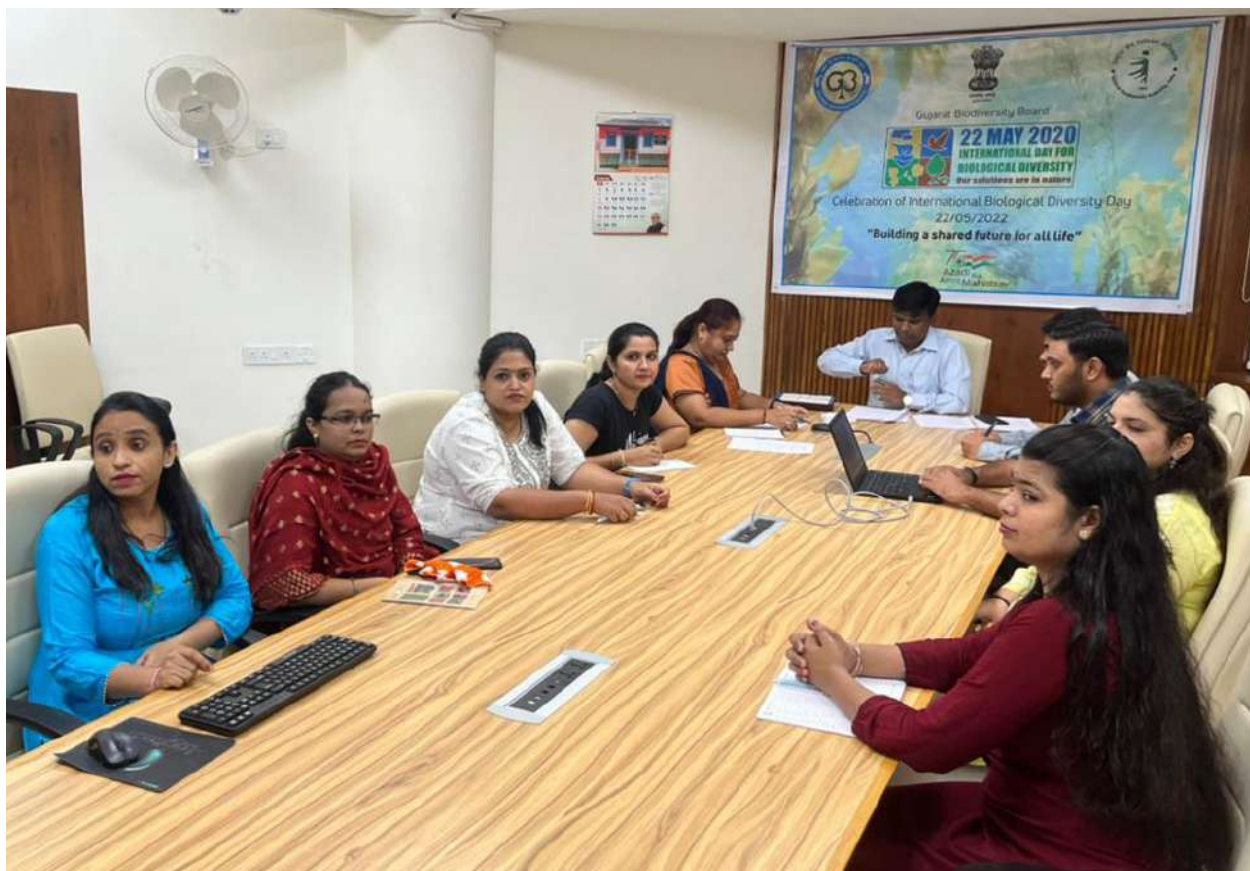
GSBB is also involved in a number of State level agencies or decision making authorities like Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA), State Level Steering Committee for National Adaptation Funds for Climate Change (SLSC & NAFCC), Nodal Agency for *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, *Swayampurna Goa* and key State Technical Institute for One District One Product (ODOP) under Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME) Scheme.

Voluntary Certification Scheme for traditional healthcare providers (VCSTCHP) was facilitated by Goa SBB with the help of University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Science and Technology (TDU) and Quality Council of India (QCI). This certification was an outcome of the process of PBR documentation and will help the rural community. GSBB launched second multiprocessing centre at Pontemol Curchorem under the Project “Go-van”- Conservation of bio resources through livelihood interventions. The Board has also initiated first community seed bank at Curtorim BMC office in presence of noted environmentalist, Dr. Vandana Shiva.

In 2022-23, Goa SBB distributed 6,39,278 number of tree saplings under the “Mopa Airport Plantation Programme” on behalf of Govt of Goa in association with GMR Goa International Airport Limited as per compliance requirement for Environmental Clearance (EC). Beneficiaries were the local farmers and students, who were encouraged to raise nurseries, distribution of saplings, nurturing the plants and maintenance of records.

12.5.7 GUJARAT

Two meetings were convened by Gujarat Biodiversity Board during this period. The BMCs updated 590 PBRs in 2022-23. Seventy-six new BMCs were established in 2022-23 out of 14526 BMCs in the State. In this period, four ABS applications were granted approval under



Section 7 of BD Act for access of bioresources and three prior intimation received from Indian companies under Section 24(1). Asian Water Bird Census 2023 was conducted at Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary, Jamnagar in assistance from Marine National Park.

