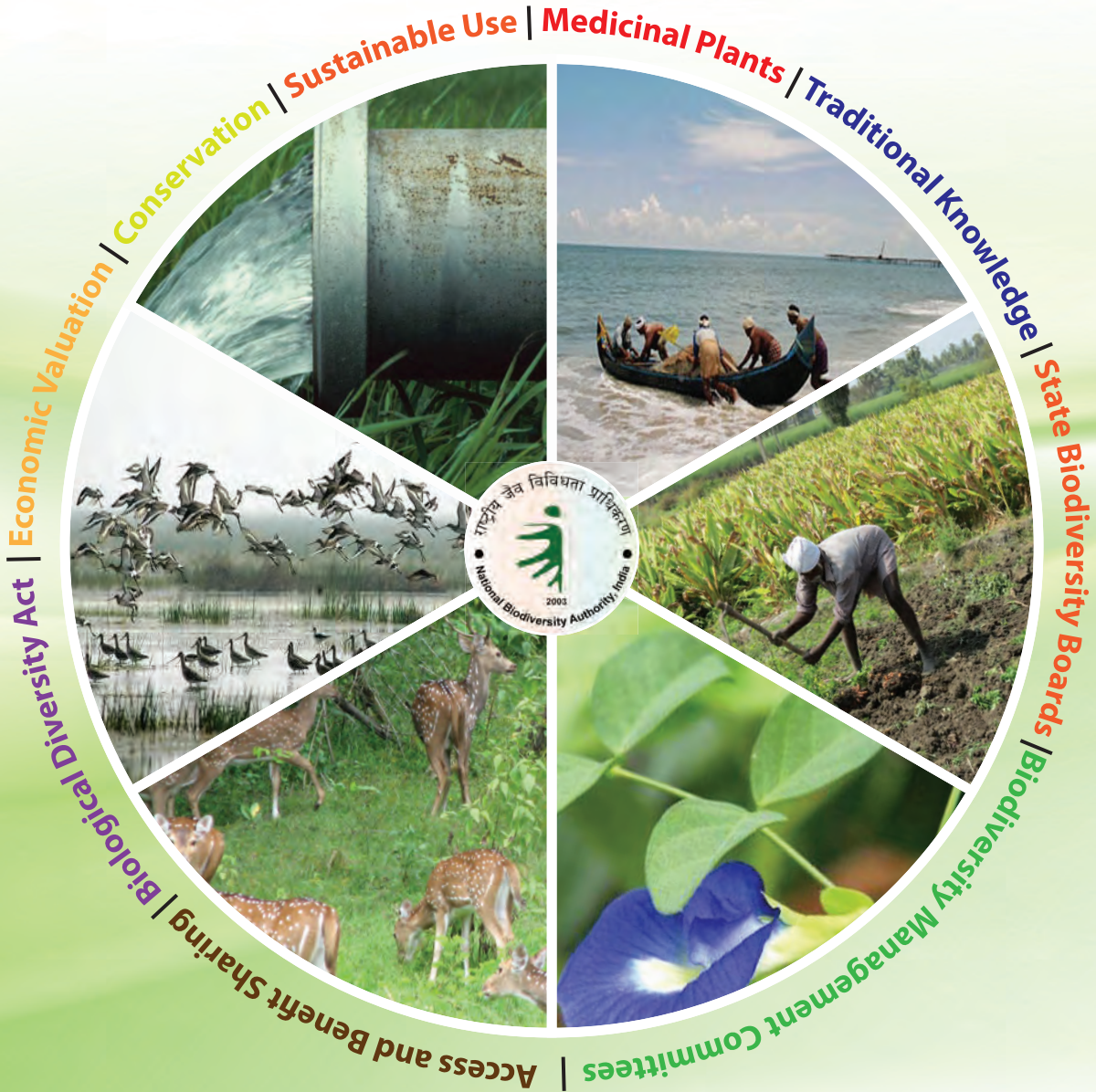




National Biodiversity Authority

(An Autonomous and Statutory body under the Ministry of Environment,
Forests and Climate Change, Government of India)



Annual Report
2012 - 13

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ANNUAL REPORT

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NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

(An Autonomous and Statutory body under the Ministry of Environment,
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5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani,
Chennai - 600 113





Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati
Chairman,
National Biodiversity Authority,
Chennai



Foreword

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. India is one of the megabiodiverse countries in the world harbouring significant biological wealth and associated traditional knowledge.

The Government of India has enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to fulfill its obligations as a contracting party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Act mandates implementation through a decentralized system with the National Biodiversity Authority at national level, the State Biodiversity Boards at State level and Biodiversity Management Committees at local body level.

The year 2012-13 was an eventful year in the history of NBA with significant spread of strategic actions and depth of initiatives to implement the Act. The networks and partnerships established by NBA now will be a step forward in realizing the objectives of the Act.

I am thankful to the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Hon'ble Members of the Authority, for their efforts to achieve the objectives of the Act and mandate of the National Biodiversity Authority.

I wish to place on record my appreciation to the officers and staff of the NBA and all those who have contributed in bringing out this Annual report. I hope that the publication will provide a glimpse of the activities carried out during the year 2012-13.

Balakrishna Pisupati,
Chairman, NBA





C. Achalender Reddy, IFS.,
Secretary,
National Biodiversity Authority,
Chennai



Acknowledgement

Annual report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the year 2012-13 compiled as per the provisions of Section 28 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 reflects the activities carried out by the NBA besides giving glimpse of the achievements in the implementation of the Act. I Sincerely thank the Chairman, NBA for his valuable advice and continued motivation in all our endeavours without which we could not have achieved the set goals in an effective manner.

I express my deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the continued guidance, support and assistance extended in effective implementation of the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

I am pleased to convey my sincere thanks to the Members of the Authority and Expert Committees for having offered invaluable assistance, support and guidance in furthering the activities of the Secretariat of the NBA.

I acknowledge with gratitude the complementary role of the Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of the State Biodiversity Boards in compiling this report. I also thank the Principal Director of Audit (Scientific Audit) for having furnished the Audit Certificate in time.

I wholeheartedly appreciate the efforts of all the officers and staff of the NBA Secretariat in bringing out this report.

C. Achalender Reddy,
Secretary, NBA

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1. Executive Summary

Biological Diversity or biodiversity is the most important asset for human survival and national development. The rate at which we are losing this treasure is alarming. After long years of debates and negotiations, countries around the world adopted the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992 during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) with active participation from countries including India.

The CBD, for the first time recognized the sovereign rights of the nations over their biological resources and emphasized that access to genetic resources should be only for environmentally sound purposes and subject to national legislations. India is one of the mega biodiversity countries and is also the signatory to the CBD. In response to fulfill its obligations under the CBD and to deal with the management of country's biological resources, Government of India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 and notified Biological Diversity Rules in 2004. India was one of the first few countries to have enacted such legislation.

India's contribution to the CBD debates has been exhaustive and significant in ensuring that for the first time, we have an international multilateral environmental agreement (MEA)

and a corresponding national legal framework that calls for ethics and equity in sharing the benefits of our biological heritage in a fair manner that recognises the contributions of local and indigenous people at various levels, besides providing a charter to conserve and manage our bioresources.

This Act provides for conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated knowledge. The Act is implemented through a three-tiered institutional structure, with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the national level, the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) at state level and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) functioning at local level. NBA provides technical guidance and financial assistance to the SBBs and the BMCs to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of BD Act.

An international event, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity was hosted by India from 8-19 October 2012 in Hyderabad. The conference was attended by more than 5000 delegates from 180 countries. Enrolment of about 14,400 participants in the convention

made it the largest biodiversity gathering of its time. The Ministerial segment of this event was inaugurated by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, who announced India's ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and committed \$50 million (over Rs. 264 crores) as 'Hyderabad Pledge' for strengthening the institutional mechanism for biodiversity conservation in India and in developing countries.

During the year under review, the Authority met thrice and took important decisions, besides approving applications processed by the NBA Secretariat and evaluated by the EC on ABS. The Authority also deliberated and provided inputs for further action by the Secretariat, on the reports submitted by various Expert Committees constituted for different purposes such as, for developing BMC Guidelines, on Training Module, on Medicinal Plants, on Normally Traded Commodities and for development of Guidelines for dealing with offences under the Act.

During the year, the Secretariat received 99 ABS applications, of which 16 have been approved and agreements signed and around Rs. 1.10 lakhs has been realised as benefit sharing component from the applicants. The process of formulation of ABS Guidelines also took shape. Further to the ratification of Nagoya Protocol by India in October 2012, the draft ABS guidelines were fine-tuned to adhere to the provisions of the Protocol and the draft was circulated to all the State Biodiversity Boards to elicit their comments.

The SBBs have been established in all the 28 States and BMCs have been set up in 23 States. So far 31,574 BMCs have been constituted and

1,314 PBRs have been prepared, documenting information on biological resource and associated traditional knowledge. The Mizoram State Government has notified the Mizoram State Biological Diversity Rules during the year. A national conclave of SBBs, eighth in this series was held at Chennai on 15th & 16th March 2013 and matters of importance were deliberated upon. Further, NBA organised the first meeting of the SBBs in the North East India, giving special focus on this region.

The NBA celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity on the marine biodiversity, which is the theme of this year. The Executive Secretary of CBD, Dr. Bráulio de Souza Dias participated in the event in Chennai. Commemoration of the events at State and local level included campaigns and programmes to increase the understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. During the period, new areas were identified and action initiated for declaring them as Biodiversity Heritage Sites by some of the States.

The NBA organised various events for raising awareness among the students, researchers, scientists and general public about the importance of conservation of biodiversity. The programmes included seminars, exhibitions, campaigns, competitions and conferences. Further, aiming at capacity building for different stakeholders, several training programmes and workshops and consultations were organised.

During the year under review, notifications listing the species which are on the verge of extinction in the State of Manipur and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been issued by the

Ministry of Environment and Forests, taking the total number of States/Union territories thus covered under such notifications to 15. In the list of designated repositories for depositing the voucher specimen and new taxon by the applicants who have been granted access approval by NBA, one more Institute, viz. National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (NBAIL) has been added by the Ministry.

The NBA has also been implementing a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported project on “Strengthening the institutional structures to implement the BD Act in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand”. This project was designed to address the challenges on implementation by strengthening institutional structures established under BD Act 2002 through capacity building and awareness rising activities. The Project, which was completed on 31st March 2013, enabled constitution of 957 BMCs in Madhya Pradesh and 36 in Jharkhand and development of a database on networking systems and linkages in the project sites.

The NBA is implementing another project, supported by UNDP-GEF (Global Environment Facility), associating United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), BSI and ZSI, in five States. The objective of the project is to increase the individual, institutional and systemic capacities of stakeholders to

effectively implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules, 2004, with special focus on ABS agreements in India. As part of the project, training programmes and workshops, were organised for officials from the member countries of the SAARC, ASEAN and 33 African countries, on awareness generation and capacity building, involving resource persons from the CBD Secretariat.

The NBA also launched a Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL) as a joint initiative under the Indo-Norwegian Cooperation to deal with current and emerging biodiversity governance issues and policy as well as law making. Aimed at providing opportunities for intellectual and academic pursuit in dealing with biodiversity issues, the Centre will offer training, capacity building and human resource development facilities for the interested candidates from India and abroad.

Other important activities of the NBA during the year include preparation of the 5th National Report to the CBD in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, revision of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) and planning for the establishment of National Clearing House Mechanism (NCHM).

The statement of accounts and financial activities undertaken during 2012-13 with annual plan for 2013-14 are elaborated in this report.

2. Introduction

Earth's biological resources are vital to economic and social development of humanity. As a result, there is a growing recognition that biological diversity is a global asset of tremendous value to the present and future generations. India is one of the 17 mega-diverse countries in the world covering an area of 329 Mha and is the seventh largest country. With only 2.4% of the land area, it accounts for 7-8% of the global recorded species. The varied edaphic, climatic and topographic conditions and years of geological stability have resulted in wide range of ecosystems and habitats such as forests, mountains, grasslands, wetlands, deserts, coastal and marine ecosystems.

India has ten biogeographic zones, endowed with vast forest resources. According to the recent State of Forest Report, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 23.81% of the geographic area. The recorded forest extends to 23.41% covering an area of 77 Mha. The total growing stock of India's forests and trees outside forests is estimated as 6047.15 million cu m i.e. 4498.73 million cu m inside the recorded forest area and 1548.42 million cu m outside the recorded forests.¹

India houses 4 of 34 global biodiversity hotspots, which is an indicator of high degree of endemism

¹Forestry Statistics India-2011

in India. About 5,150 plant and 1,837 animal species are endemic. India is one of the eight primary centres of origin of cultivated plants with about 379 closely related wild species including rice, pulses, millets, vegetables, fruits and fibre plants.² There are nearly 144 Indian breeds including cattle, sheep, goat, camel, horse and poultry.³ India stands seventh in the world in terms of contribution of species to agriculture and animal husbandry, the second largest producer of fresh fruits and vegetables globally and the largest exporter of spices and cashew.

India accounts for about 5% of the world's mangroves, including Sundarbans delta, the largest mangrove forest in the world. The Sacred Grove Information System holds data on 3000 groves in the country out of an estimated number of 100,000.⁴ India is also equally rich in traditional and indigenous knowledge, both coded and informal.

A network of 668 Protected Areas has been established, extending over 1,61,221.57 sq.kms (4.90% of total geographic area), comprising 102 National Parks, 515 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 47 Conservation Reserve and 4 Community

² Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, India-Section B: Biological Sciences 82(2).

³ NBAGR Report in <http://www.icar.org.in/en/node/4688>

⁴ India & Convention on Biological Diversity, 2010, MoEF, P 4

Reserves. Thirty nine Tiger Reserves and 28 Elephant Reserves have been designated as species-specific reserves for management of tiger and elephant habitats.⁵ UNESCO has designated five Protected Areas in India as World Heritage Sites. As the ecosystems and species do not recognize political borders, the concept of Trans-boundary Protected Areas has been initiated for coordinated conservation of ecological units and corridors with bilateral and/or multilateral cooperation of the neighbouring nations.

