



National Biodiversity Authority

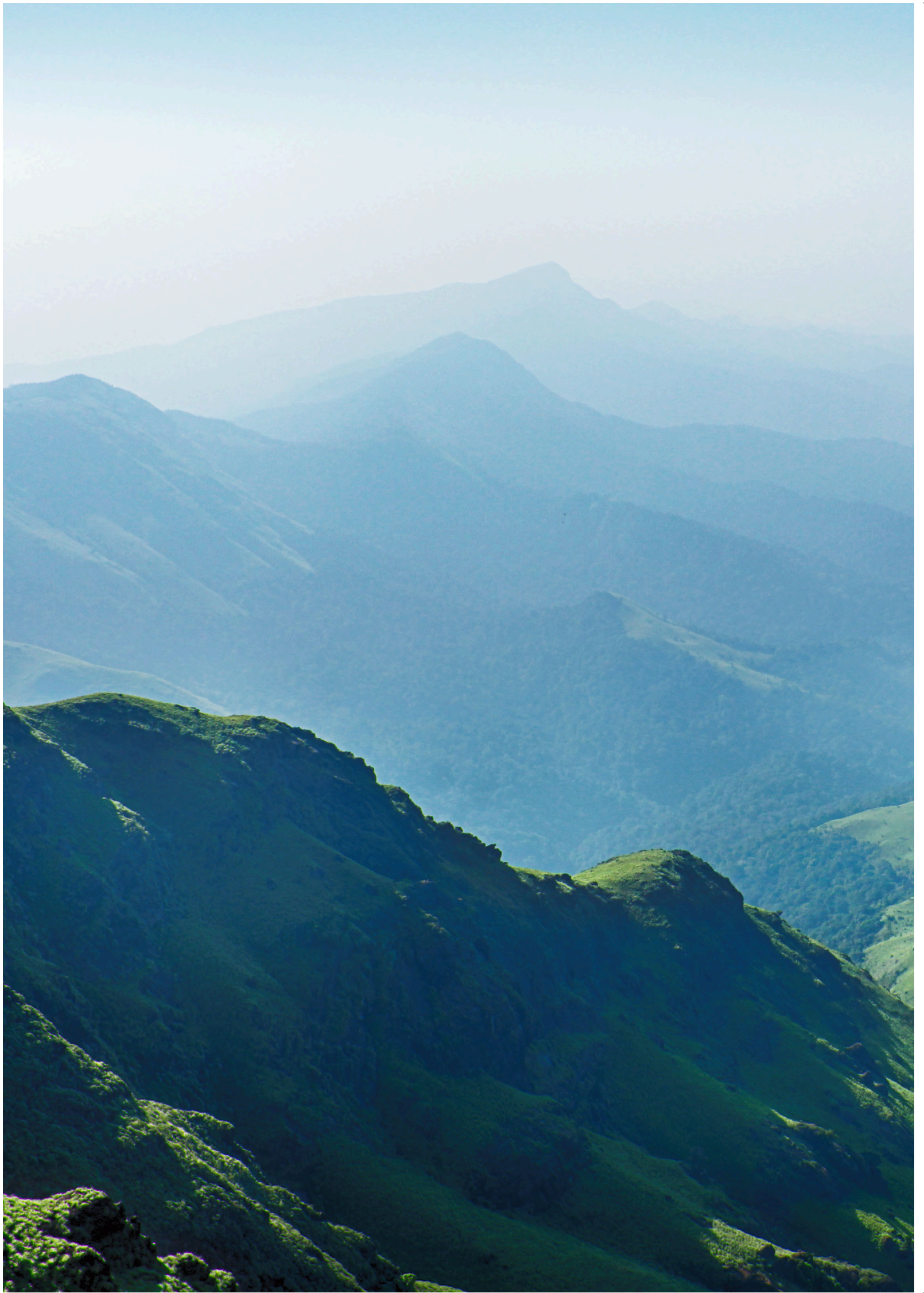
**ANNUAL
REPORT
2021-2022**



National Biodiversity Authority

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022





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



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

भूपेन्द्र यादव
BHUPENDER YADAV



MESSAGE

India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for implementation of three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, namely, the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. NBA regulates access to India's biological resources and associated knowledge by Indians and non-Indian for various kinds of activities, such as access for research, commercial utilization and obtaining of Intellectual Property Rights for the inventions based on any research or information on a biological resource obtained from India.

The Government has set up the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to deal with matters pertaining to biodiversity and to implement the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 through a three-tier institutional structure viz., NBA at the National level, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)/ Union Territories Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) at the State/ Union Territory level and the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local body level. The Annual Report of NBA for the year 2021-22 highlights the progress and achievements made towards successful implementation of the Act, Rules and Regulations at different levels.

In order to ease the existing regulatory environment, NBA has developed an "Access and Benefit Sharing e-filing portal" for swift processing of applications, significantly reducing the processing time of applications submitted to NBA. I am also happy to note that, 2,76,836 BMCs at the local level have been established and 2,66,102 Peoples' Biodiversity Registers have been prepared all over the country at the end of 2021-22.

I appreciate the efforts of NBA, SBBs, UTBCs, BMCs and all the stakeholders who have actively contributed to the implementation of the provisions of the Act. I hope this report will be receiving the wider attention.

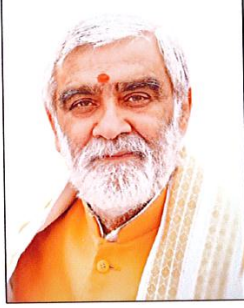
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(Bhupender Yadav)





अश्विनी कुमार चौबे
Ashwini Kumar Choubey



सत्यमेव जयते
आहारशुद्धौ सत्त्वशुद्धिः
स्वच्छ भारत
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

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 under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change established in 2003 to implement the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The NBA performs facilitative, regulatory, and advisory functions to the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable utilization and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated knowledge including traditional knowledge.

The Annual Report of National Biodiversity Authority for the year 2021-22 has been compiled in accordance with Section 28 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The report highlights the activities and achievements of NBA, the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) towards the implementation of the provisions of the Act, Rules and Regulations. I am pleased to note that the Authority met four times, deliberated various issues, directed and advised the NBA Secretariat for initiating and implementing actions as per Section 12 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rule 10 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004. During the reporting period, NBA has signed 2979 agreements concerning the access of biological resources for research/commercial use, transfer of research results, intellectual property rights and third party transfer. A noteworthy achievement during the period is that the 1160 Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances have been issued and uploaded in the Access and Benefits Sharing Clearing House 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 sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

(Ashwini Kumar Choubey)

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सत्यमेव जयते



लीना नन्दन
LEENA NANDAN



सचिव
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन
SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST
& CLIMATE CHANGE

FOREWORD

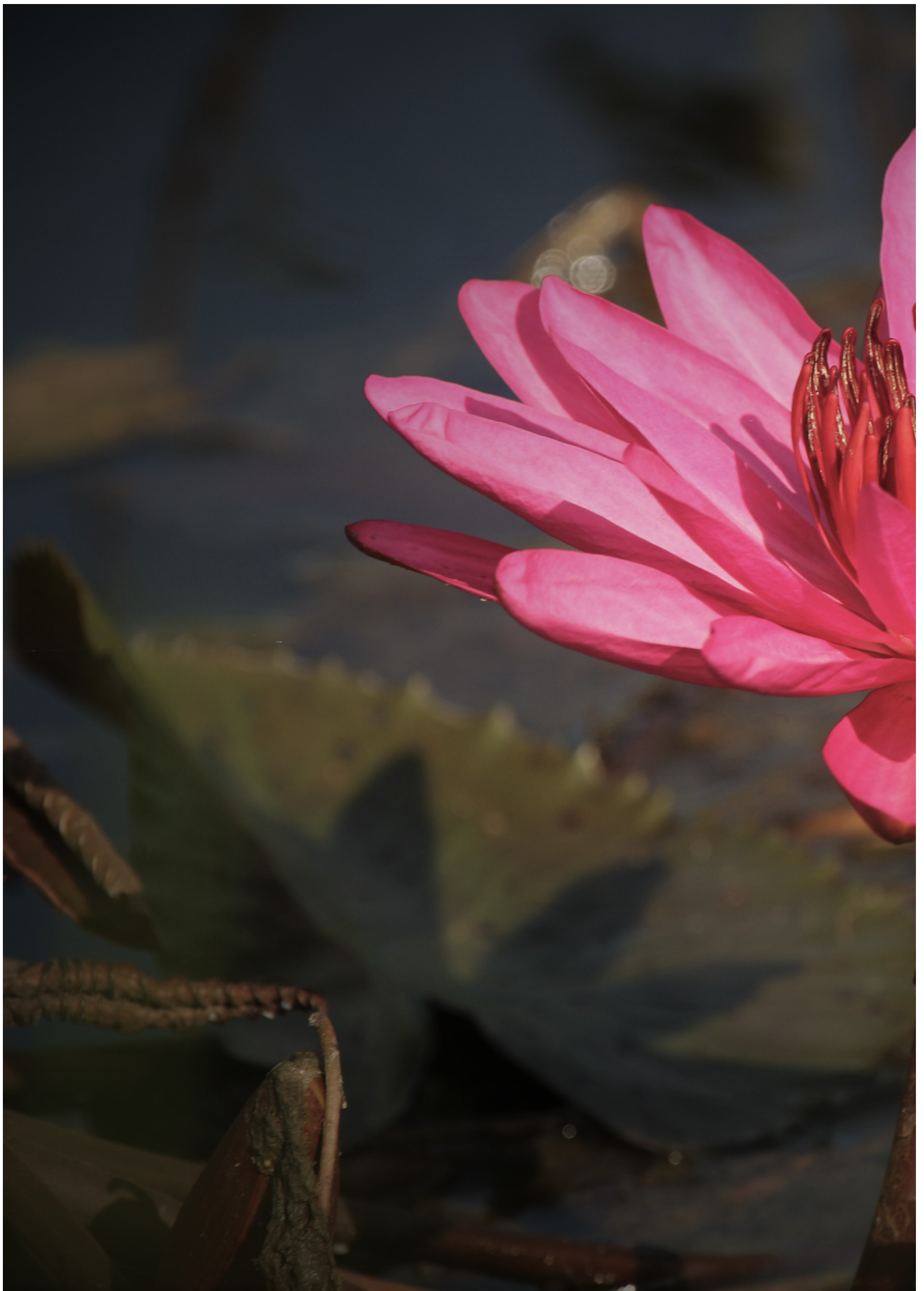
India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 towards the commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) headquartered in Chennai was established in 2003 under Section 8 of the Act to implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 at the national level. NBA regulates the activities envisaged under the Act and issues guidelines for access to biological resources. It also advises the Government of India on matters relating to biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilization and fair and equitable sharing of biological resources. This Annual Report highlights the activities carried out by NBA during 2021-22 for conserving the Indian bio-resources and providing legal certainty to the common people regarding fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of these bio resources.

It is commendable that NBA has launched a series of multimedia films titled "Simply explained series on Biological Diversity Act, 2002" in 17 Indian languages for the training of Biodiversity Management Committees. NBA is making constant efforts to strengthen the Biodiversity Management Committees, prepare and digitize the Peoples Biodiversity Registers and identify Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

I am confident that the Annual Report will provide an insightful overview of the various activities performed by NBA during the year 2021-22.

July 13, 2023


(Leena Nandan)



FOREWORD



I am pleased to place before you the Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the reporting period 2021-2022 during which the efforts for effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and related legal instruments gathered further momentum.

The national level celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity, 2021 on 22nd May 2021 was organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in virtual mode in coordination with NBA on the theme "*We're part of the solution*". It was presided over by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, MoEFCC. The inaugural address was delivered by Shri Babul Supriyo, the Minister of State for EFCC and the opening remarks were given by Ms. Shoko Noda, Resident Representative, UNDP India. This was well attended and have been able to generate a huge amount of awareness about a range of conservation issues, particularly amongst the youth. This event also marked the launching of NBA-MoEFCC-UNDP knowledge products on ethical code of conduct on ABS for researchers, a handbook on ABS in India and monitoring guidelines for research institutions to promote compliance with ABS under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. NBA and GIZ jointly launched a series of multimedia films titled "*Simply explained series on Biological Diversity Act, 2002*" in 17 Indian languages.

I am very pleased to record deep appreciation and gratitude of NBA to a very large number of stakeholders and professionals and especially the Hon'ble MEF&CC, Senior officials of MoEFCC, Members of Authority, State Forest Departments, Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of the SBBs and UTBCs, Chairpersons and Members of various NBA 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 the NBA for their valuable efforts to take the NBA forward.

Chennai

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'V.B. Mathur'.

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



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the year 2021-22 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 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Justin Mohan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

J. Justin Mohan
Secretary, NBA



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Executive Summary

Biological diversity or biodiversity is one of the most complex and unique feature of our planet. Biodiversity in short, refers to all living organisms and to the variety and variability amongst species, including plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms.

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 to implement the BD Act at the national level. The second and the third tier constitute the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) at the State level and the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) 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 2021-22 are briefly outlined here and elaborated in the Annual Report.

During 2021-22, the Authority met four 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 Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (EC on ABS) which met four times and evaluated 108 applications on access

and benefit sharing and provided recommendations to the Authority. During the reporting period, 872 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, 2979 agreements were signed during this period. NBA received a sum of Rs 40,90,67,722 as a benefit-sharing component during 2021-2022 which includes as upfront payment, for commercial utilization and royalty etc. During the reporting, NBA released Rs 1,01,30,653/- to 17 State Biodiversity Boards and 1 Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and UTBC Chandigarh) for disbursing the same to the benefit claimers concerned towards the conservation and promotion of biological resources and socio-economic activities of the area concerned. India being a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 1160 approvals granted in the ABS CH platform generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances during 2021-22.

