



National Biodiversity Authority

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025





National Biodiversity Authority

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

Annual Report 2024-25





मंत्री
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
भारत सरकार



सत्यमेव जयते

भूपेन्द्र यादव
BHUPENDER YADAV



MINISTER
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



MESSAGE

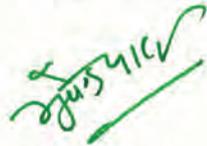
India, one of the world's megadiverse countries, harbours nearly 8% of the recorded global species and encompasses four of the 36 recognised biodiversity hotspots. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002, was enacted to conserve this biological and cultural heritage while ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources.

During 2024–25, the NBA achieved several important milestones. The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, came into force on 1st April 2024, bringing significant reforms to India's biodiversity governance. To operationalise the Amended Act, the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 effective from 22nd December 2024 replaced the earlier Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, streamlining digital workflows and approval timelines. Subsequently, the Biological Diversity (Access to Biological Resources and Knowledge Associated thereto and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits) Regulations, 2025, notified on 29th April 2025.

At the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP-16) to the CBD, held in Cali, Colombia, India released its updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

The Annual Report 2024–25 stands as a testament to India's unwavering commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of its rich biodiversity. I commend all officials of the National Biodiversity Authority for their dedicated efforts in producing this comprehensive report, which effectively documents the key developments, initiatives, and achievements of the year.

Date: 18-10-2025


(Bhupender Yadav)

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MINISTER OF STATE
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) for the year 2024-2025 that has been compiled as per Section 28 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The report highlights the activities and achievements of the NBA towards the implementation of various provisions of the Act, Rules and Regulations.

The Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and the Biological Diversity (ABS) Regulation 2025 were notified within a period of one year after the amended Biological Diversity Act came into force.

A noteworthy feature of the National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards activities in the given year includes the frequent review meetings on the development of the BIOMIS Portal for electronic People's Biodiversity Registers (e-PBRs) and its pilot study in the 12 State Biodiversity Boards, progress of expert committees formed to deal with different subject matter, activities under NIRANTAR, publications and documentation related to biodiversity carried out by them in consultation with the stakeholders.

I am pleased to note that the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) have joined together to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity 2024 in a befitting manner. I also appreciate the staff of NBA for their efforts to take forward the agenda of implementing the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, in letter and spirit.

(KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

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तन्मय कुमार
TANMAY KUMAR



सत्यमेव जयते



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



MESSAGE

India's rich and diverse biodiversity is home to nearly 8% of the world's known species from the Himalayas to coastal mangroves anchors the nation's ecological resilience, cultural heritage, and economic well-being. As a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), India leads global conservation efforts through strong policies, science-based planning, and community stewardship. The updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2024–2030), aligned with Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) goals and targets, reaffirms India's commitment to protecting its natural wealth, fulfilling global obligations, and sustaining livelihoods, climate stability, and human well-being for future generations through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), under the governance and regulatory framework of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, as amended in 2023, and supported by the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, operates a decentralized structure. This includes 28 State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), 8 Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs), and over 2,76,653 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).

The NBA's Annual Report for 2024-25 highlights processing of 933 ABS applications, executing 568 agreements. Working in close partnership with SBBs, UTBCs, BMCs, and diverse stakeholders, the NBA advanced India's vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature" by 2050 through robust biodiversity governance and sustainable ecosystem management.

Through impactful initiatives such as Mission LIFE, International Day for Biological Diversity, and the Swachhata Campaign, the NBA deepened public engagement and awareness, inspiring collective action for conservation. The Ministry commends these exemplary efforts and calls upon all partners to strengthen their resolve in safeguarding India's natural heritage for a resilient, equitable, and sustainable future.

(Tanmay Kumar)

Dated:



Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.)

Chairperson
National Biodiversity Authority



MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) for the year 2024–25. This year has been marked by important developments in biodiversity governance, driven by the implementation of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, and in consonance with India's commitments under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

During the year, the NBA finalized and operationalized the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, and completed the drafting of the Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) Regulations, 2025. The Authority is in the process of finalizing guidelines for Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) and advanced the implementation of the e-PBR initiative to strengthen biodiversity documentation across the country.

Significant emphasis was placed on effective coordination with State Biodiversity Boards, Union Territory Biodiversity Councils, and Biodiversity Management Committees, ensuring that the principles of conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable benefit sharing are translated into practice at all levels. The designation of new repositories and the streamlining of approval processes have further enhanced the regulatory framework.

India continued to actively contribute to global biodiversity negotiations, particularly on Access and Benefit Sharing, Digital Sequence Information, and biodiversity finance. The launch of India's Updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024–2030 is a major milestone that will guide the country's biodiversity agenda in the years ahead.

I place on record my appreciation to the Members of the Authority, the NBA Secretariat, and all our partners and stakeholders for their dedication and cooperation. Together, we will continue our efforts to conserve the nation's rich biodiversity, promote its sustainable use, and ensure that benefits are shared equitably for the well-being of present and future generations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line and a diagonal stroke.

(C. ACHALENDER REDDY)



Dr. B. Balaji, IFS

Member Secretary,
National Biodiversity Authority



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Annual Report of the National Biodiversity Authority for the year 2024-25 has been compiled as per the provisions of Section 28 of the Biological Diversity Act (Amendment) Act 2023. The report highlights the activities and significant achievements of NBA towards the 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 the Hon'ble Union Minister, Hon'ble Minister of State, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for the continued support to the activities of the National Biodiversity Authority. I also thank the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for the guidance provided to NBA to implement the different provisions of the Act and guidance to execute different project-based activities. I thank the Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change who has been providing valuable support and advice in furthering the activities of the NBA Secretariat.

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

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

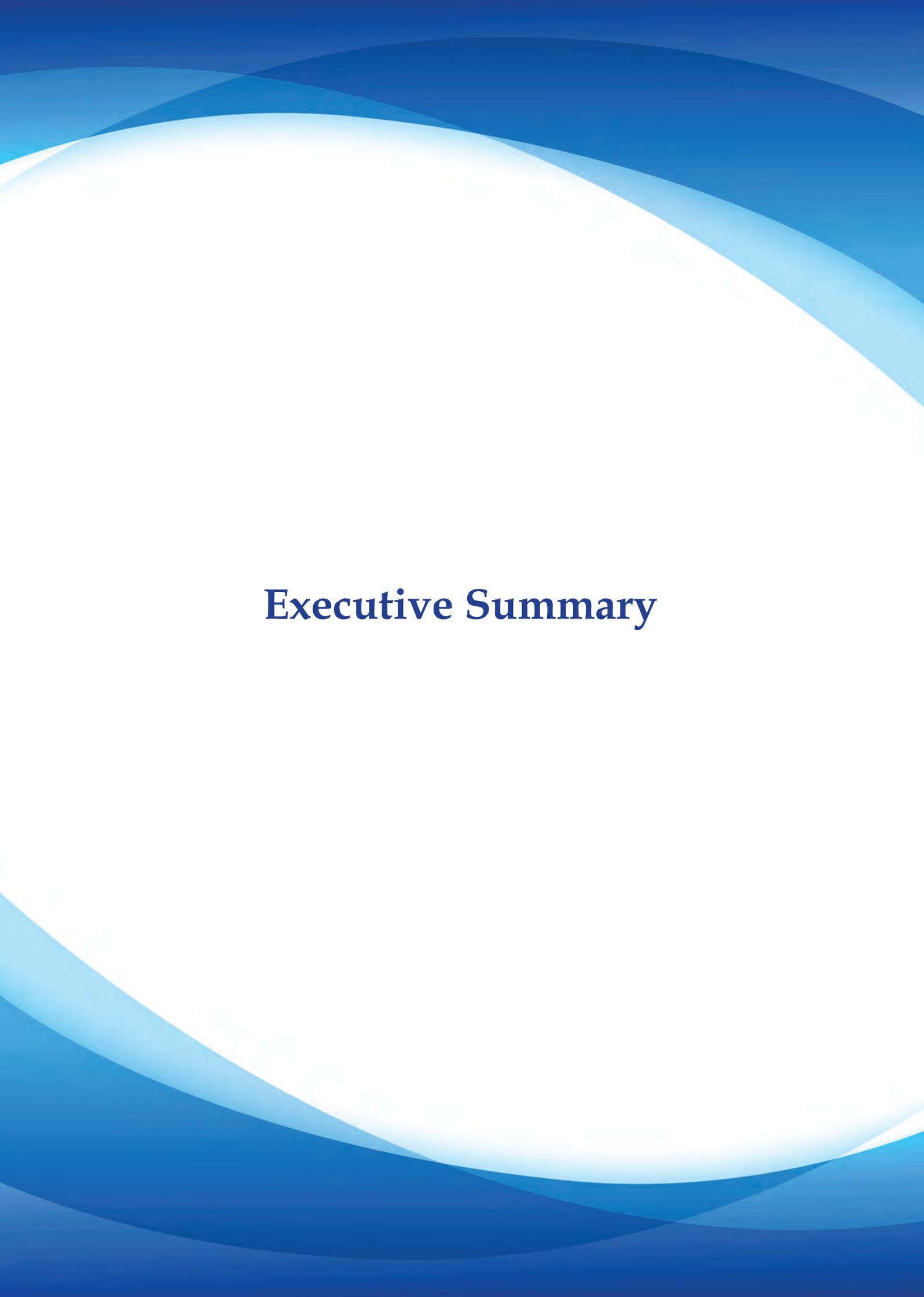
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Balaji', written in a cursive style.

B. Balaji



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Executive Summary

The biodiversity we see today is the result of 4.5 billion years of evolution of biological resources. They are an essential component in the ecosystem and society for both the economic and social development of the people. However, this has led to immense pressure on biodiversity as there is also an exponential increase in the population and rapid economic growth. Consequently, this has led to the destruction and fragmentation of natural habitats, which alters the ecology and its inhabitants, affecting the livelihoods of millions of people.

The Earth Summit, 1992 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 of biological diversity, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

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 under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) was established in 2003 under Section 8 of the Act at the national level. The second and the third tier constitute the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) at the State level and the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) at the local level respectively.

The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, was notified in the Gazette of India *vide* notification: CG-DL-E-03082023-247815 PART II- Section 1, No. 10 of 2023 dated 03rd August 2023 and came into force on 1st April, 2024 as per the MoEFCC notification S.O. 295(E) dated 18th January 2024. The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, has introduced significant changes to the composition and functions of the NBA, enhancing its role in the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

In lieu, the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, were notified in the Gazette of India *vide* Notification G.S.R. 665(E) dated 22nd October 2024, which came into force on 21st December 2024 after expiry of sixty days from the date of their notification.

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, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of biological resources. NBA, as a statutory body of the Government of India, has been following dedicated and target-oriented plans. The highlights of the progress and achievements during the reporting period 2024-2025 are briefly outlined here and elaborated in the Annual Report.

During 2024-2025, the Authority met four times and advised the NBA Secretariat for actions as per Section 12 of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023 and Rule 10 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2024.

NBA has re-constituted an Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (EC on ABS) and during the reporting and evaluated Form I access and benefit sharing and Form III for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights and provided recommendations to the Authority. As requested by the applicant the Expert Committee examined, 7 applications filed under the O.M and provided their recommendations. The Expert Committee re-examined the existing Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements in align with the Biological Diversity Amendment Act 2023 and Biological Diversity Rules 2024, recommended agreements for 9 Forms. NBA has also constituted an Expert Committee to review and suggest appropriate modifications to the Biological Diversity Rules 2004; ABS Regulations 2014 in the light of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023 and to frame model Rules for the management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites which met eight times in hybrid/virtual modes. The Expert Committee discussed the draft Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Regulations and the same was finalized. The draft ABS Regulation, 2025 was approved by the 71st Authority and the same was submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 26th December 2024 for approval.

NBA re-constituted an Expert Committee on Red Sanders to develop procedures to deal the applications received for the access of Red sanders from patta / private land and confiscated/seized Red Sanders; review the recommendations of the previous committee and suggest the way forward; utilization of benefit sharing amount received from the access of Red sanders and suggest the modalities to conduct international conference on Red sanders and biodiversity of Eastern Ghats at Tirupati. The Expert Committee met twice during the reporting period and formed a sub-committee to develop a concept note for organising the said event. The sub-committee met thrice and submitted its report. Besides, a draft committee was formed to develop the required recommendation on the Terms of References. Further, an Expert Committee has been constituted to study the existing administrative structure of the State Biodiversity Board (SBB) and Union Territory Biodiversity Council (UTBC) and suggest reforms to execute various functions

mandated under the Biological Diversity Act. The Expert Committee after detailed deliberations in the meetings, came up with more than 40 recommendations that includes strengthening of technical, financial and administration of SBBs/ UTBCs, enhancing of the functioning of BMCs at the grass root level etc.

An Expert Committee has been constituted for the scientific examination of certain materials / resources / chemicals used for research, commercialization, bio-survey and bio-utilization and for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights for determining their scope of applicability as per various provisions of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act. The Expert Committee held three meetings and have submitted a consolidated interim report.

The Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) constituted, held a meeting in the reporting period to deliberate on the elements for which there is a need for further discussion based on the Report of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources. Further, a National Workshop on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) and the Global Multilateral Benefit-Sharing Mechanism (GMBSM) from the use of DSI on Genetic Resources (GR) using Bilateral Mechanism was held on 12th and 13th of July 2024 in Hyderabad which was organized by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) under the guidance of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). This workshop was attended and participated by different groups and sectors of people, including Expert committee members, Line departments, Institutions, Industries, Domain experts, Member Secretaries of State Biodiversity Boards, Forest Department, etc. to deliberate on the Convention on Biological Diversity documents and prepare India's position appropriately.

During the reporting period from April 2024 to January 2025, the NBA received 933 applications concerning the access of biological resources for research / commercial use, transfer of research results, intellectual property rights and third party transfer. The NBA received 71 applications from February 2025 to March 2025 from various stakeholders, in accordance with the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024. NBA has received a sum of INR 28.65 Crores as the benefit-sharing (BS) component from the applicants during the year 2024-2025. India being a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 59 approvals granted in the Access and Benefit Sharing-Clearing House (ABS- CH) platform for generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances during 2024-25.

NBA has joined hands with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Chennai and Kerala for developing a comprehensive application called “Biodiversity Management Information System” (BIOMIS) which includes electronic People’s Biodiversity Register (e-PBRs) for use of the BMC across the State Biodiversity Boards for documenting the information on biological resources and knowledge associated thereto in their jurisdiction. Presently, the project is being implemented in 12 pilot States (*viz.* Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Goa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu). In the e-PBR portal, out of 80,097 BMCs from 12 States, 53,301 BMCs details such as name of the members, contact details, Local Government Directory (LGD) No of the village, demographic information have been uploaded in the portal.

The implementation of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 at the State level was initiated by establishing the State Biodiversity Board (SBB) and locally by constituting the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC). At the end of 2024-25, a total of 2,76,653 BMCs have been constituted and 2,72,648 People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) have been prepared all over the country. So far, forty-nine (49) Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) have been notified by eighteen states in the country. Many other BHSs have already been identified in the States and some have been proposed for notification. During 2024-25, the States of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have notified 02 BHS.

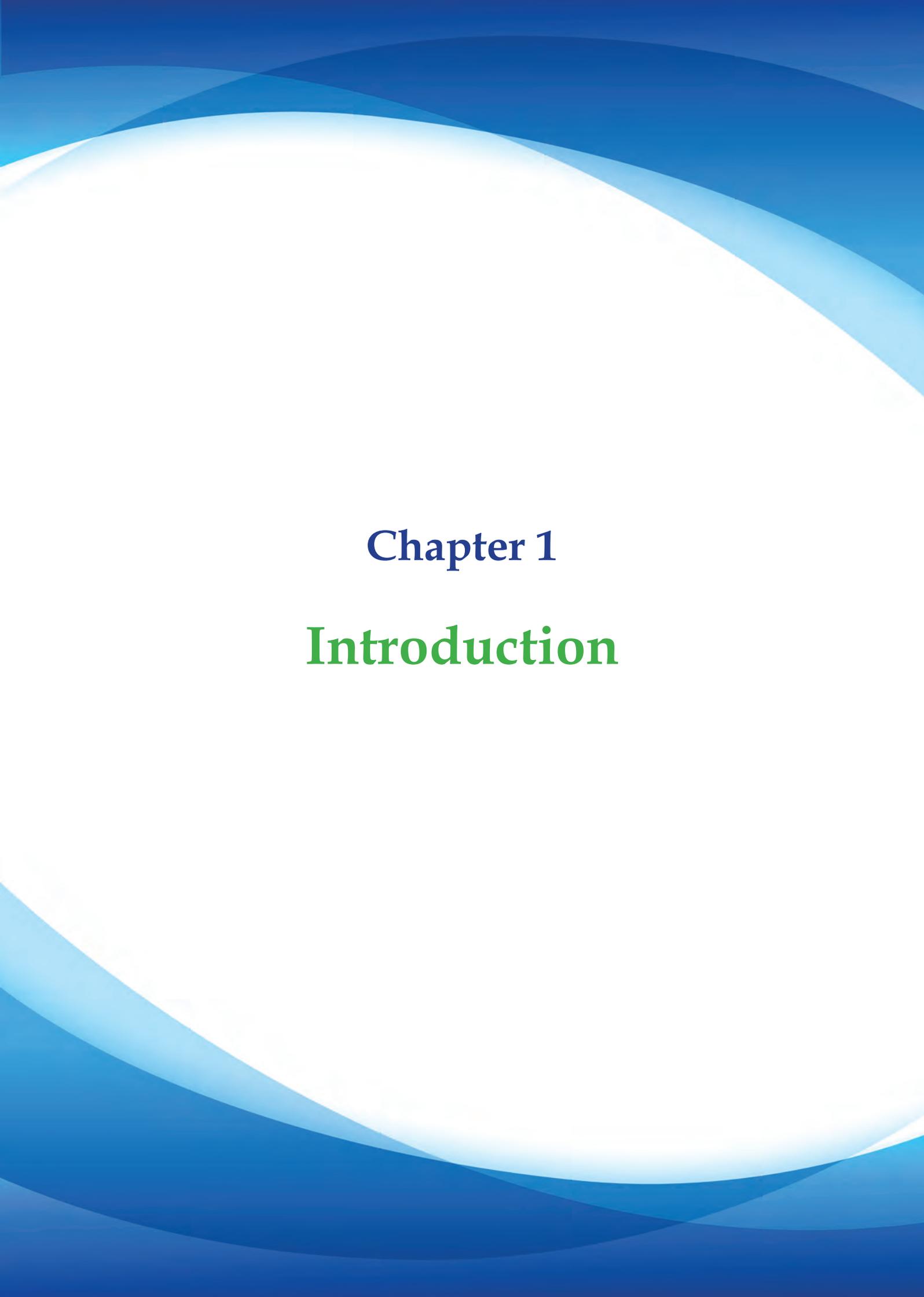
NBA has extended financial support to almost all the SBBs by Grant-in-Aid towards strengthening the institutional mechanism such as components of outsourcing, training and capacity building, peer-to-peer learning exchange visits, printing and dissemination of knowledge materials, formation of Thematic Expert Committee and website maintenance for the respective States during 2024-25.

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBB) under the aegis of Ministry of Environment Forests, Climate Change celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2024 at Andhra University Convention Centre, Visakhapatnam on 22nd May, 2024. The theme “Be Part of the Plan” echoed the call to action to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity emphasizing the collective effort needed from various stakeholders. During the event, NBA has launched 6th cycle of Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme (BSIP) 2025. Tree plantation programme was also organized at the Andhra University campus following the main event to raise awareness among participants and to take similar initiatives in their own communities. To mark this occasion, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), in collaboration with Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBB), organized an exhibition highlighting the

efforts and initiatives aimed at biodiversity conservation. Further, a national seminar on “Impact of Climate Change and Ecotourism on Biodiversity” was organized on 23rd May 2024, at Andhra University which provided an invaluable platform for experts, researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to come together, exchange knowledge, and discuss critical issues related to climate change, biodiversity & ecotourism.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) incorporates two mandatory unqualified obligations i.e., preparation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) under Article 6 and National Reports under Article 26. The NBSAP is a key instrument for planning and implementing the provisions of Convention at National Level. Following the adoption of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), at the COP-15 of the CBD and by following “whole of the government, whole of the society approach” a National Consultation Meeting and three regional consultation meetings, an inter and intra Ministerial consultations were held for the updation of NBSAP and Adoption of National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in alignment with KMGBF goals and targets. The updated NBSAP was launched by Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, on 30th October, 2024, at COP16 in Cali, Colombia, during a special event titled “Roadmap for achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) targets and release of India’s updated NBSAP.”

The Annual Accounts for 2024-25 and Annual Plan for 2025-26 are also included in this Annual Report for 2024-25.



Chapter 1
Introduction

India is one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, hosting nearly 8% of the globally known species, despite covering only 2.4% of the Earth's land area. Its diverse ecosystems range from the Himalayas in the north to tropical rainforests in the Western Ghats and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, arid deserts in Rajasthan, fertile Indo-Gangetic plains, and extensive coastal and marine ecosystems. The country harbours over 47,000 species of plants and 100,000 species of animals, with high levels of endemism in groups like amphibians, reptiles, and flowering plants. This rich biodiversity underpins India's cultural and ecological heritage and plays a crucial role in sustaining livelihoods, agriculture, traditional medicine, and climate resilience.

India is home to four global biodiversity hotspots. The Himalayas, Indo-Burma, the Western Ghats, and Sundaland (Nicobar Islands) which are regions of both exceptional species richness and threat from human activities. Its forests and wetlands are crucial for ecological services such as carbon sequestration, water purification, and soil conservation. Traditional knowledge systems and cultural practices across the country have long recognized and conserved biodiversity through sacred groves, community reserves, and sustainable use practices. The biodiversity of India also sustains millions of livelihoods — especially among indigenous communities — and is integral to food security, medicinal resources, and climate adaptation.

However, India's biodiversity faces increasing threats from habitat loss, pollution, climate change, overexploitation, and invasive species. Conservation efforts under national programs such as the Biological Diversity Act (2002), National Biodiversity Authority, protected area networks, and international commitments like the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) aim to safeguard this natural wealth. Overall, India's biodiversity is both a treasure and a responsibility, with immense ecological, cultural, and economic value.

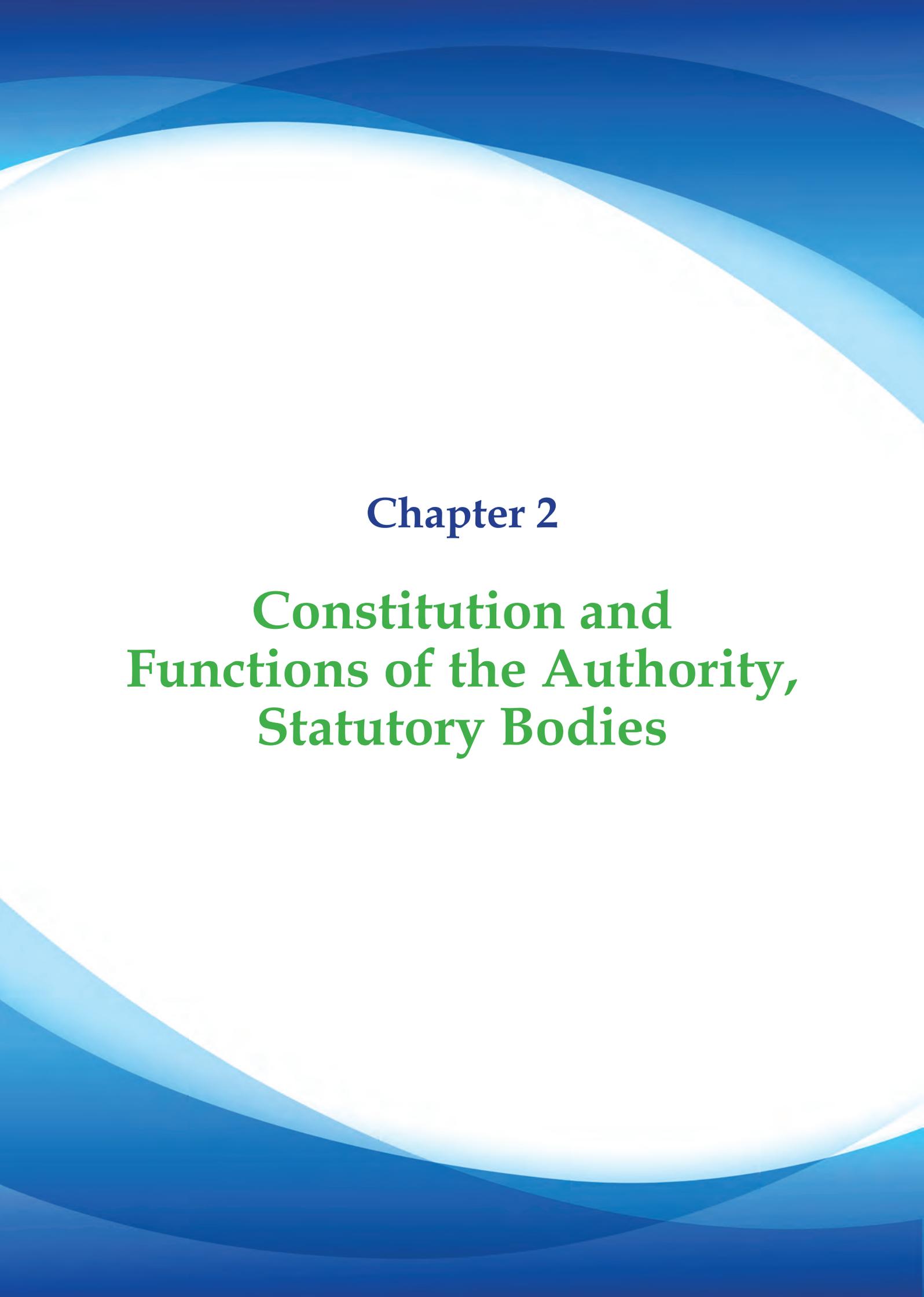
The biodiversity we see today is the result of 4.5 billion years of evolution of biological resources. They are an essential component in the ecosystem and society for both the economic and social development of the people. However, this has led to immense pressure on biodiversity as there is also an exponential increase in the population and rapid economic growth. Consequently, this has led to the destruction and fragmentation of natural habitats, which alters the ecology and its inhabitants, affecting the livelihoods of millions of people. In response, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) convened the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity in November 1988 to explore the need for an International Convention on Biological Diversity, which culminated on 22nd May 1992 as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The CBD entered into

force on 29th December 1993 with three main objectives *viz.*, conservation of biological diversity, 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. India enacted the Biological Diversity Act 2002 to meet the obligations under the CBD. This Act was enacted by the Parliament of India for conservation and sustainable use of the biological resources and also provide mechanism for equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge associated with them.

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

The SBBs also regulate, by granting approvals or otherwise upon requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians. The Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) established at the local level are responsible for promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity, including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

As per Section 28 of Biological Diversity Act, an annual report is to be laid in the parliament every year along with Annual audited statements. In this regard, NBA has set milestones for the preparation of Annual report.



Chapter 2

Constitution and Functions of the Authority, Statutory Bodies

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is a statutory body established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, to implement the provisions of the Act. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change. It plays a facilitative, regulatory, and advisory role in matters related to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of biological resources, and the equitable sharing of benefits.

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 mandates a decentralized system for biodiversity governance, with the NBA advising the Central Government, while State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) guide State Governments, and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) operate at the local level.

The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, has introduced significant changes to the composition and functions of the NBA, enhancing its role in the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

2.1 Composition of the National Biodiversity Authority

The NBA comprises a Chairperson, sixteen ex officio members representing key ministries such as Environment and Climate Change, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Biotechnology, among others; four representatives from State Biodiversity Boards on a rotational basis; and a newly introduced Member-Secretary with expertise in biodiversity conservation. The Member-Secretary serves as the chief coordinating officer and convener of the NBA, assisting in the discharge of its functions. The head office remains in Chennai, with provisions for establishing regional offices across India. This expanded and diversified composition aims to strengthen the NBA's role in regulating access to biological resources, ensuring fair and equitable benefit-sharing, and promoting sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

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

During this period, the NBA was headed by the Chairman Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.).

2.1.2 Ex-officio members appointed under clause (b) of Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of Biological Diversity Act

The Central Government appoints sixteen *ex-officio* members representing the Ministries who are in the rank of Joint Secretary and would be experts in these sectors --

- (i) Agricultural Research and Education;
- (ii) Agriculture and Farmers Welfare;
- (iii) Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, Yoga, Naturopathy and Homoeopathy;
- (iv) Biotechnology;
- (v) Environment and Climate Change;
- (vi) Forests and Wildlife;
- (vii) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education;
- (viii) Earth Sciences;
- (ix) Panchayati Raj;
- (x) Science and Technology;
- (xi) Scientific and Industrial Research;
- (xii) Tribal Affairs;

2.1.3 Ex-officio members appointed under clause (c) of Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of Biological Diversity Act

The Central Government appoints four *ex-officio* members representing the State Biodiversity Boards on a rotational basis.

