



Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change



National Biodiversity Authority

(A statutory body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)



ANNUAL REPORT
2019-20

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मंत्री
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
और
श्रम एवं रोज़गार
भारत सरकार



MINISTER
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
AND
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

भूपेन्द्र यादव

BHUPENDER YADAV



MESSAGE

Biodiversity is a multidisciplinary subject involving diverse activities, initiatives and numerous stakeholders that 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. Hence, Conservation and sustainable use of India's rich biodiversity and associated knowledge is a collective endeavor

National Biodiversity Authority is the apex institution established in the country to deal with matters pertaining to biodiversity. In this connection, I am very pleased to present the Annual Report 2019-20. I noted with a sense of satisfaction that, at the end of 2019-20, a total of 2,49,098 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) have been constituted and 96, 593 People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) prepared across the country. The States of Goa, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh have notified four Biodiversity Heritage Sites as per Section 37 of the Act.

The eventful year included the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) on 22nd May, 2019 at Chennai that had Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. The NBA with the participation of 25 SBBs organized the 14th Annual National Meeting of SBBs on 27-28 November, 2019 at Chennai.

I am pleased to note the new initiatives of NBA such as the preparation of electronic People's Biodiversity Registers (e-PBRs) to document the biological resources and associated knowledge in an effective and meaningful manner to the welfare of common people. Another noteworthy initiative is the establishment of Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) under the mandatory requirement of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

I appreciate the efforts of NBA, SBBs, UTBCs, BMCs as well as the very large number of stakeholders and professional who had actively contributed to the implementation of the provisions of the Act. I hope this report will be receiving the wide attention.

Date: 10.02.2022

(Bhupender Yadav)



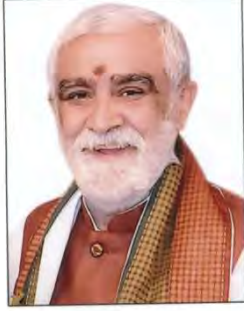
सत्यमेव जयते

आहारशुद्धौ सत्त्वशुद्धिः



एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

अश्विनी कुमार चौबे
Ashwini Kumar Choubey



राज्य मंत्री
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण
भारत सरकार
MINISTER OF STATE
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MESSAGE

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change established in 2003 to implement the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The NBA performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions to the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

The Annual Report of NBA for the year 2019-20 has been prepared in accordance with Section 28 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The report brings to fore the activities and achievements of all the statutory institutions established under the Act viz, the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards, Union Territory Biodiversity Councils and the Biodiversity Management Committees.

I am pleased to note that the Authority met three times and deliberated on various issues pertaining to the implementation of the Act, Rules and Regulations. During the reporting period, the NBA signed 288 agreements concerning access to biological resources for activities regulated under the Act. A significant achievement during the period is the 521 Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC) issued and uploaded in the ABSCH platform of Convention on Biological Diversity.

I am confident that this Annual Report would be useful to all stakeholders involved in the conservation of biodiversity.

(Ashwini Kumar Choubey)

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FOREWORD



As part of India's three tier biodiversity governance process the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) continued to play an important role during the Reporting Period 2019-20 and undertook a range of activities for the conservation of biological resources. All the committees constituted by the NBA and particularly the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) guided the ABS application process leading to accrual of Rs. 4.36 as deposits on account of benefit sharing, upfront payment and royalty. NBA also obtained 521 Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC) during 2019-20.

NBA convened the 14th Annual Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards on 27-28 November, 2019 at Chennai in which over 80 delegates participated and discussed/reviewed various activities being undertaken for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2003. The meeting also discussed the progress in the preparation of Detailed Project Report of the National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-being, for which the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) has assigned the responsibility to the NBA with technical support from the Biodiversity Collaborative. The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) was celebrated with the participation of Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu as the Chief Guest. The theme for IDB-2019 was '*Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health*'.

I would like to place on record the deep appreciation and gratitude of NBA to a very large number of stakeholders and professionals and especially the senior officials of MoEFCC and State Forest Departments, Chairpersons and Members of various committees for their constant guidance and support, which has enabled the NBA to successfully achieve its mandate and assigned tasks. I would also like to record my appreciation for the officers and staff of NBA for their comprehensive efforts to take the NBA forward.

I place before you the Annual Report of NBA for the period 2019-20 along with Audited Accounts.

(Dr. V. B. Mathur)
Chairperson, NBA



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the year 2019-20 has been compiled as per the provisions of Section 28 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The report highlights the activities and significant achievements of NBA towards implementation of the various provisions of the Act. The activities carried out by the State Biodiversity Boards have also been included in this Report.

I acknowledge the valuable suggestions provided by Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. He has been a constant source of motivation and support to complete the task of preparing this Report.

I express my gratitude to Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for the continued support to the activities of National Biodiversity Authority. I also thank the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for the guidance provided to NBA to implement the different provisions of the Act and guidance to execute different project based activities. I thank the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change who had been providing valuable support and advice in furthering the activities of the NBA Secretariat.

I acknowledge with gratitude the complementary role of the Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of the State Biodiversity Boards in compiling this Annual Report. I also thank the Principal Director of Audit (Scientific Audit) for conducting a detailed audit of the NBA and providing an Audit Certificate.

I wholeheartedly appreciate the efforts of all the officers and staff of NBA Secretariat in compiling and bringing out the Annual Report.

J. Justin Mohan
Secretary, NBA



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Biodiversity is the biological variability of life on earth. It enhances the ecosystem productivity where each species, however small, has an important role to play. Conservation of biodiversity is crucial as it provides resources and services necessary not just for human beings but for the sustenance of all living beings. This demands urgent attention and action from all countries to conserve and manage biodiversity, ecosystems and livelihoods through major policy and programs that are focused on these realms.

The 1992 Earth Summit held at Rio de Janeiro led to the adoption of an internationally binding legal instrument, the `Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) with the objectives of conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological diversity. Consequently, India enacted the Biological Diversity (BD) Act in 2002 and notified the Biological Diversity Rules in 2004. A three-tier institutional structure was formed for implementation of the BD Act 2002, wherein the apex body, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) headquartered in Chennai was established in 2003 under Section 8 of the Act and implements the BD Act at the national level. The second and the third tier constitute the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) at the State level and the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) at the local level respectively.

NBA regulates the activities envisaged under the Act and issues guidelines for access to biological resources and advises the Government of India on matters relating to biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilization and equitable sharing of biological resources.

NBA, as a statutory body of the Government of India, has been following a dedicated and target-oriented plan. The highlights of the progress and achievements during the reporting period 2019-20 are briefly outlined here and elaborated in the Annual Report.

During 2019-20, the Authority met three times, deliberated various issues, directed and advised the NBA Secretariat for initiating and implementing actions as per Section 12 of the BD Act, 2002 and Rule 10 of the BD Rules.

NBA has constituted three Expert Committees- viz. the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (EC on ABS), Expert Committee to develop a guideline for eligibility conditions/parameters for identification of repositories under Section 39

of the Act and an Expert Committee to identify issues in the Biological Diversity Act and Rules that may require changes, and propose amendments thereof.

The EC on ABS met five times and gave recommendations for processing and approving the applications received including those that were covered under the Office Memorandum issued by MoEF&CC. During the reporting period, 900 applications were received concerning the access of biological resources for research/commercial use, transfer of research results, intellectual property rights and third party transfer. In total, 288 agreements were signed during this period. NBA realized a sum of Rs.4,36,65,000 as benefit-sharing, including upfront payment, royalty etc. India, being a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 521 approvals granted in the ABS CH platform generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances (IRCC) during 2019-20.

The implementation of the BD Act 2002 at the State level was initiated by establishing the SBB and locally by constituting the BMC. Of the 29 SBBs, so far 26 SBBs have notified their State Rules. At the end of 2019-2020, 2,49,098 BMCs have been constituted and 96,593 People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) prepared across the country. This year, the States of Goa, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh have notified four Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) under the provisions of Section 37 of the BD Act, 2002. NBA has extended financial support to almost all the SBBs by Grant-in-Aid towards strengthening the institutional mechanism such as components of outsourcing, training and capacity building, peer-to-peer learning exchange visits, printing and dissemination of knowledge materials, formation of Thematic Expert Committee and website maintenance for the respective States during 2019-20. Regional meetings of SBBs were convened to interact and understand the problems and challenges faced at the state and local body level.

The 14th National Meeting of the SBBs and Union Territories (UTs) was held from 27th - 28th November 2019 at Chennai. Over 80 delegates including the Chairpersons and the Member Secretaries of 25 SBBs, representatives and special invitees from the Union Territories, governmental and non-governmental organizations and project partners attended the meeting. The meet reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act with special emphasis on the establishment of BMCs and preparation of PBRs, specifically in the context of the recent Order from the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi.



The meeting also reviewed the progress made by the SBBs in implementing the Act and the proposed framework for the formulation of the electronic People's Biodiversity Register (e-PBRS) to document the bioresources and associated knowledge in an effective and meaningful manner besides linking it to the welfare of common people. Further, the meeting discussed the proposed National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-Being, which is under formulation for bringing biodiversity and conservation to the forefront of science, policy and society's attention. The meeting also examined the progress made so far in bringing the Union Territories under the mandatory requirement of the Biological Diversity Act. The project partners of NBA shared the outcomes and key deliverables from the collaborative projects.

NBA has also supported activities, awareness programs, publications, documentation related to biodiversity carried out by Universities/Colleges, Academic institutions as per the recommendations of the Proposals Scrutiny Committee (PSC).

The national-level celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) on 22nd May was held at the Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai with the participation of various stakeholders. The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, in coordination with the NBA and cooperation of the Government of Tamil Nadu organized the event. The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu graced the event as the Chief Guest.

The theme of IDB was "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health", which focuses on biodiversity as the foundation for food and health, and aims to leverage knowledge and spread awareness of the dependency of our food systems, nutrition and health on biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. Referring to the theme of IDB 2019, the Vice President stated that in India, the traditional food systems evolved

over a period have proved to be healthier, balanced and nutritious. He suggested all contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, which is critical for achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals also. He released the documents on "Implementation of India's National Biodiversity Action Plan: An Overview" 2019, and 'Biodiversity Finance Plan' and other communication materials. The call for India Biodiversity Awards 2020, fifth in the series, was also launched through the release of a brochure and poster.

Shri Anil Kumar Jain, Additional Secretary MoEF&CC and Chairperson, NBA, Shri Hans Raj Verma, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu; and Shri Shambhu Kallollikar, Principal Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu attended the event. Senior officers from the MoEF&CC, NBA, Government of Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board, representatives from other States, officers and scientists from Central and State Government institutions, Civil Society Organizations, academic institutes, students, local communities, women's development committees, and biodiversity enthusiasts also participated in the event. A thematic exhibition of products highlighting the role of biodiversity for food and health was organised with the participation of over thirty institutions from the State and Central governments.

Other important days observed by NBA included the 16th Foundation Day of NBA International Yoga Day, the Hindi Diwas, Vigilance week etc. During this period, NBA organized and participated in various exhibitions, conferences, workshops, training, awareness programs, for diverse stakeholders including researchers, students, scientists and the public regarding the importance of conserving and protecting biodiversity and rewarding biodiversity conservers.

The Annual Accounts for 2019-20 and Annual Plan for 2020-21 are also included in this Annual Report for 2019-20.



INTRODUCTION

India's unique topographical features harbour terrains with biologically rich terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, making it one of the 17-mega biodiverse countries of the world. India occupies 8th place in the world and 4th in Asia among the mega diverse countries in the world. Biogeographically, India is situated at a tri-junction of the Afro-tropical, Indo-Malayan and Paleo-Arctic realms. To date, over 1 Lakh animal and 48,655 plant species have been documented in the country. Of these, 4,900 flowering plants species belong to 47 families, 141 genera are endemic and are primarily concentrated in the northeast, northwest Himalayas, Western Ghats and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. India is also a home of traditional crop varieties ranking first amongst the 12 regions of diversity of crop plants and seventh in the contribution of agricultural species. Globally, India holds the eighth position for origin and diversity of crop plants, as it has more than 300 wild ancestors and close relatives of cultivated plants growing naturally. It is noteworthy that around 9,500 plant species are used as medicine in indigenous health practices. Moreover, local and indigenous people use more than 3,900 plant species as food, fibre, fodder, insecticides and pesticides, gum, resins, dyes, perfumes and timber.

India is also rich in terms of fauna as exemplified by the fact that nearly 62 per cent of the recorded amphibian species are endemic to India, the

majority found in the Western Ghats. Inventories of both floral and faunal diversities are progressively updated with many discoveries of new species through continuous survey and exploration.

Biological resources are vital to people's economic and social development. This is more so in a country like India, where some population still depend on local flora and fauna for enhanced food, nutritional and economic sustenance and where traditional healing practices uses local bioresources. However, due to India's growing population, rapid economic growth and industrialization, there is immense pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Consequently, there is destruction and fragmentation of natural habitats, which alters the ecology and its inhabitants, affecting the livelihoods of millions of people.

NBA advises the Central Government on issues related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilization and equitable sharing. It also regulates the activities and issues guidelines for access to biological resources. Similarly, SBB advises the State governments on biodiversity-related issues. The BMCs are responsible for promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of landraces, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms.



CONSTITUTION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY, RELATED STATUTORY BODIES

2.1 Structure of the National Biodiversity Authority

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is headed by a Chairperson, a renowned person with knowledge and experience in sustainable management of biodiversity. It consists of ten *ex-officio* members from related Ministries of Government of India, and five non-official members who are experts in different aspects of biodiversity management.

2.1.1 Chairperson appointed under clause (a) of Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of BD Act

During this period, the Chairpersons were Shri. A.K. Jain, IAS, Additional Secretary MoEF&CC until 31st August 2019 and Dr V.B. Mathur, a renowned wildlife biologistt and former Director, Wildlife Institute of India, joined on 1st September 2019. Dr V.B. Mathur is the Regional Vice-Chair of the IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA-South Asia) and a member of the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA). He is also a bureau member of the UN-CBD and UN-IPBES.

2.1.2 Ex-officio members representing MoEF&CC and Ministry of Tribal Affairs appointed under clause (b) of Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of BD Act

Three *ex-officio* members are appointed by the Central Government, *viz.*, two representing the MoEF&CC- the Additional Director General of Forests and the Joint Secretary to the Government of India, and one representing the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the rank of Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank.

2.1.3 Other ex-officio members appointed under clause (c) of Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of BD Act

The Central Government appoints seven other *ex-officio* members who are in the rank of Joint Secretary or an Officer of an equivalent rank and would be experts in these sectors --

- i. Agriculture Research and Education
- ii. Biotechnology
- iii. Ocean Development
- iv. Agriculture and Co-operation
- v. Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy
- vi. Science and Technology
- vii. Scientific and Industrial Research

2.1.4 Non-official members appointed under clause (d) of Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of BD Act

Five non-official members are chosen among scientists and representatives of industry, conservationists and knowledge-holders of biological resources having sound knowledge and experience in matters related to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the biological resources.

The composition of the National Biodiversity Authority during the reporting period is given below in Table 1.

Table 1: Members of the National Biodiversity Authority

S. No.		Ex-officio Members
1	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Shri. Sushilesh Mohan Sahai, IFS Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Room No. 736, A-Wing, 7 th Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi 110 001
2	Additional Director General (Forests), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Dr Anil Kumar, IFS Additional Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110 003
3	Joint Secretary dealing with the subject in the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change	Dr Sujata Arora Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110 003
4	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in Agriculture Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture	Joint Secretary (Seeds) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Room No. 244, Krishi Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi 110 001

S. No.		Ex-officio Members
5	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in the Department of Biotechnology	Dr Renu Swarup Senior 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 dealing with the subject in the Department of Ocean Development	Dr R. Kirubakaran Scientist G, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Velachery-Tambaram Main Road, Narayanapuram, Pallikaranai, Chennai 600 100
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	Deputy Director General (Crop Science) Division of Crop Science, ICAR, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi 110 001
8	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent rank dealing with the subject in the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy	Dr. J. L. N. Shastri Chief Executive Officer National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 3 rd 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 dealing with the subject in the Department of Science and Technology	Dr Sanjay Kumar Director Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Post Box No.6, Palampur Himachal Pradesh 176 061
10	Joint Secretary or an officer of an equivalent dealing with the subject in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	Dr B. K. Shukla Scientist G Head Planning, Coordination & Performance Management, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi 110 016

S. No.	Non-Official Members
1	Dr Parimal Chandra Bhattacharjee A/3 Asiyana Housing Complex Mailgaon, Guwahati 781 011, Assam
2	Dr Yogesh Shouche Senior Microbiologist National Centre for Cell Science Department of Biotechnology Lab University of Pune Campus, University Road, Ganeshkhind, Pune 411 007, Maharashtra
3	Shri. Darshan Shankar Chancellor Trans-Disciplinary University C/o Foundation of Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) #74/2, Jarakabande Kaval, Post Attur via Yelahanka, Bangalore 560 064
4	Dr Dinesh Misra No. 65, Sector 8 Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat 382 008
5	Prof. Umesh Rai Director South Campus, University of Delhi, Room No. I 06, Department of Zoology, University of Delhi, Delhi 110 007

2.2 Functions of NBA

- Advise the Government of India on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.
- Regulate activities and issue guidelines for access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge and 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 the 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 resources derived from India illegally.
- Advise State Governments in the selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified as heritage sites and suggest measure for their management.