The implementation of the BD Act 2002 at the State level was initiated by establishing the SBBs constituting the BMCs at local body level. At the end of 2021-22, 2,76,836 BMCs were constituted at the local level and 2,66,102 PBRs have been prepared all over the country.

One Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) has been notified in West Bengal under the provisions of Section 37 of the BD Act, 2002 taking the number of BHS across the country to 22. NBA has extended financial support to almost all the SBBs by Grant-in-Aid towards strengthening the institutional mechanisms 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 2021-22. Monthly Review meetings of SBBs were convened to interact and understand the problems and challenges faced at the state and local body level.

The national level celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity, 2021 on 22nd May 2021 was organized in virtual mode by NBA on the theme "*We're part of the solution*". It was inaugurated by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, MoEFCC. Shri Babul Supriyo, the Minister of State for EFCC and Ms. Shoko Noda, Resident Representative, UNDP India addressed the participants.

During the event, NBA jointly launched a series of multimedia films titled "*Simply explained series on Biological Diversity Act, 2002*" in 17 Indian languages

which were made under the ABS Partnership Project implemented by MoEFCC-NBA & GIZ. A set of knowledge products was also launched for the training of BMCs in the country. This event also marked the launching of NBA-MoEFCC-UNDP knowledge products on ethical code of conduct on ABS for researchers, a handbook on ABS in India and monitoring guidelines for research institutions to promote compliance with ABS under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The call for 3rd cycle of Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme and the 6th cycle of India Biodiversity Awards were also announced on this occasion. A reporting portal for the new initiative on the Other Effective area based Conservation Measures (OECM) was officially opened by UNDP and MoEFCC to update related information from India. The winners for the 5th cycle of India Biodiversity Awards were also announced in all the categories.

The Annual Accounts for 2021-22 and Annual Plan for 2022-23 are also included in this Annual Report for 2021-22.





Chapter - 1

Introduction

Biological diversity or biodiversity is one of the most complex and unique feature of our planet. Biodiversity in short, refers to all living organisms and the variety and variability of different species, including plants, animals and micro-organisms.

India is ranked 8th amongst the 17 mega-diverse countries in the world in terms of species richness. India harbours 54,733 species of plants and 1,02,718 species of animals. India is also rich in fauna and nearly 62 per cent of the recorded amphibian species are endemic to India, of which a majority are 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 important for both economic and social development of the people. It is essential in the case of India where a large population still depends on local flora and fauna for enhanced food, nutritional and economic sustenance. This has led to immense pressure on the biodiversity of India as there is also exponential increase in the population and rapid economic growth.

Biodiversity conservation denotes the protection and management of genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystems. Conservation can be *in situ*, which refers to conservation within natural habitats; and *ex situ*, which involves preservation of threatened species and genetic resources in facilities such as breeding farms, botanical gardens, and gene banks where genetic material is preserved.

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, SBBs advise 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 beneficial microorganisms in agricultural ecosystem.



Chapter - 2

Constitution and Functions of the Authority, Statutory Bodies

2.1. Structure of the National Biodiversity Authority

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is headed by a Chairperson, a 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, Dr V.B. Mathur, a wildlife biologist and former Director, Wildlife Institute of India, continued as the Chairperson of NBA and represented India as bureau member at the CBD and 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 from the following departments :

- 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,2002

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 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 Mrs R. Jaya, IAS, 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 Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, 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. S. Kerketta, Advisor & Scientist G CS-III Division, 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. Anamika Gambhir, Scientist F, 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. M.V. Ramanamurthy, Director, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), NIOT Campus, Velachery - Tambaram Main Rd, Pallikaranai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600100
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 Prof. (Dr) Tanuja Manoj Nesari, 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. Akhilesh Gupta, 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	Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.) Director, Centre for Innovations in Public Systems, Hyderabad, Telangana
2	Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram, Professor and Dean, College of Agriculture, Central Agriculture University, Imphal, Manipur
3	Prof. Unnat P. Pandit Controller General of Patents, Trade Marks and Industrial Design Mumbai.
4	Dr. Alka Rao, Principal Scientist, Lab #P206, GNR Protein Centre, CSIR- Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), Chandigarh – 160036
5	Shri. M.S. Chaitra, Director and Fellow, Aarohi, Bangalore

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.
- ✱ 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 2022, there are 2,76,836 BMCs constituted 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,
 - a. Notify threatened species and prohibit or regulate their collection, rehabilitation and conservation.
 - b. Designate institutions as repositories for different categories of biological resources.
 - c. 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.

Chapter - 3

Meetings of the Authority

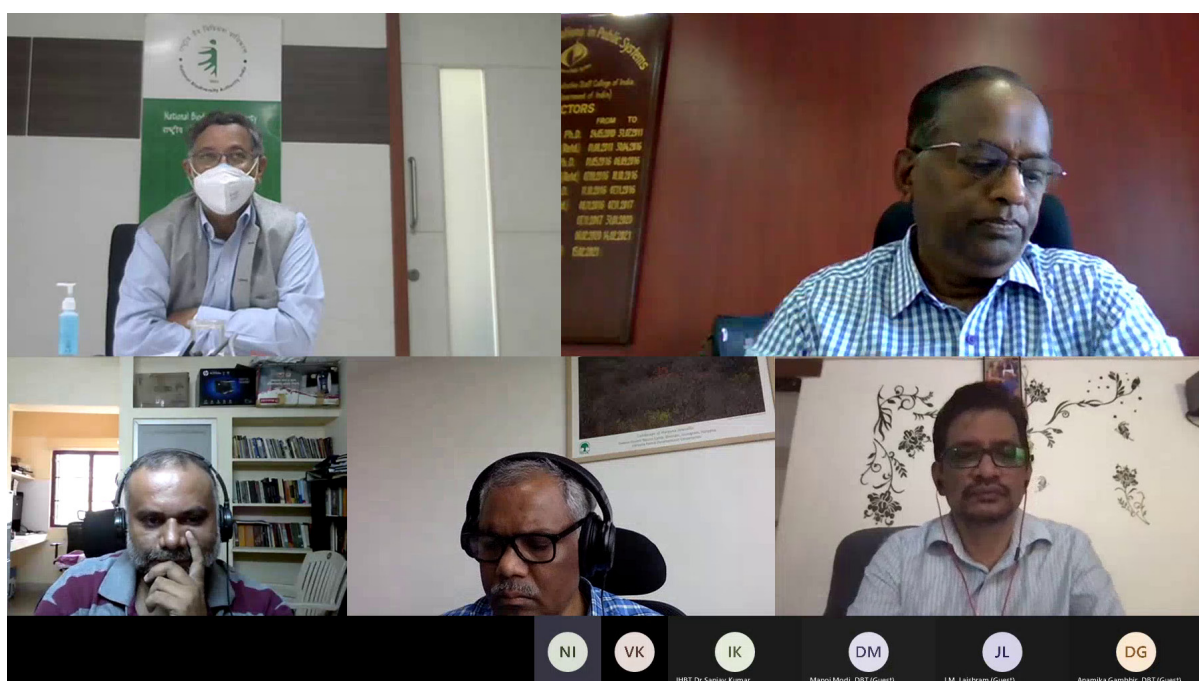
During the reporting period, the Authority met four times and advised the NBA Secretariat as per Section 12 of the BD Act, 2002 and Rule 10 of the BD Rules. Besides, the Authority considered ABS applications along with recommendations of the expert committee on ABS, and gave decisions and advised the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

3.1. 61st Authority Meeting

The 61st meeting of the Authority (Governing Body) was held on 30th April 2020 in 'virtual mode' under the Chairmanship of Shri Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:

- ✱ The applications cleared and executed by NBA were noted by the Authority. It was decided that henceforth only applications fully processed by NBA should be placed before Authority.
- ✱ The Authority members decided that applications that have been recommended for approval by the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing should alone to be placed before the Authority.
- ✱ The Authority decided to allocate funds for various components of the financial assistance to SBBs/UTs.
- ✱ The Authority members appreciated and noted the financial assistance given by NBA to the SBBs under the Special component of SC and ST sub plan.
- ✱ The Authority members ratified the grants released by NBA to the SBBs and the UTBCs.
- ✱ The Authority members approved the draft Annual report of NBA for the year 2019-20 with a slight modification on page 72.

- ✳ The Authority members appreciated the launching of the third cycle of the 'Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Program' for a period of 1 year from 1st January, 2022 to 31st December, 2022.
- ✳ The Authority members decided that the stipend of the interns would be Rs 22,500 per month inclusive of HRA.
- ✳ The members approved the selection of awardees by the Jury and to launch of India Biodiversity Awards (IBA) 2022-23 during the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May 2021 and to rationalize the Awards subject to the change in the rationalization of Category 1 to "Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological Resources"
- ✳ The proposal for the restoration of NPS contribution @ 14% to NBA employees as applicable to Central Government employees was endorsed by the Authority with the advisory that it should be sent to the MoEF&CC for further action.
- ✳ The qualification "Bachelor of Engineering (Biotechnology) for Young Professional (Scientific) may be changed to Bachelors in Biotechnology.
- ✳ The Authority members decided to also add Masters in Artificial Intelligence in the qualification for IT consultant.
- ✳ The Authority members approved the names of IBA Awards Winners and IBA Jury Special Mentions.
- ✳ The Authority members approved the revised scheme for the utilization of the funds of Rs. 11.25 Crores released by the NBA to the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board.



3.2. 62nd Authority meeting

The 62nd meeting of the Authority was held on 21st September 2021 at Teesta Hall, MoEF&CC, New Delhi in 'Hybrid mode' under the Chairmanship of Shri Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were as follows:

- ✱ The Authority members decided that the recommendations on the Applications 3702, 4675, 4281 (Agenda No. 62.03, 62.05 and 62.07 of the proceedings of the 62nd EC on ABS) may be reconsidered by the Expert committee on Access and Benefit Sharing.
- ✱ The members decided that the provisions given in Annexure I-Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing options of the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and associated knowledge and Benefit sharing Regulations, 2014 may be considered when determining the ABS.
- ✱ The members decided that the ABS component for the Form III (Patent) applications may be re-examined for the future applications.
- ✱ The Authority members approved the recommendations of the EC on ABS for the remaining applications (28 applications).
- ✱ The members decided to reconsider the Guidelines on Access and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014 after the Amendments to the BD Act, Rules and Regulations are completed.
- ✱ NBA to clarify whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited is a Section 3(2) entity or a Section 7 entity by placing the same before the EC on ABS.
- ✱ The members decided that a token financial assistance of Rs. 1,00,000 may be given to the concerned BMC to establish Biodiversity Heritage Sites and develop its Management Plan(s).
- ✱ The members also decided that the financial requirement may be included in the annual budget of the local body (Grant in Aid).
- ✱ The members approved the AMC @ Rs.16,94,157/-(plus applicable tax) to NIC.
- ✱ NBA to coordinate with NIC and organize a Demo on the ABS e-Filing – online application process in the next Authority meeting.
- ✱ NBA may organize a dedicated session on DSI inviting the Chairman of the EC on DSI and other experts and have elaborate discussion on the India's country position on DSI.



- ★ The members decided that WG may also develop the mechanism based on the Annexure I of the -Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing options of the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014 to determine ABS.
- ★ The Authority members approved this logo for registration and to continue with the development of the scheme.

3.3. 63rd Authority Meeting

The 63rd meeting of the Authority was held on 29th November 2021 at Indus hall, MoEF&CC, New Delhi in 'Hybrid mode' under the Chairmanship of Shri Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:

- ★ The Authority approved the recommendations of the 64th EC on ABS.
- ★ The Authority approved the formation of the sub-committee to re-examine the benefit sharing amount to be paid upfront by entities before accessing biological resources and associated knowledge for research for a commercial activity
- ★ The Authority approved draft Annual report of NBA for the year 2020-21 along with the accounts.
- ★ The members decided that the Non-Disclosure Agreement with CSIR-TKDL should include milestones to be achieved and may be executed with caution and after legal vetting of the agreement.
- ★ The members decided that the preparation of e-PBR and its importance may be included in the curriculum of the new National Education Policy



- ✱ The members decided that few chapters on the Indian rich biodiversity may be prepared for classes 9th to 12th standards.
- ✱ The members recommended that payment of Sitting allowances/ honorarium to the Members of the Authority and Expert Committees shall be referred to MoEF&CC for consideration.

3.4. 64th Authority Meeting

The 64th meeting of the Authority was held on 10th March, 2022 in 'Hybrid mode' at NBA, Chennai under the Chairmanship of Dr.V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:

- ✱ The applications that have biological resources from outside India or where the origin is not known may be revisited and reviewed by the EC on ABS
- ✱ The applications mentioned by Shri. Achalender Reddy would be reviewed by the EC on ABS.
- ✱ NBA would place the list of new members along with their domain expertise before the Authority, whenever it is reconstituted.
- ✱ The recommendations of the Subcommittee to revise the guidelines to levy upfront payment shall be kept in abeyance till the decision is taken by the Court. The existing guidelines to levy upfront payment for research shall be followed.
- ✱ NBA may share the composition of the EC on ABS members with the Authority members for their suggestions on different domain experts including molecular biologists that can be included during the reconstitution of the EC on ABS after 31st March, 2022.



