

To facilitate the constitution/ reconstitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) in all the Local Bodies

As stated in Sec. 41(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 every local body has constituted a BMC to function within its area for the purpose of promoting conservation, Sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.

A BMC shall consist of 7 members; out of them at least 2 persons should be women and at least 1 person should belong to either SC or ST community. The BMC will have one Chairperson (out of its 7 members). The concerned Member of Legislative Assembly and the concerned Member of Parliament would be special invitees to the meetings of the BMC.

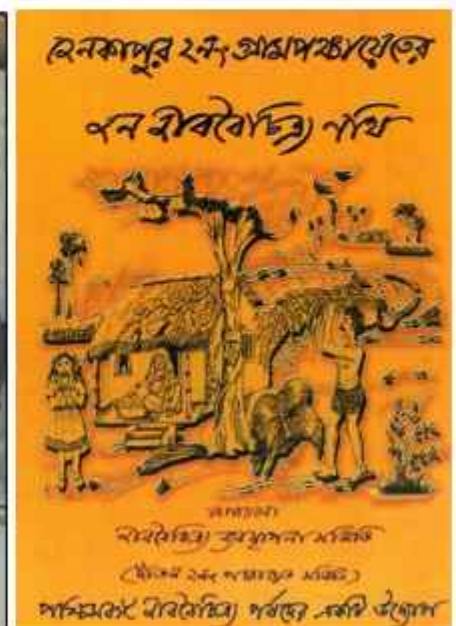
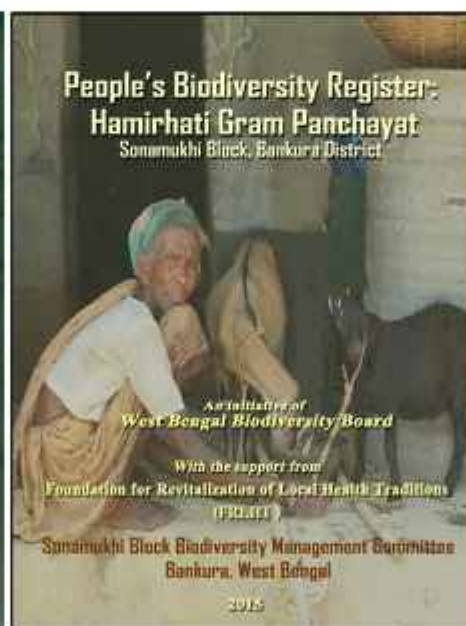
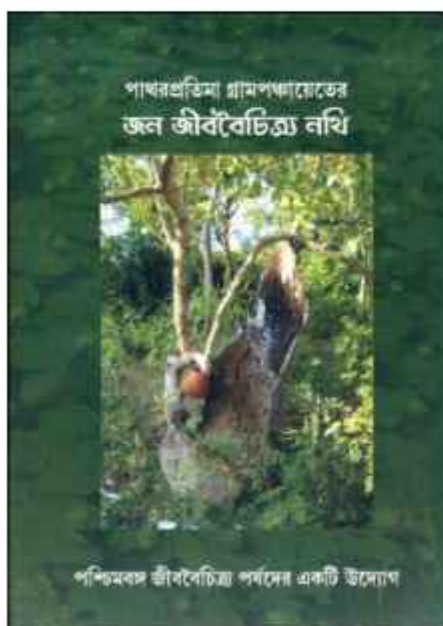
The main functions of the said committee include

- To prepare **People's Biodiversity Register**,
- Conservation of the local biodiversity
- Generation of awareness on biodiversity and its importance

In west Bengal all the Local Bodies-Gram Panchayat, Block / Panchayat, District/Zilla Parishad and Urban Local bodies (Notified Area authorities, Municipality and Municipal Corporation) have

BMCs. The Board has facilitated in this process through generating awareness among the local bodies

Establishment of BMC					
	District/Zilla	Block /	Gram	Urban Local	Total
Total No of Local	22	342	3341	125	3830
BMC Constituted	22	342	3341	125	3830



Capacity Building Programme for BMCs

The Board has been conducting capacity building programme for BMCs at regular intervals regarding provisions of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules and implementation of those in the respective areas. During FY 2022-23, district level Capacity building program on Biodiversity Conservation and awareness has been organised for BMC members, District officials, line departments etc.



To facilitate the process of preparation, updating and maintenance of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)

The main function of each BMC, as envisaged in Biological Diversity Rule (2004), is to prepare People's Biodiversity Register in consultation with local people. The Register contains comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other uses or any other traditional knowledge associated with them.

