



PROCEEDINGS

76th AUTHORITY MEETING

5th January 2026

Venue

NBA Headquarters

Chennai

**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
Chennai**

Proceedings of the 76th Authority Meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority held on 5th January 2026 at NBA, Chennai

The 76th Authority meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 5th January 2026 at NBA, Chennai under the Chairmanship of Shri Virendra R Tiwari, IFS (Retd.) Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The list of participants is given in the **Annexure-I**.

2. At the outset, Dr B. Balaji, Member Secretary, NBA, welcomed the Chairman, the Members of the Authority who joined in person and online. He further introduced and welcomed the Non-official member Dr Aditya Kumar Joshi who was nominated vide Gazette notification S.O. 5679(E) dated 8.12.2025.

3. The Authority members appreciated and applauded the war footing efforts taken by the NBA in disbursing the Access and Benefit Sharing amount to the benefit claimers and also speeding up the process of providing the Certificate of Registration for IPR applications.

4. Further, the Member Secretary made a detailed presentation on the agenda items, which are as follows:

76.01: Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 75th Authority meeting

The Member Secretary informed the members that the draft Proceedings of the 75th meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) held on 13.10.2025 in New Delhi were circulated to the members via e-mail dated 17.10.2025 to seek their comments. He further informed that the comments were received from ex *officio* member Dr. Kousthubha Upadhyaya, Ministry of Ayush, and Shri H.B. Abo, IFS, Member Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board and have been incorporated in the proceedings accordingly. and is placed as **Annexure I** for confirmation. The members unanimously agreed to confirm the Proceedings of the 75th Authority meeting.

Decision: The Proceedings of the 75th Authority Meeting were confirmed.

76.02: Action Taken Report of the 75th Authority Meeting

The Member Secretary explained the actions taken based on the decisions of the 75th Authority Meeting and the members deliberated the same. He informed that the Annual Report-2024-25 of NBA has been submitted to the MoEFCC in time and has also been tabled in both the houses of the Parliament.

2. Against Agenda item no 75.06: To consider referring the contravention applications



under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 to the Adjudicating Officer-

The Member Secretary informed that Advertisement for appointment of Consultant (Legal) for assisting the Adjudicating Officer was issued on 11.12.2025 and two candidates have applied for the position. Chairman, NBA informed that the applications of the candidates will be scrutinized and interviewed **before** 30th January 2026. The cases shall be referred to the Adjudicating Officer once after the Consultant has been engaged.

3. Against Agenda item no. 75.12: To consider the Report of the Expert Committee on Materials:

The Member Secretary informed that as per the comments received on the Proceedings of the 75th Authority and the DO letter dt: 14-11-2025 received from the Ministry of Ayush, it was decided to place the subject matter before the newly constituted committee for consideration. The representative of the Ministry provided an opportunity to make a presentation before the Committee for its consideration. The meeting of the committee was held on 22.12.2025. The recommendation of the committee will thereafter be placed before the next Authority for taking a final decision.

4. Against Agenda item no. 75.13: To consider the Final Report of the Expert Committee on SBBs/UTBCs

The Member Secretary informed that the Report of the Expert Committee has been sent to all Chief Secretaries, Chairman and Member Secretaries of SBBs/ UTBCs on 20.11.2025 for further necessary action. In this regard, Dr. Aditya Joshi, Non official member opined that the NBA may follow up with the SBBs/UTBCs for implementing the approved recommendations provided by the Expert Committee.

5. Further, the members noted the action taken by NBA on the various decisions taken in the 75th Authority meeting.

Decision: The actions taken by the NBA on decisions taken in the 75th Authority meeting were noted by the members.

76.03: To consider the Draft Modalities for utilisation of interest earned from the ABS amount deposited in the National Biodiversity Fund

The Member Secretary apprised the members that the Authority had taken several decisions on the utilization of the interest accrued on the benefit sharing components in its earlier meetings such as in the 53rd, 55th 65th and 68th Authority meetings. However, the members in the 75th Authority meeting reiterated these directions and noted that

further decisions on interest disbursement would follow after the disbursal of the principal amount.

2. In this regard, the Member Secretary mentioned that the Section 27 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 mandates that all sums received by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) including charges, benefit-sharing amounts and other receipts shall be credited to the National Biodiversity Fund (NBF), while the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and the BD (ABS) Regulations, 2025 provide the governing framework for their management and utilisation.

3. He mentioned that as per the provisions of the Act/ Rules/ ABS Regulations, interest accrued on benefit-sharing amounts are to be utilised as per section 27 of the Act, however no specific modalities are in place to ensure uniformity, transparency and accountability in the utilisation of interest accrued on benefit-sharing amounts received by the Authority. Hence, the NBA Secretariat has prepared draft modalities for utilisation of the interest earned from the ABS amount deposited in the National Biodiversity Fund which is placed for consideration.

4. The members deliberated and agreed that the draft Modalities for utilisation of the interest earned from the ABS amount deposited in the National Biodiversity Fund is in line with the provisions of the Act. Few members suggested that percentages may be fixed for the activities however, the other members opined that the process of allocating the funds for each activity would be cumbersome. Further, the members opined that there should not be duplicity in the utilization of the funds with the earmarked funds.

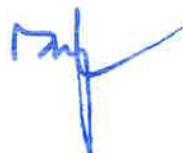
5. The members suggested that the funds provided for research/ projects is very meagre to the Institutions/ SBBs and the fund allocation can be enhanced. The members noted the suggestion.

6. Further, the members deliberated the draft modalities in comparison with the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 and mentioned that the activities may be categorised as Recurring and Non-recurring. Further, the members opined that the allocation of fund to recurring activities may be upto 60% and upto 40% for the non-recurring activities. The chairman explained that the Government of India reduced the sanctioned funds to NBA in the current year and consequently there is a fund crunch in NBA.

7. The members directed the NBA Secretariat to present the utilization of the interest amount for review every year before the Authority.

Decision: a) *The Authority members approved the Modalities for utilisation of the interest earned from the ABS amount deposited in the National Biodiversity Fund.*

b) The Authority authorized the Chairperson, NBA to operate the interest amount accrued based on the approved modalities.



c) The members directed the NBA Secretariat to utilize **upto 60%** of the fund for **recurring** activities and **upto 40%** for the **non-recurring** activities.

d) The members directed the NBA Secretariat to present the utilization of the interest amount every year before the Authority for review.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

76.04: To consider the modalities for sharing the benefit sharing amount accrued in cases where the agreements are not executed or kept in abeyance

The Member Secretary apprised the members that NBA has received applications from different stakeholders who have already accessed the biological resources and or knowledge associated for undertaking research / commercial utilisation / IPR, without obtaining prior approval of the NBA as required under the provisions of the Act. It is also to mention that, in the past, applications that are in contravention of provisions of the BD Act were dealt under the amnesty scheme provided by the MoEFCC with a specific period, through issuance of an Office Memorandum on 10.09.2018 and 18.03.2019.

