



**NBA**

**2017 - 18**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**National Biodiversity Authority**  
Chennai, India  
[www.nbaindia.org](http://www.nbaindia.org)



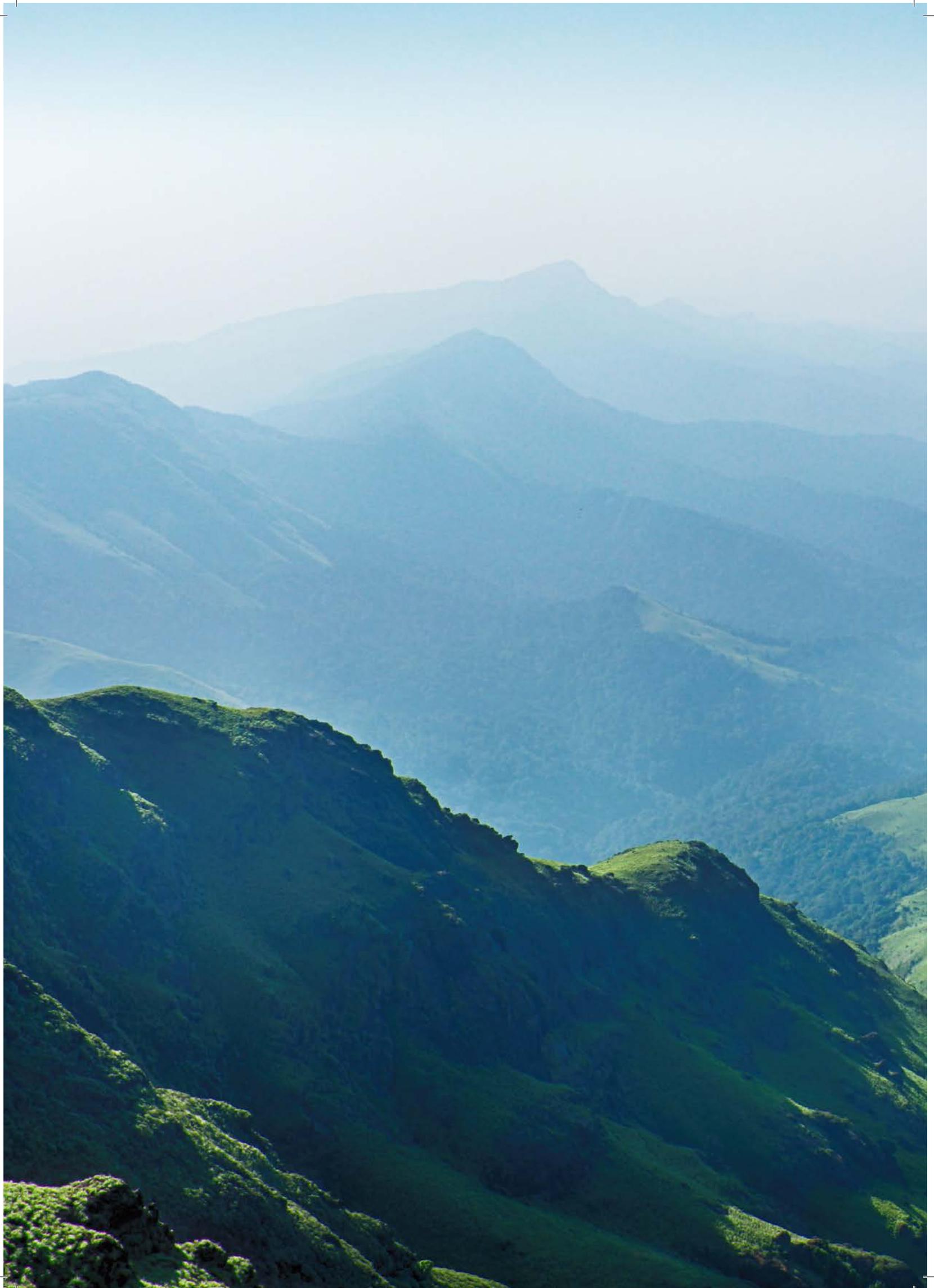




## National Biodiversity Authority

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

# Annual Report 2017-18





## Foreword

India is one of the twelve mega diverse countries that accounts for approximately 8% of the total global biodiversity in the world. It is estimated that 70% of the Indian population are directly dependent on the biodiversity for their livelihoods and socio-economic growth and sustainable development. However, due to growing population pressure, rapid economic growth and industrialization, there is an immense pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem services, with the consequences being destruction, fragmentation, over-exploitation of the natural habitats; shrinking genetic diversity; invasion of alien species. Thus, there is an urgent need for accelerating our efforts towards conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from use of genetic resources.

The Government of India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 and Rules in 2004 as part of our obligations as a signatory to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992. The objectives of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is to implement the Act and thus conserve India's biodiversity and associated knowledge, facilitate its sustainability and ensure the benefits arising out of the utilization of the bio resources are fair and equitably shared with the concerned communities who are involved in conservation, use and management. The Act mandates the implementation through a decentralized system with National Biodiversity Authority at the national level, the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) at State level and the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) at the local body level.

The Annual Report for 2017-18 documents the work of the NBA, through highlighting the significant work completed at the State and local levels along with recording the important decisions; networks and partnerships established.

I am thankful to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Members of the Authority and the Members of the various Expert Committees for their support and guidance to enable NBA fulfil the implementation of the BD Act and its statutory functions.

I would like to record my appreciation to all the officers and staff of NBA for their efforts to take the organization forward and help in bringing out the Annual Report for 2017-18.

**B. Meenakumari**  
Chairperson, NBA





## **Acknowledgement**

The Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the year 2017-18 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 implementation of the Biodiversity Rules. The Annual Report also contains brief description of the activities carried out by the State Biodiversity Board.

I sincerely thank the Chairperson, NBA for her valuable advice, continued motivation, encouragement, support and knowledge in all the endeavours to achieve the goals of the year effectively and efficiently.

I express my deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for their continued guidance, support and assistance extended towards effective implementation of the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act. I am pleased to thank all the Members of the Authority, Expert Committees who have offered invaluable support, advice, assistance and guidance in furthering the activities of the Secretariat.

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

I wholeheartedly appreciate the efforts of all the officers and staff of NBA Secretariat in compiling and bringing out the Annual Report for 2017-18.

**T. Rabikumar**  
Secretary, NBA



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## Executive Summary

Biological resources nationally and globally are depleting at an alarming rate in the last few decades due to increased destructive anthropogenic factors causing distress to all biological forms and disrupting the ecosystem functioning. This calls for urgent attention and action from all countries to conserve and support the biodiversity, ecosystems and livelihoods through major policy and programme focus in these realms. The 1992 Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro led to the preparation of the international legal instrument, the 'Convention on Biological Diversity' (CBD) during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) for the conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits of biological diversity. Consequently, India enacted the Biological Diversity (BD) Act in 2002 and notified the Biological Diversity Rules in 2004. A three-tier institutional structure was formed for implementation of the BD Act 2002, whereby the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) established by the Government of India in 2003 under Section 8 of the Act, occupies the apex position, headquartered in Chennai and implements the BD Act at the national level as the first tier. The second and the third tier constitute the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) established in 29 States and Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) operating at the local level respectively as per Section 41 of the Act.

NBA regulates the activities and issues guidelines for access of biological resources and also advises the Government of India on biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilization and equitable sharing of biological resources. NBA, as a statutory body has been following a dedicated and target oriented plan. The highlights of the progress and achievements during the year 2017-18 are briefly given here and are elaborated in the Annual Report.

During the period 2017-18, the Authority met four times and the important decisions taken are detailed in the report. NBA constituted

five expert committee meetings- viz. the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing which met five times and gave suitable recommendations for processing and approving the different applications received; the Core Expert Group for developing modalities for utilizing the benefit sharing amount accrued on the access of bovine cattle embryos; the Core Expert Group to modify/ revise the existing guidelines for Biodiversity Management Committees; the Expert Committee on medicinal plants which deliberated the way forward related to threatened species and safeguarding of traditional knowledge of medicinal plants documented through People's Biodiversity Register (PBRs); and the Expert Committee on Normally Traded Commodities for augmenting the list of 385 species listed in the Principal Notification to 421, by adding 36 more species.

During the reporting period, 506 applications were received with respect to access of biological resources for research/commercial use, transfer of research results, intellectual property rights and third party transfer. In total 285 agreements were signed during this period. NBA realized a sum of Rs. 18.38 crores as benefit sharing, including upfront payment, royalty etc. NBA with support of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has developed the online portal for filing application. It has also launched the e-filing facility for Form B (sending/carrying the biological resources outside for research) and Form C (deposition of microbial cultures in foreign repository for claim of novel species) applications through ABS e-filing system. India being a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded 86 approvals granted in the ABS CH (Access & Benefit Sharing Clearing House) platform and has generated Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance during 2017-18.

The implementation of the BD Act 2002 was initiated at the State level by establishing the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) and locally

by constituting the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) by the States. Of the 29 SBBs, so far 26 SBBs have notified their State Rules including Tamil Nadu which notified its State Rules in this reporting period. So far, 74,063 BMCs have been constituted and 6,096 PBRs prepared across the country till this reporting period. One site viz. Dailong Village, Tamenglong District in Manipur has been declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS). NBA has extended financial support to all the SBBs by Grant-in-Aids towards strengthening the institutional mechanism and facilitating the implementation of the BD Act. NBA has also financially assisted towards the 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 2017-18. NBA has also supported activities, awareness programs, publications, documentations related to biodiversity carried out by Universities / Colleges, Academic institutions under the recommendation of Project Scrutiny Committee (PSC). During the period of review, regional meetings of SBBs were convened to interact and understand the problems and challenges faced. A meeting was also conducted by NBA along with 24 SBBs and officials from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and special invitees for an extensive discussion on various issues faced by the SBBs including challenges and opportunities in formation of Biodiversity Management Committees and the preparation of the People's Biodiversity Registers, revision of draft guidelines for BMCs, Access & Benefit sharing mechanism, State Biodiversity Action Plan and the 6th National Report to CBD.

The MoEF&CC has initiated steps to prepare the Sixth National Report to CBD due to be submitted in 2018, in association with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), along with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Towards this, five regional consultation workshops in collaboration with NBA with concerned stakeholders was organized for creating awareness on the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) and National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), as well as for seeking inputs

for preparation of India's sixth National Report to the CBD. India hosted the 3rd Global BIOFIN conference in association with the MoEF&CC and NBA. The Conference was attended by high level delegates including Ministers and Vice Ministers from the Environment, Finance, Planning and other relevant Government Departments from 30 BIOFIN Partner countries. The UNEP – Global Environment Facility (GEF) – MoEF&CC ABS Project constituted 318 Biodiversity Management Committees, 297 Local Biodiversity Funds, documented 140 Peoples Biodiversity Registers, signed 462 ABS agreements involving users, providers and regulators. NBA has introduced its first quarterly E-Newsletter "Biodiversity Matters", with technical and financial support from CEBPOL. The aim of this E-Newsletter is to inform stakeholders, including SBBs, BMCs, academia, industries, NGOs and the public at large, about the activities carried out by NBA under different programmes/projects.

The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) - 2017 was commemorated by all SBBs in their respective States by organizing exhibitions, competitions, seminars, awareness programs. The national level celebration of IDB 2017 was organized by NBA with support from the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Climate Change and was coordinated by the Goa SBB in association with UNDP at Panjim. The Honourable Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Manohar Parrikar launched the India Biodiversity Award 2018 and UNDP-GEF supported Capacity Building Project on this occasion besides the release of knowledge products and communication materials. The other important days observed by NBA were the International Yoga Day, 14th Foundation Day of NBA, Hindi Diwas, 3rd Indian International Science Festival-2017, World Environment Day, and Women's Day etc. During this period, NBA organized and / participated in various exhibitions, conferences, workshops, trainings, awareness programs, for different stakeholders such as researchers, students, scientists and public regarding the importance of conserving and protecting the biodiversity and also rewarding biodiversity conservers.

The Annual Accounts of 2017-18 and Annual Plan for the year 2018-19 are also included in the Annual Report for 2017-18.

## Introduction

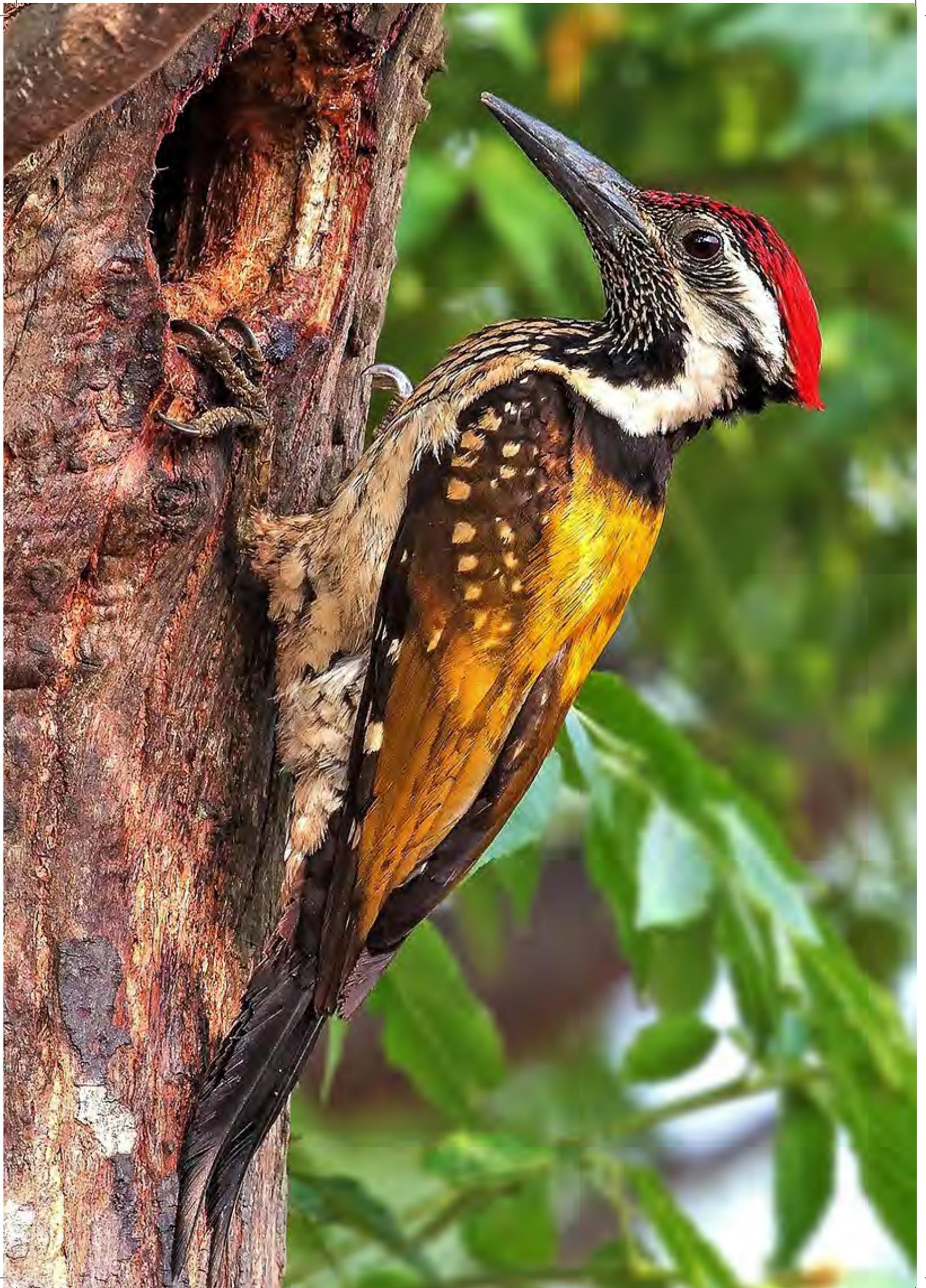
India is one of the twelve mega biodiversity countries and anchors 7-8% of the recorded species of the world. India has four of the 34 biodiversity hotspots of the world, namely, the Himalaya, Indo-Burma, Western Ghats and Sri Lanka, and Sundaland. Biogeographically, India is situated at a tri-junction of the Afro-tropical, Indo-Malayan and Paleo-Arctic realms. Till date, over 91,200 animal and 45,500 plant species have been documented in the country. Of the documented plant species, of the 4,900 species of flowering plants belonging to 47 families, 141 genera are endemic and are primarily concentrated in the northeast, northwest Himalayas, Western Ghats and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. India is also rich in terms of fauna as exemplified by the fact that nearly 62 percent of the recorded amphibian species are endemic to India, majority of them found in the Western Ghats. Globally, India holds the eighth position for origin and diversity of crop plants as it has more than 300 wild ancestors and close relatives of cultivated plants growing naturally. Similarly, the fish diversity is rich as it represents 57% of the total families and 80% of the global fishes. Of the 783 species of freshwater fishes belonging to 89 genera from 17 families, 223 species are endemic. Inventories of both floral and faunal diversities are progressively being updated with many discoveries of new species through continuous survey and exploration.

Around 9,500 plant species are used as medicine in the indigenous health practices and more than 3,900 plant species are used by local and indigenous people as food, fibre, fodder, insecticides and pesticides, gum, resins, dyes, perfumes and timber.

Biological resources are vital to people's economic and social development, more so in a country like India, where a large percentage of the population still depend on local flora and fauna for economic sustenance and where traditional healing practices which uses bio-

resources still thrives. However, due to India's growing population, rapid economic growth and industrialization, there is an immense pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem services. As a consequence, there is destruction and fragmentation of natural habitats, which alters the ecology and its inhabitants and also impacts the livelihoods of millions of people.

This unprecedented loss of biological diversity at national and global level has resulted in several conferences and conventions internationally expressing concerns over the depletion of biological resources. This led to the preparation of an international legal instrument in 1992 entitled Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) during the Earth Summit, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro for the conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits of biological diversity. Consequently, India enacted the Biological Diversity (BD) Act in 2002 and notified the Biological Diversity Rules in 2004. A three-tier institutional structure has been formed for implementation of the BD Act 2002 whereby the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) established by the Central Government of India in 2003 under Section 8 of the Act, occupying the apex position, headquartered in Chennai implements the BD Act at the national level. The State Biodiversity Boards (SBB), established in 29 states operates at the State level and the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) is formed at the local body as per Section 41 of the Act and constitutes the second and third tier respectively. NBA advises the Government of India on issues related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilization and equitable sharing. It also regulates the activities and issues guidelines for access of biological resources. Similarly, SBB advises the State governments on biodiversity related issues. The BMCs are responsible for promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms besides chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.



## Constitution and Functions of the Authority, Related Statutory Bodies

### 2.1 Structure of the National Biodiversity Authority

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

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

The current Chairperson is Dr. B. Meenakumari, a renowned Scientist, who formerly served as Deputy Director General of Fisheries, Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

#### 2.1.2 Ex-officio members representing MoEF&CC 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 MoEF&CC- 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

Seven other ex-officio members in the rank of Joint Secretary or an Officer of an equivalent rank are appointed by the Central Government. They deal with the following subjects:

- 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

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.

### 2.2 Functions of NBA

- Advise the Government of India on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilization of biological resources.
- Regulate activities and issue guidelines for access to biological resources and / or associated knowledge and for 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 selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified as heritage sites and suggest measure for their management.

- Provide guidance and technical support to Biodiversity Management Committees through State Biodiversity Boards for preparing People's Biodiversity Registers.
- Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of 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 Governments, subject to guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of 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.
- viii.

### 2.4 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

In accordance with Section 41 of the BD Act, local bodies within their areas of jurisdiction can constitute BMCs for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and

documentation of biological diversity which includes preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms, and chronicling of knowledge related to biological diversity. Each BMC consists of a Chairperson and six persons nominated by the local body of which one-third is women and 18% belong to Scheduled Castes/Tribes category.

#### 2.4.1 Functions of BMC

- Prepare, maintain and validate People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) in consultation with the local people. The PBR provides details of access granted to biological resources and traditional knowledge, the collection fee imposed, the benefits derived and how they are shared.
- Provide advice on any matter referred to it by the State Biodiversity Board or NBA for granting approval.
- Maintain data about local *vaids* and medical practitioners using biological resources.

