

ANNUAL REPORT

MEGHALAYA

BIODIVERSITY BOARD

FOR THE YEAR

2021-2022



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>
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FOREWORD

It is of great pleasure that during the reporting period (2021-22) the arduous task of constituting Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in all the 6459 Village level Local Bodies and 9 Urban Local Bodies as per the number of villages and urban bodies given in Census of India 2001, 2011 was completed within the timeslot stipulated by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) vide its Order dated 09.08.2019 by Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB). Apart from the constitution of the BMCs, MBB also successfully prepared the People's Biodiversity Registers of all the 6468 Local Bodies within the time frame stipulated by Hon'ble NGT. I acknowledge and appreciate the active support received from the Deputy Commissioners, Block Development Officers, District Nodal Officers and Line Departments in achieving this feat. This 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. In view of the rich biodiversity and the associated traditional knowledge available in the State vis-a-vis the increasing level of threats to the species and their habitats, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board along with the Forest Department is expected to play a pivotal role towards achieving the objectives of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules. Meghalaya Biodiversity Board is trying its best to shoulder this responsibility.

I express my sincere gratitude to National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and the Government of Meghalaya for their financial and technical assistance rendered 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 and its Expert Committees, officials in the Board Office for the valuable roles played in the activities of the Board contributing to the achievements of the MBB during this period.



D. P. Wahlang, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Department
Government of Meghalaya
cum Chairman Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
(05/02/2020 to 13/10/ 2021)

FOREWORD

It gives me great satisfaction to note that the Annual Report for the year 2021-2022 is being released by Meghalaya Biodiversity Board. The Annual Report chronicles the activities and achievements of the Board in pursuance of its mandate under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Meghalaya Biodiversity Board was constituted to implement the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 and the Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules, 2010. The Board has been striving to achieve the objectives enshrined in the Act, viz, biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of the bio-resources and ensuring a fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of bio-resources. The Board has completed the constitution of the BMCs and preparation of PBRs as per the number of villages (6459) and urban bodies (9), Census of India 2001, 2011. There are several challenges faced by the Board and the major challenge is to activate the BMCs and upgrade their PBRs making them more realistic and truly participatory, thus creating a greater bond between the communities and the PBRs.

In the current scenario, biodiversity is increasingly threatened due to anthropogenic pressures amongst others, and the subsequent loss of biodiversity caused by these threats may lead to disruption in the provision of various ecosystem services, which have significant contributions in rural livelihoods. Every stakeholder has to play a constructive role if we want to conserve the rich biodiversity and cultural heritage of the State and we have to make use of all modern and traditional means available to use to conserve the biodiversity.

I express my gratitude to National Biodiversity Authority and the State Government for supporting Biodiversity Conservation and the efforts of the Board for carrying out its functions and duties under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

I also express my gratitude to the Board Members and the various Expert Committees of the Board for their valuable guidance and commend the Staff of Board who rendered yeoman's service in producing the report in print form.



S. M. Andaleeb Razi, IRTS
Commissioner & Secretary (Forest & Environment) cum
Chairman, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
w.e.f. 13th October, 2021 till date

PREFACE

Annual Report of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) for the year 2021-22 has been brought out as per provisions of the section 33 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 to compile various activities carried out by MBB besides giving a glimpse of the achievements with respect to the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules, 2010.

Till date 6473 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) has been constituted at the village level across Meghalaya and corresponding number of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) are being prepared to begin with. Efforts are on to constitute more BMCs in the villages which may have been left out and also upgrade the PBR's thus made. These BMCs are expected to play a key role in administration of local biodiversity in future.

I sincerely thank Shri. D.P. Wahlang, IAS (Former Chairman, MBB) and Shri. S. M. Andaleeb Razi, IRTS (Chairman, MBB) for their valuable advice and continued support in all our endeavors without which we could not have achieved the set goals in an effective manner.

I express my gratitude to the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and the Government of Meghalaya for all assistance to the MBB for carrying out its functions and duties under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

I am pleased to place my sincere thanks to the Members of the Board and all the Expert Committee members for having offered valuable guidance in carrying out the objectives of the Board.

I wholeheartedly appreciate the efforts of all the staff of MBB in bringing out the Annual Report.



N Luikham, IFS
Chief Conservator of Forest (T) & Member Secretary,
Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
(w.e.f. 26th August, 2020 till date)

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INTRODUCTION

Biological diversity, also known as biodiversity, refers to the variety of life on Earth. It encompasses the diversity of species, genetic diversity within species, and the diversity of ecosystems and their interactions.

The term “biological diversity” was coined in the 1980s, and it has since become a key concept in conservation biology and ecology. Biodiversity is essential for the functioning of the natural systems that support life on Earth. It provides numerous ecological, economic, and social benefits, including the provision of ecosystem services such as air and water purification, pollination, and climate regulation. Biodiversity can be measured at different scales, from the diversity of genes within a single species to the diversity of ecosystems across the entire planet. Overall, biological diversity is a critical component of the natural systems that supports life on Earth, and its loss can have profound ecological, economic, and social consequences. Protecting and conserving biodiversity is essential for the well-being of both humans and the planet.

The growing concern for depletion of biological diversity world-wide led to the establishment and adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 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. The Act is implemented through three tier arrangements with National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the national level as the main regulator, oversees implementation of the Act. The State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) are formed at the state level and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are constituted by the local bodies to decentralize the implementation of the Act.

Meghalaya is richly endowed with flora, fauna, dense forests, ancient sacred groves, large rivers and grass fields. The state of Meghalaya is an important part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Nokrek and Balphakram National Parks, Nongkhylllem, Narpuh and Siju Wildlife Sanctuaries and a large number of sacred groves found in different parts of the state, are the main preserves of biodiversity. The State has been identified as a key area for biodiversity conservation due to its high species diversity and high level of endemism.

1.1 Background

Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) is a Statutory Body setup under Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and comes under the Forest and Environment Department, Government of Meghalaya, with the Head Quarter at Shillong. The Board functions as per the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, Rules 2004 and Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules (MBDR) 2010. The Board is dedicated for conservation, sustainable utilisation of bioresources of the State and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of bioresources and its associated knowledge.

1.2. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

In 2002, the Parliament of India enacted the Biological Diversity Act. In line with the goals of UN-Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has three objectives:

- The conservation of biological diversity
- The sustainable use of its components
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.

The Act provides a legal framework and envisages a decentralized biodiversity management with a three-tier structure for implementation. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is responsible for all matters at the National Level; the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) are responsible at the State Level and the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at local level. The Act recognises local communities as custodians of biological resources, as well as the traditional knowledge and practices associated with them.

1.3 The National Biodiversity Authority

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is a statutory autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India established in 2003 to implement the provisions under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, after India signed Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992. The NBA with its headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India delivers its mandate through a structure that comprises of the Authority, Secretariat, SBBs, BMCs and Expert Committees.

The Meghalaya Biodiversity Board:

2.1 Constitution of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB):

The Board was constituted by the State Government of Meghalaya vide Notification No. FOR. 57/2002/Pt/308 dated 20th March, 2012 in accordance with Section 22 of the Biological Diversity Act, which states 'each State shall establish a State Biodiversity Board'. In exercise of the power conferred by section 63 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, which states 'every state government shall make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Government of Meghalaya, formulated the Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules (MBDR) 2010 vide Notification No. FOR.57/2002/244 dated 30th August, 2010.

2.2. Composition of the Board:

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

Details of incumbents of the following posts during the year 2021-2022 (Name, Designation & tenure):

Chairperson	Member Secretary
<p>Shri. D P Wahlang, IAS Principal Secretary, Forest & Env. Dept, Meghalaya, w.e.f 5th February, 2020 to 13th October, 2021.</p> <p>Shri. Syed Md.A.Razi, IRTS Commissioner & Secretary (Forest & Environment) w.e.f. 13th October, 2021 till date.</p>	<p>N Luikham, IFS Chief Conservator of Forest (T) & Member Secretary, (w.e.f. 26th August, 2020 onwards.</p>

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

Sl. No	Designation
1	Chief Wildlife Warden, Meghalaya
2	Director, Agriculture Department, Govt. of Meghalaya
3	Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, Govt. of Meghalaya
4	Director, Fisheries Department, Govt. of Meghalaya
5	Director, School Education, Govt. of Meghalaya
6	Director, Bio-Resources Development Centre, Meghalaya (Co-opted Member)

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	Former Associate Professor, IIM, Shillong.
4	Shri. Augustus Shemphang Suting	Research Officer, State Council of Science Technology & Environment (SCSTE), Meghalaya
5	Prof. Larisha M. Lyndem	Department of Zoology. Viswa-Bharati, Saniniketan, West Bengal, India.

Office of the Board:

Meghalaya Biodiversity Board is situated at Silviculture Building, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong-793001.

Staff of the Board (on contractual and daily wage basis):

Sl No.	Designation	Number of Posts	Funding	Basis
Ministerial Staff				
1	PA cum Administrative Assistant	01	NBA	Contract
2	Accountant	01	NBA	Contract
3	DTP Operator	01	NBA	Contract
4	Web Publisher cum DTP Operator	01	State	Wages
5	MSW (Constitution of BMC)	03	State	Contract
6	BMC Assistant	02	State	Contract
7	Multi-tasking	01	State	Wages
8	Driver	01	State	Wages
9	Cleaner	01	State	Wages
Technical Staff				
10	Scientist/Taxonomist	01	NBA	Contract
11	Scientist	01	NBA	Contract
12	GIS Expert	01		
13	Project Assistants	04	State	Contract
Total		19		

2.3. Key Functions and Duties of the Board:

- ❖ Advise the State Government subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government on matters relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resource and knowledge.
- ❖ Regulate by granting of approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indian Nationals.
- ❖ 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.

2.4. Details of the District Nodal Officers cum Technical Support Groups:

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.

SlNo.	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	Director (BNP), Baghmara
11	South West Garo Hills, TSG, Ampati	DFO (WGH Social Forestry Division), Tura

2.5. Re-constitution of Technical Support Group (TSG) in all the Districts of the State:

The Technical Support Group (TSG) in all Districts of the State for implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was reconstituted vide Notification No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/Pt-I/26 dated 14.02.2022. The District Nodal Officers were authorized to sign Benefit Sharing Agreement for Access to Biological Resources (Grant of Approval) on behalf of the Board with Traders and Manufacturers as per the “Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014” in the areas under their respective jurisdiction at the field level for effective regulation of access to bio-resources for commercial purpose on approval of the Board.

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

NOTIFICATION

Dated Shillong, the 14th February, 2022.

No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/Pt-I/26 - In pursuance of the decision of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board in its meeting held on 3rd December, 2021, the Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to reconstitute the Technical Support Group (TSG) in all Districts of the State for the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 with the following members, with immediate effect and until further orders.

