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കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ജൈവവൈവിധ്യ ബോർഡ്
KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

A Statutory and Autonomous body, Government of Kerala



No.R1/169/2026/KSBB

Date: 25-07-2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Open Call for Collaborative Projects on Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Use, and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board invites Expressions of Interest (EOI), through an open call, from R&D institutions, Universities/Colleges, and NGOs for projects addressing specific biodiversity conservation, sustainable-use, and ABS issues of the State.

Eligibility

Recognised R&D institutions, Universities/Colleges, and registered NGOs with sound, experience in similar projects. Multi-institutional consortia and collaborative projects with one or more Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are especially encouraged and preferred in evaluation.

Financial Assistance & Duration

₹2 lakh to ₹25 lakh or more, depending on project merit and scale; duration of 1 to 3 years or more, depending on project nature. Proposals must lead toward actionable policy recommendations, guidelines or SOPs for the State.

Submission of EOI

An EOI with a proposal outlining the proposed approach, including the institution profile, relevant experience, team, and indicative budget, shall be prepared as per the guidelines provided and submitted to KSBB through the Google Form given below.

<https://forms.gle/v9PihCd pzL5rQEXi7>

Submission Deadline : 15/09/2026

Contact To: Member Secretary,

Kerala State Biodiversity Board,
Kailasam, T.C. 24/3219, No. 43,
Belhaven Gardens, Kowdiar P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 003
Email: keralabiodiversity@gmail.com,
Phone: 0471-2724740
Website: www.keralabiodiversity.org

Member Secretary

Kerala State Biodiversity Board

Kailasam, T.C. 24/3219, No. 43, Belhaven Gardens, Kowdiar P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 003,

Phone : 0471- 2724740, Email: keralabiodiversity@gmail.com, kerala.sbb@kerala.gov.in,

[Website:www.keralabiodiversity.org](http://www.keralabiodiversity.org)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Open Call for Projects on Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Use, and Access and Benefit Sharing

Guidelines for Applicant Institutions

In accordance with the mandates of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (as amended by the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023) the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) is committed to protecting regional ecological integrity, facilitating the sustainable utilisation of biological resources, and enforcing equitable Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) frameworks. As part of the strategic implementation of the Kerala State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (K-SBSAP) to align with national Biodiversity Targets and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), the Board invites Expressions of Interest (EOI), through an open call, from Research & Development (R&D) institutions, Universities/Colleges, Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) interested in undertaking conservation-oriented biodiversity projects across the State.

1. Background & Rationale

Kerala's biological wealth spans montane shola–grassland mosaics, evergreen and moist deciduous forests, riverine and wetland systems, mangroves and estuaries, and coastal-marine habitats, all of which face mounting pressure from land-use change, invasive species, pollution and climate change. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (as amended by the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023) mandate KSBB to advise the State Government on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge. Consistent with the KM-GBF and the K-SBSAP 2025–2035, the Board has decided to support field-level, science-based and policy-relevant conservation action carried out in partnership with academic and research institutions, NGOs, and BMCs.

2. Objective

- To support well-designed, outcome-oriented projects that address specific identified biodiversity issues of the State
- To strengthen linkages between research institutions, NGOs and BMCs so that field data and community knowledge translate into actionable conservation practice.
- To generate evidence and field experience that can be developed into policy recommendations, guidelines, or Standard Operating Procedures for the State.
- To advance the objectives of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in relation to conservation, sustainable use, and Access and Benefit Sharing .

3. Thematic Scope

Proposals must address a specific, clearly articulated conservation issue of the State falling within (but not necessarily limited to) the following thematic areas:

- Pilot project/concepts ideas novel project which Conservation of threatened, endemic or keystone species, habitats and ecosystems that can be duplicated
- Sustainable use of biological resources and community-based natural resource management, including sustainable livelihoods linked to biodiversity.
- Strategies or support to improve implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing of state bioresource use issues, benefit-sharing models, and institutional/legal compliance support.
- Management of emerging local biodiversity issues.
- revitalisation and implemettiaont of of traditional knowledge, People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (LBSAPs).
- Any other issue of demonstrable conservation significance to the State, duly justified in the proposal.

