



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



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Published by NBA, 2021



National Biodiversity Authority

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021**



MESSAGE

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



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

भूपेन्द्र यादव

BHUPENDER YADAV



MESSAGE

I am very pleased to present the Annual Report 2020-21 of the National Biodiversity Authority, a statutory body of this Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change established to implement the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

For India, conservation of biodiversity is crucial not only because it provides several goods and services necessary for human survival, but also because it is directly linked with providing livelihoods and improving socio-economic conditions for millions of local people, thereby contributing to both sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

India is also emerging as a global leader when it comes to biodiversity conservation through the development and implementation of a range of legal and policy regimes. The enactment of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is India's commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Act is implemented through a three-tier institutional mechanism, at National, State and Local levels through the establishment of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) set up by the elected bodies at the local level. I am pleased to say that all 28 SBBs and all 8 UTBCs have now been established.

Government of India is committed to ensure that the benefits of conserving biodiversity flow to natural resource dependent local communities. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in all key sectors of development and promoting human well-being and inclusive growth will continue to be the main 'mantra' of our governance strategy.

I sincerely hope that this report will get wide attention and the feedback from various experts and will further help it to fulfill its mandate.

(Bhupender Yadav)

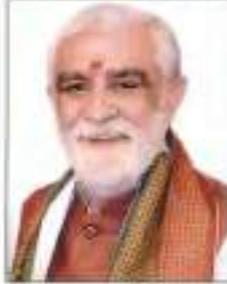


MESSAGE



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

अश्विनी कुमार चौबे
Ashwini Kumar Choubey



MESSAGE

Biodiversity and the Ecosystem Services are undoubtedly the basis of life and human survival on Earth. Our natural wealth is the foundation of our economic growth, food security and livelihood security. Conservation of nature and natural resources are integral part of Indian ethos and culture, amply reflected in religious practices, folklore, art and culture permeating every aspect of the daily lives of people. Living in harmony with Nature has been an integral part of Indian culture.

Conservation of biodiversity therefore is a national priority. Despite the environmental degradation brought about by developmental activities, growing urbanization coupled with increasing biotic pressures that have had an adverse impact on India's environment, our country has a legacy of preserving, protecting and conserving the biological diversity the country holds for the benefit its people, for the world at large, as well as for the common good of the mankind.

This Annual Report highlights the participatory biodiversity governance model established in the country through the enactment of Biological Diversity Act, 2002. A unique feature of this Act is the constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at every local body level across the country. As on today there are 2,76,160 BMCs established all over India in 28 States and 8 UTs for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity and chronicling of associate traditional knowledge. We need to take concrete steps to strengthen and make the BMCs effective.

I take this opportunity to compliment the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards, Union Territory Biodiversity Councils, Biodiversity Management Committees for their endeavours to protect and preserve the biological wealth of the country.

I am confident that this Annual Report would be useful to all stakeholders involved in the conservation of biodiversity.

सर्वो वै तत्र जीवति गौरश्चः पुरुषः पशुः ।

यत्रेदं ब्रह्म क्रियते परिधिर्जीवनाय कम् ॥

(Ashwini Kumar Choubey)

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FOREWORD

लीना नन्दन
LEENA NANDAN

75
आजादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



सत्यमेव जयते



FOREWORD

सचिव
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND
CLIMATE CHANGE

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), a statutory body of MoEF&CC is performing advisory, facilitative and regulatory functions under a legal framework to fulfil India's commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This report is an annual statement of the activities carried out by NBA during 2020-21 for conserving Indian bio-resources and providing legal certainty to common citizens for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of bio-resources.

The NBA in pursuance of its constant efforts to recognise the significance of biodiversity in ensuring food security, water availability, human health and above all ecological integrity of the country, partnered with various stakeholders during this period. Despite the pandemic, all the States and Union Territories made commendable efforts to fulfil various tasks including *inter alia*, the constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees, preparation and digitalization of People's Biodiversity Registers, identification and notification of Biological Heritage Sites and sharing of benefits derived from the use of bio-resources.

I am confident that the Annual Report will provide a good overview of the diverse activities performed by NBA during the year 2020-21, which will go a long way in successful implementation of the Biological Diversity Act.

[Leena Nandan]

New Delhi, the 24th January, 2022



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FOREWORD

बी.वी. उमादेवी
अपर सचिव
B.V. UMADEVI
Additional Secretary



सत्यमेव जयते

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



FOREWORD

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has consistently been at the forefront in fulfilling the third goal of CBD, viz., Access & Benefit Sharing arising due to the use of biological resources of Indian origin. NBA has contributed 71% (2361 IRCCs out of the global count of 3320 IRCCs till January, 2022) of all the Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCC) filed at the Access & Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH), a global platform to exchange information on benefit-sharing. The IRCCs are a key tool to facilitate implementation of Nagoya Protocol, primarily aimed at strengthening the third goal of CBD, which is fair and equitable sharing of benefits upon utilization of genetic resources.

Whereas NBA has been meticulous in processing the applications received, it has also made significant efforts to monitor the patent applications at the Indian Patent Office (IPO) and other such offices globally. NBA monitors the patent applications that are published on a monthly basis to screen for such applications which have used biological resources of Indian origin.

Apart from the task of processing benefit-sharing applications, NBA has been involved in conducting several outreach programs, which have been well received by the youth and students across the country.

The NBA-UNDP Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Program (BSIP) has been a very successful endeavour in molding future conservationists who are not only trained in various aspects of NBA operations but also serve as the ambassadors of NBA, in taking forward the message of conservation, sustainability and fair and equitable sharing of benefits to their respective institutions after completing of their internship.

I am confident that the NBA will continue to contribute, at both national and global levels, in conservation, management and monitoring of the unique biological resources of the country.


(B.V. Umadevi)





FOREWORD



I am pleased to place before you the Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the reporting period 2020-2021 during which the efforts for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and related legal instruments gathered further momentum.

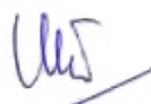
The 15th Annual Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards and the Union Territory Biodiversity Councils was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India on 11-12 December, 2020. This meeting reviewed the activities being undertaken for promoting the conservation and management of the biological diversity across the country and recommended focused interventions to be taken up by the SBBs and UTBCs.

The International Day for Biodiversity (IBD) 2020 was marked by the launch of NBA-MoEFCC-UNDP year long webinar series on "Biodiversity and Biological Diversity Act 2002" by the Hon'ble MEF&CC. The NBA partnered with UNESCO-India and Surabhi Foundation to celebrate the World Environment Day on 5th June, 2020 and launched a webinar series on 'Pockets of Hope: COVID-19 and the role of the World Biosphere Reserves Network'. These webinar series were very well attended and have been able to generate a huge amount of awareness about a range of conservation issues, particularly amongst the youth.

The NBA continued to provide its technical inputs through participation in various national and international forums, particularly meetings organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

I am very pleased to record deep appreciation and gratitude of NBA to a very large number of stakeholders and professionals and especially the Hon'ble MEF&CC, Senior officials of MoEFCC, Members of Authority, State Forest Departments, Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of the SBBs and UTBCs, Chairpersons and Members of various NBA committees for their constant guidance and support, which has enabled the NBA to successfully achieve its mandate and assigned tasks. I would also like to record my appreciation for the officers and staff of the NBA for their valuable efforts to take the NBA forward, especially during the difficult period of COVID-19 pandemic.

Chennai


(Dr. V.B.Mathur)
Chairperson, NBA



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the year 2020-21 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 various provisions of the Act. The activities carried out by the State Biodiversity Boards have also been included in this Report.

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

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "J. Justin Mohan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

J. Justin Mohan

Secretary, NBA



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Executive Summary

The term biological diversity or in short biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth at all its levels which includes from genes to ecosystems, and also encompasses the evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes that sustain life. It enhances the ecosystem productivity where each species, however small, has an important role to play. Conservation of biodiversity is crucial as it provides resources and services necessary not just for human beings but for the sustenance of all living beings. This demands urgent attention and action from all countries to conserve and manage biodiversity, ecosystems and livelihoods through major policy and programs that are focused on these realms.

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

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

NBA, as a statutory body of the Government of India, has been following a dedicated and target-oriented plan. The highlights of the progress and achievements during the reporting period 2020-21 are briefly outlined here and elaborated in the Annual Report.

During 2020-21, the Authority met five times, deliberated various issues, directed and advised the NBA Secretariat for initiating and implementing actions as per Section 12 of the BD Act, 2002 and Rule 10 of the BD Rules.

NBA has constituted three Expert Committees- viz. the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (EC on ABS), Expert Committee to examine Biological Diversity Rules, user country measures under Nagoya Protocol and development of sector specific standard operating procedures and an Expert Committee to identify issues in the Biological Diversity Act and Rules that may require changes, and propose amendments thereof.

The EC on ABS met three times and evaluated 379 applications on access and benefit sharing and provided recommendations to the Authority. During the reporting period, 952 applications were received concerning the access of biological resources for research/commercial use, transfer of research results, intellectual property rights and third party transfer. In total, 2592 agreements were signed during this period. NBA received a sum of Rs 8,40,98,477 as a benefit-sharing component during 2020-2021 which includes upfront payment, commercial utilization and royalty etc. India being a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 1787 approvals granted in the ABS CH platform generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances during 2020-21.

The implementation of the BD Act 2002 at the State level was initiated by establishing the SBB and locally by constituting the BMC. Of the 29 SBBs, so far 26 SBBs have notified their State Rules. At the end of 2020-21, 2,73,451 BMCs have been constituted and 2,48,156 PBRs have been prepared all over the country.

Since its establishment, NBA has supported the creation of SBBs in 29 States and facilitated the establishment of and 2,48,156 People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) have been prepared all over the country. This year, three Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) have been notified in Maharashtra under the provisions of Section 37 of the BD Act, 2002. NBA has extended financial support to almost all the SBBs by Grant-in-Aid towards strengthening the institutional mechanism such as components of outsourcing, training and capacity building, peer-to-peer learning exchange visits, printing and dissemination of knowledge materials, formation of Thematic Expert Committee and website maintenance for the respective States during 2020-21. Monthly Review meetings of SBBs were convened to interact and understand the problems and challenges faced at the state and local body level.

The 15th National Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) was held on 11-12th December 2020 in virtual mode to discuss the progress made by the States/Union Territories in implementing the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BD Act) and the efforts of NBA in this process. The National Meeting was inaugurated by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, MoEF&CC. Over 150 participants, including special invitees, Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of the SBBs and UTBCs, representatives of government and non-government institutions, members of Expert Committees and Working Groups of NBA, officials of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and NBA attended the two-day National Meeting. The meeting was also attended by Hon'ble Justice, K. Ramakrishnan, Southern Bench, National Green Tribunal (NGT). The two-day meeting involved deliberations from all the Expert Committees and Working Groups about their efforts made so far including the recommendations provided to NBA by each committee. The States and Union Territories apprised the meeting about the progress and status of BMC formation and preparation of PBRs in accomplishing the tasks directed by Hon'ble NGT. All the States / UTs also briefed the activities, approaches taken for implementing the BD Act in recent year.

The NBA in partnership with UNDP, India celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity, 2020 on 22nd May 2020 in a very elaborate manner and in virtual mode. It was inaugurated by Shri. Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change in Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. The Hon'ble Minister of MoEF&CC launched the NBA-UNDP Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme and the webinar series on 'Biodiversity and Biological Diversity Act, 2002'. The Chairman, NBA moderated the panel discussion on 'COVID-19 and the One-Health' approach. To celebrate the World Environment Day, 2020 on 5th June 2020 the NBA partnered with UNESCO-India, TERI, WWF and the Surabhi Foundation to launch a Natural Television Series 'Pockets of Hope' on the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and organized four webinars on Sundarbans, Nilgiris, Gulf of Mannar and Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserves. Other important days observed by NBA included the 17th Foundation Day of NBA, the Hindi Diwas, Vigilance week etc. during this period.

The Annual Accounts for 2020-21 and Annual Plan for 2021-22 are also included in this Annual Report for 2020-21.



Chapter 1

Introduction

The term biological diversity or in short biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth at all its levels which includes from genes to ecosystems, and also encompasses the evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes that sustain life. It not only includes species that we consider rare, threatened, or endangered but also every living thing—from humans to organisms that we know of which includes microbes, fungi, and invertebrates.

India with its unique topographical features, harbours varied biologically rich terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. India ranks 8th in the world and 4th in Asia among the mega diverse countries in the world. India is also a home of traditional crop varieties ranking first amongst the 12 regions of diversity of crop plants and seventh in the contribution of agricultural species. 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. It is noteworthy that around 9,500 plant species are used as medicine in indigenous health practices. Moreover, local and indigenous people use more than 3,900 plant species as food, fibre, fodder, insecticides and pesticides, gum, resins, dyes, perfumes and timber.

India is also rich in fauna and nearly 62 per cent of the recorded amphibian species are endemic to India which is majorly found in the Western Ghats. Inventories of both floral and faunal diversities are progressively updated with many discoveries of new species through continuous survey and exploration.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected virtually all sectors including biodiversity conservation sector at all levels. It has led to the inability to manage the protected areas and carry out conservation programs because of the total lockdown but it has had a positive impact of reduced atmospheric pollution.

Biological resources are important for both economic and social development of the people. This is more important especially for a country such as India where some population still depend on local flora and fauna for enhanced food, nutritional and economic sustenance and where traditional healing practices uses local bioresources. However, due to India's growing population, rapid economic growth and

industrialization, there is immense pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Consequently, there is destruction and fragmentation of natural habitats, which alters the ecology and its inhabitants, affecting the livelihoods of millions of people.

NBA advises the Central Government on issues related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilization and equitable sharing. It also regulates the activities and issues guidelines for access to biological resources. Similarly, SBB advise 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 landraces, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms.



Chapter 2

Constitution and Functions of the Authority, Statutory Bodies

2.1. Structure of the National Biodiversity Authority

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

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

During this period, the Chairperson is Dr V.B. Mathur, a renowned wildlife biologist and former Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Regional Vice-Chair of the IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA-South Asia) and a member of the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA). He is also a bureau member of the UN-CBD and UN-IPBES.

