

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19



MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
(A STATUTORY BODY SET UP UNDER BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT, 2002)
Silviculture Building, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong – 793001

Website: <https://megbiodiversity.nic.in>
E-mail: secretarymbb@gmail.com
Phone No. 0364 – 2500222

FOREWORD

It gives me immense pleasure to note that the Annual Report of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board for the year 2018-2019 is being released. The Annual Report reflects the activities carried out by the Board besides giving glimpse of the achievements in the implementation of the Act in conserving Meghalaya's rich biodiversity.

Meghalaya, which is part of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, harbours rich and diversified flora and fauna. Varied altitude, topography, status of soil and climatic conditions favour high species richness and support different types of forest. The State is home to many rare, unique, endemic and endangered species. The day to day life and culture of the local people is intricately twined with biodiversity. The indigenous tribal communities of the State possess very rich traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity. However, of late, the biodiversity of the State has become vulnerable to factors like forest degradation, mining, soil erosion, water pollution and urbanization. Raising awareness about the issue is a vital step in meeting our objectives with regard to halting biodiversity loss and protecting our ecosystems. If we could generate awareness among the key stakeholders, be it the farmers, the business sector or the wider public, our efforts towards securing biodiversity conservation would bear fruit.

Meghalaya Biodiversity Board was constituted in 2012 to implement the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 and the Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules, 2010, which aim at achieving conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its resources and a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from such use. I am confident that Board will be able to implement successfully the objectives outlined in this Act over the coming years through a spirit of co-operation among all the stakeholders, farmers, foresters, State organisations and others who are partners in the biodiversity conservation in the State.

I express my sincere gratitude to the National Biodiversity Authority and State Government of Meghalaya for their financial and technical assistance to the Board to carry out its functions and duties under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. I am also grateful to all the members of the Board, officials in the Board Office for the valuable roles played in the activities of the Board and commend the efforts of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board for their contribution towards preparation of this report.



P. W. Ingty, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary, Forests & Environment Department
& Chairman, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board

PREFACE

It gives me immense pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) for the year 2018-19. The Annual Report reflects the activities carried out by the Board besides giving glimpse of the achievements in the implementation of the Act in conserving Meghalaya's rich biodiversity.

The Board constituted in 2012, strives to achieve the objectives outlined in the Biological Diversity Act (2002), Biological Diversity Rules (2004) and the Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules (2010) by joining hands with the local communities, through various awareness programmes and conservation measures, which aim at achieving conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its resources and a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from such use. 281 BMCs have been constituted through the village level local bodies by the end of financial year 2018-19. Efforts are on to constitute BMCs in all the village level local bodes and urban bodies. These BMCs are expected to play a key role in administration of local biodiversity in future.

One of the main functions of the Board is to create an information and documentation system for biological resources and associate traditional knowledge through preparation of biodiversity registers and such other documents. Such documents would ensure effective management, promotion and sustainable use of bio-resources. The Board has granted several research projects on biodiversity of Meghalaya to qualified research personnel. The technical staff of the Board too is currently engaged in documenting different components of biodiversity of the State.

The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) Celebration (2018) was celebrated with much fanfare across the State with wide participation on 22nd May, 2018 on the theme "Celebrating 25 years of Action for Biodiversity".

I sincerely request all the stakeholders to actively participate and assist the Board in achieving the objectives set out by it in the interest of biodiversity conservation.

I express my gratitude to the National Biodiversity Authority for their continued financial and technical assistance to the MBB for carrying out its functions and duties under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

I express my thankfulness to the Members of the Board and the Expert Committees for their committed efforts and valuable guidance. I would also like to record my appreciation to the staff of MBB for their unstinted efforts in taking the Board forward and assisting in bringing out the Annual Report 2018-2019.



Shri. M B. K. Reddy, IFS
Member Secretary
Meghalaya Biodiversity Board



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OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

1.1. Introduction

Biodiversity or 'Biological Diversity' is a term that describes the variety of living beings on Earth. Specifically, Biological Diversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (CBD, 1992).

Biodiversity is fundamental in sustaining life on Earth. It provides air to breathe, water to drink and food to eat. The very existence of humanity is dependent on biodiversity for meeting the basic needs such as food, clothing, medicines and building materials besides providing us oxygen we breathe in. The biodiversity in variety of forms also add to aesthetic values in our environment. The increasing concern about the dwindling biological resources globally led to the adopting of a Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the year 1992. This Convention recognizes the sovereign rights of the States over their biological resources. With this objective the Government of India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, in 2002. This Act provides for conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of commercial use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. At the national level, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) oversees implementation of the Act. The State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) are formed at State Level and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are constituted by the local bodies to decentralize the implementation of the Act.

India is one of the recognized mega-diverse countries of the world with only 2.4% of the land area of the world, but accounts for 7 - 8% of the recorded species of the world, and representing 4 of the 34 globally identified biodiversity hotspots (Himalaya, Indo-Burma, Western Ghats and Sri Lanka, Sundaland). India is known for its rich heritage of Biological diversity having already documented over 91,000 species of animals and 45,500 species of plants in its ten biogeographic regions and also for its vast repository of traditional knowledge associated with biological resources.

Meghalaya is situated in the North East India biogeographic zone (along with Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura) which is a significant region as it represents a transition zone between the Indian, Indo-Malayan, Indo-Chinese bio-geographic regions as well as a meeting place of Himalayan mountains with that of Peninsular India. The region is one of the richest in biological values with vegetation types ranging from tropical rain forest in the foothills to Alpine meadows and cold deserts. The State also represents an important part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot which is one of the four biodiversity hotspots present in India. The State of Meghalaya has been identified as a key area for biodiversity conservation due to its high species diversity and high level of endemism.

1.2. Biodiversity Administration in India:

As mentioned above, India is one of the mega biodiversity countries in the world. Hence, it adopted the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 18th February, 1994 and became Party to the Convention on 19th May, 1994. The CBD is an international legal instrument for fostering conservation of the declining biodiversity resources of the world. In fulfillment of its commitment to put in place domestic legislations to implement the provisions of the CBD, India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The CBD as well as the Biological Diversity Act have the same three objectives, viz., conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and ensuring a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of bio-resources in the Country.



Meghalaya Biodiversity Board

On 5th February, 2003, The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 received the assent of the President of India for preservation of biological diversity in India, and provides a legal mechanism for establishing sovereign rights over the indigenous biodiversity within the Country, its conservation, protection, regulation of access and sustainable use. The Government of Meghalaya enacted the Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules in 2010 (MBDR, 2010) in exercise of its powers under Section 63 (1) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 for carrying out the purpose of this Act in the State.

The rich Indian Biodiversity is administered under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act and the bodies mentioned therein, namely, the *National Biodiversity Authority* (NBA) at the National level, the *State Biodiversity Board* at the State level and the *Biodiversity Management Committees* at the 'local body' level.

1.3. Constitution of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB):

The Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) was constituted vide Notification No. FOR. 57/2002/Pt/308 dated 20th March, 2012 in accordance with Section 22 (1) of the Biological Diversity Act, which states 'each state shall establish a State Biodiversity Board' and Section 63 (1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, which states 'every state government shall make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act'.