- Provide guidance and technical support to Biodiversity Management Committees through State Biodiversity Boards for preparing People's Biodiversity Registers.
- Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act.

2.3 State Biodiversity Boards (SBB)

The SBBs are established by the State Governments by notification in the official gazette in accordance with Section 22 of the Act. The NBA exercises the powers and functions of an SBB in Union Territories. The NBA may delegate all or any of its powers or functions to such persons or group of persons as specified by the Central Government. The SBBs comprise of a Chairperson, five *ex-officio* members representing the concerned departments and five experts having experience related to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources; and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use.

2.3.1 Functions of SBB

- Advise the State Governments, subject to guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.
- Regulate, by granting approvals or otherwise, the request for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resources by Indians.
- Perform other functions necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as prescribed by the State Governments.

2.4 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

In accordance with Section 41 of the BD Act, local bodies within their areas of jurisdiction can constitute BMCs to promote conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity which includes preservation of habitats, conservation of landraces, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms, and chronicling of knowledge related to biological diversity. Each BMC consists of a Chairperson and six persons nominated by the local body of which one-third is women and 18% belong to the Scheduled Castes/Tribes category. As of March 2020, there are 2,49,098 BMCs across India

2.4.1 Functions of BMC

- Prepare, maintain and validate People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) in consultation with the local people.

- Provide advice on any matter referred to it by the State Biodiversity Board or NBA for granting approval.
- Maintain data about local *vaids* and medical practitioners using biological resources.

2.5 Role of Central and State Governments

- Establish National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees.
- Develop national strategies, plans, programs for the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- Issue directives to State Governments to take immediate ameliorative measures for the protection of biodiversity-rich habitats, threatened by overuse, abuse or neglect.
- Integration of the conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programs and policies. Endeavour to respect and protect the knowledge of local people relating to biological diversity, as recommended by NBA
- Assess the impact of projects on the environment and biodiversity and regulate, manage or control the risks or adverse impact of use/ release of living modified organisms on conservation, and study the link between sustainable use of biological diversity and human health.
- The Central Government may, in consultation with the NBA,
 - Notify threatened species and prohibit or regulate their collection, rehabilitation and conservation.
 - Designate institutions as repositories for different categories of biological resources.
 - Exempt certain biological resources normally traded as commodities.
- State Governments, in consultation with the local bodies, notify Biodiversity Heritage Sites, and frame rules for management and conservation of all the Heritage Sites (in consultation with Central Government) and launch schemes for compensation to/ rehabilitation of affected people.



During the reporting period, the Authority met three times and advised the NBA Secretariat for actions as per Section 12 of the BD Act, 2002 and Rule 10 of the BD Rules. Besides, the Authority considered ABS applications along with recommendations of the expert committee on ABS, and gave decisions and advised the NBA Secretariat. The agenda discussed and the outcome of the meetings held are outlined below.

3.1 53rd Authority Meeting

The 53rd meeting of the Authority (Governing Body) was held on 22 May at the Conference Hall of Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai under the Chairmanship of Shri Anil Kumar Jain, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority and Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:

- The Authority decided to extend the timeline for inviting comments of the public on the revised (draft) Guidelines on ABS, 2019 for another 30 days.
- The Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to have regional level consultation meetings with the State Biodiversity Boards in Chennai, Delhi and Kolkata covering all the SBBs to ascertain their views/comments on the revised Draft Guidelines of the ABS within a period of one month.
- The Authority considered and ratified the decisions taken on the Red Sanders applications.
- The Authority decided that the interest amount accumulated as benefit-sharing realized on access to Red Sanders may be used by NBA for their activities such as enhancing awareness on biodiversity.
- The State Biodiversity Boards may be engaged and given required funds to develop training programs for the Master Trainer/ Training of Trainers/representatives of PRIs instead of NIRD&PR.
- The Authority decided that preparation of PBRs be undertaken in a more strategic manner *inter-alia* by involving students and relevant organizations including BSI and ZSI and phasing out the activity to have PBRs initially at Taluka level.

3.2 54th Authority Meeting

The 54th meeting of the Authority was held on 31 October 2019 at the Indus Hall of Ministry of Environment, Forest

and Climate Change, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr V.B. Mathur, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority.

Some of the important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were –

- The Authority approved the recommendations of the 55th EC on ABS.
- The Authority approved the recommendations of the 56th EC on ABS.
- The Authority decided that the Secretariat may release Rs.5.00 lakhs to IWST for proper maintenance of the Red Sander samples deposited.
- The Authority decided to designate BNHS as a national repository considering its reputation and technical expertise.
- The members approved the five Red Sanders research proposals with the revised budget.
- It was decided that NIRD&PR might be engaged for a period of one year for conducting five capacity-building programs.
- The SBBs and SIRDs may act as partners to conduct the capacity building programs along with the competent agencies.
- The Authority decided to levy the highest rate of the benefit-sharing component as per existing guidelines (i.e. 0.5%) for applications approved under OM dated 10/09/2018 and 18/03/2019 pertaining to violation cases for FORM I applicants and to collect the upfront payment as per the guidelines issued by the Authority for research applications.
- NBA would request the Chief Secretaries of all States to review the follow-up actions required in the context of the Order of the NGT dated 9 August 2019.
- NBA will also consult with the Counsel appointed by MoEF&CC in the context of the implementation of the NGT Order dated 9 August 2019.
- The members ratified the Annual Accounts for the financial year 2018-19; Revised Estimates (RE) (2019-2020) & Budget Estimates (BE) (2020-2021).

- The Authority endorsed the reports of the Expert Committee to examine BD Act, 2002, BD Rules, 2004, Development of Sector-Specific SOPs on ABS, and examination of the Comments of Stakeholders for Incorporation in the Draft Regulations on ABS, 2019, etc. and developments thereof and advised NBA to process it through MoEF&CC, as appropriate.
- The members considered and approved the establishment of the 'National electronic PBR Framework' with adequate safeguards.



3.3 55th Authority Meeting

The 55th meeting of Authority was held on 12 March 2020 at the Indus Hall of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr V.B. Mathur, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority. Some of the important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting include

- The Authority approved the recommendations of the 57th EC on ABS.
- The Authority approved the recommendations of the 58th EC on ABS.

- The Authority decided that NBA may support the conservation, regeneration and awareness creation components in the proposal.
- The Authority decided to release the amount of Rs. 31.55 crores to the AP Forest Department for Red Sanders forest protection.
- The Authority authorized the Chairperson, NBA to utilize the earmarked amount on accrued benefit sharing component and interest component for activities such as conservation and sustainable use of bioresources, preparation of PBR, formation of BMCs, awareness creation, training and capacity building programme, undertaking specific research studies, publications etc.
- The members approved the proposal of the Institute of Wood Science and Technology with the revised budget and decided that NBA may release the total project funds to IWST.
- The Authority decided that communication may be sent to the MoEF&CC requesting for an advisory to be issued to the CAMPA Authority for providing funding for documentation of PBR in the States.
- The Authority decided that earmarked funds of NBA from ABS amount, interest component, the benefit-sharing component where beneficiaries are not identifiable shall be used for the preparation of PBR, training and capacity building of BMCs and matters related thereto.
- The Authority decided that financial assistance of Rs.2.30 lakhs may be fixed for preparing PBR at the Urban body level.
- The Authority also decided that SBBs have a committee to undertake PBR quality evaluation using the framework developed by the national-level committee.
- The members, in principle, approved the revised guidelines for engagement of Consultants /Young Professionals /Interns and initiate the process of engagement. The Authority also directed NBA to place the revised guidelines in the next meeting of the authority for ratification.
- The Authority ratified the decisions taken on the Nine (9) Red Sanders applications.
- The Authority approved the recommendations of the 59th EC on ABS.

COMMITTEES CONSTITUTED BY THE AUTHORITY AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

4.1. Expert Committee to examine Biological Diversity Rules, user country measures under Nagoya Protocol and development of sector-specific standard operating procedures.

Pursuant to the decision taken in the 52nd Meeting of the Authority, an Expert Committee was constituted vide Office Order dated 31.05.2019, under the Chairmanship of Shri. A. K. Goyal, to examine the Biological Diversity Act and Rules, user country measures under Nagoya Protocol; development of sector-specific standard operating procedures and streamlining the process of granting approvals by NBA. Accordingly, NBA organized 13 meetings during 2019-2020.

- 1) First meeting of the EC was held on 20 June 2019 at NBA, Chennai
- 2) Second meeting of the EC was held on 26 June 2019 at India International Centre, New Delhi
- 3) Third meeting of the EC was held on 18 July 2019 at the Forest Survey of India (Eastern Zone) Office, Kolkata
- 4) Fourth meeting of the EC was held on 13-14 August 2019 at NBA, Chennai
- 5) Fifth meeting of the EC held on 5-6 September 2019 at NASC complex, ICAR, New Delhi
- 6) Sixth meeting of the EC held on 25-26 September 2019 at NBA, Chennai
- 7) Seventh meeting of the EC was held on 14-15 October 2019 at Sutlej Hall, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
- 8) Eighth meeting of the EC was held on 29-30 October 2019 at NBA, Chennai
- 9) Ninth meeting of the EC was held on 21-22 November 2019 at Indus Conference Hall, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
- 10) Tenth meeting of the EC was held on 23-24 December 2019 at NBA, Chennai
- 11) Eleventh meeting of the EC was held on 9-10 January 2020 at Indus Conference Hall, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
- 12) Twelfth meeting of the EC was held on 1-2 February 2020 at NASC Complex, PUSA, New Delhi
- 13) Thirteenth meeting was held on 28-29 February 2020 at Hotel Park Inn by Radisson, New Delhi

2. After discussing the ToRs, the expert committee submitted their recommendations in the form of reports.
 - a) First interim report on measures for streamlining various clearances by NBA/SBB on 1 September 2019
 - b) Second interim report on Revised Draft ABS Regulations, 2019 on 30 October 2019
3. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee, Office Memorandum was issued by NBA on 19 March 2020, thereby streamlining the processing of applications for ensuring timely processing of applications.



ACTIVITIES TO REGULATE ACCESS TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND FAIR AND EQUITABLE BENEFIT SHARING

5.1. Expert Committee (EC) on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

The expert committee on Access and Benefit Sharing evaluate the applications seeking prior approval for access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge for research, bio-survey and bio-utilization and commercial utilization, transfer of results of research, for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights for invention based on research or information on biological resources and transfer of accessed biological resources to third parties.



The Committee made suitable recommendations for consideration of the Authority. This year, the Committee met five times viz., 55th meeting on 13 and 14 June 2019, 56th meeting on 8 and 9 August 2019, 57th meeting on 8 and 9 November 2019, 58th meeting on 16 and 17 December 2019 and 59th meeting on 5 and 6 March 2020. In this period, the Committee evaluated 1085 applications on access and benefit-sharing and provided recommendations to the Authority. Besides, the EC provided techno-legal inputs on various generic issues such as accessing non-Indian biological resources and applicability of BD Act on the claim of improved design without using biological resources.



5.2 Generating the Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC);

Under Article 17 of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, Parties are required to issue a permit or its equivalent at the time of access as evidence that access to genetic resources is based on prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms have been established. Since India is a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 521 approvals granted in the ABS CH platform, generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance.

India published the "Procedure for accessing the biological resource and/or associated knowledge for commercial or non-commercial use" in the ABS CH portal in all UN languages. The CBD Secretariat acknowledged the information brochure.



APPROVAL GRANTED FOR UNDERTAKING ACTIVITIES AS REFERRED IN SECTIONS 3, 4, AND 6 OF THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT, 2002

6.1 Approval Details

The National Biodiversity Authority is mandated to regulate activities of access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge for research; bio-survey and bio-utilization; commercial utilization; obtaining IP rights; transfer of results of research and transfer of accessed biological resources and/or associated knowledge. The procedures to be followed by the applicant are outlined in Sections 3, 4, and 6 of the Act; 14, 17 and 18 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and ABS Regulations 2014.

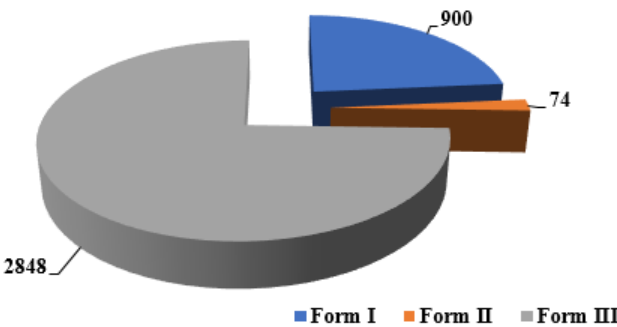
2. For such activities, the NBA receives applications from different stakeholders viz., non-Indian individual or entity; Indian individual or entity and the same are examined through an expert committee constituted for this purpose. The detailed information relating to the application is provided in Table 2.

Table – 2 Category of ABS applications

Sections of the BD Act, 2002	Form No.	Purpose of application	By whom
Section 3	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
Section 4	II	Transfer the 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
Section 6	III	Seeking no objection to obtain Intellectual Property Right	Any Indian/ Non-Indian or entity

4. Since its inception, the NBA has received 3822 applications from different stakeholders under Forms I, II and III (Figure 1). During the reporting period, it received 900 applications, which were complete in all respects and were therefore taken up for processing. The stages of processing of applications are shown in Table 3.

Figure- 1– Receipt of applications under different categories



*Application received up to 31/03/2020

Table 3: Stages of processing of ABS applications

Details	Form I	Form II	Form III	Total
Received	220	18	662	900
Cleared	93	2	633	728
Under process	369	20	398	787
Violation	26	3	22	51
Closure/Withdrawn	152	23	397	572
Agreement signed / approved	29	1	258	288
Cleared (applications received in the previous years)	238	25	1382	1645
Agreement Signed (applications received in the previous years)	206	20	728	954
Closure/Withdrawn (applications received in the previous years)	10	0	28	38
Rejected	9	0	15	24

6.2 Benefit sharing realized

NBA received a sum of Rs 4,36,65,000 as a benefit-sharing component during 2019-2020 as per Section 21(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 which will be channelized to the beneficiaries.

Financial assistance for Research on Red Sanders (RS)

The Committee constituted to prepare ways to utilize the accrued amount on access to Red Sanders payment, recommended eighteen per cent (18%) of the benefit-sharing amount for research and development on Red Sanders with respect to specific thrust areas. During the reporting period, NBA received Rs.82,66,39,598 as the benefit-sharing amount. Accordingly, NBA invited proposals on the identified thrust areas from different government institutions including CSIR,

ICFRE and ICAR etc. Fifteen proposals were received by the Secretariat for consideration and the project proponents were invited to present their proposals before the Committee for a brief presentation and discussion. Based on specific criterion, the Expert committee evaluated the research proposals and recommended six proposals with certain conditions.

Subsequently, in its 52nd Meeting held on 19 March 2019, the Authority approved the recommendations and released funds for the projects.