Members of the Technical Support Group (TSG).

1. Divisional Forest Officer having his office/jurisdiction in the district nominated by the PCCF & HoFF - District Nodal Officer and Convener.
2. Block Development Officers/his representatives of all Districts in Meghalaya.
3. Director/Representative nominated by the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, Govt. of Meghalaya.
4. Director/Representative nominated by the Fisheries Department, Govt. of Meghalaya.
5. Director/Representative nominated by the Agriculture Department, Govt. of Meghalaya.
6. Director/Representative nominated by the Community & Rural Development Department, Meghalaya.
7. Officer in Charge/Representative nominated by the Autonomous District Council concerned.
8. Officer in Charge/Representative nominated by the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA), Govt. of Meghalaya.
9. Officer in Charge /Representative nominated by the Botanical Survey of India, Shillong, Center.
10. Officer in Charge/Representative nominated by the Zoological Survey of India, Shillong, Center.
11. Chief Executive Officer/Representative, Shillong Cantonment Board.
12. Chief Executive Officer/Representative, Shillong Municipal Board.
13. Two (02) experts co-opted by the Member Secretary, MBB.

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

1. The TSG shall provide technical guidance to the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in the district in the preparation/upgradation of the Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). The TSG will also assist BMCs in maintaining, authenticating and validation of the PBR.
2. The TSG shall provide technical guidance to the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in the District preparation of the Biodiversity Management Plans for their respective areas.
3. The TSG shall recommend measures for 'capacity building' of the BMCs under their jurisdiction and offer their expertise in the training programmes.
4. The TSG shall 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).

5. The TSG shall 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.
6. The District Nodal Officer shall nominate a forest staff, preferably in the rank of Forester where school teachers are not appointed/nominated, 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.
7. The TSG shall meet as frequently as deemed fit but at least once in 6 (six) months. The Divisional Forest Officer, who is also a member of the TSG, shall convene 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 keeping in view the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and applicable Rules.
8. The minutes of each meeting of the TSG shall be recorded and submitted to the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB), by the District Nodal Officer cum Convener of the TSG.

Additional Duties and Functions of the DNOs:

The District Nodal Officers on approval of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board shall sign Benefit Sharing Agreement for Access to Biological Resources (Grant of Approval) on behalf of the Board with Traders and Manufacturers as per the "Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014" in the areas under their respective jurisdiction at the field level for effective regulation of access to bio-resources for commercial purpose.

Sd/-
(Syed Md A Razi, IRTS)
Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Forests & Environment Department

Memo.No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/Pt-I/26-A Dated: Shillong, the 14th February, 2022.
Copy forwarded to:-

1. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
2. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Speaker, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Hon'ble Speaker.
3. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister i/c Forests & Environment Department, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Minister.
4. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, for information of the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition.
5. The P.S. to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Chief Secretary.
6. The Secretary, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj, New Delhi-110003.
7. The Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj, New Delhi-110003.
8. The Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Planning Department.

2.6. Re-constitution of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board:

i). The Board was reconstituted in the June 2021 vide Notification No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/866 dated 17.06.2021, wherein Director, Bio-Resources Development Centre, Meghalaya joined as Ex-Officio Member of the Board.

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
NOTIFICATION

Dated: Shillong, the 17th June, 2021.

No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/866 – In partial modification of this Department's Notification No. FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/823, dated 15th October, 2020, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 22 (1) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, the Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to re-constitute the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board for the purpose of the said Act consisting of the following members with immediate effect and until further orders:-

1) Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary, Forests & Environment Department	-	Chairperson
2) Chief Conservator of Forests/Conservator of Forests in charge of Biodiversity	-	Secretary

3) Non-Official Members:- **With effect from**

a) Prof. S. K. Barik, Director, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow	-	27.11.2017
b) Dr. Natalie West Kharkongor, Associate Professor, IIM, Shillong	-	27.11.2017
c) Shri. K. C. Momin, (Retd.) Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department, Meghalaya	-	27.11.2017
d) Dr. Kalkame Cheran Momin, NEHU, Tura	-	25.11.2018
e) Shri. Augustus Shemphang Suting, Research Officer, State Council of Science Technology & Environment (SCSTE), Meghalaya	-	12.10.2020

4) Ex-Officio Members:-

- Chief Wildlife Warden, Meghalaya
- Director, Agriculture Department, Govt. of Meghalaya
- Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, Govt. of Meghalaya
- Director, Fisheries Department, Govt. of Meghalaya
- Director, School Education, Govt. of Meghalaya
- Director, Bio-Resources Development Centre, Meghalaya (Co-Opted Member)

The Headquarters of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board shall be at Shillong.

The functions of the State Biodiversity Board shall be to:-

- advise the State Government, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources;
- regulating by granting of approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization or bio-diversity and bio-utilization of any biological resource of Indians;
- perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act or as may be prescribed by the State Government;


Contd/....


d) prepare in such form and at such time in each financial year as may be prescribed, its Annual Report, giving a full account of its activities during the previous financial year, and submit a copy thereof to the State Government.

Sd/- (D. P. Wahlang, IAS)
Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Forests & Environment Department

Memo.No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/866-A. **Dated: Shillong, the 17th June, 2021.**
Copy to:-

- The P. S. to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
- The P.S. to the Hon'ble Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, for information of the Hon'ble Speaker.
- The P. S. to the Minister i/c Forests & Environment Department, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Minister.
- The P. S. to the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, for information of the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition.
- The P. S. to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Chief Secretary.
- The Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Park, New Delhi-110 003.
- The Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Park, New Delhi-110 003.
- The Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Forests & Environment Department.
- The Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Department/Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department/ Fisheries Department/Education Department.
- The Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, TICEL Bio-Park, 5th Floor, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai-600113.
- The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Meghalaya, Shillong.
- The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Meghalaya, Shillong.
- The Member Secretary, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, O/o. PCCF & HoFF, Sylvan House, Shillong.
- The Director of Agriculture/Animal Husbandry & Veterinary/Fisheries/School Education.
- Chief Wildlife Warden, Meghalaya, Sylvan House, Lachumiere, Shillong.
- Director, Bio-Resources Development Centre (BRDC), 3 1/2 Mile, Upper Shillong, 793009.
- Prof. S. K. Barik, Director, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute.
- Dr. Natalie West Kharkongor, Associate Professor, IIM, Shillong.
- Shri. K. C. Momin, (Retd.) Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department, Meghalaya.
- Dr. Kalkame Cheran Momin, NEHU, Tura.
- Shri. Augustus Shemphang Suting, Research Officer, State Council of Science Technology & Environment (SCSTE), Meghalaya, Shillong.
- The Director of Printing & Stationery, for favour of publication in the Meghalaya Gazette.
- Guard File.

By orders, etc.,

Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Forests & Environment Department



ii). The Board was reconstituted in the November 2021 after the resignation of Dr. Kalkame Cheran Momin (Non-Official Member) vide Notification No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/Pt/10 dated 16.11.2021.

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

NOTIFICATION

Dated Shillong, the 16th November, 2021

No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/Pt/10 - In partial modification of this Department's Notification No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/866, dated 17th June, 2021, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 22(1) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, the Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to re-constitute the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board for the purpose of the said Act consisting of the following members with immediate effect and until further orders:-

1) Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/ Commissioner & Secretary, Forests & Environment Department.	-	Chairperson.
2) Chief Conservator of Forests/Conservator of Forests in charge of Biodiversity	-	Secretary.
3) Non-Official Members:-		<u>With effect from</u>
a) Prof. S K Barik, Director, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.	-	28.11.2020
b) Dr. Natalie West Kharkongor, Associate Professor, IIM, Shillong.	-	28.11.2020
c) Shri K. C. Momin, (Retd) Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department, Meghalaya.	-	28.11.2020
d) Shri Augustus Shemphang Suting, Research Officer, State Council of Science Technology & Environment (SCSTE), Meghalaya.	-	12.10.2020
4) Ex-Officio Members:-		
a) Chief Wildlife Warden, Meghalaya.		
b) Director, Agriculture Department, Govt. of Meghalaya.		
c) Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, Govt. of Meghalaya.		
d) Director, Fisheries Department, Govt. of Meghalaya.		
e) Director, School Education, Govt. of Meghalaya.		
f) Director, Bio-Resources Development Centre, Meghalaya (Co-Opted Member).		

The Headquarters of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board shall be at Shillong.

The functions of the State Biodiversity Board shall be to :-

a) advise the State Government, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of

biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources;

b) regulating by granting of approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization or bio-diversity and bio-utilization of any biological resource of Indians;

c) perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act or as may be prescribed by the State Government;

d) prepare in such form and at such time in each financial year as may be prescribed, its Annual Report, giving a full account of its activities during the previous financial year, and submit a copy thereof to the State Government.

Sd/-
(Syed Md A Razi, IRTS)
Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Forests & Environment Department


Memo.No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/Pt/10-A Dated: Shillong, the 16th November, 2021.
Copy to:-

1. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
2. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Speaker, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Hon'ble Speaker.
3. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister i/c Forests & Environment Department, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Minister.
4. The P.S. to the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, for information of the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition.
5. The P.S. to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Chief Secretary.
6. The Secretary, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj, New Delhi-110003.
7. The Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj, New Delhi-110003.
8. The Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Department/Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department/Fisheries Department/Education Department.
9. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Forests & Environment Department.
10. The Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, TICEL Bio-Park, 5th Floor, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai-600113.
11. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Meghalaya, Shillong.
12. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Meghalaya, Shillong.
13. The Member Secretary, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, O/o PCCF & HoFF, Sylvan House, Shillong.
14. The Director of Agriculture/Animal Husbandry & Veterinary/Fisheries/School Education.
15. Chief Wildlife Warden, Meghalaya, Sylvan House, Lachumiere, Shillong.
16. Director, Bio-Resources Development Centre (BRDC), 5 ½ mile Upper Shillong, 793009.
17. Prof. S. K. Barik, Director, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute.
18. Dr. Natalie West Kharkongor, Associate Professor, IIM Shillong.
19. Shri. K.C. Momin, (Retd.) Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department, Meghalaya.
20. Shri. Augustus Shemphang Suting, Research Officer, State Council of Science Technology & Environment (SCSTE), Meghalaya, Shillong.

21. The Director of Printing & Stationery, for favour of publication in the Meghalaya Gazette.

22. Guard file.

By orders, etc.,
Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Forests & Environment Department



iii). The Board was reconstituted in January 2022 vide Notification No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/Pt-I/18 dated 27.01.2022 wherein Prof. Larisha M. Lyndem, Department of Zoology, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal, India joined as Non-Official Member of the Board.

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

NOTIFICATION

Dated Shillong, the 27th January, 2022.