### 2.5 Role of Central 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 knowledge of local people relating to biological diversity, as recommended by NBA
- Assess the impact of projects on 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 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.





## Meetings of the Authority

During the year, the Authority met four times and deliberated various issues in detail and directed and advised the NBA Secretariat for appropriate action as per Section 12 of the BD Act, 2002 and Rule 10 of the BD Rules. Besides, the Authority considered ABS applications along with recommendations of the expert committee on ABS, and gave decisions and advised the NBA Secretariat. The agenda discussed and outcome of the meetings held are outlined below:

### 3.1 42<sup>nd</sup> Authority Meeting

The forty second meeting of Authority (Governing Body) was held on 21st August, 2017 in Chennai under the chairpersonship of Dr B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA. Some of the important items discussed and deliberated in the meeting were the -

- Proceedings of the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Expert Committee on ABS on the access/ IP / Transfer of results of research applications and recommendations of the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of Expert Committee on ABS held on 8<sup>th</sup>& 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.
- Minutes of the Meeting of Core expert group held on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 to develop the modalities for utilizing the benefit sharing amount accrued towards the access of bovine cattle embryos.
- Minutes of the meeting of the Core Expert Group for Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on ABS on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017, proposal of National Research Centre on Equines, Hisar to designate the National Centre for Veterinary Type Cultures as repository under Section 39 of the BD Act, draft clause (the obligations under the BD Act) developed by the Core Expert Group to incorporate in the sanction order of the funding agencies /departments.
- Summary of decision of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Expert Committee on Normally Trade Commodities held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2017 and

- Consideration of the draft proceedings of the 8th meeting of the NBA's Expert Committee on Agro biodiversity held on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017.



### 3.2- 43<sup>rd</sup> Authority meeting

The forty third meeting of Authority was held on 21st December 2017 at Chennai under the chairpersonship of Dr B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA.

Some of the important items discussed and deliberated in the meeting were the -

- Proceedings of the 45<sup>th</sup> meeting of Expert Committee on ABS held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
- Guidelines for processing ABS applications received by the SBBs under Section 7 of the BD Act 2002.
- Expert Committee on Medicinal Plants dealing with notifications issued under Section 38 of the BD Act, 2002 and related matters, presentation on the scheme for certification of folk healers by Quality Control of India (QCI),
- A proposal of National Research, Consultative meeting of stakeholders on Notification of Plants and Animals as threatened species u/s 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at NBA, Chennai.
- Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Expert Committee on Normally Traded as Commodities held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2017 at NBA, Chennai.



### 3.3- 44<sup>th</sup> Authority Meeting

The forty fourth meeting of Authority was held on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at Chennai under the chairpersonship of Dr B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA. Some of the important items discussed and deliberated in the meeting include

- Proceedings of the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of Expert Committee on ABS held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017.
- Report of the Expert Committee on Medicinal Plants - presentation on ecological niche modelling by National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Institute of Himalayan Bio resource Technology (IHBT) and North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST).
- Applications for access to Red Sanders wood approved by the Chairperson, NBA for ratification.
- Form-B applications disposed by the NBA Secretariat and presentation on scheme for certification of folk healers by the Quality Council of India (QCI).



### 3.4- 45<sup>th</sup> Authority Meeting

The forty fifth meeting of Authority was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at New Delhi under the chairpersonship of Dr B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA. Some of the important items discussed and deliberated in the meeting include

- Proceedings of the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of Expert Committee on ABS held on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.
- Closure of application in Form-III (App. No. 298) filed by M/s Natural Remedies Pvt Ltd for seeking approval for obtaining IP rights.
- Guidance on applications of Access to Red Sanders wood.
- Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meetings of the Selection Committee of the India Biodiversity Awards held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.
- Report of the measures taken by NBA u/s 18(4) of the BD Act to oppose the grant of IPR outside India, Form B applicants who have taken bio-resources outside India for study before approval of NBA against the Regulations 13 of the Guidelines of ABS Regulations, 2014 and Application submitted by M/s Evonik Industries AG Ltd in Form-I for access to fungal strains.



## Committees constituted by the Authority and their activities

### 4.1. Core Expert Group for developing the modalities for utilizing the benefit sharing amount accrued on the access of bovine cattle embryos

Pursuant to the decision taken in the 41<sup>st</sup> Authority meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, a core expert group for developing the modalities for utilizing the benefit sharing amount accrued on the access of bovine cattle embryos was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr.A.K.Misra, Vice Chancellor, Maharashtra Animal & Fishery Sciences University. The expert group met on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at NBA and recommended that the benefits accrued may be used for research, conservation and sustainable use of the breeds viz., Ongole, Gir and Kankrej.

### 4.2. Core Expert Group to modify / revise the existing guidelines for Biodiversity Management Committee

The Guidelines for operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) was developed by the National Biodiversity Authority in 2013. Based on the guidelines, several States have played a facilitative role in formation, operationalization and management of BMCs. Many of the States have suggested revising the guidelines based on their field

experience and have provided appropriate inputs for such revision. Consequently, NBA re-constituted the Expert Committee on BMC to revise the existing guidelines for BMC. The Expert Committee on BMC met twice and submitted their report along with the draft of the revised guidelines for Biodiversity Management Committee. The Authority in its 39<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting has considered the report and formed a small group for fine tuning the draft guidelines. Accordingly, a meeting of the Core Expert Group to modify the revised (draft) Guidelines of BMC was held on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at NBA, Chennai in which the guidelines and modifications was discussed.

### 4.3 Expert Committee on Medicinal Plants

NBA organized the sixth meeting (Third of the Reconstituted) of the Expert Committee (EC) on Medicinal Plants (MP) on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017 at National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Amarjeet Ahuja, IAS (Retd.) with the co-chair, Dr. G.A. Kinhal, IFS (Retd.). EC deliberated on the way forward relating to threatened species notifications u/s 38 of BD Act, threat assessment, principles and procedures involved in negative listing of species for exports issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and safeguarding of Traditional Knowledge (TK) relating to medicinal plants documented through PBRs. The deliberations of the EC had been consolidated as a report and has been placed as an agenda item in the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Authority held on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017 at NBA, Chennai. The Authority approved the report of the Expert Committee on Medicinal Plants.

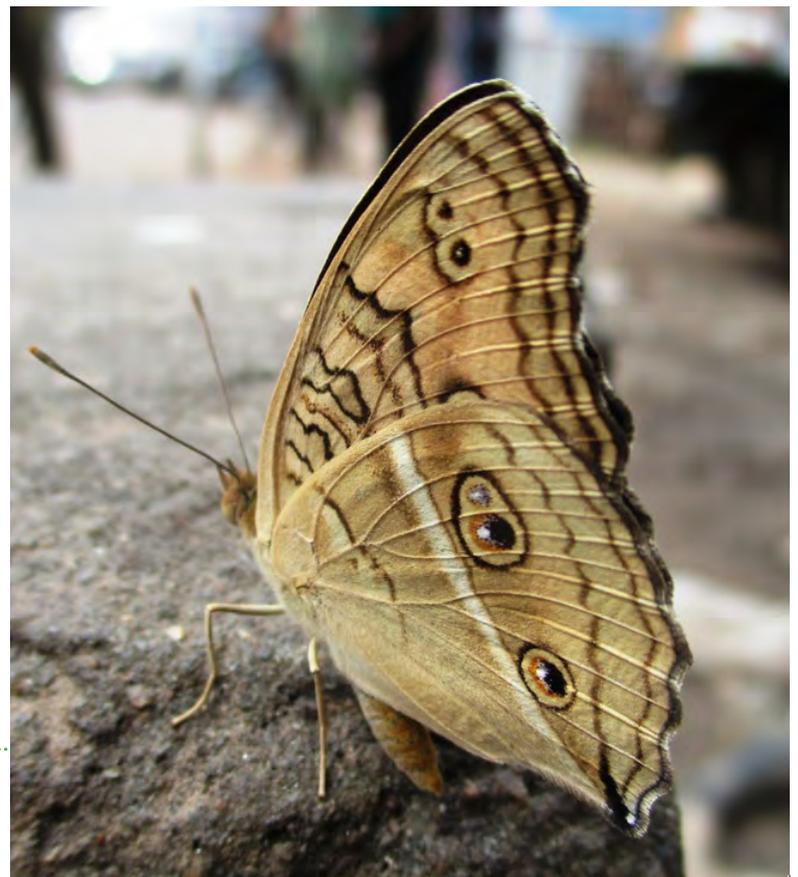
NBA had organized a consultative meeting of stakeholders on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at NBA, Chennai involving representatives of MoEF&CC, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), and SBB of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Telangana to resolve the pending technical and



administrative issues, at various levels with stakeholders relating to notification of plants and animals as threatened species for those non-notified States, with a view to prohibit or regulate collection thereof for any purpose and take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve those species, under Section 38 of the BD Act.

#### 4.4 Expert Committee on Normally Traded Commodities (NTC)

NBA had organized the Thirteenth Meeting of the (Second of the Reconstituted) Expert Committee on Normally Traded Commodities on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2017 at NBA, Chennai under the Chairmanship of Shri. D.K.Ved, IFS (Retd.) and Shri.C. Achalender Reddy, IFS as Co-Chair. The EC considered various proposals received from stakeholders such as the representation made by Hon'ble MP (LS) Shri. Ramesh Bais related to the inclusion of *Sal (Shorea robusta)*, *Kokum (Garcinia indica)* and Mango (*Mangifera indica*) in the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) Scheme. A summary of decisions of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EC on NTC was placed as an agenda item (42.16.02) in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Authority held on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2017 at NBA Chennai. The approved proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> EC on NTC were also placed as agenda item in the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Authority held on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2017 at NBA, Chennai. On the recommendations of the EC and approval of the Authority, for further augmenting the list of normally traded commodities to be exempted from the purview of the BD Act, a notification has been issued by MoEF&CC under Section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. 36 species (35 pulpwood species and kokum) were added to the existing list, thus increasing the total number of exempted items to 421 from 385.



## Activities to regulate access to biological resources and fair and equitable benefit sharing

The activities related to regulating access and ensuring fair and equitable sharing is described in the following section:

### 5.1. 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, received by the NBA are evaluated

by the expert committee on access and benefit sharing and which subsequently makes appropriate recommendations for consideration of the Authority. During the year, the committee met five times viz., 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup>& 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, 45<sup>th</sup> meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, 46<sup>th</sup> meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017, 47<sup>th</sup> meeting on 8<sup>th</sup>& 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 and evaluated around 450 applications on access and benefit sharing and provided recommendations to the Authority. Besides, the EC provided techno-legal inputs on various generic issues such as accessing non-Indian biological resources, applicability of BD Act on the claim of improved design without using biological resources and modalities for levying upfront payments.



## 5.2. Core Expert Group for developing the modalities for utilizing the benefit sharing amount accrued on the access of bovine cattle embryos

Pursuant to the decision taken in the 41<sup>st</sup> Authority meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, a core expert group for developing the modalities for utilizing the benefit sharing amount accrued on the access of bovine cattle embryos was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr.A.K.Misra, Vice Chancellor, Maharashtra Animal & Fishery Sciences University. The group met on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at NBA and recommended that the benefits accrued may be used for research, conservation and sustainable use of native breeds viz., Ongole, Gir and Kankrej.

## 5.3 Generating the Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)

Under 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 party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded 86 approvals granted in the ABS CH platform and generated Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance.

## 5.4 Interim Report on Implementation of Nagoya Protocol on ABS

The first Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP-1), requested Parties to the Protocol to submit an interim national report on the implementation vide paragraph 4 under Article 29 of the Protocol, twelve months prior to the third meeting of the COP-MOP. Accordingly, Parties and non-Parties were required to submit interim national report on implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS to the Secretariat through the ABS Clearing-

House. In this context, NBA in association with the MoEF&CC prepared India's Interim Report on Implementation of Nagoya Protocol with support from CEBPOL. This was submitted to the Ministry and after few consultations meet, the finalised report was submitted to the CBD secretariat by uploading the same in the ABS CH website.

## 5.5 Launch of e-filing of Form-B & Form-C application

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) through National Informatics Centre (NIC) has developed online portal for filing application. The ABS e-filing was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change which allows the applicant to file their ABS applications with NBA for seeking approval for carrying out various activities. This online portal is user-friendly and provides a step-by-step guidance for selecting and filing the correct application form by providing tool tips, pop up messages for easy filing with mandatory columns. Concurrently, with the policy of updating the user friendliness of obtaining approval of NBA for various purposes, NBA has launched the e-filing facility for Form B (sending/carrying biological resources outside the country for research) and Form C (deposition of microbial cultures in foreign repository for claim of novel species) applications through ABS e-filing system (<http://absefiling.nic.in>).



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

### 6.1 Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

The National Biodiversity Authority 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 applicants are outlined in the Sections 3, 4, and 6 of the Act; 14, 17 and 18

of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and ABS Regulations 2014.

The applications received from different stakeholders viz., Non-Indian individual or entity and Indian individual or entity, are examined through an expert committee constituted for the purpose. The various categories of applications are provided in Table.1.

Table 1:Category of ABS applications

Sections of the BD Act, 2002	Form No.	Purpose of application	By whom
Section 3	I	Access of 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 research	Any Indian/non-Indian or entity to any non-Indian, NRI, foreign entity or Indian entity having non-Indian participation in share capital
Section 6	III	Seeking no objection to obtain Intellectual Property Right	Any Indian/ Non-Indian or entity

Since inception, this office has received **2021** applications from different stakeholders (Figure 1). During the reporting period, NBA received **470** applications which were complete in all

respects and which have been taken up for processing. The status of the processing of these applications is detailed in Table-2.

Figure 1: Applications received since 2004

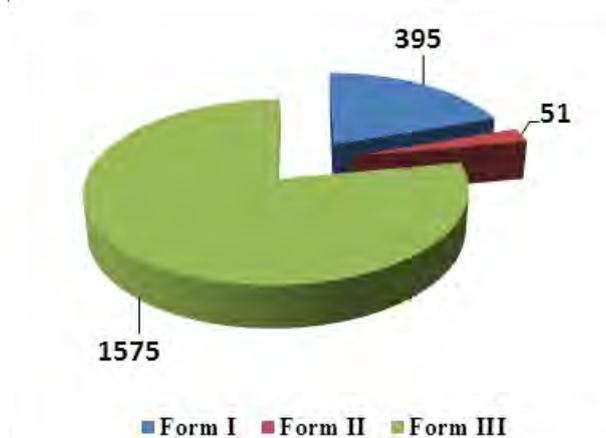


Table 2: Stages of processing of ABS applications

Details	Form I	Form II	Form III	TOTAL
Received	82	1	387	470
Cleared	45	1	144	190
Under process	26	0	185	211
Violation	4	0	32	36
Closure/Withdrawn	7	0	26	33
Agreement signed / approved	36	2	246	284
Cleared (applications received in the previous years)	12	3	64	79
Closure/Withdrawn (applications received in the previous years)	17	2	83	102
Rejected	2	0	7	9
Violation	5	0	11	16

Till date a total of **363** applications, of which 310 are Form III, have been approved this year and the Agreement has been signed with the applicants.

## 6.2 Benefit sharing realized

NBA has received a sum of about Rs. 18.38 crores as benefit sharing (BS) component during 2017-2018. Out of the BS amount realized on the access of Red Sanders wood, NBA has distributed a sum Rs. 3.00 crores to

the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department through the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Boards as per the recommendation of the EC on Red Sanders with the approval of the Authority.

In the previous years, NBA had realized benefit sharing component from M/s Pepsico Holdings India Pvt Ltd towards access of sea weeds. Of this, NBA has released Rs. 32.00 lakhs to the Tamil Nadu State SBB for distributing the fund amongst the beneficiaries in four southern coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu.

## Measures taken in respect of Intellectual Property Rights related to genetic resources and associated knowledge

Genetic resources and associated knowledge constitute the raw materials for bioprospecting which is one of the fastest growing R&D sector in the world. Bioprospecting contributes to the creation of value added products that in turn has enormous economic potential. Intellectual property rights are used as a legal tool to create monopoly rights over this highly valuable information and thereby ensure market success. But creation of private property rights through the grant of patent can lead to impediments for future research. Even though the holders of IPR derive significant benefits, the same is not commonly shared with the actual conservers and holders of biological resource and associated knowledge. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) aims at equitable distribution of the benefits arising out of such research and 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 and benefit sharing based on mutually agreed terms. Section 6 of the Biological Diversity Act, 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 from the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

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 NBA has come across situations where individuals, institutions and companies situated in foreign jurisdictions have accessed and utilized Indian biological resources for developing innovations and have applied for patent in foreign patent offices. To address these situations of non-compliance, the national legislation has empowered NBA under Section 18(4) of the Biological Diversity Act with the statutory function to take measures to oppose the grant of patents for inventions based on the biological resources which were obtained without prior approval from NBA.

The 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority held on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 discussed the issue and directed the NBA Secretariat to take necessary measures to oppose such IPR applications. Consequently, NBA has initiated action against 42 patent applications which were filed in various patent offices across the world. The patent applications made use of various biological resources from India which include medicinally valued substances like turmeric (*Curcuma longa*), Indian Gooseberry (*Emblica officinalis*), neem (*Azadirachta indica*), ginger (*Zinziber officinale*), Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*), centella (*Centella asiatica*), *Terminalia arjuna*, Indian Bay Leaf (*Cinnamomum tamala*), *Aloe vera*, *Sphaeranthus indicus*, etc. Among these violations, one of the patent applications filed at the Chinese Patent Office uses Red sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*), a species endemic to India and classified as an endangered species due to over exploitation. As a result of the measures initiated against foreign patent

applications, NBA has so far received three (3) applications for prior approval to obtain Intellectual Property Right. Among these, NBA has granted approval in two (2) cases (ABS agreement signed).

The measures initiated against 42 patent applications are in the form of ‘third party observations’ which were filed in 8 different patent offices around the world. Among these, 32 third party observations were filed in the year 2017-18 (Table 3).

**Table 3: List of observations filed in the year 2017 - 18**

Patent Office	No. of Observations filed
European Patent Office (EPO)	7
United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)	13
Canadian Intellectual Patent Office (CIPO)	5
Japan Patent Office (JPO)	1
IP Australia	5
Taiwan Patent Office	1



## Approvals granted by the Authority for Access of Biological Resources

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

the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and ABS Regulations 2014.

NBA receives applications from different stakeholders' viz., Non-Indian individual or entity; Indian individual or entity and is examined by the expert committee constituted. The detailed information relating to applications is provided in Table.4.

