



National Biodiversity Authority

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



Annual Report

2014 - 2015



ANNUAL REPORT ***2014-15***



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

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

5th Floor, TICEL BIO PARK, CSIR Road, Taramani,
Chennai - 600113. Tamil Nadu.





Hem Pande, IAS

Chairman,
National Biodiversity Authority,
(Full Addl. Charge) & Addl. Secretary, MoEF & CC



Foreword

With a wide range of ecosystems ranging from tropical and temperate forests, swamplands, deserts, mountains, plains, grasslands, agricultural landscapes etc., and home to nearly 8 percent of all life forms, India is one of the seventeen megabiodiverse countries of the world. The rich life forms that have evolved over aeons not only sustain the web of life but also the economy of the country and livelihoods of millions is inextricably linked to the biodiversity including the wild and cultivated forms for sustenance of life and livelihoods. In addition, with a varied population inhabiting the country, the biocultural knowledge of communities who depend on and nurture the biodiversity is invaluable. Significantly our country is also home to three biodiversity hotspots, a cause for concern as it signifies rapid decline of the rich endemic life forms in these areas. Hence, conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity is of prime importance.

The Government of India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 and Rules in 2004 as part of the obligations as signatory to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992, the basic tenet being Conservation of Biological Diversity, Sustainable Utilisation and Fair & Equitable sharing of the Benefits from the use of the biological resources. Towards this the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement the BD Act & Rules in a decentralized manner in a three tiered manner at the Central, State and Local levels.

The 2014-15 Annual Report documents the work of the NBA and also highlights the significant work completed at the State and Local levels through the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) and the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC). Important decisions, networks and partnerships are also reported.

I am thankful to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Members of the Authority, Members of the various Expert Committees for the support and guidance to enable NBA towards fulfilling its work on implementing the BD Act and fulfilling its statutory functions.

I would like to record my thanks to all the officers and staff of NBA for their work and would also like to place my appreciation for the staff of NBA and others who have helped in bringing out the Annual Report for 2014-15. I hope that the Annual Report has highlighted the significant activities for 2014-15 in a brief yet cogent manner.


Hem Pande
Chairman, NBA





T. Rabikumar, IFS
Secretary,
National Biodiversity Authority



Acknowledgement

The Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority for 2014-15 has been compiled as per the provisions of Section 28 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The report highlights the significant achievement of NBA during the year towards implementation of the Biological Diversity Act & Rules. The Annual Report also carries glimpses of work carried out by the State Biodiversity Board.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairperson, NBA whose invaluable advice and motivation helped us to achieve the goals in an effective manner.

I would also like to record my gratitude towards the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change for the continued guidance, support and advice towards effective implementation of the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act. I thank all the Members of the Authority, Expert Committees for their invaluable assistance, support and guidance towards the work of the Secretariat.

I acknowledge the guiding role of the Chairperson, NBA and the Member Secretaries of the State Biodiversity Board in shaping the Annual Report. Finally I record my sincere acknowledgement to all officers and staff of NBA Secretariat towards their efforts in compiling and bringing out the Annual Report.

T. Rabikumar
Secretary, NBA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter No.	SUBJECT	PAGE No.
1.	Executive Summary	11
2.	Composition and Meeting of the Authority and Expert Committees	17
3.	Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)	21
4.	Activities and Achievements	27
5.	State Biodiversity Boards Programmes and Activities	30
6.	Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL)	42
7.	UNEP-GEF-MoEF & CC Project on Strengthening the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions.	46
8.	Review of Legal and Regulatory Framework	48
9.	Financial Performance	50
10.	Annual Plan 2015-16	54
ANNEXURES		
	Annexure - 1	55
	Annexure - 2	57
	Annexure - 3	60
	Annexure - 4	61
	Annexure - 5	62
	Annexure - 6	69
	Annexure - 7	70



Executive Summary

Increasing concerns about the dwindling biological resources in the world led to the adoption of the International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992, which highlights the importance of conservation of biological resources, sustainable utilization and fair & equitable sharing of benefits through the use of genetic resources. The CBD reaffirms the sovereign rights of the nations over their biological resources and emphasizes that access to genetic resources should be provided for environmentally sound purposes and be governed by national legislations. India is one of the 17 mega biodiverse countries and is one of the signatories to the CBD. To give effect to the CBD and considering the importance of conservation, sustainable utilization and fair & equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilization of our biological resources, the Government of India enacted the Biological Diversity Act (BD Act) 2002 and notified the Biological Diversity Rules in 2004. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai was established as the key institutional mechanism at national level for implementing the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The State Biodiversity Board (SBB) at the state level and Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) at local level were established towards decentralized implementation process. At the national level,

the NBA performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions for the Government of India on issues related to biodiversity. NBA is statutorily empowered to regulate access to biological resources, transfer of biological resources and several other matters related to conservation of India's biodiversity. The Act provides for fair and equitable benefit sharing under mutually agreed terms for accessing biological resources or knowledge occurring in or obtained from India for various purposes.

The NBA also deals primarily with matters relating to requests for access by foreign individuals, institutions or companies and all matters relating to transfer of results of research by such entities and impositions of terms and conditions to secure equitable sharing of benefits and approval for seeking any form of IPRs in or outside India for an invention based on research or information pertaining to a biological resource obtained from India. The NBA also facilitates the setting up of Biodiversity Funds at Central, State and Local levels. The monetary benefits, fees and royalties received as a result of approvals by the NBA are deposited in National Biodiversity Fund. This fund is used for conservation and development of areas from where resources have been accessed.

This report presents the progress of the NBA for the year 2014-15. During this period,

NBA handled 113 new applications from different stakeholders. With the official and non-official members providing their inputs and guidance to shape the work of the NBA, four Authority meetings were held during the year. Besides, the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) met four times and evaluated number of applications on access to biological resources and / or associated knowledge, and provided recommendations and inputs related to techno-legal issues. The NBA notified the ABS regulations on 21.11.2014. The Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014 contain the procedures for accessing biological resources and / or associated knowledge and mode of benefit sharing. NBA issued approvals for accessing red sanders wood auctioned by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to 15 foreign buyers. In the process, NBA realized a sum of Rs.15.49 crores as benefit sharing. The MoEF & CC designated NBA as the "Competent National Authority" for the Nagoya Protocol in August 2014. The Secretary, NBA has also been designated as the 'National Authorized User' for the Access and Benefit sharing (ABS) Clearing House of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).

At the State level, all 29 States have established State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs). At the local level, so far, 37769 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) have been constituted and 2063 People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) have been documented across the country. The NBA acts as a facilitator between the MoEF & CC and SBBs for expediting the notification process. So far, the MoEF & CC has notified threatened

species in 16 States and 2 Union Territories. NBA took initiatives to implement Biodiversity Act 2002 by forming Biodiversity Councils to monitor and implement the Biodiversity Management Committees in the Union Territories of India. Out of 29 SBBs, 21 SBBs have notified the State Rules including the newly formed Telangana SBB. During the year 2014-15, the NBA had extended financial support to the tune of Rs.10, 17, 00,416/- for 13 SBBs towards constitution of 807 BMCs and preparation of 483 PBRs. In addition, NBA has distributed a sum of Rs.3, 94, 56, 834/- to SBBs under the head "Strengthening of SBBs" to support for outsourcing of staff, infrastructure, Celebration of International Biodiversity Day (IBD), training and capacity building programme for the members of BMCs, translation of materials, printing and dissemination, constitution of Thematic Expert Committees, peer to peer learning and exchange visits and website maintenance. The SBBs have organized workshops /exhibitions/ conferences / trainings / awareness programmes etc.

Other highlights of this year was the selection of NBA as the host organization for implementing Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a global multi-country project to provide tools and methodological framework for measuring expenditure on biodiversity towards achieving the global and national biodiversity targets. The Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL), a joint initiative between the Government of India and Norway, organized a two-day workshop on Consolidating CEBPOL – Sharing of Experience on Access and Benefit

Sharing, in February 2015 at Chennai. The workshop was attended by Mr. Lars Andreas Lunde, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway. Mr. Eivind Homme, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi and Shri. Hem Kumar Pande, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEF & CC and Chairperson, NBA. The International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) is observed across the globe on 22nd May every year. The theme for this year "Island Biodiversity" was chosen to coincide with the declaration of 2014 as the "International Year of Small Island Developing States" by the United Nations General Assembly. The theme provided an opportunity to enhance awareness of marine biodiversity as the island ecosystems besides being vital to dependent communities are also repositories of unique genetic biodiversity. The national level celebration of the International Day of Biological Diversity was held in Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands with the

participation of all stakeholders and was organized by the MoEF & CC through the National Biodiversity Authority. On this occasion, "2014 India Biodiversity Awards" was announced by the MoEF & CC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairperson of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation led an eminent jury for the selection of awardees, which felicitated the seven winners and runners-up in four categories. The awards were presented by Lt. General Shri. A.K. Singh, the Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Shri. Hem Kumar Pande, Additional Secretary, MoEF & CC and the UNDP Country Director, Mr. Jorn Sorensen in Port Blair. The State Biodiversity Boards also marked the occasion in their respective state by organizing various programmes to raise public awareness on the importance of marine biodiversity. The financial statement for 2014-15 and the Annual plan for 2015-16 are also detailed in this report.



Introduction

India is known for its rich heritage of biodiversity which is the outcome of over 3.5 billion years of evolutionary development, shaped by natural processes and increasingly by human influence. Biodiversity sustains the web of life and is important for myriad of natural functions like ecosystem services, provisioning of biological resources and a plethora of socio-cultural benefits. Conserving biodiversity is basic for survival and well-being of all life forms. Sustainable utilisation of biodiversity has been part of Indian culture and lifestyle. Biodiversity and ecosystem services contribute to poverty eradication and national development.

India's biodiversity also assumes probably a very unique position in the world – it is intricately linked to the socio-cultural and economic practices of the land. According to a 2010 survey by National Geographic, 47% of Indians consume locally grown food, as opposed to 5-6% in western developed nations. A large percentage of the Indian population also depends on local flora and fauna for economic sustenance. Thus, loss of biodiversity will not only affect existing natural interactions but will also impact the sources of livelihood of millions of Indians. In addition, the traditional knowledge associated with the species such as medicinal uses, economic importance and cultural practices will be severely affected.

India is one of the first few countries to have enacted a comprehensive legislation to achieve the objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992. India has enacted the Biological Diversity Act (BDA), 2002 with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) as the key institutional mechanism at national level for implementing the Act. The NBA advises the Government of India on biodiversity issues related to biodiversity pertaining to conservation, sustainable utilisation and fair and equitable sharing. NBA also regulates activities and issues guidelines for access to biological resources. Thus, the NBA on behalf of the Central Government may take necessary measures to protect the biological diversity of the country as well as oppose the grant of intellectual property rights to other countries on any biological resource obtained from India or knowledge associated with such biological resource which is derived from India. NBA also performs other functions such as laying down the procedure and guidelines to govern the activities under Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), Prior Informed Consent (PIC), Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), and is in accordance with the Article 8 (j) of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Each State is required, under Section 22 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to

establish a State Biodiversity Board (SBB) which shall be a body corporate. The SBB advises the State Government on matters relating to conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilisation of biological resources. SBB also regulates commercial utilization of any biological resource by Indians. As prescribed under Section 41 of the Act, every local body shall constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) for promotion of conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including habitats, landraces, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds, micro-organisms and knowledge associated with the local biodiversity. The main function of the BMC is to prepare Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) and advise State Biodiversity Boards or the Authority on related matters.

1.1 National Biodiversity Authority

The National Biodiversity Authority was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act, 2002. with its headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu to deliver its mandate through a structure that comprises of the Authority, Secretariat, SBBs, BMCs and Expert Committees.

Functions of National Biodiversity Authority

- ✦ Advise the Government of India on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its

components and fair & 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 sharing in accordance with Sections 3, 4 and 6 of the BD Act 2002. Certain individuals/ nationals/ organizations require prior approval of NBA for obtaining biological resources and / or associated knowledge for use.
- ✦ Take necessary measures to oppose the grant of intellectual property rights in any country outside India on any biological resource obtained from India or knowledge associated with such biological resource derived from India illegally.
- ✦ Advise the State Governments in selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified as heritage sites and suggest measures for their management.
- ✦ National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards provide guidance and technical support to Biodiversity Management Committees for documenting People's Biodiversity Registers.
- ✦ Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of Biological Diversity Act.