12.5.8 HARYANA

In this period two meetings were held by Haryana SBB and 6204 PBR have been updated by the BMCs for quality improvement. The official of HSBB visited Goa and Gujarat for peer to peer cross learning and sharing of best practices among themselves. The Board officials participated in the national event of IDB 2022 at Chennai and set up a stall displaying bioresources of the State and efforts of HSBB for biodiversity conservation. State Level Celebration was organized at Rohtak, Bhiwani, Jind and Nuh districts and a Biodiversity Conservation

Camp was organized at Pinjore to mark the occasion. The HSBB has also observed World environment Day with the help of Technical Support Groups in different districts, Earth Day and World sparrow day by involvement of BMCs. Asian water bird Census 2023 was conducted in Hathnikund Barrage, Yamuna Nagar with active support of officials, local BMCs and volunteers. HSBB participated and put up exhibition stall in a two day Krishi Mela organized by CCS Haryana Agriculture University. HSBB, Haryana Forest & Wildlife departments jointly organized a welcome programme for the G20 delegates at the Ramsar Site, Sultanpur National Park. HSBB organized three day programme on Capacity building in Taxonomy and Systematics for the students of Life Sciences and a Biodiversity Conservation Awareness programme for BMC members. A total of 75 participants of different disciplines, resource persons, forest officials and BMC members joined the field exercise to gain practical knowledge about identification of local biodiversity, preparation of herbarium, wildlife census and method of documentation. The participants were also sensitized about the importance of PBR and traditional knowledge. The Chairman and Members of State Level PBR Quality Monitoring Committee visited different districts and blocks of the state to meet the BMC representatives and to validate the data captured in the PBRs and suggested quality improvement of the document.

12.5.9 HIMACHAL PRADESH

Three Biodiversity Heritage Sites were notified by Himachal Pradesh during this period and 1989 number of electronic PBRs were prepared. Four ABS applications were approved in 2022-23 out of a total





of 50 applications received. An Industrial Dialogue cum Bioresource Conference on "Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions" was organized on 13th June, 2022. Two days two training programmes on cultivation, harvesting and post harvesting technology of important identified medicinal plant species has been planned for 50 progressive farmers of 25 different Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) of Baijnath Block of Kangra, Bhoranj Block of Hamirpur & Gagret Block of Una district at National Medicinal Plant Board, Regional-cum-Facilitation centre North Region-I District Mandi from 19th to 22nd July 2022. Online training workshop was organized for all 12 District Panchayat Officers (DPOs) on various provision of Biological Diversity Act. Order under Section 24 (2) on contravention of Section 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was issued against the Himalayan Drug Company Bengaluru. Two days training-cum-exposure programme for the 07 BMCs (Katholi, Suknara, Ludret, Nagrota Suriyan, Basa, Khabbal, Ghaad), was organized on 16th to 17th January, during which 36 members from 07 BMCs & Gram Panchayats were trained to support the existing AWC network. These trained members participated in Asian Water Bird Census 2023 held on 31st January 2023 conducted by the H.P. Forest Department at Pong Dam, Kangra District.

12.5.10 JHARKHAND

One Board meeting (18th in its series) was held on 27.07.2022. As on 31st march 2023, 4689 number of BMCs have been constituted and documented PBRs in all the BMCs. During the year, three booklets titled "Threatened Species of Jharkhand", *Jaiba bibidhata adhiniyam, 2002 ke jaiba vividhata prabandhan samitiyon (BMCs) sambandhi mukhya ansh*" and "Aamjan hetu saral rup me jaibvividhata sambandhi lokopyogi jaankaari" was published by the Board. The Board brought out an annual calendar for 2023 depicting selected threatened species of the State. A State level celebration-cum-seminar was organized during the celebration of IDB involving school students. The Board has conducted a State level workshop for forest officials on 'Effective implementation of BD Act 2002". The Board has conducted 400 training & capacity building programs through empaneled agencies for the members of BMCs in 10 Districts of Jharkhand covering 2000 BMCs. IDB 2022 was celebrated by conduct of group discussion, technical sessions on biodiversity and school level activities. Selected farmers have been awarded for growing more than 10 Landraces of Crops, maintaining Community seed bank, conservation of wild sugarcane, farming of Bengal variety goat", practice of organic farming with vermi-compost and for their association with Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society. The media persons were also rewarded for generating awareness on biodiversity conservation and related matters through articles in print media.

12.5.11 KERALA

Three meetings were held by Kerala SBB in 2022-23. Three PBRs were updated and 13 electronic PBRs were prepared in this period. In pursuance of the Order of NGT and directives of the State Govt, Kerala SBB has planted 71,000 saplings of native species with active participation of BMCs. Kerala Government has constituted "District level Biodiversity Coordination Committee" and "Virtual Biodiversity Cadre" by release of official orders in this purpose. KSBB provided financial assistance to 21 BMCs for preparation of the Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP). The Athirappilly panchayat has completed the task of LBSAP preparation. City Biodiversity Index (CBI) for Kochi has been released in 2020 and the assessment of CBI for Thiruvananthapuram is currently in progress. During this period, KSBB proposed 14 potential OECMs spread



across 7 districts of the State. An awareness video was released by the board highlighting the conservation of sea turtles and actions taken up by the BMCs of Thrissur and Malappuram districts. Kerala SBB organized 2nd State Biodiversity Congress and 15th Children's Biodiversity Congress from 18th to 20th February, 2023. In order to strengthen their functions, Kerala SBB organized 3 regional level workshops for 130 Biodiversity clubs across the State and extended financial assistance to strengthen their activities. A Capacity building workshop was held on 27th -28th February, 2023 in respect of BD Act, 2002 and ABS mechanism for the Technical Support Groups, Line departments, Research Institutes, Virtual biodiversity Cadres, Panchayat and administrative officers. KSBB participated in the National level programme of IDB 2022 at Chennai and set up an exhibition stall. The Board had instituted Biodiversity Conservation Award under 10 categories like Best BMC, *Haritha Vyakthi*, Best custodian farmer for plants /animals, Best Biodiversity school/ college, Best Journalist, Best Biodiversity Conservation Institute (Govt/ Private) etc. The awards were distributed by the Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan during the State Biodiversity congress.

