

PUNJAB BIODIVERSITY BOARD



Agenda Notes

7th Meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board

Secretariat:

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Date : 29.09.2015
Time : 10:30 A.M
Venue : CM's Office, 2nd Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Sector-1,
Chandigarh

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AGENDA

The 6th meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board was held on 22.05.2014 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Govt. of Punjab.

Item No. 7.1: Confirmation of Minutes of 6th Meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board held on 22/05/2014.

The Minutes of the meeting were circulated to all the members. No comments/suggestions have been received. The minutes are placed at **(Annexure-I, Pg. 23a-28)**. **The same may kindly be confirmed.**

Item No. 7.2: Follow up action on the Minutes of the 6th Meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board held on 22/05/2014.

The follow-up actions on the minutes of the 6th meeting are placed at **(Annexure-II, Pg. 29-31)** for information of the members of Punjab Biodiversity Board.

Item No.7.3 Agenda items for Consideration and Approval

Item No. 7.3.1: Constitution and operationalization of 33 village level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

As informed in the previous meeting, the board has constituted 33 village BMCs with Financial support of National Biodiversity Authority, Govt. of India as below:

Name of District	No. of BMCs Constituted
• Hoshiarpur	: 18
• Pathankot	: 12
• Gurdaspur	: 2
• Fatehgarh Sahib	: 1

For constituting these BMCs, preliminary panchayat level meetings and brainstorming sessions were conducted in each village with the support of village Panchayats and respective District Administrations. Further, comprehensive contact building exercises were undertaken with district/local administrations, NGOs, village panchayats, local residents, etc. The BMCs have been constituted as per NBA Guidelines by passing Panchayat level resolutions. The post-constitution training programmes have been conducted. The bank accounts of all 33 village BMCs have also been operationalized in nationalized banks out of funds provided by NBA (@ Rs.10,000/- per BMC). Panchayat Secretaries of concerned villages have been designated as “Member Secretaries” of Village BMCs. The details w.r.t date of constitution of BMCs, Chairpersons, Secretaries and bank accounts is at **Annexure- III . Pg. 32-35**.

Accordingly, the Board may kindly ratify the constitution of 33 village level BMCs.

Further, it is brought out that NBA has provided Rs 4.95 lacs @ Rs. 15,000/- per BMC for infrastructure, stationary, etc. Since, this is a one time grant, it needs to be utilized judiciously in the interest of economy. PBB has already got common stationery printed and distributed it to all the BMCs, which has been identified as a best practice

worth emulation during the Northern region meeting of SBBs held at Chandigarh on 08.06.2015 and balance funds (Rs. 4,43,875/-) are presently available under this head.

Further, NBA has also provided Rs 18.80 lacs for constitution of 22 Block level BMCs and 2 village level BMCs during the F.Y. 2015-16 which also include an amount of Rs. 4,70,000/- for 24 BMCs for the purpose of infrastructure, stationary, etc. It is proposed that the total amount of Rs. 9,13,875/- (i.e. Rs. 4,43,875/- + 4,70,000/-) may be placed in a separate account and the interest amount can be used for BMC infrastructure, as and when, required. It is expected that once the activities of BMCs are geared up, they will become financially self sufficient.

The Board may kindly consider and advise.

Item No.7.3.2: Issuance of public/individual notices to biological resource based industries on important provisions of BDA, 2002 and Guidelines on Access & Benefit Sharing, 2014.

The National Biodiversity Authority, Govt. of India has notified Guidelines for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) for biological resources and associated traditional knowledge and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014 vide Gazette Notification dated 21.11.2014 and has directed State Biodiversity Boards for its implementation. Copy of the Guidelines is at **Annexure-IV, Pg. 36-54.**

It is brought out that u/s 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, every person who is citizen of India or body corporate, association or organization which is registered in India needs to give prior intimation to SBB for accessing any biological resource or conducting bio-survey and bio-utilization for commercial utilization. Further, u/s 23 (b) of the Act, board is empowered to grant approvals and regulate the access of biological resources for commercial utilization by Indians. Furthermore, u/s 24 of the Act, SBBs need to restrict certain activities (referred u/s 7) which are detrimental or contrary to the objectives of conservation & sustainable use of biodiversity.

In light of the above, action needs to be initiated and PBB is required to bring these Guidelines to the notice of entities/organizations which are accessing bio-resources for commercial purposes. As per Rule 14 of Central Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, bio-resource based industries are required to deposit requisite fee of Rs.10,000/- to SBBs for access of biological resources & associated traditional knowledge in the prescribed Form-I. However, as per draft State Biodiversity Rules (which are under consideration of the Government for notification) the prescribed fee has been proposed as Rs. 5000/-.

Under Section 3 of ABS Guidelines, for the applicant/trader/manufacture who has not entered into any prior benefit sharing negotiations with bio-resource provider, the benefit sharing obligations are as under:

- The benefit sharing obligations on Traders shall be in the range of 1.0-3.0% of the purchase price of biological resources

- The benefit sharing obligations on Manufacturers shall be in the range of 3.0-5.0% of the purchase price of biological resources.

When biological resources are accessed for commercial utilization or the bio-survey and bio-utilization leads to commercial utilization, the applicant shall have the option to pay the benefit sharing ranging from 0.1% - 0.5% at the following graded percentages of the annual gross ex-factory sale of the product minus Govt. taxes as given below:

Annual Gross ex-factory sale of product	Benefit sharing component
Up to Rupees 1,00,00,000	0.1%
Rupees 1,00,00,001 Up to 3,00,00,000	0.2%
Above Rupees 3,00,00,000	0.5%

The matter was discussed with NBA with respect to pending notification of PBB Rules. However, NBA has advised that with the notification of Access and Benefit Sharing Guidelines, action needs to be taken immediately and till the time State Rules are notified, the board may charge fee as per Central Rules on Form I of BDA, 2002.