**Table 4: Category of ABS applications**

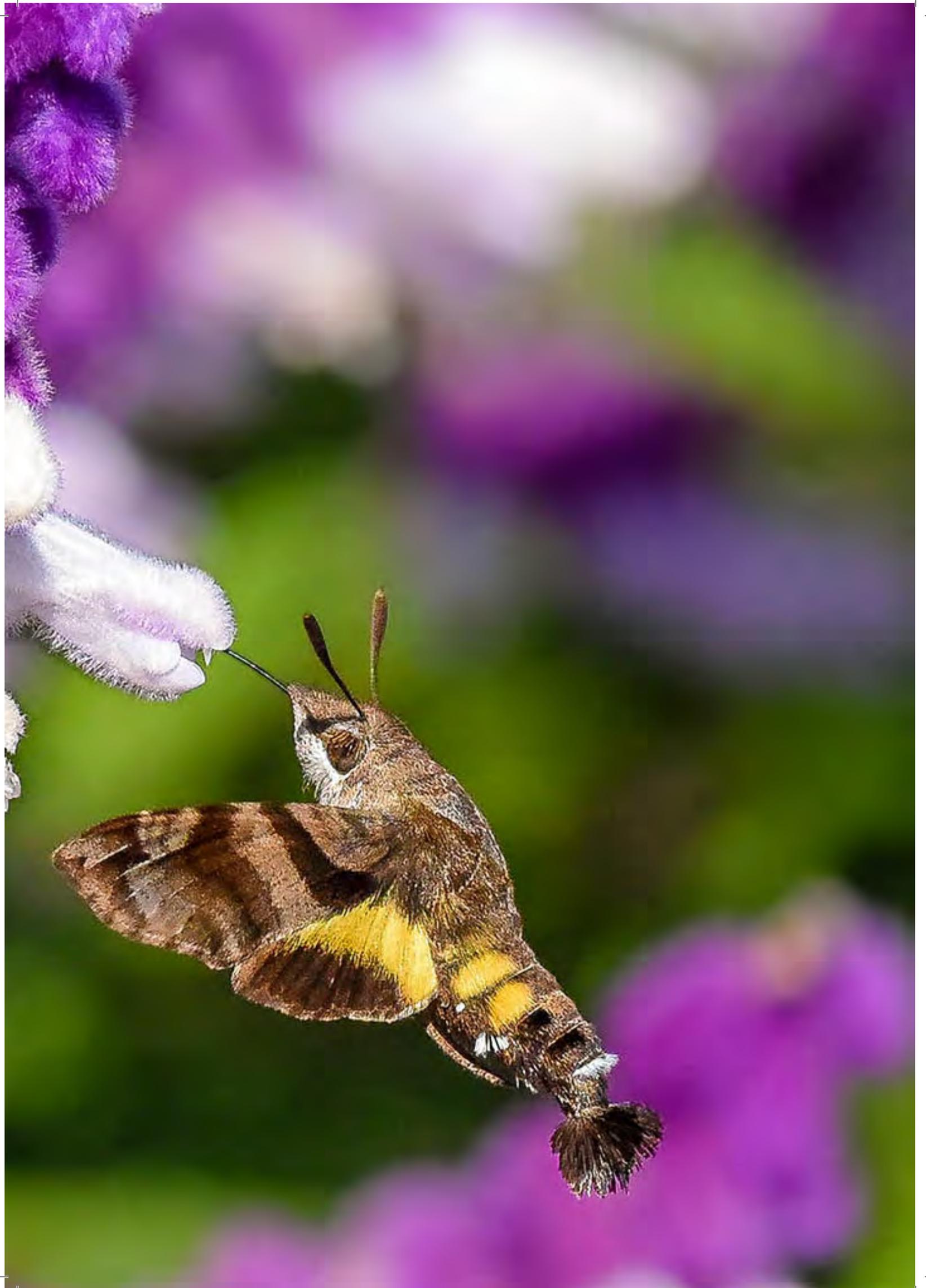
Section	Form	Category
Section 20 of the BD Act, 2002	Form IV	Third Party transfer of accessed biological resources and/ or associated knowledge.
Section 13 of the ABS Regulations, 2014	Form B	Conducting non-commercial research or research for emergency purpose outside India by Indian researchers/ government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

Since inception, this office has received **149** applications of Form IV (**82**) and Form B (**67**) from different stakeholders. During the reporting period, the NBA received **36**

applications 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**

Details	Form IV	Form B	TOTAL
Received	0	36	36
Cleared	0	29	29
Under process	0	5	5
Violation	0	0	0
Closure/Withdrawn	0	2	2
Agreement signed / approved	1	0	1
Cleared (applications received in the previous years)	1	2	3
Closure/Withdrawn (applications received in the previous years)	2	4	6
Rejected	0	0	0
Violation	0	0	0



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

1. With the need to make all stakeholders understand nuances of the Biodiversity Act and associated IPR, awareness programmes are conducted on varied related topics. In this context, the following programmes were conducted during the year 2017-18 -Meeting to discuss issues related to Biological Diversity Act, 2002 raised by Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers' Association (ADMA), Mumbai in their representation dated 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 and Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturers Organization of India (AMMOI), Kerala in their representation dated 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 was held under the Chairmanship of the Secretary

(EF&CC), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017.

2. A National Consultative Workshop on Economic Valuation of Bio-resources for Access and Benefit Sharing was held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The Consultation was aimed at understanding the value chains associated with bio-resources for stakeholders including experts from bio-resource based industries, practitioners, policy makers, Government officials and professionals from scientific institutions from ten states of India.



3. Interactive workshops on the Biological Diversity Act and Rules alongside ABS mechanism were held at Chail, Shimla and Dharmashala in Himachal Pradesh in September, 2017 for legal professionals from Bar Association, Forest Department Officials from the forest circles of Himachal Pradesh. The program constituted sessions on the importance of biodiversity and bio-resources of the state. The workshop elaborated on few select bio-resources, some cases relevant to BD Act and ABS mechanisms currently debated at various levels of courts in India. Specific session on the Act and Rules were dealt by Shri. Kunal Satyarthi, Joint Member Secretary, Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (HPSBB) and other invited speakers from the State.



4. A State level workshop on the National Biodiversity Action Plan and National Biodiversity Targets to develop inputs for the preparatory process of 6<sup>th</sup> National Report (NR6) to the CBD was organised by the Himachal State Biodiversity Board on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018 and Karnataka State Biodiversity Board in partnership with the University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK) on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. Officials from different line departments of the State, Project Manager, UNEP-GEF and NBA participated in the event to facilitate filling the worksheets.

5. Awareness program and an interactive capacity building program for stakeholders were organized by UNEP-GEF, NBA and State Biodiversity Boards of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh on BD Act and Rules and processes involved in Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism in July, 2017 at Bengaluru,

Karnataka and in August, 2017 at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The stakeholders were decision makers, policy makers and bio-resource based industries and academicians from the State.

6. UNEP-GEF ABS team organized focus groups meet to sensitize the media persons on the provisions relevant to Indian Biological Diversity Act 2002 and State Rules relevant to Andhra Pradesh at Vijayawada on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. The program covered a brief on importance of biodiversity, its relevance for the survival of human and role of Biodiversity Board as per the provisions of the Act. The program was attended by the groups including print and electronic media. An interview with Shri SBL Mishra., Chairman, Andhra Biodiversity Board was aired by the Dooradarshan Kendra, Andhra Pradesh during the news session of the day. The Project Manager, UNEP-GEF shared the role of National Biodiversity Authority as per the provisions of the Act.

7. An educational exhibit was set-up at Global Exhibition on Services-The India Opportunity during 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 held at Greater Noida, India. The objectives of BD Act and ABS mechanism were explained to visitors including business people from around 47 countries, delegates, academicians, Government officials, consortiums of industries, NGOs, and students. On 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, team members attended the National Conference on Partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals partnered by the PMU, UNEP-GEF MoEF&CC ABS Project. The event was organized by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC).

8. The UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC ABS Project, NBA and State Project Unit team members from Himachal State Biodiversity Board organized an educational exhibit on the BD Act 2002 and Rules 2004 along with knowledge products in Hindi and English at the Hotel Paragon in Solan, Himachal Pradesh during 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. The exhibit involved interactions with officials of the local departments, college and school students and scientific agencies from the State.

9. The UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC ABS project team organised an educational exhibit covering the BD Act 2002 and Rules 2004 with knowledge products developed in the project, at the 11<sup>th</sup> Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (IFAF) on the theme 'Fostering Innovations in Fisheries and Aquaculture with Focus on Sustainability and Safety' held at Kochi, Kerala during 21st-24th November, 2017. The Honourable Vice President of India Shri. Venkaiah Naidu, Honourable Governor of Kerala Justice (Retd.) Shri. Sathasivam P; Honourable Minister for Fisheries, Harbour Engineering and Cashew Industry, Govt. of Kerala, Smt. J Mercy Kutty Amma; Minister for Local Administration, Govt. of Kerala, Dr. K T Jaleel; Honourable Member of Parliament, Ernakulam, Shri. K V Thomas and Dr Mohapatra T, Secretary DARE and DG ICAR, Govt. of India participated in the inaugural programme. The Chairperson NBA Dr. Meenakumari B, addressed the gathering at the technical session titled "Biodiversity, Management and Sustainable use in Fisheries Sector in the light of SDG-14: Life below Water on the second day of the programme on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 2017, The programme was attended by around 1000 scientists from across India and some of the Asian countries.



10. The UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC ABS project team along with Jammu and Kashmir State Biodiversity Board set-up an educational exhibit during 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 on the provisions of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004 at Nand Palace, Udhampur, Jammu. The exhibit was graced by Dr. Jitendra Singh., Honourable Minister of State (I/C) for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Prime Minister Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Government of India. The exhibit was also visited by large number of school children and college youth as well as the scientific and technical institutions of the State and many development agencies.

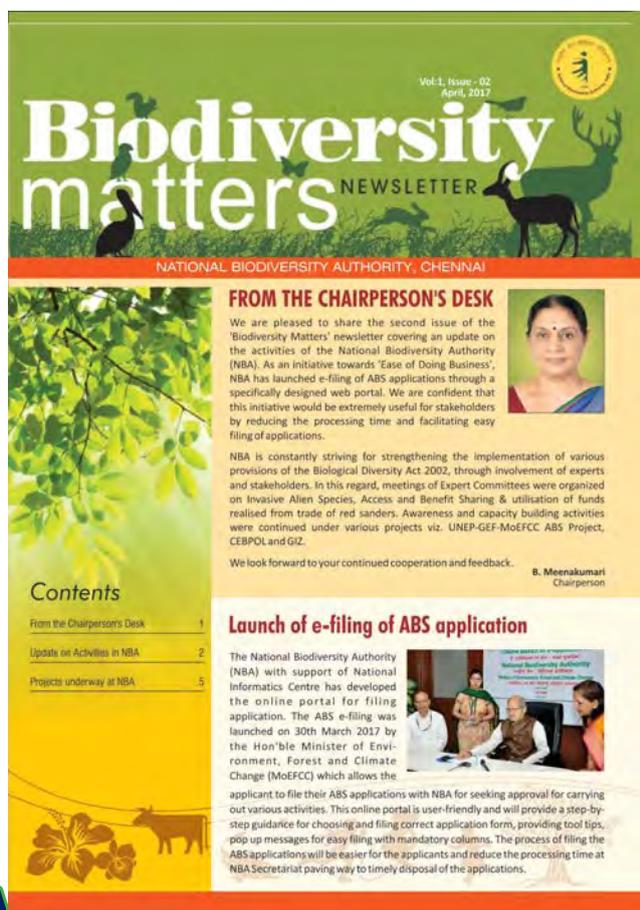
11. A national level consultation was conducted on "Mainstreaming biodiversity into Inland and Cold water fisheries on 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at NAARM, Hyderabad, with the support from engaged consultant Dr. V. V. Sugunan, Former Additional Director General (Inland Fisheries), Indian Council of Agriculture. It was participated by a good congregate of renowned experienced fisheries scientists from inland and cold water fisheries sector who had enriched the discussion. The recommendation received has been incorporated and the document is under finalisation with the support from the engaged consultant.





12. Policy documents on mainstreaming biodiversity into agriculture and marine fishery have been prepared and submitted to the Technical Committee for their feedback. The suggestion from Technical Members is being incorporated and the document is under finalization. Two external reputed experts Dr. Ajay Parida, MSSRF for Agriculture and Dr. Y. S. Yadava, BoBP for Marine Fishery were engaged for bringing out these documents.

13. National Biodiversity Authority has introduced its first quarterly E-Newsletter "Biodiversity Matters", with the technical and financial support from CEBPOL. The purpose



of this E-Newsletter is to inform stakeholders, including the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), Academia, Industries, NGOs and the public at large concerning the activities carried out by the NBA and the developments/activities on biodiversity that takes place in India at the State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees under different programmes/projects. The first issue of the E-Newsletter was released on the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, 2017 at Kala Academy, Panjim, Goa. Till date, three issues have been published with the 4<sup>th</sup> issue ready for publication. These issues have been circulated to more than 5000 stakeholders including academia, practitioners, State Biodiversity Boards and NBA Expert Committee members.

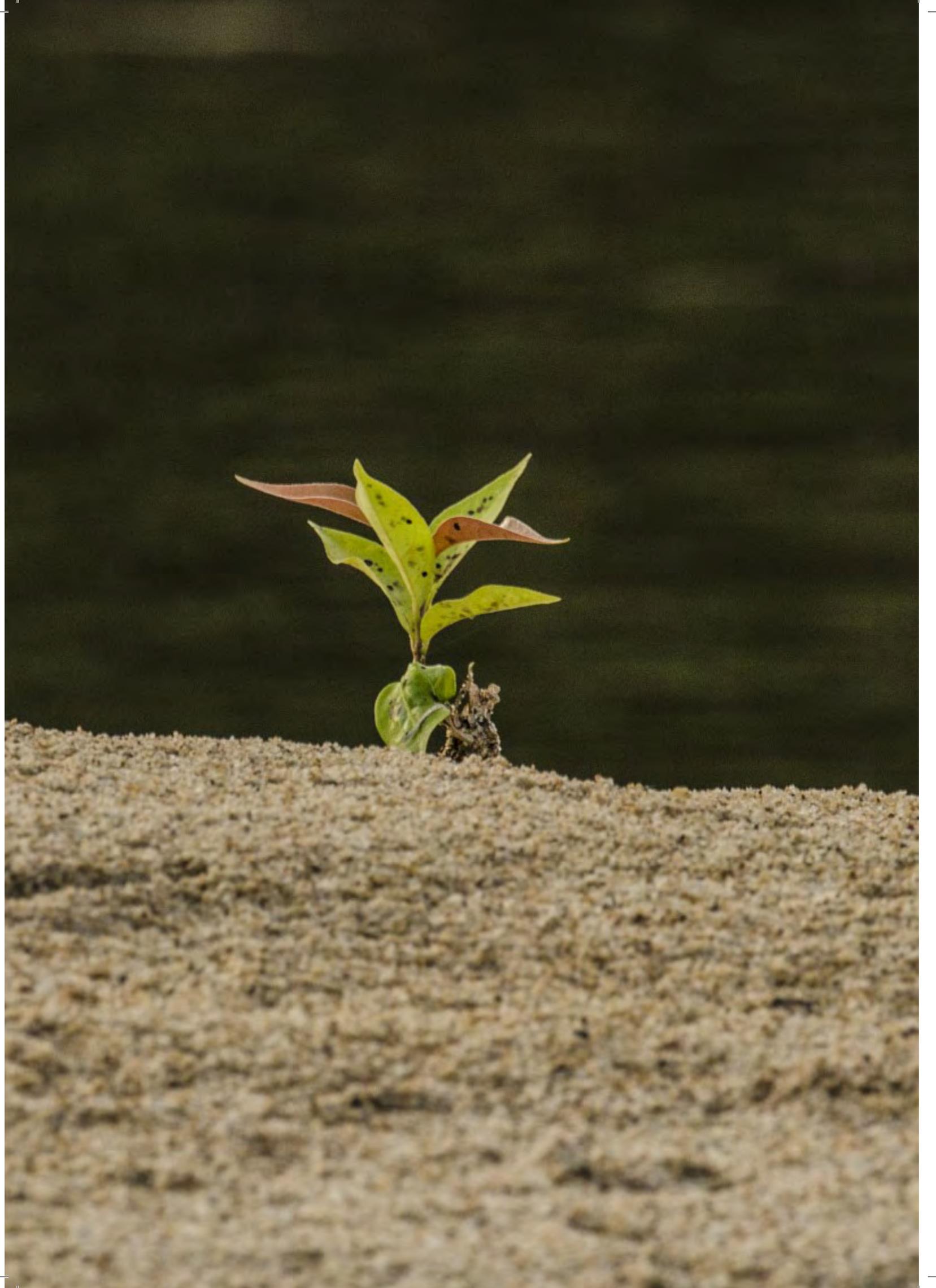
14. As part of mass awareness on biodiversity related issues, outreach materials (CEBPOL brochures, flexes on SDGs, Aichi Targets etc., posters and brochure on IAS) has been developed by CEBPOL, exhibited and disseminated in five international and national seminars like International Day for Biological Diversity-2017 held on 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2017 at Goa; International Conference "Fostering innovations in Fisheries & Aquaculture" at Kochi on 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> Nov, 17; a media workshop jointly organized by MSSRF and NBA on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 at Wayanad, Kerala; 3<sup>rd</sup> Global BIOFIN Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu and the 105<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress held on 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at Imphal, Manipur. The footfalls in all the exhibits included scientists, academia, students, policy makers, SBB representatives, BMC members and practitioners.

15. Towards capacity building on biodiversity governance in the country, NBA-CEBPOL is in the process of executing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India. The objective of the proposed collaboration is to build capacity on biodiversity governance for various stakeholders including PRI functionaries and people's representatives

across the country. These *inter alia* may include undertaking capacity building program to other stakeholders concerned. Under the MoU, four capacity building program on Biodiversity Governance is proposed to be conducted along with the development of Training manual/Module. As a prelude to the ensuing

programmes, a half day specific session on biodiversity has been included in the pre-scheduled training programs of NIRD&PR on Natural Resource Management. NBA-CEBPOL officials have participated and delivered a session on biodiversity in three such training programs.





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

### Section 64 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

The National Biodiversity Authority shall, with the previous approval of the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, make regulations for carrying out the purpose of this Act.

#### 10.1 Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 64 read with sub-section (1) of Section 18 and Sub-section (4) of Section 21 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in pursuance of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity dated the 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2010, the National Biodiversity Authority made the regulations "Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014" and notified it on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2014.

The regulations refers to the

- i. Procedures for access to biological resources and / or associated knowledge for research or bio-survey and bio-utilization for research
- ii. Procedure for access to biological resources for commercial utilization or for bio-survey and bio-utilization for commercial utilization
- iii. Procedure for transfer of results of research related to biological resources
- iv. Procedure for transfer of accessed biological resources and / or associated knowledge to third party for research/ Commercial utilization
- v. Procedure for seeking no objection for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights
- vi. Mode of benefit sharing for the access to biological resources for commercial utilization; transfer of accessed biological resources and/ or associated knowledge

to third party for research/ commercial utilization

#### 10.2 National Biodiversity Authority (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officer, and other employees) Regulations, 2006

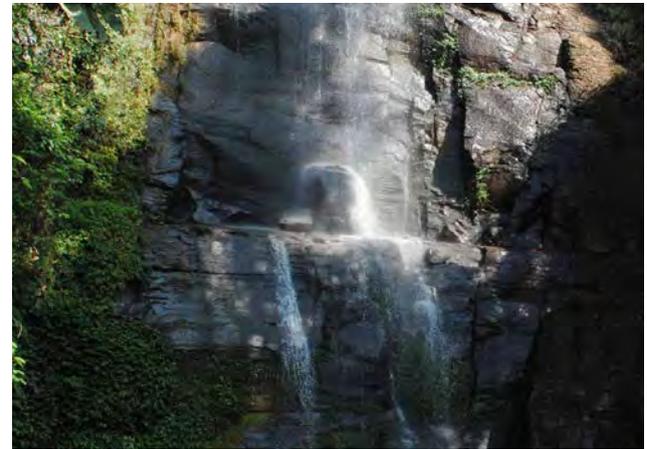
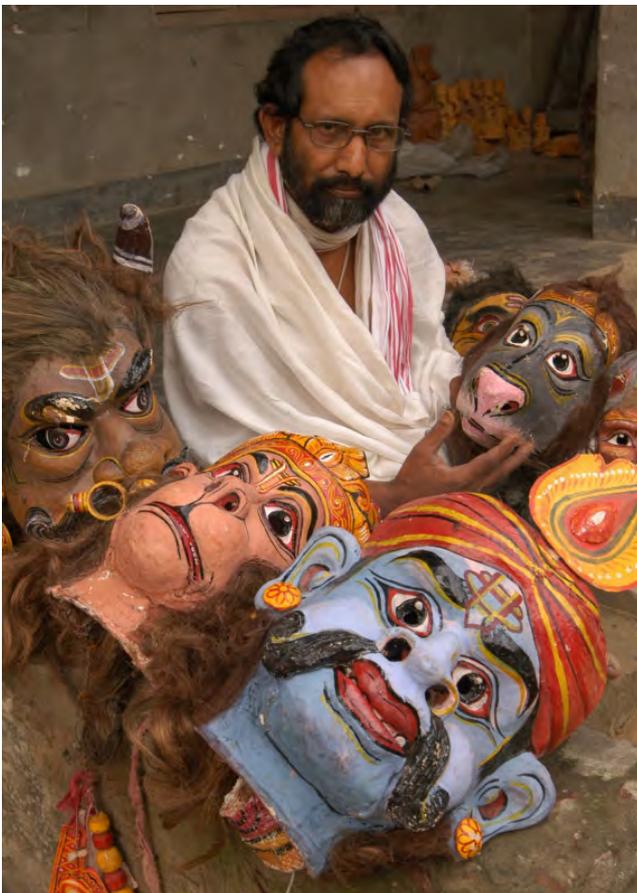
In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 14 and Section 64 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the National Biodiversity Authority with the previous approval of the Central Government, made a regulation regulating the method of recruitment and conditions of service of its officers and other employees called as National Biodiversity Authority (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officer, and other employees) Regulations, 2006 and notified on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2006.