2. Composition And Meetings Of The Authority & Expert Committees

2.1 Composition of Authority:

The National Biodiversity Authority is headed by a Chairperson with ten ex-officio members from the related Ministries of the Government of India and five non-official members from amongst specialists and scientists having special knowledge of, or experience in matters relating to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources, representatives of industry, conservers, creators and knowledge holders of biological resources. The list of members during the year under report is appended as Annexure 2.

2.2. Meetings of the Authority and Expert Committees:

During the year 2014-15, the Authority met four times and deliberated various issues in detail and gave directions/suggestions to the Secretariat for appropriate action. Besides, the Authority considered the ABS applications along with the recommendations of the Expert committee on ABS and gave decisions. The agenda discussed and the outcomes of the meetings are outlined below.

2.2.1 29th Authority Meeting:

The 29th Authority meeting was held on 15th May 2014 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri. Hem Pande, IAS, Chairman, NBA. Some of the important items

deliberated in the meeting included- Finalization of the revised draft guidelines on Access & Benefit Sharing, consideration of the proceedings of the 22nd to 27th meetings of the Expert Committee on ABS held between February and November 2013, issue of the draft notification/orders to implement the Nagoya Protocol and revision of the notification of normally traded commodities.

2.2.2. 30th Authority Meeting:

The 30th Authority meeting (special meeting) was held on 11th July 2014 at New Delhi. The meeting finalized the draft guidelines on Access and Benefit Sharing, draft notification/order to implement the Nagoya Protocol and sending/carrying of biological resources for non-commercial research and related activities and for emergency purposes.

2.2.3. 31st Authority Meeting:



The 31st Authority meeting was held on 27th August 2014 at New Delhi. Discussions included the proceedings of the 28th meeting of EC on ABS, proceedings of the 5th meeting of EC on Agro-biodiversity, guidelines for implementation of the International Treaty on

(ITPGRFA) developed by the Dept. of Agriculture & Co-operation (DAC), proposal for inclusion of Adviser/Law, NBA as complainant Under Section 61(a) of the B.D. Act and the proposal for developing National Information Network on People's Biodiversity Register.

2.2.4. 32nd Authority Meeting:



The 32nd Authority meeting was held on 12th December 2014 at New Delhi. The agenda included consideration of the proceedings of the 29th meeting of EC on ABS, guidelines for according approval on the applications seeking access to Red Sanders, proposal for hearing applicants plea Under Section 19(3) as well as reduction of benefit sharing, the revised draft guidelines for filling up of application forms, compliance to Nagoya Protocol relating to Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC), proceedings of the consultation meeting with SBBs on the revised guidelines on ABS, the minutes of the joint meeting between NBA and CSIR held on 17th September 2014 at MoEF & CC, New Delhi, the report on effect of seaweed (*Kappaphycus alvarezii*) in the southern coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, designation of National Repository under Section 39 of the BD Act 2002 and the report on the 8th & 9th Annual meetings of State Biodiversity Boards.

2.2.5 Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS):

As per Section 13 (2) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, the Authority may constitute

such number of committees as it deems fit for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions under this Act.

Applications received by NBA 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 for invention based on research or information on biological resources obtained from India and transfer of accessed biological resources to third parties were evaluated by this Expert Committee which made suitable recommendations for consideration by the Authority.

During the year 2014-15, the committee



met four times i.e. 28th meeting of the EC during July 2014, 29th meeting in September 2014, 30th meeting in November 2014 and 31st meeting in March 2015 to evaluate about 200 applications on Access and Benefit sharing and gave its recommendations to the Authority. Besides, the Expert Committee provided techno-legal inputs on various generic issues related to access to biological resources and sharing of benefits arising out of the use of such biological resources.

2.2.6 Expert Committee to revise the existing agreement formats:

Pursuant to the decision taken in the 32nd Authority meeting, an Expert Committee

was constituted to revise the existing agreement formats in the light of recent developments such as notification of Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated knowledge, Benefit Sharing Regulations 2014 and entry of Nagoya Protocol on ABS into force on 12th October 2014.

The first meeting of the Expert Committee was held on 11th March 2015 at NBA, Chennai under the chairmanship of Dr. R.S. Rana. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairman of the EC, developed a single format of agreement incorporating all the vital elements present in the existing agreements as well as the draft finalized by the earlier EC. The same was discussed and fine-tuned in the meeting. It was decided that further revision needs to be done in the subsequent meetings.

2.2.7 Expert Committee on Normally Traded Commodities (NTCs):

Section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 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.

Based on the decision taken in the 28th meeting of the Authority vide Agenda item 28th August 2004, the Expert Committee on Normally Traded Commodities (EC on NTC) was reconstituted (4th Reconstituted EC vide F.NBA/2/9/2002-Admn/12/12-13/2014 dates 11th March 2014) under the Chairmanship of Shri. D.K. Ved, IFS (Retd.), Advisor, FRLHT with the mandate to augment the list of NTCs, to be placed before the Authority for consideration and approval.

Accordingly, the reconstituted EC on

NTC held its meetings on dates 26-27th May 2014 in Chennai; 13th November 2014 in Hyderabad; 16th March 2015 in New Delhi and a special meeting dated 29th December, 2014 in Chennai to consider species/biological resources/items normally traded as commodities as proposed/suggested by the Agricultural sector, Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association (ADMA), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Punjab Agricultural University (PAU).

Simultaneously the meetings of the EC on NTC also reviewed the NBA sponsored study entitled "Development of a trade database on Indian bioresources utilizing customs and port data, coding of traded bioresources and standardization of nomenclature", the study being carried out by the Academy of Business Studies (ABS), New Delhi.

2.3 Core Expert Group (CEG)

A Core Expert Group (CEG) constituting members from within the Authority was formed by the 28th Authority. The CEG met from 7th to 9th May 2014 at New Delhi to examine the recommendations of the 22nd to 27th meetings of the Expert Committee on ABS. The CEG made recommendations on the ABS applications and the same were considered by the Authority in its 29th meeting held on 15th May 2014.

2.3.1 Meeting of the Core Expert Group to fine-tune the draft guidelines on Access and Benefit Sharing:

The Core Expert Group (CEG-I) formed by the 28th Authority, under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.S. Rana looked into the suggestions /comments offered by the State.

Biodiversity Boards/Members/Public to incorporate the comments appropriately in order to improve the draft ABS guidelines. Accordingly, the CEG-1 met on 15th and 16th April 2014 at New Delhi and improved the draft guidelines on ABS. Thereafter, the draft guidelines on ABS were considered in the 29th Authority meeting which formed another Core Expert Group (CEG-II) under the Chairmanship of Shri. Jitendra Sharma, IFS, CEO, NMPB to examine and incorporate the suggestions /comments offered by ABLE and CII and any other issues. Accordingly, the CEG-II met on 5th July 2014 at New Delhi and revised the draft guidelines.

2.3.2 Meeting of the Core Expert Group to fine tune the draft notifications/orders to implement the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing:

Pursuant to the decision taken in the 29th meeting of the Authority, a Core Expert Group (CEG-I) was constituted under the

chairmanship of Dr. R.S. Rana, for fine-tuning the draft notifications/regulations/orders to implement the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. The CEG met twice on 27th June 2014 and 8th December 2014 in New Delhi and considered two draft orders/notifications viz. designation of check points and User Country Measures (UCM) and the proposal received from DAC for exempting Annex-I crops of ITPGRFA from Section 6 of the BD Act in addition to Sections 3 & 4 and further made its recommendations to the Authority.

2.3.3 Meeting of the Core Expert Group on Designated Repository:

A Core Expert Group (CEG) constituted by the 32nd Authority, met on 12th March 2015 at NBA, Chennai to review the functioning of the existing national repositories designated Under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act and to develop working guidelines for the repositories. It was decided that the draft guidelines may be finalized with the inputs from members of the committee.

3. Access And Benefit Sharing (ABS)

The objectives of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 are “Conservation of biological resources, Sustainable use of its components and Fair Equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of the same”. Accordingly, the National Biodiversity Authority is mandated to regulate the activities of access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge for research, bio-survey and bio-utilization, commercial utilization, obtaining Intellectual

Property Rights, transfer of results of research and transfer of accessed biological resources. NBA receives applications from different applicants viz., non-Indian individual or Indian individual or Indian entity having foreign share of capital or management and the same are being examined through an Expert Committee constituted for this purpose. The detailed information relating to applications as follows:-

Category of ABS applications

Form No.	Purpose of application	By whom
I	Access of biological resources and/or associated traditional Knowledge for research, commercial utilization, bio -survey or bio -utilization	Non -Indian, NRI, Foreign entity or Indian entity having non -Indian participation in share capital or management
II	Transfer of results of research	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 Indian having non -Indian participation share capital or management entity
IV	Transfer of biological 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

Receipt of applications from different stakeholders, since inception

Form	Category	No. of Applications Received Since 2004
Form I	Access to biological resources and/ or associated traditional knowledge for research / commercial utilization/ for Bio - survey and Bio -utilization	184
Form II	Transferring results of research for monetary consideration or otherwise.	40
Form III	Seeking no objection to obtain intellectual property rights	674
Form IV	Third Party transfer of accessed biological resources and/ or associated knowledge .	78
Form B	Conduction of non - commercial research or research for emergency purpose outside India by Indian researchers/government institutions using the biological resources	1
	Not applied in prescribed Form and Fee	13
Total		990

During 2014-15, 206 applications were received 113 applications (which include applications received during previous year) were found complete in all respects and hence taken up for processing. The stages of

processing of applications comprise the following steps-and the current status of the applications-

Stages of processing of ABS applications which also includes previous year's applications

Details	Received During 2014-15	Draft agreement forwarded to the applicant for execution	Under process	Approval granted by way of entering agreement with applicant.	Closure/ Withdrawn
Form I	32	34	16	19	7
Form II	4	1	4	0	1
Form III	74	88	60	22	7
Form IV	2	0	2	1	6
Form B	1	0	1	0	0
Total	113	123	83	42	21

Benefit sharing realized

During this period, NBA realized a sum of Rs.15.49 Crores as benefit sharing being 5% on the auction price on the access of Red Sanders wood from 15 successful foreign buyers, in addition to Rs.2301 received as benefit sharing from a patent holder.

Keeping in view the sizeable amount realized under ABS through Red Sanders, it was decided at the 28th Authority meeting to constitute an Expert Committee to develop a comprehensive policy for conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits relating to Red Sanders.

Access of Red Sanders wood in compliance with the provisions of the BD Act:

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), through a notification dated 24th October 2013, has relaxed the export policy for Red Sanders wood and permitted the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh (8584.1363 MT) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (1200 MT) to export the confiscated/ seized red sanders wood in log form, totalling 9784.1363 MT.

In connection with finalization of ABS mechanism on the proposed export of confiscated/ seized Red Sanders wood, a meeting was held at NBA, Chennai on 22nd January 2014 with the PCCF, Andhra Pradesh and other representatives from Forest Departments and State Biodiversity Boards of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The need to arrive at a fair ABS component on the Red Sanders wood to be auctioned for export was stressed in view of its high value and also considering the fact that this bioresource is a sovereign property of the country. In the meeting, the NBA informed that 5% of the auctioned amount (exclusive of taxes, other

charges etc.) by the successful auctioneer/bidder be fixed as benefit sharing to NBA/SBB, as the case may be.

The matter was placed before the 28th Authority meeting which decided that Red Sanders wood, which is endemic to India and has a huge demand in the international market for various reasons, is a highly valuable bioresource and needs to be protected from destruction, as smuggling of the precious wood is showing an alarming and increasing trend and will have far reaching consequences, hence it was imperative for NBA to take effective steps to conserve the endangered and threatened species.

The Authority further decided that since sizeable amount will be realized by way of benefit sharing, it can be defrayed to meet the conservation purpose and therefore NBA is fully justified in imposing 5% on the auction price of Red Sanders as benefit sharing component from the successful bidders, who, after filing the Form prescribed in the BD Act & Rules/State Biodiversity Board Rules, as the case may be, has to deposit the benefit sharing component of 5% of the auctioned amount (excluding taxes and other Government dues) to NBA/SBB, before lifting the Red Sanders wood from the site. Accordingly, 15 successful foreign buyers have applied to NBA and remitted the benefit sharing component of Rs. 15.49 Crores.

Notification of Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014.