The Board has provided expertise as well as financial support to the BMCs in preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers. The Board, now, is in process to evaluate Registers forming State Level PBR Monitoring Committee. On the basis of recommendation/ suggestion of the Committee, the updation/ modification of the PBRs has been initiated. Here lies also the responsibility of the Board to provide expertise to the BMCs, as required.

Status of preparation of PBR

	District/Zilla	Block / Panchayat	Gram	Urban Local	Total
BMC Constituted	22	342	3341	125	3830
PBR Prepared	22	342	3341	125	3830

To facilitate conservation / biological resource management activities

- **Documentation, Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Rice Varieties (TRVs):** such as: Drought tolerant varieties – Naichi, Bhutmuri, Asanlaya; Flood tolerant varieties: Amonmud, Raygarh, Jamainadu; Saline tolerant varieties: Nonabokhra, Nonasaal, Talmugur.



- **Establishment of Seed Banks:** TRVs and other traditional varieties of crops.
- **Registration of TRVs:** 4 number of TRVs have been registered in the name of farmer communities as per the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Act Such as: Tulaipanji, Danaguri, Bhutia, Kanakchur-WB etc.



The farmers preparing the microbial inputs as well as various traditional ones under supervision of TSGs and BMCs. The Board and University of Calcutta provided technical inputs regularly.



Seed treatment being done with *Trichostema viridis*, subcultured in the farmers' laboratory.



Indigenous Freshwater Fish Conservation Area /Avoy Pukur

To conserve the indigenous fish varieties of West Bengal that are under threat due to loss of habitat and emphasis on aquaculture of commercial fish species, the Board has taken up a project for restoration of traditional/ indigenous fish of the state such as Puti, Mangur, Tangra, Kholse etc.in Twelve (12) different districts of the state.



- **Establishment of Butterfly Conservation Area in schools**

To build up love for nature and biodiversity among the young minds a program on developing **Butterfly Conservation areas** has been initiated in educational institute of the state. So far, 28 educational institutes have been covered under this initiative.



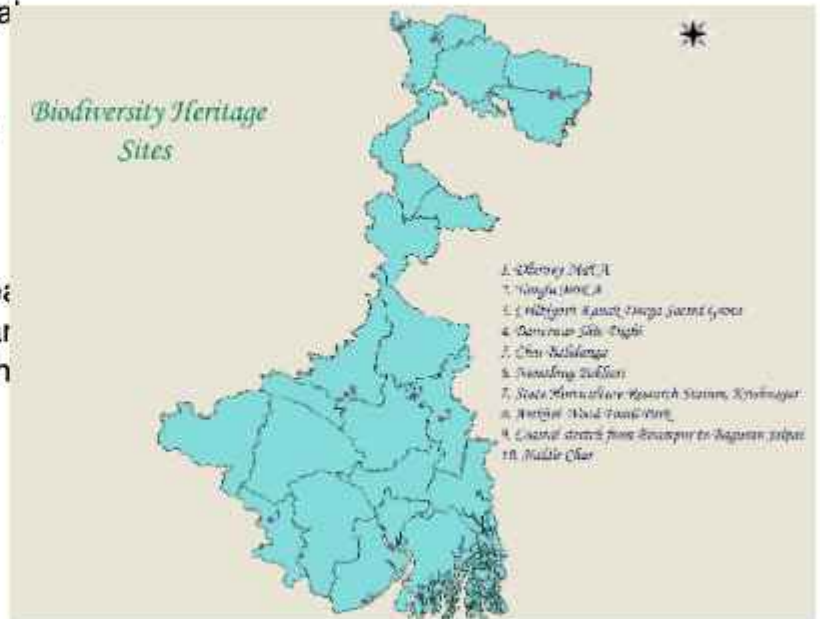
Establishment of Biodiversity Parks

39 Biodiversity Parks have been sanctioned by Dept. of Environment, GoWB, Inauguration of 13 such parks have been done. Board provides technical support in this regard.



To identify potential Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) and facilitate declaration in that regard by the Govt. of W.B.

Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act provides opportunity to declare areas of biodiversity importance as the BHS for giving protection to the important bioresources of that particular area. The Board provides technical and consultative support for identify and declaration of the BHS.



So far Ten (10) BHS have been notified.