#### 10.3 Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

In the year 2017-18, one Biodiversity Heritage Site has been declared by the State of Manipur under the provision of Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, as detailed in Table 6.

**Table 6: Details of Biodiversity Heritage Sites declared during 2017-18**

No.	State	Name	Location	Notification No.
1	Manipur	Dailong Village	Tamenglong District	No.24/3/2017- For &ENVT dt. 23 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2017

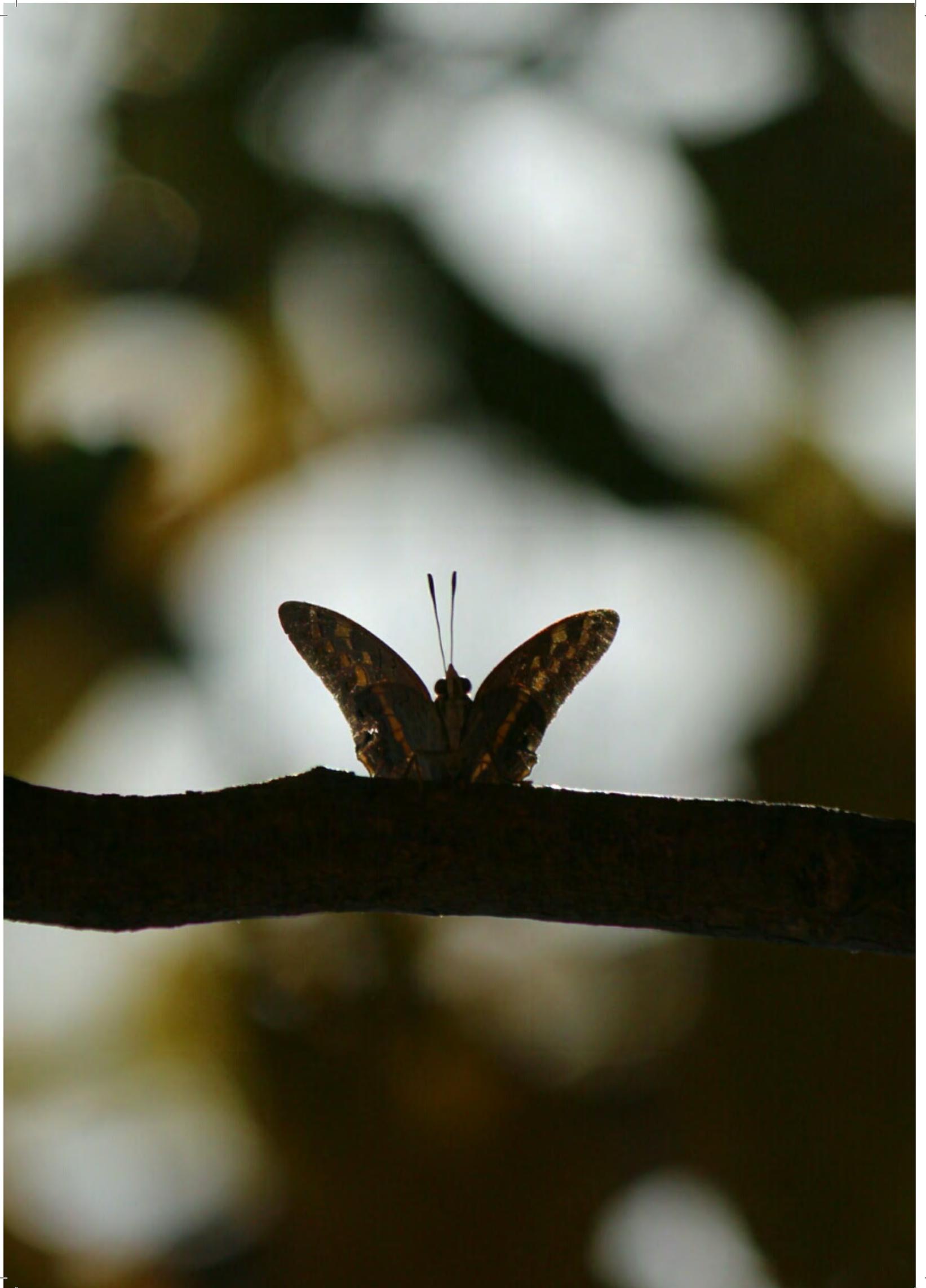


#### 10.4 Notification of threatened species of Plants and Animals u/s 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

The MoEF&CC, in consultation with the concerned State Governments, has notified the species which are on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in the near future as threatened species u/s 38 of the BD Act, 2002 in 16 States and 2 Union Territories, namely, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. These notifications

confer power to the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) for regulating access to the notified species and take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve those species. NBA and MoEF&CC are pursuing the matter with the remaining 13 States for issue of notifications with the State Governments of Jammu & Kashmir, Telangana, Gujarat and Nagaland having communicated their approval for notifications of species. The MoEF&CC is pursuing the matter with the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) for vetting of the species list.





NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113								
<b>Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018</b>								
Receipts	Current Year: 2017-18		Previous Year: 2016-17		Payments	Current Year: 2017-18		Previous Year: 2016-17
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan		Plan	Non-Plan	Plan
<b>A. Opening-Balances:</b>					<b>I. Expenditures:</b>			
<b>NBA Account</b>					a) Establishment-	21,01,157	0	3,39,67,510
a) Cash in hand	50,000	0	50,000	0	i previews year Rs. 2101157			
b) <u>Bank Balances:</u>					ii) Current Year Rs. 34029361	34029361	0	
SB Account	12628798	0	1,16,18,006	0	ii) Administrative-Expenses			
<b>B. NBF Account</b>					a)General Expes			
a) Bank Balances(SB &	190773622.00	0	9,29,87,631	0	i previews year Rs.783626	783626	0	
b) Fixed Deposit A/c	28,70,26,965	0	26,89,76,415	0	ii) Current Year Rs. 59428776	59428776	0	3,71,54,723
NBA Asean Project A/c	1,95,07,138	0	0	0	III. Funding for awarness	67,95,985	0	59,18,376
C) GEF Bank A/c	2,45,62,444	0	2,46,58,479	0	iv) Fixed Assets	1,71,250	0	5,54,173
F) CEBPOL Bank A/c	1,42,36,917	0	1,83,57,247	0				
<b>II. Grants-Received:</b>					III) GIA to SBB's			
a) Grant Received from	19,22,60,040	0	17,60,13,387	0	a)Strengthening of SBBs.	3,18,59,763	0	2,71,88,963
b) Refund of GIA from					b)Constitution of BMCs.& PBRs.Preparation	5,34,72,543	0	7,04,34,888
<b>III. Income on-Investments from</b>					II) Refund of interest earend on GIA to Govt.	5,24,998	0	
a) Earmarked / Endowment Funds			1,80,50,550	0	<b>VII. Other Payments</b>			
					Miscellaneous Expenditure/ Bank Charges on NBF A/c	909	0	3,37,14,277
					Deposits/E.M.D repaid	61,000	0	16,87,500
					b) ACB project	19,230	0	4,57,707
					<b>Project A/c</b>			
					CEBPOL A/c	58,02,486	0	50,77,010
					GEF.Project A/c.	3,28,39,591	0	5,24,37,767
					NBA Asean Project A/c	4,76,937	0	
<b>IV. Interest received</b>								
A) NBA A/c	23,06,844	0	5,24,998	0				
b) NBA Fund A/c	1,33,69,647	0	5915023	0				
On Fixed Deposit	1,27,588	0						
<b>V. Income to NBF A/c</b>								
A) Application fee	9,34,111	0	6,95,467	0				
b) Royalty Fees/Upfront	65,13,975	0	3,50,502	0				
c) 5% Benefit Sharing	17,63,51,094	0	12,45,38,647	0				
Unclassified - Suspence A/c								
VI Other Income								
c) Refund of Expendutre		0	630	0				
Fixed deposit returned	3445							
b) Sale of Newspapers	2,02,64,707	0	4,410	0				
	3,169	0						
C) RTI filing fee	70	0	2,240	0				
g) unclassified receipts suspense A/c	1,00,122	0						
<b>VI. Amount - Borrowed</b>								

Receipts	Current Year: 2017-18		Previous Year: 2016-17		Payments	Current Year: 2017-18		Previous Year: 2016-17
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan		Plan	Non-Plan	Plan
<b>VII. Other Receipts:</b>								
Earnest Money / Security Deposit / Ret. Money recd from Contractors	1,15,000	0	17,52,500	0				
<b>VIII. Project Account</b>								
CEBPOL A/c								
GEF A/c	7,41,932	0	9,56,680	0				
GEF Project A/c			4,598	0				
NBA Asean Project A/c	8,13,02,866 1,98,855	0 0	5,23,41,732	0				
EMD Payable A/c			72500	0				
Tax refund with Interest	68620	0						
					<b>VIII. Closing -</b>			
					<b>Balances</b>			
					a) Cash in hand	50,000	0	50,000
					b) Bank Balances:			
					(i) In Deposit A/c	24,72,91,672	0	28,70,26,965
					(ii) In Savings A/c	1,81,38,298	0	20,34,02,422
					(ii) In Fund A/c	44,80,69,129	0	0
					c) GEF Cash & Bank A/c	7,30,25,718	0	2,45,62,444
					d) CEBPOL Cash & Bank	91,76,363	0	1,42,36,917
					NBA Asean Project A/c	1,92,29,055	0	
					e) unclassified receipts suspense A/c	1,00,122	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,34,47,969</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79,78,71,642</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>104,34,47,969</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79,78,71,642</b>

  
ACCOUNTS OFFICER

  
SECRETARY

  
CHAIRPERSON

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY  
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st.March,2018

(Amount in Rs.)

INCOME	Sch. No.	Current Year: 2017-18		Previous Year: 2016-17	
		Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
Income from Sales / Services	12				
Grants/ Subsidies:					
Grants received as per Sch.No 13		Rs			
19,22,60,040	13	20,38,28,750	0	18,64,08,410	0
un utilized Grants for 2016-17					
1,17,39,960					
Less Capitalization of Fixed Assets- during the year 2017-18 } (-) 1,71,250					
Net Income from Grants		20,38,28,750			
Fees / Subscription	14	0	0	0	0
Income from Investments (Income on Investments from Earmarked / Endowment Funds transferred to Funds)	15	0	0	0	0
Income from Royalty, Publication etc.	16	0	0	0	0
Interest Earned	17	22,78,888	0	9,32,875	0
Other Income	18	3,65,014	0	7,280	0
Increase / (decrease) in stock of Finished goods and works in-progress	19	0	0	0	0
Income receivable from Govt.Gratuity & leave salary		1284650			
<b>TOTAL (A)</b>		<b>20,77,57,302</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,73,48,565</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Establishment Expenses	20	3,86,12,332	0	3,39,67,510	0
Other Administrative Expenses etc.	21	7,14,51,576	0	4,36,20,622	0
Expenditure on Grants, Subsidies etc.	22	8,53,32,306	0	9,76,23,851	0
Interest	23	0	0	0	0
Depreciation as per Schedule 8		15,85,364	0	18,40,939	0
Loss on Sale of Assets		0	0	0	0
Payable to Government: Un-Utilized Grant		1,80,86,836			
<b>TOTAL (B)</b>		<b>21,50,68,414</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,70,52,922</b>	<b>0</b>
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		-73,11,112	0	1,02,95,643	0
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24				
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25				

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

**Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March, 2018**

(Amount in Rs.)					
CORPUS / CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES	Sch. No.	Current Year: 2017-18		Previous Year: 2016-17	
		Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
CAPITAL FUND	1	63,49,410	0	1,34,89,272	0
RESERVES AND SURPLUS	2		0	0	0
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FUND	3	70,69,22,421	0	50,14,49,630	0
SECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	4	0	0	0	0
UNSECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	5	0	0	0	0
DEFERRED CREDIT LIABILITIES	6	0	0	0	0
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	7	3,46,81,904	0	2,42,84,506	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>74,79,53,735</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53,92,23,408</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>					
FIXED ASSETS	8	1,23,84,854	0	1,37,98,968	0
INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED/ ENDOW MENT FUNDS	9	0	0	0	0
INVESTMENTS - OTHERS	10	0	0	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS,LOANS,ADVANCES ETC.	11	73,55,68,881	0	52,54,24,440	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>74,79,53,735</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53,92,23,408</b>	<b>0</b>
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24				
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25				

  
ACCOUNTS OFFICER

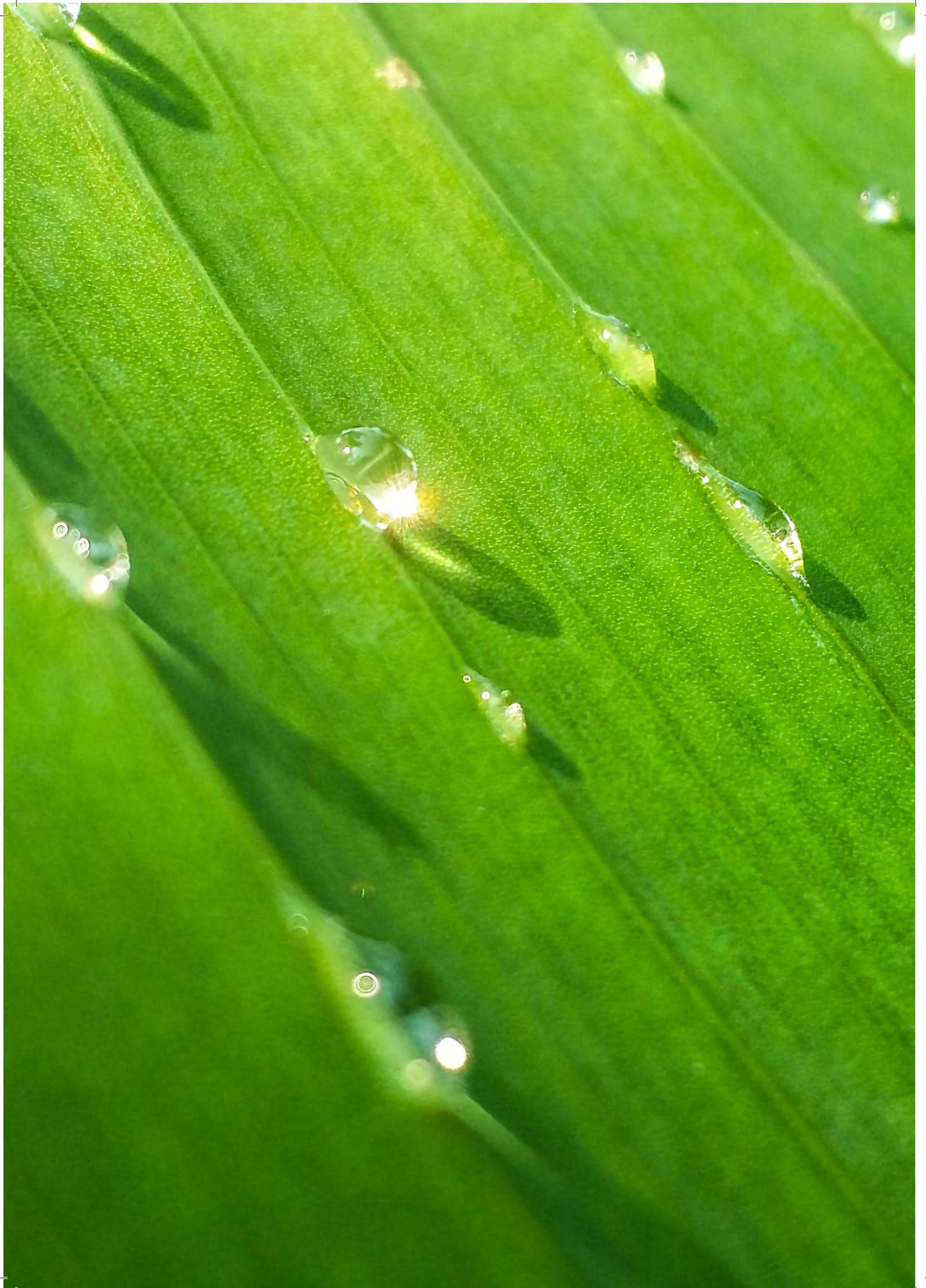
  
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CHAIRPERSON

## Annual Plan for the Year 2018-19

The National Biodiversity Authority sets out a list of action points every year to implement the Biodiversity Act of India and also to carry out the mandate given by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The following actions will be carried out during 2018-19 with the active involvement of State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs):

- 1) Review of progress made so far in the State-wise network of BMC and preparation of PBRs, analyzing the challenges and drawbacks in the existing operational procedure. Assessing the functional status of BMCs and prioritizing revival of defunct BMCs in and around biodiversity rich regions of the country.
- 2) Review of the mechanism adapted towards preparation of PBR in the States (site and State specific methodology; authentication of captured data; utilization of financial support, need for revision of the quantum of assistance, if any etc.).
- 3) NBA to seek intervention of MoEF&CC in initiating dialogue with all the seven Union Territories and speed up the process of delegating powers or functions related to Section 22(2) of the Act and facilitating constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees in UTs with special emphasis on Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands.
- 4) Digitalize PBRs to develop a uniform format for compiling data documented by SBBs.
- 5) Build a digital database of local bodies all over India by streamlining the verification process for Grant-in Aid to SBBs for constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs.
- 6) Impart training and workshops to officials of Wildlife, Forestry, Biotechnology, Customs and Excise Departments along with the line departments dealing with bio-resources, their conservation and sustainable management.
- 7) Conduct and organize various awareness programs, symposia, and seminars on the Biodiversity Act, 2002 through NGOs, research Institutes, Academia, Government departments for different stake holders.
- 8) Hold outreach programs through media, print, conduct capacity building and training programs for effective implementation of the BD Act, 2002 for different stake holders.
- 9) 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.
- 10) Arrange and facilitate the protection and rehabilitation of threatened species and update the list of species that are in the verge of extinction under Section 38 of the BD Act.
- 11) Implement the capacity building programs on biodiversity governance to benefit various stakeholders including local self- governance functionaries and people's representatives in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad.
- 12) Holding expert committees meet to deliberate on subject matters; and Authority meetings for decision making.
- 13) Implement real time processing of ABS applications at NBA Secretariat in association with NIC.
- 14) Implement the decisions taken in the Report of Red Sanders adopted by the Authority.
- 15) Sharing of benefits, accrued out of the use of biological resources and / or associated traditional knowledge, with the beneficiaries particularly accrued on access to Bovine cattle embryos and Red Sanders.



## Other Important Activities of National Biodiversity Authority

### 13.1. Review of the Legal and Regulatory Framework

#### 13.1.1. Litigations currently being pursued by or against 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.

#### List of court cases of NBA pending before various courts/ tribunals

There are 21 cases pending before various Courts of Law which are summarized as below:

- i. The Honourable Supreme Court of India (3 cases)
- ii. The Honourable High Court of Karnataka, Dharwad Bench (2 cases)
- iii. The Honourable High Court of Bombay (1 case)
- iv. The Honourable High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur Bench (2 cases)
- v. The Honourable High Court of Uttarakhand, at Nainital (1 case)
- vi. The Honourable High Court of Judicature, at Madras (1 case)
- vii. The Honourable High Court of Gujarat, Ahmedabad (1 case)
- viii. National Green Tribunal, South Zone (3 cases)
- ix. National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench (4 cases)
- x. National Green Tribunal, Central Zone (1 case)
- xi. National Green Tribunal, West Zone (1 case)
- xii. Chief Judicial First Class Magistrate Court, Dharwad (1 case)

### 13.1.2. Right to Information Act, 2005

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

### 13.1.3 Review of SBB Rules

NBA has reviewed the State Biological Diversity Rules made by different States pursuant to the powers granted to them under Section 63 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The review of the State Biological Diversity Rules has been carried out either *suo moto* by NBA or based on the request for review by the concerned State Biodiversity Board (SBB). So far review of the 22 State rules namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab, Haryana, Manipur, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have been undertaken by NBA.

