



राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai – 600 113, Tamil Nadu, India
५ फ्लोर टाईसल बायोपार्क, सीएसआईआर रोड, तारमणि, चेन्नै – ६०० ११३, तमिलनाडु, भारत



Phone : 044- 2254 2777
Fax : 044-2254 1200

Email : admn@nba.nic.in
Website : www.nbaindia.org

NBA/18/65th Authority Meeting/ 2022-23

3rd June, 2022

To

"Only through mail"

All the Authority members,

Madam/Sir,

Sub: Approved proceedings of the 65th meeting of the National Authority meeting-reg.

I am directed to refer, the 65th Authority Meeting (Special Meeting) of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 17th May, 2022 through virtual mode to deliberate on the Allotment of land for permanently housing the Office of National Biodiversity Authority within the campus of Anna University, Chennai.

The draft Proceedings of the meeting were circulated to the members by e-mail on 25th May, 2022 requesting their comments/ inputs to be submitted in a week's time (01.06.2022). The draft Proceedings along with the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were also sent to Advisor (Biodiversity), MoEF&CC for getting the MoU legally vetted as per the decision of the 65th Authority Meeting (Special Meeting). The legally vetted draft MoU from MoEF&CC is awaited. Two members viz. Dr. Alka Rao and Shri Achalender Reddy have given their comments within this stipulated time. The comments given by the members have been attached with the Proceedings of the meeting.(see Appendix I and II)

Please find enclosed the approved Proceedings of the 65th Authority meeting (Special meeting) for your kind perusal please.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature)
(Kannan G.)

Administrative Officer

**Proceedings of the 65th Authority Meeting of the National Biodiversity
Authority (Special Meeting), held on 17th May, 2022**

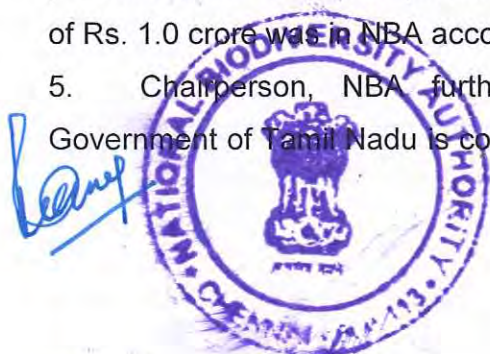
The 65th Authority meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 17th May, 2022 in virtual mode under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.B. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The list of participants is placed as **Annexure-I**.

2. At the outset Dr. V.B. Mathur, Chairperson, NBA welcomed all the Authority members participating in the meeting. He said that the 'Special Meeting' was held under a directive from MoEF&CC given under Rule 10(2) and Rule 10(3) of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 for seeking approval of the NBA Authority for construction of a permanent building in Chennai along with allocation of funds.

3. Chairperson, NBA informed the members that the office of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has been functioning in a rented premise in TICEL Biopark Chennai for almost two decades and NBA is in the process of expanding its activities related to conservation of biodiversity across the country and therefore requires more space. He further mentioned that several efforts had been taken in the past to get a suitable land allotted for this purpose but these have not been successful.

4. He said that in 2021, NBA had identified a building and an associated parcel of land in the Forest Office complex at Nanmangalam, Chennai. The land belongs to Forest Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. The Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu vide letter No. 6313/FR.11/2020-1 dated 19.01.2021 had approved the transfer of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Green Project office building in Nanmangalam Forest Complex to NBA at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.60 crores, based on an estimate prepared by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Chennai. He further informed that the MoEF&CC vide letter No. C-12017/16/2009-CS-III dated 30.03.2021 also had released a sum of Rs. 1.0 crore as first instalment for acquisition of this building by NBA. However, this process could not be completed on account of administrative reasons and the sum of Rs. 1.0 crore was in NBA account.

5. Chairperson, NBA further informed the members that presently the Government of Tamil Nadu is considering the request of NBA to provide 50 cents of



land within the Anna University Campus, Chennai and a communication has been sent from Secretary, MoEF&CC to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu requesting for the same (**Annex II**). He further mentioned that the Registrar, Anna University vide letter No: AU/Nat.Bio.Auth/HE-Govt./2022 dated 10.05.2022 (**Annex III**) has also recommended to the Higher Education Department, Government of Tamil Nadu for allocation of 50 cents of land within Anna University Campus to NBA and also for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding as was done in case of a similar proposal for allocation of land to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), now located in Anna University, Chennai. He also informed that the Government of Tamil Nadu is not charging any amount for providing 50 cents of land to NBA.

6. Chairperson, NBA further informed that the estimated cost of building the NBA headquarters on this land is going to be around Rs. 20 crores. He also mentioned that NBA will be submitting a request to MoEF&CC for grant of additional funds amounting to Rs. 19 crores for building its headquarters. He also suggested that presently the NBA may use from available funds for creation of a permanent asset for fulfilling the mandate and activities envisaged under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Chairperson, NBA, in his PowerPoint presentation (**Annex IV**) provided details of the fund availability with NBA as follows:

Sl. No	Item	Amount in Rs.
1.	Administrative Charges on the ABS amount received by NBA (other than Red Sanders)	Rs. 1,25,51,191.00/-
2.	Administrative Charges on the ABS amount received by NBA (on Red Sanders):	Rs. 5,03,28,605.53/-
3.	Interest earned up to 31.03.2022 on ABS amount	Rs. 26,93,23,620.00/-
4.	Application fee received up to 31.03.2022:	Rs. 1,52,74,399.00/-
Total amount available to NBA		Rs. 34,74,77,815.53/-
(Rupees Thirty four crores seventy four lakhs seventy seven thousand eight hundred fifteen paisa fifty three only)		

7. Chairperson, NBA said that written comments have been received from 3 members of the Authority, which have been circulated to all by these 3 members themselves and these could be discussed in this meeting.



The members then deliberated the issue and provided their comments, the summary of which is as follows:

- a. Dr. Akhilesh Gupta, Advisor, DST said that at the outset he would like to compliment NBA for taking necessary steps to have a permanent building to house its headquarters in Chennai. This issue has been under consideration for a long time and now appears to be reaching a conclusion and is therefore a very welcome step. It is evident that Government of Tamil Nadu and Anna University, an institution of repute are backing this initiative. Some concerns have been raised about the proposed MoU and associated procedures but he feels that this point of time it is important for the Authority to support the proposal and therefore he would like to convey full support and he would like to recommend that NBA Authority should endorse the proposal.
- b. Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, IIHBT Palampur, appreciated the efforts taken by NBA and agreed to support the proposal. He said that the MoU may also be legally vetted by the MoEF&CC.
- c. Dr. Unnat Pandit, Controller, General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Govt. of India, Mumbai supported the proposal. He asked whether the land being allotted is being done permanently or on a tenure basis. He also asked if NBA is paying any amount to the Anna University and how much. He said that the MoU may be legally vetted. Chairperson, NBA clarified that the land allotted to NBA would be on a perpetual basis and the land is free of cost. Dr. Unnat Pandit said that NBA should engage a professional agency for architectural planning and monitoring the construction of the building.
- d. Dr. Alka Rao, Scientist, IMTECH commended the efforts being taken by NBA for building a permanent office in Chennai. She requested that the letter from the Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu No. 8309/FR11/2022 dated 13.05.2022 to Chairperson, NBA be circulated to the members. She suggested that the terms and conditions in the MoU may be got legally vetted. She further said that a token amount may be considered for payment to the Anna University as part of the MoU and the land may be considered on lease for 99 years.
- e. Dr. Ramanamurthy appreciated the efforts being undertaken by NBA and agreed to support the proposal. He suggested that there were two ways of dealing with the land allotment namely land alienation and land on lease. He explained that NBA may get the land title if the State government allots it as alienated land to NBA



or it may give on lease for a particular period of time, say 60 years. He further explained that sometimes the State government may decide to charge the lease amount. However, in this case they have already agreed to allot land free of cost, the number of years in lease may be decided. He further agreed with Dr. Unnat Pandit on engaging an agency to monitor the construction work. He explained that NCSCM had conducted a competition for identifying an architect and then made the plan and executed it. He appreciated the efforts taken by the NBA on the allotment of land in the Anna University and offered his assistance in dealing with this issue.