MEASURES TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS RELATED TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND ASSOCIATED KNOWLEDGE

7.1 Measures Initiated

Biological/genetic resources and their associated knowledge constitute the basic ingredients for bioprospecting, one of the fastest-growing R&D sectors in the world. It contributes to the creation of value-added products that in turn has enormous economic potential. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is used as a legal tool to create monopoly rights over this valuable information and thereby ensure commercial success. However, the creation of private property rights through the grant of a patent can lead to obstacles for future research. Even though the holders of such exclusive rights have considerable benefits, the actual conservers and holders of biological resources and associated knowledge in all probability would not get any share.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) aims at equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of such research and subsequent commercialisation of biological resources including through IPR among the users and providers. It attempts to balance the competing interests of these stakeholders by the creation of an international mandate for access through Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and benefit-sharing based on Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT). India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for implementing the three objectives of CBD viz., conservation of biological resources, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. Section 6 of the Biological Diversity Act, mandates any person applying for any Intellectual Property Right for an invention based on any research or information on a biological resource occurring or obtained from India shall obtain prior approval from the NBA.

The Nagoya Protocol, adopted on 29th October 2010 aims at strengthening the third objective of the CBD i.e. fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. In this regard, Article 15 and 16 of the Nagoya Protocol states that “each Party shall take appropriate, effective and proportionate legislative, administrative or policy measures to provide that ‘genetic resources’ and ‘traditional knowledge

associated with genetic resources’ utilized within its jurisdiction have been accessed in accordance with prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms have been established, as required by the domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements of the other party. Further, parties shall take appropriate, effective and proportionate measures to address situations of non-compliance and shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, cooperate in cases of an alleged violation of domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements.

The NBA, so far in its existence, have come across situations where individuals, institutions and companies in foreign jurisdictions have accessed and utilized valuable Indian biological resources for developing innovations and have applied for a patent in foreign patent offices. To counter such situations of non-compliance, the BD Act 2002 has empowered NBA under Section 18(4) of the Biological Diversity Act with the statutory function to take measures to oppose the grant of patents for inventions based on biological resources, which were obtained without prior approval from NBA. The 35th meeting of the Authority held on 13th October 2015 discussed the issue and directed the NBA Secretariat to take necessary measures to oppose such IPR applications.

Consequently, NBA initiated action against 19 patent applications, which were filed in various patent offices across the world. These patent applications had used biological resources from India such as plants with high medicinal values like turmeric (*Curcuma longa*), Indian gooseberry (*Emblica officinalis*), neem (*Azadirachta indica*), ginger (*Zingiber officinale*), ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*), Centella (*Centella asiatica*), *Terminalia arjuna*, Indian Bay Leaf (*Cinnamomum tamala*), *Aloe vera*, *Sphaeranthus indicus*, etc. As a result of such measures initiated against foreign patent applications, NBA has so far received twenty-four (24) applications for prior approval to obtain Intellectual Property Right. Among these, NBA has granted approval in seven (7) cases with the ABS agreement signed.

So far, NBA initiated measures against 74 patent applications are in the form of third party observation/ Patent Petitions/Pre-issuance submission etc. which were filed in different patent offices around the world. Among these, actions in 19 cases were filed in the year 2019-20 (Table 4).

Table 4: Action initiated related to Patents in the year 2019-20

Patent Office	No. of Actions Initiated
European Patent Office (EPO)	3
United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)	14
Canadian Intellectual Patent Office (CIPO)	2

7.2 Monitoring of patents published by the Indian Patent Office

The National Biodiversity Authority and the Indian Patent Office have been closely working together for the past few years for effective monitoring of patent applications related to bio-resources and traditional knowledge.

For instance, Section 6 of The Biological Diversity (BD) Act, 2002 requires that any person applying for Intellectual Property Right for an invention based on research or information on a biological resource obtained from India shall obtain prior approval of NBA. In consonance, Section 10(4) (ii) (D) of the Patents Act, 1970 requires the applicant to disclose the source and origin of the biological resources used in the invention.

Thus, the spirit of Section 6 of The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is incorporated in the 'Guidelines for examination of Biotechnology applications for Patent' dated 25th March 2013 and the 'Guidelines for processing of Patent Applications relating to Traditional Knowledge and Biological Material' dated 18 December 2012, issued by the Office of the Controller General of Patent, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

Both these Guidelines and Circular No: 1 of 2012 issued by CGPDTM require that patent for inventions based on biological material obtained from India shall not be granted unless a copy of 'NBA approval' is submitted by the applicant. Further, this requirement has been incorporated as a declaration in

Form I, which is to be submitted by the patent applicants. All such measure ensures that the patent for inventions based on biological resources obtained from India will not be granted without obtaining approval from NBA. Despite these guidelines, some patents are still being granted and are in violation of the Biological Diversity (BD) Act, 2002.

Hence, NBA Secretariat has taken the task of monitoring patent applications that are published by the IPO every month so that the patent office, as well as the applicant, could be informed well in advance of the inventions that would potentially fall under the purview of Section 6 and would require prior approval of NBA. This monitoring process is carried out for various streams of innovation like Biotechnology, Agrochemicals, TK-Biotechnology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, Food and Pharmaceuticals. The IPR section of NBA had scrutinized 3593 applications between April 2019 to March 2020 and sent communications to the IPO in 386 cases, informing them that those inventions would fall under the purview of Section 6 and that NBA approval was necessary (Table 5). The IPO has also published these letters on their website to make the applicants aware of the requirement so that the applicants can approach NBA on time before the patent could be granted.

Table 5- Statistics for monitoring of patents published by IPO

Month	No. of applications published	No. falling under NBA purview
April 2019	224	36
May 2019	359	45
June 2019	243	45
July 2019	179	44
August 2019	450	26
September 2019	280	20
October 2019	250	12
November 2019	311	50
December 2019	329	51
January 2020	580	22
February 2020	242	22
March 2020	121	13
Total	3568	386

APPROVALS GRANTED BY THE AUTHORITY FOR ACCESS OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The National Biodiversity Authority is mandated to regulate activities related to access of biological resources and/ or associated knowledge for research; bio-survey and bio-utilization; commercial utilization; obtaining IP rights; transfer of results of research and transfer of accessed biological resources and/or associated knowledge. The procedures to be followed by the applicant are outlined in Sections 19 and 20 of the Act; 14, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and ABS Regulations 2014.

For these activities, the NBA receives applications from different stakeholders' viz., non-Indian individual or entity, Indian individual or entity, which is examined through an expert committee constituted for this purpose. The detailed information relating to the application is provided in Table.6.

Table 6: Category of ABS applications

Section	Form	Category
Section 20 of the BD Act, 2002	Form IV	Third Party transfer of accessed biological resources and/ or associated knowledge
Section 13 of the ABS Regulations, 2014	Form B	Conducting non-commercial research or research for emergency purpose outside India by Indian researchers/ government institutions using the biological resources

Since its inception, NBA has received 244 applications of Form IV (92) and Form B (152) from different stakeholders. The stages of processing of applications are shown in Table 7.

Table-7: Stages of processing of ABS applications of Form IV and Form B in 2018-19

Details	Form IV	Form B	TOTAL
Received	4	46	50
Cleared	0	40	40
Under process	10	3	13
Violation	9	0	9
Closure/ Withdrawn	0	20	20
Agreement signed/ approved	0	39	39
Cleared (applications received in previous years)	32	70	102
Agreement signed (applications received in the previous years)	30	70	100
Closure/ Withdrawn (applications received in previous years)	40	19	59
Rejected	0	0	0





AWARENESS RELATING TO THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2002; AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

9.1. Consultation meeting on Digital Sequence Information (DSI)

MoEF&CC, NBA and UNDP jointly convened a consultation meeting on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) with relevant ministries, departments, organizations and experts on 30 July 2019 at MoEF&CC, New Delhi to understand the landscape of work on DSI being undertaken in the country. In continuation, NBA organized a second Consultation Meeting in partnership with UNDP India and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) on 14 February 2020 at the UNDP Conference Hall, New Delhi with stakeholders from concerned industries, department and individual experts. This was to further understand the work on DSI and the implication of ABS provisions on its use at the national level. The consultation meeting had over forty participants from relevant departments, institutions, organizations, industries and individual experts and the deliberations provided a much-needed start towards better understanding in this important subject area.

9.2. Brainstorming session on Access and Benefit Sharing Mechanism for the Seed Sectors

A one-day brainstorming session on Access and Benefit Sharing Mechanism for the Seed Sector was held on 20 December 2019 at the Conference Hall, NBA, Chennai, as per the request of seed sectors to address issues in implementing the BD Act. Representatives of the MoEF&CC, Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, NBPGR, and independent experts from biodiversity/legal sectors like Dr R.S. Rana,



Shri C.Achalender Reddy, IFS and representatives from the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) and National Seed Association of India (NSAI) attended the session.

9.3. Brainstorming session on electronic People's Biodiversity Register (e-PBR)

NBA organized a one-day brainstorming session on the electronic People's Biodiversity Register (e-PBR) on 16 November 2019 at the Conference Hall, NBA, Chennai. Fifty experts with diverse expertise and experience in PBR developments participated in



the brainstorming session along with the NBA staff members. The outcomes along with the near-final roadmap were discussed in the national meet of SBBs held on 27 November 2019.



A meeting of the representatives of the NBA and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) was held on 9 January 2020 at NBA, Chennai to review the progress of the e-PBR pilot project awarded to NIC. Subsequently, a two-day meeting was held between 6 & 7 February 2020 at the NIC Kerala State Centre to review and



re-scoping of e-PBR pilot phase project. Officials from NBA, NIC-Chennai and NIC-Kerala, Kerala State Biodiversity Board



and Dr Vishwas Chavan, Senior Programmer, GBIF, attended the meeting.

9.4. 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of wild animals (CMS COP 13)

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention, aims at conserving terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range. India hosted the 13th Conference of the Parties to the CMS (CMS COP 13) at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from February 15-22, 2020.

A side event on "Innovative approaches to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11" was jointly organized by CBD, MoEF&CC, NBA and UNDP on 17 February 2020. The Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Ms Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Acting Executive Secretary of CBD, Ms Uma Devi, IFS, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC, Dr Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC, officials from NBA State Biodiversity Boards and delegates from other countries graced the occasion.

During the side event, the Hon'ble Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar released a publication titled "Nature-based Solutions for Conservation of Migratory Species in India". Dr V.B. Mathur, Chairperson, NBA presented the status of India's protected areas network and other effective area-based conservation measures

(OECMs) which were contributing to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Besides, in the side event organized by the CMS Secretariat, he also shared the experience of India on eco-friendly measures to mitigate the impact of linear infrastructure on wildlife.

Shri J. Justin Mohan, IFS, Secretary, NBA took part as a panellist in the side event of India's National Action Plan for conservation of migratory birds and their habitats organized by the MoEF&CC, BNHS and WII on 20 February 2020. On this occasion, a report on "State of India's Birds" was released. Officials from MoEF&CC, BNHS, WII and ornithologists from across the world attended the event.

9.5. Interaction with Stakeholders / Capacity Building programmes:

1. The Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing), NBA attended the Community of Practice Workshop on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing for European, CIS, Arab and Asian countries of the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project and their partner countries/institutions from 9 to 12 April 2019 at Istanbul, Turkey. The workshop aimed at strengthening the capacities of national ABS focal points, ABS practitioners and policymakers as well as indigenous people and local communities, researchers and the private sector to deal with legal, policy and practical issues relating to the management and governance of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in the context of bio-prospecting. At the workshop, he made a detailed presentation on "India's ABS Legal Framework - Practical Experiences", "Documenting TK (TKDL & PBR) - Experience from India", Permit process and IRCC related issues was also discussed in the sessions of the workshop.
2. The Spices Board of India, Cochin organized a meeting of the Board's officers and the representatives of All India Spices Exporters Forum on 10 June 2019 at the Spices Board, Cochin under the chairpersonship of Shri D Sathiyam IFS, Secretary, Spices Board to discuss the draft Guidelines on ABS, 2019. The Technical Officer (BS) participated in the meeting and made a presentation about the NBA and salient features of the Biological Diversity Act & Rules pertaining to the Spices Sector.
3. A workshop on "Strategic communication for effective implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) mechanisms" was organized by GIZ-ABS project for the State Biodiversity Boards on 8 & 9 July 2019 at Chennai, in which the Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing), made a presentation on "Key features of ABS under the Indian

Biodiversity Act' and also clarified the issues raised by the participants.

4. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare organized a meeting on 11 September 2019 at New Delhi with stakeholders under the Chairpersonship of the Joint Secretary (Seeds) to deliberate on the agenda of the Governing Body Session-8 as well as revision of SMTA & Annex-1 changes and other matters pertaining to the ITPGFRA. The Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing) represented the NBA in the meeting and offered his comments on the issues.
5. The Ministry of AYUSH vide letter NO. L-20025/1/2017-JC dated 22.02.2019 constituted a Task Force for Expanding Trade Classification, Quality Control and Standardization of Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) and Herbal Products. The Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing), NBA attended the meeting of the task force held on 17 September 2019.
6. The Second Session of the India-France Joint Working Group on Environment meeting was held on 18-19 November 2019 in MoEF&CC, wherein the Secretary, NBA participated and gave a presentation on "BD Act, 2002 and ongoing work/projects related to Biodiversity".
7. The Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Commerce & Industry organized the Second edition of International Arogya from 19-22 December 2019 at Varanasi. As a precursor to the CEO forum planned in Varanasi, the Ministry of AYUSH and Invest India organized an Inter-Ministerial round table discussion under the chairpersonship of the Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH and Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.
8. The inter-ministerial meeting was attended by Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairman, NBA, Shri. J. Justin Mohan, Secretary, NBA, Dr Tarun Kathula, Director, MoEF&CC and senior-level officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture, National Medicinal Plants Board, DGFT, DGCIS as well as representatives of the industry associations like FICCI, ADMA, etc. The representatives of the AYUSH associations highlighted issues relating to Biological Diversity Act, 2002 particularly bottlenecks for research on plant-based medicines in the private sector, public-private partnerships in research and drug development in India. The Chairperson, NBA informed that an Expert committee has been constituted to find out the gaps and measures to be taken to address issues raised by the stakeholders.

9. The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests & Climate Change undertook a study visit to Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, Sriharikota, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad from 26 to 30 December 2019. As per the schedule, the Chairperson, NBA and the Secretary, NBA along with officials of the MoEF&CC appeared before the Parliamentary Standing committee on 28 December 2019 at the office of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, wherein the Chairperson made a detailed presentation about “Implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002”.
10. The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad organized a two-day “Management Development Program (MDP) on Orientation-cum-Awareness and implementation of ABS Regulations in Agricultural research” from 22-23 January 2020 at ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad. The Technical officer (Benefit Sharing), NBA participated in the workshop and made a presentation on “ABS implementation process, status and challenges concerning agricultural research in India”.

Draft guidelines on Biological data storage, access and sharing policy of India formulated by the DBT & comments thereof

The Department of Biotechnology uploaded the draft guidelines on biological data storage, access and sharing policy of India and invited public comments. Since these guidelines may have implications for access and benefit-sharing provisions of CBD and the Nagoya Protocol in the context of the use of digital sequence information, NBA offered comments to DBT. Besides, NBA offered paragraph wise comments on the draft guidelines on the biological data storage, access and sharing policy of India to DBT. A meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee was held on 16 September 2019 for the finalization of the said guidelines at New Delhi, wherein the comments/suggestions made by the NBA were appropriately considered.

A discussion meeting was held on 29 June 2019 at MoEF&CC, New Delhi between NBA and CSIR-TKDL unit to discuss possible cooperation particularly in the context of developing a common platform by linking TKDL with PBRs. The meeting discussed the nature and content of the related information available with CSIR in the form of TKDL and with NBA in the form of PBRs. A consensus was reached that the development of a common platform integrating the information in TKDL and PBR would be mutually beneficial and will be in the best interest of the nation. However, it is important that the

regulatory requirements under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 must be taken into consideration before opening up the platform. The modalities of the same were discussed by NBA and CSIR-TKDL unit and they signed a non-disclosure agreement on 16 September 2019 to clearly understand the nature and content of information existing in PBR and TKDL and thus, mutually decide further course of action.

9.6. NBA's Grant-in-Aid for awareness programme on Biodiversity

With relevance to its core mandate of implementing the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 NBA supports activities, awareness programs and events of academic institutions including universities and colleges, State Biodiversity Boards, etc., to a limited extent. Further, NBA also extends financial assistance towards publication or documentation of new and original works on biodiversity occasionally. Towards this, the Authority has supported 59 proposals based on the recommendation of the Proposals Scrutiny Committee (Table 8).

