



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

(A statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Government of India)

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F.No.NBA/Tech Gen/22/150/25/26-27/1544

Date: 22.09.2026

OFFICE ORDER

Sub: Reconstitution of Expert Committee to devise modalities for utilisation of the ABS amount earmarked to the NBA in cases of access to biological resources from traders, institutions or intermediaries, in accordance with the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and the ABS Regulations, 2025-reg

Ref: 1. F. No. NBA/Tech Gen/22/150/25/25-26/2451 Date:17.12.2025

2. F. No. NBA/Tech Gen/22/150/25/25-26/2451 Date:01.05.2026

In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 as amended in 2023, an Expert Committee was constituted vide office order cited above to devise modalities for utilisation of the ABS amount earmarked to the NBA in cases of access to biological resources from traders, institutions or intermediaries, in accordance with the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and the ABS Regulations, 2025. The tenure of the committee was for period of three Months from the date of its constitution.

2. The Expert Committee held its meetings on 6th January, 2026, 5th February, 2026 and 11th February, 2026, and submitted its recommendations to the NBA on 16th February, 2026.

3. The EC report was considered in the 77th and 78th Authority meetings and directed the NBA Secretariat to

- a. develop a baseline data using secondary sources for identifying the source/ geo-locations of the biological resources to disburse the ABS amount to the SBBs/UTBCs/ BMCs/ community/ farmers.

4. Accordingly, NBA requested the institutions/repositories to provide provenance records, including the date of access of the biological resources. The institutions were to submit the details within a period of 45 days.

5. Further, NBA organised an online consultative meeting with institutions/repositories on 10th April 2026 and deliberated on key issues such as identifying the source of biological resources, including parental lines and to facilitate equitable distribution of accumulated ABS funds to concerned beneficiaries in accordance with the provisions of the BD Act. During the meeting all institutions/repositories were requested to submit complete details of the source of biological resources, parental lines, geographical origin, and access details, in the prescribed format to NBA. In the 78th Authority meeting, it was decided that institutions those who have not furnished the required data, the NBA may release 30% to institutions and 70% to NBA for undertaking activities envisaged under the BD Act.

6. With regard to the bulk bioresources especially medicinal plants accessed by companies records such as market value of the species, exact geo-location of the species, its usage in making the product are not available for disbursement of ABS amount. In the meantime, NBA obtained the occurrence of species (around 420 species) across the country from BSI, NMPB, ICFRE, FRLHT and few SBBs.

7. In view of the above, it is to inform that the tenure of the Expert Committee is extended up to 30th November 2026 or until further orders, whichever is earlier, from the date of issue of this order.

8. Member of the Committee

Chair	
Shri. A.K. Goyal IFS (Retd.), Former Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, New Delhi	
Members	
1.	Dr S.Balaji, IFS (Retd), Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests , Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Chennai
2.	Dr. Hanchinal R. Ramappa, Member of the Authority, NBA
3.	Dr. Jaya Parkash Yadav, Member of the Authority, NBA
4.	The Advisor, FSSAI, New Delhi
5.	Dr. Alka Rao, Director, CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH)
6.	Dr. Gouri Joshi, ESG and Enviro-Legal Consultant, Pune and Member of the NBA.
Focal Point & Convener: Dr. B. Balaji, IFS., Secretary, NBA	
Coordinator: Dr. K. P. Raghuram, Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing), NBA	

9. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Expert Committee shall be as follows:

(i) To examine applications involving access to biological resources from traders and markets suggest appropriate modalities for the disbursement of ABS amounts, including cases involving a large number of biological resources.

10. The NBA may amend the ToRs, if required.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(B. Balaji)
Member Secretary, NBA

GUIDELINES

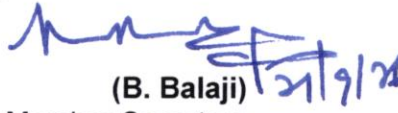
The following guidelines are issued for proper conduct of the meetings to achieve the expected outcomes.

