



Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council

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Minutes of the meeting held on 11-01-2022 at 11:00 AM under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) /Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council.

The virtual meeting was attended by the following officers of the Council:-

1. Sh. Asaf Mehmood Sagar, IFS Director JKFRI/Member Secretary J&K Biodiversity Council.(Attended in person)
2. Divisional Forest Officer, Research Division Srinagar.
3. Divisional Forest Officer, Research Division Jammu.
4. Sh. Sanjay Kumar Gupta, ACF
5. Sh. Rakesh Verma I/c Range Officer
6. Sh. ParvaizShagoo I/c Range Officer
7. Sh. Syed Tariq, Project Coordinator, JKFRI.
8. Miss. Nowsheena Zaffar, Intern (NBA)

Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, PCCF (HoFF) / Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council in his opening remarks apprised the officials of the Council about the future activities to carry forward the ongoing tasks. He insisted on enhancing the speed of works such as uploading of information on Dashboard, activation of BMCs and updation of PBRs. He informed that the process of preparation of City Biodiversity Index for Jammu and Kashmir cities which was started in August, 2021 is at the final stage of completion and is expected to be published soon. For UT level Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, a five members committee of experts has been constituted for review and evaluation of the document prepared by "The Celestial Earth". The committee headed by Sh. Anil Kumar Goyal, former Spl. Secretary to GoI shall submit their final draft within a months time and accordingly the document shall be finalized and approved in 3rd meeting of Biodiversity Council.

The item wise deliberations/discussions are given below :

S. No	Agenda Item	Deliberation and Decision taken
1.	Review of updation of PBRs	The Chairman was apprised about the progress achieved. 971 PBRs have been updated and updation of 223 PBRs is going on. 145 of PBRs are to be allotted to JRFs of Kashmir and 926 of PBRs are to be allotted to Kashmir ReJ. Also 546 of PBRs are to be allotted to Jammu ReJ. Decision: The process of allotment be completed by 15th January and progress be monitored fortnightly.
2.	Involvement of Forest Guards and R-e-Js in updation of PBRs	The Chairman was apprised that training was conducted for trainees of Forest Guard Training School Doomi Akhnoor and KFT Chitternar and PBRs stand allotted to them for updation. Regarding ReJ allotment orders are ready and will be issued within three days. Decision: The process of allotment be completed by 15th January and progress be monitored fortnightly.
3.	Constitution of District level BMCs	The chairman was apprised that letters have been sent to DDC chairpersons as well as to DFOs for constitution of District level BMCs. It was decided that a reminder shall be sent to expedite the process. Decision: DFOs (T) shall be directed by o/o PCCF to approach the DDC Chairpersons in person and get the BMCs constituted. This will be completed by 31st January 2022.
4.	Operationalization of BMCs	It was informed that 75 BMCs have been selected for operationalization and the funds shall be transferred after the fulfillment of all the codal formalities and opening of the bank accounts of the BMCs after taking the necessary approvals. Decision: Member Secretary may examine the rule position so that Bank accounts could be opened immediately..
5.	Facilitation of PBR Quality Monitoring Committee	Evaluated PBRs have been received from 04 committee members. Decision (i) It was decided to send 20 more randomly selected PBRs from Kashmir division including two Urban Local Bodies for evaluation. Decision (ii) It was also decided to organize another meeting with the committee during the month of January, 2022 to review the monitoring process.
6.	Formulation of proposal for allocation of staff and separate budget to J&K Biodiversity Council	It was decided to send proposal to Govt. for allocation of staff and separate budget to J&K Biodiversity Council by 31 st of January, 2022. Member Secretary Biodiversity Council was asked to take up this task on priority.



