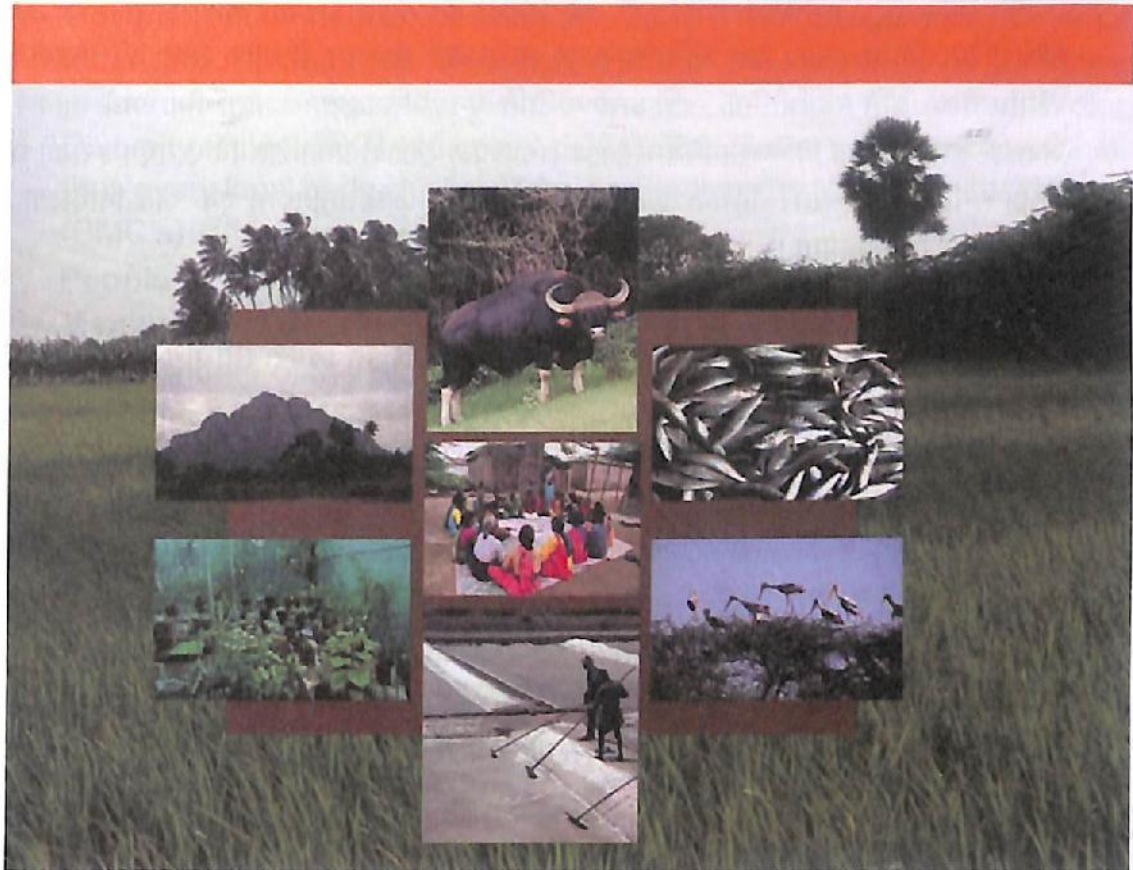


Chapter -2 Part-2



Biodiversity Register

2013

Guideline of Revised Public biodiversity Register



राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण, भारत

Part I

1.0 The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 & Rules, 2004

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (No. 18 of 2003) was notified by the Government of India on 5th February, 2003. The Act extends to the whole of India and reaffirms the sovereign rights of the country over its biological resources. Subsequently the Government of India published Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 (15th April, 2004). The Rules under section 22 states that 'every local body shall constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC's) within its area of jurisdiction'.

2.0 People's Biodiversity Registers and the role of the Biodiversity Management Committee

The mandate of the Biodiversity Management Committee has been clearly highlighted in the Biological Diversity Rules 2002 as follows:

- The main function of the BMC is to prepare People's Biodiversity Register in consultation with the local people. The Register shall contain comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other use.
- The other functions of the BMC are to advice on any matter referred to it by the State Biodiversity Board or Authority for granting approval, to maintain data about the local vairs and practitioners using the biological resources.
- The Authority shall take steps to specify the form of the People's Biodiversity Registers, and the particulars it shall contain and the format for electronic database.
- The Authority and the State Biodiversity Boards shall provide guidance and technical support to the Biodiversity Management Committees for preparing People's Biodiversity Registers.
- The People's Biodiversity Registers shall be maintained and validated by the Biodiversity Management Committees.

