

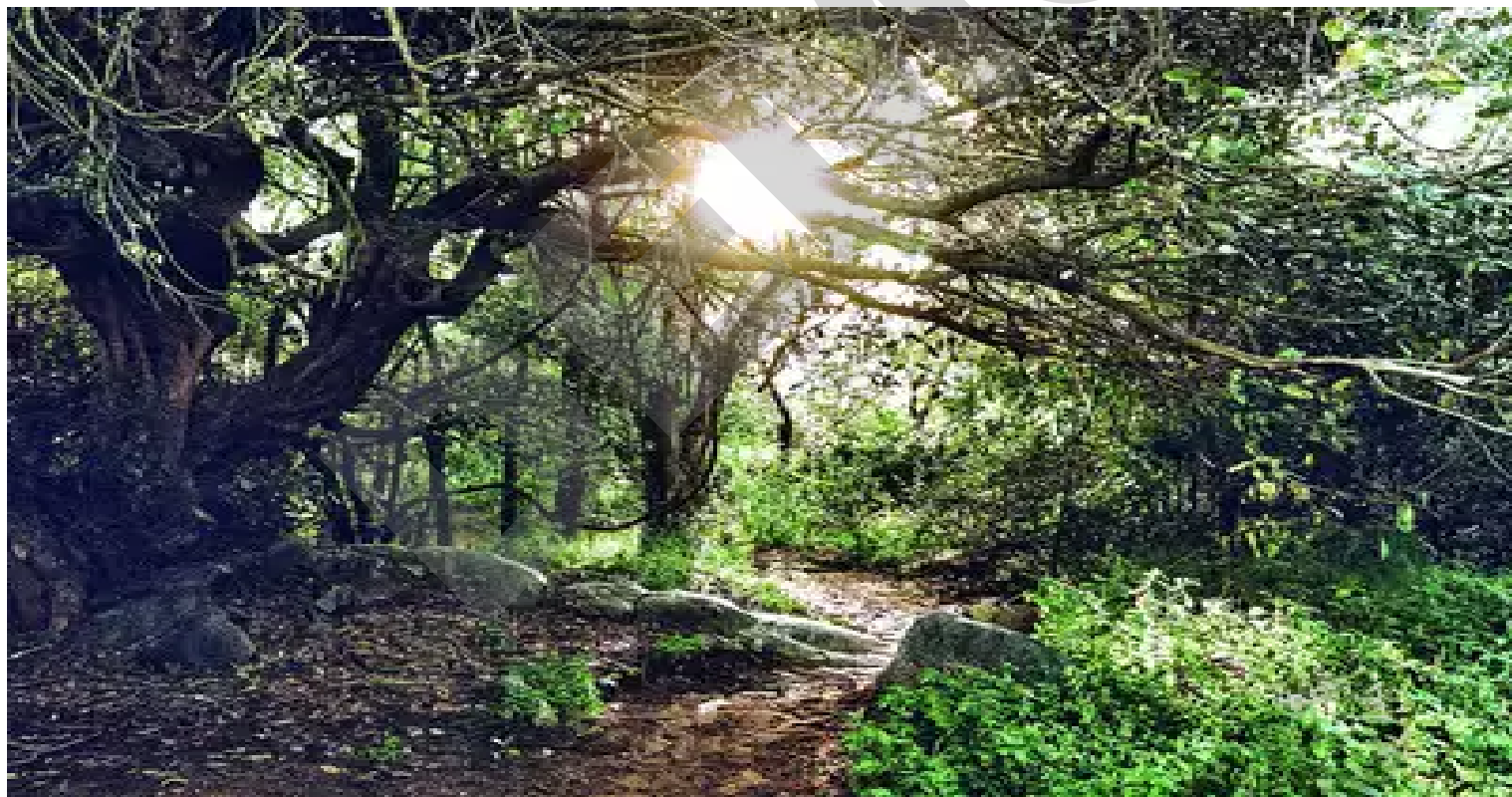


Natural injustice

Bangalore Mirror Bureau / Updated: Jun 22, 2022, 06:00 IST



A- A+



HIGHLIGHTS

- Meagre Rs 5.9 cr collected in access benefit sharing since 2015 from firms using natural resources; bulk of funds not utilised for biodiversity conservation
- Bengaluru BMC yet to receive funding

