

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (BMC)



KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD



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Biodiversity Act mandate all Local Self Government Institution (Grama Panchayat / Municipality/ Corporation) to constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) within its area of jurisdiction as per Biological Diversity Act 2002 Section 41; Central Biological Diversity Rules 2004 Section 22 Sub Section (1) - (11) and Kerala Biological Diversity Rules 2008 Section 20 Sub section (1) – (17).

Structure of BMC

BMC of a Local Self Government Institution comprises of 8 persons – Chairperson, Secretary and 6 nominated members.

As per Kerala Biological Diversity Rules 2008, Section 22 Sub Section (4) the Chairperson of the BMC shall be Chairperson of the Local body and the Secretary of the Local body shall be Secretary of the Biodiversity Management Committee, who shall maintain the records. The local body shall nominate six persons as members to the committee of which two members (one third of six members) should be women and one member (approximately 18% of six members) should belong to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes of the society. All the six members nominated should be permanent residents of the Local Self Government Jurisdiction and their names should be in the voters list. The six nominated members shall represent a cross section of the society – herbalist, agriculturist, fisher folk, academicians, community workers, non-timber forest produce collectors / traders and any other person/ representative of organization, on whom the local body trusts that they can significantly contribute to the mandate of the BMC.

BMC Constitution in Kerala – A Success Story

Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) was established in 2005 and Kerala Biological Diversity Rules were framed in 2008. As an initial step towards constitution of BMCs at all 978 Grama Panchayats various Awareness Programmes were organized since 2006. One day seminar/ workshop for Chairpersons and Secretaries of all LSG Institutions was organised at district level to create awareness about the programme in a more concrete manner.

During 2011- 12' KSBB became the first and only SBB (State Biodiversity Board) in India which has completed BMC constitution as per the Biodiversity Act. As envisaged in the Act and Rules, BMC is mandated with various roles and responsibilities for ensuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of bio resources locally.

Roles and Functions of the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)

According to the Kerala Biological Diversity Rules, 2008 section 20 - 22 the key mandate of the BMC will be

- To ensure conservation, sustainable utilization and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of biodiversity.
- Facilitate the preparation of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) at LSG level using the process and the format set by the Board. Once the Register is prepared, it should be maintained and validated by the BMCs.
- Two copies of PBRs shall be prepared of which one shall be submitted to the Board for statutory authorization and preparation of district level data base.
- Ensure the protection of the knowledge recorded in the PBR, especially to regulate its access to outside agencies and individuals. (Ref: Circular No.3784/A2/12/Envvt. dated 07-02-2013).
- BMCs shall prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan using output from PBR in consultation with the Board, and will be responsible for its implementation.

- Establishment of Local Biodiversity Fund (LBF)
- BMCs may create a Local Biodiversity Fund through levying charges by way of collecting fees from any person, for accessing or collecting any biological resources for commercial purposes from the area falling within its jurisdiction.
- The Fund shall be deposited in a nationalized commercial bank approved by the BMC and it shall be operated by the Chairperson and Secretary of BMC under their seal and signature.
- The Local Biodiversity Fund shall be utilized strictly in accordance with the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 44 of the Act and the fund shall be used for conservation and promotion of biodiversity in areas falling within the jurisdiction of the concerned local body.
- BMCs may also maintain a register giving information about the details of access granted to biological resources and traditional knowledge, details of collection fee imposed and details of the benefits derived and the mode of their sharing.
- BMC shall prepare and submit the Annual Report for each year together with the audited statement of accounts to the local body concerned by the 30th of the month of August.
- Other functions of the BMCs are to advise on any matter referred to it by the State Biodiversity Board or Authority for granting approval, to maintain data about the local Vaidyas and practitioners using the biological resources.



- To function as 'Environmental watch group' to prevent local environment depletion (G.O. (Printed). No. 04/13/Envvt. dated 13-05-2013).
- In addition KSBB had put forward guidelines for BMCs for their strengthening and effective implementation of their responsibilities in their regional language.

Guidelines for BMCs

- Act as 'environmental watch group' to prevent local environmental depletion.
- Selection of a Convenor from among the six members of the BMC for the overall co-ordination of activities.
- With the support of Local Self Government Body, an office may be set up with sufficient infrastructure and place a name board of BMC in front of the office.
- Conduct a thorough evaluation of the existing PBR in their jurisdiction in a scientific manner and identification of gaps.
- Upgrading the PBR in a scientific way in order to prepare a complete Local Biodiversity Register by including the various types of ecosystems in the area and bioresources present.
- Identification of endemic and threatened species in the locality and their conservation.
- Documentation of a complete status of various types of ecosystems functioning in the locality.
- Split the whole area of jurisdiction into grids in order to identify the ecological strength and weakness of the locality in detail. Based on this ecological study, develop a Strategic Local Action Plan suitable for the locality.
- Constitution of a Local Technical Support Group in their jurisdiction (minimum 10 members) by including Professors and Teachers who have expertise in Zoology and Botany, Researchers, Environmentalists and representatives from various Institutions/ NGOs who have experience in species identification.
- Establishment of Biodiversity Clubs (it should be registered in KSBB) in all the Govt. Schools and Colleges in the BMC jurisdiction for ensuring the participation of student community in biodivers-

ity conservation activities along with the BMCs.

- Participate Biodiversity Club Co-ordinators (a teacher) and Biodiversity Club members from Higher Secondary and College level for upgrading the PBR.
- Develop suitable projects for Biodiversity/ ecosystem conservation while upgrading the PBR and submit it before the concerned Local Self Government Body for effective implementation.
- Suggest to Local Self Government body developmental plans to be implemented at local level by considering the PBR as a benchmark.
- BMCs are supposed to conduct public awareness campaigns along with Local Technical Support Group and Biodiversity Club Co-ordinators for ensuring biodiversity /ecosystem conservation. Create awareness among public about upgrading PBR and ensure their participation in the venture.



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