- 1) The committee is constituted mainly to advise the NBA on technical, techno-legal, administrative, scientific, statutory, and miscellaneous matters, as the NBA does not have the required in-house expertise and experience in various disciplines. The role of the committee is more or less similar to that of 'Amicus Curiae' in the court of Law.
- 2) The Chair of the Committee is authorized to decide the mode of the meeting to be convened either physical or through virtual mode or Hybrid mode.
- 3) 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 Airport/Railway station/bus stand to and from the venue of the meeting.
- 4) The travel cost by Air (economy class)/train (AC-I class/AC II tier), incurred by the Chairman and the members/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 TA-Bill. Alternatively, road mileage will be paid based on declaration of Kilometres.
- 5) As per the directions issued by the Ministry of Finance vide O.M. no No. 19024/2212017-E. IV, dated 16 February 2022, the Members are required to purchase the ticket from three authorized 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). The submission of boarding pass shall be mandatory for reimbursement by the NBA
- 6) As per OM No. C-12025/3/2022-CS III dated 15th March 2022 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Chair, is entitled for Rs. 6000/- per day of sitting and all members of the EC are entitled for Rs 4000/- per day of sitting
- 7) The committee is requested to submit the proceedings/summary of discussions to the NBA duly authenticated by all the members. In order to finalize and submit proceedings/summary of the discussions held during the meeting on the same day, outstation members are requested to plan their return journey on the next day of the meeting. Under exceptional circumstances the Chairman may get the proceedings / summary of discussions finalized at later dates and send the document to NBA duly authenticated by all members who were present in the meeting. For this the Chairman/Co-chair may send the draft to all members through E-mail to authenticate/agree & reply accordingly, for which 2 days' time may be given failing which the proceedings/ summary of discussions are deemed to be approved. 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 lump sum, a declaration may be made by the chairman to the effect that the expenditure has been incurred for the above purpose.
- 8) All members of the committee are requested to kindly go through the subject area and refer BD Act 2002 as amended in 2023, The Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, the Biological Diversity (Access to Biological Resources and Knowledge Associated thereto

and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits) Regulations, 2025, relevant laws, scientific articles, and books. browse internet to facilitate lively, purposeful and useful discussion on the subject.

- 9) The Chairman and members may kindly exchange notes and views through internet on the subject area to be discussed during the meeting
- 10) The Chairman and members are requested to refrain from criticizing policies of the Central or State Governments. In case of any conflict of interest, the members may excuse themselves from participating in the meeting or during the recommendation on the agenda where he/she has a conflict of interest.
- 11) 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 dealt with. However, they can collect information from non-members working in similar autonomous and statutory bodies that may be useful for the expert committee.
- 12) The Member Secretary, NBA, is authorized to invite any other experts/professionals to the meetings of the committee as special invitees, after taking prior approval of the Chairman, NBA
- 13) The Chairman, NBA, may include additional members in to the Committee, as appropriate
- 14) The Chairman may conduct meeting anywhere in India in consultation with the Member Secretary, NBA
- 15) The NBA reserves the right to modify/add new guidelines.
- 16) The Chairman, NBA, reserves the right to disband the committee without assigning any reason.
- 17) The recommendations made in the final report are not binding on the NBA.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(B. Balaji)
Member Secretary

To

1. **Shri A. K. Goyal, IFS, (Retd.)**, Former Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, New Delhi. Email: akg@nic.in; akg1901@gmail.com [**Chair**]
2. **Dr S.Balaji, IFS (Retd)**, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Former Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Tamil Nadu. Mobile: 9444041172. Email: balajisrinivasagopalan@gmail.com.
3. **Dr. Hanchinal R. Ramappa**, Member of the Authority, 142, MIG-II, KHB Colony, DN Koppa, Dharwad-581118 mail: rrhanchinal@rediffmail.com, rrhanchinal@gmail.com

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6. **Dr. Alka Rao**, Director, IMTECH, Chandigarh, email director.imt@csir.res.in

7. **Dr Gouri Joshi**, Member of the Authority, 401, Balwant Ashram, Behind Nirmitti Elite, Law College Road, Erandwane, Pune, Maharashtra 41 1004
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Copy for information to:

1. The Administrative Officer, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.
2. The Accounts Officer, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.
3. The PS to Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.


(B. Balaji) 21/9/26

Member Secretary, NBA