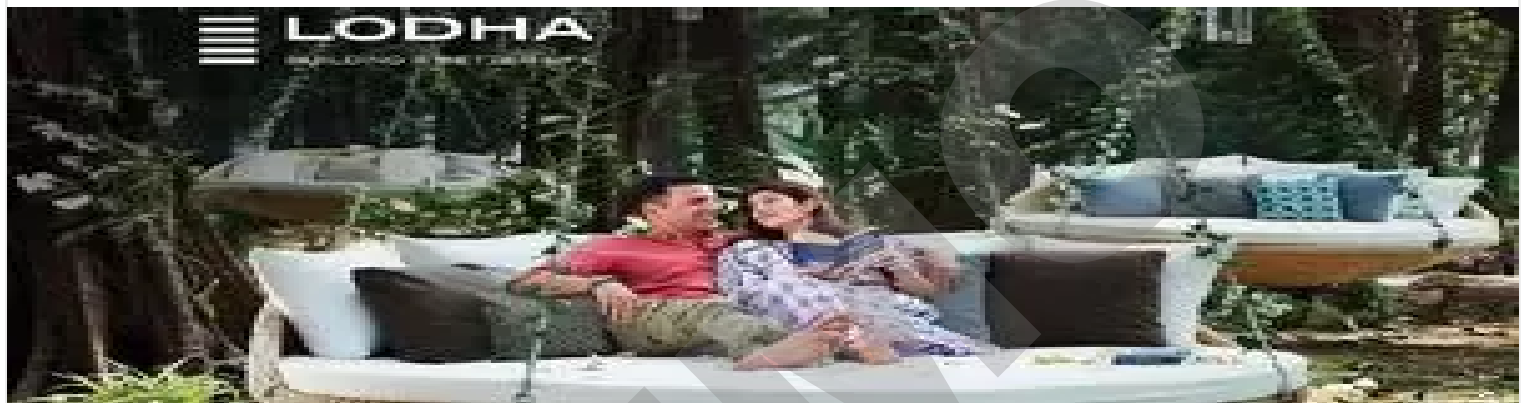
By **Garima Prasher**

The Karnataka Biodiversity Board (KBB) has signed 401 benefit sharing agreements with traders and manufacturers of herbs and herbal products from 2015 to date.

The board has collected Rs 5.9 crore through these agreements under the Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) scheme of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. However, the majority of this amount is unused.

Building Homes with World Class Amenities

Lodha



By Colombia 

[VIEW MORE](#)

“Most of the ABS funds that we have generated are lying with us. Although, as per the biodiversity act, 95% of this fund has to be given to Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) for conservation work in their respective areas and 5% can be used for the board’s maintenance work. So far, we have released Rs 58 lakhs to eight BMCs across Shivamogga, Uttara Kannada and Ballari,” said a KBB official.

As per India’s Biological Diversity Act, 2002, BMCs have to be set up at the panchayat level. The role of BMCs is to ensure biodiversity conservation in specific areas, mapped and documented in People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBR).

Nagoya Protocol

India is a party to the Nagoya Protocol, a supplementary agreement ratified by the country in 2014, under which, the users of biological resources are supposed to share a percentage of profits with local communities. This percentage of profit, known as Access Benefit Sharing (ABS), must be disbursed to local BMCs for biodiversity conservation purposes or to

promote the livelihoods of local people from where natural resources were accessed.

While the biodiversity board has funds lying unused for BMCs activities, the Bengaluru BMC is yet to receive any funding to get started with its activities. BMC members told BM that while they had submitted a proposal to procure funding under the local municipal body, no fund has been allocated yet.

Bangalore Mirror

“We submitted the proposal to the BBMP to procure funding for our activities. It was up to the BBMP to reach out to the biodiversity board with a funding proposal under access benefit sharing. It just shows the lack of will to implement any biodiversity conservation work,” said Akshay Heblikar, a member of Bengaluru BMC.

However, the biodiversity board said ABS rules were ratified only in 2014 and the officials are still learning the ropes. “The rules are still new to us as well as the companies that are utilising natural resources for commercial

purposes. The board is soon convening an expert committee meeting to discuss the dispersal of funds,” said a technical staff of KBB.

The member secretary of KBB remained unavailable to comment despite many attempts from BM.

Fund generation

While the ABS money collected is yet to be utilised, experts said, Rs 5.9 crore in eight years is a small amount. According to TV Ramachandra of Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science, the Total Ecosystem Supply Value of the forest ecosystem in Karnataka is equivalent to 18.1% of the GDP.

“ Total Ecosystem Supply Value of forest ecosystem in Karnataka is equivalent to 18.1% of GDP... It was Rs 2,91,200 cr in 2019. ABS amount of Rs 5.9 cr in eight years proves there are many using resources, but few are sharing benefits.

— Dr TV Ramachandra, IISc

“While there has been a degradation of supply value of the state’s forest ecosystem since 2005, we calculated it to be Rs 2,91,200 crore in 2019. The ABS amount of Rs 5.9 crore in eight years only proves that while there are many using the resources, very few are sharing the benefits. The big players are still flouting the rules and escaping. We need to come up with a proper mechanism so that pilferages are addressed,” said Dr Ramachandra.

However, as per the state biodiversity board, a low amount of access benefit sharing money is due to non-compliance on part of the companies.