2. He further explained that these applications were examined and approved by the Authority by fixing the highest Access and Benefit sharing amount in the prescribed slab for the purpose of commercial utilization and for the purpose of research, upfront payment was fixed on a case by case basis. Accordingly, the ABS agreement was sent to the applicant.

3. Subsequently, these contravention applications were placed in the 68th Authority meeting (Agenda no. 68.13) and 69th (Agenda no 69.05) Authority Meetings wherein it was decided that such applications shall be kept in abeyance until the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 and the amended Rules come into force, and the applicants were accordingly informed.

4. In this regard, the Member Secretary mentioned that even though the applicants contravened the provisions of the BD Act, some of the applicants have paid the benefit sharing to the NBA. In addition, it is to mention that the NBA had communicated the draft agreement to the applicants with the benefit-sharing component on the annual gross factory sale price of the product, with a request to execute agreement, whereas in some of the cases, the applicants have requested to fix the ABS on the purchase price of the biological resources or reduction in the ABS. While negotiation on ABS was not finalized, the applicant has paid the ABS component.



5. He further explained that an amount of Rs. 57.64 crore was received from 45 such applicants, although the corresponding ABS agreements were either not executed or kept in abeyance out of which the ABS amount of Rs. 5.21 crore received from applications which are sub-judice.

6. In this regard, the Member Secretary explained that as per the provisions of the BD Rules, 2024 and ABS Regulations, 2025, 10% to 15% of the accrued benefits from the use of biological resources shall be retained by the NBA, with half of that amount may be shared with the concerned Board or Council. The remaining benefit-sharing amount (90% or 85%) is distributed among benefit claimers such as individuals, communities, groups or organisations based on the source of the biological resource or associated knowledge. If the source is unknown, the entire benefit sharing may be retained by the Authority and may be utilised by the Authority in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 27 of the Act, as provided under Regulation 12 of the ABS Regulations, 2025. The ABS amount may be distributed to the beneficiaries and earmarked amount to NBA as per the decision of the 75th Authority vide agenda no.75.07.

7. It is also to state that the 75th Authority meeting vide agenda no. 75.08 approved the modalities for sharing the benefits with beneficiaries and also authorised the NBA Secretariat to release the amount to the SBB/UTBC for onward transmission to the beneficiaries (BMC/community/organisation). In this regard, the Member Secretary proposed to disburse the benefit sharing amount to the eligible benefit claimers as per the mandates approved by the Authority.

8. The Member Secretary mentioned that the ABS amount to be deposited by the applicants will not be lesser than the amount that has been given. To this, the members deliberated and opined that a mechanism may be devised to assess the ABS amount that has to be deposited by the applicant due for the application over the amount that has been already given. In this regard, the members deliberated that it is not feasible to assess the annual gross factory sale price of the products in the case of commercial utilization without the submission of the Audited statements provided by the applicants itself.

9. The members also suggested that NBA may write to the applicants requesting for the complete list of bio resources accessed to calculate the upfront payment. However, the members opined that this amount received by the NBA in such cases is legitimate and can be disbursed to the benefit claimers.

Decision: *The Authority members approved the modalities for sharing the benefit sharing amount accrued in cases where the agreements are not executed or kept in abeyance to the benefit claimers as per provisions of Section 27 of the Biological Diversity Act.*



76.05: To consider transferring of ABS application fees received by NBA to National Biodiversity Fund (Admin) for utilization for administrative purposes

The Member Secretary informed the members that the Section 27 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 read with the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 (Rules 13(3), 15(2), 16(1)(b), 16(2)(b), 16(3)(b), 20(2)) mandates that all sums received by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) including charges, benefit-sharing amounts, application fees and other receipts shall be credited to the National Biodiversity Fund (NBF). He further informed the members that about Rs. 2,41,68,643/- as application fees has been accumulated in the NBF fund from 2004.

2. In this regard, he proposed that this application fee amount may be transferred to the NBF (Admin) account for utilizing for administrative purposes like ABS implementation measures, payment of sitting fees, travel allowance to the members, accommodation, local travel, etc.

3. The members deliberated that as the Rules also states that the application fees shall be credited to the National Biodiversity Fund (NBF), the NBA as proposed can utilize it for administrative purposes etc. However, the members suggested that this amount can be utilized for administrative purposes

Decision: The Authority members approved the transferring of ABS application fees received by NBA to National Biodiversity Fund (Admin) for utilizing it for administrative purposes.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

76.06: To consider Revised Guidelines for designated repositories

The Member Secretary informed the members that the Authority in its previous meeting (Agenda: 75.05) decided that the guidelines of NBA on the designated repositories may be reviewed by the three- member committee comprised of Dr. Hanchinal R. Ramappa, Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram and Dr. Gouri Joshi in light of the amendments to the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, and BD (ABS) Regulations, 2025.

2. Accordingly, NBA vide office order dated 21st October 2025 constituted an Expert committee comprising the above-mentioned members to review the "Guidelines for Designated Repositories" issued by NBA in light of the amendment to the Biological



Diversity Act, 2002. Subsequently, the Three- member Committee met on 4th November 2025 through online mode and revised the guidelines.

3. In this regard, the members deliberated on the revised draft guidelines and suggested that the draft may be circulated to all the designated repositories for their comments and inputs. Further, it was mentioned that after receiving the comments from the repositories, a virtual meeting the Three- member Committee and repositories may be scheduled to finalise the revised Guidelines for the designated repositories.

4. The members also suggested that NBA may provide funds to strengthen the repositories. In this regard, the Member Secretary informed that none of the designated repositories has requested for funding. Secondly, the members also opined that it may be because most of the designated repositories are government institutions. Further, the members requested the Expert Committee to deliberate on the type of institutions including private funding institutions can be designated as a repository under the BD Act in the draft Guidelines.

5. Chairman, NBA opined that the Draft guidelines may be considered in the next Authority meeting after getting the inputs from the Repositories and the meeting of the committee. In this regard, he opined that the tenure of the Expert Committee may be extended upto 31.03.2026.

Decision: a) *The Authority members directed the NBA Secretariat to circulate the draft revised Guidelines for Designated Repositories to the institutions that are designated repositories under the Biological Diversity Act to receive comments.*

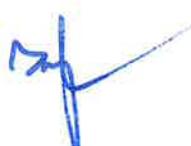
b) The Authority members directed the NBA Secretariat to schedule a meeting of the Three-member with the Institutions that are designated repositories for finalizing the draft.

c) The Authority members directed the NBA Secretariat to extend the tenure of the Expert Committee upto 31.03.2026.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

76.07 To consider the amendments to the National Biodiversity Authority (Annual Report and Annual Statement of Accounts) Rules, 2005

The Member Secretary apprised the members that as per the Sub-section (1) and clauses (g) and (h) of Sub-section (2) of Section 62 read with Sections 28 and 29 of the



Biological Diversity Act 2002 (18 of 2003), the Central Government made the National Biodiversity Authority (Annual Report and Annual Statement of Accounts) Rules, 2005

2. He explained that this Rules lays down the procedures that the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) must follow each year to ensure transparency, accountability, and compliance with the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. These rules specify that the Annual Report of the Authority, shall be prepared by the Chairperson or an authorised officer in the prescribed format (Form i) and approved by the Authority to be submitted by the end of August. Further, the audited accounts, along with the audit report, must be forwarded to the Central Government for placing before Parliament, as mandated under the Act. In this regard, it is submitted that Rule 3(3) states that

*"Copies of the authenticated annual report shall be submitted by the Chairperson to the Central Government by the **end of August** following the year to which the annual report relates to enable the Central Government to take action as required under Section 30 of the Act".*

3. The Member Secretary explained that submission of the Annual Report along with the Audit Report to the Central Government by the end of August is not feasible as the issue of the final SAR in English version with audit certificate to Autonomous Body/ Government concerned is submitted by the concerned agency by 31st October of that year. Further, the Annual Report and Audited Accounts to the Nodal for it to be laid on the Table of the Parliament should be by 31st December of the year as per the GFRs 2017 as on 31.07.2025.

5. In this regard, the Member Secretary proposed that the Rule 3(1) and 3(3) may be amended as follows:

SI No.	National Biodiversity Authority (Annual Report and Annual Statement of Accounts) Rules, 2005	Amendment proposed
Rule 3. Annual Report of the Authority		
1	(1) The Chairperson or any officer duly authorized by the Chairman in his behalf, shall prepare, in Form I, the annual report referred to in Section 28 of the Act, on or before the 31st day of July following the financial year to which that report relates.	(1) The Chairperson or any officer duly authorized by the Chairman in his behalf, shall prepare, in Form I, the annual report referred to in Section 28 of the Act, on or before the 31st day of October following the financial year to which that report relates.
2	(3) Copies of the authenticated annual report shall be submitted by the Chairperson to the Central Government by the end of August following the year to which the annual report relates to enable	(3) Copies of the authenticated annual report shall be submitted by the Chairperson to the Central Government by the end of November following the year to which the annual report relates to enable



	the Central Government to take action as required under Section 30 of the Act	the Central Government to take action as required under Section 30 of the Act
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6. The members deliberated that as the submission of the Annual Report along with the Audit Report is to be done in the Winter session of the Parliament, the proposal placed by the NBA Secretariat in amending the Rules for extending the time for submission of Annual Report can be considered.

Decision: The Authority members approved the proposal of amending the Rules 3(1) and 3(3) of the National Biodiversity Authority (Annual Report and Annual Statement of Accounts) Rules 2005 and decided that the same may be forwarded to MoEFCC for further action.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

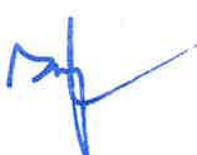
76.08 To consider the proposal on DST - SHRI (Science and Heritage Research Initiative) Scheme

The Member Secretary mentioned that the University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU) had prepared a proposal to seek financial support from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under its innovative SHRI (Science and Heritage Research Initiative) scheme where the project aims to design and launch a Citizens Portal between 2026 and 2028 focusing on medicinal and food plants of India.

2. In this regard, he informed that NBA received an official communication from Prof. Darshan Shankar, Vice Chancellor of TDU, requesting "in-principle consent" to participate in the formulation and development of the proposal, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to NBA. In response to the communication, NBA has already conveyed its in-principle consent to participate in the design and development of the proposal, subject to mutually agreeable terms and conditions that will be determined by the Authority in due course.

3. Further, the Member Secretary mentioned that this proposal was placed before the Authority in its 74th meeting (Agenda item No 74.10). The members ratified the "in principle" approval given by the NBA to participate in the design and development of the proposal of the University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, subject to mutually agreeable terms and conditions that will be determined by the Authority in due course.

4. However, the members deliberated and deferred the proposal as there was a need for further deliberations and clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each of the Partners in the project. Subsequently the members deferred the proposal in the 75th Authority



meeting (Agenda item No. 75.02) as there is a need for legal clarity and to be placed in the subsequent Authority meeting.

5. Pursuant to the decision, the proposal was re-examined and it was observed that the NBA has been considered only as a knowledge partner and has no clear role in the implementation of the proposal. Further, NBA has not received any communications from the TDU to consider the proposal. Dr. Viswajanani Sattigeri mentioned that CSIR-TKDL also had not received any communications from DST/TDU on the proposal.

6. In this regard, the members deliberated that this proposal of TDU may be closed till the TDU communicates the roles and responsibilities of NBA in the project.

Decision: *The Authority Members decided that the consideration of the proposal submitted by the Trans Disciplinary University may be closed till details of the roles and responsibilities of NBA in the project is identified.*

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

76.09 Reconsideration of Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with CSIR-TKDL

The Member Secretary informed the members that NBA earlier signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) agreement with the CSIR-TKDL in 2019 and the same was placed in the 54th Authority meeting (Agenda item No. 54.20.9) to develop a common platform integrating the information in TKDL and PBR which had expired on 16.09.2024.

2. Dr. Viswajanani Sattigeri, CSIR-TKDL and ex officio member of the Authority explained to the members that the NDA was signed with NBA for understanding the feasibility and developing a common platform for integrating the traditional knowledge available in People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) in the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database. However, she informed that it did not materialize and the NDA has expired on 16.09.2024. She expressed that this matter could be explored further, subject to interest of the NBA.

3. Further, the Member Secretary explained that this matter was placed for reconsideration at the 74th Authority Meeting (Agenda item No. 74.11) due to its relevance to the DST-SHRI (Science and Heritage Research Initiative) Proposal. However, the members decided that given the complexities involved, further deliberations are necessary regarding the potential pros and cons of entering into a more formal engagement, such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or a Non-Disclosure Agreement, with the CSIR-TKDL and the agenda was deferred to the next Authority meeting.



4. Chairman, NBA mentioned that NDA with CSIR-TKDL may be reconsidered if there is a need keeping in mind the protections ensuring community rights, prior informed consent, and benefit-sharing obligations remain fully intact. The members agreed to the suggestion and mentioned that this matter may be reconsidered if a need arises.

Decision: The Authority Members decided that the *Non-Disclosure Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding with the CSIR-TKDL may be reconsidered if a need arises.*

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

76.10: To Consider the Decision on ABS Applications Dealt by the Secretariat

The Member Secretary apprised the members of the recommendations made by the Expert Committee (EC) constituted by the NBA to streamline the approval process, as per its 54th and 55th meeting, vide agenda no. 54.20.03 considered and endorsed the recommendations of the EC that NBA Secretariat may deal the applications based on the set precedence. Accordingly, NBA vide O/o dated 19th March 2020 issued an order for processing ABS application in NBA without referring to Expert Committee on ABS. However, in case of any contravention/ complexity such cases alone to be placed in the EC on ABS for examination.