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

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

- i. Agriculture Research and Education
- ii. Biotechnology
- iii. Ocean Development

- iv. Agriculture and Co-operation
- v. Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy
- vi. Science and Technology
- vii. Scientific and Industrial Research

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

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

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

Table 1: Members of the National Biodiversity Authority

S. No.	Ex-officio Members	
1	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Mrs R. Jaya, IAS, Room No. 736, A-Wing, 7th Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi 110 001
2	Additional Director General (Forests), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Shri Soumitra Dasgupta., Additional Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110 003
3	Joint Secretary dealing with the subject in the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change	Dr. Sujit Kumar Bajpayee Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110 003
4	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in Agriculture Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture	Joint Secretary (Seeds) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Room No. 244, Krishi Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi 110 001

5	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in the Department of Biotechnology	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 dealing with the subject in the Department of Ocean Development	Dr. M.A. Atmanand Director, National Institute of Ocean technology, Velachery - Tambaram Main Rd, Pallikaranai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600100 (till 30 th September, 2020) Dr. M.V. Ramanamurthy, Director, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), NIOT Campus, Velachery - Tambaram Main Rd, Pallikaranai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600100 (1 st October 2020- present)
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 dealing with the subject in the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy	Dr. J. L. N. Shastry Chief Executive Officer National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 3 rd Floor, AYUSH Bhawan, B Block, G.P.O. Complex, I.N.A., New Delhi 110 023
9	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in the Department of 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 dealing with the subject in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	Dr. Akhilesh Gupta, Scientist G, Head Planning, Coordination & Performance Management, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi 110 016

S. No.	Non-Official Members
1	<p>Dr. M.M Kutty (IAS Retd) 14/6, Officers Flats, Tilak Marg, New Delhi. (till 5th November, 2020)</p> <p>Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.) Director, Centre for Innovations in Public Systems, Hyderabad, Telangana (6th November, 2020-present)</p>
2	<p>Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram, Professor and Dean, College of Agriculture, Central Agriculture University, Imphal, Manipur</p>
3	<p>Prof. Unnat P. Pandit Dean, Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Professor of IP, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi</p>
4	<p>Dr. Alka Rao, Principal Scientist, Lab #P206, GNR Protien Centre CSIR- Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), Chandigarh – 160036</p>
5	<p>Shri. M.S. Chaitra, Director and Fellow, Aarohi, Bangalore</p>

2.2. Functions of NBA

- ⊙ Advise the Government of India on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.
- ⊙ Regulate activities and issue guidelines for access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge and fair and equitable sharing in accordance with Sections 3, 4 and 6 of the BD Act 2002. (Certain individuals/ nationals/ organizations require prior approval of the NBA for obtaining biological resources and/or associated knowledge for use).
- ⊙ Take necessary measures to oppose the grant of Intellectual Property Rights in any country outside India on any biological resource obtained from India or knowledge associated with such biological resources derived from India illegally.

- ⊙ Advise State Governments in the selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified as heritage sites and suggest measure for their management.
- ⊙ Provide guidance and technical support to Biodiversity Management Committees through State Biodiversity Boards for preparing People's Biodiversity Registers.
- ⊙ Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act.

2.3. State Biodiversity Boards (SBB)

The SBBs are established by the State Governments by notification in the official gazette in accordance with Section 22 of the Act. The NBA exercises the powers and functions of an SBB in Union Territories. The NBA may delegate all or any of its powers or functions to such persons or group of persons as specified by the Central Government. 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 the utilization of biological resources.
- ⊙ Regulate, by granting approvals or otherwise, the request for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resources by Indians.
- ⊙ Perform other functions necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as prescribed by the State Governments.

2.4. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

In accordance with Section 41 of the BD Act, local bodies within their areas of jurisdiction can constitute BMCs to promote conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity which includes preservation of habitats,

conservation of landraces, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms, and chronicling of knowledge related to biological diversity. Each BMC consists of a Chairperson and six persons nominated by the local body of which one-third is women and 18% belong to the Scheduled Castes/Tribes category. As of March 2021, there are 2,73,451 BMCs across India.

2.4.1. Functions of BMC

- ⊙ Prepare, maintain and validate People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) in consultation with the local people.
- ⊙ Provide advice on any matter referred to it by the State Biodiversity Board or NBA for granting approval.
- ⊙ Maintain data about local *vaids* and medical practitioners using biological resources.

2.5. Role of Central and State Governments

- ⊙ Establish National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees.
- ⊙ Develop national strategies, plans, programs for the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- ⊙ Issue directives to State Governments to take immediate ameliorative measures for the protection of biodiversity-rich habitats, threatened by overuse, abuse or neglect.
- ⊙ Integration of the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programs and policies. Endeavour to respect and protect the knowledge of local people relating to biological diversity, as recommended by NBA
- ⊙ Assess the impact of projects on the environment and biodiversity and regulate, manage or control the risks or adverse impact of use/ release of living modified organisms on conservation, and study the link between sustainable use of biological diversity and human health.
- ⊙ The Central Government may, in consultation with the NBA,

- a. Notify threatened species and prohibit or regulate their collection, rehabilitation and conservation.
 - b. Designate institutions as repositories for different categories of biological resources.
 - c. Exempt certain biological resources 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.





Chapter 3

Meetings of the Authority

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

3.1. 56th Authority Meeting

The 56th meeting of the Authority (Governing Body) was held on 23rd and 30th June 2020 in 'virtual mode' under the Chairmanship of Shri Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:

- ⦿ After examining the amendments proposed by the Expert Committee, the Authority authorized the Chairman to submit the Draft amendments proposed to the BD Rules, 2004 to the MoEF&CC.
- ⦿ Authority directed NBA to convene separate meetings with the officials of the AYUSH Ministry and the scientific community to examine their proposals for ease of doing business and research respectively.
- ⦿ The Authority members appreciated the efforts taken to complete the formation of BMCs and the preparation of PBRs by the MoEF&CC and NBA in close coordination with SBBs/ UTBCs.
- ⦿ The Authority members ratified the constitution of Expert Committees and also extension of tenure of the committee. Members also accorded consent to the composition of the Expert Committee on Agro-biodiversity.
- ⦿ The Authority endorsed the proposal for creation of 58 new positions and directed NBA to submit the same to MoEF&CC for further action.
- ⦿ Authority also directed NBA to develop Draft Recruitment Rules for all 58 positions, on a priority basis.

- ⦿ The members appreciated the planning and conduct of meetings by NBA and the celebrations of International Day for Biological Diversity 2020 and the World Environment Day, 2020.
- ⦿ Members noted the updates on acquisition of building for NBA and also expressed their consent on requirement of own building and more space to NBA.
- ⦿ The members also appreciated the efforts being taken for the development of Biodiversity Park of International standards in Chennai.
- ⦿ The Authority ratified the revised guidelines for engagement of Consultants and Interns and also agreed for the initiation of the process of engagement.
- ⦿ The Authority ratified the revised guidelines for engagement of Young Professionals (Scientific and Legal) in various categories.



3.2. 57th Authority meeting

The 57th meeting of the Authority was held on 7th July 2020 in 'virtual mode' under the Chairmanship of Shri Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:



- ⦿ The Authority confirmed the proceedings of the 56th Authority Meeting of NBA except agenda item no. 56.03 i.e. amendments proposed in the BD Rules, 2004.
- ⦿ Authority directed NBA to revise the draft proceedings of the 56th Authority Meeting based on the comments offered by the members and the same to be circulated to members.



- ⊙ Authority directed NBA to circulate the comments offered by members and information on steps taken for ease of doing business and the procedures followed for processing of ABS applications.
- ⊙ Members decided that the next meeting of the Authority would be convened on 17th July, 2020 for discussing the comments offered by the members and finalizing the amendments proposed in the BD Rules, 2004.

3.3. 58th Authority Meeting

The 58th meeting of the Authority was held on 17th July 2020 in 'virtual mode' under the Chairmanship of Shri Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:



- ⊙ Authority decided that comments offered by the members of the Authority on the draft amendments to the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 may be referred to the Expert Committee constituted for this purpose for examination and response.
- ⊙ Members decided that next meeting of the Authority meeting would be convened on 07th August, 2020 at 10 AM.

3.4. 59th Authority Meeting

The 59th meeting of the Authority was held on 7th August, 2020 in 'virtual mode' under the Chairmanship of Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:



- ⊙ Members approved the draft amendments to the BD Rules, 2004, *in principle* and the finalized matrix on proposed amendments to the BD Rules
- ⊙ The draft amendments to the BD Rules, 2004 shall be communicated to the MoEF&CC for taking further action.
- ⊙ Authority endorsed the Annual Accounts for the financial year 2019-20 and budget for the year 2020-21

3.5. 60th Authority Meeting

The 60th meeting of the Authority was held on 28th August, 2020 in 'virtual mode' under the Chairmanship of Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:



- ⦿ Members approved the draft amendments to the BD Act, 2002, *in principle* and the finalized matrix on proposed amendments to the BD Act.
- ⦿ Authority decided that comments offered by MoTA on the draft amendments to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 will be referred to the Expert Committee constituted for this purpose for examination and to make recommendations thereof.
- ⦿ Members also decided that recommendations of the Expert Committee on the comments of MoTA may alone be discussed in the next meeting of the Authority and the proposed amendments to the BD Act would be finalized.





Chapter 4

Committees constituted by the Authority and their activities

4.1. Expert Committee to examine Biological Diversity Rules, user country measures under Nagoya Protocol and development of sector specific standard operating procedures.

In accordance with the decisions taken on 52nd Meeting of the Authority, an Expert Committee to examine Biological Diversity Rules, user country measures under Nagoya Protocol and development of sector specific standard operating procedures was constituted vide Office Order dated 31.05.2019, under the Chairmanship of Shri. A. K. Goyal. Accordingly, NBA organized 07 meetings during the period of 2020-2021. Three consultation meetings organized with SBBs were held during 29th April to 1st May 2020 through virtual mode. Further, sixteenth and seventeenth meetings were held on 07-09th May, 2020 and 11-13th May, 2020 respectively.

The Expert Committee chaired by Shri. A.K. Goyal submitted its final report on 17th May 2020. The Committee suggested 137 amendments to bring in more clarity in the existing provisions of the BD Act, to assist the research and business sectors and to facilitate 'ease of doing business'. The National Biodiversity Authority forwarded the recommendations of the Expert Committee to the Ministry along with its recommendations in August 2020.

Further, a meeting under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary and Secretary, EFCC, were held on 24th July, 2020 and 7th August, 2020 wherein, it was decided to constitute a Working Group under the Chairpersonship of Mrs. B.V. Umadevi, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC with representatives of relevant Ministries.

Accordingly, MoEF&CC constituted a Working Group under the chairpersonship of Smt. B.V. Umadevi, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC to discuss the amendments proposed to the BD Act. The Working Group had five sittings i.e. on 25th August 2020, 16th October 2020, 23rd October 2020, 3rd and 12th November 2020 and discussed the amendments proposed to the BD Act. Further, meeting of Committee with Secretaries was held under the Chairmanship of Shri R.P. Gupta, Secretary, MoEF&CC on 6th January 2021 in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to discuss revision of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 with all the relevant Ministries.

Thereafter, a meeting was convened to discuss the proposed amendments to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 with the officials of Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science and Technology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research on 18th January, 2021 through virtual mode. After deliberations on this issue, DBT decided to accept the justification provided by NBA on the proposed amendments. Subsequently, meetings were conducted through virtual mode to discuss the proposed amendments to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 with the officials of other Ministries. Thereafter, the Ministry constituted a drafting committee to refine the amendments proposed in the above meetings.



Chapter 5

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

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 this Expert Committee which made suitable recommendations for consideration of the Authority. During the year, the committee met three times viz., 59th meeting on 5th and 6th March 2020, 60th meeting on 3rd November 2020 and 61st meeting on 18th March 2021 and evaluated 379 applications on access and benefit sharing and provided recommendations to the Authority. Besides, the EC provided techno-legal inputs on generic issue regarding the consideration of draft formula for determination of benefit sharing component on Form-III applications under various categories.





5.2. Generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)

Under the Article 17 of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, Parties are required to issue a permit or its equivalent at the time of access as evidence that access to genetic resources was based on prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms were established. Since India is a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 1787 approvals granted in the ABS CH platform generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances (IRCCs).

5.3. Working Group for developing methodology for assessing the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) potential for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

NBA vide Office Memorandum dated 30.09.2020 constituted a Working Group (WG) for developing methodology for assessing the ABS potential under the Chairmanship of Dr. Giridhar Kinhal Ex PCCF (MP) & Former Director, IIFM, Bhopal. Two meetings of the WG have been organized by NBA to deliberate on the subject on 14 October, 2020 and 09 July, 2021

These meetings have deliberated and prepared draft guidelines for the identification of the interventions for conservation, assessment of the potential, and the use of ABS funds by the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards

and the Local-level Biodiversity Management Committees. Draft guidance document prepared to establish of Local Biodiversity Fund (LBF) as per the provisions of the BD Act, 2002 to invest ABS funds in the restoration of ecosystems from where the resources are accessed is under the vetting process.





Chapter 6

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

6.1. Approval Details

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

For the above activities, the NBA receives applications from different stakeholders' viz., non-Indian individual or entity; Indian individual or entity and the same are being examined through an expert committee constituted for this purpose. The detailed information relating to application is provided in Table.2.

Table 2: Category of ABS applications

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

4. Since its inception, the NBA has received 4789 applications from different stakeholders under Forms I, II and III (Figure 1a). During the reporting period, it received 952 applications (Figure 1b), which were complete in all respects and were therefore taken up for processing. The stages of processing of applications are shown in Table 3.

