

Journey of Uttar Pradesh Biodiversity Board: An Assessment in the context of Sustainable Development Goals

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I. Introduction

Nature has enriched the planet earth with the millions of living organism, which are essentially interrelated and interdependent to each other, and finally compose a living web on the earth. Human beings are always entirely dependent for their sustenance, health, well-being and enjoyment of life on fundamental biological systems and processes. Ecological balance has been postulate from ancient times for the better existences of life and to protect the planet. Chanakya had observed that “*the stability of an empire depends on the stability of its environment*”. The term Biological diversity encapsulates the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms. But, from the past more than two decades the man made and other human activities are placing severe pressure on the various important natural resources that leads to the degradation of habitats and loss of biodiversity in a large scale. In this regard the international environmental consciousness was developed in 1960 and finds a kind maturity only in post 1970s in the form of various conventions having sectoral approaches to arrest the problem (*Birnie Boyle 2009*). The conservation of biodiversity as global common concern deals only in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and development in particular by UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed by a large number of states including India. Further, the intellectual property rights regime governed by the TRIPs Agreement under aegis of WTO also brings number of problem related to biodiversity management in the developing countries.

India has 8 per cent of the world's biodiversity with many species that are not found anywhere else in the world (SDGs NO.15). It is also equally rich in traditional and indigenous knowledge assets of the local communities. Keeping in view the three

objectives of the CBD and other challenges pertaining to biological resources, the Government of India has enacted the *Biological Diversity Act, 2002* and *Biological Diversity Rules, 2004*. In the said act the institutional mechanisms such as national, state and local level are available under different provisions of the Act. At the national level Biodiversity Authority has been established by the Government of India in October, 2003 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu and State Biodiversity Board have been established by the State Governments and Biodiversity Management Committees constituted by the local bodies. In this regard the Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board was constituted on 28th September 2006 by the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Under this backdrop the present paper a humble attempt to assess the role played by the Uttar Pradesh Biodiversity Board in the conservation of biodiversity for better conservation and sustainable use of biological resources for realizing the sustainable development goals in coming future.

II. Institutional Structure

(A) Constitution of Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board under the Act

The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (Section 3 U.P. Biodiversity Rule, 2010) was established by the state government for the purpose of the act. The board shall consist of the following members namely:

- i. Principal Secretary, Forest, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Chairperson
- ii. Nominee of the Principal Secretary/Secretary, Environment Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh
- iii. Nominee of Principal Secretary/Secretary, Horticulture Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh
- iv. Nominee of Principal Secretary/Secretary, Agriculture Department /Agriculture Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh
- v. Nominee of Principal Secretary/Secretary, Animal Husbandry Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh

vi. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Uttar Pradesh

vii. Five Specialist members

The State government shall be nominated the Non-official members also from amongst experts in the matters relating to conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources section 4 U.P. Biodiversity Rule, 2010). Every non-official member of the Board shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of publication of his appointment in the Gazette (section 6 U.P. Biodiversity Rule, 2010). The Headquarters of the Uttar Pradesh Biodiversity Board situated at Lucknow (Section 9 U.P. Biodiversity Rule, 2010)

The State Biodiversity Board is established as body corporate which means that it has the capacity to sue or to be sued (Section 22 [3] Biodiversity Act, 2002). Whereas in relation to the Union territory the National Biodiversity Board shall exercise the power and functions of state biodiversity board and it may also delegate all its powers or functions to such persons or groups of persons as the Central Government specify (Section 22 [2] Biodiversity Act, 2002). The Chairperson and other members of the board shall hold the office for the period as may be prescribed by the State Government. He shall have the control of day to day activities of the board as well as power of general superintendence and he may also issue the directions for the management of the affairs of the board (Section 13 National Biodiversity Rules, 2004).

(B) Function and Powers of State Biodiversity Board

Under the act the board has following powers and functions:

1. Advising the State Government, subject to any guidelines 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 biological resources.

2. Regulating by granting of approvals or otherwise requests for commercial utilization or bio survey and bio utilization of any biological resource by Indians.
3. Performing such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act as may be prescribed by the State Government (Section 23, Biodiversity Act, 2002).

