

National Biodiversity Authority

Minutes of the 14th Authority Meeting



21st July, 2009

Venue

Conference Room,
ICAR Conferencing facilities,
NASC Complex, Pusa
New Delhi

Minutes of the 14th Authority Meeting of National Biodiversity Authority

Date: 21st July, 2009

Venue: Conference Room, ICAR Conferencing facilities
NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi

Fourteenth meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 21 July, 2009 from 10.30 A.M. onwards in the Conference Room, ICAR Conferencing facilities NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr P. L. Gautam, Chairman, NBA to consider the agenda items circulated earlier by email on 4 July, 2009 as well as by speed post.

The list of participants is given below:-

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

Dr. P.L. Gautam
Chairman, NBA

Shri A. K. Goyal, I.F.S.,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003

Dr. Swapan Kumar Datta
Deputy Director General (Crop Science)
Division of Crop Science,
Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi 110 114.

Shri B. S. Sajwan, I.F.S.,
Chief Executive Officer,
National Medicinal Plants Board,
Dept of AYUSH, New Delhi 110 001,

Shri P. Madeswaran,
Director, Ministry of Earth Sciences,
Block -12, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003.

Dr. Renu Swarup,
Advisor, Department of Biotechnology
CGO Complex, Block No. 2,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003

Dr. Naresh Kumar,
Head, Dept. of Scientific and Industrial
Research,
R& D Planning Division,
CSIR, Rafi Marg, New Delhi - 110001

NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS

Dr A. K. Ghosh,
Director,
Centre for Environment and Development,
329, Jodhpur Park, Kolkata -700 068.

Dr. S. Subramaniyan,
54 VGP - Golden Sea View, Part II, 2nd Main
Road, 5 Cross Street, Palavakkam, Chennai -
600041.

Prof. K. Kathiresan,
Centre for Advanced Study in Marine
Biology, Annamalai University, Parangipettai
- 608502.

Secretary, NBA

Shri C. Achalender Reddy, I.F.S.,

Leave of Absence Granted to Official Members

Shri. M. B. Lal, I.F.S.,
Addl. Director General of Forests (Wildlife)
Ministry of Environment and Forests,
New Delhi.

Shri Pankaj Kumar,
Joint Secretary (Plant Protection),
Dept. of Agri. and Cooperation,
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

Dr. B. Harigopal,
Adviser, Dept. of Science & Technology,
Technology Bhavan,
New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi.

Shri A. K. Srivastava,
Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs,
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

Leave of Absence Granted to Non Official Members

Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar,
Centre for Ecological Sciences,
Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore 560 012.

Prof. Anil Gupta,
Indian Institute of Management,
Ahmedabad 380 015

Special Invitees Present

Prof. Madhav Gadgil,
Agharkar Research Institute, Pune

Dr Sujata Arora
Additional Director, Ministry of Environ and
Forests, New Delhi.

Dr.K.Venkataraman, Senior Consultant,
NBA, Chennai

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members of National Biodiversity Authority and the guests and special invitees to the 14th Authority meeting, especially Prof. Madhav Gadgil, Agharkar Institute, Pune to come over for a presentation on IBIS project. The Chairman informed that the Hon'ble Minister shall be addressing the members in the afternoon. He introduced the new Secretary of NBA and other new members of the Authority. Thereafter, the agenda items were discussed and considered as under:

Agenda 14.1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 13th Meeting of Authority

It was informed that the comments as received from different members were suitably incorporated and have been circulated. The authority confirmed the minutes of the 13th Authority meeting. In this regard, a comment was made by Shri A.K. Goyal that the Ministry's comments on 13th Minutes of NBA were not incorporated in the Minutes, even though they were included in the action taken report. Since the comments were included in the action taken report, they are noted for future guidance.

Agenda 14.2: Action Taken Report

It was informed that the most of the actions have been taken on the decisions of the 13th authority meeting. The action on a few items is in progress and some of the matters have been placed as separate agenda for discussion and decision in the meeting.

The members offered comments on the following agenda items:-

12.4. Review of NBA (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officer and other employees) especially in the context of column 13 with respect to the post of Secretary, NBA in the Schedule.

Shri A.K. Goyal informed that the NBA has indicated that *the Amendment has been sent to the Ministry for notification*. He informed that this notification is required to be issued by the NBA, and not the MoEF.

Agenda 12.5. Eligibility criteria for the Post of Chairman NBA

Shri A.K. Goyal, informed that in the action report it has been mentioned that *"it is suggested that it is better to bring some amendments in Biological Diversity Act and Rules 2004. A letter to this effect has been addressed to MoEF"*. In this regard, he opined that the Amendment of Act is a very cumbersome process, and hence the Rules may be amended for the purpose. He also suggested to incorporate all other matters requiring amendment in Rules. It was decided that a comprehensive proposal may be sent by the NBA to MoEF for consideration and notification.

13.4. Delegation of powers-Section 16 of the BDA

Shri B.S. Sajwan, Member has informed that since the NBA has full time Secretary, he may be vested with adequate administrative and financial powers.

13.5. Guidelines on National Biodiversity Fund (Section 26 (2))

Shri A.K. Goyal apprised that in the last financial year an amount of Rs.20 lakhs had been transferred to NBA Fund Account from current NBA Account. In this connection, NBA

may prepare guidelines for utilizing the NBA Fund. It was informed that a committee has already been constituted and a meeting is being scheduled soon.

13.12. Facilitating approvals for taxonomic research

It was informed that the decision taken on this item is pending. A committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. S.K. Sharma, NBPGR and Director, ZSI and BSI are members. The Secretary, NBA was requested to pursue the matter on priority basis.

13.13. Publication of booklet (Bulletin) on the Biodiversity of *Morus* species. (It was agreed that the NBA may consider evolving mechanism for approving proposals for publication).

Shri A.K. Goyal, mentioned that the guidelines are not yet framed for NBA publications. The Chairman requested Dr.A.K. Ghosh to prepare guidelines for the said subject. Also informed that the logistics and other support would be provided by NBA. Dr. A.K. Ghosh agreed and asked official communication from NBA to execute the assignment.

13.28.5. IPR agreements of CSIR

Before the discussion started, Dr. Naresh Kumar sought the permission of chair to allow him to leave the meeting during discussion on this item, so that the members discuss and decide on the matter in a fair and transparent manner. Responding to this request, the chairman granted the leave of absence to Dr. Naresh Kumar.

The Authority discussed the issue of pending 205 patent applications of CSIR (seeking clearance of NBA). After discussion, it was decided that the NBA should charge 2% of net revenue that CSIR may earn on licensing of granted patents as benefit sharing. The action on this matter may be expedited on priority basis.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.3: To consider and approve the model Guidelines/ Rules for selection and management of the State Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) submitted by the Expert Committee

Chairman appreciated the efforts of persons who were involved in the committee to bring out guidelines after a series of discussions and deliberations. According to the model guideline....."There shall be a ban of any activity which may have adverse effect on the biodiversity in the BHS, up to a minimum of five kilometers from the outer boundary of the BHS". Dr. A.K. Ghosh has raised query that the given 5 kilometer is either linear or radial distance. Chairman said that this part will be elaborated. Shri A.K. Goyal mentioned that regarding drafting guidelines/rules on BHS, the introduction/background given is not

correct and relevant section (37) has not been mentioned. Ministry had an internal meeting a year back with different professional wildlife managers who are dealing with national parks, sanctuaries, tiger reserves, biosphere reserves etc., and it was suggested that areas which have already been designated, identified nor notified under other acts and programmes may not be considered under this provision. The idea is to identify those areas important from biodiversity point of view which do not enjoy/protection under any act or programme. He has also stated that such an elaborative rule of banning all activities is not required to be incorporated since State Governments would find it difficult to notify BHSs. As BHS may be setup on government or private land, the restriction of activities upto 5 kms from boundary may be looked into again before sending to the State Governments. Dr. A.K. Ghosh opined that the simplified guidelines may be given as annex along with the rules. In the BHS guidelines/rule under budget*Financial requirement of the BHS shall be included in the annual budget of the local bodies.....* Dr.A.K. Ghosh mentioned that initially for establishment of BHS, fund may be provided by the SBB. Dr. Swapan Kumar Dutta mentioned that something needs to be addressed on the restriction of activities on 5 kilometer stretch from boundary of proposed BHS. Chairman informed that the Karnataka State has established a tamarind biodiversity heritage site and other State governments are also showing interest on this aspect. For simplifying the draft guidelines/rules, it was decided that Shri C.A. Reddy, Dr.K.Venkataraman and one expert who was not associated earlier with the preparation of guidelines, will simplify the draft rules, and submit the same to the Ministry within a month. In this regard it is to state that the point mentioned above with regard to "5 Km ban" was actually deleted by the Expert Committee but the point was printed inadvertently while taking print out.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.4. To consider the proposal for "Capacity Building on People's Biodiversity Register in the Marine and Coastal Regions of India" submitted by Prof. K. Kathiresan, Member of Authority

