

Report on

**One Day GPU Level Awareness Programme on Biological Diversity Act,
2002 and the Role of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)**

Under the

UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project

**Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and
Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing provisions**

Organized By

**Sikkim State Biodiversity Board
Department of Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management
Government of Sikkim
30.08.2014**

Venue

**Singhik GVK
North Sikkim**

**One Day GPU Level Awareness Programme on
Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Role of BMC**

Date: 30.08.2014

Venue: Singhik GVK

Programme Schedule

10:30-11:30	Registration of the participants	
11:30-11:45	Welcome address	Shri Pem Tshering Lepcha, Panchayat Secretary
11:45-12:00	Key note address	Mrs. Usha Lachungpa Addl. Dir, SBB
12:00-12:15	Role of BMC and its importance	Ms. Peggyla Tshering Venchungpa ACF,T (Namchi) cum JPC(SBB)
12:15-12:30	ABS agreement and its importance	Dr. Bharat Kr. Pradhan TA/Scientific Assistant (UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project)
12:30-01:30	Open discussion and constitution of BMC	
01:30-1:45	Vote of Thanks	Shri Pem Tshering Lepcha, Panchayat Secretary
	Lunch	

As a follow up program to **“One Day GPU Level Awareness Programme on Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Role of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)”** organized by the Sikkim State Biodiversity Board at Singhik-Sentam GPU on 28.07.2014, a Special Gram Sabha was organized at Singhik-Sentam GPU on 30.08.2014 for the constitution of Singhik Senatm BMC. The programme was attended by over 80 participants including Panchayat President Shri Palchen Lepcha, Panchayat Secretary Shri Pem Tshering Lepcha. The Sikkim SBB was represented by Mrs. Usha Lachungpa, Additional director, Sikkim Biodiversity Board, Ms. Peggyla tshering venchungpa, ACF(T) cum JPC (UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS Project), Ms. Shewani Pradhan, ACF, SBB and Dr. Bharat Kumar Pradhan, Technical/ Scientific Assistant, (UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABSv Project) SBB.

Shri Pem Tshering Lepcha welcomed the house and expressed his gratefulness to the Forest Department and the board members for arranging such awareness programme.



Mrs. Usha Lachungpa addressed the gathering talking about biodiversity and its importance. She emphasised that biodiversity comprises not only the flora and fauna but also habitats, land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms. She also talked about the invasive species that come from outside and invade our land thus destroying the habitat of our indigenous floras and sometimes even leading to spread of diseases. With the advancement of technology, and disappearing traditions she emphasized on the need to document all traditional knowledge and the necessity to pass on the knowledge to younger generation to preserve our rich culture and heritage.

Miss Peggyla talked about the necessity to form BMCs in every GPU level under biological diversity Act 2002. The participants were informed about the processes involved in the formation of the committee, its composition, member's selection criteria, tenure of BMC, and preparation of documents like People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) which will be their sole property to claim their

IPR, etc., preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks of breeds and animals, management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHSs) like sacred grooves, sacred water bodies, sacred trees/animals, etc. and they should be the local residents possessing the Sikkim Subject Certificate or Certificate of Identification. It was also informed by her to the participants that the NBA will provide a start-up grant through SBB for BMC constitution, office set-up, etc. nevertheless, they should continuously provide feedback to the SBBs in the matter of traditional knowledge and biodiversity related issues.

Dr. Pradhan talked about Access and Benefit sharing mechanism and its importance. The brain drain method adapted by the foreign researcher was also highlighted wherein they take away all the traditional knowledge from the locals and the locals are deprived of any kind of benefits arising out of that knowledge. He highlighted the need for formation of BMC and about the access and benefit sharing where they will have the right to guard their bio-resources and enjoy the benefit sharing in case of any kind of access of bio-resources made by company or researchers.

It was followed by open house discussion wherein the locals expressed their thoughts. They also expressed their solidarity over the necessity of BMC formation and the urgent need to conserve the biodiversity. Later Singhik Sentam BMC was constituted by the nomination and selection of the members. Members were nominated from various wards under Singhik Sentam GPU. The members unanimously selected by Gram Sabha are as follows:

Panchayat Secretary, Pem Tshering Lepcha was appointed as the chairperson of the committee. Shri Karma Ghaley, Range officer, Wildlife Division (North) will be the ex officio Member Secretary. Other members include:

SI No	Name of members	Designation
1	Mrs. Songkit Lepcha	Member/Female
2	Ms. Marmit Lepcha	Member/Female
3	Norzang Lepcha	Member
4	Pempa Lhendup Lepcha	Member
5	Phu Tshering Lepcha	Member



It was suggested to the members to constitute an advisory group comprising the elderly villagers to facilitate the BMC members in their future endeavour. Later dissemination materials including Posters of Rhododendrons and Flyers on Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and role of BMCs were provided.

The programme ended with Vote of Thanks by Shri Pem Tshering Lepcha.