### 13.2 Financial Support to SBBs

NBA extends financial support to all the State Biodiversity Boards by Grant-in-Aids towards strengthening the institutional mechanism and facilitates the implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002. In this direction, NBA has released Rs. 3, 01, 80,000/- towards the formation of 554 new BMCs and Rs. 2, 33, 02,727/- for preparation of 204 PBRs in the country. Besides this, NBA released financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2,40,02,781/- to SBBs against the proposed financial assistance sought towards the 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 2017-18.

### 13.3 NBA's Grant-in-Aid for awareness programme on Biodiversity

With relevance to its core mandate of implementing the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, NBA supports activities, awareness programs and events of Universities / Colleges, Academic institutions, State Biodiversity Boards, etc. to a limited extent. NBA also extends financial assistance towards publication or documentation of new and original works on biodiversity from time to time. In this context, the Authority has supported 39 proposals based on the recommendation of Proposals Scrutiny Committee (Table 7).

**Table 7: List of Proposal scrutiny committee meetings held during 2017-18**

<b>Proposal Scrutiny Committee Meeting during 2017-18</b>	
Total number of meetings held	7
Total number of proposals placed before the committee	71
Total number of proposals recommended for funding	39
Total amount of financial assistance recommended	Rs. 99,80,700
Total amount of financial assistance sanctioned	Rs. 76,15,000

### 13.4 Annual Meet of NBA and State Biodiversity Boards

The twelfth National Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards was conducted during 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at Chennai to discuss the issues and progress related to implementation of the Biological Diversity Act in the States. The meeting was attended by the Chairperson, NBA; Secretary, NBA and the Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of 24 State Boards apart from distinguished guests from the MoEF&CC, Authority members and special invitees.

The meeting laid emphasis for an extensive discussion on various issues faced by the SBBs including challenges and opportunities in formation of Biodiversity Management Committees and the preparation of the People's Biodiversity Registers, concerns related to mainstreaming of BMCs with Panchayati Raj system, revision of draft guidelines for BMCs, Access & Benefit sharing mechanism etc. An interactive session was held with the Ayurveda Drug Manufacturers Association (ADMA) and the Ayurveda Medicine Manufacturers Organization of India (AMMOI) on ABS mechanism.

The meeting also marked the discussion on revision of State Biodiversity Action Plan and the 6<sup>th</sup> National Report (NR6) to CBD. NBA requested all State Biodiversity Boards to contribute to the NR6 report particularly the good practices. The consensual suggestions from dignitaries present will be taken up formally for implementation after further inputs. Following are the key decisions from this years' meeting: -

1. Revised BMC guidelines has been in-principle adopted by the house and SBBs are requested to provide inputs for any minor corrections/ modifications that is needed to be done on the text, on or before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
2. It was recommended that the Secretary of the BMC may be drawn from the suggestive list given in the BMC guidelines as per State/jurisdiction specific needs. It was emphasized that inducting the Secretary of BMC from ex-officio cadre is for better maintenance of accounts and administrative procedures in BMC.
3. The house has agreed that SBBs may liaise with the State Panchayati Raj department to support the capacity building programme to the BMC members.
4. It was also agreed that making BMC as Standing Committee of PRI, as suggested by the MoPR, the SBBs are free to adopt the same as appropriate.
5. The house has unanimously agreed to keep TK related confidential details out of public domain from the PBR, and agreed to develop common online portal for PBRs which is under development by the NBA.
6. The harmonization of BD Act viz-a-viz PPVFRA has been discussed and it was decided to encourage the BMCs to forward to PPVFRA the following:

- a. Applications for registration of farmers' varieties.
  - b. Applications for Plant Genome Saviour Award/Recognition.
  - c. Seeking financial assistance from National Gene Fund for supporting conservation and sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources for *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation; and for strengthening the capability of the Panchayats and local bodies towards conservation and sustainable use and *ex-situ* conservation in agro-biodiversity hotspots.
7. The BMCs are to be encouraged to seek financial assistance under the schemes of National Medicinal Plant Board for undertaking conservation activities.
  8. The SBBs may share the details about the court cases to the NBA in a prescribed format.
  9. NBA urged Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan SBBs to facilitate the consent of the States on the list of threatened species to be notified and convey the same to the MoEF&CC for notification. It was also decided that action on species rehabilitation will be taken up with the support of scientific agencies.
  10. It was informed that few SBBs have already moved proposals for amendments to the inconsistent provisions in the State Rules to their respective Government for approval. The process has to be expedited and informed to NBA.
  11. It was urged to facilitate to develop/ revise the State Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP) and resource for the same may be sought from funding agencies including external aided agencies. The draft SBAPS prepared under the NBSAP-GEF project will be shared as soft copy with the SBBs.
  12. NBA requested all the State Biodiversity Boards to contribute to the NR6 report particularly the good practices. Format for providing the details to be circulated to the SBBs by NBA. The SBBs may also organize state level consultations meet in this regard, for which the NBA may support financially up to Rs.1.00 Lakh
  13. The house has agreed to constitute BMCs and documenting PBRs in a time bound manner.
  14. The house has adopted the broad guideline for processing ABS application received u/s 7 of the BD Act by the SBBs. It was informed that the SBBs may adopt the procedure as appropriate in accordance with the provisions of the BD Act.

15. The house has adopted the standard format for online portal to share the approval granted by the SBBs.
16. The house felt that the draft guidelines on State Biodiversity Fund may be circulated to SBBs for comments.
17. Issues regarding hike in Grant-in-Aid (GIA) to SBBs towards human resource was discussed and it was decided that NBA will look into the proposals for enhancement as per the budget availability.
18. NBA requested all the SBB to submit their proposal for seeking funding support in the format prescribed by NBA.



### 13.5 India Biodiversity Awards 2018

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India in association with UNDP India had initiated the India Biodiversity Awards in 2012 during India's Presidency of the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Hyderabad from 8<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2012. The India Biodiversity Awards is an initiative to recognize, encourage and honour the exemplary efforts of individuals and institutions, which contribute to and serve as inspirations for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits. Subsequently, the second and third round of Awards was conducted by GoI-UNDP in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in the years 2014 and 2016.

Upon suggestion from the MoEF&CC, NBA with UNDP India hosted the fourth round of India Biodiversity Awards, 2018. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa launched the Fourth India Biodiversity Awards on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 during the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity. A total of eight prizes to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh, are given under the categories described in Table 8.

**Table 8: List of prize winning categories**

SI.No.	Category	No. of Winners
1	Conservation of Wild Species - Individual	1
2	Conservation of Wild Species - Institution	1
3	Conservation of Domesticated species - Individual	1
4	Conservation of Domesticated species - Institution	1
5	Sustainable use of Biological Resources - Individual	1
6	Sustainable use of Biological Resources - Institution	1

SI.No.	Category	No. of Winners
7	Replicable Mechanisms of Access and Benefit Sharing	1
8	Best Biodiversity Management Committee	1

The Award Selection Committee selects the winners under each category after thorough scrutiny of the written applications and field validations. The Committee was constituted through an Office Order dated 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. The Committee was chaired by Dr. V. Rajagopalan and Co-chaired by Dr. Rajesh Gopal and consisted of Dr. Oommen V Oommen, Dr. Erach Bharucha, Dr. Vishesh Uppal, Dr. Ruchi Pant, Dr. V. Selvam, Dr. Neelima Jerath and Dr. R. C. Agrawal representing PPV&FRA.

A total of 179 applications were received in response to the call for awards. Consequently, the first meeting of the Award Selection Committee was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 which examined the applications under each category and finalized the evaluation criteria for shortlisting the applications. The second meeting of the Award Selection Committee was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 which shortlisted the applications for field validation. It was agreed that further assessment of shortlisted applications would be done during field visits for validation. The members decided that the final selection of winners would be done based on the field observations during the final meeting of the Award Selection Committee. The field validations for the shortlisted applications took place during the months of February, March and April to finalize the winners.





b. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Director General, ICAR & Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Education, Govt visited NBA office on 07<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 wherein issues of common interest like collaborative research projects, ITPGRFA, agro-biodiversity were discussed.



### 13.6. High level interactions with the Government institutions/ departments

a. The Secretary, MoEF&CC visited NBA on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. During his visit, the Chairperson and Secretary, NBA explained the achievements and works carried out by NBA to him. He also interacted with the Chairperson, NBA and Secretary, NBA and other sectional heads on, techno- legal matters and other administrative issues.

c. A meeting was held between the Director General, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Hyderabad, and the Secretary, NBA at the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad on 01<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 to discuss institutional collaboration for capacity building in biodiversity governance to BMCs.



d. A meeting was held between the Chairperson NBA and the Registrar General, PPVFRA on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at the NBA, Chennai to discuss and explore common areas wherein synergy could be achieved. The Secretary, NBA and other sectional heads took part in the discussion, wherein it was decided that both the parties may work jointly in common areas such as conservation of biodiversity, agro-biodiversity hotspots.

### 13.7 3<sup>rd</sup> Indian International Science Festival-2017

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Indian International Science Foundation- 2017 was held during 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at various venues which included Anna University, Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC), National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and IIT-Madras. The mega exhibition was inaugurated by Dr Harsh Vardhan., Honourable Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. The honourable ministers of Science and Technology from India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan also participated in the event. The prime objective of the festival was to instil scientific temper among the masses and showcase India's contribution in the field of science and technology over the years. The festival was also intended to showcase innovations that are beneficial to people and encourage development of technologies that is affordable. The event was primarily aimed at scientists/ researchers/ science innovators/ professional students below forty-five years. The themes of the sessions and presentations were Swachh Bharat, Make in India, Digital India, Swasth Bharat and Biodiversity & Environment. As part of the festival, a science and technology minister's conclave took place at IIT Madras and NBA organized a special program on biodiversity, biological diversity act and concerns, which received a good response by the participating stakeholders. The session on Biodiversity and Environment was coordinated by Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA. The Chief Guest for the session "Biodiversity, Biological Diversity Act and concerns" was Dr. Mahesh Sharmaji, Hon'ble Minister of State Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change. The forenoon session on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 was chaired by Prof. M S Swaminathan, Founder, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai. The other members in the session were Shri. Darshan Shankar, Chancellor, Trans-Disciplinary University, Bangalore, Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority and Prof. M.K. Ramesh, National Law School of India University, Bangalore. The Chairperson, NBA

gave a talk on "Implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 & Biological Diversity Rules, 2004: Achievements, Initiatives & Challenges. The afternoon session was chaired by Shri Ajay Narayan Jha, IAS, Secretary, (MoEF&CC), and Smt. Amarjeet Ahuja, IAS (Retd.). The members of the session were Dr.R.S.Rana, Chairman, Bio-Link, New Delhi, Dr. Sujata Arora, Advisor/Scientist 'G'. MoEF&CC, Dr. Oommen V. Oommen, Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. A.G. Pandurangan, Director, Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram and Prof. Sairam Bhat, Coordinator for Centre for Environmental Law Education and Research.

The UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC ABS Project, NBA and State Project Units team members from Goa, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Odisha Biodiversity Boards as well the teams from Kerala Biodiversity Board organized an interactive exhibit on the biodiversity and Biological Diversity Act and Rules. Various forms of exhibits including an educational slide show on the biological diversity act animation film on the biodiversity and a display on India's rich biodiversity. The State Biodiversity Boards from Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Kerala took part in the programme with regional language knowledge products developed in their respective boards; in addition the Goa Biodiversity Board exhibited the local land races of tubers from the State along with diversity of honey produced. The mega exhibition was visited by an estimated 5000 people from across India.





Forest and Climate Change, Government of India & Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. The programme drew participation from large number of youth from schools and colleges and scientific institutions from across the country.



### 13.8 Participation in the 105<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress, Imphal, Manipur

The UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC ABS Project along with NBA team set-up an educational exhibit on knowledge products based on the Indian Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004 at the 105<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress held during 16<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at the Manipur University, Imphal. The Congress was inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi. The entire exhibit was inaugurated by Dr Harsh Vardhan, the Honourable Minister of Environment,



## 13.9. Important days celebrated/observed by NBA

### 13.9.1 International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)-2017

The national level celebration of IDB was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change; Government of India through National Biodiversity Authority with assistance from the Goa State Biodiversity Board in partnership with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) at Dinanath Mangeshkar Auditorium, Kala Academy, Panjim-Goa. The theme for year 2017 was "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism". The program was attended by nearly 1000 enthusiastic participants from various fields

The program was formally inaugurated by the Chief Guest Shri Manohar Parrikar, Chief Minister of Goa. This was followed by observation of two minutes silence as a mark of respect to Shri Anil Madhav Dave, former Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, who passed away recently. Other dignitaries present on this occasion were Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC; Ms. Marina Walter, Deputy Country Director, UNDP; Shri Dharmendra Sharma, Chief Secretary, Goa; Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA; Dr. Ranbir Singh, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Goa and Shri Pradip Sarmokadam, Member Secretary, Goa Biodiversity Board.

Ms. Marina Walter, Deputy Country Director, UNDP-India remarked that tourism is a major source of foreign exchange earner and India has great potential to derive the benefit, as it is among the few biodiversity rich countries. Ms. Walter further stated that development has social, economic and environmental impact. For better management of tourism, she suggested recognition of biodiversity value and ecosystem services along with incentives to protect biodiversity. She also appreciated the initiative of capacity building of research institutes under UNEP-GEF and especially expressed her delight for the exhibition, Green Haat during the occasion of IDB.

Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA highlighted the challenges on the resources and energy from the impact of tourism. This, she opined, could be managed by concerted effort and political will and also by ensuring the use of traditional food and traditional knowledge in responsible and sustainable tourism. She also indicated the Indian traditional ethos in protection of biodiversity and the underlying principles in the Vedas, Bhagvad Geeta and Arthasashtra to live in harmony with biodiversity.

The Chief Minister of Goa, Shri Manohar Parrikar launched the India Biodiversity Award 2018 and UNDP-GEF supported Capacity Building Project on the occasion besides the release of knowledge products and communication materials. He highlighted the challenges faced by the State of Goa in implementing the Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines which hindered the establishment of a solid waste management plant on the coast of Goa.

A national level photography competition was organised by the Centre of Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL). The dignitaries presented awards to the winners of the photography contest, organised as a pre-event to celebrate India's incredible biodiversity. Prize winning photos and few select photos are available at <http://worldbiodiversity.in>. The UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC ABS Project participated in the event by exhibiting and sharing information and knowledge products t on the Biological Diversity Act 2012 and Rules 2004. E.g. an exhibition, "Green Haat" was organised by the Goa State Biodiversity Board to showcase and promote various green products from the state. Pavilions were put up by the invited organisations/ institutes to disseminate knowledge on biodiversity in India.

A seminar was conducted on the theme of "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism", in which distinguished speakers presented the best practices from seven States of the country. On the second day, i.e. 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2017, invited lectures on "Biodiversity Acts, Rules and Legal Framework for Biodiversity in India", "Importance of documentation of Biodiversity

(making PBRs) and “Roadmap ahead” in terms of Biodiversity, conservation and sustainable tourism were delivered by the guest speakers.

### 13.9.2 World Wetlands Day Celebration

A webcast on “Wetlands for Sustainable Urban Futures” was organized on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018, in partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation’s 100 Resilient Cities Chennai project, in commemoration of World Wetlands Day & International Day of Women and Girls in Science together. The webcast was attended by about 100 students at the TAG Auditorium, Anna University. The webcast was organized with the purpose of bringing contextually relevant learning to students pursuing Bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and architecture/planning and to offer solutions and examples of addressing challenges of saving urban wetlands while meeting the existing and continually growing need for built environment/infrastructure.

Through this unique partnership, international experts - Doug Watkins, a wetlands ecologist with more than twenty five years’ experience in advisory, management and stakeholder engagement in Australasia and Asia and David R Rosa who works in Florida and the Caribbean as the Environmental Manager for an engineering firm, offered examples from their work in high density Asian cities of how wetlands were protected through green building design and planning.



### 13.9.3 Celebration of the 14<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of NBA

The 14<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of NBA was celebrated on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017 at NBA, Chennai. Dr. Justice P. Jyothimani, Honourable Member, National Green Tribunal, Chennai was the Chief Guest and Shri. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Tamil Nadu Government and Agricultural Production Commissioner was the Guest of Honour while Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA presided over the function.



### 13.9.4 World Environment Day

The World Environment Day -2017 was celebrated on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at NBA, Chennai. A pledge was taken at the Conference Hall by the NBA officers and Staff. The pledge was administered by the MoEF&CC towards the protection of environment and natural resources.

### 13.9.5 International Yoga Day

The International Yoga Day was observed on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 at NBA, Chennai. A meeting was conducted under the chairpersonship of the Chairperson, NBA along with yoga exponents Shri. Jagan and Shri. Ashok, explained the importance of Yoga. The meeting was followed by two days of yoga training program on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017 conducted by yoga exponents.



### 13.9.6 Women's Day

The International Women's Day was celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at NBA, Chennai. Mrs. Tara Gandhi, Trustee of Wildlife Trust of India participated in the event. A small get together was organized for all the staff of NBA with high tea.

### 13.9.7 Hindi Diwas

The NBA employees celebrated "Hindi Diwas" on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. The programme commenced with competitions on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 for all the staff at NBA. The competitions were divided into four categories namely Hindi Gayan (singing in Hindi), Smriti Pratiyogita (Memory game), Samachar Vachan (Reading news in Hindi), and Hindi Quiz. Prizes along with the certificates were given to the winners in the competitions. The final program with a formal function was held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at NBA.



### 13.9.8 Vigilance Awareness Week

As per the direction of the Central Vigilance Commission and MoEF&CC, an integrity pledge was administered to all the NBA staff on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness week.



### 13.10 Projects/Programmes

Apart from the functions mandated through the BD Acts and Rules, NBA has been assigned with the task of implementing various bilateral and multilateral projects/programmes by the MoEF&CC. The projects/programme is intended in furtherance and supplementary to the goals of CBD and BD Act.

#### 13.10.1 UNEP – GEF – MoEF&CC ABS Project

**Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions**

The objective of the UNEP – GEF – MoEF&CC project on ABS is to increase the institutional, individual and systemic capacities of stakeholders to effectively implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Rules 2004 to achieve biodiversity conservation through implementing Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements in India. This project is currently being implemented in ten States of India namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura and West Bengal.

NBA executes the project in collaboration with ten State Biodiversity Boards, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Environment Program - Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP/DELIC), United Nations University – Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC ABS State Project Unit team members from West Bengal State Biodiversity Board organized an educational exhibit along with biodiversity management committee members from West Bengal during the ten day long local festival “22<sup>nd</sup> Sundarban Krishi Mela –O- Loko Sanskrit Utsab” held at Basanti Block of 24 Paragnas District, West Bengal. The exhibit covered an exhibition on the knowledge products in Bengali to disseminate the role of locals in conservation and management of biodiversity and interactions with local community members participating in the event.

National Conclave of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) for Experience Sharing on ABS under UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC ABS Project hosted by NBA was held from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. During the event, members of the BMCs from eight States shared their experience with participants on functioning of BMC and issues associated with management of biodiversity in their jurisdiction as per the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004. The innovations practiced and adopted by each of the BMCs were shared during the program.

The Second National Dialogue on Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) was held from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh where event specific cases relevant to traditional knowledge/information/innovations associated with bio-resources were discussed by the nominated domain knowledge experts, TK holders from project States and Government officials. The seventh meet of the Project Steering Committee was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at the premises of the MoEF&CC under the Chairmanship of the Shri. Arun Kumar Mehta, Additional Secretary and Chair PSC for the UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC ABS Project.

### **Achievements of the Project**

The project has constituted 1318 Biodiversity Management Committees, 297 Local Biodiversity Funds, documented 140 Peoples Biodiversity Registers, 462 ABS agreements have been signed involving users, providers and regulators. A total of INR.13,66,93,215/- was collected through the State Biodiversity Funds in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tripura, Telangana and West Bengal.

### **13.10.2 Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL): An Indo-Norwegian collaborative Initiative**

The Government of India in collaboration with the Norwegian Government has established "Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL)" at the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai, towards strengthening the biodiversity policy and conservation related issues in India. This Centre of Excellence is focusing on biodiversity policies and laws that cater to the needs of national and international rule-making and subsequent implementation on issues of biodiversity.

The Centre currently works on five major thematic areas viz., access and benefit sharing; mainstreaming biological diversity; invasive alien species; interface with other multilateral environmental agreements and organizations and nature index along with a cross-cutting

theme i.e. capacity building, training, awareness raising and communication.

