



# राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण National Biodiversity Authority

(An Autonomous and Statutory Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)



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सदस्य सचिव

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Member Secretary

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F.No. 23/14/CBD CELL/2025-26/2690

Dated 20.01.2026

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Sub: Constitution of an Expert Committee on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble NGT and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) – reg.**

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In a *suo motu* proceeding, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone, Chennai, in O.A. No. 162/2023 (SZ), while examining the significant ecological risks posed by invasive alien plant species, issued its orders on 4 November 2025. In pursuance of the said directions, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has been directed to initiate the process by undertaking a comprehensive study on the subject.

In this regard, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), vide its letter dated 4 December 2025 bearing D.O. No. C-12017/3/2023-CS-III-Part(4), has also advised the NBA to constitute an Expert Committee to address issues relating to invasive alien species.

Accordingly, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, as amended in 2023, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) shall constitute an Expert Committee on Invasive Alien Species (IAS).

The Committee shall be mandated to prepare and review the national consolidated list of invasive alien species and to prioritise those species that pose significant risks to ecology, biodiversity, food security, and human and wildlife health. The Committee shall also identify knowledge gaps in the management of invasive alien species and recommend holistic programmes for data generation, research, and coordinated action.

**The composition of the EC is as given below: -**

| Chair                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mr. Dhananjai Mohan</b> , IFS, Retd. PCCF and HoFF, Uttarakhand.                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                            |
| Co-Chair                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Prof. (Dr.) A. Biju Kumar</b> , Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), Panangad, Kochi, Kerala, India. |                                                                                                                                                            |
| Members                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1.                                                                                                                                            | <b>The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences</b> , Government of India, Prithvi Bhawan, opposite India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003. |

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|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.  | <b>The Joint Secretary (Fisheries)</b> , Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi- 110001.                                                                                       |
| 3.  | <b>The Joint Secretary</b> (IC, Credit, Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi                                                                                                 |
| 4.  | <b>The Inspector General of Forest</b> , Wild Life Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road. New Delhi – 110 003. <b>or his representative</b>                                    |
| 5.  | <b>Scientist 'G'/Advisor</b> , National Focal Point to CBD, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road. New Delhi – 110 003                                                                   |
| 6.  | <b>The Director and Scientist</b> -G, Zoological Survey of India, Prani Vigyan Bhawan, M-Block, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053 <b>or his representative.</b>                                                                                     |
| 7.  | <b>The Director</b> , Botanical Survey of India, CGO Complex, 3rd MSO Building, Block F (5th and 6th Floor), DF Block, Sector I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 064 <b>or his representative.</b>                                              |
| 8.  | <b>The Director</b> , National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, (NBAIR), P. Bag No:2491, H.A. Farm Post, Bellary Road, Bengaluru - 560 024, Karnataka, <b>or his representative.</b>                                                  |
| 9.  | <b>The Director</b> , ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Pusa Campus, New Delhi – 110012, <b>or his representative.</b>                                                                                                         |
| 10. | <b>The Director</b> , ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFG), Canal Ring Road, P.O. Dilkusha, Lucknow <b>or his representative.</b>                                                                                       |
| 11. | <b>The Director</b> , Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Ernakulam North P.O., Kochi-682 018 <b>or his representative.</b>                                                                                                          |
| 12. | <b>The Deputy Director General.</b> Natural Resource Management, Division of Natural Resource Management, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II, New Delhi - 110 012 <b>or his representative.</b>                                                      |
| 13. | <b>The Director General</b> , Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), P.O. New Forest, Dehra Dun - 248 006. <b>or his representative</b>                                                                                   |
| 14. | <b>The Director General</b> , Forest Survey of India, Kaulagarh Road, P.O -IPE Dehradun, 248195, Uttarakhand. <b>or his representative.</b>                                                                                                   |
| 15. | <b>The Director</b> , Wildlife Institute of India, Post Box #18, Chandrabani, Dehradun 248001 Uttarakhand. <b>or his representative.</b>                                                                                                      |
| 16. | <b>The Director</b> , Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) Atal Bhavan, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, LNG Road, Puthuvypin South, Ochanthuruthu PO, Kochi-682508 <b>or his representative.</b>           |
| 17. | <b>The Director</b> , ICAR - Directorate of Weed Research, Jabalpur, 482004, MP. <b>or his representative.</b>                                                                                                                                |
| 18. | <b>The Member Secretary</b> , National Tiger Conservation Authority, (NTCA), B-1 Wing, 7th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110 003. <b>or his representative.</b>                                               |
| 19. | PCCF (HoFF) Tamil Nadu, Office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Forest Headquarters building, Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Near Kannikapuram Checkpost, Guindy, Chennai 600032. <b>or his representative.</b> |
| 20. | PCCF (HoFF) Odisha, Aranyabhawan Plot No 2/12, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar 751023. <b>or his representative.</b>                                                                                                                           |
| 21. | PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Maharashtra, Van Bhawan Civil Lines, Ramgiri Road Nagpur-440001. <b>or his representative.</b>                                                                                                         |
| 22. | Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam, Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati-781037. <b>or his representative.</b>                                                                                     |
| 23. | <b>Country Representative</b> , IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), India Country Office, H-4, 2nd Floor, Green Park Extension, New Delhi – 110016.                                                                        |