The Board members may kindly consider. Approval is also sought for issuing notices to the press for general information, as well as notices to individual Industries using bio-resource.

Item No.7.3.3: Declaration of potential Biodiversity Rich Sites as Biodiversity Heritage Sites u/s 37 of BDA, 2002

PBB has identified 3 potential Biodiversity Heritage Sites as already informed in the previous meeting. Out of these, BMCs have been notified at village Cholti Kheri, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib and Bassi Umar Khan, Distt. Hoshiarpur. These BMCs have passed resolutions for declaration of these sites as Biodiversity Heritage Sites

The copies of resolutions passed by concerned BMCs for declaration of the proposed sites as Biodiversity Heritage Sites are at **Annexure-V, Pg. 55-56**.

It is proposed that **members may approve** the declaration of these sites as Biodiversity Heritage Sites of Punjab by the State Government u/s 37 of BDA, 2002. Subsequently, proposals for conservation of these sites shall be prepared for funding by Central/State Govt./other funding bodies.

This is for consideration and approval of Members, please.

Item No. 7.3.4 : Proposal for declaration of State Flower

As brought out in the 6th meeting of PBB, Punjab has notified its State Tree, State Animal and State Bird. However, State flower is yet to be notified. This issue was raised in the 6th meeting of PBB wherein, it was advised that Botanical Survey of India, Universities and Experts be consulted in this regard. A list of recommended species was prepared and comments obtained (**Annexure VI, Pg. 57**). The matter was also referred to Department of Forests and Wildlife, Govt. of Punjab. Based on recommendation of BSI and other experts, it is proposed that *Tecomella undulata* (Roheda) be declared as State flower of Punjab.

Tecomella undulata is a perennial plant found in South-Western Punjab. The species has also been notified as threatened species on the verge of extinction by the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India u/s 38 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The flowers of *Tecomella undulata* are reddish yellow and blossom in the months of December-February. The declaration of said species as State flower will help in creating awareness about the species as well as its preservation. The board may kindly approve the notification of the same as State Flower by the State Govt.

This is for consideration & approval of Members, please.

Item No.7.3.5: Revision of Emoluments of PBB Staff

The following staff is presently working in PBB:

1. Member Secretary: Ex-officio

PBB has proposed the creation of the post of Member Secretary under restructuring proposal submitted to State Govt. for consideration. The post needs to be created as the activities of board have increased manifold over the years.

2. Staff funded by GoP (Since 2008-09)

- Scientist at consolidated salary of Rs. 20,000/- + HRA + EPF on outsource basis
- Steno-typist-cum-Computer Operator on consolidated salary as per D.C. rates +HRA+ EPF on outsource basis (as approved in the 3rd Meeting of PBB held on 3.09.2010)
- Driver on consolidated salary as per D. C. rates + HRA+EPF on contract (as approved in the 3rd Meeting of PBB)

The State funds were earlier provided under the Head 3435: Ecology & Environment Sub Head-31-grant-in-aid. However, these are now provided under Head 3435: Ecology & Environment, Sub Head-28-Professional Services. The State Govt. has agreed to pay salary of staff on outsource basis only. Hence, if approved, the salary of Driver be henceforth paid on outsource basis, through Service Provider.

3. Staff funded by NBA, GoI (Since 2012-13)

- Technical Officers (2) at consolidated salary of Rs. 14,000/- + HRA on contract
- Assistant (F & A) on consolidated salary of Rs. 12,000/- + HRA on contract

With respect to enhancement of salaries, it is brought out as below:

- a) Salary of staff which is being paid at DC rates is enhanced as per Govt. orders for time to time. Accordingly, salary of Steno-typist-cum-Computer Operator and Driver has been enhanced from Rs.10,000/- & Rs.7,000/- respectively to Rs.14,829/- and Rs.10,609/-.

- b) The emoluments of Scientist were fixed in F.Y. 2008-09 at Rs. 20,000/- + HRA. These have not been enhanced since then, whereas the Department of Science & Technology, GOI vide their Office Memorandum (O.M) dated 21st October, 2014 has revised emoluments from Rs. 12,000/- and Rs. 16,000/- to Rs. 25,000/-+HRA and Rs. 28,000/- +HRA per month for JRF & SRF, respectively (**Annexure-VII, Pg. 58-60**). Since, the Scientist is already drawing Rs. 20,000/- + HRA, it is proposed that her salary be enhanced to atleast Rs. 28,000/- pm +HRA, to bring her at par (if not higher) with SRF.

Accordingly, the State budget needs to be increased for which the State Government will be approached and revised estimates will be submitted.

- c) It has further been brought to notice by Administration that DC rates are applicable in case of Assistant (Finance & Administration) also who was recruited @Rs.12,000/- pm +HRA and is presently being paid salary as per funds sanctioned by NBA. It is proposed that she may also be paid as per DC rates (i.e. Rs. 18,706/- consolidated) from the current F.Y. Accordingly, proposal has been submitted to NBA.

Board Members may kindly consider and approve.

It is also pertinent to inform that the State Govt. had sanctioned Rs. 9.50 lacs in the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 towards the staff salaries of PBB. However, only Rs. 4.50 lacs and Rs. 1.50 lacs were released by State Govt. against the sanction of Rs. 9.50 lacs during F.Y. 2013-14 and 2014-15, respectively. Therefore, shortfall in salaries of the PBB staff was met out of NBA projects on which the staff is working and funds are available under the Heads "Amount apportioned for SBB & Miscellaneous funds" under funds for PBR preparation and "Amount apportioned for constitution & training of BMCs" under BMC constitution project.