12.5.12 KARNATAKA

The Karnataka SBB convened 4 meetings in the period under review and the task of establishment of BMCs was accomplished before the reporting period. Awareness and Training programmes were organized by the KBB for Biodiversity Management Committees, frontline forest staff, Line Department Officers, local communities, College and school students across the state on the topics of Biodiversity Act 2002, ABS Regulations 2014, Role of BMCs and State Forest Department staff in conservation of medicinal plants, related knowledge and sustainable uses. KBB has published a book titled "Commercially exploited traded Plants of Karnataka with detail description of the species, their conservation status and images of 57 notified medicinal plant species. The Board issued legal notices to 90 firms for non-compliance of provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules, 2005, and the ABS Regulations 2014 for commercial utilization of Biological Resources. In this period 280 PBRs have been updated. KBB has also participated in the National event of IDB, organised by the NBA and put up an exhibition stall.

12.5.13 MADHYA PRADESH

In 2022-23, Madhya Pradesh declared a new Biodiversity Heritage Site, Amarkantak in Anuppur district and released the report of City Biodiversity Index for the cities of Bhopal and Indore. The Board registered



a case u/s 56 of the BD Act, 2002 and imposed penalty on a company for violating the provisions of the Act. The MP SBB approved 877 ABS applications out of 1205 received during the period under report. The MPSBB organized four workshops for different forest circles to create awareness regarding implementation of BD Act, 2002 among frontline forest officials, traders, manufacturer and traditional healers. A total of 23 Trainings and Workshops were held for the BMC members towards upgradation of digital and dynamic PBRs besides 129 BMC meetings



held during this period. The MPSBB conducted *Janpad* level workshops to generate awareness among the elected *Sarpanch* and Secretary of Panchayat. The awareness programmes conducted by MP SBB to involve local stakeholders includes Gram Mela Shardsotsav 2022, Mowgli Bal Utsav, 2022, International Herbal Fair 2022, biodiversity exhibition and National Conference on Lesser-Known Faunal Species of Madhya Pradesh.

12.5.14 MAHARASHTRA

One Board meeting was held in this year and Maharashtra State Government approved the Maharashtra Gene Bank project. The Board published brochures on Local Self Government and Biodiversity Heritage Sites. Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board in association with National Law University, Wathoda Nagpur and Department of Social Forestry

Nagpur organized the National Conservation Day on 28th July 2022 in the premises of Law University. Maharashtra SBB conducted several Capacity Building programmes and District level workshops for the BMC members and upgradation of the existing PBRs during February–March 2023.

12.5.15 MANIPUR

During the year, one Board meeting was conducted on 04.11.2022. One-day Capacity Building Programme was conducted in each of eight



Territorial Forest Divisions of Hill Districts and two Territorial Forest Divisions of the valley. The Board has erected hoardings at in six forest divisions and published pamphlets on rare and threatened plants of Manipur for the awareness programmes.

12.5.16 MEGHALAYA

Three meetings were conducted by the Meghalaya SBB during the period under report. In a notification, the Head Masters of various Government Schools in 4 districts of the State has been entrusted as Ex-Officio Secretary to the respective BMCs. Revision of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (MBSAP) 2017-2030 was under progress. Three posters on biodiversity were released by the Chief Guest and the dignitaries present in the occasion of IDB 2022, titled, "Hydrophytes of Khasi and Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya, Wild *Hedychium*

Species of Khasi and Jaintia Hills and another well-known medicinal plant in Meghalaya, *Clerodendrum colebrookianum*. The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) was commemorated by Meghalaya SBB on 23d May, 2022 at MeECL, Secondary School, Nongsder, Umiam, Ri-Bhoi District by involving School Students, BMC Members, Village Headmen of the localities nearby the catchment area of Umiam Lake, Forest officials and other Stakeholders with an aim to promote and increase



understanding among the public on biodiversity conservation. Fourteen awareness programmes were conducted in different Districts/Blocks of Meghalaya for operationalization of BMCs, Up-gradation of PBRs and implementation of ABS in the state. Asian Water-bird Census (AWC) was conducted on 19 February 2022 in Umiam Lake. State Level Biodiversity Award 2022 was also conferred to 'Aruakgre Village BMC for conservation of Aruakgre Fish & Turtle sanctuary located at Dirik River of North Garo Hills, Bajengdoba Block for protecting and conserving the natural habitat for Mahseer fish and turtles by prohibition of fishing activities in that area. Mawlai Kynton Massar BMC, East Khasi Hills District also won the best BMC Award for rejuvenating the Umsohlang stream.

12.5.17 MIZORAM

The Board has constituted 884 BMCs at village level and during 2022-23 a total of 100 PBRs have been upgraded and validated in 10 districts of the State. Mizoram SBB along with 3 BMC members participated in the National Event of International Day for Biological Diversity 2022 in Chennai and State Level celebration took place in Khawzawl by involving the BMCs of the Khawzawl district. The Mizoram SBB conducted training and capacity building cum Awareness programme for 10 members of BMCs each from 10 Rural Development Blocks (Darlawn, Sangau, Lawngtlai, Reiek, Tuipang, Khawbung, Khawzawl, Ngopa, Saitual and Bilkhawthlir) of the State.

12.5.18 NAGALAND

The Nagaland SBB was in the process of revising the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP). In 2022-23, three PBRs have been prepared at the village level and 35 PBRs updated In this





period approval was granted to 13 applications for conduct of academic research.