Shri A.K. Goyal expressed that the first and foremost is PBR methodology to be finalized and then colleges and institutions who have expertise in the field may help the BMC in PBR preparation. It was mentioned that funding to the tune of Rupees 32 lakhs for training programme on capacity building appears on higher side. Dr. Renu Swarup informed that NBA should develop strategy for training and capacity building and funding pattern. The directions may be given to SBBs for training and capacity building. The training should be at different levels viz., schools, colleges, public, personnel of various departments etc. Dr. A.K. Ghosh opined that the capacity building should be linked up with the PBR preparation. Dr. Madeswaran has expressed that NBA should allot exclusive budget for training personnel general public in documenting data/information in PBR as it is an important document.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.5: To consider approval of notification of guidelines on soil, sediment and microbial diversity submitted by the expert committee

It was informed that the requests have been received from different quarters for access to soil, microbes and sediment for collaborative research, but NBA didn't have guidelines for this purpose. Hence, guidelines have been prepared by Expert committee and are placed for consideration.

The members acknowledged the efforts made by the expert committee and had expressed concern on the guidelines prepared, and had suggested that these be examined at the level of NBA carefully.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.6: To consider termination of access applications

The members approved the termination of five applications. Dr.A.K. Ghosh opined that in future the reason for termination may be highlighted in the agenda by underline or making the font bold.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.7: To consider the new Logo of National Biodiversity Authority

The members agreed that the existing logo of NBA should be continued.



Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.8. Experience with processing/approval of access applications for bioresources and traditional knowledge

It was informed that NBA is alive to the concern being expressed by different institutions, organization, scientists, individuals, industries and NGOs for the clearance of technical applications. In this connection, NBA is now consulting BMCs through SBB for access to

biological resources. The information is not always coming in time and is also lacking clear cut recommendation. Shri A.K. Goyal opined that time limit may be given to SBB for giving consent on the access application. It was decided that a month time (30 days) for SBB/BMC may be given to provide consent, and if not received it shall be presumed that SBBs/BMCs have no objection in accessing the bioresources.

It was also decided that all designated repositories have to maintain voucher specimen of accessed bioresource in a separate section and these should be maintained as per international standards. In this regard, Secretary, NBA was directed to send a letter to all identified repositories to abide by the above conditions. Comments were received that repositories need wide publicity to the scientific field. It was agreed to publish such information in the biodiversity related journals and newsletters. The information may also be uploaded in the websites of all related institutions and advertise in local papers. It was also decided to organize a meeting of designated repositories for information sharing and assess the progress on the matter.

It was informed that Hon'ble Minister has assigned the task of developing a sui-generis system for protection of traditional knowledge to NGOs including lawyers and the exercise is going on. It was also decided that in the 15th meeting of the Authority, a presentation on the status, problems and prospects of agro biodiversity conservation and use including access may be requested from the ICAR. This will help in addressing the issues, if any.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.9. Consider the minutes of the expert committee on evaluation of application for access, seeking patent, transfer of research results, third party transfer of bioresources held on 11.05.09

The members approved the recommendations of the expert committee meeting held on 11-05-2009.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.10: Consideration the minutes of the expert committee on Determination of Equitable Benefit sharing held on 14.05.09

The members approved the recommendations of the expert committee meeting held on 14-05-2009.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.11. Celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2009

