

## About NBA

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act 2002. The NBA is an autonomous and 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 biological diversity, 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 28 States & 8 UTBCs and facilitated the establishment of 2,77,688 BMCs at the local level and 2,68,037 PBRs have been prepared all over the country.



# National Biodiversity Authority



## ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024





# **National Biodiversity Authority**

(an autonomous and statutory body of the Ministry of Environment,  
Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)

## **Annual Report 2023-2024**







मंत्री  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन  
भारत सरकार



MINISTER  
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

भूपेन्द्र यादव  
BHUPENDER YADAV



### MESSAGE

Conservation of biological diversity has deep roots in the Indian traditions and these are reflected in the norms and practices of our community. The incessant efforts of local communities have significantly contributed to the conservation of India's rich biodiversity and ensured a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

In addition to these traditional roots, India has made significant strides in biodiversity conservation through its legal and policy frameworks. I am pleased to note that the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), an autonomous and statutory body of the MoEF&CC is a lead organization in biodiversity governance in the country. It has been implementing the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and now Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 which aims to attract more investment in research and commercialization while protecting traditional knowledge. This amended Act streamlines compliance for domestic companies and expedites the processes for research, patent applications, and transferring research results from India.

The BD Act is implemented through a three-tier institutional mechanism: the NBA at the national level, State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territories Biodiversity Councils at the state and UT level, and Biodiversity Management (BMCs) formed by elected bodies at the local level. I am pleased to inform that there are more than 2.7 lacs BMCs at the grass-roots level and I believe that this network of institutions would immensely contribute to enhance local livelihoods and socioeconomic conditions through the access and benefit-sharing mechanism under the Act.

In 2023–24, despite facing unprecedented environmental pressures, we achieved remarkable progress in safeguarding threatened species, restoring habitats, and promoting sustainable practices through updating India's National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan in alignment with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

This Annual Report for the year 2023–24 is an expression of our commitment to preserving the rich biodiversity in India. I congratulate all officials in the NBA for bringing out this document highlighting the events, processes, and achievements that were made during the year 2023-24.

Date: 29.07.2024

(Bhupender Yadav)

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सत्यमेव जयते

**कीर्तवर्धन सिंह**  
**KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH**



**Message**

राज्य मंत्री  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन  
विदेश मंत्रालय  
भारत सरकार  
MINISTER OF STATE  
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Biodiversity underpins all life on Earth, from the genetic makeup of plants and animals to cultural diversity; more than one billion people rely on biodiversity for their livelihoods. Healthy ecosystems are vital to the well-being of communities. In addition to providing food security, fresh water, clean air, and medications they also support economic and leisure activities. They also keep disease at bay by maintaining a stable climate.

Now-a-days conservation efforts are facing challenges in adapting to rapidly changing environmental conditions, requiring innovative approaches and collaborations to enhance ecosystem resilience and protect biological diversity. Recent issues regarding ecosystem climate resilience and biological diversity often centre on the impacts of climate change, including the loss of biodiversity hotspots, shifts in species distributions, habitat loss, and species extinction. Other key issues include impacts on ecosystem services, emerging diseases and pests, and challenges for conservation strategies. Addressing these concerns is vital for developing effective strategies to mitigate climate change's effects on ecosystems and biodiversity.

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) performs facilitative, regulatory, and advisory roles for the Government of India on issues relating to conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

This Annual Report for the year 2023–2024 highlights the progress made in implementing the Biological Diversity Act 2002 (Act) at the national, state, and local body levels. During this period, the process of amending the Act was expedited for the benefit of local communities while adapting to recent developments at the international and national levels.

I appreciate the commendable work done by State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees at the grassroots level for conserving biological resources. I also appreciate the officials of the NBA for their sincere efforts in the implementation of the Act in its letter and spirit for the benefit of the local communities.

**(Kirti Vardhan Singh)**

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सत्यमेव जयते



**LiFE**  
Lifestyle for  
Environment

**लीना नन्दन**  
**LEENA NANDAN**



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

### MESSAGE

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), a statutory and autonomous body of MoEF&CC, is undertaking a variety of actions as an advisory, facilitative, and regulatory institution for achieving the larger goal of sustainable management of biological resources in the country.

The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from biodiversity is one of the central objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. NBA has played a key role in implementing the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism for biological resources of Indian origin. In addition to handling benefit-sharing applications, the NBA has conducted numerous outreach programs that have been positively received by youth and students across the country.

All the States and Union Territories have made noteworthy contributions, including *inter alia*, the constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees, preparation and digitalization of People's Biodiversity Registers, identification and notification of Biological Heritage Sites, and sharing of benefits derived from the use of bioresources.

This report is an annual statement of the activities carried out by the NBA during 2023-24 and is indicative of the NBA's efforts in conserving Indian bioresources and in providing legal certainty to the rights of common citizens on the country's biological resources. I am confident that this Annual Report will provide a good overview of diverse activities performed by the NBA during the year 2023- 24.

  
(Leena Nandan)

New Delhi,  
July 23, 2024.









## FOREWORD

I am pleased to place before you the Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the reporting period 2023-2024 during which the efforts for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and related legal instruments gathered further momentum.

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB) under the aegis of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2023 at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai on 22nd May, 2023. The theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity, 2023 is "From agreement to action: build back biodiversity". This celebration also witnessed the inauguration of a Biodiversity Exhibition with a special focus on Millets in conjunction with the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the 75th year of India's independence as well as the International Year of Millets or IYM2023 announced by the United Nations.

Another significant initiative by the MoEFCC, Govt. of India and NBA in association with the Govt. of Goa and the Goa State Biodiversity Board has been the "National campaign on updation cum verification of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)". NBA in collaboration with State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) organized "Panacea – 2024", the 11th Natural Products Expo-India (the International Trade Fair on Naturals & Organic Products in South Asia) from 29th February to 2nd March 2024 at the World Trade Centre, Mumbai.

NBA and MoEFCC in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) organized a series of National and Regional Consultation Meetings on the updation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the adoption of National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in alignment with the Kunming - Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) that was adopted at the COP-15 of the CBD.

I am very pleased to record deep appreciation and gratitude of NBA to a very large number of stakeholders and professionals and especially the Hon'ble MEF&CC, Senior officials of MoEFCC, Members of Authority, State Forest Departments, Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of the SBBs and UTBCs, Chairpersons and Members of various NBA committees for their constant guidance and support, which has enabled the NBA to achieve its mandate and assigned tasks successfully. I would also like to record my appreciation for the officers and staff of the NBA for their valuable efforts to take the NBA forward.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized loops and a long horizontal stroke.

**(C. Achalender Reddy)**  
Chairperson, NBA





Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar





## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the year 2023-24 has been compiled as per the provisions of Section 28 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The report highlights the activities and significant achievements of NBA towards the implementation of the various provisions of the Act. The activities carried out by the State Biodiversity Boards have also been included in this Report.

I acknowledge the valuable suggestions provided by Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. He has been a constant source of motivation and support to complete the task of preparing this Report.

I express my gratitude to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for the continued support to the activities of the National Biodiversity Authority. I also thank the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for the guidance provided to NBA to implement the different provisions of the Act and guidance to execute different project-based activities. I thank the Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change who has been providing valuable support and advice in furthering the activities of the NBA Secretariat.

I acknowledge with gratitude the complementary role of the Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of the State Biodiversity Boards in compiling this Annual Report. I also thank the Principal Director of Audit (Scientific Audit) for conducting a detailed audit of the NBA and providing an Audit Certificate.

I wholeheartedly appreciate the efforts of all the officers and staff of NBA Secretariat in compiling and bringing out the Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, flowing letters and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**B. Balaji**  
**Secretary, NBA**



## Abbreviations

|         |                                                                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ABS     | Access and Benefit-Sharing                                                        |
| ABS CH  | Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing House                                         |
| AHTEG   | Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group                                                     |
| APFD    | Andhra Pradesh Forest Department                                                  |
| BCIL    | Biotech Consortium India Limited                                                  |
| BD Act  | Biological Diversity Act                                                          |
| BHS     | Biodiversity Heritage Sites                                                       |
| BIOFIN  | Biodiversity Finance Initiative                                                   |
| BMC     | Biodiversity Management Committee                                                 |
| BSI     | Botanical Survey of India                                                         |
| CASFOS  | Central Academy for State Forest Service                                          |
| CBD     | Convention on Biological Diversity                                                |
| CCMB    | Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology                                           |
| CDRI    | Central Drug Research Institute                                                   |
| CEBPOL  | Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law                                            |
| CGPDTM  | Controller General of Patent, Designs and Trade Marks                             |
| CIMAP   | Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants                                |
| CPCB    | Central Pollution Control Board                                                   |
| CPIO    | Central Public Information Officer                                                |
| DDG     | Deputy Director General                                                           |
| DIG     | Deputy Inspector General of Police                                                |
| DIPP    | Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion                                     |
| DSI     | Digital Sequence Information                                                      |
| EC      | Expert Committee                                                                  |
| EIACP   | Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity building and livelihood Programme  |
| ENVIS   | Environmental Information System                                                  |
| EPTRI   | Environment Protection Training & Research Institute                              |
| FAO     | Food and Agriculture Organization                                                 |
| FSI     | Forest Survey of India                                                            |
| G20     | Group of 20                                                                       |
| GEF     | Global Environment Facility                                                       |
| GeM     | Government e Marketplace                                                          |
| HSN     | Harmonized System of Nomenclature                                                 |
| IARI    | Indian Agricultural Research Institute                                            |
| IASE    | Institute of Advanced Studies in Education                                        |
| ICAR    | Indian Council of Agricultural research                                           |
| ICAR    | Indian Council of Agricultural Research                                           |
| ICFRE   | Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education                                 |
| IDB     | International day for Biological Diversity                                        |
| IFGTB   | Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding                                    |
| IGNFA   | Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy                                             |
| IIFM    | Indian Institute of Forest Management                                             |
| IISER   | Indian Institute of Science Education and Research                                |
| INSA    | Indian National Science Academy                                                   |
| IPBES   | Inter-governmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services |
| IRCC    | Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance                              |
| ITPGRFA | International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture          |



|             |                                                                     |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IWST        | Institute of Wood Science and Technology                            |
| KMGBF       | Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework                      |
| LBF         | Local Biodiversity Fund                                             |
| LBSAP       | Local Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan                           |
| LiFE        | Lifestyle for Environment                                           |
| MAT         | Mutually Agreed Terms                                               |
| MHA         | Ministry of Home Affairs                                            |
| MoEFCC      | Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change                  |
| MPDO        | Mandal Parishad Development Officer                                 |
| MPP         | Mandal Praja Parishad                                               |
| MSSRF       | M S Swaminathan Research Foundation                                 |
| NALSAR      | National Academy of Legal Studies and Research                      |
| NBA         | National Biodiversity Authority                                     |
| NBSAP       | National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan                      |
| NBT         | National Biodiversity Target                                        |
| NCSCM       | National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management                  |
| NESFAS      | North East Slow Food & Agrobiodiversity Society                     |
| NIC         | National Informatics Centre                                         |
| NIRDPR      | National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj          |
| NMPB        | National Medicinal Plants Board                                     |
| NTC         | Normally Traded Commodities                                         |
| NTFP        | Non Timber Forest Products                                          |
| OECMs       | Other Effective area- based Conservation Measures                   |
| OLIC        | Official Language Implementation Committee                          |
| OMLAS       | One Million Leaders Asia                                            |
| PBR         | People's Biodiversity Register                                      |
| PCCF (HoFF) | Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force)       |
| PIC         | Prior Informed Consent                                              |
| PLI         | Production Linked Incentive                                         |
| PPVFRA      | Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority         |
| RTI         | Right To Information                                                |
| SACON       | Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History                |
| SBB         | State Biodiversity Board                                            |
| SBSAP       | State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan                         |
| SBSTTA      | Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice   |
| TDU         | The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology |
| TOLIC       | Town Official Language Implementation Committee                     |
| UKRI        | UK Research and Innovation                                          |
| UNCED       | United Nations Conference on Environment and Development            |
| UNDP        | United Nations Development Programme                                |
| UNEP        | United Nations Environment Programme                                |
| UNFCCC      | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change               |
| UTBC        | Union Territory Biodiversity Council                                |
| WCCB        | Wildlife Crime Control Bureau                                       |
| WDPA        | World Database on Protected Areas                                   |
| WII         | Wildlife Institute of India                                         |
| WWF         | World Wildlife Fund                                                 |
| ZPTC        | Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency                             |
| ZSI         | Zoological Survey of India                                          |







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Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar



## Executive Summary

Biological diversity or biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms starting from genes and bacteria to entire ecosystems. 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 Earth Summit, 1992 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 of biological diversity, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. 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 under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) was established in 2003 under Section 8 of the 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 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, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of biological resources.

NBA, as an autonomous and statutory body of the Government of India, has been following dedicated and target-oriented plans. The highlights of the progress and achievements during the reporting period 2023-2024 are briefly outlined here and elaborated in the Annual Report.

During 2023-2024, NBA met twice, 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 re-constituted an Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (EC on ABS) and evaluated Form I access and benefit sharing, Form III and Form B application for sending/carrying biological resources outside India for conducting non-commercial research and provided techno-legal inputs on various generic issues such as accessing non-Indian biological resources. NBA has also constituted an Expert Committee to review and suggest appropriate modifications to the Biological Diversity Rules 2004; ABS Regulations 2014 in the light of the BD (Amendment) Act 2023 and to frame model Rules for the management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites which met 21 times. After the detailed deliberations EC proposed suitable amendments in the rules and forms.



NBA has constituted an Expert Committee for Red Sanders to review the implementation of earlier recommendations made by the EC in its report on *“Comprehensive policy on conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of Red Sanders”*, suggest modifications thereof and to frame guidelines for disposal of applications with Red Sanders from private/farmer's holdings. Further, an Expert Committee has been constituted to study the existing administrative structure of the State Biodiversity Board (SBB) and Union Territory Biodiversity Council (UTBC) and suggest reforms to execute various functions mandated under the Biological Diversity Act. EC met once in January 2024 and discussed various issues and challenges on the Red Sanders conservation and its sustainable utilization, sharing the utilization of benefits etc., and reviewed procedural guidelines and checklist for cultivated/ patta land and confiscated Red Sanders.

Expert Committees have been constituted for scientific examination of certain materials / resources / chemicals used for research, commercialization, bio-survey and bio-utilization and for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights for determining their scope of applicability as per various provisions of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act and on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) for developing India's position on DSI in all forthcoming meetings of CBD.

During 2023-24, 1285 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, 969 agreements were signed during this period. NBA has received a sum of about Rs. 221.14 crores as benefit sharing (BS) component till date, of which Rs. 18.35 crore has been received during the year 2023-2024. 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 95.51 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. India being a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 148 approvals granted in the ABS CH platform for generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances during 2023-24.

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 2023-24, a total of 2,77,688 BMCs have been constituted and 2,68,037 PBRs have been prepared all over the country. So far, forty-seven (47) Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) have been notified by seventeen states in the country. Many other BHSs have already been identified in the States and some have been proposed for notification. During 2023-24, the States of West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh have notified 06 more BHS.

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 2023-24. Monthly Review meetings of SBBs were convened to interact and understand the problems and challenges faced at the state and local body level.

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2023 at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. The theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity 2023 is “From agreement to action: build back biodiversity”. This celebration also witnessed the inauguration of a Biodiversity Exhibition with a special focus on Millets in conjunction with the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister in the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India’s independence and had also announced that 2023 will be celebrated as the International Year of Millets.

The Millet exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. The International delegates attending G20 meeting at the Jio Convention Centre have also visited the Millet exhibition.

As a part of IDB 2023 celebration, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India and National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in association with the Govt. of Goa and the Goa State Biodiversity Board hosted the flag off ceremony for the “National campaign on updation cum verification of People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)” on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at Neura Village, Tiswadi District, Goa. Hon’ble Chief Minister of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant and the Hon’ble Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey jointly launched the campaign. A total of 25 SBBs and 5 UTBCs have successfully completed the exercise of updation and verification of assigned number of PBRs. A total of 11,921 PBRs have been updated and verified by the SBBs / UTBCs.

In collaboration with State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), NBA participated in the exhibition conducted by Sheshido Communications “Panacea – 2024, the 11<sup>th</sup> Natural Products Expo-India” (the International Trade Fair on Naturals & Organic Products in South Asia) from 29<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 at the World Trade Centre, Mumbai. This collaboration demonstrated a collective approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management, providing an excellent opportunity to showcase natural products of bioresources and engage with professionals and exhibitors from various fields related to natural products and industries.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) incorporates two mandatory unqualified obligations i.e., preparation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)



under Article 6 and National Reports under Article 26. The NBSAP is a key instrument for planning and implementing the provisions of Convention at National Level. Following the adoption of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), at the COP-15 of the CBD and by following “whole of the government, whole of the society approach” a National Consultation Meeting and three regional consultation meetings, an inter and intra Ministerial consultations were held for the updation of NBSAP and Adoption of National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in alignment with KMGBF goals and targets. All the concerned Ministries, State and Union Territory governments, Central and State Research Institutions, Universities, industrialists, local communities, farmers, NGOs and International Organisations participated in the deliberations.

The Annual Accounts for 2023-24 and Annual Plan for 2024-25 are also included in this Annual Report for 2023-24.



Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar



## Introduction

Biological diversity or biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms starting from genes and bacteria to entire ecosystems. The biodiversity we see today is the result of 4.5 billion years of evolution, increasingly influenced by humans.

India is one of the world's most biodiverse regions and includes four of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots – the Western Ghats, the Eastern Himalayas, the Indo-Burma and Sundaland (Nicobar Islands) hotspots. One among the 17 megadiverse countries, India is tremendously rich in species and ecosystem diversity. Over 1,03,258 species of fauna and 55,048 species of flora have been documented in the 10 biogeographic zones of the country. Considering floral diversity, out of the 55,048 known plant species in India, 12,095 are endemic. In the case of fauna, 28,948 species are endemic to the country and account for 28% of the total 1,03,258 species identified so far in India.

Biological resources are an essential component in the ecosystem and society for both the economic and social development of the people. However, this has led to immense pressure on biodiversity as there is also an exponential increase in the population and rapid economic growth. Consequently, this has led to the 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 culminated on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1992 as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The CBD entered into force on 29th December 1993 with three main objectives viz., conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and 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 biological resources and knowledge associated with them.

The NBA was established in 2003 by the Central Government to implement India's Biological Diversity Act 2002. The NBA is an autonomous and statutory body and performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions to the Central Government 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 approvals or otherwise upon requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians. The Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) established at local level 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.

As per Section 28 of BD Act, an annual report is to be laid in the Parliament before 31st August every year along with Annual audited statements. In this regard, NBA has set milestones for the preparation of Annual report.



Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar



## Constitution and Functions of the Authority, Statutory Bodies

### 2.1. Structure of the National Biodiversity Authority

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is headed by the 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 the Chairman Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.) who 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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                                                                    | <b>Mrs R. Jaya, IAS,</b><br>Room No. 736, A-Wing, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor,<br>Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi 110 001                                                                                                                                            |
| 2      | Additional Director General (Forests), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change                                                                | <b>Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IFS</b><br>Additional Director General of Forests,<br>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,<br>Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,<br>Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110 003                                                    |
| 3      | Joint Secretary dealing with the subject in the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change                                                        | <b>Shri. Raghu Kumar Kodali,</b><br>Advisor & Scientist G<br>CS-III Division,<br>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,<br>Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,<br>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              | <b>Shri Pankaj Yadav, IAS</b><br>Joint Secretary (Seeds & GC),<br>Department of Agriculture and Cooperation,<br>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                                          | <b>Dr. Manoj Kumar Modi,</b><br>Scientist F,<br>Department of Biotechnology,<br>CGO Complex, Block No. 2,<br>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                                      | <b>Dr. M.V. Ramanamurthy,</b><br>Director,<br>National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR),<br>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 | <b>Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma,</b><br>Deputy Director General (Crop Science)<br>Division of Crop Science, ICAR,<br>Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi 110 001                                                                                                            |
| 8      | Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy              | <b>Prof. (Dr) Tanuja Manoj Nesari,</b><br>Chief Executive Officer<br>National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, AYUSH Bhawan, B Block, G.P.O. Complex, I.N.A., New Delhi 110 023 |



| S. No. | Ex-officio Members                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9      | Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent dealing with the subject in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research | <b>Dr. Akhilesh Gupta,</b><br>Scientist G,<br>Head Planning, Coordination & Performance Management, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhavan,<br>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        | <b>Dr Sanjay Kumar</b><br>Director,<br>Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Post Box No.6, Palampur,<br>Himachal Pradesh 176 061                                                           |

| S. No. | Non-Official Members                                                                                                                                      |  |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 1      | <b>Dr. Alka Rao,</b><br>Principal Scientist,<br>Lab #P206, GNR Protien Centre, CSIR- Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), Chandigarh – 160036 |  |
| 2      | <b>Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram,</b><br>Professor and Dean,<br>College of Agriculture, Central Agriculture University, Imphal, Manipur                    |  |
| 3      | <b>Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav,</b><br>AmaltashKunj, Flat 7, AC-148, Street 47, Action Area I, Newtown,<br>Kolkata - 700161.                                   |  |
| 4      | <b>Dr.Gouri Joshi,</b><br>401, Balwant ashram, Behind Nirmiti Elite, Law College Road,<br>Erandwane, Pune, Maharashtra – 411004.                          |  |
| 5      | <b>Dr. Hanchinal R. Ramappa,</b><br>1, HaudinRoad, Ulsoor, Bengaluru – 560001.                                                                            |  |

## 2.2. Functions of NBA

- Advise 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 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 measures for their management.
- Provide guidance and technical support to the 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. The SBBs comprise of a Chairperson, five *ex-officio* members representing the concerned departments and five experts having experience related to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use.