12.5.19 ODISHA

During 2022-23, one meeting was conducted by Odisha Biodiversity Board. Two Biodiversity Heritage Sites were notified in this period under report. Two documentary films, "An eagle Eye View" and "The tales of Gandhamardan" were produced by the Board. A brochure on frequently asked questions regarding preparation of PBRs was also released in this period. Nine Capacity Building programmes were conducted for the BMC members and 16 training programmes were held for the Eco-guides and naturalists in 25 eco-tourism sites of the State. A total of 221 PBRs had been updated at the village and district level.





12.5.20 PUNJAB

Punjab Biodiversity Board in collaboration with Punjab State Council for Science & Technology (PSCST) launched a year-long screening of Short Film series on the occasion of International day for Biodiversity (IDB) held on 22.05.22 to highlight the relevance of Biodiversity in Cultural Heritage of Punjab. An Exhibition stall was put up by the Board at Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 22nd May, 2022 for national level celebration of IDB. Eighty (80) awareness and capacity-building programs were organized during the field process for PBR updation including seven





programmes for Block Level BMCs and 73 programmes for Village Level BMCs under the financial assistance of NBA.

Three training programmes were organized related to upgradation of PBRs and operationalization of the BMCs for the Senior Officers and Master Trainers of Department of Rural Development & Panchayats during the reporting period. The Board had released a Coffee table Book on "Threatened Flora & Fauna of Punjab" in collaboration with PSCST on World Environment Day i.e, 5th June 2022. A special project titled "Development of Conservation Strategies for *Withania coagulans*: An endangered high value medicinal plant of Punjab" has been implemented by Board in collaboration with Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. PBB in collaboration with WWF-India and active support of BMC members conducted Asian Water Bird Census at internationally recognized Ramsar Site at Harike Wildlife Sanctuary Wetland, Tarn Taran on 20th and 21st January 2023. 500 saplings of *Tecomella undulata* (Roheda), a threatened species of Punjab in villages and also a near extinction species notified u/s 38 of BD Act were planted in 3 villages i.e. Dabawali Roherianwali (District Sri Muktsar Sahib), Rohurianwali (District Fazilka), Ruherianwali (District Sri Muktsar Sahib) with the involvement of village BMCs and concerned Gram Panchayats.

12.5.21 RAJASTHAN

During this year, Rajasthan SBB has constituted 9,768 number of BMCs at village panchayat and 289 BMCs at block level, 193 BMCs at nagar palika level and 33 BMCs at zilla parishad level. International Day for Biological Diversity 2022 was celebrated at various District Headquarters in Rajasthan and the State level function was organized in the Udaipur Division as a huge workshop in the auditorium of the University Guest House. Two days' workshop was organized with the help of Rajasthan Govt. by conduct of Training Program for Promotion of BMCs and preparation of PBRs through local youth for fringe villages for Sambhar Salt Lake.

12.5.22 SIKKIM

During the year one board meeting was conducted on 17.04.2022. The Sikkim SBB constituted BMCs and prepared PBRs in all the villages Panchayats of the State. IDB was celebrated in collaboration with Zoology Dept. at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government Degree College, Tadong. The Board has conducted awareness cum training programme for BMCs on BD Act 2002, their roles and responsibilities of PBRs. One-day awareness programme was organized for 30 BMCs on the topic of, "Seed bank: An approach to Ensuring Food Security in the context of Changing Climate. The officials of Sikkim SBB and BMC members took part in the National event of IDB 2022 at Chennai.

12.5.23 TAMIL NADU

One Biodiversity Heritage Site was declared at Arittapatti, Madurai District. Tamil Nadu SBB participated and set up an exhibition stall in the national level event if IDB 2022 held at Chennai. BMC members from different districts also joined this event and interacted with the Union Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. In this year, the Board received 14 applications from the Indian entities under Section 24(1) seeking prior approval of NBA.

12.5.24 TELANGANA

The Telangana SBB has released the city biodiversity index for Hyderabad and identified two potential OECMs (Other Effective area based Conservation Measures) in the state. A book titled "Heritage Trees

of Hyderabad British Residency – A Legacy for Future Generation” was released in the occasion of IDB 2022. TSBB celebrated this occasion by organizing State level competitions online for various activities like Essay writing, Photography, Elocution, Traditional Dance, Slogan Writing etc and simultaneously offline inter college competitions were held by conduct of biodiversity quiz, biodiversity rangoli and painting competition. An exhibition was also organized with display stalls set up by various institutions, universities and the NGOs on the theme ‘Biodiversity, Nutritional Security and Human Well-being’. More than 350 people across the state including Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) members, officials of line departments and students participated in the celebration.

As a part of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, TSBB in collaboration with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TSIIC) planted threatened species of the State at Biodiversity Complex, Gachibowli. On the occasion of World Cleanup Day 2022, local BMC of the Municipality and TSBB conducted a Cleanup drive at the BHS of Ameenpur Lake. Asian Water Bird Census 2023 was held in collaboration with Hyderabad Birding Pals at Ameenpur Lake. In order to create awareness about the importance of wetlands conservation, different activities like cleanliness drive and competitions like painting, essay and debate were organized in co-operation with Zilla Parishad school, Ameenpur. The TSBB had also made effort in Training and Capacity Building of the BMC members on Biological Diversity Act 2002 and the preparation of PBR in association with Wanaparthy Zilla Parishad Biodiversity Management Committee. During this period, two applications were approved for commercial utilization of bio resources Under Sec.23(B) of the Act.