Table 8: Proposal Scrutiny Committee meetings held during 2019-20

Proposal Scrutiny Committee Meeting during 2019-20	
Number of meetings held	5
Number of proposals placed before the Committee	84
Number of proposals recommended for funding	44
Amount of financial assistance recommended	62,98,000
Amount of financial assistance sanctioned	40,75,430
Total amount of financial assistance released	37,48,503



9.7. India Biodiversity Awards 2020

The MoEF&CC in association with UNDP India had initiated the India Biodiversity Awards in 2012 during India's Presidency of the Eleventh Meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CoP 11). The second and

third rounds of awards were successfully conducted by UNDP in partnership with the National Biodiversity Authority of India in 2014 and 2016.

The fourth round of awards was institutionalized in NBA and in pursuant to this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa launched the fourth India Biodiversity Awards on 22 May 2017 on the International Day for Biological Diversity. Subsequently, the National Biodiversity Authority hosted the fourth India Biodiversity Awards, 2018, with the UNDP India on board as the knowledge partner. Applications for the awards were invited under these categories (i) Conservation (ii) Sustainable use of biological resources (iii) Replicable mechanisms for access and benefit-sharing and (iv) Best Biodiversity Management Committees

The Hon'ble Vice President of India officially launched the fifth India Biodiversity Awards 2020 on 22 May 2019 during the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity and released the poster and brochure on the award. Subsequently, the applications forms and information on the categories were uploaded on the NBA website. To scrutinize the applications received and finalize the winners, NBA constituted an Award Selection Committee consisting of members who are experts from various relevant fields. NBA convened meetings of this committee at regular intervals and subsequently, the members undertook field visits to validate the work of the shortlisted applicants. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation, this year's award is postponed to the next year.



9.8. Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)-2019

The commemoration of the IDB provides opportunities to raise awareness about the importance of and threats to biodiversity while highlighting its contributions towards sustainable development. The day is celebrated on 22 May every year,

across India by communities, governments, institutions and civil society organisations. The NBA and the State Biodiversity Boards observe this day officially by organising various events and programmes at national and state levels.

The national-level celebration of the day was held at the Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai with the enthusiastic participation of various stakeholders. Organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India in coordination with the NBA and cooperation of the Government of Tamil Nadu, the event was graced by the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu as the Chief Guest.

Hon'ble Vice President in his Presidential address highlighted that conservation of nature and natural resources is an innate trait of the Indian psyche and faith, reflected in religious practices, folklore, art and culture permeating every aspect of the daily lives of people. Emphasizing the importance of biodiversity for the survival of the human race, he referred to the well-considered responses by the country to the changing paradigms relating to biodiversity, inter alia through the development of appropriate policies and legislation such as the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and the achievements made thereof.

Referring to the theme of IDB 2019, the Vice President stated that in India, the traditional food systems evolved over a period has proved to be healthier, balanced and nutritious. He referred to the ominous message from a recently released UN Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that nature is in trouble because of human actions. He urged everyone to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, which is critical for achieving many Sustainable Development Goals.

The theme of the IDB 2019 was 'Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health', which focuses on biodiversity as the foundation for food and health. The focus was aimed to leverage knowledge and spread awareness of the dependency of our food systems, nutrition and health on conserving and maintaining our biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. During the event, the Vice President released the documents on “Implementation of India's National Biodiversity Action Plan: An Overview 2019”, and 'Biodiversity Finance Plan-Working document' and other communication materials. The call for the India Biodiversity Awards 2020, the fifth in the series, was also launched through the release of a brochure and poster. A thematic exhibition was also organised at the venue with the participation of

over thirty institutions from State and Central governments. Thought-provoking and interesting exhibits, posters, and other knowledge products highlighting the role of biodiversity for food and health were presented on the occasion.

The event was also graced by Shri Anil Kumar Jain, Additional Secretary MoEF&CC and Chairperson NBA; Shri Hans Raj Verma, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu; and Shri Shambhu Kallollikar, Principal Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu. Many other distinguished guests including senior officers from the MoEF&CC, NBA, Government of Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board, representatives from other States, officers and scientists from Central and State Government institutions, Civil Society Organizations, academic institutes, students, local communities, women's development committees, and biodiversity enthusiasts etc., also attended the programme.



REGULATIONS ISSUED UNDER SECTIONS 37, 38, 40 AND 64 OF THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT, 2002

Section 64 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

The National Biodiversity Authority shall, with the previous approval of the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, make regulations for carrying out the purpose of this Act.

10.1 Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 64 read with sub-section (1) of Section 18 and sub-section (4) of Section 21 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and in pursuance of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity dated the 29 October 2010, the NBA finalised the regulations for "Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014" and notified the same on 21 November 2014.

The regulations refer to:

- Procedures for access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge for research or bio-survey and bio-utilization for research
- Procedure for access to biological resources for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization for commercial utilization
- Procedure for transfer of results of research related to biological resources
- Procedure for transfer of accessed biological resources and/or associated knowledge to third party for research/commercial utilization
- Procedure for seeking no objection for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights
- Mode of benefit sharing for the access to biological resources for commercial utilization; transfer of accessed

biological resources and/or associated knowledge to third party for research/commercial utilization

10.1.1. Expert Committee to identify issues in the Biological Diversity Act and Rules that may require changes, and propose amendments thereof

The MoEF&CC vide Office order dated 16.01.2019 constituted an Expert Committee to identify issues in the Biological Diversity Act and Rules that may require changes, and propose amendments, based on the experience gained in the implementation of the Act and Rules. Accordingly, NBA organized six meetings and facilitated the Committee to submit their report to MoEF&CC.

- First Meeting was held at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru on 22 January 2019.
- Discussion meet with officials of NBA was held to identify issues in the BD Act and Rules held at NBA, Chennai on 23 & 24 January 2019
- Brainstorming Session on issues/challenges in the BD Act and Rules was held at MoEF&CC, New Delhi on 31 January & 1 February 2019
- The second meeting was held at NBA, Chennai on 8 February 2019
- Consultation meeting with different Ministries/stakeholders groups/SBBs on the issues/ challenges in the implementation of the Act/ Rules at NBA, Chennai was held on 9 & 11 February 2019
- The final meeting was held at NLSIU, Bengaluru to finalise the report on 15 February 2019

10.2. Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

The States of Goa, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh notified four Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) during 2019-20 (Table 9).

Table 9: Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) notified during 2019-20

S. No.	State	Name of BHS	Location	Notification No.
1	Goa	Purvatali Rai (7300 sq. mt)	North Goa	Official Gazette-Govt of Goa 7/17/2019-20 GSBB /BHS 037/960 dtd 13.12.2019
2	Kerala	Asramam (57.33 ha)	Kollam	G.O (P). No.1/2019/Env. dtd 03.06.2019
3	Madhya Pradesh	Naro hills (200 ha)	Satna	R-2325-1335-2017-X-2 dtd 31.10.2019
4		Patakot (8367.49 ha)	Chhindwara	R-2320-2622-2018-X-2 dtd 31.10.2019



10.3. Notifications under Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Section 38 of BD Act, 2002 empowers the Central Government, in consultation with the concerned State Governments, to notify species of plants and animals on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in near future as threatened species to prohibit or regulate collection thereof for any purpose and take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve such species. Eighteen States viz., Assam, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and two Union Territories, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Diu and Daman Islands have notified threatened species u/s 38 of the BD Act, enlisting 159 plants and 175 animal species.

These notifications are available online at <http://nbaindia.org/content/18/21/1/notifications.html> [Species of Plants and animals that are on the verge of extinction in the state of:]

10.4. Notifications under Section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

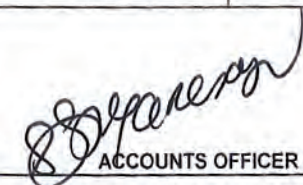
Section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 deals with the power of the Central Government to notify (in official gazette) to exempt, any item including biological resources from the provisions of the Act, as normally traded as commodities (NTACs) in consultation with the NBA. The MoEF&CC has so far issued two gazette notifications u/s 40 vide S.O.1352 (E) dated 7 April 2016 (385 species) and S.O.3533 (E) dated 7 November 2017 (36 species). Thus, 421 plant species/biological resources have been listed as NTACs, therefore exempting them from the ABS provisions of the BD Act, when traded as commodity following a set of principles and criteria as recommended by the EC on NTAC through its meetings.

These notifications are available online at <http://nbaindia.org/content/18/21/1/notifications.html> [Biological Resources notified as normally traded commodities under section 40 of BD Act, 2002].

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113					
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March, 2020					
				(Amount in Rs)	
Receipts	Current Year: 2019-20	Previous Year: 2018-19	Payments	Current Year: 2019-20	Previous Year: 2018-19
I. Opening-Balances:			I. Expenditures:		
A) NBA Account			a) Establishment Expenses		
a) Cash in hand	50,000	50,000	i) previews year O/s Rs. 1843221	2,31,02,215	4,70,67,571
b) <u>Bank Balances:</u>			ii) Current Year Exps Rs. 21258994		
SB Account	1,72,48,308	1,81,38,298	b) Administrative Expenses		
B) NBF Account			General Exps		
a) Bank Balances(SB-A/c & Current A/c)	76,78,36,884	44,80,69,129	i) previews year O/s Rs.2464417	7,34,92,720	4,79,21,048
b) Fixed Deposit A/c	25,73,93,939	24,72,91,672	ii) Current Year Exps Rs. 71028303		
c) unclassified receipts Fund A/c		1,00,122	iii) Purchase of Stamp	2,390	
Projects			c)Funding for awarness programs	40,75,430	91,57,412
i) NBA Asean Project A/c	1,52,70,610	1,92,29,055	d) Fixed Assets	12,27,030	14,19,817
ii)GEF Bank A/c	1,70,36,603	7,30,25,718	e) E- Office Development	5,30,468	
iii) CEBPOL Bank A/c	41,67,003	91,76,363	f) GIA to SBB's		
II. Grants-			i)Strengthening of SBBs.	3,41,03,670	3,05,36,517
a) Grant Received from (MOEF)	18,00,00,000	18,50,00,000	ii)Constitution of BMCs.& PBRs.Preparation	2,11,28,604	4,98,97,885
			iii)Special Compound for SC	1,99,90,000	-
III. Income on-Investments from			II) Refund of interest earend on GIA to Govt.	17,48,793	23,06,844
a) Earmarked / Endowment Funds			III.Other Payments		
			a)Miscellaneous Expenditure/ Bank Charges on NBF A/c Deposits/E.M.D.repaid	826	620
IV. Interest received			b) ACB project		
A) NBA A/c	29,73,184	17,48,793	IV. Project A/c		
i) Authority Saving Bank A/c Rs. 987580.33			i)CEBPOL A/c wounded up and transfer to MoEF	42,00,517	53,54,571
ii) Interest refunded by SBB's Rs. 1985604			ii)GEF.Project A/c	2,21,12,516	5,79,26,504
B) NBA Fund A/c		1,72,03,960	iii)NBA Asean Project A/c	44,23,175	46,76,187
i) Fund A/c Savings bank Interest Rs.1,60,785	76,35,662		V. NBA Fund A/c payments		
ii)Interest on term Deposit (Rs.916959+6557917.62)			a)Reserch & Development under Red Sanders	81,04,400	
C) NBA Sweep A/c interest	5,07,62,500	70,22,010	b)IWST- for Red Sander	5,00,000	
D) Fixed Depoist A/c Interest received/Reinvested	1,88,75,635				

Receipts	Current Year: 2019-20	Previous Year: 2018-19	Payments	Current Year: 2019-20	Previous Year: 2018-19
E) Fixed deposit during the year		1,01,02,267	c) Kown remittance(2018-19) refer Annexure	81,000	
V. Income to NBF A/c					
a) Application fee	25,07,156	39,29,536			
b) ABS Upfront payment	38,45,026	3,55,50,131			
c) 5% Benefit Sharing	3,65,02,151	25,58,11,265			
VI. Other Income					
c) Refund of Expenditure					
b) Sale of Newspapers					
C) RTI filing fee	1,130	120			
d) unclassified receipts A/c		1,51,350			
VI. Amount - Borrowed					
VII. Other Receipts:					
Earnest Money / Security Deposit / Ret.Money recd.from Contractors					
Tax refund with Interest	26,540	8,96,442			
GEF - NIC	66,40,000				
GEF_A/c Interest Rs.	1,13,243				
VIII - Project Account					
CEBPOL A/c	33,514	3,45,211			
GEF Project A/c	1,38,56,628	19,42,388			
NBA Asean Project A/c	5,68,542	7,17,743			
Performance Guarantee		9,750			
			VIII. Closing - Balances		
			a) Cash in hand	50,000	50,000
i) Closing stock of Stamp:(2390+1380-3006)	764		i) Stamps in Hand	764	
			b) Bank Balances:		
			c) Fixed Deposit A/c	22,76,08,021	25,73,93,939
			d) In Savings A/c	2,76,01,084	1,72,48,309
			e) In Fund A/c	90,90,64,707	76,78,36,884
			f) GEF Cash & Bank A/c	87,80,715	1,70,41,602
			g) CEBPOL Bank A/c	-	41,67,003
			h) Asean Project A/c	1,14,15,977	1,52,70,610
Total	1,40,33,45,022	1,33,55,11,323	Total	1,40,33,45,022	1,33,55,11,323


ACCOUNTS OFFICER

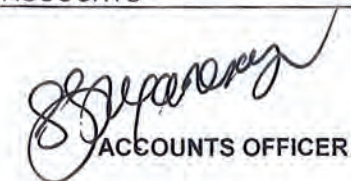
SECRETARY

CHAIRPERSON

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st.March,2020

INCOME	Sch. No.	Current Year: 2019-20	Previous Year: 2018-19
Income from Sales / Services	12		
Grants/ Subsidies:			
Grants received as per (Sch.No.13)	13	19,06,92,346	20,38,63,133
un utilized Grants for 2019-20(Sch.No.13)		1,42,82,700	
Less: Receivable from Govt.(2018-19)(Sch.No.13)		50,00,000	
Total (Sch.No.13)		18,92,82,700	
Less: Capitalization of Fixed Assets-			
during the year 2019-20		(-) 12,27,030	
add: Interest payable to govt.(Schedule 17)		+ 26,36,676	
Net Income from Grants		19,06,92,346	
Fees / Subscription	14		
Income from Investments (Income on Investments from Earmarked / Endowment Funds transferred to Funds)	15		
Income from Royalty, Publication etc.	16		
Interest Earned	17		21,08,339
Other Income	18	27,670	8,96,562
Increase / (decrease) in stock of Finished goods and works in-progress	19	32,79,309	
5%Administrative charges of Redsanders			
Income receivable from Govt.Gratuity & leave salary		1971401	405530
TOTAL (A)		19,59,70,726	20,72,73,564
EXPENDITURE			
Establishment Expenses	20	2,52,43,621	4,79,88,629
Other Administrative Expenses etc.	21	7,68,56,348	5,74,60,745
Expenditure on Grants, Subsidies etc.	22	7,52,22,274	8,04,34,402
Interest	23		
Depreciation as per Schedule 8		6,65,085	9,93,702
Difference of Dep.from WDV to SLM Rs.		9617916	
Add: Purchase value on eliminated asset Rs.		669076	
Less:Acc Dep. As per WDV Rs.		382249	
Add : Dep. Added back Rs.		7416	99,12,159
Payable to Government: Un-Utilized Grant		1,92,67,979	1,63,91,039
Revalidation for the year 2020-21		1,66,31,303	
Authority Saving Bank Interest 2019-20		26,36,676	
TOTAL (B)		19,72,55,307	21,31,80,676
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		-12,84,581	-59,07,112
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		


ACCOUNTS OFFICER

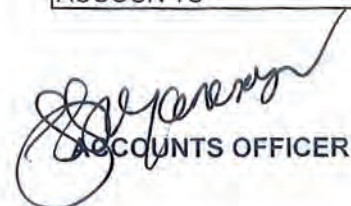
SECRETARY

CHAIRPERSON

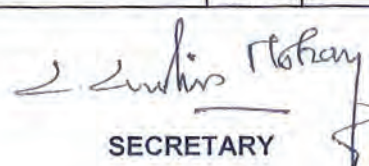
ANNUAL PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2020-21