The board has the power to restrict certain activities which violating the objectives of conservation. It entrusted with following powers (Section 24, Biodiversity Act, 2002).

1. Any citizen of India or body corporate, organization or association registered in India shall give prior intimation in such form as may be prescribed by the State Government to the State Biodiversity Board, before obtaining any biological recourse for commercial utilization, or bio survey and bio utilization for commercial utilization.
2. It has the power to prohibit or restrict any kind of activity which is in its opinion as the detrimental or contrary to the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or equitable sharing of benefits arising out of such activity.

Besides the above power and function there are some general functions are also required to be performed by the U.P. BB (Section 13, Biodiversity Rule, 2010).

- i. To provide technical assistance and guidance to the Department of State Government.
- ii. To perform such other function as may be necessary to carry out the provision of the Act.
- iii. To identify the issues in Biodiversity conservation in Uttar Pradesh and to evolve Biodiversity strategy and Action Plan.
- iv. To release of status of Biodiversity Report of Uttar Pradesh at suitable interval and to evolve strategy and Action Plan.
- v. To frame Biodiversity Policy of the state and

establishment of Biodiversity Park.

- vi. To adopt the different method of activities for revenue generation such as fixed deposit, advertisement, sponsor, donations and such other method etc.
- vii. To award individual, or as a group or as institution for innovation and contribution to the Biodiversity conservation of the state.
- viii. Commission studies, sponsor investigation and research organize conference/ seminars/ workshop/ meetings on different fields.
- ix. To engage consultant in different fields for a specific period not exceed three years, for providing technical assistance to the Board in the effective discharge of its function provide that if it is necessary and expedient to engage any consultant beyond the period of three years, the approval of the Board shall be necessary.
- x. To collect, compile and publish technical and statistical data, manuals, codes relating to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge.

The Act further provides that the board shall take step to restrict or prohibit the request for access to biological resources for the following reasons (Section 17 U.P. Biodiversity Rule, 2010).

- i. The request for access is for any endangered taxa.
- ii. The request for access is for any endemic and rare species.
- iii. The request for access may likely to result in adverse effect on the livelihood of the people.
- iv. The request to access may result in adverse environment impact which may be difficult to control and mitigate.
- v. The request for access may cause genetic erosion or affecting the ecosystem function.
- vi. Use of resources for purpose contrary to National/ State interest and other related

International / National/ State agreement entered into by India and there to the State of Uttar Pradesh.

III. Initiatives taken by Uttar Pradesh Biodiversity Board (2006 to 2017)

Since its establishment in 2006 the U.P. State Biodiversity Board to achieve its foremost aim to create awareness among people about the need for biodiversity conservation and management for sustainable use of bio resources in India, to enlightens the said object the board celebrating the International biodiversity day as biodiversity festival every year on 22nd May from the year 2007 with the different theme of Seminars/ Conferences and Workshops has been organized on different themes chosen by the United Nations for International Biodiversity decades (2010-2020). On the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity, U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow organized, “Biodiversity Festival” from 17th May to 20th May, 2016, in collaboration with Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow and Regional Science City, Lucknow. The programme aimed at creating awareness among the youth to have a passionate heart for the biodiversity and sustainable development around us (UPSBB Biodiversity Festival report 2016).

Biodiversity Festival provides an opportunity to the youth to express their thoughts through various competitions as well as to get involved in Biodiversity conservation through various activities. During the festival, several competitions and workshops were organized.

(A) Committees Constituted by Board:

The State Biodiversity Board is empowered to constitute a committee to effectively deal with the agro- biodiversity and also to constitute the other committees for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions under the act (Section 13 of the Biodiversity Act, 2002). During the year 2009-2010 the board has constituted several committees (Annual Report [2009-2010] , Uttar Pradesh Biodiversity Board, at pp.3).