f. Dr. Rita Khanna, Scientist G/Advisor, MoEF&CC welcomed the proposal and said that vetting of MoU needs to be done and a professional agency may be hired to fast track the process of construction of the building. Chairperson, NBA further clarified that the NBA has given its internal inputs in the MoU but it will also be sent to MoEF&CC for legal vetting and approval. He also mentioned that legal vetting will also be done at the Government of Tamil Nadu end.

g. Dr. Joykumar Laishram, Professor, Central Agriculture University, Imphal said that getting the land on a 99 years lease may be a better option. He appreciated and endorsed the efforts being taken by NBA in this regard.

h. Shri. Achalender Reddy, Director, CIPS, Hyderabad agreed with other members and opined that the suggestions given by the members may be complied and the MoU may be legally vetted. He further endorsed the efforts taken by NBA and agreed to support them.

i. Dr. Manoj Modi, Scientist F, DBT endorsed the efforts taken by NBA to permanently house the Office of NBA in the Anna University campus and agreed to support in this regard.

j. Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sanwal, Deputy CEO, NMPB mentioned that the necessary procedures may be followed to permanently house the Office of NBA in the Anna University campus. He further endorsed the efforts taken by NBA and agreed to support in this regard.

j. Dr. Rita Khanna, Scientist G/Advisor, MoEF&CC mentioned that the suggestions given by the other members are important and vetting of the MoU may be done by MoEF&CC.

k. Dr. Chaitra, Aarohi who could not attend the virtual meeting submitted his written suggestions supporting the initiative of NBA and to move ahead. He said that legal vetting of the MoU would be helpful.



Dr. Alka Rao mentioned that the videos that have been developed by the GIZ and NBA under the GIZ project have been translated into a sign language for use by challenged persons and have been submitted to NBA and these may be showcased during the International Biodiversity Day celebration on 22nd May, 2022 and uploaded on NBA website.

Decision: a) All the members appreciated the efforts taken by NBA to permanently house the Office of NBA in the Anna University campus and unanimously agreed to support the proposal.

b) The members suggested that a legal vetting of the draft Memorandum of Understanding between NBA and the Anna University may be done by the MoEF&CC expeditiously.

c) The members suggested amending the Clause 2 of the MoU by providing the number of years of lease as 99 years in addition to the term "on perpetual basis".

d) The members also suggested that a nominal amount of lease fee may be given to the Anna University as part of the MoU on an annual basis.

e) The members endorsed the proposal of NBA using its funds for constructing the building but also recommended that MoEF&CC should consider providing capital funds for construction of NBA headquarters in Chennai.

f) The members suggested that an agency may be engaged for architectural planning and monitoring.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from and to the Chair.



Annexure I

List of Participants

SI No	Name and Designation
Official Members	
1	Dr. V.B. Mathur , Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai
2	Mrs. Rita Khanna , Scientist G, CS-III Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi. rita.khanna@nic.in
3	Dr. Akhilesh Gupta , Scientist G, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi
4	Dr. Manoj Kumar Modi , Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi
5	Dr Chandra Shekhar Sanwal , Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO), AYUSH, New Delhi.
6.	Dr. Sanjay Kumar , Director, IIHBT, Palampur
7.	Dr.M.V.Ramana Murthy Director & Scientist-G National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) Ministry of Earth Sciences
Non-official Members	
8	Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS(Retd.) , Director, Centre for Innovations in Public Systems, achal.reddy@gmail.com
9	Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram , Professor and Dean, College of Agriculture, Central Agriculture University, jmlaishram@rediffmail.com
10	Dr. Alka Rao , Principal Scientist, CSIR- Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), Chandigarh – 160036, raoalka@imtech.res.in
11	Dr. Unnat P. Pandit , CGPDTM, DPIIT, MoCI (GoI),
Secretary to the Authority	
12	Shri. J. Justin Mohan , IFS, Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai

[Handwritten signature]



लीना नन्दन
LEENA NANDAN



सचिव
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND
CLIMATE CHANGE

D. O. C-12017/16/2009-CS-III

May 9, 2022

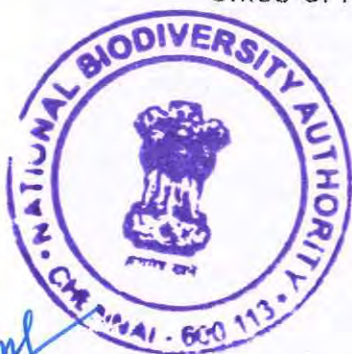
Dear Mr. Irai Anbu,

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), a Statutory Body, established under Section 8(3) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in Chennai, has been operating from a rented office space at TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai since its inception in 2003.

2. NBA plays a significant role in the conservation and sustainable utilization of the country's biodiversity, engaging regularly with institutions and stakeholders both at the national and international level.

3. A request had been made earlier by Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, to consider transfer of the Tamil Nadu Forest Complex at Nanmangalam, Chennai along with 50 acres of land, for the NBA office and a Biodiversity Park respectively, and to waive off the land and assets cost payable for the same. However, the said allocation of land has not been finalized to date.

4. I request your kind intervention for allocation of suitable land for the office of NBA at an appropriate location, preferably in Anna University.



Good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

[Leena Nandan]

Dr. V. Irai Anbu
Chief Secretary
Government of Tamil Nadu
Secretariat
Chennai- 600009





ANNA UNIVERSITY

SARDAR PATEL ROAD, CHENNAI - 600 025.

www.annauniv.edu

Phone +91 44 2235 2161
+91 44 2235 7003
Office +91 44 2235 7004
Fax +91 44 2235 1956
E-Mail registrar@annauniv.edu

Lr No AU/Nat Bio Auth/HE-Govt./2022

Date: 05/2022

To
The Joint Secretary to Government,
Higher Education (I1) Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

Dear Madam,

Sub: Anna University - National Biodiversity Authority - Allocation of land in Anna University Campus - Reg

Ref 1. Joint Secretary's Lr No 5816/11/2022-1 dated 12/04/2022
2. Additional Chief Secretary's Lr.No 6313/FR11/2020-9 dated 28/03/2022

The Joint Secretary, Higher Education (I1) Department has requested to allocate approximately 50 cents of land to National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) to set up their permanent offices inside the campus of Anna University. It is understood that there is a possibility of good collaboration between NBA and the departments of Anna University in Research and conducting Training programmes in the area of bio diversity conservation and governance, climate change adaptation and mitigation and environmental management, which are mutually beneficial.

National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) has been established by Ministry of Environment and Forests in Anna University Campus to carry out studies in the area of coastal studies, planning and management in collaboration with Anna University.

The facility for NBA can be established in Anna University campus with the approval of the Syndicate and Higher Education Department, on similar lines that of NCSCM and Anna University would consider providing 50 cents of land in Block No.12, Adyar, behind NCSCM Block and eastern side of north-west Anna University boundary, adjacent to Adyar River. It is suggested for execution of separate MOU to evolve the method of collaboration and the activities to be carried out. A copy of MOU with NCSCM and the map showing the area identified for allocation to National Biodiversity Authority is enclosed herewith for reference.