1.4. Composition of the Board:

The Board is headed by a Chairman of the rank of Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, holding the charge of Forests & Environment Department. Apart from the Chairman, the Board has five Ex-Officio Members from related Departments of the Government of Meghalaya and five Non-Official Members. The Officer in-Charge of Biodiversity, in the Forests & Environment Department of the Government of Meghalaya, functions as Member Secretary of the Board.

Details of incumbents of the following posts during the year 2018-19 (Name, Designation & tenure):

Chairperson

Smt. R V Suchiang, IAS

Principal Secretary, Forests & Env. Dept, Meghalaya,

w.e.f 19th September, 2017 till 14th June, 2018

Shri. P W Ingty, IAS

Additional Chief Secretary, Forests & Env. Dept, Meghalaya,

w.e.f 15th June, 2018 till 30th May, 2019

Member Secretary

Shri. M B K Reddy, IFS

Conservator of Forests (Development & Biodiversity)

w.e.f. 11th April, 2017 onwards



Ex-Officio Members (Rule 9 of MBDR, 2010):

Sl. No	Designation
1	PCCF & HoFF, Forests & Environment Department
2	Director, Agriculture Department
3	Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department
4	Director, Fisheries Department
5	Director, School Education & Literacy Department

Non-Official Members (Rule 6 of MBDR, 2010):

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Prof. S. K. Barik	Director, CSIR- National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.
2	Shri. K.C.Momin	Retd. Director (Soil & Water Conservation Dept.), Govt. of Meghalaya, Shillong.
3	Dr. Natalie W. Kharkongor	Associate Prof., IIM, Shillong.
4	Dr. Kalkame Cheran Momin	NEHU, Tura
5	Dr. Carl Oswald Rangad	Retd. Director of Horticulture Dept., Govt. of Meghalaya.

Staff of the Board (on contract)

SL No.	Designation	Number of Posts
1	Scientist	01
2	Taxonomist	01
3	PA cum Administrative Assistant	01
4	Accountant	01
5	DTP Operator	01
6	DTP Operator cum Web Publisher	01
7	MSW (Constitution of BMC)	02
8	Project Assistants	05
9	Language Expert	01
10	Driver	01
11	Cleaner	01

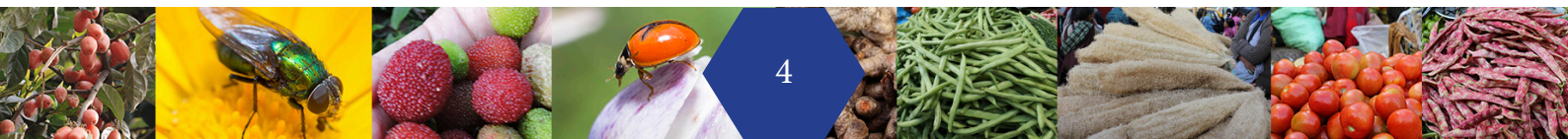
Office of the Board: Meghalaya Biodiversity Board is situated in Silviculture Building, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong - 793001.



1.5. Functions and Duties of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board:

The Board has the following functions:

- i. Lay down the procedure and guidelines to govern the activities provided under Section 23 of the Act.
- ii. Advise the State Government on many matters concerning conservation of bio-diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resource and knowledge.
- iii. Provide technical assistance and guidance to the departments of the State Government.
- iv. Regulate by granting of approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indian Nationals.
- v. Facilitate updating and implementations of State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.
- vi. Commission studies and sponsor investigations and research.
- vii. Engage consultants for a specified period, not exceeding three years, for providing technical assistance to the Board in the effective discharge of its functions. Provided that if it is necessary and expedient to engage any consultant beyond the period of three years, the Board shall seek prior approval of the State Government for such an engagement.
- viii. Collect, compile and publish technical and statistical data, manuals, codes or guides relating to conservation of biological biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resource and knowledge.
- ix. Organize through mass media a comprehensive programme regarding conservation of biological biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge.
- x. Plan and organize training of personnel engaged or likely to be engaged in programmes for the conservation of bio-diversity and sustainable use of its components.
- xi. Take steps to build-up database and to create information and documentation system for biological resources and associated traditional knowledge through biodiversity registers and electronics data bases so as to ensure effective management, promotion and sustainable uses of bio resources.
- xii. Give directions to the local bodies/Biodiversity Management Committees in writing and through appropriate oral means, for effective implementation of the Act, and to facilitate their meaningful participation in all measures relating to conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit sharing.
- xiii. Report to the State Government about the functioning of the Board and implementation of the Act and Rules made there under.
- xiv. Recommend, prescribe, modify, collect fee of biological resources from time to time.
- xv. Devise methods to ensure protection of rights including intellectual property rights over biological resources and associated knowledge including systems of maintaining confidentiality of such information as appropriate, including the protection of the information recorded in People's Biodiversity Registers.



- xvi. Sanction grants-in-aid and grants to Biodiversity Management Committees for specific purposes.
- xvii. Undertake physical inspection of any area, in connection with the implementation of the Act.
- xviii. Ensure that biodiversity and bio-diversity dependent livelihoods are integrated into all sectors of planning and management and at all levels of planning from local to State, to enable such sectors and administrative levels to contribute effectively for conservation and sustainable use.
- xix. Prepare the annual budget of the Board incorporating its own receipts as also the devolution from the State and Central Government provided that the allocation by the Central Government shall be operated in accordance with the budget provisions approved by the Central Government.
- xx. The Board has powers for granting administrative and technical sanctions to all estimates. It may, delegate such powers of administrative and technical sanctions to the Member Secretary of the Board, if deemed necessary.
- xxi. Recommend creation of posts to State Government, for effective discharge of the functions by the Board and to create such posts; provided that no such post whether permanent/temporary or of any nature, is created without prior approval of the State Government.
- xxii. Perform such other functions, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as may be prescribed by the State Government from time to time.

1.6. Details of the District Nodal Officers:

The following District Nodal Officers have been nominated to co-ordinate the activities of the Board at the district level and guide the BMCs. The Government of Meghalaya has also notified Technical Support Groups in every district to offer technical guidance to the BMCs.

SI No.	Name of the District-TSG	District Nodal Officer cum Convenor
1	East Khasi Hills, TSG, Shillong	DFO (EKH Wildlife Division), Shillong
2	West Khasi Hills, TSG, Nongstoin	DFO (WKH Social Forestry Division), Nongstoin
3	South West Khasi Hills, TSG, Mawkyrwat	DFO (EKH Social Forestry Division), Shillong
4	East Jaintia Hills, TSG, Khliehriat	DFO (JH Social Forestry Division), Jowai
5	West Jaintia Hills, TSG, Jowai	DFO (JH Wildlife Division), Jowai
6	Ri-Bhoi, TSG, Nongpoh	DFO (Ri-Bhoi, Social Forestry Division), Nongpoh
7	North Garo Hills, TSG, Resubelpara	DFO (E&W Wildlife Division), Tura
8	West Garo Hills, TSG, Tura	DFO (E&W Wildlife Division), Tura
9	East Garo Hills, TSG, Williamnagar	DFO (EGH Social Forestry Division), Williamnagar
10	South Garo Hills, TSG, Baghmara	DFO (BNP), Baghmara
11	South West Garo Hills, TSG, Ampati	DFO (WGH Social Forestry Division), Tura