3.0 People's Biodiversity Registers and the role of National biodiversity Authority (MBA)

The National Biodiversity Authority shall provide guidance and technical support to the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) for preparing People's Biodiversity Register.

People's Biodiversity Registers and the role Technical support group (TSG)

The State Biodiversity Board (SBB) would provide necessary training to the

Technical Support Group (TSG) of the district and enable smooth functioning and aid in networking for creation and maintenance of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).

People biodiversity Registers and Role of the Technical Support Group(TSG)

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 of 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.

4.0

People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR)

The evolution of human societies over several millennia is closely related to plants and animals. The domestication of crop plants and farm animals about 12000 years ago revolutionized the human civilization by creating more stabilized societies. The early historic and medieval period gradually reduced human interaction with the wild plants and animals. The development of modern science and technologies during the industrial and post-industrial period did not do away with our link to nature. Different groups of people continue to depend on natural resources at varying scales. Some draw resources from across continents while others within a country or a region. There are also people continue to depend on locally available biodiversity and bio-resources for their livelihoods. Such population who are directly dependent on local biological resources have, through their keen sense of observation, practices, and experimentation developed and established a body of knowledge that is passed on from generation to generation. Some are widespread traditional knowledge like cultivation practices; others are highly specialized such as bone setting or jaundice, which are generally passed only to close members of the family.

India is land of biological and cultural diversity. It is one of the mega biodiverse countries of the world. It also the home of a large number of tribal groups, pursuing different kinds of nature based livelihoods. In addition, a large number of farming and fishing communities and nomadic groups possess traditional knowledge of varying degrees. The development of modern science and technologies notably biotechnology and information technologies have increased the value of biodiversity and associated knowledge including traditional knowledge (TK). The growing importance of biodiversity, bio-resources and associated knowledge is fairly well understood. The first step towards conservation is sustainable utilization of biodiversity and its documentation. Biodiversity and associated knowledge is found in different ecosystems, under different legal management regimes and hence the results and manner of documentation will also differ.

The present manual guidelines have drafted taking into consideration different ecosystems and include the rural, urban and protected areas. The guidelines may be customized and further information may be added to enrich the effort. It is important to keep in mind some of the issues related to PBRs:

- It is to be undertaken in a participatory mode involving varying sections of village society.
- While documenting, the knowledge and views of both genders are to be recorded.
- Information provided by people need to be collated, analysed and crosschecked by the members of the Technical Support Group (TSG) before documentation.
- The PBR is important base document in the legal arena as evidence of prior knowledge and hence careful documentation is necessary.
- The document should be endorsed by the BMC and later publicized in the Gram Sabha / Gram Panchayat / Panchayat Samiti. The document can be a very useful tool in the management and sustainable use of bioresources. The document can also be a very useful teaching tool for teaching environmental studies at schools, colleges and university level
- The document should be periodically updated with additional and new information as and when generated.

4.1 The PBR Process

The preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) involves the active support and cooperation of a large number of people who need to share their common as well as specialized knowledge. One of the first steps for preparing a PBR is to organize a group meeting to explain the objectives and purpose of the exercise. Different social groups in the village need to be identified for purpose of data collection from those groups. In an urban situation, spots where biodiversity are important need to be identified for the purpose of the study and documentation. The documentation process includes information gathered from individuals through detailed questionnaire, focused group discussion with persons having knowledge and published secondary information.

4.2 Documentation of Traditional Knowledge (TK) related to biodiversity

Documentation of knowledge of individuals with regard to biodiversity and its uses is an important part of PBR. Every effort should be made to identify the persons with proven knowledge of local biodiversity; special attention should be given to the elderly persons who can also provide informations on the biodiversity which was available in the past but no longer seen at present. In some cases focus group discussion may be held for the purpose of documentation.

4.3 PBR Methodology

The PBR is a participatory process requiring intensive and extensive consultation with the people. The objectives and purpose is to be explained in a group meeting in the presence of all sections of people in the Panchayat, members of the BMC, students, knowledgeable individuals and all those interested in the effort. Documentation includes photographs (including digital images), drawings, audio and video recordings and other records like printed material.

4.4 Process in PBR Preparation

Step 1: Formation of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)

Step 2: Sensitization of the public about the study, survey and possible management

Step 3: Training of members in identification and collection of data on biological resources and traditional knowledge

Step 4: Collection of data. Data collections includes review of literature on the natural resources of the districts, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRAs) at village level, house hold interviews, individual interviews with village leaders and knowledgeable individuals, household heads, key actors of the panchayat raj institutions and NGOs and direct field observations

Step 5: Analysis and validation of data in consultation with technical support group and BMC

Step 6: Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

Step 7: Computerization of information and resources

Peoples' Biodiversity Register (PBR): General Details

Name of the Panchayat Samity:

Taluk:

District:

State: