



Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council

Jammu Office:
O/o Pr. CCF Jammu, (J&K)
180001

Srinagar Office:
JKFRI-Complex, near Woodland School Sonwar,
Srinagar (J&K)-190001
Ph: 0194-2468820, 0194-2465213

e-mail: jkutbc-20@jk.gov.in / jkutbc@gmail.com

Minutes of the review meeting of J&K Biodiversity Council held on 08-07-2023 at 2:00 PM through virtual mode under the Chairmanship of Sh. Roshan Jaggi, IFS Pr. CCF & HoFF / Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council.

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

1. Sh. Asaf Mehmood Sagar, IFS Member Secretary J&K Biodiversity Council / Director JKFRI,J&K.
2. Sh. Rakesh Abrol, Divisional Forest Officer, Research Forest Division, Jammu.
3. Sh. Mohd. Lateef Bhat, Divisional Forest Officer, Research Forest Division, Srinagar.
4. Ms. Mehnaz Anjum Malik, Divisional Forest Officer, Seed Development Division, Jammu.
5. Sh. Iqbal Ahmed Lone, Divisional Forest Officer, Seed Development Division, Srinagar.
6. Dr. Syed Tariq, Project Coordinator, JKFRI.
7. Sh. Shashi Kant Seth, I/c Biodiversity Cell.
8. Sh. Parvaiz Ahmad Shagoo, Technical Officer to PCCF & HoFF / Chairman JKUTBC.
9. Staff of J&K Biodiversity Council.

The agenda circulated along with the meeting notice was discussed at length. The item wise deliberations / discussions held and decisions taken are as follows.

S. No	Matter Reviewed	Deliberation and Decision taken
1.	Updation of PBRs.	The PCCF & HoFF / Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council was apprised of the progress achieved. It was informed that till June, 2023 PBRs totaling 2511 (1453 PBRs in Jammu & 1058 in Kashmir) stood updated. The Chairman was apprised that the term of JRFs engaged for updation of PBRs exhausted on 31 st March, 2023. The proposal of fresh selection of JRFs shall be possible only after accord of approval and release of funds by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) for this purpose. The note file for accord of approval to the engagement of JRFs (06 each in Jammu & Kashmir) stood submitted by the Member Secretary J&K Biodiversity Council to the O/o Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council for approval. The PCCF / Chairman directed to take up the pending works soon to complete the targets at the earliest.

2.	Printing of PBRs.	It was informed in the meeting that a total of 1000 PBRs (800 PBRs in Jammu and 200 in Kashmir) stood printed till 31.03.2023. The Chairman directed to take up the task as soon as funds are received. The PCCF & HoFF / Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council directed DFOs Research Jammu / Kashmir to follow the earlier directions and complete the printing of remaining PBRs.
3.	Constitution of District level BMCs.	The DFO Research Division Srinagar, and I/c Biodiversity Cell, Kashmir Dr. Syed Tariq were directed by the Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council to vigorously follow the constitution of remaining District level BMCs in Kashmir region and ensure their constitution during the month of June, 2023.
4.	Operationalization of BMCs.	The Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council directed to expedite seeking details of village panchayat level banks mapped with J&K Bank from Directors Rural Development Kashmir / Jammu and the same be forwarded to Govt. for obtaining approval to open J&K bank accounts of all BMCs to operationalize them, especially in view of the policy on Sustainable collection and utilization of NTFP in J&K. The Chairman was informed that the Deptt. of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj was approached by I/c Biodiversity Cell Jammu to seek the detail of Bank Branches where the different Govt. accounts of respective panchayats have been opened. The Chairman directed to identify 50 BMCs each in Jammu & Kashmir province operationalizing on priority. The BMCs where NTFP collection is notified be taken up on priority.



5.	Formulation of proposal for allocation of staff and separate budget to J&K Biodiversity Council.	It was informed to the PCCF & HoFF / Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council that the council has no staff of its own and since JKFR I is hosting the J&K Biodiversity Council, the DFOs of JKFR I are working as nodal officers in different districts. It was suggested to involve the territorial staff of respective BMC areas in carrying out activities mandated for J&K Biodiversity Council.
6.	Signing of MoUs.	The Member Secretary J&K Biodiversity Council informed that the MoUs with BGSBU & SKUAST-J had been signed and the signing of MoUs with Jammu University, IIM, SKUAST-K & Kashmir University was in process.
7.	Status of identification of Biodiversity Heritage Sites & OECMs	For identification of Biodiversity Heritage Sites & OECMs a Sub-group has been constituted by the J&K Biodiversity Council vide letter No.JKUT/BC/BHS/2023-24/119-26 dated:- 15/05/2023
8.	Status of electronic Dashboard.	It was informed that 3059 BMCs related information (1205 from Jammu & 2024 from Kashmir) stand uploaded on e-dashboard upto June, 2023. The Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council directed Member Secretary to take up the matter with Rural Development & Panchayati Raj department, J&K so that the progresses on e-dashboard could be expedited.
9.	Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan-Feedback and follow up	The BSAP document for J&K UT was submitted to the Govt. for approval after needful as per decision of the Council vide No. JKUT/BC/Meeting/2022-23/23-33 dated: 08.04.2022. The Administrative Deptt. advised to discuss the BSAP document with stakeholder departments before approval could be accorded. The meeting with the stakeholder departments was held on 13.09.2022 at Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Srinagar and on 01.04.2023 at Van Bhawan, Jammu. During the meeting, the Stakeholder departments raised certain queries regarding breakup of financial outlays shown against each Action point /strategy / activity, the details of which were to be sought from the " The Celestial Earth ", an organization which had drafted BSAP. It was decided to conduct a further meeting with stakeholder departments after clarification from " The Celestial Earth " was received on the raised queries. The said



		meeting was conducted on 24 th April, 2023 and all the Action points / strategies / activities pertaining to each department were discussed again. It was informed that J&K Biodiversity Council is not a funding agency and not separate fund allocation shall be made to meet the prescribed Action points. Accordingly the financial targets assigned against action points for different departments shall be excluded from the document and "The Celestial Earth" shall submit a revised draft. It was decided to fit in the prescribed Action point / Strategies / Activities as per requirement in the Annual Budget of the respective departments w.e.f 2024-25 onwards.
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The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.


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

No: JKUT/BC/Meeting/2023-24/ 4447

Dated 27/07/2023

Copy for information to:-

1. DFO Research Division, Jammu / Srinagar.
2. DFO Seed Development Division Jammu / Srinagar.
3. Private Secretary to the Pr. CCF & HoFF/ Chairman J&K Biodiversity Council for information of the Chairman.
4. Dr. Syed Tariq, Project Coordinator, JKFRI.
5. Sh. Parvaiz Ahmad Shagoo, Technical Officer to PCCF & HoFF / Chairman JKUTBC.
6. Staff of J&K Biodiversity Council.
7. Office file.