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

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

2.1.5 Member appointed under clause (e) of Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of Biological Diversity Act

A Member-Secretary, who shall have experience in matters relating to biodiversity conservation, to be appointed by the Central Government

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

Table 1: Members of the National Biodiversity Authority

S. No.		Ex-officio Members
1	Joint Secretary to the Government of India dealing with the Agricultural Research and Education in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Dr Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Director, ICAR- National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi Email:gp.singh-icar@nic.in; director.nbpgr@nic.in
2	Joint Secretary to the Government of India dealing with the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare	Dr. Dhura Ram Additional Commissioner (NRM/RFS), Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, Delhi-110001. Email: dram.1965@gov.in
3	Joint Secretary to the Government of India dealing with the Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, Yoga and Naturopathy and Homoeopathy in the Ministry of Ayush	Dr. Koustubha Upadhyaya, Advisor (Ayurveda) Ministry of Ayush, New Delhi E-mail: adviser-ayush@gov.in
4	Joint Secretary to the Government of India dealing with the Biotechnology in the Department of Biotechnology	Dr. Amit P. Parikh, Scientist F, Department of Biotechnology, Block-2, 7th Floor, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 Email: amit.parikh@nic.in
5	Joint Secretary to the Government of India dealing with the Environment and Climate Change in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Shri. Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, CS-III Division, Ministry of Environment Forests Climate Change, New Delhi E-mail: kodali_rk@gov.in

S. No.	Ex-officio Members	
6	Joint Secretary to the Government of India dealing with the Forests and Wildlife in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Shri. Rajesh S, IFS Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment Forests, Climate Change, New Delhi E-mail: rajesh.skumar@gov.in
7	Joint Secretary to the Government of India dealing with the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta, Scientist-G, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore Email: ghoshm@icfre.org
8	Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Earth Sciences	Cdr. Prashant Srivastava, Scientist-G, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Prithvi Bhawan, opposite India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi Email: srivastava.pks@gov.in
9	Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Shri. Alok Prem Nagar, IFS Joint Secretary (Governance), M/o Panchayati Raj, Jeevan Bharati Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 Email: ap.nagar@gov.in
10	Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Science and Technology in the Ministry of Science and Technology	Dr. Anita Gupta, Head (CEST) & Scientist 'G', Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110 016. Email: anigupta@nic.in
11	Joint Secretary to the Government of India dealing with the Scientific and Industrial Research in the Ministry of Science and Technology	Dr. Viswajanani Sattigeri, Head TKDL, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Anusandhan Bhavan, 2, Rafi Marg New Delhi- 110 001 Email: viswajanani.sattigeri@csir.res.in
12	Joint Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Shri Ajeet Kumar Srivastava, Joint Secretary (FRA), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Jeevan Tara Building office, Ground Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Ashoka Road, Patel Chowk, New Delhi -110001 Email: js-tribal@tribal.gov.in

S. No.	Ex-officio Members	
Ex-officio members representing the State Biodiversity Boards		
1	Member-Secretary, State Biodiversity Board of Rajasthan.	Shri R. N. Meena, IFS, CCF & Rajasthan Biodiversity Board, 1st Floor, Aravali Bhawan, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302004. E-mail: ms.rsbb@rajasthan. gov.in, rajsbb@rajasthan.gov.in
2	Member-Secretary, State Biodiversity Board of Arunachal Pradesh	Smt Koj Rinya, IFS, CCF, Arunachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board, Department of Environment and Forests, SFRI, Van Vihar Chimpu, P.B.No: 157 Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh - 791 111. E-mail : apbb2010@gmail.com , koj.rinya@gmail.com
3	Member-Secretary, State Biodiversity Board of Tamil Nadu	Shri Vijendra Singh Malik, IFS, PCCF & Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, TBGP- Office Complex, II floor, Velachery - Tambaram main Road, Nanmangalam, Medavakkam Post, Chennai - 600100, Tamil Nadu. E-mail : secy.tnbb@tn.gov.in
4	Member-Secretary, Union territory Biodiversity Council of Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Shri Sanjay Kumar Sinha, IFS, PCCF-WL, Member Secretary, UTBC, Van Prani Bhawan, Chatham Port Blair-744102 E-mail: pccfwildlife1961@gmail.com

S. No.	Non-Official Members	
1	Dr Hanchinal Rayappa Ramappa, 142, MIG-II, KHB Colony, DN Koppa, Dharwad-581118 Email: rrhanchinal@rediffmail.com ; rrhanchinal@gmail.com	
2	Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram, Retired Professor and Dean, Keishamehong Longjam Leikai, 84C, Imphal, Manipur 795004 Email: jmlaishram@rediffmail.com	
3	Dr. Alka Rao, Advisor (Regulation, Science & Standards) Food Safety and Standard Authority of India, New Delhi-110002, Email: rao.alka@fssai.gov.in , raoalka@imtech.res.in	
4	Dr. Gouri Joshi, 401, Balwant ashram, Behind Nirmitti Elite, Law College Road, Erandwane, Pune, Maharashtra - 41 1004. Email: Bonjaee.envirolegal@gmail.com ; bonjaee@gmail.com	
Member Secretary		
	Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, National Biodiversity Authority, 5th Floor, TICEL Biopark, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai-600113 Email: secretary@nba.nic.in	

2.2. Functions of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

Regulation of Access to Biological Resources

The NBA is responsible for regulating access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge for research, commercial utilization, bio-survey and bio-utilization. It grants approvals for such activities, ensuring that they comply with the provisions of the Act.

Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms

The NBA establishes mechanisms to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources and traditional knowledge. This includes determining the terms and conditions for benefit-sharing agreements and ensuring that local communities receive appropriate sharing of benefits.

Advisory Role

The NBA advises the Central Government on matters related to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and equitable sharing of benefits. It also advises State Governments in the selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified as Biodiversity Heritage Sites and suggests measures for their management.

Administration of the National Biodiversity Fund

The NBA administers the National Biodiversity Fund, which is utilized for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The Fund receives contributions from the Central Government, State Governments, and other sources, for supporting various biodiversity-related initiatives.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Oversight

The NBA regulates the application for Intellectual Property Rights related to biological resources and traditional knowledge. It requires prior approval before the grant of such rights, ensuring that the interests of local communities are protected.

Facilitation of People's Biodiversity Registers

The NBA facilitates the preparation and maintenance of People's Biodiversity Registers at the local level, documenting local biological resources and associated

traditional knowledge. This empowers local communities and enhances their participation in biodiversity conservation.

Capacity Building and Awareness

The NBA organizes training programs and awareness campaigns to build capacity among stakeholders, including line departments, academic institutions, and local communities. These initiatives aim to promote understanding and implementation of biodiversity conservation practices.

8. Monitoring and regulating the use of a foreign country

The NBA regulates and monitors the use of any biological resources or traditional knowledge associated thereto obtained from any foreign country for research or for commercial utilization or for obtaining intellectual Property Rights, in India

2.3 State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)

The SBB comprises a Chairperson, not more than seven ex officio members representing the concerned department of the State Government, including departments dealing with Panchayati Raj and tribal affairs, and not more than five non-official members amongst experts including legal experts, scientists having specific knowledge and work experience in matter relating to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of use of biological resources.

Each state establishes an SBB to deal with matters relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the state. The amendment enhances the power of SBBs to make decisions on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) for Indian entities and emphasizes coordination with the NBA and BMCs.

Functions of SBBs:

Regulation of Access:

SBBs regulate access to biological resources by Indian citizens or entities for commercial utilization, bio-survey, and bio-utilization.

Advisory Role:

They advise the State Government on the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of benefits.

Grant of Approvals:

SBBs grant approvals for activities involving biological resources by Indian companies and researchers.

Coordination with Biodiversity Management Committees:

SBBs coordinate with Biodiversity Management Committees to ensure local participation in biodiversity management and ensure that PBRs are prepared and updated.

Benefit Sharing Supervision:

They ensure the implementation of benefit-sharing mechanisms at the state level and facilitate fair compensation to local communities.

2.4 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

The Biodiversity Management Committee comprises members as prescribed by the State Government. The number shall not be less than seven and not exceeding eleven.

At the local level, every Panchayat or urban body must constitute a BMC to promote conservation, document biological diversity through People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), and help share benefits with local communities. The 2023 amendment clarifies their role in facilitating benefit-sharing and reinforces their participation in the conservation framework.

1. Documentation of PBRs:

BMCs are responsible for preparing and maintaining the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) that record local biological resources, associated traditional knowledge, and practices.

2. Conservation and Monitoring:

BMCs assist in the conservation and sustainable use of local biodiversity and act as custodians of local knowledge.

3. Consultation Role:

BMCs must be consulted by the National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards before approvals related to biological resources or associated knowledge from their jurisdiction are granted.

4. Benefit-Sharing Participation:

They ensure that local communities receive a fair share of benefits arising from the use of their biological resources or knowledge.

5. Awareness and Capacity Building:

BMCs promote public awareness and conduct local-level programs on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

2.5 Duties of Central Governments

1. Development of National Strategies and Plans:

The primary duty of the Central Government is to develop national strategies, plans, and programs for the conservation, promotion, and sustainable use of biological diversity. This includes measures for:

- Identification and monitoring of areas rich in biological resources.
- Promotion of *in situ* (on-site) and *ex-situ* (off-site) conservation of biological diversity.

2. Issuing Directives to State Governments:

If the Central Government has reason to believe that any area rich in biological diversity, biological resources, and their habitats is being threatened by overuse, abuse, or neglect, it is mandated to issue directives to the concerned State Government to take immediate ameliorative measures. The Central Government should also offer such State Governments the necessary technical and financial assistance.

3. Integration into Sectoral Plans and Policies:

The Central Government is required, as far as practicable and wherever deemed appropriate, to integrate the conservation, promotion, and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programs, and

policies. This emphasizes mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across different government sectors.

4. Undertaking Specific Measures:

The Central Government shall undertake measures, including:

(i) Environmental Impact Assessment as per Section 36(4)(i):

Wherever necessary, for the assessment of the environmental impact of any project that is likely to have an adverse effect on biological diversity, with a view to avoid or minimize such effects. This also includes providing for public participation in such assessment where appropriate.

(ii) Regulation of Genetically Modified Organisms as per Section 36(4)(ii):

Regulating the release of genetically modified organisms Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) which are likely to have an adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account the risks to human health.

5. Protecting Traditional Knowledge:

The Central Government is obligated to endeavor to respect and protect the knowledge of local people relating to biological diversity, as recommended by the National Biodiversity Authority. This may include measures such as:

- Registration of such knowledge at the local, State, or national levels.
- Other necessary measures for protection.

To undertake the measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or traditional knowledge by involving the NBA or SBB.

2.6 Duties of State Governments

The duties outlined in Section 36b primarily fall upon the State Governments. These duties are:

Developing State-level Strategies and Plans:

The primary duty is for State Governments to formulate their own strategies, plans, and programs for the conservation, promotion, and sustainable use of biological diversity within their respective jurisdictions. This includes identifying and monitoring areas rich in biological resources.

Integrating Biodiversity into State Policies:

State Governments are also mandated to integrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into their relevant sectoral policies and cross-sectoral plans and programs, wherever practical and appropriate.



 Tisha_Mukherjee

Chapter 3

Meetings of the Authority

During the reporting period, the Authority met four times and advised the NBA Secretariat for actions as per Section 12 of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023 and Rule 10 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2024. Besides, the Authority considered Access and Benefit Sharing (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. 70th Authority Meeting

The 70th Authority meeting (Special Meeting) was held on 29th July, 2024 in Eros Hotel, New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.), Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were the following:

- a) The Authority considered the Report submitted by the Expert Committee on amendments to the Biological Diversity Rules and notification of forms and fees.
- b) The Authority approved the draft Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, Application forms and fees, subject to certain modifications.
- c) Keeping in view of the urgency on this matter, the Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to forward the revised draft BD Rules, 2024, Application forms and fee to the Ministry immediately for further necessary action.





- d) The Authority approved the draft Annual Report 2023-24 and directed NBA Secretariat to forward the same to the MoEFCC after incorporating the Audit Report from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) for placing on the table of the Parliament in both the Houses
- e) The Authority members ratified the NBA Annual Accounts for the year 2023-24.
- f) The Members approved the draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and Adoption of National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and decided that the title may be changed to “Updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and Adoption of National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)”.
- g) The members decided that the Updated Draft NBSAP may be submitted to the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for further necessary action.

- h) The members approved the minutes of the third meeting of the re-constituted Expert Committee (EC) for scientific examination of certain materials /resources /chemicals used for research, commercialization, bio-survey and bio-utilization and for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights for determining whether they fall under the purview of the definition of the biological resources under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023 along with the Interim report submitted by the expert committee on materials.
- i) The members noted the information on creation of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)-Cell at NBA and Sub-Cell at MoEFCC.
- j) The members decided that the National Biodiversity Authority shall share the draft Affidavits for both Section 3(2) and Section 7 to the Form III (Intellectual Property Rights) applicants before providing the Certificate of Registration to section 7 entities during this interim period to avoid delay in processing the Form III applications.
- k) The members decided that title of the Affidavits shall be "Status of the entity/ individual under section 3(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 as amended by Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 to be obtained from Central Notary" in the case of Section 3(2) and "Status of entity/ individual under section 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 as amended by the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 to be obtained from Central Notary".
- l) The members decided that the aforesaid affidavits submitted by the applicants shall be notarized by Central Notary for further processing at NBA.
- m) The members decided that the above-mentioned affidavits notarized by Central Notary shall be submitted along with the Declaration while submitting the Forms by the applicant after the notification of the Biological Diversity Rules 2024 and the Forms also.
- n) The members decided that the NBA Secretariat shall send a letter to MoEFCC requesting the Ministry to take up the issue with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for inclusion of NBA staff in Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) scheme for the benefit of serving/ pensioner/family pensioner based on the method followed by Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act (PPVFRA).
- o) The members approved the National Biodiversity Authority Medical Facilities Scheme (NBAMFS) 2024.

- p) The members advised that the proposal for inclusion of NBA staff under the CGHS shall be taken up by NBA with the Ministry, and simultaneously send the NBAMFS 2024 proposal to the Ministry for approval.

3.2. 71st Authority meeting

The 71st Authority meeting (Emergency meeting) was held on 26th December, 2024 in online mode at NBA, Chennai under the Chairmanship of Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.) Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:

- a) The Authority considered the draft Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Regulations 2025 after thorough deliberation and approved the same with certain minor modifications.
- b) Keeping in view of the urgency on this matter, the Authority directed the Secretariat to forward the revised draft ABS Regulations 2025 to the Ministry directly for approval. In other words, this Agenda item need not be circulated to members for final approval as done usually.
- c) Authority also placed on record its appreciation to the Chair, Co-chair and Members of the Expert Committee for bringing out the draft ABS Regulations 2025.
- d) The Authority members appreciated the efforts taken by NBA and approved the MoU between NBA and NALSAR University for establishing Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL).



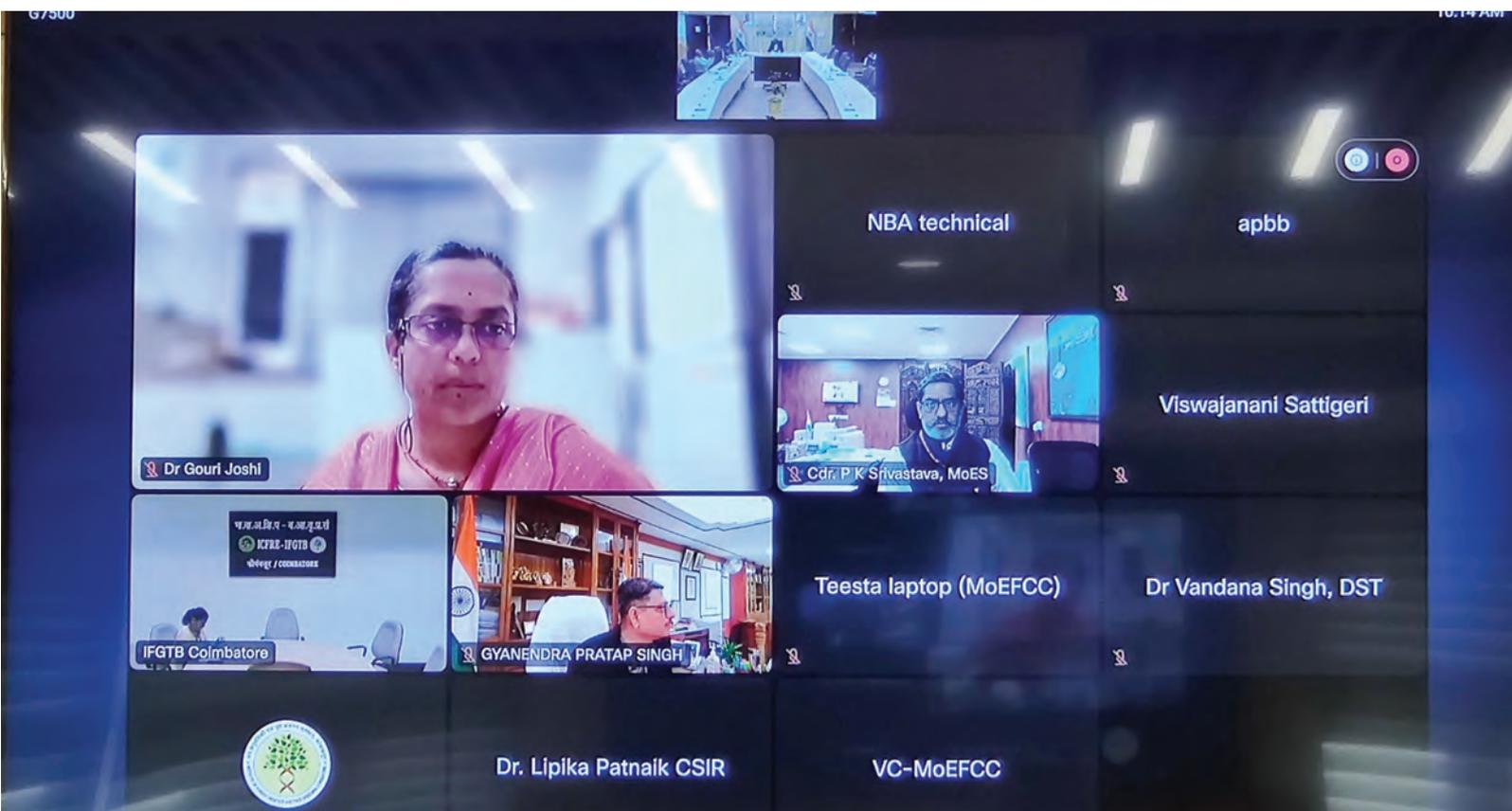
- e) The Authority ratified the action of NBA Secretariat for using the old forms and fee till the new software is in place.
- f) Members also decided that the NBA Secretariat may expedite the process with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to update the Forms and Fee as per the Biological Diversity Rules 2024.

3.3. 72nd Authority meeting

The 72nd Authority meeting (Emergency Meeting) of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 18th February, 2025 in hybrid mode at Teesta Hall, Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.) Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:

- a) The Authority considered the proposed amendments to the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and after thorough deliberation, approved the proposed draft Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2025.
- b) Keeping in view of the urgency on this matter, the Authority directed the secretariat to forward the proposed amendments to the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 to the Ministry directly for notification. In other words, this agenda item, need not be circulated to the members for final approval as done during the normal course of action.





- c) The Authority re-considered the proposed draft ABS Regulations 2025 with the comments received from MoEFCC and after thorough deliberation, approved the proposed draft ABS Regulations 2025
- d) Keeping in view of the urgency on this matter, the Authority directed the Secretariat to forward the revised draft ABS regulations 2025 to the Ministry for approval. In other words, this agenda item, need not be circulated to the members for final approval as done during the normal course of action.
- e) The Authority members approved "in principle", the proposal to avoid disruption of work in NBA. However, the NBA shall analyse and review orders/memorandums of various Departments/ Autonomous Organisations/ Ministries of Government of India including MoEFCC with respect to the Travel Allowance entitlement of the non-regular staff and place it as an agenda in the forthcoming Authority meeting.
- f) The members ratified the expenditure incurred by NBA in case of travel of non-regular personnel for official tours based on the Office Memorandum during this interim period.
- g) The Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to expedite the work related to creation of new posts to NBA.
- h) The Authority members considered the concerns of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and decided that these issues may be addressed in the Biodiversity Management Committee guidelines, Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) and People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) guidelines, as appropriate.

3.4. 73rd Authority meeting

The 73rd Authority of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 21-22 March 2025 at Basmati Hall, NASC Complex, ICAR, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.) Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The important items discussed, deliberated and decisions taken in the meeting were:

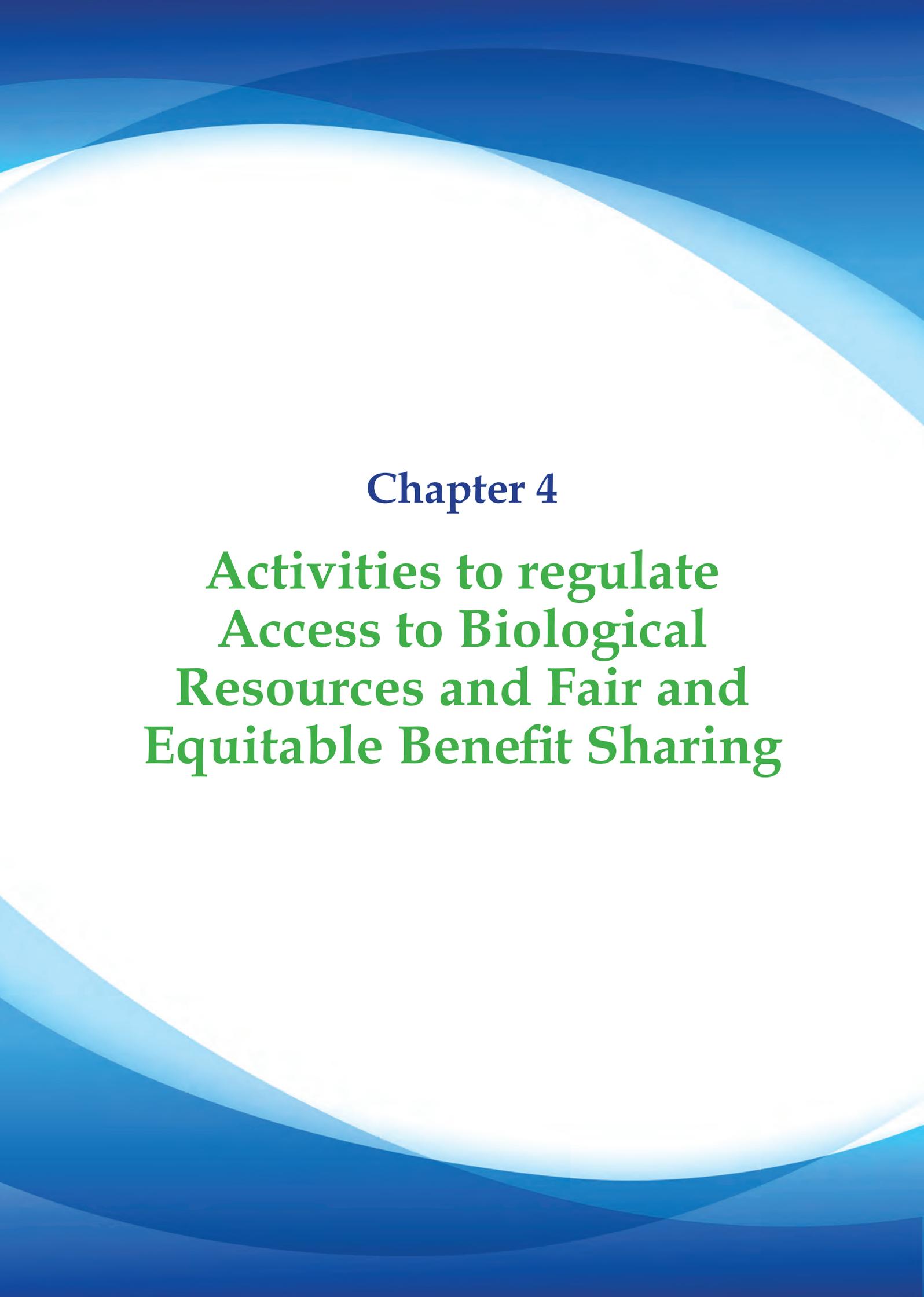
- (i) The Authority decided that the NBA may wait for the response of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on the opinion offered by Learned Additional Solicitor General of India to deal with the contravention cases that were identified in the past that fall under the erstwhile BD Act 2002.
- (ii) The Authority also decided that applications filed after the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, came into force and identified cases that have contravened the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 as amended in 2023 shall be referred to the Adjudicating Officer by the NBA as per Section 55 of the Act, read with Rule 23 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024.
- (iii) The members decided that 12% of Rs 71,25,641/- (6% to NBA + 6% to SBB) as administrative charges shall be retained and the remaining benefit sharing amount shall be transferred to the BMC in Dapur village.
- (iv) The benefit sharing amount will be transferred to the BMC after the activities for utilizing this amount is agreed upon.
- (v) The Members approved the Minutes of the 70th meeting of the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS).
- (vi) The members endorsed the recommendations of the Expert Committee on ABS on the draft agreements of Forms 1,2,3,5,6,9, and 10 as well as





- (vii) The members deferred the decision on the minutes on the export of Agarwood seedlings to the next Authority meeting.
- (viii) The Authority members approved the proposal of Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) to designate the Referral Centre 'Bhavasagara' CMLRE, Kochi as a Repository under section 39 of the Act to keep in safe custody of voucher specimens belongs to deep-sea vertebrates and invertebrates including group of organisms such as cnidarians, annelids, molluscs, arthropods, echinoderms, elasmobranchs and teleostean fish can be accepted.
- (ix) The NBA shall forward the proposal of CMLRE to the MoEFCC for consideration and to notify the designation of these repositories under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023
- (x) The members approved the proposal of Agharkar Research Institute to designate (i) Maharashtra Association for the Cultivation of Science (MACS) Collection of Microorganisms and (ii) National Fungal Culture of India as the repository under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 to keep safe custody of specimens of anaerobic and extremophilic microorganism and indigenous fungi.
- (xi) The NBA shall forward the proposal of Agharkar Research Institute to the MoEFCC for consideration and to notify the designation of these repositories under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023

- (xii) Members decided that the Utilization Certificate submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department (APFD) for Rs 3.00 crore in October 2024 to be accepted by the NBA, and the remaining unspent amount may be revalidated. However, the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBB) may be advised to return the original Utilization Certificate submitted by APFD to the NBA.
- (xiii) Members also decided that submission of Statement of Expenditure and obtaining disbursal certificates may be discussed in the subsequent meeting as it relates to financial matters which need further discussion. It may take more time to come to a conclusion on this matter and therefore the present system of obtaining Utilization Certificate may be continued.
- (xiv) The Authority members approved the procurement of requisite cloud infrastructure from National Information Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) for NBA by paying the requisite amount for implementation of the e-PBR project across the country.
- (xv) The Authority members approved the draft Revised Guidelines on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in India- 2025 and also decided that it shall be submitted to MoEFCC immediately for further necessary action without being circulated to the members.
- (xvi) The members decided that a disclaimer "The above declaration of OECM shall not be treated/ understood/ interpreted as a protected area under any law related to Forest/ Wildlife/Biodiversity/ Environment for the time being in force" shall be added at the end of Annexure-3 in the Guidelines.
- (xvii) The Authority members approved the Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Program (BSIP) guidelines.
- (xviii) The members approved the extension of the internship of BSIP-IV till January, 2026 with an increase of the stipend from INR 25000 to INR 25500.
- (xix) The Authority members approved the internship of BSIP-V till February 28, 2026 with an increase in the stipend from INR 23500 to INR 24000.
- (xx) The Authority members approved the internship of BSIP-VI for a period of three years (1+1+1) with an extension for every year given after getting the concurrence of the respective SBB/UTBC and the willingness of the intern.
- (xxi) The Authority members decided to increase the intake of interns from 40 to 50 from the BSIP-VI cycle



Chapter 4

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

The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023

The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, was notified in the Gazette of India *vide* notification: CG-DL-E-03082023-247815 PART II- Section 1, No. 10 of 2023 dated 03rd August 2023 and came into force on 1st April, 2024 as per the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change notification S.O. 295(E) dated 18th January 2024.

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, received by the NBA are evaluated by this expert committee which made suitable recommendations for consideration of the Authority.

During the year, the Committee met once *viz.*, 70th Expert Committee Meeting on 4th and 5th December 2024, and evaluated around 10 applications on Form I access and benefit sharing and 2 applications on Form III for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights and provided recommendations to the Authority. As requested by the applicant, 7 applications filed under the Office Memorandum was placed for



discussion, Expert Committee recommended to issue appropriate reasoning order, the applicant was directed accordingly.

The Expert Committee re-examined the existing Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements in alignment with the Biological Diversity Amendment Act 2023 and Biological Diversity Rules 2024, recommended agreements for 9 Forms, the same was approved by the 73rd Authority Meeting.

