



UTTARAKHAND BIODIVERSITY BOARD

Quarterly Newsletter

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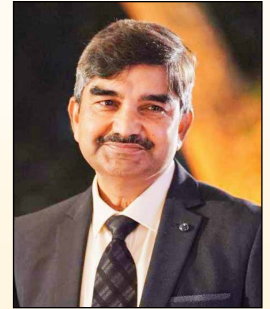
From the Chairman's Desk

I am delighted to lead Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board once again after a gap of over three years. The period in between was largely marred by the COVID pandemic and as a result the activities at the board slowed down a bit. It is high time that the momentum of the activities must be increased again.

The key to the implementation of the Biodiversity Act 2002 is strengthening the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) established by the local bodies. At the board, there has been a regular effort in this direction and certain focused projects helped in achieving this in an organized manner. The ambitious SECURE project was a big step to strengthen the BMCs in the remotest part of the state. We are now in the concluding phase of this project and have developed a strong connect with the BMCs of the project area through various activities. It is encouraging to confirm that some BMCs have stepped forward to compile the PBRs themselves by adopting and adhering to National standards, thanks to persistent capacity building efforts.

The Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism's implementation has advanced considerably under the Board. The combined efforts of my team, our respected partners, and other cooperating agencies have resulted in the effective implementation of ABS in the state during the previous eight years. We've created specially created an ABS cell in our Board.

In order to accomplish its objectives, the Board has built and reinforced a good team and further hopes to have a permanent structure with the support of the Govt. We are thankful to our Hon'ble Minister Sh. Subodh Uniyal ji for reviewing the activities of the board and providing his guidance and blessings.



Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS
Chairman,
Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board

Message from the Member Secretary



Shri. R.K. Mishra, IFS
Member Secretary,
Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board

I am delighted to present the Newsletter of the Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board for the period spanning from July to September 2023, under the esteemed guidance of Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, Chairman of the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board. I extend my congratulations to all the members of the Board and the dedicated office staff for their invaluable contributions to this Newsletter. The preservation of biodiversity is a collective responsibility and by acknowledging its significance and taking collaborative measures, we can actively contribute to the conservation of our natural heritage, thereby ensuring a sustainable future for all life on Earth.

One of the key roles of the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board is to facilitate the establishment of Biodiversity Management Committees at the Gram Panchayat level. The Board is committed to expediting this process across the state by developing a comprehensive framework that promotes equitable research into biodiversity through the compilation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs).

I extend my sincere congratulations to all the officers and staff of the board for their dedicated efforts in creating this newsletter.



"Biodiversity Conservation.... An art of living with nature."

About the Board

Constitution of the Board

The state government of Uttarakhand constituted Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board in compliance of section 22 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, directs every State Government to establish State Biodiversity Board. Accordingly, the Government of Uttarakhand constituted State Biodiversity Board, Uttarakhand vide Govt. Notification No. 1773/X-2-2006-8(83)/2001 dated 01.04.2006.

Objectives

1. Conservation of Biodiversity
2. Sustainable use of biological resources
3. Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources, traditional knowledge

Functions of the Board

According to the section 23 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the

functions of the State Biodiversity Board are:

1. To advise the State Government, subject to any guideline issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of the biological resources.
2. To Regulate by granting of approvals or otherwise requests of commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by Indians.
3. To perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act may be prescribed by the state government.

1. National Biodiversity Authority
2. State Biodiversity Board
3. Biodiversity Management Committees formed at local body level

Biodiversity of Uttarakhand

1. The predominantly mountainous State of Uttarakhand is endowed with a unique and diverse range of biodiversity.
2. As the State lies in the Himalayan range, the climate and vegetation vary greatly with altitude, from glaciers at the highest elevations to tropical forests at the lower elevations.
3. State has 38,000 sq km as forest land.

Implementation of The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

This is done at three levels



Appointment of new Chairman

In compliance of the order No 596/ GEN/X-1-2023-14(01)/ 2023 issued by the Uttarakhand government,

dated 1 June, 2023, Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS, PCCF, took over the

charge as Chairman, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board on 06.06.2023.