2. Accordingly he mentioned that the NBA secretariat so far has cleared two (2) applications, agreement signed for 21 applications and closed 39 applications in Form-I, Form-II, Form III, Form-IV and Form 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 between from 01st October, 2025 – 30th November, 2025. Since the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 came into force from 1st April 2024, NBA has issued 1015 Certificate of Registration (CoR) to the applicants. Accordingly, the NBA secretariat has issued 231 Certificates of Registration, from October 2025 to December 2025.

Decision: The applications processed, agreements executed and the CoR issued by the NBA Secretariat were ratified by the Authority.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

76.11: Access and Benefit Sharing amount released to the beneficiaries

The Member Secretary informed the members that in accordance with Section 21 of the BD Act 2002 read with Rule 20 of the BD Rules, 2004, the NBA received Access



and Benefit Sharing amount into the National Biodiversity Fund (NBF) upon execution of agreements with the applicants.

2 He further apprised the members that as per the decision of 46th Authority meeting (vide agenda no. 46.05), the benefit-sharing component shall be distributed to the benefit claimers through the concerned SBB(s) from where the biological resources were accessed for undertaking activities such as conservation, promotion of livelihood of the local people, sustainable use of the biological resources, socio-economic activities, etc.

3 In addition, the 75th Authority vide agenda item no.75.08 also authorised the Chairperson, NBA, to distribute the ABS amount to the beneficiaries, as per Rule 21 of the BD Rules 2024.

5 Pursuant to the decision of the Authority and as authorised by the Authority, the Member Secretary apprised the members that the NBA has released the ABS amount of Rs. 59.94 Crores to various beneficiaries, including the funds transferred to NBF admin A/c during the period from October 2025 to December 2025.

6. He further informed that the ABS funds were released through the State Biodiversity Boards covering 216 Red Sander farmers/patta land owners, six forest departments and 92 Biodiversity Management Committees. The details are as follows:

SI. no.	State/NBA	Benefit claimer name	Amount released (in Rs.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	198 Red Sanders farmers	3,04,41,610.00
		Andhra Pradesh Forest Department	38,36,55,411.00
		Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board	2,61,17,783.00
2.	Maharashtra	BMC - Dapur Gram Panchayat, Nashik District	69,47,500.00
		BMC in Sakharwadi & Kunjirwadi Village	94,60,634.00
		Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation	5,34,08,106.00
		BMC and 85 BMCs in Wada Taluka	
		Maharashtra Biodiversity Board	1,82,091.00
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Maharashtra Forest Department	69,19,452.00
		BMC - Narrau Gram Panchayat, Aligarh	18,06,500.00
4.	Sikkim	BMC in Kasganj Road in Etah City	47,30,317.00
		BMC- Lampokhari Lake Area, Aritar	81,900.00
5.	Tamil Nadu	18 Red Sanders farmers	55,17,389.00
		Tamil Nadu Forest Department	2,97,93,893.00
		Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	7,84,050.00
6.	Odisha	Odisha Forest Department	29,40,737.00
7.	Karnataka	Karnataka Forest Department	1,04,65,867.00
		Karnataka Biodiversity Board	2,75,418.00
8.	Telangana	Telangana Forest Department	5,78,008.00

		Telangana State Biodiversity Board	18,39,921.00
9.	NBA (BR Sourced from Trader)	NBF Admin Account	2,07,05,915.00
10.	NBA (Admin charges & others)	NBF Admin Account	28,03,211.00
TOTAL			59,94,55,713.00

6. The Member Secretary apprised the members that as per the 75th Authority decision under item 75.10, the benefit-sharing amount pertaining to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), amounting to Rs. 43,22,257 [Forty-Three Lakhs Twenty-two Thousand Two-hundred fifty-seven only, has been released to 16 State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) viz. Andhra Pradesh SBB, Chhattisgarh SBB, Goa SBB, Gujarat SBB, Jharkhand SBB, Karnataka SBB, Kerala SBB, Madhya Pradesh SBB, Maharashtra SBB, Odisha SBB, Punjab SBB, Tamil Nadu SBB, Telangana SBB, Uttar Pradesh SBB, Uttarakhand SBB and West Bengal SBB.

7. The members appreciated the efforts taken by NBA in disbursing the ABS amount to the different benefit claimers. The Chairman, NBA informed the members that NBA is intending to disburse all the ABS amount accrued till date by the end of June 2026.

Decision: *The Authority members appreciated and ratified the efforts taken by NBA in disbursing the Access and Benefit Sharing amount to the benefit claimers.*

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

76.12 To consider the Model Procedures for granting approval or rejection of the prior intimation given by the applicant for accessing biological resources or associated knowledge for commercial utilisation under Section 7 of the BD Act, 2002, by the State Biodiversity Boards/ Union territory Biodiversity Councils

The Member Secretary informed the members that in the 38th Authority meeting under Agenda item no.38.16, Authority directed the NBA Secretariat to send communications to all the State Biodiversity Boards with direction to adhere to the provisions of the BD Act in letter and spirit particularly dealing with ABS applications. Authority directed that NBA to develop a guideline to be used by the SBBs for processing ABS applications.

2. He further elaborated that a draft guideline for processing applications received under Section 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was developed by NBA to have uniformity amongst the SBBs in processing the applications and placed the same in the 43rd Authority meeting held in November 2017, vide agenda no.43.06. The Authority



considered the guidelines and approved the same. NBA circulated the guidelines to SBBs and also hosted in the NBA website in 2018.

3. Further, the Member Secretary explained that the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, came into force on 01.04.2024. Subsequently, the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, were notified on 22.10.2024 and came into effect on 21.12.2024 and the Biological Diversity (Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits) Regulations, 2025, were notified on 29.04.2025.

4. He explained that the above amendments have brought about significant changes in the regulatory framework, *inter alia*, introducing provisions relating to prior intimation to SBBs/UTBCs for commercial utilisation of biological resources and associated knowledge thereto and their disposal, revised application forms, and standardised formats for approval and rejection orders, etc. Further he also mentioned that few SBBs have sought guidance of the NBA on processing the applications received under section 7 of the BD Act.

5. Pursuant to the above, the Member Secretary informed that NBA has revised the said guidelines as model procedure to dispose the ABS applications received by the SBBs/UTBCs. This model procedure will be applicable till the State Rules are amended and the ABS end to end portal is operationalized. He further informed that said guidelines was circulated to the SBBs/UTBCs *vide* this office letter dated 18/12/25.

6. The Members agreed and appreciated the efforts taken by the NBA in providing the Model procedure to dispose the ABS applications received by the SBBs/UTBCs.

Decision: The Authority Members approved the Model Procedures for granting approval or rejection of the prior intimation given by the applicant for accessing biological resources or associated knowledge for commercial utilisation under Section 7 of the BD Act, 2002, by the State Biodiversity Boards/ Union territory Biodiversity Councils.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

76.13 To consider the distribution of ABS amount accrued from the seized Red Sanders wood by Department of Revenue Intelligence

The Member Secretary explained to the members that as per the provisions of the BD Act and ABS Regulations, 2014, successful buyers are required to seek prior approval



from the NBA for accessing the biological resources (Red Sanders wood) and has to deposit 5% of auctioned amount as benefit sharing amount with NBA before lifting the Red Sanders from the site. So far, NBA granted approval for 162 applications for accessing Red Sanders wood (RS) from confiscated/seized and cultivated sources.