No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/Pt-I/18 - In exercise of powers conferred under Section 22(1) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, the Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to re-constitute the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board for the purpose of the said Act consisting of the following members with immediate effect and until further orders:-

1) Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/ Commissioner & Secretary, Forests & Environment Department.	-	Chairperson.
2) Chief Conservator of Forests/Conservator of Forests in charge of Biodiversity	-	Secretary.
3) Non-Official Members:-		With effect from
a) Prof. S K Barik, Director, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.	-	28.11.2020
b) Dr. Natalie West Kharkongor, Associate Professor, IIM, Shillong.	-	28.11.2020
c) Shri K. C. Momin, (Retd) Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department, Meghalaya.	-	28.11.2020
d) Shri Augustus Shemphang Suting, Research Officer, State Council of Science Technology & Environment (SCSTE), Meghalaya.	-	12.10.2020
e) Prof. Larisha M. Lyndem, Department of Zoology - Visva-Bharati (A Central University) Santiniketan, West Bengal, India.	-	27.07.2021
4) Ex-Officio Members:-		
a) Chief Wildlife Warden, Meghalaya.		
b) Director, Agriculture Department, Govt. of Meghalaya.		
c) Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department, Govt. of Meghalaya.		
d) Director, Fisheries Department, Govt. of Meghalaya.		
e) Director, School Education, Govt. of Meghalaya.		
f) Director, Bio-Resources Development Centre, Meghalaya (Co-Opted Member).		

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b) regulating by granting of approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization or bio-diversity and bio-utilization of any biological resource of Indians;

c) perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act or as may be prescribed by the State Government;

d) prepare in such form and at such time in each financial year as may be prescribed, its Annual Report, giving a full account of its activities during the previous financial year, and submit a copy thereof to the State Government.

Sd/-
(Syed Md A Razi, IRTS)
Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Forests & Environment Department


Memo.No.FOR.57/2002/Vol-II/Pt-I/18-A Dated: Shillong, the 27th January, 2021.
Copy to:-

- The P.S. to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
- The P.S. to the Hon'ble Speaker, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Hon'ble Speaker.
- The P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister i/c Forests & Environment Department, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Minister.
- The P.S. to the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, for information of the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition.
- The P.S. to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya, for information of the Chief Secretary.
- The Secretary, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj, New Delhi-110003.
- The Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj, New Delhi-110003.
- The Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Department/Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department/Fisheries Department/Education Department.
- The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Forests & Environment Department.
- The Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, TICEL Bio-Park, 5th Floor, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai-600113.
- The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Meghalaya, Shillong.
- The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Meghalaya, Shillong.
- The Member Secretary, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, O/o PCCF & HoFF, Sylvan House, Shillong.
- The Director of Agriculture/Animal Husbandry & Veterinary/Fisheries/School Education.
- Chief Wildlife Warden, Meghalaya, Sylvan House, Lachumiere, Shillong.
- Director, Bio-Resources Development Centre (BRDC), 5 ½ mile Upper Shillong, 793009.
- Prof. S. K. Barik, Director, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute.
- Dr. Natalie West Kharkongor, Associate Professor, IIM Shillong.
- Shri. K. C. Momin, (Retd.) Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department, Meghalaya.
- Shri. Augustus Shemphang Suting, Research Officer, State Council of Science Technology & Environment (SCSTE), Meghalaya, Shillong.

- Prof. Larisha M. Lyndem, Department of Zoology, Visva-Barti (A Central University) Santiniketan-731235, West Bengal, India.
- The Director of Printing & Stationery, for favour of publication in the Meghalaya Gazette.
- Guard file.

By orders, etc.,



Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Forests & Environment Department



2.7. Constitution of Expert Committees:

Meghalaya Biodiversity Board provisionally reconstituted three (3) State Level Expert Committees under 13 (1) of the Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules 2010 to assist the Board for the purposes of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules as under:

- 1) Expert Committee on “Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)”
- 2) Expert Committee on “Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)”
- 3) Expert Committee on “Research Studies”

	<p>GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD (A STATUTORY BODY SET UP UNDER BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT, 2002) Sylvan House, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong - 793001</p>	
<p><i>Syed Md. A. Razi, IRTS,</i> Chairman</p>		
<p>No. O.O/11</p>	<p>Dated Shillong, the 21st February, 2022</p>	
<p><u>OFFICE ORDER</u></p>		
<p>Sub: Re-constitution of the Expert Committees of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board under Rule 13(1) of Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules 2010.</p>		
<p>In supersession of the earlier order constituting Expert Committees vide letter No. SBB.1/2012/BoardMeetings/1965-2001 dated 14-05-2013, No. SBB.1/2012/Board Meetings/1965-2001 dated 14-5-2013, O.O. No. 2 dated 17-11-2016 and O.O. No.3 dated 22-03-2017, the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board hereby re-constitutes the following three (3) State Level Expert Committees with immediate effect under Rule 13 (1) of the Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules 2010 to assist the Board for the purposes of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules.</p>		
<p>1. Expert Committee on "Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)"</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Chief Wildlife Warden or his nominee, Meghalaya, Shillong – Chairman.2. Member Secretary, MBB/Representative nominated by Member Secretary, MBB.3. Director/Scientist in Charge, Botanical Survey of India, Shillong.4. Director/Scientist in Charge, Zoological Survey of India, Shillong.5. Shri. Tambor Lyngdoh, Mawphlang Village, East Khasi Hills.6. Dr. K. Upadhyya, Asst. Prof. (Botany) College of Technology, NEHU.7. Dr. K. Chaudhary, Asst. Prof. (Botany), Lady Keane College, Shillong.8. Dr. Wympher Langtang, Asst. Prof. (Botany) St. Anthony's College.9. Dr. Ester Jones Marbaniang, Principal, Goodwill College, Laitumkrah.10. Two (02) experts co-opted by the Member Secretary, MBB.11. Two (02) District Nodal Officers co-opted by the Member Secretary, MBB.		
<p>Terms of reference:</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The BHS Committee shall look into the matters concerning BHS and OECM (Other effective area-based conservation measures) in Meghalaya.2. The BHS Committee shall propose sites for BHS and OECM in Meghalaya.3. The BHS Committee shall guide and assist the Board in conducting survey and documentation (flora and fauna) of the proposed BHS sites.4. Assist the BMCs/BHS Monitoring Committees in utilizing the BHS fund for conservation and sustainable use of bio-resources.5. The Committee will meet as per requirement of the Board.6. Look into any other related issue as directed by the Board.		

Expert Committee on "Research Studies"

73

1. Prof. S.K. Barik, Director, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow – Chairman.
2. Member Secretary, MBB/Representative nominated by Member Secretary, MBB.
3. Prof. Natalie West Kharkongor, Associate Prof., IIM, Shillong.
4. Dr. C. S. Rao, Dept. of Botany, St. Anthony's college, Shillong.
5. Prof. (Retd.) B.K. Tiwari, NEHU.
6. Dr. K. Upadhyya, Asst. Prof., College of Technology, NEHU.
7. Dr. Vincent T. Darlong, Zoologist, Director Centre for sustainable Development Studies, Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong

Terms of reference:

1. The Committee on "Research Studies" shall evaluate the project reports of the Project Assistants of the Board and the external projects sponsored by the Board.
2. Assist the Board in selection of topics on the proposed research studies to be taken up by the Board.
3. The Committee will meet as per requirement of the Board.
4. Look into any other related issue as directed by the Board.

(Syed Md. A. Razi, IRTS)
 Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
 Forests & Environment Department &
 Chairman, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, Shillong

No.SBB.I/Board Meetings/Pt-II/2020/7435-7471 Dated Shillong, the 21st February, 2022

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong for information.
2. The PCCF & HoFF, Meghalaya, Shillong for information.
3. The Principal Secretary/Commissioner & Secretary to Govt. of Meghalaya, Department of Agriculture/Law/Horticulture/Fishery/Planning (for MBDA)/Vety & AH/ C& RD for information and to facilitate the nominations concerned.
4. The Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai for information.
5. The Secretary, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, Shillong for info. & necessary action.
6. The Joint Secretary Forests & Environment Department for information
7. All expert committee members for information & necessary action.
8. Files of MBB concerned.

(Syed Md. A. Razi, IRTS)
 Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
 Forests & Environment Department &
 Chairman, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, Shillong

2. Expert Committee on "Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)"

1. Shri. Pynbiang Singh Nongbri, IFS (Retd.), CCF, Meghalaya – Chairman.
2. Member Secretary, MBB/Representative nominated by Member Secretary, MBB
3. Prof. D. Syiem, Biochemistry Department, NEHU.
4. Prof. H. Kayang, Botany Department, NEHU.
5. Director/Representative, North East Slow Food & Agro-biodiversity Society (NESFAS), Shillong.
6. Manager, Meghalaya Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium, Directorate of Agriculture Building, Cleve Colony, Shillong.
7. Advisor (Law) nominated by Advocate General, Govt. of Meghalaya.
8. Chief Operating Officer/Representative, Meghalaya State Rural Livelihoods Society, Dhankheti, Shillong.
9. Dr. S. G. Christopher, Assistant Director (Piggery), A.H & Veterinary Department, Shillong.
10. Two (02) experts co-opted by the Member Secretary, MBB.
11. Two (02) District Nodal Officers co-opted by the Member Secretary, MBB.

Terms of reference:

1. The ABS Committee shall look into the matters concerning ABS and its implementation in Meghalaya.
2. Assist the Board in conducting Workshops and Awareness Campaigns for ABS awareness and its implementation.
3. Guide and assist the BMCs in utilizing the ABS monetary and non-monetary benefits for conservation and sustainable use of bio-resources.
4. Assist the Board in identifying the "Chain of Custody" of biological resources that attracts the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
5. The Committee will meet as per requirement of the Board.
6. Guide and assist the Board on legal matters related to implementation of ABS.
7. Look into any other related issue as directed by the Board.

3. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs):

3.1. Constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs): Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) is a part of the institutional structure for the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. As per Section 41 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rule 23 of Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules, 2010, every local body shall constitute a Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) within its area for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use of bioresources, equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources and documentation of entire biological diversity present in the area including conservation of habitats, preservation of land races, local varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganism and compiling of knowledge relating to the biological diversity of the area.

Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has given utmost importance to the BMCs by empowering them and also states that the NBA and the SBB shall consult the BMCs while taking decisions relating to the use of biological resources and the traditional knowledge associated with such resources. The BMCs can also levy charges by way of collection of fees from any person for accessing or collecting any biological resource for commercial purpose from areas falling within its territorial jurisdiction.

Section 22 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 states that the BMCs shall consists of a chairperson and not more than six persons nominated by the local body of whom not less than one third should be women and not less than 18% should belong to the Schedule Castes/Schedule Tribes. The Chairperson of the BMC shall be elected from amongst the members of the committee in a meeting to be chaired by the Chairperson of the local body.

