



Consultative cum discussion meeting on implementation of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules 2004 for Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 12 September 2013 at Port Blair

**National Biodiversity Authority
Government of India
Chennai**

**Discussion cum Consultation Meeting
Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules in Andaman and Nicobar
Islands**

12 September 2013

Key Outcomes

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) organized a Discussion cum Consultation Meeting on the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in Port Blair with support from regional office of Zoological Survey of India based in Port Blair. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together key agencies and institutions and discuss way forward to implement the Act in the Islands where NBA has a direct mandate for implementation. A full list of participants is available in the annex along with the agenda.

1. Based on the day long discussions that had a brief inaugural session followed by two presentations from NBA on the provisions of the Act and issues related to preparing the People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and constituting the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), the following are the key ideas that emanated from the meeting. NBA will follow up on these recommendations.
 - a. The diversity of biological resources available in coastal and marine organisms, agrobiodiversity and fisheries offers a great potential for Conservation, Sustainable use and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in the Islands.
 - b. There has been limited focus on documenting traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity in the region and this needs priority attention both with regard to resources and their uses.
 - c. Several institutions such as Zoological Survey India (ZSI), Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Forest Department, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Fisheries Department, Pondicherry University have all worked for several years and possess enormous amount of data and information on the biodiversity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Collation and transformation of the same into a Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Register should be a top priority for NBA given the mandate under the Act.
 - d. While it is important to undertake the work through (BMCs), given the diversity and scattered distribution of Islands and people inhabiting the Islands, it was suggested that one organization such as ZSI regional office could coordinate the preparation of the Register with the participation of all other agencies and institutions.

- e. After the draft has been prepared, it was suggested that at least 3-4 community level consultations will be held with local communities to assess and confirm the details of resources and also enumerate the traditional knowledge associated with the resource use and management. However, such documentation of Traditional Knowledge (TK) will be kept confidential by NBA.
- f. During the consultative process, at least 4-5 BMCs could be constituted and orientation provided to the communities through organizations and agencies present in the Islands.
- g. The role of Forest Department was recognized as very central to successful implementation of the Act in the Islands. The Department also prepared a strategic plan for the Islands during the early 2000 as a part of the GEF supported NBSAP preparation project. It was recognized that this document could be effectively used to chart out a series of actions for the Islands to deal with biodiversity related issues.
- h. The PCCF of A&N Islands, Mr. MadhavaTrivedi promised all support to NBA in its efforts and also agreed to look into the option of establishing a Biodiversity Council for the Islands. However, it was decided that actions for implementation of the Act need to start immediately.
- i. It was also recommended that Pondicherry University will identify a series of academic programmes related to the Act and offer the same as specialized project and course curriculum to their students. However, NBA was suggested to provide some specific ideas for this soon.
- j. CARI also has significant amount of information and data on agrobiodiversity related issues. The Director of CARI evinced keen interest to develop a Biodiversity Register based on agricultural components and offered logistical support for the same. He also offered to provide the services of KVKs currently operational in the Islands for effective capacity building of communities and establishment of BMCs.
- k. The Fisheries Department is also keen to support implementation of the Act in the Islands and offered to support preparation of the coastal and marine biodiversity register through technical assistance and using the field stations in different parts of the Island.
- l. Director of Anthropological Survey of India suggested closer cooperation with NBA and other agencies in developing a system to deal with TK related issues and suggested a special visit by NBA to discuss the elements of cooperation.
- m. BSI, with its field operations in the Islands also suggested its support to document and verify the floral diversity and promised to work with the preparatory process of the biodiversity registers.

2. Based on the above, NBA has agreed to initiate the following actions

- a. Undertake a scoping visit in October by technical expert(s) to assess the needed support and institutional mechanism(s) available to develop a coastal and marine biodiversity register, agrobiodiversity register and also to deal with TK related issues.
- b. With support of BSI and ZSI and other relevant agencies, NBA will also prepare a simple to use communication material on available bioresources in the Island for increasing awareness at the level of communities.
- c. NBA will work with CARI and Fisheries Department to develop specific registers on agrobiodiversity and fisheries diversity.
- d. In consultation with the Forest Department and the Island Administration, NBA will work to establish BMCs and develop the capacities of these BMCs.
- e. Forest Department and NBA will work on the preparation of an action plan for creation of a Biodiversity Council for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- f. NBA and Pondicherry University and other interested institutions will develop medium to long term human resource development plans for effective implementation of the Act and the Rules in the Islands.
- g. NBA will organize the next round of discussions after technical review of options by December 2013/January 2014 to move specific ideas forward.
- h. Technical and financial resource requirement to undertake the above actions will be provided by NBA by October/November to initiate field based programmes in the Islands