This is for information of Members, please.

Item No.7.3.6 Annual Report- 2013-14 & 2014-15 & Audited Statement of Accounts for 2013-14.

Under Section 33 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Annual Report and of Statement of Accounts of the Board are required to be placed before the Legislative Assembly.

Copies of Annual Reports for 2013-14 & draft report of 2014-15 are placed on table for perusal and approval of Board Members. Copy of the audited statement of accounts for the year 2013-14 is annexed at **Annexure-VIII, Pg. 61-62.**

For information and approval of the Members of PBB.

Item No.7.3.7 Approval of budget of PBB for the F.Y 2015-16.

Proposed budget of PBB for the F.Y. 2015-16 is as under:

(Rs. in Lacs)

Head	Expenditure during 2014-15	Proposed expenditure during 2015-16
Manpower	10.39	18.13
Administrative Expenditure		
• Printing & Stationery	1.17	1.50
• Vehicles (Running & Maintenance)	1.56	2.00
• Travel	0.44	1.00
• Other office expenses	0.67	1.00
Total	14.23	23.63

This is for approval of Members, please.

Item No.7.4 Agenda items for information

Item No. 7.4.1: Provision of funds by National Biodiversity Authority for various activities of Punjab Biodiversity Board

During the period of reporting, PBB received following funds for various activities from NBA:-

1.	Celebration of IB Day-2015	Rs. 5.00 lacs
2.	Preparation of 32 village level PBRs in districts (Pathankot, Gurdaspur & Hoshiarpur)	Rs.35.65 lacs
3.	Constitution of 22 Block level BMCs	Rs.18.80 lacs
	Total	Rs. 59.45 lacs

Further, the following proposals of PBB are under consideration of NBA:

- Peer to Peer Learning, Exchange Visits : Rs. 7,00,000/-
- Translation of Materials, Printing & Dissemination in Punjabi : Rs. 5,99,450/-
- Hiring of Manpower on outsource/contract basis : Rs.14,61,467/-

During the reporting period, the status of funds received from Govt. of Punjab is as under:

- Funds received from Govt. of Punjab under non plan budget : Rs.3.15 lacs
- Funds received from Govt. of Punjab for activities : Nil

This is for information of Members, please.

Item 7.4.2 Consultative meet of Northern Region State Biodiversity Boards

National Biodiversity Authority had prepared Guidelines for Setting up and operationalization of BMCs in March, 2013 with the help of an Expert Committee. After field experience of 2 years the NBA has reconstituted the Expert Committee to take up fresh feedback from the states, evaluate the feedback/inputs received from different stakeholders with regard to setting up and operationalization of BMCs and to suggest suitable amendments. The 1st meeting of the reconstituted Expert Committee on BMCs was held at Chennai on 23.04.2015 wherein, it was decided that to address regional issues especially w.r.t operationalization, ease of implementation and financial issues, region wise meetings of SBBs be conducted and revised Comprehensive Guidelines be brought out based on regional inputs. Punjab Biodiversity Board was directed to organize the Regional Meeting of Northern Region State Boards i.e. Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttrakhand, Rajasthan and Punjab, with financial support of NBA.

Accordingly, Consultative meet of Northern region was organized by PBB under the Chairmanship of Sh. K.A.P Sinha, Secretary, Department of Environment, Govt. of Punjab on 08.06.2015.

Smt. Gayathri Ramachandran, IAS (Retd.), Chairperson, NBA's Expert Committee on BMCs; Dr. Rakesh Shah, IFS, Chairman, Uttrakhand Biodiversity Board, Mr. P.K. Merkap, IFS, Chairman, Rajasthan Biodiversity Board and Dr. V. Arivudai Nambi, Member Convener, Expert Committee on BMC from Swaminathan Research Foundation participated in the Meet along with their teams. BMC members from each State were also invited to give their suggestions and feed back for strengthening the functioning of the BMCs.

Extensive discussions especially w.r.t streamlining the operational & financial aspects of BMCs were held. Based on the experience of SBBs / BMCs and deliberations during the meet, joint recommendations of Northern Region SBBs were brought out and submitted to NBA for consideration. PBBs initiative for developing common strategy to economise operations of BMCs was recognized as a "best practice" by the Chair.

This is for the information of members of PBB.

Item no. 7.4.3: Preparation of District Level & Village Level Peoples' Biodiversity Registers

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) had sanctioned Rs.26.45 lacs to Punjab Biodiversity Board for preparation of 11 district level and one village level PBRs. Out of 11 PBRs, 8 PBRs (i.e. Ludhiana, Bathinda, SBS Nagar, Hoshiarpur, Barnala and Amritsar, Gurdaspur & Roopnagar) are being prepared in collaboration with Expert Agencies namely Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore and World Wide Fund-India (WWF). Scientific staff of PBB has been participating in all phases of PBR preparation including field surveys for floral/faunal assessments and PRA exercises. Final Drafts of District level PBRs of Districts Roopnagar and Gurdaspur have been prepared and are placed on table for perusal of the members of the Board.

In addition to the PBRs being prepared through Expert Agencies, PBR preparation in district SAS Nagar and village Cholti Kheri are being undertaken by PBB with the support of District Biodiversity Management Committees. The baseline secondary data as well as detailed field surveys for collection of primary data and PRA exercises as per NBA Guidelines have been carried out. The first Draft of PBR of District SAS Nagar has also been prepared.