2. Out of 162 applications, he mentioned that 29 applications are from RS woods confiscated/seized by Department of Revenue and Intelligence (DRI) and auctioned by various Central Govt. agencies such as the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC), MMTC Limited & PEC Limited. The woods were seized by the DRI in the port of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala and West Bengal.

3. In this regard, the National Biodiversity Authority has received an amount of **Rs.15,79,65,007/-** for the access of **1,115.09 MTs** of Red Sander woods from those 29 Applications.

4. Further, he mentioned that ABS amount is distributed to the concerned State which issue the certificate of origin in the case of Red Sander woods seized/confiscated by central agencies such as DRI, Customs etc.

5. The Member Secretary informed that these 29 applications do not have any Certificate of Origin (CoO) issued by any State and in two cases, CoO is issued by the Customs Department. In this regard, he mentioned that the Authority vide agenda no.75.07 stated that the Forest department is the custodian of forest land where the Red Sanders trees are grown and the Red Sanders are naturally growing only in Andhra Pradesh State.

6. In view of the above, the Member Secretary apprised the members that NBA Secretariat has disbursed Rs.15,79,65,007/- to Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, AP SBB, NBA and to IFGTB for a research project on Red Sanders. The said amount includes 2.5% each earmarked amount to SBB and NBA. Further, a balance amount to be released for the Red Sanders research project to the IFGTB, Coimbatore committed earlier, was also released from this amount.

7. The members opined that as Red Sanders is endemic to Andhra Pradesh and the custodian of the Red Sanders is the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, the members agreed to the action taken by the NBA in disbursing the ABS amount received for the access of Red Sanders to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, earmarked amount to Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board and NBA; and the release of the balance amount to the IFGTB, Coimbatore for the Red Sanders research project which was committed earlier.



Decision: The Authority members ratified the disbursement of Access and Benefit amount of **Rs.15,79,65,007/-** received from 29 Form I applications for the access of 1,115.09 MTs of Red Sander woods that were confiscated/seized by Department of Revenue and Intelligence (DRI) and auctioned by various Central Govt. agencies such as the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC), MMTC Limited & PEC Limited to Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, AP SBB, IFGTB and NBA.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

76.14: Details of Form-E (formerly Form C) applications received by the NBA

The Member Secretary apprised the members that in its 37th meeting held in March 2016 under agenda item 37.14.02, the Authority decided that the Indian researchers/scientists should provide prior intimation to the NBA in the prescribed format viz., Form-C (Form-E in Biological Diversity (ABS) Regulations, 2025) for deposition of microorganisms in other country's repository for claim of novel species for publication in journals.

2. NBA has received 342 intimations since March 2016 – 30th November 2025, and the same has been reported to the Authority from time to time. He informed that since 01st October, 2025, the Secretariat has received **one (1)** Form-C (Form-E in Biological Diversity (ABS) Regulations, 2025) application.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information on the one (1) Form-C applications (Form-E in Biological Diversity (ABS) Regulations, 2025).

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

76.15: Re-appropriation of funds for the research project titled “Domestication, sustainable utilization and conservation of *Pterocarpus santalinus* genetic resources” to ICFRE- Indian Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB)

The Member Secretary apprised the members that the NBA has collected the benefit sharing amount from the successful bidders/accessor of the Red Sanders who



participated in the auction of seized/ confiscated RS wood and decided to spend the same on conservation of RS as per the Section 27 (2) of Biological Diversity Act, 2002

2. In this connection, he mentioned that the NBA had constituted an Expert Committee comprising of 28 members under the Chairpersonship of Shri. B. Vijayan, IAS (Retd.). The committee had recommended that eighteen percent (18%) of the benefit sharing amount has to be earmarked for research and development on Red Sanders with respect to specific thrust areas to government institutions.

3. The Member Secretary further mentioned that in this regard NBA had approved six projects for a value of Rs. 3.81 crore in 2019-20 and 2020-21 to national institutes like Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST).

4. The project titled "Domestication, Sustainable Utilisation and Conservation of *Pterocarpus santalinus* (RS) Genetic Resources" sub divided into four sub-projects of IFTGB is in the tune of Rs. 1,91,18,500 for a period 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 which is extended up to March 2026 with no cost extension basis. As on date, an amount of Rs.1,74,13,271 has been released to the IFTGB.

5. The Member Secretary apprised the members that the IFTGB had requested NBA for re- appropriation of the funds due to the enhancements by the Government in the remuneration of the Project staff and higher expenses with respect to travel. He mentioned that the following re-appropriation was requested and the release of final instalment of Rs.12,31,650/-:

SI No.	Sanctioned Heads	Original Sanctioned Budget (INR)	Budget Re-appropriated (INR)
1	Manpower	44,64,000	49,62,000
2	Supporting staff	16,20,000	22,72,000
3	Equipment	18,45,000	18,30,000
4	Consumables	54,00,000	54,40,000
5	Travel	22,60,000	27,50,000
6	Other Project cost-Analysis of samples	12,00,000	4,60,000
7	Establishment of gene banks	5,00,000	7,10,000
8	Contingency	6,00,000	4,60,000
9	Dissemination of research work	9,95,000
10	Overhead/ Institutional charges	2,34,500	2,34,500
	Total	1,91,18,500	1,91,18,500

6. The Member Secretary informed that the request was acceded by the Competent Authority and the same was communicated to the IFTGB. The members deliberated and

agreed to the request of IFGTB of the re-appropriation of the sanctioned budget amount to complete the project objectives.

Decision: *The members ratified the decision taken by the NBA on the re-appropriation of the sanctioned budget amount for the project titled "Domestication, Sustainable Utilisation and Conservation of Pterocarpus santalinus (RS) Genetic Resources" to ICFRE- Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB)*

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

76.16: To consider the constitution/extension of the Expert Committees

The Member Secretary informed that Three-membered Committee has been constituted to review the "Guidelines for Designated Repositories" issued by NBA in light of the amendment to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 on 21st October 2025. The tenure of the committee was 15 days from the date of issuance of office order.

2. The Members deliberated that the tenure of the Three-membered Committee constituted to review the "Guidelines for Designated Repositories" may be extended upto 31.03.2026
3. Further, the Member Secretary mentioned that MoEFCC had notified the list biological resources or items as normally traded as commodities under section 40 of the BD Act, 2002. Thereafter, the Government of India published the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 in the official Gazette on 03rd August 2023 that came into force on 01st April 2024 as per the notification dated 18th January 2024 issued by the MoEFCC.
3. In view of the above, the Member Secretary mentioned that an Expert Committee on Normally Traded as Commodity was re-constituted on 17.09.2025 with a tenure up to 16.03.2026 to review the notification of Normally Traded as Commodities issued by the MoEFCC under Section 40 of the Act in light of section 40 of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023.
4. In this regard, the Authority members deliberated that officials as per designation from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Ayush and Department of Commerce may be co-opted as members of the Expert Committee on Normally Traded as Commodity. Further, it was opined that the tenure of the committee may be extended upto 30 June 2026.



