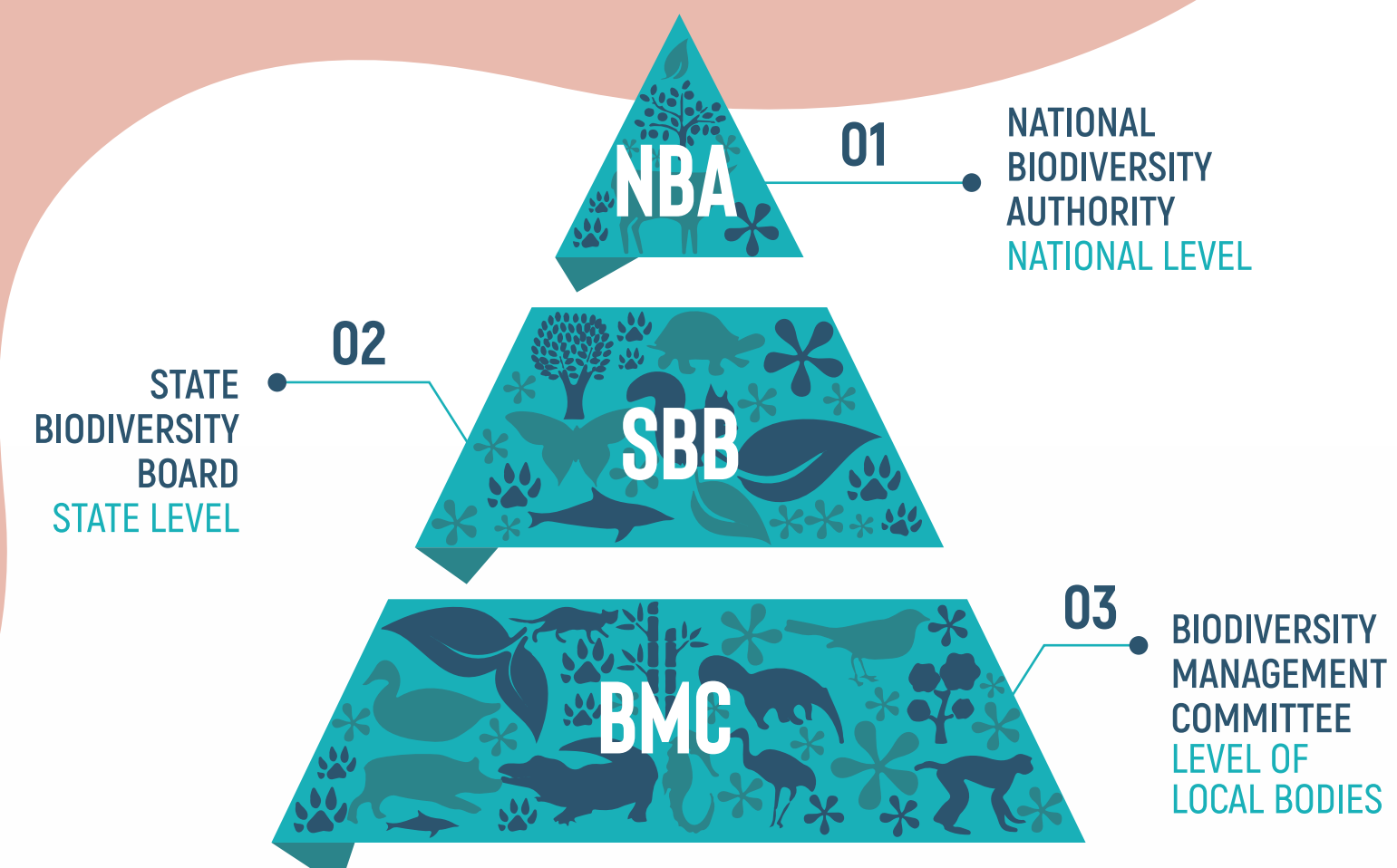




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# OUR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHENGAM BLOCK



THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A 3-TIER STRUCTURE



**PBR**

**People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)** is a record that contains information on the availability of biological resources (wild and domestic species of plants and animals) in the local area along with its traditional knowledge, medicinal value and other uses. PBR is documented in consultation with local people, farmers, fisherfolk, traditional knowledge holders, etc. PBR facilitates in sustainable harvests and knowledge-based management of biological resources.



## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

- Chengam's unique flora and fauna are mentioned in the ancient Tamil poem 'Malaipadukadam' during the Sangam period over 1800 years ago!
- The Jawadhi hills are home to the Malayali tribe who rely on agriculture and animal husbandry for their livelihood. They raise a local cattle breed called Mala Maadu which is known for its adaptability to harsh climates. Other breeds like Kangeyam and Mayilai are also raised in this region.
- Irula tribal community who also reside in Chengam depend on a range of non-timber forest products like honey, fruits, roots and tubers for their livelihood. They are well-known for their traditional knowledge of medicinal plants.
- Chengam is also famous for its traditional millet varieties like Samai and Kudiravallai.
- The most commonly collected medicinal plants in Chengam are Thuringi (*Albizia amara*), Vembu (*Azadirachta indica*), Nelikkai (*Phyllanthus emblica*) and Nannari (*Hemidesmus indicus*).

The Government of India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated knowledge.

## WHAT IS BMC?

BMC is a seven-member committee at every local body consisting of people enlisted in the local electoral rolls. The BMC is formed under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for the management, conservation, and sustainable utilisation of bio-resources.

Some of the key functions of BMCs are:

- Promoting the sustainable use of bioresources
- Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)
- Conservation of local varieties, breeds and traditional knowledge
- Raising awareness about biodiversity and the need for its sustainable use

Chengam block is located in Tiruvannamalai district in the northern part of Tamil Nadu on the banks of the river Ponnaiyar. Chengam surrounded by the Jawadhi hills on the north and some regions of the block, on the west sides is covered by dry deciduous, scrub forests in the plains and dry evergreen forests, agricultural lands in the hills.

**11,618.4 ha**  
cultivated area

**30** varieties of paddy

**13** breeds of livestock

**25** medicinal plant species

**10** wild crop relatives

**60** species of wild plants



“Intensive agriculture depletes the soil, damages the ecosystem and affects health of people that consume the produce. Our future lies in the practice of non-chemical farming using our local and traditional crop varieties.”