India, home to nearly one-fifth of the world's human population is rapidly seeing a change in its economy from a predominantly agrarian society into a diversified one, resulting in mounting pressures on land use. A consequence of this has been the loss and fragmentation of natural habitats, which has been identified as the primary threat to biodiversity. The rapid rate of degradation makes it imperative that conservation activity be pursued immediately and vigorously to devise effective measures which curtail the diminishing biodiversity, and to protect its unique biota. This is not specific to India and equally applies to other biodiversity-rich countries.

The unprecedented loss of biological diversity at global level resulted in convening of various conferences and conventions at international level, which expressed serious concerns over this depleting bioresources and culminated in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June,

1992, which was attended by delegates from 172 countries including India.

Pursuant to the CBD, which called upon all Parties to prepare national biodiversity strategy and action plans for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, India had developed a 'National Policy and Macro-level Action Strategy on Biodiversity' in 1999. This was aimed at consolidating existing biodiversity conservation programmes and initiating new steps in conformity with the spirit of the Convention. Government of India, led by Ministry of Environment and Forests and a range of stakeholders elaborated the intent of implementing the CBD into an action plan by designing a comprehensive and progressive legislative framework for the country in the form of the Biological Diversity Act. After close to a decade of discussions, the Act was finally passed by the Parliament of India and received the assent of the President of India on 5th Feb 2003, which paved way for the establishment of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

The Biological Diversity Act has several unique features to it. It is a progressive legislation that not only recognizes the need for decentralized implementation to achieve its objectives, but also envisages establishment of specific statutory bodies to execute the obligations. The Act provides for the establishment of a three-tiered institutional structure, the BMC at the local level the SBB at the state level and NBA at the national level. The Act also provides mandate for NBA to deal with enabling, regulatory and advisory functions to achieve the objectives

⁵ Protected Area Network in India, 2011, MoEF- P 1

under the Act, and most importantly mirrors the aspirations of India to empower its communities and local people to deal with conservation and sustainable development.

2.1 National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

The National Biodiversity Authority came into existence on 1st October 2003 with headquarters at Chennai. The composition of Authority includes a Chairperson, ten ex-officio members from the various Ministries of the Central Government and five non-official members from amongst specialists and scientists having special knowledge or experience in matters relating to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use, representatives of industry, conservers, creators and knowledge holders of biological resources.

2.2 Functions of NBA

- Advise the Government of India on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilization of biological resources.
- Regulate activities and issue guidelines for access to biological resources and for fair and equitable benefit sharing, in accordance with sections 3, 4, 6, 20 and 21 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Take necessary measures to oppose the grant of intellectual property rights in any

country outside India for any invention based on any research or information on a biological resource obtained from India or knowledge associated with such biological resource derived from India.

- Advise the State Governments in the selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified as Biodiversity Heritage Sites and suggest measures for their management.
- Provide guidance, technical and financial support to Biodiversity Management Committees for documenting People's Biodiversity Registers and related activities.

The NBA Shall perform the functions which are necessary to carry out the provisions of the BD Act, including those mentioned below.

2.3 State Biodiversity Board (SBB)

The BD Act mandates each state Government to establish a State Biodiversity Board to implement the provisions of the Act in the respective jurisdiction. The composition of the SBB will be a Chairperson, five ex-officio members, representing the departments concerned and five members from amongst experts on matters relating to biological diversity. In relation to the Union Territories, NBA shall exercise the powers and functions of SBB and may delegate all or any of its powers to such person or group of persons as specified by the Central Government. As of March 2013, all the 28 States have established the State Biodiversity Boards.

2.4 Functions of SBB

- Advise the State Governments, subject to guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilization of biological resources.
- Regulate, by granting approvals or otherwise, the requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization for commercial utilization of any biological resource by Indians.

The SBB shall perform the functions which are necessary to carry out the provisions of the BD Act including those mentioned below.

2.5 Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)

Every local body shall constitute the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) within their area of jurisdiction in accordance with Section 41 of the BD Act, for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of landraces, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals, microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity. BMC shall consist of a Chairperson and not more than six members nominated by the local body, of whom one-third are women and 18% are Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes.



2.6 Functions of BMCs

The Main function of the BMC is to prepare the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) in consultation with the local people. The BMC shall maintain a Register giving information about the details of access to biological resources and traditional knowledge granted, details of the collection of fee imposed and details of the benefits derived and the mode of their sharing.

The functions of the BMC also include advising the NBA or SBB on any matter referred to it for granting approval and maintain data about the local *vaids* and practitioners using the biological resources.

2.7 Role of State and Central Governments

- The Central Government may develop national strategies, plans, programmes for the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity.

- Issue directives to the State Governments concerned to take immediate ameliorative measures for the protection of biodiversity-rich habitats, threatened by overuse, abuse or neglect.
- Integrate the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. Endeavour to respect and protect the knowledge of local people relating to biological diversity.
- Assess the impact of projects on environment and biodiversity, and regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms likely to have adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and on human health.
- Further, in consultation with NBA, the Central Government may, a) notify threatened species and prohibit or regulate their collection, rehabilitation and conservation; b) designate institutions as repositories for depositing voucher specimen of different categories of biological resources and c) exempt certain items including biological resources normally traded as commodities, from the purview of the BD act.
- The State Governments, in consultation with the local bodies, notify biodiversity heritage sites and frame rules for management and conservation of such sites in consultation with Central Government and develop schemes for compensation/ rehabilitation of affected people.

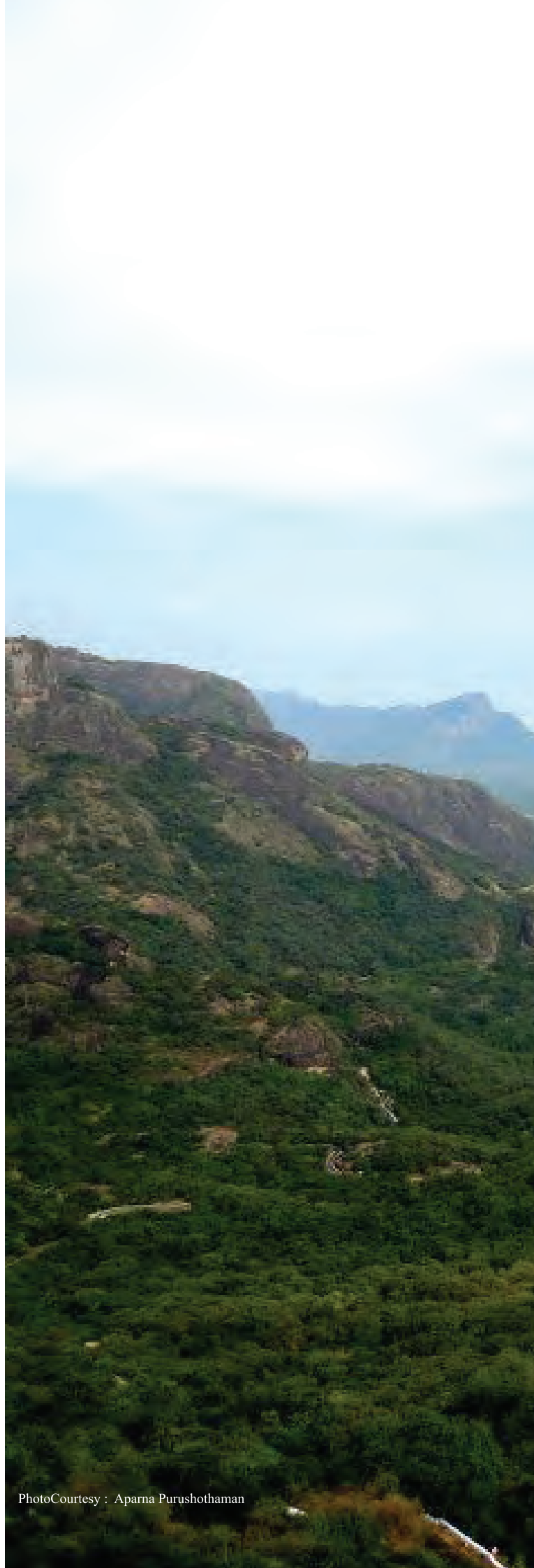


Photo Courtesy : Aparna Purushothaman



3. Meetings of the Authority and Expert Committee

3.1 The Authority

The National Biodiversity Authority consists of a Chairperson, who is an eminent person, having knowledge and experience in sustainable management of biodiversity. Besides, there are ten ex-officio members from related Ministries of Government of India, and five non-official members, who are experts in different aspects of biodiversity management.

3.1.1 Three ex-officio members appointed under section 8(4)(b):

1. Joint Secretary to the Government of India or an officer of an equivalent rank in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
2. Additional Director General (Forests), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
3. Joint Secretary to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

3.1.2 Seven ex-officio members appointed under section 8(4)(c):

Joint Secretary to the Government of India or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in the following Departments/Ministries:

1. Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture.
2. Department of Biotechnology.
3. Department of Ocean Development.
4. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
5. Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.
6. Department of Science and Technology.
7. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Five non-official members are appointed from amongst specialists and scientists having special knowledge of or experience in matters relating to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilisation, representatives of industry, conservers, creators and knowledge-holders of biological resources.

The term of office of the five non-official members is three years. The members guide the NBA Secretariat on key policy and implementation issues.

3.2 Meetings of the Authority

During the reporting period, the Authority met three times. Besides approving the ABS applications, the Authority discussed the outcomes of the Expert committee meetings/ National Consultations on various subjects and gave directions/decisions/suggestions to the NBA Secretariat for appropriate action.



3.2.1 24th Authority Meeting

The 24th meeting of the Authority was held on 23rd May 2012 at Chennai. Some of the important items that were discussed and deliberated in the meeting include the BMC guidelines prepared by the BMC Task force, outcome of the National Consultation-cum-Workshop on PBR organized by the NBA in collaboration with the Karnataka Biodiversity Board, United Nations Development Programme, Global Environment Facility and the Institute of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine (I-AIM), Bengaluru, proceedings of the Executive Committee for facilitating the implementation of strategic objectives of the UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020, policy for scrutiny of applications for export of seeds for commercial purpose, proceedings of the first National Consultation on 'Biodiversity Targets' for India held at New Delhi on April 9, 2012

and the minutes of the joint meeting convened by Planning Commission to present the draft Targets and National Biodiversity Action Plan.

3.2.2 25th Authority Meeting



In its 25th meeting held on 18th September 2012, the Authority issued guidelines on the hosting of access & benefit sharing agreements signed between the applicant and NBA keeping in view the confidentiality aspects involved in it. Taking note of the recommendation of the Expert Committee on Agro-biodiversity favouring legal action against the alleged violators of the BD Act, the Authority outlined the further course of action proposed to be taken by NBA. Matters relating to the linkage of Indian Biodiversity Information Facility (INBIF) with the Biodiversity Grid on the lines suggested by Dr. R Chidambaram, PSA to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and suggestion to establish a National Innovation Council by Dr. Sam Pitroda, Chairperson, National Innovation Council were also discussed. The Authority ratified the Annual Accounts for the year 2011-2012 and recommended acquisition of land in Chemmancherry village, Kancheepuram District for the construction of the premises for NBA.



3.2.3 26th Authority Meeting

The 26th meeting of the Authority was held on 16th January 2013 at Chennai. During the meeting, the Authority took note of the outcomes of the CoP-11 meeting hosted by India during 8th to 19th October 2012 at Hyderabad and the proposed financial outlay of around Rs 100 crores for NBA in the 12th Five Year Plan. A proposal from the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPVFRA) on designating the SBBs as notified centres under section 41 (1) of the PPVFR Act 2001 was discussed and the draft Annual Report of the NBA for 2011-12 was approved by the Authority. Further, the proceedings of the meetings of the EC on Normally Traded Commodities, 21st EC on ABS, the National Consultation on Rare, Endangered and Threatened Species, EC on Agro-biodiversity, Task Force on BMC and EC on Training Module were discussed by the Authority.

3.3 Expert Committees (EC)

The Expert Committees constituted by the NBA as per section 13 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, on various issues for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Act and the Rules met during the reporting period and came out with recommendations and suggestions.

3.3.1 EC on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

Applications seeking prior approval for access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge for research, bio-survey and bio-utilization and commercial utilization; transfer of results of research; for obtaining Intellectual



Property Rights (IPR) for invention based on research information on biological resources and transfer of accessed biological resources to third parties, received by the NBA are evaluated by this Expert Committee, which makes suitable recommendations for consideration of the Authority. The Expert Committee was re-constituted on 18 Feb 2013 as per the decision in the 25th Authority meeting. During the year, the EC met 4 times viz., 19th EC (June 2012), 20th EC (Sep 2012), 21st EC (Dec 2012) and 22nd EC (Feb 2013) and around 70 applications were evaluated and recommendations made for consideration by the Authority.



In addition, the Committee developed a draft template on ABS and examined the draft regulations on ABS developed by the NBA earlier. A sub-committee, constituted for evolving procedures for closure of applications, met on 28th March 2013, and developed the draft procedures and gave its recommendation to the expert committee.

3.3.2 EC for Preparation of Guidelines to BMCs

An Expert Committee to develop guidelines for BMCs was constituted on 20th October 2009 under the Chairmanship of Smt. Gayathri Ramachandran, IAS (retd.). This committee had several sittings and undertook field visits in Karnataka and North Eastern States and prepared the draft guidelines for operationalization of BMCs in consultation with different stakeholders. These draft guidelines were placed in the NBA website for public comments/suggestions and also circulated to all State Biodiversity Boards for their feedback. In the meantime, the term of the Committee was extended with modification of membership on 28th June 2012. Further to streamline the BMC guidelines to be in harmony with the work under Expert committee on Medicinal plants, a small group of members (Task force) met at FRLHT, Bengaluru on 5th November 2012 and deliberated the guidelines at length. The first meeting of the reconstituted Task force/ Expert Committee on BMC, chaired by Smt. Gayathri Ramachandran, IAS (retd.) was held on 19th - 20th November 2012 at NBA, Chennai. Based on the discussions and deliberations, the Committee revised the report

of task force, Operational guidelines for BMCs in the light of comments received from different stakeholders and presented the final guidelines to NBA. NBA issued these Guidelines during the 8th Annual meeting of State Biodiversity Boards in March 2013.