- ✱ The members decided to approve the revised NBA Medical Attendance Regulations/Guidelines after the inclusion of the suggestions made by the members and to follow these Guidelines after getting the approval by the MoEF&CC.
- ✱ Till the proposed scheme is approved by the MoEF&CC, the existing Regulations will be followed with the amendment that the medical claims w.e.f 1st April 2022 (treatment taken on or after 01-04-2022) shall be regulated in accordance with the CGHS approved rates. Accordingly, the ceiling of one month's basic pay and dearness allowance imposed towards reimbursement of outpatient claims will stand deleted from the existing regulations, as the same was not prescribed in CS (MA) Rules / CGHS Scheme.
- ✱ The project proposal may be revised and the APSBB shall submit a detailed Project Proposal outlining the details of activities with specific physical and financial targets and the expected outcomes of these activities and how these activities would be audited. It should also include a justification on utilizing these funds in areas outside the Red-Sanders areas contrary to the Report of the Expert Committee on Red Sanders and also identify the ABS potential in conserving biological resources.
- ✱ Performance audit may be conducted during the mid-course and at the end of the Project to ascertain the status of conservation of Red Sanders species.
- ✱ Local community in the Red Sanders area may be trained by IWST or other institutes to make handicrafts from Red Sanders and help in the Atma Nirbhar Bharat and also add value to the species.

Chapter - 4

Activities to regulate Access to Biological Resources and Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing

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

Applications seeking prior approval for access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge for research, bio-survey and bio-utilization and commercial utilization, transfer of results of research for obtaining intellectual property rights for invention based on research or information on biological resources and transfer of accessed biological resources to third parties which are received by the NBA are evaluated by this expert committee which then makes suitable recommendations for consideration of the Authority.

During the year, the committee met four times viz 62nd meeting on 11.08.2021, 63rd meeting on 25.08.2021, 64th meeting on 26.10.2021 and 65th meeting on 24.01.2022 and evaluated around 108 applications on access and benefit sharing and provided recommendations to the Authority. Besides EC provided inputs to the generic issue such as re - examining the upfront payment guideline for research activities by section 3(2) entities as directed by the Authority at its 62nd meeting held on 21st September 2021.



4.1.1 Expert Committee to re-examine the Guidelines for upfront payment for Access to Biological Resources for research or bio-survey and bio-utilization for commercial utilization:

Pursuant to the decision taken in the 62nd Authority, Members of the EC recommended that a Sub-Committee chaired by Shri. K.S.Sugara, IFS and comprising of Dr. S. Elumalai, Dr. V.G. Malathi, Dr. M. Sanjappa and Dr. D. Narasimhan, was formed to re-examine the Guidelines for upfront payment for Access to Biological Resources for research or bio-survey and bio-utilization for commercial utilization and to examine the levying of benefit sharing for patent applications at the time of according approvals by NBA. The Sub-committee report was deliberated in the 65th EC on ABS where the committee opined that the proposed revised guideline by the sub-committee may be considered in the current scenario and the rates can be revised from time to time after it is approved by the Authority.



4.2. Generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)

Under the 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 was based on prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms were established. Since India is a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 2756 approvals granted in the ABS CH platform generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances (IRCCs) till date. Out of 2756, 1160 IRCCs have been generated during the reporting period.

4.3 Deposition of microorganisms in other country's repository for claim of novel species for publication in journal:

The Authority in its 37th meeting held in March 2016 under agenda item 37.14.02, decided that the Indian researchers / scientists should provide prior intimation to the NBA in the prescribed format viz., Form-C for deposition of microorganisms in other country's repository for claim of novel species for publication in journals. However, if any non-Indian person/entity intends to access the deposited Indian biological resource from the foreign repository, he/she should obtain the prior approval of NBA as per Section 3 of the BD Act, 2002. NBA has received 281 such intimations since March 2016 and the details of the same have been updated in the NBA website after ratifying by the Authority.





Chapter - 5

Approval granted for undertaking activities as referred in Sections 3, 4, and 6 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

5.1. Approval Details

The objectives of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 are conservation of biological resources, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of the same. Accordingly, 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 the sections 3, 4, and 6 of the Act; 14, 17 and 18 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and ABS Regulations 2014.

2. As per the provisions of the BD Act, accessing the biological resources and associated knowledge by individuals and entities, both Indian and non-Indian as well, for carrying out certain activities as envisaged in the Act, prior approval of NBA is a pre-requisite. They need to make application in four different Forms, specified for each activity, to the NBA and there are stipulated time lines for according approvals. The BD Act mandates to get approval from concerned authorities for accessing the biological resources which is aimed to ensure sustainable use of the biological resources and conserving the same for future generations.

Table 2: Category of ABS applications

Sections of the BD Act, 2002	Form No.	Purpose of application	By whom
Section 3	I	Access to 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 the research	Any Indian/non-Indian or entity to any non-Indian, NRI, foreign entity or Indian entity having non-Indian participation in share capital or management
Section 6	III	Seeking approval to obtain Intellectual Property Right	Any Indian/ Non-Indian or entity

Since its inception, the NBA has received 5619 applications from different stakeholders under Forms I, II and III (Figure 1a). During the reporting period, it received 842 applications (Figure 1b), which were complete in all respects and were therefore taken up for processing. The stages of processing of applications are shown in Table 3.

5.2 e-filing of ABS applications:

NBA has a dedicated online portal "ABS e-filing system (<http://absefiling.nic.in>) for filing application to seek approval from the National Biodiversity

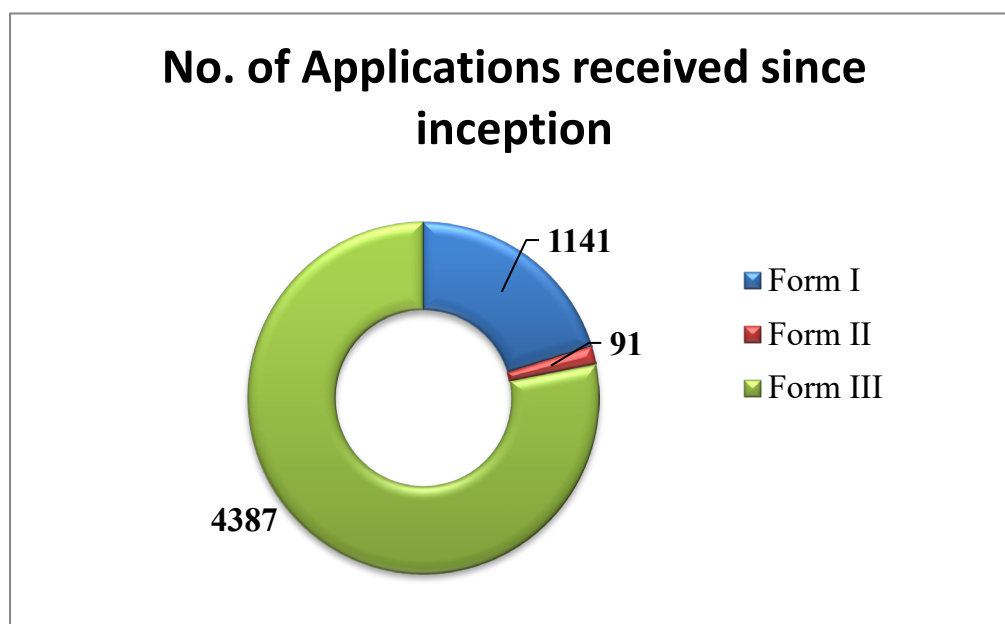


Figure 1a: Receipt of applications under different categories from inception of NBA

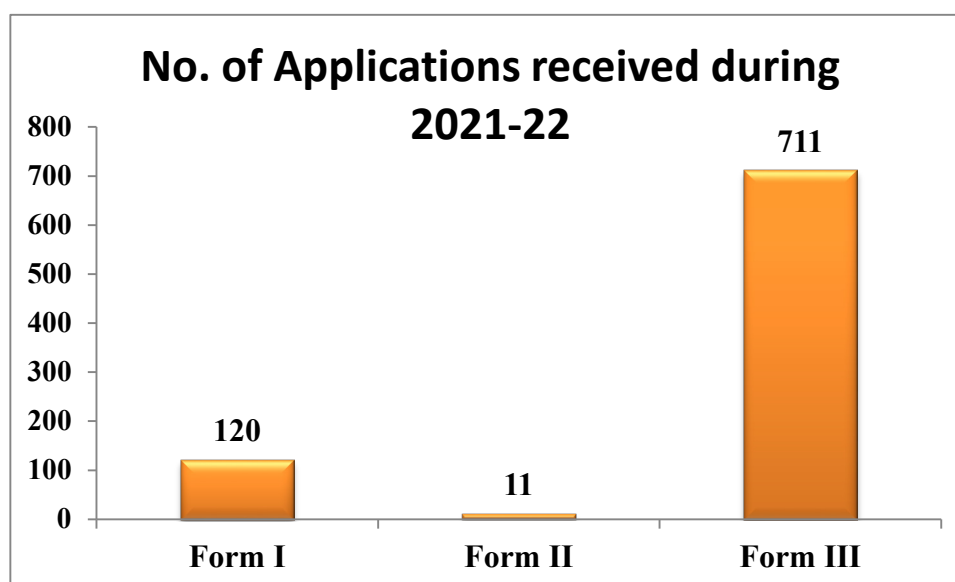


Figure 1b: Receipt of applications under different categories during 2021-22

Authority to access biological resources and associated knowledge. The portal also provides for online payment of fee for the application. Once the portal is fully operational, it is expected to ease the submission of application and speed-up the process of granting approvals by the NBA. Till 31/03/2022, NBA has received **842** applications from different stakeholders under different categories (Table 3).

Table 3: Stages of processing of ABS applications

Details	Form I	Form II	Form III	Total
Received	120	11	711	842
Cleared	102	7	618	727
Under process	8	-	47	55
Violation	-	-	-	-
Closure/ Withdrawn	10	4	46	60
Agreement signed/approved	52	2	405	459
Progress made on the applications received in the previous years during the reporting period				
Cleared (applications received in the previous years)	744	37	2989	3772
Agreement Signed (applications received in the previous years)	460	32	2453	2945
Closure/ Withdrawn (applications received in the previous years)	262	42	653	957
Rejected	9	-	14	23

5.3. Realization and distribution of benefit sharing amount to the benefit claimers

NBA has received a sum of about **Rs 148.63 crores** as benefit sharing (BS) component under Form I till date, of which **Rs 40.88 crore** has been received during the year 2021-2022. NBA has also received a sum of about **Rs. 2,67,722** under Form III as BS component till date.

Out of the BS amount realized on the access of Red Sanders wood, NBA has distributed a sum of Rs 50.21 lakh to the Karnataka Forest Department through Karnataka State Biodiversity Board and supported the Red Sanders Research projects to the tune of 33.10 lakhs to national institutes like Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Institute of Wood Science and Technology concerned Stakeholders as per the recommendation of the EC on Red sanders with the approval of the Authority.

Out of the BS amount realized on the access of biological resources other than red Sanders, NBA has distributed the benefit sharing to the concerned benefit claimers like BMC/ Institution/ communities based on the geographical location from where biological resources are to be collected that has been provided in the application. During the reporting, NBA released Rs 1,01,30,653/- to 17 State Biodiversity Boards & 1 Union Biodiversity Councils (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and UTBC Chandigarh,) for disbursing the same to the benefit claimers concerned towards the conservation and promotion of biological resources and socio-economic activities of the area concerned.



Chapter - 6

Measures taken with respect to Intellectual Property Rights related to Genetic Resources and Associated Knowledge

6.1. Measures Initiated

Biological/Genetic resources and their Associated Knowledge constitute the basic components for bioprospecting, one of the fastest growing R&D sector 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. But creation of private property rights through the grant of patent can lead to obstacle for future research. Even though the holders of such exclusive rights have considerable benefits, the same will not be shared with the actual conservers and holders of biological resources and associated knowledge. 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 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 National Biodiversity Authority (NBA). Any person seeking such approval shall apply to NBA in Form III.

The Nagoya Protocol, adopted on 29th October 2010 aims at strengthening the third objective of the CBD - fair and equitable sharing of benefits upon 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 alleged violation of domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements.

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. For instance, Section 6 of The Biological Diversity (BD) Act, 2002 requires that any person applying for any Intellectual Property Right for an invention based on any research or information on a biological resource obtained from India, shall obtain prior approval of NBA whilst 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 has been 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 18th December 2012 issued by the Office of the Controller General of Patent, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). Both these Guidelines and the Circular No: 1 of 2012 issued by CGPDTM requires 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 also been incorporated as a declaration in the Form I which is to be submitted by the patent applicants. All of these measures ensure that patent for inventions based on biological resources obtained from India will not be granted without obtaining approval from NBA.

Chapter - 7

Approvals granted by the Authority for Access of Biological Resources for non-commercial research

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.

Table 4: 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 inception, NBA has received **313** applications of Form IV (97) and Form B (216) from different stakeholders. The stages of processing of applications are shown in Table-5.

Table-5: Stages of processing of ABS applications of Form IV and Form B in 2021-22

Details	Form IV	Form B	Total
Received	1	29	30
Cleared	-	21	21
Under process	-	-	-
Violation	-	-	-
Closure/ Withdrawn	1	8	9
Agreement signed/ approved	-	21	21
Progress made on the applications received in the previous years during the reporting period			
Cleared (applications received in previous years)	43	133	176
Agreement signed (applications received in the previous years)	34	133	167
Closure/ Withdrawn (applications received in previous years)	47	54	101
Rejected	-	-	-

Chapter - 8

Awareness relating to Intellectual Property Rights and Biodiversity Act, 2002 and Public Participation

8.1 Interactions of the High officials with different Stakeholders

A meeting of the Hindi Official language committee was held under the chairmanship of Dr V.B.Mathur, Chairman, NBA on 29.10.2021 at NBA, Chennai.

Shri J. Justin Mohan, IFS, Secretary, NBA delivered a session "Biological Diversity Act, 2002" on 27.10.2021 through video conference for a group of State Forest Officers and Range Officers from Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra & Uttar Pradesh.

Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun is mandated to impart knowledge and skills to the professional foresters and help them to develop competence for managing the country forest and wildlife resources on a sustainable basis. NBA, under a capacity building programme, has joined hands with the IGNFA for conducting capacity building programme for IFS probationers and In-service IFS officers on Biodiversity Conservation and its governance. Accordingly, a four days' capacity building programme was held during 12th July to 15th July, 2021 through video conference.

NBA organized a brainstorming session on the integration of NBA's electronic dashboard on BMCs and PBRs with NIC Gram Manchitra Portal on 05.07.2021. A senior official from MoEF&CC, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, NIC officials from Delhi, Chennai & Kerala and the chairperson and Member Secretaries of State Biodiversity Boards participated.

Oral evidence before the Joint Committee on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021: The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was tabled before the Parliament by the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change on 16th December, 2021. The Bill further referred to the Joint Committee on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 [JC on BDA] which is chaired by Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Hon'ble Member of the Parliament. NBA

and other Ministries have been called for the meeting on 28th January 2022 at New Delhi. The officials of the MoEF&CC, Chairman, NBA and Secretary, NBA had also participated in the third meeting of the JC on BDA held on 28/01/2022 at New Delhi and submitted their written response to the queries raised by the JC. Subsequently, the fourth meeting of the JC on BDA was held on 08/02/2022 at New Delhi wherein representatives of eight State Biodiversity Boards viz., Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttarakhand attended. Their written comments were also compiled by NBA and forwarded to the MoEF&CC.

Study Visit of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, Rajya Sabha to Goa, Chennai, Bengaluru from 5th to 9th January, 2022 regarding laying of ARs/AAs : The Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, Rajya Sabha visited Goa, Chennai, Bengaluru from 5th to 9th January 2022 to review the laying of Annual Report/ Audited Accounts. The Chairman and Secretary, NBA attended the meeting of the committee held on 07.01.2022, in which the Chairman, NBA made a presentation about functions, mandates of NBA and also briefed on the achievements made so far.

8.2 Celebration of International Day for Biological diversity (IDB)-2021

The celebration of the IDB provides opportunities to generate and increase the understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues while highlighting its contributions towards sustainable development. Every year, the day is celebrated on 22nd May across India at various levels by the governments, institutions, civil society organizations and communities. NBA, the State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils celebrated the IDB on the theme, "*We're part of the solution*" by organising various events and programmes at the National and State level.

The national level celebration was organized by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in virtual mode in coordination with NBA. The national event of IDB 2021 was inaugurated by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, MoEFCC. Shri Babul Supriyo, the Minister of State for EFCC and Ms. Shoko Noda, Resident Representative, UNDP-India delivered a special address.

During the event, NBA and GIZ jointly launched animated films titled "*Simply explained series on Biological Diversity Act, 2002*" in 17 Indian languages. A set of knowledge products was also launched by NBA-MoEFCC-GIZ for the training

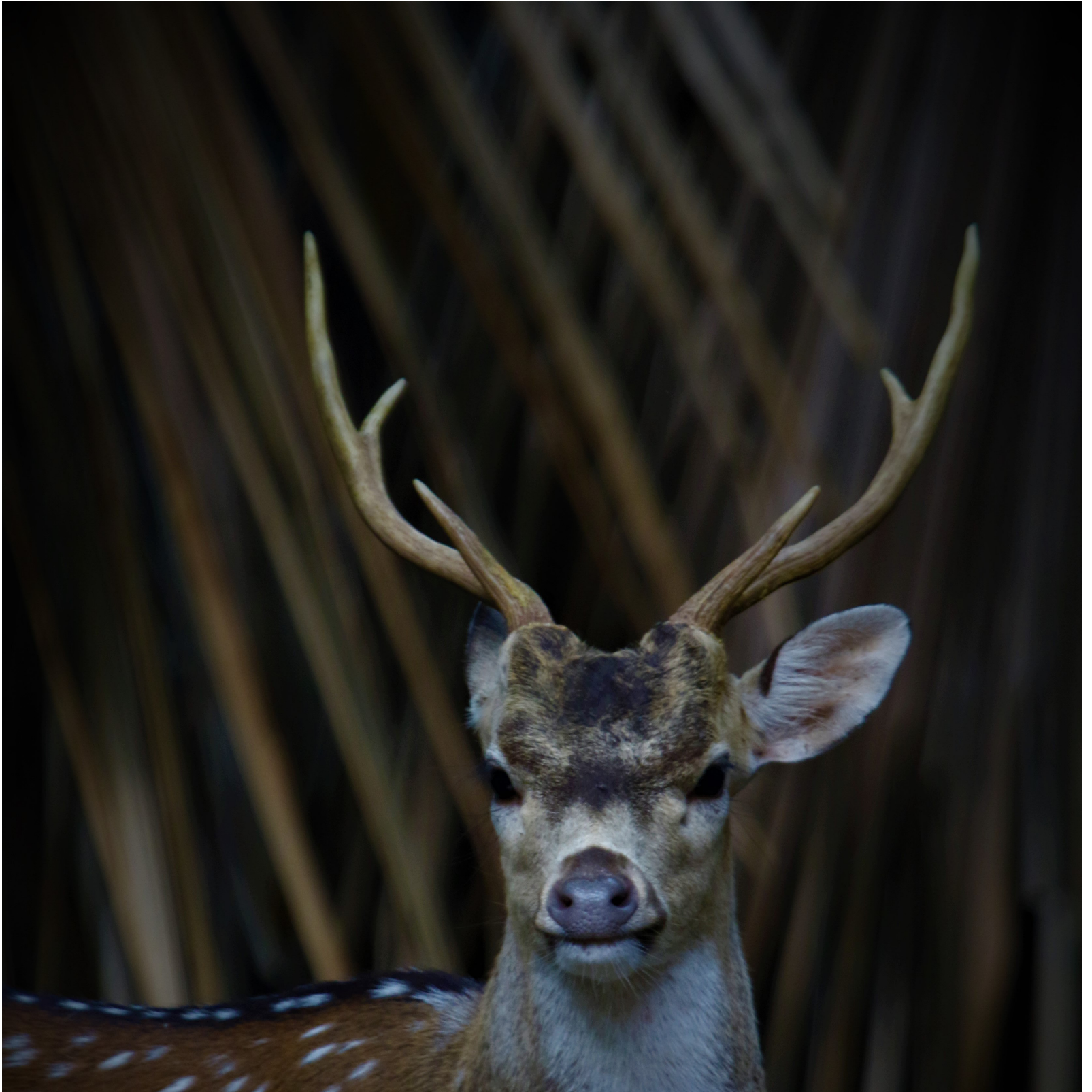
of BMCs in the country. This event also marked the launching of NBA-MoEFCC-UNDP knowledge products on ethical code of conduct on ABS for researchers, a handbook on ABS in India and monitoring guidelines for research institutions to promote compliance with ABS under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The call for 3rd cycle of Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme and the 6th cycle of India Biodiversity Awards were also announced by NBA on this occasion by release of the poster and guidelines on NBA's portal. A reporting portal for the new initiative on the Other Effective area based Conservation Measures (OECM) was officially opened by UNDP and MoEFCC to update related information from India. The winners for the 5th cycle of India Biodiversity Awards were announced in all the categories which is given in Table 6.

Table 6: List of Indian Biodiversity Award 2021 winners

Winners of India Biodiversity Awards 2021			
Sl. no	Category	Sub-Category	Name of the Winners
1	Conservation of Wild Species		Chongnga Foundation, Wangoo, Manipur
			Mr. Shiv Kumar, LahaulSpiti, Himachal Pradesh
2	Conservation of Domesticated Species	Individual	Mr. N. M. Shaji, Wayanad, Kerala
		Institution	Amrabad Poda Laxmi Govu Sangam, Telangana
3	Sustainable Use of Biological Resources	Individual	S. Sathish, Forest Range Officer, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu
		Institution	Khonoma Nature Conservation & Tragopan Sanctuary Trust, Nagaland
			Krishi Avum Paristhitiki Vikas Sansthan (KRAPAVIS), Rajasthan
4	Replicable Mechanisms of ABS		Valagro Biosciences Ltd, Hyderabad, Telangana
			Twinchin Gram Bari BMC, Khowai, Tripura
5	Best BMC		Shergaon BMC, Arunachal Pradesh

The NBA has also conducted a short paper writing competition for the law students of North-east India. The winners for this year's competition were Tejaswini Misra (1st) and Ananya Gogoi (2nd) from National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam along with Titikhya Barkataki (3rd) from the P.G. Department of Law, Guwahati University, Assam.



Chapter - 9

Regulations issued under Sections 37, 38, 40 and 64 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

9.1. Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

During the period under report, one Biodiversity Heritage site (BHS) has been notified in West Bengal which is given in Table 7. The State of West Bengal declared its fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site, through an official notification in 2020, made available during the period of 2021-22.

Table 7: List of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) notified during this reporting period

Sl. No.	State	Name of BHS	Geo Location	Notification No.
1	West Bengal	Baneswar Shiba Dighi	26.3985°N & 89.497699°E	No. 880-EN/T-II-7/2003-ii dtd.14.08.2020

9.2 Notifications under Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 empowers the Central Government in consultation with the concerned State Governments to notify the species of plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in the near future as threatened species with a view to prohibit or regulate collection thereof for any purpose and take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve those species. So far 18 States and 2 Union Territories namely, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Diu and Dam islands have notified threatened species u/s 38 of the BD Act, enlisting a total of 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 which are on the verge of extinction in the state of:].

9.3 Notifications under Section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002




Section 40 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 National Biodiversity Authority. The MoEFCC so far has issued two gazette notifications u/s 40 vide S.O.1352 (E) dated 7th April, 2016 (385 species) and S.O.3533 (E) dated 7th November, 2017 (36 species), thus listing a total of 421 plant species/biological resources as NTACs, thus exempting them from the ABS provisions of 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

37

Receipts	Current Year: 2021-22	Previous Year: 2020-21	Payments	Current Year: 2021-22	Previous Year: 2020-21
D) Fixed deposit during the year- GEF (NIC payable)	69,38,957		d)Unclassified now classified	2,07,14,322	47,196
E) Fixed deposit Interest during the year- GEF(NIC payable)	2,36,700				
V. Income to NBF A/c			e) Bank Charges	1,732	3,655
a) Application fee	16,46,616	11,91,534			
b) ABS Upfront payment	30,70,40,955	7,51,35,044			
c) Benefit Sharing (Red Sanders)	10,18,42,642	89,63,433			
d) unclassified receipts	4,34,767	2,10,56,946			
e) Refund from IT Dept (Received from NBA authority A/c)	15,21,492	2			
VI. Other Income					
A) Refund of Expenditure					
B) Sale of Assets	14,001				
C) RTI filing fee	20	200			
VII. Income NBF Admin A/c			VI. Expenditure NBF Admin A/c		1,69,16,151
NBA Fund Admin		1,70,00,000			
Interest on NBA Fund Admin A/c	4,186	12,433			
VIII. Other Receipts:					
Earnest Money / Security Deposit / Ret.Money recd from Contractors	38,000	40,000			
Application fee for Interns recruitment	1,30,661	2,05,287			
Income Tax refund		5,29,890			
GEF_A/c Interest Rs.		1,85,714			
Unspent amount from SC SP A/c	3,37,500				
Unencashed Receipts 2021-22	2,07,305				
Unencashed cheque Capital A/c	1,00,00,000				
IX _ Project Account					
GEF.Project A/c-Interest	2,46,071	2,49,322			
NBA Asean Project A/c-Interest	1,227	2,41,258			
Performance Guarantee					
			VII. Closing - Balances		
			a) Cash in hand	40,000	40,000
			b) Stamps in Hand	1,868	707
			c) Bank Balances (FUND)		
			1) NBA Fund A/c (Savings)	1,18,53,61,540	75,41,72,943
			2) In Fixed Deposit (Fund) A/c	20,85,000	3,34,79,408
			d) NBA A/c		
			1) NBA General A/c	1,19,74,634	1,75,14,783
			2) NBA Salary A/c	48,43,917	48,57,891
			3) NBA SC SP A/c	57,280	29,323
			4) NBA SC ST A/c	6,160	17,426
			5) NBA Capital A/c	1,22,74,528	-
			6) Admin Fund A/c	1,00,468	96,282
			7) GEF Cash & Bank A/c	92,68,044	90,21,973
			8) Asean Project A/c	41,793	40,566
			9) Fixed Deposit (GEF)	71,75,657	-
Total	1,43,58,15,764	1,49,03,92,818	Total	1,43,58,15,764	1,49,03,92,818
<div>    </div> <div> <div>ACCOUNTS OFFICER</div> <div>SECRETARY</div> <div>CHAIRMAN</div> </div>					

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

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st.March,2022

<u>INCOME</u>	Sch. No.	Current Year: 2021-22	Previous Year: 2020-21
Income from Sales / Services	12		
Grants/ Subsidies:			
Grants received as per (Sch.No.13)	13	17,19,79,003	12,07,93,872
un utilized Grants for 2021-22(Sch.No.13)			
Total (Sch.No.13)			
Less: Capitalization of Fixed Assets-)			
during the year 2021-22 }			
add: Interest payable to govt.(Schedule 17)			
add: Reverted back to the extent it is not capitalized			
Net Income from Grants			
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		
Other Income	18	14,27,615	7,35,377
Increase / (decrease) in stock of Finished goods and works in-progress	19		-
Fund Admin A/c			1,70,12,433
Project Proposal created during 2019-20 written off to the extend			2,297
Accumulated provisions for project porposal written off			15,66,674
Income receivable from Govt.Gratutiy & leave salary		16,35,830	19,23,278
TOTAL (A)		17,50,42,448	14,20,33,931
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Establishment Expenses	20	2,49,03,432	3,47,38,229
Other Administrative Expenses etc.	21	6,29,00,831	3,65,63,187
Fund Admin Expenditure Part of Sch-21B	21B	-	1,68,90,948
Expenditure on Grants, Subsidies etc.	22	5,82,99,103	3,52,89,998
Interest	23	-	-
Depreciation as per Schedule 8		15,10,818	11,24,005
Earlier years depreciation now provided from 2017-18 to 2020-21 for the asset NIC ABS Phase I		15,21,275	-
Income Tax Refund		15,21,492	-
Payable to Government: Un-Utilized Grant		2,42,55,102	1,42,24,595
Interest payable to Govt. (3013181+753075+14845)		37,81,101	-
TOTAL (B)		17,86,93,154	13,88,30,962
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		-36,50,706	32,02,969
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		