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 mandates that approvals for access to biological resources should ensure fair and

equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use with the providers. Section 21 of the Act empowers NBA to frame guidelines for determination of benefit sharing, in consultation with the Central Government. Since 2005, concerted efforts including extensive consultations at national level with different stakeholders, the Governmental agencies, the Ministries, the State Biodiversity Boards and the industrial bodies over a period of time were taken by the NBA and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) to develop guidelines for access and benefit sharing. The NBA, with the approval of MoEF & CC, notified the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Regulations 2014 vide G.S.R. 827 dated 21st November 2014 in the Extraordinary Gazette of India.

[Notification exempting Annex-I crops listed under ITPGRFA from the purview of the BDA Act, 2002](#)

India is a party to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), having signed and ratified the said treaty on 10th June 2002. The objectives of the ITPGRFA are Conservation and Sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and Fair and Equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security. Article 4 of the Nagoya Protocol provides that the protocol does not apply for the party or parties to the specialized instrument in respect of the specific genetic resource covered by and for the purpose of the specialized instrument; and Section 40 of the

Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (18 of 2003) empowers the Central Government to exempt certain biological resources from the provisions of the said Act.

Accordingly, the MoEF & CC, in consultation with the NBA, vide notification S.No.3232 (E), dated 17th December 2014, exempted the crops from amongst those listed in the Annex -I of the ITPGRFA, as notified by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, from time to time, from the purview of the section 3 and 4 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, for the purpose of utilization and conservation for research, breeding and training for food and agriculture.

[ABS Clearing-House](#)

The ABS Clearing-House (ABS-CH) is established as part of the clearing-house mechanism (CHM) of the Convention. The CHM has been developed as a single and unified platform which also supports the dedicated clearing-houses of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol. This single platform will allow users to do global searches across all clearing-houses within the CHM and to search for information in a specific clearing-house.

The MoEF & CC in August 2014, designated the National Biodiversity Authority as the “Competent National Authority” for Nagoya Protocol. The Ministry also designated the Secretary, NBA as the “National Authorised User” for ABS-CH.

As the Competent National Authority (CNA), the National Biodiversity Authority, is fulfilling the obligations under Article 14 and other related provisions of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and in particular, making available the

necessary information as outlined in Article 14 of the Protocol to the ABS-CH. So far, NBA has hosted 29 documents in the ABS-CH website for the user groups.

NBA, as part of compliance under Article 17(2) of Nagoya Protocol on ABS, is in the process of obtaining details from applicants

which are not confidential and can be uploaded in the ABS-CH for generating the Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC), which will serve as an evidence that the biological resource and/associated knowledge covered therein has been accessed in accordance with the domestic regulations.

4. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 Stakeholder Consultation and Workshops

1. A Special meeting of all State Biodiversity Boards was organized on 13th May 2014 at New Delhi to discuss the draft Access and Benefit sharing guidelines and other issues in connection with the implementation of the BDA Act. The meeting was attended by representatives of 23 SBBs, Authority members of different Ministries. During the discussion, the participants agreed to notify the ABS guidelines with few modifications. Further, issues such as progress on preparation of People's Biodiversity Register, formation of Biodiversity Management Committee, notification of Threatened Species and Biodiversity Heritage Sites were discussed and decided for the way forward.

2. The joint meeting between the National Biodiversity Authority and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to finalize the modalities of benefit sharing component on more than 200 Form-III (IPR) applications was held on 17th September 2014 at MoEF & CC, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEF & CC and Chairman, NBA wherein few members of the Authority also participated. The benefit sharing component and changes proposed in the agreement were discussed in detail. The

32nd Authority was apprised of the outcome of the meeting.

3. The National Biodiversity Authority and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change jointly organized the 2nd ABS Dialogue on Key Challenges and Practical Ways forward for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol from 4th to 6th August 2014 at Goa. The



objective of this second dialogue was to provide an opportunity for further exchange amongst Government representatives and relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The second dialogue brought together 70 representatives of Governments and relevant stakeholders from 17 different countries (Brazil, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Namibia, Norway, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Vietnam and India) as well as a representative from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

4. Dr. Hajimu Morioka, Team Leader, ABS Task Force Team for Academia, from National Institute of Genetics, Tokyo, Japan visited NBA on 9th February 2015. He interacted with the



officials of NBA on the activities relating to ABS mechanism in India and understanding the strategy involved in implementing the Nagoya Protocol.

5. As a part of educational tour, 40 probationary State Forest Service Officers and 51 students from University of Agricultural Science, Dharwad, Sirsi, Karnataka, visited National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai. The Secretary, NBA gave an overview of NBA's activities and the biodiversity related issues with special reference to forest. He appreciated the student's involvement in the preparation of People's Biodiversity Register and formation of BMC in the Karnataka State through the Karnataka Biodiversity Board. The, Technical Officer (BS), NBA made a presentation on the "Implementation of the BD Act 2002" followed by an interactive Q&A session with the students.

6. NBA also actively participated in the committees constituted by various Ministries/ Departments such as DGFT, NBPGR, NBAGR, PPVFRA, MoEF & CC etc.

4.2 Notification of Threatened Species of Plants and Animals under section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002.

According to Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, MoEF & CC, Government of India, in consultation with the concerned State Governments, has notified species on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in the near future as threatened species in 16 States and 2 Union Territories, viz., Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Daman & Diu. These notifications confer power to the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) for regulating access to the notified species and take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve those species.

4.3 Notification of Biodiversity Heritage Sites:

During the year 2014-15, Maharashtra State Government, vide notification No.WLP/0914/C.R.317/M-1, dated 15th July 2014, has notified "Glory of Allapalli", a reserved forest preserved as natural forest having biological, ethnic and historical values as Biodiversity Heritage site and which covers an area of six hectares in Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra.

The State Government of West Bengal, vide Notification No.717-EN/T-II/7/003-ii/2003 dated 20th March 2015, notified two Biodiversity Heritage sites - Tonglu medicinal plant conservation area covering 230 hectares and Dhotrey medicinal plant conservation area covering 180 hectares under the Darjeeling Forest Division. The notification also restricts collection of plants, animals and microbes species from these sites by the Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) committee's regulations under the guidance of West Bengal SBB and Forest Department.



5. STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARDS - PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

According to Section 22 of the Act, all 29 States have established State Biodiversity Boards. The NBA provides technical guidance and financial assistance for strengthening of SBBs in order to enhance the effective implementation of the provisions of the BD Act. As on 31st March 2015, the total number of Biodiversity Management Committees formed stood at 37,769 and the number of People's Biodiversity Registers documented stood at 2063.

5.1 Activities of State Biodiversity Boards

5.1.1 ANDHRA PRADESH

The Andhra Pradesh SBB met four times during the year 2014-15 (23rd May 2014, 30th September 2014, 23rd December 2014 and 21st January 2015). As many as 675 BMCs have been formed during the year 2014-15 (655 at the Village/Panchayat level, 17 in Block/Taluk/Mandal level and 3 in Municipality level) bringing the total number of BMCs to 928 and total number of PBRs to 38 as on 31st March 2015. 21 applications Under Sec.23 (B) and 21 applications Under Sec. 24 (1) of the B.D. Act have been approved.

Fourteen members were honoured with the Biodiversity Conservation awards during the observation of International Biodiversity Day. Awareness programme on preparation of PBRs and documentation of tradable

bioresources was organized on 20th November-2014 for select NGOs. Focus group meetings were held with seed companies, biotech companies and Ayurvedic drug manufacturers to create awareness about BD. Act and ABS provisions. Eight training programmes were conducted for BMCs from 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh and some districts of Telangana. Brochures on Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, International Biodiversity Day and Agri-Biodiversity of Araku Valley (Vishakapatnam District) were published and circulated.

5.1.2 ARUNACHAL PRADESH

In Arunachal Pradesh, so far, 43 BMCs have been constituted, of which 23 BMCs were formed at Village/Panchayat level during the year 2014-15. One application under Sec.23 (B) and three applications under Sec. 24(1) of the BD Act have been approved.

The International Biodiversity Day was celebrated by organizing painting competition for school children. Trainings were given to the members of BMCs on preparation of PBRs. As part of awareness programme, two pamphlets have been brought out.

5.1.3 ASSAM

Three Board meetings were held during 2014-15 (6th May 2014, 12th September 2014 and 6th January 2015).35 BMCs have been

formed at Block/Taluk/Mandal level bringing the total number of BMCs in the State to 171 at the close of the reporting year. The number of PBRs documented during the year was 6 (one at district level and 5 at Block/Anchalik level). One application under Sec. 23(B) and 10 Research proposals under Sec. 24(1) have been approved during 2014-15.

The BMC operational Toolkit in Assamese and Bengali languages and PBR format in Assamese language was translated and published during the year. Five Divisional Level workshops were organised for sensitization of stakeholders. An interactive meeting was held with faculties of major institutions, research scholars and students at Cotton College, Guwahati on 6th January 2015. A seminar on “Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation” was organized by the Board on 13th February 2015. The board participated in the “2nd Assam International Agri-Horticultural Show 2015” held at Khanapara, Guwahati from 10th -15th February. During the event, a brochure in English titled “Assam: Land of Red Rivers and Blue Hills” was published and released by the Board. Other publications include a booklet in English on “Wonder Island Burhachapori” and a story book by Malvika Tiwari titled “The land where the sticker tree grows” (translated into Assamese) were published during the IBD celebrations at Burhachapori WLS.

5.1.4 CHHATTISGARH

The Chhattisgarh Biodiversity Board was reconstituted during the year and the Board Meeting was held on 23rd January 2015. During the period, the draft “Chhattisgarh State Biodiversity Rules” 2015 was approved by the Board and sent to the Legal Department for further action. Seven

PBRs were documented during the year and the total number of BMCs as on 31st March 2015 was 27.

Four Biodiversity Heritage Sites have been identified for notification viz., Kutumsar Caves in Kanger Valley National Park, Bastar, Marine Fossil Park, Manendragarh, Tree Ferns of Bastar – South Dantewada Forest division and Stromatolite in Jagdalpur.

The International Biodiversity Day was celebrated in various places in the State. The main function in the form of a “National Conference on Biodiversity Conservation” was organized in New Circuit House, Raipur, inaugurated by Shri.Vivek Dhand, Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Chhattisgarh. Biodiversity Week was celebrated throughout the State at different levels. Forest officials, experts on the subject and local people participated in various workshops, cycle rally and nature camps organized as part of the celebrations. Posters/banners to mark the International biodiversity day were displayed at various important places at Raipur and all district headquarters in the State besides distributing brochures. Apart from this, drawing/painting, essay competitions and debate competitions were also organized among students at different districts. Visits to National Park/Sanctuary and Zoo for students were organised to encourage them to learn about the forest flora and fauna as well as ex-situ conservation of wild animals. Training on biodiversity conservation and its management was imparted to officials during different training programmes conducted in the State.

5.1.5 GOA

The Goa SBB convened three Board

meetings on 25th June 2014, 24th September 2014 and 12th December 2014 and 5 special Board meetings on 1st August 2014, 9th October 2014, 28th November 2014, 18th February 2015 and 26th March 2015 during the year 2014-15. 43 BMCs were constituted during the year at Village/Panchayat level, bringing the total to 54 BMCs in the State. The Project of UNEP-GEF and MoEF & CC on “Strengthening the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefits Sharing Provisions” was launched on 2nd December 2014 at International Centre Goa, Donapaula.

The International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated at the Auditorium of the Goa Science Centre, Miramar, with the support of NBA on the theme of 'Island Biodiversity'. Various activities such as field trip to Chorao Island and Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, competitions such as photography, drawing, quiz and essay were organized for school and college students and general public to create awareness about “Island Biodiversity and its Conservation”. A book entitled “Island Biodiversity of Goa - The Biological Treasure of Chorao and St. Jacinto Island” was released by the Chief Guest Smt. Alina Saldanha, Hon'ble Minister for Forest and Environment, Govt. of Goa. Training and Capacity Building programme on “Preserving Indigenous Flora & Fauna, Local varieties & Breeds” was organized on 17th -19th November 2014 at International Centre Goa, Donapaula for BMC Members, Line Departments, Institutes and NGOs.