4. Eligible Institutions

- Recognised R&D institutions and academic institutions/universities/colleges with demonstrated experience in biodiversity conservation, ecological research, or related fields.
- Registered NGOs with a credible track record in biodiversity conservation or community-based natural resource management.
- Multi-institutional consortia are encouraged, particularly where they combine complementary scientific, technical and field-implementation strengths.
- Collaborative proposals involving one or more BMCs as active project partners are particularly encouraged and will be given preference in evaluation.
- The applicant institution and the Principal Investigator (PI) must possess sound, verifiable experience in successfully implementing projects of a similar nature and scale.

5. Financial Assistance & Duration

- Financial assistance will normally range from ₹2,00,000 (Rupees Two Lakhs) to ₹25,00,000 (Rupees Twenty-five Lakhs). However, projects of exceptional merit, strategic importance, larger geographical coverage, or significant conservation impact may be considered for higher financial assistance, based on the recommendations of the Board's Screening Committee.
- The project duration may range from one year to three years. Projects requiring a longer implementation period may also be considered where justified by their objectives, scope, and field requirements.
- The proposed budget may include expenditure under heads such as manpower, field surveys and data collection, equipment and consumables, travel and contingency, community and BMC engagement activities, workshops, training and capacity building, dissemination of project outcomes, and other essential components directly related to project implementation. All budget items shall be fully justified in the detailed financial proposal.
- **Preference will be given to institutions that utilise their existing institutional infrastructure, laboratory facilities, equipment, technical expertise, and other**

available resources for project implementation, thereby enhancing cost-effectiveness and ensuring optimal utilisation Project Fund.

- Release of financial assistance shall be made in phases, linked to the achievement of approved milestones and satisfactory progress, and shall be subject to the financial and administrative procedures of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), including periodic review and recommendations of the Expert/Screening Committee.

6. Expected Deliverables

- Inception report with finalised objectives, methodology, timeline and stakeholder engagement plan.
- Field data, scientific documentation and analysis relevant to the specific issue addressed.
- Where applicable, contribution to or convergence with LBSAPs/PBRs and district-level biodiversity documentation.
- Concrete, actionable policy recommendations, guidelines or SOPs arising from project implementation, for consideration by the Board.
- Final technical report and, where relevant, a policy brief summarising outcomes and recommendations.

7. Technical Requirements

- Demonstrated institutional and PI-level competence in biodiversity survey methods, field research and, where applicable, community engagement.
- Clear understanding of the relevant provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, the Biological Diversity Rules and applicable ABS Regulations, where the project touches upon access to biological resources or associated traditional knowledge.
- Ability to translate field/research findings into practical, policy-relevant recommendations.
- A realistic workplan proportionate to the proposed duration and budget.

8. Proposal Submission

Interested institutions shall submit a proposal comprising the following three components:

(1) Technical Proposal

- Background and justification, clearly identifying the specific State-level biodiversity conservation issue addressed
- Objectives
- Methodology, including field survey/sampling design and data management protocols
- Innovation and scientific/conservation significance
- Work plan and timeline
- Expected outputs and outcomes
- Policy relevance, including the pathway to policy recommendations, guidelines or SOPs

- Community and BMC engagement strategy
- Monitoring framework, with indicators and milestones
- Risk management plan, including ecological, field and implementation risks

(2) Financial Proposal

- Detailed itemized budget, aligned to the budget heads indicated in Section 5
- Budget justification
- Timeline of expenditure, linked to project milestones

(3) Institutional Profile

- Details of the applicant institution(s), including consortium partners, if any
- Previous relevant projects undertaken, with outcomes
- Infrastructure and facilities available for the proposed work
- Experience of the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigator(s) in implementing similar projects
- Publications and technical expertise relevant to the proposed project

Where applicable, letters of commitment from collaborating institutions and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) shall also be enclosed.

9. Review & Selection Criteria

All submitted proposals will undergo rigorous technical and financial scrutiny by a **Designated Project Screening Committee** appointed by the Board. Institutions whose proposals are shortlisted at this stage will be invited to make a presentation at KSBB, HQ before the Screening Committee, and final selection for financial assistance will be made based on the Committee's recommendations thereafter.