ACCOUNTS OFFICER

SECRETARY

CHAIRMAN

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

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March, 2022

<u>CORPUS / CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES</u>	Sch. No.	Current Year: 2021-22	Previous Year: 2020-21
CAPITAL FUND	1	57,00,542	1,73,75,609
RESERVES AND SURPLUS	2	-	-
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FUND	3 A	114,83,41,789	76,16,67,397
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FUND ADMIN	3 B	5,49,74,052	-
SECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	4	-	-
UNSECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	5	-	-
DEFERRED CREDIT LIABILITIES	6	-	-
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	7	5,12,67,623	7,22,82,535
TOTAL		126,02,84,006	85,13,25,541
<u>ASSETS</u>			
FIXED ASSETS	8	51,55,113	43,02,342
Advance payment for Building		-	1,00,00,000
NICSI total value of work Rs.4028461		-	38,29,309
Less: Work-in-Progress Rs. 199152		-	
Finished Goods Rs. 3829309		-	
INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED/ ENDOW MENT FUNDS	9	-	-
INVESTMENTS - OTHERS	10	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS,LOANS,ADVANCES ETC.	11	125,51,28,893	83,31,93,891
TOTAL		126,02,84,006	85,13,25,541
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		


ACCOUNTS OFFICER


SECRETARY


CHAIRMAN

Chapter - 11

Annual Plan for the Year 2022-23

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 activities are planned for 2022-23 and they will be undertaken with the active involvement of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and subject to availability of funds from MoEF&CC:

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 adopted 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 bio resources, their conservation and sustainable management.

6) Conduct and organize awareness programs, symposia, and seminars on the Biological Diversity 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 bio resources that are classified as normally traded commodities (NTC) 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 Panchayat Raj, Hyderabad.

11) Holding appropriate and regular expert committee meetings to deliberate on subject matters 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, and including the benefits accrued on access to Bovine cattle embryos and Red Sanders.

Chapter - 12

Other Important Activities of National Biodiversity of Authority

12.1. Review of the Legal and Regulatory Framework

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

The National Biodiversity Authority has been taking earliest efforts to assist the Central Government counsels in defending cases before various Courts and Tribunals.

List of Pending cases before various courts/Tribunals are placed in Table 8.

Table 8: Pending cases before various Courts/ Tribunals

Sl. No	Court	Case Number	No
1	Principal Civil Judge J.M.F.C., Dharwad	C.C.579 of 2012	1
2	HC of Bombay	W.P. No. 3590 of 2018	1
3	HC of Bombay	W.P. No. 129 of 2020	1
4	HC of Andhra Pradesh (Telangana)	W.P. No. 23452 of 2018	1
5	HC of Bombay Bench, Nagpur	W.P. No.6360 of 2015	1
6	HC of Karnataka, Bangalore	W.P. No. 5546 of 2019	1
7	HC of Karnataka Bench, Dharwad	Crl. P.No.100616 of 2014	1
8	HC of Karnataka Bench, Dharwad	Crl. P.No.100618 of 2014	1
9	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 41622 of 2018	1
10	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 41903 of 2018	1
11	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 41976 of 2018	1
12	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P (Civil) No. 42017 of 2018	1
13	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	W.P. (Civil) No.33501 of 2019	1
14	HC of MP, Jabalpur Bench	W.P No. 8880 of 2019	1
15	HC of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur Bench	W.P No. 6968 of 2017; OA.No. 31/2017	1
16	HC of Madhya Pradesh, Indore Bench	W.P. No. 6466 of 2020	1

Sl. No	Court	Case Number	No
17	NGT, Chennai	Original Application No.10/2014	1
18	Supreme court of India	CIVIL APPEAL No 5826 of 2019	1
19	Supreme court of India	CIVIL APPEAL No 5827 of 2019	1
20	Supreme court of India	SLP 8137/ 2018	1
21	Supreme court of India	SLP No's 18122 of 2019 - 18127 of 2019	1
22	Supreme court of India	SLP No's. 17471 of 2019 -17476 of 2019	1
23	Supreme court of India	SLP No's18141 of 2019 – 18146 of 2019	1
24	Supreme court of India	SLP.No.539/2014 (Crl)	1
25	Supreme court of India	SLP.No.629/2014 (Crl) Crl. App.1720 of 2015	1
26	Supreme court of India	SLP.No.7951/2014 (Civil)	1
27	Supreme court of India	Civil Appeal No. 9077 of 2019	1
28	Telangana HC	WP(PIL) 181 of 2020	1
29	Supreme court of India	W.P. No. 852 of 2020	1
30	Supreme court of India	CA No. 3568 3569 of 2020	1
31	Supreme court of India	SLP C No. 000544-/2021; Diary No. 334/2021	1
32	HC of AP (Telangan site)	C.C. NO 3306 OF 2018	1
33	NGT, Kolkata	O.A. No. 64/2020	1
34	HC of Kerala, Ernakulam	WP c 21048 of 2020	1
35	HC of Karnataka	WP 14733 of 2020	1
36	HC of Guwahati HC	PIL 30 of 2020	1
37	HC of Madras (MD)	WP(MD)6608/2021	1
38	Supreme court of India	CA. No.933 of 2020	1
39	HC of Gujarat	SCA 6176 of 2021	1
40	HC of Bombay, Auranbd	PIL No. 63 of 2021	1
41	HC of Karnataka	WP. No.8579 of 2021	1
42	NGT, Chennai	Appeal 61 of 2021	1
43	NGT, Chennai	Appeal 62 of 2021	1
44	NGT, Chennai	Appeal 63 of 2021	1
45	HC of Bombay, Nagpur B	Suo Motu PIL 2/2021	1
46	HC of Telangana	WP No. 28517 of 2021	1
47	HC of Madras	WP. No. 24688 of 2021	1
48	HC of Madras	WP/24698/2021	1
49	HC of Madras	WP/24696/2021	1
50	HC of Madras	WP/24694/2021	1
51	HC of Madras	WP/24693/2021	1
52	HC of Madras	WP/24691/2021	1

Sl. No	Court	Case Number	No
53	HC of Madras	WMP/25992/2021	1
54	HC of Madras	WP/26977/2021	1
55	HC of Madras	WP/26969/2021	1
56	HC of Madras	WP/26965/2021	1
57	HC of Madras	WP/26962/2021	1
58	HC of Madras	WP/26957/2021	1
59	HC of Madras	WP/26956/2021	1
60	HC of Madras	WP/26953/2021	1
61	HC of Madras	WP/26948/2021	1
62	HC of Madras	WP/26944/2021	1
63	HC of Madras	WMP/28408/2021	1
64	HC of Madras	WMP/28405/2021	1
65	HC of Madras	WMP/28395/2021	1
66	HC of Madras	WMP/28394/2021	1
67	HC of Madras	WMP/28391/2021	1
68	HC of Madras	WMP/28389/2021	1
69	HC of Uttarakhand	W.P. (MS) No. 41/2022	1

12.1.2 Right to Information Act, 2005

The RTI applications and RTI appeals received by the National Biodiversity Authority were processed in consonance with the Right to Information Act, 2005 in letter and spirit and disposed of by the Central Public Information Officer or the First Appellate Authority as the case may be with the assistance of Legal Cell (Table 9).

Table 9: List of RTIs received and disposed during the reporting period

S. No.	Quarter	No. of RTI applications Received	No. of RTI Appeals received	No. of RTI applications disposed	No. of RTI appeals disposed
1.	1 st Quarter 01.04.2021 to 30.06.2021	07	05	02	00
2.	2 nd Quarter 01.07.2021 to 30.09.2021	05	05	01	03
3.	3 rd Quarter 01.10.2021 to 31.12.2021	11	10	01	01
4.	4 th Quarter 01.01.2022 to 31.03.2022	04	07	02	02
	Total	27	27	06	06

12.1.3 Meeting of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) and Union Territories Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs)

In the reporting period, NBA conducted regular consultations and meetings with the 28 State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and 8 Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs). Since 2019, in pursuance of the directives of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), the NBA has been vigorously pursuing the progress of constitution of BMCs and preparation of PBRs in the States and Union Territories. A total of 12 monthly review meeting were conducted in virtual mode during this period to discuss the functions and progress made by the SBBs and UTBCs.

In this regard, NBA had convened a series of 15 meetings during this period with the concerned stakeholders as given in Table 10.

Table 10: List of meetings held with SBBs/UTBCs to review and monitor the status and progress of establishment of BMCs and preparation of PBRs

Meeting	Date	Mode	Participants
Review	28.04.2021	Virtual	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	27.05.2021	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	25.06.2021	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	28.07.2021	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	27.08.2021	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	28.09.2021	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	28.10.2021	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	30.11.2021	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	29.12.2021	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	27.01.2022	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	28.02.2022	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	31.03.2022	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA
„	25.01.2022	„	SBBs, UTBC, NBA

12.1.4 Meeting of SBBs and UTBCs on Asian Water Bird Census (AWC)

In order to institutionalize water bird monitoring in wetlands across the country and beyond the sites designated as protected areas, the Asian Water Bird Census (AWC) network partnered with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in 2022. The AWC network at the national and state-level collaborated

with the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB), Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBC) and Panchayat level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) to promote participation of their members in wetland conservation and waterbird monitoring, and use the census to strengthen People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) as mandated under section 41(1) of Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA in collaboration with the Wetlands International South Asia and Bombay Natural History Society organized a training programme for the SBBs and UTBCs on 21st and 25th January 2022.

12.1.5 Meetings of Central PBR Quality Monitoring Committee

In view of the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 09.08.2019 in the matter of O. A. 347 of 2016 and consequent formation of two PBR Quality Monitoring Committees by MoEFCC, NBA has been assisting the functions of the Committees to oversee the quality of PBRs prepared across the country

- ✱ A virtual consultation was organized by NBA on 31st May, 2021 between the members of Central PBR Monitoring Committee and Assam State PBR Quality Evaluation Committee with assistance from the Assam State Biodiversity Board to discuss about the methods and modalities of evaluating People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) prepared in the State.
- ✱ The 5th meeting of the People's Biodiversity Register(PBRs) Monitoring Committees was held on 15th September 2021 in virtual mode to discuss the possibility of site visits by the Members of the two Committees to evaluate the quality of PBRs prepared in the respective States/UTs.
- ✱ During the period of Oct-Dec, 2021, the Committee Members visited the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Uttarakhand. They Committee members have submitted the field and evaluation reports of the PBRs to NBA.
- ✱ The final report of the PBR Quality Monitoring Evaluation Committee was submitted to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in January 2022.

12.1.6 Financial Support extended by NBA to SBBs & UTBCs

The NBA extends financial support to the State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils for strengthening their operations and BMCs as well, engaging contractual staff, conducting the training and capacity building programmes for the stakeholders, and developing /revamping their websites

and specially to document the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). During the period of 2021-22, NBA released a grant of Rs. 2,01,00,000/- for strengthening of BMCs and preparation /upgradation of PBRs to 10 SBBs and 2 Union Territories. A total Grant-in-aid of Rs. 3,52,11,714/- was released towards strengthening the offices of 24 SBBs and 4 UTBCs in this period. At the end of March 2022, a total of 2,76,836 BMCs were established and 2,66,102 PBRs documented across the country in 28 States and 8 Union Territories (Table 11).

Table 11- State-wise BMCs constituted and PBRs prepared

SI No.	State/UT	BMCs Established		PBRs Prepared	
		2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andhra Pradesh	14212	14157	12711	14157
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1806	1806	1806	1806
3	Assam	2549	2549	2549	2549
4	Bihar	9099	9101	8464	9101
5	Chhattisgarh	12004	12004	2605	3272
6	Delhi	0	0	0	0
7	Goa	205	205	205	205
8	Gujarat	13578	14356	12774	14716
9	Haryana	6435	6435	6437	6437
10	Himachal Pradesh	3371	3371	3371	3371
11	Jammu & Kashmir	4666	4666	4666	4666
12	Jharkhand	4684	4684	4684	4684
13	Karnataka	6554	6554	6554	6554
14	Kerala	1200	1200	1034	1034
15	Madhya Pradesh	23557	23557	23557	23557
16	Maharashtra	28649	28649	28649	28649
17	Manipur	2260	2260	71	199
18	Meghalaya	5451	6473	5451	6473
19	Mizoram	894	894	894	894
20	Nagaland	1119	1238	1119	1238
21	Odisha	7256	7256	7256	7256
22	Punjab	13599	13599	13599	13599
23	Rajasthan	10406	11839	40	11716
24	Sikkim	196	196	196	196
25	Tamil Nadu	13604	13604	13604	13604
26	Telangana	13461	13461	13461	13461
27	Tripura	1264	1264	1264	1264
28	Uttar Pradesh	59407	59407	59407	59407
29	Uttarakhand	7991	7991	7991	7991
30	West Bengal	3828	3830	3702	3830

SI No.	State/UT	BMCs Established		PBRs Prepared	
		2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22
31	Andaman and Nicobar Island	71	71	25	71
32	Chandigarh	0	1	0	1
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	44	0	44
	Daman & Diu				
34	Ladakh	65	100	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	10	10	10	10
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0
	Total	273451	276836	248156	2,66,012



12.2. Important events celebrated/observed by NBA

12.2.1. Celebration of the 18th Foundation Day of NBA

The 18th Foundation Day celebrations of the National Biodiversity Authority was celebrated in a hybrid mode on 1st October 2021 at NBA, Chennai. Smt. Supriya Sahu, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu was the Chief Guest, Dr V. B. Mathur, Chairperson, NBA presided over the event. Smt. B.V.Umadevi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India was the Guest of Honour



12.2.2 Celebration of Hindi week

The employees of NBA celebrated Hindi week from 13th – 17th September, 2021 and Hindi Diwas on 14th September, 2021. Competitions such as Quiz, singing, hand writing and essay writing and translation from Hindi-English and vice versa were conducted in connection with celebration of Hindi Week for the staff of NBA and the prizes were given to the winners on 17th September 2021.