4.2 Expert Committee constituted to Review and Suggest Appropriate Modifications to the Biological Diversity Rules 2004; Access and Benefit Sharing Regulations 2014 in the light of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023 in the Parliament; and to Frame Model Rules for the Management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites:

4.2.1 Amendments to the Biological Diversity Rules 2004

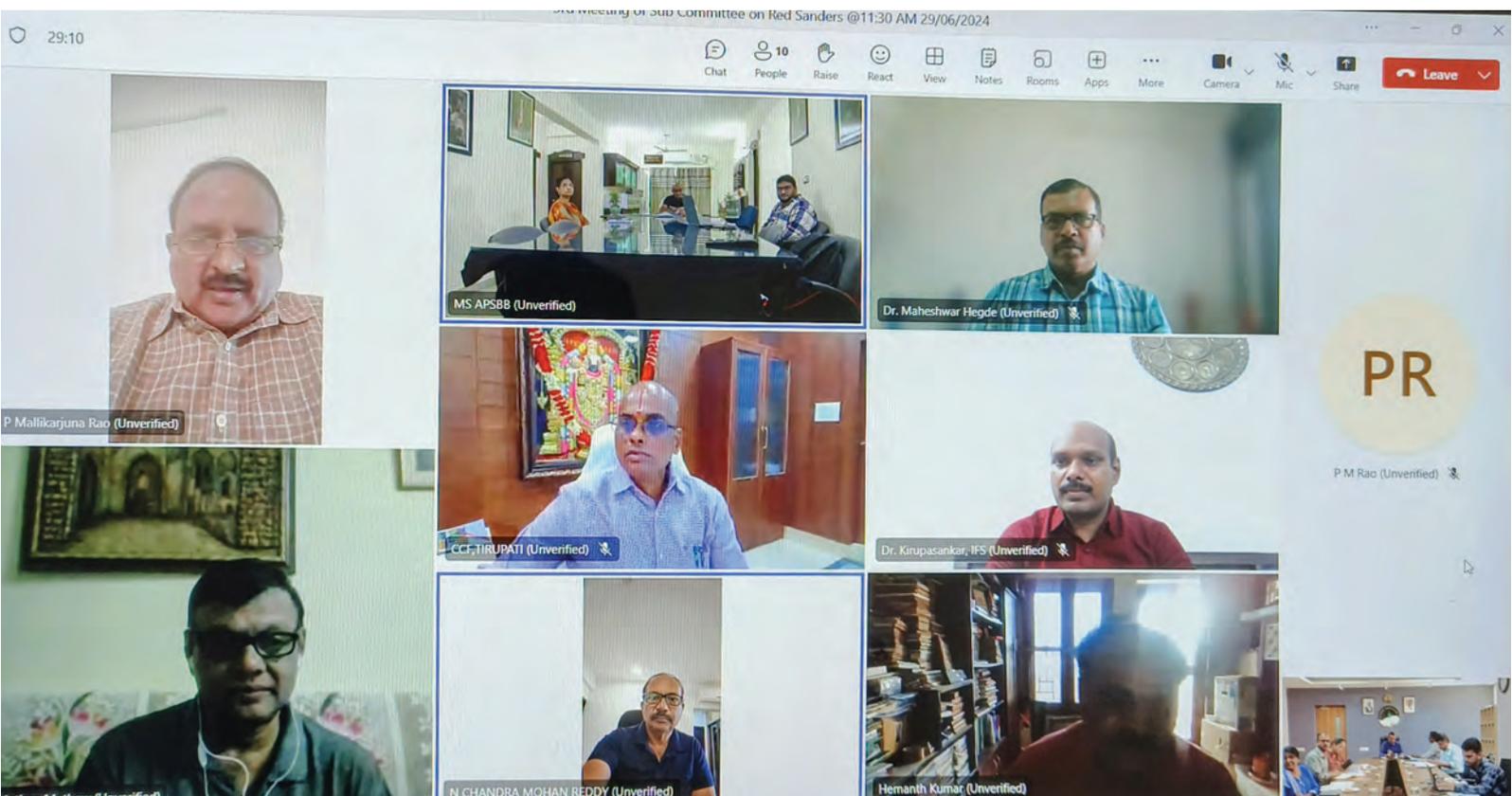
As per the directions of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and also through the exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, read with Rule 11 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, NBA *vide* office order dated 22nd March, 2023 had constituted an Expert Committee comprising of 20 Members under the chairmanship of Shri. A. K. Goyal IFS (Retd.), Former Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, with a mandate to review the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004. MoEFCC convened a series of Inter and Intra Ministerial consultation meetings, in which representatives from 14 Ministries/Departments have participated. NBA incorporated the comments offered by the members as appropriate and revised the draft rules. The revised draft rules were considered by the Authority in July 2024 and approved the same subject to certain modifications. The Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, was notified in the Gazette of India *vide* Notification G.S.R. 665(E) dated 22nd October 2024 which came into force on 21st December 2024 after expiry of sixty days from the date of their notification.

4.2.2 Amendments to the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Regulations, 2014

The Expert Committee constituted for this had 11 sittings to revise the ABS Regulations since October 2023. During the reporting year, eight (8) of these meetings were conducted in hybrid/virtual modes. The details of the Expert Committee meetings in which the ABS Regulations were discussed and the draft was finalized are as below.

Sl. No.	Meeting	Date and Time	Mode of meeting/ Venue
1	22 nd Meeting	19 th November 2024	Virtual Mode
2	23 rd Meeting	22 nd November 2024	Virtual Mode
3	24 th Meeting	25 th & 26 th November 2024	Virtual Mode
4	25 th Meeting	28 th & 29 th November 2024	Hybrid Mode (Hotel Haritha Plaza, Hyderabad)
5	Interaction meetings with stakeholders	19 th & 20 th December 2024	Virtual Mode
6	26 th Meeting	21 st to 23 rd December 2024	Hybrid Mode (NBA, Chennai)
7	27 th Meeting	28 th December 2024	Virtual Mode
8	28 th Meeting	16 th and 17 th January 2024	Virtual Mode

The draft ABS Regulation, 2025 was approved by the 71st Authority and the same was submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 26th December 2025 for approval. In the meanwhile, the ministry received communication from the stakeholders expressing concern on certain provisions of the draft ABS Regulations. Hence, to further simplify the processes and minimize regulatory burden, the MoEFCC and NBA held series of meetings and revised the draft ABS Regulations, 2025. The Authority approved the proposed draft ABS Regulations 2025.



4.3 Re-constituted Expert committee on Red Sanders:

NBA re-constituted an Expert Committee on Red Sanders to develop procedures to deal the applications received for the access of Red sanders from patta / private land and confiscated/seized Red Sanders; review the recommendations of the previous committee and suggest the way forward; utilization of benefit sharing amount received from the access of Red sanders and suggest the modalities to conduct international conference on Red sanders and biodiversity of Eastern Ghats at Tirupati. The Expert Committee met in January 2024 and formed a sub committee to develop a concept note for organising said event. The sub-committee met thrice and submitted its report. Besides, a draft committee was formed to develop the recommendation on the Terms of References. The 4th Meeting of the Expert Committee on Red Sanders held on 14th & 15th March 2025 and finalized the recommendations. The Committee formed drafting committee to prepare the draft report of the EC. The details of the meeting:

Sl. No.	Meeting	Date and Time	Mode of meeting/ Venue
1	2 nd Sub-committee Meeting	10 th April 2024	Virtual Mode
2	3 rd Sub-committee Meeting	29 th June 2024	Virtual Mode
3	Prelude Meeting	19 th November 2024	NBA, Chennai
4	2 nd Meeting	27 th & 28 th December 2024	Hybrid Mode (SRCM Kanha Shanthivanam, Telangana)
5	3 rd Meeting	29 th January 2025	Virtual Mode
6	Drafting Committee Meeting	07 th February 2025	NBA, Chennai
7	4 th Meeting	14 th & 15 th March 2025	Hybrid Mode, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh)



4.4 Committee on State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) / Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs)

During the year, the Expert Committee conducted the following meetings to discuss various issues and finalize the report.

The second meeting of the Expert Committee on State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)/ Union Territory Biodiversity Council (UTBCs) was held on 31st July and 01st August 2024 at Chennai. Dr. Rajeev K Srivastava, IFS (*Retd.*), Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Co-chair of the Expert Committee, chaired the meeting. The committee reviewed the current administrative setup of SBBs and the relevant State Rules needed to implement the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023. The meeting addressed various problems and challenges faced by SBBs in their role as autonomous bodies.

The third meeting of the Expert Committee on SBBs/UTBCs was held on 26th and 27th November 2024 at Hyderabad under the chairmanship of Shri R H Khwaja IAS (*Retd.*). The Chairman NBA shared his views for developing a comprehensive report by the EC. The committee extensively deliberated on the growing workload of the SBBs and UTBCs, particularly in light of the recently amended Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023. To facilitate the preparation of the comprehensive report, the meeting included presentation from the Member Secretaries of various SBBs on a range of administrative, legal and technical challenges currently faced by the Boards.

The Sub-Committee of the Expert Committee on SBBs/UTBCs organized a virtual meeting on 21st January 2025 with eight North-eastern SBBs to discuss key aspects of the functioning of SBBs. The Member Secretaries/representatives of the SBBs made presentation on the some of the issues like experiences related to structure and function of the SBB, processing of ABS applications by the SBB, Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and status of Technical Support Groups (TSG), declaration of Threatened Species and their Management, Local Biodiversity Fund (LBF), Biodiversity Heritage Sites and their management and case Studies of Good Practices and New Learning from the State.

The final meeting of the Expert Committee on SBBs/UTBCs held during 11-12 February 2025 to finalize the report and its recommendations. After detailed deliberations, the Expert Committee came up more than 40 recommendations of which five were highlighted by the Expert Committee: Narrow the gap between the NBA and SBBs/UTBCs: Improve the processing of Access and Benefit Sharing

(ABS) applications and their implementation: Strengthening Technical, Financial and Administration of SBBs/UTBCs/BMCs: Enhance the functioning of BMCs at the grassroots level: Strengthening of functioning of Technical Support Groups (TSGs) at the District level.

4.5 Expert Committee for scientific examination of certain materials / resources / chemicals used for research, commercialization, bio-survey and bio-utilization and for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights for determining their scope of applicability as per various provisions of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act

National Biodiversity Authority constituted an Expert Committee (EC) in the exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (2) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 read with Rule 11 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 "for scientific examination of certain materials / resources / chemicals used for research, commercialization, bio-survey, and bio-utilization and for obtaining Intellectual Property Rights for determining their scope of applicability as per various provisions of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act on 9th October 2023 with the specific Terms of Reference for the committee.

The third meeting of the Expert Committee was held on 10th & 11th May 2024, at Chennai where the Expert Committee has confirmed the proceedings of the first



meeting, second and the special meeting held earlier and the Expert Committee also examined the 24 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications and made their recommendations. The Expert Committee submitted their consolidated interim report to NBA. The minutes were circulated to the members on 27th March 2025. Expert Committee tenure was extended by an office orders on 22nd February 2024, 8th August 2024, 10th December 2024. On conclusion drawn in the above meeting, the NBA constituted the sub-committee from amongst the member of the Expert Committee to draft the final report. The office order dt: 23rd December 2024 was issued in this regard. Sub-committee tenure was extended by office order on 21st January 2025. The sub-committee's first meeting held on 25th January 2025 via virtual mode and subsequently the 2nd meeting was held on 28th and 29th January 2025 at Hyderabad. Minutes of the 1st and 2nd sub-committee was approved and circulated to members on 27th March 2025.

4.6 Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information (DSI)

MoEFCC had requested NBA to constitute an Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information (DSI). Accordingly, NBA *vide* Office Memorandum No. NBA/Tech/EC/9/14/36/20-21 dated 18th April 2020 constituted an Expert Committee on DSI. The Expert Committee submitted its interim report in 2021 and the tenure of the committee has since, ended.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) was adopted in the COP -15 held at Montreal in December 2022. In the KM-GBF, Target 13 has been earmarked to create effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-



building measures in order to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arises from the utilization of genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and digital sequence information.

In view of rapid scientific developments in the field of DSI and in the light of Target No. 13 of Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), it was decided to re-constitute an Expert Committee in the exercise of powers conferred under Sub section (2) of Section 13 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 read with Rule 11 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 *vide* Office Order NBA/Tech/EC/9/14/41/23-24/1788 dated 14th October 2023. The terms of reference of the committee were to review the existing work done so far at National and International level on Digital Sequence Information (DSI); to suggest an appropriate terminology that would reflect DSI and related subject matter; to advise on the scope of DSI that can be regulated under ABS laws, based on the subject matter grouping referred in the proposal; to understand the challenges and feasibility of assessing traceability of DSI and DSI based processes and products; to contribute in developing India's position on DSI in all forthcoming meetings including 16th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to submit a comprehensive report on DSI to guide the officers of MoEFCC / NBA / Others representing India in International deliberations.

During 2024-25, the second meeting of the re-constituted Expert Committee on DSI was held on 25th & 26th April, 2024. The members deliberated on the elements for which there is a need for further discussion based on the Report of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (CBD/WGDSI/1/13 dated 18th November 2023)

Further, a National Workshop on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) and the Global Multilateral Benefit-Sharing Mechanism (GMBSM) from the use of DSI on Genetic Resources (GR) using Bilateral Mechanism was held on 12th and 13th of July 2024 in Hyderabad which was organized by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) under the guidance of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). This workshop was attended and participated in by different groups and sectors of people, including Expert committee members, Line departments, Institutions, Industries, Domain experts, Member Secretaries of State Biodiversity Boards, Forest Department, etc.

The participants deliberated on the following documents circulated by the CBD with a view to prepare India's position namely:

- a) Synthesis of information for the further development of the multilateral mechanism established under decision 15/9, including elements of a draft recommendation (CBD/ WGDSI/2/2)
- b) Reflections of the Co-Chairs on the possible elements identified by the Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the use of Digital Sequence Information on genetic resources at its first meeting (CBD/WGDSI/2/2/Add.1)
- c) Executive summary of the studies commissioned pursuant to decision 15/9 on digital sequence information on genetic resources (CBD/WGDSI/2/2/Add.2)

The participants were then divided into three different Breakout Groups as per the clusters of elements on DSI identified by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and to deliberate and prepare India's position in the forthcoming meetings of CBD viz. The second meeting of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Working Group (AHOEWG) on DSI to be held on 12th -16th August 2024, and the Conference of Parties (CoP)-16 to the Convention on Biological Diversity scheduled on 21st October- 1st November 2024 at Cali, Columbia.

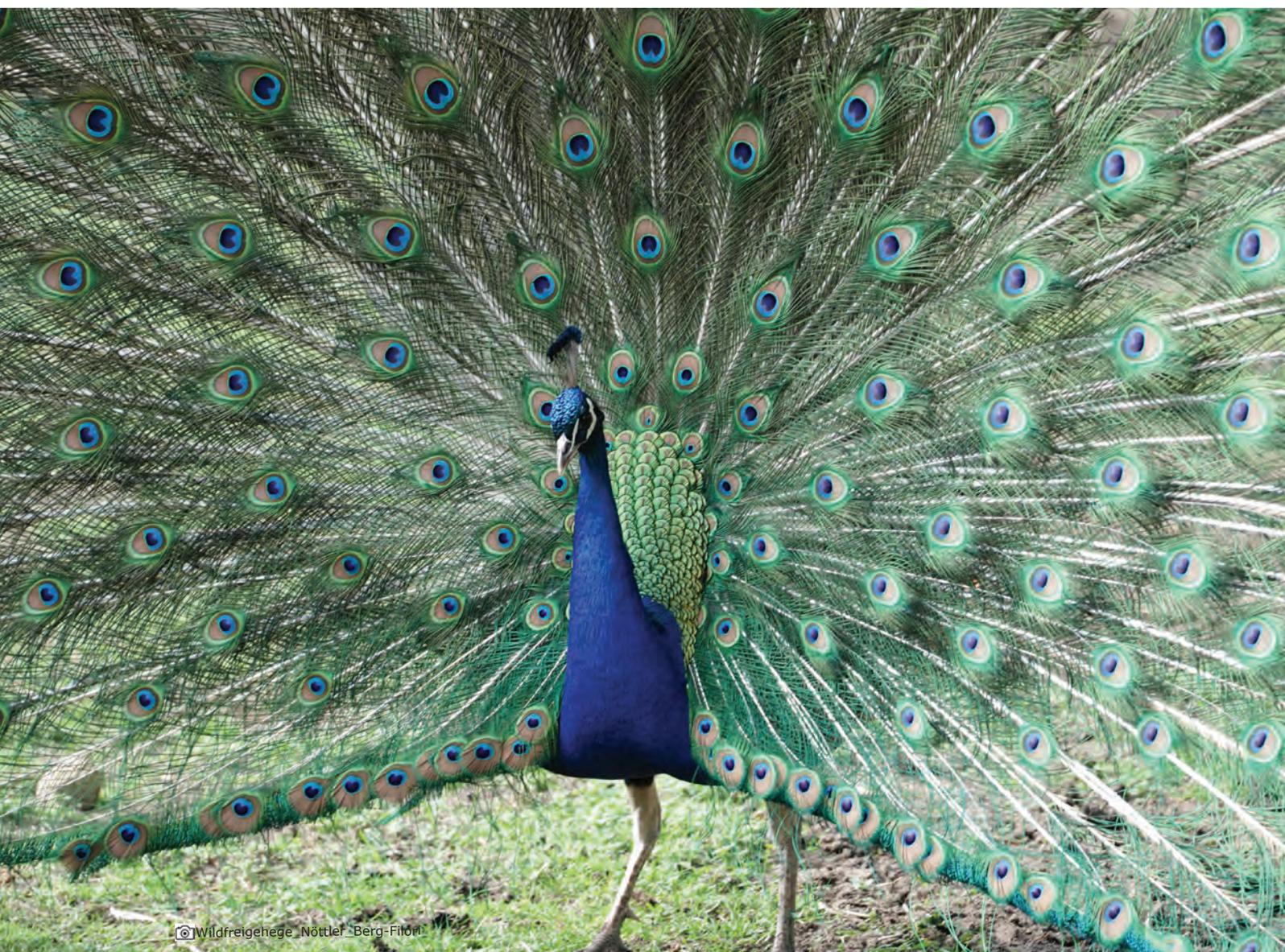
The recommendations of the second meeting of the Expert Committee on DSI and the National workshop on DSI were considered in the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources

4.7 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 being a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of the 3555 approvals granted in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House platform generating Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliances (IRCCs) till date. Out of 3555, 59 IRCCs have been generated during the reporting period.

4.8 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 Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (as amended in 2023). NBA has received 15 such intimations during the year 2024-2025 and the details of the same has 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 and transfer of biological resources under the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and as amended in 2023

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 (NBA) is mandated to regulate activities of access to biological resources and/or associated knowledge for research; bio-survey and bio-utilization; commercial utilization; obtaining Intellectual Property Rights; transfer of results of research and transfer of accessed biological resources and/ or associated knowledge. The procedures to be followed by the applicant are outlined in sections 3, 4, and 6 of the Act; 14, 17, and 18 of the Biological Diversity Rules 2004 and ABS Regulations 2014. Also, the NBA regulates Indian researchers / scientist for sending / carrying biological resources outside India to conduct non-commercial / basic research for emergency purpose as per Regulation 13 of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) guidelines 2014.

As per the provisions of the Biological Diversity 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 apply in four different types of Forms, specified for each activity, to the NBA and there are stipulated time lines for according approvals. It is to mention that the Biological Diversity Act mandates to get approval from concerned authorities for accessing the biological resources which is aimed at ensuring sustainable use of the biological resources and conserving the same to the future generations.

For these activities, the NBA receives applications from different stakeholders' viz., non-Indian individual or entity; Indian individual or entity which is examined by the Competent Authority or through an expert committee constituted for this purpose.

The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 came into force on 1st April 2024 and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 also came to force on 21st December 2024. The activities regulated by the NBA and its procedure has been modified.

5.1 Classification and status of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Applications

Both Individuals and entities covered under the Biological Diversity Act are required to obtain approval of NBA for the purposes mentioned in the Act. The detailed information relating to different categories applications is provided in Table 2 and 3.

Table 2. Categories of ABS Applications as per erstwhile Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (before coming into effect of Amendment Act, 2023), and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004

Form No.	Purpose of the application	By whom
I	Access of biological resources and/ or associated traditional Knowledge for research, commercial utilization, bio-survey or bio-utilization	Non- Indian, NRI, Foreign entity or Indian entity having non-Indian participation in share capital or management
II	Transfer the results of research	Any Indian/non-Indian or entity to any non-Indian, NRI, foreign entity or Indian entity having non-Indian participation in share capital
III	Applying for Intellectual Property Right	Any Indian/ Non-Indian or entity
IV	Transfer of biological resources/ knowledge already accessed, to a third party	Any person who obtained approval of NBA in Forms I to Indians/ Non-Indians or entities
B	Conducting non-commercial research or research for emergency purpose outside India by Indian researchers/government institutions using the biological resources	Indian scientist/ researcher / Government Institution

Table 3. Categories of ABS Applications as per Biological Diversity Act, 2002 as amended by the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, and Biological Diversity Rules, 2024

Form No.	Purpose of the application	By whom
1	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for access to biological resources or knowledge associated thereto for research or for bio-survey and bio-utilization by persons covered under section 3(2) of the Act.	Non- Indian, NRI, Foreign entity or Indian entity controlled by a foreigner within the meaning of clause (27) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013
2	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for access to biological resources or knowledge associated thereto for commercial utilization by persons covered under section 3(2) of the Act	Non- Indian, NRI, Foreign entity or Indian entity controlled by a foreigner within the meaning of clause (27) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013
3	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for sharing or transferring the results of research to section 3(2) persons for commercial purposes or otherwise.	Any Indian/non-Indian or entity transferring research results to any non-Indian, NRI, foreign entity or Indian entity controlled by a foreigner within the meaning of clause (27) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013
4	Application for prior registration with the National Biodiversity Authority to use the results of research for further research by the transferee (section 3(2) person).	Non- Indian, NRI, Foreign entity or Indian entity controlled by a foreigner within the meaning of clause (27) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013

Form No.	Purpose of the application	By whom
5	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority to use the results of research for commercial utilisation by the transferee (section 3(2) person).	Non- Indian, NRI, Foreign entity or Indian entity controlled by a foreigner within the meaning of clause (27) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013
6	Application for seeking prior approval to use the results of research for obtaining intellectual property rights by the transferee (section 3(2) person).	Non- Indian, NRI, Foreign entity or Indian entity controlled by a foreigner within the meaning of clause (27) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013
7	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority before grant of intellectual property rights by persons covered under section 3(2) of the Act.	Non- Indian, NRI, Foreign entity or Indian entity controlled by a foreigner within the meaning of clause (27) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013
8	Application for registration with the National Biodiversity Authority before grant of intellectual property rights by persons covered under section 7 of the Act.	Resident Indian and entities incorporated/ registered in India and not controlled by a foreigner within the meaning of clause (27) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013
9	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for commercialisation of intellectual property rights by persons covered under section 7 of the Act.	Resident Indian and entities incorporated/ registered in India and not controlled by a foreigner within the meaning of clause (27) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013
10	Form for declaration of the use of biological resource or associated traditional knowledge obtained from any foreign country, in India.	Any person/entity
13	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for sending /carrying the biological resources outside India by Indian researchers / institutions for conducting non-commercial research or research for emergency purposes.	Indian scientist/ researcher / Government Institution

Since its inception until January 2025, the NBA has received 9142 applications from various stakeholders under Forms I, II, III, IV, and Form B. During the reporting period from April 2024 to January 2025, the NBA received 933 applications (Table 4 and Figure 1), which were complete in all respects and were therefore taken up for processing.

From February 2025 to March 2025, the NBA received 71 applications from various stakeholders under Forms 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 &13, in accordance with the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 (Table 5 and Figure 2).

Table 4. ABS applications received under different categories as per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004.

Form No.	Category	Applications received since April 2024 until January 2025
I	Access of biological resources and/or associated traditional Knowledge for research, commercial utilization, bio-survey or bio-utilization	89
II	Transferring results of research for monetary consideration or otherwise	8
III	Application for seeking "prior approval" of National Biodiversity Authority for Applying for Intellectual Property Rights	803
IV	Third Party transfer of accessed biological resources and/ or associated knowledge	4
B	Conducting non-commercial research or research for emergency purpose outside India by Indian researchers/government institutions using the biological resources	29
Total		933

Table 5: ABS applications received under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023) and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024.

Form No.	Category	Applications received from February 2025 to March 2025
1	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for access to biological resources or knowledge associated thereto for research or for bio-survey and bio-utilization by persons covered under section 3(2) of the Act.	5
2	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for access to biological resources or knowledge associated thereto for commercial utilization by persons covered under section 3(2) of the Act	3
3	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for sharing or transferring the results of research to section 3(2) persons for commercial purposes or otherwise.	3
4	Application for prior registration with the National Biodiversity Authority to use the results of research for further research by the transferee (section 3(2) person).	0

Form No.	Category	Applications received from February 2025 to March 2025
5	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority to use the results of research for commercial utilisation by the transferee (section 3(2) person).	0
6	Application for seeking prior approval to use the results of research for obtaining intellectual property rights by the transferee (section 3(2) person).	0
7	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority before grant of intellectual property rights by persons covered under section 3(2) of the Act.	1
8	Application for registration with the National Biodiversity Authority before grant of intellectual property rights by persons covered under section 7 of the Act.	54
9	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for commercialisation of intellectual property rights by persons covered under section 7 of the Act.	0
10	Form for declaration of the use of biological resource or associated traditional knowledge obtained from any foreign country, in India.	0
13	Application for seeking prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for sending /carrying the biological resources outside India by Indian researchers / institutions for conducting non-commercial research or research for emergency purposes.	5
Total		71

Figure 1. Receipt of Applications in different categories during the period 2024-25.

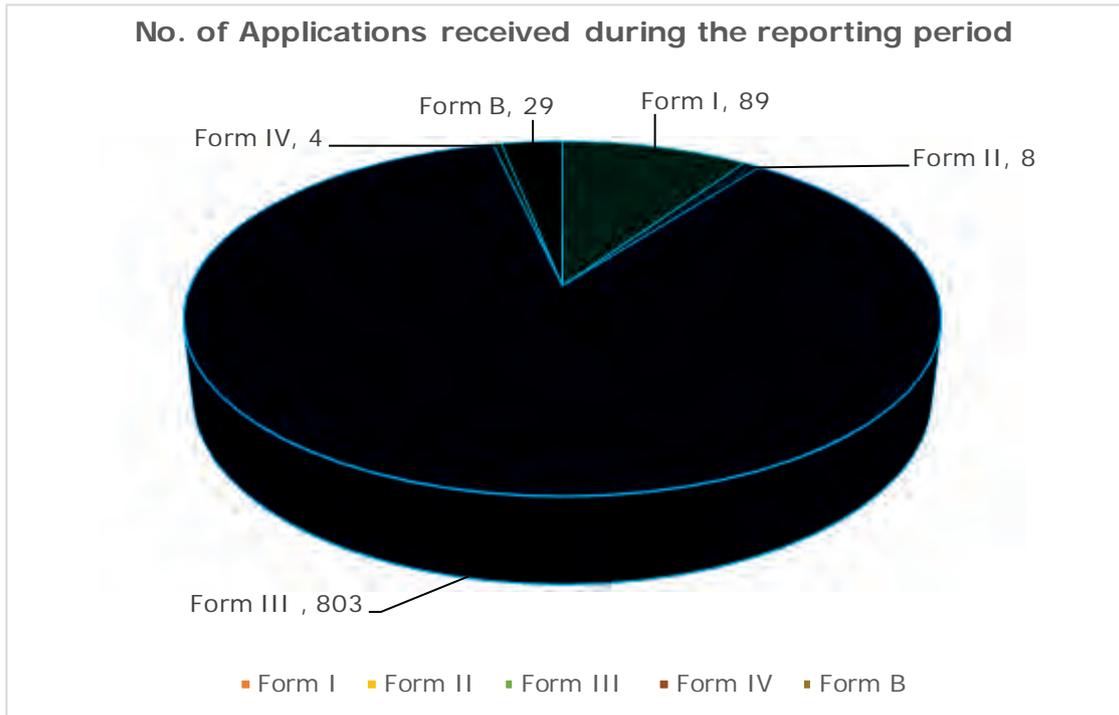
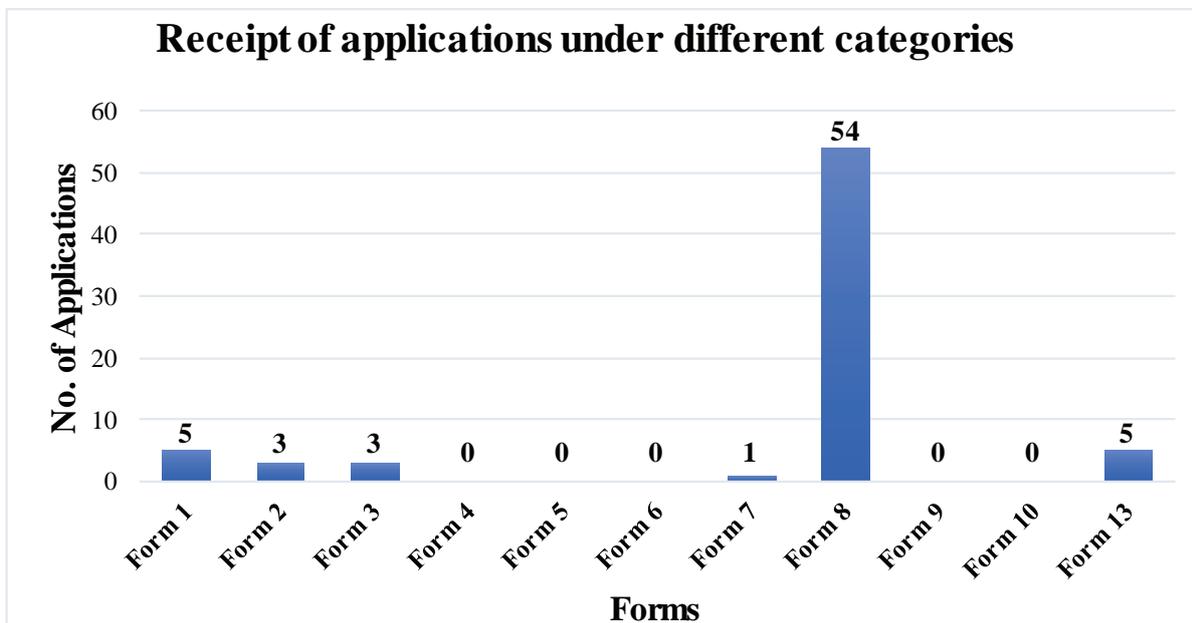


Figure 2. Receipt of Applications from February 2025 to March 2025 in different categories during the period 2024-25



5.2. e-filing of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) applications

NBA is receiving the ABS applications from the different stakeholders through ABS-e-filing portal (<http://absefiling.nic.in>) which was launched in the year 2017. As on date more than 7000 applications received through this portal. In view of the recent amendments made in the Biological Diversity Act and Biological Diversity Rules, the existing ABS applications have been modified in the portal.

Process & Approvals granted by the Authority for Access of Biological Resources

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, received by the NBA are examined by the NBA and seek consent or otherwise from the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) through State Biodiversity Board (SBB). After consulting with the BMC through SBB, approval of NBA will be granted in the form of a written agreement between the NBA / SBB and the applicant. However, cases where the expertize is required to make decision will be referred to the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing for evaluation. Based on the decisions of the Authority, approval will be granted to the applicants. The Agreement executed consists of terms and conditions, including benefit sharing component obligations, which will be determined based on the Guideline on ABS, 2014.

