

PUNJAB BIODIVERSITY BOARD

SUB: Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab on 03.02.2010 at 10.00AM in the CM's Office, 2nd Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh

PRESENT:

1. Mr. G.S. Sandhu, IAS
Financial Commissioner,
Department of Animal Husbandry,
Govt. of Punjab
2. Mr. R.C. Nayyar, IAS
Financial Commissioner,
Department of Forests & Wildlife,
Govt. of Punjab
3. Mr. Viswajeet Khanna, IAS
Secretary, Science, Technology & Environment,
Govt. of Punjab
4. Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta, IAS
Secretary, Agriculture,
Govt. of Punjab
5. Dr. G.S. Kalkat
Chairman, Punjab State Farmers Commission,
Ex. Vice Chancellor, PAU, Ludhiana
6. Mr. Surjeet Pal Singh
OSD to CM
Punjab Civil Secretariat,
Chandigarh
7. Dr. D.K. Singh
Addl. Director, Botanical Survey of India,
Kolkata
8. Dr. P. S. Minhas,
Director of Research,
PAU, Ludhiana
9. Prof. Maninder Singh Hundal
Dean College Development Council,
GNDU, Amritsar

10. Dr. Anjana Pant
Senior Coordinator,
WWF- India
New Delhi
11. Dr. (Mrs.) Neelima Jerath
Member Secretary, Punjab Biodiversity Board &
Executive Director, PSCST,
Chandigarh
12. Mr. Avdesh Kaushik
Manager (Finance & Accounts)
PSCST, Chandigarh
13. Dr. Dhiraj Kumar Sehgal
Scientist, Punjab Biodiversity Board
Chandigarh

The 3rd Meeting of the Punjab Biodiversity Board (PBB) was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab on February 3, 2010.

Welcoming the Chairman and Members Dr. Neelima Jerath, Member Secretary, PBB informed that the Board had been set up in December, 2004 as a statutory body u/s 22 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, with the objective to promote conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and ensure equitable benefit sharing with local communities. She discussed the provisions under Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Biological Diversity Act and informed that Majith Mandi in Amritsar was the hub of raw material trade in north west India. Issues pertaining to Bt. Crops were also discussed.

The following agenda items were discussed and decisions taken:-

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of 2nd Meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board held on 10/03/2008.

Confirmed

3.2 Follow up action on the Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board held on 10/03/2008.

Noted

3.3: State Biodiversity Fund: Opening & Operation of Bank Account.

Approved.

3.4: Recruitment of staff for PBB- Outsourcing

MS pointed out that the present staff strength of PBB was meagre as compared to Biodiversity Boards in many other states and regular staff was required to make the Board functional. Chairman enquired about the requirement of funds for infrastructure and manpower development. MS informed that a proposal had been made which would be submitted to the state Govt. for consideration of funding.

Chairman desired that the Board should take up studies on Peacocks and other important species. Secretary, STE pointed out that inventorization of Biodiversity in the state was also required to be carried out for which the Board would require additional Scientific Staff. FC, Department of Forests & Wildlife offered to place one officer on deputation to PBB, if required. HRA to Scientist, PBB as per Punjab Govt. Rules was also approved.

3.5: Punjab State Biological Diversity Rules

Noted

3.6: Service Bye-Laws of Punjab Biodiversity Board & delegation of powers

Approved

3.7: Constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs.

Approved

3.8: Filing of IPRs related to Biological Resources

Noted

3.9: Collection fee for access to bio-resources for commercial Purpose/ research

Approved

3.10: Celebration of International Biodiversity Day, 2008 & 2009

Noted

3.11: Project on Survey of Commercially Important Flora and Fauna in Punjab, GoP

Noted

3.12: Project on Inventorising Industries involved in Exploitation of Biodiversity in Punjab

Noted

3.13: Study of varieties of sucking mango in district Hoshiarpur

MS, PBB informed that PBB had conducted a survey to identify native varieties of sucking mango in District Hoshiarpur and recorded 37 new varieties, many of which were represented by only one or two trees at Inami Bagh near Gangian. A proposal had been prepared for their conservation at Fruit Research Station, Gangian. She also brought out that the orchard needed to be declared as a Biodiversity Heritage Site. The issue had been discussed with NBA and MoEF- GOI at the All-India meeting of SBBs also and it was advised that the area be acquired & preserved as a Heritage Site. A proposal for the same had been prepared for funding. Chairman desired that the matter be put up to the State Govt. for acquiring of area for the purpose.

3.14: New Project Proposals

Noted

3.15: Establishment of Expert Committees to identify areas for conservation of biological resources.

Approved

3.16: Annual Report & Statement of Accounts for 2008-09

Approved

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.