

Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council

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Minutes of 2nd Meeting of J&K Biodiversity Council held on 5th October 2021, at Sheikh Bagh Srinagar under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) / Chairman, J&K Biodiversity Council.

The meeting was attended by following members of the Council both from the meeting halls of Pr. CCF Sheikh Bagh, Srinagar and Van Bhawan, Jammu.

1. Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS Chief Wildlife warden, J&K.
2. Sh. Tej Krishan Bhat, Special secretary to Govt., Representative of Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, J&K.
3. Sh. Rakesh Kumar Srangal, Director Panchayati Raj, J&K, Representative of Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, J&K.
4. Dr. C. M. Seth, IFS (Retd.), Eminent Wildlife Expert.
5. Sh. Om Prakash Sharma, IFS (Retd.), Eminent Biodiversity Expert.
6. Professor Geeta Sumbli (Retd), Mushroom Expert.
7. Dr. Anzar Khuroo (Botanist) Department of Botany, Kashmir University.
8. Dr. Sushil Verma, Division of Biodiversity, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri.

The meeting began with the welcome address by Member Secretary of J&K Biodiversity Council Sh. Asaf Mehmood Sagar, IFS (APCCF). He welcomed the esteemed members of the Council who attended the meeting.

Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS (PCCF & HoFF) and Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council during his introductory remarks apprised the esteemed members about the achievements made by the Council on the decisions taken during the first meeting of the Council held on 25-02-2021. The Chairman also informed the esteemed members regarding the initiative of Council in development of City Biodiversity Index (CBI) and



Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) for Jammu and Srinagar cities. He also talked at length about the progress made on the updation of Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for UT of J&K and the various consultation meetings held in this regard during the month of August.

He laid stress on the need to create awareness on Biodiversity issues at the grass-root level through various media. He informed the esteemed members that animated movies on BD Act, PBRs, BMCs released by NBA have been dubbed in local languages like Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri etc. and would be shared across the UT especially with the members of BMCs and other Line Departments for Awareness Creation among the officials, BMCs and general masses. During the meeting, the esteemed members of the Council were also apprised of the progress made on updation of People's Biodiversity Registers in UT of Jammu & Kashmir. He lauded the efforts of staff of Biodiversity Council, Research Scholars and frontline Forest staff in updating 707 PBRs covering 164 Block across UT of J&K.

This was followed by a detailed power Point Presentation by the Member Secretary during which the action taken on the Agenda points of the first meeting of the Council was presented and discussed. The agenda points of the second meeting were also placed before the council for deliberation and discussion.

The agenda wise decisions taken during the meeting are given below:

Agenda Items	Meeting Agenda	Decision Taken
2.1	Acceptance/ Approval of Minutes of first meeting of J&K Biodiversity Council held on 25th February, 2021 at Van Bhawan, Jammu.	The minutes of first meeting of J&K Biodiversity Council held on 25-02-2021 were approved by the esteemed members of the Council.



<p>2.2</p>	<p>Action taken on the decisions of First meeting of J&K Biodiversity Council</p>	<p>The Member Secretary, J&K Biodiversity Council gave a detailed presentation regarding the decisions and action taken on the Agenda points of the first meeting of the council. The members took a note of the action taken and progress made and expressed their satisfaction.</p>
<p>2.3</p>	<p>Development of City Biodiversity Index for Jammu and Srinagar cities</p>	<p>The esteemed members of the Council were apprised about the initiative taken for developing a City Biodiversity Index (CBI) for Jammu and Srinagar Cities, as they are being developed as smart cities. The objectives of CBI were shared with the members. The CBI will enable the city administrators to better understand how they can improve their biodiversity conservation efforts over time. It was also informed that the initiative was initially discussed with representatives of UNDP and in response to the request of the J&K Biodiversity Council, the UNDP agreed to the request and assigned the task of developing City Biodiversity Index to ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia. The first meeting with ICLEI was held on 18th June, 2021 and thereafter the officials of J&K Biodiversity Council have been</p>

		<p>facilitating ICLEI with provisioning of data sets.</p> <p>The officials of ICLEI had consultation with stakeholders during their visit to Jammu and Srinagar Cities on 18th and 23rd August respectively and the first draft for Srinagar city has been received by the Council and the draft for Jammu City is likely to be received soon. The Council is likely to finalize both the CBIs this year and release the same. The members appreciated the initiative of the Council and very good progress made.</p>
2.4	<p>Development of Local Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (LBSAP) for Jammu and Srinagar cities</p>	<p>The esteemed members were also informed about the initiative of development of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) for Jammu and Srinagar cities. It was apprised that the development of LBSAP at the level of the urban local body is mandatory as per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.</p> <p>The LBSAP is a guiding strategy with specific actions suggested for the local governments to achieve “optimal and realistic governance and management of biodiversity and ecosystem services”.</p> <p>LBSAP is also being developed with the support from ICLEI. The officials of ICLEI had consultation with stakeholders during their visit to Jammu</p>



		and Srinagar Cities and a draft is expected to be submitted by November, 2021. The members took a note of the progress and appreciated the initiative of the Council.
2.5	Biodiversity Conservation Strategy & Action Plan for J&K	The members were apprised about the progress made in preparation of Jammu & Kashmir " Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan " (BCS&AP). It was informed that the task of preparation of BCS&AP had been assigned to " The Celestial Earth " in 2019 and the draft submitted by the agency was reviewed by the members of the Expert Committee which was followed by a consultation meeting with stakeholders and experts at Srinagar on 28th August 2021 during which Experts/Officials from different line departments/ universities/ NGOs also gave their valuable inputs for improving the document. The final draft is expected to be received by the Council towards end of this year i.e. by December, 2021. The members took a note of progress.
2.6	Organizing UT level events on creation of awareness in biodiversity conservation	The esteemed members of the council were informed about the need for creation of awareness by organizing a UT level event as this would trigger the process of creation of awareness downwards to urban & rural local