5.1.6 GUJARAT

Three meetings of the Board were held during 2014-15 (on 24th June 2014, 15th Nov

2014 and 24th March 2015). 1007 BMCs were formed and 52 PBRs were documented bringing the total number to 3,405 BMCs and 133 PBRs as on 31st March 2015. Nine applications under section 24(1) of the B.D. Act were approved during 2014-15. Four sites have been identified for notification as Biodiversity Heritage Sites viz., Island Mangroves in Purna-Navsari, Inland Mangroves of Guneri-Kachchh, Indigenous Mango Forest area of Galkand Dang and Gosa-bara wet land, Porbander.

The International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated by organizing workshops in collaboration with Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad and Gujarat Council of Science and Technology, Gandhinagar. The SBB participated in the “7th Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2015” by displaying five panels on the themes of Biodiversity of Gujarat such as Implementation of the B.D. Act & Rules in Gujarat, Conservation of Endemic and Threatened plants of Gujarat, Conservation of Orchid Diversity of Gujarat and Fish & Prawn Diversity of Gujarat – sustainable utilization. Vision – 2025 document has been finalised and submitted to the State Government for obtaining approval. It is proposed that Annual Action Plan shall be prepared on the basis of the proposals in the Vision 2025 for seeking support from funding agencies for implementation of various activities every year. Nine awareness programmes by the SBB, 12 programmes under UNEP-GEF Project and ten regional workshops was conducted during the year 2014-15. Workshops were also organized with Industries, Forest Officers and Ayurvedic pharmacies on traditional knowledge etc.

5.1.7 HIMACHAL PRADESH

36 BMCs (34 at Village/Panchayat

level, one at Taluk level and one at Municipality level) were formed and 5 PBRs were documented during the year 2014-15, bringing the total number to 154 BMCs and 8 PBRs in the State. Three applications under Sec. 24(1) of the B.D. Act have been approved during the year. Fifteen Sacred Groves have been identified for notification as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

The International Biodiversity Day was celebrated by the board organizing the State level function at Gaiety Theatre, The Mall, Shimla, in collaboration with the Education Department. Essay competition was organized on the theme “Island Biodiversity” in the schools of Shimla and adjoining areas of Shimla town in junior and senior categories before 20th May 2014. As a part of the IBD celebration, the Board arranged live discussions between experts and Principal Scientific Officer, H.P. State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, on the theme “Island Biodiversity” which was aired on Doordarshan and relayed through All India Radio. Eco Audit training workshop with special focus on biodiversity was organized for 26 Eco-clubs of Bilaspur and Hamirpur districts by the SBB on 5-6th February 2015 at Senior Secondary School, Hamirpur. Seven one-day awareness workshops on Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules 2004 were organized on various dates for the stakeholders of biodiversity at seven Development Blocks of the State, to emphasize the understanding of biodiversity, its importance, conservation, accessing and benefit sharing. The SBB also organized one day training and capacity building programmes to the members of 14 BMCs for preparation of PBRs.

5.1.8 JAMMU & KASHMIR

The Jammu & Kashmir State



Biodiversity Board was established in the year 2013 by the State Government notification dated 20th February 2013. The first meeting of the SBB was held on 13th August 2013 and it was decided in the meeting that all activities related to Biodiversity such as formation of BMCs, documentation of PBRs would be taken up after notification of the J&K State Biodiversity Rules. The IBD 2014 was celebrated on 22nd May 2014 to raise public awareness on biodiversity in the State through quiz programmes, painting and Essay writing competitions conducted at Government B.Ed. College, Srinagar. Besides, a poster showcasing the Biodiversity of Kashmir and a book entitled “Biodiversity Hot Spot of Ladakh” was brought out by the Board.

5.1.9 JHARKHAND

One Board meeting was held on 25th May 2014. The Jharkhand SBB constituted 30 BMCs during the year 2014-15 at Village/Panchayat level, bringing the total number to 66 as on 31st March 2015. The SBB organized workshop for Mukhiyas (Head) of Gram Panchayat on 16th October 2014 at Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jamshedpur and also for other Panchayat bearer on 10th February 2015 at Koderma Block, Koderma District.

5.1.10. KARNATAKA

The Karnataka Biodiversity Board has conducted 6 Board meetings on 22nd April 2014, 24th June 2014, 4th September 2014, 12th November 2014, 24th December 2014 and 3rd March 2015 and two special meetings on 25th October 2014 (agenda on UNEP-GEF-MOEF & CC-ABS project) and 25th March 2015 (special agenda on ABS by circulation). 129 BMCs were formed and 92 PBRs were documented during the year 2014-15 (121 at Village level, 7 at Taluk level and 1 at District level) bringing the total number of BMCs in the State to 4636 and 122 PBRs as on 31st March 2015. The Board has approved 68 applications under Sec.23 (B) and 68 under Sec. 24(1) of the B.D. Act during the year. An O.M. on ABS was issued on 27th March 2015 prescribing the rates of the benefit sharing obligations on traders and manufacturers dealing with bio resources.

The International Biodiversity Day was celebrated on 22nd May 2014 with a workshop organized on Island Biodiversity at Mangalore & Karwar. A visit to Islands was organized for school children and stakeholders to understand the Island Biodiversity. Brochures on Island Biodiversity were published. Karnataka Biodiversity Board (Forest, Ecology & Environment Dept.) organized a painting competition at the Sankey Lake Forest Guest house to mark the celebration of World Wetlands Day on 2nd February 2015 with the theme 'Wetlands for Future' where awareness was created among children about the importance and need to conserve wetlands and its associated flora and fauna, after which they were allowed to express their vivid imaginations in the form of colourful paintings.

The National Biodiversity Authority has initiated programme for peer to peer interaction of technical officials, academicians etc. among biodiversity boards of different States in India. Series of discussions between staff of different boards were held in the year 2014-15 culminating in the visit of personnel from Karnataka Biodiversity Board to different States viz. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The first group visited Rajasthan and Gujarat for five days from 23rd to 29th September 2014 and the second group to Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh for 5 days from 9th to 15th November 2014. The teams also included academicians from various parts of the State who are already engaged in the existing PBRs preparation programme and are familiar with the Board's activities.

The UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS project was inaugurated on 13th March 2015 by the Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment and was presided over by the Department officials. The event also comprised inauguration of web based software – Biodiversity Atlas followed by release of books published by KBB. During the year 2014-15, efforts were made to create social outreach platforms that included publishing of quarterly newsletters, creation of a blog spot and reaching out to nature lovers on facebook, translation of BMC operational toolkit, Fauna of Ecosystems of India (Mangroves), ABS Mechanism under BD Act 2002, ABS Terminology & LBF- A community dialogue in Kannada, poster display of Karnataka Biodiversity Atlas at the MoEF & CC Science Express Train (Biodiversity special) etc.

5.1.11 KERALA

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board

conducted three Board meetings on 3rd May 2014, 20th August 2014 and 28th March 2015 during the year 2014-15. Three sites have been identified for notification as Biodiversity Heritage sites viz. Kalasamala at Thrissur, Pathiramalat Alappuzha and Ashramam Mangrove at Kollam. The total number of BMCs in the State stood at 1043 as on 31st March 2015 (978 at Panchayat level, 60 at Municipal level and 5 at Corporation level). 162 PBRs were documented resulting in a total of 758 PBRs at the end of the year. The SBB brought out two documentary films, brochure and also a book on Biodiversity Conservation – challenges for future (e-book) (Edited by: Laladhas K.P., Oommen V. Oommen and Sudhakaran P.R).

Celebrations on International day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May 2014 at Institution of Engineers Hall, Thiruvananthapuram was inaugurated by Shri. Oommen Chandy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala and presided over by Shri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Minister for Environment & Forests. In connection with the celebrations, KSBB organized a range of programmes for public and school children. Programmes like photography contest, short film contest, exhibitions etc., helped in creating awareness about the richness of biological, cultural and ecological heritage of our country, the need for conservation of biodiversity and the ecological services it provides. A digital amateur photography contest Green Images 2014 was organized for two categories (1) age group 10-18 yrs. and (2) 18 years and above with the theme "The diverse nature" and "Biodiversity-our heritage, our wealth". The contest received enormous response from amateur

photographers including children. Green Images 2014 showcased the diversity of nature ranging from landscapes of mountains to marine biodiversity. Amateur short film contest "Green snippets 2014" was conducted on the theme "Life, Biodiversity and Man" focussing on the issues of biodiversity conservation.

5.1.12 MADHYA PRADESH

The Madhya Pradesh SBB has convened one Board meeting on 30th March 2015 during the year 2014-15. The number of BMCs in the State stood at 23,743 at the end of the year 2014-15 (23043 at Village/Panchayat level, 313 at Block/Taluk/Mandal level, 337 at Municipality level and 50 at Zilla Parishad/Panchayat level). With the documentation of 104 PBRs during the year 2014-15, the total number of PBRs at the close of the year was 704. Kyoti (Rewa) and Jatashankar (Chhatarpur) was found suitable to be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site as it is rich in medicinal plants as well as other faunal and floral diversity and Kyoti falls in Rewa is also identified as Biodiversity Heritage Site, because of its historical background and existing cultural and floral biodiversity. Sensitization programme for BMCs was taken up in 40 districts through Master Trainers/NGOs trained by the Board. A tableau was displayed on the Republic Day Celebration 2015 at Lal Parade Ground, Bhopal. Workshop for sensitization of Forest officers and a State level photography competition on biodiversity were also organized.

The following booklets/films/brochure were published/released by the SBB during the year 2014-15.

- A booklet on the historical background of "Mowgli" for distribution at Mowgli

Bal Utsav 2014 with the objective of creating awareness among children.

- A Souvenir on Mowgli Bal Utsav 2014.
- A book on birds of Madhya Pradesh entitled “Piyu, A repository of birds for Madhya Pradesh”.
- A documentary film on paddy conservation initiative in Satna district and also film for creating awareness among children.
- Booklets for Biodiversity Management Committees.
- A brochure on the provisions of B.D. Act 2002 and Rules & regulations.
- Booklets on biodiversity of Pachmari and Amarkantak.

5.1.13 MAHARASHTRA

Four meetings of the SBB were held during the year 2014-15 (i.e. on 22nd May 2014, 15th July 2014, 13th August 2014 and 24th February 2015). 302 BMCs were formed (295 in Village level, 4 in Taluk level and 3 in Municipality level) and 1 PBR was documented during the year bringing the total number of BMCs in the State to 890. 'Glory of Allapalli' in Gadchiroli district, has been notified as first Biodiversity Heritage Site in Maharashtra Vide notification No.WLP/0914/cr.317/m-1, dated 13-7-2014 under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, that empowers State Government to notify areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) in consultation with local bodies. Eight more sites have been further identified for notification as Biodiversity Heritage Sites. 74 applications under section 24(1) have been approved during the year 2014-15 and 29 applications are under process. Five applications U/S 3 and ten applications U/S 6

that were forwarded by NBA have been disposed off.

The following books/brochures were published by the Maharashtra SBB during the year 2014-15:

- i. Booklet on 'Biodiversity of Maharashtra' authored by Dr.Erach Bharucha, ex. Chairman, MSBB and “Threatened Birds of Maharashtra” (English).
- ii. Brochure on “Our Biodiversity. Our Treasure” (Marathi), “Spider World” (Marathi), “Let us understand our Biodiversity Dragon Flies & Damselflies . Farmer's friend”(Marathi and English), “Improvisation of Chulla in Maharashtra” (Marathi) and “Use of Solar Cooker in every household” (Marathi).

International Day for Biological Diversity 2014 was celebrated on 22nd May 2014 by organizing the State level programme at Hotel Radisson Blu, Nagpur. Wide publicity was given in local media through advertisement and organizing Press Conference. Shri.Praveen Pardeshi, Principal Secretary (Forests) was the Chief Guest. Dr.Erach Bharucha, Chairman, MSBB delivered lecture on B.D. Act 2002 – Vision and Future Perspective. Dr.Sarang Kulkarni, well known Marine Biologist from Pune delivered the key note address on Marine Biodiversity of Andaman & Nicobar Island, Angria Bank and Coastal belt of Maharashtra. The BMC representatives also presented their views on the biodiversity conservation plan that they have developed for their area and is being implemented. MSBB distributed financial aid to these BMCs for development of conservation

plan and its implementation. The Chief Guest and other invitees also addressed the gathering about the importance of biodiversity in the social life, importance of our domesticated breeds as well as crop varieties, their conservation need etc. On this occasion, the Chief Guest inaugurated the official website of MSBB.