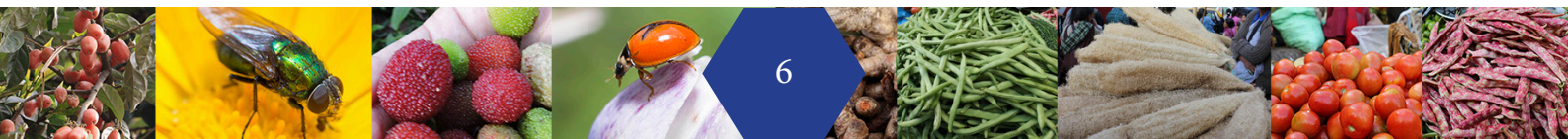


1.7. Composition of Technical Support Groups (TSG):

1. Divisional Forest Officer having his office/jurisdiction in the district nominated by the PCCF & HoFF- District Nodal Officer and Convener.
2. Representative nominated by the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, Govt. Of Meghalaya.
3. Representative nominated by the Fisheries Department, Govt. Of Meghalaya.
4. Representative nominated by the Agriculture Department, Govt. Of Meghalaya.
5. Representative nominated by the Autonomous District council concerned.
6. Representative nominated by the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA), Govt. Of Meghalaya.
7. Representative nominated by the Botanical Survey of India, Shillong Centre.
8. Representative nominated by the Zoological Survey of India, Shillong Centre.
9. Two members nominated by the Deputy Commissioner of the District, from among the Conservationists/NGOs/prominent individuals of the District.

1.8. Duties and Functions of the Technical Support Group (TSG):

- i. Provide technical guidance to the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in the district in the preparation of the Peoples' Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).
- ii. Provide technical guidance to the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in the district in the preparation of the Biodiversity Management Plans for their respective areas.
- iii. Recommend measures for 'capacity building' of the BMCs under their jurisdiction and offer their expertise in the training programmes.
- iv. Recommend to the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB), potential areas rich in biodiversity/cultural heritage for the establishment of BMCs and/or for their declaration as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).
- v. Help the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) in its negotiations with the individuals/community/other stake holders for the purposes of implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and in awareness campaigns.
- vi. The District Nodal Officer shall nominate a forest staff, preferably in the rank of Forester, to function as Secretary to each of the BMCs/group of BMCs constituted in the district for guiding the BMCs in account keeping and record maintenance.
- vii. Meet as frequently as deemed fit (mandatory meeting at least once in 6 (six) months). The Divisional Forest Officer, who is also a member of the TSG, convenes the meetings in his capacity as the District Nodal Officer cum Convener of the TSG. The TSG is free to devise its own rules/methods for conducting business including determination of the quorum and the decision making process.
- viii. The minutes of each meeting of the TSG are recorded and submitted to the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB), by the District Nodal Officer cum Convener of the TSG.



2. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs):

Section 41 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rule 23 of Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules, 2010 provide for formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the level of local bodies i.e. Village Dorbars, etc for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitat, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domestic stocks and breeds of animals and micro-organisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity within their area of jurisdiction. The State has 6459 villages and 10 urban bodies. Till 31st March, 2019, 281 BMCs has been constituted through the village level local bodies and efforts are going on to constitute BMCs in all the village level local bodes and urban bodies. With capacity building, these grass root level BMCs are expected to play a key role in administration of local biodiversity, in future.

Functions of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs):

- I. Prepare, maintain and validate People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) in consultation with the local people. The main function of the BMCs is to maintain a Register giving information about the details of access to biological resources and traditional knowledge granted, details of the collection fee imposed and details of the benefits derived and the mode of their sharing.
- II. Advice on any matter referred to it by the Board or NBA for granting approval, to maintain data about the local Vaid, Hakims and other Practitioners using the biological resources.
- III. Local biodiversity funds, for conservation and promotion of biological resources and associated knowledge and socio-economic development of these areas need to be established under section 43 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rule 24 of Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules, 2010.

3. Documentation of Biodiversity and Assistance to the BMCs through preparation of PBRs:

One of the main functions of the Board is to form a database to create information and documentation system for biological resources and associate traditional knowledge through preparation of biodiversity registers and such other documents. Such documents would ensure effective management, promotion and sustainable use of bio-resources. The Board has granted several research projects on biodiversity of Meghalaya to qualified research personnel. The technical staff of the Board too are currently engaged in documenting different components of biodiversity of the State.

The main function of the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) is to prepare PBR in consultation with the local people which contains comprehensive information on local biological resources. The Board has organized Peer to Peer learning visits for the benefit of BMC members to West Bengal (June 2016) & Kerala (November 2016). The Board has also sponsored four (4) community leaders from Meghalaya to participate in the 7th National convention and training program held from 19th to 21st February, 2016 conducted by IBRAD, Kolkata on "Participatory Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood in the Context Of Climate Change" SANCALP (Sustainable Action and Network through Community Leader's Program) - 2016. Currently, the Board has engaged three expert organizations *viz.* IBRAD (Institute of Bio-resources and Development), Kolkata, ENDEV (Society for Environment & Development), Kolkata and NEHU (North Eastern Hill University), Shillong for the preparation of 94 PBRs covering BMCs formed at village level in the state, of which 30 PBRs have been completed. The staff of the Board has completed 15 PBRs and at present, 64 PBRs are under preparation.





Activities of the Board

The Board came into existence on 20th March, 2012 and the present report describes activities undertaken by MBB during the year 2018-19. Main activities of the Board from 1st April, 2018 up to 31st March, 2019 are summarized below:

4.1. International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) Celebration (2018):

Since the Board's inception, every year on 22nd of May 'International Day for Biological Diversity' is commemorated by the Board throughout Meghalaya to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The main event is celebrated at U Soso Tham Auditorium, State Central Library, Shillong. In December 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted 22nd May as 'International Day for Biological Diversity' (IDB) to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 22nd May, 1992. The following are the details of the IDB celebration for the year 2018:

Theme: *Celebrating 25 years of Action for Biodiversity*



The Board in collaboration with Forest & Environment Department, Government of Meghalaya had organised the "International Day for Biological Diversity" (IDB) which was celebrated on 22nd May, 2018 at U Soso Tham Auditorium, State Central Library, Shillong.

To create and increase awareness among the people, students in particular, on the importance of Biodiversity; sit and draw and essay writing competitions were organised in all the eleven districts of Meghalaya. Students from different schools throughout Shillong were invited to take part in the competitions that was held respectively on 12th May, 2018. More than hundred students from various schools took part in the competitions enthusiastically on different themes mentioned below.



Themes of the Sit and Draw Competition:

Biodiversity of Meghalaya (Children with Special Needs)

1. Biodiversity of Meghalaya (Class IV and Below)
2. Biodiversity: Importance & Threats (Class V to VII)

Themes of the Essay Competition:

1. Biodiversity Conservation & its Importance (Class VIII to X)
2. Climate Change & its Impact on Biodiversity (Class XI & XII)

The theme for the Photography Competition was on ‘Wild Animals’ which was open to everyone for participation.