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
TARAMANI, CHENNAI -600113**Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March, 2020**

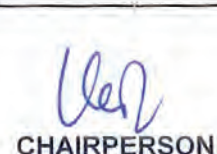
CORPUS / CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES	Sch. No.	Current Year: 2019-20	Previous Year: 2018-19
CAPITAL FUND	1	18,04,582	18,62,115
RESERVES AND SURPLUS	2		0
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FUND	3	116,52,52,033	105,65,34,359
SECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	4	0	0
UNSECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	5	0	0
DEFERRED CREDIT LIABILITIES	6	0	0
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	7	4,78,16,540	3,28,30,986
TOTAL		121,48,73,155	109,12,27,460
ASSETS			
FIXED ASSETS	8		
NICSI total value of work Rs.4028461		34,60,773	28,98,810
Less: Work-in-Progress Rs. 749152			
Finished Goods Rs.3279309		33,67,809	
Unwind learning Lab total value of work Rs.230000			
Less: Work-in-Progress Rs. 141500			
Finished Goods Rs.88500			0
INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED/ ENDOWMENT FUNDS	9	0	0
INVESTMENTS - OTHERS	10	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.	11	120,80,44,573	108,83,28,650
TOTAL		121,48,73,155	109,12,27,460
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		



ACCOUNTS OFFICER



SECRETARY



CHAIRPERSON

The National Biodiversity Authority sets out a list of action points every year to implement the Biodiversity Act of India and to carry out the mandate given by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The following actions are planned for 2020-21 and they will be undertaken with the active involvement of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs):

1. Review of progress made so far in the State-wise network of BMCs and preparation of PBRs, analyzing the challenges and drawbacks in the existing operational procedure. Assessing the functional status of BMCs and prioritizing revival of defunct BMCs in and around biodiversity-rich regions of the country.
2. Review of the mechanism adapted towards the preparation of PBR in the States (site and State-specific methodology; authentication of captured data; utilization of financial support, need for revision of the quantum of assistance, if any etc.).
3. Digitalize PBRs to develop a uniform format for compiling data documented by SBBs.
4. Build a digital database of local bodies all over India by streamlining the verification process for Grant-in-Aid to SBBs for the constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs.
5. Impart training and workshops for officials of Wildlife, Forestry, Biotechnology, Customs and Excise Departments along with the line departments dealing with bioresources, their conservation and sustainable management.
6. Conduct and organize awareness programs, symposia, and seminars on the Biodiversity Act, 2002 through NGOs, research institutes, academia and government departments for different stakeholders.
7. Hold outreach programs through media, print, conduct capacity building and training programs for effective implementation of the BD Act, 2002 for diverse stakeholders.
8. Facilitate need-based improvement and update the list of bioresources that are classified as normally traded as commodities (NTAC) under Section 40 of the BD Act.

- 9) Arrange and facilitate the protection and rehabilitation of threatened species and update the list of species that are on the verge of extinction under Section 38 of the BD Act.
- 10) Implement the capacity building programs on biodiversity governance to benefit the wide spectrum of stakeholders, including local self-governance functionaries and people's representatives, in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad.
- 11) Holding appropriate and regular expert committees meets to deliberate on subject matters and Authority meetings for decision-making.
- 12) Implement real-time processing of ABS applications at NBA Secretariat in association with NIC.
- 13) Implement the decisions suggested in the report on Red Sanders that has been adopted by the Authority.
- 14) Sharing of benefits, accrued out of the use of biological resources and/or associated traditional knowledge with the beneficiaries, particularly accrued on access to Bovine cattle embryos and Red Sanders.
- 15) Monitoring and review the progress of establishment of BMCs and preparation of PBRs in compliance with the NGT Order dated 8 August 2019.
- 16) The Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) endorsed the concept of a National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-Being (NMB&HW) presented by the Biodiversity Science Consortium (BSC). The MoEF&CC, and the Chairperson, NBA have been assigned with the responsibility of preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) Memo. The goal of the Mission is to strengthen biodiversity science in India to meet our pressing challenges in the environment and human well-being. There is a need to build strong linkages between NMB&HW and PBR processes as the PBRs have the potential to document, conserve and manage biological diversity across the country. NBA will be contributing to setting up of national electronic PBR network and also help in developing an in-depth roadmap, and then begin with its implementation of the e-PBR concept.



OTHER IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY OF AUTHORITY

13.1. Review of the Legal and Regulatory Framework

13.1.1 Litigations currently being pursued by or against the National Biodiversity Authority

The Legal Cell is responsible for dealing with litigations by or against the NBA/ MoEF&CC before various courts/tribunals and for assisting the Counsel appearing for the NBA. The NBA is taking active steps concerning cases related to violation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and any order or direction issued under the said Act. The list of pending cases in NBA before various courts/ tribunals are given in Table 10

Table 10: Pending cases in NBA before various Courts/ tribunals

Sl. No	Name of the Court/Tribunal	Case Number	No.
1	Supreme Court of India	SLP 8137 of 2018	1
2	Supreme Court of India	SLP 17471 of 2019	1
3	Supreme Court of India	SLP 18122 of 2019	1
4	Supreme Court of India	SLP 18141 of 2019	1
5	Supreme Court of India	CIVIL APPEAL 5827 of 2019	1
6	Supreme Court of India	CIVIL APPEAL 5826 of 2019	1
7	Supreme Court of India	SLP 7951 of 2014	1
8	Supreme Court of India	Criminal Appeal No.1720 / 2015	1
9	Supreme Court of India	Criminal Appeal No.1721 / 2015	1
10	National Green Tribunal, Chennai	O A No.10/2014	1
11	J.M.F.C., Dharwad	C.C.579 of 2012	1
12	High Court of Karnataka, Dharwad Bench	CrI. P.No.100616 of 2014	1
13	High Court of Karnataka, Dharwad Bench	CrI. P.No.100618 of 2014	1
14	National Green Tribunal, (PB – Court No. II) New Delhi	Original Application No.347/2016	1
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur Bench	W.P. No.6968/2017	1

Sl. No	Name of the Court/Tribunal	Case Number	No.
16	High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur Bench	W.P. No. 8880 of 2019	1
17	Bombay High Court	W.P. No. 414 of 2018	1
18	High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 41622 of 2018	1
19	High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 41976 of 2018	1
20	High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 41903 of 2018	1
21	High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 42017 of 2018	1
22	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No. 5546 of 2019	1
23	High Court of Andhra Pradesh (Telangana), Hyderabad	W.P. No. 23452 of 2018	1
24	High Court of Bombay, Nagpur Bench	W.P. No. 6360 of 2015	1
25	High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P. No. 33501 of 2019	1
26	High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur Bench	W.P. No. 6466 of 2020	1
27	Supreme Court of India	C.A. No. 9077 of 2019	1
28	High Court of Telangana, Hyderabad	W.P. No. 181 of 2020	1
29	Supreme Court of India	W.P. (Civil) No. 852 of 2020	1
30	High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati	C.C No. 3306 of 2018	1

13.1.2 Right to Information Act, 2005

The applications and appeals received by the NBA were processed by the Legal Cell in consonance with the Right to Information Act, 2005 in letter and spirit and were disposed of by the Central Public Information Officer or the First Appellate Authority as the case may be with the assistance of the Legal Cell (Table 11).

Table 11:RTI data for the year 2019-20

S.No.	Quarter	Total requests received	No. of ap-peals re-ceived	No. of RTI dis-posed
1.	1 st Quarter (April – June)	05	02	07
2.	2 nd Quarter (July – Sept.)	16	06	22
3.	3 rd Quarter (Oct. – Dec.)	16	Nil	16
4.	4 th Quarter (Jan – Mar)	11	03	14
Total		48	11	59

13.1.3 Drafting of Agreement

Legal vetting of agreements, Memorandum of Understanding and other documents are among the other functions of the Legal Cell.

Table 12- State-wise BMCs constituted and PBRs prepared as on 31.03.2020

STATE-WISE NUMBER OF BMCs AND PBRs																							
STATES / UT	District Panchayats				Intermediate Panchayats				Village Panchayats				Traditional Panchayats				Urban Local bodies				Overall Total		
	Total local bodies	BMCs constituted	PBRs prepared	PBRs in progress	Total local bodies	BMCs constituted	PBRs prepared	PBRs in progress	Total local bodies	BMCs constituted	PBRs prepared	PBRs in progress	Total local bodies	BMCs constituted	PBRs prepared	PBRs in progress	Total local bodies	BMCs constituted	PBRs prepared	PBRs in progress	Total local bodies	BMCs constituted	PBRs prepared
Andhra Pradesh	13	4	0	13	660	660	203	660	13065	6559	107	183	0	0	0	0	110	8	0	0	13848	7231	310
Arunachal Pradesh	25	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	1779	1772	80	41	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1806	1793	80
Assam	26	26	25	1	185	185	175	10	2197	2197	2197	0	40	40	39	1	101	101	53	43	2549	2549	2489
Bihar	38	16	0	9	534	200	0	135	8386	5495	0	4203	0	0	0	0	142	126	0	80	9100	5837	0
Chhattisgarh	27	27	0	0	146	146	0	0	10963	10963	72	875	0	0	0	0	165	165	0	0	11301	11301	72
Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	191	191	191	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	14	0	205	205	205
Gujarat	33	0	0	0	248	9	2	4	13996	9370	1380	0	0	0	0	0	167	4	0	0	14444	9383	1382
Haryana	22	22	0	22	126	126	126	0	6204	6204	0	1650	0	0	0	0	85	85	0	85	6437	6437	126
Himachal Pradesh	12	12	0	4	78	78	0	0	3226	3226	109	0	0	0	0	0	54	54	1	0	3370	3370	110
Jharkhand	24	20	0	1	263	250	0	24	4350	4329	809	235	0	0	0	0	52	45	0	0	4689	4644	809
Karnataka	30	30	0	7	176	176	24	6	6020	6015	2069	834	0	0	0	0	280	279	0	0	6506	6500	2093
Kerala	14	14	0	0	152	152	0	0	941	941	934	0	0	0	0	0	93	93	93	0	1200	1200	1034
Madhya Pradesh	52	47	0	0	313	293	0	150	22866	19012	887	0	0	0	0	0	386	0	3	0	23617	19352	890
Maharashtra	34	34	3	31	351	351	16	335	27876	27876	14496	13380	0	0	0	0	393	393	318	75	28654	28654	14833
Manipur	12	12	0	12	0	0	0	0	2243	1376	37	144	0	0	0	0	27	27	0	6	2282	1415	37
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6459	3274	78	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	6471	3274	78
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	12	824	796	0	12	83	59	0	0	907	855	5
Nagaland	11	0	0	0	74	0	0	0	1238	987	18	83	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	1281	987	18
Odisha	30	1	0	30	314	0	0	0	6798	6591	111	70	0	0	0	0	114	114	0	0	7256	6706	111
Punjab	22	22	13	9	150	150	15	135	13252	13221	1933	11319	0	0	0	0	167	63	0	167	13591	13456	1961
Rajasthan	33	33	0	0	295	289	0	0	9885	9768	0	0	0	0	0	0	193	193	0	0	10406	10283	0
Sikkim	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	185	185	30	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	196	196	30
Tamil Nadu	37	31	0	31	385	385	385	0	12524	12524	0	12524	0	0	0	0	664	664	664	0	13610	13604	1049
Telangana	32	32	0	0	539	537	0	0	12750	12744	213	0	0	0	0	0	133	6	0	0	13454	13319	213
Tripura	8	8	0	8	58	58	58	0	591	591	230	361	587	587	239	348	20	20	20	0	1264	1264	547
Uttarakhand	13	13	13	0	95	95	95	0	7791	7791	7117	580	0	0	0	0	92	92	92	0	7991	7991	7991
Uttar Pradesh	75	0	0	0	822	0	0	0	58755	58755	58755	0	0	0	0	0	652	652	652	0	60304	59407	59407
West Bengal	22	20	0	20	342	342	29	313	3344	3027	663	2364	0	0	0	0	125	125	21	104	3833	3514	713
TOTAL	649	447	54	198	6306	4482	1128	1774	257875	234984	92516	48858	1451	1423	278	361	4365	3391	1931	560	270572	244727	96593
Union Territory																							
Jammu & Kashmir	20	0	0	0	285	0	0	0	4290	4290	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	71	0	0	4673	4361	0
Lakshadweep									10	10											10	10	
Based on the inputs from SBBs and UTs																					249098	96593	

13.1.4 SBB Rules

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. NBA reviewed the State Biological Diversity Rules was either suo moto or on request by the concerned State Biodiversity Boards (SBB).

13.2 Financial Support Extended by NBA to SBBs

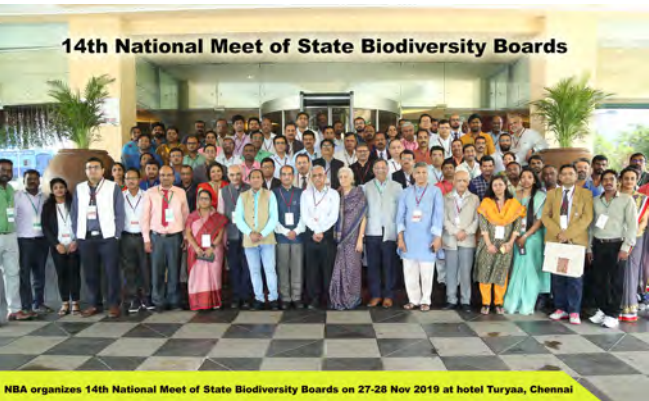
The States initiated the implementation of the BD Act 2002 at the State level by establishing the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) and locally by constituting the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC). Of the 29 SBBs, so far 26 SBBs have notified their State Rules. At the end of 2019-2020, about 2, 49,098 BMCs have been constituted and 96,593 People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBR) prepared across the country (Table 12).

13.3 14th National Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards

The National Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territories (UTs) held on 27 -28 November 2019 at Chennai was the fourteenth in the series of such meetings organized since the inception of the National Biodiversity Authority in 2003. Over 80 delegates attended the meeting, which included the Chairperson and the Member Secretaries of 25 SBBs, representatives from the Union Territories and special invitees from various governmental, non-governmental organizations and project partners. The meeting reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act with special emphasis on the establishment of the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMCs) and preparation of the People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), specifically in the context of the recently passed order from the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi.



The meeting also reviewed the progress made by the SBBs in implementing the Act and the proposed framework for the formulation of the electronic People’s Biodiversity Register (e-PBRs) to document the bioresources and the associated knowledge in an effective and meaningful manner besides linking it to the welfare of people. Towards aligning the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) with the National and International biodiversity targets, the meeting emphasized bringing clarity to the implementation structures, strategy for resource mobilization and time frame. Further, the meeting discussed the proposed National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well -Being, which is under formulation for bringing biodiversity and conservation to the forefront of science, policy and society’s attention. The meeting also examined the progress made so far in bringing the Union Territories under the mandatory requirement of the Biological Diversity Act. The project partners of NBA shared the outcomes and key deliverables from all the collaborative projects on the occasion.



13.4.Important events celebrated/observed by NBA

13.4.1. Celebration of the 16th Foundation Day of NBA

The 16th Foundation Day of NBA was celebrated on 1 October 2019 at NBA, Chennai. Thiru. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu was the Chief Guest and presided over the event along with Dr V. B. Mathur, Chairperson,



Biodiversity, UNDP. Thiru. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, launched the NBA - UNDP Biodiversity Internship Programme during the program.

13.4.2. Vigilance Awareness Week (28 October-2 November 2019)

As per the direction of the Central Vigilance Commission and MoEF&CC, on the Vigilance Awareness Week, the NBA staffs were administered the integrity pledge with an elucidation on the importance and significance of the function.



NBA. Thiru. J. Justin Mohan, IFS. Secretary, NBA welcomed the invitees and the participants. The opening remarks were given by Dr Ruchi Pant, Head - Natural Resource Management and



13.5.1. Indo-German Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) partnership project

The Indo-German 'Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) Partnership' project is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in partnership with the MoEF&CC, and the NBA.

