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Punjab Biodiversity Board

Biodiversity Management Committees



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international convention for conservation biological diversity. The convention envisages three main objectives viz.,

- conservation of biodiversity,
- sustainable use of the same, and
- ensuring equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of the biological resources.

The convention has been ratified by 193 countries including India. As a signatory to the Convention India was required to enact a comprehensive legislation to achieve its objectives. As such, In 2002 India enacted The Biological Diversity Act and subsequently in 2004, the Biological Diversity Rules came into effect. The Biological Diversity Act envisages a three tier system for implementing the same with the National Biodiversity Authority(NBA) at the apex with its headquarters located in Chennai, each state with its individual State Biodiversity Board(SBB) and each local body with a Biodiversity Management Committee(BMC).

Levels of Action



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Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

A Brief

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Abbreviation

BHS	Biodiversity Heritage Sites
BMC	Biodiversity Management Committee
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
EO	Executive Officer
Gol	Government of India
GoP	Government of Punjab
LBF	Local Biodiversity Fund
MoEF	Ministry of Environment & Forests
NBA	National Biodiversity Authority
NGO	Non Government Organization
PBB	Punjab Biodiversity Board
PBR	Peoples Biodiversity Register
SBB	State Biodiversity Board
SBF	State Biodiversity Fund
TSG	Technical Support Group

Biodiversity Management Committee

As per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 [Section 41]

- (1) Every local body shall constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) within its area for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.



- (2) The National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards shall consult the Biodiversity Management Committees while taking any decision relating to the use of biological resources and knowledge associated with such resources occurring within the territorial jurisdiction of the Biodiversity Management Committee.



- (3) The Biodiversity Management committees may levy charges by way of collection fees from any person accessing or collecting any biological resource for commercial purposes from areas falling within its territorial jurisdiction.



Constitution of BMC

- Every local body, in accordance with provisions contained in Article 243B, in respect of Panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels and Article 243Q, in respect of Municipalities (Nagar Panchayats, Municipal Councils and Municipal Corporations), shall constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) within its area of jurisdiction, through a simple resolution, for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars,

domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and micro-organisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

- If the local body is satisfied that the functions of the BMC can be discharged by the general assembly of the local body or by one of its existing committees, the same should be recorded as resolution passed by such local body, following due procedure.
- The BMCs thus constituted shall consist of a Chairperson and not more than six persons nominated by the local body, of which not less than one third shall be women and not less than 18% should belong to Schedule caste/Schedule tribes. These persons should be drawn from amongst the herbalists, agriculturists, Non Timber Forest Produce collectors/ traders, fisher-folk, representatives of user associations, community workers, and academicians and any person/ representative of organization, on whom the local body trusts that they can significantly contribute to the mandate of the BMC. All the above should be residents within the said local body limits and be in the voters list.
- The local body may, if required, nominate six special invitees from forest, agriculture, livestock, health, fisheries and education department.
- The Chairperson of the BMC shall be elected from amongst the members of the committee, in a meeting to be presided over by the Chairperson of the local body (e.g. Panchayat in villages and municipality in urban areas). The Chairperson of the local body (i.e. the Sarpanch /CEO) shall have the casting vote in case of a tie.
- The BMC shall be co-terminus with the tenure of the local body or five years, whichever is less.
- The local Member of the Legislative Assembly and Member of Parliament may be invited as special invitees to the meetings of the BMCs at different levels.
- The BMC may co-opt persons, having expertise and knowledge in biodiversity conservation, or connected biodiversity conservation, as its special invitees so as to be assisted in efficient discharge of its functions.
- After constitution of the BMC, an information regarding the same is to be submitted to the State Biodiversity Board for further advice & guidance regarding functioning of constituted committee.

A Technical Support Group (TSG) comprising of experts in the field of biodiversity drawn from Government agencies, non governmental organizations, academic field, community and individuals shall be established by District Administration at district level. The expert group shall lend support to all BMCs in the district.