3.3.3. EC on Training Module for Implementation of BD Act



The Expert Committee on training module for officers and staff and various stakeholders on legal, social, technical aspects on implementation of various provisions of Biological Diversity Act 2002, constituted earlier, met on 7th & 8th December 2012 at NBA, Chennai, under the chairmanship of Dr. T.C. James, NIPO, New Delhi and presented the draft training module to the Authority.

3.3.4. EC on Medicinal Plants

Several issues concerning medicinal plants have come into public domain and intellectual and media have raised issues of importance on this. In order to deal with emerging aspects on medicinal plants comprehensively, the NBA reconstituted the Expert Committee on Medicinal Plants in March 2012, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Darshan Shankar and Shri D.K.Ved as



Vice-Chairman. The main objective of the committee was to outline, in consultation with stakeholders, the roles and responsibilities and programmatic themes of different Ministries, Departments, Boards, and Authorities in respect of the management of medicinal plant resources of India. After initial meeting, the EC formed three subcommittees to address issues, such as Health and Livelihood; Traditional Knowledge and Practices-ABS issues and Inter-sectoral strategies for conservation, sustainable use and trade issues related to medicinal plants.

The EC, taking inputs from the sub-committees, recommended holding of national consultation to address thematic areas such as conservation and cultivation; science and technology; health and livelihoods security; IPR and TK protection and the domestic and international trade of value added herbal products and medicinal plant resources. It was suggested that the final draft of the document thus prepared would be used to guide the Inter-sectoral Strategy and Action Plan for the management of medicinal plant resources of India.

The subcommittee under the EC on Medicinal Plants constituted to address the issue of 'inter-

sectoral strategies for conservation, sustainable use and trade issues related to medicinal plants held its meeting on 3rd December, 2012 at FRLHT, Bangalore and discussed issues such as, linkages between State Forest Departments (SFDs) and State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) in terms of medicinal plant collection and regulation, data sharing on demand and supply



of medicinal plants between different agencies and the SBBs and BMCs and identification of institutional mechanisms for threat assessment and conservation of medicinal plants. The report of the meeting would serve as material for comprehensive strategy document on medicinal plants being developed by NBA.

3.3.5 EC on Normally Traded Commodities (NTCs)

Section 40 of the Act empowers the Central Government in consultation with NBA, to exempt, from its purview, by notification in the Official gazette, certain items including biological resources normally traded as commodities. NBA constituted an Expert Committee in October 2005 to define Normally Traded Commodities (NTCs), prepare an inventory of NTCs and to develop guidelines incorporating reciprocal



livelihood measures to protect the interests of affected segment of people, duly considering measures to promote conservation of species that were under heavy pressure of trading.

The 17th Authority of NBA decided to constitute a special committee to work out the modalities for issuing a revised notification of NTCs amending the MoEF notification dated 26th October 2009 on Normally Traded Commodities. Accordingly, the Expert Committee on normally traded commodities was reconstituted on 06.11.2012 under the Chairmanship of Shri. A.K. Goyal IFS to devise the modalities for notifying NTCs in its revised format detailing the illustrative trade/common name, plant part, and the sources of procurement for trade. The Expert Committee addressed the above issues and suggested inclusion of definitions for specific terms as clarificatory notes to the notification. The Expert Committee also developed a self-declaration to



be included as a part of the approval process for trade in order to identify the sources of procurement of the biological resources for trade as commodities. The recommendation of the EC for revising the NTC notification was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for consideration.

3.3.6 EC for Developing guidelines, formats and suitable procedures to deal with the offences under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules, 2004

An Expert Committee was constituted in November 2012 for developing guidelines, formats and suitable procedures to deal with the offences under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules, 2004 under the Chairmanship of R.K.Upadhyay, I.F.S. Following are some of the important recommendations given by the Committee:

1. To empower State Governments to make rules for conferring Forest Officers with certain powers for entry, search, seizure, detention and arrest, etc. in relation to the implementation of the BD Act.
2. To move a proposal to MoEF for authorizing officers not below the rank of Inspector of Police and Inspector of Customs to file complaint under Section 61 (a) of the BD Act, 2002
3. To initiate steps to harmonize its regulatory mechanism under BD Act in relation to Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 and other related Acts.



PhotoCourtesy : Dhanu Pharan

4. Access and Benefit Sharing

4.1 Classification and status of ABS applications

National Biodiversity Authority, in accordance with sections 3, 4, 6 and 20 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rule 14, 17, 18 and 19 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 grants prior approval for access of bioresources and / or associated knowledge for specific purposes, as indicated in table 1.

4.2 Approval process

The applications are examined by the Expert Committee (EC) on Access and Benefit Sharing as per the provisions of the Act and Rules on a case by case basis and recommendations made by the EC are considered and approvals granted by the Authority. So far, NBA has received 784 applications related to access to bio resources and/or associated knowledge and during the period 2012-13, 99 applications have been received. The details of applications received and dealt with by NBA category-wise, are given in table 2.

4.3 Consultations with SBBs and BMCs

As envisaged in Section 41 (2) of the BD Act, the NBA and the SBBs are consulting the BMC while taking any decision relating to the use of biological resources and knowledge associated with such resources occurring within the

territorial jurisdiction of the BMC on the applications. This process was simplified during the year by introduction of a simple format for such consultative process to be used by the SBBs. A decision was made that the SBBs will be provided a timeline of 30 days to send a response to NBA, after due consultation, to expedite process of approval.

4.4 Re-organization of Internal Structure of application processing

Effective from 1st February 2013, a revised procedure for processing of applications has been introduced at NBA. Recognizing the need to ensure speedy review and approval process of applications, NBA restructured its ABS team by forming a "Facilitation Desk" that will facilitate receipt of application, liaison with applicants, supporting the EC on ABS and a "Review Team" that will assess the techno-legal details provided in the applications. Each of these teams is oriented on their terms of reference and provided with specific timelines to process applications.

4.5 ABS Facilitation Desk

The front end for receipt of applications and interaction with the applicant is the Facilitation Desk. It takes care of preliminary

scrutiny of applications for genuineness and completeness, fee and documents required. In case, applications are received incomplete, they are returned to the applicants intimating the details/documents required and applications received with complete details are transferred to the Review Desk for further processing.

4.6 Review Desk

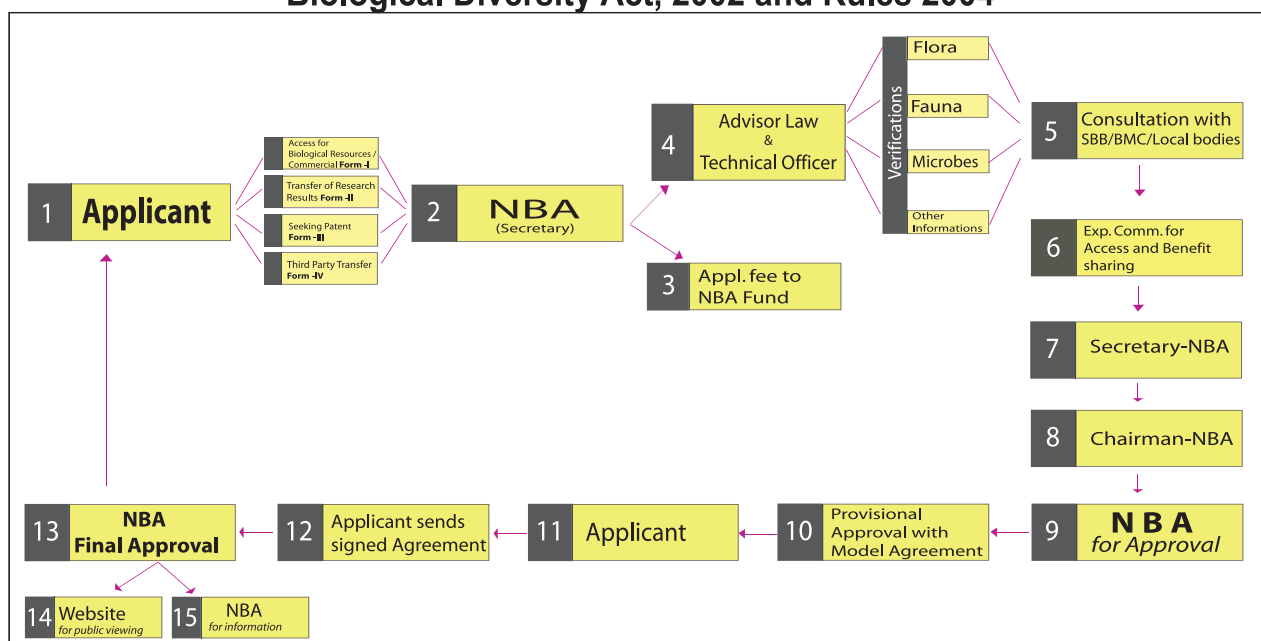
The Review Desk consists of two teams, Review Team I and II which include technical and legal examiners for scrutiny of applications received from Facilitation Desk. Each Review Team handles three tasks; i) initial process, such as verification of consistency of form, purpose applied for and other details and enclosures; ii) technical scrutiny, like scientific analysis on specific biological resource based on assessment by SBB and iii) examination on legal issues pertaining to compliance and regulation and checking of legal instruments received with the application.

The applications will be further scrutinised by an Expert Committee on Access and benefit Sharing (ABS), consisting of professionals from diverse areas, such as sciences, finance, law and representatives from institutions like NBPGR and ICAR. The EC on ABS will evaluate each application and give its recommendation which will be then placed before the Authority for final decision.

4.7 Benefit Sharing Realised

During the reporting period, NBA has received an amount of Rs.1,09,420/- in the form of royalty/benefit sharing through ABS agreements. The amount stands credited into the National Biodiversity Fund and will be ploughed back to the BMCs / (benefit claimers) local people from whom the bioresources were accessed by the applicants.

Schematic Presentation of Processing of Applications under Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules 2004



* For details please go through Biological Diversity Act, 2002 & Rules, 2004

Table 1 - Category of ABS Applications

Form no.	Purpose of application	By whom
I	Access of bioresources and/or associated knowledge for research, commercial utilisation, bio-survey or bio-utilisation	Non-Indian, NRI, Foreign entity or Indian entity having non-Indian participation in share capital or management
II	Transfer of research results	Any Indian/non-Indian or entity to any non-Indian, NRI, Foreign entity or Indian entity having non-Indian participation in share capital or management
III	Applying for Intellectual Property Rights	Any Indian/non-Indian or entity
IV	Transfer of bio resources/knowledge already accessed, to a third party	Any person who obtained approval of NBA in Forms I,II or III to Indians/non-Indians or entities

Table 2 - ABS Applications received under each Form

Form	Category	Applications Received Since 2004
I	Access to Biological resources and associated traditional Knowledge	131
II	Transferring the results of research to foreign nationals, companies, NRI's for commercial purposes.	33
III	Intellectual Property Right	537
IV	Third Party transfer of the accessed biological resources and associated knowledge.	70
	Not applied in prescribed Form and with fee	13
Total		784

Table 3 - ABS Applications handled by NBA during 2012-13

Details	Received	Cleared	Cleared (applications received in the previous years)	Under process	Closed	Agreement Signed in 2012-13 for the applications received during 2012-13)	Agreement Signed in 2012-13 for the applications received in previous years
Form I	25	0	4	23	2	0	1
Form II	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Form III	63	1	54	61	1	0	8
Form IV	11	0	5	9	2	0	7
Total	99	1	64	93	5	0	16



5. Activities and Achievements

As a national body, NBA has taken key initiatives by engaging in discussions and consultations with stakeholders to create awareness about the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act (2002) and Rules (2004).

5.1 Conference of Parties (CoP-11)

The Eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Hyderabad during 8 - 19 October 2012. The Conference of Parties is the governing body of the Convention and it advances implementation of the provisions of the Convention through the decisions it takes at its periodic meetings held every two years. The mega event provided an opportunity to India to consolidate, scale up and showcase initiatives and strengths on biodiversity protections and conservation.

CoP-11 adopted 33 decisions on a range of strategic, substantive, administrative, financial and budgetary issues. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the meaningful decision on resource mobilization by doubling the total biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries by 2015 and new measures to factor biodiversity into environmental impact assessments linked to infrastructure and other development projects in marine and coastal areas.

The Union Environment and Forests Minister Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, who took over the charge of COP-11 as its President for next two years, emphasised on the issue of resource mobilization that remained an unfinished agenda of COP-10 at Nagoya in Japan.



Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, announced India's ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and declared the "Hyderabad pledge" by allotting US\$50 million during India's two-year COP presidency, for strengthening the institutional mechanism of biodiversity conservation in India and other developing countries.

The NBA drafted four background papers for the Ministerial discussions during the High Level Segment of COP-11. The National Biodiversity Authority and various SBBs enthusiastically participated in the meeting. A joint exhibition was organized by Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), National Biodiversity Authority

and State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs). The Punjab Biodiversity Board coordinated the exhibition.

The NBA launched three publications titled “Biodiversity & Livelihoods“, “Community Based Experiences on ABS – Case Studies” and “National Biodiversity Information Outlook“ during CoP-11 meeting. SBBs brought out about 60 publications specially made for CoP-11 meeting. The exhibition of NBA and SBBs received enormous interests from participants at CoP-11.

5.2 International Day for Biodiversity

The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB-2012) was celebrated on 22nd May 2012 with a focus on coastal and marine biodiversity. Special invitees for the events included Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, Mr.M.F.Farooqui, Dr. Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, the Hon’ble Mayor of Chennai Corporation and other senior officials.



The NBA, as part of IDB celebrations organized a series of special events including the launch of a set of special publications focusing on coastal and marine biodiversity, launching of an online

expert database on taxonomy besides a high level panel discussion on the theme. Support was also provided to 14 SBBs to organize events on IDB-2012 at State levels.

In preparation for CBD CoP-11, a special Pledge campaign was also organised by NBA in collaboration with partners such as CEE. The Pledge titled “PLEDGE FOR LIFE” was administered through the public function at Marina Beach in Chennai. About 3 million pledges were secured until CoP-11 from across India through this campaign. Prizes were distributed to school children who participated in various essay writing and oratorical competition. Loyola College, Chennai in partnership with Indian Coast Guard helped NBA to organize these events.