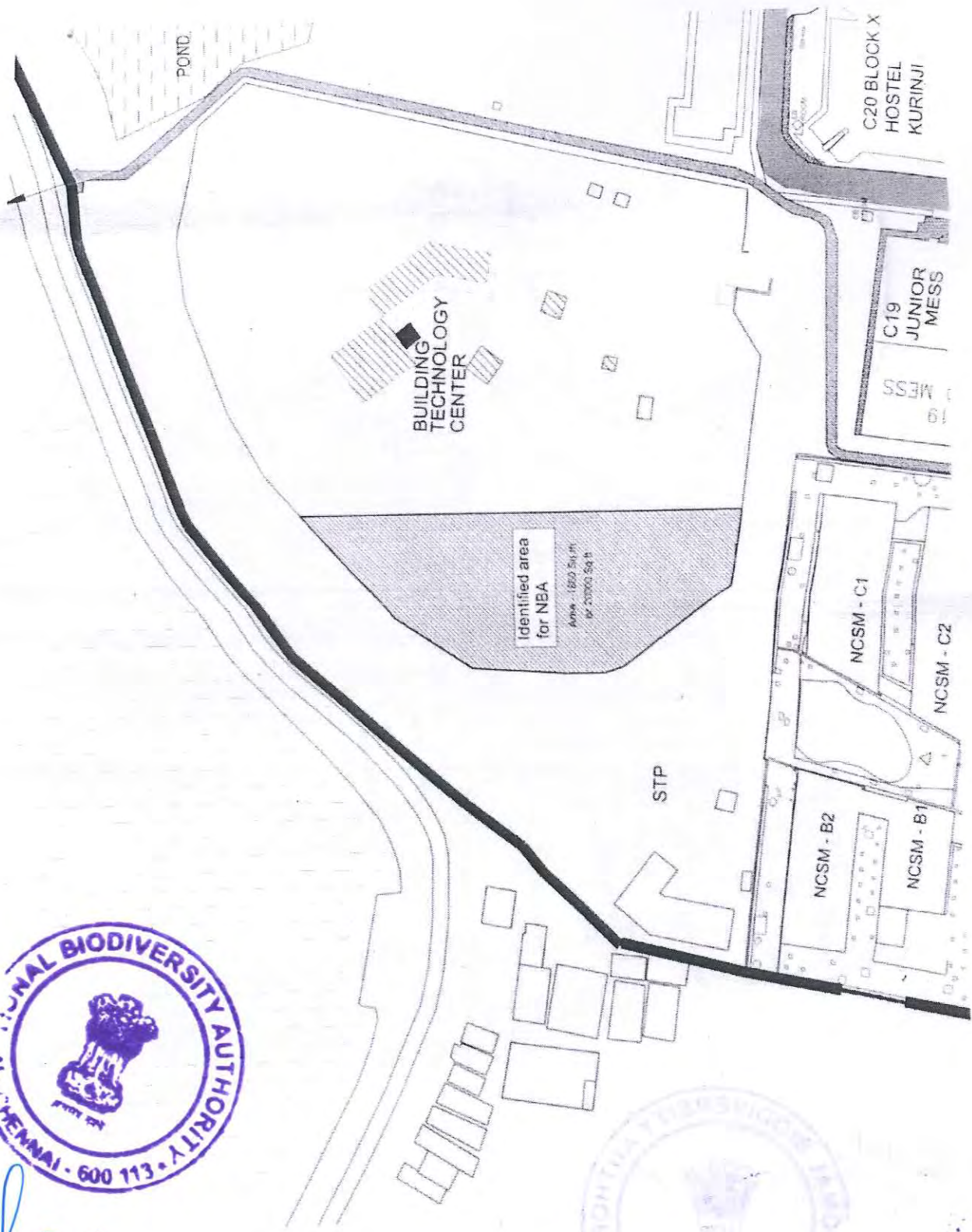
Thanking you,

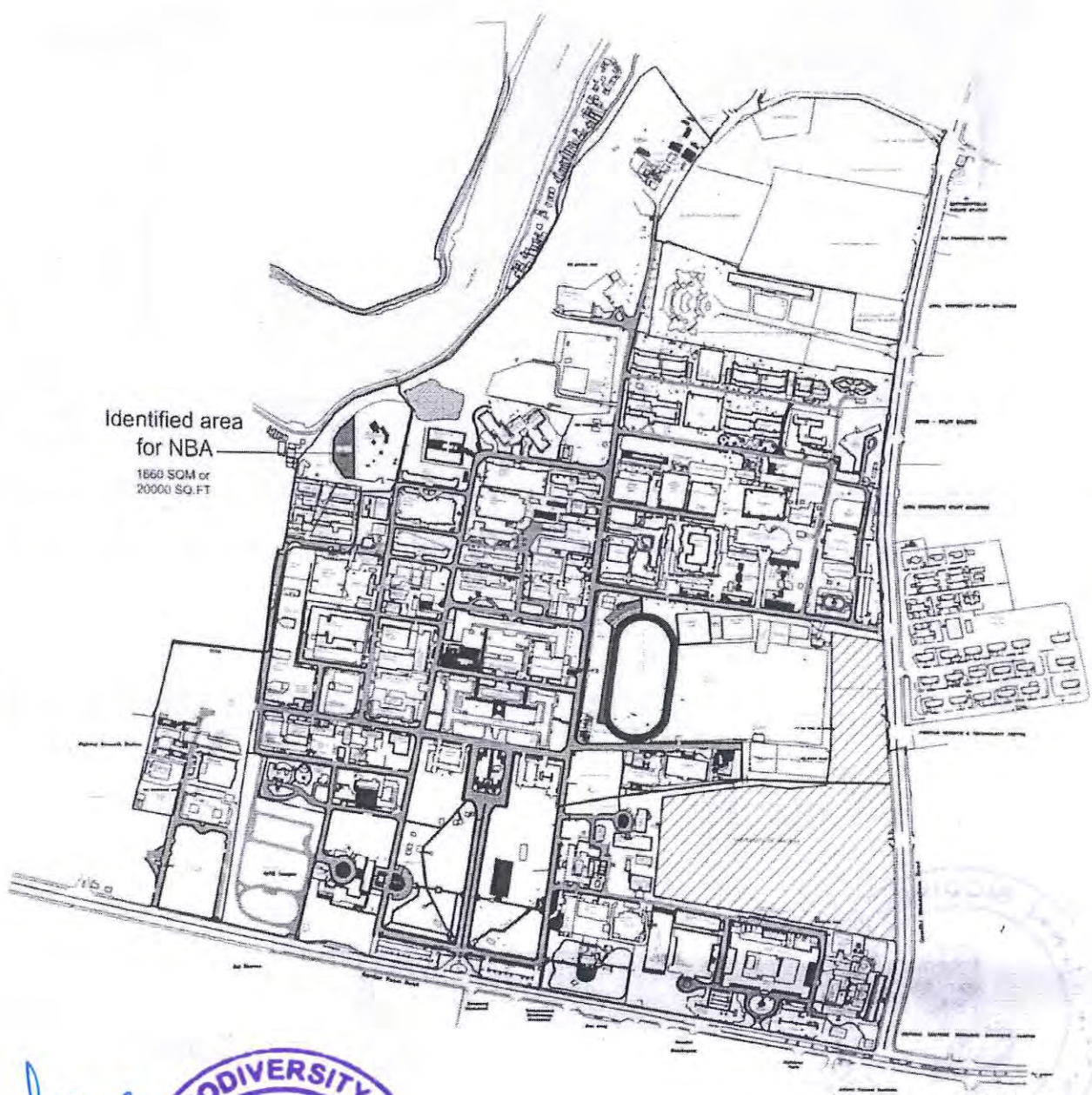
Yours sincerely,

REGISTRAR

Encl: Copy of NCSCM-MOU & MAP







65th Authority Meeting (Special Meeting) of the National Biodiversity Authority

WELCOME

17th May, 2022, 1100 hrs



[Handwritten signature in blue ink]





Agenda Item for the 65th Authority Meeting (Special Meeting)

65.01: Allotment of Land for permanently housing the Office of National Biodiversity Authority in Chennai

The office of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has been functioning in a rented premise in TICEL Biopark Chennai for almost two decades. The NBA is in the process of expanding its activities related to conservation of biodiversity across the country and therefore requires more space.

2. Several efforts have been made in the past to get a suitable land allotted for this purpose but these have not been successful for a variety of reasons.

3. In 2020, NBA identified a building and an associated parcel of land in the Forest Office complex at Nanmangalam, Chennai. The land belongs to Forest Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. The Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu vide letter No. 6313/FR.11/2020-1 dated 19.01.2021 (**Annex-I**) approved the transfer of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Green Project office building in Nanmangalam Forest Complex to NBA at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.60 crores, based on an estimate prepared by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Chennai.

The MoEFCC, New Delhi vide letter No. C-12017/16/2009-CS-III dated 30.03.2021 also released a sum of Rs. 1.0 crore as first installment for acquisition of this building by NBA (**Annex-II**). However, this process could not be completed on account of administrative reasons. A sum of Rs. 1.0 crore is in NBA account.