Decision: a) The Authority members directed the NBA Secretariat to extend the tenure of Three-membered Committee constituted to review the "Guidelines for Designated Repositories" upto 31.03.2026.

b) The Authority members directed the NBA Secretariat to co-opt members from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Ayush and Department of Commerce to the Expert Committee on Normally Traded as Commodity.

c) The Authority members directed the NBA Secretariat to extend the tenure of Expert Committee on Normally Traded as Commodity upto 30 June 2026

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

76.17 To consider the ABS amount collected from 1st October to 30th November 2025

The Member Secretary, informed the members that in accordance with Section 21 of the BD Act 2002, the NBA received a sum of INR 17,26,789/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Nine Only) as benefit-sharing component in the National Biodiversity Fund after execution of agreements in six (6) applications.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

76.18: To consider the modalities for sharing the benefit sharing amount accrued in cases where the biological resources are accessed from traders/institute / intermediaries as per Rule 21(4) of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and BD (ABS) Regulations, 2025

The Member Secretary apprised the members that the NBA receives the benefit-sharing amount from the applicant upon grant of approval in the form of an agreement. Based on Rule 20(9) of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, the accrued benefit-sharing amount was shared with the benefit claimers after deducting five (5%) percentage of the amount by the NBA towards administrative charges, half of which was later shared with the concerned State Biodiversity Boards as per the erstwhile BD Rules.

2. He mentioned that the BD(Amendment) Act, 2023, Biological Diversity Rules,2024 and the Biological Diversity (Access to Biological Resources and Knowledge Associated thereto and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits) Regulations, 2025 were notified and



also came into force. These amendments made changes in the modalities for sharing the benefit sharing amount with the benefit claimers.

3. He further explained that as per the provisions of the BD Rules, 2024 and ABS Regulations, 2025, 10% to 15% of the accrued benefits from the use of biological resources shall be retained by the NBA, with half of that amount may be shared with the concerned Board or Council. The remaining benefit-sharing amount (90% or 85%) is distributed among benefit claimers such as individuals, groups or organisations based on the source of the biological resource or associated knowledge. If the source is unknown, the entire benefit sharing may be retained by the Authority and may be utilised by the Authority in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 27 of the Act, as provided under Regulation 12 of the ABS Regulations, 2025.

4. The Member Secretary further apprised the members that in this regard, the 75th Authority (Agenda no. 75.08) considered the draft modalities for sharing the benefit-sharing amount wherein it was decided that in cases where the biological resources are sourced from a trader, NBA may retain the benefit sharing component (95% or 88%) and utilise it for the purpose given under Section 27 of the Act and read with Regulation 12 of the ABS Regulations 2025.

5. In this connection, he mentioned that tracing the original source/farmers/ benefit claimers of the biological resources that are sourced from markets, institutions and traders is not feasible. The Member Secretary informed that NBA has received approximately Rs 52 Crores from such applications where the applicants have accessed the biological resources from traders/ markets.

6. In this regard, the Member Secretary informed the members that NBA has constituted an Expert committee to devise modalities for utilizing the ABS amount from the biological resources accessed from the Traders or market or institute *vide* OM dated NBA/Tech.Gen/22/150/25/25-26/2451 dated 17.12.2025.

7. The members deliberated on the issue and also agreed that identifying the original source of the bioresources that have been accessed from the traders/ markets is very difficult. Further, the members also deliberated on the utilization of the ABS amount by the institutes if received. The members deliberated that the Institutes may use the ABS amount for research on endemic species etc. Further, there is a need to identify appropriate mechanisms to channelize these ABS amounts towards conservation, sustainable use of biological resources, to enhance the livelihoods of local communities, and activities to meet the purposes of the Act.

8. The members opined that the Expert Committee constituted for this purpose may provide recommendations on the modalities for utilizing the ABS amount from the



biological resources accessed from the Traders or market or institute. To this, the Chairman, NBA requested Dr.Hanchinal R Ramappa, Non-official member who is also member of the Expert Committee to submit the report by the next Authority meeting for further deliberations.

Decision: The Authority members approved the constitution of the Expert Committee to draft the modalities for utilizing the ABS amount from the biological resources accessed from the Traders or market or institute and also directed the NBA Secretariat to place the committee report in the next Authority meeting.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

76.19: To consider the development of ABS end-to-end portal

The Member Secretary informed that NBA has joined hands with UNDP for developing an ABS end-to-end portal connecting NBA-SBB-BMC and other stakeholders for receiving and processing ABS applications, distributing benefits to the beneficiaries / BMCs, and monitoring the utilisation of funds at the level of BMCs. In this connection, NEC was hired by UNDP to carry out this exercise. So far, NBA had conducted series of meetings with NEC along with the teams of SBI for integration payment gateway into the ABS end-to-end portal.

2. He further informed that to hasten the process, the NBA had convened a meeting with all SBBs/UTBCs on 14th October, 2025 to review the status of available information regarding bank details of BMCs for mapping into the portal, as well as the availability of cultivated medicinal plant data to be uploaded in the ABS end-to-end portal for issuance of the Certificate of Origin.

3. Subsequently, login credentials and portal access for each SBB/UTBC were provided to the SBBs/ UTBCs on 19th October, 2025 for entering the requisite data in the portal. A demonstration session on the ABS end-to-end portal was conducted on 24th October, 2025 to all SBBs/UTBCs, covering the process for uploading BMC details, bank account information, LGD codes, cultivated medicinal plants, etc., into the system. Till date, around 800 BMCs, comprising details of 410 Form-11 species, have been uploaded by the SBBs/UTBCs. He also mentioned that for populating the data of medicinal plants mapping with BMCs in the portal, the NBA had written letters to the Advisor, Ministry of Ayush and are pursuing the matters.

5. The Member Secretary mentioned that the NEC (software developer) has completed Phase-I of the development and the NBA released Version 1 of the portal to the public on 4th November, 2025. The portal can be accessed at



<https://absefiling.nbaindia.in>. Further, he added that there was an issue with respect to the SBI payment gateway as the NEC had placed the NBA server in their Australian cloud space. However, he informed that the issue has been resolved as the NEC is now migrating the same to its Indian cloud. An Authority member suggested that the NBA may take the support of NIC in this regard. To this, the Member Secretary informed that the NIC is also on board in this project.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

76.20 The activities undertaken by NBA for the promotion of “Mission LiFE - Lifestyle for Environment”

The Member Secretary apprised the members that as per the OM of MoEFCC vide No. 8-6/2023-EE-LiFE dated 13th January, 2023, all Divisions of MoEFCC were requested to promote the theme of Mission LiFE through various citizen centric functions and activities to ensure maximum public outreach.