5.3 National Biodiversity Information Outlook

Based on the outlook report and discussions during the 24th Meeting of the Authority and further discussion at its 25th Meeting, NBA explored the option for establishing a National Biodiversity Grid. The Grid is a technical platform to be established with support from the National Knowledge Network and will be a single window system to collate and present data on biodiversity in India. A report on National Biodiversity Information Outlook (NBIO) was prepared by the NBA with the support of Ministry of Environment and Forests and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and this was launched on 16th October 2012 at CoP-11 to CBD held at Hyderabad. Launching this report Dr.K.Kasturirangan, Member, Planning Commission called for developing a national policy on biodiversity data and information management.

5.4 National Innovation Council on Biodiversity

The first National Biodiversity Congress was hosted by Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) at Thiruvananthapuram in December 2012 under the auspices of Ministry of Environment and Forests and NBA with the involvement and cooperation of all State Biodiversity Boards and other organizations involved in conservation and promotion of biodiversity in the country. The focal theme of the NBC was “Biodiversity for food security”. As part of the Congress, sessions on organic farming, the role of science and technology in access and benefit-sharing of bio resources and people’s participation in biodiversity conservation were organised. Dr.Sam Pitroda, Chairman, Prime Minister’s National Innovation Council, spoke on the role of Innovation in Biodiversity, Livelihoods and Development, called for establishment of a National Innovation Council on Biodiversity with NBA hosting the Secretariat for the Council.

5.5 Consultations and Seminars

With a view to creating awareness and capacity building and to interact with the stakeholders, NBA organised several consultations and seminars on a wide range of subjects in relation to the Act.

5.5.1 Brain storming session-cum-National Consultation on Normally Traded Commodities

NBA organized a Brainstorming-cum-National Consultation on Normally Traded Commodities on 13-14, April 2012 at Chennai to discuss on

classification, trade and linkage of NTCs with ABS under the Act. The Consultation was well attended by various stakeholders including representatives from the State Biodiversity Boards, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Director General of Foreign Trade, Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers’ Association, Marine Products Export Development Authority, Controller of Patents and Designs, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Rubber Research Institute, Academy of Business Studies, etc. General consensus emanated during the consultation was to constitute a special committee to take forward the discussions/recommendations of this meeting. Accordingly, NBA has reconstituted EC on NTCs to take forward the outcome of National consultations for developing revised NTC notification.

5.5.2 Visit by Malaysian Delegates

To have a first-hand knowledge on the biodiversity related issues, a team of delegates from Malaysia visited NBA on 16-17 August 2012 and held discussion on various technical, administrative, legal and policy issues, laying stress on Access and Benefit Sharing in India. Their interaction centred on the administrative and legal structure to implement BD Act, 2002 and the process set in practice for disposal of technical applications. The seven- member team consist of officials from Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC), Sabah Biodiversity Centre (SaBC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity Law, University of Malaya (CEBLAW, UM). The delegates were apprised of the NBA’s experiences in processing of applications and the ABS mechanism.

5.5.3 Brain storming meeting for planning of National Consultation on Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species

As a prelude to holding of a National Consultation on Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species, NBA organised a brainstorming meeting on 8th November, 2012 at Chennai. This day-long session focused on the review of RET issues in the country so as to develop a list



of priority areas that should receive attention, in view of the growing concern on the management of RET species and realizing the need to develop a national policy-cum-action framework to deal with RET related issues. The meeting also identified areas for the preparation of a scoping-cum-action paper elaborating the priority areas, such as RET terminology, consolidation of data and information on species under threat, assessment of species' status, undertaking population studies and working towards realizing global biodiversity targets. The issues identified during the brainstorming meeting would form basis for a detailed discussion in the proposed National Consultation on RET species.

5.5.4 Meeting on Guidance for Draft National Working Plan Code-2012

The NBA organized a one-day brainstorming meeting for providing inputs for the preparation of the Draft National Working Plan Code -2012

(NWPC) for forests by the MoEF. The key points of discussion included recommendations to reflect the India's legal obligation to various International treaties such as, the Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Strategic Plan 2011-2020, Aichi Biodiversity target and Nagoya Protocol. The recommendations of the preparatory meeting also addressed the socio-economic and techno-administrative issues of the Forest Management in the country. The outcomes of the meeting with inputs from NBA were synthesized and a consolidated report was sent to Director General (F&SS), MoEF for revising the Draft NWPC-2012.

5.6 Notification of Guidelines for IPR applications

The Controller General of Trade Marks and patents, Government of India issued a set of Guidelines for IPR application in December 2012. Pursuant to this, few exercises were undertaken by NBA in dealing with ABS issues under the Biological Diversity Act. NBA provided critical inputs and comments on this guidelines and participated in discussions on issues actively.

Pursuant to this NBA also strengthened its Legal cell with more focus on IPR.

5.7 Publications

Aimed at raising the awareness about the BD Act and Rules as well as on issues related to biological diversity, NBA brought out 17 publications on important topics during the year.

		
<p>NBA - Year in Progress 2012-13</p>	<p>National Biodiversity Information Outlook</p>	<p>Community Based Experiences on ABS</p>
		
<p>Biodiversity and Livelihoods</p>	<p>Biodiversity and Livelihoods Experiences from India</p>	<p>Century in ABS-Experiences from India</p>
		
<p>International Environment Government</p>	<p>Biodiversity Future Secured</p>	<p>Biodiversity Management Committees</p>
		
<p>Guidelines for Biodiversity Heritage Sites</p>	<p>Traditional Knowledge Terminology</p>	<p>Watering Biodiversity Ecosystem Management</p>
		
<p>Biodiversity Economics from ABS</p>	<p>Valuation of Bio-resources for ABS</p>	<p>Bio-resources valuation through selected Literature</p>

Support extended for Trainings /Seminars/Workshops during 2012-13

S.No	Name of individual/organisation	Theme
1	Dr.Sosamma Iype, Managing Trustee, Vechur Conservation Trust, A/37/Street 2, Indira Nagar, Mannuthy, Thrissur - 680 651 Kerala	“Conference on Native Livestock Breeds for the future of mankind”
2	Shri.Rajeev Sethi, Chairman & Founder, Trustee, The Asian Heritage Foundation, C-52, South Extension Part-II, New Delhi – 110 049	“Bees, Traditional Knowledge and Livelihood: Honey hunters and Bee Keepers of Tamil Nadu-Pollinator 1”
3	FRLHT, Bangalore	“Database of flowering plants of Karnataka”
4	Shri.P. Vivekananda, Executive Director,Seva, 45,TPM Nagar, Virattipathu, Madurai-625010.	Breed Saviour Awards2012.
5	Dr.Betsy Selvakumar, Associate Professor & Head , Dept. of Advance Zoology & Biotechnology , Women’s Christian College, Chennai600006.	National Conference on Biodiversity- Green Strategies for Sustainable Development.
6	Shri. Karithikaya Sivasenapathy, Kuttapalayam (P.O) , Kangayam Taluk, Tirupur Dt. Tamilnadu-638108	2013 Kangayam Cattle Show.
7	Prof.B.Ravi Prasad Rao, Chairman, Board of Studies, Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantpur-515003 A.P	Database of flowering plants of Andhra Pradesh.
8	Prof.S.R.Yadev, Department of Botany, Shivaji University,Kohlapur-416004, Maharashtra	Database on flowering plants of Maharashtra State
9	Dr(Sr).Regina Mary R. Assistant Professor, PG & Research Department of Zoology, Auxilium College (Autonomous), Gandhi Nagar, Vellore, 632006	National Conference on ‘Relevance and Sustainable Utilization of Bio resources’.
10	Sh.Rakesh Shah,IFS, Member Secretary, Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board, No.108,Phase- II,Vasant Vihar, DehraDun,Uttarakhand-248006	Preparation for Publication of Threatened Species of Uttarakhand SBB.
11	Prof.Oommen V.Oommen, Chairman, Kerala SBB	First National Biodiversity Congress, 2012.



6. State Biodiversity Boards-Programmes and activities

With the formation of SBB in Jammu & Kashmir, all the States in India have now established the State Biodiversity Boards. As on 31st March, 2013 the total number of Biodiversity Management Committees formed stood at 31,574 and the number of People's Biodiversity Registers documented was at 1,314. Also proposals were sent to the respective State Governments to declare 15 biodiversity-rich areas as Biodiversity Heritage Sites and another 57 areas were identified by the SBBs.

6.1 Eighth National Meeting of State Biodiversity Boards



The Eighth National Meeting of State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) was held on 15th and 16th March 2013 at Chennai. Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State (Independent Charge), MoEF, Government of India inaugurated the meeting. Dr. V. Rajagopalan, Secretary, MoEF and

Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairman, NBA and representatives from SBBs participated in the meeting.

The meeting highlighted the need for creation of national grid on biodiversity information, by integrating resources available with Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to serve as a central repository of information. Further, it called for an inter-ministerial / inter-sectoral National Policy for the management of species and ecosystems for an effective integration of databases. It also advocated initiatives on sectoral integration e.g. Biodiversity in finance, Economic Valuation of biodiversity, discussion with Patents and Trade Marks office on IPR issues, dialogue with various government agencies including MNREGA, MoRD, ICAR, etc. on the implementation of BD Act. Gist of the discussions is given below:

- Need to establish proper interaction among the SBBs and BMCs and formation of Technical Support Groups (TSGs) at appropriate level to assist the BMC in the preparation of PBRs.
- Better coordination and focus on mainstreaming the Act and its components with various agencies and departments.

- All the SBBs to frame State specific Rules for the effective implementation of BD Act and expeditious completion of the process to issue ABS guidelines.
- SBBs to make purposeful use of the guidelines on BMCs and PBRs developed by NBA, to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of BD Act.

There were two technical sessions focussed on issues such as legal review of existing State Rules, sectoral issues on Trade, IPR and Science related aspects of medicinal plants, systematic capacity building activities on ABS issues by SBBs and BMCs and uniformity and rigor in the PBR preparation process, safe keeping of information and using it for developmental work. Hon'ble Minister and the Secretary, MoEF appreciated NBA's assistance to MoEF in developing national biodiversity targets as well as finalization of the 5th National Report to CBD.

6.2 Meeting of North East Regional SBBs

Pursuant to the decision in the 7th meeting of the SBBs, a conference of the SBBs in North East (NE) India was organised in May 2012 in Shillong, Meghalaya, considering the special status and value of the Region. Recognising the fact that NE region is a natural home to more than 2/3rd of country's local communities, including tribal communities for their traditional knowledge and richness of fauna and flora, the NBA took several initiatives on awareness raising and capacity building activities including funding for constitution of BMCs and documentation of PBRs in this Region.

6.3 Activities of State Biodiversity Boards

1. Andhra Pradesh

During the year under review, the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board received and processed six applications under section 7 of the BD Act. The local bodies constituted record number of 128 BMCs this year, thus bringing the total number of BMCs to 222. Out of seven PBRs documented so far, six were prepared this year. The SBB sent the draft guidelines for management and conservation of Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for notification.

The Board considered the resolution passed by Veerapuram Gram Panchayat of Ananthapur, where migratory birds (Painted Stork) come in flocks of hundreds and the requests from the villagers of Timmamma Marrimanu at Gaautibylu of Kadiri Taluk in Anantapur District which has the largest banyan tree in the world to declare these areas as BHS and sent recommendations to the Andhra Pradesh Government. The Board played a pivotal role in assisting the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh to host the CoP-11 in Hyderabad.

As part of materials for dissemination of information on biodiversity, the SBB brought out three booklets/ brochures and one poster and conducted awareness programmes in 138 villages in ten districts. The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) was celebrated in the Forest Academy, Dulapally.

2. Arunachal Pradesh

The Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board conducted various activities with the support from State Government and NBA. Two applications for access approval were considered by the Board during the year. The total number of BMCs formed at the village level stood at 20 as on 31st March 2013. The Board organized a study on the Daying Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, Pasighat, East Siang District and formulated a proposal for the approval of the State Government for declaring it as a Biodiversity Heritage Site.



During CoP 11 meeting the SBB brought out seven posters showcasing the works of SBB and highlighting the importance of conservation of biodiversity. The Board also conducted awareness programmes on biodiversity conservation in schools and villages. As part of IDB 2012 celebrations, the SBB organised panel discussions / awareness campaigns on various issues related to Biodiversity.

3. Assam

The Assam State Biodiversity Board held three Board meetings in the reporting year. Three applications for grant of approval for IPR and

seven for undertaking research, received from NBA with consultation forms are under process. The number of BMCs as on 31st March 2013 stood at 57.



The SBB organised a state level workshop on biodiversity for sensitization of the stakeholders on 28th September 2012. As part of CoP11 and awareness generation activities the SBB brought out seven posters, a documentary film and an Information Brochure on Biodiversity Act & Rules in Assamese. The Board celebrated the IDB on 22nd May 2012 by releasing a logo and a range of publications, including the Bengali version of BD Act 2002, Assam Biodiversity Rules, 2010 and Glimpses of Biodiversity in Assam by Shri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister.

4. Goa

The Goa State Biodiversity Board held three meetings during the year and considered various issues relating to biodiversity in the state. As part of the IDB celebrations, various activities for school children and general public were organised, which included designing of posters, painting and photography competition and quiz. The one-day workshop on biodiversity awareness and activities such as cleaning, de-

silting and restoring of water bodies in Cuchelim (Bardez), Navelim (Bicholim), Dhawe and Shel (Sattari) organised by the SBB were appreciated by public and media.

5. Gujarat

During the year, 1269 BMCs were formed which include 122 BMCs constituted with the help of Technical Support Groups. The total number of BMCs as at the close of the year stood at 1371. Seventeen PBRs have been prepared and the documentation of 117 PBRs is at the draft stage.

In connection with the CoP II meeting, the SBB brought out a book on “Mammals in Gujarat” and three booklets titled “The Rann a journey from delta to Rann”, “Wetlands in Gujarat” and “The Biological Diversity Act & Rules”. A training programme on PBR preparation and ABS mechanism was conducted and a one-day workshop on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity was organised at Science City, Ahmedabad.