- Committee of scientists for Biodiversity Park guidance
- Scientist/ Expert Committee for Scientific Input
- Editorial Board for publication of e- magazine of UPSBB

(B) Board Meetings

For the coordinating and convening the meeting of the board the state government appoints the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Section 10 of the U.P. Biodiversity Rule, 2010) , who shall be responsible for the maintenance of the records of the proceeding of the board. The member of the UPSBB shall met at least four times in a year normally after a period of three months at the Headquarter at Lucknow of the Board for discussing different issues related to the activities of the State Board (Section 11 of the U.P. Biodiversity Rule, 2010). In each meeting, the confirmation of the previous meeting was done first, followed by discussion on the progress and follow up actions on the directions given in the previous meetings. The third meeting of UPSBB was held on 8th December 2009 and following major decision was taken in the meeting:

- A quarterly e- News Letter is to be published by the Board and put up on the website www.upsbdb.org
- UPSBB may coordinate with National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms, Mau.

(C) Awareness Programmes organized by the Board

- In order to biodiversity conservation the board has making various awareness programmess as it celebrated the Arbor Day on 6th September and to sensitize the students towards wildlife conservation and its signigicance, the World Wildlife Week from October 1 to 7th every year.
- To recognizing the importance of wetland and its conservation it celebrated Wetland Day on 2nd Feb.
- The diminutive house sparrow is perhaps one of the earliest birds which we can remember from

our childhood. It is a species of passerine bird of the sparrow family Passeridae. It is popularly known as “Gauraiya” in Hindi and “Chiriya” in Urdu. Unfortunately, the house sparrow is now a disappearing species, therefore to raise public awareness about the decline of the house sparrow and the problem faced by the species in its daily fight for survival the board celebrating “World Sparrow Day” every year on 20th March.

- “Village Mapping Competition” is organized by the board on the occasion of Earth Day on 20th April and Quiz Competition conduct by it for the students of Class 6th to 12th on “World Environment Day”.
- To raise awareness regarding “Amphibian Conservation” among the students through various competitions based on Amphibian topics, the board organized “Leap Day” on February 29th.
- To raise awareness regarding “Vulture” organizing “Vulture Awareness Day” on the occasion of “International Vulture Day” i.e. 1st September.
- Science Express – Biodiversity Special' (SEBS) is an innovative mobile exhibition mounted on a specially designed 16 coach AC train, traveling across India. The SEBS is a unique collaborative initiative of Department of Science & Technology and Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India in the year 2012.

(D) Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees

In the year 2004, India's Ministry of Environment and Forest officially gazette the implementing rules for the *Biological Diversity Act; 2002*. It is under the BD Act, 2002 that the idea of biodiversity management committees was introduced in the country for conservation, sustainable use, and documentation of biodiversity and chronicling of knowledge relating to biodiversity (Section 41 of the Biological Diversity act 2002). The BMC shall consist of not more than six members including a chairperson nominated by such local body, of which not less than one third should be

women and not less than 18% should belong to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes (section 21[1] U.P. Biodiversity Rule, 2010). The tenure of the BMC shall have three years.

As per the guideline of the Biodiversity Act, 2002 and in accordance with *Uttar Pradesh Biological Diversity Rules, 2010*, Rule 21 Board formed one BMC (Saidapur Devkali) in the District of Lakhimpurkheri in the Tarai Agro climatic zone (Annual Report 2009-2010) in Nanapara Dehat (Dist Baharaich), Baihar (Dist Chitrakoot), Bhitauli Kalan (Dist, Barabanki (Annual Report 2010-2011) the biodiversity management committee of Bhauwapar (District Gorakhpur) (Annual Reprt 2011-2012), Naipalapur (Dist. Sitapur), Haresewakpur No.2 (District Gorakhpur) (Annual Report 2012-2013). The success of a State Biodiversity Board, in many instances is gauged by the number of BMC formed in the state.

(E) Preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR)

The documentation of the knowledge related to the biological resource of the people of any locality is known as the People's Biodiversity Register. The Register shall contain comprehensive information on availability the knowledge of local bio-resources, their medicinal or any other use or any other traditional knowledge associated with them. The various forms of knowledge of the people that would be included in the PBR are as follows:

- a. Knowledge of Landscape
- b. Knowledge of Life cape
- c. Knowledge of Peoplescape
- d. Knowledge of Timescale

The main function of the BMC is to prepare People's Biodiversity Register in consultation with local people (Annual Report 2010-2011). The first PBR in the state was completed in the village of Saidapur Devkali, District Lakhimpur Kheri (Annual Report 2011-2012). The PBR has recorded 310 species of plants, animals, insects and fishes in kheri. About 311 species were identified in the Bhauwapar village, Gorakhpur District in the process of making the PBR (Annual

Report 2011-2012). During the 2012-2013 two PBR have been completed. First in Gram Sabha, Baihar, Distt. Chitrakoot where overall 295 species were recorded in the village and second in, Distt- Bahraich where 343 species were recorded . The PBR prepared at Village level upto 31st March 2016 is eighty six (Annual Report 2012-2013).