Annexure 1: Agenda



First Consultation cum Discussion Meeting on the Implementation of Biological Diversity Act (2002) and Rules (2004) in Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

12 September 2013, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

10:00 10:30 Registration and Coffee

10:30 – 11:15 Inaugural Session

10:30 – 10:35 Welcome Remarks – Dr. Ravishankar Thupalli, Senior Consultant, National Biodiversity Authority

10:35 – 10:45 Objectives of the Meeting – Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority

10:45 – 10:55 Special Remarks – Mr. Madhav Trivedy, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (WL), Andaman & Nicobar Islands

10:55 – 11:05 Special Remarks – Dr. K Venkataraman, Director, Zoological Survey India

11:05 – 11:15 Special Remarks – Dr. S K Srivastava, Director General, Forest Survey of India

11:15 – 13:00 Thematic Session I

11:15 – 11:45 Introduction to the Biological Diversity Act (2002) and Rules (2004) – Dr. Ravishankar Thupalli and Dr. K.P. Raghuram, National Biodiversity Authority

11:45 - 13:00 Discussion on implementation of the Act in Andaman & Nicobar Islands – Options

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:30 Thematic Session II

14:00 - 15:30 Discussion on implementation of the Act in Andaman & Nicobar Islands – Options - contd,

15:30-16:30 Preparation of Future Road Map

16:30-17:00 Concluding session

Annexure 2: Details of Participants

First consultation cum Discussion meeting on the Implementation of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004 in Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

12 September 2013, Hotel Megapode, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

S. No.	Name, Designation and Department/Institution
1.	Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati Chairman National Biodiversity Authority 5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113
2.	Mr. Madhav Trivedy, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Van Sadan, Haddo Port Blair- 744 102
3.	Dr. Shivendu K Srivastava Director General, Forest Survey of India, Min. of Environment and Forests Dehradun
4.	Dr.K.Venkataraman, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Prani Vigyan Bhawan, M- Block, New Alipore, Kolkata – 700 053
5.	Dr. C. Murugan, Officer-in-Charge, Botanical Survey of India Ministry of Environment & Forests Govt. of India Haddo, Port Blair-744 102
6.	Dr. N. Ramanujam, Professor & Head, Department of Disaster Management, Brookshabad, Port Blair -744 102
7.	Dr. C. Raghunathan, Officer-in-Charge, Zoological Survey of India, (Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, Haddo, Port Blair-744 102
8.	Dr. C. Sivaperuman Scientist-C Zoological Survey of India, (Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, Haddo, Port Blair-744 102
9.	D. ThineshSanthar Project Manager RGCA

10.	D. V. S. Deep Dy. Director News All India Radio Port Blair-744 102
11.	A. Dhanasekaran Assistant Director Press Information Bureau Port Blair
12.	Dr. J. Benjamin Franklin NIOT, ANCOST
13.	Dr. N. V. Vinithkumar Officer-in-charge ANCOST, NIOT
14.	Dr. P.M. Mohan Professor & Head Dep. Of ocean studies & marine biology Pondicherry University Brookshabad, Port Blair-744 102
15.	Dr. Dam Roy, Director Central Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR) Garacharma, Port Blair-744 102
16.	Dr. P. Vijayachari, Director Regional Medical Research Institute (ICMR), Ministry of Health, Govt. of India Dolly Gunj, Port Blair
17.	Dr. L. Ramalingam, Zonal Director, Fishery Survey of India Phoenix Bay Port Blair
18.	Tamal Mandal Senior Research Fellow Zoological Survey of India, (Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, Haddo, Port Blair-744 102
19.	Dr. P. Viswa Kannan, IFS, Director, Department of Science and Technology, Dollygunj, Port Blair
20.	Dr. Ravishankar Thupalli Senior Consultant, National Biodiversity Authority 5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113
21.	Dr. K. P. Raghuram Technical Officer, National Biodiversity Authority, 5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai – 600113.