Functions and Duties of the BMCs

- The mandate of the BMCs will be to ensure conservation, sustainable utilization and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of biodiversity.
- The BMC shall prepare, maintain and validate People's Biodiversity Registers. The Register shall contain comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other use or any other traditional knowledge associated with them and shall be updated from time to time.



- The People's Biodiversity Registers shall be prepared at the Zila Parishad/ Block Level/Gram Sabha/ Panchayat/ Municipality/ Municipal Corporation level by the respective BMCs using the process and the format set by the Board and/or the National Biodiversity Authority.



- The BMCs, local and District Administration, local bodies shall be responsible for ensuring the protection of the knowledge recorded in the People's Biodiversity Registers, especially to regulate its access to outside agencies and individuals. The District level BMC/ Technical Supporting Group shall be responsible for developing district-wide network of Peoples Biodiversity Registers database.
- The BMC at Gram Sabha/ Panchayat/ District/Municipality/ Municipal Corporation level, if required in consultation with State Biodiversity Board, may decide the terms on which it would permit access to biodiversity resources and associated knowledge to different parties for various purposes within their jurisdiction and levy charges by way of collection fees from any person for accessing or collecting any biological resources for commercial purpose from the area falling within its jurisdiction. The major share of fee charged for the material collected/ cultivated from private land should be given to the owner/ cultivator of the land/ knowledge holder/s and the balance should be deposited in Local Biodiversity Fund.



- The BMC shall also maintain a Register giving information about the details of the access to biological resources and traditional knowledge granted, details of the collection fee imposed and details of the benefits derived and the mode of their sharing. The register shall be maintained by the Chairman or any person authorized by him/her.
- The BMC shall take initiative to generate awareness regarding biological resources available in the locality, their ecological and economic importance and the need to conserve them and prepare an action plan regarding the same. It will take the support of TSGs for the activity and will strive to mainstream biodiversity conservation concerns in the developmental planning at the local level
- The BMC shall take action for stopping illegal and irregular harvesting of biological resources within its jurisdiction to ensure sustainable use.
- The BMC shall determine and periodically update the status of regeneration of all important species and the quantum available with its area, by making inventory under the guidance of the Board/ Technical Support Group.
- The BMC, in consultation with NGOs and Community Institutions, can also initiate proposals for declaring Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) and take care of management of such Sites declared under its jurisdiction.
- The BMC will advise on matters referred to it by the State Biodiversity Board or the National Biodiversity Authority for granting approval within a specified time and will maintain data about local vairs and practitioners using biological resources.
- In the long run the BMCs also have the responsibility to prepare and implement a management plan for biodiversity conservation and use for a period of 5 to 10 years using output from Peoples Biodiversity Registers in consultation with State Biodiversity Boards and with the support of Technical Supporting Group constituted by the District Administration.
- Depending upon available expertise, the BMC shall set up and maintain germ plasm bank and seed centers or other centres of similar nature for promoting cultivars, folk varieties and landraces under the technical guidance of the Board, wherever possible.
- Every BMC shall prepare its Annual Report and Audited copy of Accounts and submit the same together with Auditors Report to the concerned

District Magistrate (or to an officer as decided by State Biodiversity Board), with a copy to the Board and a copy to the general assembly of the local body.

In order to execute the above functions the BMC will work in cooperation with other BMCs, the TSGs and the SBB. It will function from an office premises to be provided by the local body.

- The BMC shall perform any other function as assigned by Central/ State Govt. or NBA/ State Biodiversity Board.

Functions of the Local Body

The local body shall provide guidance to BMC for its effective functioning from time to time. It will keep a record of the Annual Report and accounts of the Board and ensure safe custody to the local Peoples Biodiversity Register. It shall ensure that the BMCs are integrated with the functioning of existing local institutions by cross-membership, regular coordination meetings, and other such measures, as determined by the local bodies or as specified by the Board.