During the reporting period, the NBA received 933 applications which were complete in all respects and taken up for processing. After examining the applications, the NBA forwarded draft agreements to 475 applicants for execution, including the applications that were received in the previous year. About 568 applicants have executed agreements with the NBA, that construed as an approval of the NBA. Further, during the reporting period, NBA has issued 728 Certificate of Registration to Form III applicants. The stages of processing of applications are shown in Table 6,7 and 8.

Table 6. Stages of processing of ABS applications received from April 2024 to January 2025 (as per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004)

SI No	Details/ Forms	Form I	Form II	Form III (Application processed based on BD Act 2002)	Form III (Application processed based on the BD (Amendment) Act 2023)	Form IV	Form B	Total
A	Applications Under Process (as on 31.03.2024)	62	3	472	0	4	5	546
B	Applications received during the reporting period	89	8	0	803	4	29	933
	Total applications processed in the reporting period (A+B)	151	11	472	803	8	34	1479
Applications under different categories								
i	Cleared	61	1	388	0	2	23	475
ii	Certificate of Registration issued	0	0	0	728	0	0	728
iii	Violation in this reporting period	6	0	0		0	0	6
iv	Closure/Withdrawn	13	8	65	26	4	7	123
v	Applications Under Process (as on 31.03.2025)	71	2	19	49	2	4	147
	Total (i-v)	151	11	472	803	8	34	1479

Table 7. Status of ABS agreements signed / approved for applications under different categories

SI No	Details/ Forms	Form I	Form II	Form III (Application processed based on BD Act 2002)	Form III (Application processed based on the BD (Amendment) Act 2023)	Form IV	Form B	Total
C	Agreement signed/ Approval given for the applications received during the reporting period	14	0	0	0	0	19	33
D	Agreement signed/ Approval given for the applications received prior to the reporting period	43	1	485	0	2	4	535
	Total agreement signed/ approved (C+D)	57	1	485	0	2	23	568

Table 8. Stages of processing of ABS applications received from February 2025 to March 2025 (as per the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023) and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024)

Details/ Forms	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	13	Total
Received	5	3	3	0	0	0	1	54	0	0	5	71
Cleared											1	1
Certificate of Registration								42				42
Closure/ Withdrawn							1	1				2
Agreement Signed/ Approved											1	1
Under process	5	3	3	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	3	25

5.4. Realization of benefit sharing amount to the benefit claimers

NBA has received a sum of INR 28.65 Crores as the benefit-sharing (BS) component from the applicants during the year 2024-2025.

5.5 Electronic-People’s Biodiversity Register (e-PBR)

NBA joined hands with the NIC, Chennai and Kerala for developing a comprehensive application called “Biodiversity Management Information System” (BIOMIS) which includes Electronic People’s Biodiversity Register for use of the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) across the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) for documenting the information on biological resources and knowledge associated thereto in their jurisdiction. Presently, the project is being implemented in 12 pilot States (*viz.* Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Goa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu). In the e-PBR portal, out of 80,097 BMCs from 12 States, 53,301 BMCs details such as name of the members, contact details, Local Government Directory number of the village, demographic information have been uploaded in the portal.

A meeting, with Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India, National Informatics Centre along with Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, was organized to populate the master species data and validation of the PBR entered by Biodiversity Management Committees. For effective monitoring the implementation of BIOMIS portal, following review meetings were conducted by the NBA.

Sl. No.	Meeting	Date and Time	Mode of meeting/ Venue
1	2 nd Meeting	02 nd April 2024	Virtual Mode
2	3 rd Meeting	18 th April 2024	Virtual Mode
3	4 th Meeting	16 th May 2024	Virtual Mode
4	5 th Meeting	02 nd July 2024	Virtual Mode
5	6 th Meeting	16 th July 2024	Virtual Mode
6	7 th Meeting	02 nd December 2024	Virtual Mode
7	8 th Meeting	30 th January 2025	Virtual Mode

A workshop on e-PBR portal to train the SBBs and State NIC units involved in the process of uploading PBR data was organized on 23rd August 2024. Further, NBA is in the process of procuring cloud infrastructure for hosting BIOMIS application for rolling out the application at the PAN India level.



 Kandukuru Nagarjun

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 sectors. It contributes to the creation of value-added products that, in turn, have enormous economic potential. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are used as a legal tool to create monopoly rights over this valuable information and thereby ensure commercial success. However, the creation of private property rights through the grant of a patent can lead to obstacles to 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 through IPR among the users and providers. It attempts to balance the competing interests of these stakeholders by creating 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, and amended it in 2023, to achieve the 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 (Amendment) Act 2023, 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 or Certificate of Registration (CoR), as the case may be, from the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA). NBA has an ABS e-filing system (<http://absefiling.nic.in>) for filing online applications to ease the filling and speed up the process of granting approvals by the NBA.

6.2 Inputs on AYUSH Patent Guidelines:

The Guidelines for Processing Patent Applications Related to AYUSH Systems and Inventions aim to provide clear directions for the filing and processing of patent applications that involve traditional systems of healthcare, including Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Homoeopathy. These guidelines are a critical step in ensuring that the intellectual property (IP) related to these systems is processed with clarity, while also safeguarding the interests of indigenous communities and traditional knowledge holders.

The Ministry of Ayush, which is mandated to develop and promote these traditional systems, has established these guidelines to address the intersection of patents with traditional knowledge (TK), biological resources, and Digital Sequence Information

(DSI). In response to the draft guidelines, the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Section of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) submitted its detailed inputs, focusing on the need to protect traditional knowledge and biological resources, including DSI, under the patent framework.

The NBA's recommendations highlight the need for careful consideration of Digital Sequence Information (DSI), which involves the use of genetic data and related information. The NBA advocates for ensuring that any patent applications involving biological resources or DSI derived from India's rich biodiversity are in accordance with national laws, particularly in relation to Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT).

These inputs were formally submitted to both the Indian Patent Office and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to ensure that patenting practices in India are aligned with global commitments to protect biodiversity, traditional knowledge, and the rights of local communities.

6.3 Consultation meeting on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expression (folklore) under World Intellectual Property Organization – Intergovernmental Committee (WIPO IGC)

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had scheduled a consultation meeting on 28th February, 2025, on issues referred in the Note and Draft Articles to listen views to help them in preparing the tentative positions before formal discussions to start in IGC. Meeting was chaired by Director, Shri Karan Thapar. Ms. Rambha Chaudhary, TO-(IPR), and Dr. Sundar Rajan (Legal-Consultant), NBA, had attended the meeting on behalf of NBA virtually. The agenda of the meeting was to listen views to help us in preparing the tentative positions before formal discussions to start in between 3rd March to 7th March, 2025 (Geneva, Switzerland) in a hybrid mode. Post meeting NBA comments were submitted to DPIIT.

Chapter 7

Awareness relating to Intellectual Property Rights and Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Public Participation

7.1 Presentation on various meetings / seminars / conferences organized / attended and the results / achievements

- (1) Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA, and Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA, participated in the State-Level Workshop on the implementation of Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) finance solutions in Telangana held on 08th April 2024. The Meeting organized by the Telangana State Biodiversity Board in association with National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL), was well attended by 70 companies and other key stakeholders. Topics covered included Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), voluntary certification schemes, and amendments to the Biodiversity Act. A panel discussion on the above topics was chaired by Chairperson, NBA, Secretary, NBA, Advisor, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Member Secretary, Telangana SBB, and clarified the doubts raised by the Industries.
- (2) A high-level review meeting on 16th April 2024, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, was attended by Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA, Shri Tanmay Kumar, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC, Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA, and other officials. The meeting reviewed the rules and bylaws to be framed under the amended Biological Diversity Act in various ministries.
- (3) NBA organized a meeting with all State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) on 18th April 2024 to discuss the modalities for celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity and World Environment Day across the country by involving BMCs. The session was chaired by Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA. Senior officers of MoEFCC also joined in the meeting and interacted with the SBBs and UTBCs.
- (4) On 18th April 2024, NBA team participated in the meeting convened by the Department of commerce on India European Union Free Trade Agreement and offered inputs on the biodiversity related Articles and Cross cutting issues. The meeting was Chaired by Shri S, Senthil Nathan, IRS., Ministry of Commerce. The meeting was also attended by senior officers from MoEFCC Wildlife / Economic divisions. Issues such as incorporation of provisions related to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Nagoya Protocol, invasive alien species, sustainable use of species and its products in trade, etc were discussed.

- (5) NBA convened an orientation meeting about the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023 on 18th April 2024 to all SBBs/UTBCs. Nearly 25 SBBs participated actively in the session which was Chaired by Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA. During the interaction, the detailed presentation was made about the Biological Diversity (amendment) Act 2023. SBBs were also informed to notification of Board members, and also to amend state specific rules upon notification of the amended BD Rules.
- (6) Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA, attended a virtual meeting on 22nd April 2024 organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce, to discuss the draft Biodiversity Rules 2024 *viz-a-viz* international legal instruments on genetic resources and traditional knowledge under negotiation in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The meeting was chaired by the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, with participation from MoEFCC, the Patent Office, and subject experts.
- (7) A joint meeting On 24th April 2024 was held between MoEFCC, NBA, and DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce to discuss the Draft Biological Diversity Rules 2024, particularly on concerning patent-related procedures *viz-a-viz* international legal instruments on biological resources and traditional knowledge. Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA, headed the NBA delegation, while Ms. Himani Pande, IAS, Additional Secretary, headed the DPIIT delegation. Dr. Unnat Pandit, Controller General of Patents, also took part in the discussion, Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA, participated *via* video conference.
- (8) MoEFCC organized a meeting with the Ministry of Ayush on 29th April 2024 to discuss the Draft Biological Diversity Rules 2024. Meeting was



Chaired by Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA. During the meeting, the issue of on obtaining certificate of origin as outlined u/s 7 of the amended Act was discussed at length along with other issues.

- (9) Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA chaired a meeting held on 2nd May 2024 to hear the views of Indian Vaccine Manufacturer Association members on the Biological Diversity Rules in light of the amendment to Biological Diversity Act. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary,



NBA, moderated the discussion. Representatives from Bharat Biotech, Panacea Biotech, Serum Institute, and others participated, sharing their perspectives on the compliance of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism.

- (10) International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development organized a panel discussion on 08th May 2024 on the conservation of mountain biodiversity under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP), and scaling up the issue to Conference of Parties-16 (CoP-16), were discussed among Hindu Kush Himalayan countries (India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, and Myanmar). Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA, Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA, and Shri Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC participated. Chairperson NBA gave a holistic approach that India adopted for revising NBSAP and relevant targets / indicators provided therein. He emphasized the joint action required by the Hindu Kush Himalayan countries to protect and conserve Mountain Biodiversity in the Himalayas. MoEFCC organized a training program on the Integrated Portal under National Institute for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR), a tool designed to monitor the works of different verticals under the program and act as a knowledge hub.
- (11) As part of the national-level celebration of International Day for Biodiversity (IDB) 2024, the national seminar on "Impact of Climate



Change and Ecotourism on Biodiversity” was organised on 23rd May 2024 at Andhra University. This seminar provided an invaluable platform for experts, researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to come together, exchange knowledge, and discuss critical issues related to climate change, biodiversity, and ecotourism.

- (12) MoEFCC-GiZ organized a one –day workshop on Indo-German project on “One Health and Agroecology: Building Synergies” on 03rd June 2024 at MoEFCC, New Delhi. The purpose of the workshop was to implement a pilot project regarding one health and agro-ecology in one or two states in the country, and strategies have been discussed in consultative mode.

Shri. Tanmay Kumar, Additional Secretary to Govt. of India, MoEFCC welcomed the gathering. Ms. Leena Nandan, Secretary to Govt. of India, MoEFCC chaired the meeting and delivered the keynote address. Ms. Elisabeth Richter, Deputy Head of Economic Cooperation and Development, German Embassy, New Delhi, Dr. Sanjay Shukla, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority, Shri Jitendra Kumar, Director General Forest and Special Secretary, MoEFCC, Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA delivered the special remarks. The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks by Shri. Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC.

Chairperson NBA highlighted the importance on ‘whole of Government’ and ‘whole of society’ approach for achieving the objectives of One Health. Further, he stressed for collaborative work among various players in the field, he also emphasized a recent discussion held at at the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) on draft global plan of action on biodiversity and health. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA made a detailed presentation on ‘Biodiversity and One Health’ and highlighted various activities going on in different international fora and also at national level.

- (13) As Part of World Environment Day celebrations, Kerala State Biodiversity Board organized a capacity building program on 05th June 2024 to their Officers, Staff, District Coordinators and expert members, etc. Dr K.P. Raghuram, Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing), NBA made a presentation on recent amendments to the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and also clarified different provisions under the Act to the participants.
- (14) NBA team attended the National Institute for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR) verticals meet on 06th June 2024 organised by MoEFCC to review the

collaborative works carried out by different organizations in the vertical. NBA team highlighted the mass awareness program organized SBBs/ UTBCs across the country during International Day for Biodiversity (IDB) /World Environment Day (WED) 2024. NIRANTAR software performance was reviewed. NBA tested and provided inputs such as making provision of bilingual, funding agency drop-down, meta data provision, etc., in the developing software.

- (15) NBA organized an e-PBR project discussion with the Giz New Delhi team on 11th June 2024. Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA chaired the meeting. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA facilitated the discussion on administrative and technical matters on the project. Organizing inception workshop cum National Consultation on PBR was also discussed in detail.



- (16) On 11th June 2024, MoEFCC organized a meeting on NIRANTAR wherein Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA briefed the action taken report of the previous meetings. Also discussed the modalities for High Powered Steering Committee meet under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister EF&CC scheduled on 13th June 2024.
- (17) On 21st June 2024, MoEFCC and NBA had an intensive discussion on Draft Biological Diversity Rules. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA briefed the ministry about the minor changes made in the rules. Shri Raghu Kumar

Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC and his team interacted with NBA on various Rules *viz-a-viz* amended Act.

- (18) Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA, Shri Raghu Kumar Kodali and team had virtual meet on 24th June 2024 with First Secretaries of Indian Embassy in Colombia Shri Abishek & Shri Vineet Kumar and discussed various preparations to CoP-16 including logistics, setting up India pavilion, Hon'ble Minister visit, his participation in high level segments/ bilateral talks etc.
- (19) India-European Union Free Trade Agreement negotiations were held through virtual mode on 26th June 2024. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary NBA and Senior officers of Wildlife division at MoEFCC participated and negotiated the text including trade and biodiversity such as invasive alien species, compliance with CBD, and Nagoya Protocol, other trade related aspects and some text were reached consensus and some are in Brackets.
- (20) NBA and WWF-India hosted the Model Conference of Parties-5 (MCOP5). The Pre-MCOP sessions, held virtually on 4th – 5th July 2024, covered topics such as biodiversity conservation, the 30x30 initiative, and India's role in the Global Biodiversity Framework. Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson, NBA delivered a lecture on "India and the Global Biodiversity Framework," highlighting the MCOP5 theme, "Generation 30," which emphasises restoring and conserving 30% of degraded ecosystems and biodiversity-rich areas by 2030, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. He highlighted the theme of MCOP5 "Generation 30" and the importance of effective restoration of 30% of the areas degraded ecosystem and 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of biological significance to be conserved by 2030 in line with the targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Ms. Rambha Chaudhary, Technical-Officer (IPR) and Dr. S. Rajesh Kumar, Young Professional-III, National Biodiversity Authority, attended the virtual sessions. MCOP5 Conference and finale was held at New Delhi, during 10th -12th July 2024, Ms. Rambha Chaudhary, Technical-Officer (IPR) participated physically and enlightened the student participants on the role of the National Biodiversity Authority in biodiversity governance under the Biological Diversity Act and Biodiversity Conservation, etc. Six sessions were held on various topics such as Biodiversity for a Sustainable Future, Communication for Conservation, Negotiation and Consensus-building, Guidance on Action Planning, the Common Man's Guide to Ecological Restoration, learning from Nature, with Panel Discussions, including a workshop were organized by WWF-India on "Crafting SMART

Action Plans”, Special cultural presentation, appointment of the Student Body for MCOP5.

- (21) Shri Tanmay Kumar IAS, Additional Secretary MoEFCC, chaired a preparatory meeting for CoP 16 held on 06th July 2024. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA, Shri Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC and his team attended and briefed the activities carried out so far and future plan. CoP 16 Agenda, Meeting of Parties (MoP) - Nagoya Protocol, MoP - Cartagena Protocol agenda, high level segment was discussed.
- (22) On 08th July 2024, Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi, IFS., Addl Director General, MoEFCC and Dr. K.P. Raghuram, Technical Officer (BS) attended the Workshop on Advancing Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECM) in Asia, at Tokyo, Japan organised by Asia Protected Area Partnership and supported by Min. Of Environment, Japan. 12 Countries and international organisations IUCN, WWF, World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), etc. participated. India’s approach on OECM was briefed to the participants and updation of NBSAP.
- (23) National Institute for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR), vertical meet held on 11th July 2024 between Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Forest Survey of India (FSI) and National Museum of Natural History (NMNH). Dr Mao, Director BSI chaired the meeting and discussed the collaborative exercise/ programme among these organisations. NBA side It was informed that the National Consultation on People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBR) is planned to be conducted, wherein ZSI, BSI will be involved. NMNH will be organising teachers training program, and NBA suggested to include PBR module in the program.
- (24) On 16th July 2024, Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA participated in the meeting called by the Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and CBD linkage. Points such as Prior Informed Consent (PIC), Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), differential treatment to patent applicants were discussed, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Nagoya Protocol relevant provisions also discussed.
- (25) On 16th July 2024, Shri Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary NBA and team had a discussion on ABS flow charts submitted to the Ministry. Benefit sharing components realized and distributed to benefit claimers, accounting procedures, monitoring, etc were discussed in detail.

- (26) Shri Tanmay Kumar IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC took review of the status of ABS e-filing software on 18th July 2024. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA, National Informatics Centre (NIC) team and others participated in the discussion. Secretary NBA gave an overall picture about the software and its features. NIC team gave demo on the live software.
- (27) On 23rd July, 2024, MOEFCC and NBA had a discussion on the points that emerged during review meeting on ABS e-filing held on 18th July 2024 at Delhi. Shri R K Kodali, Advisor, MOEFCC, Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA, Shri Naveen Kumar, Director, NIC-MoEFCC and other officers participated and discussed.
- (28) World Conservation on Environment Law organized a webinar on Eco-centric outcomes of GBF on 24th April 2024. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA and team participated. Dr Grant Wilson, Exe. Director, Earth Law and Dr. Philippe Cullet, Chair WCEL task force in IUCN, presented – (i) to identify nature as an entity and give them rights in national legislation (eg. Peru- river declared as living entities and Uttarakhand High Court declaring Ganga and Yamuna as living entities). (ii) environmental fund in GBF of 200 billion USD. (iii) Target 19F and 2050 goal living harmony with nature. (iv) making a statement in 16th meeting of Conference of Parties (COP-16) to recognize nature as entity that has rights etc.
- (29) On 26th July 2024, Ms. Surabi Rai, IFS., MoEFCC took review on update on National Institute for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR) portal keeping in view of Hon'ble Minister chairing a High Level meeting. NBA uploaded publications in the portal with key words, etc. Also requested certain changes in the portal to upload research projects sponsored by the NBA.
- (30) On 31st July 2024, NBA organized a training program to 42 State Forest Service (SFS) Officers from Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary NBA welcomed and interacted with the trainees. Overview of the Biological Diversity Act



amendment, Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), State Biodiversity Board (SBB), Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR), Life Mission, Green credit rules, case studies, were presented in the program by different sections. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

- (31) NBA organized the 4th review meeting on 2nd August 2024 for utilization of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) amount, grants in aid, International Day for Biodiversity (IDB) celebration amount, Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) questionnaire, etc. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA chaired the meeting and 26 State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and 3 Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) attended the meeting and provided the details of the amount utilised on various activities.
- (32) On 2nd August 2024 Meghalaya SBB organized a workshop for Forest Officers on forest survey and mapping for Meghalaya using hybrid system to analyse carbon financing and amendments to Biological Diversity Act. Meeting was attended by nearly 100 officers from Forest department. Shri. P Bakshi, IAS - Chairman Meghalaya SBB chaired the session, Shri. SM Sahai, IFS, PCCF (Wildlife & Biodiversity), Shri. D Sathiyam, IFS, Addl. PCCF (Social forestry) were also present. Dr. K.P.Raghuram, Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing) delivered a talk on amendments to the Biological Diversity Act through online and also panel discussion.
- (33) The second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (WGDSI-2) was held on 12th to 16th August 2024. India delegates headed by Shri Tanmay Kumar IAS, Special Secretary, MoEFCC. Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA also took part in this intense negotiation. India stressed that the benefit sharing mechanism should be hybrid and not just multilateral benefit sharing.
- (34) Dr. K. P. Raghuram, Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing) participated in the meeting on Ministry/Department Organization (MDO) Leader Rights for organizations on iGOT Karmayogi at MoEFCC, New Delhi on 21st August 2024.
- (35) On 23rd August 2024, NBA organized an online workshop on electronic People's Biodiversity Registers (e-PBR) to 12 SBBs and National Informatics Centre (NIC) units of the states. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA inaugurated the workshop and urged the officials of SBBs, interns, district coordinators and others to make use of this workshop for effective implementation of the e-PBR application.

- (36) Chairperson NBA participated in the 3rd meeting of the Administrative committee of National Institute for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR) held on 30th August 2024 at MoEFCC, New Delhi.
- (37) On 10th September 2024, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change chaired a meeting with Senior officials, NIRANTAR verticals on 'Swachhatta Hi Sewa'. Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA and Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA also participated in the meeting and briefed the activities to be undertaken from 17th September 2024 to 2nd October 2024.
- (38) On 12th September 2024, Shri Amandeep Garg, IAS., Additional Secretary, MoEFCC chaired a meeting on Swachhatta Hi Seva. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA and officers, NBA also participated in the meeting and briefed the plan of action on this Programme.
- (39) On 14th September 2024, NBA in association with Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD) and Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB) organized a programme on establishing Matri Van in Celebration of "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" Campaign in Nanmangalam Forest, Chennai. Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd) Chairperson NBA; Shri Sudhanshu Gupta, IFS,



PCCF(HoFF), TNFD; Shri Debasis Jana, IFS, PCCF, TNFD; Shri Yogesh Singh, IFS., PCCF, TNFD; Shri S. Sasikumar, IFS, DIGF, MoEFCC, Regional Office-Chennai; Shri Yuvaraj, IFS, DIGF, Integrated Regional Offices (IRO)-MoEFCC, Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA; Shri Kirupa Shankar, IFS., Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Chennai and Smt. K. Geethanjali, IFS, CCF, Chennai, graced the occasion. Besides, officials from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), and National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) also participated in the event. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA welcomed esteemed guests who attended the programme and planted saplings. Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd) Chairperson National Biodiversity Authority and Shri Sudhanshu Gupta, IFS, PCCF(HoFF), TNFD addressed the gatherings.

- (40) NBA in association with National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) organised a Beach Cleaning Drive on 29th September 2024 at Thiruvanmiyur Beach, Chennai as part of the Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign. Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA, Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA, Shri Yuvaraj, IFS, DIGF, IRO-MoEFCC, Dr. Purvaja Ramachandran, Director, NCSCM, Dr. G. N. Hariharan, Executive Director, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and



Dr. M. Krishnaveni, Director & Professor, Institute of Ocean Management - Anna University, Chennai graced the occasion. Chairperson NBA gave a special address and the Swachhta Pledge was administered to the participants by Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA. The programme featured the formation of Human chain by all the participants, beach clean-up drive and a signature campaign on "Swabhav Swachhata- Sanskaar Swachhata". Around 150 people comprising students, research scholars, officials from NBA, NCSCM, MSSRF etc. participated in the event.

- (41) India-European Union Free Trade Agreement negotiations were held through virtual mode on 24th September 2024. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA and Senior officers of Wildlife division at MoEFCC participated and negotiated the text including trade and biodiversity. During the negotiations consensus reached on some of the articles.
- (42) On 8th November 2024, Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA chaired meeting with officials from MoEFCC, UNDP, NIC and Software company to discuss the end to end solution on ABS e-filing portal for NBA/SBBs/BMCs. This portal will facilitate filing of applications, receipt of ABS, distribution to SBBs and BMCs, etc.
- (43) On 8th November 2024, Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA took review of NBA awarded Red Sanders projects to Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore to the tune of INR 2.0 Cr. Projects cover domestication of Red Sanders, Simple Sequence Repeats (SSR) markers, DNA sequencing for identification of origin, evaluation of cosmetics compounds in Red Sanders. Red Sanders nursery is being established, etc. Utilization certificate / fund position were also discussed. Secretary, NBA suggested the Sr. Scientists about the way forward on these important projects.
- (44) Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA Co-chaired the Inter-Ministerial National Steering Committee for implementation of Biotech PRIDE Guidelines, at at Department of Biotechnology (DBT), New Delhi on 12th November 2024. In the meeting the Committee considered the FeED (Framework for Exchange of Data) protocol for implementing PRIDE Guidelines.
- (45) NBA organized a training program on 19th November 2024 to 37 Range Officers from Telangana Forest Academy. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA gave welcome remarks and Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson gave special remarks. Followed by presentations on different subjects like Biological Diversity Act, Offences, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) delivered to participants.

- (46) On 20th November 2024, Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA had a discussion with the Vice President of BASF, a German company about aligning their activities towards NBA adopted by India recently. Avenues such as funding to management of BHS, training & capacity building, involving youth, women and tribal communities etc., were discussed.
- (47) On 22nd November 2024, Shri Tanmay Kumar, IAS., Special Secretary, MoEFCC took a review meeting with NBA on the progress made on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) online application development, monitoring mechanism, Projects like Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure (OECM), etc. Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA gave a brief about the above subjects, how the existing mechanism works, future course of action, etc.
- (48) NBA organized a virtual meeting on 12th December 2024 with UNDP team – discuss Software Requirements Specification (SRS) on the ABS end to end portal. A detailed presentation covering all the points suggested by the Special Secretary, MoEFCC (communicated *vide* letter dated 03rd December 2024) and other requirements were made available to the consultant engaged for this purpose by UNDP. The consultant informed that the SRS will be prepared by end of this month.
- (49) NBA gave an advertisement in newspaper on 12th December 2024 inviting public comments for revising the ABS Regulations, 2014 by giving time, on or before 17th December 2024. Besides, NBA also decided to convene a virtual consultation with different sectors i.e., Ayush / Vaccine and biotechnology/ nutraceuticals/ Pharmaceuticals / Agriculture etc., from 19th to 20th December 2024 to ascertain their comments/ suggestions to revise the ABS Regulations 2014 in the light of the amendments to the Biological Diversity Act and Biological Diversity Rules. Accordingly, the virtual consultation meeting was held under the chairmanship of Shri A. K. Goyal, Chair of the EC and Co-Chaired by Prof. M.K. Ramesh on 19th & 20th December 2024.
- (50) A discussion meeting was held between the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) and National Biodiversity Authority on 17th December, 2024 at the PPVFRA, New Delhi. During the meeting, compliance with Section 3 by the breeder before registration with the PPVFRA, Section 18(h) of the PPVFR Act, 2001, areas of conservation of plant genetic resources, conducting capacity building, and awareness creation programs were discussed. The Secretary, NBA and Technical Officer (Benefits sharing) attended the meeting.



- (51) On 30th December 2024, Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA chaired a meeting to review the progress made on Software Requirements Specification (SRS) development for the Access and Benefit Sharing tracker end-end to portal. UNDP consultant made a presentation, and sectional heads and IT team participated in the meeting.
- (52) Secretary, NBA attended an online meeting organised by the Dutch public-private organisation Seed NL together with the Netherlands Embassy in New Delhi on 15th January 2024. During the meeting, commissioning a Fact-Finding Study on the needs, challenges and opportunities in the Indian Seed sector were discussed.
- (53) NBA organized 5th Review Meeting with State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) & Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) on 30th January, 2025 to discuss unspent ABS money and Grants in aid by NBA. Member Secretaries and their team from 22 SBBs and 2 UTBCs attended the meeting and discussed the submission of UCs/SoEs etc.
- (54) National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board (TNSBB), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and Salim Ali Centre for

Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) jointly organized a three-day training & capacity building program on Biodiversity Governance with special reference to People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR), to Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) members from Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Coimbatore, Dindigul, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu. As a part of the program, participants visited Aanaikatti BMC and learnt about the documentation process of PBRs and its significance. During the programme Mission LiFE pledge was taken at Karl Kübel Foundation for Child & Family, Coimbatore. Around 60 BMC members, officials from NBA, ZSI, TNSBB, SACON etc. participated in the event and took the pledge. On 5th February 2025 NBA in association with TNSBB and GIZ also organised a State level consultation on PBRs with BMC members from Tamil Nadu State. Outcome of this event would be presented during the National Meet of SBBs/UTBCs.

- (55) The project titled "Strengthening Gender-Responsive Forest Ecosystem Management and Agroforestry in India" (G-VAN) is being implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It is being carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, and in partnership with the State Forest Departments of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. The project aims to enhance gender-responsive and climate-resilient management of forest and agroforestry ecosystems across selected states. To align on the project's strategic direction and implementation roadmap, a multi-stakeholder planning workshop was organized from 19th to 21st February 2025 in Dehradun.

This workshop served as a collaborative platform to establish a common vision, define project priorities, and identify key milestones for the three-year project duration. Participants, including officials from MoEFCC and the concerned state forest departments—engaged in discussions to refine the focus areas for implementation and explore opportunities for alignment with ongoing initiatives and partnerships. These deliberations will guide the development of region-specific action plans tailored to local needs and contexts. Ms. Rambha Chaudhary, Technical-Officer (IPR), represented the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the workshop through her physical participation, contributed to discussions on integrating biodiversity considerations into the project's framework.

