

Punjab Biodiversity Board

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 in Ludhiana district 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