7.	Designating DFOs of Territorial divisions officially within the framework of Biodiversity Act ,2002	Proposal to be submitted to Govt. as DFOs are already designated as nodal officers. Reference of MP Govt. order in this regard to be taken and accordingly a proposal shall be submitted soon. (Action : Member Secretary with the assistance of Sh. Sanjay Gupta ACF Biodiversity Council to expedite the same).
8.	Signing of MoUs	MoUs after correction have been received from SKUAST-J, SKUAST-K, IIM and BGSBU. It was decided that the MoUs may be signed at an earliest. MoUs already sent to Kashmir University and Jammu University for changes (if any) to be followed up by Sh. Sanjay Gupta ACF Biodiversity Council.
9.	Establishment of J&K Biodiversity Fund	Directions were issued for sending a reminder in this regard to the Administrative Department.
10.	Honorarium to Committee members	Directions were issued for sending a reminder in this regard to the Administrative Department.
11.	e Dashboard progress	Chairman was informed that 1036 BMC related information have been uploaded. As the progress is very slow it was decided that Directors Rural Development Jammu/Kashmir be contacted and task be assigned to JRFs in addition to updation of PBRs.
12.	CAMPA APO 2022-23	It was informed by Member Secretary that CAMPA APO 2022-23 of J&K Biodiversity Council has been submitted.
13.	UT Level Biodiversity Conservation Strategy & Action Plan	For UT level BSAP, a five members committee of experts" headed by Sh. Anil Kumar Goyal, former Spl. Secretary to Govt. has been constituted to review and evaluate the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan of UT of J&K prepared by " <i>The Celestial Earth</i> Decision : Sh. Parvaiz Shagoo, being member of expert committee shall keep a track of the progress so that task is completed by 15.02-2022.

14.	LBSAP latest update	It was informed that second Stakeholders Consultation meeting may be held in February, 2022. Response is awaited from Miss. Monalisa Sen, ICLEI about conducting the Second Stakeholders Consultation meeting. Decision: Biodiversity Council with the support of ICLEI, South Asia shall organize training for officials of Municipal Corporations, Forest, Wildlife and other departments associated with city administration.
15.	Letters to DFOs for Biodiversity Heritage Sites	The chairman advised to include OECMs also and issue reminder to all the DFOs in this regard. Decision : Sh. Sanjay Gupta ACF Biodiversity Council will get the draft prepared so that o/o PCCF writes to all the DFOs(T) in this regard by 20-01-2022.
16.	Proposal for additional funds from NBA	The chairman was informed that proposal for additional funds from NBA has been submitted.
17.	Documentation of Vaid / Hakims	A draft list has been prepared. Officials of Council may enquire from Ms Sangita Mitra of NBA on modalities of publication so that un-due advantage is not taken out of published list. Decision: Biodiversity Council may consider publication of list with all the safeguards.
18.	Any other agenda with the permission of the chair	i) Biodiversity Council must organize the training of other District Level Officials of J&K belonging to Forest, Wild life ,Rural Development and Panchyati Raj, Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Floriculture etc .It may be a one day online training and resource persons shall be from amongst the members of council/experts. ii)A short training all JRFs and NBA-intern may also be conducted on any convenient day.

The other important issues highlighted and decided by the Chairman during the meeting were:

1. Follow up with Sh. Arun Sharma, Website Administrator J&K Forest Deptt for creation of new Biodiversity Council website with NIC.
2. A meeting be held on 15.01.2022 or later with January, 2022 regarding Sacred Groves, Biodiversity heritage sites and OECMs.
3. Chairman Biodiversity Council again reiterated that special efforts be made for constitution of BMCs at District level and uploading of desired data related to BMCs on E- dashboard.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks.

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

No: -JKUT/BC/Meeting/2021-22/ 563-71
Copy for information to:-

Dated:- 12/01/2022

1. DFO Research Division Kashmir.
2. DFO Research Division Jammu.

3. Sh. Sanjay Gupta, ACF J&K Biodiversity Council.
4. The Private Secretary to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, HoFF/ Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council for information of the Chairman.
5. Sh. Rakesh Verma, I/c Range Officer
6. Sh. Parvaiz Shagoo, I/c Range Officer
7. Sh. Syed Tariq, Project Coordinator, JKFRJ.
8. Sh. Arun Sharma, Website Administrator J&K Forest Deptt.
9. Miss. Nowsheena Zaffar, Intern (NBA)