### 2.3.1. Functions of SBB

- Advise the State Government, 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 shall 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 in the form of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR). 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 2024, there are 2,77,688 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* or *hakims* and medical practitioners using biological resources.

## 2.5. Role of Central and State Governments

- Establish National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees.
- 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 the 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. Notify threatened species and prohibit or regulate their collection, rehabilitation and conservation.
  - b. Designate institutions as repositories for different categories of biological resources.
  - c. Exempt certain biological resources that are normally traded as commodities.
- 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.



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## Meetings of the Authority

During the reporting period, the Authority met twice and advised the NBA Secretariat for actions as per Section 12 of the BD Act 2002 and Rule 10 of the BD Rules 2004. 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. 68<sup>th</sup> Authority Meeting

The 68<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority (Governing Body) was held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 at INSA, New Delhi, 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 the following:

- i. Authority considered the Report submitted by the Expert committee on amendments to the Biological Diversity Rules and notification of forms and fees. The Authority in-principle approved the report submitted by the EC and placed on record its appreciation.
- ii. Authority in-principle approved the draft amendments to the BD Rules subject to certain modifications, as appended in Annexure II. The revised rules are applicable prospectively [Prof. R. R. Hanchinal].
- iii. Members directed the NBA Secretariat to forward the revised draft rules to all members for comments, if any, by giving five days. If any comments are received, the same will be compiled and placed before the Authority for consideration.
- iv. The Authority members decided that applications related to Red Sanders can be placed before the EC on Red Sanders and the recommendations can be considered in the next Authority meeting.
- v. The Authority decided that NBA shall develop procedural guidelines for access to Red Sanders from cultivated source through the EC on Red Sanders and the draft guidelines to be placed in the next Authority meeting for consideration.
- vi. The Authority decided that a separate procedure and checklist for access to Red Sanders from (i) cultivated or private / patta lands and (ii) confiscated sources for processing and granting approval by the NBA for confiscated/auctioned Red Sanders to be developed with the help of Expert Committee on Red Sanders and place it before the Authority consideration.
- vii. Authority also took note of the task assigned to the Expert Committee on Red Sanders i.e. “review the action taken on the recommendations made by the expert committee in its earlier report; to identify the gaps in the recommendations and suggest the way forward and any other subject matter related to Red Sanders”.
- viii. Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to expedite the process of acquiring land for construction of Office building for NBA.
- ix. The Authority decided that the officials of the MoEFCC and the Secretary, NBA to have meeting with the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to further pursue the matter.
- x. The Authority decided that NBA may advise the SBBs and UTBCs to create awareness among the BMCs about the importance of opening Local Biodiversity Fund (LBF) account in Banks.



- xi. The Authority members appreciated the efforts taken by NBA to involve BMCs in local level implementation of measures for conservation of Biodiversity, and inclusion of wetland biodiversity in the PBR.
- xii. The Authority also decided that NBA may request additional budget from MoEFCC to implement the strategy of Amrit Dharohar towards strengthening the BMCs for their conservation efforts in the Ramsar sites.
- xiii. The Authority granted post facto approval for the revalidation of the Grant-in-aid that have been provided to the SBBs / UTBCs, which have not been utilized in that financial year to be used in the next following financial year.
- xiv. The Authority delegated the financial power of giving approval for revalidation up to Rs. 5.00 Lakhs to the Secretary, NBA for the proposals already sanctioned and received from SBBs / UTBCs.
- xv. The Authority decided that all the violation cases shall be kept in abeyance till the Amended Act and Rules come into force.
- xvi. The Authority decided that the 47 applications (Form I- 21 and Form III-26) that have contravened the section 3 and section 6 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 shall be kept in abeyance till the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023 and amended rules comes in force.
- xvii. The members deferred the submission made by applications i.e. M/s. Monsanto Holdings Private Limited and M/s. East West Seeds India Limited, M/s. HM Clause India Pvt. Ltd to reconsider for levying upfront payment for parental and segregated lines.
- xviii. Authority decided to form a sub-committee comprising Dr. Hanchinal Ramappa as the Chairman and Dr. Joykumar Laishram as member to examine the applications namely M/s. Monsanto Holdings Private Limited and M/s. East West Seeds India Limited, M/s. HM Clause India Pvt. Ltd and submit its recommendations to the Authority for consideration.
- xix. The Authority decided that the outsourcing staff strength shall be enhanced to 50 through Government e Market Place (GeM).
- xx. The Authority approved the Annual Report 2022-2023 along with the audit of the Accounts carried out by the office of the C&AG and the issue of Certification by the office of the C&AG to be forwarded to the MoEFCC for placing on the table of the Parliament in both the houses.
- xxi. The Authority agreed to the proposal of the NBA that former Consultants, Young Professionals, Chairs / Co-Chairs, members of the different expert committees, and contract employees etc. who have worked with NBA in the past and has proven track record, may be engaged for a period of 6 months and up to 12 months at a stretch without going for advertisement.
- xxii. The Authority members approved the proposal to increase the financial limit from Rs.7 lakhs to Rs.10 lakhs to be sanctioned by the Chairman, NBA for each project proposal.
- xxiii. The Authority, after deliberations, decided as follows:
  - A. The number of interns can be increased from 25 to 40 in the forthcoming Vth cycle.
  - B. The stipend for the interns of the Vth cycle can be increased to Rs. 23,500/- per month.
  - C. Travelling allowance in third AC train (to and fro) to be allowed to the interns while joining and after relieving from the internship to their hometown.

- D. The interns of the IVth cycle who are currently with various SBBs/ UTBCs can continue for one more year provided both SBBs/UTBCs and interns agree for the same. The stipend shall be Rs. 25,000/- per month.
- xxiv. The Authority members approved the proposal of NBA for collaborating with the Seishido Communications for the Panacea 2024 -11<sup>th</sup> Natural Products Expo India Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs). The Expo was held during 29<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at the World Trade Centre, Mumbai in organizing with five exhibition stalls showed unique bio-resources and natural products with the assistance of SBBs, including the north-eastern states such as Tripura and Assam.
- xxv. The Authority members decided that one of these stalls will exclusively portray the unique biodiversity richness of the North eastern states with the help of the respective SBBs. It is also decided that the Authority member, Dr. Joykumar Laishram will coordinate in this regard.



*Authority members deliberating in the 68<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting*

### **3.2. 69<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting**

The 69<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority was held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi in a 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 Authority members decided that NBA shall follow an ad-hoc mechanism, wherever required, for effective disposal of the ABS applications and miscellaneous matters within the framework of the BD (Amendment) Act 2023.
- b. The members decided that application fees for the Forms may be charged as per the existing rates.
- c. The Authority members decided that NBA may determine the benefit-sharing component as per the ABS regulations 2014, till amended BD Rules and the amended ABS Regulations are notified and put into operation.
- d. The actions taken during the interregnum period will be brought to the notice of the Authority during subsequent meetings.





*Authority members deliberating in the 69<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting*

- e. The Authority decided that the 49 applications (Form I-23, Form II- 1 and Form III-25) that have contravened the section 3, 4 and 6 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 shall be kept in abeyance till the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023 and amended rules come in to force.
- f. The same may be informed to the applicants.
- g. The Authority decided that the NBA shall approach the MoEFCC for providing a window period for regularising the access already made without obtaining prior approval from NBA.
- h. The Authority members approved a Form B application (INBAB202304265) filed by the Section 7 entity, Dr. Mahesh Mansing Patil, Director, M/s Aves Food Tech Pvt. Ltd.
- i. The Authority members appreciated and decided that the NBA should initiate the CEBPOL Phase-II project with NALSAR University and establish the centre by signing a MoU with NALSAR University.
- j. The Authority members approved the Guidelines for Engagement of Young Professionals 2024.
- k. The Authority members decided that a committee may be constituted with members including representatives from CIMAP, Lucknow, CDRI, NMPB, ICAR, along with non-official members NBA to assess and submit a report on the proposed Herbarium on Medicinal plants at TDU, Bengaluru. The report shall be placed in the next Authority meeting for consideration. Dr.Hanchinal R. Ramappa be appointed as Head of Delegation and a visit may be arranged to TDU, Bengaluru at the earliest.
- l. The Authority members ratified the deviation of allowing the APFD to spend Rs. 60.00 lakhs on renovating the forest guest house, adding more floor area, out of the Rs. 4.00 crore sanctioned already for the purchase of tree transplant machine.
- m. The Authority members granted post facto approval for changing the name of one among the applicant in Form-I application and ratified the action of the Secretariat.
- n. The Authority members approved and ratified the delegation of powers to Secretary as Head of Department and to Administrative Officer as Head of Office

as per the Orders issued already. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) i.e. the Chairman of the National Biodiversity Authority which is an autonomous and statutory body shall continue to exercise the administrative and financial powers as per the provisions of the Act in force and Rules made there under from time to time.

- o. The Authority members took note on the progress made in the e-PBR BIOMIS project and authorized the Chairman, NBA to extend the project and financial budget, if any required.
- p. The Authority members ratified the decision taken by NBA granting approval to the Department of Livestock Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Government of Nepal for accessing Murrah Buffaloes, a native traditional breed of India, for breeding purpose without collecting upfront payment.
- q. The Authority members approved the Office Order of the Working Group / Expert Committee on Businesses for Strengthening Resource Mobilization.
- r. The Authority members approved the Report submitted by the Sub-committee as per the decision of the 68th Authority meeting for consideration of the reassessment of upfront payment levied for parental and segregating lines of plant genetic resources.



Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar









## 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 parties 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 reconstituted EC on ABS met on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Chennai. The meeting was chaired by Dr.P.L. Gautam and co-chaired by Dr.S.Balaji, IFS (Retd.). This meeting was convened by NBA in order to fulfil the compliance as directed by the Honourable High Court of Delhi and Honourable National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai to re-examine the ABS application filed by M/s.Inventprise and M/s.Dabur India Limited respectively. Both the applicants were given an opportunity to present their applications before the committee. In this regard a representative from M/s.Inventprise appeared in person before the committee and briefed their contentions. M/s.Dabur India Limited appeared through Video conferencing mode and submitted their contentions.

Apart from the said applications, 11 ABS applications were placed before the Expert Committee to seek appropriate guidance for deciding on various issues involved in the said applications. Seven (7) of these applications were applied under Form I and three (3) applications were applied under Form III and one (1) application under Form B. In addition to the ABS applications three (3) generic issues were taken up for discussion before the EC on ABS. The total agenda items placed before the Expert Committee was 14 items. During the discussion the committee sought few clarities on the ABS applications filed by M/s.Inventprise and M/s.Dabur India Limited, wherein the applicant sought time to furnish the information. The committee also discussed six agenda items but deferred it to the next EC meeting due to paucity of time.

Accordingly, in continuity to the 69<sup>th</sup> meeting of EC on ABS, the committee extended the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 through Video Conferencing mode in order to exclusively examine the information furnished by the applicants M/s.Inventprise and M/s.Dabur India Limited respectively.





*Members of the Expert Committee on ABS met on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Chennai*



*Members of the EC on ABS deliberating in the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Chennai*



*Members of the EC on ABS deliberating in the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Chennai*

#### **4.2. Expert Committee constituted to Review and Suggest Appropriate Modifications to the Biological Diversity Rules 2004; ABS Regulations 2014 in the light of the BD (Amendment) Act 2023 in the Parliament; and to Frame Model Rules for the Management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites:**

As per the directions of the MoEFCC, NBA constituted an Expert Committee (EC) with the mandate: (a) To review the Biological Diversity Rules 2004; Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014 in the light of the BD (Amendment Bill, 2022; Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and other related issues for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act; and to suggest appropriate modifications to the Rules and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Regulations, if any; and (b) To frame model rules for the management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites as required under section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002.

The EC and its sub-committee constituted by the NBA, have held 21 meetings as mentioned below. During the deliberations on the existing rules in the light of the amendments to the BD Act as per BD (Amendment) Act, the EC acquires the benefit of rich and varied experience of its members including the practical experience of the NBA officials in dealing with various processes, issues raised by stakeholders over the past many years and processing their applications for regulating access to biological resources and associated knowledge, the field experience of the EC members of the who were associated with the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) / Union territory Biodiversity Councils and line departments.

Keeping in view of the amendments made as per the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023, the detailed deliberations held by the EC on the existing BD Rules and made suitable modifications thereof. Thereafter, EC had submitted its report to NBA on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 along the draft amendment proposed to the draft Biological Diversity Rules and draft notification for the forms and fees to the NBA.

*Table-2: Expert Committee and Sub-committee Meetings*

| Sl. No | Meeting                  | Date & Time             | Mode of Meeting / Venue |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting  | 05.04.2023              | Virtual Mode            |
| 2.     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting  | 03.05.2023              | Virtual Mode            |
| 3.     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting  | 16.06.2023              | Virtual Mode            |
| 4.     | 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting  | 13.07.2023 & 14.07.2023 | New Delhi               |
| 5.     | 5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting  | 27.07.2023              | Virtual Mode            |
| 6.     | 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting  | 12.08.2023 13.08.2023   | Hybrid Mode             |
| 7.     | 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting  | 18.08.2023 & 19.08.2023 | Virtual Mode            |
| 8.     | 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting  | 25.08.2023              | Virtual Mode            |
| 9.     | 9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting  | 29.08.2023              | Virtual mode            |
| 10.    | 10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting | 31.8.2023               | Virtual mode            |



| Sl. No | Meeting                  | Date & Time             | Mode of Meeting / Venue |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 11.    | 11 <sup>th</sup> Meeting | 02.09.2023 & 03.09.2023 | Hybrid Mode             |
| 12.    | 12 <sup>th</sup> Meeting | 05.09.2023              | Virtual mode            |
| 13     | 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting | 12.09.2023              | Virtual mode            |
| 14     | 14 <sup>th</sup> Meeting | 23.09.2023 & 24.09.2023 | Virtual mode            |
| 15     | Sub-committee meeting    | 26.09.2023              | Virtual mode            |
| 16     | 15 <sup>th</sup> Meeting | 17.10.2023              | Virtual mode            |
| 17     | 16 <sup>th</sup> Meeting | 28.10.2023              | Virtual mode            |
| 18     | 17 <sup>th</sup> meeting | 15.11.2023              | Virtual Mode            |
| 19     | 18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting | 26.11.2023 & 27.11.2023 | Virtual Mode            |
| 20     | 19 <sup>th</sup> Meeting | 24.01.2024              | Virtual Mode            |
| 21     | 20 <sup>th</sup> meeting | 21.02.2024              | Virtual Mode            |

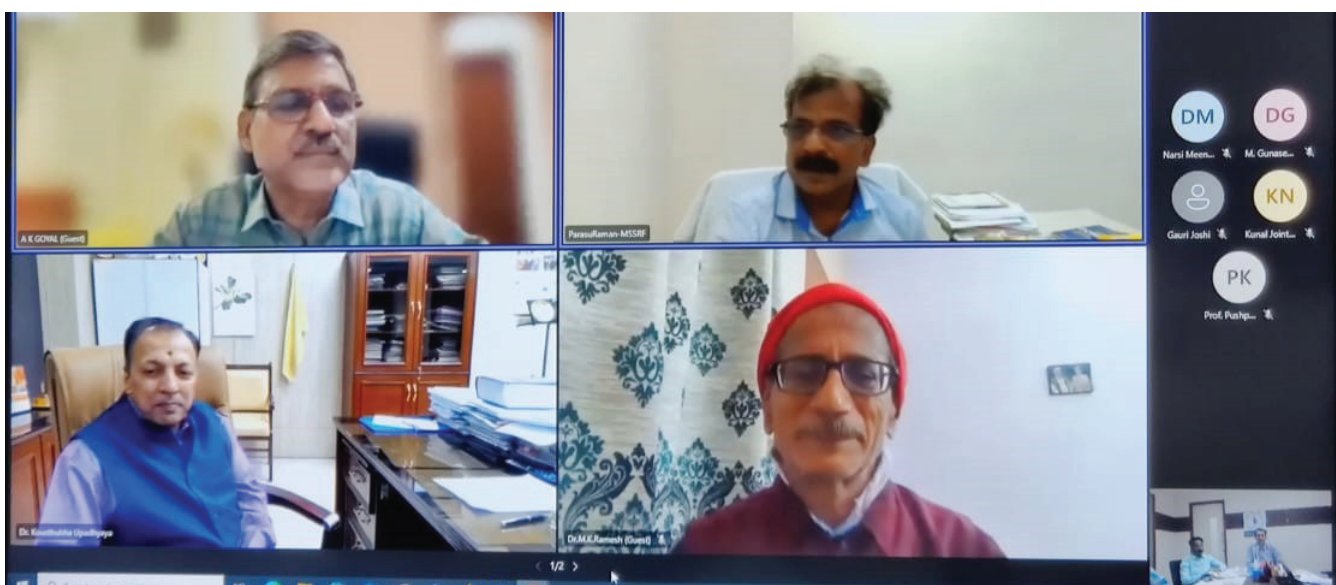


*Members of the EC on BD Rules deliberating in the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Delhi*

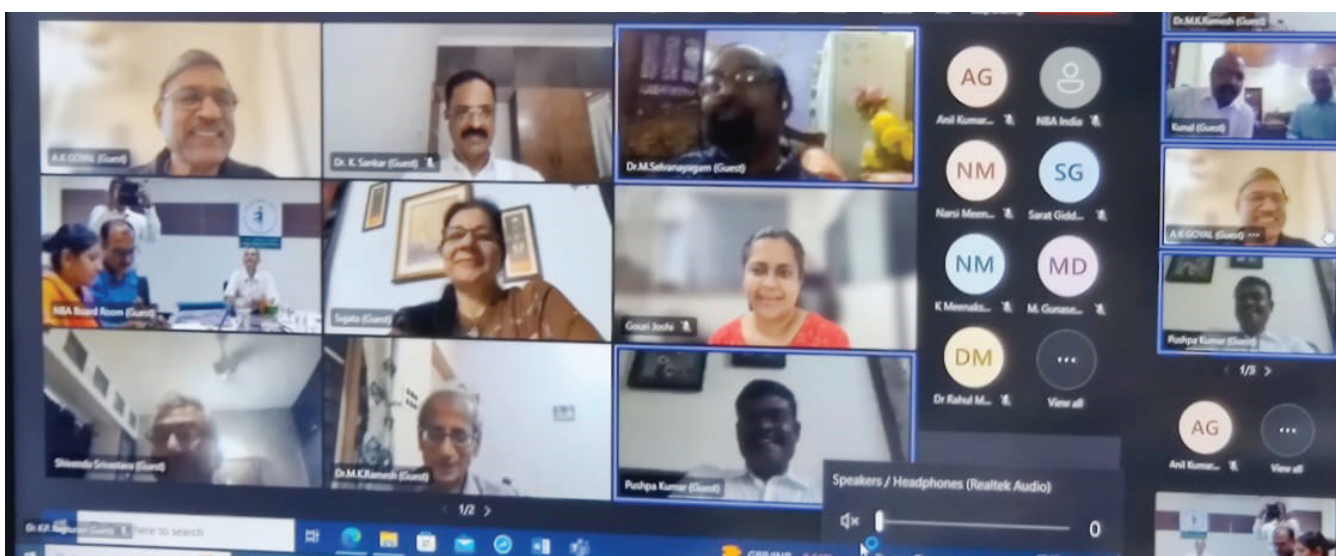




*Secretary, NBA and the NBA staff participating in the meeting of EC on BD Rules held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023*



*Members of the EC on BD Rules deliberating in the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023*



*Members of the EC on BD Rules deliberating in the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023*



### 4.3. Re-constituted Expert committee on Red Sanders:

The first meeting of the reconstituted Expert Committee (EC) on Red Sanders was held under the Chairmanship of Shri. B. Vijayan, IAS, (Retd.) on 05<sup>th</sup> & 06<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Chennai to review the implementation of earlier recommendations made by the EC in its report on *“Comprehensive policy on conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of Red Sanders”* and suggest modifications thereof further to frame guidelines for disposal of Red Sanders applications from private / farmers' holdings.