4. Recently, Government of Tamil Nadu is considering the request of NBA to allocate 50 cents of land within the Anna University Campus, Chennai. In this connection a communication has been sent from Secretary, MoEFCC to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu (**Annex-III**).

The Registrar, Anna University vide letter No: AU/Nat.Bio.Auth/HE-Govt./2022 dated 10.05.2022 has recommended to the Higher Education Department, Government of Tamil Nadu for allocation of 50 cents of land within Anna University Campus to NBA and also for signing of a Memorandum of understanding as was done in case of a similar proposal for allocation of land to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), now located in Anna University, Chennai. The estimated cost of building the NBA headquarters on this land is going to be around Rs. 20 crores.

The following are the financial resources available with the NBA upto 31.03.2022:

Sl. No	Item	Amount in Rs.
1.	Administrative Charges on the ABS amount received by NBA (other than Red Sanders)	Rs. 1,25,51,191.00/-
2.	Administrative Charges on the ABS amount received by NBA (on Red Sanders):	Rs. 5,03,28,605.53/-
3.	Interest earned up to 31.03.2022 on ABS amount	Rs. 26,93,23,620.00/-
4.	Application fee received up to 31.03.2022:	Rs. 1,52,74,399.00/-
Total amount available to NBA		Rs. 34,74,77,815.53/-
(Rupees Thirty four crores seventy four lakhs seventy seven thousand eight hundred fifteen paise fifty three only)		



Considering that the proposed location of NBA headquarters within the Anna University Campus is an excellent one and would serve to fulfil both the immediate and long term requirements of NBA. Constructing a building of appropriate size and functionality is considered essential for which the Authority may kindly grant approval to the above proposal. It is important to mention that the Government of Tamil Nadu is not charging any money for the land to NBA.



Further, NBA would submit a request to MoEFCC for grant of additional funds amounting to Rs. 19 crores for building its headquarters. Presently, the NBA would use from available funds as indicated above, for creation of a permanent asset for fulfilling the mandate and activities envisaged under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

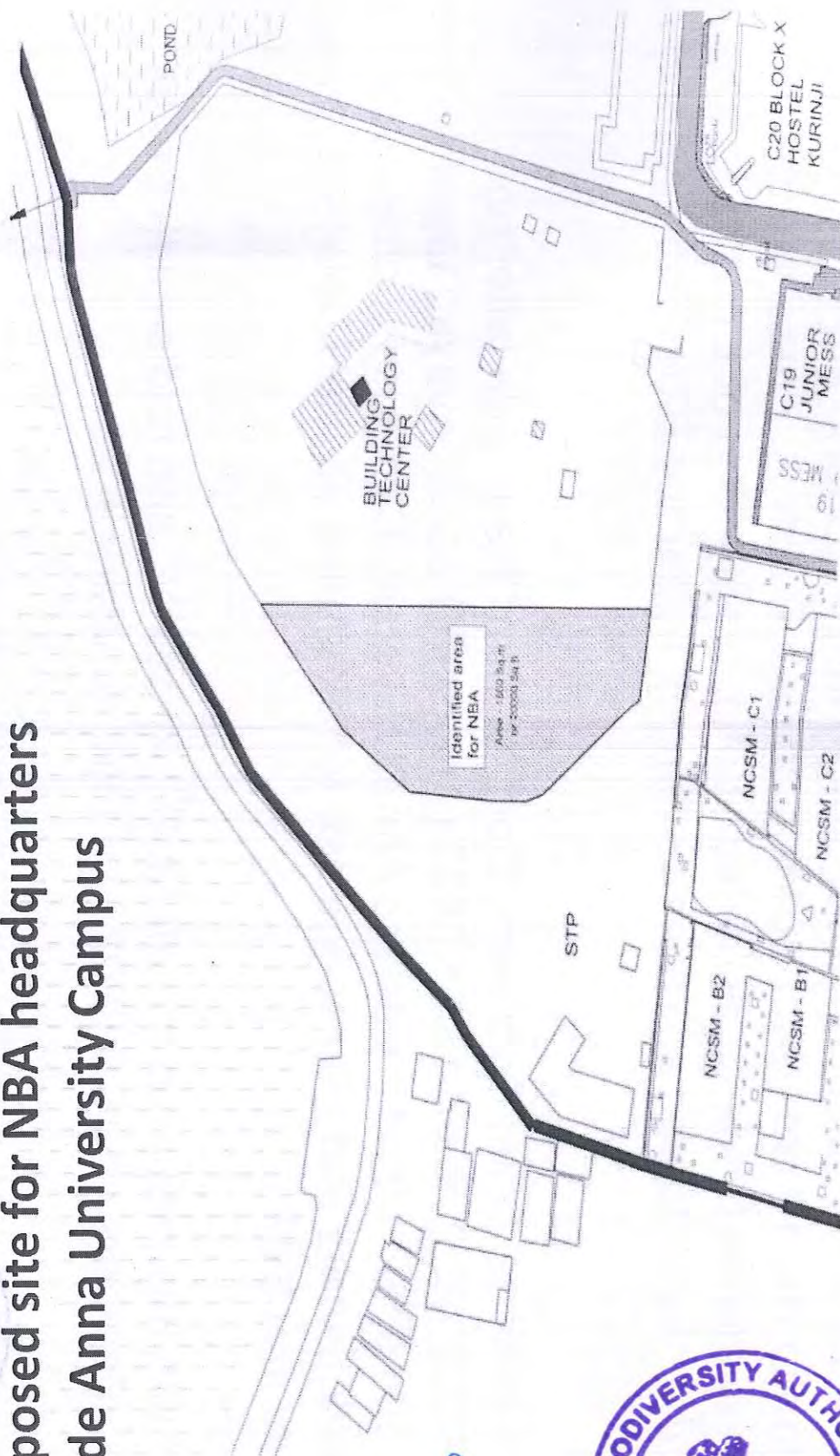
The Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu vide letter no. 8309/FR11/2022-2 dated 13.05.2022 (**Annex-IV**) has conveyed the willingness to provide 50 cents of land inside the Anna University Campus for construction of NBA headquarters and also suggested for executing an MoU between Anna University and NBA.

The NBA has prepared a draft MoU "**Annex-V**" and had sent this to all Authority Members on 16.05.2022 for their consideration.

Submitted for kind perusal and approval, please.

