



राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण
National Biodiversity Authority

(An Autonomous and Statutory Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)



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सदस्य सचिव

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NBA/TechGen/22/235/25/26-27/

Date: 22.04.2026

Sir/ Madam,

Sub: Circulation of Approved "Guidelines for Designated Repositories – ver.2.0"- reg

As you are aware, Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, as amended by the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, empowers the Central Government, in consultation with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), to designate repositories for different categories of biological resources. The designated repositories are required to keep in safe custody of biological material, including voucher specimens, deposited with them. Further, any new taxon discovered by any person is required to be notified to the designated repositories or any institution designated for this purpose, and the voucher specimens are required to be deposited accordingly.

2. In this regard, the NBA has issued Guidelines on Criteria for Designation of National Repositories under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, which lay down the eligibility criteria and procedural requirements for designation as a repository.

3. Pursuant to the decision taken in the 75th Meeting of the Authority (Governing Body of the NBA), a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Hanchinal R. Ramappa, Member, Authority, NBA, to review the existing Guidelines for Designated Repositories in light of the amendments to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The Committee, after revising the Guidelines, submitted the same to the 76th Authority Meeting for consideration. The Authority, in its 76th Meeting, directed the NBA Secretariat to seek comments/inputs from the repositories designated under Section 39 of the Act.

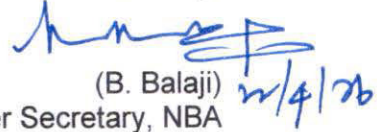
4. Accordingly, the NBA Secretariat circulated the revised draft Guidelines to the 18 designated repositories on 29th January 2026. Subsequently, a consultation meeting with the Committee and representatives of these repositories was convened on 12th February 2026.

5. The matter was then placed before the 77th Authority Meeting for consideration and Authority approved the same.

6. In view of the above, the "Guidelines for Designated Repositories – Version 2.0". is enclosed herewith for kind information and necessary action.

This has the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours sincerely,

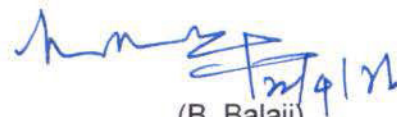

(B. Balaji)
Member Secretary, NBA

22/4/26

To:

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6. The Director, ICAR-NBAGR, Makrampur Campus, G.T. Road Bye Pass, P.O. Box No. 129, Karnal, Haryana – 132001, India. Email: mohannah.icar@nic.in
7. The Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources Canal Ring Road, P.O. Dilkusha, Lucknow - 226 002 INDIA, Email: director.nbfgr@icar.gov.in
8. Dr. Narsinh Thakur, Chief Scientist and Head IPU, CSIR-NIO, Goa. Mobile: +919833082083, Email: thakurn.nio@csir.res.in, director@nio.org
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13. The Director, ICAR-IARI, Pusa Campus, New Delhi – 110012, Email: director@iari.res.in.
14. Dr Ankita Gupta, Office In-charge National Insect Museum, ICAR- National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Sources, Bengaluru, mobile: 9886322360 Email: ankitagupta.nbaii@gmail.com, directornbii@gmail.com
15. The Director, NCCS, Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Pune – 411007 Email: curator@nccs.res.in
16. The Director, BNHS, Hornbill House, Mumbai – 400001, Email: director@bnhs.org
17. Dr Rajesh K Vaid, Principal Scientist & Head, National Centre for Veterinary Type Cutures, ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines, Sirsa Road, Hisar 125 001 (Haryana)- Mobile: 9416786940 Email: rajesh.vaid@icar.org.in, rk_vaid@yahoo.com

18. The Curator-In-Charge, Calicut University Herbarium, Malappuram, Kerala – 673635, Email: botany@uoc.ac.in, akpradeep1@uoc.ac.in.
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Copy for information to:

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Member Secretary, NBA.