It was informed that the International Day of Biological Diversity 2009 was celebrated in a befitting manner. This year the theme is "Invasive Alien Species". It was celebrated in different institutions, schools and colleges, SBBs etc., NBA celebrated jointly with NBPGR

and released a short english film entitled “Deadly Neighbours” on Invasive Alien Species as well as a souvenir on Invasive Alien Species-A threat to Biodiversity. The hindi version of the film is also available. The members appreciated the efforts and desired that sufficient copies of this film be made available to different stakeholders for wider publicity. It was pointed that this agenda should be listed under items for information and not for approval.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.12. Joining of new secretary of NBA and noting services rendered by Dr.K.Venkataraman

Chairman introduced the new Secretary Shri C. Achalender Reddy who belongs to Indian Forest Service and also acknowledged the services rendered by Dr.K.Venkataraman in the NBA. He placed his sincere thanks to the Ministry and ZSI for loaning his services to the NBA. It is further informed that the Hon’ble Minister is keen to strengthen the NBA by providing technical professionals and the action on engaging such persons is in progress. It was pointed that this agenda should be listed under items for information and not for approval.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14. 13. To consider the exemption of certain biological resources as normally traded commodities

It was informed that NBA has finalized the first list of NTC on food crops, medicinal plants, horticultural crops, aromatic crops etc. for consideration. The list of aquatic organisms is under examination. Chairman requested members to provide their suggestions/comments within 10 days so that the proposal to the ministry is sent within 3 weeks.

Dr. Sajwan expressed that HS ITC code to be incorporated in the list so as to track the biological materials which are being exported as NTC. The proposal for this purpose shall be sent to the Ministry for taking up the matter with DGFT/concerned Ministry.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.14. New process / procedure for disposal of technical applications (Form-I Access, Form-II- Tr. of Res. Results, Form-III- patents, Form-IV- Third party transfer and Collaborative Research Projects)

The members approved the proposal.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.15: Consideration and approval of model methodology for People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

Chairman appreciated the efforts and inputs given by all. It was informed that the methodology for PBRs has been thoroughly discussed and deliberated. The members appreciated the efforts of NBA and approved the methodology. With the direction that the entire manuscript of the document be edited by eliminating repeated formats, if any.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.16: Enhancement of honorarium of members of the committees

The members ratified the enhancement of honorarium of members of the committees.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.17: Establishment of new office of NBA at Chennai and Liaison office in Delhi

The members noted with appreciation the efforts of NBA in the establishment of new office of NBA at Chennai and Liaison office in Delhi and ratified the decisions.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.18: Signing of the agreements of NBA on behalf of Chairman, NBA by Secretary, NBA

The members considered and ratified the decision.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.19: Restructuring/ constitution of the Expert committees

The members approved the expert committees restructured/constituted by the NBA. It was informed that a proforma will be circulated in the next meeting where members may

give opinion, if anybody in the committee is having any conflict of interest. It was also decided that EC on Access, patent..... and EC on benefit sharing committee would be merged as one committee. The EC on National Biodiversity Fund to finalize the guidelines within 2 months time.

Chairman sought comments on the reconstitution of the advisory committee on Agro-biodiversity. Dr. A.K. Ghosh suggested Dr. Debal Deb may be one of the members to the said committee as he is having knowledge on agro biodiversity related issues. The chairman requested the members to send their comments on the members to be included in the advisory committee to help finalize the matter. In this regard Shri B.Sajwan, has suggested that in case the Secretary, NBA is to function as the Member Secretary of the Agro-biodiversity committee, no in-house consultant working in NBA should be included as a member, but should only assistance support the committee to the Secy, NBA.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.20: Implementation of Global Environmental Facility (GEF) / United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) supported project on capacity building on strengthening the implementation of the BD Act with focus on benefit sharing provisions

The members approved the project on GEF/UNEP support for capacity building on strengthening the implementation of the BD Act with focus on benefit sharing provisions. The item was only for information of NBA, and the project does not require approval of NBA.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.21: Sanction of United Nations Development Project (UNDP) supported project on Strengthening Institutional Structures to Implement the Biological Diversity Act

The members approved the UNDP supported project on Strengthening Institutional Structures to implement the BD Act. It was informed that soon the project is going to be launched in the States of Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. The item was only for information of NBA, and the project does not require approval of NBA.