12.5.25 TRIPURA

Five Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) were notified in 2022-23 by the State of Tripura. TBB prepared one Biodiversity Gallery at Science City, Agartala, which was inaugurated by Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tripura on 4th January, 2023. A meeting was held with all the Minor Forest Produce Traders on 17th January, 2023 at Forest Head Quarters, Agartala. Tripura Biodiversity Board started block-wise Training and Capacity Building of BMCs for the Chairman and Panchayat Secretaries



and Panchayat Extension Officers of BMCs. Such training programmes were organized in 8 blocks of Ambassa, Manu, Chawmanu, Matabari, Jampui Hill, Laljuri, Damcherra and Dasda total covering **169** village level BMCs.

Tripura Biodiversity Board has undertaken an exposure visit to Kerala State Biodiversity Board from 31st July to 9th August 2022. Tripura Board participated in the National Event of IDB 2022 and set up an exhibition stall for display of bioresources on the theme of "Biodiversity, nutritional security and human well-being". TBB commemorated the state Level IDB on 22nd May, 2022 through various programmes like essay,





painting and photography competitions, cycle rally, Tree plantation, seminars, launching of e-books etc. by involvement of large number of participants of various age groups. Asian Water-bird Census (AWC) was conducted by TBB on 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th February, 2023 at Sipahijhala, Gomati, West, South, Dhalai and Unakoti districts. On the Eve of World Environment Day i.e, 5th June 2022, TBB has prepared and released a Lifetime Biodiversity Table Calendar. In 2022-23 a total ABS fund of Rs. 15,00,000/- was disbursed among 100 BMCs of the State.

12.5.26 UTTARAKHAND

One meeting was convened by Uttarakhand SBB on 7th October 2022. So far 1629 PBRs were updated including 29 PBRs, which received financial assistance under the Secure Himalaya Project funded by UNDP. Out of 41 ABS applications received during this period all were approved. International day for Biological Diversity was celebrated in a day long programme in collaboration with Uttarakhand Forest Department and Dehradun Zoo.



12.5.27 UTTAR PRADESH

One meeting of the UPSBB was held in this period. The preparation of UP State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was completed in





2022-23. A coffee table book on the Heritage Trees of Uttar Pradesh was published. Six ABS applications were received by the Board from the Indian entities, which all were approved. Several workshops were organized at Hastinapur, Meerat, Mathura, Gonda, Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (Lakhimpur-Kheri) for strengthening and capacity building of BMCs regarding the provisions of The Biological Diversity Act. The Board officials and BMCs members participated in the National Event of IDB 2022 held at Chennai and put up exhibition stall to display local resources.

12.5.28 WEST BENGAL

Two meetings were held by the West Bengal Biodiversity Board in this period. The State notified 4 new Biodiversity Heritage Sites in 2022-23 at *Amkhoi Wood Fossil Park*, *Char Balidanga*, *State Horticulture Research and Development Station* and *Namthing Pokhari*. Twenty PBRs have been updated by the local bodies at various levels. A total of 18 ABS applications were received from Indian companies during this period. The Board organised 20 Bio - Tour programmes for the school students to make them aware about biodiversity conservation and environment. District level Capacity building programmes on Biodiversity Conservation and awareness were conducted in 19 districts of the State for BMC members, district officials and officials of line departments. International



Day for Biological Diversity 2022 was celebrated at the state level and Radheshyam Garai from Jamuria Block, Paschim Bardhaman district was rewarded for his commendable effort in Biodiversity conservation through tree plantation in almost barren region and colliery belts of the district. The Board has also participated in the National event of IDB 2022 held at Chennai and set up an exhibition stall by the BMC members.

Restoration of indigenous crops including traditional rice varieties and 40 indigenous varieties of vegetables by involving local backward community in five blocks of various agro climatic zones of the state



is being undertaken. Board has taken up a project for restoration of indigenous fishes in 10 districts. During 2022-23, the program on developing Butterfly Conservation area has been initiated in 15 educational institutes of the State. The Dept. of Environment has sanctioned proposal on establishment of 13 Biodiversity Parks in the state for which SBB will provide the technical support.

12.5.29 JAMMU & KASHMIR

One meeting of the UT Biodiversity Council was conducted in 2022-23. A Sub-Group was constituted for Identification of Biodiversity Heritage Sites in the Union Territory. The J&K Biodiversity Council developed City Biodiversity Index for Jammu and Srinagar Cities besides preparation for the Local Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (LBSAP) for both the cities. J&K Biodiversity Council conducted one-day training Programme for Trainers on Biodiversity Conservation and Operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Srinagar on 20th August, 2022. Biodiversity Council also conducted Training Programme on Preparation and Migration to Electronic People's Biodiversity Registers (e-PBRs) in Collaboration with NBA from 22nd to 26th August, 2022. One Day Training Programme was organized by the UTBC on BD Act, BD Rules, PBRs and for Strengthening of BMCs at SKUAST-K Shalimar Campus, Srinagar on 29th June, 2022 and also in Jammu on 7th February, 2023. A special cover on Chinar Tree was released by the Postal department in 2022-23 besides a booklet named, "Chinar -The Heritage & Cultural Legacy of J&K". A book titled, "Jungle jaib bibidhata", a booklet on "Pollinators: Nature's miracle Workers" and a bilingual (Hindi and English) brochure on "PBR: An overview" were released by the UTBC in this period.