6. Himachal Pradesh

Two applications for access approval were received under section 7 and processed by the SBB. During the year nine BMCs at the village/panchayat level and five at block/taluk/mondal have been formed. One draft PBR has been prepared and preliminary information for development of PBR has been gathered from three Panchayats. The IDB was celebrated on 22nd May 2012 by arranging a discussion of experts from IARI through Doordarshan. A two-

day Eco-Audit workshop with special focus on biodiversity was conducted in collaboration with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi, as a capacity building initiative. The SBB conducted six awareness campaigns on the provisions of BD Act for the benefit of stakeholders.

The State Board with the collaboration of the NBA launched on 3rd July 2012, the UNEP-GEF-MoEF project on ‘strengthening the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions’, as Himachal Pradesh is one of the five states wherein the Project is being implemented.

7. Jammu & Kashmir

As envisaged in section 22 of the BD Act, the formation of J&K State Biodiversity Board was notified by the State Government, in March 2013 and the full fledged activities are expected in the next financial year, 2013-14. With this addition, the SBBs are in place in all the States.

8. Jharkhand

During 2012-13, 25 BMCs were formed and three PBRs prepared. In the month of August 2012, training programmes, focussing on the development of PBRs were organized for the BMC members as a capacity building initiative. Another awareness-cum-training programme on “Enterprise Development for tribal and rural community on biodiversity based livelihood

generation” was conducted wherein more than 50 tribal and rural womenfolk were trained.

9. Karnataka

During the year the State Board met twice and accorded approval for prior intimations received by the board and gave consent/inputs for applications from the NBA. In all, the Board processed 131 applications received from the stakeholders. During the reporting year, a total of 511 BMCs have been formed at GP level, 26 at TP level and 2 at ZP level. So far 267 PBRs have been documented, of which 30 PBRs were prepared during 2012-13.

The Karnataka Biodiversity Board has declared the following areas of biodiversity importance as Heritage Sites under Section 38 of the BD Act 2002:

- a) Nallur Tamarind Grove in the Nallur village of Devnahalli taluk spread over 54 acres comprising a population of nearly 300 trees, including a group of very old plants. The age of one tree has been assessed as 410 years as per carbon dating;
- b) Hogrekhan in Balliganuru village of Kadur taluk in Chickmagalur which is spread over 2508 acres having rich biodiversity with deciduous and shola forests;
- c) Gandhi Krushi Vignana Kendra, Bangalore North, which has a spread of over 167 ha of urban biodiversity with rich floral and faunal diversity and
- d) Ambargudda in Shankarna Shanbag village of Sagar taluk, extending 3857.2 acres and harbouring unique biodiversity with evergreen and shola forests.

Several training and awareness programmes were conducted across the State during the year 2012-13 for creation of awareness on biodiversity and related issues, including traditional knowledge. As part of dissemination materials, one documentary film on biodiversity of Karnataka and activities of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board was produced. The SBB published a book on the Nallur tamarind grove, which is India's first Biodiversity Heritage Site. This apart, 16 publications were brought out in collaboration with the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Seventeen exhibit panels covering different facets on biodiversity and its conservation were also put up. Several leaflets, brochures, fliers and hand-outs depicting heritage sites, flora & fauna of Karnataka, indigenous breed, community empowerment, etc. were issued.

10. Kerala

At the end of 31st March 2013, a total of 978 BMCs have been formed at panchayat level; 60 at the municipality level and 5 at the corporation level. Out of this, during 2012-13, 28 BMCs were formed at municipality level and 4 at corporation level. Kerala SBB was recognised as the first state to constitute BMCs in all Local Self Government Institutions in India. So far 670 PBRs have been documented. Kalasamala, Thrissur; Pathiramala, Alappuzha and Ashramam Mangrove, Kollam have been identified for declaration as BHS. Eight illustrated hand books for assisting field level researchers to accurately identify the flora and fauna; six brochures highlighting the

SBB's achievements and the Traditional flora and fauna of Kerala were printed and one documentary of the Attapady black goat and one KSBB newsletter were produced.

The SBB has also instituted Green Individual Award in different sectors such as Environment/Biodiversity Conservation; Conservation of Medicinal Plants; Conservation of Traditional Knowledge; Conservation of indigenous cattle breeds; conservation of indigenous crop varieties; Green institution; Green School, Green College, Green Journalist (Malayalam print media) and Green Journalist (Electronic media). Eleven awardees received INR 50,000 as cash prize.

The SBB celebrated IDB with the focal theme as "Coastal and Marine Biodiversity" and eminent scientists delivered lectures on the topic. It also organised a mass awareness programme at district level in all 9 coastal districts of Kerala. During the CoP-11 meet, 13 panels on the biological and cultural diversity of Kerala were displayed. During December 2012, the SBB hosted the National Biodiversity Congress, with the support of NBA, wherein more than 260 scientists and eminent personalities participated.

11. Madhya Pradesh

Two applications were approved for commercial utilization under section 7 of the BD Act with 3 under processing. At the end of the financial year, a total of 23,043 BMCs have been formed at the village/panchayat level, 313 BMCs at

the block/taluk/mondal level, 337 BMCs at the nagarpalika/municipality level and 50 BMCs at zilla parishad/panchayat level. A total of 741 PBRs have been documented so far, which includes 78 PBRs during 2012-13. The SBB, as part of legal action, issued notices to 187 industries which are commercially utilising the biological resources.

During 2012-13, the Medical Plant Conservation Area (MPCA) Koopi Jatashankar Chhtarpur rich in medicinal plant diversity as well as other faunal and floral diversity was identified to be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site. The Kyoti fall in Rewa was also selected as a BHS because of its historical background and cultural and floral biodiversity. A proposal has been sent to the Government to declare these two sites as BHS.

Dissemination materials brought out during this period include three documentaries, brochures, posters and CD's. An outreach programme "Mowgli" was organised for creating awareness among children, during "Mowgli Bal Utsav" an yearly event. The IDB was celebrated at all district headquarters and in Bhopal as well.



12. Maharashtra

During 2012-13, the total number of BMCs formed at village/panchayat level stood at 335 and 4 BMCs at district level. Also a proposal was sent to Government of Maharashtra for declaration of “Glory of Allapalli” as BHS. The Board conducted 5 training programmes / workshops on “Biodiversity Conservation & Sustainable Development Capacity and BD Act” at Mulshi, Nannaj, Bhigwan, Velas and Allapalli.

During CoP-11 event, the SBB published booklets and posters covering themes like Fauna of Western Ghats, Fauna of Northern Maharashtra, Coastal Fauna, Biodiversity of Maharashtra, Grasslands of the Deccan Plateau – Semi Arid Fauna, Coastal Ecosystems among others.

13. Manipur

In the State of Manipur, so far 41 BMCs were constituted and three PBRs documented. The



Manipur Biodiversity Board has identified 19 potential areas of biodiversity importance and suggested their formal declaration as BHS by the State government. As part of materials for dissemination, posters, brochures and one manual were brought out. The IDB celebrations

were held at Manipur Zoological Garden, which included painting competition for school children. The SBB also organised training programmes in collaboration with the FRLHT, Bangalore and the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development, Imphal, for the benefit of stakeholders.

14. Meghalaya



So far 79 BMCs have been formed at the village/panchayat level. The SBB has identified Mawphlang Sacred Grove as a BHS and proposal to the State Government is in the process. In association with the Department of Forests and Environment, the Meghalaya State Biodiversity Board had organized a function to celebrate the IDB on 22nd May 2013. As part of awareness raising programme, the SBB conducted painting and essay competition in Shillong for school children.

15. Mizoram

By the end of March 2013, 221 BMC's have been set up at the village/panchayat level and two PBRs were documented. Brochures on “Rare, Endangered Plant and Animal Species of Mizoram” were released. The IDB was celebrated at two locations namely District

Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Auditorium, Aizawl and Saiha (DHQ), wherein besides trainees of DIET and NGOs, public in large number took part. The IDB celebrations were held at Saiha in which students from various institutions and honorary wildlife wardens participated.

16. Odisha

The Odisha SBB, has planned to constitute at least 50 BMCs during 2013-14. Also two organizations have been assigned with formulation of 30 PBRs in 3 districts on a pilot scale during 2013-14. The SBB has initiated action to strengthen the capacity of the field staff of the forest department in identification and documentation of PBRs. Odisha BD Rules, Guidelines for operationalizing BMCs and BD Act 2002 are being translated into Odiya for circulation to all panchayats under the SBB.

The IDB was celebrated on 22nd May 2012 with a focal theme on “Marine Biodiversity Conservation in Odisha – Challenges and Opportunities”. The SBB also organized a stakeholder workshop on 5th Feb 2013 wherein professionals from various fields including research organizations, academia and naturalists participated. The Board has identified the Mandargiri Reserve Forest for declaring it as a BHS.

17. Punjab

The Punjab Biodiversity Board has constituted two BMCs during 2012-13 taking the total number of BMCs to 54 BMCs. The SBB identified Inami Baag -a mango orchard at Village Bassi



Umar Khan, Block Bhunga, District Hosiarpur which is spread over 10 acres and has a large diversity of mango species for declaration as a BHS. The SBB initiated preparation of PBRs at district level in Pathankot and Fazilika.

During 2012-13, a book titled “Bioresources based industry in Punjab: A Treatise” was published by the SBB. Also the BD Act and the BD Rules have been translated in Punjabi. As part of Cop-11 exhibition, the SBB designed and printed 30 posters. A state level IDB function was held at Central University Punjab, on 22nd May 2012 which included lectures by experts and panel discussions on the importance of preserving the biodiversity.

18. Rajasthan

A total of 22 BMCs were formed during 2012-13 including 13 at village level, 3 at block/taluk level, 4 at palika/municipality level and 2 at zilla parishad level. Five sites have been identified by Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board for notification as BHS that include : Aakal wood Fossil Park Jaisalmer (Desert Biodiversity & Fossils), KeorakiNal, Udaipur (Rich plant biodiversity), Ram-kuna, Udaipur (Rich Biodiversity of medicinal plants), Nag-Pahar,

Ajmer (rich plant biodiversity) and Chhapoli Mansa-mata, Jhunjhunu (rich plant & animal biodiversity).

A booklet on “Endangered & Threatened Species of Wild Animals” was published. Other publicity materials include 5 postcards and 5 stickers. The IDB was celebrated at 31 District headquarters on 22nd May 2012 and with a good participation by large number of stakeholders and public at Bassi range of Jaipur and Kota and other parts of Rajasthan. At the district level 27 public awareness programmes were organized, including a regional workshop at Jaipur and 7 workshops at divisional level. The regional workshop on “Survey, Development, Conservation and Access to Biodiversity Resources” was organized by the SBB focusing on protection of forest animals in the interest of human wellbeing.

19. Sikkim

During IDB celebrations, a rally on the theme “Saving Lake Gyam Tsona-Sikkim’s Ocean in the Sky” was organised by Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management Department (FEWMD), Government of Sikkim to raise awareness among the general public. FEWMD focussed its conservation efforts to draw attention of the government institutions and private sectors of the state and public on restoration of Gyam Tsona – a source of the Teesta River.

20. Tamil Nadu

In the State of Tamil Nadu, 19 panchayats have prepared groundwork for constituting BMCs in

the respective areas. The SBB also apprised the local bodies, including municipalities and corporations about the provisions in the BD Act on the formation of BMCs. The SBB also identified the biodiversity-rich areas at Senthiraikillai in Cuddalore District and Vagaikulam in Thirunelveli District and preparing proposals for declaration as BHS by the State Government.

21. Tripura

The number of BMCs so far constituted stood at 57 at the village/panchayat level and 23 at the block/taluk/mondal level. As on 31st March 2013, 10 PBRs have been documented. The Longtharai Temple site has been identified as BHS and a proposal has been sent to the State Government. Nestled in the midst of the green hills of the Longtharai range, the surrounding area of the temple presents a vast scope of eco-tourism generating economic benefits to the local people.

The SBB brought out 24 posters as part of dissemination materials. The IDB was



celebrated at schools, eco-parks, BMC areas and sanctuaries. There was also a day-long seminar on “Linking Biodiversity Conservation

with Livelihoods” organized in collaboration with the ONGC, and the Centre for Environment Education. The SBB also exhibited posters, banners, handicraft items, indigenous rice varieties during the CoP11 meeting.

22. Uttar Pradesh

During the year, the UP SBB processed three ABS applications for grant of approval for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization. In this period two BMCs were formed and two PBRs were documented. As of 31st March 2013, there were 7 BMCs and 4 PBRs documented at village/panchayat level. The UP State Biodiversity Board took active participation in CoP-11 conference and published 11 flyers and released a booklet on Biodiversity “Living Treasures of Uttar Pradesh” and organised a series of events.

On 22nd May 2012, the IDB was celebrated at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University Campus, Lucknow. During the event, a national conference on “Marine Biodiversity” was organized to create awareness about oceans and to inspire action to conserve marine wilderness and biodiversity. A souvenir was also published on Marine Biodiversity. The SBB celebrated “Vulture Awareness Day” on 1st September 2012 and “World Wetland Day” on 2nd of Feb 2013, in association with the University of Lucknow and Dr. B R. Ambedkar University, Agra.

23. Uttarakhand

Three Board meetings were conducted during 2012-13. In this period, 41 BMCs were constituted at village/panchayat level and 2

at block/taluk/mondal level. As of 31st March 2013, 636 BMCs are in place, out of which 615 BMCs are at the village/ panchayat level; 3 at the block/taluk/mondal level, 18 at the nagarpalika/ municipality level. Thirteen PBRs are in the process of finalization. While no sites have been notified as BHS, preliminary assessments have been carried out in 13 sites by the SBB.

A book on “Threatened Species of Uttarakhand”, a pamphlet on “Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve” and a folder on “Biodiversity in Different Religions” have been published as part of dissemination materials. Also, 7 display panels and 3 posters on various aspects of biodiversity were brought out. The IDB celebrations were organised in Forest Divisions Nainital, Chakraka and Hardwar.

24. West Bengal

Dr. Asok Kanti Sanyal assumed as Chairperson of West Bengal Biodiversity Board on 22nd May 2012. During 2012-13, two Board meetings were conducted. During this period, 13 BMCs were formed and 10 PBRs were documented. A total of 14 applications for commercial utilization / bio utilization were processed and approvals granted. As part of awareness raising activities, a film on “Buxa Tiger Reserve West Bengal – A bequest of Biodiversity” was produced and information brochures on various aspects of biodiversity were brought out both in English and Bengali. The State Board also conducted programmes through Radio & Television Broadcast and organised four Nature Study Camps.