Appointment of new Member Secretary

In compliance of the order No 599/GEN/X-1-2023-14(01)/ 2023 issued by the Uttarakhand

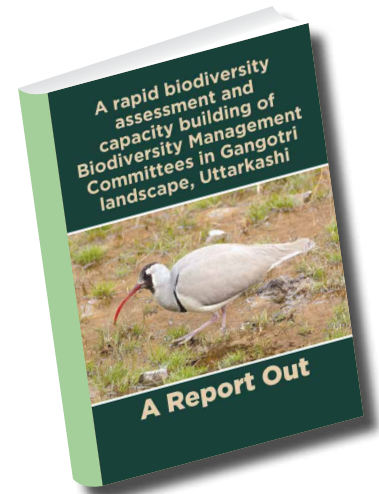
government, dated 1 June, 2023. Shri R.K. Mishra, IFS took over the charge as Member secretary,

Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board on 30.06.2023.

The report titled “A Rapid Biodiversity Assessment and Capacity Building of Biodiversity Management Committees in Gangotri Landscape, Uttarkashi” has been published under the Secure Himalaya Project, financially supported by Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board and executed by Titli Trust

The Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board, under the SECURE Himalaya project, conducted a 24-month rapid biodiversity assessment and capacity-building initiative for Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in the Gangotri landscape, through Titli Trust, Dehradun. Experts, assisted by volunteers, assessed avifauna, Lepidoptera, and wildflowers in different seasons. The findings were utilized for BMC capacity development, creation of educational and conservation

materials, product development, trail creation, marketing strategies, and community ecotourism. This study aims to encourage nature-based ecotourism, serving as an eco-friendly means of local livelihood. The assessments, spanning from September 2021 to May 2023, led to publications and checklists. Birdwatching camps, BMC workshops, and promotional activities like film-screening were also organized, demonstrating the potential of nature-oriented tourism with 20 paying visitors



involved during the project phase as a pilot.



हरेला पर्व (22.07. 2023)

उत्तराखण्ड जैव विविधता बोर्ड द्वारा हरेला पर्व के अवसर पर 22 जुलाई, 2023 को ग्राम पंचायत गुजराडा करनपुर (जामुनवाला) सहसपुर देहरादून में वृक्षारोपण कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में डा० धनन्जय मोहन, अध्यक्ष, उत्तराखण्ड जैव विविधता बोर्ड, श्री जितेन्द्र गुसाई, वन क्षेत्राधिकारी झाझरा रेंज एवं जैव विविधता प्रबन्ध समिति, विलासपुर काण्डली, हरियावाला कलां, हरियावाला खुर्द, कोटडा संतौर, आमवाला, पौधा और चौकी के अध्यक्ष, सदस्यों एवं ग्राम प्रधानों के साथ-साथ

नजदीकी जैव विविधता प्रबन्ध समितियों के सदस्यों द्वारा पौधा रोपण कार्यक्रम में प्रतिभाग किया गया जिसमें आम, अमरुद, जामुन, आंवला, बहेडा आदि फलदार वृक्षों का रोपण किया गया। पौधारोपण एकादशमुखी हुनमान मन्दिर, जामुनवाला के समीप की खाली भूमि में किया गया जो कि नून नदी के तट पर अत्यंत रमणीक स्थल है।

इस अवसर पर पौधों की भविष्य में उचित देख-रेख व जैव विविधता प्रबन्ध समिति के साथ अन्य कार्यक्रम प्रारम्भ करने पर ग्रामीणों के साथ



विचार-विमर्श किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में उत्तराखण्ड जैव विविधता बोर्ड तथा देहरादून वन प्रभाग की झाझरा रेंज के कर्मियों द्वारा प्रतिभाग किया गया।

Workshop on 'Stakeholders Meet to Improve the Status of Small Holder Farmers (02.08.2023)

The host organisation, Pragya is committed to the sustainable development of vulnerable and marginalized communities and the conservation of sensitive ecosystems. It has over two decades of rich programming experience and expertise in addressing livelihood security and climate adaptation. With the UN ECOSOC, the organisation holds Special Consultative Status.