3.2. Local Biodiversity Fund (LBF): There is a provision in Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for the generation of a fund to be called the Local Biodiversity Fund at every area notified by the State Government where any institution of self-government is functioning (Sec 43, BD Act, 2002).

As per Meghalaya Biological Diversity Rules, 2010:

- i. At level of each local body a local biodiversity fund shall be constituted.
- ii. The Board shall provide to the local body any loan or grant received by it from State Government, Central Government or from the Authority for the purposes of the Act. The local body can also access such funds from other sources as it identifies, or as specified by the Board.
- iii. The local biodiversity fund shall be operated by the Biodiversity Management Committees. The Board shall lay down the operational guideline for operation of the fund by the Biodiversity Management Committees, including ways, in which its functioning is transparent and accountable to all members of the relevant local body.
- iv. The fund shall be used for the conservation and promotion of bio-diversity in the areas falling within the jurisdiction of the concerned local body and for the benefits of the local community so far as such use is consistent with conservation of biodiversity.
- v. The account of the local biodiversity fund shall be prepared in such form as may be specified by the Board and during each financial year at such time, as may be prescribed by the Board.
- vi. The Biodiversity Management Committees shall prepare its annual report giving full account of its activities during the previous financial year, and submit a copy thereof to the board and a copy to the general assembly of the local body.
- vii. The accounts of the local bio-diversity fund shall be maintained and audited in such manner, as may be specified by the Board.

- viii. Every local body constituting a Biodiversity Management Committee under sub-section (1) of section 41, shall cause, the annual report and audited copy of accounts together with auditor's report thereon referred to in section 45 & 46 of the Act, respectively and relating to such Committee, to be submitted to the District Magistrate having jurisdiction over the area of the local body.

3.3. 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.

3.4. Constitution of BMCs till 31st March, 2022: According to Census of India 2001, 2011, the State has 6459 villages and 9 urban bodies. Till 31st March, 2022, 6473 BMCs has been constituted through the village level local bodies and efforts are going on to constitute BMCs in all the village level local bodies 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.

4. People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs):

Preparation of PBR is mandated under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and is the responsibility of BMCs. It is a register that contains comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resource (flora and fauna), their medicinal or any other use and any other TK associated with them. The current PBR preparation methodology being considered for widespread official use has been developed by the NBA. This elaborates and presets a set of formats with tables and kind of information required that needs to be filled by BMCs with the help of students, researchers and knowledgeable individuals and be validated by BMC with the help of TSG/SBB as needed. This information will be kept in the safe custody of BMC. PBR is a legal document for purposes of determining Access and Benefit Sharing provisions under the Act. The PBR is expected to serve as a tool to prevent bio-piracy and serve as a guide in conservation planning and action at the ground level.

As per Section 22(6) of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, the main function of the BMC is to prepare People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) in consultation with the local people. PBR documentation helps, sustainable resource management in Restoration of Traditional fishes, Crops, Wildlife habitats and locally endangered wild species. Documentation also supports claims of local ownership of biodiversity & traditional knowledge. PBR is a legal document for IPR and Patent issues. This helps empower the local communities, making them aware of their rights, as well as conserving the biodiversity. PBR is also as a mechanism to create awareness among the people about the condition of plants and animal species and their conservation and sustainable utilization. This mechanism can bring the people to participate in development planning which would be ecologically sustainable and socially justifiable.

PBR Compilation Exercise: The preparation of PBR is a participatory process. It involves a detailed consultation with all stakeholders including, particularly the local people, who need to share their common as well as specialized knowledge. One of the first steps for preparing a PBR is to organize group meetings to explain the objectives and purpose of the exercise. Different social groups in the village level is to be identified for the purpose of data collection through detailed questionnaires, focused group discussions with people having knowledge and by consulting published secondary information. The guidelines and format for the preparation of PBRs are issued by the National Biodiversity Authority.

Documentation of Traditional Knowledge (TK) in the PBR: Traditional Knowledge (TK) of communities represents the collective wealth of their cultural heritage and experience being passed in the most cases from one generation to the next, thereby constituting their Intellectual Property. Such knowledge is held collectively by each community, access to which is usually governed by customary laws. The role of TK extends to agricultural systems, healthcare practices, use of medicinal plants, veterinary practices and religious beliefs. The documentation of this knowledge of individuals with regard to biodiversity and its uses is an important part of the PBR.

4.1. PBR preparation in Meghalaya:

The guidelines for preparation of PBRs of NBA have called for the formation of Technical Support Groups (TSGs) in every District. The Technical Support Group (TSG) will consist of experts from various disciplines and line departments, universities, research institutes, colleges and schools and non-governmental organizations. The Technical Support Group will provide technical inputs and advice to the BMCs on identification of plants and animals, monitor and evaluate the PBR exercise, examine confidential information and advice on legal protection, maintain a database of local and external experts on biodiversity. The Government of Meghalaya has already notified Technical Support Groups in every District to offer technical guidance to the BMCs and also District Nodal Officers (DNOs) have been appointed to co-ordinate the activities of the Board at the district level and guide the BMCs.

The Board is assisting the BMCs in the State in preparation of their PBRs with the help of technical expertise. The Board has completed preparation of 6473 PBRs till 31st March, 2022.



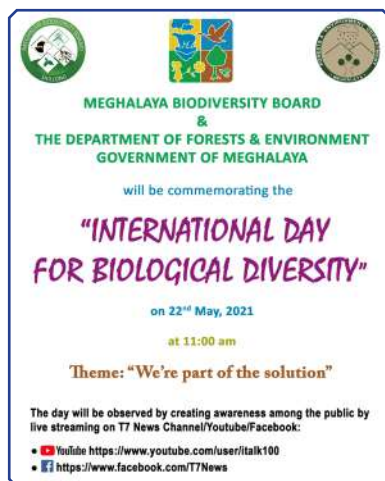
5. Activities of the Board:

The main activities of the Board from 1st April, 2021 up to 31st March, 2022 are encapsulated as follows:

5.1. International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) Celebration in Shillong:

The following are the details of the IDB celebration held on 22nd May, 2021:

The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) was commemorated by Meghalaya Biodiversity Board in collaboration with St. Anthony's College Department of Zoology, Synod College, Quinnie Secondary School and in few Districts of Meghalaya on the theme **"We're Part of the Solutions."** on 22nd May, 2021 through virtual mode by organising various activities.



The activities included Webinars, Online Quiz, 3 min speech on "Deforestation, Causes, Effect & Solution" for School Students. The Webinars and Quiz competition were also open to the public at large to participate. Due to the Covid19 pandemic and lockdown in the State, the activities had to be made by the concerned teachers in a manner where the children at home used the available resources in and around their surroundings.

Advertisement on IDB, 2021 was also campaigned on Air through Red FM, South Asia FM, LTD, Shillong. An interview with the Member Secretary, MBB, Shri. N. Luikham, IFS was also held on Big FM (<https://www.facebook.com/515678752100665/posts/1444753892526475/>) with RJ Bob on 22nd May, 2021 to create awareness among the public on International Day for Biological Diversity and the bird's eye view on the biodiversity of Meghalaya.

The entire program was streamed live on T7 News channel, Youtube and Facebook to reach out to more people and create awareness amongst them.

The following channels were used for the above purpose:-

- i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3aImZoQmpY&feature=youtu.be>
- ii. <https://www.facebook.com/T7NewsC>

The Webinar consisted of two topics:

a) “New Species Discoveries in Meghalaya and the Importance of Conservation”

Dr. Uttam Saikia, Scientist-C of the North Eastern Regional Centre, Zoological Society of India, Shillong, was the speaker on this topic. Dr. Saikia is known for his work on documentation of faunal species in the North Eastern States of India and was mainly involved in the discovery of *Eudiscopus denticulus*, the first disk-footed bat reported in India. He gave an exhaustive and highly informative presentation in the Webinar about the various animal species that were discovered or reported for the first time in Meghalaya and India as a whole.

b). “ The Importance of Biodiversity and the Provisions of BD Act, 2002”

Shri N Luikham, IFS, Conservator of Forest (WL & T) cum Member Secretary, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board and Shri. C A Rahman, IFS (Retd), Faculty, Central Academy for State Forest Service, MoEF & CC, Govt. of India), Burnihat, Assam spoke on the Importance of Biodiversity and the Provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002”.

The main objectives of the webinar was to create awareness about the vast diversity of fauna and flora of our State and also introduce the recently reported new and endemic species found only in Meghalaya like the bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky disks on its feet named *Eudiscopus denticulus* that was discovered earlier this year from an adjacent to Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary. This in turn will generate interest among biologist, non-biologists and non-science individuals. Another important objective of the webinar was to inculcate the sense of responsibility among the webinar attendees regarding the well being, preservation and importance of all biological species. The conservation of all species especially those endemic to the State is an important issue of the present day and the webinar was considered as an opportunity to get that message to students, academicians, policy makers and all other stake holders. Close to about 300 participants attended the Webinars.

The objective of the Quiz was to get attention of students who are the future heirs of our rich biodiversity and who hopefully will play a major role in its conservation. It also aims to inculcate in the young minds more knowledge regarding our State’s biological species and the laws that govern their preservation, health and conservation.

Based on the feedback from the participants, the Webinars was well appreciated by all as it provided an in-depth and detailed knowledge about the rich biodiversity of faunal species in the State including the ones that are endemic to the State. The knowledge obtained by the young students through the webinars has improved their understanding of our rich biological heritage and their role as future conservationists of biodiversity. As per feedback from the participants, playing the quiz gave them an opportunity to explore, their knowledge about the biodiversity of the State and the various conservation efforts being put in place to protect it.

The Board in collaboration with Queenie Secondary School, Laban, Shillong organized various activities for Students from Class I to Class X as mentioned below: The entire event was carried out online. The Class Teachers communicated with the students through WhatsApp and the students did the activities at home and clicked pictures and videos and sent it back to the Class Teachers. The Class teachers picked the best activities and sent it to the school program coordinators who choose the winners. It was not an easy task, but the objective was accomplished. The detailed pictures and Videos were sent to the coordinating member of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board for evaluation.

Class I : Collection of different kinds of Leaves.



1st Saadia Begum



2nd Leticia Mary Tongper

Class II : Drawing Pictures of different types of Butterflies.



1st Eklavya Chettri



2nd Jadel E.M. Nongkhaw

Class III : Craft Work with Leaves making different Types of Animals or Insects.



1st Jennifa Khanam Mazarbhuiya



2nd Omme Salma

Class IV : To make a Collage of any Animal or Bird with Magazine or Newspaper.