2. Accordingly, the NBA actively highlighted the Mission LiFE themes, especially Action Point 65: Start Biodiversity Conservation at Community Level, which has direct relevance to the core mandates of the NBA, among the different stakeholders. Since September 2025 to November 2025, NBA conducted 02 (two) such activities to promote ‘Mission LiFE’ themes.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

76.21 The response offered to the representations made by the AYUSH Associations on the use of Codified Traditional Knowledge under the BD Act

The Member Secretary apprised the members that NBA had received a representation from the Association of Manufacturers of Ayurvedic Medicine (AMAM) regarding the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, and the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefit Sharing Regulations, 2014. The representation highlighted certain interpretative ambiguities and operational challenges faced by the Indian AYUSH industries,



particularly concerning the scope of codified traditional knowledge and the associated compliance requirements.

2. Further, he added that the MoEFCC subsequently forwarded the representations of FICCI-Ayush Associations and PHDCCI received through the PMO, followed by another representation from PHDCCI and the All India Unani Tibbi Conference (AIUTC) received through Lok Sabha Secretariat.

3. The Member Secretary informed that these communications raised the same concerns. He further explained the members that clarifications were regarding the codified traditional knowledge (as defined in Section 2(ea) of the Act) by Indian entities for commercial utilization, exemption for access to cultivated medicinal plants subject to obtaining a certificate of origin from the concerned Biodiversity Management Committee, as provided under Section 7 of the Act.

4. In this regard, he explained that as per the proviso to Section 7, read with Section 2(ea) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, as amended in 2023, the exemption applies solely to access of knowledge recorded in the First Schedule of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and does not extend to the access of biological resources or products manufactured using such codified traditional knowledge. A broad interpretation extending this exemption to biological resources or products derived from codified traditional knowledge would undermine the objectives and intent of the Biological Diversity Act.

5. The Member Secretary explained that these inputs were provided to the MoEFCC for approval and onward transmission to the PMO and the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Decision: The Authority members noted the inputs provided by NBA to MoEFCC in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

76.22: Update on the participation of NBA officers in the Conferences / Meetings / Capacity Building Programmes

The Member Secretary informed the members that NBA officers participated in various meetings, conferences and capacity building programs including the 27th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27)



and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Article 8j of the CBD as Indian delegates and participated in the negotiations.

2. Further, he mentioned that the following Workshop / training / capacity building programs were conducted by NBA

Workshop / training / capacity building programme conducted by NBA

Sl. no.	Date	Stakeholders to whom the workshop / training / capacity building programme conducted	Mode of workshop	Number of participations
1.	23.10.2025	Undergraduates and Postgraduate students from SRM Institute	Offline	100
2	29.10.2025	Range officers at CASFOS, Coimbatore	Physical	50
3.	10.11.2025	For Gnanlex, Srividya Ravi, PhD, 100, NCL Innovation Park, Pashan, Pune-411008 Researchers/ Startup companies etc	Hybrid	130
4.	19.11.2025	Asia seed congress	Hybrid	200
5.	19.11.2025	DBT-BIRAC startups	Hybrid	150
6.	06.12.2025	Environmental Law enforcement & Biodiversity Conservation- Role of Regulatory Authorities- For NGT judges, judicial officers, environmental experts, policymakers, legal practitioners and academicians	Physical	300
Total				930

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

76.23: To consider the Techno -Legal and Administrative inputs offered by NBA to the MoEFCC on International Instruments including Multilateral/ Bilateral matters

The Member Secretary, NBA informed the members that NBA has provided inputs to MoEFCC for various international instruments including multilateral/bilateral discussions, cabinet notes which are as follows:



Sl. No.	Section	Particular	Details
1	Inputs on MoUs	India and Uzbekistan on Environmental Protection	MoFFCC had sought input on International Cooperation Division, MoEFCC, forwarded MoU between India and from NBA. NBA has offered inputs stating that both countries are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and, thereby, obligated to implement its provisions and necessary compliance clause were added in Article-I. Hence Nil comments were sent to MoEFCC.
2	Amendment Bills in Parliamentary Session	The Seed Bill, 2025	MoEFCC forwarded the draft Seeds Bill, 2025, for Pre-legislative consultation and sought inputs. Accordingly, the NBA examined the Bill in the light of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, Rules and Regulations and the Kumming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and provided inputs to the MoEFCC for further course of action.
3	India-EU FTA Negotiations	ARTICLE X.7 - Chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development	NBA examined the Mandate note and provided inputs to MoEFCC on Article X.7 with reference to compliance with the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.
4	India-Chile CEPA negotiation	ARTICLE XX.9- Conservation of biological diversity	MoEFCC forwarded an email communication received from Department of Commerce seeking inputs on India-Chile FTA - Chapter Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter & Mandate Note. The chapter was examined in light of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, as amended in 2023, the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, the BD(ABS) Regulations, 2025. As ARTICLE XX.9 Conservation of biological diversity had relevance to this office, NBA has furnished inputs on the same.
5	India-New Zealand FTA and India-Australia CECA		MoEFCC forwarded email communication from the Chairman, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, seeking inputs/comments on chapters, namely, the Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Chapter under the India-New Zealand FTA and the Labour, Trade and Gender Equality and Environment Chapter under the India-Australia CECA from NBA. The draft chapter was examined in light of the CBD and BD Act 2002, amended in 2023, and

Sl. No.	Section	Particular	Details
			comments on the relevant chapter were provided to MoEFCC.
6	WHO Pandemic Agreement (PABS):	Article 12	<p>The text of Pandemic Agreement attained consensus during 78th WHA at WHO Headquarters, Geneva on 20th May 2025 and Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) was established in reference to the Resolution WHA 78.1 adopted during the same session, to draft and negotiate the Annex to the WHO Pandemic Agreement described in Article 12 of the WHO Pandemic Agreement.</p> <p>2. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organised two inter-ministerial meeting in the month of November and December. Member Secretary, NBA participated in the meeting provide inputs.</p> <p>3. Further WHO secretariat conducted Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG)-3 in the month of November and Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) in the month of December 2025 both IGWG meeting were participated online by Member Secretary, NBA.</p>
7	Exim Facilitation Committee (EFC) Meeting:	-	The Export Cell, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, organises Exim Facilitation Committee (EFC) meeting under the Chairmanship of Addl. Director General Foreign Trade every month. NBA provides written comments to the DGF and participates in the online meeting every month.
8	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement	-	Pursuant to India signing the BBNJ Agreement (high seas treaty) on 25 th September 2024, Ministry of Earth Sciences conducted Inter-Ministerial Group Meeting for framing law to give effect to it. For that purpose, MoES has formed a technical Advisory Committee to frame the draft BBNJ bill. The Technical Officer, NBA had one on one discussion with Technical Advisory Committee and gave inputs regarding experience of framing and implementing ABS Rules and Regulations. Further, this office provided section by section comments on the draft "The Conservation And

Sl. No.	Section	Particular	Details
			<i>Sustainable Use Of Marine Biological Diversity Of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, Bill, 2025"</i>
9	ITPGRFA	11 th governing Body meeting of the ITPGRFA	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare forwarded a meeting notice to this office informing that the meeting for the proposed changes to the ITPGRFA treaty to be negotiated in the 11 th Governing Body of ITPGRFA scheduled on 24-29 November 2025 at Rome, Italy, convened under the chairmanship of the Secretary, MA&FW on 16 th October 2025 through virtual mode. During the meeting, NBA offered its comments/inputs to MA&FW regarding the proposed changes to the ITPGRFA treaty. Further comments/inputs of NBA regarding the proposed changes to the ITPGRFA treaty was forwarded to MoEFCC for onward transmission to MA&FW.