This workshop was conducted under the aegis of our project

'Enhancing Agricultural Incomes in Marginalized Districts in India'. Building upon our decades of work in the MAP sector, this project has endeavoured to promote the cultivation of agro-climatically appropriate MAPs among farmers in multiple districts. Towards this, it has assisted farmers with crop advisory, planting inputs and plantation support, helped to aggregate the growers into collectives, and supported them through exposure visits and buyer-seller interactions. The proposed

workshop seeks to examine the prospects for promoting the MAP Sector as well as the obstacles at the grassroots level with government officials and policy makers. Along with addressing these issues by putting in place the proper programmes and initiatives for the sector, it will also explore the difficulties faced by Farmers as a result of industry gaps. The online workshop was attended by Shri R.K. Mishra, Member Secretary, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board.



Working group to contribute and review the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP)

A working group to contribute and review the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBSP) i.e. under development following the adoption of Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Frame Work (KM-GBF) by the CBD was constituted by the National Biodiversity Authority through an order dated 29.07.2023. Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, Chairperson,

Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board was nominated as one of the Expert Members in the working group. The first meeting of the working group was held on 09th August, 2023 at Chennai in which an intense discussion on integrating KM-GBF into NBSAP was held. Further the experts members were provided with the KMGBF table containing

probable action to be taken and the listing of ongoing schemes and programmes in India that are relevant for the implementation of the framework targets. The Expert members have communicated their comments and suggestions to NBA and the NBSAP revision process has advanced considerably since then.



उत्तराखण्ड राज्य जैव विविधता बोर्ड की 22वीं बोर्ड बैठक

उत्तराखण्ड जैव विविधता बोर्ड की 22वीं बैठक, डा० धनन्जय मोहन, अध्यक्ष, उत्तराखण्ड जैव विविधता बोर्ड की अध्यक्षता में दिनांक 01.09.2023 को बोर्ड कार्यालय, देहरादून में सम्पन्न हुई। बैठक का मुख्य एजेंडा बोर्ड का

संगठनात्मक ढांचा था। बोर्ड के सदस्यों के सुझाव के अनुसार उत्तराखण्ड जैव विविधता बोर्ड के संगठनात्मक ढांचे के नवगठित प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी के लिए उत्तराखण्ड सरकार को भेजा गया था। बैठक का अगला एजेंडा जैव विविधता

(संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2023 के अनुसार उत्तराखण्ड जैव विविधता नियम 2015 में संशोधन करना था। बोर्ड के सदस्यों ने संशोधन प्रक्रिया शुरू करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।

The concluding workshop with the participation of Biodiversity Management Committees in the activities carried out under the SECURE Himalaya Project by the Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board was organized on 25.09.2023



The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen the achievements under the SECURE Himalaya Project and to collaboratively showcase its impacts. The workshop saw active participation from stakeholders representing 29 Biodiversity Management Committees from Gangotri-Govind landscape in Uttarkashi and Darma region in Pithoragarh district. Successful outcomes and vital accomplishments achieved under the project were shared among the 45 rural participants present at the workshop who travelled all the way from their remote villages.

Chief Guest of the program was Shri Subodh Uniyal, Hon'ble Minister of Forest, Language, Election, and Technical Education,

Uttarakhand. Other dignitaries present included Shri R.K. Sudhanshu, Principal Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, Shri Anup Malik, PCCF (HoFF), Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, Chairman, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board, and Shri R.K. Mishra, Member Secretary, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board. Dr. Ruchi Pant, Head Climate Change, Natural Resource Management, Biodiversity Conservation, UNDP actively participated in the workshop through video conferencing.

In the program, the Forest Minister gave an announcement of the commencement of Uttarakhand state's annual Biodiversity Awards for the conservation and cultivation of medicinal plants in three border

districts: Chamoli, Pithoragarh, and Uttarkashi. A reward of one lakh rupees for the first prize and 51 thousand rupees for the second and third prizes will be given every year. Additionally, Eco-Development Committees will be established to enhance the livelihood opportunities for local people. These committees, operated with local support and the Eco-Tourism Center will improve the lives of around two lakh people by improving their livelihoods. To prevent forest fires, local-level Forest Fire Management Committees will be assisted, and these committees will be provided a grant.

Shri R.K. Sudhanshu, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Uttarakhand, emphasized the need to provide income generation activities for the people in the Himalayan region for effective biodiversity conservation and to provide marketing opportunities of local products through an online platform.





Shri Anup Malik, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Uttarakhand, stressed the need to encourage active participation and support from local communities and to conserve and develop forests and biodiversity.

Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, Chairman, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board informed that the project has involved 29 villages from remote regions into the management of bugyals and forests in the high Himalayas to preserve local biodiversity. Awareness has been raised about conserving snow

leopards and promoting nature-based tourism. Additionally, 35 individuals have received training in herbal cultivation, and the Herbal Research and Development Institute is distributing plants and seeds to support sustainable livelihoods in the future.



One-day workshop on “Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 and Biodiversity Conservation” on 29.09.2023

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is organizing Dissemination workshops on the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 through institutes / organizations across the

country for the benefit of various stakeholders.

As a sequel to the dissemination workshops, SACON, Coimbatore, Regional Office of MoEFCC, Chennai, and NBA jointly organizing a one-day workshop on Forest

(Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 and Biodiversity Conservation on 29th September 2023 from 09.30 am onwards through hybrid mode. The meeting was conducted online and Shri R.K. Mishra, Member Secretary, Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board, participated.

Field Visit to Uttarkashi District- Gangotri Landscape under the SECURE Himalaya project in the month of September 2023, for the Constitution of Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) Management Committee for Kandara Bugyal and Kheda Taal BHS sites

Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board, Dehradun organized a meeting on Project SECURE Himalaya on 4-7 September 2023 in BMC Bhukki, Hurri and Sukkhi, Gangotri Landscape, District- Uttarkashi. The purpose of the meeting was to constitute the Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) Management Committees for the Identified BHS-Kandara Bugyal and Kheda Taal in the Gangotri Landscape.

Objective

The objective of the field visit was to facilitate the constitution of the Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) Management Committee in Gangotri Landscape for the BHS Kandara Bugyal and Kheda Taal under the SECURE Himalaya

project, Uttarkashi District. The formation of this committee is a critical step in the conservation and sustainable management of the region's unique biodiversity.

Highlights of the Visit

1. A meeting was held with the Divisional Forest Officer Uttarkashi Forest Division on the upcoming Workshop in Dehradun under the SECURE Himalaya project wherein, the Participants from the 13 BMCs shall play a crucial role.
2. Convened a meeting with key local stakeholders, including representatives from the Forest Department, local communities, and members of Biodiversity Management Committees. The purpose of



this meeting was to discuss the importance of the BHS and garner support for the constitution of the BHS Management Committee.

3. A significant portion of the visit was dedicated to engaging with the local communities residing in and around the proposed BHS Kandara Bugyal and Kheda



- Taal. An awareness session to explain the concept of BHS and the potential benefits of its conservation was conducted in the three BMCs (Bhukki, Hurri and Sukkhi).
4. The BHS management committee for Kandara Bugyal

- and Kheda Taal BHS shall be the respective Biodiversity Management Committees as the BHS falls under the purview of only one BMC.
5. An awareness session for the BMC members was conducted to familiarize them with

the responsibilities of the committee. Topics covered included the legal framework governing BHS, biodiversity assessment techniques, and sustainable management practices.



पहुँच व लाभ का प्रभाजन (ए.बी.एस.)

उत्तराखण्ड जैव विविधता बोर्ड द्वारा पहुँच व लाभ का प्रभाजन (ए.बी.एस.) के सफल कार्यान्वयन हेतु जैव विविधता प्रबंध समितियों के साथ मिलकर कई प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम एवं कार्यशालाओं का आयोजन किया गया जिससे स्थानीय समुदाय को जैव संसाधनों के

संरक्षण के साथ सतत उपयोग के प्रति जागरूक किया गया एवं जैव संसाधनों से ग्रामीणों को अपनी आजीविका के लिए नए अवसर कैसे प्राप्त हो इसकी जानकारी दी गई। जुलाई से सितम्बर माह 2023 के मध्य, उत्तराखण्ड राज्य में जैविक संसाधनों के व्यापारिक उपयोग

में शामिल विभिन्न व्यापारी व निर्माताओं को कई नोटिस/अनुस्मारक पत्र जारी किए गए और इससे 1.4 लाख रुपये का पहुँच और लाभ साझा करने की राशि जमा की गई।



Guidance

Dr. Dhananjai Mohan, IFS, Chairman

Direction

Shri R.K. Mishra, IFS, Member Secretary

Photo credits

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