- Mr. Dharmalinga Gounder, Organic farmer, Valaiyambattu, Chengam.

Chengam Biodiversity Management Committee, Panchayat Union Office, NH-66, Girivalam Road, Chengam, Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu - 606709

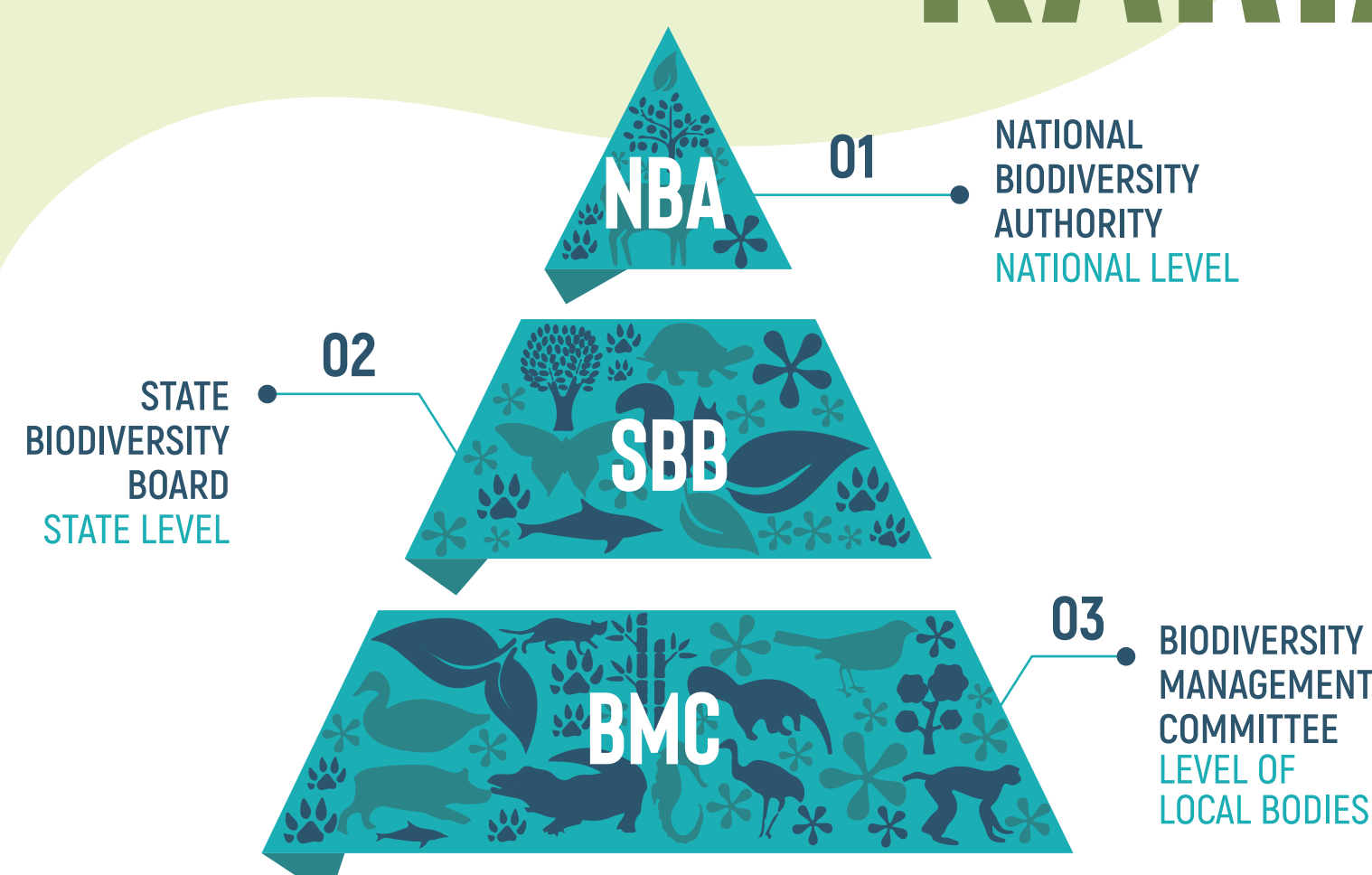
This poster is part of "Know Your BMC" campaign in Tamil Nadu by the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Data source: People's Biodiversity Register of Chengam Block, field data collected by the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai and Census of India, 2011 | Compiled by: Ashley Thomas Paul, Ezhilan Nambi, John Britto, Vishvak Kannan.





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# OUR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE KARIAPATTI BLOCK



## THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A 3-TIER STRUCTURE



**PBR**

**People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)** is a record that contains information on the availability of biological resources (wild and domestic species of plants and animals) in the local area along with its traditional knowledge, medicinal value and other uses. PBR is documented in consultation with local people, farmers, fisherfolk, traditional knowledge holders, etc. PBR facilitates in sustainable harvests and knowledge-based management of biological resources.

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- Promoting the sustainable use of bioresources
- Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)
- Conservation of local varieties, breeds and traditional knowledge
- Raising awareness about biodiversity and the need for its sustainable use

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

- The most commonly traded medicinal plants in Kariapatti are Avuri (*Senna alexandrina*), Nithyakalyani (*Catharanthus roseus*), Kutchikolai (*Phyllanthus maderaspatensis*) and Saranathi (*Boerhavia diffusa*).
- Some of the local livestock breeds found here are Kalapina Maadu (cow), Mecheri Aadu (sheep), Pattanam Aadu (sheep) and Ramnad White (sheep).
- The traditional healers in Kariapatti specialise in treating poisonous bites from snakes and scorpions, bone fractures and sprains.
- The traditional healers collect medicinal plants from villages like Kurandi, Arasakulam, Melakallankulam, Mustakurichi, Maniyampillai, Melkalathur, Rayarpatti, Seeganenthal, Sithanenthal and Maraikulam.
- The most commonly cultivated crops in Kariapatti are cotton, sunflower, onion, sorghum, groundnut, sesame and millets.