5.1.14 MEGHALAYA



Two meetings of the Board were held during 2014-15 i.e., on 16th April 2014 and 3rd December 2014. Rule 23 of Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules 2010 was amended to provide for constitution of BMCs at the Village level. 10 BMCs have been formed during the year at Village/Panchayat level bringing the total number of BMCs in the State to 94 as on 31st Mar 2015. Documentation of 15 PBRs is under process by the close of the year. The Mawphlang Sacred Grove, Mawphlang, has been identified to be notified as Biodiversity Heritage Site. Two applications under Sec. 24(1) of the B.D. Act have been approved. A State level workshop for all Forest Officers was organized on 19th & 20th February 2015.

The International Biodiversity Day was marked by the release of posters on Caecilians, and *Nymphaea tetragona* as 'rare ecological niches' (in three languages viz. Khasi, Garo and English). and the Forest Cover Map of Meghalaya.

5.1.15 MIZORAM

The number of BMCs in the State stood at 221 as on 31st March 2015. One PBR has been documented during the year 2014-15 bringing the total number of PBRs to 3 as on 31st March 2015.

The International Biodiversity Day was celebrated on 22nd May 2014 at Assembly Annexe Conference Hall, Aizawl for students from "DIET", Aizawl and awareness campaign on biodiversity at Pangzawl village with a painting competition was organised for the school children.

5.1.16 MANIPUR

One Board meeting was held on 16th September 2014. Three BMCs were formed during the year 2014-15 at Village/Panchayat level, bringing the total number of BMCs to 52 as on 31st March 2015. Seven PBRs were documented during the year bringing the total number of PBRs to 10. An Expert Committee was constituted to provide technical inputs and advice to the SBB. Nineteen potential Biodiversity Heritage Sites have been identified for notification. Technical Support Groups (TSGs) were constituted for assisting the BMCs in terms of Govt. of Manipur order dated 23rd October 2013.

State level celebration of the International Biodiversity Day was organised on 22nd May 2014 at Synod Hall at Churachandpur District headquarters. Shri. Vungzagin Valte, Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary, Govt. of Manipur graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Drawing and painting competition for school children was organized at Churachandpur District Headquarters. and at Imphal. Prizes and Certificates were distributed to the winners. Biodiversity awareness camps were organised at five Hill District Headquarters.

Third batch of Village Botanist Programme (4 phases) was organised by the Board in collaboration with the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore. Training programmes were organised for members of BMCs through Chartered Accountant and Manipur Forest Department.

5.1.17 NAGALAND

The number of BMCs at the close of the year was 10 all at village level. The International Day for Biodiversity was celebrated by the SBB on 22nd May 2014 at Kiphire.

5.1.18 ODISHA

The SBB met once during the year 2014-15 on 22nd August 2014. 210 BMCs were formed at Village/Panchayat level during the year 2014-15 bringing the total to 230 numbers of BMCs as on 31st March 2015. 56 PBRs were documented during the year bringing the total to 76 at the end of the year.

An Expert committee has been constituted for developing BHS guidelines. After finalization of guidelines, Biodiversity Heritage Sites will be identified for notification.

Odisha Biodiversity Board has prepared a book on "Glimpses of Biodiversity of Odisha" and "Threatened birds of Odisha" one leaflet on Ecology and Conservation status of "Otters in Odisha".

The International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated on 22nd May 2014. Capacity Building programme was conducted for frontline staff like Foresters and Forest guards of Odisha Forest Department and members of BMCs. A National Conference was organized on "Biodiversity Assessment, Monitoring & Conservation". Photography and

painting exhibition were organized for different categories on the theme "Biodiversity of Odisha" under sub-theme of "Ecosystem Diversity, Floral Diversity, Faunal Diversity and Agriculture Biodiversity. Quiz and Essay competitions were conducted for school children at the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences in KIIT campus, Bhubaneswar. Radio programmes on Biodiversity of Odisha is being organised for creating awareness in the State.

5.1.19 PUNJAB

The SBB met once on 22nd May 2014 during the year 2014-15. 33 BMCs were formed at Village/Panchayat level during the year besides reconstituting one BMC at the Zilla Parishad level bringing the total number of BMCs to 55 as on 31st March 2015. Eight PBRs were documented during the year by engaging expert agencies and the total number of PBRs at the close of the year was 18.

Exhibition on Wetland Biodiversity & Conservation, Floral Diversity and domesticated biodiversity were conducted. Training programme was organized for BMCs under the Districts of Gurdaspur and Pathankot and also for the officers/officials of Government Line Departments & Academicians. Appreciation letters for conserving Biodiversity and related matters were issued to the members involved in the preparation of District PBR. Dr. Daljeet Singh, Professor, Dept. of Botany, Govt. College, Hoshiarpur for facilitation of conservation and sustainable utilization of bio resources of Hoshiarpur district. Technical Support Groups have also been constituted at District level. Participatory Resource Assessment Exercises have been conducted in all the Districts and training also provided.

5.1.20 RAJASTHAN

Five BMCs were formed during the year 2014-15 at village level bringing the total number to 31 BMCs in the State as on 31st March 2015.

One National Conference, two District Level workshops and a Bird Fair were held during the year. One poster and five brochures on the Biodiversity of the State were brought out during the year. By giving wide publicity to the prestigious exhibition on wheels “**Science Express Biodiversity Special**”, the exhibition attracted 2,21,471 number of visitors.

5.1.21 SIKKIM

The SBB met once on 18th February 2015



during the year. Six BMCs were formed and one PBR was documented during the year 2014-15 at Village/Panchayat level, bringing the total number of BMCs to 13 as on 31st March 2015.

International Biodiversity Day was celebrated on 22nd May 2014. State-wide celebrations were held in schools and local institutions. Five awareness programmes were conducted – one State level programme and four District level programmes on the Biological Diversity Act 2002. Four posters on Rhododendron, Natural Heritage, Nature's Bounty, Flame of Himalayas and salient feature of Biological Diversity Act 2002 were brought out.

5.1.22 TELANGANA

Telangana State Biodiversity Board was constituted with effect from 5th November 2014 and started functioning from 1st March 2015. 440 BMCs have been reported during the year 2014-15 (436 at Village level and 4 at Taluk level in the Telangana districts) and with the formation of BMCs already (within the Telangana region) prior to the bifurcation of the Andhra Pradesh State, the total number of BMCs in Telangana is 710 as on 31st March 2015. The total number of PBRs in Telangana was 9 at the end of the year 2014-15. Agro Biodiversity, Zaheerabad, Medak District has been identified for notification as Biological Heritage Site.

5.1.23 TRIPURA

One meeting of the SBB on 8th December 2014 and two meetings of the Expert Committees on 29th December 2014 and 26th February 2015 were held. 39 BMCs were formed during the year 2014-15 at Village/Panchayat level bringing the total number of BMCs to 217 as on 31st March 2015. 66 PBRs were documented during the year bringing the total to 126. One application Under Sec. 24(1) of the B.D. Act was approved during the year.

International Biodiversity Day was celebrated on 22nd May 2014 by recognising school children, Institutions and BMCs for awareness creation on the Biological Diversity Act 2002 by distributing awards and certificates.

5.1.24 UTTARAKHAND

Two meetings of the SBB were held during the year 2014-15 on 27th May 2014 and 10th September 2014. Eight BMCs have been formed during 2014-15 at Village/Panchayat

level, bringing the total number of BMCs to 751 as on 31st March 2015. Documentation of 9 PBRs is under process bringing the total number of PBRs to 22 as on 31st March 2015. Preliminary assessment has been carried out on 13 sites for notification as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

International Biodiversity Day was celebrated on 22nd May 2014 with the theme 'Island Biodiversity' at Dehradun, Haldwani, Nainital, Gopeshwar and Rampur Mandi, Kalsi (Dehradun). International Training of Trainers (ToT) cum Exposure visit on Access and Benefit Sharing were arranged for Nepalese Forest officers and delegates from International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu, on formation of BMCs, preparation of PBRs, Bio-cultural Community Protocol (BCP) and ABS from 4th to 7th November 2014. Regional Experts Workshop on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit sharing in Hindu Kush Himalaya was held from 25th to 27th November 2014. Training programme for DFOs, CFs, Technical Support Group, and BMCs were held. Internship to students of Doon University, Dehradun was arranged. Training of officials of other States like Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh and Goa was also conducted by SBB. Posters on Island Biodiversity were also released.

5.1.25 UTTAR PRADESH

Four meetings of the SBB were conducted during the year 2014-15 (7th April -2014, 23rd July 2014, 28th November 2014 and 24th March 2015). 23 BMCs have been formed during the year 2014-15 at village level bringing the total number of BMCs to 32. Five PBRs were documented during the year bringing the total number of PBRs to 11. One application Under

Sec.3 of the B.D. Act 2002 and Rule 14 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 (Grant of approval for commercial utilization or bio survey and bio utilization) was approved. One application each Under Sec.3 & 6 was rejected. One application Under Sec. 41(2) of the B.D. Act was approved during the year (prior approval for applying for IPR).

The SBB celebrated Biodiversity Festival from 16th to 21st May 2014 at the Regional Science City, Aliganj, Lucknow. The programme was jointly organized by the U.P. SBB, Zoology Department, Lucknow University and Regional Science City, Lucknow to spread the message of biodiversity conservation and importance of islands among the students. On this occasion, several competitions and workshops were organized. Overall, 350 students from different schools/colleges actively participated in various events organized during Biodiversity Festival. The prizes to the winners of different competitions were distributed on 22nd May 2014 on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity by the Chief Guest Dr. S.W.A. Naqvi, Director, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow. On this occasion, a National Conference on "Island Biodiversity" was also organized in which more than 400 delegates including various research organizations/institutes, universities, officers from U.P. Forest department and other States as well as NGOs etc. participated. As a part of celebration, a souvenir on "Island Biodiversity" and two books entitled "Inventory of Faunal Diversity of Uttar Pradesh" and "Cucurbits: Biodiversity, Breeding and Production in Uttar Pradesh" were released. Other major events included a

one-day training workshop on “Biodiversity – Law & Policy” conducted on 29th Aug 2014 in the Library Hall of Dr. R.M.L. National Law University for the Divisional Forest Officers of Uttar Pradesh.

The conference was inaugurated by Chief guest Dr. S.W.A. Naqvi, Director, National



Institute of Oceanography from Goa.

5.1.26 WEST BENGAL

Two Board Meetings were held on 12th August 2014 and 23rd December 2014. Ninety BMCs were formed during the year 2014-15 (76 in Block/Taluk/Mandal level and 14 in Nagar Palika/Municipality level) bringing the total number of BMCs in the State to 176 as on 31st March 2015. Sixteen PBRs were documented during the year bringing the total PBRs to 76. Tonglu and Dhotrey Medicinal Plant Conservation Areas of Darjeeling forest division have been notified as Biodiversity Heritage Sites on 20th March 2015. Five applications Under Sec. 23(B) of the B.D. Act were approved during the year.

The International Biodiversity Day was celebrated on 22nd May 2014 at Kolkata. On this occasion, a decorated tableau was inaugurated by the Hon'ble MIC, Dr.Sudarshan Ghosh Dastider, Dept. of Environment, Govt. of West Bengal. The Board officials participated and delivered lectures in various meetings/seminars/workshops organized by different

universities/colleges/other organisations. The Board organised a number of seminars among students, policy makers and local body functionaries. Seven awareness programmes on Biodiversity and Biodiversity Act & Rules were held for Panchayat functionaries and Block Development officers in collaboration with State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development. Capacity Building programme for BMC functionaries of Southern Bengal was organised in Midnapore on 23rd November 2014. The Board published periodical E-newsletters for the general awareness of the Board's activities and achievements as well as technical articles related to biodiversity of the State. Biodiversity Awards 2014 for outstanding contribution in Biodiversity Conservation were conferred on Shri.Pritiranjana Maiti of Ramnagar– I.P.S., Paschim Medinipur District, Shri.Dinabandhu Biswas of Birbhum District and Joygopalpur Gram Vikas Kendra, an NGO of South 24 Parganas District.

Under the UNDP-GEF-MoEF ABS project, an extensive research entitled “Study on Tradable Bio resources in West Bengal” was successfully completed by engaging a third party agency. An inception workshop was organised followed by two review meetings with the consultants of engaged third party. 19 District level meetings with Line Department Officials and Industries personnel were conducted in association with the respective District Magistrates. Final report has been submitted and due for publication. 10 potential bio resources have been identified for the purpose of ABS agreements.