Functions of the State Biodiversity Board

- The State Biodiversity Board shall provide guidance and technical support to the BMC for preparing Peoples Biodiversity Register, declaring Biodiversity Heritage Sites and other matters.
- The Board will facilitate the BMCs to open a Bank Account with an enabling letter, if required, indicating that BMCs have been formed in accordance with the Biological Diversity Act. The Board will fund the BMCs through the district level nodal officer/ the DFO/ District Administration/ Zila Parishads.
- The Board will also provide training and help resolve conflicts between BMCs. The Board will consult the BMCs for matters related to use of biological resources in an area.

Powers of BMCs

- The BMC has the right within its jurisdiction to take decisions relating to use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

According to Section 41(2) of The Biological Diversity Act 2002, The National Biodiversity Authority and the State Biodiversity Boards are bound to consult the respective BMCs whenever the situation arises regarding the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

- The BMC has the right to restrict access to biological resources within its territorial jurisdiction by means of reporting to the Board.
- The BMCs may levy charges by way of collection fees from any person for accessing or collecting any biological resource for commercial purposes from areas falling within its natural jurisdiction.
- The BMC can also decide on access and benefit sharing of biological resources within its jurisdiction or seek the help of NBA or SBB.

Local Biodiversity Fund

The Local Biodiversity Fund shall comprise of:-

- Any grants and loans from the State Government.
- Any grants or loans from the National Biodiversity Authority and/or the State Biodiversity Board.
- Fees received by the BMC by means of levied charges for accessing or collecting biological resources for commercial purposes from areas within its territory.
- All sums received from sources as decided by the State Government.

The Fund shall be used for conservation and promotion of biodiversity in the areas falling within the jurisdiction of the concerned local body and for the benefit of the community so far such use is consistent with conservation of biodiversity.

- Every BMC will constitute a Local Biodiversity Fund by opening a separate bank account to that respect and prepare its bye-laws. The State Biodiversity Board or the District Administration will provide an enabling letter if required and will help it to prepare its bye-laws. All the funds of the BMC will be operated jointly by the Chairman and /or the Secretary of the BMCs or any other person authorized by Chairman
- The Local Biodiversity Fund shall be operated jointly by the Chairperson/Secretary and/or by a member to whom the power has been delegated by the Committee.
- The accounts of the Local Biodiversity Fund shall be maintained and audited and report furnished to the concerned local body/ district administration. (As per Section 46 of The Biological Diversity Act). The Secretary of the BMC or person authorized by the BMC will maintain the accounts of the BMC and ensure that there is proper disbursement of funds. BMCs will give Utilization Certificate to the appropriate authority from whom they have received the funds. The accounts will be audited annually and passed by the BMC.

- The person holding the custody of the Local Biodiversity Fund shall prepare its Annual Report, giving full account of its activities during the previous financial year, and submit a copy to the District Administration, concerned local body. (As per Section 45 of The Biological Diversity Act) and SBB.
- The district administration, TSG or SBB will provide training to members of the BMC on accounting procedures, preparation of the annual report and the procedure for giving Utilization Certificate.

Panchayats in Punjab

Sr. No.	Name of District	Panchayat Samitis	Number of Panchayats
1.	Amritsar	Tarsika	89
		Raiya	94
		Ajnala	152
		Chaugawa	131
		Majitha	110
		Verka	96
		Jandiala Guru	83
		Attari	75
		Harshachina	62
		Total	892
2.	Bathinda	Sangat	41
		Bathinda	66
		Talwandi Sabo	47
		Phul	29
		Maur	34
		Rampura	31
		Nathana	35
		Bhagat Bhai Ka	31
3.	Barnala	Barnala	63
		Sahina	57
		Mahal Kalan	38
			Total
4.	Faridkot	Faridkot	88
		Kot Kapura	102
			Total
5.	Fatehgarh Sahib	Sarhind	101
		Khera	84
		Khamano	71
		Amloh	95
		Basi Pathana	80
			Total