Kariapatti is located in the Virudhunagar district in the southern part of Tamil Nadu. The block has a high diversity of medicinal plants. It is a major hub for the trade of medicinal plants in Tamil Nadu. Kariapatti also has many sacred groves which have been conserved and protected for centuries by local people.

**11,079 ha**  
cultivated area

**70** varieties of  
cultivated crops

**10** breeds of  
livestock

**15**  
species of  
wild plants

**45**  
medicinal  
plant species

**60**  
Traditional  
knowledge holders



“

Kariapatti has a semi-arid climate and does not get sufficient rainfall for year-round agriculture. The soil also is of poor fertility and is suitable only for crops that require less irrigation. The sacred groves in our block, however, have fertile soil and rich biodiversity. We have begun planting trees at our local sacred grove to maintain the biodiversity of the area. It is important that these sites are conserved and managed properly, and we plan on expanding our efforts to other sacred groves.

- Mr. Rajan, Farmer, Kariapatti

”

Kariapatti Biodiversity Management Committee, Kariapatti Panchayat Union Office,  
Kariapatti, Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu - 626106

This poster is part of "Know Your BMC" campaign in Tamil Nadu by the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Data source: People's Biodiversity Register of Kariapatti Block, field data collected by the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai and Census of India, 2011 | Compiled by: Ashley Thomas Paul, Ezhilan Nambi, John Britto, Vishvak Kannan.

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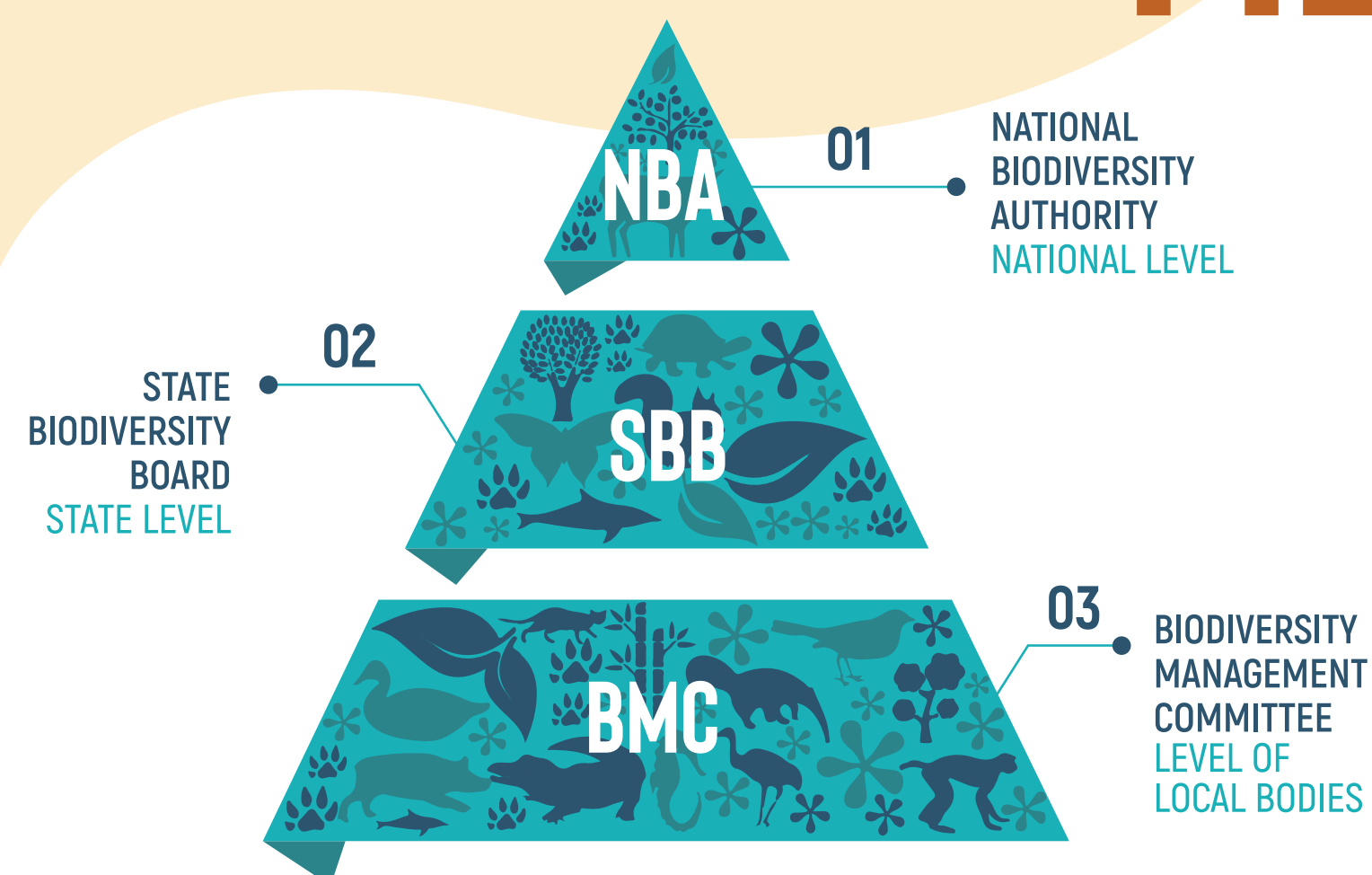








# OUR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MELUR BLOCK



## THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A 3-TIER STRUCTURE



### PBR

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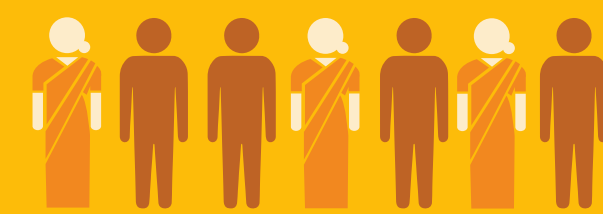


## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

- The most commonly traded medicinal plants in Melur are Manjanathi (*Morinda tinctoria*), Arivalmanai poondu (*Sida acuta*), Aavarai (*Senna auriculata*) and Nerunchi (*Tribulus terrestris*).
- The Valaiyar community living in Melur is well-known for their traditional knowledge of medicinal plants.
- An endangered breed of hunting and guard dog called Kanni is found and bred in Melur.
- Amoor and Arittapatti villages of Melur have several large water bodies that host bird species like Parunthu (*Haliastur indus*), Neerkaka (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*), Siragi (*Upupa epops*), Karunkurugu (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*) and Laggar falcon (*Falco jugger*).
- The most commonly cultivated crops in Melur are paddy, sugarcane, banana and guava.