12.2.3 Celebration of National Lawyers Day

The employees of NBA celebrated the National Lawyer's Day on 26th November, 2021. Secretary, NBA addressed the gathering and illuminated the significance of this Day.

12.2.4. Vigilance Awareness Week (28 October-2 November 2021)

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 on 26th October, 2021.

12.2.5. Celebration of 75th Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

The employees of NBA celebrated the 75th Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 21st December, 2021. Chairperson and Secretary, NBA addressed the gathering. The NBA staff were administered the Conservation pledge.



12.3. Projects/ Programs

Apart from the functions mandated through the BD Act and Rules, NBA has been assigned with the tasks of implementing various bilateral and multilateral projects/programs by the MoEF&CC. These are intended to further and supplement the goals of the CBD and BD Act.

12.3.1 MoEFCC-NBA-UNDP: BIODIVERSITY FINANCE INITIATIVE (BIOFIN) PROJECT (EXTENDED PHASE-II 2021-25)

Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) was launched in India in the year 2015 to enhance resource mobilization for biodiversity conservation and ensure alignment of public and private, domestic and international finance to implement India's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP), and to achieve National Biodiversity Targets (NBT), and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through development of a framework that provides innovative blended financing methods.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India vide its letters dated D.O.No.C-12027/1/14/CS-III dated 2nd January, 2015 and D.O.No. C-12027/1/14/CS-III(Pt.) dated 19th May, 2021 communicated to UNDP, the willingness of Government of India to participate in the BIOFIN. Under the extended phase 2 BIOFIN project in India (2021-25), the MoEFCC is designated as the host agency and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is the designated technical agency to support in the implementation of extended phase of BIOFIN project in India (2021-25).

As per the biodiversity expenditure review and assessments done under BIOFIN, the estimated annual average financial needs for implementing the NBAP is nearly USD 16.5 billion (2017-18 to 2021-22). Projected total public finance attributable to biodiversity conservation (from Central and State Governments) during the period (2017-18 to 2021-22) is estimated to be nearly USD 10 billion (@exchange rate of 1 USD=INR 70). While public funding is the mainstay for biodiversity financing in the country, private sector holds great potential for mobilizing resources for biodiversity conservation as well, but lack of commercially viable projects, limited technical capacities in terms of understanding the co-benefits of investing in biodiversity for sustainable businesses, is a limitation.

Based on the assessment of funding gap, as well as technical and institutional capacities for biodiversity governance and financing, a mix of financial solutions have been proposed in the Biodiversity Finance Plan in order to enhance allocations towards biodiversity conservation and for implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

Accordingly, on the basis of India's Biodiversity Finance Plan (Working Document), 2019; four biodiversity finance Solutions were prioritized for implementation in the Phase II Extended of BIOFIN in India (2021-25). These are (i) Mainstreaming biodiversity in public finance (Agriculture sector); (ii) Corporate Social Responsibility towards biodiversity; (iii) Enhancing resources from Access and Benefit Sharing; and (iv) Financial Technologies (FinTech) for biodiversity conservation.

Post a detailed Policy and Institutional Review to gauge the readiness among stakeholders for a nature-related financial disclosure framework, BIOFIN India, through funding from the Government of UK, added a fifth finance solution in June 2022 to its Extended Phase- Nature-related Risk Assessments and Reporting in India.

During the Resumed Meetings of the Geneva Biodiversity Conference, held 14-29 Mar, 2022, the NBA and UNDP organized a SBI-3, Side Event entitled "Closing the Finance Gap: BIOFIN's approach to mobilising finance for biodiversity" on 15th March, 2022, wherein the NBA, MoEFCC and UNDP officials participated.

During the Resumed Meetings of the Geneva Biodiversity Conference, a side event on 26th March 2022 was organized on; Innovative Inclusive Processes to Harmonize National and Sub-National Actions with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in India, wherein India showcased its process of consultations held since 2020 virtually with all Ministry and Departments, engaging South Asian Countries and M-COP Organised for Youth/School Children in association WWF and UNDP with while firming up the negotiations on Post 2020 GBF, wherein the NBA, MoEFCC and UNDP officials participated.

During the Resumed Meetings of the Geneva Biodiversity Conference, a side event on 27th March 2022 was organized on; Participatory Biodiversity Resources Governance: Using ICT Community Tools for Empowerment, which has highlighted the awards given on Biodiversity Governance through India Biodiversity Awards, wherein the NBA, MoEFCC and UNDP officials participated.

Some key activities performed during the reporting period are as follows:

During the Resumed Meetings of the Geneva Biodiversity Conference, held from 14-29 March, 2022, the NBA and UNDP organized a SBI-3, Side Event entitled "Closing the Finance Gap: BIOFIN's approach to mobilising finance for biodiversity" on 15 March, 2022, wherein the NBA, MoEFCC and UNDP officials participated.

“Business for Nature-based Solutions”, 2022 High Level Dialogue on Business for Nature-Based Solutions was held on February 09, 2022

BIOFIN Webinar Biodiversity-Business-Framework/ Guidelines/Examples with BioFIN, Planet Tracker, Tata Steel, The Biodiversity Consultancy) was held on December, 7, 2021

Additional Secretary, MoEFCC vide Letter D.O.No. C-12027/1/14-CS-III (Pt.) dated 19th May, 2021 communicated the Expression of interest to Participate in the Global Biodiversity Finance Initiative to Mr. Onno Van Den Heuvel, Global Manager, the UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN).

MoEFCC (CS III-Biodiversity Division) vide F.No.C-12027/1/14-CS-III (Pt.) dated 15 April, 2021 constituted a Multisectoral /Interministerial Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by Additional Secretary and co-chaired by Joint Secretary/Adviser for guiding the implementation of extended phase II of BIOFIN project implemented in India from 2021-25. The BIOFIN Country Programme was able to generate complete scoping reports before moving forward on the implementation indicator through the ICAR-National Academy for Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) under this component for the sector viz.,

- ✱ A Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in the Development Schemes of the Agriculture Sector in India (please refer to Annexure 2)
- ✱ Policy Brief: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Public Finance: A Case for Agriculture Sector in India (please refer to Annexure 3)
- ✱ Trainers’ Guide on Capacity Building of Senior Officials from Central and State Governments on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agriculture Sector.
- ✱ Report on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agricultural Development Schemes Institutionalization of Capacity Building
- ✱ Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agricultural Development Schemes Interface with Development Department Officials

UNDP has partnered with CII-IBBI and the National Biodiversity Authority to conduct a Certificate Programme on ‘Building Resilience to Climate Change & Biodiversity Loss’ aimed at junior and mid-level managers in the private sector to help them understand the importance of biodiversity for their businesses and mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity

BIOFIN facilitated a series of meetings organized by the Quality Council of India towards Developing a Voluntary Certification Scheme to Incentivize Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in India. These meetings were participated by the members of the Steering Committee, Technical Committee and Certification Committee. More than 20 stakeholders participated in these deliberations.

VCS-I-ABS aims to recognize and reward the businesses that depend on biological resources and/or associated knowledge that have been authorized by the NBA and its constituent bodies to access the biological and genetic resources who have complied with the law. The scheme aims to be inclusive involving the four key pillars in the discourse namely, communities, bio-resource management institutions, businesses and consumers.

A scoping study was conducted in 2021 to assess the areas where FinTech can be leveraged for biodiversity conservation in India. Following this, one-to-one consultations were held with the following organizations in the FinTech space as well as organizations who are working on technologies that contribute towards developing FinTech solutions. BIOFIN had actively engaged a total of 5 stakeholders from the following organizations to explore possibilities of collaboration on various FinTech applications during the reporting period:

- ✱ PayTM
- ✱ Rain matter
- ✱ NAARM Agri-incubator
- ✱ International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- ✱ WHHRL- Loan against Warehouse Receipt on Blockchain

12.4. Activities of the State Biodiversity Boards

The year of 2021-22 witnessed a paradigm shift in the regular functioning of the institutional mechanism related to biodiversity governance. The outbreak of COVID -19 pandemic affected the operational procedure in NBA, SBBs/UTBCs and transformed the mechanism from physical to virtual one. Many of the national and regional meetings have been conducted in virtual mode. The pandemic had its impact on the process of establishing BMCs and documentation of PBRs due to restricted movement of ground level staff, non-accessibility to many areas and reduced level of progress. However, the situation improved in later stages and the activities resumed to a considerable extent. The States and UTs also adopted alternative approach to accomplish the official tasks and made sincere efforts in implementing the provisions of Biological Diversity Act.

12.4.1 Andhra Pradesh

One Board meeting was conducted by Andhra Pradesh SBB on 9th November 2021. The establishment of 14,157 BMCs at all the local bodies was accomplished prior to the period under report. However, 1363 PBRs were prepared during 2021-22 at the level of Village Panchayats and Nagar Palika. A total of 65 awareness and training programmes were organized in virtual and physical mode in 2021-22. The APSBB selected 29 individuals and organizations for their contribution to the biodiversity conservation and conferred the AP Biodiversity Conserver Awards in 2021. The Board had developed short films on developing home herbal garden, on the estuaries and biodiversity conservation in Andhra Pradesh. The Board has also developed two brochures on various activities related to biodiversity conservation for distribution among the BMCs.

12.4.2 Arunachal Pradesh

One board meeting was convened on 15th February 2022 and all the BMCs have been constituted before the period under report. Activities on the Board were affected due to Covid-19 protocols and related restrictions. The IDB 2021 was celebrated in virtual mode. Training and capacity building programme was organized for Papumpare Zilla Panchayat BMC and Biodiversity walk was conducted as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mohotsav involving students, BMCs and other stakeholders. The ASBB also participated in the Asian Water Bird Census 2022 from 11th to 15th February 2022.

12.4.3 Assam

In this period, Assam Biodiversity Board conducted its only meeting on 23rd September, 2021. The Board had constituted all the 2549 BMCs and prepared PBRs for those local bodies prior to the reporting period. Two booklets on "Threatened



species of Assam" and "Majuli Biodiversity Heritage Site" have been published in this period. As an orientation programme on ABS mechanism, Chandrapur Anchalik Panchayat BMC organised a programme on conservation and promotion of local plant diversity/biological resources on 12th September, 2021. Capacity Building Workshops of Borjuli Gram panchayat BMC and Consultation on declaring Borjuli as Biodiversity Heritage Site for Wild Rice were held during this year. Awareness & Capacity Building Workshops of Dalamara Biodiversity Management Committee, Karbi Anglong East Division and Guijan Anchalik BMC, Tinsukia were organised in Nov-Dec, 2021

12.4.4 Bihar

The Bihar Biodiversity Board conducted one meeting during the year under consideration. At the end of this year, all 9101 BMCs have been constituted, of which 8567 BMCs prepared their PBRs during this period under report. Training Programmes were organized at the block level in April-May for the "Ganga praharis" to build their capacity towards preparation of PBRs. Quiz programmes were conducted on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2021. The Board has taken up a plan to protect the "Heritage Trees" and developed an app to collect requisite information related to such trees.

12.4.5 Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh SBB conducted one meeting during this period. All of the 12004 BMCs in the State were established prior to the period under report. Of the 4205 PBRs prepared so far, 1600 PBRs have been documented during 2021-22. The CSBB organized training programmes for establishment of BMCs and preparation of PBRs. A State Level Bird festival was organized with an objective of biodiversity conservation, wetland management and protection of migratory birds. A short film titled "*Mehman Parinde*" was developed on the migratory birds of Belaudi wetland complex. A workshop was conducted on the assessment of threatened medicinal plants in the State.

12.4.6 Goa

One meeting has been conducted on 6th July 2021 by the Goa State Biodiversity Board. The Board has been reconstituted by an official notification (*vide no. 7/17/92/STE/part/975 dated 23.12.2021*). All the BMCs in Goa have already been constituted prior to the reporting period and the validation process of the PBRs is under way. GSBB had virtually celebrated the IDB 2021 by involving students and youth groups. The World Environment Day was celebrated in a befitting manner. This was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Environment Minister, Shri Nilesh Cabral and other dignitaries, who visited the sand dune restoration sites at Cavellosim, Salcete, Goa. The Board had carried out several awareness





and training programmes during the period under report. Presently, Goa SBB is the nodal agency for State Wetland Authority, National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC), "Atmanirbhjar Swayam purna" Goa and Member of the Research Advisory Committee of the Goa Forest Department. The Goa SBB has also institutionalized conservation awards to recognize the efforts of BMCs and individuals for protecting biodiversity. In order to prevent the single use plastics, cotton bags were distributed to street vendors all across Goa.

