

## **Punjab Biodiversity Board**

**Sub: Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board held under the chairmanship of S. Parkash Singh Badal, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab on 29.09.2015 at 10.30 AM in the CM Office, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Sector-1, Chandigarh**

Present: List of Attendees at **Annexure-I**

Welcoming the Chairman and Members of the Board, Dr. G. Vajralingam, IAS, Principal Secretary, Science, Technology & Environment, Govt. of Punjab apprised the house about the major mandate and important activities being carried out by the Board for implementation of Biological Diversity Act (BDA), 2002 in the State.

The following agenda items were discussed and decisions taken:

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

Confirmed

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

Noted. Principal Secretary, Science, Technology & Environment informed that the draft State Biodiversity Rules have been prepared in consultation with National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Govt. of India and Legal Remembrancer, Punjab. He further informed that the Rules will be notified by the State Govt. after obtaining the approval of State Legislature in its forthcoming session.

**Item No. 7.3: Constitution and operationalization of 33 village level Biodiversity Management Committees**

The Board members were apprised that district level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) have been constituted in all 22 districts of the state. Besides this, 33 village level BMCs have also been constituted as per NBA approved Guidelines in Districts Hoshiarpur (18), Pathankot (12), Gurdaspur (2) and Fategarh Sahib (1).

The Board members ratified the constitution of 33 village level BMCs and approved the parking of Rs.9,13,815/- available under infrastructure and stationery Head of NBA sanctioned BMCs funds in a separate account for future use of BMCs, as and when required.

**Item No.7.4: Issuance of public and individual notices to biological resource based industries on important provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Guidelines on Access & Benefit Sharing, 2014.**

The Board members were informed that Board is required to initiate action for implementation Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS) Guidelines, 2014 notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India. Principal Secretary, STE apprised the members about the various industries which come under the purview of the aforesaid guidelines. He informed that the financial benefit to be accrued by the Board through implementation of the ABS Guidelines would be ploughed back to concerned areas for various biodiversity conservation activities through respective BMCs/District Administrations.

Issuance of public & individual notices to bio resource based industries for implementation of ABS Guidelines was approved.

**Item No.7.5: Declaration of potential Biodiversity Rich Sites as Biodiversity Heritage Sites u/s 37 of BDA, 2002**

Discussed. Principal Secretary, STE proposed that some of the biodiversity rich sites identified by the Board need to be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Sites u/s 37 of the BDA, 2002. These sites include Kayakalp Vriksh, the Banyan tree spread over more than 3 acre area in village Cholti Kheri, District Fatehgarh Sahib and Inami Baag inhabiting 29 native mango varieties, at village Bassi Umar Khan, District Hoshiarpur. Hon'ble Chief Minister advised that for conservation of these sites, detailed action plan be prepared in consultation with District Administration. He also advised that steps be initiated with active participation of the local population for conservation of other biodiversity rich pockets identified by the Board in villages Tibba Taparian, District Ropar and Kartoli, District Hoshiarpur.

The Chief Minister also advised the Board and Department of Forests to jointly prepare action plan for conservation of all the tree species of Punjab at a centralized location/ suitable sites in various agro-ecological zones of the State. Mr. Vishwajeet Khanna, IAS, Financial Commissioner (Forests) stated that Department of Forests & Wildlife Preservation, Govt. of Punjab will actively collaborate with Board in preparation and implementation of proposed action plan. It was also decided that suitable forests land will be identified by Forest Department for utilization for conservation of tree species.

**Item No. 7.6 : Proposal for declaration of State Flower**

The matter was deliberated in detail. It was decided that *Cassia Fistula* (Amaltas) be considered for declaration of State Flower due to its wider availability

throughout the state as compared to *Tecomella undulata* (Roheda), which is mostly confined to South Western Punjab. However, as suggested by Sh. S.K. Sandhu, IAS, Principal Secretary to Hon'ble CM, it was decided that the more information be gathered by the Board on the botanical validity of considering flowers of only tree species for declaration of State flower, before pursuing the matter further.

**Item No.7.7: Revision of Emoluments of PBB Staff**

Discussed. Proposed enhancement approved prospectively, subject to availability of funds.

**Item No.7.8: Annual Report & Audited Statement of Accounts for 2013-14 and 2014-15.**

Approved.

**Item No.7.9: Approval of budget of PBB for the F.Y 2015-16.**

Approved.

**Item No. 7.10: Provision of funds by National Biodiversity Authority for various activities of Punjab Biodiversity Board**

Noted.

**Item No. 7.11: Other activities undertaken/to be undertaken by Board**

Noted. In view of the importance of activities of the Board, it was decided that an Executive Committee of Board be formed under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Science Technology & Environment to review its activities on quarterly basis.

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

**List of Attendees**

1. Dr. G. Vajralingam, IAS,  
Principal Secretary,  
Deptt. of Science Technology & Environment,  
Govt. of Punjab
2. Sh. S.K. Sandhu, IAS,  
Principal Secretary to Hon'ble CM
3. Sh. Viswajeet Khanna, IAS,  
Financial Commissioner (Forests),  
Deptt. of Forests & Wildlife Preservation, Govt. of Punjab
4. Dr. S.K.Raju, IAS,  
Special Principal Secretary to Hon'ble CM
5. Dr. G.S. Kalkat  
Chairman,  
Punjab State Farmers Commission, Mohali
6. Dr. A.S. Nanda  
Vice Chancellor,  
Guru Angad Dev Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana
7. Dr. H.S. Sandha  
Director,  
Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Punjab
8. Mr. Surindra Kumar  
Director,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
Regional Office, Chandigarh
9. Dr. J.K. Arora  
Executive Director,  
Punjab State Council for Science & Technology (PSCST)
10. Dr. S.S.Ladhar  
Additional Director(Env), PSCST
11. Sh. Gurharminder Singh  
Senior Scientific Officer (Env.), PSCST
12. Ms. Gitanjali Kanwar  
Senior Project Officer,  
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-India), New Delhi