

Guidelines for Applicant Institutions: City Biodiversity Index (CBI) Implementation

Project Title: City Biodiversity Index (CBI) Assessment – Thiruvananthapuram

Issued by: Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB)

1. Objective

Preparation of City Biodiversity Index (CBI) for Thiruvananthapuram City and support integration of biodiversity into urban governance, planning, and infrastructure. The project also emphasizes **urban tree mapping** as a core activity to document tree distribution in the city, species richness, and green infrastructure status in the city.

2. Eligible Institutions

The following types of institutions are eligible to apply:

- Recognized academic and research institutions with experience in urban ecology, biodiversity assessment and spatial data analysis.
- Consortia of academic institutions with collaborative capacity.

3. Scope of Work

Institutions are expected to:

- Establish a City Biodiversity Working Group (CBWG) for the monitoring of progress of the work with representation from KSBB, Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation, Kerala State Land Use Board (KSLUB), R&D Institutes, academia, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Conduct biodiversity field assessments covering flora, fauna, wetlands, and particularly **urban tree mapping**, capturing species diversity, canopy coverage, and ecological value with spatial data support by the Kerala State Land Use Board, in accordance with the guidelines of CBD Technical Series No. 98: *Handbook on the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (also known as the City Biodiversity Index)*.
- Prepare indicator-wise scoring and **GIS based mapping** of trees, ecological corridors, sacred groves, green infrastructures etc.
- Engage local **schools, colleges, and citizen scientists** throughout the implementation process to enhance participatory governance and community stewardship of biodiversity.
- Draft the final CBI report with actionable urban biodiversity strategies.

4. Duration

The project must be completed within **12 months** from the date of commencement.

5. Technical Requirements

- Competency in biodiversity survey methods, stakeholder engagement, and spatial data analysis.
- Ability to synthesize ecological, socio-political, and spatial data into a unified analytical framework.
- Capacity to integration of **tree mapping and green cover analysis** into broader

biodiversity assessment.

6. Deliverables

- Formation of CBWG and inception report
- Indicator-wise CBI scorecard
- Thematic GIS maps (biodiversity hotspots, ecological corridors, urban green zones, threats)
- Draft and Final CBI Report (with stakeholder-reviewed recommendations)
- Comprehensive Biodiversity conservation action plan for the Thiruvananthapuram city.

7. Budget and Funding

- KSBB will fund the project up to a **ceiling amount**, based on the approved work plan.
- Budget heads may include:
 - Manpower including Consultation Charges
 - Tools for data collection
 - TA and Contingency
 - Workshops, training, and awareness programmes
 - And other essential budgetary provisions can also be included

8. Proposal Format

Applicants must submit:

- Technical proposal (maximum 10 pages) covering:
 - Introduction, Objectives, Detailed Methodology, timeline and expected outcomes
 - Institutional strengths and past relevant experience
 - Team composition and responsibilities (including citizen engagement plan)
- Financial proposal (itemized budget)
- Letters of commitment from consortium partners (if applicable)

9. Review & Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Technical soundness and understanding of CBI methodology
- Institutional experience and qualifications of team members
- Budget efficiency and justification

- Strategy for **citizen/stakeholder involvement**, including schools and colleges

10. Submission Deadline & Contact

Proposals must be submitted to KSBB by **August 30th, 2025**. KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD, Kailasam, T.C. 24/3219, No. 43, Belhaven Gardens, Kowdiar P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 003, **Email:** keralabiodiversity@gmail.com

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