6.	Ferozepur	Ferozpur	151
		Ghall Khurd	125
		Khuia Sarvar	53
		Zira	114
		Abohar	71
		Fazilka	110
		Gur Har Shai	133
		Makhu	128
		Mamdot	112
		Zalalabad	142
		Total	1139
7.	Gurdaspur	Bamial	19
		Kalanaur	93
		Dharkalan	72
		Narot Jaimal	90
		Fatehgarh Churiyan	116
		Batala	136
		Shri Hargobindpur	98
		Kahanuwan	137
		Dina Nagar	114
		Dhariwal	119
		Pathankot	144
		Gurdaspur	151
		Qadian	77
		Dera Baba Nanak	145
Sujanpur	74		
Dorangla	74		
		Total	1659
8.	Hoshiarpur	Talwara	92
		Hoshiarpur-I	178
		Hoshiarpur-II	124
		Tanda	117
		Mukerian	138
		Bhunga	178
		Mahalpur	140
		Garshankar	150
		Hajipur	95
		Dasuha	150
		Total	1362
9.	Jalandhar	Jalandhar West	112
		Noormahal	76
		Rurka Kalan	53
		Adampur	71
		Nakodar	142
		Jalandhar East	89

		Shahkot	98
		Bhogpur	83
		Phillour	92
		Lohiya Khas	85
		Total	901
10.	Kapurthala	Kapurthala	130
		Phagwara	107
		Nadala	89
		Sultanpur Lodhi	141
		Dhilwan	82
		Total	549
11.	Ludhiana	Ludhiana-I	79
		Ludhiana-II	179
		Samrala	61
		Sudhar	24
		Machiwara	116
		Pakhowal	50
		Dehlon	71
		Sidhwan Bet	90
		Jagraon	55
		Doraha	56
		Khanna	82
		Raikot	45
		Total	908
12.	Moga	Moga I	54
		Moga II	44
		Nihal Singh Wala	39
		Kot Ise Khan	137
		Bagha Purana	63
		Total	337
13.	Mansa	Mansa	42
		Bhikhi	33
		Budhlada	84
		Jhunir	41
		Sardulgarh	44
		Total	244
14.	Muktsar	Malout	59
		Lambi	56
		Gidderbaha	54
		Muktsar	95
		Total	264
15.	Patiala	Patiala	122
		Ghanour	116
		Rajpura	151

		Nabha	168	
		Samana	91	
		Bhunarheri	147	
		Sanour	107	
		Patran	89	
		Total	981	
16.	Roopnagar	Roopnagar	168	
		Morinda	63	
		Noorpur Bedi	138	
		Anandpur Sahib	146	
		Chamkaur Sahib	75	
		Total	590	
17.	Sangrur	Sangrur	65	
		Malerkotla1	102	
		Malerkotla2	87	
		Lehragaga	51	
		Dhuri	43	
		Andana	39	
		Sunam	94	
		Bhavanigarh	66	
		Sherpur	38	
		Total	585	
18.	SAS Nagar	DeraBassi	121	
		Kharar	148	
		Majri	107	
		Total	376	
19.	SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr)	Aur	75	
		SBS Nagar	98	
		Sarua	71	
		Balachaur	120	
		Banga	94	
		Total	458	
20.	Tarn Taran	Khadur Sahib	71	
		Patti	79	
		Naushira Panua	45	45
		Gandiwind	45	
		Tarn Taran	108	
		Valtoha	70	
		Bikhiwind	73	
		Chohala Sahib	52	
		Total	543	

Source: Deptt. of Rural Development & Panchyats, Punjab

Municipal Corporations /Councils/Nagar Panchyats in Punjab

As per the information provided by the State Department of Local Govt., there are 5 Municipal Corporations, 102 Municipal Councils and 33 Nagar Panchayats in the State.