State-wise status summary of BMCs, PBRs as of 2012-13

Sl. No	Name of the State	Year of formation	As of 31-Mar-2013, the total number		During 2012-13, the total number of				
			BMC	PBRs	BMC	PBRs		BHS	
			BMC	PBRs	At all levels	Draft / Documented	In Process	Declared / Proposed	Identified
1	Andhra Pradesh	2006	220	2	128	6		3	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2005	20	3	5				1
3	Assam	2010	57		57				
4	Bihar	2013							
5	Chhattisgarh	2006	27						
6	Goa	2004	5						
7	Gujarat	2006	902	1	1269	17	117		1
8	Haryana	2006							
9	Himachal Pradesh	2005	14	1		1	3		1
10	Jammu & Kashmir	2013							
11	Jharkhand	2007	36	11	25	3			
12	Karnataka	2003	4263	245	539	30	3	6	3
13	Kerala	2005	978	290	32	258			3
14	Madhya Pradesh	2004	23743	600		78			2
15	Maharashtra	2012	156		339			1	
16	Manipur	2006	40	3	4				19
17	Meghalaya	2011	63		79				
18	Mizoram	2009	234			2			
19	Nagaland	2006	10						
20	Orissa	2005					30	1	
21	Punjab	2009	54		2		3	3	
22	Rajasthan	2004	19		22				5
23	Sikkim	2010							
24	Tamil Nadu	2006	13						2
25	Tripura	2008	68		16	10			1
26	Uttar Pradesh	2008	5	2	2	2			
27	Uttarakhand	2006	598	139	43	7	13		13
28	West Bengal	2006	49	17	13	10		1	
			31574	1314	2575	424	169	15	57

7. Review of Legal and Regulatory Framework

With the changing scenario in the biodiversity segment, where stakeholders are becoming more conscious of the legal requirements in accessing biological resources and associated knowledge and sharing of benefits, the role of NBA has been vital for ensuring compliance of various regulatory measures for a better future. To keep pace with the development, NBA has been constantly updating its regulatory procedures by way of notifications, guidelines and regulations of various aspects.

7.1 Notification of Threatened Species

The BD Act, as part of conservation efforts, provides for notification of species that are on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in the near future as threatened species and prohibit or regulate collection thereof for specific purposes and take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve them. Such notification will be issued by Central Government, in consultation with the concerned State Government and NBA plays a pivotal role in liaising with the Central and the State Governments in this regard. During the year, notifications were issued in respect of Manipur and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, bringing the total notifications so far issued to 15.

7.2 Designation of National Repositories

In accordance with Section 39 of BD Act, the Central Government may, in consultation with the NBA, designate institutions as repositories for different categories of biological resources, to keep their voucher specimen deposited by the applicants. So far 13 institutes/ organizations have been designated as repositories under the BD Act and during the year, the Ministry has notified the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (NBAIL) as a repository, to receive agriculturally important insects, mites and spiders for safe custody.

7.3 Revision of SBB Rules

The BD Act empowers the State Government to notify rules for carrying out the purposes of the Act by the State Biodiversity Boards. During the year under review, Govt. of Mizoram has notified the Mizoram State Biological Diversity Rules on 25th April 2012. The NBA provides legal inputs to the SBBs in finalizing the State-specific rules in the draft stage. However, there are some State Rules which are not in consonance with the provisions of the BD Act and Rules. This issue was discussed at length in the 8th Meeting of SBBs held in March 2013 and the SBBs were given proper legal guidance and advice.



8. Externally-aided Projects

8.1 Strengthening Institutional structures to implement the Biological Diversity Act

Strengthening institutional mechanism for effective implementation of the BD Act and Rules form the main objective of this project funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) through the Ministry of Environment and Forests. This project, implemented in the states of Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh between 2010 and 2012 focussed on supporting the SBBs and BMCs to implement the Act at state and local levels. Through this project, series of activities such as linking bio-enterprise development programmes with BMCs, training local communities on value addition to biological resources, enhancing the capacities of BMCs to prepare PBRs and creating awareness to stakeholder groups including ministries and agencies at state level were undertaken.

The project, implemented in 44 Panchayats in Hazaribag and Latehar districts in Jharkhand and in Balaghat, Hoshangabad and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, generated significant knowledge among the stakeholders, including members of Panchayats and BMCs. Livelihoods

of the community were enhanced because of the training and micro-enterprise development programmes on mushroom cultivation, piggery, bamboo-based handicrafts production, apiary, lac production and sericulture. The local people in the jurisdiction of Malajkh BMC in Madhya Pradesh are earning a regular income by way of benefit sharing from M/s Natural Remedies Pvt. Ltd in Bengaluru who are accessing a medical herb, “Kalmegh” (*Andrographis paniculata*) from this area.

With the aid and assistance of the Project, 36 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) were established in Jharkhand, 957 BMCs re-constituted in Madhya Pradesh and Local Biodiversity Fund was constituted in 260 BMCs with a seed money of Rs. 5,20,000. Procedures were developed to deal with offences under Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules, 2004 and a tool-kit on “Constituting Biodiversity Management Committees” and “Preparation of People’s Biodiversity Registers” was brought out. A booklet on Guidelines for Notification of BHS in English and Hindi was published and a database on networking systems and linkages in the project sites was also developed.

8.2 Strengthening the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions

Supported by UNEP-GEF, NBA is implementing a project with the objective of increasing the individual, institutional and systemic capacities of stakeholders for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, with focus on biodiversity conservation through Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) provisions.

This is the first global project under Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded through the United Nations Environment Programme-Division of Environmental Law & Conventions (UNEP/DELIC) and implemented in collaboration with UNDP and United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU – IAS), Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India. The project is executed in 5 States, associating with the State Biodiversity Boards in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

The project deals with assessing and quantifying the economic value of bioresources present at local, state and national levels using appropriate methodologies to determine benefit sharing, which will help in better implementation of the BD Act and facilitate national decision makers on prioritizing conservation action. The project also focusses on developing tools, methodologies, guidelines and frameworks inter alia, on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), Mutually Agreement Terms (MAT), Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) and benefit sharing agreements for realising ABS provisions. The

project also facilitates and enhances efforts of the stakeholders in decision making towards implementing the provisions of ABS.

8.2.1 Capacity building of international players

Under the Project, a three-day training programme on “National Legislation on Biodiversity for Government officials of the SAARC” was held during 29th – 31st August 2012, in which 32 delegates participated. The programme aimed to provide an opportunity for CBD focal points and legal experts within the SAARC region to interact and exchange experiences and identify suitable sub-regional programmes. During the technical session, eminent speakers made presentations on legal issues related to biodiversity, Bio-cultural Community Protocols; ABS issues on Nagoya Protocol; Benefit Sharing Mechanisms; Local practices – in the Context of ABS and TK issues; IPR and Biodiversity and its Legal issues.



ASEAN India capacity building workshop on Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge was organized during 04th-05th September, 2012, at Hotel Ashok,

New Delhi. The objective of the workshop is to exchange and share experiences among India and ASEAN Member States on issues related to ABS and TK for effective implementation of National ABS provisions in the context of Nagoya Protocol and to identify future areas of cooperation. The workshop was attended by delegates from Lao PDR, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam as well as representatives from ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB). The delegates have identified the following areas for further collaboration:

- To develop and implement an ABS legal framework;
- Develop Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) in ASEAN countries;
- Awareness raising on intellectual property and ABS;
- Community based ABS practices.

During the workshop it was decided that the NBA, ASEAN Secretariat and ACB will develop a proposal for consideration under the ASEAN-India Green Fund through the ASEAN-India cooperation mechanism on the above identified thematic areas.

Capacity building workshop for African nationals was organised in Bengaluru during 11th-13th February 2013, as part of project activity, in association with the MoEF and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. This workshop was arranged to fulfil the collaboration between India and Africa as agreed under the 2nd Africa-India Forum

Summit (AIFS-II). This workshop helped in sharing of the experiences in implementing various provisions on issues related to ABS, TK and biosafety with experts from African regions. This collaboration will enable the participants to take forward an inclusive agenda on capacity building and awareness raising, using the South-South Cooperation platform.

8.2.2 Events at national level

During CoP-11 in October 2012, the Project Management Unit (PMU) organised a side event and presented the activities of the ABS project in India to the International participants. Around 50 members from different countries participated in the event.



The staff from the UNEF-GEF Project Management Unit along with the Indian delegation participated in the Inter-governmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Utilization (ICNP2) organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, at New Delhi in July, 2012. The team also attended the capacity building workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing at New Delhi organised by

the CBD and launched the ABS project folder containing the fact sheets.

The Project team also participated in the National Biodiversity Congress (NBC) held at Thiruvananthapuram in December 2012 and exhibited the project related display panels containing information relevant to the ABS provisions of the BD Act, PBR process, formation of BMCs and economic valuation of biological resources

8.2.3 Other activities

During January 2013, the PMU organised an exhibition highlighting the project activities at the 100th Science Congress at Kolkata, West Bengal. A large number of local communities visited the exhibition. The team exhibited the project related educational display panels in the Science City Exhibitions during the month of January, 2013. In this programme, 10 different short films on biodiversity related issues were screened.

The project facilitated constitution of around 80 BMCs across four states namely Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal and arranged for interactive meetings in more than 75 BMCs.

As part of the Project work, the following publications were brought out for dissemination of information among all the State Biodiversity Boards and the stakeholders:

- Folder on Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with Focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provision.

- Information Brochure on the Project.
- Defining and Explaining - ABS Terminology
- Training Manual on “Economic Valuation of Bio-Resources for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)” for the SBBs
- Guidance Manual on ABS Mechanism under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

8.3 GEF Project on strengthening the enabling environment for Biodiversity Conservation and Management in India

This Direct Access Project, supported by Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the World Bank was implemented by NBA with the objective of providing assistance in meeting the national reporting requirements to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by India. The main components of the project are revision of National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP), preparation of the fifth National Report (NR5) to the CBD and setting up of the National Clearing House Mechanism (NCHM). Following are the key activities under the project:

8.3.1 Revision of NBAP

The NBAPs are the principal instruments for implementing the CBD at the national level. To revise the NBAP and to develop a set of national targets for India in line with the Aichi Targets, NBA has carried out rapid stock taking assessment on-

- a) India's action plans/ programmes related to the CBD on Biological Diversity and mapped against the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets;

- b) Assessment of the causes and consequences of biodiversity loss highlighting the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and their contribution to human well-being;
- c) Development of a draft set of national biodiversity targets (2012-2020) along with a set of indicators.

The outcome of these exercises was widely shared with various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India, including the Planning Commission, academicians and representatives of NGOs through brainstorming meetings during the two-day consultation workshop held on 30th & 31st July, 2012. Outcomes of these consultations are used to develop a set of revised national targets.

8.3.2 Preparation of 5th National Report



The NBA is preparing the 5th National Report (NR5) in collaboration with WII, Dehradun. The CBD has emphasised that national reporting is the obligation of all parties under Article 26 of the Convention. The NR5 provides countries an opportunity to undertake a mid-term review of progress in the implementation of

the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and in achieving relevant goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals. The NR5 will be compiled incorporating information on the a) outcomes / impacts of actions taken to implement the Convention at various levels; b) successful experiences and lessons learnt from implementation; c) obstacles encountered in implementation d) an updated account of information provided in the last National Report, to reflect changes that have occurred since then and e) analysis and synthesis on the status of implementation of the Convention.

8.3.3 National Clearing House Mechanism (NCHM)

The National Clearing House Mechanism (NCHM) has to be established as required under Article 18.3 of the CBD. The mission of the CHM can be articulated around three major goals: a) the central CHM provides effective global information services to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; b) national CHM provide effective information services to facilitate the implementation of the NBAP and c) significantly expand the CHM by using and providing required information. The NBA is currently developing a National CHM for CBD to disseminate information on the national implementation of the CBD, national targets, action plan programmes developed and also document the process involved in developing the NBAP and the NR5.

8.4 Establishment of Centre for Biological Diversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL)

Government of India and Norway entered into an agreement in 2010 to establish a Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL) at NBA. This Centre focusses on developing capacities on policy and legal components related to biodiversity and will serve as a centre of excellence to undertake research and review on key issues. The activities of the Centre will lay emphasis on the identified core areas which are of mutual interest between India and Norway. CEBPOL will provide opportunities to human resources development by offering Fellowships for interested candidates and is expected to shape up into a regional and international resource centre on biodiversity law and policy.



The CEBPOL was launched on 24th April, 2012 in Chennai by Ms. Heidi Sorensen, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Government of Norway in the presence of Dr. T. Chatterjee, Secretary, MoEF, Government of India, Ms. Anne Ollestad, Norway's Ambassador to India and Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairman, NBA. During this occasion, Ms. Heidi Sorensen released a publication titled "Lessons from Biodiversity Governance" brought out by NBA.

8.4.1 Objectives of CEBPOL

- To provide professional support, advice and expertise to the Government of India and Norway on a sustained basis on matters relating to biodiversity policies and laws at the national level, as well as in international negotiations relating to biodiversity in multilateral forums.
- To develop professional expertise in biodiversity related policies and laws, inter alia, through encouragement of research, development and training in matters relating to Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as its interface with other multilateral environment agreements and bodies of United Nations.
- To develop and implement an array of capacity building programmes through multi-disciplinary research and customize training programmes for a wide range of stakeholders, focussing on human resource development.
- To facilitate interactive information sharing through web conferencing, web seminars and virtual meetings involving relevant research centres and environmental law associations within India, Norway and other countries where such expertise is available.
- To help develop India as a regional and international resource Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law through provision of training and human resource development.