10. Submission Deadline & Contact

An EOI, along with a proposal outlining the proposed approach, including the institution profile, relevant experience, team composition and indicative budget, shall be prepared as per the guidelines provided. A separate project proposal format is provided in MS Word format. The EOI and proposal shall be submitted to KSBB through the Google Form given below.

<https://forms.gle/v9PihCdpzL5rQEXi7>

Submission Deadline : 15/09/2026

For more details contact To: Member Secretary,

Kerala State Biodiversity Board,
Kailasam, T.C. 24/3219, No. 43,
Belhaven Gardens, Kowdiar P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 003
Email: keralabiodiversity@gmail.com,
Phone: 0471-2724740
Website: www.keralabiodiversity.org

Digitally signed by
V BALAKRISHNAN
Date: 26-07-2026
14:40:14

APPLICATION FORMAT FOR PROJECT PROPOSAL

Open Call for Collaborative Projects on Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Use, and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

Instructions: Applicant institutions should complete every part of this format (Parts A–F) and submit it along with the enclosures listed in the checklist at Part F. Additional sheets/annexures may be attached where the space provided is insufficient.

PART A: PROJECT SUMMARY

Title of the Project	
Thematic Area (Section 3 of EOI)	
Lead Applicant Institution	
Type of Institution (R&D / University-College / NGO)	
Name & Designation of Principal Investigator (PI)	
Name(s) & Institution(s) of Co- Investigator(s)	
Consortium Partner Institution(s), if any	
Collaborating BMC(s), if any	
Proposed Duration	
Total Budget Proposed (₹)	
District(s) / Geographic Area Covered	

PART B: INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

B1. Details of Applicant Institution

Name of Institution	
Year of Establishment	
Nature / Category of Institution	
Registration / Recognition No.	
Address	
Website (if any)	

B2. Previous Relevant Projects Undertaken

Project Title	Funding Agency	Duration	Outcome / Key Findings

B3. Infrastructure & Facilities Available for the Proposed Work

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B4. Experience of PI and Co-Investigator(s)

(Attach detailed CV(s) as Annexure. Provide a brief summary below.)

Name	Role (PI/Co-I)	Institution	Qualification	Yrs. of Experience	Key Publications (max 5)

PART C: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

C1. Background and Justification

Clearly identify the specific State-level biodiversity conservation issue addressed. (Max 400 words)

C2. Objectives

C3. Methodology

Include field survey / sampling design and data management protocols.

C4. Innovation and Scientific/Conservation Significance

C5. Work Plan and Timeline

Activity	Year/Quarter	Milestone

C6. Expected Outputs and Outcomes

C7. Policy Relevance (Pathway to Policy Recommendations/Guidelines/SOPs)

C8. Community and BMC Engagement* Strategy

**The applicant institution may furnish separate supporting evidence demonstrating its previous collaboration with one or more Biodiversity Management Committees.*

C9. Monitoring Framework (Indicators & Milestones)

C10. Risk Management Plan

Include ecological, field and implementation risks and mitigation measures.

PART D: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

D1. Budget (Template only can be modified subject to the need of the proposal)

Budget Head	Year 1 (₹)	Year 2 (₹)	Year 3+ (₹)	Total (₹)
Manpower / Consultation Charges				
Field Surveys & Data Collection				
Equipment & Consumables				
Travel & Contingency				
Community & BMC Engagement Activities				
Workshops, Training & Capacity Building				
Dissemination of Outcomes				
Others (please specify)				
Grand Total				

D2. Timeline of Expenditure (linked to project milestones)

Milestone / Activity	Expected Quarter/Year	% of Budget

D3. Budget Justification

PART E: DECLARATION & ENDORSEMENT

E1. Declaration by Principal Investigator

I/We declare that the information furnished in this application is true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge, and that I/we possess the necessary experience to implement the proposed project as described.

Signature: _____ Name: _____

Designation: _____ Date: _____ Place: _____

E2. Endorsement / Certificate by Head of Applicant (Lead) Institution

This is to certify that the applicant institution endorses the submission of this proposal by the Principal Investigator named above, confirms its institutional commitment to provide the necessary infrastructure and administrative support described in this proposal, and undertakes responsibility for the proper utilisation and accounting of funds, if sanctioned by KSBB.