District	Municipal Corporation	No. of Municipal Council/ Nagar Panchyat	Name of Municipal Council	Name of Nagar Panchyat
Amritsar	1 Amritsar	4 + 3	Ramdas Majitha Jandiala Rajasansi	Amritsar Cantt. Rayaa Anjala
Bathinda	1 Bathinda	6 + 1	Kot Fattah Bhucho Mandi Rampura Phul Goniana Raman Mandi Sangat	Talwandi Sabo
Barnala	-	4 + 1	Barnala Dhanula Bhadour Tappa	Hardiaya
Faridkot	-	3	Faridkot Kotkapura Jaitu	
Fatehgarh Sahib	-	4 + 1	Amlah Sirhind Gobindgarh Bassi Pathana	Khamano
Ferozepur	-	7 + 2	Ferozepur Zira Fazilka Abohar Guru Har Sahai Jalalabad Talwandhi Bhai	Ferozepur Cantt. Makhu
Gurdaspur	-	10	Gurdaspur Pathankot Batala Dhariwal Dina Nagar Quadian Sujjanpur Fatehgarh Churian	

			Shri Hargobindpur Dera Baba Nanak	
Hoshiarpur	-	9+1	Hoshiarpur Garhshankar Hariana Urmar Tanda Sham Chaurasi Mukerian Dasuya Gardiwala Mahilpur	Talwara
Jalandhar	1 Jalandhar	7+4	Kartarpur Nakodar Noormahal Phillaur Alawalpur Adampur Goraya	Jalandhar Cantt Shahkot Bhogpur Lohian
Kapurthala	-	3+3	Kapurthala Phagwara Sultanpur Lodhi	Dhilwan Begowal Bholath
Ludhiana	1 Ludhiana	6+4	Jagraon Khanna Raikot Samrala Payal Machhiwara	Doraha Mulianpur Malaudh Sahnewal
Mansa	-	4+2	Maur Mandi Mansa Budhlada Baretta	Bhikhi Sardulgarh
Muktsar	-	3+1	Muktsar Malout Giddarbaha	Bariwala
Moga	-	2+2	Moga Dharam Kot	Bagha Purana Badhni Kalan
Patiala	1 Patiala	6+2	Samana Rajpura Banur Sanaur Nabha Patran	Ghanaur Ghagga
Roopnagar	-	4+1	Roopnagar Morinda	Chamkur Sahib

			Anandpur Sahib Nangal	
Sangrur	-	9 + 3	Sangrur Malerkotla Ahmedgarh Dhuri Sunam Lehragga Bhiwanigarh Longowal Khanauri	Dirba Moonak Cheema
SAS Nagar	-	4 + 2	SAS Nagar Kharar Kuruli Dera Bassi	Zirakpur Naya Gaun
Nawan shahr (SBS)	-	4	Banga Nawanshehar Rahon Balachaur	
Tarntaran	-	3	Tarn Taran Patti Khem Karan	
Total	5	102 + 33 = 135		

Source: Deptt. of Local Government, Punjab, 2010

Potential BMCs in Punjab

District Level BMCs	-	20
Block Level BMCs	-	141
Panchayat BMCs	-	12881
Urban BMCs	-	140

Sample Resolutions

Formation Of Biodiversity Management Committees

At Gram /block/distt/ Nagar Panchayats/ Municipal Council/ Municipal Corporation

Resolution No. _____

Date : _____

Name of the Gram/ Nagar Panchayat/ Municipal Council/ Municipal Corporation: _____ Block: _____ District: _____

The Gram/Block/Distt./ Nagar Panchayat/ Municipal Corporation/ Municipal Council meeting was held on _____ at _____ AM/PM in _____ Panchayat office, under the Chairmanship of Sri. _____ the President, and with the consent of all the members, Biodiversity Management Committee was formed under Section 41(1) of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rule 22 of Biological Diversity Rules 2004 for the period coterminus with the tenure of local body or five years (whichever is less).

