



Guidelines for Research and Documentation Projects

I. Introduction: - Biodiversity is a multidisciplinary subject cutting across disciplines of science, humanities and social sciences. Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board strives to promote research and documentation on various facets of biodiversity. The emphasis is to promote research in gap areas and collate existing information to build a sound database.

II. Nature of Projects & Assistance:- Board provides financial assistance for major & minor research and documentation projects, field projects related to biodiversity conservation & traditional knowledge.

- i. Major Research & Documentation Projects:- A financial assistance above Rs. 2.00 lakhs.
- ii. Minor Research & Documentation Projects:- A financial assistance of up to Rs. 2.00 lakhs.
- iii. Field Projects on Biodiversity Conservation:- A financial assistance of up to Rs. 2.00 lakhs.
- iv. Projects related to traditional knowledge and related issues:- A financial assistance of up to Rs. 2.00 lakhs.

III. Thrust areas for Research and Documentation.

1. To collate and integrate biodiversity information from diverse sources into State level database on different components of biodiversity with distributed networking systems and linkages.
2. To intensify survey, identification and inventorization of State's floristic, faunal and microbial resource with special attention to hitherto unexplored areas and keystone species, umbrella, Endangered and Endemic Species which need to be conserved on priority basis.
3. To promote target research in critical gap areas pertaining to biodiversity conservation and management and lesser known groups of floral, faunal, agricultural, horticultural, livestock and aquatic biodiversity.
4. Identification and inventorization of biodiversity indicators of pollution - Aquatic micro and macro invertebrates, fishes, birds and lichens.
5. Identification and inventorization of biodiversity indicators of habitat quality - Indicators of quality of different habitat types, e.g. birds and butterflies as indicators of quality of forest habitats.
6. Identification, inventorization and monitoring of exotic invasive species - Parthenium, Eupatorium, Lantana, Water Hyacinth, African Catfish, etc.

7. Promote research on micro flora and micro fauna.
8. Identification micro-organisms useful in bio-remediation and bio-monitoring.
9. Documentation of traditional conservation - sustainable use practices such as:-
 - a. Sacred groves, ponds and other sacred sites, sacred trees such as Ficus and sacred animals like monkeys.
 - b. Protection to fishes migrating upstream for spawning.
 - c. Areas conserved and managed by communities for livelihood resources.
 - d. Role of women in promoting conservation and sustainable use.
10. Best practices for sustainable use of biodiversity in relevant economic sectors.
11. Agro Biodiversity -
 - Traditional varieties and wild cultivars of different crops.
 - Development of community seed banks.
 - Documentation of Lost and vanishing fruits and vegetables.
 - Documentation of Climate resilient risk hedging agronomic practices.
12. Pilot studies on promotion of organic agriculture and green markets.
13. Conservation of indigenous breeds of livestock poultry and pets:-
 - i. Breed distribution management practices and socio-economic studies.
 - ii. Need to assess genetic potential of a particular breed in specific ecological conditions.
14. Biodiversity assessment of biological hot spots like - Amarkantak plateau, Chandan Bagh, Seoni, Garhakota Ramna Reserve of Sagar, Trap dykes of Pipri, Machna teak forest reserve, Rukhad nature reserve, Bamboo, forests and Lanji and forests of Laugur-Khara, Pachmari Plateau, Supkhar Chir Pine. This list is just an indicative list.
15. Probable Biodiversity heritage sites and their inventorization.
16. Eco-systems services and related issues specifically head water protection of major rivers and their tributaries in M.P.
17. Aquatic systems and aquatic biodiversity issues specific to M.P.
18. Issues related to soil health and organic farming.
19. Any other area which may be relevant time to time.

IV. Tenure:- The duration of minor and major projects will normally be 1 year and 2 or 3 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 who wish to avail financial assistance for Research or Field projects should submit their proposal in the prescribed format as under:-

- i. Major Research & Documentation Projects:- MPSBB/RP/FORM-1
- ii. Minor Research & Documentation Projects:- MPSBB/RP/FORM-II
- iii. Field Projects on Biodiversity Conservation:- MPSBB/FP/FORM-III
- iv. Projects related to traditional knowledge & related issues:- MPSBB/FP/FORM-III

Individuals working with institutions shall route the projects through their organizations. Proposals should be forwarded through the head of the Department/University/Organization.

The proposals may be sent any time during the year. However major proposals will be evaluated by the Board normally twice in a year preferably in months of January and July.

VI. Procedure for Approval: -

- a. **Major Projects:-**The major Research and Documentation 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. **Minor, Traditional Knowledge & Field Projects:-** The proposals for minor, Traditional Knowledge & field projects will be scrutinized by an Expert Committee constituted in the Board and final decision will be taken by the Member Secretary.

VII. Procedure for release of grants :- The grant for major 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 review 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 should submit the final report both in hard and soft copy.

IX. Unutilized grant if any should be refunded immediately through demand draft in favour of Member Secretary, M.P.S.B.B payable at Bhopal.

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