The project aims at strengthening the capacity of the NBA, selected SBBs, BMCs, as well as creating awareness amongst commercial users of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge for the effective implementation of ABS mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act 2002, in keeping with India's commitments under Nagoya Protocol on ABS. The project is implemented at the national level in partnership with the NBA, with the three SBBs of Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu at the state level, and with BMCs in all three states at the local level.

Approach

1. Awareness-raising and dialogues across different stakeholders on creating a better understanding of the Biodiversity Act 2002, ABS Guidelines and Nagoya Protocol on ABS
2. Developing good practices on benefit-sharing among communities based on the use of biological resources for commercial or research purposes
3. Developing an IT-enabled tool, the ABS monitoring system (ABS-MS) for NBA towards tracking of the use of biological resources in ABS processes

Progress

1. **Awareness-raising and dialogues** - The project has engaged with many companies in the three states and industry associations to create awareness on provisions of the Biodiversity Act and developed sector-specific guidance documents for ABS compliance which cover five sectors namely: academic research, AYUSH, biotechnology, cosmetics and seeds which builds on the outcome of business dialogues conducted by the project in the years 2018 and 2019. The following activities were conducted under the project as a part of engaging with the private sector with the national and state partners from April 2019 – March 2020-
 - 9 May 2019: A meeting was held by NBA with the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) on the nature

of business operations in the seed sector and explore the possibility of adopting such sector-specific approaches.

- 16 May 2019: A one-day capacity development workshop on 'Sustainable Trade of Bio-Resources and Associated Certification for Strengthening ABS' was organised at Dehradun. A total of 58 participants comprising farmers, traders, entrepreneurs, researchers, NGO's and representatives from the government department participated in the workshop.
- 13 August 2019: A workshop to streamline the process of ABS for the identified bio-resources was conducted at Dehradun. The workshop was attended by the growers, representatives from BMCs formed in the identified villages by the department under the project, NGO's, traders and pharmaceutical companies. Three companies viz., Manorma Industries, Dabur India Pvt. Ltd., and Human India Pvt. Ltd. who procure bio-resources were invited for the workshop
- 16, 22, 24 October 2019: Business dialogues were organised in October 2019 to inform users of biological resources about the ABS compliance procedure and mandate under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. These one-day business dialogues brought together over 120 business representatives, researchers, legal professionals, representatives of NBA and SBBs.
- 22 November 2019: The workshop on 'Stakeholder Engagement on Biological Diversity Act Implementation at Uttarakhand', was opened by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). The workshop brought together leading actors from biodiversity boards, businesses and civil societies to develop an interactive stakeholder engagement platform in Uttarakhand.
- 2. **The ABS-MS (monitoring system) IT Tool** for tracking the use of Indian bioresources has been developed and established at the NBA. The following activities were conducted under the project from April 2019 – March 2020 to showcase the tool-
 - 22 May 2019: The ABS-MS was launched on the International Day of Biological Diversity by the Hon'ble Vice-President of India. The pilot test run of the ABS-MS has identified about 3 lakh users (research and patent). The project had also invited 13 member representatives from 10 pilot BMCs in Tamil Nadu to the event.

- 30 Sept – 2 Oct 2019 - The working prototype of the ABS MS tool to the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat at Bonn, Germany was showcased.
 - 19 – 24 Jan 2020 - A five-day international workshop was conducted jointly by the MoEF&CC, NBA, GIZ and the global UNDP project in Chennai, with participants from Belarus, Botswana, Cameroon, Germany, Kenya, Madagascar, Philippines, Spain and UK along with Indian delegates from 15 State Biodiversity Boards, NGOs, Government Officials and NBA.
3. The project has developed a communication strategy through Knowledge-Attitude-Practice (KAP) analysis of 10 key stakeholders in the ABS process which includes, the BMC, commercial users of biological resources, forest department, legal professionals etc. Several communication products have been developed as guided by the communication strategy. Two workshops, at Chennai (8-9 July) and New Delhi (11-12 July), were organised for representatives of 23 SBBs to discuss the national communication strategy for effective implementation of ABS mechanisms as per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- 4. Methodology for Training of Trainers (ToT)** for operationalisation of BMCs was pilot tested and 50 district trainers have been trained on various aspects of BMC functions and documentation of People's Biodiversity Registers. Over 70 stakeholder-specific trainings and workshops have been conducted in three states with the participation of more than 2000 people from BMCs, district officials from the forest, agriculture, horticulture, businesses, researchers etc. The following activities were conducted under the project from April 2019 – March 2020 on ToT training sessions and organising stakeholder specific training sessions:
- 21– 27 February 2019 | 5 March 2019 | 8 April 2019 - A series of training across 385 block-level BMCs in Tamil Nadu were organised and conducted. The second series began in February 2019 to train secretaries of BMCs from all other districts of Tamil Nadu. The workshops were attended by over 180 participants across Tamil Nadu.
 - 26 – 27 May 2019- A one-day workshop-cum-exposure event was organised for the capacity building of BMCs

at the local level with Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board and Forest department at the national conference on 'The Himalayas: at the Cross-roads of Environment and Development' at Pauri, Uttarakhand.

- 27 June 2019- An orientation workshop was organised for trainers empanelled by the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), SIRD and Forest Range Officers from 31 districts who were selected for the ToT programme on the operationalisation of BMCs. 49 trainers empanelled by SIRD, NIRD and 31 FROs attended the orientation workshop and underwent the ToT programme.
- 7 June – 10 July 2019- A series of ten capacity-building workshops for all BDOs in ten locations of Tamil Nadu was held followed by series of other workshops for Line Department Officials, District Forest Officers, and BMC Secretaries. The workshops were attended by 304 participants from 30 districts.
- 26 August 2019- An 'Orientation Workshop for Trainers to undertake training for BMCs from forest training institutes and NGOs across Maharashtra was organised at the Van Bhavan, Pune. 56 trainers participated in the event.
- 26 – 29 August 2019- In partnership with the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), the project developed training modules on various aspects of the Biodiversity Act and ABS using a participatory approach. The training was held at the KILA Centre for Tribal Development and Natural Resource Management, Attapadi. 24 Members of pilot BMCs under the project participated in the training.
- 11 October 2019- As part of the project, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 11 October 2019 between the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board (UBB) and Law College Dehradun, Uttaranchal University. The MoU was signed for the inclusion of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in the course curriculum of the Law College and capacity building of the students regarding the legal provisions of biodiversity conservation and ABS as provided for in the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Nearly 250 law students were present to witness the MoU signing.
- 15 October 2019- An interactive workshop for law

students of ICAI Law School, Dehradun was organised and was attended by 168 participants.

- 4 November 2019- An interactive workshop for students of environmental science and technology, ICAI Law School, Dehradun was conducted.
 - 6 – 8 November 2019- A three day Write shop to prepare curriculum for the ToT programme on BMCs was held in Chennai.
 - 7 November 2019- An MoU for organising ToT at the district level was signed between the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board and GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development at Uttarakhand.
 - 11– 30 November 2019- The project partnered with KILA to prepare draft training modules and pilot tested the training for members of BMCs in August 2019. In partnership with SIRD and Panchayat Raj, 50 trainers from 32 districts of Tamil Nadu were selected for the ToT programme. Participants were divided into two batches for the training -Phase 1 was held from 11-13 November 2019 and 14-16 November 2019. Phase 2 of training was held from 29-30 November 2019 for all participants combined.
- 5. Good practice case studies of ABS** from the use of biological resources from forests, agriculture, animal-based derivative (snake venom) have been developed to showcase the ABS process and to serve as models for ABS compliance. The following activities were conducted under the project as a part of developing good practices with the national and state partners from April 2019 – March 2020-
- 8 – 9 July 2019- A workshop on 'Strategic communication for effective implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) mechanism' was organised in Chennai and the framework for 'Good Practices of Access and Benefit-Sharing' developed by the project was launched.
 - 8 August 2019- A consultation meeting was held with the members of Kodaikanal BMC (Tamil Nadu) to discuss the ABS application (Form-1) for access to a bioresource from the region and facilitate a collective decision-making process.
 - 24 September 2019- A workshop was organised in

Chennai to discuss the learnings and gather inputs from DFOs in Tamil Nadu to support the pilot BMCs in the state. The Hon'ble Minister for Forest in Tamil Nadu and Chairperson of TNBB presided over the workshop.

- October 2019 to March 2020- The project partnered with the Covenant Centre for Development to document PBRs in 12 block-level BMCs in Tamil Nadu from October 2019 to March 2020 to record data for the PBRs. PBR Validation meetings were held in 10 blocks upon completion of PBR documentation. On average, around 60 participants, including local farmers, shepherds, fisher folks, subject experts and government officials, participated in each meeting.





- iv. ASEAN-India Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL): Development, Management and its Utilization as a Tool of Prior Art Evidence on Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge was held during 6-7 December 2019, New Delhi.



More than 200 representatives from NBA, the MoEF&CC, the ASEAN Member States (AMS), especially members of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGCNB), the ASEAN Secretariat, the CBD Secretariat, as well as partners representing the International/Regional/National organizations from both India and AMS working on conservation and academe participated in the regional workshops.

The agenda of the meeting, list of participants and the outcomes of the meetings in the form of reports are available on the NBA website: <http://nbaindia.org/asean-india/events1.html>



- ii. Regional Experiences-Sharing on Intellectual Property Rights, Biodiversity and Community Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) from the use of Biological Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge held during 18-20 June 2019, Hanoi, Viet Nam.
- iii. ASEAN-India Workshop on Urban Biodiversity and Application of the City Biodiversity Index during 24 -26 September 2019, Singapore. Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairperson, NBA and National Project Director undertook a review of the Project along with Dr (Ms.) Clarissa C.Arida, Director, Programme Development and implementation, ACB, Manila on 25 September 2019 at Singapore on the side-lines of the workshop.

13.5.2. ASEAN-India Cooperation Project

The NBA-ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity Cooperation project entitled 'Capacity building towards implementing the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, the City Biodiversity Index and Strategic Plan on Biodiversity was approved by the ASEAN Secretariat with a cost outlay of USD 993,333 for two years.

The details of the Regional Workshops/meetings during 2019 -20 are -

- i. Regional Workshop on Accelerating Aichi Target 11 implementation in the East and Southeast Asia Regions held during 22-23 April 2019, Manila, Philippines.



13.6 Activities of State Biodiversity Boards

13.6.1. Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh SBB convened one board meeting during the reporting period. It has facilitated the establishment of 307 BMCs. During 2019-20, the Board documented 661 PBRs and developed two documentary films on the theme of Red Sanders and Biodiversity of Andhra Pradesh. It has also conducted 22 awareness programmes including capacity building and training of Technical Support Groups, BMC members and administrative officials. This year, several awards were conferred on individual conservers, institutions, industries and traditional knowledge practitioner from the State for their contribution towards the conservation of biodiversity.

13.6.2. Arunachal Pradesh

The Arunachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board has formed 1799 BMCs, as of 31 March 2020. So far, the APSBB has documented 80 PBRs, of which 31 PBRs were completed during 2019-20. The Board also approved two applications under Sec.24 (1). Among other activities undertaken, the Board conducted training programmes on PBRs for the BMCs and organized meetings in the districts for the establishment of BMCs and observation of the IDB 2019 through varied events.

13.6.3. Assam

The Assam Biodiversity Board conducted the 25th Board meeting during the year under consideration. At the end of 31st March 2020, 2509 BMCs have been constituted and PBRs documented in all the BMCs. The Board has published a book "Tradable Bio-resources of Assam" and a coffee table book "Legends of Hollongapar". The Board has approved 33 (research) applications under Section 24(1) of the BD Act. The Board has also sensitized the BMCs through training and capacity building workshops held in the districts.



13.6.4. Chhattisgarh

The Chhattisgarh Biodiversity Board formed 11,039 BMCs in 2019-20, taking the total to 11,301 BMCs in the State. Documentation of, 72 PBRs has been completed to date. IDB 2019 was celebrated at the district level. The Board has printed postal stamps under the biodiversity awareness program and also organized several training and awareness programmes at the circle level for the preparation of PBRs and establishment of BMCs.

13.6.5. Goa

The Goa SBB has conducted six Board meetings (30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th & 35th) during 2019 - 20. Goa declared the "Purvatali Rai" sacred grove located in Surla village, Bicholim taluka, North Goa as a Biodiversity Heritage Site, vide notification no. 7/17/2019-20/GSBB/BHS/037/960, printed official gazette, Govt. of Goa series I No.38, dated 13th December 2019. The Board has constituted BMCs in all the 191 village panchayats. During the year, the Board constituted 13 blocks and one district-level BMCs. Out of the 205 PBRs validated at the BMCs level to date, 126 were completed during 2019-20. The Board has released four films on the Biodiversity of Goa. To mark the IDB 2019, the Board organized an event wherein a display cum sale of books. The theme "Our Food from Goa's Biodiversity for Our Health" was put up by active BMCs in Goa. The Board released two books viz., "Tradable Bio-resources of Goa" and "Glimpses of Biodiversity of Panaji. The Goa SBB organized an awareness workshop on the Go Van project on 13 February 2020 and a youth festival on 7 February 2020 as a Pre-IDB 2020 event. The SBB also celebrated World Environment Day 2019 in collaboration with the MoEF&CC, Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) and the State Department of Environment.

13.6.6. Gujarat

The Gujarat State Biodiversity Board convened three meetings in this period. Of the total 11400 BMCs formed, 3723 were constituted during this year. The Board has until now documented 1522 PBRs, of which 356 PBRs were prepared in 2019-20. Under Section 24(1) of the BD Act, the Board has approved six applications. The Board celebrated IDB 2019 at the Gujarat Forest Research Foundation, Gandhinagar with a State level workshop organized for the forest department.

13.6.7 Haryana

The Haryana State Biodiversity Board conducted three meetings during 2019-20. So far, 6,437 BMCs have been constituted in the State with 126 Block level PBRs prepared to date. The IDB 2019 was observed by conducting State level program on the importance of biodiversity, where the BMC members were specially addressed to enhance their awareness on issues related to conservation, sustainable use and ABS mechanism.



13.6.8. Jharkhand

The Jharkhand State Biodiversity Board convened two meetings this year. Of the 4659 BMCs in the State, 643 were constituted this year, while of the total 1026 PBRs completed, 919 PBRs were documented during this period. Among the other initiatives, the Board published "Wild Leafy Vegetables of Jharkhand" authored by Shri Lal Ratnakar Singh, Chairperson Jharkhand SBB. The IDB 2019 was marked by district-level inter-school drawing, essay writing and handicraft competitions conducted by the Board to create awareness about biodiversity amongst the children. A total of 62 training and capacity building programmes were conducted for the BMC and Panchayat members. A State-level sensitization workshop for "Effective Implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in Jharkhand"



was organised in Ranchi with support from the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE), New Delhi for the forest officials of the State.

13.6.9. Karnataka

The Karnataka State Biodiversity Board convened four meetings during the year under review. Of the 6499 BMCs constituted so far, 940 BMCs were constituted during this period. The BMCs in the State have so far, documented 2137 PBRs. The Karnataka Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2019 were notified vide Gazette of Karnataka, dated 23/05/2019. A short film was made by the Board, for guiding coordinators to collect and compile data for making PBRs at the level of Gram Panchayat and Urban Local Body. The Board approved 12 applications under Section 23(B) for commercial utilization of bioresources. Biodiversity related competitions were conducted for students and the public to mark the IDB 2019.

The PBR team organized 40 training programmes at various locations of the State to generate awareness amongst the BMCs, during 2019-20. The Board awarded four eminent personalities and felicitated them for outstanding contributions towards conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and related traditional knowledge. The Board also brought a book entitled "Flora of Karnataka" during the period.

13.6.10. Kerala

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board conducted two Board meetings during the period under report. The Government of Kerala notified the first Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) in the biodiversity-rich areas of Asramam region, Kollam district vide (G.O. (P) No. 1/2019/Envt on 3 June 2019). This site has heritage trees of *Syzygium travancoricum*, which is listed as critically endangered in the IUCN Red List. The IDB 2019 was celebrated on the theme of "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health" highlighting the role of genome saviours and custodian farmers in the State and holding photo-competitions. During 2019-20, 152 BMCs were constituted at the Block level and 75 PBRs completed at the village and municipal level. Three awareness video films were developed on biodiversity museum.

