

PRESS RELEASE

Policy Review and Panel discussion on “Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act 2002”

The State Development Policy Council (erstwhile State Planning Commission, (SPC)) had organized a Policy Review and Panel discussion on Implementation of the **“Biological Diversity Act 2002”** in the topics: 1 Role of Local Bodies in Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2. Enacting the Biological Diversity Act in Forest Area, 3. Biological Diversity Act – An overview in Tamil Nadu and 4. Bio - Diversity Management Committee (BMC), People’s Bio-Diversity Register (PBR’S), Access Benefit Sharing (ABS), Intellectual Property Right(IPR) relating to Biological Diversity Act (BDA) through Webinar.

Highlights of the discussion were-

1. Inclusion of ocean Bio Diversity in People’s Bio Diversity Register (PBR’s).
2. National Bio Diversity Authority support for sandalwood conservation from Access Benefit Sharing(ABS) Fund.
3. Aesthetic aspect of Bio Diversity areas to be included in ABS.
4. Adequate quality trained persons required for documenting Bio Diversity.
5. Training Centres in each District to be created for dissemination of knowledge on documenting flora and fauna.
6. Need to build a grassroots constituency for biodiversity conservation to make it relevant to common man. This can be achieved by designated meritorious agrarian areas as centres of diversity: Kanyakumari for bananas, Villupuram for millets, Dharmapuri -Salem for mangos, coconut and so on. Farmers fields in such areas to be designated as innovation hubs. Traditional knowledge systems pertaining to fishing, meat processing to be

documented and incentivized. Traditional veterinary care systems such as in kolli hills needs to be recognized. Urban biodiversity a pillar for Tamil Nadu.

The Policy Review and Panel discussion was chaired by the Hon'ble Vice Chairman Thiru C. Ponnaiyan, State Development Policy Council, (erstwhile State Planning Commission) Chennai on 10.09.2020 at 11.00 A.M. at Human Development Video Conference Hall, State Development Policy Council, Ezhilagam, Chennai - 5. Dr. Sandeep Saxena, IAS., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department, Thiru. P. Durairasu, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Thiru. Yuvaraj, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Forest Department, Thiru Ashok Upreti, IFS., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chairman Arasu Rubber Corporation, and Member Secretary (i/c) Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, Thiru. Anil Meshram, IAS., Member Secretary, State Development Policy Council, Dr. B.C. Archana Kalyani, IFS., Head of Division (Land Use), SDPC, Tmt. K.M. Sarayu, IAS., Project Director, SADP Unit-I, Ooty, District Collectors, District Forests Officer's and Senior Officials from Departments associated participated in the webinar.

The Policy review and Panel discussion topics were presented by the Dr. V. B. Mathur, Chairperson, National Bio Diversity Authority and Tmt. Jayshree Vencatesan, Member, State Bio Diversity Board.

Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.