### **Interim National Report on Implementation of Nagoya Protocol**

A report has been prepared and finalized by CEBPOL in consultation with in-house experts at NBA, MoEF&CC and esteemed experts and uploaded in the CBD website on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017, on behalf of MoEF&CC.

### **Study on linkage between BD Act & ITPGRFA**

A study report "Implementation of the Multilateral System of the Plant Treaty in India: Exploring Linkages with Biological Diversity Act, 2002" has been prepared. The study explored linkages between the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 enacted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the "Guidelines for the Implementation of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for Facilitated Access under the Multilateral System, 2015" issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, and tried to examine the synergies at operational level of the Biological Diversity Act and the MLS Guidelines.



### **Compilation and review of national legislation pertaining to biodiversity/ABS**

Compilation and review of national legislations pertaining to biodiversity/ABS from selected number of countries has been undertaken as collaborative work between the CEBPOL and Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA). Parameters for the database were identified and nine countries were selected based on updated

information available on legislative measures. A detailed matrix based on identified parameters has been prepared for the comparative inputs for Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-22), Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-2) and Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES 6).

The different documents related to SBSTTA-22, SBI-2 and IPBES 6 were reviewed and comments were provided by the CEBPOL team members, along with other NBA colleagues. Country position papers on different themes were also prepared and sent to MoEF&CC for its onward submission to CBD.

### **Comprehensive list of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in India**

The draft list of IAS of plants and animals including insects and microbes in India from different ecosystems like terrestrial aquatic, agriculture and, islands has been prepared and is currently under consultation with the national experts for finalization. The guidelines for prioritization of Invasive Plants in India for their better management are also under finalization. The impact study of IAS in aquatic ecosystem (marine and inland) has been prepared and is in the process of finalization.

A National conference on "Status of invasive alien species in India" was jointly conducted by the Zoological Survey of India and Botanical Survey of India, MoEF&CC, GOI on 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Kolkata. Dr. Sandilyan gave a presentation on "Guidelines for prioritization of invasive alien plants for effective management" and was also a part of the panel discussion. The recommendation from the seminar has been shared with the MoEF&CC for further action.

### **Consultation with National Focal Points (NFPs) of Biodiversity-Liaison Group (BLG) Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)**

A consultation with NFPs of BLG MEAs was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at MoEF&CC, as a follow-up meeting of the first national level

workshop on BLG-MEA synergies held in October 2016. Focal Points of the CBD and its protocols were discussed by the representatives. The key workshop recommendations were the need for: (1) Improved collation and sharing of information such as through a databank on all existing information that represents MEA synergies and MEA-SDG synergies. This could be through an ENVIS website or periodic newsletter. (2) Bringing more convergence of the BLG-MEAs to the SDGs. (3) Strengthening governance related to MEA-synergies through the creation of a formal platform/forum for National Focal Points to meet and discuss matters periodically, and (4) Meeting Capacity Building needs of stakeholders at all levels through different external agencies as required, with CEBPOL assuming a liaising role.



### **Cities and Biodiversity**

The CBD theme 'Cities and Biodiversity' has been promoted since the 9<sup>th</sup> COP and gained more visibility during the 11<sup>th</sup> COP hosted in Hyderabad, India. The key output was a Research-based report on 'Using the IPBES Conceptual Framework to examine 'Cities and Biodiversity' in India with special focus on governance, institutional arrangements and drivers of biodiversity loss in Bengaluru and Chennai' which was presented as the keynote at the Asian Wetlands Symposium, Saga, Japan for on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 by Ms. Sandhya Chandrasekharan, Fellow, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, CEBPOL.

### Nature Index (NI) Pilot Study

A pilot study was carried out in two biodiversity rich areas i.e. Chilika Lake, Odisha and Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP), Himachal Pradesh with the technical support from Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) under CEBPOL program. This pilot study is aimed at understanding the suitability of NI in Indian context. A workshop was organized on 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 to review the draft report with the park authorities and experts. High level government officials like Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC; Dr. Sujata Arora, Senior Advisor, MoEF&CC, Mr. T. Rabikumar, Secretary, NBA; Scientists from NINA (Dr. Signe Nybo, Research Director & Dr. Stein Are Saether, Research Scientist), pilot site park managers, other scientists from different national institutes along with CEBPOL Team members attended the workshop.



### 5<sup>th</sup> CEBPOL PSC Meeting

The fifth Program Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of CEBPOL was held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2018 at Paryavaran Bhavan, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Arun Kumar Mehta, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC, Govt. of India. Ms. Aina Holst, Head, Global Biodiversity Section, Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA) and Ms. Maja Stade Aeronas, Advisor, NEA, along with Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA; Dr. Sujata Arora, Senior Advisor & Scientist G, MoEF&CC; Shri T. Rabikumar, Secretary, NBA and CEBPOL Team members participated in the meeting, in which progress made and work plan for the coming year was discussed.

A seminar on the "Outcome of Indo-Norwegian Bilateral cooperation (CEBPOL)" was conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018 at Norway Embassy, New Delhi. Mr. Arild Oksnevad, Counsellor, Head of Cooperation, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Mr. Suresh Madhavan, Senior Advisor and other colleagues of the Norwegian Embassy attended the seminar, along with Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA; Mr. T. Rabikumar, Secretary, NBA and CEBPOL Team members.



## Work Plan Meeting with Norwegian Environment Agency and Field Visit

Work Plan Meeting was organised on 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 with representative of Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA), Norway. Mr. Andreas Benjamin Schei, CEBPOL Program Coordinator, NEA attended this meeting along with Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA; Mr. T. Rabikumar, Secretary, NBA and CEBPOL Team members. The work plan 2018 was discussed and a decision was taken for immediate actions to accomplish the work. A field trip was organized on 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 to Artificial Reef Fishing zone, Chennai and a field station for organic farming and traditional seed conservation managed by Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) at Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu.

Dr. C. Thomson Jacob, Consultant - Biodiversity Policy received a Gold medal for the best paper presentation in the National Seminar on "Strategies, innovations and sustainable management for enhancing cold-water fisheries and aquaculture" held on 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at ICAR - Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research, Bhimtal, Nainital, Uttarakhand for the paper titled "Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Cold water Fisheries".



## 13.10.3 Indo-German Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Partnership Project

The ABS Partnership project is a technical cooperation between India and Germany and is commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) under the Indo-German Biodiversity Program. The project is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), National Biodiversity Authority and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH with three pilot State Biodiversity Boards namely, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

### Objective

The ABS Partnership Project aims at strengthening the capacities of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), as well as raising awareness and build the capacities of the commercial user groups of biological resources and associated knowledge for the effective implementation of ABS mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act 2002, in keeping with India's commitments under the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.

### Approach

To achieve the objective, the project works on the following approaches:

- Awareness raising, communication and stakeholder dialogues for creating better understanding of the Biological Diversity

Act 2002, ABS Guidelines and Nagoya Protocol on ABS among different actors and stakeholder groups

- Development of good practices of benefit sharing of communities, based on utilization of biological resources for commercial or research purposes
- Development of an IT enabled ABS monitoring system for the National Biodiversity Authority for effective monitoring of the use of biological resources in ABS processes

### Progress

- The Implementation Agreement was signed in November 2017 between the National Biodiversity Authority and GIZ, India.
- The first meeting Project Steering Committee was held in January 2018 Chaired by Shri Arun Kumar Mehta, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC. All three states have approved the project and operationalization plan for 2018.
- For the development of the IT monitoring system, a scoping workshop was organized in February 2018 to clarify the requirements and the format for the monitoring system together with the NBA.
- Activities to develop an ABS communication strategy as well as to support commercial users of biological resources will be taken up in 2018.



### 13.10.4 Biodiversity Finance Initiative India (BIOFIN)

#### MoEF&CC-NBA-BIOFIN GLOBAL-IIMB-CBD-UNDP International Workshop on “Sustainable Production and Consumption and Novel Economic Instruments for Biodiversity Conservation” 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November 2017, IIM Bangalore, India

An International Workshop on ‘Sustainable Production and Consumption and Novel Economic Instruments for Biodiversity Conservation’ was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. Senior officials of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UNDP and BIOFIN Global Team besides representatives of BIOFIN countries drawn from Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Philippines, Bhutan, Japan and officials of the State Biodiversity Boards and representative of national level academic institutions such as NIPFP, Madras School of Economics, GIZ, Forest Stewardship Council from India participated in the workshop. The International BIOFIN workshop attempted to review how innovative economic, financial or market based instruments can contribute to realizing the goals of sustainable production and consumption. The Aichi Biodiversity targets on sustainable production and sustainable consumption falls in a special category, since it addresses the causal factors that have the potential to fundamentally influence the course of biodiversity conservation in the present day. The deliberations of the workshop were summarized in the form of proceeding and were circulated to a larger audience.

#### Third Global BIOFIN Conference

India hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global BIOFIN conference in association with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the National Biodiversity Authority from 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Mamallapuram, Chennai. The Conference was attended by high level delegates including Ministers and Vice Ministers from the environment, finance, planning and other

relevant Government Departments from 30 BIOFIN Partner countries. Representative from UNDP headquarters and regional offices, Global BIOFIN management team, representatives from BIOFIN donor countries, private sector representatives and other key experts in the area of biodiversity conservation also attended the conference. Addressing the gathering through a video conference Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India highlighted the importance of biodiversity conservation in India. The Hon'ble Minister highlighted that India has surpassed the global Aichi target of 17% of terrestrial area-based conservation measures. He stated that estimation of funding for biodiversity conservation is crucial and at the same time quite challenging. The conference in particular served as a platform for deliberations and experience sharing on results obtained from BIOFIN implementation during the conference, while also exploring opportunities for biodiversity finance solutions.



NBA in consultation with MoEF&CC organized a BIOFIN Review and Planning meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 at MoEF&CC involving technical partners of BIOFIN such as the WII, NIPFP, IORA Ecological solutions, SBBs of Maharashtra and Uttarakhand and the Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth (BVIEER). NBA and WII organized a BIOFIN meeting on Reconciling Financial Attribution Methodologies followed under the Biodiversity Expenditure Review and Finance Needs Assessment on 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 at NBA, Chennai.



NBA in consultation with MoEF&CC organized a Scoping Meeting under the BIOFIN on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 towards preparation of a Biodiversity Finance Plan and a Resource Mobilization Strategy for effective implementation of India's National Biodiversity Action Plan and its 12 NBTs involving UNDP and CIPS, Hyderabad.

The Eighth meeting of the Project Steering Committee of the GoI-UNDP project entitled 'Strengthening Natural Resource Management' was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

### 13.10.5 India-UNDP Project – NR6

#### **Regional Consultation Workshops on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity: National Biodiversity Action Plan, National Biodiversity Targets and India's Sixth National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has initiated steps to prepare the Sixth National Report to Convention on

Biodiversity (CBD) due to be submitted in 2018, in association with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), along with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The MoEF&CC organized five regional consultation workshops in collaboration with NBA, on 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August 2017, 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>th</sup> August 2017, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 in Guwahati, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh and Hyderabad, respectively with concerned stakeholders for creating awareness on National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) and National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), as well as seeking inputs for preparation of India's sixth National Report to the CBD. Nearly 400 participants from all the 29 States including officers from related departments including Agriculture, Rural Development, Tourism, Forest, Commerce and Industry etc. participated in the meeting. A brochure on "Mainstreaming biodiversity: National Biodiversity Action Plan, National Biodiversity Targets and India's Sixth National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity" was released. The web portal ([www.nationalreport6.com](http://www.nationalreport6.com)) was formally launched at the workshop and can be accessed for sharing information on initiatives and actions being taken for achieving the 12 National Biodiversity Targets for the Sixth National Report.

### 13.11 Activities of State Biodiversity Boards

All the 29 States have established "State Biodiversity Boards" (SBBs). Similar initiatives are being taken to implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 by constituting Biodiversity Councils/bodies in the Union Territories of India. Follow up process with the Union Territories are on-going to scale up the network. Out of the 29 SBBs, 26 SBBs have so far notified their State Rules including Tamil Nadu and till date 70,705 BMCs have been constituted and 5,018 PBRs prepared across the country during the reporting period. The activities undertaken by various SBBs are summarized in brief as below:

#### 1. Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board conducted two board meetings during 2017-18. A total of 4646 BMCs at Village, 44 at

Block, five at Municipality and five at District level have been formed and 25 PBRs are in the process of documentation as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. The Board has identified Veerapuram – Ananthapur District, Timmamma marrimanu – Ananthapur District, Timbaktu – Ananthapur District, Srisailam – Kurnool District, Tirumala Hills – Chittoor, Kolleru Lake, Nellore District and Talakona, Tirupati, Chittoor District as Biodiversity Heritage Sites. A total of 13 agreements have been signed under Section 24(1) of Biodiversity Act. The Board developed a brochure on successful implementation of Access and Benefit sharing mechanism by Pinakota BMC and two posters on "Biodiversity and sustainable tourism" and "Threatened species of Andhra Pradesh. The Board celebrated the International Day of Biodiversity on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 by organizing a program based on "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism".

#### 2. Arunachal Pradesh

The Arunachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board conducted one board meeting during 2017-18. The Board has constituted 126 BMCs and prepared 43 PBRs as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 of which 34 BMCs were formed during this reporting period. Two pamphlets and two posters have been developed to highlight the biodiversity of the State. Five applications have been approved and two have been rejected under Section 24(1) of the Biodiversity Act. The Board conducted a consultation Workshop on National Biodiversity Action Plan, National Biodiversity targets and for the preparation of the 6<sup>th</sup> National reports to Convention on Biological Diversity. The other activities included training programmes for PBRs and BMCs and celebration of the International Day of Biodiversity (IDB).



### 3. Assam

The Assam State Biodiversity Board conducted three board meetings during 2017-18. The Board has accorded Majuli the tag of Biodiversity Heritage Site under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. A total of 189 BMCs have been constituted at the Block level as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. In addition, 16 BMCs were constituted in Bodoland Territorial Council, 10 in Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and 6 in Dima Hasao Autonomous Council. 25 PBRs have been totally prepared of which 13 have been documented during the year of review. To highlight the biodiversity and the work done towards conservation, usage and capacity building, a newsletter "Amulya Jaibabaichitra" (Precious Biodiversity) as a half yearly periodical has been initiated and the first edition has been circulated. The Board has documented the Assam Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (ABSAP). The Board has published an ISBN assigned book "Wild Orchids of Assam". Other outputs from the SBB have been English documentaries like "Invaluable Biodiversity" and "Internship Program on Biodiversity Conservation" and five short documentaries on the themes 'Subsistence value of Forests', 'Traditional Knowledge', 'Human-Animal Conflict', 'Trades in NTFP' and 'Life of a Forest Guard' have been prepared. Four applications have been approved under Section 24(1) of Biodiversity Act. The Board celebrated the International Day of Biodiversity on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017. The Board organized different meetings of Technical Support Group for vetting PBRs. Capacity Building workshops at BMCs of seven Districts were conducted on accounting, PBR etc. The Board is undertaking on going collaborative projects viz. "Plant Diversity assessment of Dima Hasao Autonomous Council", "Enhancing conservation efforts in Hoolangapar Gibbong Wildlife Sanctuary", "Nature Learning Centre". The Board documented the tradable bio-resources and associated traditional knowledge from the local communities of Assam for establishing Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) provisions.

### 4. Chhattisgarh

The Chhattisgarh State Biodiversity Board has set up 223 BMCs as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 of which

94 have been constituted during 2017-18. A total of 45 PBRs are under preparation during the period of consideration. The board has developed brochures on the Biodiversity Act 2002 in Hindi and English and guidelines related to the practice of Biodiversity Management Committees in Hindi. The Board has conducted Training cum Workshop to develop awareness on the Biodiversity Act and Rules, constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs for field officers, NGOs, members of BMCs and officers of respective departments. The Board celebrated the International Day of Biodiversity on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 by organizing a conference based on "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism".

### 5. Goa

The Goa State Biodiversity Board conducted two board meetings during 2017-18 and has identified three BHS. A total of 179 BMCs at Village and one at the Municipality level have been formed and 44 PBRs are in the process of documentation. The Board convened Expert Committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 for scrutinizing the access applications received by the Board relevant to Indian entities. The Board has developed two posters on "Unique flora of Goa- *Dipcadi goense*-A critically endangered species" and brochures on wetland and "Mugger-Marsh Crocodile, an activity brochure. The Board in association with the Mangrove Society of India released a guide book "Mangal Yatra- Destination for Mangrove Tourism". The Board organized 46 awareness and 39 training programs during 2017-18. The Board observed "World Environment Day", "Quami Ekta Week", "World Wetlands Day", and "World Water Day" with appropriate programmes during the year. The International Day of Biodiversity -2017 was celebrated by organizing a national seminar on "Biodiversity, Legal framework and related aspects". The Board received an appreciation letter from Dr. Amita Prasad, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India – for the excellent arrangement in organizing the National event for the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity- 2017 on the theme of "Biodiversity & Sustainable Tourism".



### 6. Gujarat

The Gujarat Biodiversity Board conducted three board meetings during the year. The Board has identified the inland mangroves of Guneri-Kachchh and the indigenous mango forest area of Galkand Dang as Biodiversity Heritage sites. A total of 7596 BMCs have been constituted and 1164 PBRs have been documented as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. Eight applications have been approved under Section 24 (1) of the Biodiversity Act. The Board organized seven workshops during the year of review.

### 7. Himachal Pradesh

The Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board has constituted 416 BMCs at the Village level and one at the Municipality level as on 31<sup>st</sup>

March, 2018 of which 306 were formed during the year. The Board has documented 122 PBRs. The Board has developed booklets on the Biodiversity Act 2002 and Guidelines related to the practice of Biodiversity Management Committees. The Board conducted a State level interactive workshop for media on Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The Board also conducted various workshops cum trainings on traditional knowledge associated with biological resources for Panchayat Pradhans, BDC members, Zilla Parishad members, NGOs, officials of the District administration and line departments, and at least 5 TK holders. Training workshops on Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions were organized for officials of HP Forest Department, law faculty and students, bar association and senior advocates of Himachal Pradesh High Court. A peer to peer visit was organized to Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board on preparation of PBRs.

### 8. Jammu & Kashmir

The Jammu Kashmir State Biodiversity Board conducted a meeting of Expert Committee for the notification of Rare Endangered and Threatened (RET) species of plants and animals of Jammu & Kashmir State. The Board conducted a training workshop for the field staff of the Forest department on "Cross-Line of Control (LoC) Trade of important Medicinal plants of the State and have published a pamphlet. The Board celebrated International Day of Biodiversity-2017 by organizing painting, debate competition, cultural program and stalls on the IDB theme and the importance of biological diversity conservation for various Government and private schools.





Day on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. A bird watching camp was organized in collaboration with Jharkhand State Forest Development Corporation Ltd.



## 9. Jharkhand

The Jharkhand Biodiversity Board conducted two Board meetings during 2017-18. The Board has identified Trikut- Deoghar and Lugu Pahar- Bokaro as BHSs. A total of 1877 at Village, 13 at Block, one each at Municipality and District level BMCs have been constituted as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018, of which 1311 were formed during the year. A total of 14 PBRs have been completed. The Board has published a coffee table book- "Common Butterflies of Jharkhand", two brochures and posters on Bats and Sparrows, booklets on "Biological Diversity and Tourism" and "Sustaining life on Earth", pamphlets on Sparrows which were distributed on the occasion of World Sparrow Day, 2018 and Biodiversity Act and Rules, about BMC, Role and functions of BMCs. The Board has compiled a decadal report of Board (2007-08 to 2016-17). The Board organized drawing, essay writing, speech and quiz competitions for students of government and private sector schools at different zones with the help of forest departments and NGOs. Earth Day was celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2017 at the State capital. Workshops were organized for forest officials and technical support groups. International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated by organizing inter school essay writing, drawing, speech and quiz competitions among different government and private sector schools with the help of Times of India Group. Clay pots were distributed to public to give water to birds on the occasion of World Sparrow



## 10. Karnataka

The Karnataka Biodiversity Board conducted four board meetings during the year. A total of 4940, 138 and 14 BMCs have been constituted at the Village, Block and District level respectively. The PBRs documents at Village and Block level are 1754 and 23 respectively as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. The Board has conducted 215 BMC awareness training programmes across 30 Districts and 11 circle level workshops for forest officers during 2017-18. Thirty-two training programmes have been conducted for 20 taluk level BMCs under the GEF project. Workshops were conducted on BD Act, 2002, National Biodiversity Targets (NBT), National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) and to facilitate the preparation of 6<sup>th</sup> National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for Biotech sectors, students, Professors and personnel from media. A brochure has been developed on "Prospectus on Access and Benefit Sharing and Biodiversity Act, 2002". The Board celebrated the International Day of Biodiversity on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017.