12.4.7 Gujarat

The Gujarat Biodiversity Board convened four meetings during this reporting period. During this period, the Board has constituted 14265 BMC at the Village Panchayat level, 102 BMCs at the Block level, 73 at the Municipality level and 10 at the District level. At the end of March 2022, a total of 1834 PBRs have been prepared. The Board celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 202.

12.4.8 Haryana

The Haryana State Biodiversity Board conducted its 8th meeting on 29th November 2021. The SBB has constituted all the 6435 BMCs and documented the PBRs at all the BMCs out of which 4205 PBRs have been upgraded during the year under consideration. The HSBB had published booklets titled "Challenges



in Biodiversity Conservation - State's Perspective" for distribution among the District Coordinators, members of technical support groups, HSBB and officers of Forest and Wildlife Department. A Booklet titled "Guidelines for constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees" was also developed for wider use and circulation among the stakeholders. An Inception Workshop was held by HSBB in coordination with Wildlife Institute of India for preparation of Haryana State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Bilingual Pamphlets namely, 'Biodiversity

Conservation and functions of HSBB', 'Biodiversity Heritage Sites' and 'Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge & Benefit Sharing' were developed for raising awareness. The Board has also undertaken field visits, workshops, training and awareness, skill development and plantation programmes during this period. The board has also celebrated the I International Day for Biological Diversity 2021 in a befitting manner.

12.4.9 Himachal Pradesh

The Himachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board has been reconstituted during the reporting period. Of the total 3371 BMCs in the State, 854 have been



reconstituted during this period. So far 3371 PBRs have been documented at different levels. As a part of awareness generation, the HPSBB has observed IDB 2021, conducted several training and capacity building programmes in Chamba, Lahaul and Spiti districts involving the BMCs, functionaries of panchayats and officials of line departments. Online training programmes were also conducted for the similar target groups in Una and Hamirpur districts. Besides, HPSBB also organized webinar on the occasion of “Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav” and online lecture on “Wetland and Vulture conservation” during the period under report.

12.4.10 Jharkhand

The Jharkhand Biodiversity Board celebrated the IDB 2021 by involving the student groups and conduct of essay writing and poster making competitions. The Board also conducted Asian Water Bird Census at four different forest divisions during this period.

12.4.11 Karnataka

Three meetings were convened by the Karnataka Biodiversity Board (KBB) during 2021-22. The Board had approved 5 applications under section 23(B) and 70 applications under section 24(1) of the BD Act, 2002. International Day for Biological Diversity 2021 was celebrated with the active participation of Dept of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development and Dept of Municipal administration. The “Biodiversity Abhiyaan” was organized at panchayats and Urban Local bodies. A festival (Moolika Utsav) involving the herbal practitioners were organized in assistance with KAMPA and other private/ Government organizations. Training programmes were organized for the frontline staff of Forest Department to impart knowledge on medicinal plants and associated traditional practices. The Board had published “Experiences of Decentralized Biodiversity Management-Karnataka” on the occasion of 17 years of achievement in implementation of the Act.

12.4.12 Kerala

Two Board meetings were held during 2021-22. In this period, prior intimation has been given by 54 Indian companies under section 24(1). Of the 14 districts, interactive training programmes for 3 districts of Trivandrum, Pathanamthitta and Kollam have been completed in this period. Three regional workshops were conducted in association with the Ayurveda drug manufacturing association. The board observed commemorative days like world environment day, world ocean day, IDB and national bird watching day etc. Biodiversity Awards have been distributed under different categories by the Hon’ble Chief Minister on 25th

Nov, 2021. The KSBB organized a conference titled, "Bioresources, commercial utilization- trends, market, supply chain, prospects and sustainability" between 27th and 30th September 2021.

12.4.13 Madhya Pradesh

The Madhya Pradesh SBB convened two meetings during 2021-22. All of the 23,557 BMCs in the state were set up and the PBRs were documented prior to the reporting period. The MPSBB initiated the notification process of Amarkantak Biodiversity Heritage Site in Anuppur district. The Board has approved 327 applications under section 23 (B) and 432 applications under section 24(1) during the period under report. The Board has conducted National and State Level Biodiversity quiz on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity and celebrated wildlife week besides organizing International Herbal Fair 2021, radio programme, "Chalti Rahe Zindagi" and online photograph and quiz competitions. State biodiversity awards were conferred under different categories to recognize and felicitate the biodiversity conservers. The funds sanctioned for MPSBB under the Green India Mission has been utilized for biodiversity assessment, training, capacity building of BMCs and preparation of PBRs. The Board has published new books on threatened birds of Madhya Pradesh and trees of Bhopal. Assessment of city biodiversity index of Bhopal and Indore, school level programme of "Biodiversity Vatika Yojna" and managing the portals of Dynamic PBRs and Bio-resource Trade Management Information system are certain new initiatives of the Board.

12.4.14 Maharashtra

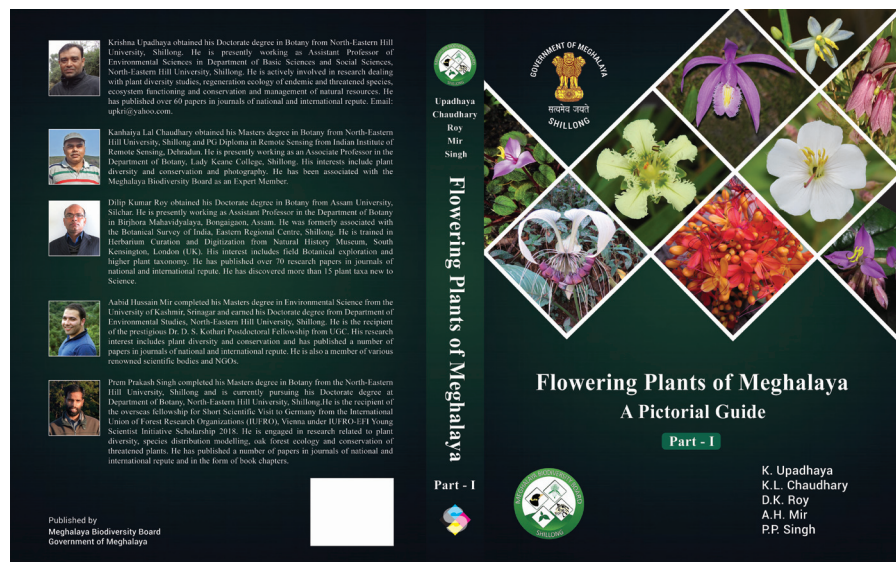
Three Board meetings have been conducted by the Maharashtra SBB during this period. During 2021-22, MSBB released a video, a jingle bell and brochures on the BHS in the state. International Biodiversity Day 2021 was celebrated on 22 May 2021 in presence of Shri Uddhav Thackeray, Chief Minister of Maharashtra and as a part of the IDB celebration; workshops and training programs were conducted online in different revenue divisions of the state. Besides, the State Board observed world environment day, nature conservation day and foundation day of the Board in this reporting period. The Maharashtra SBB filed complaints against various entities in 21 cases against the violation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

12.4.15 Manipur

One Board meeting was conducted by Manipur SBB on 24th December 2021. During the period under report MSBB organized capacity building programme on biodiversity management in two territorial forest divisions of the valley and 10 divisions in the hills. A booklet titled "Fishes of Manipur" was published in 2021-22

12.4.16 Meghalaya

The Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) conducted two meetings in this period and reconstituted the Board. The Meghalaya Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2030 and a book titled "Flowering plant of Meghalaya" were released by the MBB during this period. IDB 2021 was celebrated in virtual mode in collaboration with different schools and colleges. Online photography competition was also organized. The MBB conducted awareness programmes for the BMC members in different districts and blocks of the state towards constitution of BMCs, preparation of PBRs and implementation of ABS mechanism. Capacity Building workshops were held for all the forest officials to



generate awareness about the provisions of the BD Act. In this occasion The Forest and Environment Minister Shri James PK Sangma distributed the ABS fund to a beneficiary BMC in Selsella Block of West Garo Hills. The Board also observed "Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav" by celebrating the Rivers of India in collaboration with the DFO office, Jaintia hills and Shangphung Pohshnong BMC, West Jaintia Hills.

12.4.17 Mizoram

Mizoram Biodiversity Board released -5 set of posters on various rare and endemic species of Reptiles, Amphibians, fishes, butterflies and orchids on the occasion of IDB 2021. Online photography competition was also conducted on indigenous orchids and fishes in their natural habitat to generate awareness



among the common people cash prize and citations were distributed among the winners. Training and capacity building programme for 10 BMCs in different rural development blocks have been organized during this period. Financial assistance from CAMPA was utilized for field validation and improvement of PBRs in 10 BMCs of 7 rural development blocks in this period.

12.4.18 Nagaland

The Board had conducted virtual training on “Operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)” for the BMCs of Dimapur, Mon, Kiphire, Tuensang and Longleng districts in this period. BMC Training Programmes were held in Kashanyu, Seiyhema, Chiechama, Phenshonyu and Teichuma of



Kohima district; in Pangti, Lakhuti, Elunyu and Englan of Wokha district and in Leshemi in Phek district during Oct-Nov, 2021. Nagaland SBB participated in the District Planning & Development Board meetings held at Peren, Wokha, Phek and Kohima Districts to highlight the implementation of the BD Act and Rules in the State. During the reporting period, NSBB has organized village level meeting at Zunheboto district to address various issues regarding the constitution of BMC. The board had participated in 2nd Nagaland Regional Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum held at Sukhai village, Zunheboto district on 01.08.2021

12.4.19 Odisha

In the reporting period, Odisha conducted one meeting of the Biodiversity Board and approved 3 applications under section 23(B) for commercial utilization of the bio resources by the local users. At the end of March 2022, BMCs have



been constituted at all the 7256 local bodies. A total of 7083 PBRs have been prepared during 2021-22. A video documentary on biodiversity of Odisha has been prepared and 5 communication materials on handling, rescue and release of wild animals in Odisha have been published during this period. Eight capacity building and training programmes were conducted for the BMCs in the State and 9 training programmes have been organized for eco-guides for 25 ecotourism sites of Odisha.

12.4.20 Punjab

The eighth meeting of Punjab Biodiversity Board (PBB) was held under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Department of Science Technology & Environment, Government of Punjab on 13.10.2021. The Board in collaboration with different stakeholders conducted 9 programmes consisting of 30 individual events/sessions through various online platforms to commemorate the International Day for Biodiversity from 20th to 26th May, 2021. PBB organized virtual awareness cum capacity building programs related to quality improvement of PBRs for the officers of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats (DRDP) and Department of Local Government (DLG), Govt. of Punjab. PBB in collaboration





with PSCST organized Expert Lectures series on “Conserving threatened Fauna of the State in Climate Scenario” on 25th-26th May 2021. Fifty-three awareness and capacity building programmes were organized with financial support of NBA for strengthening the BMCs including 6 programmes for Block Level BMCs and 47 programmes for Village Level BMCs. The State Level function for newly constituted BMCs was organized on 22nd May in virtual mode and attended by more than 1000 BMC/Panchayat Members. The *Punjabi* version of 3 NBA documentaries on BMC & PBR, BD Act, 2002 and ABS were also released on the occasion.

PBB conducted Water Bird Census in collaboration with WWF India at Ramsar Wetland “*Keshopur Miani*”, Gurdaspur on 12.02.2022 under the initiative of Asian Water Bird Census- 2022 with the involvement of BMC Members of 5 Villages located around the Wetland.

12.4.21 Rajasthan

One Board meeting had been convened during 2021-22. Out of a total 11,716 BMCs in the state, 1310 BMCs were established and 6719 PBRs have been documented in the reporting period. The Rajasthan SBB celebrated IDB 2021 by conducting a webinar and also observed the World Wetland Day in different districts.

12.4.22 Sikkim

Sikkim Biodiversity Board had regular, online meetings with the BMCs and PBR coordinators for documentation of the PBRs. Several interaction and awareness programmes were organized for the BMCs. Online webinar was organized for celebration of IDB 2021 and students participated in an online quiz in this occasion. Functioning of Sikkim SBB was largely affected due to Covid-19 restrictions.

12.4.23 Tamil Nadu

The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board convened only one meeting during the period under report. Among the 13608 BMCs established so far, one village level BMC was constituted during 2021-22. The Board has approved 15 applications under Section 23 (B) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for commercial utilization by the traders. The TNBB celebrated IDB 2021 by conducting a webinar on the theme of "We are part of the Solution" and organized online singing competition to generate awareness among the people. Online training workshops were conducted for the model BMCs. World Ocean Day was celebrated by the State Board on 8th June, 2021 in virtual mode to raise awareness on marine resources. A compendium entitled "Flowering Plants of Tamil Nadu" was published by the TNBB with the financial support of NBA.

12.4.24 Telangana

Telangana SBB developed two short videos on the success stories of Access and Benefit Sharing and also the implementation of Rachabanda in BMCs. The Board has approved 6 proposals under section 23 (B) of the Act for the purpose of commercial use of bio resources. The TSBB in collaboration with Nalgonda Zilla Parishad BMC organized an awareness programme on "Biodiversity Conservation and Organic Farming" during this period. The international Day for Biological Diversity 2021 was celebrated online by conducting webinar, quiz competitions with involvement of around 300 participants from various disciplines and age groups. On this occasion the Board launched the electronic PBR and Biodiversity *Choupal* in the state. The State Board had also organized virtual training and capacity building programme on the BD Act, 2002 and preparation of PBRs for the panchayat officials at district and block levels. An interface meeting was organized on Characterization & documentation of Animal Genetic resources in collaboration with National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR -ICAR). The Telangana Board had bagged two national level recognitions under IBA 2021 for conservation of domestic species and replicable mechanism for ABS.