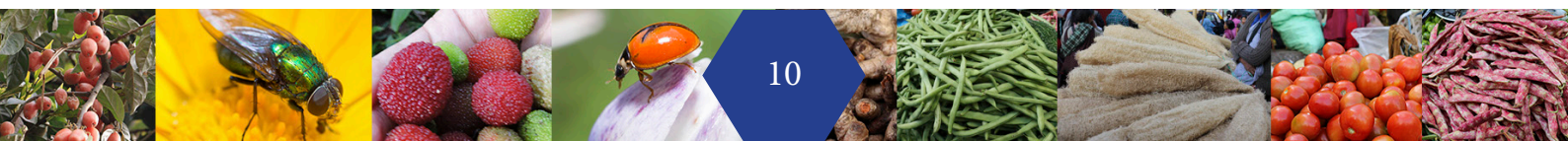
At the main event, Shri CP Marak IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Meghalaya was the Chief Guest; also present at the dais were Shri B.K Lyngwa, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Administration) and Prof. B.K Tiwari (Environmental Studies Department of North Eastern Hill University) an Expert Member Committee of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board. The event was also attended by school children under the supervision of their respective teachers, representatives of BMCs, researchers, staff members and general public.

The Welcome Address and a report on functioning and achievements of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board was presented by Shri. MBK Reddy, IFS, Secretary, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board. In his presentation, Shri. MBK Reddy apprised the audience on the formation of 266 BMCs in Meghalaya, thus making it the second highest in North East. These BMCs constituted mainly in the biodiversity rich areas of the state.

The Release of Three Posters on Biodiversity (1) Beetles of Khasi and Jaintia Hills, (2) Odonata of Ri Bhoi District and (3) Pteridophytes of Khasi and Jaintia Hills were released by the dignitaries. Prizes were distributed to all the winners of the aforesaid competitions by the dignitaries. Apart from the above mentioned competitions, special awards were also presented to Umru BMC of Ri Bhoi District for the Best Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) Award, 2018 and Ka Khloo Laikongwasan Chyrmang Community Reserve of West Jaintia Hills District was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation for Protection and Conservation of Flora and Fauna. The aforementioned committee was also nominated for the India Biodiversity Awards, 2018 under the category of Conservation of Wild Species- Institution. The Award Selection Committee had recommended the aforesaid committee for ‘Special Mention/ Appreciation’. The award ceremony was held on the 22nd May, 2018 on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity in Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural SS University (PJTSAU), Hyderabad.

A short documentary film on ‘The Lion of India’ was shown to audience to enkindle awareness about the lions of India and how to conserve them.

Chief Guest, Shri. C.P Marak addressed the gathering. He stated that folklores and folk tales of almost every North-Eastern States are filled with characters of animals, forests, water, air and biodiversity which reflected the communities’ close association with nature and also the wisdom of



our ancestors who learned to live in harmony with nature. He said that human life and existence hinges on biodiversity and that all are stakeholders in the conservation and preservation of biodiversity. He apprised the audience that the forest management had come a long way and that the emphasis now should be given to wildlife and Biodiversity conservation and preservation and also adaptation to climatic change. He also appealed to each citizen to join hands with the government functionaries to contribute to conservation of biodiversity and ensure the survival of generations to come.

The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Shri. MBK Reddy, IFS, Secretary, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, which was followed by light refreshments given to all those present at the event.

Photographs of IDB Celebration in the Main Event at Shillong (East Khasi Hills District):



Addressing the gathering as Chief Guest, Shri. C. P. Marak, IFS, PCCF & HoFF.



Shri. MBK Reddy, Secretary of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board addressing the audience.



Chief Guest presenting awards to the winners in Drawing and Painting Competition





Dignitaries on the dais at IDB 2018 celebration releasing the posters on biodiversity prepared by the Board



Students from various Schools participating in IDB 2018 celebration



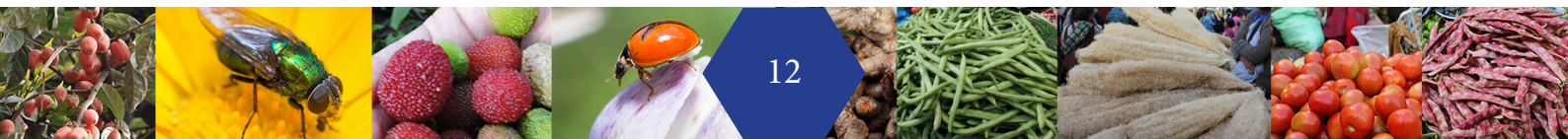
Audience present on the occasion of IDB 2018



Special award was presented to Umru BMC of Ri Bhoi District for Best BMC, 2018



Umru BMC receiving the 'Special Mention/ Appreciation' award at Hyderabad



Drawing and Painting Competition photos organized in the main event at Shillong:

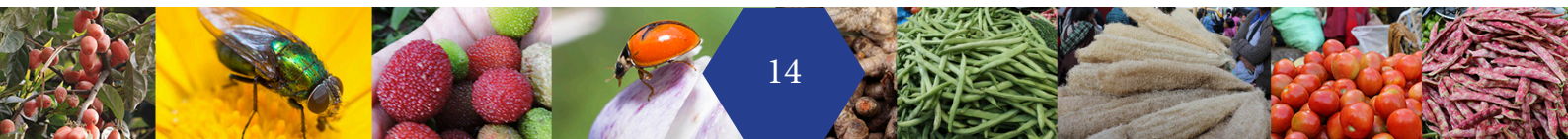


Photographs of IDB Celebration in the other towns of Meghalaya:

East Jaintia Hills



East Garo Hills





South West Khasi Hills



West Jaintia Hills

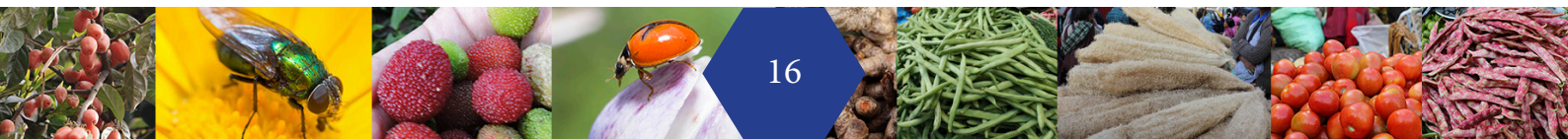


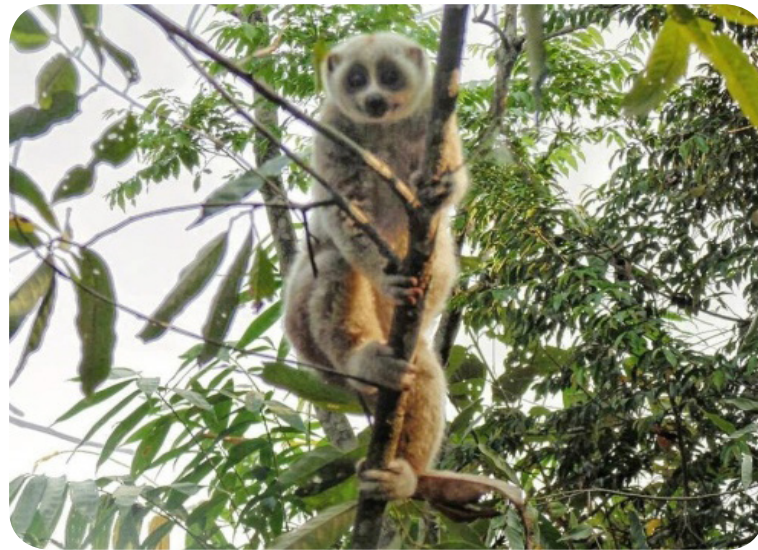
Photography Competition: The photographs of the winners of the photography competition held on the Theme “Wild animals” during the IDB 2018 celebration is given below:-



1st Prize - Khraw Shylla

Description of the Photo: Gree tree pit viper (*Trimeresurus* sp.) is a venomous species in the family Viperidae is found in the mountainous forests of Jaintia Hills and Khasi hills of Meghalaya. This green viper with red eyes is native to northern and northeastern parts of India, Southeast Asia, and parts of Indonesia. Common names include: Pope’s pit viper, Pope’s tree viper, and Pope’s bamboo pit viper.





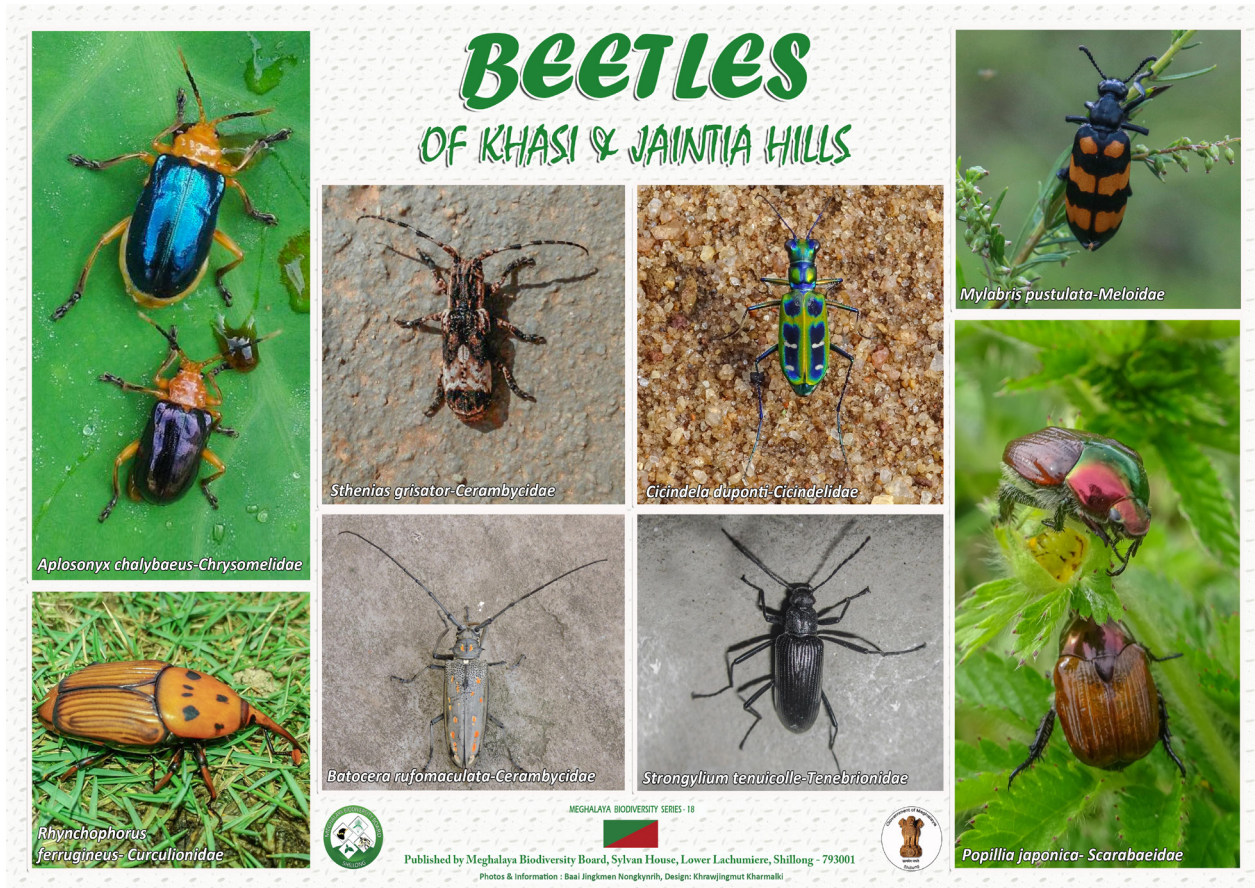
Bengal slow loris

Consolation Prize: Teibor Lyngdoh

Description of the Photo: The Bengal slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*) is the largest of the slow loris species found in Ri-Bhoi District of Meghalaya. It has a large head with short ears and large forward facing eyes. The fur is thick and woolly, with brown grey upperparts and white under parts, and a distinct dark stripe running up the middle of the back. This tree-dwelling species relies on its specially adapted hands and feet for climbing.

4.2. Publications by the Board: In the year 2018-19, the Board has published the following posters to generate awareness regarding the biodiversity of Meghalaya:



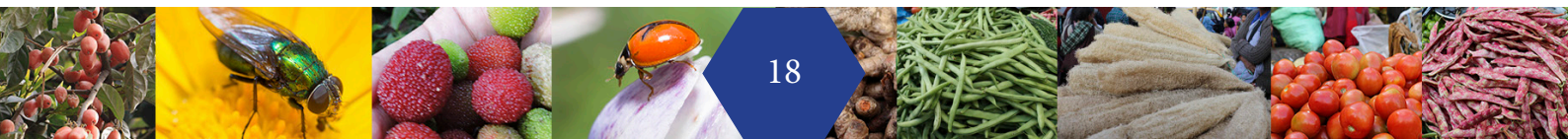


4.3. Research Projects undertaken and completed by the Board (2018-19):

1. **Survey, documentation and IVI studies of endemic plant species of West Khasi Hills District:**
 In West Khasi Hills, very few studies are available on endemic plant species. Thus, the aim of the study was:

- (i) To identify and compare the dominant plant species in the study areas where endemic plant species was presence.
- (ii) To calculate the importance value index (IVI) of the vegetation in that study particular areas.

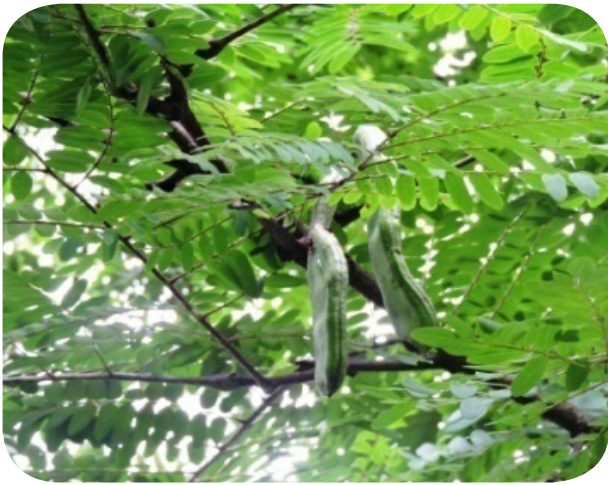
This information provides the ability to estimate the number of individual plants encountered, how often a certain plant occurs, how common the plant is compared to other plants.





Ilex khasiana

Ilex khasiana is a rare and critically endangered tree endemic to the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, and confined to a few pockets. The species has been categorized as rare by Rao and Haridasan (1983) and is on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



Gymnocladus assamicus

G. assamicus is a critically endangered leguminous tree species endemic to Northeast India. Mature pods of the trees yield soap material and are collected by local people for domestic purposes and religious activities. It grows on hill slopes and along banks of streams.

2. Survey and documentation of medicinal plants and their medicinal uses in the sacred groves of Mawphlang, Sohra and Shella Bholaganj: Ethnomedicinal uses of plants are one of the most successful criteria used by the pharmaceutical industry in finding new therapeutic agents for the various fields of biomedicine. In spite of the renewed interest in ethnomedicinal plants worldwide, its documentation in the State is still very scanty. Therefore, this study has been taken up to record and document the Ethnomedicinal plants found in the Sacred Groves of Mawphlang, Sohra and Shella Bholaganj, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya.



Scientific Name: *Ageratina adenophora*

Local Name: Bat jumai

Family: Asteraceae

Habit: Herb

Parts used: Leaves

Remedy For: Diarrhea.

Location: Mawphlang, Diengsong (Sohra).





Scientific Name: *Melastoma malabathricum*

Local Name: Dieng-sohkking

Family: Melastomataceae

Habit: Shrub

Parts used: Leaves

Remedy For: Diarrhea and dysentery

Location: Mawslaitbit (Shella)

3. **Parasitic Plants of Khasi and Jaintia Hills:** A field survey which was carried out in few villages of Khasi Hills districts viz. 5th mile, Diengsong, Mawphlang and Nongkynrih in which few parasitic species had been photograph and documented.



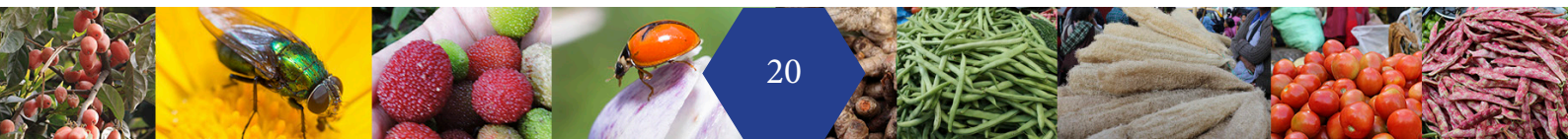
Monotropa uniflora

Description: *Monotropa uniflora*, also known as ghost plant (or ghost pipe), Indian pipe or corpse plant, is an herbaceous perennial plant native to temperate regions of Asia, North America and northern South America, but with large gaps between areas. The plant is sometimes completely waxy white, but often has black flecks or pale pink coloration. These plants optimize their root relationship with the fungi that are uniquely connected to and fed by the green plant.



Balanophora dioica

Description: East-Himalayan *Balanophora* is a root parasite plant, native to the Himalayas, particularly the eastern parts. Rhizomes are ochre yellow, brown, or reddish purple, unbranched or several together in a mass, surface with granular warts or scattered yellow warts. East-Himalayan *Balanophora* is found in Bhutan, NE India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sikkim, at altitudes of 1100-2600 m.



4.4. Awareness Campaigns: The Board conducted two awareness campaigns during the year 2018-19 at block level for constitution of BMC, PBR preparation and on provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 with the help of Block Development Officers and District Nodal Officers. The list of various awareness campaigns conducted at different places are as follows:

Sl.No.	Date	Place
1.	11 th April, 2018	Laskein Block, West Jaintia Hills
2.	14 th April, 2018	Umpung, South West Khasi Hills

Few pictures of the awareness campaigns:



Laskein Block, West Jaintia Hills



Umpung, South West Khasi Hills



4.5. Peer-to-Peer Learning Program: The Board organized peer-to-peer learning program for five technical staff of Nagaland State Biodiversity Board (NSBB) from 19th - 20th September, 2018. Various issues pertinent to the Board activities and functioning were discussed and deliberated. MBB organized field trip to Umru BMC, which is one of the best BMC of Meghalaya for the NSBB team. The NSBB team interacted with the villagers and the BMC members of the Umru BMC and discussed the ways by which they protect their biodiversity and the Amur Falcons visiting their village from Siberia.



Umru BMC Members



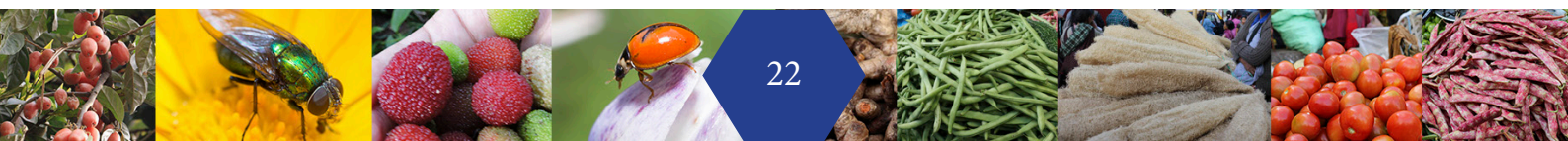
NSBB team Members interacting with villagers



NSBB team interacting with the BMC Chairman of Umru BMC



4.6. Formation of BMCs in the State during the year 2018-19: The Board along with the help of the Block Development Officer and the District Nodal Officer took the initiative to form the BMCs throughout the State. 18 BMCs were formed in the State by the end of March, 2019 in various villages as detailed below:



BMCs constituted in the year 2018 - 2019

SL. No	Name of BMC	BLOCK	DISTRICT
1	Kyan Mynsar	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
2	Iooksi Kyanmynsar Thlongmoo	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
3	Mynso-B	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
4	Sahsniang (A)	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
5	Thadmuthlong Pyrdis	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
6	Samatan	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
7	Thlongmoo	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
8	Lakadong	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
9	Kyrwen	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
10	Mynskiah	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
11	Misimagre	Rongram	West Garo Hills
12	Rongjigre	Dadenggre	West Garo Hills
13	Egopara	Dadenggre	West Garo Hills
14	Ambare Ading	Rongjeng	East Garo Hills
15	Panchiring – A	Ranikor	South West Khasi Hills
16	Tebil Bonegre	Songsak	East Garo Hills
17	Mawkohphet	Mawkyrwat	South West Khasi Hills
18	Jarangpara	Dalu	West Garo Hills

4.7. Release of Start-up funds to the BMCs (2018-2019): To set up the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in Meghalaya, the Board has released Start-up funds which are detailed below:

Date & Year	Name of the BMC	Amount (Rs.)
30/03/2019	Local Biodiversity Fund of Mawkasian BMC	20,000
30/03/2019	Local Biodiversity Fund of Kharang BMC	20,000
30/03/2019	Local Biodiversity Fund of Synniasya BMC	20,000
30/03/2019	Local Biodiversity Fund of Pingwait BMC	20,000
30/03/2019	Local Biodiversity Fund of Jongksha BMC	20,000
30/03/2019	Local Biodiversity Fund of Mawlyngbna BMC	20,000
30/03/2019	Local Biodiversity Fund of Imtra Apal BMC	20,000
30/03/2019	Local Biodiversity Fund of Simseng Nakol BMC	20,000
30/03/2019	Local Biodiversity Fund of Myngtkung BMC	20,000
30/03/2019	Local Biodiversity Fund of Chutwakhu BMC	20,000







Kiron Joshi & Associates

Chartered Accountants

Regn. No. 313048 E

LDB Building : G. S. Road, Shillong - 793 001, Phone : 2223727, Fax : (0364) 2224647, Email : kironjoshiassociates@gmail.com

:2:

i) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named Board as at 31.03.2019.

And

ii) In the case of the Income & Expenditure Account, of the excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

And

iii) In the case of Receipts & Payments Account, of the receipts and payments of funds during the year.

6. Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements:

As per our Audit, we report that:

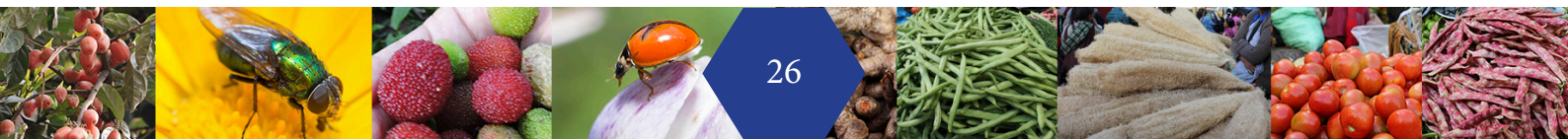
- a) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- b) In our opinion, proper books of accounts as required by law have been kept by the Board, so far as appears from our examination of the books.
- c) Subject to our comments / remarks given in this report, the Balance Sheet and the Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account dealt by this Report are in agreement with the books of accounts.
- d) In our opinion, the Balance Sheet and the Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payment Account comply with the Accounting Standards referred as would be applicable for Board.
- e) The Board is required to get itself registered U/s 12AA of Income Tax Act and file its return annually.

Place: Shillong
Date: 06.06.2020

for KIRON JOSHI & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants.




KIRON JOSHI.
(Membership No. 051046)
UDIN:20051046AAACFZ7735



MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2019

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
CAPITAL FUND:		FIXED ASSETS:	
Opening Balance:	2605152.86	As per Schedule 'C'	995194.00
(+) Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>889464.00</u>		
	3494616.86		
GRANT FUND:			
1. National Biodiversity Authority :			
Opening balance	3507663.00		
(+) Received during the year	<u>1675844.00</u>		
	5183507.00		
(-) Utilised during the year for revenue expenses as per Income & Expenditure Account (Schedule 'A')	<u>1721319.00</u>	3462188.00	
2. State Plan :			
Opening balance	18639360.00		
(+) Received during the year	<u>5332000.00</u>		
	23971360.00		
(-) Utilised during the year for revenue expenses as per Income & Expenditure Account (Schedule 'B')	<u>2508342.00</u>	21463018.00	
	<u>₹ 28419822.86</u>		<u>₹ 28419822.86</u>

Place : Shillong
Date : 06.06.2020


 Chairman
 Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
 Shillong, Meghalaya

In terms of our audit report of even date
for KIRON JOSHI & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants




 KIRON JOSHI
 (Membership No. 051046)
 UDIN:20051046AAACFZ7735


 Secretary
 Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
 Shillong

MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2019

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
National Biodiversity Authority Expenses :		Grant in Aid from:	
As per Schedule 'A'	1721319.00	a) National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai	1721319.00
State Plan Expenses :		b) Forest & Environment Department, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong	2508342.00
As per Schedule 'B'	2508342.00		4229661.00
Depreciation	164246.00	Bank Interest	1028910.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure	889464.00	Sale of books	24800.00
	<u>₹ 5283371.00</u>		<u>₹ 5283371.00</u>

Place : Shillong
Date : 06.06.2020

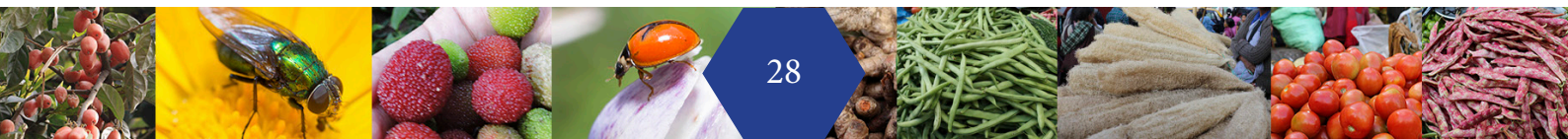
In terms of our audit report of even date
for KIRON JOSHI & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants



Kiron Joshi
KIRON JOSHI
(Membership No. 051046)
UDIN:20051046AAACFZ7735

Challang
Chairman
Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
Shillong, Meghalaya

Joshi
Secretary
Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
Shillong



MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2019

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Opening Balances :	<u>National Biodiversity Authority Expenses :</u>
Cash in Hand	As per Schedule 'A' 1721319.00
Cash at Bank :SB A/c with SBI A/c No. 32375460838	Infrastructure Development of State Biodiversity Board
23636198.86 23636198.86	Purchase of :
Grant in Aid from:	a) Office Equipments 9527.00
a) National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai 1675844.00	b) Furniture <u>33936.00</u> 43463.00
b) Forest & Environment Department, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong <u>5332000.00</u> 7007844.00	<u>State Plan Expenses :</u>
Bank Interest 1028910.00	As per Schedule 'B' 2508342.00
Sale of books 24800.00	Closing Balances :
	Cash in Hand 8720.00
	Cash at Bank :SB A/c with SBI A/c No. 32375460838 <u>27415908.86</u> 27424628.86
₹ <u>31697752.86</u>	₹ <u>31697752.86</u>

Place : Shillong
Date : 06.06.2020

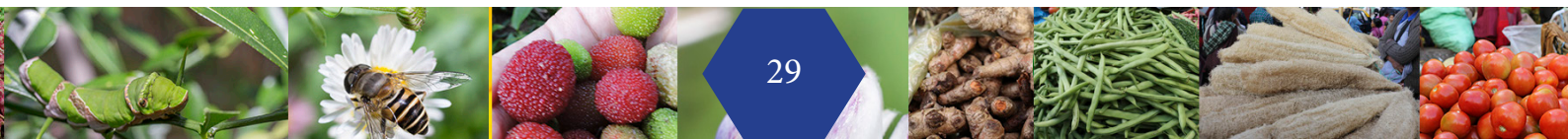
In terms of our audit report of even date
for KIRON JOSHI & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants



KIRON JOSHI
(Membership No. 051046)
UDIN:20051046AAACFZ7735

Shallong
Chairman
Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
Shillong, Meghalaya

Joshi
Secretary
Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
Shillong



MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

Schedule forming part of Financial Statements 31.03.2019

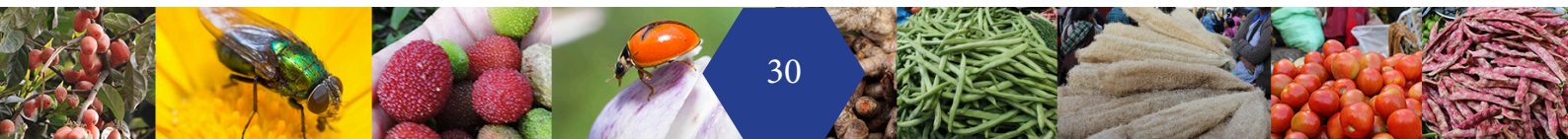
Schedule - 'A' - NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY EXPENSES

Sl No.	Particulars	Amount(₹)
1	Salary of outsourced/contract personnel	969366.00
2	Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register	65709.00
3	Financial assistance for Celebration of IDB 2018, released to all DFOs of the 11 districts(As per Annexure I)	660000.00
4	Field visits of the Award Selection Committee	26244.00
	Total(₹)	1721319.00




Chairman
Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
Shillong, Meghalaya


Secretary
Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
Shillong



MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

Schedule forming part of Financial Statements 31.03.2019

Schedule - 'B' - STATE PLAN EXPENSES

Sl No.	Particulars	Amount(₹)	Amount(₹)
A)	Salary Component :		
	1. Salary & Allowances	1143578.00	
	2. Wages for Assiatants during survey of field work	2280.00	1145858.00
B)	Non Salary Component :		
	1. Travelling Allowance	24660.00	
	2. Office Expenses		
	a) Stationery	7091.00	
	b) Telephone	16514.00	
	c) Advertisement	13230.00	
	d) POL & Vehicle Maintenance	197177.00	
	e) Consumables for Computers	39591.00	
	f) Postal Stamps	2000.00	300263.00
	3. Other Charges :		
	Contingent Expenditure		4700.00
	4. Minor Works		
	a) Audit fees	70800.00	
	b) Start up fund to Biodiversity Management Committees (As per Annexure II)	200000.00	270800.00
	5. Major Works :		
	Sponsoring investigation / research on components of Biodiversity in Meghalaya		75000.00
	6. Miscellaneous Expenditure		12197.00
	7. Celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity in the State transferred to Divisional Forest Officer, Silviculture Division, East Khasi Hills		699524.00
	Total(₹)		2508342.00


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MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

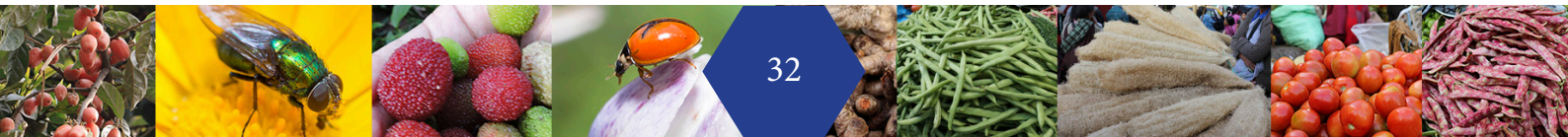
SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2019

SCHEDULE C : FIXED ASSETS

SI No	PARTICULARS	OPENING BALANCE	GROSS BLOCK		DELETION	AS ON 31.03.2018	RATE	DEPRECIATION		NET BLOCK AS ON 31.03.2019	
			BEFORE 30.09.2018	AFTER 30.09.2018				OPENING BALANCE	FOR THE YEAR		TOTAL
1	Furniture & Fixtures	432532.00	-	33936.00	-	466468.00	10%	133103.00	31640.00	164743.00	301725.00
2	Computer & Peripherals	323810.00	-	-	-	323810.00	40%	297850.00	10384.00	308234.00	15576.00
3	Office Equipments	591395.00	-	9527.00	-	600922.00	15%	250377.00	51867.00	302244.00	298678.00
4	Books	132456.00	-	-	-	132456.00	20%	74059.00	11679.00	85738.00	46718.00
5	Vehicle	688605.00	-	-	-	688605.00	15%	297432.00	58676.00	356108.00	332497.00
	TOTAL	2168798.00	-	43463.00	-	2212261.00		1052821.00	164246.00	1217067.00	995194.00


 Chairman
 Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
 Shillong, Meghalaya


 Secretary
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 Shillong



MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

Schedule forming part of Financial Statements 31.03.2019

Annexure - I Financial assistance for Celebration of International Day of Biodiversity released to :

Sl No.	Particulars	Amount(₹)
1	District Nodal Officer North Garo Hills Wildlife Division	60000.00
2	District Nodal Officer West Garo Hills Wild Life Division	60000.00
3	District Nodal Officer South Garo Hills Balpakram National Park	60000.00
4	District Nodal Officer South West Garo Hills Social Forestry Division	60000.00
5	District Nodal Officer East Garo Hills Social Forestry Division	60000.00
6	District Nodal Officer East Khasi Hills Wildlife Division	60000.00
7	District Nodal Officer West Khasi Hills Social Forestry Division	60000.00
8	District Nodal Officer West Jaintia Hills Wildlife Division	60000.00
9	District Nodal Officer Ri Bhoi Social Forestry Division	60000.00
10	District Nodal Officer South West Khasi Hills Social Forestry Division	60000.00
11	District Nodal Officer East Jaintia Hills Social Forestry Division	60000.00
	Total(₹)	660000.00



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MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

Schedule forming part of Financial Statements 31.03.2019

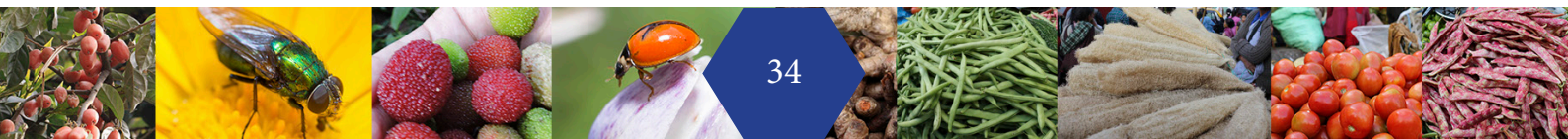
Annexure - II : Start up Funds to Biodiversity Management Committees

SI No.	Particulars	Amount(₹)
1	Mawkasain East khasi Hills	20000.00
2	Kharang East khasi Hills	20000.00
3	Synniasya East Khasi Hills	20000.00
4	Pingwait East Khasi Hills	20000.00
5	Jongksha East Khasi Hills	20000.00
6	Mawlyngbna East Khasi Hills	20000.00
7	Imtra Apai East Garo Hills	20000.00
8	Simseng Nokol East Garo Hills	20000.00
9	Myntkung West Jaintia Hills	20000.00
10	Chutwakhu West Jaintia Hills	20000.00
	Total(₹)	200000.00



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Shillong, Meghalaya

Secretary
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Shillong



MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2019

Bank balance as per Pass Book ₹ 27579217.86

(-) Cheque issued but not presented for payment till 31.03.2019 :

<u>Date</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
19.03.2019	118166	1800.00	
19.03.2019	118167	25000.00	
23.03.2019	118170	65709.00	
26.03.2019	118171	<u>70800.00</u>	163309.00

Bank balance as per Cash book ₹ 27415908.86



Chairman
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 Shillong, Meghalaya

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 Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
 Shillong