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|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 24. | <b>Dr. Ankila Hiremath</b> , Pr. Coordinator, Collaborations in Forest Ecology and Conservation, National Center for Biological Sciences, Bangalore and Adjunct Senior Fellow, SMS Foundation Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore. |
| 25. | <b>Dr Prince Prakash Jebakumar J</b> , Scientist E, Ocean Health Division, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Ma Po Si Nagar, Pallikaranai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600100.                                                                                                                                         |
| 26. | <b>Dr. Farindra Tiwari</b> , Professor (Assistant) P. G. Department of Zoology, Mahatma Gandhi P G College, Gorakhpur, 273001 UP.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 27. | <b>Dr. Achyut Kumar Banerjee</b> , Assistant Professor, School of Arts and Sciences Azim Premji University Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India.                                                                                                                                                                            |

| <b>Convener cum Coordinator</b>                                                         |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Dr. S. Sandilyan</b> , Scientific Consultant, NBA, Chennai.                          |  |
| <b>Focal Point</b>                                                                      |  |
| <b>Dr. B. Balaji, IFS.</b> , Member Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai |  |

The **Terms of Reference (ToR)** of the Committee are as follows:

- To revise, update, and consolidate the State-wise lists, and based thereon prepare a national list of Invasive Alien Species.
- To identify and prioritise invasive alien plant and animal species posing significant threats to national biodiversity, food security, agriculture, and aquaculture.
- To recommend suitable management strategies and ecological restoration measures for priority invasive alien species, with particular emphasis on the conservation of indigenous biodiversity across agricultural, forest, marine, and other key ecosystems, and to formulate comprehensive national-level guidelines, including for the eradication, control, and management of such species.
- To document, evaluate, and recommend best practices for the prevention, control, and management of priority invasive alien species, and to facilitate their national-level dissemination and adoption.

The Tenure of the Committee shall be two years from issuance of the Order

The guidelines for the Expert Committee be as referred to in Annexure - I.



**(B. Balaji)**  
Member Secretary, NBA

**GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines are issued for the proper conduct of the meeting to achieve the expected outcomes.

1. The Expert Committee is constituted primarily to review and advise Government of India on matters related to the national consolidated list of Invasive Alien Species, impact assessment reports, and other relevant materials, including brochures, hand-outs, booklets, research papers, and review articles, as well as on current management and policy-related issues.
2. The Chair of the EC is authorised to decide the mode of the meeting to be convened, either physical or through virtual mode or Hybrid mode.
3. The Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the Member Secretary, NBA can (1) invite additional experts in the subject matter, if required, to the meeting of EC as special invitees, (2) to hold or conduct a meeting in any part of India, if it is deemed fit, to expedite the task assigned in consultation with NBA.
4. The Chairman and members are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting at the fixed venue and time. The NBA will arrange transport from the Airport / Railway station/bus stand to and from the venue of the meeting.
5. In respect of the travel cost, the fares by Air (economy class) / train (AC I class / AC II tier), incurred by the Chairman, Co-chair and the non-official members / special invitees shall be reimbursed on production of the tickets and boarding pass along with bills in the prescribed format provided by NBA. The lodging and boarding will be provided by the NBA. The AC taxi fare will be reimbursed as and when the bill is produced with the TA Bill. Alternatively, road mileage will be paid based on the declaration of Kms.
6. In respect of official members, the travel cost (Air fare & road journey) to reach Chennai & back shall be borne by their parent organizations. However, if official members give a declaration that their parent organisation is not providing travel costs, then the NBA shall reimburse the travel costs after getting approval from the Competent Authority. The local lodging & boarding logistics, i.e., transport cost at Chennai, will be borne by NBA.
7. As per the directions issued by the Ministry of Finance vide O.M. no. No. 19024/03/2021-E. IV, dated 16.06.2022, the Members are required to purchase the ticket from three authorised travel agents viz. M/s. Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited (BLCL), M/s. Ashok Travels & Tours (ATT) and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) only. The tickets booked other than these authorised agencies will not be reimbursed. The submission of a boarding pass shall be mandatory for reimbursement by the NBA.
8. The Chair, Co-Chair are entitled for Rs.6000/per day of sitting fee and all non-official members of the EC are entitled for Rs.4000/per day of sitting.