- (56) The World Health Assembly at its second-ever special session, established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to draft and negotiate a convention, agreement or other international instrument under the Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Following its mandate as set out in decision SSA2(5), the INB drafted and negotiated the text of the WHO Pandemic Agreement. WHO Pandemic Agreement under para (g) of Article 12(3) provides facilitated access to "Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) material and information" which covers biological material from a pathogen or its digital sequence information with pandemic potential to the development of pandemic-related health products.

A draft WHO pandemic agreement establishes specialized international instrument on ABS under Article 4(4) of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. The text related to this aspect are under negotiation. NBA received the draft text of the pandemic agreement which is under negotiation in WHO, from the MOEFCC with a request to offer comments on the same. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare sought inputs from NBA during September 2024 to February 2025, for which NBA gave its input on three occasions and five online meetings.

- (57) The National Green Tribunal organized a two-day National conference on Environment 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 29th and 30th March 2025. The National conference was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu. During the second day of the conference Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA was the moderator for the technical session on the topic "Forest Conservation and Biodiversity Protection" that discussed about the human intervention impacting forest and biodiversity, causes, regulatory framework, impact and solutions. This conference marked a vital step towards fostering collaboration, raising awareness, and advancing the collective mission of environmental protection and sustainability.

7.2 Abroad visit by NBA officials to participate in conventions / meetings and the information shared during such visits

- (1) Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA, chaired the preparatory meeting on 24th April 2024 for the upcoming Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) 26 and Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)- meetings in Nairobi, Kenya, scheduled for May 2024. Delegates and representatives from

the Indian High Commission in Nairobi attended. Discussions focused on India's position on revised indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), synthetic biology, digital sequence information (DSI), biodiversity and health, and administrative matters.

- (2) Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA Chaired the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-4) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) from 21st to 29th May 2024, in Nairobi, Kenya. The subsidiary body convened for the first time since the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted in December 2022. Over 1,300 registered attendees from more than 150 Countries, as well as United Nations organisations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Indigenous People and Local Communities, etc., took part in the event. The Indian delegates in SBI-4 was led by Shri. Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC and other members are Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA, Ms. Koj Rinya, IFS, Member Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Dr. K.P. Raghuram, Technical Officer (Benefit Sharing), NBA and Dr. J. Soundrapandi, Project Officer, UNDP. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the revision or updation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Mechanisms for Planning, Monitoring, Reporting, and Review, Resource mobilization, financial mechanism, capacity-building and development action plan for the Nagoya Protocol, Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management under the Convention and its Protocols. During the opening session, Chairperson, NBA urged the participants to invest their "time, energy, and wisdom" in a productive meeting. The Chair of SBI-4 in his closing remarks said that the progress on many agenda items has been made stressing that SBI-4 meeting's outcomes lay the foundation for a successful deliberation at Conference of Parties-16, urging to "move from commitment to action."
- (3) On 22nd May 2024, the International Day for Biological Diversity, in a special lunchtime event, delegates reminisced on this 32-year journey, including the landmark adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), underlined by this year's theme: "Be Part of the Plan." Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chair Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)-4 in his speech quoted from our father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi - "there is enough in this world to meet mans need but not mans greed". He also emphasized that biodiversity should be mainstreamed individually by all of us to achieve KMBGF. He pointed out another quote of Mahatma Gandhi - "be the change you want to be".



Let's pledge to work together to conserve biodiversity to achieve future we want for us and our future generation. Let's work for benefit of our people and planet with empathy for all form of life. "Nature protects if she is protected".

- (4) The Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16), the Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol

on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and Fifth meeting of Subsidiary Body on Implementation was held from 16th October to 1st November 2024 in Cali Columbia. Seven delegates, Ms. Kaveri Chaudhary and Dr. R Srirama, Young Professionals from India participated in this CoP.



At CoP 16, the crucial Agenda items for negotiations for Parties to the Convention were reviewing the state of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Monitoring framework and resource mobilization for the Global Biodiversity Framework, to finalize and operationalize the multilateral mechanism on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources.

Agenda item 14 of CoP 16, which focused on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the CBD, was assigned to Ms. Rambha Chaudhary, Technical-Officer (IPR), for providing essential inputs and comments on various conference documents. The IPR section contributed comments on several critical documents related to Article 8(j) and other relevant provisions, which included non-papers, Conference Room

Papers (CRPs), and limited distribution documents (L. docs). Key areas of focus included:

- The Role of Indigenous Languages in biodiversity conservation,
- The development of a new Programme of Work (PoW) on Article 8(j),
- Institutional arrangements, including the proposal to establish a Subsidiary Body to oversee Article 8(j) matters,
- Recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,
- The role of people of African descent in biodiversity governance.

Secretary, NBA actively participated in the discussions during contact group sessions and working group revisions of the CRPs. The NBA provided inputs and recommendations during plenary sessions, particularly on critical matters relating to Article 8(j). Many of these recommendations were accepted by the parties and have now been incorporated into the final decisions of the CoP, notably in the New Programme of Work (PoW), Institutional arrangements, the Recommendations from the Permanent Forum, and the recognition of the role of African descent peoples.

Regarding the New Programme of Work, India proposed the removal of Element 6 and called for the inclusion of operational paragraphs 1 and 3. Furthermore, India emphasized that the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions should be consistent with national legislation, circumstances, and priorities, a suggestion that was accepted by the parties.

- On the issue of recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), India expressed disagreement with the proposal to remove references to local communities. India supported the inclusion of conditions ensuring that nothing in the document could be interpreted as creating a separation between Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. This position was accepted and reflected in the footnote. During the Plenary break, other country delegates had intense discussions with Indian Delegates.
- (5) Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change released India's updated NBSAP during a special side event called 'Roadmap for achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) targets and release of India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)', on 30th October 2024. The event was participated by Mr. Mauricio Cabrera, Vice-Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia; Ms. Kandya Obezo,

Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs, Colombia; and Ms. Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary, CBD; Shri Tanmay Kumar, Special Secretary, MOEFCC, and Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd), Chairperson NBA



- India's Updated NBSAP 2024-2030 was released in the side event of the COP-16 on 30th October 2024, in Cali, Colombia. The updated NBSAP, aligned with the KMGBF, is a vital roadmap to address the strategies to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, with a longer-term vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050. India had adopted the 'Whole-of-Government' and 'Whole-of-Society' approach in updating its NBSAP. It acknowledges environmental challenges and outlines strategies to address them through ecosystem restoration, species recovery programmes, and community-driven conservation efforts focusing on the restoration of degraded ecosystems, the protection of wetlands, and the sustainable management of marine and coastal areas.

7.3 Visits by foreign delegates to NBA

Ms Shalini Medepalli, Deputy Head of Mission, British High Commission, Chennai, Mr John Wiggins, Climate and Development Lead for India and Indian Ocean, London & Ms Tabinda Bashir, Climate Change and Energy Advisor, Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), British High Commission, Chennai visited NBA office, Chennai on 10th September 2024 and had discussions with Secretary/NBA on the UK and India priorities at COP16 & National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.



7.4 National Level Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBB) under the aegis of Ministry of Environment Forests, Climate Change celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2024 at Andhra University Convention Centre, Visakhapatnam on 22nd May, 2024. The theme “Be Part of the Plan” echoed the call to action to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity emphasizing the collective effort needed from various stakeholders.

Dignitaries including Shri Chiranjiv Choudhary IFS Principal Secretary to Government (Food Processing and Agricultural Cooperative Dept. (FAC), & Principal Secretary to Governments (HR) Department, Finance Department (FAC), Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) & Head of the Forests Force(HoFF), Andhra Pradesh, Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy, Vice Chancellor, Andhra University, Dr. Hanchinal Rayappa Ramappa, Former Chairperson of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Authority, Govt. of India, non-official member, National Biodiversity Authority, Dr. Janakiram, Vice Chancellor, Dr.Y.S.R. Horticultural University, Shri B.V.A. Krishna Murthy, IFS, Member Secretary,

APSBB, also Biodiversity Management Committee Members and Senior officials from the Central / State Government, emphasized the importance of Biodiversity.

Delivering the keynote address, Shri Chiranjiv Choudhary, IFS Principal Secretary to Government & PCCF/HoFF, Andhra Pradesh, emphasized on the importance of sensitizing the younger generation on the need to conserve biodiversity, sustainable use of the available resources and sharing them among all the stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. P.V.G.D. Prasad Reddy, Vice Chancellor, Andhra University stated that keeping the needs of the various sections of the society for next 50 years, the varsity is establishing a Bio-diversity Park in Andhra University. He revealed the plan of fencing 10 acres' area containing trees of age 60-80 years including Red Sanders in the University will be left undisturbed for next 100 years and that place will be called as Andhra University biodiversity park. He concluded by saying that we should engage out next generation in biodiversity conservation processes which is the need of the Earth and that will lead to its sustainability.



Dr. Hanchinal Rayappa Ramappa, former Chairperson of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority, GoI & Non-Official Member, NBA, mentioned the role of Biodiversity Management Committees in protecting the Biodiversity under the guidance of State Biodiversity Boards. He emphasized that environmental conservation is not just the responsibility of governments or organizations but requires active participation from individuals at all levels. By stating that “all of us together become part of the plan,” he emphasized the collective effort needed to protect nature and ecosystem services.

During the event, NBA has launched 6th cycle of Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme (BSIP) 2025. Awards and certificates were presented to individuals/ students for their contributions to biodiversity conservation by Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board. The release of brochures, books, reports, and posters during the event further contributed in raising awareness and disseminating information about biodiversity conservation initiatives.

Tree plantation programme was also organized at the Andhra University campus following the main event to raise awareness among participants and to take similar initiatives in their own communities.

To mark this occasion, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), in collaboration with APSBB, organized an exhibition highlighting the efforts and initiatives aimed at biodiversity conservation.

The exhibition provided a platform for various departments and State Biodiversity Boards to showcase their contributions and encouraged stakeholders to actively participate in biodiversity planning and implementation efforts. It also recognized that everyone has a part to play in safeguarding the rich diversity of life on Earth. The Member Secretaries of some SBBs have also visited the exhibition.

As part of national level celebration of IDB 2024, the national seminar on “Impact of Climate Change and Ecotourism on Biodiversity” was organized on 23rd May 2024, at Andhra University which provided an invaluable platform for experts, researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to come together, exchange knowledge, and discuss critical issues related to climate change, biodiversity & ecotourism.

Chapter 8

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

8.1 Declaration of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

So far, forty-nine (49) Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) have been notified by eighteen states in the country. Many other BHSs have already been identified in the States and some have been proposed for notification. During the period under report, the States of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have notified 2 BHS. The list of the BHS notified in 2024-25 are as follows: -

S. No.	State	Notification Number & Date	Name of the BHS
1	Gujarat	GVN/2025/01/VPS/102018/SF-13/W Dated 29 th January 2025	Inland Mangrove of Guneri
2	Tamil Nadu	G. O. Ms. No. 52, Environment, Climate and Forests (FR.5) Department Dated 12.03.2025	Kasampatty (Veera koil) Sacred Grove

8.2 Notifications of threatened species under Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002

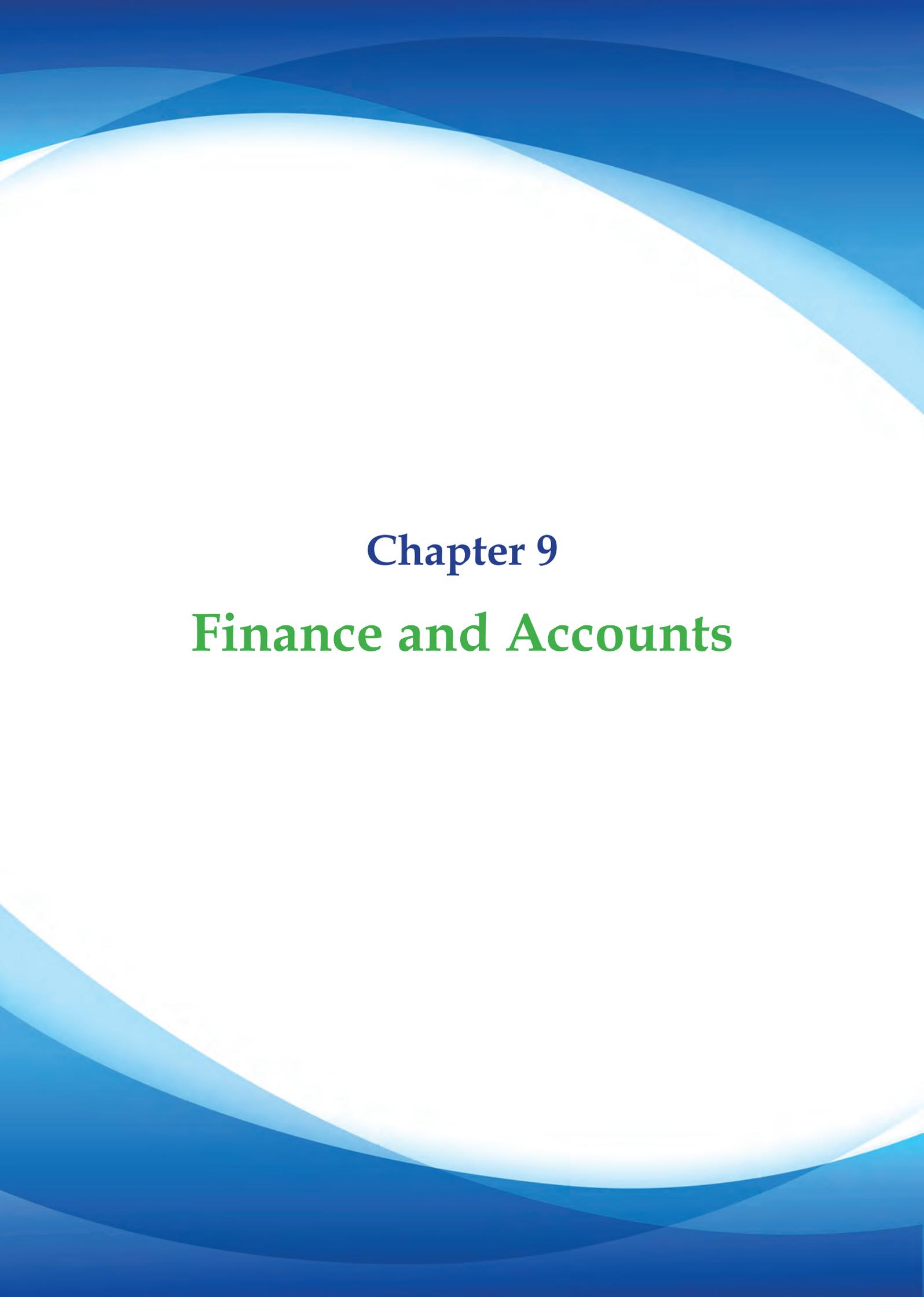
Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 empowers the Central Government in consultation with the concerned State Governments to notify the species of plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in the near future as threatened species with a view to prohibit 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 *viz.*, 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 Daman islands respectively have notified threatened species u/s 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, enlisting a total of 159 Plants and 175 Animal species (Table 9).

Table 9: List of States and Union Territories that have notified threatened species under section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act.

Sl.No.	Notification/ Order	Date of Notification	Reference	Plants	Animals
1.	Himachal Pradesh	17.03.2009	S.O.783(E)	8	10
2.	Kerala	15.04.2009	S.O.997(E)	26	13
3.	Uttar Pradesh	15.04.2009	S.O.998(E)	1	-
4.	Uttarakhand	15.04.2009	S.O.999(E)	16	15
5.	Mizoram	30.09.2009	S.O.2524(E)	8	8
6.	Orissa	30.09.2009	S.O.2525(E)	1	13

Sl.No.	Notification/ Order	Date of Notification	Reference	Plants	Animals
7.	Meghalaya	30.09.2009	S.O.2526(E)	6	5
8.	Goa	31.03.2010	S.O.770(E)	2	7
9.	Karnataka	30.10.2010	S.O.2718(E)	16	16
10.	Madhya Pradesh	07.06.2010	S.O.1329(E)	3	10
11.	West Bengal	31.03.2010	S.O.769(E)	2	17
12.	Bihar	03.02.2011	S.O.289(E)	1	6
13.	Tamil Nadu	01.03.2011	S.O.473(E)	23	16
14.	Tripura	03.02.2011	S.O.290(E)	1	2
15.	Manipur	26.10.2012	S.O.2611(E)	5	6
16.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	26.10.2012	S.O.2612(E)	5	8
17.	Punjab	04.02.2014	S.O.402(E)	8	5
18.	Diu & Daman	29.04.2015	S.O.1162 (E)	-	1
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	02.08.2018	S.O. 3845 (E)	20	10
20.	Assam	02.08.2018	S.O. 3846 (E)	7	7
	Total			159	175
	Grand Total (Plants + Animals)				334





Chapter 9

Finance and Accounts

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
TARAMANI, CHENNAI - 600 113
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March, 2025

(Amount in Rs.)

Receipts	Current Year 2024-25	Previous Year 2023-24	Payments	Current Year 2024-25	Previous Year 2023-24
I. Opening Balances:-			I. Expenditure:		
A) NBA Account			A) Establishment Expenses		
i) Cash in hand	40,000	40,000	i) Previous year O/s Rs.2663904	3,47,36,637	2,66,17,932
ii) Stamp	838	1,149	ii) Current Year Exps Rs.32057333		
iii) Bank Balances:-			iii) Current Asset Rs. 15400		
NBA General A/c	19,75,084	45,69,844	B) Administrative Expenses		
NBA Salary A/c	37,62,419	1,03,02,638	i) Previous year O/s Rs. 6584533	10,24,48,034	8,65,61,197
NBA SC SP A/c	72	72	ii) Current Year Exps Rs.95862001		
NBA SC STP A/c	8	8	iii) Current Asset Rs. 1500		
NBA Capital A/c	501	56,850	iv) Stamp Purchased	5,300	2,711
			v) Stamp Consumed out of opening		311
			vi) Funding for awarness programs	7,55,694	12,60,278
			vii) Funding for awarness programs SBB's	3,98,000	
B) NBF Account			C) Fixed Assets	8,99,897	15,99,866
i) Bank Balances(SB A/c & Current A/c)	1,90,33,91,452	1,63,37,76,535	D) NBA Capital A/c		12,300
ii) Fixed Deposit A/c	5,57,76,550	5,21,79,155			
C) NBA Fund Admin A/c	65,44,171	1,09,24,172	E) Strengthening of SBBs.	2,50,02,827	4,01,16,429
			F) Constitution of BMCs & PBRs	49,57,665	50,39,888
D) Projects					
i) NBA Asean Project A/c	44,360	43,058			
ii) GEF Bank A/c	10,90,480	95,20,826			
iii) Fixed Deposit (GEF)	76,36,357	74,18,643	II) Refund of interest earend on GIA	12,77,905	14,49,819
II. Grants-			A) Interest		
Grant Received from (MoEF &CC)	17,00,00,000	15,19,85,000	i) Authority General Rs.290081		
			ii) Interest refund SBB's Rs. 805759		
			iii) Authority Salary Rs.181713		
			v) Interest on Advance Rs. 352		
			B) Sale of Assets/Newspaper		1,75,738
III. Income on Investments			III. Other Payments		
a) Earmarked / Endowment Funds			Deposits/E.M.D repaid	66,500	1,27,000
			Expenditure incurred from App.fees	1,08,206	26,551
			GEF - NICS	50,00,000	
IV. Interest received			IV. Project A/c		
A) NBA A/c	8,11,781	4,72,191	i) GEF NBSAP Expenditure	38,41,365	1,31,20,828
i) Authority General Rs.465806					
ii) Authority Salary Rs.345963					
iii) Capital A/c Rs. 12					
iv) Interest on Advances	243	352			
B) Interest refunded by SBB's	5,40,610	8,05,759			
C) NBA Fund A/c					
i) Fund A/c Savings bank Interest	1,50,622	98,766			
ii) NBA Sweep A/c Interest	13,46,70,383	9,36,47,633			
iii) Fixed Depoist A/c Interest received/Reinvested- (Fund)	38,90,623	35,97,395			

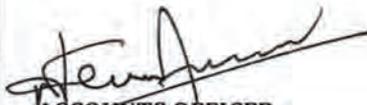


Receipts	Current Year 2024-25	Previous Year 2023-24	Payments	Current Year 2024-25	Previous Year 2023-24
V. Income to NBF A/c					
a) Application fee	17,81,556	19,18,677	ii) Asean Project A/c	44,835	-
b) ABS Upfront payment	27,43,35,444	13,20,01,558	V) NBA Fund A/c		
c) Benefit Sharing (Red Sanders)	1,21,17,331	5,15,02,567	a) Benefit Sharing the Payment to Stakeholders under Red Sanders (ABS)	-	95,51,415
d) Stamp addition (difference from opening balance)	2,127	-	c) NBA Fund Admin(administrative charges)	2,47,00,000	-
VI. Other Income			d) Bank Charges	243	2,869
i) RTI filing fee	30	1,456	VI) NBF Admin A/c		
			a) Funding to SBB's	1,96,40,218	32,15,000
			b) Expenses of Expert Committee	55,51,069	14,07,880
			c) Funding to Project	17,00,000	
VII. Income NBF Admin A/c			VII. Closing Balances		
NBF Admin (ABS)	2,47,00,000	-	a) Cash in hand	40,000	40,000
Interest on NBF Admin A/c	1,48,598	2,42,879	b) Stamps in Hand	2,965	838
			c) Bank Balances (NBA - FUND)		
			i) NBA Fund A/c (Savings)	2,30,17,46,545	1,90,33,91,452
			ii) In Fixed Deposit (Fund) A/c	5,96,67,173	5,57,76,550
VIII. Other Receipts:			d) Bank Balances(NBA A/c)		
i) Earnest Money / Security / Deposit / Ret.Money recd.from Contractors	84,000	3,15,000	i) NBA General A/c	48,43,656	19,75,084
ii) Application fee for Interns recruitment	-	2,15,097	ii) NBA Salary A/c	46,90,032	37,62,419
iii) Sale of Newspaper	-	3,525	iii) NBA SC SP A/c	72	72
iv) Miscellaneous	1	1	iv) NBA SC ST A/c	8	8
v) NBA Asean Project A/c-closed	44,835	-	v) NBA Capital A/c	513	501
vi) Interest on FD -GEF	3,35,005	2,17,714	vi) NBF Admn A/c	45,01,482	65,44,171
IX Project Account			vii) GEF NBSAP A/c	20,25,979	10,90,480
GEF NBSAP A/c	47,76,864	46,90,482	viii) Asean Project A/c	-	44,360
NBA Asean Project A/c	475	1,302	ix) Fixed Deposit (GEF)	-	76,36,357
Total	2,60,86,52,820	2,17,05,50,304	Total	2,60,86,52,820	2,17,05,50,304
  					
ACCOUNTS OFFICER		MEMBER SECRETARY		CHAIRMAN	

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

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st.March,2025

INCOME	Sch. No.	Current Year 2024-25	Previous Year 2023-24
Income from Sales / Services	12	-	-
Grants/ Subsidies:			
Grants received as per (Sch.No.13) 17,00,00,000	13		
Un utilized Grants for 2024-25(Sch.No.13) 36,07,025			
Total (Sch.No.13) 17,36,07,025			
Less: Capitalization of Fixed Assets during the year 2024-25 8,99,897		17,40,61,126	16,44,77,898
Add: Interest payable to govt. (Schedule 17) 13,53,998			
Net Income from Grants 17,40,61,126			
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	44,866	2,20,079
Increase / (decrease) in stock of Finished goods and works in-progress	19		-
Income receivable from Govt.Gratutiy & leave salary		27,31,015	24,37,444
TOTAL (A)		17,68,37,007	16,71,35,421
EXPENDITURE			
Establishment Expenses	20	3,79,56,432	2,99,76,151
Other Administrative Expenses etc.	21	10,62,77,665	9,21,42,855
Expenditure on Grants, Subsidies etc.	22	2,99,60,492	4,51,56,317
Interest	23		-
Depreciation as per Schedule 8		11,80,993	11,99,542
Application Fees amount returned		1,08,206	26,551
Payable to Government: Un-Utilized Grant		44,02,971	36,07,025
Interest/sale of assets payable to Government		13,53,998	12,71,920
TOTAL (B)		18,12,40,757	17,33,80,361
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		-44,03,750	-62,44,940
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		


ACCOUNTS OFFICER

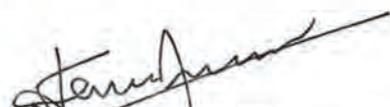

MEMBER SECRETARY


CHAIRMAN

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

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March, 2025

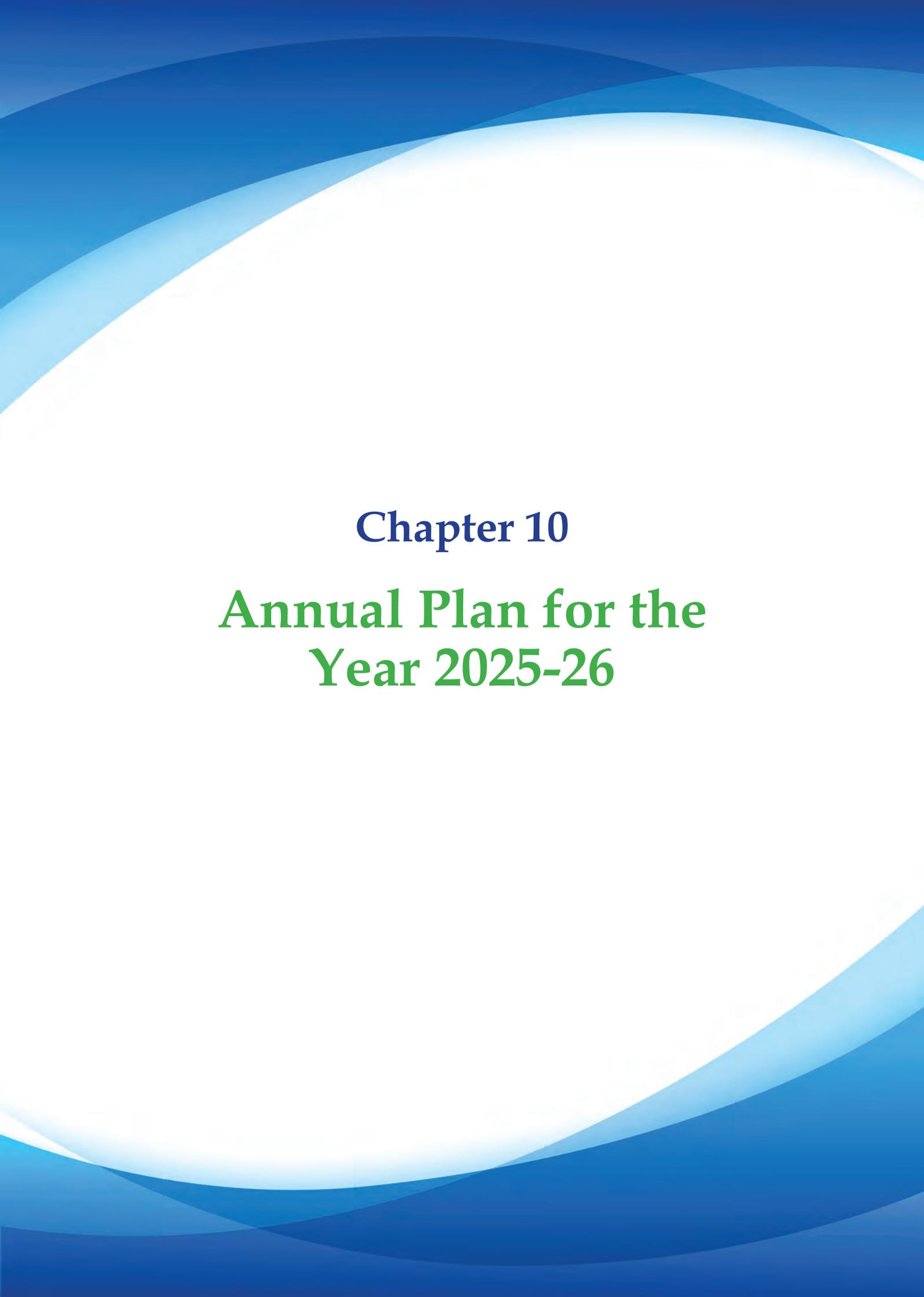
<u>CORPUS / CAPITAL FUND AND LIABILITIES</u>	Sch. No.	Current Year 2024-25	Previous Year 2023-24
CAPITAL FUND	1	-45,97,394	-10,93,541
RESERVES AND SURPLUS	2		0
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FUND	3 A	236,75,63,739	194,25,18,891
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FUND ADMIN	3 B	7,22,54,709	8,46,75,173
SECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	4		0
UNSECURED LOANS AND BORROWINGS	5		0
DEFERRED CREDIT LIABILITIES	6		0
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	7	4,07,14,163	3,88,51,481
TOTAL		247,59,35,217	206,49,52,004
<u>ASSETS</u>			
FIXED ASSETS	8	46,67,513	49,48,609
Advance payment for Building			0
NICSI total value of work Rs.4028461			
Less: Finised Phase I Application Rs.2028366			
Less: Work-in-Progress Rs. 199152			
Finished Goods Rs. 1800943			
INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED/ ENDOW MENT FUNDS	9		0
INVESTMENTS - OTHERS	10		0
CURRENT ASSETS,LOANS,ADVANCES ETC.	11	247,12,67,704	206,00,03,395
TOTAL		247,59,35,217	206,49,52,004
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	24		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	25		


ACCOUNTS OFFICER


MEMBER SECRETARY


CHAIRMAN





Chapter 10

Annual Plan for the Year 2025-26

The National Biodiversity Authority sets out a list of action points every year to implement the Biological Diversity Act of India and to carry out the mandate given by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The following activities are planned for 2025-26 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 Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change:

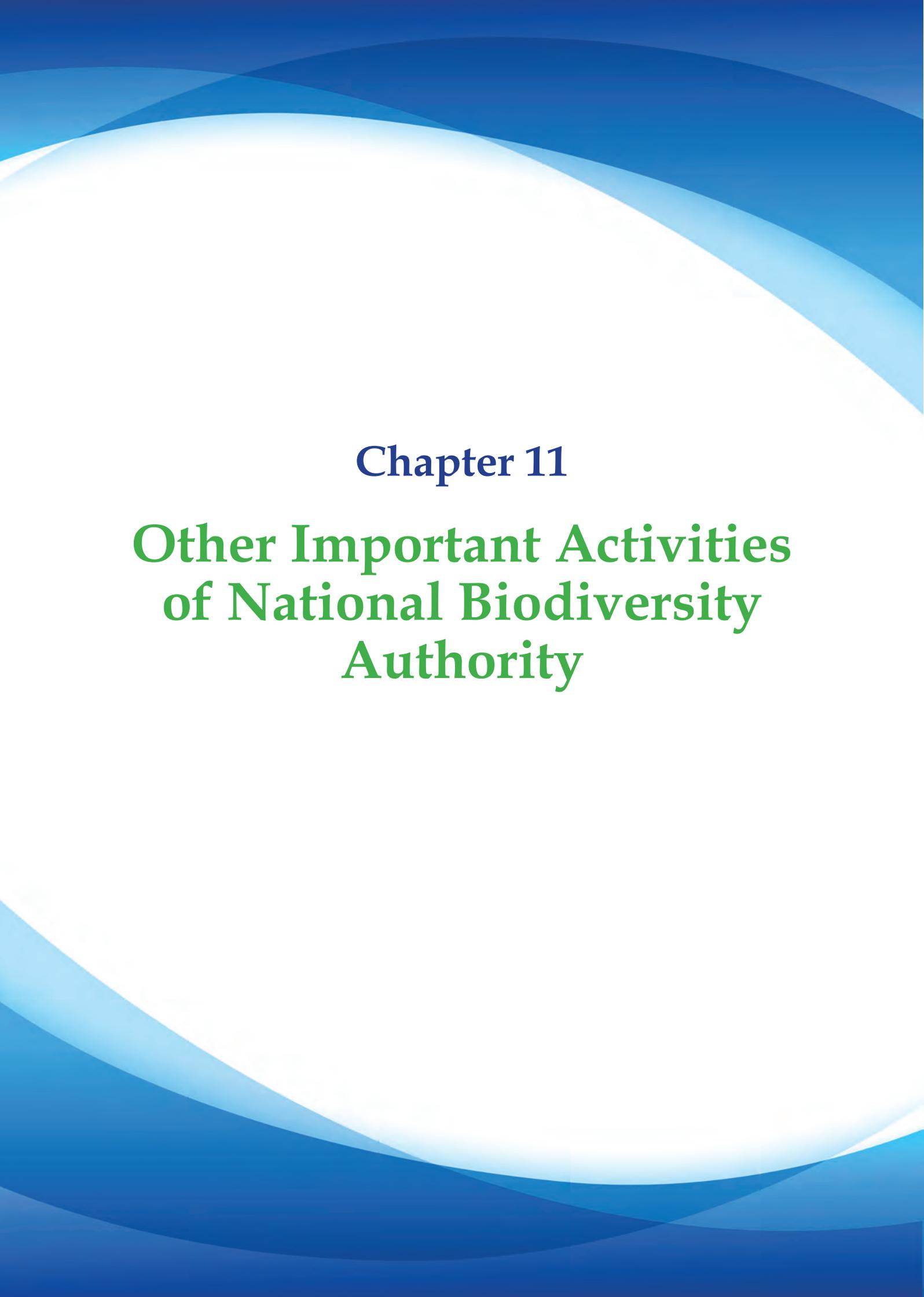
- (1) Amending the notifications/guidelines issued as per the Amended Act/ Rules, such as Guidelines for declaring Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) and its management.
- (2) Launch of first phase of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) end to end Portal – auto generation of Certificate of Origin for cultivated medicinal plants.
- (3) Implementation of the electronic – People’s Biodiversity Registers (e-PBR) Project with the financial support from the GiZ Technical Cooperation project.
- (4) Disbursing the Access and Benefit Sharing Amount to the benefit claimers.
- (5) Conducting Region wise awareness creating workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2025 to the BMC and industry stakeholders in collaboration with SBBs/UTBCs.
- (6) Follow-up with the States for notification of amended State Specific Rules and revision of state specific threatened species and notification of threatened species by the states who have not notified yet.
- (7) 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.
- (8) Review of the mechanism adapted towards the preparation of PBR in the States (site and State-specific methodology; authentication of captured data; utilization of financial support, need for revision of the quantum of assistance, if any etc.).
- (9) 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.
- (10) Conduct and organize awareness programs, symposia, and seminars on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023/Biological Diversity

Rules, 2024/Access and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2025 through NGOs, research institutes, academia and government departments for different stakeholders.

- (11) Update the list of bio resources that are classified as normally traded commodities (NTC) and notify products containing cultivated medicinal plants under Section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act.
- (12) 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 Biological Diversity Act.
- (13) Holding regular expert committee meetings to deliberate on subject matters and Authority meetings for decision-making.



 Charles James Sharp



Chapter 11

Other Important Activities of National Biodiversity Authority

11.1. Review of the Legal and Regulatory Framework

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

The legal Cell is responsible for dealing with litigation by or against the National Biodiversity Authority/Ministry of Environment and Forests before various courts/tribunals and for assisting the Counsel appearing for the National Biodiversity Authority. The National Biodiversity Authority is taking active steps with regard to cases related to the violation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, as amended, and any order or direction issued under the said Act.

Table 10: List of Pending cases in NBA before various courts / tribunals:

Sl. No	Court	Case Number
1	Supreme Court of India	SLP(Crl). No.539 of 2014 Crl App. 1720 of 2015
2	Supreme Court of India	SLP(Crl). No.629 of 2014 Crl. App.1721 of 2015
3	Supreme Court of India	SLP No's. 18122 of 2019 - 18127 of 2019
4	Supreme Court of India	SLP No's. 17471 of 2019 -17476 of 2019
5	Supreme Court of India	SLP No's. 18141 of 2019 – 18146 of 2019
6	Supreme Court of India	CA No. 3568 -3569 of 2020
7	Supreme Court of India	SLP C No. 000544-/2021; Diary No. 334/2021
8	Supreme Court of India	CA No. 5599-5601 /2023
9	Supreme Court of India	CA No. 4852 of 2024
10	High Court of Delhi	WP No. 7505 of 2022
11	High Court of Bombay	W.P. No. 3590 of 2018
12	High Court of Bombay	W.P No. 4466 of 2024 (W.P. No.6360 of 2015)
13	High Court of Bombay Bench, Aurangabad	PIL No. 63 of 2021
14	High Court of Bombay Bench, Nagpur	Suo Motu PIL No. 2/2021
15	High Court of Assam Bench, Guwahati	PIL No. 30 of 2020

Sl. No	Court	Case Number
16	High Court of Uttarakhand	WP(MS) No. 41/2022
17	High Court of Gujarat, Ahmedabad	SCA 6176 No. of 2021
18	High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur Bench	W.P No. 8880 of 2019
19	High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur Bench	W.P No. 6968 of 2017 (OA. No. 31/2017)
20	High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Indore Bench	W.P. No. 6466 of 2020
21	High Court of Telangana	W.P. No. 23452 of 2018
22	High Court of Telangana	W.P. No. 28517 of 2021
23	High Court of Telangana	W.P.(PIL) No. 181 of 2020
24	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	C.C. No. 3306 OF 2018
25	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	WP. No. 19953 of 2023
26	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	W.P. No. 889 of 2024
27	High Court of Karnataka Bench, Dharwad	CrI. P. No. 100616 of 2014
28	High Court of Karnataka Bench, Dharwad	CrI. P. No.100618 of 2014
29	High Court of Karnataka Bench, Dharwad	W.P. No.102213 of 2022
30	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No. 41532 of 2012
31	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No. 5546 of 2019
32	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No. 14733 of 2020
33	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No. 8579 of 2021
34	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No. 17459 of 2022
35	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	W.P. No. 17421 of 2022
36	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 17427 of 2022
37	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 17271 of 2022

Sl. No	Court	Case Number
38	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 17348 of 2022
39	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 17234 of 2022
40	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 20728 of 2022
41	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 21795 of 2022
42	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 18400 of 2022
43	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 22235 of 2022
44	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 22117 of 2022
45	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 22111 of 2022
46	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 22275 of 2022
47	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 22118 of 2022
48	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 21862 of 2022
49	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 21785 of 2022
50	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 21778 of 2022
51	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 22080 of 2022
52	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 11450 of 2022
53	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 18480 of 2023
54	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 18746 of 2023
55	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 18127 of 2023
56	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 18209 of 2023
57	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP No. 19245 of 2022
58	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP No.26947 of 2024
59	High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru	WP. No. 17229 of 2022

Sl. No	Court	Case Number
60	High Court of Kerala	W.P (Civil) No. 41622 of 2018
61	High Court of Kerala	W.P (Civil) No. 41903 of 2018
62	High Court of Kerala	W.P (Civil) No. 41976 of 2018
63	High Court of Kerala	W.P (Civil) No. 42017 of 2018
64	High Court of Kerala	W.P. (Civil) No.33501 of 2019
65	High Court of Kerala	WP (Civil) NO. 21048 of 2020
66	High Court of Kerala	WP. No. 19264 of 2023
67	High Court of Kerala	WP. No. 779 of 2024
68	High Court of Madras bench, Madurai	WP(MD) No. 6608 of 2021
69	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 24688 of 2021
70	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 24698 of 2021
71	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 24696 of 2021
72	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 24694 of 2021
73	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 24693 of 2021
74	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 24691 of 2021
75	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 26944 of 2021
76	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 26977 of 2021
77	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 26969 of 2021
78	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 26965 of 2021
79	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 26962 of 2021
80	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 26957 of 2021

Sl. No	Court	Case Number
81	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 26956 of 2021
82	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 26953 of 2021
83	High Court of Madras	WP. No. 26948 of 2021
84	High Court of Madras	WP No. 34485 of 2024
85	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	CWP No.4379 of 2019
86	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	CWP No. 3051 of 2024
87	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	CWP. No. 5880 of 2024
88	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	CWP. No. 6290 of 2024
89	High Court of Allahabad	WP (PIL) No. 1437 of 2021
90	National Green Tribunal, Chennai	Application No. 162 of 2023 (SZ)
91	National Green Tribunal, Chennai	Appeal No. 65/2024(SZ)
92	National Green Tribunal, Kolkata	OA. No. 08/2025 (EZ)
93	National Green Tribunal, New Delhi	OA NO. 25 of 2025 (PB)
94	Principal Civil Judge J.M.F.C., Dharwad	C.C. No. 579 of 2012

Table 11: List of disposed cases in the year 2024-2025 before various courts/ tribunals:

Sl. No	Court	Case Number
1	High Court of Bombay	W.P. No. 129 of 2020
2	High Court of Delhi at New Delhi	WP(C) IPD No.23 of 2024

11.1.2 Right to Information Act 2005

The Right to Information (RTI) applications and RTI appeals received by the National Biodiversity Authority under the Right to Information Act, 2005 has been disposed of by the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) or the First Appellate Authority as the case may be.

Table 12: List of RTIs received and disposed during the reporting period

SI No	Quarter	Total No. of RTI Application received and disposed CPIO	Total No. of 1 st Appeal received and disposed by the First Appellate Authority
1	1st Quarter 01.04.2024 to 30.06.2024	17	2
2	2nd Quarter 01.07.2024 to 30.09.2024	16	8
3	3rd Quarter 01.10.2024 to 31.12.2024	14	2
4	4th Quarter 01.01.2025 to 31.03.2025	21	2
	Total	68	14

The total RTI applications received in the RTI nodal login portal was 68 and the total RTI appeals received was 14 which were disposed within the time limit as per the RTI Act 2005

11.1.3 Drafting of Agreement

Legal Vetting of agreements including ABS agreements, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and other Legal documents, and providing legal advice to the Authority is one of the other functions of the Legal Cell.

11.2 Financial Support extended by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) to State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) & Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs)

During the year 2024-25, NBA extended financial support to the tune of Rs. 5,13,95,642/- to State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils for strengthening their functions and BMCs as well, engaging contractual staff, to document/update the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), conducting the training and capacity building programmes, undertaking peer to peer learning and exchange visits for the officials and BMC Members, developing / revamping their website etc as given in Table 13

Table 13: Grant in Aid released to SBB'S/UTBC'S for FY 2024-25

S.No	SBB	Amount in INR
1	Andaman & Nicobar	50,000
2	Andhra Pradesh	40,15,500
3	Arunachal Pradesh	19,14,800
4	Assam	16,81,915
5	Bihar	3,48,141
6	Chandigarh	50,000
7	Chattisgarh	3,00,000
8	Goa	16,16,135
9	Gujarat	12,16,928
10	Haryana	14,84,474
11	Himachal Pradesh	15,10,284
12	Jammu & Kashmir	16,64,000
13	Jharkhand	3,56,121
14	Karnataka	16,30,289
15	Kerala	23,29,360
16	Ladakh	5,60,492
17	Lakshadweep	3,00,000
18	Madhya Pradesh	12,99,448
19	Maharashtra	22,50,000
20	Manipur	18,35,600
21	Meghalaya	27,09,600
22	Mizoram	26,13,100
23	Nagaland	31,49,600
24	Odisha	18,37,154
25	Puducherry	11,12,157
26	Punjab	12,38,017
27	Rajasthan	3,00,000
28	Sikkim	17,31,466
29	Tamilnadu	14,02,759
30	Telangana	18,10,000
31	Tripura	17,94,320
32	Uttarakhand	17,93,764
33	Uttar Pradesh	20,59,307
34	West Bengal	14,30,911
	Total	5,13,95,642

At the end of March 2024, a total of 2,76,653 BMCs have been constituted and 2,72,648 PBRs have been prepared all over the country (Table 14).

Table 14: State-wise BMCs constituted and PBRs prepared as on 31st March 2025

S.No.	Name of the SBB/UTBC	Total number of BMCs constituted	Total number of PBRs prepared
1	Andhra Pradesh	14092	14,092
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1806	1806
3	Assam	2549	2549
4	Bihar	8696	8623
5	Chhattisgarh	12008	10540
6	Goa	205	205
7	Gujarat	14302	14302
8	Haryana	6444	6444
9	Himachal Pradesh	3775	3775
10	Jharkhand	4689	4689
11	Karnataka	6554	6554
12	Kerala	1200	1034
13	Madhya Pradesh	23557	23557
14	Maharashtra	28649	28649
15	Manipur	2260	199
16	Meghalaya	6484	6484
17	Mizoram	908	894
18	Nagaland	1276	1276
19	Odisha	7256	7256
20	Punjab	13599	13599
21	Rajasthan	11882	11882
22	Sikkim	196	196
23	Tamil Nadu	13614	13600
24	Telangana	13461	13461
25	Tripura	1264	1264
26	Uttarakhand	7991	7991
27	Uttar Pradesh	59407	59407
28	West Bengal	3830	3,830
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	71	71
30	Chandigarh	1	1
31	Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	40	34
32	Delhi	1	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir	4366	4366
34	Ladakh	195	4
35	Lakshadweep	10	10
36	Puducherry	15	0
	Total	2,76,653	2,72,648

11.3 National Institution for Research & Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR)

The National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR) was constituted *vide* Order dated 22nd November 2022 by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India to undertake to enhance cooperation and collaboration among various institutes of the Ministry. The NIRANTAR platform is being headed by a High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC) under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister, MoEFCC.

The administrative committee of NIRANTAR functions under the supervision, direction and control of the HPSC. Four thematic verticals were established within the NIRANTAR platform. In that the National Biodiversity Authority falls under the "Ecosystem Survey and Analysis" vertical.

NBA and the National Museum for Natural History (NMNH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding, with the objectives of NIRANTAR, for making collective efforts to develop and organize awareness and educational programmes and activities to sensitize young minds towards the importance of biodiversity, nature and environment. It was also agreed upon that the NBA will provide the knowledge products, such as published documents, films, models, communication tools, etc., for display/screening in the programme.

So far, under NIRANTAR, nine meetings were conducted by the Ministry and was attended by Dr B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary, NBA. Out of which three meetings were conducted by the ICFRE who is in-charge of developing an Integrated portal for collating and sharing the research work and publications of various institutes of MoEFCC. NBA, being a statutory, informed that we do not undertake research activities and shared the list of publications in the NIRANTAR portal.

Recently, the 4th Administrative Committee meeting under the Chairmanship of Secretary MoEFCC was held on 31st December 2024. The meeting was attended by the Chairperson, NBA and the Secretary, NBA. Further, the key activities and progress of each vertical under the NIRANTAR programme was sought from all the institutes under each vertical.

Member Secretary, NBA participated in the meeting conducted by ICFRE-IFGTB institutes under NIRANTAR, organized to discuss the potential collaborative works that could be undertaken between the NIRANTAR institutions, wherein Member Secretary, NBA made a presentation on the works undertaken in NBA and

highlighted the possible collaborations that could be taken up. Further, the NBA was informed to prepare a vision framework that aligns with **Vision@2047** with short-term, mid-term and long-term goals.

11.4 Mission LiFE

Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) was introduced by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at COP 26 in Glasgow on 1st November 2021—as a mass movement for “mindful and deliberate utilization, instead of mindless and destructive consumption” to protect and preserve the environment. It aims to nudge individuals and communities to practice a lifestyle that is synchronous with nature. The mission includes a list of 75 individual LiFe actions across 7 categories.

Under the Category i.e. “Adopting Healthy Lifestyle”, one of the action point stipulated – “Action no. 65: Start Biodiversity Conservation at Community Level” has direct relevance to the core mandates of the NBA.

As per the OM of MOEFCC No. 8-6/2023-EE-LiFE dated 13-01-2023 all Divisions were requested to promote the theme of Mission LiFE through various citizen centric function and activities to ensure maximum public outreach. NBA has been actively promoting Mission LiFE among the stakeholders concerned. Since April 2024 the following activities has been conducted:

S. No.	Date of event	Description of event/ activity	LiFE Theme Action promoted	No. of participants (Physical / Virtual)
1	02.04.2024	PBR to e-PBR	Action no. 65 “ Start Biodiversity Conservation at Community Level”	31
2	18.04.2024	Organising activities by BMCs in alignment with the World Environment Day & LiFE Mission	Action no. 65 “ <i>Start Biodiversity Conservation at Community Level</i> ”	47
3	22.05.2024	Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity	Action no. 65 “ <i>Start Biodiversity Conservation at Community Level</i> ”	600
4	26.05.2024	Celebration of World Environment Day 2024 in alignment with Mission LiFE.	Action no. 65 “ <i>Start Biodiversity Conservation at Community Level</i> ”	3000
5	21.06.2024	World Yoga Day	Theme 6 – Adopt Healthy Lifestyles	72

S. No.	Date of event	Description of event/ activity	LiFE Theme Action promoted	No. of participants (Physical / Virtual)
6	31.07.2024	Training and capacity building program to Officer Trainees from Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore	Action no. 65 "Start Biodiversity Conservation at Community Level"	42
7	14.09.2024	Plantation activity for establishing Matri Van under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign	Action no. 68 "Plant trees to reduce the impact of pollution"	120
8	29.09.2024	Beach cleaning drive as part of Swachhta Hi Seva campaign	Action no. 38 "Participate in and mobilize participation for clean-up drives of cities and water bodies"	150
9	19.11.2024	Training and capacity building programme to Forest Range Officer Trainees from Telangana State Forest Academy, Hyderabad	Action no. 65 "Start Biodiversity Conservation at Community Level"	36
10	02.12.2024	Review meeting on the development and implementation of e-PBR application (BIOMIS Portal)- PBR to e-PBR	Action no. 65 "Start Biodiversity Conservation at Community Level"	32
11	03.02.2025 to 05.02.2025	Pilot Capacity Building Programme for BMC members and State level consultation on e-PBR, Tamil Nadu State	Action no. 65 "Start Biodiversity Conservation at Community Level"	60



11.5. Important events celebrated / observed by NBA

11.5.1. International Yoga Day (IYD)

National Biodiversity Authority had organised a Yoga training programme for the Officials of NBA on the International Yoga Day (IYD) on 21st June 2024 at NBA Office, Chennai.



11.5.2 Hindi Workshop

A Hindi workshop to promote the use of Hindi as an official language was held on 8th July 2024 at NBA Office, Chennai



11.5.3 Orientation Program on the Sexual Harassment of Workmen at workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act & Rules

An overview of the Sexual Harassment of Workmen at workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act & Rules was provided to the officials of NBA on 9th July 2024 at NBA Office, Chennai. Ms. A. Manjula, Income Tax Officer, Income Tax Department explained on the provisions of the Act.



11.5.4 Officer/Trainees of Central Academy for State Forest Service

The Officers/Trainees of Central Academy for State Forest Service had one-day workshop on 31st July 2024 for the benefit of the Officer/Trainees of Central Academy for State Forest Service on Forest on Biodiversity Act and Biodiversity Conservation at NBA Office, Chennai.



11.5.5 Independence Day celebration

The 78th Independence Day of India was celebrated by NBA in the TICEL Bio Park premises on 15th August 2024. The National Flag was hoisted by Shri.I.Anthony, Administrative Officer/NBA, and he delivered the keynote address on the occasion.



11.5.6 Swachhata Campaign

Officers & staff of NBA collected the garbage accumulated in the Thiruvannamiyur Beach as part of the Swachhata Campaign to spread awareness among the public on 29th September 2024.

11.5.7 Hindi week Celebrations

Hindi week was celebrated on 12th September 2024 at NBA Office, Chennai



11.5.8 Plant4Mother (Matri Van)

The officers & Staff of NBA planted trees in the Nanmangalam Forest as part of the Plant4Mother (Matri Van) program on 14th September 2024.

11.5.9 Vigilance Awareness Week

Vigilance Awareness Week is one of the Participative Vigilance initiatives of the Central Vigilance Commission in the fight against corruption. It is an awareness building and outreach measure which aims to bring together all the stakeholders. It is observed to create greater sensitivity about the need for ethics and transparency in governance and public administration from 28th October 2024 to 3rd November 2024. In 2024, Vigilance Awareness Week was observed by NBA with the theme of "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity". The pledge was taken by all officials of NBA.



11.5.10 Telangana Forest Academy - Forest Rangers Training

The Forest Rangers undergoing training at Telangana Forest Academy had a one-day workshop for the benefit of the Officers/ Trainees of Central Academy for State Forest Service on Biological Diversity Act and Biodiversity Conservation on 9th November 2024 at NBA Office, Chennai





11.5.11 Constitution Day



Constitution Day also known as 'Samvidhan Divas', is celebrated in our country on 26th November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, which came into effect from 26th January 1950. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on 19th November 2015 notified the decision of Government of India to celebrate the 26th day of November every year as 'Constitution Day' to promote Constitution values among citizens. The pledge was taken by all officials of NBA on 26th November 2024 at NBA Office, Chennai



11.5.12 National Conference on Urban Biodiversity

The National Conference on Urban Biodiversity was held on 29th -30th, November 2024 at Hotel Taj Vivanta Hyderabad and presentations were given on preserving the Urban Biodiversity in various cities of India.



11.5.13 Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme- BSIP V interns -Training program

The training was conducted by NBA for the Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme- BSIP-V interns from 2nd to 7th January 2025 at NBA Office, Chennai.



11.5.14 Republic Day of India

The 76th independence day of India was celebrated by NBA on 26th January 2025 in the TICEL Bio Park premises. The National Flag was unfurled by Shri.C.Achalender Reddy, Chairman/NBA and he delivered the keynote address on the occasion.



11.5.15 Eye Camp

An eye camp was organized by Udhi Eye Hospital in the premises of NBA for the benefit of NBA staff on 31st January 2025 at NBA Office, Chennai.

11.5.16 Women's day

Women's Day was celebrated in NBA Office for Women employees of NBA on 8th March 2025.



11.5.17 Hindi Workshop

A Hindi workshop to promote the use of Hindi as an official language was held on 22nd – 25th, March 2025



11.6 PoSH-IC quarterly meeting

The Internal Committee was convened on 12th March 2025 to review and discuss ongoing Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) initiatives, alongside updates on the implementation of new policies within the organization. A key focus of the meeting was a review of the recent revisions to the PoSH policy to ensure its alignment with the latest regulatory guidelines.

The committee also discussed the She-Box portal, a significant initiative launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. This centralized platform serves as a tool for registering and monitoring workplace sexual harassment complaints across the country.

In light of this development, it was emphasized that the Nodal Officer, Ms. Rambha Chaudhary [TO-IPR], is tasked with overseeing the proper implementation of the She-Box portal. This includes ensuring the accurate registration of complaints, closely monitoring the progress of each case, and guaranteeing that all complaints are resolved promptly and effectively.

As on date, the She-Box portal has been successfully updated with the details of all Internal Committee members, as provided by the Presiding Officer of the committee.

11.7. Official Language implementation activities

The NBA delivers its mandate through a structure that comprises of the Authority, Secretariat, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and Expert Committees. Besides, NBA, like all Central Govt. offices in Chennai, is intending to meet statutory requirements of Department. of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India as required under rules/guidelines issued from time to time. The following is summary of activities carried out during year 2024-25.

- a) Conduct of quarterly meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee:

An Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) has been constituted in NBA for implementation of Official Language policy of Govt. of India. Its' meetings are held in every quarter and corrective measures are taken on decisions taken in meetings. Its' minutes are circulated amongst all sections for information and necessary action and copy of the same is sent to OL Division/MoEFCC/New Delhi for information. The following are dates of meetings held during year 2024-25.

S.No.	Quarter Ending	Date of meetings	No. of Officers/Staff attended meeting
1	30.06.2024	02.08.2024	08
2	30.09.2024	13.11.2024	06
3	31.12.2024	04.02.2025	08
4	31.03.2025	30.05.2025	09

- b) The Quarterly Progress Report of Hindi for submission to Official Language (OL) Division/MoEFCC and online report for submission to Deptt. of Official Language/Ministry of Home Affairs/Govt. of India:

The quarterly progress report of for progressive use of Hindi of each and every quarter were prepared and sent to OL Division/MoEFCC within the stipulated period. The reports were also sent online to Deptt. of Official Language/Ministry of Home Affairs/Govt of India.

Report – Quarter ending	Date of dispatch of report	Date of online submission of report to DOL/MHA/GOI
30.06.2024	18.07.2024	19.07.2024
30.09.2024	06.11.2024	07.11.2024
31.12.2024	13.01.2025	24.01.2025
31.03.2025	21.04.2025	23.04.2025

- c) Annual Assessment Report:

The Annual Assessment Report on usage of Official Language Hindi for year 2024-25 was sent to OL Division/MoEF&CC on 21.04.2025.

- d) Half Early Reports:

Half Yearly report on usage of Hindi for the period from January – June 2024 was sent on 05.09.2024 and Half Yearly report for the period from July-December 2024 was sent on 25.02.2025 to O/o Member Secretary, Town Official Language Implementation Committee, Southern Railway, Chennai-600003. Besides, Half Yearly report for the period from 01.10.2024 to 31.03.2025 was sent on 01.05.2025 to OL Division/MoEFCC for discussion in Hindi Salahkar Committee meeting of MoEFCC.

- e) Conduct of Hindi Workshop:

In accordance with provisions made in Annual Program issued by Deptt. of Official Language/Ministry of Home Affairs/Govt. of India, a Hindi workshop was conducted on 08.07.2024, 12.09.2024 and 25.03.2025 to overcome the hesitation of staff for carrying out their official work in Hindi.

f) Conduct of Hindi Week:

In accordance with provisions made in Annual Program and as per directives of Official Language (OL) Division/MoEF&CC, a Hindi Week was conducted at NBA from 12.09.2024 to 18.09.2024 with great enthusiasm and various competitions were conducted to encourage the staff members and prizes were given to winners in function organized on 04.10.2024 under the chairmanship of Dr. B. Balaji, IFS, Secretary,NBA who gave prizes to winners.

g) In service Hindi training:

Two officers had been nominated for training in Hindi Parangat course and 1 staff member had been nominated for training in Hindi Praveen course in July-November 2024 session. Further, 1 staff member has been nominated for training in Hindi Prabodh course and 1 staff member has been nominated for training in Hindi Pragya course in January-May 2025 session.

h) Official Language Inspection by OL Division/MoEFCC.

Official Language inspection of NBA was held by Director(OL), MoEFCC on 30.04.2024. Appreciations and suggestions on usage of Hindi extended by inspection team were noted. Follow up report on assurances given were sent to MoEFCC.

i) Representing NBA in Town Official Language Implementation Committee meetings and receiving prizes by NBA staff in TOLIC competitions:

Shri I. Anthony, Administrative Officer represented the NBA in meeting of the Town Official Language Implementation Committee(TOLIC) held on 24.07.2024 and Shri A. Elango, Administrative Officer represented NBA in the TOLIC meeting held on 16.12.2024. Besides, Shri Arvind Unni, Young Professional participated in the Hindi Essay Competition held on 21.08.2024 and Shri R. Ramesh, Private Secretary to Chairman participated in the Hindi Elocution Competition held on 12.08.2024 and both of them received Consolation prize in TOLIC meeting held on 16.12.2024 from the Chairman – TOLIC.

j) Hindi-English-Hindi translation work:

Various documents of Section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act, 1963 are translated from time to time and compliance with Section 3(3) is ensured. In addition, various documents of urgent nature and routine nature such as Annual Report of NBA, other reports, public grievances, various letters received in Hindi under Right to Information Act, 2005, letters received from SBB from time to time etc. are translated by an outsourced administration staff.

11.7. Establishment and functioning of the NBA CBD Cell under MoEFCC

In September 2024 the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), through the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), established a dedicated CBD Cell, with seven members placed in Chennai and one in MoEFCC, Delhi. This strategic initiative aimed to provide expert guidance and professional support to the Conference of Parties (COP 16) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that focused on Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) implementation. The team addressed the mandate of supporting the CBD and its protocols—Nagoya and Cartagena Protocol, as well as other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). CBD Cell team played a pivotal role in supporting the Indian Delegation at COP 16, held in Cali, Colombia, and its second session Rome, Italy by:

- Preparing agenda-wise background notes, national statements, and position.
- Continuously refining paragraph-wise inputs for India's position in CBD negotiation texts.
- Drafting COP daily reports to track progress and emerging issues.
- Contributing to bilateral meetings, Asia-Pacific regional consultations, Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC) and BRICS-level discussions.
- Preparation and finalisation of the Indian Delegation Report post-COP and preparation of its subsequent presentation.

Other Key CBD Cell Mandates include:

- Providing policy-level advice, inputs, and expert opinions to MoEFCC, other Ministries, State agencies and the Prime Minister's Office.
- Reviewing and contributing to international frameworks and platforms such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Knowledge Management Initiative for Biodiversity, International/ Intergovernmental alliances related to biodiversity, International Platform on Sustainable Finance etc. (e.g., Global Biodiversity Alliance, Glaciers Treaty, Ramsar Convention)
- Sectoral and Thematic contributions including: The CBD Cell has consistently contributed across a range of environmental and biodiversity-related domains such as soil and water conservation, wetland, wildlife, climate change, pollution and waste management, traditional knowledge, ecological

and socio-economic assessments, sector-specific contributions (agriculture, forestry, energy, and industry).

- **Additional Activities and Publications:** In addition to the above core responsibilities, individual team members of the CBD Cell made contributions to the following:
 - a) Organising and publishing the proceedings of the National Conference on Urban Biodiversity, Hyderabad,
 - b) Preparation of “Compendium of Biodiversity Heritage Sites in India”.
 - c) Organising and preparing report of the Expert Committee on State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs),
 - d) Contribution to the Joint Committee of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Trees Outside Forests.

11.8 Projects implemented by the National Biodiversity Authority under the GoI-UNDP Biodiversity programme

11.8.1. GoI-UNDP BIOFIN: Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) Phase II Extended

The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), launched in India in 2015, is a global flagship programme of UNDP. In India, the programme is led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and hosted by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA). It aims to develop innovative financing mechanisms to support India’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs). Operating across states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, BIOFIN has progressed through Phase I (2015-2018), Phase II (2018-2021), and an extended Phase II (2021-2025) funded by governments including Italy, UK, Germany, Switzerland, Flanders, and Norway.

BIOFIN’s key objectives include assessing biodiversity expenditure, identifying financial gaps, and implementing solutions such as mainstreaming biodiversity in public finance (agriculture), enhancing corporate social responsibility (CSR) for biodiversity, promoting Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), leveraging Financial Technologies (FinTech), and introducing Nature-related Risk Assessments and Reporting. Achievements include mapping 116 biodiversity-relevant schemes across 24 central ministries, developing a Voluntary Certification Scheme for ABS, and supporting State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans in nine states. BIOFIN’s Biodiversity Finance Plan, released in 2019, bridges the estimated USD

16.5 billion NBAP funding gap by mobilizing public and private resources, fostering sustainable conservation practices. This plan is currently being revised to align with the implementation of India's Updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2024–2030).

Key Events:

(i) State-Level Workshop on BIOFIN Finance Solutions in Telangana

Organized by the Telangana State Biodiversity Board (TGBDB) in association with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on 08 April 2024 at Hotel Haritha Plaza, Begumpet, Hyderabad. The workshop focused on 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Public Finance (Agriculture Sector),' 'Access and Benefit Sharing,' and 'Corporate Social Responsibility' to promote sustainable biodiversity financing.

(ii) Internal Review Meeting of the BIOFIN Project

Held by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), UNDP, Centre for Innovative and Public Systems (CIPS), and TGBDB on 9th November 2024 at CIPS, Hyderabad, to assess the progress and implementation of the BIOFIN project.

(iii) Brainstorming Session for Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agriculture

Conducted by NBA, UNDP, and TGBDB on 25th November 2024 at the Meeting Hall, TGBDB, 4th Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Hyderabad, to discuss strategies for integrating biodiversity considerations into the agriculture sector.

(iv) GoI-UNDP BIOFIN Annual Planning and Review Meeting

Held on 24th January 2025 at NBA, Chennai, to evaluate the progress of BIOFIN initiatives and plan future activities for biodiversity finance in India.

(v) Review Meeting for Revision of Biodiversity Finance Plan

Organized by NBA in collaboration with UNDP on 3rd March 2025 at NBA, Chennai, under the guidance of Dr. V. Rajagopalan, IAS (retd), Senior Technical Advisor, to revise and strengthen the Biodiversity Finance Plan.

(vi) National Workshop on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) and Global Multilateral Benefit-Sharing Mechanism (GMBSM)

Conducted by GoI-UNDP BIOFIN in partnership with NBA on 12th-13th July 2024 in Hyderabad, focusing on the use of DSI on Genetic Resources and establishing mechanisms for equitable benefit-sharing.

11.8.2 GoI-UNDP-GEF-7: Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support to Update India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

The GoI-UNDP-GEF-7 Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) project, executed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) and National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) in partnership with UNDP, is designed to align India's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted at CBD COP15 in December 2022. Funded by a USD 249,115 GEF-7 grant for 2023-2024, this nationwide initiative supports India in fast-tracking the implementation of GBF's four goals and 23 targets for 2030, integrating biodiversity priorities with global environmental commitments like Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPAs), and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) goals. The project aims to update NBSAPs, enhance monitoring, align policies, and secure biodiversity financing to address biodiversity loss and promote sustainable ecosystem management, contributing to the global vision of "living in harmony with nature" by 2050.

The GBF-EAS project encompasses four key components to strengthen India's biodiversity framework: (1) Conducting a rapid review and update of the NBSAP to align with GBF targets, including screening, target revision, and national approval; (2) Assessing and improving biodiversity monitoring systems by identifying gaps and developing costed action plans; (3) Reviewing intra-governmental policies to ensure alignment with GBF, fostering a whole-of-government approach, and creating prioritized policy coherence plans; and (4) Undertaking biodiversity finance activities, such as expenditure reviews, cost estimations, identification of harmful subsidies, and development of finance plans to address the national financing gap. These efforts ensure India is equipped for rapid GBF implementation, promoting measurable and sustainable biodiversity outcomes.

The updated NBSAP was launched by Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, on 30th October, 2024, at COP16 in Cali, Colombia, during a special event titled "Roadmap for achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) targets and release of India's updated NBSAP."

Key Events:

- (i) Ministerial Consultations on NBSAP and National Biodiversity Targets

On 5th April, 2024, Ministerial Consultations were held at Dr. Ambedkar International

Centre, 15 Janpath, New Delhi to update the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and adopt National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). This event was organized under the GEF-UNDP-NBSAP EAS initiative.

(ii) NBA-Working Group Meeting in Chennai

From June to 1st July, 2024, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) Working Group convened in Chennai to contribute to and review the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), including the National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs), actionable points, indicators, and monitoring framework, in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

(iii) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Meeting in New Delhi

From 30th August to 1st September, 2024, a meeting on the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was held in New Delhi to further develop and refine the NBSAP and related components in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

(iv) MoEFCC-NBA-UNDP Meeting to Finalize NBSAP

From 12th - 15th September, 2024, a meeting organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), and UNDP was held in New Delhi to finalize the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). This activity was conducted under the GEF-GBF-EAS initiative on NBSAP.

11.8.3. GoI-UNDP-GEF-8: Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support: India's Seventh National Report (NR 7) to CBD

India's Seventh National Report (NR-7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), part of the GoI-UNDP-GEF-8 "Enabling Activity - Umbrella Programme to Support Update of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the 7th National Report". NR7 is being prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) for submission to CBD by February 2026.

Aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) and India's Updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2024-2030), NR-7 will assess progress on 23 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) across

reducing biodiversity threats, sustainable use, benefit-sharing, and implementation tools. It aims to demonstrate India's leadership in ecosystem restoration, protected areas expansion, genetic diversity conservation, and innovative financing, while addressing challenges like funding gaps and climate change through a transparent, data-driven report.

The preparation involves nationwide consultations with central/state governments, 28 State Biodiversity Boards NGOs, academia, and communities, supported by data from 21 ministries, scientific surveys (BSI, ZSI) etc. A National Biodiversity Monitoring System (NBMS) will track National Biodiversity Targets (NBT) progress. Stakeholders are invited to contribute data, join discussions, and support NBSAP projects.

11.8.4. Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitments (GEF-7 BD Project)

The GEF-7 project, funded with USD 4.88 million and USD 29.28 million in co-financing, aims to integrate biodiversity conservation into decentralized governance in India's Garo Hills (Meghalaya) and Sathyamangalam (Tamil Nadu) landscapes from 2025 to 2030. Implemented by the National Biodiversity Authority and the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, it targets 445 villages to embed biodiversity outcomes, digitize 400 People's Biodiversity Registers, and benefit 8,000 individuals through sustainable enterprises. The project addresses biodiversity loss by enhancing local planning, improving management of 5 Protected Areas, and identifying Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

Key components include mainstreaming biodiversity into Gram Panchayat Development Plans, mobilizing innovative financing like ABS and Green Certification, and raising stakeholder awareness through knowledge sharing. By building capacities, especially for women, and promoting eco-friendly livelihoods, the project aligns with CBD targets, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) (1, 2, 5, 8, 15, 17), fostering sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

Key Events:

- (i) 12th August 2024 – LPAC Approval Milestone

The Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) for the GEF-GoI-UNDP Project "Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitments" was held on 12th August 2024.

- (ii) 23rd January 2025 – Kick-off & Strategic Planning

The Project Orientation Workshop and Planning Meeting for the same project was organized on 23 January 2025 at the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai.

- (iii) 11th March 2025 – State-level AWP Consultations

A Virtual Meeting to discuss the Indicative Activities for the States' Annual Work Plan (AWP) was held on 11th March 2025 under the project, with participation from the States of Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya.

11.8.5. Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to meet India's commitment to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets by 2030 (GEF-8 OECM project)

India is committed to conserving 30% of its land and marine areas by 2030 under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) 30x30 target, with the current conservation area at 27%. Approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on 17th June 2024, this project aims to bridge this gap by identifying, mapping, recognizing, and managing Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) across diverse landscapes and seascapes, including Kullu Valley-GHNP, North Bengal, Satpura Maikal, and Lakshadweep Island. Through collaboration with government, NGOs, private sectors, and communities, the project strengthens governance, secures financing, and enhances ecological connectivity to support biodiversity conservation.

The project will recognize 9.862 million ha (3% of India's geographical area) and 150,000 sq.km of marine and coastal areas as OECMs by 2030, establishing a robust institutional framework for effective management. By aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2, 5, 13, 14, 15) and GBF Targets (2, 3, 10, 11, 14, 19, 21, 22), it fosters innovative financial solutions and stakeholder capacity to scale up conservation efforts.

Key Events:

- (i) First Meeting of the Working Group/Expert Committee on OECMs

The inaugural meeting of the Working Group/Expert Committee was held on 28th June 2024 in Goa to deliberate on strategies and approaches for achieving KMGBF Target 3.

- (ii) Virtual Finalization of Revised Guidelines for OECMs in India 2024

The Expert Committee met virtually on 1st–2nd October 2024 to review and finalize the *Revised Guidelines for Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in India 2024*.

(iii) Stakeholder Inception-cum-Validation Workshop

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), in collaboration with UNDP, organized the Stakeholder Inception-cum-Validation Workshop for the GEF-8 OECM Project on 3rd February 2025 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The workshop aimed to initiate project activities and validate the proposed implementation framework.

(iv) Second Meeting of the Working Group/Expert Committee on OECMs

The second in-person meeting of the Working Group/Expert Committee was held on 4th –5th February 2025 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, focusing on advancing strategies, identifying priority areas, and operationalizing actions for achieving the “30x30” target.

11.8.6. MoEFCC review meeting of GOI-UNDP Biodiversity programme

(i) High-Level Review of UNDP-Supported Biodiversity Projects by Special Secretary, MoEFCC

A review meeting on the progress of various UNDP projects anchored by the CS-III, Biodiversity Division, MoEFCC was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Tanmay Kumar, IAS Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, and Forest and Climate Change on 22nd November, 2024 at Teesta Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.

(ii) Follow-Up Review of UNDP Biodiversity Initiatives by Additional Secretary, MoEFCC

A review meeting of the UNDP projects anchored in CS-III Biodiversity Division WAS held under the chairmanship of Shri Amandeep Garg, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 17th December, 2024 at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.

(iii) NBA–MoEFCC–UNDP Coordination Meeting on Key GEF Projects, NR-7, and IDB 2025

NBA - MoEFCC-UNDP meeting was held on 24th March 11 am to take decisions on important matters related to GEF 7 BD project, GEF- 8 OECM project, NR 7 and IDB-2025.

11.8.7 Working Group / Expert Committee to contribute to the operationalization of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF); Target 15 (Businesses assess, disclose and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts), Target 19 (Mobilize \$200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including \$30 billion through international finance) and to make recommendations for business responsibility towards biodiversity conservation in India

The First Meeting of the Working Group / Expert Committee on Business and Biodiversity was held on 5th August 2024 at Chennai to contribute to the operationalization of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), with a focus on Target 15 (Businesses assess, disclose, and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts) and Target 19 (Mobilizing USD 200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including USD 30 billion through international finance). The meeting aimed to develop recommendations for strengthening business responsibility towards biodiversity conservation in India.

11.9. Activities of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)

11.9.1 Andhra Pradesh SBB

The Board has prepared the brochures on Biodiversity Conservation and implementation of Biological Diversity Act. Traditional Knowledge materials have been translated into local language. APSBB have prepared the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) 2020-2030. APSBB has conferred the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Conserver Awards – 2024 to 10 individuals and organizations actively involved in awareness generation and conservation efforts across the State. APSBB organized National level celebration of IDB in collaboration with NBA. Six Training of Trainers (ToTs) programmes were conducted by the APSBB to the BMC members and other stake holders at



AP forest Academy to create awareness on Biological Diversity Act, Rule, ABS mechanism, biodiversity conservation etc. To mark World Environment Day, APSBB coordinated a range of activities including plantation drives, school competitions, beach clean-up efforts, plastic removal, and awareness campaigns across 500 BMCs, encompassing all Districts in the State.

11.9.2 Arunachal Pradesh SBB

Arunachal Pradesh SBB has constituted BMCs in all the local bodies and PBRs have been prepared in all the BMCs. The SBSAP was prepared with the technical support



of WWF, India, and released on 13th March 2025 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh in the presence of Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC, Hon'ble Advisor (EF&CC), Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh, PCCF&HOFF (EF&CC), Ministers, MLAs, Commissioners, Senior Forest Officers, HODs of Line Department, Heads of Research Institutes, BMCs, stakeholders and students. As part of the celebration of IDB 2024, SBB

conducted plantation and awareness programs at selected schools, as well as a painting competition, an online poetry competition, and a skit play (Nukkad Natak). Programs were also held for specific BMCs, including Shergaon BMC, West Kameng, Papumpare BMC, Nirjuli, and Yukar BMC in Upper Subansiri. In celebration of World Environment Day, the AP SBB, along with the Department of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, Itanagar, and the Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, organized initiatives like the plantation of edible fruit plants and river cleaning activities. A training and capacity-building program was conducted for 11 BMCs in Papumpare District. Additionally, a pilot capacity-building program for BMCs was organized in collaboration with the Eastern India Association for Conservation of Plants (EIACP), the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), and the Arunachal Pradesh SBB at the Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre in Itanagar. Members belonging to 50 BMCs of the state participated in the three days programme. Resource persons from different institutes including ZSI, BSI, Forest Department and APBB shared their expertise.

11.9.3 Assam SBB

During the year, one Board meeting was held. The Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB), with assistance from the WII, prepared the Assam State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The Board also completed the preparation of Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs) for 50 selected BMCs. ASBB celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), World Environment Day (WED), and International Yoga Day. The Board conducted and participated in several key activities, including a district-level workshop in Biswanath, a training program, a state-level workshop in Guwahati, and BMC-level workshops in Baksa and Kokrajhar districts. An awareness program on the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) mobile app was organized at Cotton University. ASBB also participated in the Advantage Assam 2.0



event held in Guwahati and conducted a stakeholder consultation on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). Additionally, ASBB sanctioned several research projects, including studies on amphibian diversity and taxonomy in Karbi Anglong; the development of a digital database of tree species with associated training for forest staff and BMCs; assessment and conservation of plant diversity in sacred groves; and the study, utilization, and conservation of lichen diversity in two hill districts of Assam.

11.9.4 Bihar SBB

Bihar State Biodiversity Board (BSBB) notified guidelines for the identification, modification, and management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites. Two board meetings were held during the year. Two coordination meetings with key line departments—such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Water and Land Management, Panchayati Raj, and Research Management Institutes—were held to gather inputs and recommendations for drafting the SBSAP. The Board conducted meetings in 10 selected BMCs located around the Nagi and Nakti Ramsar Sites and nearby forest areas for the updation PBRs. BSBB also prepared various booklets outlining the formation, functions, and activities of BMCs at both rural and urban levels. IDB 2024 was celebrated, and the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign was held at Kurkuri BMC. Several training programmes and workshops were conducted for BMC members and forest officers, focusing on biodiversity conservation and

their roles. The Board launched a three-month internship programme to involve youth in biodiversity-related activities.

11.9.5 Chhattisgarh SBB

The Chhattisgarh State Biodiversity Board (Chhattisgarh SBB) has prepared the *Chhattisgarh State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2030*. The Board organized several training and awareness programs, as well as workshops for BMCs across various districts, to support the preparation of PBRs. IDB 2024 was celebrated by the Board with the aim of raising public awareness about biodiversity conservation. Additionally, a Parataxonomy and Biodiversity Course was conducted in coordination with the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata, specifically for BMC members from the Kanker and Jagdalpur circles. A total of 105 BMC members successfully completed the course and were awarded certificates.



11.9.6 Goa SBB

Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held two board meetings. To celebrate IDB-2024, GSBB organized a lecture titled "*Giants from our Background*" along with a series of cluster meetings and programs for Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at various locations. In collaboration with the Department of Environment and Climate Change, GSBB celebrated World Environment Day (WED) 2024 at the Entertainment Society of Goa, where BMCs across the state took part in activities under the "Meri LiFE" theme. GSBB also partnered with the Goa State Wetland Authority





(GSWA) to celebrate World Wetlands Day at Tarvale Lake in Shiroda. Ahead of IDB 2025, GSBB collaborated with Abhivyaktee to host Yuva Jagruti-2025 on February 8, 2025, at Institute Menezes Braganza. GSBB received appreciation from Dr. Sneha Gitte, Collector of North Goa, for its successful organization of the Green Election initiative. As part of the "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" campaign, tree plantation was conducted at the Goa Legislative Assembly. GSBB, in association with Shristhal BMC, set up a pavilion at Lokotsav 2024, organized by Adarsh Yuva Sangh in Canacona. Under the GoVan Project, GSBB also participated in the India International Trade Festival (IITF) in New Delhi. Additionally, BMCs across Goa conducted awareness programs in schools, tree plantation drives, and cleanliness campaigns. Goa State Climate Change Cell of GSBB organized a workshop titled "Creating a Green Niche for a Greener Tomorrow" at Village Panchayat Borim, Ponda, focusing on sustainable agriculture practices for farmers, BMC members, and Panchayat representatives.

11.9.7 Gujarat SBB

Two Board meetings were held during the year. "Inland Mangrove of Guneri" in the District of Kutch has been declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site vide notification dated 29th January 2025. One-day state level event was organized on the occasion of IDB 2024 with the active participation of BMC members, students and villagers from various Districts. BMCs from various taluks participated in the exhibition and showcase the herbal hair oil from local weeds prepared by them and displayed

the local made sweet amla candy, Bhaliya wheat and krishnakamod rice on the occasion of IDB 2024. A series of 5 one-day workshops on “Biodiversity Awareness” workshops have been conducted by the Board with the help of Technical Support Groups(TSGs) in various districts of Gujarat to build the capacity of BMCs and to raise the awareness about the biodiversity conservation. The Asian WaterBird Census (AWC) was carried out with the active participation of various BMCs.

11.9.8 Haryana SBB

During the year, two Board meetings were held. On the occasion of World Earth Day 2024, the Haryana State Biodiversity Board (Haryana SBB), in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Baba Mastnath University, organized an induction program for the Eco Biodiversity Club. IDB 2024 was celebrated through a series of online competitions—including essay writing, quizzes, painting, and photography—which were widely publicized through newspapers. World Environment Day was observed across four zones of Haryana with awareness campaigns, tree plantation pledges, and a public rally. International Yoga Day was celebrated with enthusiastic participation from students, the public, and BMC members. Haryana SBB also participated in an exhibition organized on the occasion of the 75th State-Level Van Mahotsav Programme. As part of its ongoing educational outreach, the Board launched two publications: *Birds of Ottu Lake, Haryana* and a reading booklet on biodiversity conservation. A plantation drive under the campaign “*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*” was also organized. In collaboration with Wetlands International, a global not-for-profit organization, Haryana SBB conducted the AWC at Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary. The AWC was carried out with the participation of BMC members, local citizens, and Haryana SBB District Coordinators.

11.9.9 Himachal Pradesh SBB

Himachal Pradesh SBB organized online training workshop on digitization of PBRs for 180 interns/students of various academic institutions of the State involved for uploading of PBRs on Web portal. Also organized training for field identification of flora and fauna for interns. Capacity building programme was conducted with BMCs and traders of Kalpa (Kinnaur) and Katha Units at DFO office Una. Various meetings have been organized by the board which includes “Protection and Cultivation of Bamboo for Livelihoods in Himachal Pradesh.

"Bioinvasion Regulatory Framework – in line with KMGBF" was organized. KSBB also launched a sacred grove conservation program called '*Kavinu Kavalay*' across all 14 districts, encouraging local communities to protect sacred groves and manage waste. On World Environment Day, a state-level seminar was held, and the board ran the '*Orumikkam Aruvikkaay*' campaign to restore streams by planting trees and removing waste. On International Yoga Day, a yoga session was conducted at the Biodiversity Museum. Ozone Day was marked with an online quiz on ozone protection, which saw participation from over 3,900 people. For Children's Day, an event at the Biodiversity Museum involved over 3,500 students, with winners showcasing their projects at the 16th State-level Children's Biodiversity Congress in Thiruvananthapuram. KSBB also celebrated its 20th anniversary with various biodiversity-focused events. A new program called "*Every Child a Scientist & Artist (ECASA)*" was launched to inspire children,



especially in urban areas, to explore nature through science and art. The board also started "*Jaivajalakam*," a monthly online training series for Biodiversity Clubs in Kerala, covering topics such as wildlife photography and youth involvement in conservation. On World Fisheries Day, KSBB partnered with Valiyathura Fisheries School to promote sustainable fishing and launched an Inland Fish Breeding and Conservation Project to protect endangered freshwater fish species in Kerala. Biodiversity Conservation Awards were given in categories like best custodians of plants, animals, and birds, best BMC, and best conservation institutes. KSBB supported 64 institutions, including schools and research centres, to host biodiversity-related events, and provided research support to 12 doctoral fellows. Additionally, 30 students received internships, and five BMCs received financial support for local conservation efforts, including restoring sacred groves, riparian zones, and mangroves.

11.9.12 Madhya Pradesh SBB

During the year, one Board meeting was held. The Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (MPSBB) prepared SBSAP 2018–2030, as well as the City Biodiversity Index (CBI) for the Smart Cities of Bhopal and Indore. The Board celebrated IDB 2024 and organized *Mission LiFE* awareness programs at schools, colleges, and Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) levels to promote biodiversity and environmental conservation. MPSBB also celebrated the 10th International Yoga Day. The Board organized the State and District level rounds of the Madhya Pradesh Biodiversity Quiz 2024. In commemoration of Wildlife Week 2024, a series of awareness programs were held, including stall exhibitions, spot quizzes, storytelling competitions, and interactive educational games such as bird and animal identification and habitat recognition. To raise awareness about sparrow conservation, MPSBB distributed artificial nest boxes to the public.

11.9.13 Maharashtra SBB

The Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board conducted capacity-building programs for BMC members across districts and celebrated International Forest Day in Nagpur in collaboration with the Gorewada Project and FDCM. Maharashtra SBB actively engaged the public through social media, promoting biodiversity awareness by sharing educational content on national and international environment days, fun fact about species, and updates on workshops and training programs. Through campaigns, tree plantations and events like World Environment Day (WED) and IDB, Maharashtra SBB fosters public participation and collaboration with local bodies, NGOs, and citizens, effectively inspiring collective action to conserve Biodiversity.

11.9.14 Manipur SBB

One board meeting was held during the year. To celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2024, district-level programmes were organized. Prizes were given to winners of various competitions. The board also held an on-the-spot painting competition during the event. On World Environment Day, the board organized tree plantation drives in different parts of Manipur. A two-day training programme was also held on “*Training for Trainers on Updation of People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)*”.

11.9.15 Meghalaya SBB

During the year, two Board meetings were held. Meghalaya SBB produced a documentary film titled “*Meghalaya’s Rivers in Distress*”, and published two posters on biodiversity themes—“*World Cup Insects*” and “*Water Birds Seen in Umiam Lake and Its Catchment Areas.*” Additionally, a brochure titled “*Exotic Ornamental Plants Cultivated in Meghalaya*” was released. Meghalaya SBB celebrated IDB and WED 2024 with active participation from school and university students, BMC members, village headmen, forest officials, and other stakeholders, with the objective of raising public awareness and understanding of biodiversity

conservation. Awareness programs were also conducted to support the operationalization of BMCs, upgrade PBRs, and implement Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanisms across the State. An Asian Waterbird Census was conducted in the wetland areas of Umiam Lake. A Regional Conference

on promoting entrepreneurship among indigenous women of the North Eastern Region (NER) based on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) was organized by Meghalaya SBB in collaboration with the National Commission for Women. On World Wetlands Day, a panel discussion and awareness program on *Mission LiFE – Lifestyle for Environment (Pro-Planet People)* was organized for Dorbar Shnongs and BMCs from villages around Umiam Lake, in collaboration with the Wildlife Division. Meghalaya SBB received the Geo-Spatial Excellence Award at GeoSmart 2024 for its hyperspectral survey of reserve forests. On the occasion of IDB 2024, the Board





presented the State-Level Biodiversity Award under the category “Best BMC” to Pagalpara BMC. The award for “Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Resources” was conferred upon Jerminai BMC of Umling Block.

11.9.16 Mizoram SBB

The main celebration of IDB 2024 was held at the Forest training School (FTS), Aizawal with the BMC members, school students and environmental NGOs. In collaboration with Biodiversity Research Centre (Department of Environmental Science) and Eco-Club, Mizoram University, SBB Mizoram organized celebration of IDB 2024 at Mizoram University. The programme includes scientific presentation, inter school exhibition competition of models on migration of biodiversity loss and protection of bioresources, inter departmental quiz competition for University Students on the topic of biodiversity. Exposure visit for strengthening and empowerment of BMC Members was conducted at Reiek and Sailam village on 23rd and 24th May 2024 respectively. In this occasion, Tree Planting Programme was also organized. In collaboration with the EF&CC Department, Mara Autonomous District Council, Awareness Campaign on Biodiversity Conservation was held at Pala Lake (Ramsar Site) on 22nd May 2024. Mizoram SBB organized awareness campaign on Rain Water Harvesting and Organic in celebration of the World Environment Day 2024 at Saitual and Bukpui Village on 5th June and 7th June 2024 respectively. The target groups of this campaign were BMC members from 20 BMCs of Thingsulthilah and Thingdawl RD Block. Capacity Building and Training

Programme for Strengthening of BMCs was held at the CWLW Conference Hall on 5th November 2024. Pu Lalthansanga, Minister i/c EF&CC Department graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The programme includes inaugural and technical sessions. The Chief Guest released Rs. 20,000/- each for 12 BMCs as start-up fund.

11.9.17 Nagaland SBB

The Nagaland State Biodiversity Board (NSBB) has been reconstituted and one Board meeting was held during the year. NSBB constituted Technical Support Group (TSG) to assist the Board in implementing the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023 and validate the PBRs. NSBB promoted mass awareness for biodiversity conservation urging citizens to engage in conservation efforts to combat climate change, ensure food security, and safeguard biological resources for future generations as part of the IDB 2024. The IDB event held in Jalukie Town involving 150 participants, with talks on biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use, and the role of BMCs. A post-event peer-to-peer learning visit to Sendenyu Village was organized for six BMCs, for exploring biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism, and the establishment of a Biodiversity Education Centre. The Sukhai BMC carried out a large-scale plantation drive during which 8,000 saplings were planted in degraded jhum fields. NSBB, along with 29 BMCs across six



districts, celebrated World Environment Day. BMCs organized various activities in partnership with local organizations undertaking Cleanliness drives in villages and public spaces, roadside plantation initiatives, and afforestation efforts in jhum-affected (shifting cultivation) areas. NSBB and Kohima Science College, Jotsoma, celebrated National Wildlife Week. The two-day State Level Workshop on ABS in Nagaland was organized involving stakeholders from five districts for Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) while supporting livelihoods. ICIMOD in collaboration with the NSBB, and NCCAF organized a two-day consultative workshop, focusing on "Exploring Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) through an Indigenous People and Local Communities' in Nagaland."

11.9.18 Odisha SBB

During the year, one Board meeting was held. The Odisha State Biodiversity Board (Odisha SBB) has declared a total of four Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) in the state so far. Odisha SBB celebrated IDB, and organized capacity-building programs for BMCs across the state. World Environment Day (WED) was also observed with various activities, including cleaning drives at waterfall areas and designated BHS sites such as Gandhamardhan and Mahendragiri. An awareness programme have been conducted on "*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*", through NGOs in different districts to promote tree plantation and enhance environmental awareness among the public.

11.9.19 Punjab SBB

Punjab SBB has constituted 13599 BMCs and documented the PBRs in all the BMCs. During the year, BMCs situated in and around the designated Ramsar sites were identified, updated PBRs. In commemoration of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2024 and World Environment Day (WED), the Board, in collaboration with 20 stakeholder organisations, organised a total of 132 awareness and outreach events across various districts of the State. Furthermore, the Board facilitated various awareness programmes on biodiversity conservation in coordination with BMCs and concerned line departments. Punjab SBB celebrated International Yoga Day 2024 in collaboration with Kheti Virasat and the Village-level BMC of Jaitu, District Faridkot.

11.9.20 Rajasthan SBB

One Board meeting was held during the year. RSBB organized biodiversity awareness programme in schools, colleges/universities. On the occasion of IDB 2024, seminar was conducted in collaboration with school, colleges to raise

awareness about the importance of Biodiversity. RSBB participated in the exhibition “Sashakt Rajasthan” and showcase the collective efforts of various departments towards strengthening the agricultural sectors and promoting holistic development in Rajasthan. RSBB celebrated World Environment Day and international Yoga Day.

11.9.21 Sikkim SBB

During the year, one Board meeting was held. The Sikkim State Biodiversity Board (SBB) had released the City Biodiversity Index of Gangtok in 2020. The Board celebrated IDB, which included a Climate March and a series of awareness activities. On the occasion of WED 2024, the Board supported three BMCs in organizing local celebrations. An awareness-cum-training programme was also conducted for BMCs, focusing on the Biological Diversity Act, their roles and responsibilities, and the importance of preparing People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). A workshop on the electronic PBR (ePBR) system was held in collaboration with the NIC Sikkim Centre. As part of IDB 2024 celebrations, the Board recognized outstanding contributions by BMCs: Hee Gyathang BMC was felicitated as the Best Performing BMC, West Pendam BMC as the Best Seed Bank, and Bering Tareythang BMC for having the Best PBR. Officials from Sikkim SBB also participated in the International Conference on Bioeconomy from Bioresources: Promoting Traditional Resources of the North Eastern Region for Viksit Bharat, organized by BRIC-IBSD Gangtok Regional Centre and the Society for Ethnopharmacology, Gangtok.

11.9.22 Tamil Nadu SBB

During the year, one Board meeting was conducted. Kasampatty Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) was notified as the second BHS of Tamil Nadu. International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) and World Environment Day (WED) 2024 were celebrated across various districts of the State. The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB) organized on-site training programs for Village Panchayat BMCs. A Pilot Capacity Building Programme for BMC members was conducted in Coimbatore in collaboration with the EICAP Centre, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Kolkata & Chennai. TNBB has been operating social media handles since 2022 to raise awareness on biodiversity conservation and the principles of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) related to biodiversity-based products and derivatives. As part of a peer-to-peer learning initiative, a delegation from the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board, led by the Member Secretary and accompanied by supporting staff, visited the Snake Catchers Society in Chengalpattu District. The team observed the process of venom extraction and storage, followed by a discussion on ABS mechanisms involving members of the Society and the Vadanemili Panchayat.

11.9.23 Tripura SBB

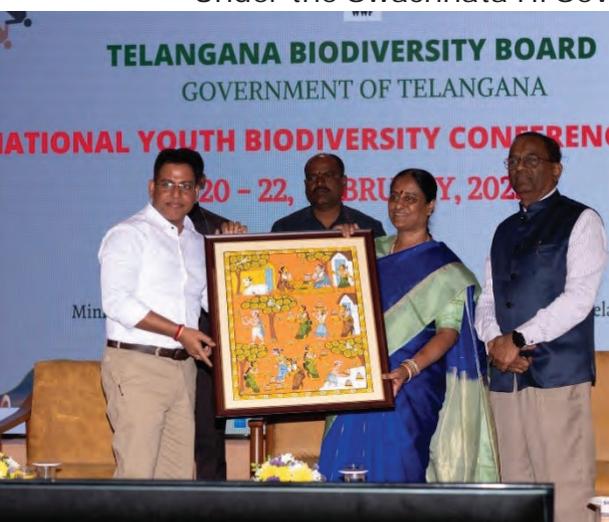
One Board meeting was held during the year. Two posters "Birds of Agartala" & "Common Trees of Agartala" were prepared and distributed to different schools of Agartala. On the occasion of IDB 2024, TBB organized various activities viz., competitions in schools and colleges, announcement of Photography & Essay Competition and Green Journalist Award, Workshop/ Seminar, clean-up drives and trekking at Unakoti BHS through Go Green NGO, BMC level celebration through Tree Planting Programme and removal of Invasive Alien species. A street corner meeting to raise awareness was conducted at Nehru Park, to educate the public on the significance of biodiversity, the dangers of invasive species and the role of community action in environmental conservation. To increase green cover, the World Environment Day was celebrated at 17 sub division 4 Wildlife



Sanctuary level in which members of BMC & JFMC, sub division officials, local schools, community participated. TBB celebrated the International Day of Yoga aimed to promoting wellness and environmental consciousness through the practice of yoga, that emphasized the connection between nature and well-being. Training and Capacity building of Panchayat Secretaries and Chairman of BMCs was conducted by TBB in five blocks/ Municipal Councils. World Fisheries Day was organized jointly with College of Fisheries, Lembucherra. Asian WaterBird Census (AWC) was conducted at different places. TBB celebrated World Forest Day through different programmes involving students, BMC members, Officers, Staffs of SBB & Forests Department. Various activities like Awareness Rally (Run for Green Tripura), Planting Programme, Bird Watching was graced by the Minister of Forests, Tripura.

11.9.24 Telangana SBB

The Telangana State Biodiversity Board (TSBB) released the Telangana Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in 2023. As part of its ongoing outreach and education initiatives, TSBB organized a three-day residential programme during the National Youth Biodiversity Conference, with active participation from selected students across the country. The conference focused on key topics such as biodiversity conservation, Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), and traditional knowledge systems, and also included a nature talk and a visit to a rainforest. The Board also released a biodiversity-themed calendar and convened a meeting to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the agriculture sector, involving officials from various departments and NGOs. Under the Swachhata Hi Seva initiative, TSBB, in collaboration with the Dhruvansh



Organization and the Ameenpur Municipal BMC, organized a clean-up drive at Ameenpur Lake. To celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2024, TSBB, in collaboration with WWF and EPTRI, conducted an on-the-spot painting competition, a nature walk, and awarded prizes to the winners. IDB 2024 was also observed across various districts with the involvement of BMC members, coordinated by District Biodiversity Coordinators. On the occasion of International Yoga Day, the Board conducted various awareness activities involving BMCs. TSBB, in collaboration with UNDP, organized a state-level workshop for the implementation of BIOFIN—Biodiversity Finance Initiative—finance solutions in Telangana.

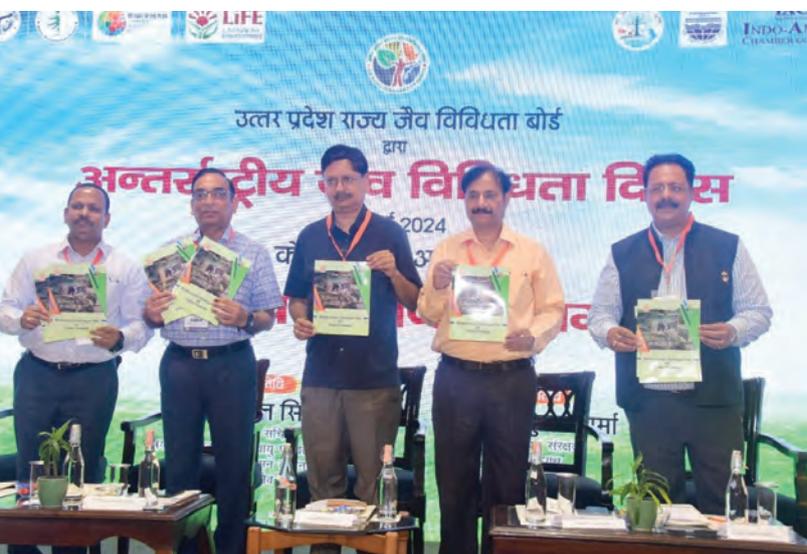


11.9.25 Uttarakhand SBB

One Board meeting was held during the year. The Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board released posters highlighting important biodiversity areas, including Devalsari, Panchachuli Base Camp, Kandara Bugyul Region, Thalkedar Sacred Forest, and Kheda Tal Area. The Board also conducted various awareness and training programs throughout the year. International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), World Environment Day (WED), International Yoga Day, and the Uttarakhand Bird Festival were celebrated by the Board, with a series of activities aimed at promoting biodiversity conservation and environmental awareness.

11.26 Uttar Pradesh SBB

During the year, one Board meeting was held. The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (UPSBB) prepared the Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. In collaboration with the Institute of Wildlife Sciences, University of Lucknow, and Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden, UPSBB celebrated Save the Frog's Day with 250 students from various institutions. Activities included poster making, collage making, and a quiz competition to raise awareness about frog conservation. On the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2024, UPSBB organized a National Conference at ITC Mughal, Agra, with 350 delegates, including scientists, students, BMC members, U.P. Forest Department officers, and representatives from various institutes, research organizations, and NGOs. Topics discussed included the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), the role of departments in biodiversity conservation, legal provisions for forest protection, and traditions that revere forests and trees. The conference also highlighted the importance of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) in implementing biodiversity plans. On World Environment Day (WED),



UPSBB organized an awareness campaign to sensitize local communities about tree conservation. During the year, UPSBB, in collaboration with various institutions and organizations, hosted a series of events, including Yoga Day, Wildlife Week, National Pollution Control Day, Hornbill Week, National Bird Day, Wetland Day, Asian Water Bird Census, Bird Festival, World Wildlife Day, and days dedicated to spiders, butterflies, and sparrows. These events aimed at raising awareness about biodiversity conservation through activities such as nature walks, lectures, competitions, and citizen science initiatives.

11.9.27 West Bengal SBB

One Board meeting held during the year. Coffee Table Book on Biodiversity of Rabindra Sarovar Lake of Kolkata has been prepared by the Board. Bio - Tour programme involving 54 schools covering all the districts of the state was organized to create awareness on biodiversity, involving students including especially disabled ones. The Board organized 20 seminars/workshops on biodiversity related issues and painting on the walls of 50 schools of the state on various biodiversity issues involving school students. Capacity Building programme was



conducted for the BMC members, panchayat functionaries and officials of line departments. The Biodiversity Saviour Award was given to six individuals during the 20-year celebration of the West Bengal Biodiversity Board for their outstanding contributions to protecting nature and conserving biodiversity. The Board carried out several conservation initiatives, including the 'Avoy Pukur' program to protect indigenous fish in 21 blocks and municipalities, the creation of open-air butterfly gardens in 56 schools, and the conservation of indigenous crops across 13 blocks in 10 districts.

11.9.28 Ladakh Biodiversity Council

Ladakh Biodiversity Council under the Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, celebrated IDB 2024 in collaboration with 5 BMCs and the community members of their respective panchayats. A bio-resource exhibition and competition was organized at Rgyal Khatoon Forest Park in Kargil, where participants from various parts of Kargil showcased their rich heritage, biodiversity and its traditional uses in daily life through exhibitions and performances. World Environment Day 2024 celebrated at Munsel School, Saboo Thang wherein 23 special-needs children participated in painting competitions and planted saplings, including willow, Thuja, and flower species. A plantation drive was organized at FRS Nursery in Tsogstod Diskit, Nubra, where 250 Willow saplings were planted by BMC members, teachers, and 60 students, followed by another drive at Urgainling Community Area in Shey village, planting 500 Willow saplings. LBC celebrated the International Day of Yoga with the participation of staffs from the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, BMC members of Stok Panchayat. In Kargil district, Yoga Day was celebrated by the BMC members of Tambis 'A' Panchayat wherein villagers and students participated by doing various yoga poses and finally the day was concluded with a meditation session. Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) in Ladakh was jointly organized by the Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment and LBC in Leh and Kargil. The total number of bird species recorded across all the birding sites were 50, out of which 15 species were waterbirds. *Song Thrush*, a bird famous for its unique sound, was observed in Puga Valley after a gap of four decades.

11.9.29 Andaman & Nicobar Biodiversity Council

The Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Biodiversity Council celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) and World Environment Day (WED) with various activities, including awareness programs, beach clean-up initiatives, cleanliness drives, seedling plantations, and drawing and quiz competitions involving Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs). On the occasion of International Yoga Day, an awareness program was organized to highlight the importance of yoga for maintaining a healthy life. Banners promoting these events were displayed at prominent locations throughout the region. Additionally, the Council organized interaction programs on biodiversity with BMCs and the Panchayati Raj institutions at the Grama Sabha level, fostering community engagement in biodiversity conservation efforts.

11.9.30 Chandigarh Biodiversity Council

The Chandigarh Biodiversity Council celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2024 by organizing a series of activities, including drawing and painting competitions for school children and a special speech event highlighting



the importance of biodiversity. On the occasion of World Environment Day (WED), several environmental initiatives were undertaken, including the clearance of Sukhna Choe, a plantation event at the lake bed, a trekking program at Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, and the plantation of *Arundo donax* along the banks of Lower Nepli Beat. During *Van Mahotsav*, a tree plantation drive under the campaign “*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*” was inaugurated by Hon’ble Governor Sh. Banwarilal Purohit, who planted a Rudraksha sapling. The *Greening Chandigarh Action Plan 2024–25*, prepared by the Department of Forest and Wildlife, Chandigarh, was also officially released. People from diverse backgrounds—including school children, community groups, and government officials—actively participated in tree planting, awareness campaigns, and various environmental activities.

11.9.31 Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council

The Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council released the *Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan* and *City Biodiversity Index (CBI)*. In the lead-up to IDB on May 22, 2024, a series of pre-event activities were organized by the Council in collaboration with the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, the Wildlife Department, and the Social Forestry Department. These events were conducted across various schools in the region, engaging young minds through painting competitions, debates, and quizzes aimed at fostering awareness and appreciation for biodiversity. To mark the occasion of IDB, a series of awareness initiatives—including pledge and a green march at Dachigam National Park—to engage the public in biodiversity conservation.

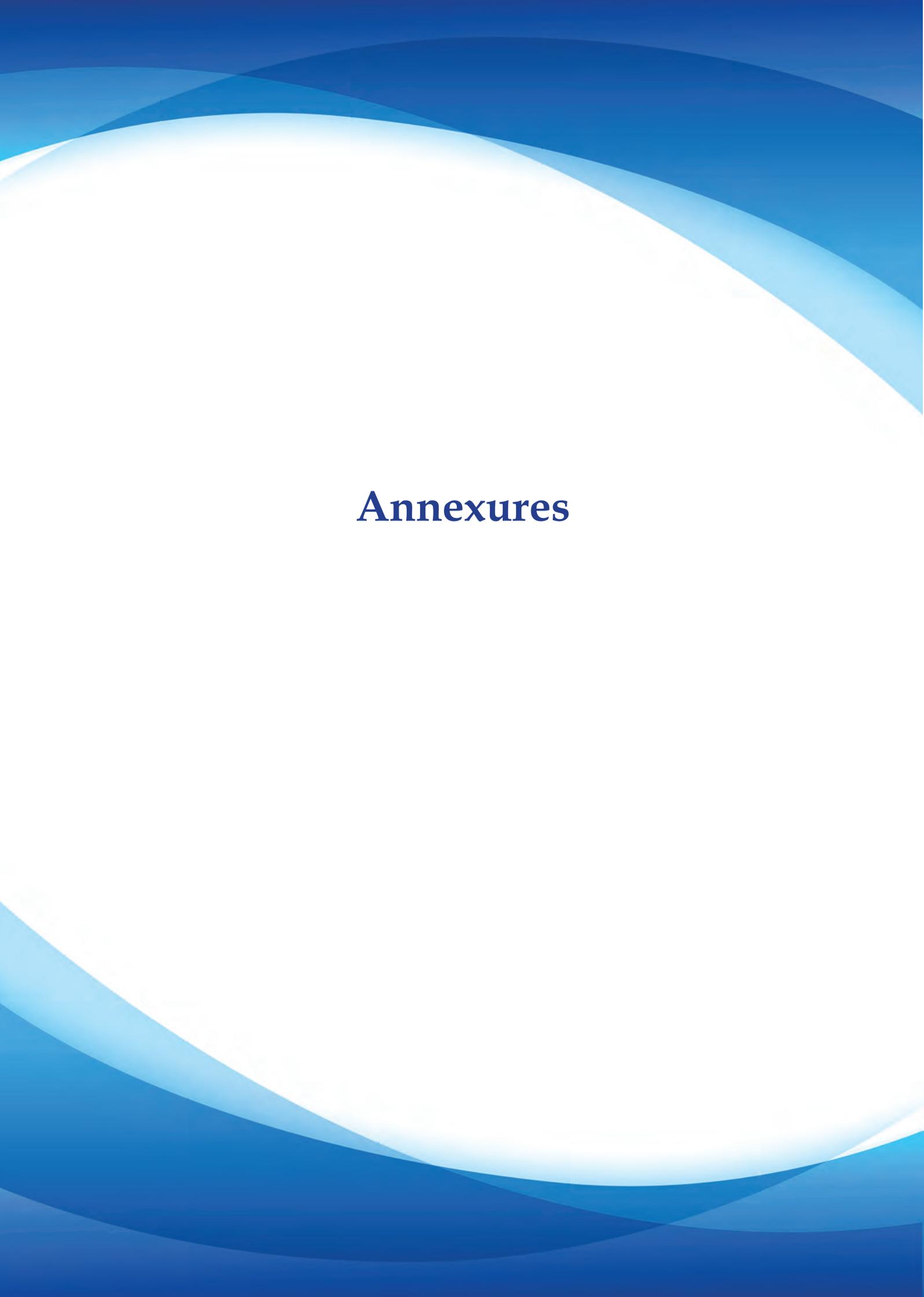
11.9.32 Delhi Biodiversity Council

The Delhi Biodiversity Council organised a Nature Walk at Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary on 28th June, 2024, to celebrate World Nature Conservation Day. Additionally, *Big Butterfly Month* was celebrated in September 2024 at the same sanctuary, featuring two Butterfly Walks held on 28th September and 30th September, respectively. These events aimed to engage the public and raise awareness about butterfly diversity and the importance of conserving natural habitats



11.9.33 Lakshadweep Biodiversity Council

The Lakshadweep Biodiversity Council organized UT-level photography and wooden signage-making competitions for BMCs as part of the celebrations for International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2024. In addition, the Council conducted a lagoon and beach cleaning initiative aimed at raising awareness and enhancing turtle nesting habitats for BMCs.



Annexures

Annexure 1

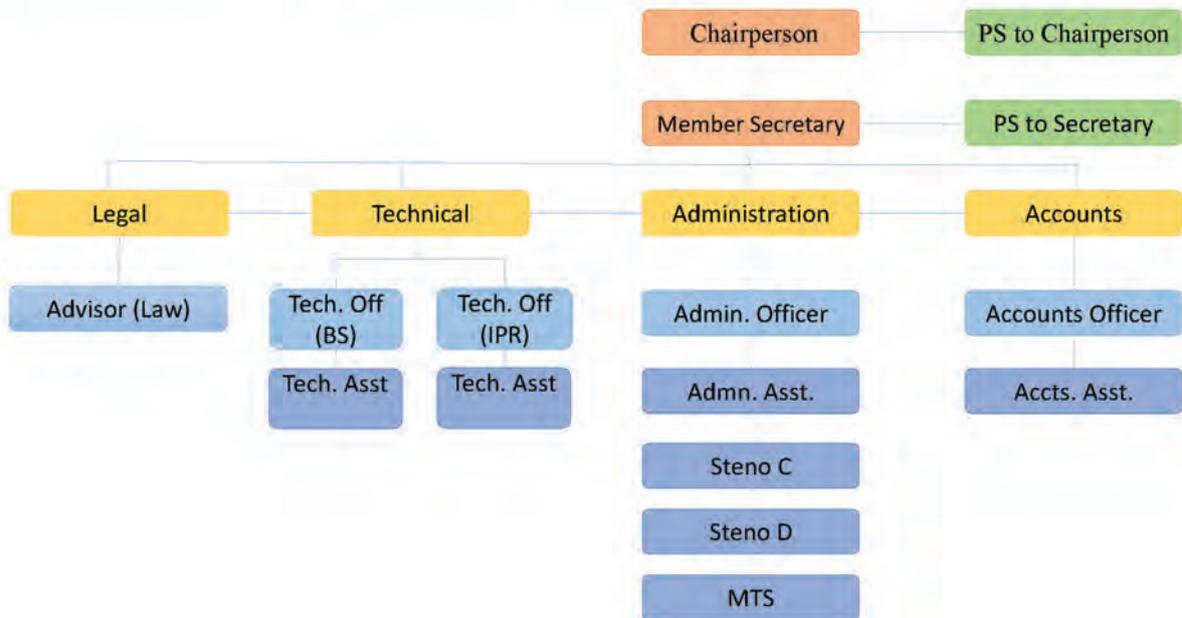
Chairperson of the Authority

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

CHAIRPERSON	PERIOD
Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, (Retd.)	1 December 2022 – till present
Mr. Naresh Pal Gangwar, IAS	1 September 2022 to 30 November 2022
Dr V.B. Mathur	1 September 2019 to 31 August 2022
Shri. A.K. Jain, IAS	9 February 2018 to 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/ Young Professionals and Outsourcing staff 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	-	-
PS to Chairperson	1	1	-
Accts. Officer	1	1	-
Technical Officer	2	2	-
Advisor (Law)	1	1	-
PS to Secretary	1	-	1
Office/ Comp. Asst.	2	2	-
Technical Asst.	2	2	-
Steno "C"	1	1	-
Steno "D"	1	1	-
MTS	1	1	-
Total	16	15	1

Annexure 4

Citizen's Charter

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.

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.

Mandate

- a) Reaffirm the sovereign rights over the bio-resources of India and contribute towards the prevention of misappropriation of bio-resources and/or associated knowledge.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) Advise the State Governments concerning their area-specific biodiversity, and in notifying Heritage Sites and suggest measures for their management and sustainable use.
- f) 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.
- g) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to implement the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002.

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.

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.

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
E-mail: admn@nba.nic.in

Expectations from the Citizens / Clients

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

Annexure 5

Audit Report



कार्यालय महानिदेशक लेखापरीक्षा, केन्द्रीय व्यय
पर्यावरण एवं वैज्ञानिक विभाग
नई दिल्ली-110 002
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AUDIT, CENTRAL EXPENDITURE
ENVIRONMENT & SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS,
A.G.C.R. BUILDING, I.P. ESTATE
NEW DELHI-110 002

स.म.नि.ले.प.के.व्य.(पर्या.एवं वै.वि)/नि/2(146)/SAR/NBA/2025-26/341-342 दिनांक: 13.11.2025
सेवा में,

सचिव,
राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण,
5वां तल, एलिवेट टावर - I, आईडीएआई बिल्डिंग,
चेन्नई - 600006

विषय: राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण, चेन्नई, के वर्ष 2024-25 के लेखों पर पृथक ऑडिट रिपोर्ट।

महोदय,

मुझे राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण, चेन्नई के वर्ष 2024-25 के लेखों पर ऑडिट रिपोर्ट अग्रेषित करने का निर्देश हुआ है।

संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने से पहले वर्ष 2024-25 के वार्षिक लेखों को राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण, चेन्नई द्वारा अपनाया जाए। प्रत्येक दस्तावेज जो संसद में प्रस्तुत किया जाए उसकी तीन प्रतियां इस कार्यालय तथा दो प्रतियां भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखापरीक्षक को अग्रेषित की जाए। संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि (या) भी इस कार्यालय को सूचित की जाए।

आपसे अनुरोध है कि पृथक ऑडिट रिपोर्ट का हिन्दी अनुवाद अपने कार्यालय में कराने के पश्चात सॉफ्ट कॉपी तथा हार्ड कॉपी दोनों में हमें भेज दें ताकि हिन्दी प्रति को शीघ्र अग्रेषित किया जा सके।

यह महानिदेशक महोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित है।

संलग्नक: यथोपरि।

भवदीय,

उप-निदेशक (निरीक्षण)

OPINION OF THE COMPTROLLER & AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA ON THE ACCOUNTS OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY, CHENNAI FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Opinion

We have audited the Financial Statements of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2025 and the Income & Expenditure Account/Receipts & Payment Account for the year then ended, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of Significant Accounting Policies 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. The audit has been entrusted for the period 2024-25.

This 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, disclosure norms, etc. Audit observations on Financial Transactions regarding compliance with the Law, Rules and Regulations (Propriety & Regularity) and efficiency cum performance aspects, etc., if any, are reported through inspection reports/ CAG's audit reports separately.

In our opinion the accompanying Financial Statements of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai read together with the Accounting Policies and Notes thereon and matters mentioned in the Separate Audit Report, which follows, **give a true and fair view** of the Financial Position of the autonomous body as at March 31, 2025, and of its Financial Performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Uniform Format of Accounts applicable to the autonomous bodies.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the CAG's auditing regulations/standards/manuals/guidelines/ guidance-notes/orders/circulars etc. Our responsibilities are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the autonomous body in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the Financial Statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Nil**Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

The National Biodiversity Authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Statements in accordance with Uniform Format of Accounts, and for internal control as management determines it necessary to enable the preparation of Financial Statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion in accordance with CAG's auditing regulations /standards/ manuals/ guidelines/ guidance-notes/ orders/ circulars etc.

**Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for
the year 2024-25**

A. BALANCE SHEET

A.1 Liabilities

Schedule-7-Current Liabilities and Provisions ₹407 lakh

Understatement of Provisions for Outstanding Expenses- Other Administrative Expenses to the extent of ₹9.62 lakh

Outstanding Expenses amounting to ₹9.62 lakh were not taken into account by NBA, resulting in understatement of Expenditure as well as Liabilities to the extent of ₹9.62 lakh each.

B. Income and Expenditure Account

B.1 Expenditure

Overstatement of Expenditure ₹9.20 lakh

Outstanding expenses of ₹9.20 lakh pertaining to the year 2023-24 were paid by the NBA in current financial year, resulting in overstatement of Expenditure of current year and understatement of Prior Period Expenses by ₹9.20 lakh each.

C. General

Non-Receipt of Utilisation Certificate

Audit noticed that out of 1837 grants amounting to ₹110.40 crore released during last 19 years to State Bio-Diversity Boards and other organisations for which utilisation certificate are due in the year 2024-25, Utilisation certificates were received only in respect of 1712 grants amounting to ₹104.47 crore. Utilisation certificates for 125 grants amounting to ₹5.93 crore were not received as of March 2025.

D. Management Letter

Deficiencies which have not been included in this Separate Audit Report have been brought to the notice of the Management through a Management Letter issued separately for remedial/corrective action.

E. Assessment of Internal Controls

I. Adequacy of Internal Control System

Internal Control Mechanism in National Biodiversity Authority needs strengthening in the following areas.

Management Information System (MIS) needs to be put in place. Control Registers such as Purchase Order Register, Expenditure Sanction Register, Register to watch receipt of utilisation certificates for funds released need to be maintained.

II. Adequacy of Internal Audit System.

Internal Audit of National Biodiversity Authority is conducted by the Internal Audit Wing of Ministry/Principal Accounts Office of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Internal Audit of NBA was conducted up to March 2024. As of March 2025, four reports and 16 paras were outstanding. Out of 16 paras, 7 paras are pending for more than five years now for want of compliance from NBA.

III. System of Physical Verification of Fixed Assets and Inventories

NBA conducted physical verification of assets and inventories for the year 2024-25.

IV. Regularity in Payment of Statutory Dues

NBA is regular in payment of statutory dues.

F. Grants in Aid

Out of Grants-in-Aid of ₹17.36 crore received during the year, including unspent balance of ₹0.36 crore revalidated from previous year, the organisation could utilise a sum of ₹ 16.92 crore leaving a balance of ₹0.44 crore as unutilised grant as on 31 March 2025.

G. Lack of response – NIL

Whasad
- 13-11-2025
Director General of Audit Central Expenditure
(Environment and Scientific Departments), New Delhi

DGA(ESD)/No.

Dated:

Management Letter

इस कार्यालय के पत्र दिनांक 21.08.2025 के द्वारा National Biodiversity Authority के 31.03.2025 को समाप्त वित्तीय वर्ष से संबंधित वार्षिक लेखों पर Draft Separate Audit Report जारी कि गई थी। लेखापरीक्षण के दौरान मिली विसंगति पर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूँगा तथा निवेदन करूँगा कि इनकी समीक्षा करने के पश्चात निम्नांकित बिन्दु पर उचित उपचारात्मक कार्यवाही की जाए:-

1. Unclaimed Earnest Money Deposits and Security Deposits-₹5.63 lakh Earnest Money Deposits and Security Deposits amounting to ₹5.63 lakh were not claimed for more than 3 consecutive years from the year 2024-25, which needs to be credited to Government Account.
2. An amount of ₹4.70 lakh was not reconciled as per Bank Reconciliation Statement of March 2025.
3. The accounting policy of the Schedule of Significant Accounting Policies does not fulfil the disclosure requirements as prescribed in AS 15.

भवदीय

उपनिदेशक (निरीक्षण)

The Secretary
National Biodiversity Authority,
TICEL BIO PARK,
5th Floor, Taramani Road,
Taramani, Chennai 600 113

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 biological diversity, 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 & 8 UTBCs and facilitated the establishment of 2,76,653 BMCs at the local level and 2,72,648 PBRs have been prepared all over the country.

