

Guidelines for Research and Documentation Projects

I. Introduction: - Biodiversity is a multidisciplinary subject cutting across disciplines of science, humanities and social sciences. Kerala State Biodiversity Board strives to promote research and documentation on various facets of biodiversity.

II. Thrust areas for Research and Documentation.

1. Survey, identification, inventorization and monitoring of State's floristic, faunal and microbial resource with special attention to keystone species, umbrella, Endangered and Endemic Species which need to be conserved on priority basis.
2. To promote target research in critical gap areas pertaining to biodiversity conservation and management and lesser known groups of floral, faunal, species.
3. Identification and inventorization of biodiversity indicators of pollution - Aquatic micro and macro invertebrates, fishes, birds and lichens.
4. Identification and inventorization of biodiversity indicators of habitat quality - e.g. pollinators, birds and butterflies
5. Identification, inventorization and monitoring of exotic invasive species - Parthenium, Eupatorium, Lantana, Water Hyacinth, African Catfish, etc.
6. Promote research on micro flora and micro fauna.
7. Pilot studies on ecosystem diversity, ecosystem services, landscape management etc
8. Documentation of traditional conservation - sustainable use practices such as:-
 - a. Sacred groves, ponds and other sacred sites
 - b. Areas conserved and managed by communities for livelihood resources.
 - c. Role of women in promoting conservation and sustainable use.
9. Best practices for sustainable use of biodiversity in relevant economic sectors.

10. Agro Biodiversity -
 - Traditional varieties and wild cultivars of different crops.
 - Development of community seed banks.
 - Documentation of Climate resilient crops.
11. Pilot studies on promotion of organic agriculture and green markets.
12. Conservation of indigenous breeds of livestock and socio-economic studies.
13. Biodiversity assessment of biological hot spots, Ramsar sites, IBA,
14. Climate change and impact on Biodiversity
15. Identification and inventory of areas with potential to be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.
16. Pilot projects on decentralized biodiversity management

III. Nature of Assistance:- The quantum of assistance will be as under

- i. Long Term Research & Documentation Projects:- A financial assistance above Rs. 2.00 lakhs.
- ii. Short Term Research & Documentation Projects:- A financial assistance of up to Rs. 2.00 lakhs.

IV. Tenure:- The duration of minor and major projects will normally be 3 year and 1 years respectively. However, extension for the major project can be considered by the Board under exceptional circumstances. In case of minor projects no extension will be entertained.

V. Procedure for applying:- All Institutions/Universities/NGOs/Individuals who wish to avail financial assistance for major Research project should submit their proposal in the prescribed proforma at Annexure - I.

Proposals for financial assistance for minor Research projects should be submitted in the proforma as per Annexure II. Proposals should be forwarded through the head of the Department/University/Organization.

The applications will be called for during May. Major proposals will be evaluated by the Board normally once in a year preferably in months of January.

VI. Procedure for Approval: -

a. Long Term Projects:-The proposals received in the Board will be screened by the Screening Committee. The Principal Investigator (PI) of the major research projects will be invited to make presentation before the Project Approval Committee (PAC) of the Board. No. TA/DA would be paid to the PI. Proposal will not be considered in absentia. The final decision will be taken by the Board keeping in view the recommendations made by PAC and the availability of funds.

b. Short Term Projects & Documentation works:- The proposals for minor projects & documentation works will be scrutinized by an Expert Committee constituted in the Board and final decision will be taken by the Chairman and Member Secretary.

VII. Procedure for release of grants:- The grant for long term projects shall be released in such suitable installments as decided by the member secretary. The subsequent installment will be released on receipt of progress report, and utilization certificate duly certified by Registrar/Principal/Head of the institute. A consolidated audited utilization certificate for the amount actually utilized towards the project duly signed and sealed by Govt. Auditor/C.A. should be submitted at the end. In case of individual utilization certificate will suffice.

VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation: - Six monthly and annual progress reports must be submitted. Board shall organize Mid Term group review meeting of all the projects, where the PI will be invited for presentation of work being done before an expert committee.

The Board will nominate 02 subject experts for evaluation of final report. The principal investigator on completion of the project may submit the final report in hard and soft copy.

IX. Unutilized grant if any should be refunded immediately through demand draft in favour of Member Secretary, KSBB.

X. The Board should be acknowledged in publications related to the project.