9. The Chairman and members may preferably arrive at the city of venue one day in advance before the scheduled date of meeting.
10. The committee is requested to submit the proceedings/summary of discussions to the NBA duly authenticated by all the members. In order to finalise and submit proceedings/summary of the meeting on the same day, outstation members are requested to plan their return journey on the next day of the meeting. If required, the Chair, Co-chair and a few selected members at the discretion of the Chairman, EC may stay for one more day and leave on the next day AN (Three nights), after finalising the draft proceedings of the meeting.
11. This may please be coordinated by the coordinator in consultation with the Chair and Co-Chair of the EC. Under exceptional circumstances, the Chairman, EC may get the summary/ proceedings/ minutes finalised at later dates and send the document to NBA duly authenticated by all members (through e-mail) who were present in the meeting. In such case, a lump sum of Rs.3000/- will be paid to the Chairman to meet the postal expenses, mobile, internet charges and cost of secretarial assistance at his place of stay on request. For payment of a lump sum, a self-declaration to the effect that the expenditure has actually been incurred for the above purpose has to be furnished by the Chairman.
12. In the absence of Chairman, the Co-Chair will conduct the proceedings of the meeting.
13. The committee is requested to go through the subject area and refer to BD Act 2002 as amended in 2023, Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and ABS Regulations, 2025, and other relevant laws, scientific articles, and books and browse the internet to facilitate lively and useful discussion on the subject. All members are requested to go through the previous Report submitted by the EC.
14. The Chairman and members may exchange notes and views through the Internet on the subject area to be discussed during the meeting.
15. Given the sensitivity and nature of deliberations of the Committee, members are requested not to engage in any bilateral discussion with non-members regarding the subject matter. However, they can collect information from non-members working in similar autonomous and statutory bodies that may be useful for the expert committee.
16. The Member Secretary, NBA, after obtaining prior permission from the Chairperson, NBA, is authorised to invite, as and when required, any other experts/ professionals to the meetings of the expert committee as special invitees.
17. The Chair and Co-chair are authorised to conduct meetings anywhere in India in consultation with the Member Secretary, NBA.
18. The Chairperson of the Expert Committee is vested with powers to constitute sub-committees to contribute/ draft interim reports and review specific chapters of the final report. The coordinator shall assist the Chair and Co-chair in coordination and organising work of sub-committees. Those who write chapters or contribute actively to compiling information will be paid a workday allowance by the NBA on the recommendation of the Chair of EC. However, the NBA will pay the amount as per its discretion. This is in addition to sitting fees.

19. The coordinator will convene the meetings after consulting the Focal point in NBA. If required, he can visit anywhere in India with the prior approval of the Chairman of NBA.
20. The coordinator may submit a summary of the proceedings of every meeting after getting the approval of the Chair, Co-chair and all Members through email. He will coordinate with the entire group/ sub-committees and see that the final report is submitted within time. If required, the coordinator may travel separately to any city to meet the Chair of EC, Co-chair of EC, to plan the meetings after obtaining approval from the Chairman, NBA.
21. Since it is not possible to take all members of the committee to interact with Senior officers/ Chief Secretaries of States/ UTs, the Chair of the EC, in consultation with the Co-chair and Member Secretary, shall decide the composition of the delegation. Alternatively, the Chair, Co-chair, Member Secretary, & Convener may form a delegation of three and interact with officials of states and UTs and other stakeholders like SBBs, private individuals, communities/ NGOs/ Autonomous councils/ Panchayat Raj functionaries/ Associations, etc. The Member Secretary NBA may join the delegation if possible.
22. The Chairman of NBA reserves the right to dissolve the Working Group/ change the composition of the Expert Committee without assigning any reason.
23. The Chairman, NBA, reserves the right to disband the committee without assigning any reason.

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.



**(B. Balaji)**

Member Secretary, NBA

To

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30. **Dr. S. Sandilyan**, Scientific Consultant, NBA, Chennai.

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2. PS to Chairperson / PS to Member Secretary
3. Admn Guard File.