6. Centre For Biodiversity Policy & Law (CEBPOL)

Government of India in collaboration with the Norwegian Government has established “Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL)” at the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai, towards strengthening the biodiversity policy and conservation related issues in India. This Centre of excellence is focusing on biodiversity policies and laws that cater to the needs of national and international rule-making and subsequent implementation on issues of biodiversity. The goals of the Centre are:

- 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 environmental agreements and United Nations bodies.
- To develop and implement an array of capacity building programmes through multidisciplinary research and customize training programmes for a wide range of stakeholders focusing 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.

Programme Implementation

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted a Programme Steering Committee (PSC) to oversee the working of “Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law”(CEBPOL) vide Order No.C-12025/4/2009-CS.III, dated 5th September, 2013. The PSC is responsible for, management decisions, for the programme and holding periodical reviews through consensus. The PSC will meet at least once in a year and provide required inputs to this programme.

Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA) in consultation with Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi has selected Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) as a service provider and accordingly entered into an agreement which was signed on 20th June 2013. As per the agreement, the BCIL will provide non-technical support to NBA and the funds will be routed through BCIL for all the activities to be carried out in India.

Programme Implementation Unit

In order to implement the programme, seven positions have been sanctioned which includes one Programme Manager, Administrative Executive, Finance Executive, IT Executive, Consultant (Law), Consultant (Policy) and Consultant (Capacity Building). All these positions are supported under the Government of India budget. The Centre also supports fellowship to carry out various themes based studies and which are supported under the Norwegian Budget. A separate office accommodation was allotted for the CEBPOL programme within the NBA premises at 5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai.

The 2nd PSC meeting held on 7th January 2015 at MoEF & CC, New Delhi to review the progress of the CEBPOL Programme. In pursuance of the decision taken in the second Programme Steering Committee meeting, a technical committee will be constituted to review or evaluate the Terms of References (ToRs), proposals and reports of various research studies to be carried out under the CEBPOL Programme.

Consolidating CEBPOL- Sharing of Experience on ABS

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in collaboration with the Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA) has organized an experience sharing workshop on 3rd and 4th February, 2015 at Hotel Aloft,



Chennai The main objective of organizing this workshop is to share the experiences of India and Norway on some of the identified thematic areas such as Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), Technology Transfer (TT), Biosafety, Nature Index (NI) and National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP).

Around 70 delegates from SBBs, MoEF & CC, NBA, experts from India and Norway and other biodiversity related institutions participated and took part in the deliberations. Followed by the workshop, a field trip was organised to Marakannam, a heritage sites depicting various eco-systems and Mahabalipuram.

Work Plan 2015

The following 6 thematic activities were identified for the year 2015 1) Access and Benefit Sharing 2) Mainstreaming of Biodiversity 3) Invasive Alien Species 4) Interface with other Multilateral Agreements / Organisations, 5) Biosafety and 6) Nature Index as work plan. CEBPOL will support

activities related to the implementation of Nagoya Protocol (NP) on ABS to provide policy



inputs for India; sector-wise approaches to improve benefit sharing components; and suggest ways and means of monitoring/ utilization of India's Biological Resources (BRs)

in other countries; including through disclosure of source and origins of BRs in Patent applications; ensuring India's compliance with obligations under the provisions of NP on ABS and Traditional Knowledge associated with genetic resources/biological resources. It will also work on compilation and review of national legislations pertaining to Biodiversity/ABS from the selected countries in the context of NP.



7. UNEP-GEF-MoEF & CC Project on Strengthening the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions.

Objective:

The objective of the project is to increase the institutional, individual and systemic capacities of stakeholders for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity (BD) Act, 2002 and the Rules, 2004 in order to achieve the biodiversity conservation through implementing Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) provisions.

Project Execution: Agencies and Partners:

This project is being executed by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in collaboration with 5 State Biodiversity Boards viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and West Bengal along with partners at National and International level. Further, the project is replicated in another 5 State Biodiversity Boards viz., Karnataka, Goa, Odisha, Telangana and Tripura.

Partners in the Project:

- 1) Botanical Survey of India (BSI)
- 2) Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
- 3) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- 4) United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)
- 5) Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- 6) United Nations Environment Programme – Division of

Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP-DELIC).

The key components of the projects are:-

- Identification of biodiversity with potential for ABS and their valuation in selected ecosystems such as forest, agriculture and wetlands.
- Development of tools, methodologies, guidelines, frameworks for implementing ABS provisions of the Biological Diversity Act.
- Piloting Agreements on ABS
- Implementation of Policy and regulatory framework(s) relating to ABS provisions at national level and thereby contribute to International ABS policy issues.
- Capacity building for strengthening implementation of ABS provisions of Biological Diversity Act.
- Increasing public awareness

Special Programmes/Events under the project:

UNEP-GEF-ABS Team participated in the following special programmes and exhibited project related information standees containing details of Biodiversity Act with ABS provisions, economic valuation of bio resources, peoples biodiversity register, traditional knowledge associated with bio-resources etc.

Sl.No	Programmes / Events
1	Indian Science Congress, Mumbai, Maharashtra
2	Regional Science Conference, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
3	National Workshop on “Sustainable Development of Medicinal Plants Sector in North Eastern, Imphal, Manipur.

8. Review of Legal and Regulatory Framework:

The ABS Agreements signed during the year 2014-15 are as follows:

Total number of agreements entered with the applicants during the year 2014-15:

Form I	Form II	Form III	Form IV	Total
19	0	22	1	42

Litigations currently being pursued by or against National Biodiversity Authority:

The Legal Cell is responsible for dealing with litigations by or against the National Biodiversity Authority/ Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, before various courts/tribunals and for

assisting the Counsel appearing for the NBA. The NBA has taken active steps with regard to cases related to the violation of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and any order or direction issued under the said Act.

List of pending cases before various courts/tribunals in which NBA is a party:

S.No.	Court	No. of Cases pending.
1.	Supreme Court of India	3
2.	High Court of Karnataka	2
3.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur.	1
4.	National Green Tribunal (South Zone), Chennai.	4
5.	National Green Tribunal, Bhopal. *Out of 16 cases, 13 have been disposed off and the remaining 3 cases are pending for arguments.	16*
6.	Principal JMFC Court, Dharwad.	1
7.	High Court of Madras. *This Writ petition has been disposed off on 11-3-2015.	1*

Right to Information Act 2005:

The RTI applications and appeals received by NBA were processed by the Legal Cell in consonance with the RTI Act 2005 in letter and spirit and disposed of by the Central Public Information Officer or the First Appellate Authority as the case may be with the assistance of Legal Cell.

STATE BIODIVERSITY RULES:

Legal Cell has been performing a key role in formulation of advice and guidance to the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs). One of the main areas of advice sought for by the SBBs is with respect to review of the respective State Biodiversity Rules. Each State Biological Diversity Rules are analysed in detail in order to assess their consonance with the Biological Diversity Act 2002 in particular and the Biological Diversity Rules 2004, notifications, orders etc. in general. The Legal Cell of NBA

has reviewed the State Biological Diversity Rules made by different States pursuant to the powers granted to them Under Section 63 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002. The review of the State Biological Diversity Rules has been carried out either suo motu by NBA or based on the request for review by the concerned State Biodiversity Board. So far, the review of the 20 State Rules have been undertaken by the legal team in the year 2014-15, which includes review of SBB Rules that were in draft stage (i.e., yet to be notified) as well as those Rules that were notified and required amendment in order to be in line with the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and BD Rules 2004. viz., Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

9. Financial Performance

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March, 2015

(Amount In Rs)

Receipts	Current Year: 2014-15		Previous Year: 2013-14		Payments	Current Year: 2014-15		Previous Year: 2013-14	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan		Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
I. Opening-Balances:					I. Expenditures:				
a) Cash in hand	30,000	0	25,000	0	a) Establishment-Expenses	3,19,15,212	0	2,48,68,259	0
b) <u>Bank Balances:</u>					b) Administrative-Expenses	6,32,22,323	0	5,58,13,832	0
(i) In Current A/c	0	0	-5,000	0	II. Payment made				
(ii) In Deposit A/c	0	0	97,44,140	0	<u>towards Funding for</u>				
(iii) In Savings A/c	15,19,61,719	0	3,46,26,396	0	<u>for Various Projects</u>	62,77,626	0	40,50,668	0
c) GEF Bank A/c	2,24,78,603	0	4,21,80,864	0	III. Investments /				
II. Grants-Received:					<u>Deposits Made:</u>				
a) From Government of India (MoEF)	19,06,00,000	0	35,90,88,057	0	a) Out of Earmarked / Endowment funds	0	0	0	0
b) From State Government	0	0	0	0	b) Out of own Funds	0	0	0	0
c) From other Sources	0	0	0	0	IV. Expenditure-				
III. Income on-Investments from					<u>on Fixed Assets & Capital Work</u>				
a) Earmarked / Endowment Funds	0	0	9,56,108	0	<u>-In- Progress</u>				
b) Own Funds (Other Investments)	0	0	0	0	a) Purchase of Fixed Assets	23,63,288	0	14,88,952	0
IV. Interest received					b) Expenditure on Capital Work-in Progress	0	0	98,63,967	0
a) On Bank S.B.A/c	67,62,633	0	55,61,600	0	V. Refund of				
b) Loans, Advances, etc.	0	0	0	0	<u>Surplus money / Loans</u>				
V. Other incomes:					a) To the Govt. of India for CoP-11	11,43,709	0	52,87,608	0
a) Application Fees	6,57,536	0	6,21,978	0	b) To the State Government	0	0	0	0
b) Royalty Fees	2,301	0	2,988	0	c) To other providers of funds	0	0	0	0
c) 5% Benefit Sharing recd. from A.P. Forest Devt. Corporation Ltd.	15,49,65,145	0	0	0	VI. Finance -				
c) Miscellaneous-Income	0	0	0	0	<u>charges (Interest)</u>	0	0	0	0
d) Sale of Newspapers	2,146	0	4,084	0	VII. Other Payments				
e) Sale of Assets	0	0	0	0	Security/Telephone Deposits/E.M.D. repaid	5,33,000	0	5,000	0
f) RTI filing fees	6,110	0	130	0					
VI. Amount - Borrowed	0	0	0	0					

Receipts	Current Year: 2014-15		Previous Year: 2013-14		Payments	Current Year: 2014-15		Previous Year: 2013-14	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan		Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
VII. Other Receipts:									
Earnest Money / Security Deposit / Ret.Money recd.from Contractors	3,31,619	0	3,81,419	0	SBBs.Share of Royalty	0	0	112	0
Tele.Deposit (Refund)	0	0	20,532	0	GIA for Strengthening of SBBs.	4,22,94,237	0	3,45,57,092	0
NBA-CPF Bank A/c (A/c closed & the proceeds received)	4,72,005		1,76,000		GIA for Constitution of BMCs.& PBRs.Preparation	10,17,00,416	0	11,61,06,375	0
(Contributions recd.)	0				NBA-CPF Bank A/c (A/c closed & proceeds paid to Ex-Chairman-NBA)	4,72,005	0	1,76,000	0
NBA Staff CPS Bank A/c (Contributions recd.)	0	0	1,12,476	0	(Contributions Transfd.)				
CEBPOL Project	1,42,01,298	0	0	0	NBA Staff CPS Bank A/c (Contributions Transfd.)	0		1,12,476	
GEF on NBSAP Project	27,62,664	0	0	0	CEBPOL Project A/c	32,32,717	0	1,82,214	0
GIA for ABS Dialogue Workshops at Goa	3,62,000	0	0	0	GEF on NBSAP Project	0	0	27,62,664	0
CBD-HLP Meetings	1,94,973	0	8,04,920	0	ABS Dialogue Meeting Expenses at Goa	8,51,174	0	0	0
GEF.Project A/c	4,97,95,097	0	1,40,35,883	0	CBD-HLP Meetings	0	0	14,32,422	
					CoP-11 Related Exp.	0	0	32,80,373	0
					GEF.Project A/c	2,58,56,986	0	3,37,38,244	0
					UNDP.Project A/c	0	0	1,41,095	0
					VIII. Closing - Balances				
					a) Cash in hand	50,000	0	30,000	0
					b) <u>Bank Balances:</u>				
					(i) In Deposit A/c	1,20,00,000	0	0	0
					(ii) In Savings A/c	24,64,59,365		15,19,61,719	0
					c) GEF Cash & Bank A/c	4,64,16,714	0	2,24,78,603	0
					d) CEBPOL Bank A/c	1,07,97,077	0	0	0
Total	59,55,85,849	0	46,83,37,675	0	Total	59,55,85,849	0	46,83,37,675	0


ACCOUNTS OFFICER


SECRETARY


CHAIRMAN

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st.March,2015

(Amount in Rs.)