During this period, the Police department vide Executive directive No 2/2020 /PHQ dated 03/02/2020 authorized police officers to verify violation of BD Act, inspect and inform the concerned forest officers to take necessary action. Kerala State Government, by G.O 5/2020/Envt. dated 03/03/2020 has empowered the BMCs to notify locally important biodiversity-rich area/ ecosystems/trees as Locally Important Biodiversity

Heritage Areas after conducting a preliminary survey with the help of Technical Support Group.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the state-level World Environment Day celebrations on 5 June 2019 and declared the first BHS in the State. The Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Kerala Forest Department and Department of Environment and Climate Change jointly organized the programme. Besides this, the Board celebrated Wildlife Week and conducted Children Biodiversity Congress on 3 February 2020. . As part of such events, the KSBB put up exhibitions and stalls at the venue of the National Children's Science Congress and Kerala State Congress.

On a regular basis, the All India Radio broadcasts a Biodiversity Awareness programme 'Harithavani' every Tuesday. The Board organized training programmes for the forest range officers, judicial staff and police officers. It has also instituted awards for individuals, institutions and media (print & electronic) for their outstanding contribution towards biodiversity conservation.



13.6.11. Maharashtra

The Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board conducted three meetings (16th, 17th & 18th) during this year. Out of the total 28,654 BMCs in the State, 4,125 BMCs were formed during 2019-20. The Board has also documented 21,081 PBRs as of

31 March 2020, out of which 21,071 PBRs were documented during this period. A workshop, a talk show on the television channel for creating awareness among the people about the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was organized to observe IDB 2019. The Board also celebrated "World Nature Conservation Day" on 28 July 2019. In all, the Board has conducted 144 workshops and training programmes during the period under report.

13.6.12. Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board conducted one Board meeting on 22 May 2019. The MPSBB issued several notifications, orders and amended the Sections under 17(1), 23(1), 23(2), 23(6) and 23(7) of the State Rules to facilitate regular activities of the Board. MPSBB notified two Biodiversity Heritage Sites at Naro Hills and Patalkot during this period. In 2019-20, the Board reconstituted 19020 BMCs at Village level, 294 at the Block level and 47 at District level. The Board has developed three films titled, "Vande Matram", "Soul of Biodiversity and "Aag Aur Hum: Kheto Me Aag".

13.6.13. Manipur

The Manipur State Biodiversity Board convened one meeting during the period under review. So far, 1422 BMCs have been constituted in the State at the various levels in villages, autonomous councils and municipalities in hills and plains. Documentation of 162 PBRs is in progress during 2019-20. The Board also celebrated IDB 2019 with various programmes.



13.6.14. Mizoram

The Mizoram State Biodiversity Board has constituted 884 BMCs at the village level to date, of which 444 BMCs were completed during 2019-20. This year documentation, of PBRs, six at village level and two at block level were completed. The IDB 2019 was celebrated by the Board at Mamit, located in

the north-western part of Mizoram. School students and local people participated in the event, which was graced by the Hon'ble Minister, Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Mizoram and the Chairperson Mizoram SBB.

13.6.15. Meghalaya

During the year, the Meghalaya State Biodiversity Board formed 3,329 BMCs and now the BMCs constituted at the village level stand at 3,614. The Board also documented 132 PBRs, of which 87 PBRs were documented during this period. Three booklets on Biodiversity viz., Birds of Meghalaya, Odonata of Meghalaya and Threatened fish, Food and Game Fish, Ornamental fish of Meghalaya were released. IDB 2019 was celebrated in all the 11 districts of Meghalaya and apart from other activities, a documentary film on "Giant Steps to Conservation by a Small Village Mawlyngbna" was also screened on the occasion.



13.6.16. Nagaland

The Nagaland State Biodiversity Board convened one meeting during the period of consideration. Out of the 1,014 BMCs, 909 BMCs were formed during this year. 15 PBRs have been documented and 83 PBRs are under preparation. Two audio recordings on the importance and constitution of BMCs were produced and aired through All India Radio. The Nagaland SBB took part in the 2nd Chengu (Great Barbet) festival to create awareness of the importance of bio-resources and sustainable utilization. Besides, the SBB organized district -level awareness seminars, campaign and plantation drive.

13.6.17. Odisha

"Mandasaru" in Raikia Block of Phulbani Forest Division in Kandhamal District was declared as the first "Biodiversity Heritage Site" of Odisha during 2019-20. So far, 6,935 BMCs have been constituted and documentation of 166 PBRs completed. Odisha SBB conducted quiz competitions among students of 13 schools situated adjacent to biodiversity-rich

sites of Odisha. Successful students were awarded certificates and cash prize during the celebration of IDB, 2019. Training and Capacity Building Programmes were also undertaken for members of BMCs and frontline staff of forest department to understand the importance of biodiversity, BD Act and Rules, BMCs roles and responsibilities and documentation of biodiversity of their respective gram Panchayats. Training programmes on the protection of Olive Ridley turtles for the forest personnel and fisher community were organized, besides conducting capacity-building programmes for eco-tour guides working in the biodiversity-rich areas of the State.

13.6.18. Punjab

The Punjab Biodiversity Board overall has constituted 13,427 BMCs and documented 2,244 PBRs. The Board celebrated IDB 2019 by undertaking 29 programmes in collaboration with universities, colleges, schools, BMCs, NGOs, which included seminars, exhibitions, competitions, field visits, including a special Biodiversity Walkathon at Sukhna Lake etc. . The Board also organized a State level training programme on "Agro Biodiversity" in collaboration with the Punjab Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institution under Food and Agriculture Organization-Technical Cooperation Programme. The Board conducted training programmes for the officials of the State Rural Development and Panchayat Departments to enhance awareness on biodiversity-related issues.

13.6.19. Rajasthan

During the reporting period, the Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board constituted 9,768 BMCs at Village Panchayats and 289 at the Block level, 193 at Nagar Pallika level and 33 at Zilla Parishad level. The IDB 2019 was celebrated at various District Headquarters in Rajasthan, while the State level function was organized in the Udaipur Division with a large workshop in the University Guest House auditorium. A two-day workshop was organized with the help of the State Government on "Training Program for Promotion of BMCs and preparation of PBRs through Local Youth for peripheral villages of Sambhar Lake". A two-day workshop was organized on "Preparation of State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan during December 2019. The SBB instituted awards for providing 10 scholarships for postgraduate students for conserving biodiversity and related matters. A preparatory workshop was conducted by the SBB on 16 November 2019 to assess the Biodiversity Index of Jaipur City.

13.6.20. Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board convened one Board meeting (8th Board meeting) during the year of reporting.

ANNEXURE 1

Members cum Chairperson of the Authority

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

CHAIRPERSON	PERIOD
Dr V.B. Mathur	1 September 2019-till present
Dr A.K. Jain, IAS	9 February 2018-31 August 2019
Dr. (Ms). B. Meenakumari	9 February 2016 to 8 February 2018
Shri. Hem Pande, IAS	6 February 2014 to 8 February 2016
Dr.Balakrishna Pisupati	12 August 2011 to 5 February 2014
Shri. M.F. Farooqui, IAS	11 November 2010 to 11 August 2011
Dr P.L. Gautam	31 December 2008 to 3 November 2010
Shri. P.R.Mohanty, IFS	1 October 2008 to 31 December 2008
Shri. G.K. Prasad, IFS	20 May 2008 to 30 September 2008
Dr.S.Kannaiyan	20 May 2005 to 19 May 2008
Shri. Viswanath Anand, IAS	1 October 2003 to 14 July 2004

Of the 13,604 BMCs constituted so far, 12,555 BMCs were constituted during 2019-20. Block-level PBRs documentation of all 13604 BMCs has been completed. During the year, the Board conducted workshops for Block Development Officers (BDOs) and launched the Training of Trainers programme for operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees. The BHS sub-committees were also formed during this period.

13.6.21. Telangana

The Telangana State Biodiversity Board convened one Board meeting during the reporting period. The Board has constituted 10,244 BMCs in 2019-20, taking the total BMCS to 13,458 all over the State. Out of the 13,458 PBRs completed in the State, 13,245 PBRs were documented during 2019-20. The Board also developed a brochure on the agrobiodiversity of Telangana and a biodiversity field guide. *Poda thrupu*, a unique cattle breed is the first registered cattle of Telangana, which has been an initiative of the Telangana State Biodiversity Board. The IDB 2019 was also celebrated in a befitting manner and during the event, the best BMCs were felicitated for their efforts.

13.6.22. Tripura

The Tripura State Biodiversity Board convened one Governing Body meeting during the year. The State has constituted 1264 BMCs and documented all PBRs at the BMC level by the end of 31 March 2020. The Board also approved 24 applications under Section 24(1) of the BD Act. So far, the Board has identified five sites for consideration as BHS.

13.6.23. Uttar Pradesh

The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board convened one Governing Board meeting during the reporting period. The Board constituted 59,407 BMCs and prepared all 59,407 PBRs at the village and municipal levels. The Board also approved one application under Section 24(1) from Indians and Indian companies for access to bioresources. Several competitions were held for schools and colleges along with a Biodiversity Festival on the occasion of IDB 2019. A mobile awareness campaign was conducted from 15 to 19 March 2020 in rural areas to mark the occasion as “Butterfly and Sparrow week”. Besides, the Board also celebrated World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2020, World Environment Day on 5 June 2019, International Day for Vulture Awareness on 7 September 2019, Wildlife Week from 1 to 9 October 2019.

13.6.24. West Bengal

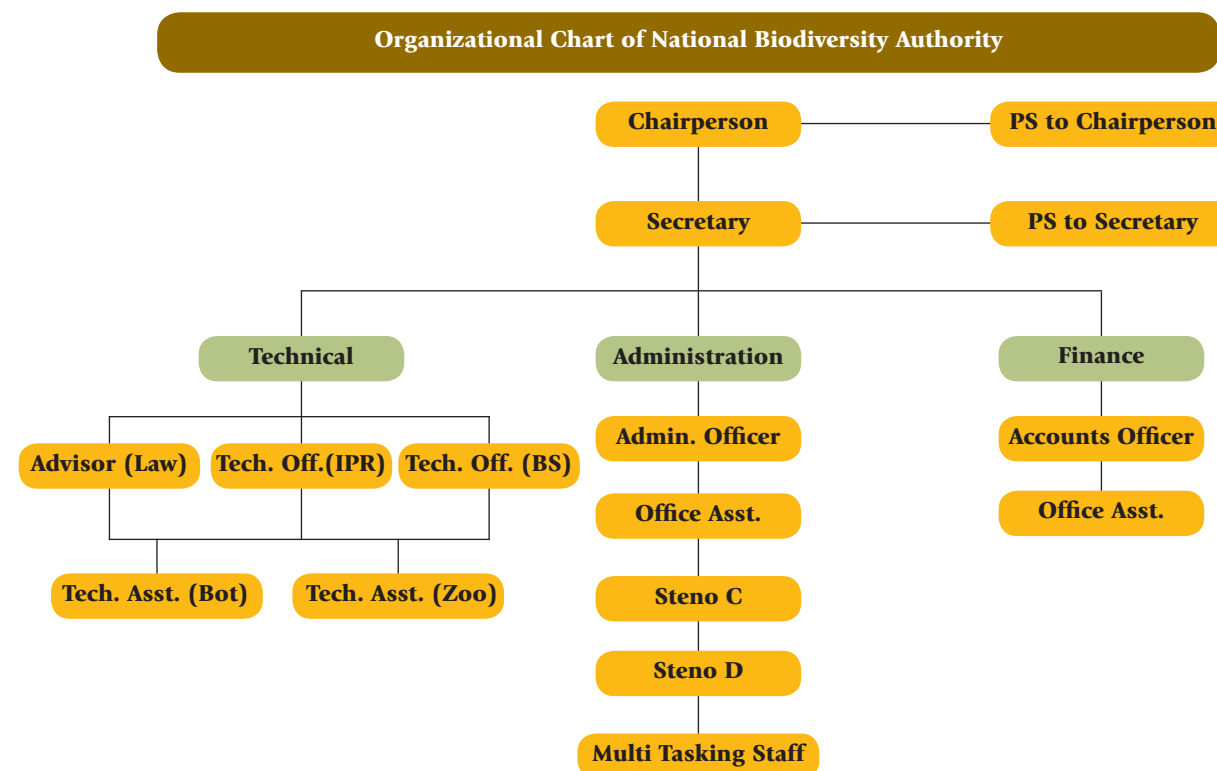
The West Bengal State Biodiversity Board conducted one Board meeting on 2 September 2019. Out of the 3827 BMCs in the State, 3388 BMCs were constituted as of 31 March 2020. Of the 805 PBRs documented so far, 661 PBRs were prepared during the reporting period. The Board conducted several Bio-Tour programmes for creating awareness about biodiversity amongst students. The State Board also conferred awards on individuals and institutions for their valuable contributions towards biodiversity conservation, with Shri Kushal Mukherjee in the individual category and Contai municipal BMC in the institutional category receiving the biodiversity awards for this year during the reporting period.





ANNEXURE 2

Organization Chart



Besides the officers and other staff as depicted in the organogram, the NBA is supported by Consultants to assist in technical and miscellaneous matters as per Rule 12 (6).



ANNEXURE 3

Staff Strength Including Recruitment

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



ANNEXURE 4

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 and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

1.3. Mandate

- i. Reaffirm the sovereign rights over the bio-resources of India and contribute towards the prevention of misappropriation of bio-resources and/or associated knowledge.
- ii. Provide policy and support relating to conservation, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. Advise the State Governments concerning their area-specific biodiversity, and in notifying Heritage Sites and suggest measures for their management and sustainable use.
- vi. Provide guidance, technical and financial support to Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) for preparing People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBR) in areas falling under their respective jurisdiction.
- vii. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to implement the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

1.4 Stakeholders

Biodiversity is a multidisciplinary subject involving diverse activities, initiatives and numerous stakeholders in biological diversity that 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-related to 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 the 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 commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization.

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

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-600113
Phone: 044-22542777, 1075; Extension: 27
Fax: 044-22541200
E-mail: admn@nba.inc.in

1.7 Expectations from the Citizens/ Clients

To abide by the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and rules made thereunder 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 activities by NBA and SBBs in the overall interest of humankind.

ANNEXURE 5

Audit Report

कार्यालय महानिदेशक लेखापरीक्षा
पर्यावरण एवं वैज्ञानिक विभाग, नई दिल्ली 110002-

DGA/ESD/EA/142/SAR/NBA Chennai/2020-21/ 820

दिनांक 03/03/21

सेवा में,

Dr. V. B. Mathur,
Chairman,
National Biodiversity Authority,
5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park,
CSIR, Road, Taramani,
Chennai - 600 113

by/dm/2021
11/3/21

विषय: Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year 2019-20

महोदय,

मुझे वर्ष 2019-20 के लिए National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai का पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन अग्रेषित करने का निर्देश हुआ है।

संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने से पहले वर्ष 2019-20 के वार्षिक लेखों को संस्थान के शासी निकाय द्वारा अनुमोदित किया/अपनाया जाए तथा इस संबंध में शासी निकाय द्वारा जारी किया गया रेजोल्यूशन ऑडिट को भेजा जाए। प्रत्येक दस्तावेज जो संसद में प्रस्तुत किया जाए उसकी तीन प्रतियाँ इस कार्यालय तथा दो प्रतियाँ भारत के नियंत्रक महालेखापरीक्षक को अग्रेषित की जाए। संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने की तिथियाँ भी इस कार्यालय को सूचित की जाए।

संलग्नक:- पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन

भवदीया,
निदेशक (पर्या.ले.)
3/3/2021

11/3/21
m.k.s.

Annexure-I to Draft Separate Audit Report

1. Adequacy of Internal Audit

Internal Audit of NBA was last conducted by the Administrative Ministry during February 2020 covering the period from April 2017 to March 2019. The report was issued in May 2020 and it contained 12 Paras. As regards the earlier reports, 3 paras from the report for the period 2003-2009 and 4 paras from the report for the period 2015-17 are still outstanding. Thus it was evident that though Internal Audit was conducted at periodical intervals, issues pointed as far back as ten years are still outstanding.