As informed, during the current financial year, NBA has sanctioned Rs. 35.65 Lacs for preparation of 32 Village level PBRs in Districts Pathankot (12), Gurdaspur (2) and Hoshiarpur (18). The PRA and Biodiversity Assessment Exercises have already been initiated in these villages.

This is for information of Members, please.

Item 7.4.4 District level Training & Capacity Building Programme for Line Departments/Stakeholders in collaboration with District Administration, Patiala

Punjab Biodiversity Board in collaboration with District Administration, Patiala organized a District level Training & Capacity Building Programme on Issues pertaining to the Biodiversity & implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in the State with special reference to District Patiala on 24th March, 2015 at Baradari Garden, Patiala. The programme was sponsored by National Biodiversity Authority, Govt. of India.

The major objective of the programme was to raise awareness and enhance the capacities of the Senior Officers of District Administration, Personnel of various relevant District level Departments, Academicians and Pro-active NGOs of District, Patiala w.r.t. to local biodiversity issues to facilitate implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002. More than 100 participants including Officers/Officials of District Administration, representatives from Departments of Forest & Wildlife, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, etc., Academicians and Pro-active NGOs attended the programme. Mr. Varun Roojam, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Patiala inaugurated the programme. Three Expert lectures were organized during the training programme.

An exhibition on the biodiversity of Punjab was also put up at the occasion.

This is for the information of members of PBB.

Item 7.4.5 Post-constitution joint training programmes for 32 Village level Biodiversity Management Committees

As brought out in agenda item no. 7.3.1, PBB had constituted 33 village level BMCs in Districts Pathankot (12), Gurdaspur (2), Hoshiarpur (18) and Fatehgarh Sahib (1). The post constitution training programme of 14 village BMCs of District Pathankot & Gurdaspur and 18 village BMCs of District Hoshiarpur were conducted on 22.03.2015 at Dhar and 10.04.2015 at Talwara, respectively. The BMC members were provided information on important aspects of Biological Diversity Act for management and documentation of bio-resources and associated traditional knowledge in the form of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and conservation of Biodiversity rich areas as Biodiversity Heritage Sites. Members were also informed about mechanism for sustainable utilization of bio-resources through regulation of access/collection of bio-resources by BMCs in their respective areas of jurisdiction and training on maintaining requisite record was provided. Guidelines issued by Govt. of India on Access & Benefit Sharing for ensuring equitable sharing of benefits arising out of commercial utilization of bio-resources and associated traditional Knowledge were also discussed with the BMC members.

The Startup funds of Rs. 10,000 were disbursed to all 32 village level BMCs. Requisite stationery comprising Letter Heads, Bio-resource & TK record register, cash receipt book was also distributed to BMCs for undertaking activities towards conservation of local biodiversity & sustainable utilization of bio-resources. Copies of the common stationery items are placed on table for information of the members. The activity has been appreciated by Chairperson, Expert Committee on Setting up & operationalization of BMCs in the Northern Region meeting held on 8.06.2015.

This is for the information of members of PBB.

Item 7.4.6 Celebration of International Biodiversity Day-2014 and IBD, 2015

International Biodiversity Day is celebrated each year on 22nd May. Punjab Biodiversity Board celebrated IBD, 2014 and IBD, 2015 throughout the State. The National Biodiversity Authority, Govt. of India sanctioned Rs. 5.00 lacs each for celebration of IBD, 2014 and 2015. The details are as under:

- **IBD, 2014:** The theme of IBD, 2014 was "Island Biodiversity". In all, 20 programmes (seminars, workshops, exhibitions, competitions, field visits, etc.) were organized by the Board to celebrate the event throughout the week all across the state in collaboration with five Universities, Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala, Education Department, District Administrations, two Biodiversity Management Committees, six Pro-active NGOs, one College of Pharmacy and Schools. Around 2,500 participants constituting students, teachers, Govt. Officers, BMC/TSG members and general public participated in the programmes
- **IBD, 2015:** The theme of year 2015 IBD was "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development". In all, twenty four (24) programmes were conducted throughout the State in collaboration with Academic Institutions (Universities, Colleges and Schools), Non Governmental Organizations and Village BMCs. The target participants were Officers of District/Block level relevant Govt. Departments, Teachers, Students and General Public. A State level function was organized at Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala by involving District/Village BMC members, Govt. Departments, School, etc. Around 2,750 participants including students, teachers, Govt. Officers, BMC/TSG members and general public participated in the programmes.

The detailed reports of celebrations of IBD, 2014 and IBD, 2015 are placed on table for perusal of members of the Board.

This is for the information of members of PBB

Item 7.4.7 Setting up of 3 Exhibitions at Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala

The following exhibitions were set up during various events at PGSC, Kapurthala

- Exhibition on “Wetland Biodiversity & Conservation” on 10th September, 2014
- Exhibition on “Domesticated Biodiversity” during Dog Show on 18th January, 2015
- Exhibition on “Floral Diversity” during ‘Flower Show on 22nd March, 2015

This is for the information of members of PBB.

Item 7.4.8 Nomination of Member Secretary, Punjab Biodiversity Board as a member of NBA Re-constituted Expert Committee on Biodiversity Management Committees.

Member Secretary, PBB has been nominated/re-nominated as a member of the following Expert Committees constituted by Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change and National Biodiversity Authority, Govt. of India:

- MoEF & CC, GoI Technical Advisory Group for “Biodiversity Finance Initiative in India (BIOFIN) Project” by UNDP.
- NBA, GoI Expert Committee on “Normally Traded Commodities (NTC)”
- NBA, GoI Task Force for preparation of “Guidelines for operationalization of BMCs”
- Special invitee in Committee for Guidelines for Implementation of ABS Mechanism.
- Special invitee in Committee for Biodiversity Museum proposed to be set up in Hyderabad.