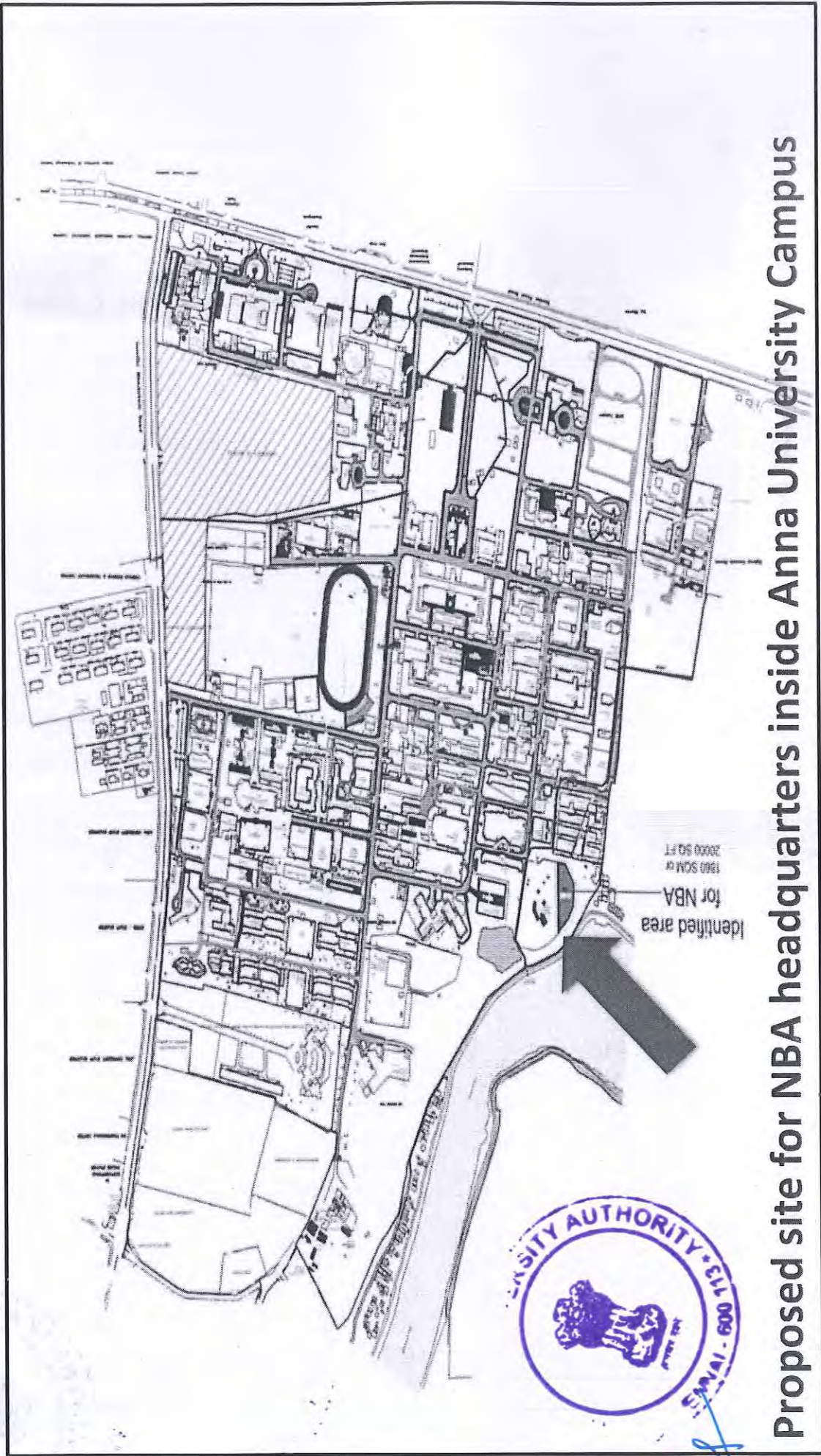


Proposed site for NBA headquarters inside Anna University Campus



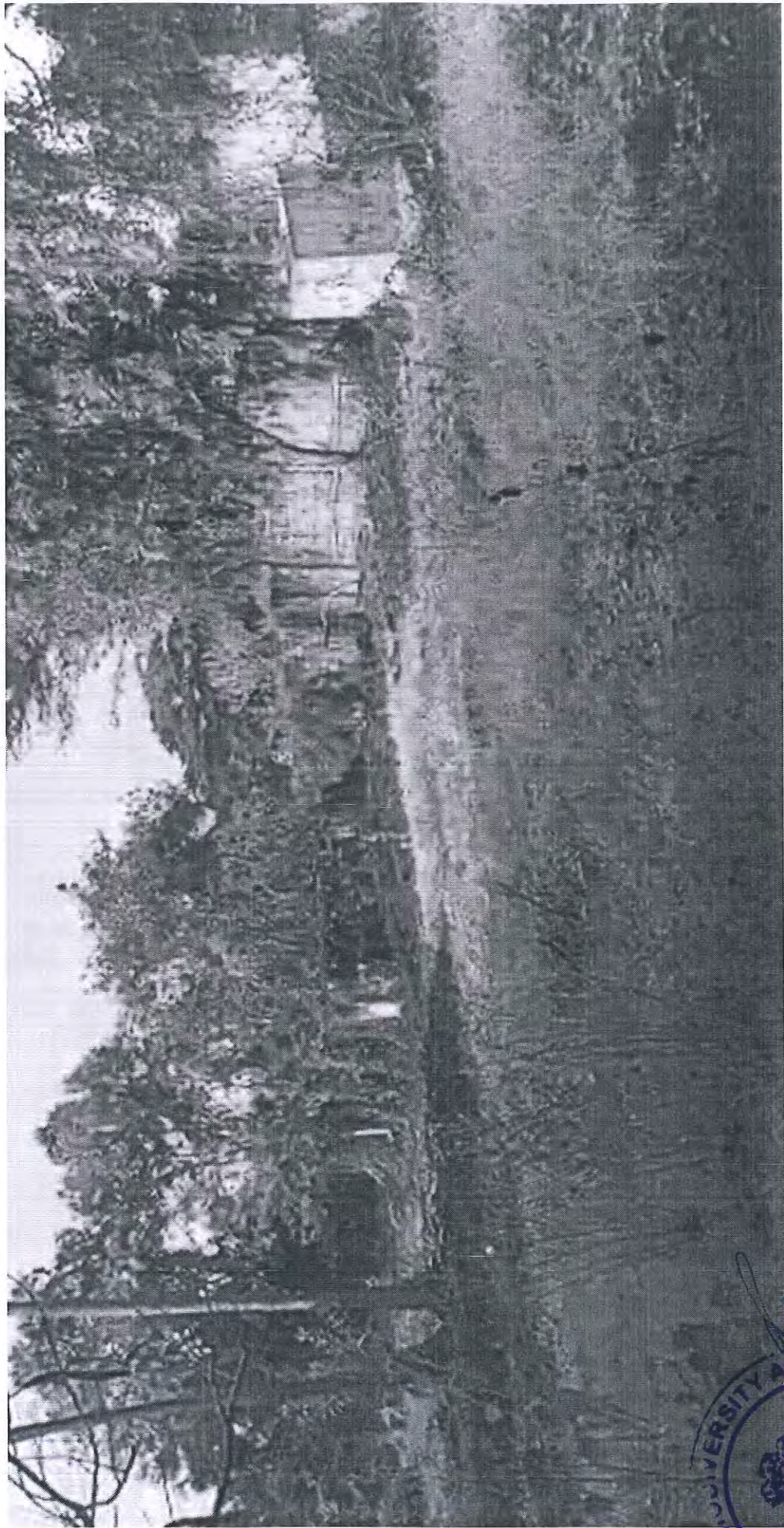
Handwritten signature in blue ink.