- Tonglu MPCAs of Darjeeling district (habitat for threatened medicinal plants)
- Dhotre MPCA of Darjeeling District (habitat for threatened medicinal plants)
- Kanakdurga Sacred Groves of Jhargram District
- Baneswar Shiv Dighi of Coochbehar District (habitat for black soft-shell turtle)
- Namthing Pokhari of Darjeeling district
- Char Balidanga of Nadia district
- Amkholi Wood Fossil Park of Birbhum District
- Campus of State Horticulture Research & Development Station of Nadia District
- Baguran Jalpai to Birampur Sea beach [via Haripur], Purba Medinipur District
- Haldia Char Biodiversity Heritage Site



To regulate commercial activities related to bio-resources of the state as per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

This is in line with one of the major objectives of the Act Equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use (commercial) of the bioresources commonly known as **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**.

The Board has the responsibility to regulate access to biological resources of the state by the Indian entities for commercial purpose (Sec. 23 of the BD Act, 2002). The MoEF&CC, Govt. of India has notified the guidelines in this regard named Access and Benefit Sharing of Biological Resources popularly known as ABS guidelines.

So far 27 nos. of commercial entities are compiling the Access and Benefit sharing provisions of the act and sharing their benefits for commercial utilization of biological resources.

As per the said guidelines 95% of the accrued benefits has to be shared with the Biodiversity Management Committees/ Sources from where the resources are being accessed.

Following BMCs or organizations have been undertaking/ initiating the conservation/ promotion activities utilizing this fund

- Dubrajpur Block BMC for conservation & sustainable use of biological resources to promote livelihood development.
- Krishnagar- I Block BMC has developed Avay Pukur.
- Coochbehar II Block BMC promoting mediational plants cultivation involving tribal women.
- Balarampur, Purulia I, Purulia II, Joypur Block BMCs of Purulia district promoting mediational plants cultivation involving Self Help Groups with the technical supports from Sidho- Kanho- Birsha University.
- Pulses and oilseed research station, Murshidabad for conservation of tradition pulses & oilseed.

Research and Documentation Activities of the Board

The Board, from its inception, has been promoting the research and documentation activities on various aspects of biodiversity of the state. Few major initiatives----

Status Survey of:

- a) Fishing Cat (State Animal)
- b) Migratory water birds

Documentation of:

- a) Traditional knowledge based on Biodiversity
- b) Sacred Groves
- c) Mango diversity of Murshidabad and Malda
- d) Fresh water Fishes diversity
- e) Fresh water Prawn diversity
- f) Algal diversity
- g) Microbial diversity in East Kolkata Wetland
- h) Butterfly diversity
- i) Muscid fly diversity
- j) Macro fungal diversity



k) Ant Diversity

Economic Valuation of Ecosystem goods of:

- a) Fresh water Aquatic Ecosystem
- b) Dry deciduous Forest Ecosystem



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New species described from the projects sponsored by West Bengal Biodiversity Board

- 1. *Garra jaldhakaensis* Kosygin, Shangningam, Singh & Das, 2021
- 2. *Macrobrachium ramae* sp. nov



Biodiversity Information System (BIS)

The Board is working on development of Biodiversity Information System (BIS) for dissemination of Biodiversity related information of West Bengal. It would be the centralized Biodiversity Information System of the state, arranging all the biodiversity related information in a single digital platform in a definite pattern and accessible to all the interested persons as and when required for their use.



About The Page

The first step in biodiversity conservation is documentation based on the available information. In spite of many labs and data centres, information on biodiversity and related traditional knowledge remains difficult to access, as the data about biodiversity are either scattered in many databases or made on paper or other media not amenable for searching by the public. Digitization of data, creation of databases and an information disseminating system may be the solution of this.

West Bengal Biodiversity Board has been trying to collect and collate the information related to biodiversity of the state for promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. A number of other reports/theses are also involved in creation of such information.

It is the centralized Biodiversity Information System of the state, arranging all the biodiversity related information in a single digital platform in a definite pattern and also accessible to all the interested persons as and when required for their use.

This information would be of great value to the policy and decision makers, academicians, researchers, and also to the industry which could immensely contribute for the conservation, sustainable use, benefit sharing, livelihood generation and further development.

Awareness generation on biodiversity and its importance

Sl. No.	Particulars	Target groups
1.	Awareness and capacity building	College students, BMC members, village resource makers
2.	Field training programme on	BMC functionaries, School/College students, NGO
3.	Seminar/ workshop	School / College students, BMC members, social
4.	Bio – Tour	School students
5.	Celebration of IDB	BMCs, Policymakers and all the stakeholders of the