1st Samrat Bhattacharjee

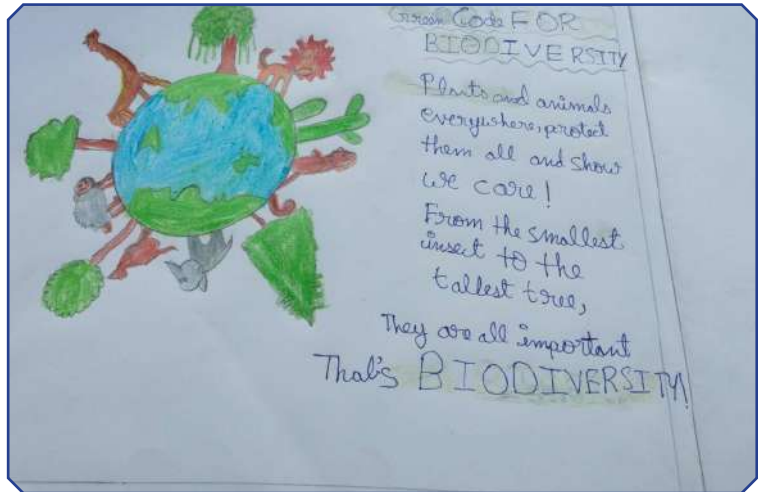


2nd Ahuti Kumari

Class V: Slogan writing on the Theme “ We’re Part of the Solution”.

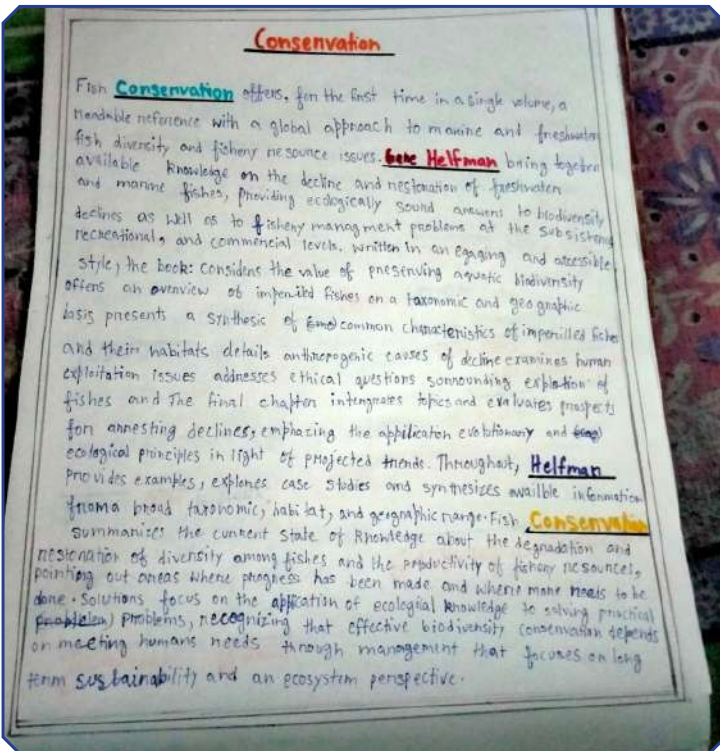


1st Ashreena Ruth Shullai

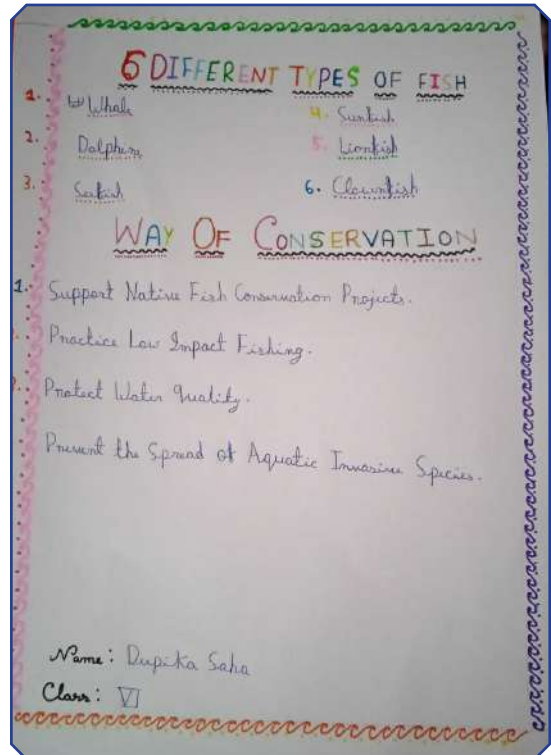


2nd William Kharlam

Class VI : Write about Different Types of Fishes and their Conservation.



1st Prittiraj Das

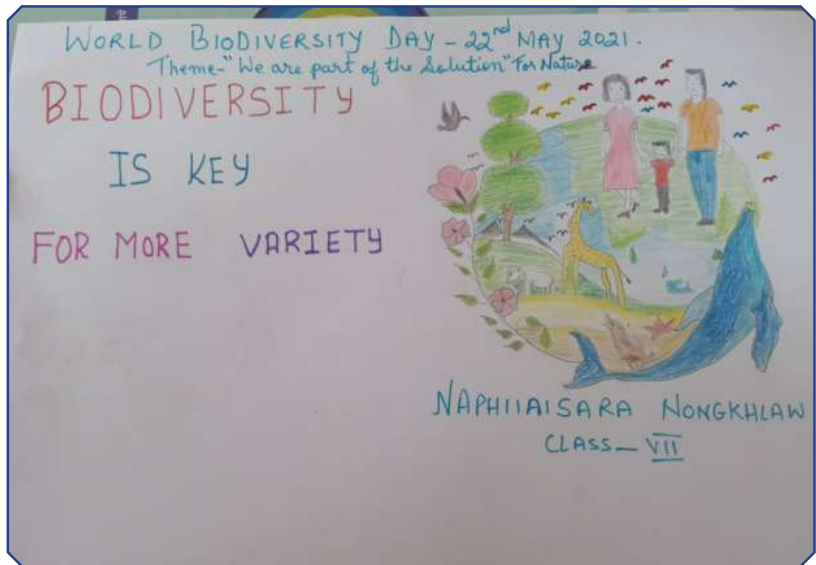


2nd Deepika Saha

Class VII : Give a diagrammatic representation on Biodiversity Ecosystem.



1st Kaushik Singh



2nd Naphisara Nongkhlaw

Class VIII: To make a Bird Water Feeder with Plastic bottle or A Bird House.

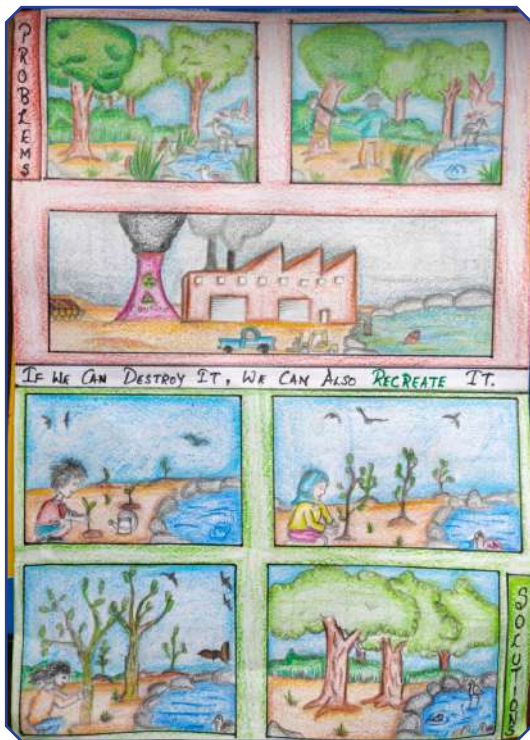


1st Prateek Kumar Rajak



2nd Sohan Sharma

Class IX: Drawing on the Theme “We’re Part of the Solution “#for Nature.



1st Gaurav Jaiswal



2nd Krishna Bora

Class X : Speech (To make a 3 minutes video) on the Topic “ Deforestation, Causes, Effect and Solution”. Winners: 1st Raj Paul and 2nd Akangsha Thapa.

Photography Competition: The Board organized Online Photography competition on the theme “People & Nature” in order to create awareness among the public for biodiversity conservation, which was open to all.

MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD



INVITES YOU TO TAKE PART IN THE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION BASED ON THE THEME MENTIONED BELOW

Theme: "People & Nature"

Winners
 1st Prize- 5000/-
 2nd Prize-3000/-
 3rd Prize-2000/-
 & 4 Consolation Prize

Please mention the date, location, description of the photos and submit a declaration that the photos are original and have been shot by you.

Last date of submission: 10th May 2023

Participants can send their photos along with their full name and contact number to secretarymbb@gmail.com

Follow us on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/meghalabiodiversity) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/meghalabiodiversity)

MBB would retain the copyright over the photographs submitted by the participants with due acknowledgement to the photographer

Advertisement for the Photography Competition

Winners of the photography competition:



1st Prize: Misonwell Rangtong



2nd Prize Ialamphang lyngdoh



3rd Prize: Gerald Samuel Duia



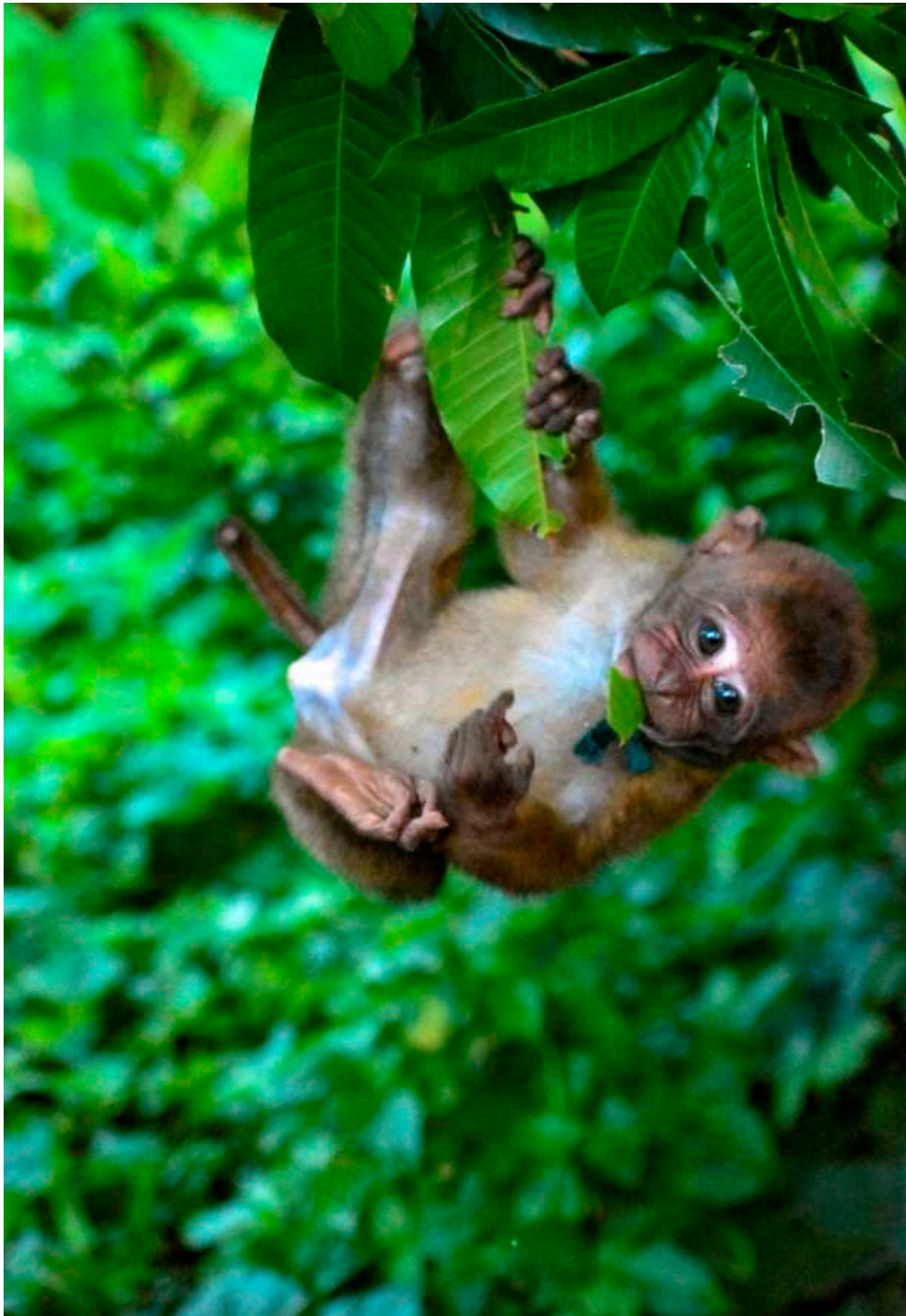
Consolation Prize: Leeno Shilla



Consolation Prize : Elvisha Warshong



Consolation Prize: Zion Zabdiel Kharpuri



Consolation Prize: Riteilang Khongrangjem

5.2 Celebration of IDB in the other Districts of Meghalaya: The Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife Jaintia Hills) who is also the District Nodal Officer (Biodiversity) for West Jaintia Hills delivered a Monologue talk in local dialect on the need for conservation of biodiversity which was recorded at All India Radio (AIR) and was broadcasted 22nd May, 2021 at 101.1 Mhz at 5:40 PM. Drawing competition for students from Class V - VII on the topic “Importance of Biodiversity for our sustenance” and Quiz competition from Class VIII - X on the topic “Biodiversity of our State” was also conducted where the following schools participated viz. Presbyterian U.P School Jowai, Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Jowai, SeinRaij U.P School Jowai, Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Jowai, Jowai Public school, Loompyrdilongpiah U.P School, K.J.P Synod Mihngi Hr.Secondary School Jowai, Marian Hills Hr. Secondary School and North Liberty Higher Secondary school Jowai.



DNO, West Jaintia Hills delivering a Monologue talk and conducting Quiz competition

The Divisional Forest Officer (Social Forestry Division, Jaintia Hills) who is also the District Nodal Officer (Biodiversity) for East Jaintia Hills organised Drawing competition for Class VI-VIII on the topic “Biodiversity Our World-Our Life” and for Class IX-X on the topic “Biodiversity-Our most valuable but least appreciated Resource”. Tree planting was also organised along with the BMC members of the Latyrke Village, East Jaintia Hills maintaining all the protocols and guidelines related to Covid-19 pandemic.



Tree planting by the BMC members at Latyrke Village, East Jaintia Hills

The Divisional Forest Officer (E&W Wildlife Division, Tura) who is also the District Nodal Officer (Biodiversity) for West Garo Hills, conducted awareness programme cum tree planting drive and free distribution of saplings for the Members of the Community Reserve Forest at Dadenggre.



Awareness programme cum tree planting at Dadenggre

5.3. Capacity Building Workshop: The Board organised a one day Capacity Building Workshop for the Officials of Forest & Environment Department Government of Meghalaya on the topic “Implementation of the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 with special emphasis on Enforcement Matters and Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS) in the state of Meghalaya”, at the Conference Hall, Sylvan House, Shillong on 15th November, 2021.

Shri. R.S. Murthy, IFS, Retd. PCCF & Former Member Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Biodiversity Board as a Keynote Speaker gave Lecture on the Provisions of the BD Act- 2002 with special emphasis on enforcement matters and ABS.



Shri. R.S. Murthy, IFS, Retd. addressing the Forest Officials

The Valedictory Session was graced by Meghalaya Forest & Environment Minister, Shri James P K Sangma as the Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion, Shri James P K Sangma lauded the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board for coming up with this initiative which will enhance the performances of the officials of the State. Stating that it is important to take lessons from the recent alarming situation that the Covid-19 pandemic created, it also served its purpose for mother-nature in which many mundane things were undone for the better and it gives the time to introspect about the relationship human beings have had with the environment all this while. It reminds us of the profound consequences on our own well-being and survival that can result from continued biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems, he added. Shri Sangma stated that Meghalaya, which is a part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, harbours a rich and diversified flora and fauna. The region is in the middle of significant changes which are causing extreme temperature changes and erratic rainfall patterns over the last few years which affect agriculture, livelihoods and the health of the

people, he added. Shri Sangma stressed on the need to raise awareness on reforestation strategies and improving forest management in order to meet the objectives with regard to halting biodiversity loss and protecting the ecosystems. He also urged upon the stakeholders to start looking at biological diversity not only as a tangible resource for economic benefits but also to conserve and protect biological resources and the services it gives in intangible terms that sustain our lives.



Shri James P K Sangma addressing the Forest Officials



Chairman, MBB addressing the Forest Officials

Shri James P K Sangma handed over the “First Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Fund” received by the Board of Rs. 85,500/- (Rupees eighty five thousand five hundred only) as benefit sharing component from M/s Kisan Kraft Ltd. through National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) for accessing biological resources for research purpose cum commercial utilization from Singwilgre BMC, Selsella Block, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya.



Hon’ble Forest & Environment Minister, Meghalaya handing over the ABS fund to Chairman, Singwilgre BMC
On the occasion, the Chief Guest also released the “Meghalaya Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (MBSAP) 2017-2030” and book titled “Flowering Plants of Meghalaya: A pictorial Guide, Part -1”.



Release of MBSAP 2017-2030

MBSAP 2017-2030” is aimed to provide a strategic framework for protection and conservation of the State biodiversity. The MBSAP for 2017-2030 is developed along the lines of the 12 National Biodiversity Targets through extensive stakeholder consultations and public outreach. The strategies and priority actions contained in the document take into consideration the needs in terms of conservation, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits. Implementing the MBSAP will be a challenging task and calls for active involvement of all the stakeholders. People’s participation will remain central to its successful implementation with active support of the State Biodiversity Board.

The Book titled “Flowering plants of Meghalaya-A Pictorial Guide Part -1” contains the list of **1014** flowering plant species with coloured photographs from the State of Meghalaya, a detail aspect of the listed species includes flowering and fruiting period, their known distributional records and vernacular names (local names) in Khasi, Garo and Jaintia languages the Book is first of its kind for State of Meghalaya. The book will be helpful for Students, Researchers, Foresters, General Public and others.



Release of the book “Flowering plants of Meghalaya-A Pictorial Guide Part -1”

5.4 Celebrating the Rivers of India Under Azadiki Amrut Mahotsav: The Board celebrated the “Rivers of India” under Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav on 21.12.2021 in collaboration with the office of the Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife) Jaintia Hills cum District Nodal Officer cum Convenor TSG and Shangpung Pohshnong Biodiversity Management Committee, West Jaintia Hills District at Lummuroo Upper Primary School Shangpung village. Tree plantation in the premise of Lummuroo Upper Primary School was carried out adjacent to the River Um Iurem. The area of the plantation serves as the catchment of River Um Iurem, which is the main source of water supply to Shangpung Village. The Members of the BMC as well as the students actively took part in the tree planting Ceremony. During the awareness programme, Oath ceremony was also taken up, where everyone present read the Article 51-A (g) of the constitution of India, which says that “It shall be duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures”.



Students carrying out the Tree plantation drive adjacent to the River Um Iurem

5.5 Asian Water Bird Census: The Board organized and conducted the Maiden Asian Waterbird Census 2022 simultaneously at five sites namely, Umsaw, Umbir, Umniuh, Mawlyndep and Umiam covering the wetland areas of Umiam Lake Ri-Bhoi District on 19th February, 2022 with the support and guidance from professionals involving the nearby Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) Members together with the presence of the Chief Wildlife Warden and Member Secretary, Meghalaya Biodiversity Board.

The Experts involved were Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS, CCF (R&WP) from Assam Forest Department, Dr Bibhuti Lahkar, Dr Udayan Borthakur, Dr Pranjal Kumar Das and Dr Leons Mathiew Abhaham (Veterinarian) from Aaranyak and Mr. Nabajit Choudhury, independent Photographer.

In a short meeting held at Lum Nehru Park Umiam, Ri-Bhoi District, the Experts highlighted that the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is part of the global International Waterbird Census (IWC). This citizen-science programme is supporting the conservation and management of wetlands and Waterbirds worldwide is done annually between the month of January and February, wherein volunteers across Asia and Australasia visit wetlands in their country and count Waterbirds. It works in partnership with many existing National Waterbird Census programmes. More than 70 volunteers took part including Experts, professionals involving the nearby Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), Range Forest Officer trainees, Byrnihat, representatives from Meghalaya Forest Department and Meghalaya Biodiversity Board.

As per a Bird Checklist of Citizen Science, more than 40 waterbirds are listed for Ri Bhoi District. During the exercise about 102 waterbirds comprising of 8 species were observed.

The Experts also stated that it is for the first time that Asian Waterbirds Census have been conducted in Meghalaya and this is a small beginning for which the Board will be taking up more such exercises in the year ahead.