Signature: _____ Name: _____

Designation: Head of Institution / Authorised Signatory

Institution Seal: _____ Date: _____ Place: _____

PART F: CHECKLIST OF ENCLOSURES

Please tick the appropriate column for each item before submission.

Document	Enclosed	N/A
1. Technical Proposal (Part C)		
2. Financial Proposal / Budget (Part D)		
3. Institutional Profile & CV(s) of PI/Co-Investigator(s) (Part B)		
4. Endorsement Certificate from Head of Applicant Institution (Part E2)		
5. Letter of Commitment from Partner Institution(s), if applicable		
6. Certificate/Resolution from Partner BMC(s), if applicable		
7. Evidence demonstrating its previous collaboration with one or more BMCs		
8. Any other supporting document (please specify)		
9. Any other supporting document (please specify)		
10. Any other supporting document (please specify)		

(To be issued on the official letterhead of the partner institution)

CERTIFICATE / LETTER OF COMMITMENT
FROM COLLABORATING PARTNER INSTITUTION

To,

The Member Secretary,
Kerala State Biodiversity Board,
Kailasam, T.C. 24/3219, No. 43, Belhaven Gardens, Kowdiar P.O.,
Thiruvananthapuram – 695 003.

Subject: Letter of Commitment for collaboration in the project proposal submitted under KSBB's Expression of Interest (EOI) titled “Open Call for Collaborative Projects on Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Use, and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)”

Sir/Madam,

This is to certify that _____ [Name of Partner Institution], represented
by the undersigned, has agreed to collaborate with _____ [Name of Lead
Applicant Institution] as a consortium/collaborating partner in the project titled
“ _____ ” being submitted in response to the above EOI.

We hereby confirm the following:

1. Our institution's willingness and commitment to participate as a collaborating partner in the above project, for its entire proposed duration of _____ year(s).
2. The specific role and contribution of our institution to the project, as detailed below.
3. Our institution's commitment to provide the necessary infrastructure, technical expertise, and/or personnel described in the proposal, to the extent of our institution's participation.
4. Our institution has no objection to the applicable terms and conditions of KSBB's funding, monitoring, and reporting requirements for collaborating partners.

Role / Contribution of this institution in the project:

We confirm that the above information is true to the best of our knowledge.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____ (Head of Institution / Authorised Signatory)

Institution Name & Seal: _____

Date: _____ Place: _____

**CERTIFICATE / RESOLUTION OF CONSENT
FROM COLLABORATING BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (BMC)**

To,

The Member Secretary,
Kerala State Biodiversity Board,
Kailasam, T.C. 24/3219, No. 43, Belhaven Gardens,
Kowdiar P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 003.

Subject: Certificate of Consent for collaboration in the project proposal submitted under KSBB's Expression of Interest (EOI) titled "Open Call for Collaborative Projects on Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Use, and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)"

Sir/Madam,

This is to certify that the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) of GramaPanchayat / Municipality / Corporation, constituted under Section 41 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, has, vide

Resolution No. datedpassed in its meeting, agreed to collaborate with **[Name of Lead Applicant Institution]** in the project titled being submitted in response to the above EOI.

We hereby confirm the following:

1. The BMC's consent and willingness to participate as a collaborating partner in the above project for its entire proposed duration.
2. The BMC's role and contribution to the project, as indicated below (the BMC may select the option(s) applicable to its collaboration):
3. The BMC's willingness to extend necessary support for field activities, stakeholder consultations, and monitoring, including linkages with the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)/Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) of the area, if any.

Role / Contribution of the BMC in the project:

- ☐ Facilitation of community engagement and awareness generation
- ☐ Field-level coordination and logistical support
- ☐ Facilitation of stakeholder / community consultations
- ☐ Assistance in access to biological resources / associated traditional knowledge within its jurisdiction
- ☐ Participation in field data collection and monitoring
- ☐ Linkage with the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) / Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) of the area
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Signature of Chairperson, BMC: _____

Name: _____

BMC of: _____ GramaPanchayat / Municipality / Corporation

Resolution No. & Date: _____

Seal of BMC: _____ Date: _____ Place: _____

Note: The applicant institution may furnish separate supporting evidence demonstrating its previous collaboration with one or more Biodiversity Management Committees.