Proposed site for NBA headquarters inside Anna University Campus

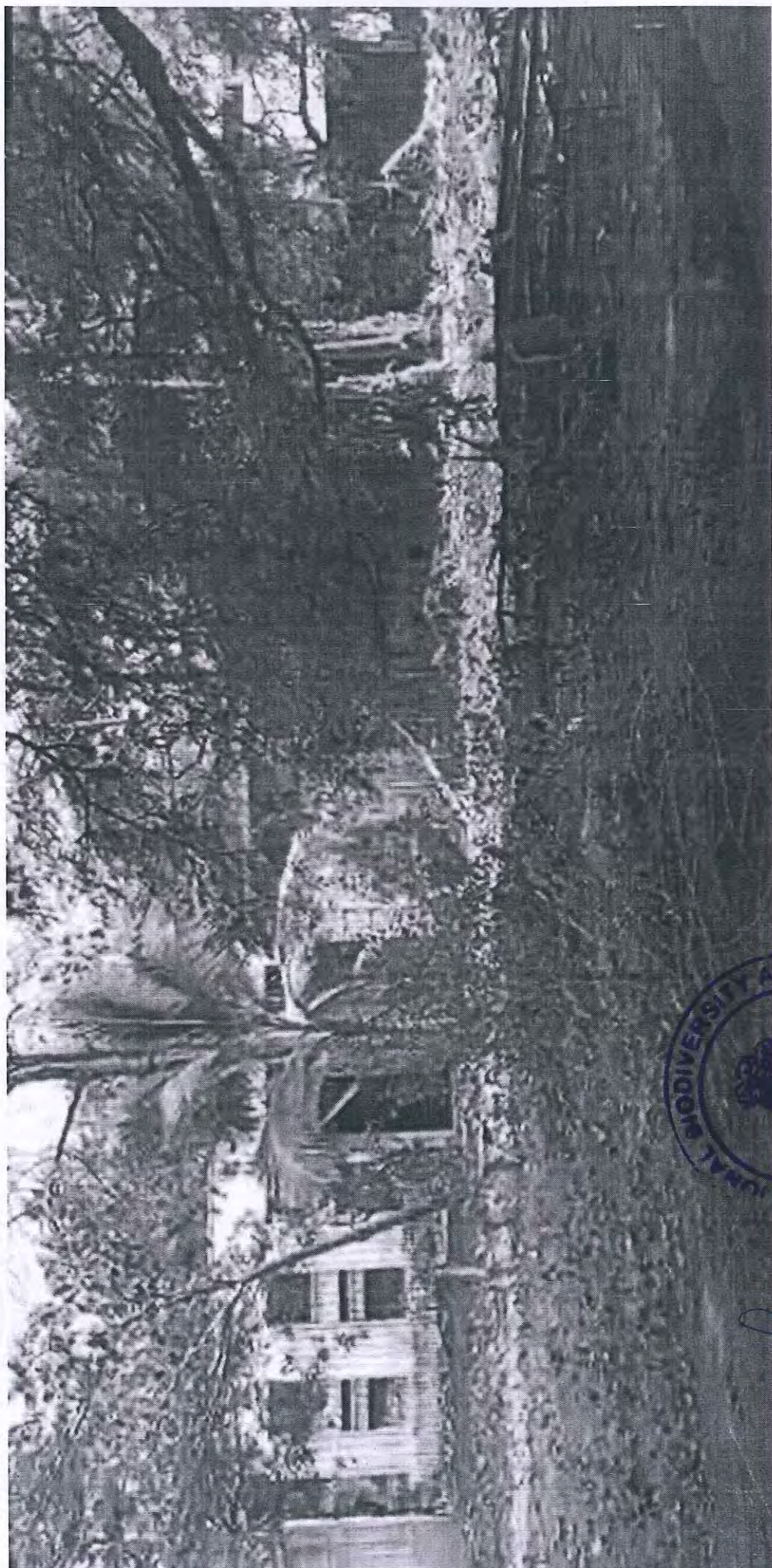
Glimpse of the proposed site for location of NBA headquarters in Anna University Campus



[Handwritten signature]

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AUTHORITY • ELL 600
NEWAI - 600

Glimpse of the proposed site for location of NBA headquarters in Anna University Campus



[Handwritten signature]

Annex-I

communicated the valuation of the building and other infrastructure amount to be Rs.12.50 Crore, as arrived by the Central Public Works Department.

4. After thorough examination of the matter with various stakeholders, I am to convey the consent of Government of Tamil Nadu, as follows.

(i) Fifty (50) acres of land in Namangalam Reserved Forest could be used for setting up of a Biodiversity Park at an international standard under a joint venture of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board (TNSEB) and Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD) and to be managed jointly for conservation and public education by setting up with a global standard. Necessary funding could be mobilised by National Biodiversity Authority from the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India and other possible sources.

(ii) Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project Office building along with approximately 1 hectare of land for up keeping and parking purposes) surrounding will be transferred to National Biodiversity Authority at Namangalam in lieu of Rs.12.50 Crores as per the valuation arrived by the Central Public Works Department, for the building and Net Present Value under the notified procedure of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The accrued amount would essentially be used for creating and maintaining necessary facilities for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity and Greening Project (TBGP) Phase-II, which is in the final stage of approval by JICA and the Government of India.

5. I, therefore, request that further necessary action may be taken by the Ministry to initiate the process.

Yours sincerely
Sd/- xxxxxx

To
Shri. C.K. Mishra IAS,
Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India, New Delhi.

Copy to:

1. Shri Sanjay Kumar, IFS,
Director General of Forests & Special Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Government of India, New Delhi.
2. The Chairperson,
National Biodiversity Authority, Government of India,
5th Floor, TCEIL, Blo Park, CSR Road,
Taramani, Chennai.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD),
Chennai - 600 015.

(True Copy)

Section Officer

Dr. Sandeep Saxena, I.A.S.,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government



Environment and Forests (FR.11)
Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-8.

D.O. Letter No. 5313/FR.11/2020 - 1, dated 19.01.2021

Dear Sir,

Subj: Forests - National Biodiversity Authority - Allocation of Land and Building under State Forest Department for setting up of Biodiversity Park and for siting of National Biodiversity Authority Office - Convey the decision taken by Government of Tamil Nadu - Reg.

- Ref
1. From the Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Government of India D. O. letter No. National Biodiversity Authority/33304/GENU/1-Vol-II/2019-20/4315, dated 19.03.2020.
 2. From the Hon'ble Minister for Environment Forest & Climate Change and Information & Broadcasting, Government of India D.O. No. CS-III (Biodiversity)/ NBA/Land, dated 15.06.2020 addressed to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Chennai.
 3. Minutes of the meeting convened by the Principal Secretary, Environment and Forests Department with the Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai at Secretariat, Government of Tamil Nadu on 19.05.2020.
 4. From the Valuation Officer, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, Income Tax Department Valuation Cell, Chennai F.No.VO-I/CH/ MISC(Va)/2020-21/64, dated 07.07.2020 addressed to the Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority Chennai.

I am to invite your kind attention to the reference cited and to state that in the reference 1st cited, the Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority has requested to allocate a suitable building under the Forest Department of Tamil Nadu or to allocate a piece of land in Chennai, exclusively for the National Biodiversity Authority.

2. In the reference 2nd cited, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Government of Tamil Nadu to consider transfer of the present Forest Complex at Namangalam along with 50 acres of land for shifting the National Biodiversity Authority office and for setting up a Biodiversity Park, respectively by waiving off the land and assets cost to the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India.

3. Based on the decision taken in the meeting held on 19.05.2020, a formal request was made by the Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority to the Government of Tamil Nadu requesting to allocate the present Forest Complex at Namangalam along with 50 acres of land for shifting the National Biodiversity Authority office and for setting up a Biodiversity Park, respectively. The Chairperson has also



Annex-II

F. No. C-12017/16/2009-CS-III

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

CS-III (Biodiversity) Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan

for Bapu Road

New Delhi-110003

Date: 30th March 2021

To,

The Pay & Accounts Office

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

New Delhi

Subject: Release of Rs. 1 crore under Grants for creation of capital assets to the National Biodiversity Authority for the financial year 2020-21

Sir,

With reference to National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)'s request dated 25 January 2021 for release of funds under Grants for creation of capital assets for the current financial year 2020-21, the sanction of the President of India is hereby conveyed for release of Rs. 1,00,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore only) towards Grants for creation of capital assets to NBA (Recurring Grant) for the financial year 2020-21 as detailed in para 3 below. NBA is a statutory body under MoEFCC and has been receiving funds Statutory and Regulatory Bodies.

2. NBA was allocated Rs. 23 crore for the financial year 2020-21 to be released as Grant-in-Aid which was later revised to Rs. 10.5 crore at BE stage including Rs. 1 crore each under Schedule Caste Sub Plan and TSP. NBA was allocated Rs. 1 crore under Grants for creation of capital assets at BE 2020-21 which was revised to nil at BE-2020-21. The Budget Division had conveyed the approval of Secretary (EF&CC) Dy. No. 142850 dated 12.03.2021, for the relaxation to increase the object head wise allocation of BE within the BE limits under Grants for creation of capital assets for NBA for year 2020-21. The unspent balance of Rs. 1,66,31,303/- was already reallocated to NBA vide letter dated 3 July 2020, for the financial year 2019-20 to be utilised in the current financial year 2020-21.

