



## NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

(An Autonomous and statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India)

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NBA/Tech/EC/9/14/35/19/20-21/ 1983

Date: 28 August, 2020

**Sub:** Extension of Tenure - Expert Committee to examine the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004; Biological Diversity Act, 2002; User Country Measures under Nagoya Protocol; Development of Sector Specific SOPs on ABS; Comments of Stakeholders for Incorporation in the Draft Regulations on ABS, 2019 - reg.

- Ref:** 1. Office order no NBA/tech/EC/9/14/35/19/20/508, 31.05.2019  
2. Office order no NBA/tech/EC/9/14/35/19/20/725, 28.06.2019  
3. Office order no NBA/tech/EC/9/14/35/19/20/979, 01.08.2019  
4. Office order no NBA/tech/EC/9/14/35/19/20/2428, 14.11.2019  
5. Office order no NBA/tech/EC/9/14/35/19/20-21/346, 02.06.2020

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In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 read with Rule 11 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, and pursuant to decision taken at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Authority meeting, an Expert Committee chaired by Shri.A.K.Goyal, IFS (Retd.), Former Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayat Raj, New Delhi was constituted as per reference (1) cited above, to examine the Biological Diversity Rules, user country measures under Nagoya Protocol and development of sector specific standard operating procedures on access and benefit sharing. The tenure of the Committee was six months from 31/05/2019.

2. As per reference (2) cited above, the Committee was also vested with additional task of ascertaining the views/ comments of the State Biodiversity Boards on the draft(revised) guidelines on ABS, 2019 and to incorporate the changes suggested, including by all stakeholders, as appropriate.

3. As per reference (3) cited above, the Committee was vested with additional task of suggesting measures to streamlining various clearances by NBA / SBB's and to suggest modifications to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

4. As per reference (4) cited above, tenure of the committee was extended for another six months with effect from 30.11.2019. Similarly, the EC tenure was further extended for another three months from 02.06.2020
5. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has set up a Working Group to examine the concerns of the line Ministries to the amendments proposed by the Expert Committee on the ABS Regulations, 2014, BD Rules, 2004 and BD Act, 2002. Therefore, there is a necessity to engage the Expert Committee to come up with their justification for proposing amendments before the Working Group and to examine the issues raised at the Working Group by the members of the Group.
6. Moreover, there are various tasks that have to be completed by the committee like the development of Guidelines for user country measures, and sector specific documents which required more time for completing these tasks.
7. In the above circumstances, the tenure of the Expert Committee constituted to examine the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004; Biological Diversity Act, 2002; User Country measures under Nagoya Protocol; Development of Sector Specific SOPs on ABS; Evaluation of comments of stakeholders for incorporation in the draft Regulations on ABS, 2019; is extended **till 31/12/2020** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
8. The composition of the committee and other terms and conditions will remain the same as per the office orders dated 31.05.2019, 28.06.2019, 01.08.2019, 14.11.2019 & 02.06.2020.

This issue with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(J. Justin Mohan)  
Secretary, NBA

**To**

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