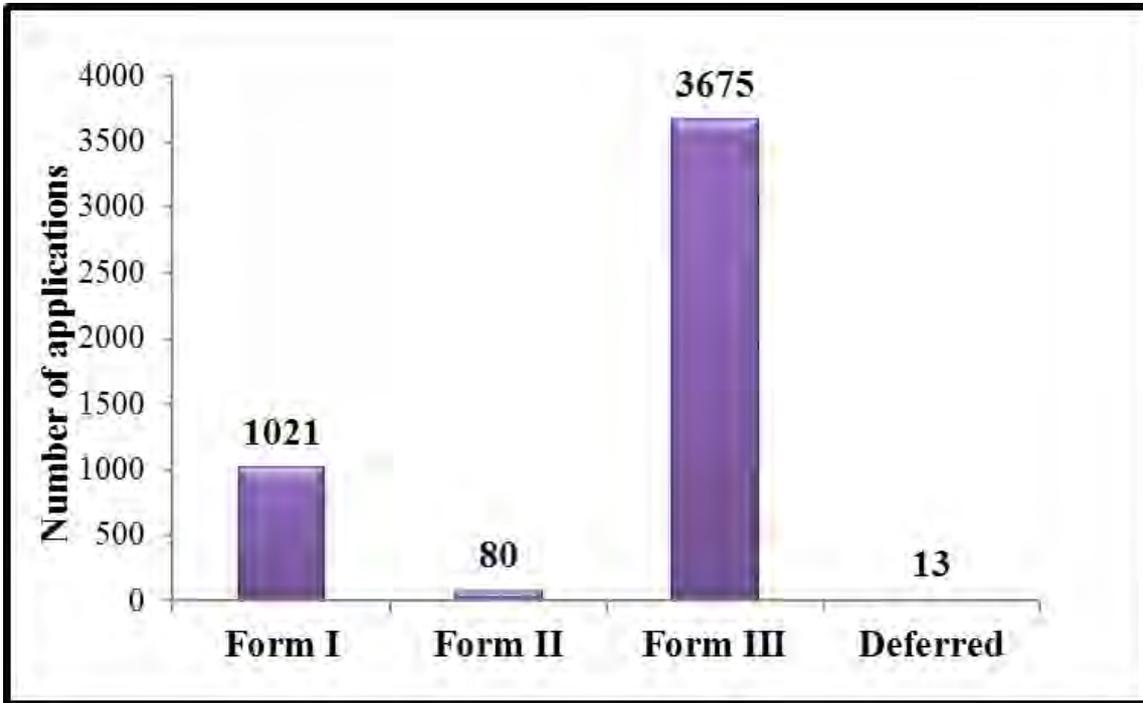


Figure 1a: Receipt of applications under different categories from inception of NBA

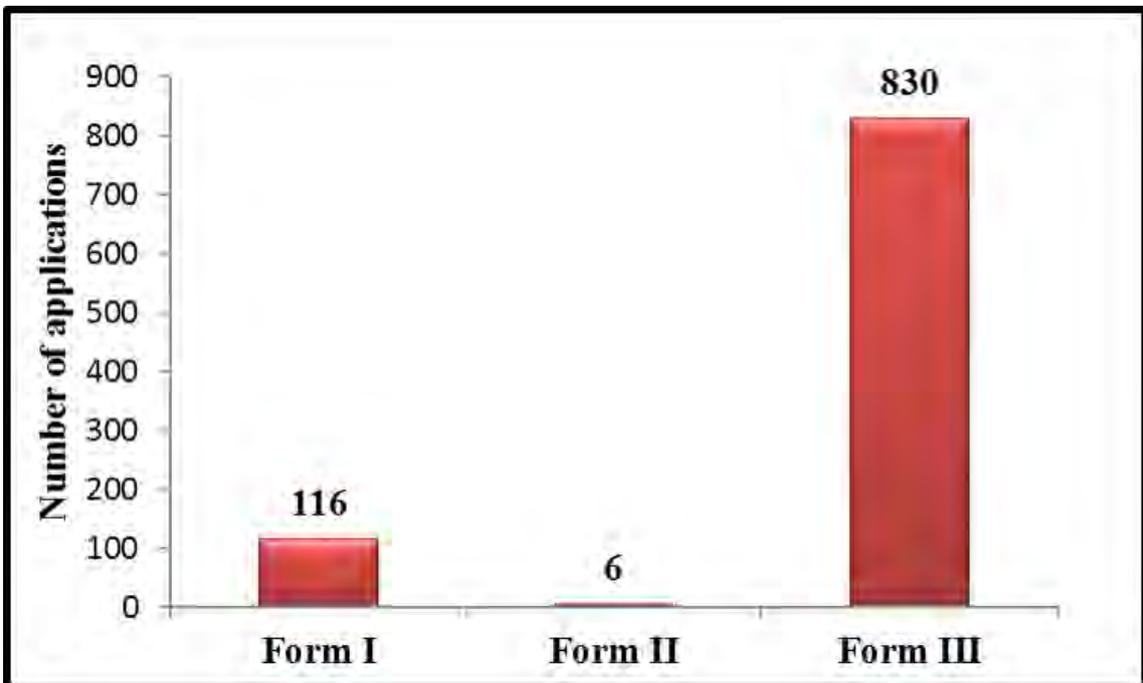


Figure 1b: Receipt of applications under different categories during 2020-21

Table 3: Stages of processing of ABS applications

Details	Form I	Form II	Form III	Total
Received	116	6	830	952
Cleared	82	3	784	869
Under process	7		3	10
Violation	1		1	2
Closure/ Withdrawn	26	3	42	71
Agreement signed/approved	41	2	544	587
Cleared (applications received in the previous years)	683	36	2375	3094
Agreement Signed (applications received in the previous years)	327	28	1650	2005
Closure/ Withdrawn (applications received in the previous years)	205	37	434	676
Rejected	13	1	25	39

6.2. Benefit-sharing realized

NBA received a sum of Rs 8,40,98,477 as a benefit-sharing component during 2020-2021.





Chapter 7

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

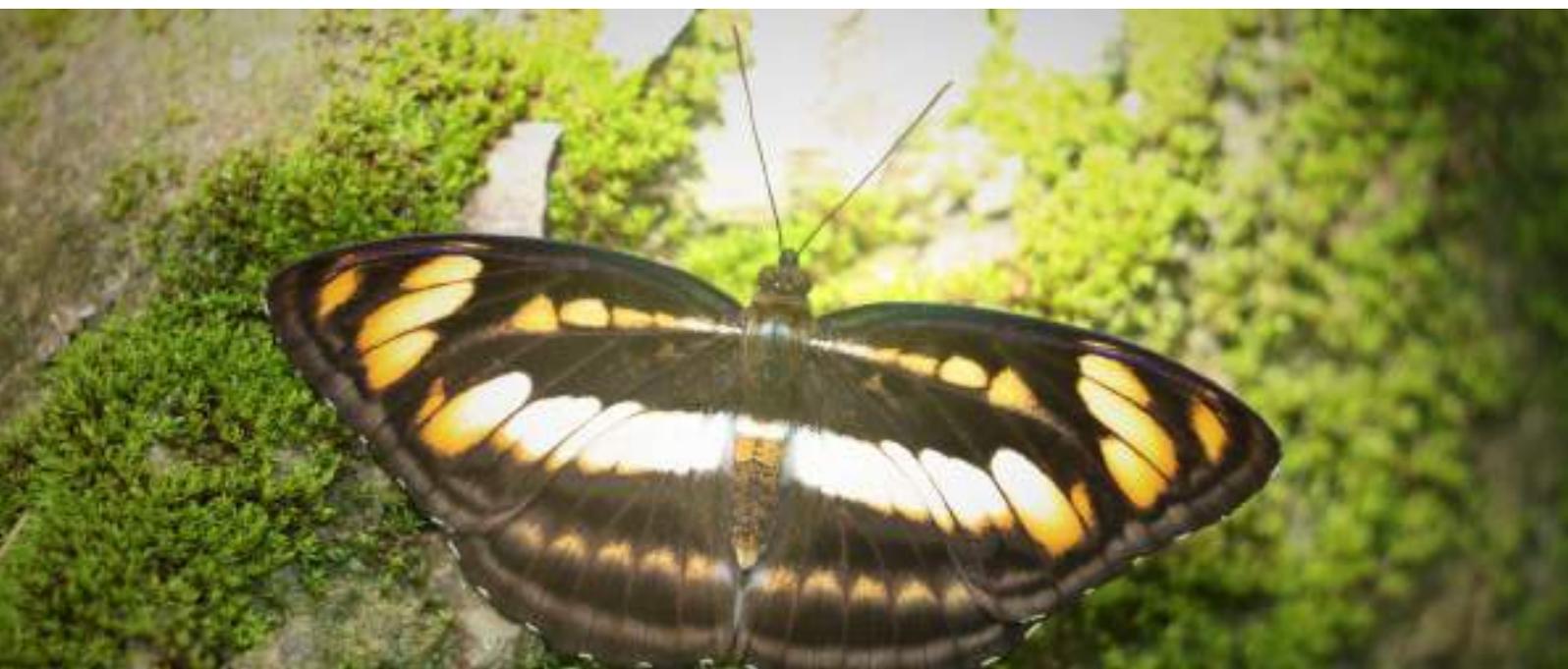
7.1. Measures Initiated

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

The Nagoya Protocol, adopted on 29th October 2010 aims at strengthening the third objective of the CBD - fair and equitable sharing of benefits upon utilization of genetic resources. In this regard, Article 15 and 16 of the Nagoya Protocol states that each Party shall take appropriate, effective and proportionate legislative, administrative or policy measures to provide that 'genetic resources' and 'traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources' utilized within its jurisdiction have been accessed

in accordance with prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms have been established, as required by the domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements of the other Party. Further, parties shall take appropriate, effective and proportionate measures to address situations of non-compliance and shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, cooperate in cases of alleged violation of domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements.

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



Chapter 8

Approvals granted by the Authority for Access of Biological Resources

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

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

Table 4: Category of ABS applications

Section	Form	Category
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, NBA has received 284 applications of Form IV (97) and Form B (187) from different stakeholders. The stages of processing of applications are shown in Table-5.

Table-5: Stages of processing of ABS applications of Form IV and Form B in 2020-21

Details	Form IV	Form B	Total
Received	5	30	35
Cleared	4	19	23
Under process	0	0	0
Violation	0	0	0
Closure/ Withdrawn	1	11	12
Agreement signed/ approved	0	11	11
Cleared (applications received in previous years)	40	114	154
Agreement signed (applications received in the previous years)	30	114	144
Closure/ Withdrawn (applications received in previous years)	43	43	86
Rejected	0	0	0



Chapter 9

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

9.1. Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information (DSI)

MoEF&CC vide Office Memorandum No.CS-C12017/44/2020-CS-III dated 13 April, 2020 requested NBA to constitute an Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information (DSI). Accordingly, NBA vide Office Memorandum NBA/Tech/EC/9/14/36/20-21 dated 18 April, 2020 constituted the EC under the Chairmanship of Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.).

The EC met three times to deliberate on the ToRs. Chair and Members of the EC also participated in the series of webinars organized by the CBD as well as in other bilateral and pluri-lateral meetings on DSI. Taking into account the on-going meetings under the aegis of CBD, and with a view to articulate India's country position on DSI, it was decided to submit an Interim Report of the EC. Accordingly, NBA vide F.No. NBA/Tech/EC/9/14/41/20-21 dated 26.05.2021 submitted the Interim Report to MoEF&CC.



9.2. Brainstorming session on electronic People's Biodiversity Register (e-PBR)

As per Section 41 of the BD Act, the mandate of BMCs is to prepare People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) to document comprehensive information on local biological resources and associated knowledge. Towards this, NBA and SBBs have made various initiatives / steps including through projects for preparation of PBRs, as a result 2,48,156 PBRs have been documented in 28 States and 2 UTs.

The e-PBR software currently under development called BIOMIS (Biodiversity Management Information System) was developed by NIC. The developmental activities are being reported through monthly reports to NBA for further improvements.

A meeting of the representatives of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) was held on 9th January 2020 at NBA, Chennai to review the progress of the e-PBR pilot project awarded to NIC. Subsequently, a meeting was held at the NIC Kerala State Centre to review and re-scoping of e-PBR pilot phase project. The meetings were attended by the officials from NBA, NIC-Chennai and NIC- Kerala; Kerala State Biodiversity Board.

In this context, nine review meetings were held during the financial year to review the progress of the development on e-PBR applications. The NIC team has developed the software and pilot testing is being undertaken in Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Kerala SBBs. The SBBs have started entering their data into the e-PBR platform and have provided their inputs and feed backs to the NIC for further development.

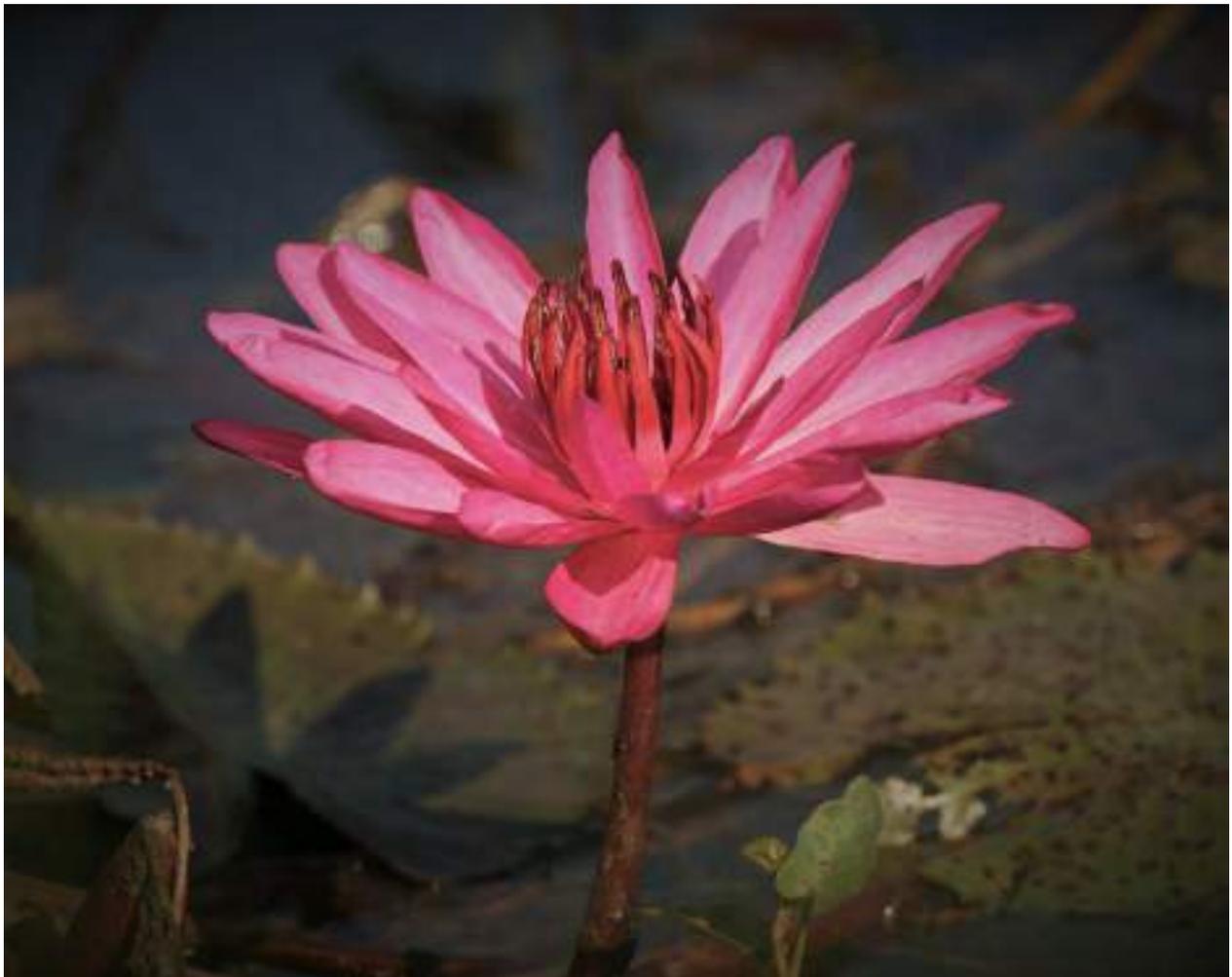


9.3. Training and Capacity Building Programme

A virtual workshop on “An Overview of Biological Diversity Act and its Implementation” was organized by PG and Research Department of Botany, Vivekanandha College of Arts and Sciences for Women (Autonomous), Elayampalayam, Tiruchengode on Implementation” 24th to 26th November, 2020. The Technical Officer BS highlighted the importance of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, with special reference to ABS through his presentation.