National Biodiversity Authority

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

Guidelines for Designated Repositories – ver.2.0

1. General Mandate for all the Designated Repositories

To act as Designated Repository (DR) for safe deposit of holotypes/isotypes/ para types/ isolate or strains / neo types / non types of new taxa discovered in India and samples of biological resources accessed by non-Indian citizens/entities for research/ carrying or sending abroad by Indian citizens/institutions for research. [Refer: vide Sections 39 and 19 (1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 as amended in the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 read with Rule 20(4) of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, and Regulation no. 13(h) of the Biological Diversity (Access to Biological Resources and Knowledge Associated thereto and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits) Regulations, 2025].

The DR may obtain NABL accreditation for their repositories, wherever it is possible. In case of herbaria follow the index herbariorum norms and internationally accepted herbarium curation standards.

2. Specific Mandates for the Designated Repositories

S. No.	Name of the Institution for Deposition of the Biological Resources	Category of Biological Resources
1.	Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata.	Flora (Angiosperms, Gymnosperms, Pteridophytes, Bryophytes, Lichens, Macrofungi, Macroalgae)
2.	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.	Plant genetic resources of cultivated plants and their wild relatives
3.	National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.	Flora (Angiosperms, Gymnosperms, Pteridophytes, Bryophytes, Lichens, Macrofungi, Macroalgae)
4.	Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun (Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun; Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore; and Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur).	Flora (Angiosperms, Gymnosperms, Pteridophytes, Bryophytes, Lichens, Macrofungi, Macroalgae). For TFR I only-Fauna (termites, butterflies, moths)
5.	Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.	Fauna
6.	National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal, Haryana.	Genetic resources of domestic animals
7.	National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow, U.P.	Fish genetics resources
8.	National Institute of Oceanography, Goa	Marine flora and fauna
9.	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.	Faunal resources in Protected Areas

10	National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms, Mau Nath Bhanjan, U.P.	Agriculturally important microorganisms
11	Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh.	Microorganisms for industrial use (actinobacteria, bacteria, fungi and yeasts)
12	National Institute of Virology, Pune	Viruses
13	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	Microbes/Fungi/Blue Green Algae
14	National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects, Bengaluru	Agriculturally important insects, mites and spiders
15	Microbial Culture Collection, National Centre for Cell Science, Pune	Microbes (bacteria and fungi including yeasts, cell cultures)
16	Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)	Fauna – Marine, Fresh water and terrestrial
17	ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRCE) and National Centre for Veterinary Type Cultures (NCVTC)	Microorganisms pertaining to veterinary Sciences
18	Herbarium of the Department of Botany, University of Calicut (CALI)	Flora

3. Focal Points for the Designated Repositories

The Scientist of the concerned DR shall be the focal point for the NBA, where biological resources are deposited and conserved. The same shall be informed to the NBA in this email id.: secretary@nba.nic.in.

4. Allocation of Unique Accession Number to the Deposits

The DR shall allocate unique accession number and keep the voucher specimen for a initial period of five years. Thereafter, the same may be added to the national collection for long-term storage or discarded if the sample had been of a common occurrence as procured from the local market or appeared to be a duplicate of existing accessions. Wherever required, the NBA will intimate the repository concerned to extend the period beyond five years, in specific cases. Wherever any new taxon is deposited, it should be preserved for indefinite period.

5. Who are required to deposit types/specimens/samples of Biological Resources in DRs?

- (i) Any person, who discovers a new taxon of biological resources occurring in India, is required to notify it to the relevant DR and deposit its holotypes/isotypes/ para types/ isolate or strains/ neo types/ non types there [Section 39 (3) of the BD Act].
- (ii) Persons/entities, as identified u/s 3(2), accessing biological resources occurring in India.
- (iii) Indian citizens/entities carrying/sending abroad biological resource for non-commercial research by applying in Form 13.
- (iv) Persons / entities as directed by NBA from time to time.