## 11. Kerala

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board conducted four meetings during the year. Four areas namely, Ashramam Mangrove in Kollam, Kalasamala in Thrissur, Velayani in Thiruvananthapuram and Pathiramal in Alappuzha have been identified as BHSs. A total of 941 Village level, 87 Municipality level, and 6 corporation level BMCs have been constituted as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. 846 at the Village level, 44 at Municipality level and two at corporation level PBRs have been documented. A book entitled "Decentralized Biodiversity Conservation: Experiences of BMCs" has been published with the financial assistance of National Biodiversity Authority. A beach clean-up was organized by the Board and Academy for Mountaineering and Adventure Sports students at the Shanghumugham Beach. A nature camp in Idukki, Kannur and Kasargod Districts was conducted for school students on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2017. Digital Photography contest "Green Images-2017" was organized on the theme "The Green Earth" and "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism" for amateurs and professionals respectively who were given prizes during the celebration of the IDB- 2017. The Board celebrated Environment Day by planting saplings and published a book titled "Feathers of Vellayani". The Board organized the 10<sup>th</sup> Children's Biodiversity Congress by conducting a rally for the children. The Board organized training and capacity building workshops for academicians and personnel of line departments. IDB-2017 was celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 and gave awards to individuals and organizations for their work in the field of biodiversity conservation. The Board won the first prize in the Government State Institutions category in the National Science Expo conducted by the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE).





## 12. Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board conducted two board meetings during the year of review. The Board has identified Naro Hills, Patakot and Amarkantak as BHSs and has initiated the process of notification. Totally 23,043 at Village level, 313 at Block, level and 337 at Municipality level and 50 at panchayat level BMCs have been constituted and 890 PBRs have been documented at Village level as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. The Board has developed a calendar on the theme "Biodiversity Conservation with people's support". Documentary films have been shot on Shri Amrit Lal Vegad related to conservation of River Narmada and on Biodiversity Heritage of Madhya Pradesh. A public awareness advertisement has been developed on forest fire and burning of stubbles in agriculture fields and sustainable tourism related to the Gangetic Dolphin found in the National Chambal Sanctuary.

A Phyto-diversity nursery with standardized techniques for 56 tree species manual has been developed. A brochure on "Beej Bacho Krishi Bacho" yatra focusing on conservation of seeds of traditional varieties has been developed.

Sixty two applications have been approved and eight have been rejected under Section 23 (B); 209 (Total Form-I received) have been approved and eight have been rejected under Section 24(1) of the Biodiversity Act. A State level biodiversity awareness program entitled "Mowgli Utsav" was organized in different places for 204 school children in November, 2017. A Science Express exhibition was organized in August, 2017 which was visited by nearly 58000 people. A media workshop was organized on 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 to create awareness on biodiversity related issues. Wildlife week was celebrated in collaboration with the Regional Science Centre, Bhopal and "Greening of Young minds Campaign" was organized for college students. The International Biodiversity Day was celebrated at different levels- a State level program at the Academy of Administration, at Commissionaires, Districts and 235 Gram Panchayat level BMCs, including malls, with nature camps organized at popular tourist spots. Madhya Pradesh Biodiversity Learning and Demo Centre have been established at Bhopal for demonstration of agro-biodiversity and imparting training on different aspects of biodiversity to various stake holders.





BD Act 2002 and Rules 2004, documentation of PBRs and capacity building for various stakeholders. Four training programs were organized by different agencies for Forest officers during 2017-18. Three meetings of Sub-Committee and committees of Threatened Plants were held to review the latest position of threatened species and finalization of the list in the year of consideration. A meeting was conducted by plant expert committees to study various plant species. The Board celebrated the International Day of Biodiversity-2017 by organizing a workshop on the importance of biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism and sustainable tourism, ameliorative strategies for bio-fertilizer development for biodiversity sustenance. The Board celebrated World Nature Conservation Day on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 by organizing a programme for students of Botany, college and university faculties, NGOs, Forestry department staff.



### 13. Maharashtra

The Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board conducted two board meetings during the year. One site -Glory of Allapalli has been notified and six other sites have been identified as BHS. A total of 20409 at Gram Panchayat, 41 at Block, 12 each at Zilla Parishad and District, 26 at Municipality, and 6 at Mahanagara Palika level BMCs have been formed and 71 PBRs have been documented as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. The Board organized a study tour in Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland for the study of insects, Butterflies and other biological resources. The Board conducted 21 workshops on implementation of

#### 14. Manipur

The Manipur Biodiversity Board (MBB) conducted one Board meeting during 2017-18. The Board has set up 68 BMCs and prepared 22 PBRs as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. The Board developed training materials in collaboration with FRLHT, Bengaluru. MBB has prepared brochures on Jewels of India, Functional Role of Biodiversity establishments, Forest for survival, and Institutional structure. The Board developed posters on International Day of Biodiversity, Women & Children health and anticancer plants.



#### 15. Meghalaya

The Meghalaya Biodiversity Board conducted one Board meeting during the year of consideration. A preliminary notification of Khlaw Kur Syiem Kmielng as Biodiversity Heritage Site has been issued by the Government of Meghalaya dated 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. A total of 266 BMCs have been constituted, 15 PBRs at the Village level has documented and 90 are under progress. A book on "Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules, 2010 and BMC Guidelines in local languages (Khasi and Garo) and three posters on Biodiversity has been released by the Board. Eleven awareness programs have been conducted in all Districts of Meghalaya for constitution and PBR preparation. The Board celebrated IDB-2017 in all Districts. Shri. Damewanhi Ryambai, Chairman of Moolamyliang BMC was awarded the "Best Soldier of Conservation Award, 2017 for protection and conservation of biodiversity. Similar award was also given to the BMC, Sein Raji community reserve, East Jaintia Hills.

#### 16. Mizoram

The Mizoram State Biodiversity Board conducted one Board meeting during 2017-18. A total of 250 BMCs have been constituted as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 of which 28 were formed during the year of consideration and five PBRs have been prepared. The Board celebrated International Biodiversity Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 with various dignitaries, officials from different departments and high school students.

#### 17. Nagaland

The Nagaland State Biodiversity Board has been notified as the Nodal Agency for implementation of National Mission on Himalayan Studies in compliance to the directives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. NSBB has held one board meeting during the year of consideration. The Board has constituted 110 BMCs at Village level across five Districts as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 of which 100 were setup during 2017-18. The Board conducted a training programs on "Implementation of the BD Act" for the Officials of Line department in Kohima (27<sup>th</sup> October, 2017) and Dimapur (24<sup>th</sup> November, 2017). The Board organized a training program on BMC at five different Districts. A peer to peer visit was organized to Assam State Biodiversity Board. The International Day of Biological Diversity was celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 at Kohima with the participation of 16 school having eco-clubs. The Board participated in the "Vibrant India 2018" at Guwahati, Assam. The board is implementing a research project on "Developing IT infrastructure in schools for promoting the International Day of Biodiversity on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 Biodiversity Conservation" funded by North Eastern Council (NEC) in three schools of Kohima District. Brochures on importance and conservation measures of biodiversity and bookmarks were distributed as part of the awareness programme.



## **18. Odisha**

The Odisha Biodiversity Board conducted the tenth Board meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2017. Five biodiversity rich sites have been identified as Biodiversity Heritage Sites. A total of 1225 BMCs have been constituted as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 of which 176 were formed during 2017-18. 87 PBRs have been prepared at the end of the period as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018 of which 16 were documented during 2017-18. Five posters have been prepared on the status of few lesser known mammals in Odisha, Floral diversity of Odisha, Common Snakes of Odisha, Amphibians of Odisha and Rice pest controlling micro-organisms. Besides, three brochures have been prepared on Wild Cats of Odisha, Lichens of Odisha and Biodiversity of Odisha. Two applications have been approved under Section 24(1) of Biodiversity Act. The Board celebrated the International Day of Biodiversity by conducting quiz and painting competitions for school students. A capacity building training program was conducted for frontline staff of forest department and BMC members. Radio programs on ABS issues under Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and services and benefits derived from biodiversity were organized. An awareness program was conducted through Nature Walk for school students. Sensitization programs were organized for industries like Ayurvedic drug manufactures, traders, traditional practitioners, media persons, traditional healers and other stakeholders. The Board also conducted capsule course on biodiversity conservation for post graduate students on 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

## **19. Punjab**

Punjab Biodiversity Board has identified nine Biodiversity Heritage Sites. The Board has constituted 35 at Village, 17 at Block, and 22 District levels BMCs. A total of one at Village and ten at District level PBRs have been documented as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. A documentary "Cultural & Biodiversity Heritage of District Faridkot has been prepared. Guidelines for Identification, Notification & Management of BHSs, Guidelines for Operationalization of BMCs and TK Terminology have been published in Punjabi. A paper titled "Conservation of Biodiversity Heritage Sites through people's participation:

Experiences from Punjab have been published in Abstract Book of International Conference on "Sustainable Development: Challenges & Prospects". A special issue 'Nirantar Soach' on the theme of "Biodiversity" has been published in PSCST's monthly science Magazine in Punjabi. A consultation workshop was organized on "Mainstreaming Biodiversity, National Biodiversity Targets and India's Sixth national Report to Convention on Biological Diversity" organized in collaboration with MoEF&CC, GoI, UNDP, NBA and BCIL at Chandigarh on 14th & 15th September, 2017. A seminar on 'Snake Diversity: Issues & Conservation Measures' was organized in collaboration with Natural Biodiversity Society at Chandigarh to commemorate the International Earth Day. A "Pigeon Show: Genetic Diversity among Pigeons" was jointly organized with Natural Biodiversity Group on 10th March, 2018. Earth Hour was observed by the networking partners such as BMCs, University/Colleges, NGOs and individuals on 24.03.2018 between 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm. A Recording of half an hour program on Reviving Biodiversity for Gyan Vigyan Series of All India Radio, Jalandhar was organized. International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), 2017 was celebrated by conducting twenty four programs including seminars, exhibitions, competitions, field visits etc. in collaboration with District Administration, Universities, Colleges, Schools, Proactive NGOs, etc. Two case studies/best practices from Punjab on Biodiversity conservation and related Eco-tourism was presented during the National level Celebrations of International Day for Biological Diversity, 2017 organized by MoEF&CC, GoI on 22.05.2017 at Goa.

## **20. Rajasthan**

The Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board has identified five sites-Akal Wood fossil Park at Jaisalmer, Keora-Ki-Nal and , Ram Kunda at Udaipur, Nag-Phar at Ajmer, and Chhapoli-Mansa Mata at Jhunjhunu as Biodiversity Heritage Sites. The Board has constituted 99 Village level, six Block level, six Municipality level and two Zilla Parishad level BMCs as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. The Board conducted awareness programme workshops on the occasion of World Wetlands Day on wetland conservation on 2<sup>nd</sup>

February, 2018 and also organized a workshop for schools. The IDB-2017 was celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017 by organizing a workshop on the theme “Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism in Rajasthan” wherein poster on the theme was released.



## 21. Sikkim

The Sikkim Biodiversity Board has constituted 30 BMCs and prepared four PBRs as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. The Board developed brochures on ABS mechanism and the legal obligations of institutions under BD Act 2002. One application has been approved under Section 23 (B) and one under Section 24(1) of the Biodiversity Act. Fourteen awareness programmes were conducted on ABS provisions, roles and responsibilities of BMCs for different Gram Panchayat unit, of which four were organized along with UNEP-GEF and State Government for different stake holders such as Sikkim State legal service Authority, Law students, few through a local Radio FM. The Board conducted three Village level awareness programme cum consultation meeting with the TK holders with a joint project with MoEFCC –National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) project. The members of the Board were invited for different panel discussions on sustainable development goals, biodiversity, BD Act 2002, BMCs and organic farming in local cable TV channel, All India Radio (AIR). Workshops were conducted on biodiversity conservation, climate change and species distribution modelling where lecture on *in-situ* conservation measures-protected area networks was given. Two classes were conducted on PBR preparation for the trainees of the Green Skill Development

program by BSI, Sikkim Himalayan Circle. A regional consultation workshop was conducted for providing necessary inputs in preparation of the India’s Sixth Report to CBD, NBAP and NBTs. A Stakeholders consultation meeting on Long- term Environmental and Socio-Ecological Monitoring (LSTEM) under implementation of Khangchendzonga Landscape conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI-India) organized by GBNIHESD. The Board took part in the Biodiversity Fair organized by WWF in collaboration with the Forests, Environment and Wildlife management Department.



## 22. Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board conducted two board meetings during the year of consideration. A total of five and fourteen BMCs at the Village and Block level respectively have been constituted as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. The Board conducted workshops on Biodiversity Act 2002 and ABS provisions; awareness on provisions and mandates under the Biodiversity Act 2002 and inputs for preparation of India's Sixth National Report to convention on Biological Diversity in respect of Tamil Nadu. The Board conducted a workshop for Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership project under Indo-German Biodiversity Program. The International Biodiversity Day was celebrated by organizing a workshop on the theme "Awareness of Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism" on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017.

## 23. Telangana

The Telangana State Biodiversity Board has constituted a total of 2991 BMCs as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 of which 485 at the Village level, four at the Block level and one at the Zilla Parishad level were constituted during 2017-18. So far, 67 PBRs have been prepared and 126 are under preparation during the year 2017-18. Three books and one brochure have been developed on topics like Tradable bio-resources of Telangana State, Agriculture Biodiversity of Telangana State, Fish Biodiversity of Telangana State and ABS Case study of Telangana State respectively.

Five applications have been approved under Section 23 (B) and five under Section 24(1) of the Biodiversity Act. The Board conducted 998 training cum awareness programs to develop awareness on the Biodiversity Act and Rules, constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs for villagers, BMC Chairpersons and members; and stakeholders like ICAR, CSIR, Universities, Colleges, line departments, traders, Biotech, Ayurvedic, Bio-pesticide companies, healers and other agencies at Gram Panchayat, Mandal, District, and State level. Fifteen All India Radio Programs and two Doordarshan programmes on Biodiversity were telecasted. Five peer to peer learning programs (exchange visits) were conducted for Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh

States, and Adilabad and Sangareddy Districts in Telangana. The board is implementing a research project on "Conservation of Local: Registration of Mannanur Cattle, a native livestock population of Telangana State" in collaboration with Animal Husbandry Department and WASSON, NGO. The first cattle of Telangana "Nallamala Poda" are to be registered during 2018-19. TSBDB celebrated IDB-2017 on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 by organizing various events like essay writing on nature and painting competitions. Four individuals from different sphere of society who performed excellent work in the field of biodiversity were felicitated and two BMCs namely Duddepudi (Khammam) and Chityal (Ranga Reddy) were appreciated.

## 24. Tripura

The Tripura Biodiversity Board held one board meeting during the year of review. The Board has identified five BHSs namely Baramura Waterfall, Silachari cave, Unakoti, Betlingshib



Traditional Clay Ornaments from artisans of Dhuptali



Biodiversity Management Committee

and Debbari or Chabimura. A total of 457, 44, and 5 BMCs have been formed at the Village, Block, and Municipality level respectively as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. 431 PBRs have been prepared during this period of which 154

**TRIPURA BIODIVERSITY BOARD**  
Craftsmen from Biodiversity Management Committee-II



were documented during the year 2017-18. Newsletter and poster leaflets have been prepared on biodiversity of the State. The Board held activities under the UNEP-GEF project and a training programme on Biodiversity Act and Rules, constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs for State level officials. 39 applications has been approved under Section 23 (B) of

the Biodiversity Act. The Board celebrated International Day of Biodiversity by organizing activities for school children and awarded certificates.

**25. Uttar Pradesh**

The U.P. State Biodiversity Board held one board meeting during this period. The Board has constituted a total of 264 BMCs as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 of which 155 are at Village and one at Zilla Parishad level. A total of 256 PBRs have been prepared so far of which 157 were documented during the year of review. One book viz. Biodiversity: Living Treasures of Uttar Pradesh and fifteen flyers have been brought out. One application each has been approved under Section 23 (B) and Section 24(1) of the Biodiversity Act. The Board organized number of training cum awareness programmes such as Biodiversity Festival from 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May, 2017; International Day for Biological Diversity on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017; World Environment Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2017; International Day for Vulture Awareness on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017; Wildlife week from 1<sup>st</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> October, 2017; World Wetlands Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018; and World Sparrow Day on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 where essay competitions, poster competitions, biodiversity quiz etc. were organized for the various stakeholders and school students. The Board has prepared an E-Souvenir on "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism".

**26. Uttarakhand**

The Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board conducted two board meetings during the year of review. The Board has constituted 907 BMCs at the Village level and completed 118 PBRs at the Village and 6 PBRs at the Block level as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. The Chairperson participated in "National training program on Audit of Biodiversity, wildlife and forestry issues", "Second National dialogue on traditional knowledge and Access and benefit sharing", "Mountain Agriculture policy dialogue", "Audit of Environmental Regulatory Authorities and Bodies in the States", "Urban development cell UAOA and also participated along with the Member Secretary in "World Conference on Environment" during 2017-18. The Board organized workshops and training on Dehraduni

Basmati Type-III, Biodiversity Act and on various relevant sections of Biodiversity Act for research. The Board celebrated the IDB-2017 in Dehradun. The Board has published books on “Edible Plant of North West Himalaya Uttarakhand”, Vegetable dyes and tannins of Uttarakhand Himalaya, “Ferns of Uttarakhand”, “Study of Qualitative and Quantitative survey of invasive species in Dehradun District”, Study on Science –policy interface focusing on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Trans-boundary issues”.

### **27. West Bengal**

The West Bengal Biodiversity Board conducted one board meeting during the year of consideration. The Board has constituted 318 and 93 BMCs at the Block and Municipality level respectively as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018, of which 142 and 60 respectively were set up in the year of consideration. A total of 106 PBRs at the Village and 15 at Municipality level have been prepared as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. A leaflet on the biodiversity of the State and

a booklet on PBRs have been developed in Bengali. Six applications have been approved under Section 23 (B) and four under Section 24(1) of the Biodiversity Act during 2017-18. The Board organized a two day field training program on identification of common plants and animals for BMCs. 23 Bio tours were organized to increase awareness about biodiversity among school students. Awareness and training programmes were conducted on biodiversity conservation, BD Act & Rules, and Traditional Rice varieties. The Board officials participated in several seminars and workshops and delivered lectures on biodiversity and its related issues. The Board celebrated International Day of Biodiversity on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017. The BMC of Dantan I Development Block and Egra II Development Block were awarded the Biodiversity Award-2017 for outstanding contribution in biodiversity conservation. A special Appreciation award was given to Sri Jeevan Sardar for his lifelong contribution towards biodiversity awareness particularly among the students.