The Telangana State Biodiversity Board organized a one-day virtual training program on 27 March 2021 on the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 with special reference to Access Benefit Sharing for the Mandal level BMCs of Telangana State. Technical Officer (BS) made a presentation on Access Benefit Sharing.

ICAR-NAARM on 26th December, 2020 organized on its 111th Foundation Course for Agricultural Research Service (FOCARS) to address the probationers on “Biodiversity Laws concerning Agricultural Researchers”. A lecture was delivered addressing the implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.



9.4. Expert Committee on Other Effective area based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India directed NBA to constitute an Expert Committee to discuss the potential of recognizing Other Effective Area based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in achieving the global and national targets. An Expert Group was constituted by NBA on 8th June 2020 to develop the Guidelines for identifying OECMs in India. The Criteria and Guidelines for Identifying OECMs in India were submitted to the MoEF&CC on 30th September 2020.

To accelerate the identification, mapping and reporting of OECMs to the UNEP-WCMC database on OECMs, a Working Group was constituted on 5th October 2020 under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.B. Mathur, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority (OM no. CSC12017/23/2019-CS-III).

The Working Group convened a meeting on 15th October 2020 and the Chairperson requested the members to screen the potential areas on a case-by-case basis. In order to fulfil the tasks under the ToRs in a timely manner, a Sub-working Group was constituted for the purpose of identifying and reporting areas that could be considered as designated OECMs. The Sub-working Group on OECMs convened a meeting on 16th November 2020 to discuss the potential engagement of different agencies supporting the NBA in identifying and mapping OECMs in India under the 12 categories.



As a step forward, a reporting template was prepared as per the World Database on OECMs manual to document potential OECMs under each category and leading agencies were requested to screen and populate examples of potential OECMs in the reporting template. As of 22nd December 2020, 39 potential OECMs have been identified under the 12 categories, out of which information for 27 cases have been submitted and consent to share data with WDPA have been obtained for 21 cases. The second meeting of the committee was held on 24th December 2020 identified 20 potential OECM sites which were also endorsed by the members. It was also decided that NBA would submit the report to MoEF&CC within the deadline of 31st December 2020.

Accordingly, NBA had submitted the first 20 sites of potential OECMs of India to the Ministry for approval on 28th December 2020 as part of achievement under Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.

9.5. Expert Committee on Agro-biodiversity

An Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity was constituted to advise the National Biodiversity Authority pertaining to Agro-biodiversity as required under Section 13 of the Biological Diversity Act. Eleventh Meeting of the Expert Committee on Agro-biodiversity held on 27th August 2020, through Virtual Mode. During the course of the discussion, the Expert Committee deliberated the following:

- ⊙ NBA may advise State Biodiversity Boards for identifying potential agrobiodiversity heritage sites from relevant stakeholders like the Agriculture Department, Agricultural University, Agricultural Research Institutions, and local bodies.
- ⊙ Once the criteria for identifying agro biodiversity heritage sites are finalized by the Expert Committee, the same may be incorporated in the existing BHS guidelines.
- ⊙ NBPGR will forward to the Expert Committee, the list of agrobiodiversity hotspots as sites to be notified by Biodiversity Heritage Sites
- ⊙ NBPGR will submit a proposal on issues pertaining to seed related matters viz-a-viz ABS regulations, especially on collaborative research projects and reciprocal exchange of germplasm for non-commercial research.

- ⦿ NBPGR to provide revision required on the Standard Operating Procedures developed by the NBA for national designated repositories particularly on timeline for safe custody of voucher specimen and regulatory issues in the collection of biological resources.

Subsequently, the Expert Committee on Agro-biodiversity was reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Director, ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) with Co-chair being Former Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Members drawn from six National Bureaus of ICAR and others to deal with issues relating to biodiversity and agriculture and make recommendations thereof.

9.6. India Biodiversity Awards 2020

Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in partnership with UNDP India had initiated the India Biodiversity Awards in 2012 during India's Presidency of the Eleventh Meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The second and third rounds of Awards were successfully conducted by UNDP in partnership with the National Biodiversity Authority of India in 2014 and 2016.

The fourth round of awards was institutionalized in NBA and in pursuant to this the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa launched the Fourth India Biodiversity Awards on May 22, 2017 on International Day for Biological Diversity. Subsequently, the National Biodiversity Authority hosted the Fourth India Biodiversity Awards, 2018, having UNDP India on board as the knowledge partner for the Awards and applications



were invited under the following categories (i) Conservation, (ii) Sustainable use of biological resources, (iii) Replicable mechanisms for access and benefit sharing and (iv) Best Biodiversity Management Committees.

The fifth edition of the India Biodiversity Awards 2020 was officially launched by the Hon'ble Vice President of India on May 22, 2019 during the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity, along with the release of the poster and brochure. To scrutinize the applications received and to finalize the winners, NBA had constituted an Award Selection Committee consisting of members who were experts from various relevant fields. Meetings of this committee were convened by NBA at regular intervals and field visits were undertaken by the members to validate the work of the shortlisted applicants. Pertaining to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation, this year's award was deferred to 2021.

9.7. Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)-2020

The NBA in partnership with UNDP-India celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity, 2020 on 22nd May 2020 in a very elaborate manner and in virtual mode.

The celebrations were inaugurated by Shri. Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change in Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. The Hon'ble Minister of MoEF&CC also launched the NBA-UNDP Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme and the webinar series on 'Biodiversity and Biological Diversity Act, 2002'. The Chairman, NBA moderated the panel discussion on 'COVID-19 and the One-Health' approach. To celebrate the World Environment Day, 2020 on 5th June 2020 the NBA partnered with UNESCO-India, TERI, WWF and the Surabhi Foundation to launch a Natural Television Series 'Pockets of Hope' on the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and organized four webinars on Sundarbans, Nilgiris, Gulf of Mannar and Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserves. The State Biodiversity Boards in a large number of States also celebrated the two events in a very elaborate way by organizing a large number of virtual events to promote awareness about Biodiversity Conservation.



Bambarde Myristica Swamps

Chapter 10

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

10.1. Constitution of Expert Committee for identification, management and monitoring of Biodiversity Heritage Site

In exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) of The Biological Diversity Act, 2002, a committee was constituted on 26.10.2020 for developing a framework of management plan of BHS and review of existing BHS guidelines.

The committee met twice on 6th November and 3rd December 2020 wherein deliberations were held over the current status of BHS and 2 sub-committees were formed, one to review the existing guidelines and the second one to develop a framework for management and monitoring plan for BHS. The committee requested all the SBBs and UTBCs for their inputs and views through a set of questionnaire circulated. The committee is in the process of finalizing the draft recommendation on the guidelines and framework.

10.2. Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

During the period under report, 3 Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) have been notified in Maharashtra which are given in Table 6

Table 6: List of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) notified during this reporting period

No.	State	Name (Area)	District	Notification
1	Maharashtra	Bambarde Myristica Swamps (2.59 ha)	Dodamarg	No.WLP-1220/CR-261/F-I dtd 28.01.2021
2	..	Ganeshkhind Garden (33.01 ha)	Pune	No . W L P . 0 5 1 8 / C R - 223/F-1.–dtd 31.08.2020
3	..	Landorkhori	Jalgaon	No.WLP.0518/CR-234/F-1 dtd 31.08.2020

10.3. Notifications under Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

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

These notifications are available online at <http://nbaindia.org/content/18/21/1/notifications.html> [Species of Plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction in the state of:].

10.4. Notifications under Section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Section 40 the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 deals with the power of the Central Government to notify (in official gazette) to exempt, any item including biological resources from the provisions of the Act, as normally traded as commodities (NTACs) in consultation with the National Biodiversity Authority. MoEF&CC, so far has issued two gazette notifications u/s 40 vide S.O.1352 (E) dated 7th April, 2016 (385 species) and S.O.3533 (E) dated 7th November, 2017 (36 species), thus listing a total of 421 plant species/biological resources as NTACs, thus exempting them from the ABS provisions of BD Act, when traded as commodity following a set of principles and criteria as recommended by the EC on NTAC through its meetings.

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

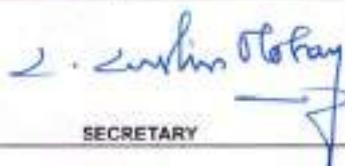
Chapter 11

Finance and Accounts

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113					
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 st March, 2021					
Receipts	Current Year 2020-21	Previous Year 2019-20	Payments	Current Year 2020-21	Previous Year 2019-20
I. Opening Balances			I. GIA - Salaries		
A) NBA Account			a) Establishment Expenses		
a) Cash in hand	50,000	50,000	i) previous year O/s Rs. 2015726	3,28,91,034	2,31,02,215
b) Stamp	764	-	ii) Current Year Exps Rs. 30875308		
c) Bank Balances:-			II. GIA - General		
1. NBA Account	2,76,01,084	1,72,48,308	A. GIA - Regular Expenses		
2. NBF Account			previous year O/s Rs.3168611	3,71,51,385	7,34,92,720
i) SB A/c & Current A/c	90,99,64,707	76,78,36,884	Current Year Exps Rs. 33982774		
ii) Fixed Deposit A/c	22,76,06,021	25,73,93,939	i) Consumption of Stamps	2,575	2,390
3. NBA Fund Admin A/c	-	-	ii) Consumed out of opening	57	
4. Projects			iii) Funding for awareness programme	10,80,887	40,75,430
i) NBA Asean Project A/c	1,14,15,977	1,52,70,510	a) previous year O/s Rs. 10000		
ii) GEF Bank A/c	87,80,715	1,70,36,603	b) Current Year Exps Rs. 1070887		
iii) CEBPOL Bank A/c	-	41,67,003	ii) Fixed Assets	18,77,100	12,27,030
II. Grants			iii) E- Office Development	2,41,898	5,30,468
a) Grant Received from (MoEF &CC)	10,80,00,000	18,00,00,000	v) Liaison office Hyderabad Exps	10,000	-
			B. GIA to SBB's		
III. Income on Investments			i) Strengthening of SBBs	1,37,13,998	3,41,03,670
Earmarked / Endowment Funds			ii) Constitution of BMCs & PBRs Preparation	85,81,000	2,11,28,604
			III) GIA - SC-SP	65,00,000	1,99,90,000
IV. Interest received			IV) GIA - TSP	64,95,000	
A) NBA A/c			V. GIA - Capital		
i. General A/c Rs. 205904/-	74,80,309	29,73,184	i. Advance to building	1,00,00,000	
ii. Salary A/c Rs. 73428/-			ii) Refund of interest earned on GIA to	29,73,184	17,48,793
iii. SC- SP A/c Rs. 19323/-			III. Other Payments		
iv. TSP A/c Rs. 12426/-			a) Miscellaneous Expenditure/ Bank Charges on NBF A/c Deposits/E.M.D repaid	1,15,000	826
v. Int.refunded by SBBs Rs. 7169228			b) ACB project	-	-
B) NBA Fund A/c	3,23,865	76,35,662	IV. Project A/c		
C) NBF Sweep A/c interest	4,04,00,701	5,07,62,500	i) CEBPOL A/c wound up and transfer to MoEF	-	42,00,517
			ii) GEF Project A/c	-	2,21,12,516
E) Fixed Deposit A/c Interest received/Reinvested	1,59,55,613	1,88,75,635	iii) NBA Asean Project A/c	1,16,24,733	44,23,175
			V. NBA Fund A/c payments		
V. Income to NBF A/c			a) Benefit Sharing Payment to Stakeholders under Red Sanders (ABS)	43,98,55,316	81,04,400
a) Application fee	11,91,534	25,07,156	b) NBA Fund Admin	1,70,00,000	-
			c) Benefit Sharing Payment to Stakeholders under Other than Red Sanders(ABS)	6,40,41,348	5,00,000
			d) Kown remittance(2019-20)	47,196	81,000
			e) Bank Charges	3,655	-

Receipts	Current Year 2020-21	Previous Year 2019-20	Payments	Current Year 2020-21	Previous Year 2019-20
b) ABS Upfront payment	7,51,35,044	38,45,026			
c) 5% Benefit Sharing	89,63,433	3,65,02,151			
d) unclassified receipts A/c	2,10,56,946	-			
e) Other receipts	2	-			
VI. Other Income					
c) Refund of Expenditure					
b) Sale of Newspapers					
C) RTI filing fee	200	1,130			
VII. Income NBF Admin A/c			VI. Expenditure NBF Admin A/c	1,69,16,151	
NBA Fund Admin	1,70,00,000	-			
Interest on NBA Fund Admin A/c	12,433	-			
VIII. Amount - Borrowed	-	-			
IX. Other Receipts:					
Earnest Money / Security Deposit / Ret. Money recd. from Contractors	40,000.00	-			
Application fee for YP's recruitment	2,05,286.80	-			
Income Tax refund	5,29,890.00	26,540			
GEF - NIC		66,40,000			
GEF A/c Interest Rs.	1,85,714	1,13,243			
X. Project Account					
CEBPOI A/c	-	33,514			
GEF Project A/c	2,49,322	1,38,56,628			
NBA Asean Project A/c	2,41,258	5,68,542			
Performance Guarantee					
			VII. Closing Balances		
			a) Cash in hand	40,000	50,000
Stock of stamp	-	764	b) Stamps in Hand	707	764
			c) NBF A/c.		
			1) Fixed Deposit (Fund) A/c	3,34,79,408	22,76,08,021
			2) In Savings (Fund) A/c	75,41,72,943	90,90,64,707
			d) NBA A/c		
			1) NBA General A/c	1,75,14,783	2,76,01,084
			2) NBA Salary A/c	48,57,891	-
			3) NBA SC SP A/c	29,323	-
			4) NBA SC ST A/c	17,426	-
			5) NBA Capital A/c	-	-
			c) Admin Fund A/c	96,282	-
			d) GEF Cash & Bank A/c	90,21,973	87,80,715
			e) Asean Project A/c	40,566	1,14,15,977
Total	1,49,03,92,818	1,40,33,45,022	Total	1,49,03,92,818	1,40,33,45,022


ACCOUNTS OFFICER


SECRETARY


CHAIRPERSON

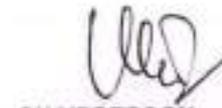
**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113**

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st.March,2021

INCOME	Sch. No.	Current Year 2020-21	Previous Year 2019-20
Income from Sales / Services	12		
Grants/ Subsidies: Rs.			
Grants received as per (Sch.No.13) 10,80,00,000	13	12,07,93,872	19,06,92,346
Revalidated Grants for 2020-21 1,66,31,303			
Total (Sch.No.13) 12,46,31,303			
Less: Capitalization of Fixed Assets during the year 2020-21 (-) 1,19,65,600			
Add: Interest payable to govt.(Schd.17) + 81,28,169			
Net Income from Grants 12,07,93,872			
Fees / Subscription	14		
Income from Investments (Income on Investments from Earmarked / Endowment Funds transferred to Funds)	15		
Income from Royalty, Publication etc.	16		
Interest Earned	17		0
Other Income	18	7,35,377	27,670
Increase / (decrease) in stock of Finished goods and works in-progress	19	0	32,79,309
Fund Admin A/c		1,70,12,433	0
Project Proposal created during 2019-20 written off to the extend not payable		2,297	0
Accumulated provisions for project proposal written off		15,66,674	0
Income receivable from Govt.for Gratuity & leave salary		1923278	1971401
TOTAL (A)		14,20,33,931	19,59,70,726
EXPENDITURE			
Establishment Expenses	20	3,47,38,229	2,52,43,621
Other Administrative Expenses etc.	21	3,65,63,187	7,68,56,348
Fund Admin Expenditure Part of Sch 21- B	21 B	1,68,90,948	0
Expenditure on Grants, Subsidies etc.	22	3,52,89,998	7,52,22,274
Interest	23		
Depreciation as per Schedule 8		11,24,005	6,65,085
Payable to Government:			
Un-Utilized Grant revalidation for the year 2020-21 Rs 60,96,426		1,42,24,595	1,92,67,979
Authority Saving Bank Interest 2020-21 81,28,169			
TOTAL (B)		13,88,30,963	19,72,55,307
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		32,02,968	-12,84,581
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		


ACCOUNTS OFFICER

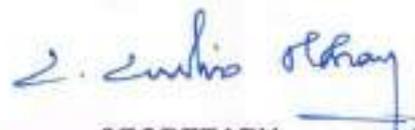

SECRETARY

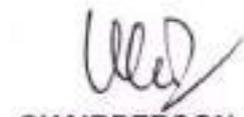

CHAIRPERSON

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113
Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March, 2021

CORPUS / CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES	Sch. No.	Current Year 2020-21	Previous Year 2019-20
CAPITAL FUND	1	1,73,75,609	18,04,582
RESERVES AND SURPLUS	2		0
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FUND	3	76,16,67,397	116,52,52,033
SECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	4	0	0
UNSECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	5		0
DEFERRED CREDIT LIABILITIES	6	0	0
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	7	7,22,82,535	4,78,16,540
TOTAL		85,13,25,541	121,48,73,155
ASSETS			
FIXED ASSETS	8		
Advance payment for Building		43,02,342	34,60,773
NICSI total value of work		1,00,00,000	0
Less: Work-in-Progress		Rs. 199152	
Finished Goods		Rs.3829309	
			33,67,809
INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED/ ENDOW MENT FUNDS	9	0	0
INVESTMENTS - OTHERS	10		0
CURRENT ASSETS,LOANS,ADVANCES ETC.	11	83,31,93,891	120,80,44,573
TOTAL		85,13,25,541	121,48,73,155
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		


ACCOUNTS OFFICER


SECRETARY


CHAIRPERSON

Chapter 12

Annual Plan for the Year 2021-22

The National Biodiversity Authority sets out a list of action points every year to implement the Biodiversity Act of India and to carry out the mandate given by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The following activities are planned for 2021-22 and they will be undertaken with the active involvement of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and subject to availability of funds from MoEF&CC:

- i. Review of progress made so far in the State-wise network of BMCs and preparation of PBRs, analyzing the challenges and drawbacks in the existing operational procedure. Assessing the functional status of BMCs and prioritizing revival of defunct BMCs in and around biodiversity-rich regions of the country.
- ii. Review of the mechanism adapted towards the preparation of PBR in the States (site and State-specific methodology; authentication of captured data; utilization of financial support, need for revision of the quantum of assistance, if any etc.).
- iii. Digitalize PBRs to develop a uniform format for compiling data documented by SBBs.
- iv. Build a digital database of local bodies all over India by streamlining the verification process for Grant-in-Aid to SBBs for the constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs.
- v. Impart training and workshops for officials of Wildlife, Forestry, Biotechnology, Customs and Excise Departments along with the line departments dealing with bio resources, their conservation and sustainable management.
- vi. Conduct and organize awareness programs, symposia, and seminars on the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 through NGOs, research institutes, academia and government departments for different stakeholders.
- vii. Hold outreach programs through media, print, conduct capacity building and training programs for effective implementation of the BD Act, 2002 for diverse stakeholders.

- viii. 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.
- ix. Arrange and facilitate the protection and rehabilitation of threatened species and update the list of species that are on the verge of extinction under Section 38 of the BD Act.
- x. Implement the capacity building programs on biodiversity governance to benefit the wide spectrum of stakeholders, including local self-governance functionaries and people's representatives, in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Hyderabad.
- xi. Holding appropriate and regular expert committees meets to deliberate on subject matters and Authority meetings for decision-making.
- xii. Implement real-time processing of ABS applications at NBA Secretariat in association with NIC.
- xiii. Implement the decisions suggested in the report on Red Sanders that has been adopted by the Authority.
- xiv. Sharing of benefits, accrued out of the use of biological resources and/or associated traditional knowledge with the beneficiaries, and including the benefits accrued on access to Bovine cattle embryos and Red Sanders.
- xv. The Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) endorsed the concept of a National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-Being (NMB&HW) presented by the Biodiversity Science Consortium (BSC). The MoEF&CC, and the Chairperson, NBA has been assigned with the responsibility of preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Memo. The goal of the Mission is to strengthen biodiversity science in India to meet our pressing challenges in the environment and human well-being. There is a need to build strong linkages between NMB&HW and PBR processes as the PBRs have the potential to document, conserve and manage biological diversity across the country. NBA will be contributing to setting up of national electronic PBR network and also help in developing an in-depth roadmap, and then begin with its implementation of the e-PBR concept.

Chapter 13

Other Important Activities of National Biodiversity of Authority

13.1. Review of the Legal and Regulatory Framework

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

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

List of Pending cases in NBA before various courts/ Tribunals are placed in Table 7:

Table 7: Pending cases in NBA before various Courts/ Tribunals

Sl. No	Name of the Court/ Tribunal	Case Number	No
1	Principal Civil Judge (Jr. Div.) J.M.F.C., Dharwad	C.C.579 of 2012	1
2	HC of Bombay	W.P. No. 3590 of 2018	1
3	HC of Bombay	W.P. No. 129 of 2020	1
4	HC of Andhra Pradesh (Telangana)	W.P. No. 23452 of 2018	1
5	HC of Bombay Bench at Nagpur	W.P. No.6360 of 2015	1
6	HC of Karnataka at Bangalore	W.P. No. 5546 of 2019	1
7	HC of Karnataka Bench at Dharwad	CrI. P.No.100616 of 2014	1
8	HC of Karnataka Bench at Dharwad	CrI. P.No.100618 of 2014	1
9	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 41622 of 2018	1

Sl. No	Name of the Court/ Tribunal	Case Number	No
10	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 41903 of 2018	1
11	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 41976 of 2018	1
12	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 42017 of 2018	1
13	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P. (Civil) No.33501 of 2019	1
14	HC of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur Bench	W.P No. 8880 of 2019	1
15	HC of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur Bench	W.P No. 6968 of 2017; OA.No. 31/2017	1
16	HC of Madhya Pradesh at Indore Bench	W.P. No. 6466 of 2020	1
17	National Green Tribunal, Chennai	Original Application No.10/2014	1
18	Supreme court of India	CIVIL APPEAL No 5826 of 2019	1
19	Supreme court of India	CIVIL APPEAL No 5827 of 2019	1
20	Supreme court of India	SLP 8137/ 2018	1
21	Supreme court of India	SLP No's 18122 of 2019-18127 of 2019	1
22	Supreme court of India	SLP No's. 17471 of 2019 -17476 of 2019	1
23	Supreme court of India	SLP No's18141 of 2019 – 18146 of 2019	1
24	Supreme court of India	SLP.No.539/2014 (Crl)	1
25	Supreme court of India	SLP.No.629/2014 (Crl) Crl. App.1720 of 2015	1
26	Supreme court of India	SLP.No.7951/2014 (Civil)	1
27	Supreme court of India	Civil Appeal No. 9077 of 2019	1
28	Telangana HC	WP(PIL) 181 of 2020	1
29	Supreme court of India	W.P. No. 852 of 2020	1
30	Supreme court of India	CA No. 3568 3569 of 2020	1
31	Supreme court of India	SLP C No. 000544-/2021	1
32	HC of AP (Telangana site)	C.C. NO 3306 OF 2018	1
33	NGT, Kolkata	O.A. No. 64/2020	1

Sl. No	Name of the Court/ Tribunal	Case Number	No
34	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	WP c 21048 of 2020	1
35	HC of Karnataka	WP 14733 of 2020	1
36	HC of Guwahati HC	PIL 30 of 2020	1
37	HC of Madras (MD)	WP(MD)6608/2021	1
38	Supreme court of India	CA. No.933 of 2020	1
39	HC of Gujarat	SCA 6176 of 2021	1
40	HC of Bombay(AURAN)	PIL No. 63 of 2021	1
41	HC of Karnataka	WP. No.8579 of 2021	1

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 (Table 8)

Table 8: List of RTIs received and disposed during the reporting period

S. No.	Quarter	No. of RTI applications Received	No. of RTI Appeals received	No. of RTI applications disposed	No. of RTI appeals disposed
1.	1 st Quarter 01.04.2020 to 30.06.2020	07	02	07	02
2.	2 nd Quarter 01.07.2020 to 30.09.2020	08	03	07	02
3.	3 rd Quarter 01.10.2020 to 31.12.2020	13	02	13	02
4.	4 th Quarter 01.01.2021 to 31.03.2021	16	02	16	03
Total		44	09	43	09

13.1.3 Drafting of Agreement

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

13.1.4 Disposal of O.A No. 347 of 2016 (Chandrabhal singh Vs UOI & Ors) before NGT, New Delhi

An original application was filed before the Principal bench of National Green Tribunal by Pune based Lawyer Mr.Chandrabhal Singh against MoEF&CC and NBA for formation of adequate number of Biodiversity management committees in all states and preparation of People biodiversity registers in all states & UTs. Accordingly all states were impleaded as parties in this case.

In pursuance of the Order passed by the Principal Bench of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O. A. 347 of 2016 dated 09.08.2019, and based on the subsequent Orders of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide OM No. C-12027/6/2016-CSIII (pt) dated 15.01.2020, the National Biodiversity Authority had constituted two PBR Monitoring Committees vide NBA/15/30/2019/SBB/NGT/3533 dated 20.01.2020, "to oversee the quality of PBRs on sample basis by evolving a suitable mechanism and accordingly meetings were conducted and the report was submitted to NBA.

Based on the Order of the Principal Bench of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Delhi, dated 18/03/2020, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the National Biodiversity Authority have regularly conducted monthly review meetings with the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territories (UTs) as detailed below, to monitor the progress in the formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) by local bodies and the preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).

During the year 2020-21, NBA has been following up with all the State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territories in pursuance of the Order dated 12.04.2019, 09.08.2019, 18.03.2020 and 16.12.2020 passed by the Hon'ble NGT for expeditious implementation of the Biological Diversity Act all over the country. The NBA in coordination with MoEF&CC has been organizing monthly review meetings with all the States and Union Territories for monitoring the status and progress of establishment of BMCs and preparation of PBRs. NBA has also followed the directives issued by



the NGT and taken appropriate actions on the related matters as suggested. In this regard, NBA has convened a series of 11 meetings during this period with the concerned stakeholders as given in Table 9:

Table 9: List of meetings held with SBBs/UTBCs to review and monitor the status and progress of establishment of BMCs and preparation of PBRs

Sl no	Meeting	Date	Place/ Mode	Participants
1	Review & Monitoring	28.04.2020	Virtual	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
2	..	29.05.2020	..	SBBs, UTBC, MoEF&CC, NBA
3	..	29.06.2020	..	SBBs, UTBC, MoEF&CC, NBA
4	..	30.07.2020	..	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
5	..	31.08.2020	..	..
6	..	21.09.2020	..	..
7	..	29.10.2020	..	..
8	..	27.11.2020	..	..
9	..	22.01.2021	..	..
10	..	26.02.2021	..	..
11	..	26.03.2021	..	..

The Final Report was submitted to Hon'ble NGT on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (First Respondent) and the National Biodiversity Authority (Second Respondent) by email on 14/09/2020 in respect of O. A .347/2016, as per the Orders of the Principal Bench of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi dated 18/03/2020. Further, a Status Report was submitted in addition to the Final Report to appraise the Hon'ble Tribunal about the progress made thereafter to comply with the Orders passed earlier.

On account of the extraordinary situation of COVID-19 pandemic, the Tribunal has taken a liberal view while issuing the order. The case was disposed of on 16.12.2020 and the deadline of compliance has been extended up to 30th June 2021.

13.1.4.1. Functioning of PBR Monitoring Committee

The Hon'ble NGT Order dated 09.08.2019 in the matter of O. A. 347 of 2016 directed that the Monitoring Committee of the MoEF&CC may oversee the quality of PBRs on sample basis by evolving a suitable mechanism. In this context, MoEF&CC constituted two PBR Monitoring Committees to assess the quality of the PBRs documented and suggest necessary modifications.

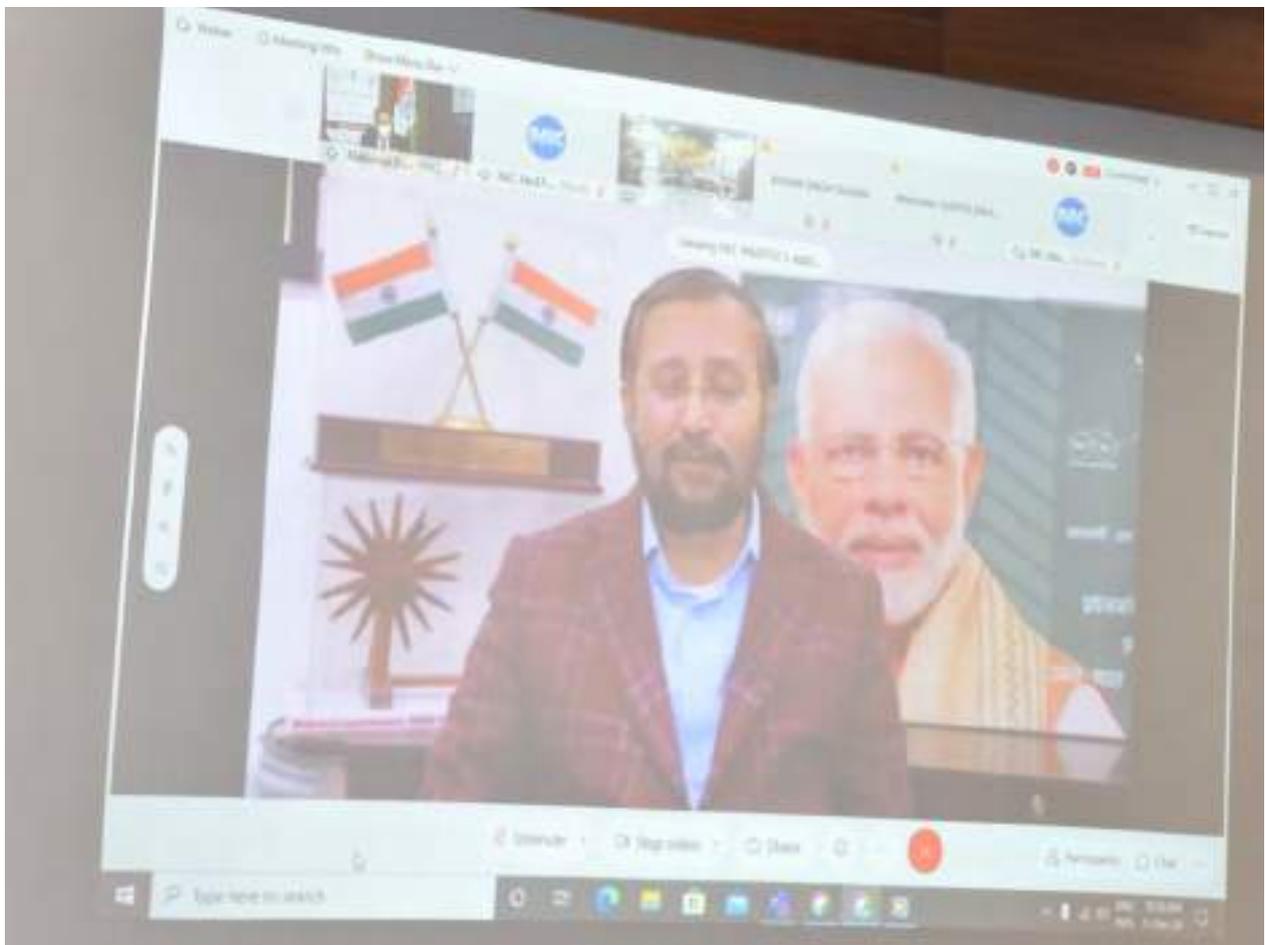


The PBR Monitoring committees met twice during 2020-21. The third Meeting of the committee was held on 3rd June 2020 in virtual mode. The framework for quality evaluation of the PBR documents was finalised by the members. The physical verification of PBR documents was not possible due to travel restrictions in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. In the fourth meeting of the committee held on 22nd October 2020, the members expressed the need of a strategy to activate the BMCs, initiate regular dialogue between the SBBs and BMCs and holding a national seminar on the quality assessment of PBRs. The committee also stressed upon raising awareness regarding PBRs at the local level among the community and especially the State Panchayati Raj departments.

13.2. 15th National Annual Meeting of SBBs and UTs

The 15th National Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) was held on 11-12th December 2020 in virtual mode to discuss the progress made by the States/Union Territories in implementing the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BD Act) and the efforts of NBA in this process. The National Meeting was inaugurated by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC. Over 150 participants, including special invitees, Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of the SBBs and UTBCs, representatives of government and non-government institutions, members of Expert Committees and Working Groups of NBA, officials of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and NBA attended the two-day National Meeting. The meeting was also attended by Hon'ble Justice, K. Ramakrishnan, Southern Bench, National Green Tribunal (NGT). He outlined the purpose of National Green Tribunal and discussed the potential of Biological Diversity Act. Emphasizing the role of Benefit Sharing mechanism, he also elaborated on the penal provisions and regulations that are present in the Act.

The two-day meeting involved deliberations from all the expert Committees and Working Groups about their efforts made so far including the recommendations





provided to NBA by each committee. The States and Union Territories apprised the meeting about the progress and status of BMC formation and preparation of PBRs in accomplishing the tasks directed by Hon'ble NGT. All the States / UTs also briefed the activities, approaches taken for implementing the BD Act in recent year.

13.3. Important events celebrated/observed by NBA

13.3.1. Celebration of the 17th Foundation Day of NBA

The 17th Foundation Day of NBA was celebrated on 1st October 2020 at NBA, Chennai. Prof. Dr.Oommen.V.Oommen, Former Chairman, Kerala State Biodiversity Board & Hon. Director, Centre for Venom Informatics, University of Kerala was the Chief Guest and presided over the event along with Dr V. B. Mathur, Chairperson, NBA. Shri.. J. Justin Mohan, IFS, Secretary NBA. Ms. Shoko Noda, UNDP Resident Representative, New Delhi was the Guest of Honour and attended the program virtually. Secretary, NBA welcomed the invitees and the participants. The welcome address was given by Dr. V.B. Mathur, Chairperson, NBA. Dr.Oommen.V.Oommen released the audio visuals "Simply Explained series of three videos namely, Biological Diversity Act (BD Act), Biodiversity Management Committee (BMCs) and Peoples' Biodiversity Register (PBRs).



13.3.2 Celebration of Hindi week

The employees of NBA celebrated Hindi week and Hindi diwas on 14th September, 2020. Competitions such as hand writing and essay writing were conducted in connection with celebration of Hindi Week for the staff of NBA and the prizes were given to the winners on 14th September 2020.

13.3.3. Vigilance Awareness Week (28 October-2 November 2020)

As per the direction of the Central Vigilance Commission and MoEF&CC, on the Vigilance Awareness Week, the NBA staffs were administered the integrity pledge with an elucidation on the importance and significance of the function.

13.4. Projects/ Programs

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

UNDP-National Biodiversity Authority Planning Meeting on India's Biodiversity -Vision 2030 and Biodiversity Finance Initiative (2021-2025) Extended Phase II-India. 19th & 20th February 2021 (Friday & Saturday), Puducherry

UNDP in India is supporting the Government and various stakeholders in meeting its national and global priorities and commitments for conservation of



biodiversity and sustainable natural resource management. The upcoming post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) and the National Biodiversity Mission provided us with an opportunity to revisit our national and subnational plans and priorities, to develop an integrated, gender responsive, transparent and transformative pathway for biodiversity conservation.

Based on successful implementation of BIOFIN in India and the huge potential and opportunities that India has in demonstration of innovative financial solutions for biodiversity, an extended Phase II of BIOFIN is starting in India from 2021-2025. While demonstration of the 3 finance solutions will continue in the extended



phase II of BIOFIN, there will also be strong focus on working with the finance sector and FINTECH solutions for biodiversity, addressing COVID-19 impacts for biodiversity investments, making a case for re-purposing biodiversity harmful expenditures/incentives and a chance to update/revise BIOFIN Methodologies. In order to plan concrete, result oriented and country specific actions for next five years (2021-2025) of BIOFIN implementation in India, UNDP along with the National Biodiversity Authority (the National Host Institution for BIOFIN) organized a one-day planning meeting on 20th February 2021 in Puducherry.

13.5 National Consultation on Development of electronic Peoples' Biodiversity Register (e-PBR) Framework

A National Consultation was organized by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) on 26th November, 2020 in virtual mode to develop a consensus on the need, scope, process and milestones for the preparation of an electronic Peoples' Biodiversity Register (e-PBR) Framework towards promoting participatory biodiversity governance. The consultation was attended by 93 participants including experts and professionals in the field of biodiversity conservation from various parts of country, the Secretary and Additional Secretary, MOEF&CC, Expert Committee members of NBA, the representatives of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and the Union Territories Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs).

Keeping in consideration of the robust requirement of preparing PBRs at every local body in India, there is a need to prepare a flexible framework and also to



ensure the quality of PBRs. In this meeting the Chairman, NBA emphasized the need for embarking upon advance technologies while preparing the dynamic document of PBR. Shri R. P. Gupta, Secretary, MoEF&CC in his Special Address reminded the challenges and vulnerabilities in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and the essence of safeguarding nature as a life supporting system. He stated about the initiative of Prime Minister's Science, Technology, Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) in launching of a National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-Being, of which NISARG Bharat (National Initiative for Sustained Assessment of bio Resources Governance) would be an important initiative. He further expressed that NISARG-Bharat initiative will also provide a unique opportunity to transform 'bio-illiteracy' scenario in the country into a 'bio-literacy' one contributing to 'Atma-nirbhar or Self-reliant' India.

13.6 Constitution of a Working Group for "Reviewing guidelines for Preparation of Coastal and Marine e-PBR (People's Biodiversity Register)

India has a long coastline, bordering 9 coastal states and 2 Union Territories. The documentation of biological resources for such areas has so far been limited and the existing PBR guidelines have further scope of improvement to include better and relevant information. In order to ensure the quality, consistency and accuracy of any PBR for the coastal and marine areas, an effort was made to revise the existing guidelines to better accommodate all the biodiversity related information from these areas. There is also a need to convert the PBRs into electronic PBRs. In this context, a working group was constituted on 26.10.2020 for reviewing the guidelines in preparation of the Coastal and Marine e-PBR.

An introductory meeting of the Working Group for reviewing guidelines for preparation of Coastal and Marine e-PBR was convened on 20th November 2020 by NBA in virtual mode. The Working Group made effort in examining the territorial jurisdictions of coastal and marine PBRs in the light of relevant national legislations/ guidelines.

13.7. Activities of the State Biodiversity Boards

The year of 2020-21 witnessed a paradigm shift in the regular functioning of the institutional mechanism related to biodiversity governance. The outbreak of COVID -19 pandemic affected the operational procedure in NBA, SBBs/UTBCs and transformed the mechanism from physical to virtual one. Many of the national and regional meetings have been conducted in virtual mode. The pandemic had its impact

on the process of establishing BMCs and documentation of PBRs due to restricted movement of ground level staff, non-accessibility to many areas and reduced level of progress. However, the situation improved in later stages and the activities resumed to a considerable extent. The States and UTs also adopted alternative approach to accomplish the official tasks and made sincere efforts in implementing the provisions of Biological Diversity Act.

13.7.1 Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh SBB convened three board meetings during the reporting period. The APSBB had constituted 14157 BMCs as of 31st march 2021. It has facilitated the establishment of 6839 BMCs at the Village, Nagar Palika and the District level during 2020-21. Of the 12794 PBRs prepared in the state, 12026 were documented during this year. The board has developed short films on "Introduction to Biodiversity", "Grasslands" and "Wetlands" of Andhra Pradesh. The board has introduced a table calendar for the year 2021 on different landscapes of the State.

During this period, APSBB conducted several virtual meetings including the meet on developing herbal garden, preparation of e-PBR, identification of BHS, raising nurseries for RET species involving the stakeholders like DFOs, TSGs and officials of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Departments. The Board had also undertaken physical meetings and field inspections at Srisailam and Seshachlam areas for identifying the sacred groves/ BHs and land for Biodiversity Parks and proposed nurseries for RET species. Wildlife day was celebrated at Visakhapatnam and several awareness programmes were conducted involving school students and NGOs.

13.7.2 Arunachal Pradesh

The State had constituted 1779 BMCs at the Village Panchayat level and 25 at the District level so far during this year. As on 31st March 2021, the State had documented 1779 PBRs at the Village Panchayat level, 2 at the Municipality level and 25 at the District level during 2020-21. The State Biodiversity Board also conducted the IDB-2020 through print or electronic media due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Itanagar Biodiversity Walk was conducted on 21st March, 2021 as part of awareness programme on importance of biodiversity and PBR for students, BMCs and other stakeholders

13.7.3 Assam

The State Biodiversity Board has convened its 26th meeting on 18th August 2020. The Assam SBB had already accomplished the task of forming BMCs and documenting the PBRs at all local bodies as of 31st March 2020. The board published two booklets on “Threatened Species of Assam” and Majuli Biodiversity Heritage Site” during this period. The state celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity 2020 and *Van Mohatsav* in a befitting manner. A series of capacity building and awareness generation workshops had been conducted for the BMCs in this year. Two training programmes were also conducted in Kamrup, Nagaon and Marigaon districts. The Board has taken up preparation of conservation action plan for *Cnemaspis assamensis* through systematic assessment. Exploration for wild crop relatives in Karbi-Anglong district started in this year for prioritising conservation of the plant diversity and ethno-botany in this region.

13.7.4 Bihar

One Board Meeting was convened during the reporting period. Of the total 9099 BMCs in the State, 1958 committees had been constituted during 2020-21. A total of 8464 PBRs have been documented in this year of which 8386 were prepared at village level, 40 at urban municipalities and 38 at the district level. Training programmes had been conducted for the scientists, *kisan salahkar* (at panchayats) and *Ganga praharis* towards facilitating the preparation of PBRs. A quiz competition was held to mark the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity 2020.

13.7.5 Chhattisgarh

The State had constituted 12,004 BMCs so far of which 703 had been established during this year. As on 31st March 2021, the State had documented 2605 PBRs, of which 2533 were prepared during 2020-21. The Board had granted approvals to 2 applications under Section 23(B) for commercial use of bioresources. The Board had organized training and awareness programmes for establishment of BMCs and preparation of PBRs.

13.7.6 Goa

Goa SBB conducted 2 board meetings 14 awareness programmes and 10 training programmes during 2020-21. To ensure the objective of conservation of biodiversity through livelihood interventions in the state of Goa, the Board has

introduced the brand name 'GoVan' for products developed from local bio resources (vide notification No. 2-93-2020/DIR/ENVT & CC/885, in Govt. of Goa Gazette dated 12th November 2020). The GSBB completed the task of constituting BMCs and preparation of PBRs at all the 191 village panchayats, 13 blocks and 1 at the municipal level. During the period under report, GSBB was appointed as key state Technical Institution for effective implementation of the scheme proposed under Prime Ministers Scheme for formalization of Microfood processing Enterprises. GSBB was also nominated as Knowledge partner for *Atmanirbhar Bharat, Swayampurna Goa*. GSBB had virtually celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity 2020. GSBB had instituted Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards for the year 2020. Biodiversity awards were conferred to Shri. Janu Ghurkho Gaonkar (South Goa) and Shri. Suryakant Shankar Gaonkar (North Goa) under Individual Category and the Agarwado Chopdem BMC and Shristhal BMC received Biodiversity awards for their outstanding contribution under the BMC category.

13.7.7 Gujarat

The Gujarat Biodiversity Board convened two meetings during the year. Of the 13448 BMCs in the state, 5774 were constituted in this year. Of the total 1841 PBRs, prepared in the States, 319 were documented in this year. Gujarat Board had approved 5 applications for commercial use of bioresources under Section 23 (b) during this period.

13.7.8 Haryana

Two (6th & 7th) Board meetings were held by Haryana SBB in this period. A total of 6435 BMCs were constituted in the state. During this period a total of 6311 PBRs had been documented. A mural painting had been prepared on the theme of "Our Biodiversity - Our Heritage". The International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated with great enthusiasm by holding online competitions, viz; Quiz, Painting and Nature Photography for the school children. A Special message by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana was published in Hindi and English in the local newspaper and social media was also used for wider publicity. An online essay competition on the topic "COVID 19 - A wake up call for safeguarding Biodiversity. Awareness programmes were organized particularly for the Gram Panchayats, Biodiversity Management Committees and Block *Samitis* on the objectives of the Board and the benefits that will accrue to the society in general and local bodies. Series of Workshops, *Sammelan*, Video conference and meetings for *Sarpanches* and panchayat offices were conducted during the period.

13.7.9 Himachal Pradesh

The Board has constituted the district and block level committee for supervision, scrutiny and evaluation of the PBRs. All the 3,371 BMCs set up so far was reconstituted this year in view of the local body elections. Online training was conducted in 79 blocks of the state for preparation of PBRs. Graduate interns were engaged to facilitate the preparation of PBRs in collaboration with State Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development. Training was organized for a model ABS case. Public notice was brought out in the newspaper regarding the provisions of ABS for users of bioresources. An online platform was introduced on the web portal of HPSBB to host and enter the PBR related data.

13.7.10 Jammu & Kashmir

The inception meeting of Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council was held on 25th Feb 2020. The Council had constituted 276 BMCs this year out of the total 4623 BMCs in the Union Territory. The Council had celebrated the International Day of Biological Diversity 2020 in virtual mode.

13.7.11 Jharkhand

Jharkhand Biodiversity Board organized one meeting in this year on 24th July 2020. Of the total 4684 BMCs established in the state, 25 BMCs were constituted and 3658 PBRs were prepared during this year. International Day for Biological Diversity was also celebrated by the board in virtual mode.

13.7.12 Kerala

Kerala SBB convened two board meetings in the reporting period. Of the 1200 BMCs in the State the Board had reconstituted 524 BMCs during this period. KSBB published a guideline for the Range Officers to enforce the regulatory provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, a methodology manual on documentation of biodiversity and monitoring e-PBR, a manual on tradeable bio-resources and potential of ABS and six brochures in Malayalam language.

13.7.13 Karnataka

During this period Karnataka had conducted three (44th, 45th & 46th) board meeting. Of the total 6554 BMCs in the state, 341 were constituted this year, while of the 6554 PBRs completed, 4443 were documented during this period. The State

Board has also initiated legal action against the defaulters for non-compliance of the Biological Diversity Act. A total of 16 approvals were granted for commercial use of bio resources under Sec 23 (B) and 109 prior intimations were received from Indian entities under Section 24(1) during the period under report. The International Day of Biological Diversity 2020 was celebrated in virtual mode in presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri B. S. Yediyurappa and other dignitaries. The Board has rewarded three individuals for their outstanding contributions to conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits, Shri Shripad Bichugatthi, Shri Shantaram Siddi and Shri Manjunath Naik from Shimoga, Yellapura and Gadag respectively. During this year, various trainings and workshops were organized to strengthen the BMCs and effective utilization of ABS funds by distribution among the BMCs/beneficiaries. The board has brought out a notification dtd 18.11.2020 on the Utilization of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) grants to the Local Biodiversity fund (LBF) for the purpose and activities specified under section 32(2) and 44(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

13.7.14 Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh SBB convened one board meeting during the reporting period. The Board has until now constituted 23617 BMCs altogether, of which 22866 are at village level, 313 at block level, 386 are at Nagar Palika level and 52 are at the districts. During this period MPSBB has released the MP Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and two publications namely, "BD Act- implementation made Easy Madhya Pradesh Model of ABS, Potential of Tradeable Bioresources of





MP" and "Panna 10 years: Panna tiger Festival (2009-2019)". A film on the talk show related to "Covid-19 Pandemics biodiversity and our future" was prepared by the Board in this year. MP SBB has approved 1058 applications under Sec 23 (B) for commercial utilization of bioresources and registered 35 complaints under Section 55 (2) for violation of Biological Diversity Act by different entities. The board has also organized several awareness programmes, conducted state level biodiversity quiz, radio programmes (*Chalti Rahe Zindagi*) and state wildlife week. Artificial nest boxes were distributed in Bhopal for generating awareness on sparrow conservation. The Board had instituted Annual State Biodiversity awards for facilitating the conservers of biodiversity at individual and institutional level.

13.7.15 Maharashtra

Maharashtra declared 4 new Biodiversity Heritage Sites in the districts of Pune, Jalgaon and Sindhudurg. Of the total 28649 BMCs in the State, the Board has constituted all the BMCs earlier and prepared 7563 PBRs during the reporting period.

13.7.16 Manipur

The Manipur SBB board convened one meeting on 4th August, 2020 this year. As on 31st March, 2021 a total of 2221 BMCs were constituted and 800 BMCs were established during this year. Of the 71 PBRs prepared so far, 34 were documented in the reporting period. A Book titled "A Catalogue on the insect Fauna of Manipur in the Indo Myanmar Hotspot Region" was released during the reporting period.

13.7.17 Meghalaya

The Meghalaya SBB reconstituted the board and convened four meetings in this year. As on 31st March, 2021 a total of 5451 BMCs were constituted and 1837 BMCs were established during this year. Of the 142 PBRs prepared so far, 64 were documented in the reporting period and preparation of 360 PBRs were in final stage. The International Day of Biological Diversity 2020 was celebrated in virtual mode and 3 posters on biodiversity were released by the Meghalaya SBB in this occasion.

13.7.18 Mizoram

Of the 894 BMCs in the State, 450 BMCs were constituted and 879 PBRs were documented during this period. The International Day for Biological Diversity 2020 was celebrated in virtual mode by conducting talks, discussion, photographic competition etc, with the active participation of students and common public.



13.7.19 Nagaland

Nagaland SBB conducted one Board meeting in 2020-21. Of the 1128 BMCs formed in the State, 114 BMCs were constituted during the reporting period. A total of 1110 base line PBRs were prepared during this year, which was affected due to restricted field activities amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.



A short film titled "Our solutions are in Nature" was developed and released in You Tube during the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity 2020. Capacity building programme was conducted for the BMCs and training imparted on the methodology of PBR preparation and ABS mechanism in Kiphire district. The project on developing IT infrastructure in Schools for biodiversity conservation was implemented at 4 Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaland.

13.7.20 Odisha

The Odisha Biodiversity Board had convened one meeting in 2020-21. Of the total 7256 BMCs established so far at village, district and block levels, 3929 committees were constituted during the period under report. The board had conducted



several enquiries to establish prima facie cases for the offences made by the traders. The Board had published a brochure on “20 favorite food plants of Asiatic elephants in Odisha” and educational material on handling, rescue and release of wild animals in Odisha. A video documentary on the biodiversity of Odisha is under process. In this year, 11 capacity building programmes were organized for the BMCs and 10 training programmes conducted for the eco-guides at 13 ecotourism sites in the state.

13.7.21 Punjab

The Punjab Biodiversity Board had constituted 13,599 BMCs at various levels, of which 98 BMCs were constituted at village and urban bodies during the period



under report. The Board had documented a total of 11,312 PBRs in this year that includes 11,001 at village level, 135 at block level, 167 at the municipalities and PBRs at the district level. PBB published a special issue of the monthly magazine "Nirantar Soach" in Punjabi on the theme of "Biodiversity". The Board organized 26 programmes or events to commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), 2020 on the theme of "Our Solutions are in Nature" throughout the State in collaboration with Universities, Colleges, Schools and NGOs. A State Level Function on Biodiversity of Punjab was organized in collaboration with Eco-Sikh Charitable Trust on 22nd May in virtual mode. Awareness cum Capacity Building programme was organized for the constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs for the officers of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats (DRDP) and Department of Local Government (DLG), Govt. of Punjab. A Virtual Film Festival on Biodiversity & Climate Change was held in collaboration with Punjab State Council for Science & Technology and CMS VATAVARAN. Details of manufacturers and traders functioning in the State was collected this year from the Ministry of AYUSH, Govt of India, National Medicinal Plant Board, State drug and Licensing Authority and other concerned departments.

13.7.22 Rajasthan

Of the 10,406 BMCs in the State 123 were established during the year 2020-21. All the 4997 PBRs documented so far were prepared during this year, The Rajasthan Biodiversity Board prepared a short film on "Desert Biodiversity". International Day for Biological diversity was celebrated as a biodiversity study workshop in Keoladeo Ghana National Park, to educate the staff of Bharatpur Wildlife Division. The board has developed an app for school children to identify different birds.

A workshop was organized jointly by Horticulture & Forestry College and Govt Post Graduate College, Jhalwar and supported by the Board for preparation of Public Biodiversity Register. Similarly, BMCs were oriented with the process of PBR preparation in a training workshop conducted for members and office bearers of 50 BMCs in Tonk district. Training programme was conducted for identifying plants. PBR has been prepared in 20 gram panchayats and 2 municipal areas in collaboration with experienced para-taxonomists and Shakambhar PG College. Flora of Rajasthan was published describing more than 2412 flowering plants with special emphasis to their ecological, medicinal and economic importance. The board has conducted a research study on flying squirrel in the Sitamata Sanctuary of Chittorgarh district.

13.7.23 Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board convened its 9th meeting during the reporting period. The Board constituted all the BMCs at all the local bodies various levels and prepared 13604 PBRs so far. The board conducted district level workshops in Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Nagapattinam, Thiruvavur Ramnathapuram, and Nilgiris for the nodal officers and held expert committee meeting for preparation of PBRs. The Board had approved 128 applications received from Indian entities.

13.7.24 Telangana

So far, of the 13, 426 BMCs, Telangana State has constituted 12749 at village level, 537 at Mandal level and 140 at Municipal level. The Board has celebrated the International Day of Biological Diversity 2020 by conducting 27 online events for a wider publicity. This has fetched the Board an award from Asian Record Book for conducting maximum online events on Biodiversity Conservation and Awareness in a month with more than 30,000 participants across the globe.

13.7.25 Tripura

Tripura Biodiversity Board held its general body meeting on 26th March 2021. The Board issued a notification this year authorising the SDFOs to receive, process and sign ABS Agreement on behalf of TBB. The State has documented 1264 PBRs so far. The Board has approved 19 applications under Section 23 (B) for commercial utilization of bioresources. During this period, Twinchingrambari and Purba Badlabari BMC under Tulashikhar RD Block, Khowai District received India Biodiversity Award 2020.

13.7.26 Uttar Pradesh

The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board conducted two meetings in this year. The State had so far constituted all the 59,407 BMCs and prepared the same number of PBRs at the local bodies. The Board had organized several programmes and events in the reporting period like International Day for Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Festival, World Wetlands Day, World Environment day, International Day for Vulture Awareness, Wildlife week, Butterfly and Sparrow week etc. Large number of participants, school and college students were actively involved in these programmes conducted in virtual mode.

13.7.27 West Bengal

Two (39th & 40th) Meetings were convened by West Bengal Biodiversity Board in this period. Of the 3828 BMCs set up at different levels in the state, only 32 were constituted in the reporting period. So far 3739 PBRs had been documented, of which 3023 were prepared in 2020-21. The Board had published 5 field guide books on biodiversity. The Board had granted 4 approvals to the applicants for commercial



use of bioresources under Section 23(B) and received prior intimation from 4 Indian entities under Section 24 (1). Two bio-tours had been organized for raising awareness on biodiversity among the young students. Several online programmes were conducted including the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity due to Covid-19 Pandemic. Training Programmes were conducted for panchayat functionaries at district and block levels, where *Sabhapatis, Karmadakhshyas* and BDOs participated in good numbers.



13.8 Constitution of Union Territory Biodiversity Councils

In exercise of the powers conferred under subsection (2) of Section 22 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the NBA as under the directives of Central Government *vide OM. No. CS-C12017/6/2019-CS.III dtd 30.12.2019* has delegated its powers and functions to the respective Union Territories for constituting the Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) and implementation of the provisions of Biological Diversity acts. So far, 7 Union Territories have formed the Biodiversity Councils of which Chandigarh (14.05.2020), Daman & Diu (25.02.2020), Jammu & Kashmir (02.09.2020) and Ladakh (30.07.2020) have established their Biodiversity Councils during the period under report.

13.9 Grants given details to SBBs/UTBCs (2020-21)

The National Biodiversity Authority provides Grants-in-aid to the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) to support the implementation of Biological Diversity Act. The financial support provided to the specified components is aimed at strengthening the SBB/ UTBC. Out of the total grants accorded in 2020-21, a sum of Rs. 2,27,04,217/- had been released towards strengthening of 22 SBBs and 1 Union Territory for engaging the contractual employees and strengthening of these offices.

During this financial year, NBA received an additional allocation under the special component of SC (Schedule Caste) and ST (Schedule Tribe) Sub-plan for implementing the Biological Diversity Act in areas predominantly inhabited by SC /ST communities. Under this scheme, a financial support to the tune of Rs. 65,00,000/- has been released to 4 states (under SC SP) and Rs. 64,95,000/- to 8 states (under ST SP) during this period. Besides the above, a Grant-In-aid of Rs. 99,61,000/- had been released to 5 states for preparation of PBRs.



Annexures

Annexure 1

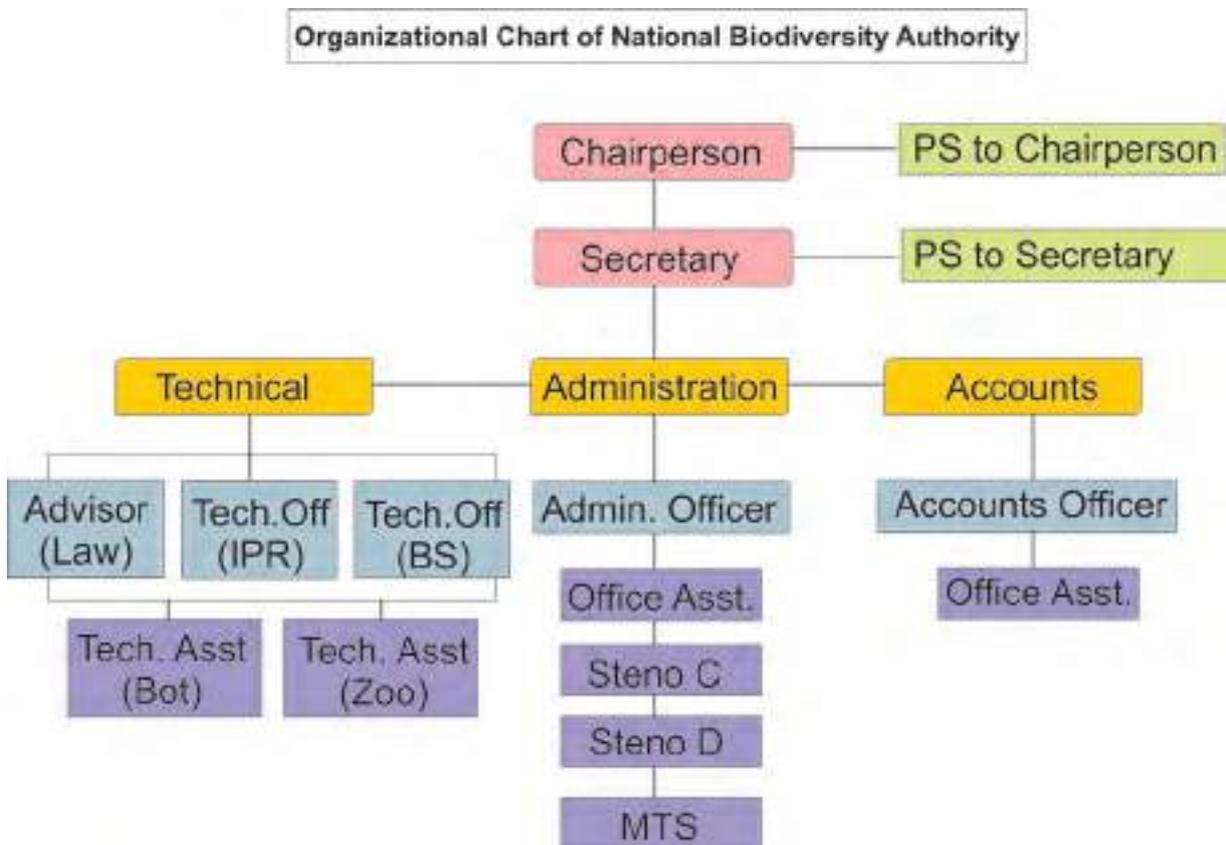
Chairperson of the Authority

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

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

Annexure 2

Organization Chart



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

Annexure 3

Staff Strength Including Recruitment

Post	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacancy
Chairperson	1	1	-
Secretary	1	1	-
Admin. Officer	1	1	-
PS to Chairperson	1	1	-
Accts. Officer	1	1	-
Technical Officer	2	2	-
Advisor (Law)	1	1	-
PS to Secretary	1	0	1
Office/ Comp. Asst.	2	2	-
Technical Asst.	2	2	-
Steno "C"	1	1	-
Steno "D"	1	1	-
MTS	1	1	-
Total	16	15	1

Annexure 4

Citizen's Charter

Vision

- i. 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.

Mission

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

Mandate

- i. Reaffirm the sovereign rights over the bio-resources of India and contribute towards the prevention of misappropriation of bio-resources and/or associated knowledge.
- ii. Provide policy and support relating to conservation, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. Advise the State Governments concerning their area-specific biodiversity, and in notifying Heritage Sites and suggest measures for their management and sustainable use.
- vi. Provide guidance, technical and financial support to Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) for preparing People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) in areas falling under their respective jurisdiction.
- vii. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to implement the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- viii. Stakeholders

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

Services Offered

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

Grievances Redressal Mechanism

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

The Administrative Officer

National Biodiversity Authority,

TICEL Bio Park,

5th Floor, CSIR Road, Taramani,

Chennai-600 113

Phone: 044-22542777, 1075; Extension: 27

Fax: 044-22541200

E-mail: admn@nba.nic.in

1.7 Expectations from the Citizens/ Clients

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



Audit Report

कार्यालय महानिदेशक लेखापरीक्षा
पर्यावरण एवं वैज्ञानिक विभाग, नई दिल्ली 110002

DGA/ESD/EA/142/SAR/NBA Chennai/2020-21/763

दिनांक

सेवा में,

Dr. V. B. Mathur,
Chairman,
National Biodiversity Authority,
5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park,
CSIR, Road, Taramani,
Chennai - 600 113

21 DEC 2021

4/Chongot/22
3/1/22

विषय: Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year 2020-21

महोदय,

मुझे वर्ष 2020-21 के लिए National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai का पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन अग्रहित करने का निर्देश हुआ है।

संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने से पहले वर्ष 2020-21 के वार्षिक लेखों को संस्थान के शासी निकाय द्वारा अनुमोदित किया/अपनाया जाए तथा इस संबंध में शासी निकाय द्वारा जारी किया गया रेजोल्यूशन ऑडिट को भेजा जाए। प्रत्येक दस्तावेज जो संसद में प्रस्तुत किया जाए उसकी तीन प्रतियाँ इस कार्यालय तथा दो प्रतियाँ भारत के नियंत्रक महालेखापरीक्षक को अग्रहित की जाए। संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने की तिथियाँ भी इस कार्यालय को सूचित की जाए।

संलग्नक:- पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन
(Urgent)
अग्रिन
विष्णु
3/1/22

भवदीया,
निदेशक (पर्यावे.)

Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year ended 31st March 2021

1. We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as at 31 March 2021 and Income & Expenditure Account / Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended on that date under Section 19(2) of the Comptroller & Auditor General's (Duties, Powers & Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 read with Section 29(2) of Biological Diversity Act. These financial statements are the responsibility of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

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

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

4. Based on our audit, we report that

i) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

ii) The Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account/Receipts & Payments Account dealt with by this report have been drawn up in the format approved by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance.

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

iv) Based on our audit, we further report that

A. Balance Sheet

A.1 Assets

1.1 Current Assets, Loans, Advances – Rs. 8331.94 lakh

(a) Rule 20(9) of Biological Diversity Rules provided for earmarking of 5 percent (Rs. 535.69 lakh) of the amount accumulated in the Fund towards administrative and service charges. Out of this, NBA already transferred an amount of Rs. 187.76 lakh. For the remaining amount of Rs. 347.93 lakh, a provision was made in the fund account. This amount, however, was not depicted as receivable in the Authority Account under Current Assets. This resulted in understatement of Current Assets to the extent of Rs.347.93 lakh and understatement of income under Authority Accounts to the same extent.

B. Income and Expenditure Account

B.1 Expenditure -Rs. 1388.30 lakh

(a) During 2020-21, NBA opened a separate account namely 'NB Fund-Admin Account' by partially transferring an amount due to NBA (5 percent of total accumulated under Fund account) from National Biodiversity Fund account and incurred expenditure of Rs. 168.91 lakh out of this fund. Any expenditure incurred out of specific fund account is to be accounted for in that specific fund only. NBA, however accounted for this expenditure under 'Authority Accounts' resulting in overstatement of Expenditure to the extent of Rs. 168.91 lakh and understatement of NB Fund-Admin Account.

B.2 Income – Rs. 1420.34 lakh.

(a) NBA during 2020-21 transferred an amount of Rs. 170.12 lakh from National Biodiversity Fund Account and opened a new account namely "Fund-Admin Account". This amount represented part of the amount of 5 percent of total accumulation of fund account provided for as administrative and service charges as per Rule 20(9) of biological Diversity Rules. Transaction (Receipts and Payments) pertain to a specific fund account are to be accounted for in that specific account only. NBA, however added Rs. 170.12 lakh to the Authority Account and depicted the same as income in the Income and Expenditure accounts.

This led to overstatement of income of Authority Accounts and understatement of Fund-Admin Account.

C. General

a. Dormant Accounts.

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

NBA however had not refunded the unspent balance in these projects and also not closed the accounts so far. As the projects were already completed and no expenditure could be incurred after completion of the project, these accounts need to be closed forthwith.

D. Grants-in-aid

During the year 2020-21, NBA received Grants-in-aid of Rs. 1246.31 lakh. This included unspent balance of Rs. 166.31 lakh revalidated from previous year. NBA could utilize a sum of Rs. 1185.34 lakh leaving a balance of Rs.60.96 lakh as on March 2021.

E). 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-A 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 2020 and

b. In so far as it relates Income and Expenditure Account of the surplus for the year ended on that date.

For and on behalf of the C&AG of India



Director General of Audit

(Environment and Scientific Departments)

Place: New Delhi

Date: 21/12/2021

Annexure-I to the Draft Separate Audit Report

1. Adequacy of Internal Audit

Internal Audit of NBA was conducted up to March 2019. As of March 2021, three reports and 19 paras were outstanding. Out of 19 paras, 4 paras pertain to the report for the period 2012-13 to 2016-17 and 3 paras pertain to the report for the period 2003-04 to 2008-09. Thus, 3 paras are pending for more than five years now for want of compliance from NBA.

2. Adequacy of Internal Control System

2.1 Audit noticed that functions of Drawing and Disbursing Officer and functions of pre-check and passing of payment was performed by the same official namely Accounts Officer. As a result, there was no separation of duties of Drawing and Disbursing Officer and internal audit functions

2.2 Assets Register

Balance sheet showed various kinds of assets worth Rs. 181. 32 lakh as of March 2021. NBA, however, did not maintain Assets Register in proper format. The closing balance of the Asset Register could not be tallied with the value of Assets shown in the Balance Sheet.

2.3 Non-receipt of utilization certificate.

NBA during the period 2005-06 to 2020-21 released 1176 grants amounting to Rs.8447.12 lakh to various State Bio-Diversity Boards and other Organizations. As of March 2021, Utilization Certificates were received only in respect of 1001 grants amounting to Rs. 6543.99 lakh. Utilization Certificates for 175 grants amounting to Rs.1903.14 Lakh were not received as of March 2021

3. System of Physical Verification of Fixed assets

NBA conducted physical verification of assets and in the process identified 155 items of assets as surplus, obsolete and unserviceable. The purchase value of these item worked out to be Rs. 38.05 lakh. These items, however, were not disposed by NBA. The assets so identified were therefore lying idle occupying valuable space. The salvage value of these items also being eroded day by day.

4. System of physical verification of inventory

Physical verification of inventory was carried out for the year 2020-21.

5. Regularity in payment of statutory dues

Test check revealed no outstanding statutory dues with NBA as of March 2021.


Director (EA)

9



SANJAY KUMAR JHA
DIRECTOR GENERAL

महानिदेशक लेखापरीक्षा
पर्यावरण एवं वैज्ञानिक विभाग
ए.जी.सी.आर.भवन, इन्द्रप्रस्थ एस्टेट,
नई दिल्ली-110002

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AUDIT
ENVIRONMENT & SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS
A.G.C.R. BUILDING, I.P. ESTATE
NEW DELHI-110002

DGA (ESD)/EA/142/SAR/NBA/2021-22 1767

Dated :

21 DEC 2021

Dear Dr. Mathur,

We have audited the annual accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year 2020-21 and have issued the Audit Report thereon vide letter dated 21.12.2021. 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.

with warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

Encl : As above

Dr. V. B. Mathur,
Chairman,
National Biodiversity Authority,
5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park,
CSIR, Road, Taramani,
Chennai - 600 113

1. Assets – Rs. 8513.26 lakh.

In the Balance Sheet, NBA included value of Building as Rs. 100 lakh and value of Work-in-Progress as Rs. 38.29 lakh. While Rs.100 lakh represented an advance payment made for acquiring office building, the amount of Rs. 38.29 lakh represented a milestone payment made to a firm for the work which was in progress. Audit also noticed that details of these payments were not included in Schedule – 8- 'Fixed Assets' as "Work-in-Progress". Depiction of value of advances and the value of Work-in-Progress directly as 'Assets' in the Balance Sheet led to overstatement of Assets to the extent of Rs.138.29 lakh as well as understatement of Work-in-Progress (Schedule – 8) to the same extent.

Director (FA)



About NBA

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

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

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

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

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

Since its establishment, NBA has supported the creation of SBBs in 29 States and facilitated the establishment of 2,73,451 BMCs at the local level and 2,48,156 PBRs have been prepared all over the country.

Communication Address

National Biodiversity Authority

5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park,

CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.

Tel: +91-44-2254 2777 Fax: +91-44-2254 1200

Email: secretary@nba.nic.in / admin@nba.nic.in

Url : www.nbaindia.org