This is for the information of members of PBB.

Item 7.4.9 Participation in Trainings, Seminars & Conferences

MS/PBB participated in:

- Special meeting of State Biodiversity Boards to discuss the revised draft guidelines on Access Benefit Sharing and implementation of BD Act at New Delhi on 13.05.2014.
- Meeting on Normally Traded Commodities organized by NBA at Chennai on 26-27, May, 2014.
- ABS meeting held at New Delhi on 13.05.14
- Attended 9th Meeting of Expert Committee constituted on Normally Traded Commodities at New Delhi on 16.03.2015
- Two days Conference of Environment & Forest Ministers on issues related to Biodiversity and Climate Change held on 6th and 7th April, 2015 at New Delhi.
- Tenth meeting of the Expert Committee on Normally Traded Commodities (NTC) at Bangalore on 11.06.2015
- Meeting of Committee for Biodiversity Museum held on 19.11.2014 at New Delhi

Item No.7.5: Any other item with the permission of Chairman

PUNJAB BIODIVERSITY BOARD

Sub: Minutes of the 6th meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board held under the chairpersonship of Mrs. Seema Jain, IAS, Secretary, Deptt. of Science, Technology & Environment, Govt. of Punjab on 22.05.2014 at 12.30 PM in the O/o Punjab State Council for Science & Technology.

Present: List of attendees at **Annexure-I.**

The 6th Meeting of the Punjab Biodiversity Board (PBB) was held at the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity, 2014 i.e. 22nd May, 2014.

Welcoming the Chairperson and Members of Board, 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 various important sections of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and informed about the role of the Punjab Biodiversity Board u/s 7 and s/23 of the Act.

The following agenda items were discussed and decisions taken:-

Item No. 6.1: Confirmation of Minutes of 5th Meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board held on 24/10/2011.

Confirmed.

Item No. 6.2: Follow up action on the Minutes of the 5th Meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board held on 24/10/2011.

Noted. Chairperson desired that State Biodiversity Rules be finalized in consultation with NBA at the earliest and put up to Government for notification to enable effective implementation of various provisions of the Act in the state of Punjab.

Item No.6.3.1: Capacity Building of District level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and Technical Supporting Groups (TSGs) & preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).

The Board members were informed that the district level BMCs and TSGs have been constituted in all 22 districts of the state in addition to 33 village level BMCs in

biodiversity rich areas of the state. Twenty training programmes of district level BMCs & TSGs had been conducted and 1st draft of 8 district level PBRs had been prepared. The drafts were placed on table for perusal. Members appreciated the efforts of PBB and ratified the preparation of PBRs through expert agencies, i.e WWF-India and FRLHT.

The physical and financial progress of District BMCs was noted. Members were informed that office of the Chairman BMC, Ldh. (ADC, Ludhiana) had informed that Rs.10,000/- out of Rs.60,000/- released to the BMC had been fraudently withdrawn by an employee of Zila Parishad Office against which District Administration had already registered an FIR.

Further, the employee had since expired. However, the District Administration has informed that the matter is under investigation. Further, BMC, Ludhiana had refunded Rs.40,000/- and was in process of refunding the balance of Rs.10,000/- out of total Rs.60,000/- released.

Members noted the fraud and advised that the refunded amount should be ploughed back into BMC activities of the district by first identifying a specific activity and then advising the BMC to get it expedited or getting the same done through an alternate agency. For other districts also chairperson desired that Physical Progress Report and UCs be obtained and status be put up on file or presented in the next meeting.

Chairperson also advised to prepare a proposal for setting up a Biodiversity Gallery at Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala.

Item No.6.3.2: Strengthening of PBB and Restructuring.

MS informed that the present staff strength of PBB was meager as compared to Biodiversity Boards in many other states and regular staff was required to make the Board functional for which a proposal for 9 regular posts in scale with an annual budget of Rs.40.00 lacs had been prepared. The same was approved.

Annual increment of 3% to PBB staff subject to 'Very Good ACR' was also approved.

Item No.6.3.3: Provision of Office space for Punjab Biodiversity Board.

Discussed. Chairperson advised that a proposal for hiring of office space (minimum 600sq. ft.) for PBB in the MGSIPA Complex be submitted. Subsequently, a larger permanent office space could be provided in the prospective building of PBTI which is to be constructed in Knowledge City, Mohali as the State Govt. had already provided free of cost land and would provide funds for its construction to PBTI.

Item No.6.3.4: Project Proposal on “Biodiversity Resource Centre on Wheels”.

Noted. It was decided that a proposal for availing partial grant from the State Govt. be prepared and put up to AD for onward submission to Deptt. of Planning & Finance.

Item No.6.3.5: Proposal on declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Site: Inami Baag and preparation of collaborative research project with PAU Ludhiana on “Establishment of gene bank at Fruit Research Centre at Gangian” for DST funding.

Noted. Mr. Parveen Kumar, Conservator of Forests suggested that the Board may also focus on identification and conservation of other biodiversity rich areas and sacred groves of the state. He ensured full cooperation from the Forest Deptt. in this regard.

Item No.6.3.6: Proposal for declaration of State Flower.

It was decided that State Flower be identified after consultation with expert agencies/institutions. Board would invite suggestions from BSI and Universities of the state in this regard.

Item No.6.3.7: Annual Report (2011-12 & 2012-13) and Statement of Accounts for (2011-12 & 2012-13).

Noted. The appointment of auditor for financial year 2012-13 was ratified.

Item No.6.3.8: Appointment of Auditor for Punjab Biodiversity Board.