Committee Members details

Sl.No.	Full Name	Age	Category	Signature
1			Chairman	
2			Woman member	
3			Woman member	
4			SC/ST member	
5			Member	
6			Member	
7			Secretary (Gram/ Nagar Panchayat Secretary or EO, Block Panchayat/ MC or CEO, Distt. Panchayat)	

The Biodiversity Management Committee will be responsible for :

1. Management and sustainable utilization of bio resources within its jurisdiction.
2. Stopping of illegal and irregular harvesting of bio resources within its jurisdiction.
3. Furnishing of information/opinion to National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai and Punjab Biodiversity Board, Chandigarh on various subjects as and when asked.
4. Levy charges as advised by National Biodiversity Authority/Punjab Biodiversity Board by way of collection fees for accessing/collecting bio-resources for commercial purpose within its jurisdiction.
5. To maintain data about the local hakims/ vaidas and practitioners using the biological resources.
6. Maintain register giving information about the details of access granted to biological resources and traditional knowledge, details of collection fee imposed and details of benefits derived and mode of their sharing.
7. The Biodiversity Management Committee will also be involved in documentation of biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge.
8. Management and use of Biodiversity Fund as per guidelines of National Biodiversity Authority and Punjab Biodiversity Board from time to time.
9. Identification and maintenance of Biodiversity Heritage Sites, if applicable.
10. Any other works related to biodiversity as decided from time to time.

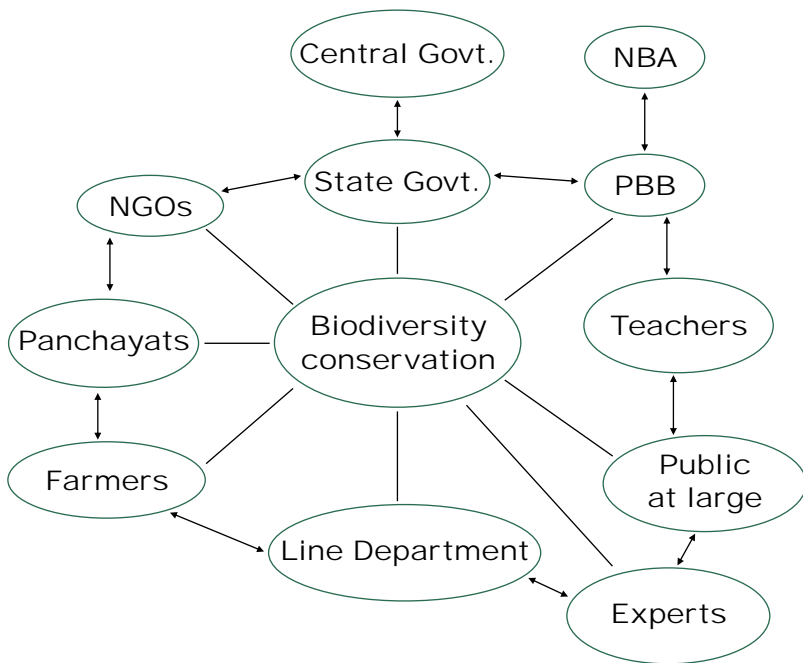
Signature

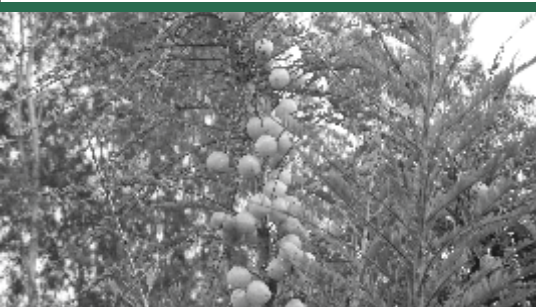
Gram/ Nagar Panchayat/ Block/
Distt./ Municipal Committee/ Municipal
Corporation President

Signature

Panchayat Secretary/EO/CEO

Counter Signature
NGO/ Special invitee





For more information, Please contact:

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