12.4.25 Tripura

One Governing body meeting was held on 23rd March 2022 to discuss the functioning of the Tripura Biodiversity Board. During this period 20 applications



were approved under section 23 (B) of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for commercial utilization of bioresources. In 2021, two BMCs from Tripura were recognized with India Biodiversity Awards, Twinchingrambari for replicable mechanism of ABS and Purba badlabari under the category of Best BMC.

12.4.26 Uttar Pradesh

The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board has documented 59407 PBRs by the end of March 2022 and published a coffee table book titled, "Heritage tress of Uttar Pradesh" along with one brochure on ABS in Hindi and 20 colorful flyers on various bio resources of the state. IDB 2021 was celebrated virtually in collaboration with ENVIS Centre, Institute of Wildlife Science and Department of Zoology University of Lucknow. The Board has also observed World Wetland Day, World Environment Day, International Day for Vulture Awareness, Wildlife Week and *Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav* in collaboration with University of Lucknow and NGO like WWF. The Board also participated in Asian Water Bird Census on 12th Feb, 2022 and had field observations from 9 districts across the state. The board organized IDB 2021 by holding an international symposium in collaboration with ENVIS resource partner, Institute of Wildlife Sciences University of Lucknow. The Board had prepared and released the UP State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan on 28th Jan, 2022.

12.4.27 Uttarakhand

Two Board meetings were held in Uttarakhand during this period. The UK SBB had accomplished the task of forming BMCs at all 79991 local bodies in the state. There is one legal case 93/2019 (Divya Pharmacy Vs. Union of India & others) pending with UKSBB and the Board has granted approval to 52 Applications under Section 23 (B) of the Act. Several consultation and training programmes were held with the BMCs in Gangotri and Govind Valleys during the period of 2021-22.

12.4.28 West Bengal

Out of the 3830 BMCs in the state, 2 village BMCs were constituted and 91 PBRs have been prepared during the period under report. The website of the SBB hosted five new leaflets related to various activities and experiences. The Patashpur BMC in Purba Medinipur got appreciation certificate of IBA 2021 for their outstanding performance. Approval has been given to 4 applications under section 23(B) and 4 applications under Section 24(1) to the entities for commercial use of bio resources. IDB 2021 was celebrated in virtual mode and the board also conducted various online and offline training programmes for the BDOs and Panchayat officials at the village and block level to sensitize them about the BD Act, 2002 and their roles. The State Board had extended financial support to establish butterfly Gardens in schools and colleges and technical support to develop Biodiversity Parks in different blocks of the States.



12.4.29 Jammu and Kashmir

The newly constituted Biodiversity council of Jammu and Kashmir has conducted one meeting on 5th October 2021 in this reporting period. Besides, the Council has constituted four committees to evaluate the PBRs, for awareness generation and training of government officials, for transitioning of PBR to e-PBR and also for preparation of Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan. Of the total 4644 BMCs in the UT, 7 BMCs were established and 5 PBRs have been prepared in the period under report. The Biodiversity Council developed 7 brochures on various themes related to Biodiversity conservation, wild fruits, birds and trees of Jammu & Kashmir. Training programmes on updating PBRs and Biological Diversity Act were conducted in this period. J & K UTBC also conducted stakeholder



consultation in assistance with ICLEI for formulating City Biodiversity Index and local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

12.4.30 Lakshadweep

Lakshadweep UTBC conducted photography, painting and poster making competitions at island level BMCs as part of IDB celebration.

12.4.31 Ladakh

The Biodiversity Council of Union Territory (UT) Ladakh convened its first meeting on 19th January 2022. During this period, the Council established 17 BMCs out of the 100 BMCs formed so far in the UT. The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2021 was celebrated in virtual mode by organizing quiz, painting and videography competitions. The locals also participated in recitation of folk lore and folk songs on the Biodiversity of Ladakh.



Annexures

Annexure 1

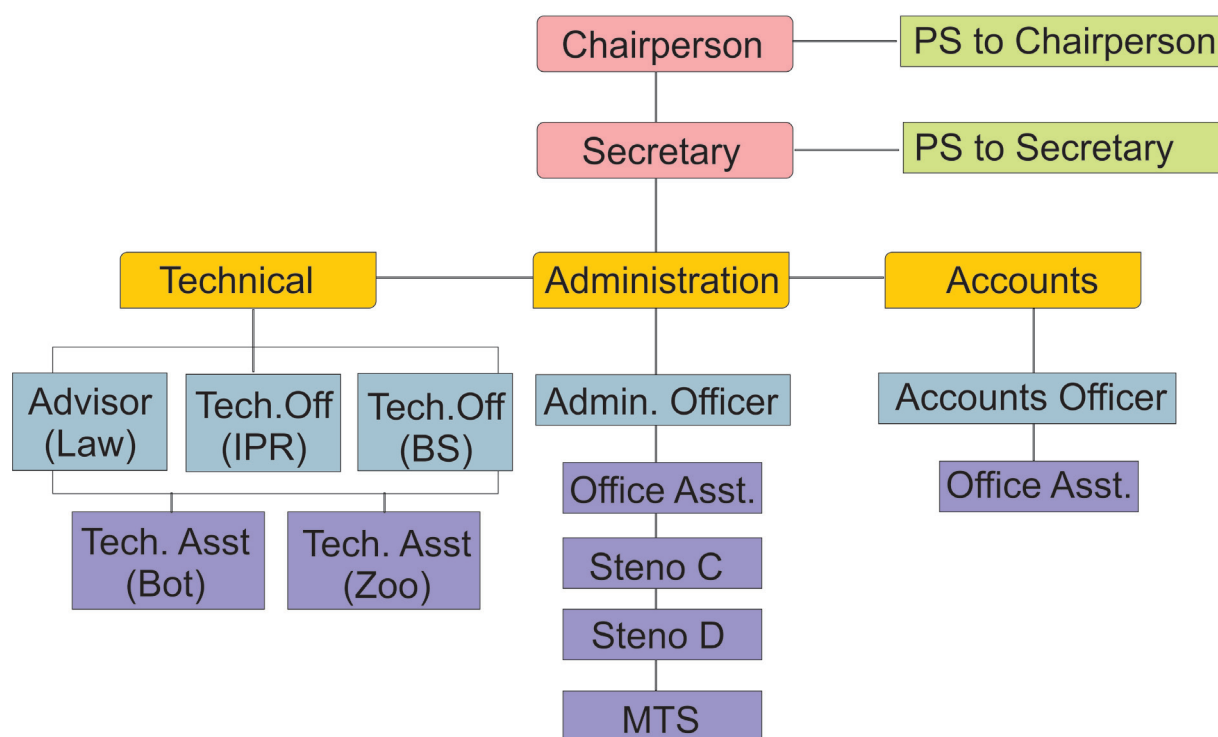
Chairperson of the Authority

The Chairpersons 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

Annexure 2

Organizational Chart of National Biodiversity Authority



Besides these officers and staff, 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	0	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-600 113

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

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कार्यालय महानिदेशक लेखापरीक्षा
पर्यावरण एवं वैज्ञानिक विभाग, नई दिल्ली 110002

DGA/ESD/EA/SAR/NBA Chennai/2021-22/374

दिनांक

सेवा में,

30 SEP 2022

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

विषय: Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year 2021-22

महोदय,

मुझे वर्ष 2021-22 के लिए National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai का पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन अग्रेषित करने का निर्देश हुआ है।

AO / Account Officer

संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने से पहले वर्ष 2021-22 के वार्षिक लेखों को संस्थान के शासी निकाय द्वारा अनुमोदित किया/अपनाया जाए तथा इस संबंध में शासी निकाय द्वारा जारी किया गया रेज़ोल्यूशन 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।

भवदीय,

संलग्नक:- पृथक लेखापरीक्षा प्रतिवेदन

उप निदेशक (पर्या.ले.)

11/10/2022

288/CH/2022/22
07/10/22

Accounts

Amr (K)

Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year ended 31st March 2022

1. We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai as at 31 March 2022 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 Subject to our observations in the preceding paragraphs, we report that the Balance

Sheet, Income and 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 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 2022.

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

A. Balance Sheet

1. Corpus/Capital Fund and Liabilities

1.1. Schedule-7-Current Liabilities and Provisions

Establishment Expenditure

Understatement of Provisions for Outstanding Salaries, New Pension Scheme and Bonus

NBA is following accrual system of accounting as mentioned in Schedule-24 -Significant Accounting Policies. It is however observed that no provision was provided in Schedule-7 of Balance Sheet for March 2022 salary of Rs.16,66,799.00 paid in April 2022. Provision for amount of Rs.2,53,755.00 to be paid to statutory authorities in respect of New Pension

Scheme for the month of March 2022 paid in April 2022 was not provided. Provision for bonus of Rs.48356.00 for the year 2021-22 to be paid in the year 2022-23 was also not provided. Hence provision for Establishment Expenditure under Schedule-7-Current Liabilities and Provisions in the Balance sheet was understated to the extent of Rs.19.68 lakh.

Administrative expenditure

Understatement of Provision for Outstanding Wages.

The provision for outstanding wages was understated to the extent of Rs.1,72,685.00. Hence the provision for Other Administrative Expenditure under Schedule-7-Current Liabilities and Provisions in the Balance Sheet was understated to the extent of Rs.1,72,685.00.

B. General

1.Depreciation: NBA stated in Schedule-24 – Significant Accounting Policies that Depreciation is provided on Straight Line Method(SLM) as per the rates specified in the Income Tax Act ,1961, as per MOEF & CC circular No.1/4/2011- Misc dt 25.01.2011. It was however observed that NBA was calculating depreciation on the net value of Assets for the years 2021-22, 2020-21 and 2019-20 in contravention to its stated accounting policy.

2. Dormant Accounts.

NBA in its Annual Accounts depicted two Savings Accounts namely NBA-UNEP GEF ABS and ASEAN-INDIA Co-Operation projects. These two accounts were opened by NBA for implementation of projects sponsored by UNEP-GEF and ASEAN-INDIA respectively. Both the projects were completed in December 2019 and June 2020 respectively.

NBA however did not refund the unspent balance and closed the accounts so far. As the projects were already completed and no expenditure could be incurred after completion of the project, these accounts need to be closed forthwith. This was pointed out during the earlier audit also.

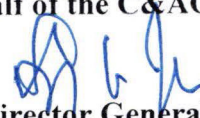
3. Non-receipt of utilization certificate.

Audit noticed that out of 1215 grants amounting to Rs. 87.64 crore released during last 16 years to State Bio-Diversity Boards and other organizations for which utilization certificate are due in the year 2021-22. Utilization certificates were received only in respect of 1139 grants amounting to Rs.79.21 crore. Utilization certificates for 76 grants amounting to Rs. 8.43 crore were not received as of March 2022.

D. Grants-in-aid

During the year 2021-22, NBA received Grants-in-aid of Rs.16.13 crore. This included unspent balance of Rs.0.61 crore revalidated from previous year. NBA could utilize a sum of Rs. 13.70 crore leaving a balance of Rs.2.43 crore as on March 2022.

For and on behalf of the C&AG of India



**Director General of Audit
(Environment & Scientific Departments)**

Place: New Delhi

Date: 30/9/22

Annexure-I

1. Adequacy of Internal Audit

Internal Audit of NBA was conducted up to March 2019. As of March 2021, three reports and 12 paras were outstanding. Out of 12 paras, 4 paras pertain to the report for the period 2012-13 to 2016-17 and 2 paras pertain to the report for the period 2003-04 to 2008-09. Thus 2 paras are pending for more than five years now for want of compliance from NBA.

2. Adequacy of Internal Control System

Audit noticed that functions of Drawing and Disbursing Officer and functions of pre-check and passing of payment was performed by the same official namely Accounts Officer. As a result, there was no separation of duties of Drawing and Disbursing Officer and internal audit functions.

3. System of Physical Verification of Fixed assets

NBA conducted physical verification of assets for the year 2021-22 and in the process identified 155 items of assets as surplus, obsolete and unserviceable. The purchase value of these item worked out to be Rs.38.88 lakh. These items, however were not disposed off by NBA. The assets so identified were therefore lying idle occupying valuable space. The salvage value of these items also being eroded day by day.

4. System of physical verification of inventory

Physical verification of inventory was carried out for the year 2021-22.

5. Regularity in payment of statutory dues

Test check revealed no outstanding statutory dues with NBA as of March 2022.

6. Assets Register

Balance sheet showed various kinds of assets worth Rs.51.55 lakhs as of March 2022. NBA, however did not maintain Assets Register the closing balance of which duly tallied with that shown in the balance sheet and made available to audit. Audit therefore could not ensure the correctness of value of assets as shown in the balance sheet.


Dy. Director

Annexure -A

A. Balance Sheet

1. Corpus/Capital Fund and Liabilities

1.1. Schedule-1-Capital Fund

Purchases of Fixed Assets – Treated as Capital Grant was shown as Rs.20,71,921.00 in Schedule-1_Capital Fund. The Purchase of Fixed Assets shown in Schedule-8 –Fixed Assets was Rs.20,83,921.00. Hence Capital Fund is understated to the extent of Rs.12000.00 and understatement of current liabilities by the same amount.


Dy. Director (EA)



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/SAR/NBA/2021-22/377
Dated:

Dear Dr. Mathur,

30 SEP 2022

We have audited the annual accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for the year 2021-22 and have issued the Audit Report thereon vide letter dated 30/9/22. 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

Dr. V. B. Mathur
07/10/22

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



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 28 States and facilitated the establishment of 2,76,836 BMCs at the local level and 2,66,102 PBRs have been prepared all over the country.

Address for Communication

The Secretary,

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

URL : www.nbaindia.org

Email: secretary@nba.nic.in

Phone: 044 2254 2777