Approved as proposed for further period of three years w.e.f 2014-15.

Item No.6.3.9: Approval for expenditure of PBB for the F.Y 2014-15.

Approved.

Item 6.4.1 Provision of funds by National Biodiversity Authority for various activities of Punjab Biodiversity Board.

The Board members observed that whereas the Board could garner considerable financial support from NBA for its activities as well as some funds for additional staff, the state support was meager and needed to be enhanced. The efforts of the Board for obtaining approx. Rs.1.05 Crores from NBA since the previous meeting was appreciated.

Item 6.4.2: Organization of joint Exhibition of MoEF, NBA and SBBs on behalf of MoEF, NBA during COP-11 to CBD held at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) from 1st Oct.2012 to 19th Oct. 2012.

Appreciated.

Item 6.4.3: Launch of PBB website.

Noted.

Item 6.4.4: Organization of Biodiversity Festival, 2012.

Appreciated.

Item 6.4.5: Translation and Printing of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 & Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 in Punjabi.

Noted.

Item 6.4.6: Celebration of International Biodiversity Day-2012 and 2013.

Noted. Members were also informed about the activities being taken up by PBB for celebration of IBD-2014 in the State.

Item 6.4.7: Visit of Science Express: Biodiversity Special to Chandigarh & Punjab.

Appreciated.

Item 6.4.8: Nomination of Member Secretary, Punjab Biodiversity Board as a member of NBA Expert Committee on Normally Traded Commodities.

Noted.

Item 6.4.9: Biodiversity Outreach Programmes.

Appreciated.

Item 6.4.10: Participation in Trainings, Seminars & Conferences.

Noted.

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

List of Attendees

1. Shri. T.S. Dhaliwal, IAS,
Special Secretary,
Deptt. of Science, Technology & Environment,
Govt. of Punjab
2. Shri. Daljeet Singh, PCS,
Special Secretary,
Deptt. of Agriculture,
Govt. of Punjab
3. Dr. (Mrs.) Neelima Jerath,
Member Secretary, Punjab Biodiversity Board &
Executive Director, PSCST.
4. Shri. Parveen Kumar, IFS,
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Deptt. of Forests & Wildlife Preservation,
Govt. of Punjab.
5. Shri. N.P. Thamman,
Deputy Director,
Deptt. of Animal Husbandry,
Govt. of Punjab
6. Dr. Anjana Pant,
Associate Director,
WWF-India,
New Delhi
7. Sh. Gurharminder Singh
Senior Scientific Officer,
Punjab State Council for Science & Technology
8. Ms. Rupali Bal,
Scientist,
Punjab Biodiversity Board

Annexure –II

Follow up action on the Minutes of the 6th meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board held on 22.05.2014

Item No.	Name of the Item	Decision taken	Action taken
3.1	Capacity Building of District level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and Technical Supporting Groups (TSGs) & preparation of People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMC funds refunded by District Administration, Ludhiana be utilized in the District Ludhiana by undertaking biodiversity related activities • Board to present the status on UCs received from District Administrations in the next meeting. • Formulation of project proposals for setting up biomes gallery at PGSC, Kapurthala 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matter has been taken up with District Administration and activities identified. The funds to be utilized by conducting District level Training programme on biodiversity conservation and Biological Diversity Act, 2002. • The complete UCs have been received from 10 Districts and 2 Districts have submitted UCs of partial amounts. The matter is being regularly followed up through repeated reminders to remaining Districts. • The said project proposal has been prepared and submitted to National Biodiversity Authority, Govt. of India for funding by PGSC.
3.2	Strengthening of PBB and Restructuring	Approved	Proposal for sanctioning of 9 regular posts in scale has been submitted to Govt. of Punjab. The case is under consideration of FD.
3.3	Provision of Office space for Punjab Biodiversity Board	Noted. PBB was advised to submit proposal for hiring office space in MGSIPA, Complex and a permanent office space could be provided to	The matter w.r.t provision of office space of 600 sq.ft. for PBB was taken up twice with DG, MGSIPA. It is learnt that the case was filed by MGSIPA. The matter w.r.t. permanent office space of

		PBB in PBTI building to be constructed in Knowledge city, Mohali	PBB at Knowledge City, Mohali has been initiated.
3.4	Project Proposal on “Biodiversity Resource Centre on Wheels”.	Noted. PBB to submit a proposal for availing partial grant to Govt. of Punjab	The proposal earlier submitted to NBA was not processed in light of Central Govt. circular for austerity measures w.r.t. purchase of vehicles. Therefore, the matter for availing partial grant from GoP was not pursued.
3.5	Proposal on declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Site: Inami Baag and preparation of collaborative research project with PAU Ludhiana on “Establishment of gene bank at Fruit Research Centre at Gangian” for DST funding.	Noted. PBB to identify other biodiversity rich areas and sacred groves of the state.	PBB has identified following biodiversity rich sites/scared groves during PRA and conducted Biodiversity Assessment Exercises for preparation of District level PBRs: 1. Sacred Grove at village Tibba Taprian, District Roopnagar 2. Sacred Grove at village Kartoli, District Hoshiarpur Preliminary biodiversity assessment has already been made for documentation of local flora & fauna.
3.6	Proposal for declaration of State Flower	Noted. Board to invite suggestions from BSI, Universities and Experts	Put up as separate item no.7.3.4
3.7	Annual Report (2011-12 & 2012-13) and Statement of Accounts for (2011-12 & 2012-13)	Approved.	No action required
3.8	Appointment of Auditor for Punjab Biodiversity Board	Approved	No action required
3.9	Approval for expenditure of PBB for the F.Y 2014-15	Approved	No action required
4.1	Provision of funds by National Biodiversity	Noted	No action required