3. The first and only instalment of Grants for creation of capital assets in the current financial year will be utilised for acquisition of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project Office Building at Nammagalam, Chennai, conveyed by the Government of Tamil Nadu vide letter dated 25 January 2021, which has been approved by the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide Dy. No. 74875 dated 12 February 2021. The Grant shall be utilised with the following break up:

Sl. No.	Items	Amount
1.	Grants for creation of capital assets	Rs. 1 crore

4. The Grants-in-Aid will be regulated in accordance with the provisions contained in the guidelines of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi. The Grants-in-Aid is also subject to the Chapter 9 of the General Financial Rules, 2017, as amended from time to time, read with the Government of India's decisions incorporated thereunder, and any other guidelines which may be issued from time to time in particular to the following conditions:

-2-

- All relevant information and documents/ certificates as required under GFR 200(1) have been received.
- The pattern of assistance of rules governing such grants-in-aid have received the approval of the Ministry of Finance, as required under Govt. of India Decision No. (1) under DEPR - Rules 20.
- Terms and conditions of the service of the employees employed in NBA are not higher than those applicable to similar categories of employees of Central Government and where it is not in accordance with above, the relaxation of Ministry of Finance have been obtained for such discrepancies as required under GFR 230(12)(i).
- Assets acquired wholly or substantially out of Government Grants shall not be disposed off without obtaining the prior approval of the sanctioning authority of Grants-in-aid.
- NBA agrees to make reservations for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes or OBC in the posts or services under its control on the lines indicated by Govt. of India.
- The accounts of NBA shall be audited by C&AG or by any person authorised by him on his behalf in accordance with the provisions laid down in Section 14 of the C&AG (DPC) 1971 as amended from time to time.
- The accounts of NBA shall be open for inspection by the sanctioning authority and audit, both by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India under the provision of C&AG (DPC) Act, 1971 and internal audit party by the Principal Accounts Officer of the Ministry or Department whenever it is called upon to do so.
- A Utilization certificate (for the period 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021) has been received for Rs.89,58,349/- out of total Rs. 8,25,00,000/- released to NBA in the financial year 2020-21, under CIA- General and CIA-Salaries including the unspent balance of Rs. 1,66,31,303/- reallocated in the financial year 2020-21. As of date, no funds have been released to NBA under Grants for creation of capital assets in the financial year 2020-21. NBA may furnish their performance-cum-achievement report as or before 31.3.2021 to the sanctioning Authority.
- The details of sanction under have been in the Register of Grants.
- NBA will spend Grants-in-Aid exclusively in pursuance of the objectives envisaged in rules/regulations of NBA and for the purpose it is being sanctioned.
- Grants-in-Aid to NBA is subject to the Economy Instructions issued from time to time by the M/o Finance or by the Competent Authority.
- Grants-in-aid shall be utilised before the end of the current financial year and unspent balance, if any, is required to be re-allocated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India for utilization by NBA in next financial year.
- NBA will maintain and will present their annual accounts in the standard format as required under GFR 230(5).
- In case of Non-recurring Grant for specified object, NBA will have to spend the amount sanctioned to them upto 31.03.2021.
- Compliance with the relevant provisions for Grants in aid under GFRs 2017 and DBT Scheme to be adopted wherever applicable.

Cont 3/-

-3-

- Payment towards wages/ remuneration as well as other contractual obligations should be made through bank accounts of recipients and evidence of PFY/SS payments obtained.
- The expenditure involved will be met from within the sanctioned Budget Grant under Demand No. 25, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Major Head 3435.03.101.14.01.35- Grants for creation of capital assets for the financial year 2020-21.
- It is also certified that the unspent balance has been taken into account before issuing this sanction.

7. It is also certified that no earlier utilization certificate is pending against NBA.

8. The amount will be drawn by the Drawing & Disbursing Officer, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Disbursed to NBA through RTGS as per bank details of NBA given below:

Name of Payee: National Biodiversity Authority
Name of Bank and Branch: State Bank of India, Taramani Branch
Account Type and No: Savings Bank A/c. No. 40006563151
IFSC Code: SBIN0010673

9. This issues with the concurrence of Integrated Finance Division vide their Dy. No. 74875/SSB/A dated 26.3.2021.

Copy to:

- Cash Section (2 copies) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
- Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, TICE, Bldg. 3rd Floor, Taramani Road, Taramani, Chennai- 600113
- Director of Audit, Commerce, Works & Misc. (I) AGCN Bldg. IP Estate, New Delhi

(Taran Kathuria)
Director-CS,III Division

(Taran Kathuria)
Director-CS,III Division

Annex-III

664005/2022/SECY OFFICE-MOECC

LEENA NANDAN



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India

D.O. C-12017/16/2009-CS-III

May 9, 2022

Leena Nandan

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), a Statutory Body, established under Section 8(3) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in Chennai, has been operating from a rented office space at TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai since its inception in 2003.

1. NBA plays a significant role in the conservation and sustainable utilization of the country's biodiversity, engaging regularly with institutions and stakeholders both at the national and international level.
2. A request had been made earlier by Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, to consider transfer of the Tamil Nadu Forest Complex at Nammangalam, Chennai along with 50 acres of land, for the NBA office and a Biodiversity Park respectively, and to waive off the land and assets cost payable for the same. However, the said allocation of land has not been finalized to date.
3. I request your kind intervention for allocation of suitable land for the office of NBA at an appropriate location, preferably in Anna University.

Yours sincerely,

[Leena Nandan]

Dr. V. Irai Arasu
Chief Secretary
Government of Tamil Nadu
Secretariat
Chennai- 600009



This subject was sent to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India for their consideration and approval.



Leena

Annex-IV

Environment, Climate Change
and Forest (FR.II) Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-9.
Phone: 044-25671511
E-mail: secfr@tn.gov.in



Letter No. 8309/FR.II/2022-2, Dated: 13.05.2022

From
Supriya Sahu, I.A.S.,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

To
Dr. V.B. Mathur,
Chairperson,
National Bio-diversity Authority,
6th, 5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park,
CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai-113.
Sir,

Subj: Forests - National Biodiversity Authority - Request of
Government of India - To allocate of land in Anna University
Campus Chennai which can be exclusively used by National
Biodiversity Authority - Reg.

Ref: 1. Your letter no. NBA/3/3/Genl./Vol.III/2021-22, dated
2.5.2022.
2. From the Registrar, Anna University letter
no.AU/Nat.Bio.Auth/HE-Govt/ 2022, dated 10.5.2022.

With reference to your letter cited, the Registrar, Anna University in his
letter second cited among other things has stated that National Centre for
Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) has been established by Ministry of
Environment Forest & Climate Change, Government of India in Anna
University campus to carryout studies in the area of coastal studies, planning
and management in collaboration with Anna University. He has further stated
that the facility for NBA can be established in Anna university campus with the
approval of the Syndicate and Higher Education Department on similar lines
that of NCSCM and Anna University would consider providing 50 cents of land
in Block No.12, Adyar, behind NCSCM Block and eastern side of north-west
Anna University boundary, adjacent to Adyar River.

2. The Registrar, Anna University has therefore suggested for execution of
separate MOU to evolve the method of collaboration and the activities to be
carried out.

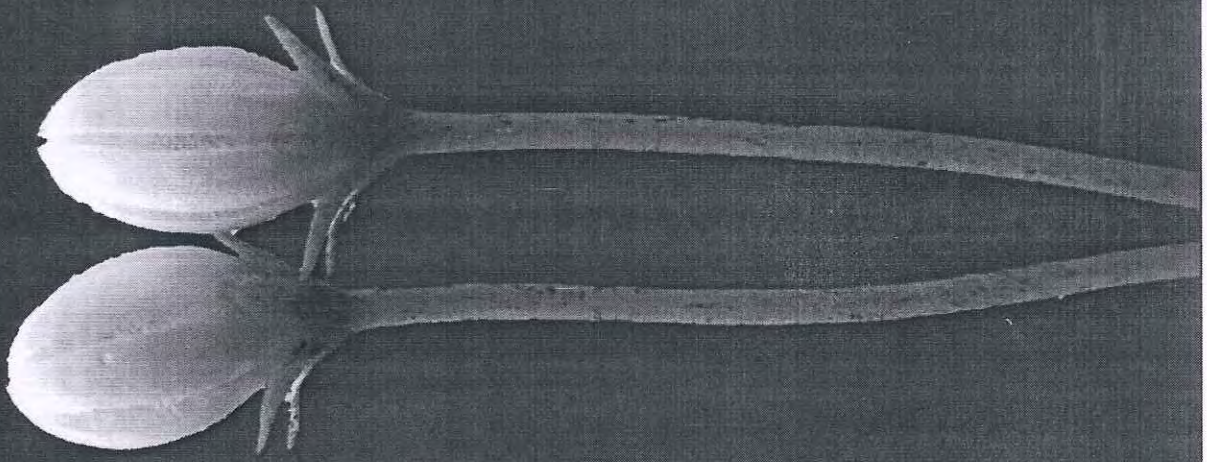
3. I am therefore to request you to furnish your comments on the
suggestion of Registrar, Anna University, to Government immediately, so as to
enable to pursue further action at the earliest in this matter.