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.22: Request by the Serum Institute of India Ltd., for reducing Benefit Sharing for the two applications submitted in Form-III (Seeking Patent)

The members discussed the matter and decided for 2% of the royalty if the patent is licensed to others or 2% of the nett sales of the company in the event of commercial production by the company to Serum Institute of India Ltd., for two applications (Appl.no.126 A5 and 126 A6) applied in Form-III (Seeking patent).

Action: Secretary

Agenda 14.23: Consideration of status paper on Landscape approach to conservation and livelihood enhancement

It was informed that NBA participated in a consultation meeting organized by NGOs in February 2009 regarding the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act 2002. Based upon discussions, Dr.B.M.S. Rathore, The Winrock International, has communicated a paper on landscape approach to conservation and livelihood enhancement. The Chairman requested members to provide comments on the said paper for taking further action on the matter.

Action: Secretary

Any other item with permission of chair:-

14.24.1. Sparring of services of Scientists of WII and ICFRE as consultants to NBA

The members thanked the Hon'ble Minister for taking initiatives for strengthening the NBA. It was mentioned that strengthening of NBA in terms of professional persons is critical and the initiative of the Government shall be greatly beneficial in implementation of different provisions of the Act. It was decided that the matter may be taken up with the concerned head of the institution/organization and modus oprandi (ToR) for joint appointment or mutually agreed arrangement may be decided.

Action: Secretary

14.24.2. Utilising the services of Dr. K. Venkataraman in NBA

Before the discussion started, the Chair requested Dr. K.Venkataraman to leave the meeting during discussion on this item, so that the members discuss and decide on the matter in a fair and transparent manner.

Shri A.K.Goyal informed that the approval of the Ministry was "with no financial implications". Since the proposal of additional compensation to Dr.K.Venkataraman

entails financial implications, the same would have to be referred to the Ministry for approval. The NBA had agreed to the suggestion.

Action: Secretary

14.24.3 Consideration of proposal for NBA medical Attendance Rules

The members approved the medical attendance rules.

Action: Secretary

14.24.4 Promotion policy for NBA officers and staff

It was decided that Flexible Complementary Scheme (FCS) is applicable to scientists and may not be applicable to NBA technical officers. Shri A.K. Goyal suggested that NBA may adopt Assured Career Progression scheme (ACS). Also it was decided that NBA may look into ACS or any other alternative scheme (s) of other departments/organisations.

Action: Secretary

14.24.5 Remuneration to Expert Consultants

The members approved the proposal.

Action: Secretary

14.24.6 Annual Report of NBA for the year 2008-09

The Chairman informed that the annual report has to be submitted by August as per notification S.O.1689 (E) dt. 5 December, 2005 Shri A. K. Goyal informed that annual report is to be placed in the parliament by December and hence may be submitted in the next meeting of the authority after incorporating the comments/suggestions of different members. The members were requested to communicate their comments for incorporation in the final draft. It was also decided that the annual report may incorporate the report of non official members regarding their participation /representation in the biodiversity related conference/ lecture/ symposium/workshop field visit etc. The Secretary, NBA will request them for the same.

Action: Secretary

14.24.7 Annual Accounts of NBA for the year 2008-09

The members approved the Annual Accounts of the NBA for the year 2008-09.

Action: Secretary

14.24.8 Observations of Hon'ble Minister regarding expert committee on Access to Bioresources.

As discussed and decided under agenda 14.19.

Action: Secretary

14.24.9. Consideration of technical applications of M/s. Monsanto Holding Pvt. Ltd., and M/s. Nath Biogene (I) Ltd., related to export of transgenic materials, proprietary lines of germplasm.

It was decided that this comes under the purview of Seed Act and EXIM Policy and request of applicant was approved. However, the company should inform that in case any Indian germplasm is used in the development of the proprietary product, the same shall be subject to the benefit sharing upon commercialization as per the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004.