9. Financial Performance

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March, 2013

Receipts	(Amount in Rs)		Payments	(Amount in Rs)	
	Current Year 2012-13	Previous Year 2011-12		Current Year 2012-13	Previous Year 2011-12
I. Opening-Balances:			I. Expenditures:		
a) Cash in hand	15,000	10,000	a) Establishment Expenses	1,78,92,847	1,50,89,637
b) <u>Bank Balances:</u>			b) Administrative, E.C./Authority Meetings & Travel Expenses (Including CoP-11 Expenses)	7,35,82,045	3,40,62,085
(i) In Current A/c	19,198	26,915			
(ii) In Deposit A/c	85,00,000	-			
(iii) In Savings A/c	2,18,83,883	2,20,80,192			
c) GEF Bank A/c	1,32,47,673	1,51,747			
d) UNDP Cash	1,353	3,000			
UNDP Bank A/c	26,290	5,04,790			
II. Grants-Received:			II. Payment made towards Funding for Various Projects *		
a) From Government of India (MoEF)	14,91,44,766	7,93,68,946	From Authority Funds 26,48,463 From CoP-11 Funds 1,88,50,733 Total paid 2,14,99,196	2,14,99,196	32,85,883
* Authority Grants 6,15,44,766. SBB Grants 1,76,00,000. CoP-11 Grants 4,37,12,177. CoP-11 Receivable 2,62,87,823. Total 14,91,44,766.			III. Investments & Deposits Made:		
b) From State Government	-	-	a) Out of Earmarked / Endowment funds	-	-
c) From other Sources	39,57,236	-	b) Out of own Funds	-	-
* CoP-11 Exp. '11-12 32,22,702. NBSAP Exp. '11-12 1,19,813. UNDP-PBR Workshops 6,14,721. Total 39,57,236.			IV. Expenditure on Fixed Assets & Capital Work -in- Progress		
III. Income on-Investments from			a) Purchase of Fixed Assets *	16,75,390	31,04,212
a) Earmarked / Endowment Funds	7,50,386	44,147	Out of Authority Grants 13,43,624 Out of CoP-11 Grants 3,31,766 Total Assets purchased 16,75,390		
b) Own Funds (Other Investments)	-	-	b) Expenditure on Capital Work-in progress	-	-
IV. Interest received			V. Refund of Surplus money / Loans		
a) On Bank S.B.A/c	11,36,028	8,97,741	a) To the Govt. of India	-	-
b) Loans, Advances, etc.	-	-	b) To the State Government	-	-
			c) To other providers of funds	-	-

<u>V. Other incomes:</u>			<u>VI. Finance - charges (Interest)</u>	-	-
a) Application Fees	3,63,945	3,13,143			
b) Royalty	1,11,230	1,98,673			
c) Miscellaneous- Income	7,355	360	<u>VII. Other Payments</u>		
d) Sale of Newspapers	3,225	1,548	Security/Telephone	63,000	5,32,500
e) Sale of Assets	--	5,15,013	Deposits Paid		
f) RTI filing fees	888	125	SBBs.Share of	0	83,980
			Royalty		
			Grants to State Bio- diversity Boards	30,00,000	25,00,000
<u>VI. Amount - Borrowed</u>	-	-	(SBB)		
			Fundings to State Bio- diversity Boards (SBBs)	*	
			*	2,44,30,671	1,44,73,425
<u>VII. Other Receipts:</u>			Out of Authority Grants	1,83,13,281	
Earnest Money /			Out of CoP-11 Grants	61,17,390	
Security Deposit	10,62,000	93,000	Total Disbursed	2,44,30,671	
recd.from Contractors			CPF Bank A/c	1,84,000	96,000
NBA CPF Bank A/c	1,84,000	96,000	(Contributions Transfd.)		
(Contributions recd.)			NBA Staff CPS Bank	6,21,434	5,46,776
NBA Staff CPS Bank	6,21,434	5,46,776	A/c (Contributions Transfd.)		
A/c (Contributions recd.)			African Tk.Workshops	32,06,694	-
African Tk.Workshops	24,76,110	-	Asian Workshops	30,64,318	-
Asian Workshops	30,64,318	-	GEF on NBSAP Project	13,72,727	-
GEF on NBSAP Project	13,72,727	-	SAARC Meetings	10,28,281	
SAARC Meetings	10,28,281	-	GEF.Project A/c	1,50,32,853	1,06,24,061
GEF.Project A/c	4,39,66,144	2,37,19,987	UNDP.Project A/c *	34,55,191	36,98,207
UNDP.Project A/c	37,36,677	32,18,060	From UNDP A/c	26,66,525	
			From NBA Authority A/c	7,88,666	
			Total Payments	34,55,191	
			<u>VIII. Closing – Balances</u>		
			a) Cash in hand	25,000	15,000
			b) <u>Bank Balances:</u>		
			(i) Current A/c	-5,000	19,198
			(ii) In deposit A/c	97,44,140	85,00,000
			(iii) Savings A/c	3,46,26,396	2,18,83,883
			c) GEF Cash & Bank A/c	4,21,80,964	1,32,47,673
			d) UNDP Cash	0	1,353
			UNDP Bank A/c	0	26,290
Total	25,66,80,147	13,17,90,163	Total	25,66,80,147	13,17,90,038

sd/

SECRETARY

sd/

CHAIRMAN

**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113**

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 2013

(Amount in Rs.)

<u>INCOME</u>	Schedule No.	Current Year	Previous Year
Income from Sales / Services	12	—	—
Grants/ Subsidies: Rs.			
* Grants received as per Sch.No.13 12,34,71,664	13	* 12,17,96,274	10,17,02,265
Less: Purchase of Fixed Assets- during the year (-) 16,75,390			
Net Income from Grants 12,17,96,274			
Fees / Subscription	14	3,63,945	3,13,143
Income from Investments (Income on Invest, from Earmarked / Endowment Funds transferred to Funds)	15	8,43,331	7,36,166
Income from Royalty, Publication etc.	16	1,11,230	1,14,693
Interest Earned	17	11,20,572	8,97,741
Other income	18	11,468	2,033
Increase / (decrease) in stock of Finished goods and works in-progress	19	—	—
TOTAL (A)		12,42,46,820	10,37,66,041
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Establishment Expenses	20	1,77,05,007	1,60,54,561
Other Administrative Expenses etc.	21	9,86,05,510	3,14,47,778
Expenditure on Grants, Subsidies etc.	22	2,39,61,744	1,96,44,308
Interest	23	---	---
Depreciation (for`2011-12 as per Schedule 8)		22,85,116	18,26,244
Loss on Sale of Assets made to M/s National Seeds Corporation Ltd., New Delhi.		---+	1,41,846
TOTAL (B)		14,25,57,377	6,91,14,737
Balance being excess of Expenditure / Income over Expenditure (A-B)		(-) 1,83,10,557	3,46,51,304
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		

sd/
SECRETARY

sd/
CHAIRMAN

**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113**

Balance Sheet as at 31st March,2013

(Amount in Rs.)

<u>CORPUS / CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES</u>	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Year
CAPITAL FUND	1	77,84,551	3,81,46,623
RESERVES AND SURPLUS	2	---	---
EARMARKED / ENDOWMENT FUNDS	3	1,09,58,723	96,40,217
SECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	4	---	---
UNSECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	5	---	---
DEFERRED CREDIT LIABILITIES	6	---	---
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	7	3,77,37,857	2,40,69,789
TOTAL		5,64,81,131	7,18,56,629
<u>ASSETS</u>			
FIXED ASSETS	8	81,72,280	87,82,006
INVESTMENTS – FROM EARMARKED/ ENDOWMENT FUNDS	9	---	---
INVESTMENTS – OTHERS	10	97,44,140	85,00,000
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.	11	3,85,64,711	5,45,74,623
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE (To the extent not written off or adjusted)			
TOTAL		5,64,81,131	7,18,56,629
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		

sd/

SECRETARY

sd/

CHAIRMAN

Annual Plan 2013-14

1. For effective implementation of BD Act, to conduct Authority meetings four times in 2013-14.
2. Regulate Access of Biological resources and to provide guidance to applicants.
3. Conserving and facilitating sustainable use of BD by holding regular awareness raising meetings.
4. Realise the benefit sharing / royalty from the users and sharing of amount to local communities / benefit claimers.
5. Facilitation and identification of more BHS and facilitate their protection.
6. Regular holding of stakeholder meetings and meetings of Expert Committees.
7. Organize conferences and capacity building programmes at National and International level.
8. Operationalize CEBPOL programme.
9. Work collaboratively with externally funded projects like UNEP, GEF on ABS programmes and facilitate in achieving targets.
10. As part of effective implementation of BD Act, actively engage in litigation process by defending cases, keeping in mind the national interests.
11. Provide assistance for strengthening SBBs by creating infrastructures .
12. Facilitate formation of more BMCs.
13. To respect and protect knowledge of local communities related to BD.
14. To provide assistance to develop more PBRs.
15. Undertake activities for Biodiversity conservation including biosafety.



PhotoCourtesy : Dr. Jitendra Katre

Annex-1

Members of the National Biodiversity Authority

CHAIRPERSON	PERIOD
Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati	From 12th August 2011 onwards
Shri M.F. Farooqui, IAS	11th Nov 2010 to 11th Aug 2011
Dr. P.L. Gautam	31st Dec 2008 to 3rd Nov 2010
Shri P.R. Mohanty, IFS	01st Oct 2008 to 31st Dec 2008
Shri G.K. Prasad, IFS	20th May 2008 to 30th Sep 2008
Dr. S. Kannaiyan	20th May 2005 to 19th May 2008
Shri Viswanath Anand, IAS	01st Oct 2003 to 14th July 2004

Sl.No	Ex-Officio Members & Address
1	Shri Arun K Bansal, IFS, Addl. Director General of Forests (FC), Ministry of Environment & Forest, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
2	Dr. Bala Prasad, IFS, Chief Executive Officer, National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of AYUSH, Chandralok Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi – 100 001.
3	Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
4	Shri Utpal Kumar Singh IAS Joint Secretary (Plant Protection), Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi – 110 001.
5	Dr. Swapan Kumar Datta, Deputy Director General (Crop Science) Division of Crop Science, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi 110 114.

Sl.No	Ex-Officio Members & Address
6	Dr. Renu Swarup, Advisor, Department of Biotechnology CGO Complex, Block No. 2 Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003.
7	Dr. B. Harigopal, Advisor, Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Delhi – 110 016.
8	Dr. P. Madeswaran, Director, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Block -12, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003.
9	Shri A.K. Srivastava, Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi-110001.
10	Representative from Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi – 110 016.

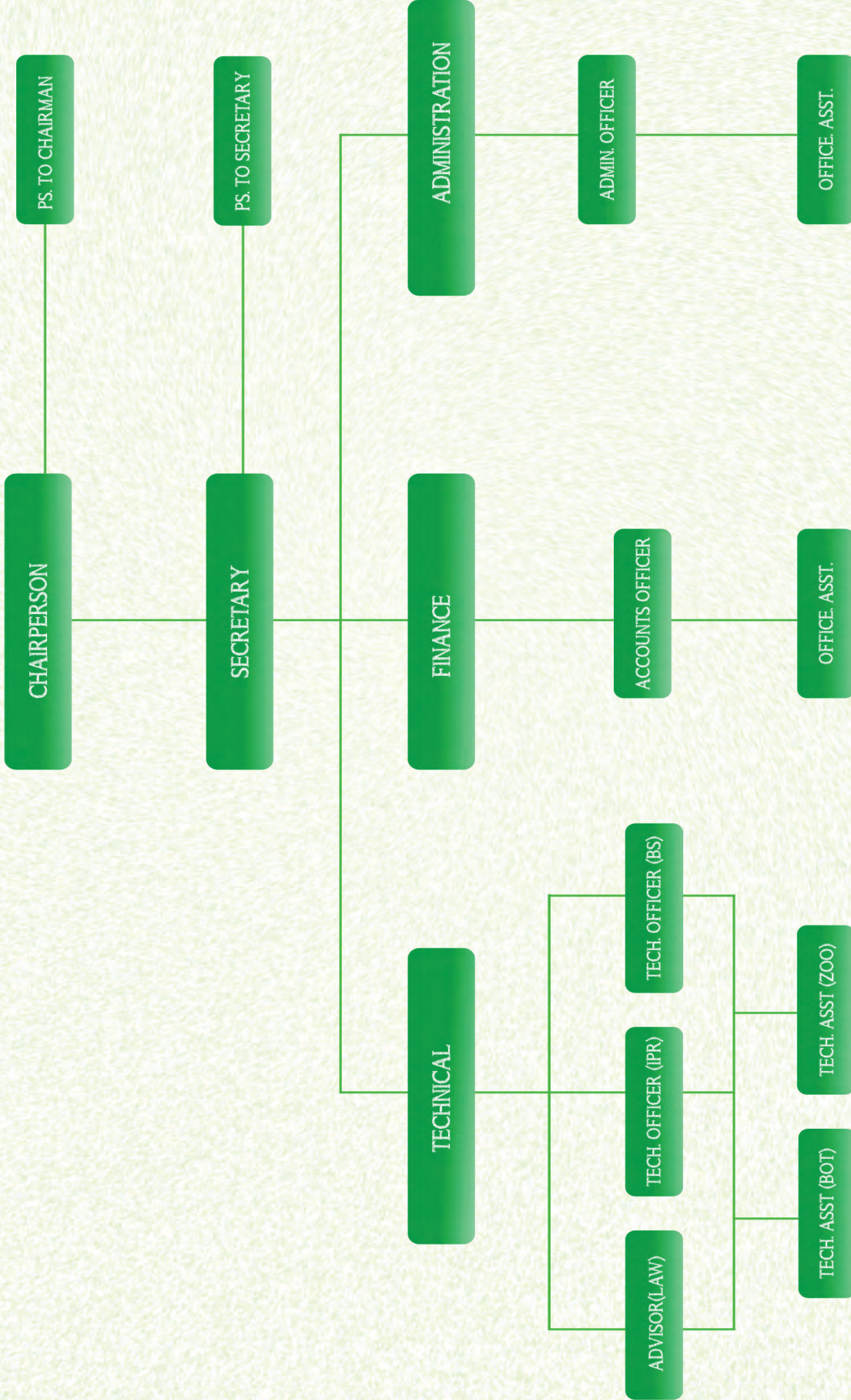
Sl.No	Non-Official Members & Address
1	Dr. Darshan Shankar, Advisor, FRLHT, Chairman, Institute of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine (IAIM) 74/2, Jarakabande Kaval, Post Attur, Via Yelahanka, Bangalore-560 064.
2	Dr.R.S.Rana, Chairman, Bio-Link, D-43,Indraprastha Apartments, Sector 14, Rohini, New Delhi-110 025

3	Dr. S. Subramaniam, 54, VGP, Golden Sea View, Part-II, 2nd Main Road, 5th Cross Street, Palavakkam, Chennai-600 041
4	Dr. Uppeandra Dhar, 11, SBI Apartments, Near Eicher School, Sector 46, Faridabad-121 002, Haryana.
5	Dr. K.M. Bujarbaruah, Vice-Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat-785 013

Staff Strength of National Biodiversity Authority

Position	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant	Remarks
Chairperson	1	1	-	
Secretary	1	1	-	
PS to Chairman	1	1	-	
PS to Secretary	1	1	-	
Administrative Officer	1	1	-	
Technical Officer (IPR)	1	-	1	Eligibility conditons for the post are under revision
Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing)	1	1	-	
Advisor Law	1	1	-	
Office / Computer Assistants	2	2	-	
Technical Assistants	2	2	-	
Stenographer"C"	1	1	-	
Stenographer"D"	1	-	1	Post being readvertised
Peon	1	1		
Total	15	13	2	

Annex-2 - Organizational Structure



Besides the above officers and staff, the NBA is supported by the consultants to assist in technical and miscellaneous matters as per Rule 12 (6). The role of consultant is more or less similar to 'Amicus Curiae' in the Court of Law. Besides they assist Chairman and Secretary in preparation of Scientific, position papers, project reports etc.