“We have sent notices of non-compliance to around 200 companies, most of them from Bengaluru. We have been writing letters to these companies and asking them to submit Form I. They are supposed to provide information regarding the usage of natural resources in the form and seek permission before moving ahead and using the resources. However, there are many defaulters,” said an official.

The board said the companies are mostly unaware of the Nagoya Protocol and regulations under it.

Bangalore Mirror



**7 REASONS
TO WORK OUT
WITH ERGATTA**

SHOP ERGATTA



“The companies that are sharing the benefits are those that are aware of the regulations. We have conducted workshops for these companies in the past and we are planning to conduct a few more over the coming months to spread awareness,” the KBB official told BM.

Experts disagree

“With 21st century surveillance mechanisms at our disposal, it is difficult to understand so much non-compliance. The biggest loophole of the system is a lack of monitoring at the ground level due to inadequate staff. We need more foot soldiers keeping an eye on natural resources and illegal extraction; activate Village Forest Committees (VFCs) that can rejuvenate and restore degraded forest patches by involving local people. How do these restrictions work beautifully in the case of researchers?” wondered Dr Ramachandra.





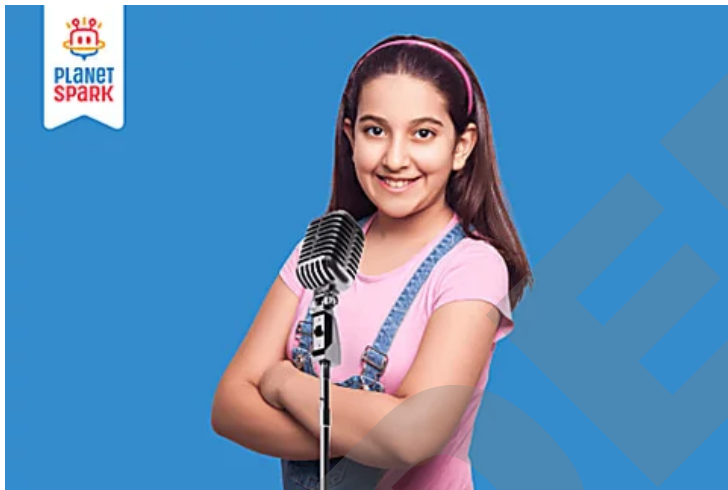
Early Warning Signs Of Metastatic Breast Cancer That Might Surprise You

Breast cancer | Search ads



Eczema Creams That Most People Might Not Know About

Eczema Treatment | Sponsored Results



Public Speaking Classes for kids (4 to 14 years)

PlanetSpark



Most Americans Can't Pass This State Capitals Quiz. Can You?

WarpedSpeed

Recommended by Columbia

GALLERIES >

VIEW MORE PHOTOS

Bangalore Mirror

Aero India 2021: 13th edition of air show begins today

Bangalore Mirror

Pedestrians Only!

Bangalore Mirror

PM lays foundation stone for new Parliament building

MOST POPULAR

Most Read Most commented



KRS At Full Tank, Bengaluru's Water Nee...



Layout Lament



All That Gas



Futility Building



Off Go Wonky Humps From Bengaluru-Mysur...



Wedding Gift Movie Review: This Movie C...

FROM BANGALORE

Most Read Most commented



Off Go Wonky Humps From Bengaluru-Mysur...

Now They Say It: MES Flyover Needs Fixi...

Bangalore
Mirror

Thin Layer Of Patchwork Comes Apart In ...

Bangalore
Mirror

KRS At Full Tank, Bengaluru's Water Nee...

Bangalore
Mirror

Bengaluru Testy About Kids' Covid Tests

Bangalore
Mirror

The Potholio

Bangalore
Mirror

POLL HAVE YOU TAKEN YOUR VACCINE SHOT?

- Yes
- No
- Not eligible

Pick your favorite and click vote

4 + 2 =

VOTE

[MORE POLLS](#)



MUMBAI MIRROR

AHMEDABAD MIRROR

PUNE MIRROR

E-PAPER

M-PAPER

CRICBUZZ

WEEKEND GETAWAYS FROM MUMBAI

MX PLAYER

TIMES OF INDIA

ECONOMIC TIMES

BOMBAY TIMES

MARATHI NEWS

MISS KYRA

HAPPYTRIPS

ORDER NEWSPAPER

GAMES APP



TIMES NOW ▶

ET NOW ▶

ZOOM TV ▶

MIRROR NOW ▶

TIMES NOW 🔊

ET NOW 🔊

[ABOUT US](#) | [ADVERTISE WITH US](#) | [TERMS OF USE AND GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL POLICY](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

COPYRIGHT © 2022 BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO, LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. FOR REPRINT RIGHTS:TIMES SYNDICATION SERVICE

DEMO