Action: Secretary

14.24.10. Consideration and approval of IBIS Project and constitution of an expert committee

Prof. Madhav Gadgil made a presentation on Implementation of Biological Diversity Act and necessity for development of a well-designed *Indian Biodiversity Information System (IBIS)*. After his presentation members had discussion on the subject. Dr. Sajwan informed that NBA has already an official website for all kind of notification; status of the application etc., and the separate portal may not be required. Chairman explained the need for service related database and IBIS database for bridging the gaps in the existing databases. Dr. A.K. Ghosh requested that this being important, the adequate budget provision for executing the work may also be worked out. Shri A.K. Goyal informed that for the first phase i.e., on-line processing of applications the MoEF may explore getting funds as a project mode, from the e-governance budget head.

After discussion, it was decided that the concept note presented be further elaborated. A decision taken on this matter is given in the special item

14.24.11. Consideration of Agenda item of Dr. S. Subramaniyan, Member, NBA

Dr. S. Subramaniyan, Member of NBA has presented an agenda item regarding amendments to Mineral Conservation and Development Act (Amendment-2003). Proposal for inclusion of provisions of biodiversity restoration affected by mining activities. The

aforesaid point has been endorsed and it was felt that appropriate sensitization for prescribing conditions to restore biodiversity while giving permissions for mining is required to be done. He also suggested that SBB's should be strengthened by allocation of budget every year by NBA.

Action: Secretary

14.24.12. Consideration of proposal for constitution of finance committee

Shri A.K. Goyal informed that the Ministry is having 10 Autonomus bodies and all these bodies are having finance committee with a financial advisor as Chair/member. It was suggested that NBA may also have such sub-committee for finance. It was decided to constitute a committee consisting of Financial Advisor of MoEF, one representative from NBA and one from concerned division of MoEF. The sub-committee will recommend to the authority on policy matters involving major financial investment. The ToR and guidelines may be prepared and firmed up by seeking comments of the members of the Authority.

Action: Secretary

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

Special Item: Interaction with Hon'ble Minister

Hon'ble Minister Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Environment and Forests graced the occasion by his presence and guidance to the Authority meeting. Shri B. S. Parsheera, I.A.S., Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has also joined during the interaction. Prof. Madhav Gadgil made a presentation on IBIS. The Hon'ble Minister appreciated the initiative of creating IBIS database and directed NBA to constitute an expert committee to guide /advise NBA in starting this project.



Thereafter, Chairman, NBA made a presentation on National Biodiversity Authority highlighting the progress and impediments in implementation of the provisions of BD Act. It was followed by discussions and remarks of Hon'ble Minister are as follows:-

NBA:

- The Minister suggested that the NBA may have more consultants from different departments on joint appointment and sharing basis. The consultant may receive salary from their parent departments. It was also decided to engage consultants by NBA within a period of 2 months.
- The Minister also indicated that the person having conflict of interest is not to be in the expert committees of NBA.

IBIS Database:

- It was decided that a reputed software companies may be employed to develop IBIS on competitive basis. Advertisement for EoI may be given in the newspaper within 2 weeks and further process be completed expeditiously.

- Prof. Madhav Gadgil will be the Chairman of IBIS committee and Dr. Ganeshiah and others (to be identified by NBA) shall serve as members to the committee for working the details for databases, supervise the firms etc.
- It was suggested that the PBRs developed so far by few states may be uploaded in IBIS portal. However, certain information requiring protection may be kept as confidential and not be included in the portal.

BMC:

- It was decided that the constitution of BMC may be simplified and established in a phased manner by making panchayat samities/joint forest management committees/eco-development committees as BMC. The BMC's may be initially formed at Samiti level initially.
- As a pilot project two states may be adopted, one in south and another one is in north to educate the people on benefit sharing and collecting of fee. The panchayat/BMC may charge the fee for accessing the biological resources.

CAMPA:

- It was decided to explore the possibility of making CAMPA funds available for management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites that are outside the forest areas.

At the end, the Minister desired that the programmes and activities of the NBA should be geared up to address the implementation of BD Act. He noted the progress including shifting of NBA to new office to TICEL Bio Park in Chennai and accepted the request of the Chairman to inaugurate the new office on 19 August 2009.

Implementation of UNDP project should be speeded up and State level launching in Jharkhand and MP may be fixed soon.

Chairman thanked the Hon'ble Minister for his presence, guidance and support to the Authority.