Participants during the Waterbird Census



Member Secretary, MBB addressing the Participants



Sighting of the Waterbirds by the Experts

FEW IMAGES OF WATERBIRD SPECIES SIGHTED



Podiceps cristatus



Phalacrocorax carbo



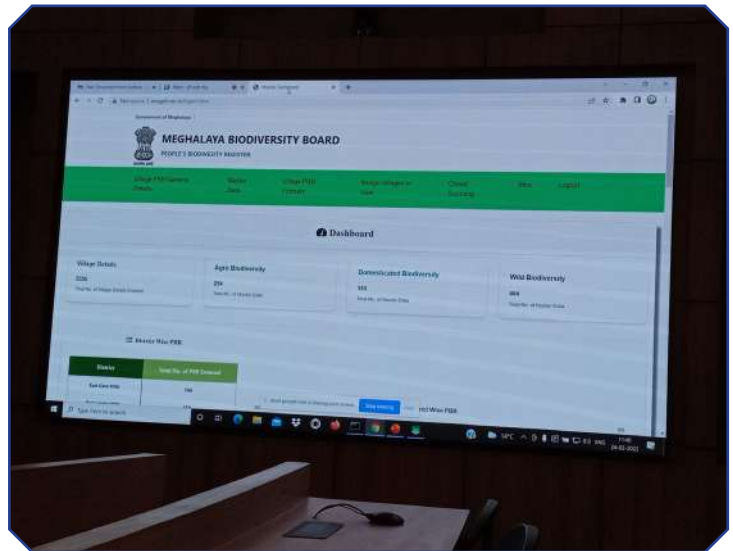
Motacilla alba



Ardea intermedia

5.6 Launch of the PBR App: The Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) Application Software of the Board developed and designed by NIC was launched by Hon'ble Forest and Environment Minister, Meghalaya, Shri. James P K Sangma on 24th February, 2022 for the State of Meghalaya complementing Statehood of Meghalaya celebrations and infusing technological innovations in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC), Shillong.

This PBR App will be used for the purpose of upgradation and enriching the data base of inventory of biological resources of the State. This PBR Mobile App version can be used not only by domain related officials but also the general public to complement and supplement capturing data for documentation of our rich biological heritage which will help in fair and equitable sharing of benefits with our villages (bioresource owners) through the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).



Launch of the PBR App of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board



Hon'ble Forest Minister, Govt. of Meghalaya launching the PBR App

5.7. Meetings of the Board for the year 2021-2022

Two Board meetings were held during the year 2021-2022 as detailed below:

- i. The 17th meeting of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) was held on 10th August, 2021 at the Conference Hall of the Sylvan House, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong. The meeting was chaired by Shri. D.P. Wahlang, IAS, Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Meghalaya cum Chairman of the Board. During the meeting discussions were held on the following agenda points:
 - a) Confirmation of the minutes of the 16th meeting of the Board held on 25th March, 2021.
 - b) Resignation of one Non-official Member of the Board.
 - c) Follow up action taken on the decisions during the 16th Board Meeting held on 25th March, 2021.
 - d) Release of Annual Report for the year 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 and MBSAP.
 - e) Compliance Report on the constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees and Preparation of PBRs in the State.
 - f) Review on the progress of Developing/designing appropriate PBR Apps for preparation of PBR in the State by NIC, Meghalaya, Shillong.
 - g) Discussion on hosting of the Software Application and Database.
 - h) Nomination of School teachers as Ex-Officio Secretary for the respective BMCs constituted so far.
 - i) Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing in the State.
 - j) Proposal for re-constitution of the seven (7) State Level Expert Committees of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board under Rule 13 (1) of Meghalaya Biological diversity Rules 2010.
 - k) State Plan Scheme proposal for the FY-2021-2022.



17th meeting of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board

- ii. The 18th meeting of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) was held on 3rd December, 2021 at the Conference Room of the Sylvan House, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong. The meeting was chaired by Shri. Syed Md. A. Razi, IRTS, Commissioner & Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Meghalaya cum Chairman of the Board. The following agenda points were discussed during the meeting:
 - a. Confirmation of the minutes of the 17th meeting of the Board held on 10th August, 2021.
 - b. Proposal for nomination of One Non-official Member of the Board.
 - c. Review on the progress of the PBR App for preparation of PBR in the State by NIC, Meghalaya, Shillong and hosting of the same.
 - d. Proposal for nomination of Members for the 3 (Three) Expert Committees of the Board.
 - e. Nomination of School teachers as Ex-Officio Secretary for the respective BMCs constituted so far.
 - f. Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing in the State.



18th meeting of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board

5.8. Meetings of the State-Level PBR Quality Evaluation Monitoring Committee:

In compliance to Hon'ble NGT Order dated 09/08/2019 of the Case No. 347/2016 Shri. Chandra Bhal Singh Vrs Union of India & Ors, the Government of Meghalaya constituted a State Level People's Biodiversity Register Quality Evaluation Monitoring Committee (SLPBRQEMC) *vide* Notification No. FOR/CC/10/2016/Pt/212 dated 17th November, 2020 consisting of seven members headed by Shri. Pynbiang Singh Nongbri, IFS (Retd.) Chief Conservator of Forest, Meghalaya as Chairman. The Committee conducted two meetings during the year 2021-2022 (1st October, 2021 and 17th March, 2022) where they evaluated the quality of the PBRs prepared by the Board and gave their suggestions, which were incorporated by the Board.



Member Secretary, MBB having discussion with the PBR Committee members.



Officer in Charge, BSI, Shillong giving his suggestions for improving the PBRs

5.9. Meetings of the Expert Committee on “Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) of the Board:

The first meeting of the Expert Committee on ABS was held on 30th November, 2020 where Member Secretary, MBB stated that State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) have powers to regulate activities under Section 7 of the BD, Act, 2002 by way of granting approvals or other such orders. The procedures of the SBB are detailed in the respective State Rules framed under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. SBBs shall regulate by granting of approvals or otherwise requests for utilization of biological resources by persons covered under Section 7. Such requests for utilization of biological resources must be for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization for commercial utilization. ABS is the Backbone of the BD Act, 2002. ABS mechanism is an instrument for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity aiding to the other two objectives of the Act. ABS is a mechanism by which bio-resources (BRs) and Traditional Knowledge (TKs) may be accessed and benefits (both monetary and non-monetary) shared between the people/countries who use the resources (users) and the people/countries who provide them (providers). ABS is a legal instrument for ensuring equity amongst the users and providers of BRs and TKs to secure development and conservation of biodiversity.

The 2nd Meeting of the Expert Committee on ABS was held both on 6th August, 2021 at the office of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board, Lower Lachumiere, Shillong. The meeting was also held virtually. The following was decided by the members as summarized below:

- Compilation of the tradable bio-resources of Meghalaya is done by the Board from the data gathered by the Project Assistants of the Board.
- ZSI was requested to furnish/generate the tradable fauna list from the existing literature.
- BSI was requested to furnish/generate the tradable flora list from the existing literature.
- Develop trainers on ABS mechanism for the BMCs from amongst active BMCs and also involving the relevant NGOs..

- Collect information from the local BMCs and traders on sale of Lakadong turmeric in Jaintia Hills through the DNO, West Jaintia Hills.



First Meeting of the Expert Committee on ABS



Second Meeting of the Expert Committee on ABS

Meeting on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Mechanism with all the DNOs of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board: An online meeting on ABS Mechanism with all the DNOs of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board was held on 24th August, 2021 on the following agenda:

- Develop trainers on ABS mechanism for the BMCs from amongst active BMCs also involving the relevant NGOs.
- Training and workshops involving resource persons/ experts for training master trainers pooled from the Districts.
- Identify and make a list of buyers (Traders/Middleman/Companies) of the bioresources from Meghalaya with the help of stakeholders, DFOs, Line Departments including the Block Development Officers, NGOs, KVKs, Cooperative and Farmers society, etc.
- Conduct more Awareness Camps and Workshops by involving resource persons and master trainers.
- Proposal for Authorization of field officers not below the rank of Range Officer for booking offence cases under BDA 2002.
- Nomination of names for Expert Committee members for making new ABS Expert committee.
- Identifying the relevant NGOs for ABS mechanism in Meghalaya.
- Workshop on ABS by involving expert members from other State Boards.
- Identifying Pilot projects on ABS in all the Districts like Lakadong turmeric in West Jaintia Hills, lichens etc.
- Proposal to designate/declare Ex-Officio Joint Member Secretary and Ex-Officio Assistant Member Secretary if Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) as per NBA suggestion.

Access and Benefit Sharing Meeting at Shangpung Pohshnong Village: An meeting on ABS was conducted by the Board at Community Hall of Shangpung Pohshnong Village, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya dated 20th August, 2021 following up the second the Expert Committee on ABS to enlighten the BMCs on the ABS mechanism and the BMCs were also requested to furnish the list of bioresources extracted in bulk from their BMCs by the Companies, traders/suppliers and the middle men involved.



Member Secretary, MBB and DNO, WJH enlighten the BMC members on ABS mechanism

6. Publications of the Board:

In the year 2021-22, the Board published the Meghalaya Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (MBSAP) 2017-2030 and “Flowering Plants of Meghalaya: A pictorial Guide, Part -1”.



MBSAP 2017-2030



Flowering Plants of Meghalaya: A pictorial Guide, Part -1

7.0 Awareness Campaigns:

The Board conducted thirteen awareness campaigns during the year 2021-22 at block level in different Districts of the State for constitution of BMC, preparation of PBRs and on provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 with the help of Deputy Commissioners, Block Development Officers and District Nodal Officers. The list of various awareness campaigns conducted at different places are as follows:

Sl.No.	Date	Place	Block	District
1	06/04/2021	Mawkynrew Block Office	Mawkynrew	East Khasi Hills
2	16/04/2021	Mawryngkneng Block Office	Mawryngkneng	East Khasi Hills
3	20/08/2021	Shangpung Pohshnong	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
4	27/09/2021	Baiza, Williamnagar	Baiza, Williamnagar	East Garo Hills
5	28/09/2021	Tura	Tura	West Garo Hills
6	29/09/2021	Selsella	Selsella	West Garo Hills
7	16/02/2022	Singwilgre	Selsella	West Garo Hills
8	15/03/2022	Nokrek	Tura	West Garo Hills
9	22/03/2022	Moolibang	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
10	22/03/2022	Laskein Block Office	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
11	25/03/2022	Barato	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
12	28/03/2022	Iooski	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills
13	28/03/2022	Kyndongtuber	Laskein	West Jaintia Hills

Few pictures of the Awareness Campaigns



Mawkynrew Block Office, East Khasi Hills



Mawryngkneng Block Office, East Khasi Hills



Shangpung Pohshnong, West Jaintia Hills



Selsella, West Garo Hills



Baiza, Williamnagar, East Garo Hills



Singwilgre, West Garo Hills



Laskein Block Office, West Jaintia Hills



Barato, West Jaintia Hills



Ioski, West Jaintia Hills

8. Constitution of BMCs:

The Board constituted 1022 BMCs in Meghalaya during the year 2021-22. The cumulative tally of BMCs constituted by the Board till 31st March, 2022 was 6473. The number of BMCs formed in all the Districts of Meghalaya is tabulated below:

District/Municipal Board	Number of BMCs constituted till 31/03/2021	Number of BMCs constituted during the year 2021-22	Total number of BMCs till 31/03/2021
East Khasi Hills	577	297	874
South West Khasi Hills	316	-	316
West Khasi Hills	773	100	873
Ri-Bhoi	612	-	612
East Jaintia Hills	164	-	164
North Garo Hills	522	-	522
West Jaintia Hills	293	-	293
East Garo Hills	503	-	503
South West Garo Hills	243	231	474
South Garo Hills	474	230	704
West Garo Hills	974	155	1129
Municipal Board	-	09	09
Total	5451	1022	6473

9. Audited Account Statements: The Audited Account Statements for the year 2021-2022 are shown below:



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

Handwritten signature/initials

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

**TO THE MEMBERS OF
MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE: SHILLONG**

1. Report on the Financial Statements:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD: SILVICULTURE BUILDING: LOWER LACHUMIERE: SHILLONG**, which comprises Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2022 and the Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended on that date.

2. Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements:

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of the Board in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India including Accounting Standards as would be applicable for a Board. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

3. Auditors' Responsibility:

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the Auditor's judgments, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the Auditor considers internal control relevant to the Board's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

4. Observations:

Books of accounts are being maintained manually, We recommend switching over to computerised accounting w.e.f 1st April 2022 itself in order to achieve efficiency in maintenance of accounts.



Contd....P/2



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:

5. Opinion:

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by law in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India :

- i) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named Board as at 31.03.2022.
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 ITR every year.

Place: Shillong
Date: 18.08.2022

for KIRON JOSHI & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountants.



KIRON JOSHI.
(Membership No. 051046)
UDIN:22051046APGZTF2596



MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2022

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
CAPITAL FUND:		FIXED ASSETS:	
Opening Balance:	4846129.86	As per Schedule 'C'	893744.00
(+) Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>3105458.00</u>		
	7951587.86		
GRANT FUND:			
1. <u>National Biodiversity Authority :</u>			
Opening balance	5220625.00		
(+) Received during the year	<u>1592671.00</u>		
	6813296.00		
(-) Utilised during the year for revenue expenses as per Income & Expenditure Account (Schedule 'A')	<u>2554014.00</u>	4259282.00	
2. <u>State Plan :</u>			
Opening balance	17157927.00		
(+) Received during the year	<u>2500000.00</u>		
	19657927.00		
(-) Utilised during the year for revenue expenses as per Income & Expenditure Account (Schedule 'B')	<u>4118875.50</u>	15539051.50	
	<u>₹ 27749921.36</u>		
		CURRENT ASSETS:	
		Cash in Hand	1130.00
		Cash at Bank :SB A/c with	
		a) SBI A/c No. 32375460838	26832678.86
		b) SBI A/c No. 40087138394	<u>22368.50</u>
			26856177.36
			<u>₹ 27749921.36</u>

Place : Shillong
Date : 18.08.2022


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:22051046APGZTF2596


Secretary
Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
Shillong

MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2022

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
National Biodiversity Authority Expenses :		Grant in Aid received from National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai	
As per Schedule 'A'			2554014.00
Revenue Expenses	2554014.00		
State Plan Expenses :		Financial Assistance received from Forest & Environment Department, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong	
As per Schedule 'B'			4118875.50
Revenue Expenses	4118875.50		
Depreciation	141035.00	Bank Interest	722760.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure	3105458.00	Sale of books	23733.00
		Cheque written off	2500000.00
	<u>₹ 9919382.50</u>		<u>₹ 9919382.50</u>

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



KIRON JOSHI
(Membership No. 051046)
UDIN:22051046APGZTF2596

Place : Shillong
Date : 18.08.2022


Chairman
Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
Shillong, Meghalaya


Secretary
Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
Shillong

MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2022


RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Opening Balances :		National Biodiversity Authority Expenses :	
Cash in Hand	5896.00	As per Schedule 'A'	
Cash at Bank :SB A/c with SBI A/c No. 32375460838	<u>26236670.86</u>	a) Revenue Expenses	2554014.00
	26242566.86	b) Capital Expenses	<u>2554014.00</u>
Grant in Aid received from National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai		1592671.00	
Financial Assistance received from Forest & Environment Department, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong		2500000.00	
Bank Interest	722760.00	State Plan Expenses :	
Sale of books	23733.00	As per Schedule 'B'	
Cheque written off	2500000.00	a) Revenue Expenses	4118875.50
		b) Capital Expenses	<u>4171539.50</u>
		Closing Balances :	
		Cash in Hand	1130.00
		Cash at Bank :SB A/c with	
		a) SBI A/c No. 32375460838	26832678.86
		b) SBI A/c No. 40087138394	<u>22368.50</u>
			<u>26856177.36</u>
	<u>₹ 33581730.86</u>		<u>₹ 33581730.86</u>

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



KIRON JOSHI
(Membership No. 051046)
UDIN:22051046APGZTF2596

Place : Shillong
Date : 18.08.2022


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Shillong


**MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG**

Schedule forming part of Financial Statements 31.03.2022

Schedule - 'A' - NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY EXPENSES

Sl No.	Particulars	Amount(₹)
1	Salary of outsourced/contract personnel	1146000.00
2	Expenses on celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity	38196.00
3	Financial Assistance for celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity transferred to :	
	a) District Nodal Officer cum Convenor of Technical Support Group, Wildlife Division, East Jaintia Hills	15000.00
	b) District Nodal Officer cum Convenor of Technical Support Group, Wildlife Division, West Jaintia Hills	15000.00
	c) District Nodal Officer cum Convenor of Technical Support Group, Social Forestry Division, West Khasi Hills	10000.00
	d) District Nodal Officer cum Convenor of Technical Support Group, Social Forestry Division, South West Khasi Hills	10000.00
	e) District Nodal Officer cum Convenor of Technical Support Group, Wildlife Division, West Garo Hills	15000.00
	f) Queenie Secondary School, Shillong	29100.00
	g) St. Anthony's College, Shillong	27247.00
4	Expenses on Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register	107246.00
5	Financial Assistance for Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register transferred to Director of Balpakram National Park cum Convenor of Technical Support Group, South Garo Hills	100000.00
6	Financial Assistance for distribution of benefit sharing component transferred to Singwilgre Biodiversity Management Committee Selsella Block, West Garo Hills District	85500.00
7	Unutilised fund refunded to National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai	955725.00
	Total(₹)	2554014.00




 Chairman
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 Shillong, Meghalaya



 Secretary
 Meghalaya Biodiversity Board
 Shillong

MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

Schedule forming part of Financial Statements 31.03.2022

Schedule - 'B' - STATE PLAN EXPENSES

SI No.	Particulars	Amount(₹)	Amount(₹)
A)	Salary Component : Salary & Allowances		2507114.00
B)	Non Salary Component :		
	1. Allowance		
	a) Travelling	20220.00	
	b) Sitting	46000.00	
	2. Office Expenses		
	a) Stationery	25788.00	
	b) Telephone	25365.00	
	c) Honorarium	400.00	
	d) Tea & Refreshments	35901.00	
	e) Electrical Expenses	1230.00	
	f) POL	11900.00	
	g) Toiletries	9141.00	
	h) Audit fees	35400.00	
	i) Vehicle Expenses	28342.00	
	j) Consumables for Computers :		
	i) Revenue Expenses	15289.00	
	ii) Capital Expenses	-	
	k) Postal Charges	6937.00	
	l) Bank Charges	442.50	262355.50
	3. Office Equipment, Furniture & Maintenance		
	i) Purchase of :		
	a) Furniture	49927.00	
	b) Office Equipments	2737.00	52664.00
	4. Minor Works		
	a) Publishing of books	444889.00	
	b) Preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Register	29100.00	
	c) Posters, Banners and Pamphlets	4004.00	477993.00
	5. Major Works :		
	a) Awareness Programme for BMCs	443070.00	
	b) Sponsoring investigation / research on components of Biodiversity in Meghalaya	316268.00	
	c) Expenses on Organising State Level Workshop	101765.00	
	d) Financial Assistance on Organising State Level Workshop transferred to District Nodal Officer cum Convenor of Technical Support Group, Wildlife Division, North Garo Hills	10310.00	871413.00
	Total(₹)		4171539.50


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MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
SILVICULTURE BUILDING : LOWER LACHUMIERE : SHILLONG

SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2022

SCHEDULE C : FIXED ASSETS

Sl No	PARTICULARS	OPENING BALANCE	GROSS BLOCK		DELETION	AS ON 31.03.2022	DEPRECIATION			NET BLOCK AS ON 31.03.2022	
			BEFORE 30.09.2021	AFTER 30.09.2021			RATE	OPENING BALANCE	FOR THE YEAR		TOTAL
1	Furniture & Fixtures	669210.00	-	49927.00	-	719137.00	10%	239731.00	45444.00	285175.00	433962.00
2	Computer & Peripherals	373660.00	-	-	-	373660.00	40%	329672.00	17595.00	347267.00	263993.00
3	Office Equipments	627022.00	-	2737.00	-	629759.00	15%	388502.00	35983.00	424485.00	205274.00
4	Books	132456.00	-	-	-	132456.00	20%	102557.00	5979.00	108536.00	23920.00
5	Vehicle	688605.00	-	-	-	688605.00	15%	448376.00	36034.00	484410.00	204195.00
	TOTAL	2490953.00	-	52664.00	-	2543617.00		1508838.00	141035.00	1649873.00	893744.00



(Signature)

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(Signature)

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MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
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BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2022

SBI A/c No. 32375460838

Bank balance as per Pass Book			₹	26841178.86
(-) Cheque issued but not presented for payment till 31.03.2022 :				
	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
	28.04.2021	Direct Transfer	8500.00	8500.00
Bank balance as per Cash book			₹	<u>26832678.86</u>




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MEGHALAYA BIODIVERSITY BOARD
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SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31.03.2022

1. The financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost convention and on the cash method of accounting.
2. Accounting policies not specifically referred to otherwise are consistent and in consonance with generally accepted accounting principles.
3. Grant received to the extent utilised for revenue expenditure during the year have been recognised as income in the Income and Expenditure Account. The unutilised balance is shown as liability under Grant Fund in the Balance Sheet.
4. a) Fixed Assets have been stated at cost with addition during the year, depreciation charged till 31.03.2021 and depreciation for the year as per details given in Schedule 'C'.

b) Depreciation on Fixed Assets have been charged as per WDV method and as per the rates and manner prescribed under the Income Tax Rules.
- 5 Retirement benefits to employees have not been provided for. It will be charged to revenue as and when paid.



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