6. Where the Voucher Specimen/Reference Sample may be deposited?

Based on the type of biological resource, the voucher specimen/reference sample may be

deposited in DRs as notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change from time to time, as prescribed by such repositories. In case of non-acceptance of voucher samples by the repositories, the same may be intimated to the NBA.

The sender while depositing vouchers in any of the designated repositories have to submit the NBA permission letter mandatorily along with the voucher specimen.

7. Digitisation and Database Linkage:

In addition to the existing custodial responsibilities, it may be considered to include Digital Sequence Information (DSI) of biological resources wherever applicable in the repository.

8. Ownership of the Deposits and Duration of Safekeeping

Under the Biological Diversity Act 2002, Government of India has sovereign rights over the biological resources occurring in or obtained from India. Accordingly, the deposited biological resources belong to the State and the Designated Repository acts as their custodian mandated for preserving/conserving them for five years or beyond, as required by the NBA, under appropriate storage conditions from the date of their deposition. Further, if any new taxon is deposited, it should be preserved for indefinite period. During this period, the deposited biological resources will be made available for research/academic purposes within the country. However, researchers covered under the category of applicants, covered u/s 3 (2) of the Act, shall be required to obtain prior approval from NBA for accessing the deposited materials.

9. Procedure for Submission of Biological Resources to DRs

All DRs will develop detailed standard procedures depending upon the type of biological resources deposited with them. In accordance with these standard procedures, all applicants/depositors will be required to deposit the biological resources in the relevant DR along with passport data/information as prescribed in Annexure I. This may be modified by the concerned DR, as required for the kind of biological resource to be deposited, with prior approval of NBA. Details of such procedure to deposit the biological resource would be displayed at official website of every DR and it is to be linked with NBA website.

10. Issue of Acknowledgement/Receipt

On depositing the voucher specimen in appropriate form, all applicants will be issued an acknowledgement (Annexure II) by the Scientist-Incharge of DR in reasonable period after satisfactory deposition of voucher specimen/reference sample.

11. Monitoring

The Director/Head of the organization where DR is located will be the Competent Authority to monitor the maintenance of the deposited biological resources from time to time. These periodic reports will be sent by him to the NBA Secretariat for information and follow up.

12. Resource Support to DRs on Request

Depending upon the work load of conserving the deposited materials and maintaining their database, contractual technical manpower may be provided to a DR, where justified for this purpose with appropriate financial support by NBA, if necessary.

Annex-I

**Passport Data / Information accompanying the biological resource to be deposited in
DRs**
(to be filled by the applicant)

S.No	Details of Voucher Specimen	Remarks
1.	Name and address of the Applicant/Depositor	
2.	NBA reference number	
3.	Common name of the specimen/Biological resource	
4.	Scientific name of the specimen/Biological resource, along with family name	
5.	Site and date of Collection (Village, Taluk, District, State) (Stating geo-coordinates where available)	
6.	Nature of specimen organism or supplied parts	
7.	Description and quantity of the Deposit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In case of parasitic/symbiotic organism sample, its host needs to be mentioned. • Where plant parts are sent to the repository, a herbarium specimen with flower/fruit/subterranean parts if it is tuberous plants needs to be deposited • good photograph of the specimen proposed needs to be deposited 	
8	Any other information relevant to the specimen	

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Name and Signature of the Applicant/Depositor

Annex-II**Acknowledgement for Receiving the Deposits by Designated Repositories**

S.No	Particulars	Remarks
1.	Name of the Designated Repository	
2.	Repository Reference number	
3.	Date of receipt	
4.	NBA reference number	
5.	Name and address of the depositor	
6.	Common name of the deposit	
7.	Scientific name of the deposit	
8.	Description and quantity of the deposit	

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Name and Signature of the authorized signatory of the Repository.

Seal

Approved in the 77th Authority meeting held on 23.03.2026 vide agenda no 77.04