Annex-3

NBA Citizen's Charter

Vision

Conservation and sustainable use of India's rich biological diversity and associated knowledge with people's participation, ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits, for the well-being of the present and future generations.

Mission

To effectively implement the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules 2004 to ensure realisation of the objectives, conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

Mandate

Reaffirm the sovereign rights over the bio-resources of India and contribute towards prevention of misappropriation of bio-resources and/or associated knowledge.

Provide policy and support relating to conservation, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilization of biological resources.

Regulate activities by formulation of guidelines, extension materials for access to biological resources and for reaching the stakeholders and

ensuring fair and equitable benefit sharing in accordance with the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Take measures to oppose the grant of intellectual property rights to persons in other countries on any biological resource of India or knowledge associated with such biological resources of Indian Origin.

Advise the State Governments concerning their area specific biodiversity, and in notifying heritage sites and also suggest measures for their management and sustainable use.

Provide guidance, technical and financial support to Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) for preparing People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) in the areas falling under their respective jurisdiction.

Perform such other functions as may be necessary to implement the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Stakeholders

Biodiversity is a multidisciplinary subject involving diverse activities, initiatives and stakeholders. The stakeholders in biological diversity include the Central Government, State Governments, Union Territories, Institutions of Panchayat Raj and Civil Society Organizations, Industries, NGOs, Research and Development Institutions, Universities and public at large.

Services Offered

Promotion of Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Coordination of the activities of the State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees, sponsor studies and adaptive/ operational investigation and research by providing technical guidance, and commissioning of studies as found necessary.

Advise Government of India on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits of biological resources.

Grant approval for access to biological resources occurring in India or associated knowledge, for transferring the results of research, seeking intellectual property right, third party transfer of accessed bio-resource for research or for commercial utilisation or for bio-survey and bio-utilization.

Facilitate access to bio-resource by all stakeholders and ensuring equitable benefit sharing between users and conservers of biodiversity in a transparent manner.

Expectations from the citizens/clients

To abide by the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and rules made there under and imbibe and promote the spirit of conservation of natural resources and respect for the laws of nature and extend cooperation for carrying out the above activities by NBA and SBBs in the overall interest of human kind.

Grievances Redressal Mechanism

Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, is the designated officer for redressal of public grievances and can be addressed to:

The Secretary,

National Biodiversity Authority,
TICEL Bio Park 5th Floor, CSIR Road,
Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.
Phone:044-2254 1071
Fax: 044-2254 1074
Email : secretary@nbaindia.in

Annex - 4

Audit Report

कार्यालय प्रधान निदेशक लेखापरीक्षा
वैज्ञानिक विभाग, नई दिल्ली

सं.प्र.नि.वै.वि./प.ले./एस.ए.आर./NBA- Chennai/2013-14/275-278

दिनांक: 8/11/13

सेवा में,

Chairman,
National Bio-diversity Authority,
TICEL Bio-Park, Taramani,
Chennai 600113

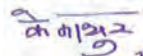
विषय: वर्ष 2012-13 के लिए National Bio-diversity Authority, Chennai का पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन

महोदय,

मुझे वर्ष 2012-13 के लिए National Bio-diversity Authority, Chennai का पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन अग्रेषित करने का निर्देश हुआ है।

संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने से पहले वर्ष 2012-13 के वार्षिक लेखों को संस्थान के शासी निकाय द्वारा अनुमोदित किया/अपनाया जाए तथा इस संबंध में शासी निकाय द्वारा जारी किया गया रेजोल्यूशन ऑडिट को भेजा जाए। प्रत्येक दरतावेज जो संसद में प्रस्तुत किया जाए उसकी तीन प्रतियाँ इस कार्यालय तथा दो प्रतियाँ भारत के नियंत्रक महालेखापरीक्षक को अग्रेषित की जाए। संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने की तिथियाँ भी इस कार्यालय को सूचित की जाए।

संलग्नक:- पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन

भवदीय,

निदेशक (पर्या.ले.) 8/11/13

Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year ended 31 March 2013.

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as at 31 March 2013, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended on that date under Section 19(2) of the Comptroller & Auditor General's (Duties, Powers & Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 read with Section 29(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. These financial statements are responsibility of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

2. This Separate Audit Report contains the comments of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) on the accounting treatment only with regard to classification, conformity with the best accounting practices, accounting standards and disclosure norms, etc., Audit observations on financial transactions with regard to compliance with the Law, Rules & Regulations (Propriety and Regularity) and efficiency-cum-performance aspects, etc., if any, are reported through Inspection Reports/CAG's Audit Reports separately.
3. We have conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidences supporting the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. An Audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.
4. Based on our audit, we report that
 - i) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
 - ii) The Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account dealt with by this report have been drawn up in the format approved by the Ministry of Finance Government of India.
 - iii) In our opinion, proper books of accounts and other relevant records have been maintained by the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as required under Section 29 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in so far as it appears from our examination of such books.
 - iv) we further report that

A. Balance Sheet

A.1. Current Liabilities and Provisions (Schedule 7) Rs.3.77 crore

No provision has been made by the Authority for superannuation pension, gratuity and leave encashment as required under Uniform Format of Accounts. The actual amount of non provision could not be worked out in audit.

B. Grants-in-aid

Out of grants received by NBA during the year 2012-13 amounting to Rs.2566.80 lakh Rs.1701.19 lakh was utilized leaving an amount of Rs.865.61 lakh as unutilized grants.

C. Management Letter.

Deficiencies which have not been included in the Audit Report have been brought to the notice of the National Biodiversity Authority through a management letter issued separately for remedial/corrective action.

- v) Subject to our observation in the preceding paragraphs, we report that the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of accounts.
- vi) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said financial statement read together with the Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts and Subject to the significant matters stated above and other matters mentioned in Annexure, to this Separate Audit Report give a true and fair view in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in India.
 - a. In so far as it relates to the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as at 31 March 2013.
 - b. In so far as it relates Income & Expenditure Account of the deficit for the year ended on that date.

Place: New Delhi

For & on behalf of CAG of India


4/11/13
Principal Director of Audit

Annexure to Audit Report

1. Adequacy of Internal Audit.

Internal audit of NBA was last conducted for the period upto 2008-09. The Inspection Report pertaining to the above Internal audit contained 21 paragraphs, which are pending for want of remedial action on the part of NBA.

2. Adequacy of Internal Control.

2.1. Bifurcation of Plan and Non-Plan.

In the common format of accounts, organisations have to prepare Income and Expenditure statements in such a way that details of Income and Expenditure are bifurcated as Plan and Non-plan. If such bifurcation is not possible, atleast a schedule showing bifurcation as Plan and Non-plan is to be appended to Annual Accounts.

2.2. Non-segregation of duties of preparation and passing of bills.

At NBA, both preparation and passing of bills was performed by the Administrative Officer, thereby diluting the internal control mechanism.

3. System of physical verification of fixed assets:

NBA had conducted physical verification of stores/ inventory during the year 2012-13. However, the old, obsolete, unserviceable items had not been identified.

4. System of physical verification of inventories:

Physical verification of inventory had been carried out at regular intervals.

5. Regularity in payment of statutory dues:

NIL

6. Any other observation on the functioning of the Corporation which suggests a significant risk to financial reporting.

NIL

काशी ७/११/१३ .
Director (EA)



Gurveen Sidhu

प्रधान निदेशक, लेखा परीक्षा
वैज्ञानिक विभाग

ए० जी० सी० आर० भवन, इन्द्रप्रस्थ एस्टेट
नई दिल्ली - 110 002

PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR OF AUDIT,
SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS,
A.G.C.R. BUILDING, I.P. ESTATE,
NEW DELHI-110 002

D.O. No.PDA/SD/EA/SAR-NBA/2012-13 / 275

28/11/13

Sub.: Management letter on the accounts of NBA, Chennai for 2012-13.

Dear *Dr. Kripati,*

Based on audit of accounts of your Institute by this office, the following points are brought to your notice for corrective action.

1. Status of Utilisation Certificates.

As against 321 agencies to whom grants amounting to Rs.9.89 crore was released during the years 2005-06 to 2012-13, Utilisation Certificates (UCs) were pending from 71 agencies towards grants amounting to Rs.2.67 crore. This shows that Utilisation Certificates were pending from more than 20 percent of the agencies, pertaining to 25 percent of the grants released. For the grants released during the year 2011-12, Utilisation Certificates from more than 40 percent of the agencies, amounting to more than 35 percent of the grants released was pending.

Out of this, UCs amounting to Rs.0.32 crore against 12 agencies were pending for more than 3 years. Details of utilization certificates pending for more than three years has not been disclosed in the Notes to Accounts appended to the Annual Accounts, thereby accounts not reflecting the true and fair picture of the system of accounting of the grants released.

NBA replied that the receipt of UCs is vigorously being pursued through regular correspondence with SBBs and also during the Meetings of State Biodiversity Boards, and that the progress in this regard would be intimated to Audit in due course.

2. Understatement of Depreciation Account

According to the Accounting Standards, assets having value less than Rs.5000/- are to be depreciated at 100 percent. However, the same was not done at NBA. This has resulted in understatement of depreciation and overstatement of fixed assets amounting to Rs. 13426/-.

दूरभाष / Phone : 23702325, 23702348 फैक्स / Fax : 91-11-23702353

3. Overstatement of Depreciation Account.

NBA had accounted an amount of Rs.2.32 lakh of Work in progress under Fixed Assets and depreciated the Work in progress by Rs.0.12 lakh. This has resulted in overstatement of Work in progress to an extent of Rs.2.32 lakh and understatement of Current Assets, Loans and Advances to the same extent.

Charging depreciation on the Work in progress has resulted in overstatement of Depreciation and also Deficit to the extent of Rs.0.12 lakh.

4. Guidelines for utilization of Funds

As stipulated in Section 27 of Biological Diversity Act, NBA constituted a separate National Biodiversity Fund. The sum accumulated under this Fund is to be applied for channeling benefits to the benefit claimers, conservation and promotion of biological resources and development of areas from where such biological resources has been accessed and socio-economic development of areas in consultation with the local bodies concerned.

NBA, however, did not so far formulate and notify guidelines for the purpose of application of funds for the purposes provided in the Act. Therefore sums accumulated under the Fund were kept idle. The Fund so kept idle as at March 2013 was Rs.1.02 crore.

NBA replied that the guidelines for Utilisation of Funds accumulated under National Biodiversity Fund were under fine tuning as per directions of the Authority before notification in the Official Gazette.

The reply needs to be viewed from the fact that even after almost ten years of formation NBA has not notified the guidelines, resulting in Rs.1.02 crore not benefiting the intended beneficiaries.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati,
Chairman,
National Biodiversity Authority,
TICEL Bio Park,
Taramani,
Chennai 600 113

Abbreviations

ABS	: Access and Benefit Sharing
ADMA	: Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers' Association
BD Act	: Biological Diversity Act
BHS	: Biodiversity Heritage Site
BMC	: Biodiversity Management Committee
BSI	: Botanical Survey of India
CBD	: Convention on Biological Diversity
CEBPOL	: Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law
CoP	: Conference of Parties
CSIR	: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
DGFT	: Directorate General of Foreign Trade
EC	: Expert Committee
EDC	: Eco-Development Committee
FRLHT	: Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions
GEF	: Global Environmental Facility
GoI	: Government of India
I-AIM	: Institute of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine
IDB	: International Day for Biodiversity
IBIS	: Indian Biodiversity Information System
IISc	: Indian Institute of Science
INBIF	: Indian Biodiversity Information Facility
IPR	: Intellectual Property Rights
MoEF	: Ministry of Environment and Forests
MPEDA	: Marine Products Export Development Authority
NACEN	: National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotics
NBA	: National Biodiversity Authority
NGC	: National Green Corps
NGOs	: Non-Governmental Organizations
NTC	: Normally Traded Commodities
PBR	: People's Biodiversity Register
PCCF	: Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
PPVFR	: The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights
RET	: Rare, Endangered and Threatened
RIS	: Research and Information System for Developing Countries
R&D	: Research and Development
SBB	: State Biodiversity Board
ToR	: Terms of Reference
TSG	: Technical Support Group
UNDP	: United National Development Programme
WCCB	: Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

About NBA

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA is a Statutory, Autonomous Body and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions for Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

The Biological Diversity Act (2002) mandates implementation of the Act through decentralized system with the NBA focussing on advising the Central Government on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources and advising the State Governments in the selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified under Sub-Section (1) of Section 37 as heritage sites and measures for the management of such heritage sites.

The State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) focus on advising the State Governments, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.

The SBBs also regulate, by granting of approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization of bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians. The local level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are responsible for 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.

The NBA with its headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, delivers its mandate through a structure that comprises the Authority, Secretariat, SBBs, BMCs and Expert Committees.

Since its establishment, NBA has supported creation of SBBs in 28 States and, facilitated establishment of 31,574 BMCs at local level.