	Authority for various activities of Punjab Biodiversity Board.		
4.2	Organization of joint Exhibition of MoEF, NBA and SBBs on behalf of MoEF, NBA during COP-11 to CBD held at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) from 1st Oct.2012 to 19th Oct. 2012	Appreciated	No action required
4.3	Launch of PBB website	Noted	No action required
4.4	Organization of Biodiversity Festival, 2012.	Appreciated	No action required
4.5	Translation and Printing of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 & Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 in Punjabi.	Noted	No action required
4.6	Celebration of International Biodiversity Day- 2012 and 2013	Noted	No action required
4.7	Visit of Science Express: Biodiversity Special to Chandigarh & Punjab	Appreciated	No action required
4.8	Nomination of Member Secretary, Punjab Biodiversity Board as a member of NBA Expert Committee on Normally Traded Commodities	Noted	No action required

4.9	Biodiversity Outreach Programmes	Appreciated	No action required
4.10	Participation in Trainings, Seminars & Conferences	Noted	No action required

Annexure-III

Details of Village level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

Sr. No.	Name of Vilalge	Date of BMC Constitution	Name of Chairman/ Contact No.	Name of Secretary / Contact No.	Detail of Bank/ Account No
District Pathankot					
1.	Kakruhi, Block Dhar Kalan,	24.01.2015	Sh. Rishi Pathania 89681-23999	Sh. Yousaf 98885-26075	Punjab National Bank, Harial (Gurdaspur) A/C- 1179000102045251
2	Shahpur Kandi, Block Dhar Kalan,	19.01.2015	Sh. Surinder Kumar 99140-43727	Sh. Surjit Singh 94172-22021	Punjab National Bank, Shahpur Kandi(Gurdaspur) A/C- 3106000100347667
3	Dukhniala, Block Dhar Kalan	08.02.2015	Sh. Sunil Dhiman 94657-52124	Sh. Hardeep Singh 99886-07717	State Bank of India, Dunera (Pathankot) A/C- 34792866203
4	Dhar, Block Dhar Kalan,	07.02.2015	Sh. Tarsem Singh 75891-11824	Sh. Surjit Singh 94172-22021	State Bank of India, Dhar Kalan (Pathankot) A/C- 34764263550
5	Chhatwal, Block Dhar Kalan	07.02.2015	Sh. Ragnath Singh 99886-60529	Sh. Yousaf 98885-26075	Punjab National Bank, Harial,(Gurdaspur) A/C- 1179000102045127
6	BMC Village Dalla,, Block Dhar Kalan,	19.01.2015	Sh. Waryam Singh 94172-80072	Sh. Surjit Singh 94172-	State Bank of India, Dhar Kalan (Pathankot)

				22021	A/C- 34799705168
7	Durangkhad, Block Dhar kalan,	15.01.2015	Sh. Jasbeer Singh 94172-85493	Sh. Surjit Singh 94172- 22021	State Bank of India.Dhar Kalan, (Pathankot) A/C- 34760672066
8	Chakkar, Block Dhar Kalan,	24.01.2015	Sh. Gandharv Singh 99887-87976	Sh. Jasbir Singh 94174- 11672	Punjab National Bank, Harial, (Gurdaspur) A/C- 1179000102045136
9	Karoli, Block Dhar Kalan,	15.01.2015	Sh. Suram Singh 95305-33788	Sh. Surjit Singh 94172- 22021	State Bank Of India, Mammon (Pathankot) A/C- 34763445554
10	Lehroon, Block Dhar Kalan,	31.01.2015	Sh. Shiv Kumar 94658-60637	Sh. Jasbir Singh 94174- 11672	State Bank of India, Dunera, (Pathankot) A/C- 34792788915
11	Garal, Block Dhar Kalan,	31.01.2015	Sh. Arjun Singh 098168- 86624	Sh. Jasbir Singh 94174- 11672	State Bank of India, Dunera,(Pathankot) A/C- 34792841187
12	Bhanguri, Block Dhar Kalan,	08.02.2015	Sh. Capt. Jagdev Singh 94640-69105	Sh. Jasbir Singh 94174- 11672	State Bank of India, Dunera, (Pathankot) A/C- 34805088195
District Gurdaspur					
13	Maggar Mudian, Block Dorangla	02.02.2015	Sh. Baljit Singh 99145-08507	Sh. Sukhdev Singh 98149- 46031	State Bank of Patiala A/C- 65228468739
14	Keshopur, Miani, Block Dalla	02.02.2015	Sh. Sucha Singh 94785-96440	Sh. Sukhwind er Singh	State Bank of Patiala A/C- 65227550668
District Fatehgarh Sahib					
15	Cholti Kheri, Block Khera	02.01.2015	Sh. Gurvinder Singh 97818-00347	Sh. Jaswinder Singh 98881- 73078	Cooperative Bank A/C- 060834003100003
District Hoshiarpur					
1.	Kartoli, Block Talwara,	18.02.2015	Sh. Sanjiv Kumar 98769-68044	Sh. Anil Kumar 94638-	Punjab National Bank, Ramgarh Sikri (Hosh.)

