

Term of Reference (TOR)
For
Study of probable Biodiversity Heritage Sites in Gujarat State

Background:

Gujarat Biodiversity Board is a statutory organization of State Government looking after the Conservation and Development of Biological Diversity and the regulation of Biological Resources under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 and the Gujarat Biological Diversity Rules, 2010. Under Section 37 of BDA Act, the State Government in consultation with local bodies may notify in the official gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as **Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)**. Under Section 37(2) of BD Act, the State Government in consultation with the Central Govt. may frame rules for the management and conservation of BHS and under Section 37(3) of BD Act, the State Government may frame schemes for compensating section of people economically affected by such notification. The purpose is to enhance the quality of life of the local communities through the conservation measure of such sites.

Objectives:

1. To strengthen the biodiversity conservation in traditionally managed areas and to stem the rapid loss of biodiversity in intensively managed areas.
2. To achieve conservation and livelihood security and enhance the positive links between wild and domesticated biodiversity.
3. To instil pride and honour into those communities which have identified BHS in and around them for ensuring availability of resources to their own future generations.

Scope of work:

As a mandate, the Gujarat Biodiversity Board has to initiate the process of selecting well defined sites that are unique and ecologically fragile ecosystems spread over terrestrial, coastal, inland and marine waters having rich biodiversity with high endemism, presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary importance, wild relatives/ ancestors

of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties in the state be declared as BHS. The Board has invited the proposals from reputed Government Departments/Boards/Corporations/Universities/Institutions/NGOs etc. having expertise in the field of ecology/biodiversity and assessment of the components of habitat and are willing to extend helping hand to the existing BMCs or to the villages who are involved in utilisation of such BHS. Following are the suggested processes before putting up proposal for sanction:

1. To make site suitability study (both biotic and physiognomic factors)
2. To conduct meetings with the locale
3. To draw a work plan to enlist site history, ecological regimes, and sociological parameters.
4. BMC formation (if not formed) for the villages that will be benefiting from to be declared site
5. To develop the understanding towards the development of BHS and further strengthening such developments.

To initiate the process described above, besides other sites the Board has identified two probable sites:

- 1) Twelve islands of mangroves around 7 villages namely Alura, Bhinar, Delwara, Samvor, Badoli, Karudi, Machhad etc on the delta of Purna River in Jalal portaluka in Navsari district. The BMCs of seven villages of Navsari district have already been constituted and primary discussion has also held with the local people in this regard.
- 2) Village Shravan Kavadia having huge old inland mangrove patch in Bhuj taluka of Kachchh district.

The studies of both the sites are to be conducted as per the guidelines for identification, notification and management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites available on the Board's website.

Methodology:

The appropriate methodology for this study has to be defined in your project proposal to cover the following attributes:

1. Site description: geographical position of the site to be mentioned along with all its physical parameters (authenticated maps).

2. Biological significance: mention the flora and fauna that are dependent on this BHS. For the same a survey need to be conducted and species composition to be enlisted.
3. Socio-economic valuation: a dependence matrix to be documented, suggesting the dependence of local people (if any) on the respective BHS. It will be a plus to mention people's participation towards the conservation of such site.
4. Sensitisation of the local people about the BD Act in general and BHS in particular should be taken up.
5. Threats: both natural and anthropogenic threats associated with the BHS to be documented.
6. Conservation measures: Assurance from the local people regarding the conservation measures taken towards the protection of the site is maintained. For the same pre-formatted questionnaire method can be employed.
7. Report: Data compilation and necessary evidences like Photographs, specimens, historical aspects etc. to support such site to be eligible for declaration of BHS be submitted to GBB.

During the process based on the suggestions and objections raised, a team may be constituted by the BMCs/other relevant local institutions/SBB in consultation with the local bodies for conducting studies to gain a clear understanding of the BHS. The team would include members (not exceeding 12 individuals) with one member preferably from the local community/ies selected to head the team having knowledgeable or experienced women & men representing all socio-economic groups of the concerned communities, nominated by the relevant rural/urban local bodies. NGOs/institutes focusing on ecology / conservation, sociology, agriculture. One member be representing research wing of the agriculture, forest or other relevant department. Representatives of Botany and Zoology departments of nearest College/University is also included in the members. The order for the constitution of the committee will be done by the GBB. The other public hearing material need to be developed for the circulation will also be need to be approved by the GBB.

Time line: After signing the MoU with GBB, the above said work has to be completed and reported within three months and if required so the time period may be extended.

Financial Requirement: The general information of the agency will be submitted in the prescribed format attached as Annexure I with necessary supporting documents followed by the financial proposal as per the attached statement in the Annexure II. Both the statements be sealed separately and then be sent in one cover by the registered post within the stipulated time.

The 40 % amount will be released as advance instalment after signing of MOU. 1st instalment of 40% will be released as per the progress of the work while 2nd instalment of 10 % will be released after the submission of the complete final report and 3rd and last instalment of 10 % will be released after acceptance of report by the Board.

Note: The Board shall have the final authority to decide the proposal received. GBB reserves all the rights to reject/cancel etc. the proposal and withdraw the advertisement notice without assigning any reason what so ever, and in such case no applicant shall have any claim arising out of such action.

Annexure I

Format for General Information of the institute (Technical Bid)

1. Name of the Institute/NGO with Address: -----

(With telephone. Fax/email/website)

2. Registration No:-----

(Copy to be attached)

3. Name of the Probable BHS:-----

4. Work Experience in Ecological frame works :-----

(Relevant information to be attached)

5. Technical Manpower: -----

(List of experts with their qualification and experience to be attached):

6. PAN Number:

7. Any other relevant information:

(Signature of the head of the Institute with seal)

Annexure II

Format for financial requirement for the study of respective BHS (Financial Bid)

1. Name of the probable BHS:-----
2. Financial requirement as below:

Sr. No	Name of study item	Unit	Unit cost (Rs.)	Total Cost (Rs)	Breakup of the cost with justification

(Signature of the head of the Institute with seal)