INCOME	Sch. No.	Current Year: 2014-15		Previous Year: 2013-14	
		Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
Income from Sales / Services	12				
Grants/ Subsidies:					
Grants received as per Sch.No.13	13	19,06,00,000	0	34,28,51,597	0
Less: Capitalization of Fixed Assets- during the year 2014-15		(-) 1,14,29,784			
Net Income from Grants		17,91,70,216	0	34,28,51,597	0
Fees / Subscription	14	6,57,536	0	6,21,978	0
Income from Investments (Income on Investments from Earmarked / Endowment Funds transferred to Funds)	15	10,76,783	0	4,05,538	0
Income from Royalty, Publication etc.	16	15,49,67,446	0	2,876	0
Interest Earned	17	65,17,315	0	53,42,067	0
Other Income	18	8,256	0	4,214	0
Increase / (decrease) in stock of Finished goods and works in-progress	19	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (A)		34,23,97,552	0	34,92,28,270	0
EXPENDITURE					
Establishment Expenses	20	33014599	0	23792165	0
Other Administrative Expenses etc.	21	6,28,46,284	0	6,70,61,712	0
Expenditure on Grants, Subsidies etc.	22	15,02,59,779	0	15,49,01,925	0
Interest	23	0	0	0	0
Depreciation as per Schedule 8		25,76,833	0	22,94,492	0
Loss on Sale of Assets		0	0	0	0
TOTAL (B)		24,86,97,495	0	24,80,50,294	0
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		9,37,00,057	0	101177976	0
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24				
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25				


ACCOUNTS OFFICER


SECRETARY


CHIARMAN

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

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March, 2015

(Amount in Rs.)					
CORPUS / CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES	Sch. No.	Current Year: 2014-15		Previous Year: 2013-14	
		Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
CAPITAL FUND	1	1,67,55,501	0	1,50,41,179	0
RESERVES AND SURPLUS	2	0	0	0	0
EARMARKED / ENDOWMENT FUNDS	3	16,86,90,880	0	1,19,89,115	0
SECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	4	0	0	0	0
UNSECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	5	0	0	0	0
DEFERRED CREDIT LIABILITIES	6	0	0	0	0
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	7	9,59,77,719	0	15,43,35,166	0
TOTAL		28,14,24,100	0	18,13,65,460	0
ASSETS					
FIXED ASSETS	8	1,70,55,868	0	2,21,14,248	0
INVESTMENTS--FROM EARMARKED/ ENDOW MENT FUNDS	9	0	0	0	0
INVESTMENTS - OTHERS	10	0	0	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS,LOANS,ADVANCES ETC.	11	26,43,68,232	0	15,92,51,212	0
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE (To the extent not written off or adjusted)		0	0	0	0
TOTAL		28,14,24,100	0	18,13,65,460	0
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24				
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25				



ACCOUNTS OFFICER



SECRETARY



CHAIRMAN

10. Annual Plan 2015-16:

The basic principles set out in the National Environment Policy, 2006 aims at arriving at a consensus so that development process to meet the demand does not affect conservation aspects of bio resources and concerns of humanity, which will form the framework of national plan. The countries under Convention of Biodiversity decided in the 10th meeting to revise the target and to adopt “Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020” a ten year frame work. India's National Biodiversity target, in harmony with the CBD's SP 2011-2020 and Aichi target, was conceptualized to focus on 12 areas of which, 7 areas will be part of NBA's target as detailed below.

In achieving the Aichi target by 2020, the National Biodiversity Authority and the State Biodiversity Boards will be involved in the following activities:

- ✦ Promoting awareness at local level and its effectiveness towards operationalizing Biodiversity Management Committees and increasing number of People's Biodiversity Registers.
- ✦ Valuation of biodiversity and its reflection in the planning process.
- ✦ Conserve ecologically representative areas of importance effectively with a positive change in number of areas and BHSs.
- ✦ Ensure that access to genetic resources and a fair & equitable sharing of benefits as per Nagoya Protocol are operational with legislation.
- ✦ Preparation of effective National Biodiversity Action Plan for implementation at different level of governance.
- ✦ Strengthen community's traditional knowledge, traditional practices and protect them by appropriate training of community and BMC members.
- ✦ Explore the possibilities of increasing the availability of financial, human and technical resources and mobilize resources for effective implementation of strategic plan to achieve the National Biodiversity target.

Annexure 1

1. Citizen's Charter

1.1 Vision

Conservation and sustainable use of India's rich biodiversity and associated knowledge with people's participation, ensuring the process of benefit sharing for the well-being of present and future generations.

1.2 Mission

Ensure effective implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, for conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair & equitable sharing of benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources.

1.3 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 or any biological resources 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.

1.4 Stakeholders

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

Research and Development Institutions, Universities and public at large.

1.5 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 necessary 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 utilization 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.

1.6 Grievances Redressal Mechanism

Administrative Officer, National Biodiversity Authority, is the designated officer for redressal of public grievances. Any grievances can be addressed to:

The Administrative Officer,
National Biodiversity Authority,
TICEL Bio Park,
5th Floor, CSIR Road, Taramani,
Chennai- 600 113

Phone: 044-2254 2777, 1075 Extension: 27

Fax: 044-2254 1200

Email: admn@nba.nic.in

1.7 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.

Annexure 2

Members of the Authority

The members of the authority as per Section 8(4a) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 are as follows:

CHAIRPERSON	PERIOD
Shri.Hem Pande, IAS, Addl.SecyMoEF & CC	From 6 th Feb2014 onwards.
Dr.Balakrishna Pisupati	From 12 th Aug 2011 to 5 th Feb 2014
Shri M.F. Farooqui, IAS	11 th Nov 2010 to 11 th Aug 2011
Dr. P.L. Gautam	31 st Dec 2008 to 3 rd Nov 2010
Shri P.R.Mohanty, IFS	1 st Oct 2008 to 31 st Dec 2008
Shri G.K. Prasad, IFS	20 th May 2008 to 30 th Sep 2008
Dr.S.Kannaiyan	20 th May 2005 to 19 th May 2008
Shri Viswanath Anand, IAS	1 st Oct 2003 to 14 th July 2004

The present Ex- Officio Members of the Authority as per Section 8(4 b, c) are as under:

Sl No	Ex-Officio Member	Represented by
1	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.	Smt. Nivedita IFS, Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhavan, Dr.Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi -110 001.
2	Additional Director General (Forests) Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.	Shri A K Srivastava, IFS Addl. Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Vayu Block, Second Floor Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi- 110 003.
3	Joint Secretary to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.	Shri. Bishwanath Sinha, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Vayu Block, 2nd Floor, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 110003
4	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Agriculture Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture.	Shri. Atanu Purkayastha, IAS Joint Secretary (Seeds), Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Room no. 244, Krishi Bhawan, Dr.Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi -110 001
5	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Department of Biotechnology.	Dr.Renu Swarup, Advisor, Department of Biotechnology CGO Complex, Block No. 2, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003
6	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Department of Ocean Development.	Dr.P. Madeswaran, Director, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Block -12, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003
7	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.	Dr.Swapan Kumar Datta, Deputy Director General (Crop Science) Division of Crop Science, ICAR Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi 110 001
8	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with subject in the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.	Shri. Jitendra Sharma, IFS Chief Executive Officer, National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, 3rd Floor, AYUSH Bhawan, B Block, G.P.O . Complex, I.N.A., New Delhi -110 023
9	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank to the Government of India dealing with the subject in the Department of Space and Technology.	Dr. B. Harigopal, Advisor, Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi– 110 016

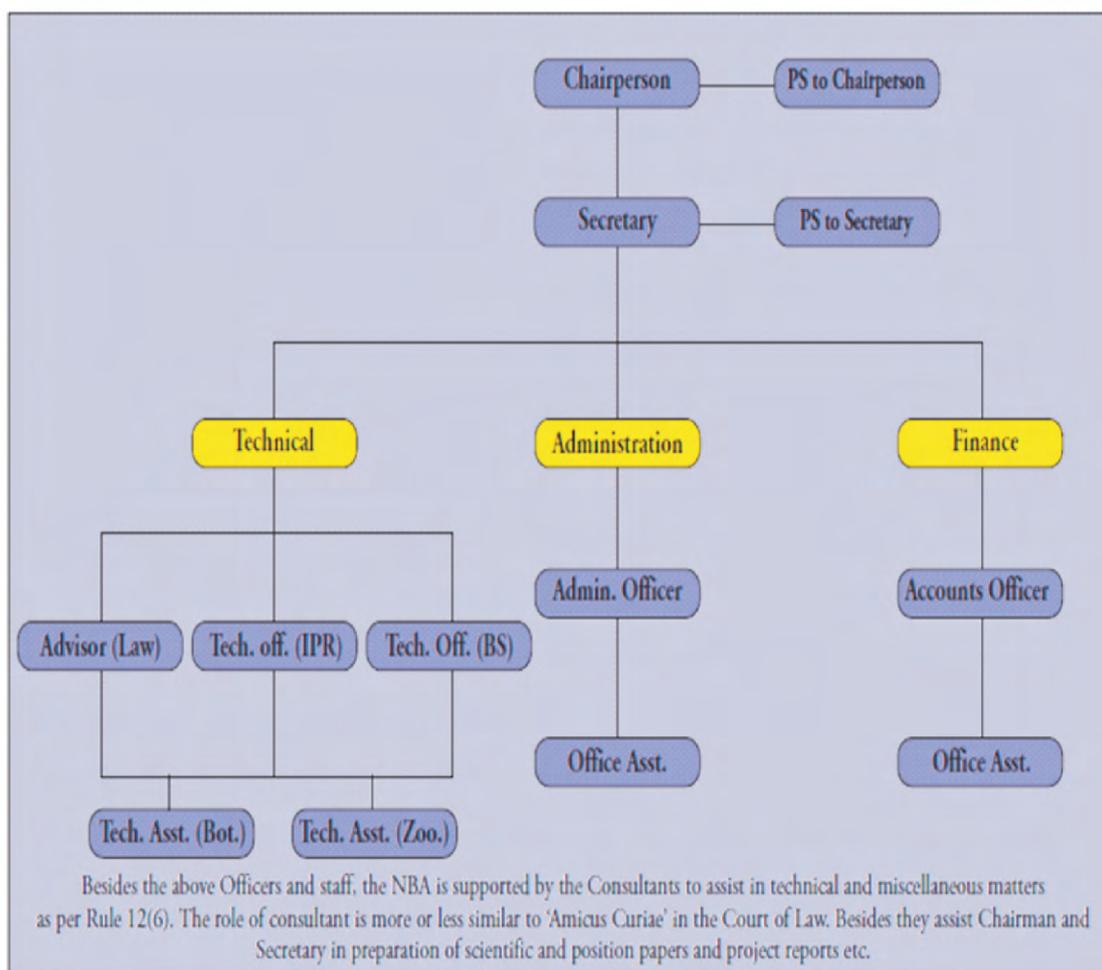
Non - Official Members u/s 8 (4,d) (From 17th October, 2013 to 16th October, 2016)

1.	Dr. S. Subramaniyan, 54, VGP, Golden Sea View, Part-II, 2nd Main Road, 5th Cross Street, Palavakkam, Chennai-600 041.
2.	Dr.R.S.Rana, Chairman, BioLink, D-43, Indraprastha Apartments, Sector 14, Rohini, New Delhi-110 025.
3.	Prof. M. K. Ramesh, Professor of Law, National Law School of India, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560 072.
4.	Dr.Biswajit Dhar, Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, I Block, 1796A Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi - 110019.
5.	Vacant

Secretary to the Authority Under Section 9 of Biological Diversity Rules-2004

Shri T. Rabikumar, IFS., from 02-4-2014 onwards.