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## WHAT IS BMC?



BMC is a seven-member committee at every local body consisting of people enlisted in the local electoral rolls. The BMC is formed under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for the management, conservation, and sustainable utilisation of bio-resources.

Some of the key functions of BMCs are:

- Promoting the sustainable use of bioresources
- Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)
- Conservation of local varieties, breeds and traditional knowledge
- Raising awareness about biodiversity and the need for its sustainable use

Melur block is located in Madurai district at the central part of Tamil Nadu. Collection of medicinal plant is a primary occupation of people in this region in addition to agriculture and animal husbandry.

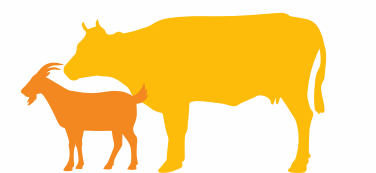
**11,912.8 ha**  
cultivated area



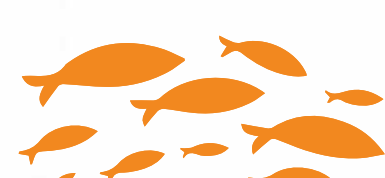
**40** varieties of  
cultivated crops



**8** breeds of  
livestock



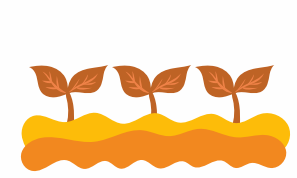
**15** cultured  
fish species



**50** medicinal  
plant species



**25** wild crop  
relatives



**66** Traditional  
knowledge holders



A traditional fishing festival celebrated every summer in our village involves draining ponds to catch fishes. This practice, along with the low rainfall for the past few years, has led to water scarcity in the region, severely affecting agriculture and local biodiversity. Sustainable water management practices need to be adopted in our villages so that our agricultural biodiversity is conserved. As the BMC Chairman, I urge people to make wise use of our natural resources."

- Mr. Ranjit Kumar, Chairperson, Melur Biodiversity Management Committee

Melur Biodiversity Management Committee, Melur Panchayat Union Office, Trichy - Madurai Highway, Melur, Tamil Nadu - 625106

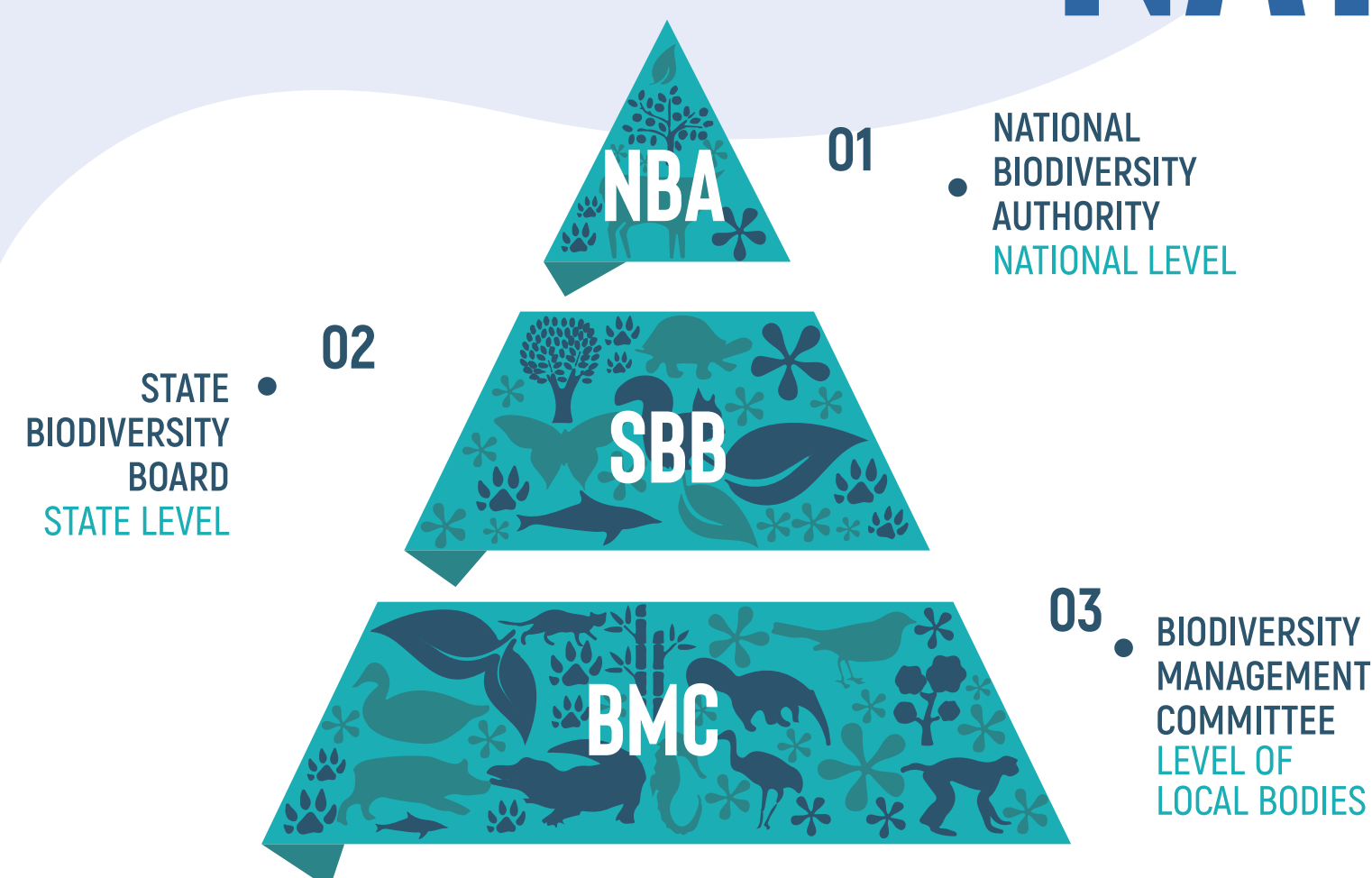
This poster is part of "Know Your BMC" campaign in Tamil Nadu by the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Data source: People's Biodiversity Register of Melur Block, field data collected by the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai and Census of India, 2011 | Compiled by: Ashley Thomas Paul, Ezhilan Nambi, John Britto, Vishvak Kannan.