## Annexure 1

### Members of the Authority

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

CHAIRPERSON	PERIOD
Dr. (Ms). B. Meenakumari	From 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 onwards
Shri. Hem Pande, IAS	06 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2014 to 08 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2016
Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati	12 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2011 to 05 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2014
Shri M.F. Farooqui, IAS	11 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010 to 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2011
Dr. P.L. Gautam	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2008 to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 2010
Shri P.R. Mohanty, IFS	01 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2008 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2008
Shri G.K. Prasad, IFS	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2008 to 30 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2008
Dr. S. Kannaiyan	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2005 to 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2008
Shri Viswanath Anand, IAS	01 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2003 to 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2004

The present ex-officio Members of the Authority as per Section 8 (4b, c) are as under:

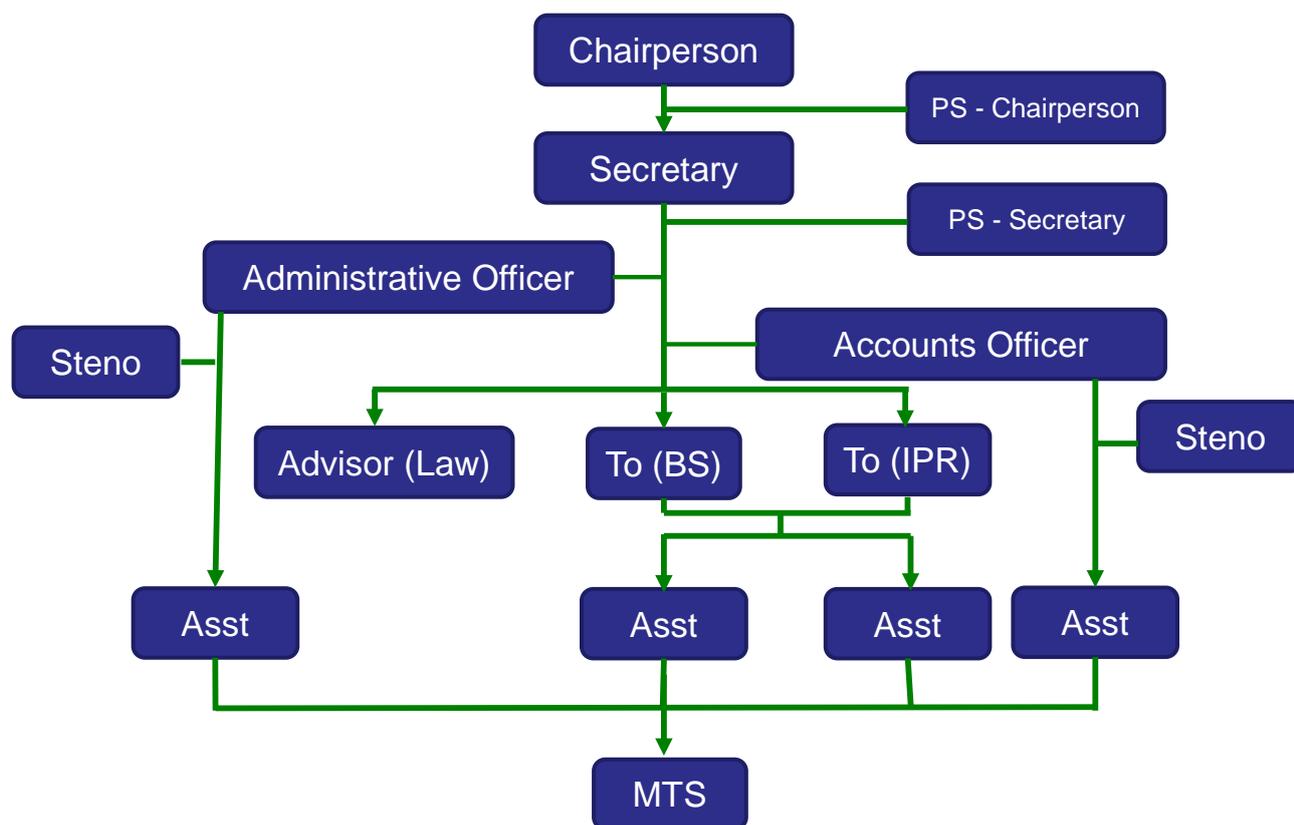
Sl No.		Member
1	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Shri. Sushilesh Mohan Sahai, IFS, Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Room No. 736, A-Wing, 7th Floor, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi – 110 001
2	Additional Director General (Forests) Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India	Dr. Anil Kumar, IFS Additional Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003
3	Joint Secretary to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Ministry of Environment and Forest	Dr. Sujata Arora, Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003
4	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Agriculture Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture	Joint Secretary (Seeds), Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Room No. 244, Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi - 110 001

5	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Department of Biotechnology	Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Advisor, Department of Biotechnology, CGO Complex, Block No. 2 Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003
6	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Department of Ocean Development	Dr. R. Kirubakaran, Scientist G, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Velachery-Tambaram Main Road, Narayanapuram, Pallikaranai, Chennai – 600 100
7	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	Deputy Director General (Crop Science), Division of Crop Science, ICAR, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi -110 001
8	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy	Smt. Shomita Biswas, The Chief Executive Officer, National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 3rd Floor, AYUSH Bhavan, B Block, G.P.O. Complex, I.N.A., New Delhi-110 023
9	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Department of Science and Technology	Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Post Box No.6, Palampur Himachal Pradesh – 176 061
10	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	Dr. B. K. Shukla, Scientist G, Head Planning, Coordination & Performance Management, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi – 110 016

SI No.	<b>Non-Official Member</b> <b>(From 21th March, 2017 to 20th March, 2020)</b>
1	Dr. Parimal Chandra Bhattacharjee, A/3 Asiyana Housing Complex Mailgaon, Guwahati – 781 011, Assam
2	Dr. Yogesh Shouche, Senior Microbiologist, National Centre for Cell Science Department of Biotechnology Lab, University of Pune Campus, University Road, Ganeshkhind, Pune, Maharashtra – 411 007
3	Shri. Darshan Shankar, Chancellor Trans Disciplinary University C/o Foundation of Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) #74/2, Jarakabande Kaval, Post Attur via Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064 Karnataka
4	Dr. Dinesh Mishra, No. 65, Sector 8 Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat-382 008
5	Prof. Umesh Rai, Director, South Campus, University of Delhi, Room No. I 06, Department of Zoology, University of Delhi, Delhi – 110 007

Annexure 2

Organization Chart



Besides these officers and staff, NBA is supported by Consultants to assist in technical and miscellaneous matters as per Rule 12 (6). The role of consultant is more or less similar to Amicus Curiae' in the Court of law. Besides they assist the Chairperson and Secretary in preparation of scientific, position papers and project report etc.

### Annexure 3

#### Staff Strength Including Recruitment

Post	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacancy
Chairperson	1	1	-
Secretary	1	1	-
Admin. Officer	1	1	-
PS to Chairperson	1	1	-
Accts. Officer	1	0	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	-
Total	16	15	1

## Annexure 4

### Publications

- A Documentary on Making ABS Happen in India (UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC, NBA)
- A case document on Traditional Knowledge Associated with Bioresources (UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC, NBA)
- A report on Negotiation for Access Benefit Sharing (UNEP-GEF-MoEF&CC, NBA)
- NBA's newsletter, "Biodiversity Matters" published
- CEBPOL Brochure
- Users Guide on Access and Benefit Sharing published by NBA.
- Book entitled, "India at Cancun and beyond" published by NBA
- Proceedings of 102nd Indian Science Congress.

## Annexure 5

### **Training courses/ Seminars/ Meetings/ Workshops organized/ attended**

1. The Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI)-CSIR organized a meeting to discuss the feasibility of taking up social forestry program to facilitate collection of fruits from mangroves in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and other coastal States on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 at Lucknow in which the Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing) participated in the discussion through video conferencing.
2. The trainees of Forest Ranger Officers from T.S. Forest Academy, Hyderabad visited NBA on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, as part of their induction training program. During the visit, the trainees were briefed about the Guidelines on ABS Regulations, applicability of BD Act for various activities and its provisions, e-filing of ABS applications and its process, also the role of officers in the field for implementing the BD Act particularly on enforcement, facilitating documentation of PBR, etc.
3. Four Assistant Secretaries from the MoEF&CC visited NBA on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The officials interacted with the Chairperson, NBA, Secretary, NBA and other Section heads on topics such as ABS mechanism, online application process, BMC formation, PBR preparation, IPR, etc.
4. Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun is mandated to impart knowledge and skills to the professional foresters and help them develop competence for managing the country's forest and wildlife resources on a sustainable basis. In the Academy, trainings are provided at different levels of officers in the Indian Forest Service besides the new entrants to the service. NBA joined hands with the IGNFA for conducting capacity building program for both IFS probationers and in-service IFS officers on Biodiversity Governance. Accordingly, a two days' capacity building program on Biodiversity Governance was organized for 85 IFS probationers and in-service IFS officers from 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at IGNFA, Dehradun. The program was well received by the participants.
5. The Secretary, NBA participated in the meeting of the Breed Registration Committee held on 04<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 for Registration of Livestock and Poultry Breeds.
6. As a follow-up to the decision taken in the discussion meet held in the MoEF&CC in October 2017, NBA organized an interactive session with ADMA and AMMOI in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual meet of the State Biodiversity Boards on 07<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 on ABS mechanism and related provisions. The meeting was attended by four representatives from AMMOI and three from ADMA as well as officials / representatives from 23 SBBs.
7. NBA in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development conducted capacity building program on BD Act to panchayat functionaries, other line department officials. So far, three such programs, one each in Mysore (Nov 2017), Hyderabad (Dec 2017) and Kolkata (March 2018) have been conducted. Around 100 participants belonging to various departments and panchayat samitis from different States have participated in the events.

## Annexure 6

### **Participation of NBA Officials in Meetings organized by other Ministries/ Departments**

1. NBA participated in the meeting organized by the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare to discuss the agenda items of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA under the chairmanship of the Joint Secretary (Seeds) on 10<sup>th</sup> October at New Delhi, and provided inputs for the negotiation.
2. MoEF&CC, NBA and UNDP are jointly involved in the preparation of the 6<sup>th</sup> National Report to CBD. Towards this, Regional Consultation Workshops on Mainstreaming Biodiversity was held in Guwahati (17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August, 2017), Lucknow (22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017), Ahmedabad (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September, 2017), Chandigarh (14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September, 2017) and Hyderabad (21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017) for gathering inputs on biological diversity related activities and achievements made by the stakeholders concerned.
3. Based on the nomination by MoEF&CC, the Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing), NBA participated in the International Symposium on Implementation of ABS System under the Nagoya Protocol - Sharing lessons & discussing future challenges at Seoul, South Korea on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and presented the progress on the implementation of ABS mechanism in India and contributed to the subsequent discussions.
4. NBA actively participated in the committees constituted by various Ministries/ Departments such as DGFT, ICAR, CSIR, DBT, PPVFRA, MoEF&CC, etc., and provided inputs with respect to the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for effective implementation of the Act.

## Annexure 7

### 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 utilization of genetic resources.

#### 1.3. Mandate

Reaffirm the sovereign rights over the bio-resources of India and contribute towards 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 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 also 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 the areas falling under their respective jurisdiction.

Perform such other functions as may be necessary to implement the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

#### 1.4 Stakeholders

Biodiversity is a multidisciplinary subject involving diverse activities, initiatives and stakeholders in biological diversity 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 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 for commercial utilization or for bio-survey and bio-utilization.

Facilitate access to bio-resource by all stakeholders and ensuring equitable benefit sharing between users and conservers of biodiversity in a transparent manner.

### **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-600113  
Phone: 044-22542777, 1075; Extension: 27  
Fax: 044-22541200  
E-mail: [admn@nba.inc.in](mailto:admn@nba.inc.in)

## **1.7 Expectations from the Citizens/ Clients**

To abide by the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules made there under 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 above activities by NBA and SBBs in the overall interest of human kind.

कार्यालय महानिदेशक लेखापरीक्षा  
वैज्ञानिक विभाग नई दिल्ली 110002

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दुर्गामी सेवा १७७०  
By Speed Post

No. DGA/SD/EA/SAR/NBA-Chennai/2017-18/1563

दिनांक:

सेवा में

09 JAN 2019

The Secretary,  
National Biodiversity Authority,  
TICEL BIO PARK,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Taramani Road,  
Taramani, Chennai-600113

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY  
CHENNAI,

DIARY No. 3534  
RECEIVED ON 14/1/19

विषय : वर्ष 2017-18 के लिए National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai का पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन  
महोदय/महोदया,

मुझे वर्ष 2017-18 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 2017-18 के वार्षिक लेखों को संस्थान के  
शासी निकाय द्वारा अनुमोदित किया/अपनाया जाए तथा इस संबंध में शासी निकाय द्वारा जारी किया  
गया रेसोल्यूशन ऑडिट को भेजा जाए। प्रत्येक दस्तावेज जो संसद में प्रस्तुत किया जाए उसकी तीन  
प्रतियाँ इस कार्यालय तथा दो प्रतियाँ भारत के नियंत्रक महालेखापरीक्षक को अग्रेषित की जाए। संसद  
के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने की तिथियाँ भी इस कार्यालय को सूचित की जाए।

संलग्नक— पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन

भवदीय,  
उप निदेशक (पर्या.ले.)

प्रतिलिपि: (1) वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी, भारत के नियंत्रक महालेखापरीक्षक का कार्यालय, नई  
दिल्ली को पत्र सं. 743-RC(AB)/SAR/NBAC/01-148/2018 दिनांक 24.12.2018 के क्रम में सूचनार्थ भिजवाया  
जा रहा है। मुख्यालय द्वारा दर्शित टिप्पणियों एवं आशोधन को ध्यान में रखते हुए अंतिम रूप दे दिया  
गया है तथा मुख्यालय के उत्तर संशोधित प्रति सूचना एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित है।

(2) सचिव, वन, पर्यावरण और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, अली गंज, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली –  
110003

(3) निदेशक, कार्यालय महानिदेशक लेखापरीक्षा, वैज्ञानिक विभाग, बंगलूरु शाखा कार्यालय,  
अंतरिक्ष भवन, बंगलूरु – 560096

-sd-  
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 March 2018.**

495/e

1. We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as at 31 March 2018 and Income & Expenditure Account / Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended on that date under Section 19(2) of the Comptroller & Auditor General's (Duties, Powers & Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 read with Section 29(2) of Biological Diversity Act. These financial statements are the responsibility of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

2. This Separate Audit Report contains the comments of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) on the accounting treatment only with regard to classification, conformity with the best accounting practices, accounting standards and disclosure norms, etc., Audit observations on financial transactions with regard to compliance with the Law, Rules & Regulations (Propriety and Regularity) and efficiency-cum-performance aspects, etc., if any, are reported through Inspection Reports/CAG's Audit Reports separately.

3. We have conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidences supporting the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. An Audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

4. Based on our audit, we report that

- I. We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- II. The Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account/Receipts & Payments Account dealt with by this report have been drawn up in the format approved by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance.
- III. In our opinion, proper books of accounts and other relevant records have been maintained by the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as required under Section 29(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, in so far as it appears from our examination of such books.

IV. Based on our audit, we further report that

**(A) General**

**Schedule of Significant Accounting policies (Schedule 25)**

The Schedule of Significant Accounting Policies did not disclose the accounting policy for retirement benefits adopted by NBA in contravention of Accounting Standard 15 issued by ICAI.

**(B) Grants-in-aid.**

During the year 2017-18, NBA received grants-in-aid of Rs.20.40 crore. This included unspent balance of Rs.1.17 crore revalidated from previous year. Out of total available funds of Rs.20.40 crore, NBA could utilize a sum of Rs.18.87 crore leaving a balance of Rs.1.53 crore as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

**(C) Management letter**

Deficiencies which have not been included in the Separate Audit Report have been brought to the notice of the National Biodiversity Authority through Annexure I and II for remedial/corrective action.

v) Subject to our observations in the preceding paragraphs, we report that the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payment Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of accounts.

vi) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said financial statements read together with the Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts, subject to the significant matters stated above and other matters mentioned in **Annexure I** to this Separate Audit Report give a true and fair view in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in India.

- A) In so far as it relates to the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as at 31st March 2018 and
- B) In so far as it relates Income and Expenditure Account of the deficit for the year ended on that date.

*Maiti Kumar*

**Director General of Audit (Scientific Department)**

Place: New Delhi

Date: 9/1/2019

4/23/2

## Annexure-I

### 1. Adequacy of Internal Audit.

Internal Audit of NBA was conducted upto the period 2017-18.

### 2. Adequate of Internal Control System.

The Internal control in NBA was found inadequate in the following areas test checked:

- a. **Diversion of funds:** Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure vide their OM dated 12.02.2010 decided to open a new object head 'Grants for creation of capital assets'. During 2017-18, NBA received total grants of Rs.2040 lakh under the object head 'Grants-in-aid – General and Grants-in-aid – Salary'. No funds was received under the object head 'Grants-in-aid – Capital'. NBA, however diverted an amount of Rs.1.71 lakh towards purchase of Assets during the year. This resulted in diversion of funds from one object head to other without the authority
- b. **Bank Reconciliation:** Audit noticed that NBA received Rs.17.13 lakh comprising 18 items as receipts towards 'Fund Account'. Out of this Rs.1.00 lakh was not treated as receipts and taken to NBA into 'NBA Fund Account'. NBA kept these receipts under 'Bank Reconciliation' due to reasons of non-availability of identification of persons who remitted fee etc., The receipts received as far back as March 2009 were not recognized as receipt. These receipts are pending to be recognized for more than one year..
- c. **Asset Register:** NBA is in possession of various kinds of assets worth Rs.1.24 crore as of March 2018. NBA, however did not maintain Asset Register in the prescribed proforma and the closing balance of which were not tallied with that shown in the balance sheet. Audit therefore could not ensure the correctness of value of assets as shown in the balance sheet.
- d. **Utilization Certificates:** Audit observed that out of 812 grants amounting to Rs.56.85 crore released during last twelve years to State Biodiversity Boards and other organization for which utilization certificate are due in the year 2017-18, utilization certificates were received only in respect of 639 grants amounting to Rs.34.62 crore.

Utilization certificates for 173 grants amounting to Rs.22.23 crore were not received as of March 2018.

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

NBA conducted physical verification of Fixed Assets items during the year 2017-18.

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

Physical verification of inventory was carried out for the year 2017-18.

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

NBA was regular in payment of statutory dues.



Dy. Director (EA)

मनीष कुमार  
महानिदेशक

4/2/19

D.O. No. DGA/SD/EA/MoWR, RD&GR/SAR/NBA-Chennai /2018-19/1567  
Dated :

09 JAN 2019

Dear *Shri Rabikumar,*

I have audited the annual accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year 2017-18 and have issued the Audit Report thereon vide letter dated 9.1.19..... During the course of audit, some deficiencies were noticed (as per Annexure 'A') which are of a relatively minor nature and were, therefore, not included in the audit report. These are being brought to your notice for remedial and corrective action.

*Regards,*

Your sincerely,

*Manish Kumar*

Encl : As above

**Shri. T. Rabikumar, IFS**  
Secretary,  
National Biodiversity Authority,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, TICEL Bio Park,  
CSIR Road, Taramani,  
Chennai-600113.

47/c

#### ANNEXURE-A

1. **Adequacy of Internal Audit System:** Though the latest audit was conducted in February 2018, the report was not received by NBA as of June 2018. Audit observed that one report comprising of 21 paras is still pending though NBA furnished replies to internal audit. The internal audit system in NBA therefore required to be more effective.
2. **System of Physical Verification of Fixed assets:** Items of surplus, damaged, unserviceable, old and obsolete items worth Rs. 11.87 lakh though identified were not disposed-off.
3. **Current Assets, Loans and Advances Rs. 73.56 crore (Schedule-11):** An amount of Rs.82.67 lakh was shown under 'Current Assets' as amount recoverable from Government for provision made towards terminal benefits such as Gratuity and Leave encashment. As the amount of provision was required to be shown as expenditure and the resultant surplus/deficit of Income and Expenditure Account is to be added/deducted from Capital Fund, depicting the amount as recoverable from Government led to overstatement of Current Assets to the extent of Rs.82.67 lakh. Correspondingly the Capital Fund was also overstated by the same amount.
4. **National Biodiversity Fund Rs. 70.69 crore (Schedule-3):** An amount of Rs. One lakh was added to the fund account as "unclassified receipts Suspense account" in Schedule-3. This amount comprised of 15 items of receipts which are still lying as unreconciled items in Bank Reconciliation Statement as of March 2018. As NBA could not recognize these items as revenue and were not taken into cash book, the addition of revenue to the fund led to overstatement of fund account. Correspondingly the fund account in the balance sheet is also overstated to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh.
5. **Receipts and Payments Accounts:** An amount of Rs.1.00 lakh was shown as receipts on the receipt side of the Receipts & Payments Accounts. The amount was also shown on the payment side as closing balance of cash. The amount shown as receipt was not recognized as revenue receipts by NBA and still kept as unreconciled item in Bank reconciliation statement as of March 2018. Therefore, depicting the amount of Rs.1.00 lakh resulted in overstatement of receipts as well as payments to the same extent.

Dy. Director (EA)





## About NBA

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA is a Statutory, Autonomous Body and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions for 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 implementation of the Act through decentralized system with the NBA focusing on advising the Central Government on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources; and advising 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 of 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 land races, 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 of the Authority, Secretariat, SBBs, BMCs and Expert Committees. Since its establishment, NBA has supported creation of SBBs in 29 States and facilitated establishment of 74,063 BMCs at local level.