

## **BIODIVERSITY CLUB**

Kerala State Biodiversity Board is planning to establish 'Biodiversity Clubs' in Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools in order to implement programmes to conserve biodiversity in a timely manner. Biodiversity Conservation programmes will be conducted by the Biodiversity Clubs in University Campus, Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools. These biodiversity clubs will carry out programmes for conservation of local biodiversity in accordance with Biodiversity Acts, in association with local Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs). In addition, these clubs will also establish '**Shanthisthal**', a man-made forest ecosystem in the colleges, where at least a minimum of 10-20 cents would be made available for making a forest grove with RET (Rare, Endangered and Threatened) species. This protected Shanthisthal maintained by the Biodiversity Club of the college in due course of time will become a biodiversity rich area of rare and endangered plant and animal species without human hindrance.

### **The main objectives of establishing the Biodiversity Clubs include:**

- In association with BMCs conduct biodiversity studies.
- Involve in the activities of forming People's Biodiversity Registers
- Assessing the local biodiversity and come up with programmes on benefit sharing of biodiversity resources in association with BMCs
- Conducting awareness programmes on biodiversity conservation
- Equip younger generation to create biodiversity awareness in the community
- Help to materialise Biodiversity conservation plans proposed by BMC of the area

### **Organisational structure**

Biodiversity clubs will have an organisational structure as given below:

|                      |   |  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Patron               | : | Principal of the College   |
| Coordinator          | : | A teacher committed to biodiversity studies and conservation activities  |
| Executive committee: |   | Three teachers and two students who are interested in conservation/ protection of environment, one member of PTA |
| Invitees             | : | KSBB District Coordinator, One BMC member, Local Forest Officer and Local Agricultural Officer                   |

The club shall have a minimum of 50 members drawn from various classes and shall not be gender based.

## **Funding**

Initially, the State Biodiversity Board shall fund the 'Biodiversity Club' for the establishment of 'Shanthisthal'. In addition for the implementation of novel ideas and action plans funds will be provided subject to Government approval.

### **Guidelines for establishment of 'Shanthisthal'**

- There shall be at least 10-20 cents available for establishing the 'Shanthisthal'
- The forest grove being made in the allotted land, shall be only with RET and local varieties of trees/ plants
- The State Biodiversity Board will offer financial support for initial establishment/ protection
- In course of time the forest grove referred to as 'Shanthisthal' would be an assembling of plant/ tree varieties of RET species and also would automatically enrich the faunal elements
- The teachers/ students shall maintain 'Shanthisthal' in a sustainable manner so that the future generations of students and the local community will get benefit out of it
- Once the trees/ plants are established, the local/ scientific names are to be displayed so that the Shanthisthal will also have an educative value
- In course of time a 'register' with the plants and animals in the 'Shanthisthal' to be prepared and maintained in the College for reference