(F) Research projects and special studies conducted by the Board

In order to conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management the board conducted the research project from time to time. These are the following research project has been incited by the board namely, *"Germplasm exploration, assessment and documentation of Fish Biodiversity of Uttar Pradesh"*, *"Inventorization, Impact Assessment and risk communication of Invasive fish species in Uttar Pradesh"*, *"Enumeration of lichens of Uttar Pradesh, Assessment and Preparation of an Illustrated Resource Inventory of underutilized Wild Edible Plant Resources in terai region of Uttar Pradesh"*, *"Annotated and Coloured Checklist of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Uttar Pradesh"*, *"Baseline Survey and Mapping of Microbial Diversity of Kukrail Forest Lucknow"*, *"Survey, Mapping and Documentation of Floristic Diversity and Antiquity of Vegetation in Lucknow and Adjoining Areas"*.

(G) Participation of UPSBB at Conference of the Parties (COP-11)

The 11th Conference of the Parties (COP-11)- Convention on Biological Diversity was organized by the Ministry of Environment & Forest , Government of India from 8th October to 19th October 2012. It was held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, and the conference includes a high level ministerial segment meet that was organized by India in consultation with the Bureau and Secretariat.

Mobilization of financial resources was the theme for the COP 11 summit. Finding Uttar Pradesh Biodiversity Board, since its establishment has taken various steps for the conservation and protection of biodiversity. The 11th Conference of the Parties (COP 11) - Convention on Biological Diversity was organized

by the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India from 8 October to 19 October 2012. An innovative mobile exhibition bus "Prakriti" has been stated on the 2nd August 2014, by the Hon'ble State Minister, Prof Abhishek Mishra. The bus has been developed as collaborative effort of Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow University and Centre for Environment Education (CEE). In its first phase , Bus travelled to 6 district of Uttar Pradesh covering Lucknow , Barabanki, Kannauj, Unnao, Hardoi and Sitapur district covering more than 1 Lakh visitors including students, teachers, community persons, officials media, youth etc. From August 2015 bus has started its next phase journey for motivating and sensitizing people for Biodiversity Conservation.

A training programme on **"Biodiversity: Law and Policy"** was conducted by the U.P. State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow at Forestry Training Institute, Kanpur during 19 to 29 December 2014, 5 to 6 January, 2015 for the Deputy Ranger and Foresters from the different forest division of U.P. Forest Department. A total of 19 forest officials attended this programme. An effort was made by the UPSBB to document the number of bird's species visiting Raj Bhavan for a whole year, in order to record the bird diversity of Raj Bhavan for posterity. A book entitled *"Birds of Raj Bhavan"* was released by Hon'ble Governor, Uttar Pradesh on 19th June 2015 which is a compilation of 86 birds species which were observed during the study period.

IV. Conclusion

The analysis of one decade journey of the Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board it is to be noted that the board has taken various steps according to their available resources for the conservation of biodiversity in regions of Uttar Pradesh from time to time and try to establish effective biodiversity governance culture from the very inception taken into consideration the notion of sustainable development. However, it is furthermore submitted that though UPSBDB has played very important role in conserving biodiversity but it is facing many challenges, due to

lack of fund and expertise in modern technological developments particularly in the field of biotechnology and also lack in legal expertise for better conservation of biodiversity. Finally, it can be said that the board functioning and its role in relation

to conservation of biodiversity is satisfactory and appreciable but at the same time it is utmost essential on the part of the board to adopt a holistic approach for realizing the sustainable development goals in coming future for establishing a good biodiversity governance.

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22 MAY 2017
INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism

While **tourism** provides opportunities for women's self-employment, women are contributing a large amount of unpaid work in tourism family businesses. Women formally employed in tourism earn 10% to 15% less than their male counterparts.