The EC discussed on various issues, viz., revision of the procedural guidelines and checklist for granting approval by NBA for access to cultivated and confiscated Red Sanders. Wherein, it was also decided to constitute a sub-committee to discuss and propose the modalities for conducting an International Conference and Exhibition on Red Sanders & Biodiversity of Eastern Ghats at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

Accordingly, NBA constituted a sub-committee on 16th February 2024 under the Chairmanship of Shri. P. Mallikarjuna Rao, IFS (Retd.), Former PCCF (HoFF), Andhra Pradesh along with seven members and it was partially modified on 12th March 2024. The sub-committee convened a virtual meeting on 05th March 2024 to discuss the modalities for conducting International conference on Red Sanders. It was decided to prepare a concept note based on the discussion and the same may be shared amongst members for having discussion in the next meeting of the sub-committee.



*Members of the Expert Committee on Red Sanders deliberating in the first meeting on 5th & 6th January 2024*

### 4.4. Expert Committee on SBBs / UTBCs

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (2) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 read with the Rule 11 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004, NBA constituted an Expert Committee vide office order dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 for a period of eight months “to

*study the existing administrative structure of the State Biodiversity Board (SBB) and Union Territory Biodiversity Council (UTBC) and suggest reforms to execute various functions mandated under the Biological Diversity Act”.*



*Members of the Expert Committee on SBBs / UTBCs along with the Chairman and Secretary of NBA*

The first meeting of the Expert Committee was held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Chennai under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajen Habib Khwaja, IAS (Retd.), Former Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Mines, Former Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary, MoEFCC and Co-Chair, Dr. Rajeev K Srivastava, IFS (Retd.), Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Govt. of Tamil Nadu.



*Chair, Co-Chair of the EC on SBBs / UTBCs and Chairman NBA in the first meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023*

As the follow-up of the meeting, the Chairman and Co-Chair of the Expert Committee met Ms. Leena Nandan, Secretary, MoEFCC on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the MoEFCC office in Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi and discussed the matters related to functioning of SBBs and UTBCs.



The Chairman and Co-Chair of the EC also visited the Delhi Biodiversity Council and discussed the mission approach to ensure clarity on the organizational and structural framework for effective functioning of the Delhi Biodiversity Council.

In order to complete the terms of reference (ToR) vested with the Expert Committee and the ongoing process of preparation of comprehensive report for the effective execution of functions outlined in the Biological Diversity Act,

the tenure of the Expert Committee was extended for a further period of four months i.e., from 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024.



*Members of the EC on SBBs / UTBCs deliberating in the first meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023*

#### **4.5. Expert Committee for scientific examination of certain materials / resources / chemicals used for research, commercialization, bio-survey and bio-utilization and for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights for determining their scope of applicability as per various provisions of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act**

National Biodiversity Authority constituted an Expert Committee (EC) in the exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (2) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 read with Rule 11 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 "for scientific examination of certain materials / resources / chemicals used for research, commercialization, bio-survey, and bio-utilization and for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights for determining their scope of applicability as per various provisions of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act on 09<sup>th</sup> October 2023 with the specific Terms of Reference for the committee.

The first meeting was held on 07<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Chennai to discuss the pros and cons of the materials listed by the applicant in the application and whether to consider them as biological resources and or value-added products. To facilitate further discussions, the committee constituted, two sub-committees within the members of the committee to discuss / evaluate and suggest the categories with a potential scientific framework for

distinguishing / identifying biological resources / chemicals / derivatives and value-added products (VAP) within the framework of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023. The minutes of the first meeting were circulated to all members. The NBA issued an office order on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 for the Sub-committee. The two sub-committees deliberated and prepared their recommendation and exchanged with the members.

The second meeting was held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 via hybrid mode, the Sub-committee presented their recommendations and the members deliberated in detail and recorded their suggestions and views. The minutes of the first meeting were circulated to all members. The NBA extended the tenure of the present Expert Committee by an office order on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.

The National Biodiversity Authority called for a special meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri K. Praveen Rao, IFS (Retd.), to discuss the implications of the judgment delivered in the Narkya case (Fresenius Kabi Oncology Ltd. & Dr. Jayanta Chattopadhyay Vs. The State of Maharashtra & Conservator of Forests, Kolhapur Wild Life) on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at NALSAR, Hyderabad, with the special invitee Shri. Sai Prakash IFS, (Retd.) Ex PCCF (HOFF), Maharashtra and Dr. B. Kiran Kumar, Senior Scientist, CCMB, Hyderabad. After the presentation by Shri. G. Sai Prakash and Dr. Kiran Kumar the members discussed the issue at length and recommended having another meeting with a request to Dr. Kiran Kumar to submit a report on whether Camptothecin is a biological resource with scientific data. The minutes of the special meeting were sent to members.



*Chair, Co-Chair of the EC on Materials and Chairman NBA in the first meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023*



*Members of the Expert Committee on Materials deliberating in the first meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023*



## 4.6. Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information (DSI)

MoEFCC had requested NBA to constitute an Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information (DSI). Accordingly, NBA vide Office Memorandum No. NBA/ Tech/ EC/9/14/36/20-21 dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020 constituted an Expert Committee on DSI. The Expert Committee submitted its interim report in 2021 and the tenure of the committee had since, ended.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted in the COP -15 held at Montreal in December 2022. In the KM-GBF, Target 13 has been earmarked to create effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures in order to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arises from the utilization of genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and digital sequence information.

In view of rapid scientific developments in the field of DSI and in the light of Target No. 13 of Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), it was decided to re-constitute an Expert Committee in the exercise of powers conferred under Sub section (2) of Section 13 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 read with Rule 11 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 vide Office Order NBA/Tech/EC/9/14/41/23-24/1788 dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The terms of reference of the committee were to review the existing work done so far at National



*Members of the Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information deliberating in the first meeting held on 6th November 2023*

and International level on Digital Sequence Information (DSI); to suggest an appropriate terminology that would reflect DSI and related subject matter; to advise on the scope of DSI that can be regulated under ABS laws, based on the subject matter grouping referred in the proposal; to understand the challenges and feasibility of assessing traceability of DSI and DSI based processes and products; to contribute in developing India's position on DSI in all forthcoming meetings including 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to submit a comprehensive report on DSI to guide the officers of MoEFCC / NBA / Others representing India in International deliberations.

During 2023-24, one meeting was conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 for developing India's position on DSI in the forthcoming meetings viz., the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (WGDSI-1) held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Geneva, Switzerland.

#### **4.7. 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 being a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 3497 approvals granted in the ABS CH platform generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances (IRCCs) till date. Out of 3497, 148 IRCCs have been generated during 2023-24.

#### **4.8 Deposition of microorganisms in other country's repository for claim of novel species for publication in journal:**

The Authority in its 37<sup>th</sup> 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 26 such intimations during the year 2023-2024 and the details of the same has been updated in the NBA website after ratifying by the Authority.





Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar

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

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 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 to apply in four different types of Forms, specified for each activity to the NBA and there are stipulated time lines for according approvals. It is to mention that the BD Act mandates to get approval from concerned authorities for accessing the biological resources which is aimed at ensuring sustainable use of the biological resources and conserving the same for the future generations.

### **5.1. Classification and status of ABS Applications:**

For obtaining the approval of NBA, Individuals and entities both Indian and non-Indian individual or entity are needed to file application as prescribed in the BD Rules and the same are being examined through an expert committee constituted for this purpose. The detailed information relating to different categories application is provided in Table 3.



*Table – 3 Category of ABS applications*

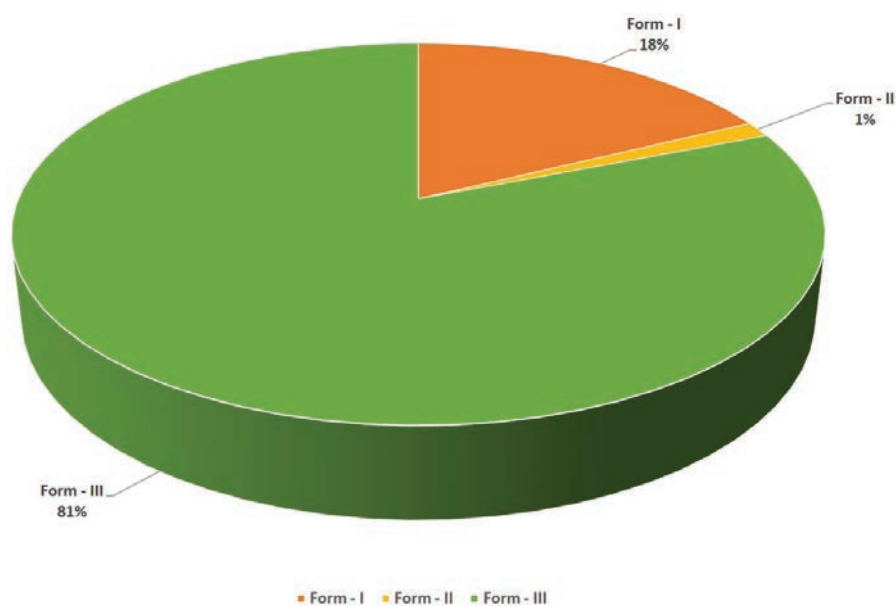
| Sections of the BD Act, 2002 | Form No. | Purpose of application                                                                                                                     | By whom                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 8209 applications from different stakeholders under Forms I, II, III, IV, and Form B (Table 4). During the reporting period, NBA has received 1285 applications (Figure 1), which were complete in all respects and were therefore taken up for processing.

*Table - 4 Number of ABS Applications Received by NBA\**

| Form     | Category                                                                                                                                                         | Applications received since 2004 |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Form I   | Access to biological resources and/ or associated traditional knowledge for research / commercial utilization                                                    | 1388                             |
| Form II  | Transferring results of research for monetary consideration or otherwise.                                                                                        | 104                              |
| Form III | Seeking no objection to obtain intellectual property rights                                                                                                      | 6347                             |
| Form IV  | Third Party transfer of accessed biological resources and/ or associated knowledge                                                                               | 100                              |
| Form B   | Conducting non-commercial research or research for emergency purpose outside India by Indian researchers/ government institutions using the biological resources | 270                              |
| Total    |                                                                                                                                                                  | 8209                             |

*\*Application received upto 31/03/2024*



*Figure 1. Receipt of Applications in different categories during the period 2023-24*

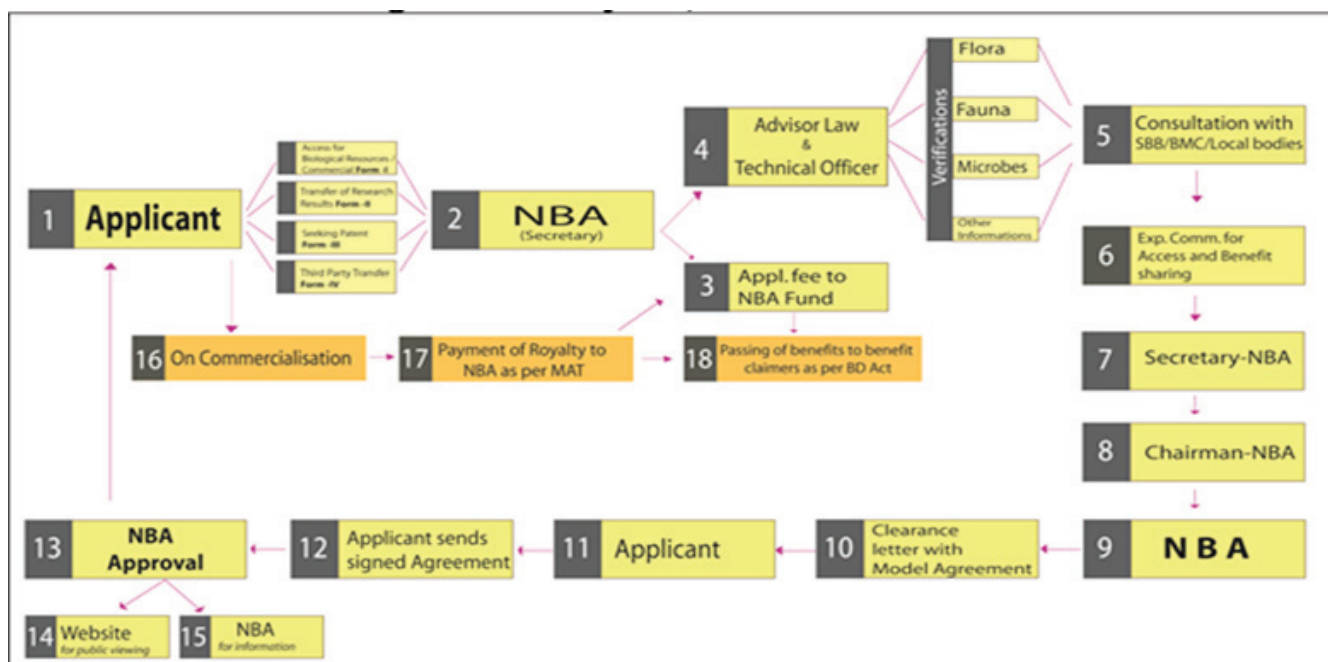
## 5.2. e-filing of ABS applications

NBA has developed an online portal "ABS e-filing system (<http://absefiling.nic.in>) for filing application to seek approval from the National Biodiversity Authority for the activities as envisaged in the Biological Diversity Act. The portal also provides facilities for online payment of application fee and access and benefit sharing components.

## 5.3. 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 expertise 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 is consisting of terms and conditions including the benefit sharing component obligations which will be determined based on the Guideline on ABS 2014. A schematic presentation of processing of ABS applications is shown Figure 2.





\* For details please go through Biological Diversity Act, 2002 & Rules, 2004

Figure 2. A schematic presentation of processing of ABS

During the reporting period, the NBA received 1285 applications which are complete in all respects and has taken it up for processing. The stages of processing of applications are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Stages of processing of ABS applications received during 2023-2024

| Details/ Forms                                                                               | Form I | Form II | Form III | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|----------|-------|
| Received                                                                                     | 126    | 5       | 1131     | 1262  |
| Cleared                                                                                      | 46     | 1       | 604      | 651   |
| Under Process                                                                                | 74     | 3       | 494      | 571   |
| Closure/Withdrawn                                                                            | 6      | 1       | 33       | 40    |
| Agreement Signed/ Approved                                                                   | 29     | 1       | 304      | 334   |
| Progress made on the applications received in the previous years during the reporting period |        |         |          |       |
| Cleared                                                                                      | 30     | 6       | 224      | 260   |
| Agreement Signed/ Approved                                                                   | 93     | 5       | 523      | 621   |
| Closure/Withdrawn                                                                            | 8      | 1       | 73       | 82    |

#### 5.4. Realization and distribution of benefit sharing amount to the benefit claimers

NBA has received a sum of about Rs. 221.14 crores as benefit sharing (BS) component till date, of which Rs. 18.35 crore has been received during the year 2023-2024.

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 95.51 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.

## 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. However, creation of private property rights through the grant of patent can lead to obstacle for future research. 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 has been closely working together for the past few years 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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and the 'Guidelines for processing of Patent applications relating to Traditional Knowledge and Biological Material' dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012 issued by the Office of the Controller General of Patent, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). Both these Guidelines and the Circular No: 1 of 2012 issued by CGPDTM 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 measures ensure that that patent for inventions based on biological resources obtained from India will not be granted without obtaining approval from NBA.



## Approvals granted by the Authority for Transfer 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 to third party. 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. Also, the NBA regulates Indian researchers / scientist for sending / carrying biological resources outside India to conduct non-commercial / basic research for emergency purpose as per Regulation 13 of the ABS guidelines 2014.

For these activities, the NBA receives applications from different stakeholders' viz., non-Indian individual or entity; Indian individual or entity which is examined by the Competent Authority or through an expert committee constituted for this purpose. The detailed information relating to application is provided in Table-6.

*Table-6: 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                                                                               | 100                              |
| 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 | 270                              |

During the reporting period, NBA has received 23 applications of Form IV (2) and Form B (21) from different stakeholders. The stages of processing of applications are shown in Table-7.



Table-7: Stages of processing of ABS applications of Form IV and Form B in 2023-24

| Details/ Forms                                                                               | Form IV | Form B | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Received                                                                                     | 2       | 21     | 23    |
| Cleared                                                                                      | 0       | 12     | 12    |
| Under Process                                                                                | 2       | 4      | 6     |
| Closure/Withdrawn                                                                            | 0       | 5      | 5     |
| Agreement Signed/ Approved                                                                   | 0       | 12     | 12    |
| 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     |



Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar



## Awareness relating to Intellectual Property Rights and Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Public Participation

### 8.1. Presentation on various meetings / seminars / conferences organized / attended and the results / achievements

- 1) Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA was the Guest of Honour in the inauguration of the “Dharmavana Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity & Climate Sciences” on 01<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Dr Rajat Kumar, IAS, Spl. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Telangana and Member Secretary, Telangana SBB also graced the occasion. The vision of the Centre is to be a global leader in biodiversity and climate sciences, driving research & innovation to create a sustainable future for all life on Earth
- 2) Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA delivered a talk as Chief Guest during Inaugural Session on the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act: Issues and Challenges to the Senior IFS Officers (1991 Batch) at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA,) Dehradun on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023. 36 Officers took part in the 2 Days workshop and also interacted with the Chairman NBA on Biodiversity Governance and the importance of Mission LiFE.



*Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.) Chairman, NBA along with senior IFS officers at the Inaugural Session on the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act: Issues and Challenges at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023*





*Workshop for senior IFS officers at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023*

- 3) Dr. B Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA visited EPTRI, Hyderabad on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and saw the herbal garden where 100+ medicinal plants are being maintained and seeds propagated for distributing to farmers. He visited the lab facilities and ENVIS centre and interacted with the scientists. He also took the LiFE Mission Pledge.



*Officials of EPTRI, Hyderabad explaining the importance of medicinal plants to Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA*



- 4) NBA organized a training and capacity building program to BMC members through EPTRI, Hyderabad and Telangana SBB on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Dr B Balaji IFS, Secretary, NBA inaugurated the program and emphasized the significance of BMCs roles and functions, documentation of PBR, conservation and sustainable use of biological resources etc. Around 50 members representing 14 districts of Telangana State participated in the event.



*Telangana BMC members who participated in the training and capacity building program along with Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA (Centre) at the EPTRI, Hyderabad*

- 5) Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA participated in a technical discussion convened on - Draft Legislation on Goa Tourism titled “ The Goa Tourism Promotion, Management & Regulation Bill, 2023” on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 at National Academy of Legal Studies & Research, Hyderabad.
- 6) MoEFCC organized a meeting of State Forest Officials on the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), where, Dr. B Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA made a presentation on Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at MoEFCC, New Delhi.
- 7) NBA in association with MSSRF organized a mega event on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 for creating awareness on Lifestyle for Environment (LIFE). Shri R Sakkarapani, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Protection and Price Control, Government of Tamil Nadu, Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA, Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chair of MSSRF, Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA and other senior officers participated in the inaugural function. Around 250 participants - Farmers, BMC members and college Students gathered in this event.
- 8) NBA and Haryana SBB jointly deployed a stall depicting different activities of NBA and SBB in the three-day mega exhibition ‘Saksham Haryana 2023’ at Hisar,



Haryana, organised by Friendz Exhibitions and Promotions Private Limited (FEP) during 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023. This mega exhibition was inaugurated by Shri. Anil Kumar Mani, Senior Deputy Mayor, Hisar, Haryana. Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar and Dr. M. Rajiv Gandhi, Young Professionals representing the NBA, along with staffs of Haryana SBB, enlightened school children and other visitors about NBA activities. Also, NBA and Haryana SBB jointly received the ‘BEST INTERACTIVE STALL AWARD,’ from Shri. Sanjeev Gangwa, son of Hon’ble Deputy Speaker Shri. Ranbir Gangwa, Govt. of Haryana, in the Closing Ceremony held at Maharaja Aggarsain Bhawan, Hisar, on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

- 9) Two meetings were organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 with the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and the Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) to discuss the plans for the State-level celebration of “International Day for Biodiversity” on 22<sup>nd</sup> May in conjunction with the celebration of “Mission LIFE” as well as the launch of Nationwide initiative of PBR updation cum verification with the help of Botany / Zoology / Biology students from University / Colleges.
- 10) As part of the national campaign on updating cum verification of PBRs launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, a training programme was conducted for all the SBBs and UTBCs on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to demonstrate the standard operating procedures (SOP) and techniques of using the Meri LIFE Web Portal. The format for PBR updating and verification was shared with the SBBs and UTBCs.
- 11) Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA delivered an Eminent Series Lecture on Biodiversity Finance – Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” at NIRDPR on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- 12) NBA in association with State Biodiversity Boards launched a National campaign on the updation cum verification of People’s Biodiversity Registers from 23<sup>rd</sup> May to 04<sup>th</sup> June 2023. As part of the campaign, more than 10465 PBRs were verified and updated with active participation of BMC members and College students across India.
- 13) NBA and BCIL organized a stakeholder interaction on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to discuss the implementation of the BD Act 2002 with Scientists / Researchers of various biotechnology institutions and entities who are using biological resources for their day to day activities. Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA inaugurated the webinar and Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA gave a detailed presentation on ABS mechanism in India. Nearly, 130 scientists participated online and interacted with the Chairman and Secretary, especially on access approval, Digital sequence information, collaborative research programs, transfer of microorganisms, results of research, etc.
- 14) NBA Officials participated in the meeting organized by Bureau of Indian Standards -Environmental Services Sectional Committee SSD 07 held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023, New Delhi India.
- 15) NBA organized a High-Level Technical Committee on cultivation of Red Oil Palm in A&N islands on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023, in connection with the Hon’ble Supreme Court order, under the chairmanship of Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.) through virtual mode. Dr. B. Balaji IFS, Secretary, NBA briefed the plan of action in the coming months to the Members. The committee discussed various aspects on this matter and decided a way forward.
- 16) Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA and Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA attended an International Conference on Mighty Millets for Food, Nutrition, and Health Security organized by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The Chairman, NBA and

Secretary, NBA visited various exhibition stalls including the stall of NBA. The Chairperson, NBA, along with Chairperson, PPVFRA and Chairperson, MSSRF felicitated Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy Fellows (farmers and others who have done exemplary work to promote millet cultivation, promotion of marketing etc.). During the conference, the Chairman, NBA emphasized about the need for market linkage for the promotion of millet cultivation, and also highlighted the activities under 'Mission LiFE'.



*The exhibition stall of the National Biodiversity Authority was visited by Officials*



*Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy Fellows with Chairperson, PPVFRA Chairperson, MSSRF and Chairperson, NBA (Left to Right)*



- 17) Dr. K. P. Raghuram, Technical Officer (BS), NBA delivered a talk on Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and India's step towards revision of NBSAP, to Life Science Educators of Telangana in the programme organised by EPTRI in association with Telangana SBB on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- 18) Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA participated in the Task Force of Nutra Sector on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 chaired by Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt. of India. Company representatives and Ministry of Commerce representatives, Ministry of Food Processing Industries also participated and discussed concerns such as regulatory compliance, PLI scheme, HSN code for Nutra products, policy initiatives. Secretary, NBA briefed the Chair and members about the recent amendments to the BD Act and its significance towards ease of doing business.
- 19) NBA participated in the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights organized by FAO, Rome through ITPGRFA and hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India through the PPVFRA at New Delhi from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023. As part of the symposium, an exhibition stall was set up by NBA to display knowledge materials and to interact with the participants from different States in India and delegates of participating countries.
- 20) NBA organised a One-day training programme to the officer trainees from Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023. They belonged to Karnataka and Rajasthan cadre. Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA inaugurated the session and emphasised the role of foresters in the field of biodiversity especially on conservation, sustainable use, economy of the country etc. Dr. K.P. Raghuram, Technical Officer, NBA gave a detailed presentation on "Biodiversity Governance with special reference to Access & Benefit Sharing" followed by presentations by Shri. K. Chitrarasu, Advisor Law on "Important Court decisions related to BD Act" and Dr. J. Soundrapandi, Project Officer, UNDP BIOFIN Project, NBA on "Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework & National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan of India".
- 21) The MoEFCC Regional Office, Chennai, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai jointly organized a One-day workshop on "Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act 2023 and Biodiversity Conservation" at NBA, Chennai on 29<sup>th</sup>



*Shri. P. Subramanayam, IFS, DDG (Forests), Regional Office, Chennai, addressing the gathering. On the Dias from Left to Right: Dr. B. Balaji, IFS Secretary, NBA, Shri. S. Sasikumar, IFS, DIG (Forests), Dr. Subramanian, Scientist, ZSI, and Dr. P. Pramod, Senior Principal Scientist, SACON, Coimbatore*

September 2023. Around 200 stakeholders like BMC members, Scientists of ZSI / BSI, CASFOS probationary officers, Member Secretary and officials of SBBs, Forest officers, NGO & media participated in the workshop through hybrid mode. The Chief Guest of the workshop was Dr. Sanjay Kumar Sukhla, IFS, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority. Shri. P. Subramanayam, IFS, DDG (Forests), Regional Office, Chennai welcomed the dignitaries and participants. Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey, IFS, IG (Forests), MoEFCC gave inputs on the details of the provisions of the Amendment Act. Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA enlightened the participants on “Biodiversity Conservation and Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act 2023” and Dr. P. Pramod, Senior Principal Scientist, SACON, Coimbatore gave a talk on “Biodiversity Conservation Outside Protected Area”. During the program the dignitaries interacted with the participants and responded to queries from BMC members, media, SBB officials etc. Shri. S. Sasikumar, IFS, DIG (Forests), Regional Office, Chennai proposed the vote of thanks.



*Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA addressing the gathering at the One-day workshop on “Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act 2023 and Biodiversity Conservation” at NBA, Chennai on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023*

- 22) NBA and Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun, Uttarakhand organized a one-day training program on “Biodiversity Conservation and Wise Use” to 46 conferred IFS officers from 12 States on 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2023. Prof. M. K. Ramesh, Former member of NBA, Shri J Justin Mohan, IFS, Former Secretary, NBA, and Dr. Pradip Sarmakodam, Member Secretary, Goa SBB delivered a talk on biodiversity conservation with special reference to implementation of Biological Diversity Act 2002.
- 23) Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA was the Guest of Honour during the release of Telangana State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030 on 05<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Dr. Rajat Kumar, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Govt. of Telangana released the plan. Senior officials from CIPS, UNDP and other departments participated in the event. Action plan covers- key factors of Kunming Montreal declaration on GBF, tools like Biodiversity Expenditure review of various departments used towards conservation of biodiversity, etc.
- 24) Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment, Forest and Climate change visited Mysuru on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to discuss the amendments made in Wildlife (Protection) Act, Forest (Conservation) Act and Biological Diversity Act under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble MP Shri. Jairam Ramesh alongwith 12 Hon’ble members at Lalithmahal Palace Hotel. Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA and Dr. Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC appeared



before the committee and briefed the amendments made in the Act and its benefits to different stakeholders, especially non-Indian entities status - aligning with companies Act, Registration to Indians for obtaining patents, strengthening SBBs / BMCs on ABS mechanism, decriminalization of the offences, etc. Shri C. P. Goyal, IFS, DG Forest & Spl. Secy, Govtof India, Ms. Supriya Sahu, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, PCCF (HoFF) of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, Member Secretary of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala and other senior officers were also present in the meeting.

- 25) Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA and Shri Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Round of negotiation on India-EU Trade and Sustainable Development Agreement thru virtual mode on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Shri Abhishek Dev, IAS, Chairman, APEDA, Ministry of Commerce facilitated the discussion. Secretary, NBA briefed the EU delegation about the stand of India on Article 7, i.e., ABS, Digital sequence information, compliance to Nagoya Protocol, user country measures, etc. The EU delegation was led by Mr Danie. Negotiations are still required on few Articles in the agreement.
- 26) Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA participated as a Panel expert in the National Dialogue on Threats of Invasive Insect Pests in India: Challenges & Way forward on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023. This program was organised by the ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru. Secretary, NBA highlighted the impact of Invasive species, recent findings from IPBES, CBD's Programme on IAS, relevant policies, gaps and eradication. Queries on accessing biological resources and sending outside India, commercialization were also addressed to the participants. There were about 40 participants from different institutions of ICAR.
- 27) India - Azerbaijan text based negotiations on the Inter-Governmental Commission for commercial, economic, scientific and technological cooperation was held on 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 through online. Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India facilitated the discussions with the delegates from Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA participated in the negotiation process. The text included tourism, health, infrastructure, business cooperation, non-binding clauses and Environment. Art 6 - Cooperation in the field of Environmental Protection.
- 28) Dr. K.P. Raghuram, Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing), NBA delivered a lecture to the State Forest Service officers belonging to 7 States, 2022-24 Batch on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023. A total of 69 officers participated through virtual mode. Importance of Biological Diversity Act, Rules, and Regulations were briefed. Also covered Kunming Montreal declaration on Global Biodiversity Framework, LiFE Mission, International Year of Millets, etc.
- 29) NBA organized a meeting with officers of Botanical Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, MoEFCC, e-PBR development team of NIC on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to discuss the master species data incorporation, validation of PBR, etc. under the chairmanship of Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA. Modalities were discussed with all concerned like providing data on certain formats, integration, curation, update, etc.
- 30) Awareness Program on Millets for School Students on Biodiversity, Nutraceutical and Health was organised on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 by Loyola Institute of Frontier Energy (LIFE), Loyola College in collaboration with NBA. The awareness program was inaugurated by Dr. Nalli Kuppuswami Chetty, Chairman, Nalli Silks, Dr. Boniface Jeyaraj, SJ, Secretary and Correspondent and Dr. A. Louis Arockiaraj SJ, Principal felicitated and Dr. M. Selvanayagam, Director, LIFE. Hand-outs

were released on Millets Health Benefits to create awareness among the school students. More than 200 students from 15 Chennai city higher secondary schools participated in the program.

- 31) Ecosystem Survey & Analysis vertical under NIRANTAR team met on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and discussed the way forward to the decision taken on the First Meeting of the Administrative Committee. The development of e-PBR was discussed with BSI and ZSI Directors and sought the master species database from them, modalities to go further also discussed.
- 32) CBD - DSMZ team from Germany interviewed Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA and Dr Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC on ABS INDICATOR related to Target 13 of Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Questions like ABS mechanism, sharing benefits with providers, digital solutions, supply chains, access to market, international collaborative research projects, technology transfer, non-monetary benefits were answered.
- 33) NBA organized a one-day training to a group of students from Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, as a part of their field visit on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Topics like Biological Diversity Act, ABS, dealing IP related matters, Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Legal matters and case studies with judgements, roles and responsibilities of BMC, PBR, BHS, LiFE Mission activities were covered in the program.
- 34) A meeting of the Administrative Committee of NIRANTAR programme was held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Leena Nandan, IAS, Secretary, MoEFCC. Shri C P Goel, IFS, DG & SS, Shri Tanmay Kumar, IAS, Addl. Secy, Shri Naresh Kumar Gangwar, IAS, Addl. Secy, and all institutional heads and officers participated in the programme and briefed the action taken on the decision of the previous meetings. Projects proposed by the ICFRE, WII, IIFM, BSI, ZSI, G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology were presented by Ms Surabhi Rai, IFS, DIGF, Member Convenor. Discussed the projects and suggested the way forward.
- 35) NBA in collaboration with MSSRF conducted training programme to class – II / III officers from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023 at MSSRF, Chennai. Three Days Capacity Building Program on Biodiversity Governance in India with special focus on BD Act 2002 & KMGBF to forest officials, scientists of ZSI and College lectures/ Professors. Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.) Chairman, NBA inaugurated the event in the presence of Shri Subrat Mohapatra, IFS, PCCF (HoFF), TN, Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, MSSRF, Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA and others.



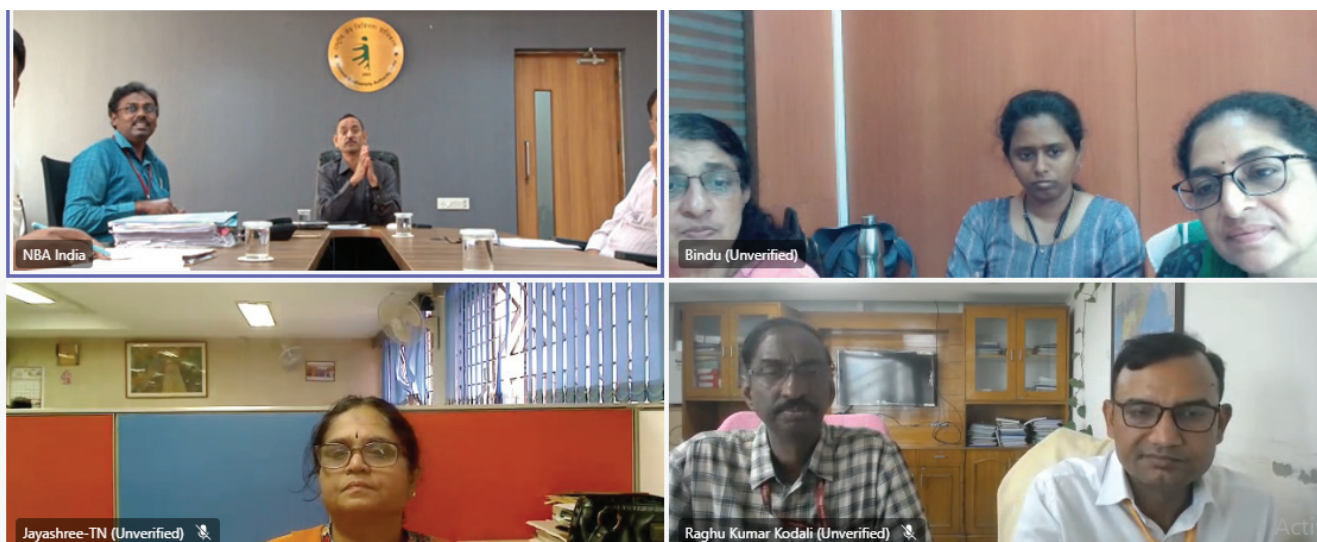
*Participants along with Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.) Chairman NBA, Shri Subrat Mohapatra, IFS, PCCF (HoFF), TN, Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, MSSRF, Dr. B Balaji, IFS, Secretary NBA at the Three Days Capacity Building Program on Biodiversity Governance in India with special focus on BD Act 2002 & KMGBF*



- 36) A Meeting was organised by MoEFCC on 09<sup>th</sup> January 2024, to discuss the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, which is a global platform for biodiversity database. Meeting was chaired by Ms. Anush Singh, Statistical Advisor, MoEFCC. Officers from WII, FSI, ICFRE, BSI, ZSI, IFGTB, WWF attended. Dr. Achuta Nand Shukla, MoEFCC and Dr. K.P. Raghuram, Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing), NBA briefed the NBA's e-PBR, eBird, NBIO 2012, recent data sharing policy to the participants. It was decided to form a committee to look after sharing datasets, meta data with foreign based database, also establishing mega servers in India.
- 37) A Committee on Red Sanders constituted by MoEFCC met at Indus Hall, MoEFCC to discuss protection, conservation and single window clearance of Red Sanders wood on 09<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Raghu Prasad, IFS., and attended by Inspector General of Forest and senior officers of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka Forest Department, WCCB and others. Dr. K.P. Raghuram, Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing), NBA made a presentation about the activities being carried out in NBA in the last seven years, including utilization of ABS and future plan of action.
- 38) NBA in association with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) organised a one-week training programme on "International Convention on Wetlands and Biodiversity" for Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers at NIRDPR, Hyderabad from 08<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, the Director-General, NIRDPR inaugurated the session and explained the role played by the NIRDPR as an apex capacity building organisation. Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairperson, NBA during his special address cited the issues faced by farmers in Maharashtra due to pre-mature flowering of bamboo while explaining the impact of lack of knowledge of Bio-economy. He further briefed the audience about the challenges faced in introducing the concept of ecotourism in Arunachal Pradesh and how it became a success. Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA during his opening remarks talked about the importance of conserving wetlands and also emphasised the role of foresters in the field of biodiversity especially on conservation, sustainable use, economy of the country etc. NBA also organized Yoga classes to IFS officers at Sports complex of NIRDPR, Hyderabad.
- 39) Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA and Dr. K.P. Raghuram, Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing), NBA attended an online meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 organised by the Dutch public-private organization Seed NL together with the Netherlands Embassy in New Delhi. A Fact-Finding Study was commissioned on the needs, challenges and opportunities in the Indian Seed sector. Dr. Malavika Dadlani, Former Joint Director (Res.), ICAR-IARI made a presentation on quality of seeds, innovation and technology, regulatory compliance etc. Nearly 25 participants from different companies and Govt. departments took part in the event.
- 40) A meeting was organised by ICFRE on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 under the NIRANTAR program to discuss the Integrated Portal under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Vinay Kumar, Director ICFRE. Dr. K.P. Raghuram, Tech. Officer (BS), NBA, Mr P. Anandhakumar, Tech. Asst.(B), and Ms. Ramya, Young professional, NBA, attended the meeting and informed the NBA's position and available dataset, publications and e-PBR. A request to form a WhatsApp group for effective communication was made. The Meeting was attended by representatives of ZSI, BSI, NCSCM, CPCB, IWST, IFGTB, and FSI, etc.
- 41) Dr B Balaji, IFS., Secretary, NBA took part in the negotiation of India-EU Free Trade Agreement and text on Article X-7 - Trade and Sustainable Development was discussed with EU Team Mr. Daniel and Mr Octavian on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Shri Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC, Shri R K Jagenia, IFS, MoEFCC also participated in the negotiations.

- 42) WII organized a meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with Dr Ian Owens, Dr Chris from Cornell University of USA. Director, WII, Ms Anush Singh, Statistical Advisor, MoEFCC and NBA officers and consultants participated in the meeting. The meeting was to discuss legal modalities in terms of BD Act and data policy. During the meeting, NBA informed that the access by user requires prior approval under the BD Act; as per Govt. norms, Indian eBird data copy to be in Indian server. The WII and Cornell University agreed to work on the above lines in the coming months.
- 43) NBA in collaboration with State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) participated in the exhibition conducted by Sheshido Communications "Panacea – 2024, the 11<sup>th</sup> Natural Products Expo-India (the International Trade Fair on Naturals & Organic Products in South Asia) from 29<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 at the World Trade Centre, Mumbai. This aligns with the goals set by the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to raise awareness and involve local communities in biodiversity conservation. To collectively showcase and promote the rich biodiversity and indigenous products of different states, NBA had taken proactive step, by booking five stalls at the Panacea – 2024. Each stall accommodated two State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), totalling to nine SBBs participated in the exhibitions are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tripura, Telangana and Uttarakhand.
- 44) NBA organized a virtual meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 with the NIC team (Kerala and Tamil Nadu), senior scientists from BSI / ZSI and MoEFCC officials to discuss the development of e-PBR application (BIOMIS Portal). Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA chaired the meeting. Shri. Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC and Dr. Achuta Nand Shukla, Scientist-E, MoEFCC also attended the meeting.



*Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA deliberating with officials of NIC team (Kerala and Tamil Nadu), senior scientists from BSI / ZSI and MoEFCC on the development of e-PBR application (BIOMIS Portal).*



- 45) NBA organized a training and capacity building program to Forest Range Officer Trainees (Batch 2023-25) belonging to Maharashtra State from Telangana Forest Academy, Hyderabad on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA gave welcome remarks and Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA gave special remarks in the meeting. Presentations about BD Act, IPR process, offence under the BD Act, KMGBF and updation of NBSAP were delivered to the officers.
- 46) Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority had an interaction with the officers of National Biodiversity Authority on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

## 8.2. Abroad visit by NBA officials to participate in conventions / meetings and the information shared during such visits

- 1) Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA participated in the conference and presented India's case study on BIOFIN implementation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Biodiversity Finance was held in Cape Town, South Africa on 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- 2) Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at Bonn, Germany on 28<sup>th</sup> Aug to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.
- 3) Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA participated in the CBD Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.



*Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA, India at the CBD Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo*

- 4) Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA participated in the plenary session on SBSTTA of CBD in the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting in Nairobi on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The meeting was about facilitating the implementation of Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and monitoring the progress, etc.



*Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA, along with Dr. Achuta Nand Shukla, MoEFCC, India at the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SBSTTA of CBD in Nairobi*

- 5) Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.), Chairman, NBA participated in the Bern-III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework being held by the United Nations Environment Programme at the Universal Postal Union during 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Bern, Switzerland.
- 6) Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA attended the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on the New Programme of Work and Institutional Arrangements on Article 8(J) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 at Manaus, Brazil.
- 7) Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA participated in the first meeting of the Ad-Hoc Open ended working group on benefit sharing from the use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources during 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at Geneva, Switzerland.
- 8) Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA participated in the Regional Dialogue on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans for South and East Asia organized by Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity during 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Tokyo, Japan.

### 8.3. Visits by foreign delegates to NBA

- 1) Ms. Sukanya Kumar, India Head, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), UK Government visited NBA, Chennai on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and had discussions with Chairman, NBA and Secretary, NBA on the potential partnership on Biodiversity Finance, which focuses on research in linking Biodiversity and Financing to address the top agendas on Biodiversity.
- 2) Dr. David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) visited NBA, Chennai on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and held discussions with Chairman, NBA and Secretary, NBA.

### 8.4. Celebration of International Day for Biological diversity (IDB)-2023

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board under the aegis of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change celebrated the **International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2023** at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. The theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity for



*Dignitaries in the National level celebration of IDB 2023*



2023 is “**From agreement to action: build back biodiversity**”. This is to promote the idea that an action plan agreed upon at a global level, must be implemented in all the measures that the agreement contemplates before 2030.

This celebration also witnessed the inauguration of a Biodiversity Exhibition with a special focus on Millets in conjunction with the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's independence and had also announced that 2023 will be celebrated as the International Year of Millets. In this regard, a grand exhibition on “Millets” was organized in collaboration with the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board and Department of Forests, Govt. of Maharashtra.



*Inauguration of the Millet Exhibition by the Hon'ble Union Minister, MoEFCC*

The Millet exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhopender Yadav at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. Among the other dignitaries on the occasion were Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey; Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ms. Leena Nandan; Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Shri C. Achalender Reddy; Principal Secretary Forest & Revenue, Sri B Venugopal Reddy; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and HoFF, Maharashtra, Shri. Y.L.P. Rao; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra, Shri. Shailesh G Tembhurnikar, Biodiversity Management Committee members and Senior officials from the Central / State government participated in the event. The International delegates attending G20 meeting at the Jio Convention Centre he also visited the Millet exhibition.

Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav in his inaugural address emphasised the importance of millets and its medicinal values and encouraged the promotion of millets that is suited to Indian climate and soil. He also highlighted the importance of drought resistant millets and its ability in preventing nutritional deficiency. Further he mentioned that Maharashtra is one of the States doing very well in the conservation of Biodiversity. It has formed 28,000 Biodiversity Management Committees. He also emphasized the importance of People Biodiversity Register in the conservation of biological diversity.



*Inaugural Address by Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Union Minister, MoEFCC*

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey emphasized the importance of biodiversity with



*Address by Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon'ble Minister of State, MoEFCC*



special reference to millets and its diversity across India and requested all to acknowledge the role of nature in daily life and protect it. He also stated “Our Nature, Our Culture, Our literature will give bright future”. The Forest Minister, Government of Maharashtra, Shri. Sudhir Mungantiwar also addressed the gathering through a video message.

Brochures on “Biodiversity Heritage Sites of India” and “Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures” were released by the dignitaries during the occasion.



*Release of brochures at the National level celebration of IDB 2023*

The exhibition showcased the works of various agencies, institutes and Government Departments such as institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural research (ICAR) namely Indian Institute of Millet Research, Forest Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board, Maharashtra Gene Bank Project, Maharashtra Bamboo Board, Botanical Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, Bombay Natural History Society, Deccan Development Society and others. Various public and private organizations involved in promotion of Millets took part in the exhibition and around 300 participants attended the main event besides several others who later visited the exhibition area.

On the occasion, Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav flagged off an awareness vehicle dedicated to showcase the rich coastal and marine biodiversity along the coastal districts of Maharashtra developed by the Mangrove Cell, Forest Department of Maharashtra.



*Chairman, NBA addressing the gathering*



*Dignitaries at the venue*





*Hon'ble Union Minister, MoEFCC visiting the stalls in the Millet Exhibition*



*The knowledge products being exhibited*



## 8.6. National Campaign on Updation cum Verification of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) - 23<sup>rd</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023

As part of IDB 2023 celebration, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India and National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in association with the Govt. of Goa & the Goa State Biodiversity Board hosted the flag off ceremony for the "National campaign on updation cum verification of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)" on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at Neura Village, Tiswadi District, Goa. Hon'ble CM of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant and the Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey jointly launched the campaign.



*Dignitaries launching the National campaign on updation cum verification of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)*

On the occasion of the UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP26), India introduced the "Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment)" to engage individuals in addressing various environmental challenges. The nationwide campaign on PBRs was launched in conjunction with Mission LiFE from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 to 04<sup>th</sup> June 2023 across the country. The campaign involved large scale participation of youth, especially the students and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in the States and Union Territories (UTs).

Prior to the launch of the campaign, two meetings were held by NBA with all the SBBs and UTBCs on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 to explain the mode of activities, schedule and plan of event. The States and UTs were assigned a specific target number of PBRs to undertake the exercise of updation and field verification by the undergraduate or post graduate students



from the discipline of life sciences. A standard operating procedure (SOP) and format for collecting field data were shared with the States and UTs. A total number of 10,611 PBRs were allotted proportionally to different SBBs and UTBCs keeping in view of the respective number of PBRs prepared in each of the State / UT. A training was held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 with the representative officials of SBBs / UTBCs demonstrating the techniques of electronic submission including the details about web portal, “Meri LiFE” designated for this purpose and procedure of uploading of relevant activity details and photo-evidence. The SBBs and UTBCs were advised to upload five photographic evidence of the activity and 3 short videos (duration of 45 seconds each) on the website (mandatory) about the field visit of participating student to each BMC for updation & verification of PBR. A soft version of the customized banner was sent to SBBs / UTBCs for use and display during the exercise.

NBA extended financial support to 13 SBBs and 3 UTBCs. Rest of the SBBs and UTBCs were authorized to make use of ABS funds, where beneficiaries are unidentifiable. A total of 25 SBBs and 5 UTBCs have successfully completed the exercise of updation and verification of assigned number of PBRs. A total of 11,921 PBRs have been updated and verified by the SBBs / UTBCs.



*BMC updating the PBRs in the event of National campaign on updation cum verification of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)*

### **8.7. “Panacea – 2024, the 11th Natural Products Expo-India”**

In collaboration with State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), NBA participated in the exhibition conducted by Sheshido Communications “Panacea – 2024, the 11th Natural Products Expo-India” (the International Trade Fair on Naturals & Organic Products in South Asia) from



29<sup>th</sup> February to 2nd March 2024 at the World Trade Centre, Mumbai. This collaboration demonstrated a collective approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management, providing an excellent opportunity to showcase natural bioresources and engage with professionals and exhibitors from various fields related to natural products and industries. This aligns well with the goals set by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to raise awareness and involve local communities in biodiversity conservation.

NBA has taken a proactive step by booking five stalls at the Panacea – 2024, the 11<sup>th</sup> Natural Products Expo-India. Each stall accommodated two State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), totalling nine SBBs viz., Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tripura, Telangana and Uttarakhand participated in the exhibition.



*Collage of the events at the Panacea – 2024, the 11<sup>th</sup> Natural Products Expo-India*

To ensure the active and effective participation of each state in the exhibition, NBA had extended financial support of Rs.75,000/- to each 9 SBBs (as above). SBBs have showcased their innovative approach to biodiversity conservation through livelihood



intervention and a diverse range of value added products derived from rich biodiversity. Visitors have appreciated the quality and uniqueness of the products displayed in stalls by SBBs and also commended the commitment towards sustainability.

The Panacea Natural Products Expo-India served as a crucial platform for networking, sharing knowledge, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders in the natural products industry. It is emphasized that continuing to promote and participate in such initiatives is essential to advance the goals outlined in international biodiversity frameworks and contribute to the overall well-being of ecosystems and communities. In appreciation of the active participation of NBA / SBBs, the organizing Committee felicitated NBA with a Memento.



Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar

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

### 9.1. Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

So far, forty-seven (47) Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) have been notified by seventeen states in the country. During the period under report, the States of West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh have notified six numbers of BHS. The list of the BHS notified in 2023-24 are as follows:

*Table 8: List of Biodiversity Heritage Sites notified in 2023-24*

| No. | State       | Name ( Area)                | Notification                                        |
|-----|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | West Bengal | Haldir Char Island          | 909-EN/T-II-7/003-ii/2003,<br>16-05-2023            |
| 2   |             | Birampur-BaguranJalpai      |                                                     |
| 3   | Sikkim      | Tungkyong Dho (Lake)        | 18/GOS/F&ED/SECY,<br>02-06-2023                     |
| 4   | Odisha      | Gupteswar Forest            | FE-ENV1-<br>ENV-0011-2023-2488/FE&CC,<br>09-02-2024 |
| 5   | Arunachal   | Layago                      | SFRI/APBB/31/2016/922,<br>29-02-2024                |
| 6   | Pradesh     | Thungeey Gonpu (KamchoYaam) |                                                     |

### 9.2 Notifications of threatened species 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 viz., 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 Daman islands respectively have notified threatened species u/s 38 of the BD Act, enlisting a total of 159 Plants and 175 Animal species.



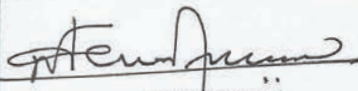
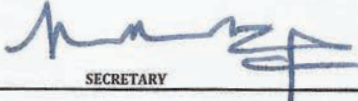
*Table 9: List of States and Union Territories that have notified threatened species under section 38 of the BD Act.*

| Sl.No. | Notification/<br>Order                | Date<br>of<br>Notification | Reference     | Plants     | Animals    |
|--------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| 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<br>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          |
|        | <b>Total</b>                          |                            |               | <b>159</b> | <b>175</b> |
|        | <b>Grand Total (Plants + Animals)</b> |                            |               |            | <b>334</b> |

## Finance and Accounts

| <b>NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY</b><br><b>TARAMANI, CHENNAI - 600 113</b><br><b>Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024</b><br><b>(Amount in Rs.)</b> |                         |                          |                                                                              |                         |                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Receipts                                                                                                                                                                                      | Current Year<br>2023-24 | Previous Year<br>2022-23 | Payments                                                                     | Current Year<br>2023-24 | Previous Year<br>2022-23 |
| <b>I. Opening Balances:-</b>                                                                                                                                                                  |                         |                          | <b>I. Expenditures:-</b>                                                     |                         |                          |
| <b>A) NBA Account</b>                                                                                                                                                                         |                         |                          | <b>A) Establishment Expenses</b>                                             |                         |                          |
| i) Cash in hand                                                                                                                                                                               | 40,000                  | 40,000                   | i) Previous year O/s Rs.1733968                                              | 2,66,17,932             | 2,45,46,481              |
| ii) Stamp                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1,149                   | 1,868                    | ii) Current Year Exps Rs.24783964                                            |                         |                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | iii) Current Asset Rs.100000                                                 |                         |                          |
| <b>iii) Bank Balances:-</b>                                                                                                                                                                   |                         |                          |                                                                              |                         |                          |
| NBA General A/c                                                                                                                                                                               | 45,69,844               | 1,19,74,634              | <b>B) Administrative Expenses</b>                                            |                         |                          |
| NBA Salary A/c                                                                                                                                                                                | 1,03,02,638             | 48,43,917                | i) Previous year O/s Rs.15,76,706                                            |                         |                          |
| NBA SC SP A/c                                                                                                                                                                                 | 72                      | 57,280                   | ii) Current Year Exps Rs.8,46,04,142                                         | 8,65,61,197             | 8,46,74,641              |
| NBA SC STP A/c                                                                                                                                                                                | 8                       | 6,160                    | iii) Current Asset Rs. 2,94,768                                              |                         |                          |
| NBA Capital A/c                                                                                                                                                                               | 56,850                  | 1,22,74,528              | iv) Security Deposit Rs. 85,581                                              |                         |                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | v) Stamp Purchased                                                           | 2,711                   | 5,286                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | vi) Stamp Consumed out of opening                                            | 311                     | 719                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | vii) Funding for awareness programs                                          | 12,60,278               | 3,37,500                 |
| <b>B) NBF Account</b>                                                                                                                                                                         |                         |                          |                                                                              |                         |                          |
| i) Bank Balances(SB A/c & Current A/c)                                                                                                                                                        | 1,63,37,76,535          | 1,18,53,61,540           | <b>C) Fixed Assets</b>                                                       | 15,99,866               | 9,112                    |
| ii) Fixed Deposit A/c                                                                                                                                                                         | 5,21,79,155             | 20,85,000                | <b>D) NBA Capital A/c</b>                                                    | 12,300                  | 11955546                 |
| <b>C) NBA Fund Admin A/c</b>                                                                                                                                                                  | 1,09,24,172             | 1,00,468                 | i) Fixed Asset Rs.9300                                                       |                         |                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | ii) Inventories Rs.3000                                                      |                         |                          |
| <b>D) Projects</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |                         |                          | <b>E) Strengthening of SBBs</b>                                              | 4,01,16,429             | 3,48,81,306              |
| i) NBA Asean Project A/c                                                                                                                                                                      | 43,058                  | 41,793                   | <b>F) Constitution of BMCs &amp; PBRs</b>                                    | 50,39,888               | 99,60,000                |
| ii) GEF Bank A/c                                                                                                                                                                              | 95,20,826               | 92,68,044                | <b>G) Special Compound for SC-SP</b>                                         | -                       | 47,500                   |
| iii) Fixed Deposit ( GEF)                                                                                                                                                                     | 74,18,643               | -                        | <b>H) Special Compound for TSP</b>                                           | -                       | 5,000                    |
| <b>II. Grants:-</b>                                                                                                                                                                           |                         |                          | ii) Refund of interest earend on GIA                                         | 14,49,819               | 44,37,154                |
| <b>Grant Received from (MoEF &amp; CC)</b>                                                                                                                                                    | 15,19,85,000            | 15,50,00,000             | <b>A) Interest</b>                                                           |                         |                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | i) Authority General Rs.412263                                               |                         |                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | ii) Interest refund SBB's Rs. 889034                                         |                         |                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | iii) Authority Salary Rs.103678                                              |                         |                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | iv) Capital A/c Rs.44446                                                     |                         |                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | v) Interest on Advance Rs. 398                                               | -                       | 276                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | <b>B) Sale of Assets/Newspaper</b>                                           | 1,75,738                | -                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | <b>C) Refund of interest earend on GIA to Govt. Capital A/c current year</b> | -                       | 2,44,976                 |
| <b>III. Income on Investments</b>                                                                                                                                                             |                         |                          | <b>III. Other Payments</b>                                                   |                         |                          |
| a) Earmarked / Endowment Funds                                                                                                                                                                |                         |                          | Deposits/E.M.D.repaid                                                        | 1,27,000                | 30,000                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | Expenditure incurred from App.fees                                           | 26,551                  | 48,359                   |
| <b>IV. Interest received</b>                                                                                                                                                                  |                         |                          | <b>IV. Project A/c</b>                                                       |                         |                          |
| <b>A) NBA A/c</b>                                                                                                                                                                             | 4,72,191                | 8,05,443                 | i) GEF NBSAP Expenditure                                                     | 1,31,20,828             | -                        |
| i) Authority General Rs.290081                                                                                                                                                                |                         |                          |                                                                              |                         |                          |
| ii) Authority Salary Rs.181713                                                                                                                                                                |                         |                          |                                                                              |                         |                          |
| iii) Capital A/c Rs.397                                                                                                                                                                       |                         |                          |                                                                              |                         |                          |
| iv) Intrerest on Advances                                                                                                                                                                     | 352                     | 398                      |                                                                              |                         |                          |
| <b>B) Interest refunded by SBB's</b>                                                                                                                                                          | 8,05,759                | 8,89,034                 |                                                                              |                         |                          |
| <b>C) NBA Fund A/c</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |                         |                          |                                                                              |                         |                          |
| i) Fund A/c Savings bank Interest                                                                                                                                                             | 98,766                  | 1,18,326                 |                                                                              |                         |                          |
| ii) NBA Sweep A/c interest                                                                                                                                                                    | 9,36,47,633             | 4,03,93,447              |                                                                              |                         |                          |
| iii) Fixed Depoist A/c Interest received/Reinvested- (Fund)                                                                                                                                   | 35,97,395               | 94,155                   |                                                                              |                         |                          |



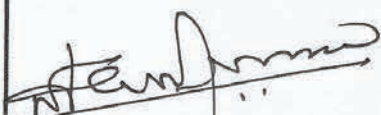
| Receipts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Current Year<br>2023-24 | Previous Year<br>2022-23 | Payments                                                                  | Current Year<br>2023-24 | Previous Year<br>2022-23 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| D) Fixed deposit during the year-<br>GEF (NIC payable)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | -                       | 71,75,657                |                                                                           |                         |                          |
| E) Fixed deposit Interest during<br>the year- GEF(NIC payable)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -                       | 2,42,986                 |                                                                           |                         |                          |
| <b>V. Income to NBF A/c</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                         |                          | <b>V) NBA Fund A/c</b>                                                    |                         |                          |
| a) Application fee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 19,18,677               | 15,84,011                | a) Benefit Sharing the Payment to<br>Stakeholders under Red Sanders (ABS) | 95,51,415               | 23,46,198                |
| b) ABS Upfront payment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 13,20,01,558            | 38,97,30,903             | b) Benefit Sharing the Payment to<br>Stakeholders under Other then Red    | -                       | 3,90,89,747              |
| c) Benefit Sharing (Red Sanders)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 5,15,02,567             | 10,86,40,033             | c) Unclassified now classified                                            | -                       | 6,14,590                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                         |                          | d) Bank Charges                                                           | 2,869                   | 1,189                    |
| <b>VI. Other Income</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                         |                          | <b>VI) NBF Admin A/c</b>                                                  |                         |                          |
| i) Sale of Assets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | -                       | 1,69,688                 | a) Funding to SBB's                                                       | 32,15,000               | -                        |
| ii) RTI filing fee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1,456                   | 282                      | b) Expenses of Expert Committee                                           | 14,07,880               | -                        |
| <b>VII. Income NBF Admin A/c</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                         |                          | <b>VII. Closing Balances</b>                                              |                         |                          |
| NBF Admin (ABS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | -                       | 1,07,84,896              | a) Cash in hand                                                           | 40,000                  | 40,000                   |
| Interest on NBF Admin A/c                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 2,42,879                | 38,808                   | b) Stamps in Hand                                                         | 838                     | 1,149                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                         |                          | <b>c) Bank Balances ( NBA - FUND)</b>                                     |                         |                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                         |                          | i) NBA Fund A/c (Savings)                                                 | 1,90,33,91,452          | 1,63,37,76,535           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                         |                          | ii) In Fixed Deposit (Fund) A/c                                           | 5,57,76,550             | 5,21,79,155              |
| <b>VIII. Other Receipts:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                          | <b>d) Bank Balances(NBA A/c)</b>                                          |                         |                          |
| i) Earnest Money / Security /<br>Deposit / Ret.Money recd.from<br>Contractors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 3,15,000                | 44,583                   | i) NBA General A/c                                                        | 19,75,084               | 45,69,844                |
| ii) Application fee for Interns<br>recruitment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2,15,097                | 38,701                   | ii) NBA Salary A/c                                                        | 37,62,419               | 1,03,02,638              |
| iii) Sale of Newspaper                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 3,525                   | 7,900                    | iii) NBA SC SP A/c                                                        | 72                      | 72                       |
| iv) Miscellaneous                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                       | -                        | iv) NBA SC ST A/c                                                         | 8                       | 8                        |
| <b>IX Project Account</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                         |                          | v) NBA Capital A/c                                                        | 501                     | 56,850                   |
| GEF NBSAP A/c                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 46,90,482               | 2,52,782                 | vi) NBF Admn A/c                                                          | 65,44,171               | 1,09,24,172              |
| NBA Asean Project A/c-Interest                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 1,302                   | 1,265                    | vii) GEF NBSAP A/c                                                        | 10,90,480               | 95,20,826                |
| Fixed Deposit ( GEF)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 2,17,714                | -                        | viii) Asean Project A/c                                                   | 44,360                  | 43,058                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                         |                          | ix) Fixed Deposit (GEF)                                                   | 76,36,357               | 74,18,643                |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>2,17,05,50,304</b>   | <b>1,94,20,68,530</b>    | <b>Total</b>                                                              | <b>2,17,05,50,304</b>   | <b>1,94,20,68,530</b>    |
| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <br/> <b>ACCOUNTS OFFICER</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <br/> <b>SECRETARY</b> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <br/> <b>CHAIRMAN</b> </div> </div> |                         |                          |                                                                           |                         |                          |