# OUR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## NATHAM BLOCK



### THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A 3-TIER STRUCTURE

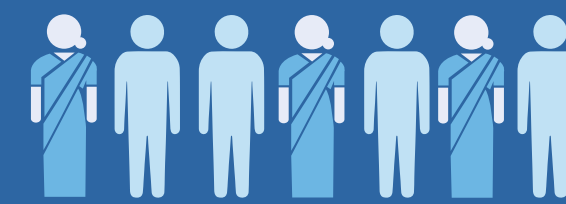


#### PBR

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Natham is located in Dindigul district in the central part of Tamil Nadu. The block is surrounded by four reserve forests namely Karandamalai, Nadumandalam, Alagar Kovil and Sirumalai. Due to these forests the block has very fertile soil for agriculture and growing horticultural crops. It is also a major hub for medicinal plant trade in Tamil Nadu and supply to many adjacent districts, and states like Kerala and Karnataka.

#### INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY NATHAM

- The most commonly traded medicinal plants in Natham are Arivalmanai poondu (*Sida acuta*), Saranathi (*Boerhavia diffusa*), Vembu (*Azadirachta indica*) and Usulai (*Albizia amara*).
- A section of the Valaiyar traditional community resides in Natham. Their livelihoods mainly depend on collection of medicinal plants and non-timber forest produce.
- Natham also has great horticultural diversity which includes mango, guava, tamarind, banana, coconut, sapota, papaya and lemon.
- The region is famous for three local varieties of fruits - Natham puli (tamarind), Natham ma (mango) and Sirumalai Vaalaipalam (banana).
- Endangered species of wild animals like the Thevangu (slender loris) and Varayaadu (Nilgiri Tahr) can be seen in the forested areas of Natham.

**19,446.6 ha**  
cultivated area

**34** varieties of cultivated crops

**30** species of tree crops

**60** medicinal plant species

**28** species of wild animals

**14** sacred groves



“Collecting medicinal plants is a major source of livelihood for our community. These plants are declining due to over-harvesting, climate change and disease. Some of us are now cultivating medicinal plants in our lands to reduce our dependency on wild plants. Local bodies should promote conservation measures like these.”

- Mr. R. Kumar Farmer and medicinal plant collector, Settur, Natham Block

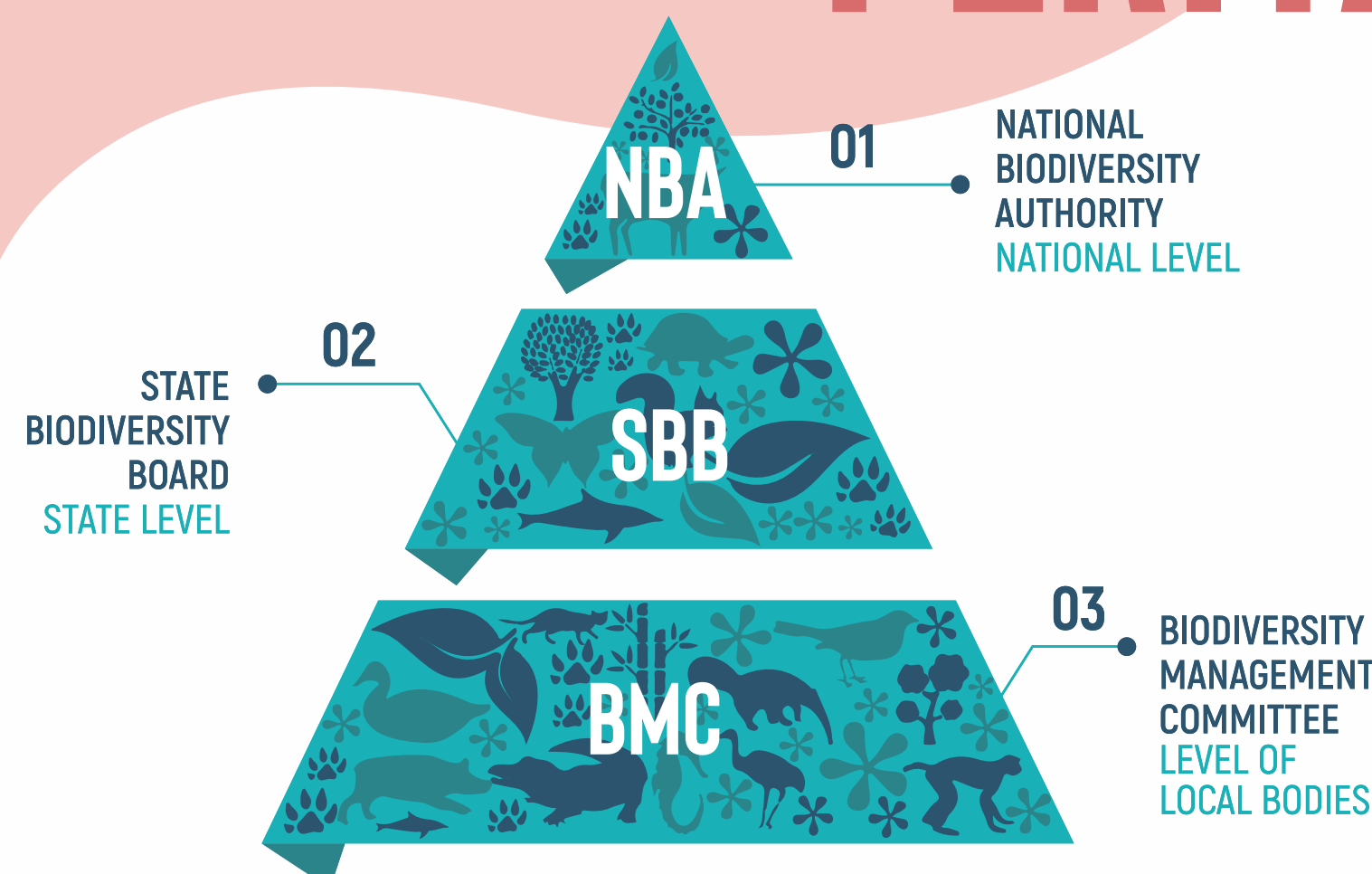
Natham Biodiversity Management Committee, Natham Panchayat Union Office, SH-72, Madurai-Natham Road, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu - 624401