2. Adequacy of Internal Control System

Audit found following deficiencies

- The Management Information System (MIS) was not put in place
- The following Control Registers are not maintained
 - i) Register of Contracts
 - ii) Expenditure Control Register
 - iii) Security Deposit Register
 - iv) Register to watch receipt of Utilization Certificates for the funds released

3. System of Physical Verification of Fixed assets

NBA though conducted Physical Verification of fixed assets, procedure enumerated in GFR was not followed. It was merely certified that "verification was conducted with satisfactory result". The report did not identify and list out the obsolete, irreparable and unserviceable assets. The report also did not certify that all the assets were physically available and all are in working condition. As a result, audit could not ensure the correctness of value of assets and satisfactory functioning of assets shown in the annual accounts.

4. System of physical verification of inventory

Physical verification of inventory was carried out for the year 2019-20. But the value of stock as shown in the Annual Accounts did not match the stock of inventories as per stock registers.

5. Regularity in payment of statutory dues

Test check revealed no outstanding statutory dues as of March 2020.

3/3/2021
Director (EA)

Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year ended 31 March 2020

1. We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as at 31 March 2020 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. 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 the Government of India, Ministry of Finance.
- 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 the 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. Liabilities

1.1 National Bio-diversity Fund – Schedule 3 Rs. 11652.52 lakh

Rule 20(9) of Biological Diversity Rules provided for earmarking of 5% of the Access Benefits for the Authority (Board) towards administrative and service charges. The amount however was not worked out and transferred from Fund Account to Authority Account due to non-receipt of clarifications raised on the issue. Pending final transfer of amount, the Authority did not make provisions to reflect this liability in fund account to an extent of Rs. 582.63 lakh (5 percent of Rs. 11652.52 lakh).

B. General

B.1. Grant-in-aid

During the year 2019-20, NBA received Grant-in-aid of Rs.19.43 crore. This included unspent balance of Rs.1.93 crore revalidated from previous year. Out of total available funds of Rs.19.43 crore, NBA could utilize a sum of Rs.17.77 crore leaving a balance of Rs.1.66 crore as on March 2020.

C. 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 Annexure-A for remedial/corrective action.

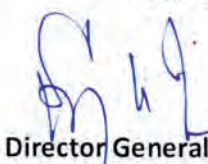
v) Subject to our observations in the preceding paragraphs, we report that the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payment Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of accounts.

vi) 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 I 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 31st March 2020 and

b. In so far as it relates Income and Expenditure Account of the deficit for the year ended on that date.

For and on behalf of the
C&AG of India



Director General of Audit
(Environment & Scientific Departments)

Place : New Delhi

Date : 03/03/21





SANJAY KUMAR JHA
DIRECTOR GENERAL

महानिदेशक लेखापरीक्षा
पर्यावरण एवं वैज्ञानिक विभाग
ए.जी.सी.आर.भवन, इन्द्रप्रस्थ एस्टेट,
नई दिल्ली-110002
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AUDIT
ENVIRONMENT & SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS
A.G.C.R. BUILDING, I.P. ESTATE
NEW DELHI-110002

DGA (ESD)/EA/142/SAR/NBA/2020-21

Dated : 03/03/21

Dear Sr. Mathur,

We have audited the annual accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year 2019-20 and have issued the Audit Report thereon vide letter dated 03/03/21. 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.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Encl : As above

Dr. V. B. Mathur,
Chairman,
National Biodiversity Authority,
5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park,
CSIR, Road, Taramani,
Chennai - 600 113

दूरभाष / Phone : +91-11-23403652, 23403650 फैक्स / Fax : +91-11-23702353

Annexure-A

A.1. During the year NBA released Rs. 81.04 lakh out of the Fund Account to various organizations for undertaking R&D projects. NBA however depicted an amount of Rs. 120.41 lakh as deduction from Fund Account including an amount of Rs. 39.37 lakh which was not released. Thus, there is understatement of Fund Balance (Schedule 3) to an extent of Rs. 39.37 lakh and overstatement of Provision under Current Liabilities and Provisions (Schedule 7) to this extent.

A.2. Assets

2.1 Fixed Assets – Schedule 8 - Rs. 34.61 Lakh

(a) NBA transferred 10 No. of Assets to Marine Biology Research Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai during 2019-20. This transfer of assets however was not reflected in the Assets Schedule. Further, E-Auction was also conducted during 2019-20 and items like Computers, Water Heater, Generator, etc, were disposed. This sale was also not reflected in the Annual Accounts of NBA for the year 2019-20. The Assets that have been transferred or disposed have not been removed from the Assets Schedule. The profit/loss on sale of fixed assets has also not been worked out and reflected in the accounts. To this extent, the accounts do not reflect true picture.

(b) Rs. 15000 realized on E-Auction has not been taken as miscellaneous income. Instead it has been taken on the credit side of the Subscription Expenses towards News papers and Magazines, resulting in reduction of expenditure under Other Administrative Expenses to an extent of Rs. 15000.

2.2 Current Assets – Schedule 11 – Rs. 11385.65 lakh

The value of stock of Inventories as at the end of March 2020 as per the Stock Registers was Rs. 1.92 lakh. As against this an amount of Rs. 1.32 lakh was shown under Current Assets. This has resulted in understatement of Inventories to an extent of Rs. 0.60 lakh

2.2.2 Sundry Debtors – Rs. 12.97 lakh

The amount of Rs. 12.50 lakh shown as Security Deposit included two minus items (Rs. 160000 and Rs. 7500 totaling Rs. 167500). Audit scrutiny revealed that NBA paid Rs. 2.40 lakh as deposit in the year 2011-12. NBA received back Rs. 1.60 lakh during the year 2014-15 after adjustment of expenditure of Rs. 80000. Instead of clearing the outstanding entry, NBA continued to exhibit both the entries (Rs.2.40 lakh and Rs. 1.60 lakh (minus entry)) under Security Deposit resulting in overstatement of Security Deposit to an extent of Rs. 80000.

Further, Rs. 7500 was the amount recovered from an officer towards telephone expenses in 2016. Audit scrutiny revealed that NBA showed this amount as minus entry under Security Deposit, while there was no outstanding deposit. This has resulted in incorrect depiction and resultant reduction of Security Deposit to an extent of Rs.7500.

The net effect of the above entries is that Sundry Debtors are overstated to an extent of Rs. 72500.

B. Income and Expenditure Account

B.1 Expenditure

B.1.1. Establishment Expenses – Schedule 20 –Rs. 252.44 lakh and Other Administrative Expenses – Schedule 21 – Rs. 768.56 lakh

- (a) Salaries and Wages – Rs. 169.33 lakh
- (b) Allowances and Bonus – Rs. 4.03 lakh
- (c) Leave Travel Concession – Rs. 0.51 lakh
- (d) Reimbursement of Medical Expenses – Rs. 3.66 lakh
- (e) Travel and Transfer Tour Expenses - Rs. 33.68 lakh
- (f) Repairs and Maintenance – Rs. 2.31 lakh
- (g) Postage, Telephone and Communication Charges– Rs. 5.78 lakh
- (h) Printing, Publications, Stationeries and Consumables – Rs. 4.75 lakh
- (i) Travelling and Conveyance Expenses Rs. 72.25 lakh
- (j) Funding to Projects for Programmes – Rs. 22.30 lakh
- (k) E-Office Development – Rs. 5.30 lakh

The following incorrect adjustments/bookings and exhibition in the Income and Expenditure Statement were observed which had an impact on the above sub-heads of Income and Expenditure Statement.

1. An amount of Rs. 16201 which was recovery of Travel Advance was adjusted under Allowances and Bonus instead of Travel and Tour Expenses resulting in overstatement of Rs. 16201 under the Travel and Tour Expenses and understatement of Allowances and Bonus to this extent.
2. Recovery of Telephone Expenses amounting to Rs. 3000 has been adjusted under Allowances and Bonus Head (Establishment Expenses) instead of under Postage, Telephone and Communication Charges (Other Administrative Expenses). To this extent, Establishment Expenses are understated and Administrative Expenses are overstated.
3. Computer and Motor Cycle Advance paid during the year amounting to Rs. 46250 and that recovered during the year to an extent of Rs. 56250 were both adjusted under Allowances and Bonus. They have also been exhibited in the Current Assets. This sort of depiction has resulted in overstatement of expenditure to an extent of Rs. 10000. As a result, the Capital Fund is understated.
4. LTC expenditure shown under Establishment Expenses was Rs. 51352. NBA booked Rs. 3570 relating to LTC in T.A/D.A. to External Members under Domestic Travel Expenses. Further NBA received Rs. 25552 as Leave Salary Contribution, which it deducted from LTC instead of Salaries head. Thus, the actual amount incurred towards LTC during the year was Rs. 80474. The incorrect booking of expenditure as shown above resulted in understatement of LTC Expenses to an extent of Rs. 29122, overstatement of Travel and Conveyance Expenditure to an extent of Rs. 3570 and overstatement of Salaries and Wages an extent of Rs. 25552.
5. Medical Expenses of Rs. 3.66 lakh includes Rs. 6421 paid towards Reimbursement of Briefcase charges and News Papers charges, which should have gone to Administrative Expenses. Thus, Medical Expenses are overstated and Administrative Expenses are understated to this extent.
6. Current year outstanding salary was Rs. 16.82 lakh. As against this, Rs. 12.94 lakh has been added to Salaries and Wages resulting in understatement of outstanding salaries to an extent of Rs. 3.88 lakh. Instead this amount was added and shown as outstanding under Allowances and Bonus. While the actual outstanding Allowances and Bonus for the

year was Rs. 0.08 lakh, Rs. 3.96 lakh has been shown resulting in overstatement of Allowances and Bonus to an extent of Rs. 3.88 lakh.

Last year Salaries paid during the current year was Rs. 14.22 lakh. As against this, NBA showed Rs. 11.34 lakh resulting in lesser deduction of Rs. 2.88 lakh under Salaries and Wages. Instead, it was deducted from Allowances and Bonus. While outstanding allowances for previous year, paid during the current year was Rs. 1.04 lakh, NBA showed Rs. 3.92 lakh.

The net effect of this incorrect adjustment is that the Salaries and Wages are understated to an extent of Rs. 0.99 lakh. Allowances and Bonus Head is overstated to this extent.

7. An amount of Rs. 5.30 lakh incurred towards E-Office Development (which is Capital in nature) has been shown under Schedule 21 - Other Administrative Expenses. E-Office Development was also shown under Fixed Assets in Balance Sheet. NBA reported that Rs. 5.30 lakh shown as E-Office Development under Other Administrative Expenses was an incorrect one and that this amount was Repairs and Maintenance expenditure, which was wrongly named and shown separately as E-Office Development. This sort of depiction has resulted in understatement of Repairs and Maintenance Expenditure and incorrect depiction of E-Office Development on the Expenditure side.

8. Funding made to projects and Programmes during the year 2019-20 was exhibited as Rs. 22.30 lakh as against Rs. 34.76 lakh, which was the actual expenditure for the year. This has resulted in understatement of Expenditure and resultant overstatement of Capital Fund to an extent of Rs. 12.46 lakh.

9. The expenditure for Repairs and Maintenance during the year as per ledger was Rs. 26.57 lakh. As against this, NBA showed an amount of Rs. 23.71 lakh in the expenditure side of Income & Expenditure under Schedule 21- Other Administrative Expenses, leading to a difference of Rs. 2.86 lakh. Scrutiny revealed that NBA adjusted various entries such as Office Expenses, Travel Expenses, etc. not relating to Repairs and Maintenance from this head. This has resulted in incorrect depiction of Repairs and Maintenance expenses and also other expenses such as Office Expenses, Travel, etc.

B.2 Income

B.2.1 Other Income – Schedule 18 – Rs. 0.28 lakh

NBA received an amount of Rs. 0.27 lakh being refund of Income Tax from Income Tax Department. This refund pertained to Income Tax deducted by the bankers from interest amount earned on Authority Account and Fund Account. Instead of crediting the amount respectively to Fund Account and Authority Account by identifying correct amount of Income tax earlier deducted, NBA depicted the entire amount as other income in the Income and Expenditure Account. This led to overstatement of income to an extent of Rs. 0.27 lakh. The cash balance under fund account and authority account is also understated.

C. Receipts and Payments Account

C.2 Payments

C.2.1 Payment Side - General Expenses of Rs. 734.93 lakh

The General Expenses as per Ledger is Rs. 740.23 lakh whereas an amount of Rs. 734.93 lakh has been shown on the Payment Side leading to a difference of Rs. 5.30 lakh. This amount relates to expenditure incurred on E-Office Development, which has been included in the Fixed Assets of Rs. 12.27 lakh and again shown separately also against E-Office Development. This sort of depiction has resulted in understatement of General

Expenses and double depiction of E-Office Development expenses of Rs. 5.30 lakh (once included in Fixed Assets and again shown separately).

D.1 Assets Register

As per the provisions contained in General Financial Rules, Assets Register in the prescribed format is to be maintained and Physical Verification of Fixed Assets is to be conducted every year and outcome of the verification recorded in the register. Discrepancies, if any, shall be promptly investigated and brought to account. Audit observed that NBA possessed Assets worth Rs. 34.60 lakh (Net Block) as at the end of March 2020. It however did not maintain Assets Register showing the category-wise details in the format prescribed in General Financial Rules, with the result that audit could not vouch for the correctness of figures projected in the Accounts.

D.2 Diversion of Funds

Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, opened a new object head "Grants for creation of Capital Assets". During 2019-20, NBA received total grant of Rs. 19.43 crore as Grant-in-aid which included an amount of Rs. 25.00 lakh towards E-Office Development. No funds were received under the object head "Grant-in-aid – Creation of Capital Assets". NBA however diverted an amount of Rs. 6.97 lakh towards purchase of Assets during the year. This led to diversion of funds from one object head to other without the authority.

D.3 Bank Reconciliation Statement

Bank Reconciliation Statement in respect of Authority Account revealed that there were three cheques issued during July and August 2019 valuing Rs. 28361 which have become time barred. NBA did not write back this expenditure. As regards the Bank Reconciliation Statement of Fund Account, four number of deposits received in bank during May 2019 to September 2019 have are not identified and taken to cash book as of July 2020.

D.4 Utilization Certificates

NBA released grants to an extent of Rs. 7474.73 crore to 1023 State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Non-SBBs for the period upto 2018-19 and grants worth Rs. 803.69 lakh to 98 SBBs and Non-SBBs during 2019-20. NBA however received UCs for an amount of Rs.5615.52 lakh from 934 SBBs and Non-SBBs. UCs from 227 SBBs and Non-SBBs for a value of Rs. 3135.59 lakh were pending. This consisted of pending UCs from 171 SBBs and Non-SBBs for a value of Rs. 2366.70 lakh for grants released up to 2018-19. Year-wise break up showed that the certain UCs were pending from as far back as 2005-06 onwards. The year-wise details of UCs pending are tabulated below.


Year	SBBs		Non-SBBs		Total	
	No.	Value (Rs.)	No.	Value (Rs.)	No.	Value (Rs.)
2005-06	1	500000			1	500000
2007-08	-	-	2	316000	2	316000
2008-09	2	1340000	-	-	2	1340000
2009-10	1	500000	1	50000	2	550000
2010-11	2	20000	-	-	2	20000
2011-12	2	1300000	4	600000	6	1900000
2012-13	4	2533931	1	224700	5	2758631
2013-14	19	40758651	2	320283	21	41078934
2014-15	33	45137228	3	1622500	36	46759728

2015-16	16	21922770	1	250000	17	22172770
2016-17	23	42123146	3	671500	26	42794646
2017-18	17	34496920	4	1345000	21	35841920
2018-19	22	39689064	8	948500	30	40637564
Total	142	230321710	29	6348483	171	236670193

As per the provisions contained in General Financial Rules, grants for the subsequent years should be released only after Utilization Certificates in respect of grants of preceding financial year are submitted. NBA however released subsequent grants though UCs for earlier grants are still pending, thus violating the provisions of GFR.

D.5 Liabilities

The liabilities include EMD/SD deposit of Rs. 8.43 lakh, out of which deposits worth Rs. 6.52 lakh were more than 5 years old.


3/3/2021
Director (EA)





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ABOUT NBA

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA is a Statutory Body and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions for the 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 the implementation of the Act through a decentralized system, with the NBA focusing on advising the Central Government on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resource. NBA also advises 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 (SBB) focus on advising the State Governments, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.

The SBB also regulate, by granting 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, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of landraces, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

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

Since its establishment, NBA has supported the creation of SBBs in 29 States and facilitated the establishment of 249098 BMCs at the local level.

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