



INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR BIODIVERSITY 2025
Harmony with nature and sustainable development



Initiatives of West Bengal Biodiversity Board



To facilitate the constitution Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)

As per Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (Amended in 2023), all the local bodies of the state have constitute BMCs under their jurisdiction for documentation and sustainable management of biodiversity of the area.

A total of 3830 BMCs, thus formed, which have documented the biodiversity along with traditional knowledge in the form of People's Biodiversity Register (PBRs). From its inception, the Board has provided the necessary technical support for this process. These PBRs are now being updated.



To facilitate Conservation Activities

Conservation and promotion of indigenous crop diversity involving local backward communities

The Board has taken the initiative to conserve and restore indigenous crop varieties across diverse agro-climatic regions of the state through sustainable agricultural practices involving local communities. Beneficial microbes and organic manure inputs used in cultivation are being prepared by local farmers under the technical guidance of the West Bengal Biodiversity Board and the Department of Botany, University of Calcutta.

Farmers from Hirbandh and Sonamukhi (Bankura), Bolpur-Sriniketan (Birbhum), Dantan-I (Paschim Medinipur), Kultali and Basanti (South 24 Parganas), Hingalganj (North 24 Parganas), Habibpur (Malda), Harirampur (Dakshin Dinajpur), Raiganj (Uttar Dinajpur), Kumargram (Alipurduar), and Sankrail and Nayagram (Jhargram) have adopted this low-cost cultivation process.

With technical support from the Board, more than 300 traditional rice varieties are being conserved in farmers' fields, along with several varieties of vegetables, oilseeds, pulses, and

millet. Plant growth and plant defense laboratories have been established at each of the thirteen locations, and crop calendars have been developed accordingly.



Establishment of Seed Banks

Traditional crop varieties, adapted to specific environmental conditions, are being restored in seed banks across various agro-climatic zones in West Bengal. These seed banks with technical and financial support of the Board, raise awareness among students and local farmers about conservation and livelihood development and food security. The process involves collecting viable seeds of traditional varieties like cereals, vegetables, pulses, oil seeds, millets, and spices from farmers, focusing on climate-resilience.



Butterfly Conservation Area

Butterflies are considered as indicators of healthy environment and ecosystems. Their natural habitats are being lost due to various reasons and as a result diversity of butterflies is also decreasing. The Butterfly conservation area is considered as integrated management practice to protect these form of wildlife. The main objective of the programme “Establishment of Butterfly Conservation Area” is to restore locally available host and nectar plants and the dependent butterflies, as well. The said host plants and nectar plants of butterflies are being restored in the school premises. Besides, other objectives of this programme are to promote the activity-based learning (biodiversity education) and to provide hands on training to nurture the beautiful creatures among students.



Establishment of Kitchen Garden in schools

For promoting conservation of traditional vegetable varieties and providing nutritional support to the school students, the Board has taken initiatives of establishment of kitchen garden in schools. The vegetables have been cultivated using organic manure. By engaging in hands-on activities, students are acquire knowledge about environment and value of conservation.



Restoration of fresh water indigenous fishes Avoy Pukur

From PBR it is revealed that a large number of indigenous fish species diversity are declining and becoming threatened/extinct locally due to alteration of habitat condition through modern monoculture practices, over exploitation, habitat fragmentation etc. Thus, it is the need of hour to conserve these species along with the essential vegetation for nurturing such fish populations. The vegetation also helps in maintaining water qualities. The Board has taken initiatives for restoration of such indigenous fishes in collaboration with the concerned BMCs selecting water bodies in different parts of the state. SHGs and Local people are getting benefit from the fish catch from this initiative.



Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)

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, outside the protected area network. The Board provides technical and consultative support for identification and declaration of the BHS. So far Ten (10) BHS have been notified by Govt. of West Bengal upon recommendation of the Board.

1. Kanakdurga Sacred Groves of Jhargram District
2. Dhotrey MPCA of Darjeeling District
3. Tonglu MPCA of Darjeeling District
4. Baneswar Shiv Dighi of Coochbehar District
5. Namthing Pokhari of Darjeeling District
6. Char Balidanga of Nadia District
7. Amkhoi Fossil Park of Birbhum District
8. State Horticulture Research Center of Nadia District
9. Baguran Jalpai to Birampur Coastal Stretch of Purba Medinipur District
10. Haldichar, Mahishadal Block of Purba Medinipur District



Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources and associated knowledge is one of the three pillars of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In accordance with this framework, the Board regulates access to biological resources for commercial utilization by entities, adhering to the provisions of Section 7 of the Biological Diversity Act, alongside the guidelines on Access and Benefit Sharing issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India. As part of this process, 95% of the benefits accrued are shared with the relevant stakeholders.

Regulation of commercial activities related to Bioresources

Development of Biodiversity Information System (BIS)

The first step in biodiversity conservation is documentation based on the available information. Despite the availability of numerous tools and data sources, it is still challenging for the general people to acquire information about biodiversity since such data are either dispersed over multiple databases or documented on paper or other media and that is not easily accessible. Data digitization, database development, and information distribution systems could be the answer to this. The Board has been working to gather, and compile data about the biodiversity of the state, with support from professional, institutions, researcher to organize all biodiversity related data into a unified digital platform in a standardized manner, which is available to all stakeholders for use whenever needed.



For more details scan the QR



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) Diversity of fresh water fishes

h) Butterfly diversity

i) Muscid fly diversity

j) Macro fungal diversity

k) Ant Diversity

l) Habitat Study of Indian Horseshoe Crabs

m) Status study of Chinese Pangolin

n) Taxonomic diversity of mycorrhizal associations in the staple crops of Malda

Economic Valuation of Ecosystem goods of:

a) Fresh water Aquatic Ecosystem

b) Dry deciduous Forest Ecosystem



Research and Documentation Activities of the Board



Awareness generation on Biodiversity

Bio Tour



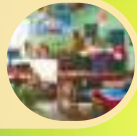
Wall Painting



Celebration of IDB



Seminar / workshop



Identification Manuals



For Purchasing Books



Publications





**Prani Sampad Bhawan (5th Floor), Block: LB-2, Sector: III,
Salt Lake City, Kolkata- 700 106, West Bengal, India
Phone: 033 2335 2731/5954, Telefax: 033 2335 2763,
Email: biodiversity.wbbb@gmail.com, biodiversity.wbbb@nic.in
Website: www.wbbb.wb.gov.in**



Follow us on social media