This poster is part of "Know Your BMC" campaign in Tamil Nadu by the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Data source: People's Biodiversity Register of Natham Block, field data collected by the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai and Census of India, 2011 | Compiled by: Ashley Thomas Paul, Ezhilan Nambi, John Britto, Vishvak Kannan.





# OUR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PERIYAKULAM BLOCK



## THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A 3-TIER STRUCTURE



### PBR

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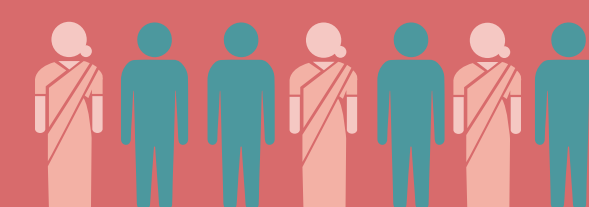


## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

- Periyakulam is also known as the "Mango City" because of its large production of mangoes. Some of the local varieties are Senthuram, Malgova, Kombukai, Kasalattu, Kasaapalam, Manoranjitham, Kallamai and Puliyadi.
- The most commonly traded medicinal plants in Periyakulam are Nerunji (*Tribulus terrestris*), Vembu (*Azadirachta indica*) and Sirikurinjan (*Gymnema sylvestre*).
- Due to fertile soil, many commercial crops such as cotton, sugarcane, turmeric and silk cotton and horticultural crops such as mango, banana, coconut, okra, tomato, chili pepper and brinjal are grown in Periyakulam.
- The Horticultural College and Research Institute affiliated to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is situated in Periyakulam.
- The Paliyar and Muthuvar communities residing in the Murugamalai Hills are well known in the region for their traditional knowledge and expertise in herbal medicine. They treat snake bites, bone fractures, sprains and many other medical conditions.

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### WHAT IS BMC?



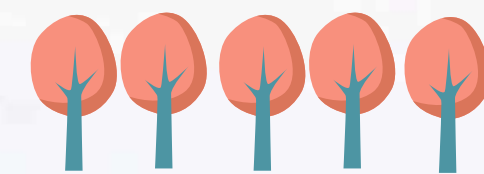
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- Conservation of local varieties, breeds and traditional knowledge
- Raising awareness about biodiversity and the need for its sustainable use

Periyakulam block is located in Theni district on the foothills of the Western Ghats. The block has a great diversity of medicinal plants as well as horticultural crops. Murugamalai Reserve Forest, an ecologically important forested area is also situated in Periyakulam. This region is famous for its ecotourism.

**67.5 ha**  
of forest area



**65**

medicinal  
plant species

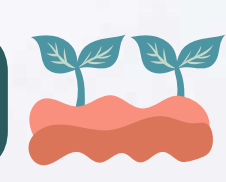


**45**

Traditional  
knowledge holders



**10**  
wild relatives  
of crops



**15**

varieties of  
fruit plants



**15**

varieties of  
cultivated crops



My primary source of income is from selling broomsticks made of Echam (*Phoenix sp.*) leaves. In the olden days, Vetiver (*Chrysopogon zizanioides*) and Thulasi (*Ocimum tenuiflorum*) leaves were also used to add a pleasant fragrance to the broomsticks. Practices like this should be revived so that our traditional knowledge doesn't get lost forever. This will also help people understand the importance of local species.



- Mrs. A. Velmani, Velapporkovil, Periyakulam

Periyakulam Biodiversity Management Committee, Periyakulam Panchayat Union Office, Periyakulam Rd, V.O.C. Nagar, Vadugapatti, Theni, Tamil Nadu - 625603