Yours Sincerely,


(Supriya Sahu)







thank you...





SRIRAMA R <srirama@nbaindia.org>

Draft Proceedings of the 65th Authority Meeting (Special) of NBA

Alka Rao NIC <raoalka@imtech.res.in>

Tue, May 31, 2022 at 11:01 AM

To: chairman <chairman@nba.nic.in>, J Justin Mohan <secretary@nba.nic.in>

Cc: vbm.ddn@gmail.com, jjustinmohanifs@gmail.com, srirama@nbaindia.org, Chezian Dinakaran <chezian.d@gov.in>, "Dr. Manoj Kumar Modi" <manoj.modi@nic.in>, gssheeba@nbaindia.in, "Dr(Mr) Tilak Raj Sharma" <ddgcs.icar@nic.in>, Administrative Officer NBA <admn@nba.nic.in>, Rita Khanna <rita.khanna@nic.in>, Anamika <anamika@dbt.nic.in>, mvr@nccr.gov.in, Dr Akhilesh Gupta <akhilesh.g@nic.in>, achal.reddy@gmail.com, jmlaishram@rediffmail.com, Sanjay Kumar <director@ihbt.res.in>, unnat.pandit@gmail.com, unnatpandit.jnu@gmail.com, chaitra78@gmail.com, "Prof. Tanuja Nesari" <ceo-nmpb@nic.in>, "JS (Admin), MoTA" <js.adm-tribal@nic.in>, Ashwani <jsseeds-agri@nic.in>, BIVASH RANJAN <adgwl-mef@nic.in>, "S. P. Yadav" <adgfc-mef@nic.in>

Dear Sir,

Based on the discussions held during the meeting, I understand that following corrections are required in the minuted proceedings:

General observation:

The draft shared with Authority members and deliberated upon in the meeting was a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), not a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Legally both documents are different. Accordingly, correction may be required throughout the minuted proceedings.

Correction in details of page no 3 point d

d. Dr. Alka Rao, Principal Scientist, IMTECH commended the efforts being taken by NBA for building a permanent office in Chennai. She requested that the letter from the Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu No. 8309/FR11/2022 dated 13.05.2022 to Chairperson, NBA, be circulated to the members. Dr. Rao suggested that the inputs provided by other members may be taken on record and terms and conditions in the MoA may be legally vetted accordingly. She further stated that the pros and cons of availing the offer of free-of-cost land on a perpetual or lease basis from Anna University and the State of Tamil Nadu may be evaluated and assessed for its long-term implications on NBA and its workings by NBA secretariat and or MoEF&CC. Payment of nominal/token money to the landholder and lease duration may be considered accordingly. Regarding financial approval for construction, she stated that it may be considered upon finalization and approval of MoA by the Authority.

Corrections in details of page no 5 section decision

Decision:

- a) All the members appreciated the efforts taken by NBA to permanently house the Office of NBA in the Anna University campus and unanimously agreed to support the proposal.
- b) The members suggested that a legal vetting of the draft Memorandum of Agreement between NBA and the Anna University may be done by the MoEF&CC expeditiously.
- c) The members suggested vetting the pros and cons of availing land free of cost on a perpetual or lease basis.
- d) In the context of long-term implications of free land, the members also suggested an option of paying a nominal amount of lease fee/ token fee to the landholder. However, the same may be examined by the MoEF&CC.
- e) The proposal of NBA using its funds for constructing the building may be considered subject to the finalization of MoA and subsequent approval by the Authority
- f) Members also recommended that MoEF&CC should consider providing capital funds to construct NBA headquarters in Chennai.
- g) The members suggested that an agency may be engaged for architectural planning and monitoring, if required.

Submitted for your kind consideration,

Warm Regards

Alka

6/3/22, 11:30 AM

National Biodiversity Authority Mail - Draft Proceedings of the 65th Authority Meeting (Special) of NBA

[Quoted text hidden]

Date: 01-06-2022

To

The Secretary

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)
Chennai

Sir,

**Sub: Comments on Draft Proceedings of the 65th Authority Meeting (Special) of
NBA held on 17/05/2022**

Ref -Your mail dated 25-05-2022; 4.50 PM

With reference to the above-cited mail and subject, I am to offer my comments as under:

1. In my written submission dated 16-05-2022 it was highlighted that the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to be entered between NBA & Anna university was held back and shared by the NBA only after a request was made by the undersigned. In the draft proceedings circulated now, it is mentioned as an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding). Therefore, it is requested that NBA Secretariat may please clarify on shifting of this stand. I may please be excused for my ignorance if the MoA & MoU are one and same in the legal sense.
2. I submitted my written comments on 16-05-2022 and I stand by them, especially in respect of points/paras 6; 7; 11; 12; 13, and suggest deleting them from the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) as per the Agenda and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as per the draft proceedings.
3. In the draft proceedings of the 65th Authority Meeting (Special) of NBA at Para-2, it was mentioned that the 'Special Meeting' was held under Rule 10(2) and

Rule 10(3) of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 for seeking approval of the Authority for construction of a permanent building in Chennai along with the allocation of funds.

4. It is heartening to experience that the Special Meeting has been convened as per the laid down procedure under the B.D. Act and Rules passed by the Competent Authority. Therefore, it is incumbent on the Authority to also conduct the rest of the statutory business as per the laid down procedures and there is no other legitimate alternative procedure except to abide by Law as NBA is an autonomous Statutory Authority.
5. As per the laid down procedure each point/para of the draft MoA/MoU should have been discussed with the esteemed members of the NBA and then the resolution should have been passed and submitted to MoEFCC for taking a final decision as per the powers vested with the Central Government regarding policy matters under Section 48 of B.D. Act.
6. Regarding point/para 7 (h) of the Draft Proceedings, I would like to reiterate that I endorsed efforts taken by NBA and agreed to support them provided they are aligned with the law and Biological Diversity Act and Rules etc framed thereunder.
7. The point no. 6&7 of MoA/MoU may be discussed by the members in a special authority meeting which may be conducted in Hybrid mode at the earliest. I suggest that they may not be agreed upon by the NBA.
8. Point no. 8 of the draft MoA/MoU may not be included as a part of the agreement but can be agreed upon separately as an administrative arrangement to

enable the NBA to restrict the use of the library by the faculty, students, and research scholars as and when it wants.

9. The 11th point - is that The FIRST PARTY shall ensure that the officers, employees, and the guests of the SECOND PARTY are given permission to enter the campus of the FIRST PARTY without any restrictions. This is a ridiculous condition once the land is transferred to be possessed by NBA perpetually and therefore, this becomes infructuous.
10. The 12th point of MoA/MoU is “The FIRST PARTY shall also permit the SECOND PARTY to organize trainings, workshops, seminars, etc without any restrictions. The SECOND PARTY shall ensure that such programs do not affect the faculty or students of the FIRST PARTY in any way” - also may not be agreed upon as it is very strange to see such a condition is included in the MoA/MoU. It may lead to friction between the NBA and the Anna University administration in course of time.
11. As per the 13th point/para of MoA/MoU- it may be amended at any time by the mutual written consent of both Parties. It appears convincing but in practice, this may give Anna University an upper hand which may not be accepted.
12. Coming back to B.D. Act 2002 as per which NBA should function, it is herewith submitted that whenever the esteemed members of NBA have different opinions on certain points/paras/issues, a laid down procedure under Section 12 of B.D. Act (especially section 12(4)) may be followed so that the decisions of the Authority stand the scrutiny of the law in force.

13. In the larger interest of the NBA, it is requested that without finalizing the contents of MoA/MoU by the members of the Authority, it may not be proper to approach MOEFCC, GoI to take a final policy decision on taking over of land, allocation of budget for construction of the building.

Yours Faithfully,

C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd)
Non-Official Member, NBA