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

**Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024**

| <b>INCOME</b>                                                                                            | <b>Sch. No.</b> | <b>Current Year<br/>2023-24</b> | <b>Previous Year<br/>2022-23</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Income from Sales / Services                                                                             | 12              | -                               | -                                |
| <b>Grants/ Subsidies:</b>                                                                                |                 |                                 |                                  |
| Grants received as per (Sch.No.13) 15,19,85,000                                                          | 13              | 16,44,77,898                    | 17,89,97,330                     |
| Un utilized Grants for 2023-24(Sch.No.13) 1,28,32,730                                                    |                 |                                 |                                  |
| <b>Total (Sch.No.13) 16,48,17,730</b>                                                                    |                 |                                 |                                  |
| <b>Less: Capitalization of Fixed Assets during the year<br/>2023-24 16,11,752</b>                        |                 |                                 |                                  |
| <b>Add: Interest payable to govt.<br/>(Schedule 17) 12,71,920</b>                                        |                 |                                 |                                  |
| <b>Net Income from Grants 16,44,77,898</b>                                                               |                 |                                 |                                  |
| Fees / Subscription                                                                                      | 14              | -                               | -                                |
| Income from Investments (Income on Investments from<br>Earmarked / Endowment Funds transferred to Funds) | 15              | -                               | -                                |
| Income from Royalty, Publication etc.                                                                    | 16              | -                               | -                                |
| Interest Earned                                                                                          | 17              | -                               | -                                |
| Other Income                                                                                             | 18              | 2,20,079                        | 2,16,473                         |
| Increase / (decrease) in stock of Finished goods and works<br>in-progress                                | 19              | -                               | -                                |
| Audit Fee excess Pro provided 2020-21                                                                    |                 | -                               | 81,970                           |
| Income receivable from Govt.Gratuity & leave salary                                                      |                 | 24,37,444                       | 3,73,516                         |
| <b>TOTAL (A)</b>                                                                                         |                 | <b>16,71,35,421</b>             | <b>17,96,69,289</b>              |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                                                                                       |                 |                                 |                                  |
| Establishment Expenses                                                                                   | 20              | 2,99,76,151                     | 2,68,63,543                      |
| Other Administrative Expenses etc.                                                                       | 21              | 9,21,42,855                     | 8,47,79,966                      |
| Expenditure on Grants, Subsidies etc.                                                                    | 22              | 4,51,56,317                     | 4,48,41,306                      |
| Interest                                                                                                 | 23              | -                               | -                                |
| Depreciation as per Schedule 8                                                                           |                 | 11,99,542                       | 13,75,158                        |
| Accumulated Depreciation created during 2019-20 written<br>off to the extend                             |                 | -                               | 11,91,195                        |
| Capital Grant refunded to MoEF & CC                                                                      |                 | -                               | 1,00,00,000                      |
| Application Fees amount returned                                                                         |                 | 26,551                          | 48,359                           |
| Unspent Grant refunded to Govt SCSP                                                                      |                 | -                               | 52,500                           |
| Payable to Government: Un-Utilized Grant                                                                 |                 | 36,07,025                       | 1,28,32,731                      |
| Interest/sale of assets payable to Government                                                            |                 | 12,71,920                       | 16,20,390                        |
| <b>TOTAL (B)</b>                                                                                         |                 | <b>17,33,80,361</b>             | <b>18,36,05,148</b>              |
| <b>Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure<br/>(A-B)</b>                                         |                 | <b>-62,44,940</b>               | <b>-39,35,859</b>                |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES</b>                                                                   | <b>24</b>       |                                 |                                  |
| <b>CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS</b>                                                      | <b>25</b>       |                                 |                                  |

  
**ACCOUNTS OFFICER**

  
**SECRETARY**

  
**CHAIRMAN**

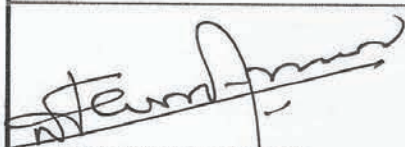




**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY  
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113**

**Balance Sheet for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024**

| <b><u>CORPUS / CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES</u></b> | <b>Sch. No.</b> | <b>Current Year<br/>2023-24</b> | <b>Previous Year<br/>2022-23</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CAPITAL FUND                                        | 1               | -10,93,541                      | 35,39,647                        |
| RESERVES AND SURPLUS                                | 2               | 0                               | 0                                |
| NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FUND                          | 3 A             | 194,25,18,891                   | 165,49,59,019                    |
| NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FUND ADMIN                    | 3 B             | 8,46,75,173                     | 7,98,81,765                      |
| SECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS                        | 4               | 0                               | 0                                |
| UNSECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS                      | 5               | 0                               | 0                                |
| DEFERRED CREDIT LIABILITIES                         | 6               | 0                               | 0                                |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS                  | 7               | 3,88,51,481                     | 3,94,57,289                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                        |                 | <b>206,49,52,004</b>            | <b>177,78,37,720</b>             |
| <b><u>ASSETS</u></b>                                |                 |                                 |                                  |
| FIXED ASSETS                                        | 8               | 49,48,609                       | 45,36,399                        |
| Advance payment for Building                        |                 | 0                               | 0                                |
| NICSI total value of work Rs.4028461                |                 |                                 | 0                                |
| Less: Finised Phase I Application Rs.2028366        |                 |                                 | 0                                |
| Less: Work-in-Progress Rs. 199152                   |                 |                                 | 0                                |
| <b>Finished Goods Rs. 1800943</b>                   |                 |                                 | 0                                |
| INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED/ ENDOW MENT FUNDS        | 9               | 0                               | 0                                |
| INVESTMENTS - OTHERS                                | 10              | 0                               | 0                                |
| CURRENT ASSETS,LOANS,ADVANCES ETC.                  | 11              | 206,00,03,395                   | 177,33,01,321                    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                        |                 | <b>206,49,52,004</b>            | <b>177,78,37,720</b>             |
| SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES                     | 24              |                                 |                                  |
| CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS        | 25              |                                 |                                  |

  
**ACCOUNTS OFFICER**

  
**SECRETARY**

  
**CHAIRMAN**



## Annual Plan for the Year 2024-25

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 2024-25 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:

- i. Framing the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules and relevant Guidelines in accordance with the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023.
- ii. Guidelines for declaring BHS and its management
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.).
- v. Digitalize PBRs to develop a uniform format for compiling data documented by SBBs.
- vi. 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.
- vii. 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.
- viii. 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.
- ix. Hold outreach programs through media, print, conduct capacity building and training programs for effective implementation of the BD (Amendment) Act 2023 for diverse stakeholders.
- x. 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.
- xi. 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.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. Holding appropriate and regular expert committee meetings to deliberate on subject matters and Authority meetings for decision-making.
- xiv. Implement real-time processing of ABS applications at NBA Secretariat in association with NIC.



- xv. Implement the decisions suggested in the report on Red Sanders that has been adopted by the Authority.
- xvi. 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.
- xvii. 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.



Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar



## Other Important Activities of 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 Section is responsible for dealing with litigation by or against the National Biodiversity Authority / Ministry of Environment, Forests and 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.

Litigations currently being pursued by or against National Biodiversity Authority

*Table 10: List of Pending cases in NBA before various courts / tribunals:*

| Sl. No | Court                            | Case Number                                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | Supreme Court of India           | SLP(CrI). No.539 of 2014<br>renumbered CrI App. 1720 of 2015 |
| 2      | Supreme Court of India           | SLP(CrI). No.629 of 2014<br>renumbered CrI. App.1721 of 2015 |
| 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           | CA No. 3568 -3569 of 2020                                    |
| 7      | Supreme Court of India           | SLP C No. 000544-/2021; Diary No. 334/2021                   |
| 8      | Supreme Court of India           | CA No. 5599-5601 /2023                                       |
| 9      | High Court of Delhi              | W.P. No. 7505 of 2022                                        |
| 10     | High Court of Bombay             | W.P. No. 3590 of 2018                                        |
| 11     | High Court of Bombay             | W.P. No. 129 of 2020                                         |
| 12     | High Court of Bombay, Nagpur     | W.P. No.6360 of 2015                                         |
| 13     | High Court of Bombay, Aurangabad | PIL No. 63 of 2021                                           |
| 14     | High Court of Bombay, Nagpur     | Suo Motu PIL No. 2/2021                                      |
| 15     | High Court of Assam, Guwahati    | PIL No. 30 of 2020                                           |



| Sl. No | Court                                        | Case Number                           |
|--------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 16     | High Court of Uttarakhand                    | WP(MS) No. 41/2022                    |
| 17     | High Court of Gujarat, Ahmedabad             | SCA 6176 No. of 2021                  |
| 18     | High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur Bench | W.P No. 8880 of 2019                  |
| 19     | High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur Bench | W.P No. 6968 of 2017; OA. No. 31/2017 |
| 20     | High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Indore Bench   | W.P. No. 6466 of 2020                 |
| 21     | High Court of Telangana                      | W.P. No. 23452 of 2018                |
| 22     | High Court of Telangana                      | W.P. No. 28517 of 2021                |
| 23     | High Court of Telangana                      | W.P.(PIL) No. 181 of 2020             |
| 24     | High Court of Andhra Pradesh                 | C.C. No. 3306 OF 2018                 |
| 25     | High Court of Andhra Pradesh                 | W.P. No. 19953 of 2023                |
| 26     | High Court of Andhra Pradesh                 | W.P. No. 889 of 2024                  |
| 27     | High Court of Karnataka Bench, Dharwad       | Crl. P. No. 100616 of 2014            |
| 28     | High Court of Karnataka Bench, Dharwad       | Crl. P. No.100618 of 2014             |
| 29     | High Court of Karnataka Bench, Dharwad       | W.P. No.102213 of 2022                |
| 30     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 41532 of 2012                |
| 31     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 5546 of 2019                 |
| 32     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 14733 of 2020                |
| 33     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 8579 of 2021                 |
| 34     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 17459 of 2022                |
| 35     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 17421 of 2022                |
| 36     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 17427 of 2022                |
| 37     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 17271 of 2022                |
| 38     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 17348 of 2022                |
| 39     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 17234 of 2022                |
| 40     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 20728 of 2022                |
| 41     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 21795 of 2022                |
| 42     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 18400 of 2022                |
| 43     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 22235 of 2022                |
| 44     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 22117 of 2022                |
| 45     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 22111 of 2022                |
| 46     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 22275 of 2022                |
| 47     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 22118 of 2022                |
| 48     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 21862 of 2022                |
| 49     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 21785 of 2022                |
| 50     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 21778 of 2022                |
| 51     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 22080 of 2022                |
| 52     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 11450 of 2022                |
| 53     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 18480 of 2023                |
| 54     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru           | W.P. No. 18746 of 2023                |

| Sl. No | Court                                   | Case Number                      |
|--------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 55     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru      | W.P. No. 18127 of 2023           |
| 56     | High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru      | W.P. No. 18209 of 2023           |
| 57     | High Court of Kerala                    | W.P (Civil) No. 41622 of 2018    |
| 58     | High Court of Kerala                    | W.P (Civil) No. 41903 of 2018    |
| 59     | High Court of Kerala                    | W.P (Civil) No. 41976 of 2018    |
| 60     | High Court of Kerala                    | W.P (Civil) No. 42017 of 2018    |
| 61     | High Court of Kerala                    | W.P. (Civil) No.33501 of 2019    |
| 62     | High Court of Kerala                    | W.P. (Civil) NO. 21048 of 2020   |
| 63     | High Court of Kerala                    | W.P. No. 19290 of 2023           |
| 64     | High Court of Kerala                    | W.P. No. 779 of 2024             |
| 65     | High Court of Madras bench, Madurai     | W.P(MD) No. 6608 of 2021         |
| 66     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 24688 of 2021           |
| 67     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 24698 of 2021           |
| 68     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 24696 of 2021           |
| 69     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 24694 of 2021           |
| 70     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 24693 of 2021           |
| 71     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 24691 of 2021           |
| 72     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 24688 of 2021           |
| 73     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 26977 of 2021           |
| 74     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 26969 of 2021           |
| 75     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 26965 of 2021           |
| 76     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 26962 of 2021           |
| 77     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 26957 of 2021           |
| 78     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 26956 of 2021           |
| 79     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 26953 of 2021           |
| 80     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 26948 of 2021           |
| 81     | High Court of Madras                    | W.P. No. 26944 of 2021           |
| 82     | National Green Tribunal, Chennai        | Application No. 162 of 2023 (SZ) |
| 83     | Principal Civil Judge J.M.F.C., Dharwad | C.C. No. 579 of 2012             |

*Table 11: List of Disposed cases:*

| Sl. No | Court                            | Case Number                        |
|--------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.     | National Green Tribunal, Kolkata | O.A. No. 64 of 2020                |
| 2.     | National Green Tribunal, Chennai | Appeal No. 61 to 63 of 2021        |
| 3.     | Supreme Court of India           | Civil Appeal No. 5826-5827 of 2019 |
| 4.     | High Court of Himachal Pradesh   | CWP . No. 3684 of 2023             |
| 5.     | High Court of Madras             | W.P. No. 30611 of 2023             |
| 6.     | High Court of Madras             | W.P. No. 30632 of 2023             |
| 7.     | High Court of Guwahati           | PIL No. 62 of 2023                 |
| 8.     | High Court of Delhi              | W.P. (C) IPD No. 26 of 2023        |



| Sl. No | Court                              | Case Number                   |
|--------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9.     | National Green Tribunal, Chennai   | Appeal No. 54 of 2022(SZ)     |
| 10.    | National Green Tribunal, New Delhi | OA No. 51 of 2024             |
| 11.    | Supreme Court of India             | W.P. (Civil) No. 852 of 2020  |
| 12.    | High Court of Delhi                | W.P. No. 7493 of 2022         |
| 13.    | High Court of Andhra Pradesh       | W.P. No. 3096 of 2023         |
| 14.    | Supreme Court of India             | Civil Appeal No. 9077 of 2019 |

### 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 Section in consonance with the Right to Information Act 2005 in letter and spirit and disposed of by the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) or the First Appellate Authority as the case may be with the assistance of Legal Section.

*Table 12: List of RTIs received and disposed during the reporting period*

| S. No. | Quarter                                                   | Total No. of RTI Applications Received and disposed CPIO | Total No. of 1st Appeal received and disposed by First Appellate Authority |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.     | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b><br>01.04.2023 to 0.06.2023  | 19                                                       | 06                                                                         |
| 2.     | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b><br>01.07.2023 to 30.09.2023 | 11                                                       | 02                                                                         |
| 3.     | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b><br>01.10.2023 to 31.12.2023 | 30                                                       | 04                                                                         |
| 4.     | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b><br>01.01.2024 to 31.03.2024 | 41                                                       | 09                                                                         |
|        | <b>Total</b>                                              | <b>101</b>                                               | <b>21</b>                                                                  |

The total RTI applications received in the RTI nodal login portal was 101 and the total RTI appeals received was 21 which were disposed within the time limit as per the RTI Act 2005

### 12.1.3 Drafting of Agreement

Legal vetting of agreements including ABS agreements, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and other Legal documents and providing legal advice to the Authority is one among the other functions of the Legal Section.

## 12.2 Implementation strategy of *Amrit Dharohar* for the 75 Ramsar Sites of India

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the MoEFCC launched the implementation strategy of ***Amrit Dharohar*** for all the 75 Ramsar Sites of India. This focuses on 4 main components namely, Species and Habitat conservation, Nature Tourism, Wetlands livelihoods and Wetlands Carbon. In order to ensure effective conservation and management of all these sites, it is crucial to have understanding of the ecological profile of the area.

As per the directions from MoEFCC, NBA in assistance with 22 SBBs and 2 UTBCs has compiled the species related information from the BMCs established in and around the 75 Ramsar Sites across the country. NBA has conducted four virtual meetings with SBBs and UTBCs to review and expedite this national exercise. Ecological profile has been updated in the 548 PBRs by the 620 BMCs located in and around all the Ramsar Sites across the country. Subsequently, a brochure has been released based on this collected data, to disseminate the findings and raise awareness about biodiversity conservation efforts around Ramsar Sites.

## 12.3 Financial Support extended by NBA to SBBs & UTBCs

During the year 2023-24, NBA extended financial support to the tune of **Rs. 4,95,36,937 / -** to State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils for strengthening their functions and BMCs as well, engaging contractual staff, to document/update 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 website etc.

At the end of March 2024, a total of **2,77,688 BMCs** have been constituted and **2,68,037 PBRs** have been prepared all over the country (Table 13).

*Table 13: State-wise BMCs constituted and PBRs prepared*

| State             | (as on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024)         |                                            |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                   | Total No. of BMCs constituted at all levels | Total No. of PBRs documented at all levels |
| Andhra Pradesh    | 14157                                       | 14157                                      |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 1806                                        | 1806                                       |
| Assam             | 2549                                        | 2549                                       |
| Bihar             | 9101                                        | 9101                                       |
| Chhattisgarh      | 12008                                       | 4948                                       |
| Goa               | 205                                         | 205                                        |
| Gujarat           | 14583                                       | 14716                                      |
| Haryana           | 6444                                        | 6444                                       |
| Himachal Pradesh  | 3776                                        | 3776                                       |
| Jharkhand         | 4689                                        | 4689                                       |
| Karnataka         | 6554                                        | 6554                                       |
| Kerala            | 1200                                        | 1034                                       |
| Madhya Pradesh    | 23557                                       | 23557                                      |
| Maharashtra       | 28649                                       | 28649                                      |
| Manipur           | 2260                                        | 199                                        |
| Meghalaya         | 6484                                        | 6484                                       |
| Mizoram           | 894                                         | 894                                        |
| Nagaland          | 1276                                        | 1276                                       |
| Odisha            | 7256                                        | 7256                                       |



| State                     | (as on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024)         |                                            |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                           | Total No. of BMCs constituted at all levels | Total No. of PBRs documented at all levels |
| Punjab                    | 13599                                       | 13599                                      |
| Rajasthan                 | 11882                                       | 11882                                      |
| Sikkim                    | 196                                         | 196                                        |
| Tamil Nadu                | 13615                                       | 13615                                      |
| Telangana                 | 13461                                       | 13461                                      |
| Tripura                   | 1264                                        | 1264                                       |
| Uttar Pradesh             | 59407                                       | 59407                                      |
| Uttarakhand               | 7991                                        | 7991                                       |
| West Bengal               | 3830                                        | 3830                                       |
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 71                                          | 71                                         |
| Chandigarh                | 1                                           | 1                                          |
| Daman & Diu               | 44                                          | 44                                         |
| Delhi                     | 1                                           | 0                                          |
| Jammu & Kashmir           | 4658                                        | 4366                                       |
| Ladakh                    | 195                                         | 6                                          |
| Lakshadweep               | 10                                          | 10                                         |
| Puducherry                | 15                                          | 0                                          |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>277688</b>                               | <b>268037</b>                              |



Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar





## 12.4. Important events celebrated / observed by NBA

### 12.4.1. Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme-BSIP-IV Interns-Training program

The training for the Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme – BSIP-IV interns was conducted by NBA Office, Chennai during 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023.



*Chairman and Secretary, NBA with the Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme- IV<sup>th</sup> cycle Interns at the BSIP training program*

### 12.4.2. Independence Day Celebration

The 77<sup>th</sup> independence day of India was celebrated by NBA in the TICEL Bio Park premises. The National Flag was hoisted by Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA and delivered the keynote address on the occasion on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023.



*Celebration of the 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day at NBA Office premises*



### 12.4.3. 20<sup>th</sup> Foundation day

NBA celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Foundation day and reminisced on the path taken by NBA and dwelled on the future of NBA's activities on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023.



*Celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day at NBA, Chennai*

### 12.4.4. Swachhatha Bharat Campaign

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi, Swachhatha Bharat campaign was carried out in the NBA office premises on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Officers and staff of NBA extensively undertook the spring cleaning work in NBA office premise. As a gesture towards greater social responsibility, the garbage was collected from the CSIR Road and the cleanliness drive had an impact on the common man.



*Swachhatha Bharat campaign at the NBA Office premises*

### 12.4.5. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge

The National Unity Day is observed every year on 31<sup>st</sup> October, which serves to reinforce our dedication to preserve and strengthen the security, unity and integrity of our



country. It commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of national integration of independent India. This year, as part of “Meri Maati Mera Desh” campaign, which aims to honour the brave freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for our freedom, and to spread the message of national unity and the spirit of Rastriya Ekta, the pledge was taken by all officials of NBA on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.