12.5.30 LADAKH

During this period, 93 BMCs at village level and 2 at Municipal level have been constituted in Ladakh. Preparation of Biodiversity strategy and Action Plan is in progress under Gol-UNDP-GEF SECURE Himalaya Project. Preparation of 2 PBRs is under progress. Ladakh Biodiversity Council prepared a short, animated film in local language on the Biological Diversity Act and role of BMCs. To mark the occasion



of IDB, Chumathang BMC members along with UNDP SECURE Himalaya associates and students from Naropa Fellowship Programme had undertaken a clean-up drive in the village. The major streams running through the village were cleaned. A group of 3 BMC members along with a Ladakh Biodiversity Council official visited Chennai to attend IDB national event and setting up of an exhibition of bioresources. Exhibition displayed various agricultural bioresources, different types of wool from



Sheep and Yak, woolen products such as carpet, shawls, shoes, slingshot etc., medicinal and aromatic plants. Under the GoI-UNDP-GEF SECURE Himalaya project, capacity building and awareness programmes were conducted in the four blocks of Changthang comprising of 20 BMCs at Panchayat level. Asian Waterbird Census 2023 was conducted between 17th January and 19th January 2023 in collaboration with GoI-UNDP-GEF SECURE Himalaya Project in and around two important hot springs of eastern Ladakh, Chumathang and Puga, along with other important birding sites like Tso Kar and along the banks of Indus River in Shey and Phey villages. Representatives from GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Nature Conservation Foundation, SAVE Changthang, Snow Leopard Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club Ladakh, and WWF-India participated in the three-day long survey along with the organizing team from UNDP.

12.5.29 LAKSHADWEEP

Lakshadweep Biodiversity Council with assistance of the local BMCs conducted competitions for model preparation and spot photography in the Islands during the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2022. The Council has also organized Lagoon and Beach cleaning drive for generating awareness among students as a part of IDB 2022.

Annexures

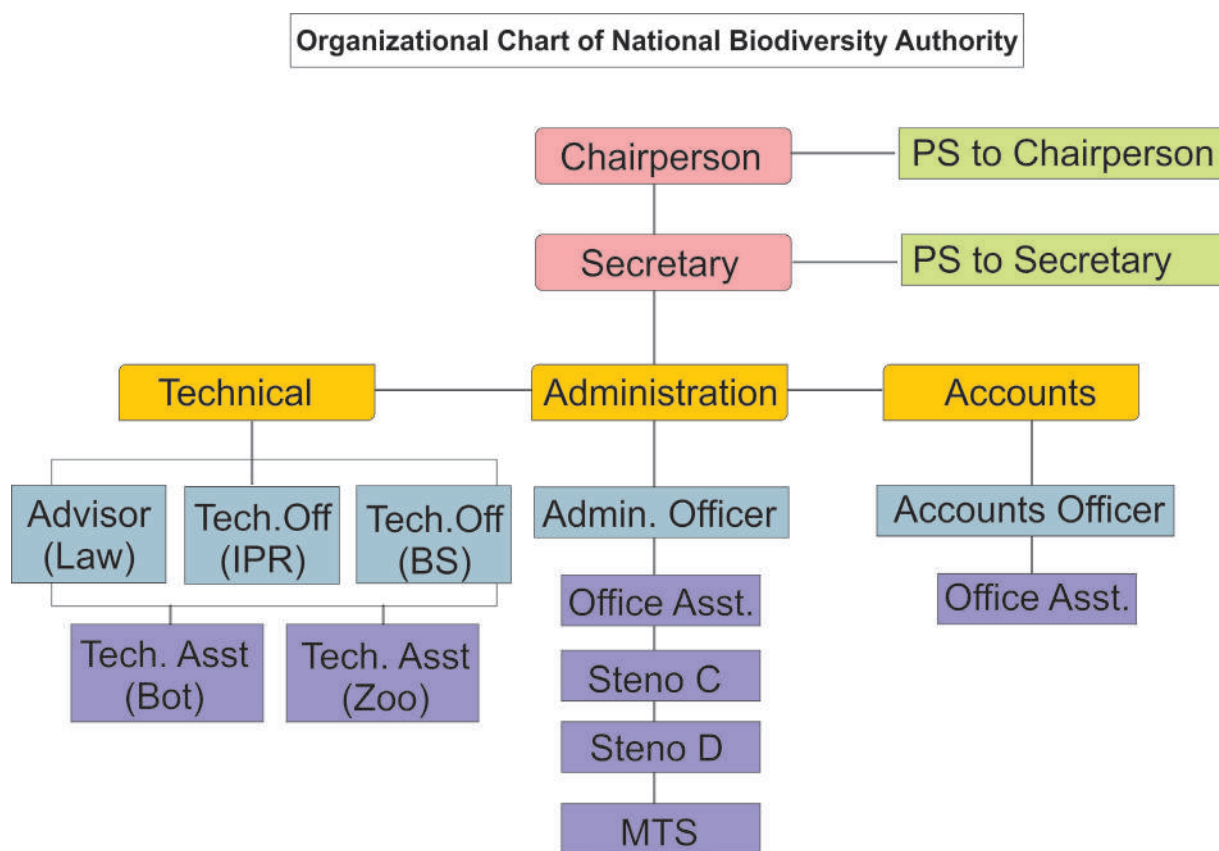
Annexure 1

Chairperson and Members of the Authority

The Chairpersons of the authority as per Section 8 (4a) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 are as follows:

CHAIRPERSON	PERIOD
Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.)	1 December 2022 – till present
Mr. Naresh Pal Gangwar, IAS	1 September 2022 to 30 November 2022
Dr V.B. Mathur	1 September 2019-31 August 2022
Dr A.K. Jain, IAS	9 February 2018-31 August 2019
Dr. (Ms). B. Meenakumari	9 February 2016 to 8 February 2018
Shri. Hem Pande, IAS	6 February 2014 to 8 February 2016
Dr.Balakrishna Pisupati	12 August 2011 to 5 February 2014
Shri. M.F. Farooqui, IAS	11 November 2010 to 11 August 2011
Dr P.L. Gautam	31 December 2008 to 3 November 2010
Shri. P.R.Mohanty, IFS	1 October 2008 to 31 December 2008
Shri. G.K. Prasad, IFS	20 May 2008 to 30 September 2008
Dr.S.Kannaiyan	20 May 2005 to 19 May 2008
Shri. Viswanath Anand, IAS	1 October 2003 to 14 July 2004

Annexure 2



Besides these officers and staff, the NBA is supported by Consultants to assist in technical and miscellaneous matters as per Rule 12 (6).

Annexure 3

Staff Strength

Post	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacancy
Chairperson	1	1	-
Secretary	1	1	-
Admin. Officer	1	1	-
PS to Chairperson	1	1	-
Accts. Officer	1	1	-
Technical Officer	2	1	1
Advisor (Law)	1	1	-
PS to Secretary	1	1	-
Office/ Comp. Asst.	2	2	-
Technical Asst.	2	2	-
Steno "C"	1	1	-
Steno "D"	1	1	-
MTS	1	1	-
Total	16	15	1

Annexure 4

Citizen's Charter

1.1 Vision

Conservation and sustainable use of India's rich biodiversity and associated knowledge with people's participation, ensuring the process of benefit sharing for the well-being of present and future generations.

1.2 Mission

Ensure effective implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, for conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

1.3. Mandate

- ⦿ Reaffirm the sovereign rights over the bio-resources of India and contribute towards the prevention of misappropriation of bio-resources and/or associated knowledge.
- ⦿ Provide policy and support relating to conservation, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.
- ⦿ Regulate activities by formulation of guidelines, extension materials for access to biological resources and for reaching the stakeholders and ensuring fair and equitable benefit sharing in accordance with the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- ⦿ Take measures to oppose the grant of intellectual property rights to persons in other countries or any biological resources of India or knowledge associated with such biological resources of Indian origin.
- ⦿ Advise the State Governments concerning their area-specific biodiversity, and in notifying Heritage Sites and suggest measures for their management and sustainable use.

- ⊙ Provide guidance, technical and financial support to Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) for preparing People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) in areas falling under their respective jurisdiction.
- ⊙ Perform such other functions as may be necessary to implement the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

1.4 Stakeholders

Biodiversity is a multidisciplinary subject involving diverse activities, initiatives and numerous stakeholders in biological diversity that include the Central Government, State Government, Union Territories, Institutions of Panchayat Raj and Civil Society Organizations, Industries, NGOs, Research and Development Institutions, Universities and public at large.

1.5 Services Offered

- ⊙ Promotion-related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- ⊙ Coordination of the activities of the State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees.
- ⊙ Sponsor studies and adaptive/operational investigation and necessary research by providing technical guidance, and commissioning of studies as found necessary.
- ⊙ Advise the Government of India on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits of biological resources.
- ⊙ Grant approval for access to biological resources occurring in India or associated knowledge, for transferring the results of research, seeking intellectual property right, third party transfer of accessed bio-resource for research or commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization.
- ⊙ Facilitate access to bio-resource by all stakeholders and ensuring equitable benefit-sharing between users and conservers of biodiversity transparently.

1.6 Grievances Redressal Mechanism

Administrative Officer, National Biodiversity Authority, is the designated officer for redressal of public grievances. Any grievances can be addressed to

The Administrative Officer

National Biodiversity Authority,

TICEL Bio Park,

5th Floor, CSIR Road, Taramani,

Chennai-600 113

Phone: 044-22542777, 1075; Extension: 27

Fax: 044-22541200

E-mail: admn@nba.inc.in

1.7 Expectations from the Citizens/ Clients

To abide by the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and rules made thereunder and imbibe and promote the spirit of conservation of natural resources and respect for the laws of nature and extend cooperation for carrying out the activities by NBA and SBBs in the overall interest of humankind.

Annexure 5

Audit Report

कार्यालय महानिदेशक लेखापरीक्षा
पर्यावरण एवं वैज्ञानिक विभाग, नई दिल्ली

DGA(E&SD)/EA/SAR/NBA/2022-23/OIOS/PR-72596/160

DATED:

सेवा में,

The Secretary
National Biodiversity Authority,
TICEL BIO PARK,
5th Floor, Taramani Road,
Taramani, Chennai 600113.



31 OCT 2023

विषय: **Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year ended 31st March 2023**

महोदय,

मुझे वर्ष 2022-23 के लिए **National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai** का पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन अग्रेषित करने का निर्देश हुआ है। संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने से पहले वर्ष 2022-23 के वार्षिक लेखों को संस्थान के शासी निकाय द्वारा अनुमोदित किया / अपनाया जाए तथा इस संबंध में शासी निकाय द्वारा जारी किया गया रेजोल्यूशन ऑडिट को भेजा जाए। प्रत्येक दस्तावेज जो संसद में प्रस्तुत किया जाए उसकी तीन प्रतियाँ इस कार्यालय तथा दो प्रतियाँ भारत के नियंत्रक महालेखापरीक्षक को अग्रेषित की जाए। संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने की तिथियाँ भी इस कार्यालय को सूचित की जाए।

संलग्नक:-पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन

भवदीया,

SD/-

उपनिदेशक (पर्या.ले.)

Copy to:

DGA(E&SD)/EA/SAR/NBA2022-23/OIOS/PR-72596

DATED:

सचिव, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, अली गंज जोर बाग रोड,
नई दिल्ली -110003

भवदीया

Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year ended 31st March 2023

1. We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as at 31 March 2023 and Income & Expenditure Account / Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended on that date under Section 19(2) of the Comptroller & Auditor General's (Duties, Powers & Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 read with Section 29(2) of Biological Diversity Act. These financial statements are the responsibility of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.
2. This Separate Audit Report contains the comments of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) on the accounting treatment only with regard to classification, conformity with the best accounting practices, accounting standards and disclosure norms, etc., Audit observations on financial transactions with regard to compliance with the Law, Rules & Regulations (Propriety and Regularity) and efficiency-cum-performance aspects, etc., if any, are reported through Inspection Reports/CAG's Audit Reports separately.
3. We have conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidences supporting the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. An Audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.
4. Based on our audit, we report that
 - i) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
 - ii) The Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account/Receipts & Payments Account dealt with by this report have been drawn up in the format approved by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance.

iii) In our opinion, proper books of accounts and other relevant records have been maintained by the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as required under Section 29(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, in so far as it appears from our examination of such books.

iv) Based on our audit, we further report that

A. Balance Sheet

1.1 Schedule-7-Current Liabilities and Provisions

Establishment Expenditure

1. Understatement of Provisions for Children's Education Allowance

NBA is following accrual system of accounting as mentioned in Schedule-24 -Significant Accounting Policies. It is however observed that no provision was provided in Schedule-7 of Balance Sheet for Children Education Allowance amounting to Rs.4,12,331.00 related to year 2022-23 which will be paid in year 2023-24.

Hence provision for Establishment Expenditure under Schedule-7-Current Liabilities and Provisions in the Balance sheet was understated to the extent of Rs.4,12,331.00

Administrative Expenditure

2. Understatement of Provisions for Stipend for Interns and remuneration to Consultants.

NBA is following accrual system of accounting as mentioned in Schedule-24 -Significant Accounting Policies. Part of the Stipend for Interns and remuneration to Consultants pertaining to the month of March 2023(financial year 2022-23) amounting to Rs.3,50,235.00 paid in the financial year 2023-24. However no provision was provided in Schedule-7 of Balance Sheet for Rs.3,50,235.00 for stipend and remuneration related to the year 2022-23 which was paid in the year 2023-24.

Hence provision for Administrative Expenditure under Schedule-7-Current Liabilities and Provisions in the Balance sheet was understated to the extent of Rs.3,50,235.00

B. General

1. Non-receipt of utilization certificate.

Audit noticed that out of 1360 grants amounting to Rs. 93.54crore released during last 17 years to State Bio-Diversity Boards and other organizations for which utilization certificate are due in the year 2022-23. Utilization certificates were received only in respect of 1291

grants amounting to Rs.88.43 crore. Utilization certificates for 69 grants amounting to Rs. 5.11 crore were not received as of March 2023.

C. Grants-in-aid

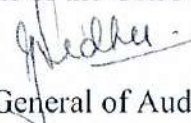
During the year 2022-23, NBA received Grants-in-aid of Rs.17.92 crore. This included unspent balance of Rs.2.42 crore revalidated from previous year. NBA could utilize a sum of Rs. 16.64 crore leaving a balance of Rs.1.28 crore as on March 2023.

D. Management Letter

Deficiencies which have not been included in the Separate Audit Report have been brought to the notice of the National Biodiversity through Management letter issued Annexure – I for remedial / corrective action

- v) Subject to our observations in the preceding paragraphs, we report that the Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payment Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of accounts.
- vi) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said financial statements read together with the Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts on Accounts, subject to the significant matters stated above and other matters mentioned in Annexure I to this Separate Audit Report give a true and fair view in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in India.
- a. In so far as it relates to the Balance Sheet of the state of affairs of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as at 31st March 2023.
- b. In so far as it relates to the Income and Expenditure Account of the deficit for the year ended on that date.

For & on behalf of the C&AG of India



Director General of Audit

(Environment & Scientific Department)

Place: New Delhi

Date: 31/x/23

1. Adequacy of Internal Audit

Internal Audit of NBA was conducted up to March 2019. As of March 2023, three reports and 12 paras were outstanding. Out of 12 paras, 2 paras pertain to the report for the period 2003-04 to 2008-09. 4 paras pertain to the report for the period 2012-13 to 2016-17. Thus 6 paras are pending for more than five years now for want of compliance from NBA.

2. Adequacy of Internal Control System

Audit noticed that functions of Drawing and Disbursing Officer and functions of pre-check and passing of payment was performed by the same official namely Accounts Officer. As a result, there was no separation of duties of Drawing and Disbursing Officer and internal audit functions. Management Information System (MIS) needs to be put in place. Control Registers such as Purchase Order Register, Expenditure Sanction Register, Register to watch receipt of utilization certificates for funds released need to be maintained.

3. System of Physical Verification of Fixed assets

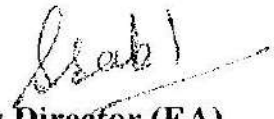
NBA conducted physical verification of assets for the year 2022-23.

4. System of physical verification of inventory

Physical verification of inventory was carried out for the year 2022-23.

5. Regularity in payment of statutory dues

Test check revealed no outstanding statutory dues with NBA as of March 2023.


Dy. Director (EA)

Annexure – A

1. Schedule-1-Capital Fund

Library Books valuing Rs.11,669.00 purchased during the year 2022-23 were not taken into account in Schedule-8-Fixed Assets. This resulted in understatement of assets capitalized during the year 2022-23 by Rs.11, 669.00 in Schedule-1-Corpus/Capital fund.

2. Dormant Accounts.

NBA in its Annual Accounts depicted two Savings Accounts namely NBA-UNEP GEF ABS and ASEAN-INDIA Co-Operation projects. These two accounts were opened by NBA for implementation of projects sponsored by UNEP-GEF and ASEAN-INDIA respectively. Both the projects were completed in December 2019 and June 2020 respectively. As the projects were already completed, these accounts need to be closed forthwith.



Dep. Director(EA)