				80000	A/C- 7715000100014662
2	Ramgarh Sikri, Block Talwara	18.02.2015	Sh. Kuldip Kumar 94636-76002	Sh. Anil Kumar 94638-80000	Punjab National Bank, Ramgarh Sikri (Hosh.) A/C- 7715000100014617
3	Bisso Chak, Block Dasuya	20.02.2015	Sh. Nand Lal 94636-93407	Sh. Satpal Singh 94172-58396	Punjab Gramin Bank, Passi Kandi (Hosh.) A/C- 85790100094470
4	Sansaarpur, Block Dasuya,	20.02.2015	Sh. Balwinder Singh 88729-49124	Sh. Surti Ram 82890-27278	Punjab Gramin Bank, Sansaarpur, Makowal A/C- 85820100265555 IFSC- PUNB0PGB003
5	Bhatoli, Block Dasuya	20.02.2015	Sh. Sarabjit Singh 94656-66873	Sh. Satpal Singh 94172-58396	Punjab Gramin Bank, Passi Kandi (Hosh.) A/C- 85790100094461
6	Ghagwal, Block Hajipur	23.02.2015	Sh. Ramesh Kumar 75894-46302	Sh. Gulshan Masih 88727-81700	Cooperative Bank, Hajipur, (Hosh.) A/C- 082834003100028
7	Swar, Block Hajipur	23.02.2015	Sh. Rashpal Singh 94631- 56498	Sh. Gulshan Masih 88727-81700	Cooperative Bank, Hajipur (Hosh.) A/C- 0828340003100027
8	Chamuhi, Block Talwara	26.02.2015	Sh. Sukhdev Singh 94786-92791	Sh. Madan Lal 94785-27469	Cooperative Bank, Beh Nangal (Hosh.) A/C- 080834003100037
9	Heer Beh, Block Talwara	26.02.2015	Sh. Satish Kumar 94177-14519	Sh. Madan Lal 94785-27469	Cooperative Bank, Beh Nangal (Hosh.) A/C- 080834003100039
10	Bassi Umar Khan, Block Bhunga	27.02.2015	Sh. Balwan Singh Rana 98781-45106	Sh. Gulshan Kumar 81462-81149	State Bank of Patiala, Hariana (Hosh.) A/C- 65228835439
11	Atwarapur, Block Bhunga	27.02.2015	Sh. Mohan Singh	Sh. Jatinder	Punjab National Bank, Janauri

			94646-16469	Singh 98782- 26731	(Hosh.) A/C- 1190000107166969
12	Bhavnour, Block Talwara	02.03.2015	Sh. Sham Singh 95016-89334	Sh. Sulinder Singh 01883- 232136	Punjab National Bank, Ramgarh Sikri (Hosh.) A/C- 7715000100014644
13	Bhambotaar, Block Talwara	02.03.2015	Sh. Tarsem Singh 89682-67477	Sh. Sulinder Singh 01883- 232136	Punjab Gramin Bank, Bringli (Hosh.) A/C- 85680100098504
14	Rehru Patti, Block Talwara	09.03.2015	Sh. Prem Kumar 97798-48504	Sh. Anil Kumar 94638- 80000	Cooperative Bank, Beh Nangal, (Hosh.) A/C- 080834003100036
15	Beh Chuhar, Block Talwara	09.03.2015	Sh. Nirmal Singh 94640-57244	Sh. Anil Kumar 94638- 80000	Cooperative Bank, Beh Nangal (Hosh.) A/C- 080834003100038
16	Charera, Block Talwara	09.03.2015	Sh. Ashwani Kumar 94177-48499	Sh. Sulinder Singh 01883- 232136	Punjab National Bank, Ramgarh Sikri (Hosh.) A/C- 7715000100014653
17	Repur, Block Talwara	16.03.2015	Sh. Jagdeep Singh 94650-65264	Sh. Ranjit Singh 94658- 58622	Cooperative Bank, Datarpur (Hosh.) A/C- 082034003100037
18	Namoli Haar, Block Talwara	16.03.2015	Sh. Satish Kumar 94632-47674	Sh. Madan Lal 94785- 27469	Cooperative Bank, Talwara (Hosh.) A/C- 086034003100020

Comments with regard to declaration of State Flower of Punjab

Sr. No.	Name/Organization	Letter no./Date	Recommended Species	Rationale
1.	Dr. (Mrs.) S.K. Thind Prof. Cum Head Department of Botany, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	1963/23.09.14	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> Kachnar or <i>Delonix regia*</i> Gulmohr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common throughout Punjab • Buds used as vegetable • Endangered in wild • Cultivated widely
2.	Dr. R.I.S. Gill Sr. Scientist cum Head Department of Forestry & Natural Resources Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	4593/29.09.14	<i>Tecomella undulata</i> Roheda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered • Medicinal properties • Preferred by birds for nesting • Soil binder
3.	Dr. Satwinderjeet Kaur Head Department of Botanical and Environmental Sciences, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	881/24.09.14	<i>Delonix regia*</i> Gulmohr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districted throughout Punjab • Evergreen and planted as an avenue tree along road sides and educational institutions • Soothing beautiful flowers
4.	Dr. M.I.S. Saggioo Head, Department of Botany Punjabi University, Patiala	1749/bot/18.09.14	<i>Casia fistula</i> Amaltas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in wild as well as cultivated • Mentioned in number of Punjabi poems and songs • Dominate other trees when blooms
5.	Dr. M. Sharma Retd. Professor-cum- Head Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala H.No. 4051, Urban Estate, Phase-II, Patiala	Email dated 15.09.14	<i>Tecomella undulate</i> Roheda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native tree of India (Punjab) • Endangered and needs protection
6.	Dr. Paramjit Singh Director Botanical Survey of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests,	BSI/D-PA/710 07.10.14	<i>Tecomella undulate</i> (Sm.) Roheda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened because of over exploitation & loss of habitat • Good quality timber • Source of natural saffron colour dye

	Govt. of India			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicinal properties• Economic potential
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*Dr. M. Sharma suggested to discard *Delonix regia* as its original home is Madagascar and is not a native tree of Punjab.