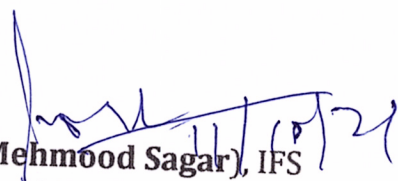
		<p>bodies. The documentary films on different aspects of BD Act / Rules will play a big role in spreading the awareness and knowledge on this important issue.</p> <p>The members welcomed the idea that the Council must organized UT level awareness programme and may also request the National Biodiversity Authority to handhold the Council and also mentor the event.</p> <p>The members further suggested for a workshop preferably for 2-3 days covering different aspects of Biodiversity with the involvement of BMCs and line departments. Apart from the UT level events, trainings would be organized by taking help from the three training schools of J&K forest department for awareness creation. Dr. C.M Seth informed that the committee constituted for Training & Awareness will submit its report shortly.</p>
2.7	<p>Official involvement of Territorial DFOs as nodal officers of J&K Biodiversity Council of respective division</p>	<p>It was decided that Territorial DFOs be officially involved in J&K Biodiversity Council. A proposal shall be drafted for nominating the territorial DFOs as Ex-Officio Assistant Member Secretaries, by J&K Biodiversity Council for operationalization of ABS mechanism in their respective jurisdiction and also act as Nodal Officers of J&K</p>



		Biodiversity Council for all biodiversity related activities in the concerned Forest Divisions as per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Biological Diversity Rules 2004.
2.8	Mechanism for utilization of NTFPs	sustainable
		<p>The Chairman apprised on the proposal submitted by the Forest Department to Govt. of J&K on de-regulation of NTFP and their conservation and sustainable utilization by involving BMCs. The matter was discussed and members supported the sustainable NTFP collection and utilization mechanism, which is essential for conservation of forests and rural development. To achieve these objectives it was decided that BMCs be made nodal institutions for sustainable collection and utilization of NTFP in J&K.</p> <p>Need was also felt for proper guidelines which be framed after consultation with the experts and other concerned departments which will also ensure conservation of threatened species and sustainable utilization of NTFPs. The members appreciated the action taken by Forest Department and expressed satisfaction.</p>
2.9	Operationalization of mechanism in J&K.	ABS
		It was decided to seek the help of the department of industries for list of companies using biological resources as

		<p>the raw material and the quantity utilized per year. To begin with DIC Jammu and DIC Srinagar be approached for the requisite data. It was also decided that some experts may also be engaged to collect information related to the Operationalization of ABS mechanism in UT of J&K. A proposal may also be sent to have some funds that can be utilized for the purpose.</p>
2.10	<p>Approval for Publication of a Book in Biodiversity in Dogri Language</p>	<p>The compilation of book on Biodiversity of J&K in local language by the esteemed member of Council, Sh. Om Prakash Sharma IFS (Retd.) was appreciated by all the esteemed members. It was decided that before deciding on the mode of publication, the Council must consult copyright rules for such publications in tone with other SBBs/UTBCs across India, and follow the same.</p> <p>The decision on publication of the book could be taken accordingly.</p>
2.11	<p>Any other Agenda to be raised by the esteemed members.</p>	<p>Promotion of Pipal and Bargad trees on the line of Chinar and documentation of sacred groves and religious places closed to / adjoining forest area for Biodiversity Conservation was also discussed at the end and members supported the move.</p>

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks of the Chairman who appreciated the suggestions given by all the esteemed members of the Council and thanked them for their valuable inputs and support. Formal vote of thanks was proposed by Sh. Asaf Mehmood Sagar, IFS Member Secretary, J&K Biodiversity Council.


(Asaf Mehmood Sagar), IFS
Member Secretary
J&K Biodiversity Council/
Director JKFR, J&K-Jammu.

No. JKUT/BC/Meeting/2021-22/371-81

Date:-11/10/2021

Copy for information to:-

1. The Principal Secretary to Govt. Department of Agriculture Production Farmers Welfare, Civil Secretariat, J&K.
2. The Principal Secretary to Govt. Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Civil secretariat Jammu.
3. The Commissioner / Secretary to Govt. Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, Civil Secretariat Jammu.
4. Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K.
5. Dr. C. M Seth, IFS (Retd.), Eminent Wildlife Expert.
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8. Dr. Anzar Khuroo (Botanist) Department of Botany Kashmir University.
9. Dr. Sushil Verma, Division of Biodiversity, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri.
10. Private Secretary to the Pr. CCF (HoFF)/Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council, for information of the Pr.CCF.
11. Office File.