Further, he mentioned that inputs were provided to MoEFCC on the following:

- CBD Notification 2025-103 (Views and information in preparation for the mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action 2023-2030)
- Global Goal on Adaptation received from the Adaptation Cell
- Second Ministerial Draft of G 20 – Environment and Climate Change Sustainability Working Group (ECCWG)
- 'Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework' - COP-6 (Minamata Convention on Mercury)
- Comments on the Harmonisation of 8-digit HS Code-based Export Policy submitted to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)
- IUCN-WCC
- Global Goal of Adaptation
- ECSWG-BRICS Second Ministerial Draft
- Draft resolutions for the subcommittee meetings of the UNEA-7
- CBD notification 131 on cooperation with international conventions.
- BRICS Presidency 2026

***Decision:* The members noted the information provided in this regard**

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA



76.24: Techno - Administrative – Legal inputs offered by NBA to SBB

The Member Secretary informed the members that the West Bengal Biodiversity Board had requested a clarification on the constitution of the State Level Biodiversity Heritage Site Monitoring Committee.

2. In this regard, the Member Secretary mentioned that the West Bengal Biodiversity Board was informed the following:

a. To follow the Guidelines for Selection and Management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites available on the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) website”, and/or “Any notification, circular, or administrative order already issued by the Government of West Bengal under the West Bengal State Biodiversity Rules, if applicable”.

b. To include representatives from local communities and local bodies in the committee to ensure local body commitment in monitoring. However, the State may decide the mechanism of including such representation that allows continuity and avoids repeated reconstitution of the Committee with each notification.

c. The State Level Committee serves an oversight, policy guidance, and coordination function across all BHSs in the State and hence is required to be constituted by the West Bengal State Biodiversity Board. Further, the BHS Management Committees at the district level may also be constituted.

Decision: The members noted the information provided by the NBA Secretariat to the West Bengal Biodiversity Board.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

76.25: Any other items with the permission of the Chair

76.25.1: To consider the proposal for launching a new initiative – Short-term Internship

The Member Secretary informed the members that as NBA has received numerous requests for consideration of short-term internship for students and others, it is proposed to launch a Short-Term Internship programme in the NBA. He mentioned that in this programme, NBA will not be giving any stipend or any other charges.

2. The members deliberated on this initiative and suggested that legal issues may be looked into in the context of unpaid internship program.



Decision: The Authority members approved the Short-term Internship guidelines subject to NBA Secretariat verifying any legal issues pertaining to the unpaid internship program.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

76.25.2: Submission of First Draft of India's Seventh National Report (NR-7) to the CBD.

The Member Secretary informed the members that the NBA has submitted the First Draft of India's Seventh National Report (NR-7) to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on 29.11.2025. This submission responds to MoEFCC's Office Memorandum (F.No. C-12023/12/2023-CS-III dated 31 January 2025) and a follow-up email dated 3 November 2025, which tasked NBA with preparing the draft with GEF-UNDP funding support.

2. He further explained that NBA has collaborated closely with MoEFCC's CS-III (Biodiversity) Division and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) as the institutional partner to draft the NR7 Report. He also explained that extensive consultations have been involved for the contributions from over 30 ministries and partner institutions to compile, validate, and report on progress against India's 23 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs). He also mentioned that the draft follows the CBD Secretariat's guidance and templates (issued on 27 March 2025). The Member Secretary informed that the draft NR-7 report is now submitted for review and validation by relevant ministries ahead of the final NR-7 submission to the CBD Secretariat (scheduled for February 2026). NBA continues to pursue pending data for indicators which are still under development.

3. The Member Secretary further apprised the members that the MoEFCC vide Office Memorandum dated 23 December 2025 constituted an Expert/Core Group to review India's draft Seventh National Report (NR-7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, due by February 2026. The Group, chaired by Dr. P. L. Gautam with members from MoEFCC, NBA, Academia and other institutions, to ensure technical accuracy, completeness and alignment with CBD reporting requirements, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and India's updated NBSAP 2024–2030.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

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



Annexure-I

List of Members present

Ex officio Members

1. **Shri Virendra R Tiwari, IFS (Retd.)** Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai E-mail: chairman@nba.nic.in
2. **Shri. Raghu Kumar Kodali**, Advisor, CS-III Division, Ministry of Environment Forests Climate Change, New Delhi E-mail: kodali.rk@gov.in
3. **Ms. V L Roui Kullai**, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forests, Climate Change, New Delhi. E-mail: igf.naeb@gov.in;
4. **Dr. Koustubha Upadhyaya**, Advisor (Ayurveda) Ministry of Ayush, New Delhi E-mail: adviser-ayush@gov.in
5. **Dr Sunil Archak**, Head Exchange Unit, ICAR- National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi Email: gp.singh-icar@nic.in; director.nbpgr@gmail.com ; director.nbpgr@nic.in ; sunil.archak-icar@nic.in; sunil.archak@icar.org.in;
6. **Dr. Viswajanani Sattigeri**, Head TKDL, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Anusandhan Bhavan, 2, Rafi Marg New Delhi Email: viswajanani.sattigeri@csir.res.in
7. **Dr. Amit P. Parikh**, Scientist F, Department of Biotechnology, Block-2, 7th Floor, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi Email: amit.parikh@nic.in
8. **Smt. Mita Banerjee, IFS**, PCCF & Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, TBGP-Office Complex, II floor, Velachery - Tambaram main Road, Nanmangalam, Medavakkam Post, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. E-mail : secy.tnbb@tn.gov.in
9. **Dr. B. Balaji, IFS**, Member Secretary, NBA, 5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai. Email: secretary@nba.nic.in

Non- official members

10. **Shri Hanchinal Rayappa Ramappa**, 142, MIG-II, KHB Colony, DN Koppa, Dharwad Email: rrhanchinal@rediffmail.com; rrhanchinal@gmail.com
11. **Dr. Joykumar meitei Laishram**, Retired Professor and Dean, Keishamehong Longjam Leikai, 84C, Imphal, Manipur Email: jmlaishram@rediffmail.com
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