*NBA staff taking the pledge for the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas*

#### **12.4.6. Vigilance Awareness Week**

Vigilance Awareness Week is one of the Participative Vigilance initiatives of the Central Vigilance Commission in the fight against corruption. It is an awareness building and outreach measure which aims to bring together all the stakeholders. It is observed to create greater sensitivity about the need for ethics and transparency in governance and public administration. In 2023, Vigilance Awareness Week was observed by NBA with the theme of “Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation” during 30<sup>th</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The pledge was taken by all officials of NBA.



*NBA staff taking the pledge on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week*



### 12.4.7. Constitution Day

Constitution Day also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', is celebrated in our country on 26<sup>th</sup> November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On 26<sup>th</sup> November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 notified the decision of Government of India to celebrate the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November every year as 'Constitution Day' to promote Constitutional values among citizens. The pledge was taken by all officials of NBA on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023.



*NBA staff taking the pledge on the occasion of Constitution Day*

### 12.4.8 Awareness on BD Act to Faculty and Students of VIT University

NBA organized the orientation program on Biological Diversity Act to Faculty and Students of VIT University on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024.



*Orientation program on Biological Diversity Act to the Faculty and Students of VIT University*

## 12.5. Official Language implementation activities in NBA Chennai

The NBA delivers its mandate through a structure that comprises of the Authority, Secretariat, SBBs, BMCs and Expert Committees. Besides, NBA, like all Central Govt. offices in Chennai, is intending to meet statutory requirements of Dept. 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 2023-24.

### 12.5.1. Conduct of quarterly meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee:

An Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) has been constituted in NBA for implementation of Official Language policy of Govt. of India. Its meetings are held in every quarter and corrective measures are taken on decisions taken in meetings. Its minutes are circulated amongst all sections for information and necessary action and copy of the same is sent to OL Division, MoEFCC, New Delhi for information. The dates of meetings held during the year 2023-24 are given in Table 14.

*Table 14: Meetings held during the year 2023-24*

| S.No. | Quarter Ending | Date of meetings | No. of Officers/Staff attended meeting |
|-------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1     | 30.06.2023     | 17.08.2023       | 05                                     |
| 2     | 30.09.2023     | 03.11.2023       | 06                                     |
| 3     | 31.12.2023     | 09.02.2024       | 06                                     |
| 4     | 31.03.2024     | 29.04.2024       | 07                                     |

### 12.5.2. The Quarterly Progress Report of Hindi for submission to OL Division, MoEFCC and online report for submission to Dept. of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India-

The quarterly progress report of 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 Dept. of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India which are given in Table 15.

*Table 15: Submission of Quarterly Progress Reports*

| Report – Quarter ending | Date of dispatch of report | Date of online submission of report to DOL/MHA/GOI |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 30.06.2023              | 14.07.2023                 | 17.07.2023                                         |
| 30.09.2023              | 17.10.2023                 | 17.10.2023                                         |
| 31.12.2023              | 19.01.2024                 | 25.01.2024                                         |
| 31.03.2024              | 15.04.2024                 | 22.04.2024                                         |

### 12.5.3. Annual Assessment Report:

The Annual Assessment Report on usage of Official Language Hindi for the year 2023-24 was sent to OL Division, MoEFCC on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



#### 12.5.4. Half Yearly Reports:

Half Yearly report on usage of Hindi for the period from January – June 2023 was sent on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and Half Yearly report for the period from July-December 2023 was sent on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to O/o Member Secretary, Town Official Language Implementation Committee, Southern Railway, Chennai-600003.

#### 12.5.5. Follow up action Report:

The follow up action report on decisions taken in Hindi Salahkar Samiti meeting of MoEFCC held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was sent on 06<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and follow up action report on decisions taken in Hindi Salahkar Samiti meeting of MoEFCC held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 was sent on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to OL Division, MoEFCC.

#### 12.5.6. Conduct of Hindi Workshop :

In accordance with provisions made in Annual Program issued by Dept. of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, a Hindi workshop was conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to overcome the hesitation of staff for carrying out their official work in Hindi.

#### 12.5.7. Conduct of Hindi Fortnight:

In accordance with provisions made in Annual Program and as per directives of OL Division, MoEFCC, a Hindi Fortnight was conducted at NBA from 11<sup>th</sup> September to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 with great enthusiasm and various competitions were conducted to encourage the staff members and prizes were given to winners in function organized on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 under the chairmanship of Shri C. Achalender Reddy, Chairperson, NBA who gave prizes to winners.



*Celebration of Hindi Fortnight*

### 12.5.8. In service Hindi training:

Shri R. Ramesh, PS to Chairperson and Shri K. Chitrarasu, Advisor (Law) who had been nominated for training in Hindi Praveen course in July-November 2023 session had passed the Praveen examination. Further, both of them have been nominated for training in Pragya course in January-May 2024 session. They are attending the training in January-May 2024 session.

### 12.5.9. Participation in Hindi Salahkar Samiti meetings of MoEFCC:

Dr. B. Balaji, IFS., Secretary, NBA attended Hindi Salahkar Samiti meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, MoEFCC. Dr. K.P. Raghuram, Tech. Officer (BS), NBA had attended Hindi Salahkar Samiti meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 on behalf of Chairman, NBA which was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State, MoEFCC.

### 12.5.10. Hindi-English-Hindi translation work:

Various documents of Section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act 1963 are translated from time to time and compliance with Section 3(3) is ensured. In addition, various documents of urgent nature and routine nature such as Annual Report of NBA, other reports, public grievances, various letters received in Hindi under Right to Information Act 2005, letters received from SBB from time to time etc.

### 12.5.11. NBA staff member won a prize in a competition:

Ms. R. Divya, Young Professional had won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in Hindi Essay Writing competition conducted on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC), Chennai. She received the prize in Town Official Language Implementation Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 under the Chairmanship of General Manager, Southern Railway, Chennai.



*Ms. Divya receiving the prize for Hindi Essay Writing competition in Town Official Language Implementation Committee meeting*



## 12.6. Projects / Programs

### **Update on the National and Regional Consultation Meetings on the Updation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and Adoption of National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) - reg.**

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) incorporates two mandatory unqualified obligations i.e., preparation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) under Article 6, and National Reports under Article 26. NBASP is the main instrument for implementing the Convention at the National Level. Following the adoption of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), at the COP-15 of the CBD, MoEFCC vide O.M. F.No.C-12023/2/2023-CS.III (Biodiversity) Division dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 desired to have India's NBSAP updated in alignment with KMGBF goals and targets following a nation-wide consultative process.

As a follow-up, a National Consultation Meeting on the updation of NBSAP and Adoption of NBTs was organized on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at INSA, New Delhi by the National Biodiversity Authority and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL). The consultation was attended by 152 participants from various departments, Central Government Ministries / Departments, SBBs / UTBCs, Working Group members of NBSAP, Subject Matter Specialists / observers, National & Supra national organisations, Non official members of NBA, Community led groups, Private Sector Experts, Entrepreneurs, and Young professionals.



*Dignitaries at the National Consultation Meeting on the updation of NBSAP and Adoption of NBTs organized on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at INSA, New Delhi*

With a view to ensure in-depth State-level and grass-root level engagement of various stakeholders and also to discuss on the means of implementation (schemes / programmes along with their budgets) to achieve the NBTs in the country, regional consultation meetings involving all the 28 States and 8 Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) were organized.



*Dignitaries and delegates at the National Consultation Meeting on the updation of NBSAP and Adoption of NBTs organized on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at INSA, New Delhi*

The First Regional Consultation on the updation of NBSAP and the adoption of NBTs in alignment with the KMGBF was held on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), Hyderabad, under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change by National Biodiversity Authority in association with the United Nations Development Programme and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL). The consultation was attended by 133 participants from various departments viz., Central Government Ministries / Departments, SBBs / UTBCs, Working Group members of NBSAP, Subject Matter Specialists / observers, Institutions, Telangana SBB Expert Members / Non-Officio Members of NBA, Private Sector, Representative from Youth Organisation & Students, Farmers (Experienced in Organic Agriculture).



*Delegates at the First Regional Consultation on the updation of NBSAP and the adoption of NBTs in alignment with the KMGBF was held on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), Hyderabad*

The Second Regional Consultation on the updation of NBSAP and the adoption of NBTs in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was held



on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the IORA, the Retreat, Kaziranga National Park, Kohora, Assam, under the guidance of MoEFCC, by NBA in association with the UNDP and BCIL. The consultation was attended by 77 participants from various departments (Central Government Ministries / Departments, SBBs / BMCs, Working Group members of NBSAP, Special Invitees, Institutions, Non-Officio Members of NBA and other invitees). The meeting also discussed processes related to the recognition and reporting of OECMs in India and the way forward.



*Delegates at the Second Regional Consultation on the updation of NBSAP and the adoption of NBTs in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) held on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the Kaziranga National Park, Kohora, Assam*



*Shri. Achalender Reddy, IFS (R), Chairman, NBA inaugurating the exhibition at the Second Regional Consultation on the updation of NBSAP and the adoption of NBTs in alignment with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) held on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the Kaziranga National Park, Kohora, Assam*



The Third Regional Consultation meeting on the updation of NBSAP and the adoption of NBTs in alignment with the KMGBF was held on 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at IIFM, Bhopal under the guidance of MoEFCC and NBA in association with the UNDP and BCIL. The consultation was attended by 90 participants from various departments, Central Government Ministries/ Departments, SBBs/PCCFs/BMCs, Working Group members of NBSAP, Special Invitees, Institutions, Non-Officio Members of NBA and other invitees.



*Delegates at the Third Regional Consultation meeting on the updation of NBSAP and the adoption of NBTs in alignment with the KMGBF held on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at IIFM, Bhopal*

An Inter-ministerial consultation meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 followed by an Intra-ministerial consultative meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 through virtual mode.

The National, Regional and Ministerial consultation meetings discussed the nationalization of KMGBF, adoption of National Targets, Actionable points, Monitoring Framework, and Means of implementation (schemes/programmes along with their budgets). Further work is under progress to consolidate the inputs received from these consultations to update the NBSAP and adopt NBTs in line with KMGBF.



## 12.7. Activities of the State Biodiversity Boards

### 12.7.1. Andhra Pradesh

One Board meeting was conducted by APSBB during the year. Published a poster on “Success stories of A.P. State Biodiversity Board”, a Brochure on “*Pterocarpus santalinus* endemic and threatened plant of the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh, India” and a Book on “Checklist of Agri-Horticultural Crop Genetic Resources of Andhra Pradesh” during IDB 2023 programme. The APSBB selected 23 Individual/Organizations who have been contributing for the cause of Biodiversity through creation of awareness and various conservation related activities in Andhra Pradesh and conferred the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Conserver Awards 2023.

*Release of poster by the Dignitaries*



*Celebration of IDB by Andhra Pradesh SBB*



*IDB-2023 Awardees*

### 12.7.2. Arunachal Pradesh

One Board meeting was conducted during the year. Two Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) have been notified viz., Lyago Biodiversity Heritage Site and Kamcho Yaam (Thungeey Gonpu) Biodiversity Heritage Site. Itanagar City Biodiversity Index was prepared and released. The Board has celebrated IDB 2023 in collaboration with G.B. Pant



*District level consultation Workshop for SBSAP*



*Nature walk, IDB-2023 by Arunachal Pradesh SBB*



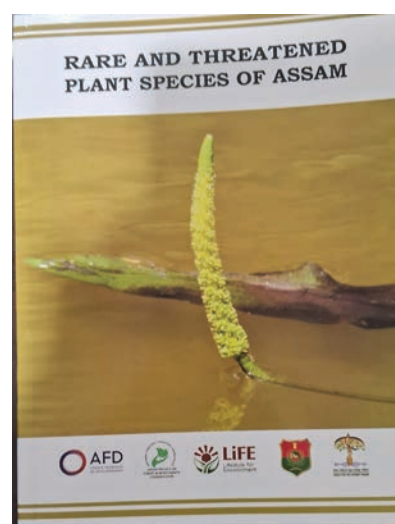
National Institute of Himalayan Environment, North-East Regional Centre. As a part of IDB celebration, a nature learning awareness event called the “Itanagar Biodiversity Walk” was organized at the Itanagar Zoological Park. District level consultation workshop for SBSAP was conducted at different districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

### 12.7.3. Assam

Assam SBB published a booklet on “Rare & Threatened Plant Species of Assam” and “Glimpse of Indigenous Rice and Diversity of Sonai Block and nearby Areas. The Asian Water Bird Census for 2024 has been conducted in seven selected wetlands of Assam in collaboration with the Assam Forest Department. Three-days stakeholders meeting was organized for the evaluation and site survey of some proposed BHS. Awareness workshop was conducted for TSGs, BMCs in various Districts. As a part of IDB celebration, various activities involving BMCs such as plantation of medicinal plants, cleanliness drives at selected water bodies and villages, awareness generation programme have been conducted across the State.



*Training cum awareness programme by Assam SBB*



*Booklets*

### 12.7.4. Bihar

One Board meeting was conducted during the year. Preparation of the State Biodiversity Action Plan in line with the Kunming Montreal protocol has been initiated. IDB 2023 was observed by the board. Heritage Tree Physical Verification Training Programme was conducted. Training programmes organized for Chairpersons and





Member Secretaries of BMCs and also for students on PBR updation under the Meri LiFE programme.



*Heritage Tree Physical Verification Training Programme for Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of BMCs and students by the Bihar SBB*

### 12.7.5. Chhattisgarh

The board has celebrated IDB 2023 on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. The Board organized a training/ awareness workshop for the preparation of PBRs. A total of 11 awards (4 individuals, 6 institutions & 1 BMC) were awarded under 4 categories viz. (1) Conservation of Wild Species and domestic species, (2) Sustainable use of Bio-resources, (3) Ethnic, Cultural, and Heritage conservation of Biodiversity and (4) Best Biodiversity Management Committee.

### 12.7.6. Goa

One Board meeting was held during the year. Goa SBB celebrated IDB 2023, World Wetland Day and Yuva Jagruti pre-IDB 2024 function on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Institute Menezes Braganza-Panaji Goa. Various categories of Awards are given to the concerned personalities for work in the field of Biodiversity Conservation. Member Secretary of Goa is "Nodal Officer" for the State Level Steering Committee for National Adaptation Funds for Climate Change and to carry out the activities under the LiFE Mission. Goa SBB organized training lecture for BMCs and General Public on Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation. Goa SBB in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati raj (NIRDPR) – India organized three days training programme on Sustainable use and Conservation of Biodiversity at Panchayat Level with reference to the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act for selected BMC Chairpersons & Secretaries. Cycle Rally (Cyclothon) was organized to celebrate World Environment Day and World Bicycle Day to promote Mission LiFE. During the celebration of World Mangrove Day, a publication on "Mangroves: The Guardians of our coast" was released.

### **12.7.7. Gujarat**

One Board meeting was held during the year. On the occasion of IDB 2023, one-day State level seminar, plantation program, exhibition on 25 varieties of wild grains, distribution of saplings was conducted for the BMC members, local communities and line departments. Asian water bird census was conducted by the Board with the help of members of BMCs near the Ramsar Site.

### **12.7.8. Haryana**

Two Board meetings were conducted by the Board during the year. Awareness programmes were conducted in each district of Haryana during the celebration of IDB 2023. Various competitions *viz.*, essay, quiz, painting etc. were also organized as a part of IDB celebration. Haryana SBB celebrated World Environment Day in different districts of Haryana with the help of Technical Support Groups. Haryana SBB conducted Asian Water Bird Census.

### **12.7.9. Himachal Pradesh**

One Board meeting was held during the year. The notification was issued towards delegation of powers to Divisional Forest Officers for granting approval under the BD Act 2002. Training programme was organized for Gram Panchayat Secretaries & Panchayat Inspectors on the constitution of BMCs, roles & responsibilities of BMCs and process of preparation of PBRs. Various training programmes were organized on conservation through cultivation, scientific harvesting, post harvesting handling and value addition of bioresources for BMC members and progressive farmers.

### **12.7.10. Jharkhand**

During the year, one Board meeting was held. Leaflet on Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Booklet on “Biodiversity – Variety of life on earth” was published by the Board. During the celebration of IDB 2023, documentary on ABS and Mission LiFE was released. Around 2300 students participated in various competitions out of which 87 winners were awarded during the event. Nukkad-Natak Play Message was given by two groups of artists regarding forest fire and biodiversity conservation to prevent underground valuable medicinal plant tubers from destruction. The Board has conducted around 411 training & capacity-building programmes for BMC members. The Board has established a Medicinal Plant Garden in a Government school campus.

### **12.7.11. Karnataka**

One Board meeting was held during the year. In collaboration with the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, the KBB had celebrated IDB 2023 at all levels of Panchayats. 15 awareness / training programmes / workshops were organized by the KBB for BMCs, frontline forest staff, local communities, and college & school students. For contributions in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of its components, the SBB has instituted Biodiversity Awards *viz.*, Biodiversity Conservation, Best BMC and Traditional-Organic Farming.



### **12.7.12. Kerala**

Two board meetings were held during the reporting period. Kerala SBB supported 25 BMCs by giving Rs.2.00 lakhs/BMC for the preparation of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Also, a State level orientation programme has been conducted for 25 BMCs for familiarizing the methodology and guidelines prepared by Kerala SBB in alignment with KMGBF and NBT 2023. A video documentary entitled “Biodiversity Conservation for a Better Future” produced by Kerala SBB has secured the best video documentary award instituted by Govt. of Kerala. District level Children’s Biodiversity Congress (CBC) has been conducted in all 14 Districts. To mark the celebration of World Environment Day 2023, planting and conservation of rare and threatened plants activities have been undertaken by the board. To strengthen the registered biodiversity clubs across the State, the board has organized several programs. The board has observed World Ozone Day and Wetland Day. Webinar series have been organized to commemorate the International Day of Forests, World Water Day and World Meteorological Day. Kerala SBB has conducted a “Green Campus Audit” of Chittur Govt. College and recorded the existing practices of waste management, flora and fauna, the energy usage and the Greenhouse gas emissions of the campus. The board has implemented the project to conserve the migratory fishes during Monsoon Floodplain Fishery and thereby enhancing their population in rivers, its tributaries and allied water bodies.

### **12.7.13. Madhya Pradesh**

One Board meeting was held during the year. Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) 2018-2030 has been prepared by the Board. So far, 23577 BMCs have been constituted and prepared PBRs in all the BMCs. A pictorial guide on “Red Listed Medicinal Trees (RLMT) of Madhya Pradesh” and Butterflies of Wetland Bhopal was published by the Board. Mission LiFE awareness program at school, college and BMC level has been organized. Annual State Biodiversity Awards for felicitating biodiversity conservers has been initiated. The Board has developed a biodiversity monitoring protocol for long-term monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services in collaboration with IISER, Kolkata under the Green India Mission. The Board has distributed artificial nest boxes for raising awareness on sparrow conservation. The Board observed IDB 2023 by conducting various competitions at State and District level.

### **12.7.14. Maharashtra**

The board published Brochures for Local self-government & Biodiversity Heritage Sites. The board celebrated Nature Conservation Day with the collaboration of Birds of Vidarbha Society and Educational Institution to create public awareness on importance of conservation of nature, forest, environment and biodiversity. Maharashtra SBB has carried out census of water birds on 11 water bodies with the help of Forest Department. Maharashtra SBB along with six community leaders has participated in the training cum exposure exhibition

organized by Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research & Development and received six prizes for NTFP and Conservation of Biodiversity Awards from Governor of West Bengal.

### 12.7.15. Manipur

One Board meeting was held during the year. Various competitions / activities organized by the Board during the celebration of IDB 2023 and wildlife week in collaboration with the Wildlife wing of Forest Department of Manipur.

### 12.7.16. Meghalaya

Two Board meetings were held during the year. Three posters on biodiversity viz., Grass species of Economic Value in Meghalaya, Wild Edible of Khasi & Jaintia Hills and Some of the new Vertebrate Faunal Species described from Meghalaya and Brochure on Biodiversity Heritage Site of Meghalaya was released on the occasion of IDB 2023. Awareness programmes were conducted in different Districts / Blocks of Meghalaya for operationalization of BMCs, upgradation of PBRs and implementation of ABS in the State. Asian Water-Bird census was conducted in the wetland areas of Umiam Lake. Third Janjatiya Gaurav Divas was



*Third Janjatiya Gaurav Divas celebration by Meghalaya SBB*



organized by the Meghalaya SBB in collaboration with One Million Leaders Asia (OMLAS) at Mawphlang Sacred Groves by involving College Students. Rashtriya Pashan Maah was observed in collaboration with North East Slow Food & Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS) by involving BMC members and other community leaders with an aim to foster nutritional understanding across India.