Annexure 3- Organizational Structure



Annexure 4 - Staff Strength of NBA

Post	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacancy
Chairperson	1	0	1
Secretary	1	1	-
PS to Chairperson	1	1	-
PS to Secretary	1	1	-
Admin.Officer	1	1	
Accts.Officer	1	1	-
Technical Officer	2	2	-
Advisor(Law)	1	1	-
Office/Comp.Asst	2	2	-
Technical Asst	2	2	-
Steno "C"	1	1	-
Steno "D"	1	1	-
Peon	1	1	-
Total	16	15	1

Annexure -5 Audit Report



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.Pr.DA(SD)/EA/SAR/NBA-
Chennai/2015-16/891

Dated: 16/11/15

Dear Sir,

I have audited the annual accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year 2014-15 and have issued the Audit Report thereon vide letter dated ...16/11/15... During the course of audit, some deficiencies were noticed (as per Annexure A) which are of a relatively minor nature and were, therefore not included in the Audit Report. These are being brought to your notice for remedial and corrective action.

Encl: As above

Yours Sincerely,

Sh. T. Rabi Kumar
Secretary,
National Biodiversity Authority,
TICEL BIO PARK,
5th Floor, Taramani Road,
Taramani, Chennai-600113

Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year ended 31 March 2015

1. We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as at 31 March 2015 and Income & Expenditure Account/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 Biological Diversity Act. These financial statements are the responsibility of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai's management. 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 and Income & Expenditure Account/Receipts & Payments Account dealt with by this report have been drawn up in the format approved by 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(2) of Biological Diversity Act in so far as it appears from our examination of such books.

iv) Based on our audit, we further report that:

(A) Balance Sheet

A.1 Capital Fund (Schedule 1) – ₹ 1.68 crore

NBA did not make provision for terminal benefits for the year 2014-15. Besides, an amount of ₹ 24.83 lakh already provided as provision for Gratuity, leave encashment etc., for previous years was also reversed and credited to Capital Fund. This resulted in understatement of liabilities. Capital Fund also overstated to the same extent.

A.2 Current Assets, Loans & Advances (Schedule 11) – ₹ 26.44 crore

Bank Reconciliation Statement for March 2015 revealed that 18 cheques amounting to ₹ 3.71 lakh issued under two bank accounts were time barred. Authority however has not reversed these time barred cheques. This has resulted in understatement of current liabilities and bank balance by ₹ 3.71 lakh each.

(B) Income and Expenditure Account

B.1 Overstatement of income-₹ 1567.02 lakh

NBA depicted an amount of ₹ 1556.25 lakh representing royalty, fee, subscription as Income in Income and Expenditure account instead of showing the amount as addition to Earmarked/Endowment fund under "liabilities". Besides, an amount of ₹ 10.77 lakh being interest earned on investment made out of Earmarked Funds was also booked as income. This led to overstatement of income to the extent of ₹ 1567.02 lakh.

(C) General

NBA accounting interest on Savings Bank Account on cash basis in contravention of its significant accounting policy which states that accounts are prepared on accrual basis.

(D) Grants-in-aid

During the year 2014-15, NBA received grant-in-aid of ₹ 19.06 crore (out of which ₹ NIL was received in March 2015), unspent balance of ₹ 14.18 crore from previous year and ₹ 0.65 crore other receipts during the year. Out of the total available funds of ₹ 33.89

crore, NBA could utilize a sum of ₹ 24.77 crore leaving a balance of ₹ 9.12 crore as on 31 March 2015.

(E) Other – Management letter

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

i) Subject to our observations in the preceding paragraphs, we report that the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payment Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of accounts.

ii) In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said financial statements read together with the Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts, 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 2015 and
- b. In so far as it relates Income & Expenditure Account of the surplus for the year ended on that date.

For and on behalf of the C&AG of India.

g. kishore
16/11/15

Principal Director of Audit

Scientific Departments.

Place: New Delhi

Date: 16/11/15

Annexure

1. Adequacy of Internal Audit

Internal Audit of NBA was conducted for the period from 2003-04 to 2008-09 during April 2009. For more than five years, no inspection was conducted by the administrative Ministry. The Inspection Report pertaining to the above internal audit contained 21 paragraphs which are outstanding till date. This proved that internal audit mechanism was not effective.

2. Adequacy of Internal Control.

2.1. Non-adherence to procedures relating to drawal and passing of bills prescribed in the Receipts & Payments Rules.

The amount of budget allotment under the head and also the appropriation being made in the current bill were not being noted on the bills in NBA, thereby diluting the internal financial control mechanism.

3. System of physical verification of fixed assets:

NBA conducted physical verification of Assets items, stores and inventory during the year 2014-15. Audit however observed that the surplus, damaged, unserviceable, old and obsolete were not identified as required to be done under GFR-192(3) (iii).

4. System of physical verification of inventory:

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

5. Regularity in payment of statutory dues:

The Authority was regular in payment of statutory dues.

दिनांक 12/11/15
Director (EA)

Annexure-A

1. Utilization certificates

It is observed that during the year 2014-15, NBA received an amount of ₹ 9,86,92,908 as Grant in aid for Strengthening of State Biodiversity Boards, however only ₹ 4,22,94,237 was disbursed to SBBs leaving a unutilized balance of ₹ 5,63,98,671. Thus 57 percent of the funds allotted for this purpose were unutilized during the year 2014-15. During 2014-15, NBA received total grants (inclusive of other receipts) to the extent of ₹ 33,89,64,655 out of which ₹ 24,77,64,846 were utilized leaving a balance of ₹ 9,11,99,809. Thus 26.90 percent of the total funds received were not utilized.

As regards receipt of Utilization Certificates for funds released by NBA to SBBs, PBR, other agencies etc. it is observed that during the period 2005-06 to 2013-14 a total amount of ₹ 22,32,48,357 was released to 446 agencies, out of which utilization certificates are pending from 146 agencies towards grants amounting to ₹ 13,20,48,122. This shows that Utilization certificates are pending from 32 percent of the agencies pertaining to 59 percent of grants released.

Details of Utilization certificates pertaining for more than three years has not been disclosed in the Notes to Accounts appended to the Annual Accounts.

3. Undischarged Current Liability – ₹ 1.67 lakh

An amount of ₹ 1.67 lakh was shown as liability which pertained to closed UNDP project. The amount is required to be refunded and liability discharged.

4. Outstanding Advances

It was observed that the following advances were paid but so far not adjusted,

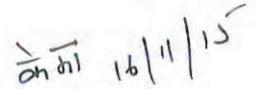
Statement showing list of Outstanding Advances for the Financial year 2014-15					
Sl. No.	Name of Staff	Bill No.	Date of Payment	Purpose	Amount (₹)
1.	PAO, DIT, Chennai	104	18.04.2013	Advance for WAS Audit	1,12,360
2.	Shri. C.A. Reddy, Ex. Secretary, NBA	1575	11.03.2014	Transfer T.A. Advance to go to Goa	1,54,745

3.	Smt. Shanthi Jayaram, P.S. to Secretary	772	29.10.2014	Transfer Pay Advance	32,050
4.	Smt. Shanthi Jayaram, P.S. to Secretary	773	29.10.2014	Transfer T.A. Advance	55,035
5.	Shri. M. Surendra Ram, MTS, NBA	1300	13.03.2015	LTC Advance	12,937
Total					385127

NBA needs to take speedy action to adjust/recover the outstanding advances.

5. Accounting of books printed by NBA and books purchased by NBA for the purpose of free distribution.

Audit noticed that printed material worth ₹ 88011.50 was in stock as of March 2015 without put to productive use.


 Director (EA)

Annexure -6

During the reporting period, Chairman, Secretary and NBA Officials presented special addresses and participated in the following meetings:

22.05.2014	Celebration of the International Biodiversity Day (IBD) at Tagore Government College, Port Blair organized by National Biodiversity Authority along with Zoological Survey of India
04.08.2014 to 06.08.2014	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2 nd Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Dialogue On Key Challenges and Practical Ways Forward for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol at the Hotel Aliladiwa Goa, Goa Organized By Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change along with National Biodiversity Authority and GIZ
04.01.2015	“ Ancient Sciences through Sanskrit” organized by the Kavi Kulaguru Kalidasa Sanskrit University along with Honourable Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Independent Charge) in the 102 nd Indian Science Congress at Sports Complex (SPC), University of Mumbai, Mumbai
05.01.2015	Plenary session entitled “Biodiversity Conservation – Current Issues and Way Forward” in the 102 nd Indian Science Congress 2015 at Alkesh Dinesh Modi Auditorium (ADM), University of Mumbai, Mumbai
18.01.2015	International Symposium on transforming Mountain Forestry at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun,
29.01.2015 & 30.01.2015	Business Forum Meet under the “Leaders for Nature” programme organized by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at Mumbai
03.02.2015 & 04.02.2015	Workshop on Consolidating Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL) - Sharing of Experiences on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

Annexure -7

Abbreviations

ABLE	:	Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises
ABS	:	Access and Benefit Sharing
ABS	:	Academy of Business Studies
ABSCH	:	ABS Clearing-House
ADMA	:	Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association
APEDA	:	Agriculture and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority
BCIL	:	Biotech Consortium India Limited
BCP	:	Bio-cultural Community Protocol
BD Act	:	Biological Diversity Act
BHS	:	Biodiversity Heritage Site
BMC	:	Biodiversity Management Committee
BRs	:	Biological Resources
BSI	:	Botanical Survey of India
CBD	:	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEBPOL	:	Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law
CEG	:	Core Expert Group
CHM	:	Clearing House Mechanism
CII	:	Confederation of Indian Industry
CMFRI	:	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
CoP	:	Conference of Parties
CSIR	:	Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
CSCB	:	Central Seed Certification Board
DAC	:	Dept. of Agriculture & Co-operation
DFO	:	Divisional Forest Officer
DTR	:	Daily Trading Returns

DGFT	:	Directorate General of Foreign Trade
EC	:	Expert Committee
ENVIS	:	Environmental Information System
FRLHT	:	Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions
FOB	:	Free on Board
GEF	:	Global Environmental Facility
Gol	:	Government of India
I-AIM	:	Institute of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine
IBD	:	International Biodiversity Day
IBIS	:	Indian Biodiversity Information System
ICAR	:	Indian Council for Agricultural Research
IIFM	:	Indian Institute of Forest Management
IISc	:	Indian Institute of Science
INBIF	:	Indian Biodiversity Information Facility
IRCC	:	Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance
ITC	:	Indian Trade Classification
ITPGFRA	:	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture
IUCN	:	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LBF	:	Local Biodiversity Fund
IPR	:	Intellectual Property Rights
MoEF & CC	:	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
MPCA	:	Medicinal Plant Conservation Area
NBA	:	National Biodiversity Authority
NBAP	:	National Biodiversity Action Plan
NBAGR	:	National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources
NBPGR	:	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources
NBSAP	:	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
NEA	:	Norwegian Environment Agency
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organizations
NGT	:	National Green Tribunal
NI	:	Nature Index
NMPB	:	National Medicinal Plants Board

NP	:	Nagoya Protocol
NPV	:	Net present value
NTC	:	Normally Traded Commodities
OM	:	Office Memorandum
PBRs	:	People's Biodiversity Registers
PCCF	:	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
PPVFR	:	Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights
PPVFRA	:	Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Authority
PSC	:	Project Steering Committee
R&D	:	Research and Development
RET	:	Rare, Endangered and Threatened
RIS	:	Research and Information System
RMNH	:	Regional Museum of Natural History
SBB	:	State Biodiversity Board
SP	:	Strategic Plan
SPC	:	State Project Co-ordinator
SPU	:	State Project Unit
TEEB	:	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
TK	:	Traditional Knowledge
ToR	:	Terms of Reference
ToT	:	Training of Trainers
TSG	:	Technical Support Group
TT	:	Technology Transfer
UCM	:	User Country Measures
UGC	:	University Grants Commissions
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	:	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-DELC	:	United Nations Environment Programme – Division of Environmental Law and Conventions
UNU-IAS	:	United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies
WCCB	:	Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
ZSI	:	Zoological Survey of India

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 focusing 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 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 or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians. The local level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are responsible for promoting conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge related to the biological diversity.

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

Since its establishment NBA has supported creation of SBBs in 29 States and facilitated establishment of 37,769 BMCs at local level.



National Biodiversity Authority

5th Floor, Ticel Bio Park, CSIR Road,
Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.
Tamil Nadu, India.

Tel: +91 44 2254 1075 | 2254 2777 | Fax: +91 44 22541200
Email: secretary@nbaindia.org | Website: www.nbaindia.org