### 12.7.17. Mizoram

One board meeting was held during the year. IDB 2023 celebrated at IASE (Institute of Advanced Studies in Education) on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. Students / Trainees of IASE and BMC members from 20 villages were invited for the celebrations. “City Clean Up Drive”, “River Clean Up Drive”, “Tree Planting Drive”, Painting competition and Biodiversity Quiz Competition were conducted under the celebrations of IDB-2023. Visited Assam SBB (20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023), Meghalaya SBB (29<sup>th</sup> Jan to 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2024) and Sikkim SBB (27<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024) under Peer-to-Peer Learning programme. Mizoram SBB had organized training and capacity building cum awareness programme to the selected BMCs.



*IDB-2023 celebration by Mizoram SBB*



### 12.7.18. Nagaland

One Board meeting was conducted. Awareness Programme on “Operationalization of BMC” was conducted to village authorities of Mengujuma Village, Kohima. As a part of livelihood enhancement activity, training Program on Bee Keeping was conducted at Kezoma Village and distributed poultry to 120 beneficiaries of Khonoma village. Awareness program on Protection of Frog Ecosystem at Khonoma Village was conducted. Capacity building programme was organized by the board on “Nature-based Ecotourism” at Sukhai Village.



*Training Program on Bee Keeping*



*Awareness program on Protection of Frog Ecosystem at Khonoma Village*

### 12.7.19. Odisha

One Board meeting was conducted. So far, four Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) have been declared by Govt. of Odisha. IDB 2023 celebrated at State Conventional Centre of Lokaseva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar. Training & capacity building programme have been conducted for



BMCs. The Odisha Biodiversity Board prepared two documentary films namely: "An Eagle Eye View" and "The Tales of Gandhamardan" and one Brochure named "Frequently asked question regarding Preparation of PBRs".

### 12.7.20. Punjab

The Board was re-constituted for a further period of three years. Punjab SBB celebrated the IDB 2023 by undertaking 84 activities / events including experts talk, competition for students, nature walks and visit of biodiversity rich areas, plantations, seed and millet exhibitions, documentary screening and Radio talks etc. Awareness and capacity building programmes were organized for Panchayat officers and members of BMCs towards strengthening of BMCs and upgradation of PBRs. Punjab Biodiversity Board in collaboration with Punjab State Council for Science & Technology launched a special initiative for ex-situ conservation of *Anogeissus sericea* var. *nummularia*, which is notified as one of the nearly extinct floral species of Punjab u/s 38 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002. Naturally occurring saplings of the species collected from various parts of Rajasthan under the said special initiative, were planted in the office of PBB and Govt. Schools of Punjab. The Eco Club students and in charge Teacher of the schools were informed about the significance of ex-situ conservation of threatened plant species and also trained on various management practices for ensuring effective care of the saplings. A special project titled "Development of Conservation Strategies for *Withania coagulans*: An endangered high value medicinal plant of Punjab" has been implemented by the Board in collaboration with Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Punjab SBB in collaboration with WWF India organized and conducted Asian Water Bird Census at 2 Ramsar Wetlands of the State namely Ropar Wetland and Kanjli Wetland, with the active involvement of BMC Members of Villages located in and around the respective Wetlands.

### 12.7.21. Rajasthan

As a part of IDB celebration, various programmes viz., rally, poster competition, quiz competition were conducted by the Rajasthan SBB. A team of Malaysia Scout delegates joined IDB celebration and took pledge. A poster was released on Maha Vriksha (Large Old Trees Survey) Programme of Rajasthan State. Biodiversity conservation programme was organized by the board at various Districts of Rajasthan.

### 12.7.22. Sikkim

During the year, one BHS Tungkyong Dho Lake has been notified. The board also celebrated IDB, 2023. Awareness cum training programme was organized by the board for BMCs on BD Act 2002, their roles and responsibilities and importance of PBR. Motivational talk on "Role of Youth in Safeguarding Environments" was given to college students on the occasion of International Earth Day.

### 12.7.23. Tamil Nadu

A poster on Sacred Groves and Brochure of Ready Reckoner on Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) was released by the board. To mark the celebration of IDB 2023 at State and District level, morning walk, evening cycle rally, quiz and elocution competitions, cultural performances, exhibitions, beach clean-up activities have been organized by the Board. An online training programme was organized for secretaries and members of the BMCs to create awareness among the BMCs on their roles & responsibilities to the Biodiversity conservation activities, preparation of PBRs and importance of BHS. Awareness programme on coastal ecosystem & their significance and Mission LiFE was conducted at Ramanathapuram District. The board also observed the World Meteorological Day, World Environment Day, International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem and World Water Day.



*Celebration of IDB 2023 by Tamil Nadu SBB*

### 12.7.24. Tripura

One Board meeting was conducted. A total number of 1264 BMCs were constituted and PBRs were updated as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024. Tripura Biodiversity Board got Appreciation Certificate for running 100% e-Office system. To mark the celebration of IDB, various programmes viz., Biodiversity awareness cycle rally, Bird Watching, Newspaper advertisement, competitions for school students, tree planting by BMCs etc., were conducted by the Board. An e-book “Fish Diversity of Tripura” was launched during the seminar organized on the eve of IDB 2023. Various activities like visit of wetland, cleanliness drives in wetlands & catchments on Mission LiFE was conducted by the Board. Tripura SBB organized a Forest Food Festival involving BMCs and Self Help Groups. A meeting has been conducted by Tripura SBB with Protection wing of Forest Department and Traders of Minor Forest Produce regarding demonstration about the National Transit Permit System Portal. Tripura SBB conducted



block wise training and capacity building programme for the chairman and panchayat secretary/panchayat extension officers of BMCs.

### **12.7.25. Telangana**

As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, Telangana Biodiversity Board constituted a total of 13,461 BMCs and prepared PBRs in all the BMCs. Four Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) have been identified and proposed for notification. Hyderabad City Biodiversity Index released in 2023. Other Effective Conservation Methods (OECMs) were identified viz., Telangana Mahila Viswa vidyalayam, Koti Women's College, Koti, Hyderabad, Dharmavana Nature Ark, Bhongir, Yadadri District. The training cum capacity building programmes was conducted by the Board to create awareness on "Biological Diversity Act, Rules & Access and Benefit sharing (ABS) issues" and People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) for the BMC's Chairpersons, Mandal Parishad Development Officers (MPDOs), Mandal Praja Parishad (MPP's) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC's). Environment Protection Training & Research Institute (EPTRI) EIACP Hub & RP in collaboration with Telangana State Biodiversity Board (TSBDB) and Druvansh Organization organized World Wetlands Day 2024 celebrations to sensitize the communities, school & college students about importance of Wetlands & biodiversity. The event has witnessed activities like Wetland Walk; Poster Competition on Wetlands & Human Well beings; Project Exhibition on Wetlands and Photo Exhibition on Wetlands & its Biodiversity and welcome dance on the theme "MERI LiFE" (Lifestyle for Environment). Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Endowments, Govt. of Telangana has Inaugurated Manmade Biggest Floating Bird Island of India at Neknampur Lake and participated in Plantation drive. Shri Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.) Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, visited Janagoan Municipality Biodiversity Management Committee and had an extensive discussion with the BMC members and Municipality commissioner about the BMC activities and best practices. Release of Telangana State Biodiversity Board calendar 2024 was done. Telangana State Biodiversity Board has commemorated International Day for Biological Diversity 2023 at Bhaskara Auditorium, B.M. Birla Centre, Hyderabad. On the occasion, The Audiobook of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, Biological Diversity Rules 2004 & Telangana State Biological Diversity Rules 2015 of Telangana State Biodiversity Board, were launched. Also, a book entitled with "A treatise on genetic resources of Agri - Horticulture crops" was also released. An exhibition was organized, based on the International year for Millets 2023; About Nine stalls were set up by different Institutions, NGOs and practitioners. More than 500 people across the state including Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) members, scientists, expert members, NGO, Professors and students participated in the celebration. On the occasion of IDB 2023, the awards were given for best performing BMC, Biodiversity Conserver, District Biodiversity Coordinator for the year 2023.

### 12.7.26. Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand SBB has conducted three Board meetings during the year. The Board has constituted 7991 BMCs and prepared PBRs in all the BMCs. The board has celebrated IDB 2023 in a befitting manner. The Board with active participation of BMCs conducted workshop/training program on Biodiversity Conservation.



*Celebration of IDB 2023 by Uttarakhand SBB*

### 12.7.27. Uttar Pradesh

Two board meetings were held during the year. The Uttar Pradesh SBB published the coffee table book on 'Heritage Trees of Uttar Pradesh'. To create awareness on biodiversity conservation, the board organized various sensitization programmes for local people, students of different schools and colleges. Several district level workshops have been organized by the board under "Strengthening and Capacity Building of Biodiversity Management Committees".



### 12.7.28. West Bengal

During the year, one board meeting was conducted. The State notified two new Biodiversity Heritage Sites in 2023-24 viz., Birampur-Baguran Jalpai Coastal Stretch, Purba Medinipur and Haldir Char, Purba Medinipur. The Board has constituted BMCs in all the local bodies and prepared PBRs in all the BMCs. The Board has been involved in various conservation activities like conservation of indigenous fishes through "AvoyPukur" programme, medicinal plants & indigenous crops, and development of open-air butterfly garden. The Board has organized Nature Study programme (Bio-Tour) in schools covering all the districts of the State and painting on the walls of different schools of the State and capacity building programme for BMC members/ line departments on various biodiversity issues.



*Celebration of IDB 2023 by West Bengal SBB & Biodiversity Heritage Site*



### 12.7.29. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands Biodiversity Council has constituted 70-village level BMCs and one Municipality level BMC and prepared PBRs in all the 71 BMCs. During the celebration of IDB 2023, the activities like, cleanliness drive, making cotton bags with Biodiversity slogan, tree-planting programs have been organized by the Council to raise awareness among the local communities about the importance of protecting Biodiversity.

### 12.7.30. Jammu & Kashmir

One Board meeting was conducted during the period. Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir reconstituted the Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council. A sub group was constituted by the Council for identification of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). Local Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (LBSAP) for Jammu and Srinagar cities was released on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023. As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, a total of 4658 number of BMCs have been constituted and prepared 4366 number of PBRs.



*Celebration of IDB 2023 by Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Council*



### **12.7.31. Ladakh**

To mark the celebration of IDB 2023, the villagers with the support of the Panchayat, all BMC of Chumathang and other village stakeholders declared their village as a litter free zone to save their invaluable natural heritage. Ladakh Biodiversity Council in collaboration with GoI-UNDP-GEF SECURE Himalaya Project conducted an exposure visit of the BMCs of the Changthang landscape to the State of Goa. Asian Water Bird Census was carried out in and around three important hot springs of Ladakh i.e. Chumathang, Puga and Panamik, along with the other important birding sites like Tso Kar, Tsomoriri, Hanle marshes, Yarab Tso, Sumoor marshes, Disket wetland, Chuchot marshes, Spituk marshes, Shey Pond and along the banks of Indus River in Shey and Phey villages.

### **12.7.32. Lakshadweep**

Lakshadweep Biodiversity Council prepared 10 PBRs as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. As a part of IDB celebration 2023, various programmes have been conducted viz., Union territory level short film making and e-poster making competitions and Island level spot photography competition, enhancing the turtle nesting habitat and Lagoon & Beach cleaning as an awareness generation programme.

### **12.7.33. Puducherry**

One Council meeting was held during the year. The Puducherry Biodiversity Council observed IDB 2023. Around 240 participants attended the conference conducted by the Board on the topic related to Biodiversity Conservation.

## Annexure 1

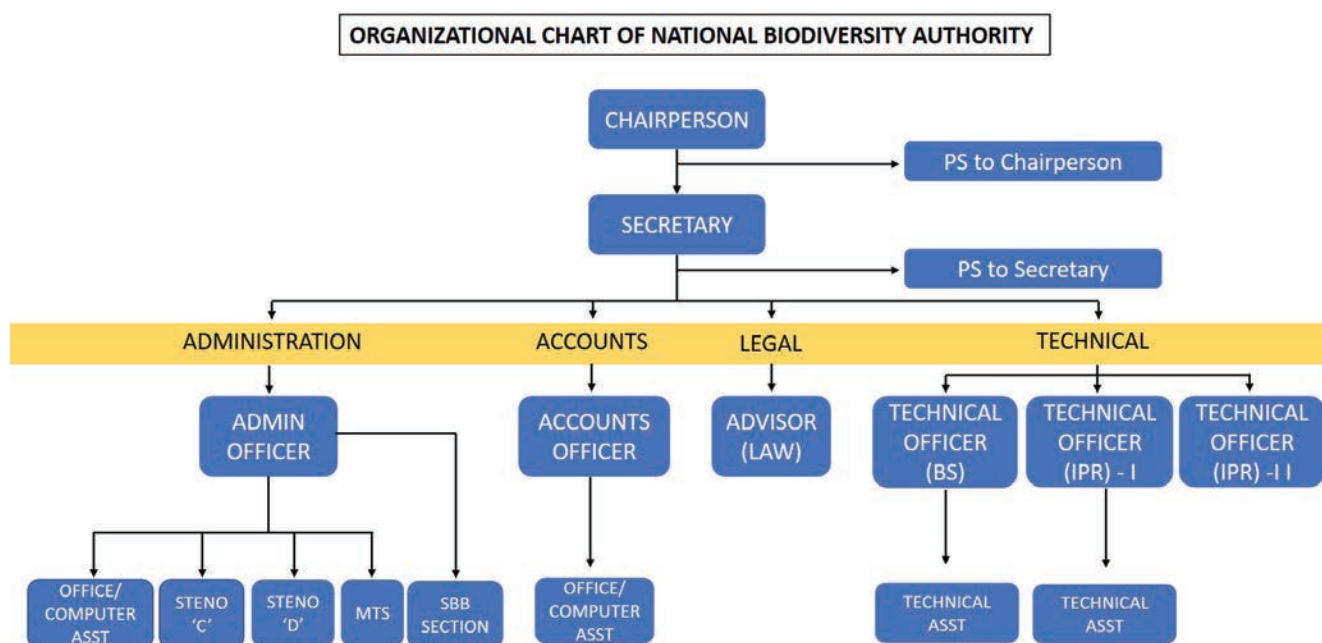
### Chairperson and Members of the Authority

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 2019-31 August 2019       |
| Dr. (Ms). B. Meenakumari               | 9 February 2016 to 8 February 2019   |
| 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



This setup further is supported by Consultant / Young Professionals / Outsourcing staff 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          | 2         | -        |
| 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         | -        |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>16</b>  | <b>14</b> | <b>2</b> |



## 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

E-mail: [admn@nba.nic.in](mailto:admn@nba.nic.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, केंद्रीय व्यय  
पर्यावरण एवं वैज्ञानिक विभाग  
नई दिल्ली-110002

केंद्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण, चेन्नई-113.  
National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai-113  
डायरी संख्या / Diary No.: 1294810  
को प्राप्त / Received on: 8/10/24

DGA/ESD/EA/SAR/NBA Chennai/2023-24/PR-125676/208

दिनांक 01 OCT 2024

सेवा में,

The Secretary  
National Biodiversity Authority,  
5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park,  
CSIR, Road, Taramani,  
Chennai - 600 113

विषय: Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority,  
Chennai for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

महोदय,

मुझे वर्ष 2023-24 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 2023-24 के वार्षिक लेखों को संस्थान के  
शासी निकाय द्वारा अनुमोदित किया/अपनाया जाए तथा इस संबंध में शासी निकाय द्वारा जारी किया गया  
रेज़ोल्यूशन 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।

भवदीय,

संलग्नक:- पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन

उप निदेशक (पर्या.ले.)

**Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

1. We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as on 31 March 2024 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, evidence 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) We further report that:-

**A. Balance Sheet**

-

**B. Income and Expenditure Account**

-

**C. Receipt and Payment Account**

-

**D. Accounting Policies**

-

**E. General**

1. It was noticed that the corpus of NBA turned negative to the tune of ₹ 10,93,541. The Authority may clarify as to how this negative corpus is to be recouped.

2. Under Sch -21, an amount of ₹ 5,00,000/- had been paid to GEF- ABS Project. This is a UNEP-GEF funded project which was closed in 30.09.2019. On closure of this Project an amount of ₹ 98,64,390/- had to be refunded to the UNEP agency. But as per bank A/c ₹ 95,20,825/- was available in the GEF project Account. The difference amount of ₹ 3,43,565/- along with USD exchange rate and Bank Charges amounting to ₹ 5,00,000/- was paid from the Grant-in-Aid of NBA, on the instruction of MoEF&CC. The same was not reflected in the Notes on Accounts Sch-25 of the Annual Accounts of NBA 2023-24.

**3. Non-receipt of utilization certificate**

It is observed that as on 31 March 2024, utilization certificates for 146 grants amounting to ₹ 6.11 crore are still pending for receipt by NBA from State Biodiversity Boards and other organizations, along with audited statement.

**F. Grants-in-aid**

NBA Chennai had an opening balance of ₹ 1,28,20,326 and received grants-in-aid to the tune of ₹ 15,19,85,000, of which it made payments of ₹ 16,11,98,301, leaving a closing balance of ₹ 36,07,025.

### **G. 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 –A 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 agree 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, 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 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- b. In so far as it relates to the Income and Expenditure Account of the deficit for the year ended on that date.

**Place: New Delhi**

**For and on behalf of the C&AG of India**

**Date:** 01/10/2024

**Director General of Audit  
Central Expenditure (E&SD)**

20  
20/09/2024



### Annexure-I

#### **1. Adequacy of Internal Audit**

Internal audit of NBA for the period 2019 – 2023 conducted during 18.12.2023 to 22.12.2023. As on 31.03.2024 total 22 paras are outstanding

#### **2. Adequacy of Internal Control System**

Internal control system is inadequate as all the financial transactions were done by the Accounts Officer who performs the functions of Drawing and Disbursing Officer and also functions as Pay and Accounts officer. As a result, there was no separation of duties of Drawing and Disbursing Officer and Accounts officer to have control over internal audit functions. Management Information System (MIS) needs to be put in place, to have internal control on different types of expenditures incurred and the income received by NBA from different sources.

#### **3. System of Physical Verification of Fixed assets**

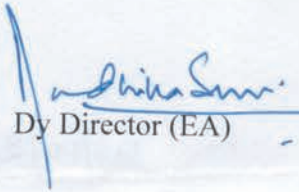
NBA conducted physical verification of assets for the year 2023-24.

#### **4. System of physical verification of inventory**

Physical verification of inventory was carried out for the year 2023-24.

#### **5. Regularity in payment of statutory dues**

Test check revealed no outstanding statutory dues with NBA as of March 2024.

  
Dy Director (EA)



सत्यमेव जयते

कार्यालय महानिदेशक लेखापरीक्षा, केन्द्रीय व्यय  
पर्यावरण एवं वैज्ञानिक विभाग, ए.जी.सी.आर. भवन,  
आई पी एस्टेट, नई दिल्ली-110002  
Office of the Director General of Audit, Central Expenditure  
Environment & Scientific Departments  
AGCR Building, IP Estate, New Delhi-110002



SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTION OF INDIA  
लोकहितार्थं सत्यनिष्ठा  
Dedicated to Truth in Public Interest

संदीप लाल, आई. ए. एंड ए. एस.  
महानिदेशक लेखापरीक्षा

DO No. DGACE/E&SD/EA/SAR/NBA/2023-24/16

Dated: - 01 OCT 2024

Dear

Dr. Balaji,

I have audited the annual accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year 2023-24 and have issued the Audit Report thereof vide letter dated ... 01/10/2024. During the course of audit, some deficiencies were noticed ( as per Annexure – A ) which are of relatively minor nature and were, therefore not included in the Audit Report. These are being brought to your notice for remedial and corrective action.

with regards,

Yours sincerely.

20  
30/09/2024

Encl: As above

Dr. B. Balaji, IFS  
Secretary  
National Biodiversity Authority,  
TICEL BIO PARK,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Taramani Road,  
Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.



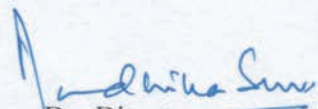
## Annexure – A

### **1. Schedule-8A- Fixed Assets**

An amount of ₹ 54,883/- was shown as expenditure towards purchase of Library books, in the Ledger, during the year 2023-24. But in the schedule - 8 of the Fixed Asset, only ₹ 3,185/- has been accounted, leading to understatement of Asset to the extent of ₹ 51,698/

### **2. Schedule 21 – Other Administrative Expenses - Revenue Expenditure incurred from Capital Grant**

An amount of ₹ 3000/- was expended from the GIA - Capital grant fund, as revenue expenditure under Schedule 21 which is not admissible.

  
Dy. Director



Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar