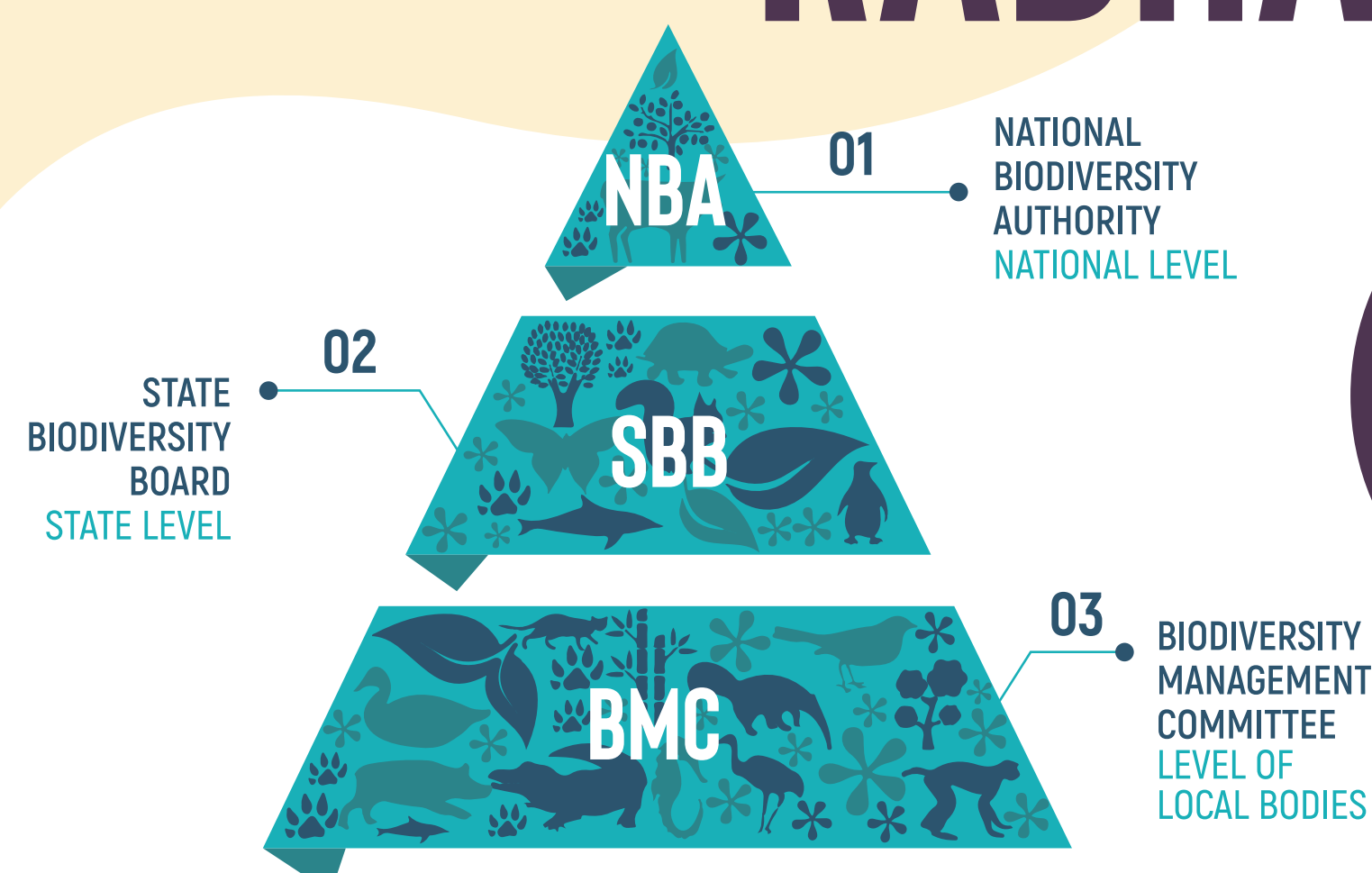
This poster is part of "Know Your BMC" campaign in Tamil Nadu by the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Data source: People's Biodiversity Register of Periyakulam Block, field data collected by the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai and Census of India, 2011 | Compiled by: Ashley Thomas Paul, Ezhilan Nambi, John Britto, Vishvak Kannan.





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# OUR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RADHAPURAM BLOCK



## THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A 3-TIER STRUCTURE



**PBR**

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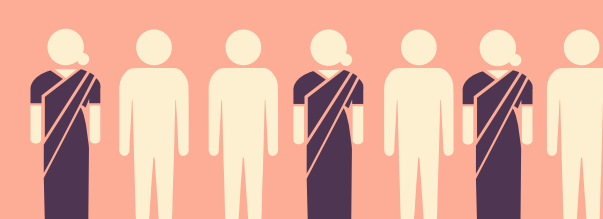


## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

- Radhapuram's Teri dune complex (Theri Kaadu) plays an important role in flood protection. It is also home to diverse medicinal plants and other species of economic importance.
- The most commonly traded medicinal plants in Radhapuram are Pirandai (*Cissus quadrangularis*), Thuthuvalai (*Solanum trilobatum*), Neermulli (*Hygrophila auriculata*) and Senganthal (*Gloriosa superba*).
- Local species of fish like Vellaikurimeen, Pullikurimeen, Kooralmeen, Periyakezhuthi, Palagai Kata and Manjal Kata as well as Kooniiraal (shrimp) and Singiiraal (lobster) are found commonly in the block.
- Creepers like Vellari (*Cucumis sativus*), Tharpoonsani (*Citrullus lanatus*), Poosanikai (*Cucurbita pepo*) and Pudulai (*Trichosanthes cucumerina*) are also grown commonly.
- The Nithya Kalyani Ammal temple in Radhapuram is known for its large area of a sacred grove that is conserved for over a hundred years.

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- Conservation of local varieties, breeds and traditional knowledge
- Raising awareness about biodiversity and the need for its sustainable use

Radhapuram is located in the Thirunelveli district at the southern end of the Western Ghats. The block has both Neidhal (coastal ecosystem) as well as Palai (sand dunes ecosystem) making it a unique ecosystem. This block hosts a great diversity of medicinal plants and also has five agricultural extension centres.

**4,754 ha**  
cultivated area

**1,932 ha**  
land under tree crops

**34**  
varieties of crop plants

**65**  
medicinal plant species

**40**  
species of wild animals

**8**  
breeds of livestock



“

Millet varieties like Varagu, Samai and Thinnai were commonly grown in the past. However, over the last few years, due to changes in dietary preference and a shift towards intensive farming, farmers are cultivating commercial crops like banana, watermelon and rice instead of traditionally cultivated millet crops. This has led to the depletion of groundwater levels and affected soil fertility. Therefore, we need to promote our traditional practices to help replenish our lands.

”

- Mr. Sundaram, Organic farmer, Radhapuram

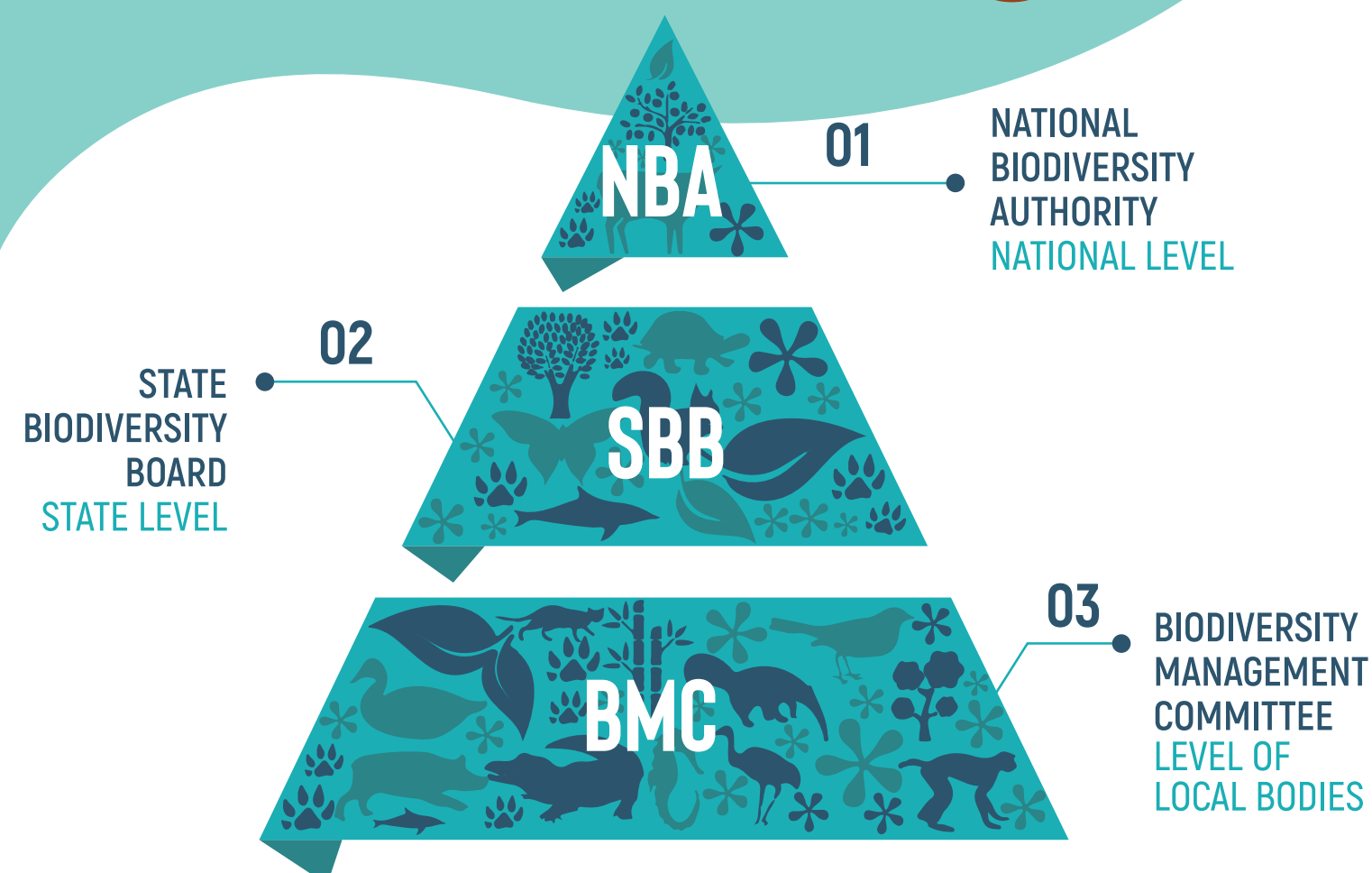
Radhapuram Biodiversity Management Committee, Radhapuram Panchayat Union Office,  
Valliur-Radhapuram Main Rd, Radhapuram, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu-627111

This poster is part of "Know Your BMC" campaign in Tamil Nadu by the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Data source: People's Biodiversity Register of Radhapuram Block, field data collected by the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai and Census of India, 2011 | Compiled by: Ashley Thomas Paul, Ezhilan Nambi, John Britto, Vishvak Kannan.





# OUR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SEDAPATTI BLOCK



## THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A 3-TIER STRUCTURE



### PBR

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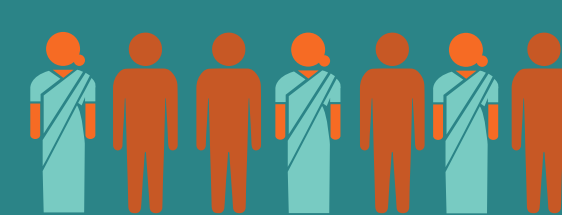
## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

- The most commonly traded medicinal plants in Sedapatti are Korai (*Cyperus rotundus*), Saranathi (*Boerhavia diffusa*), Vembu (*Azadirachta indica*) and Nilavakai (*Cassia angustifolia*).
- Sedapatti is known for its local varieties of brinjal (Ramakkai Blue and Ramakkai Green), barnyard millet (Sadai Kudiraivaali and Pullu Kudiraivaali) and kodo millet (Peruvaragu and Siruvaragu).
- Animal Husbandry is an important source of income in Sedapatti, and the Malai Maadu is a renowned local cattle breed found in the region.
- The Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel (*Ratufa macroura*) wildlife sanctuary is part of Sedapatti block. The sanctuary is also inhabited by endangered and vulnerable species like the slender loris, sambar, Nilgiri tahr, Nilgiri langur and sloth bear.



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- Raising awareness about biodiversity and the need for its sustainable use

Sedapatti is located in the upper part of Gundar river basin in the Madurai District. The Sathuragiri hills that pass through Sedapatti is known for its diversity of wild plants. The block is also known for its great diversity of medicinal plants.

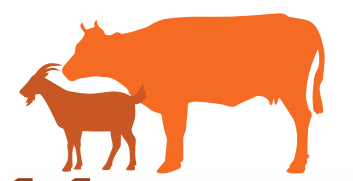
**43,063 ha**  
of forest area



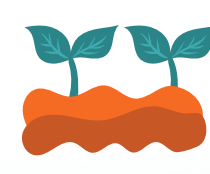
**14** varieties of cultivated crops



**11** breeds of livestock



**12** wild relatives of crops



**80** medicinal plant species



**50** Traditional knowledge holders



For generations, our community has been collecting and consuming Adhalaikai (*Momordica cymbalaria*) from the wild. But currently, it is becoming more popular among traditional healers who are using it as a substitute for bitter melon in Ayurvedic medicine. If this species gets commercially cultivated, it would not have the same anti-diabetic properties as that of the wild species. Therefore, we need to conserve our wild crops so that its medicinal properties are not lost.



- Mr. Pandurangan, Native Healer, Kudipatti, Sedapatti Block

Sedapatti Biodiversity Management Committee, Sedapatti Panchayat Union Office, Alampatti- Sedapatti Road, Tirumangalam, Tamil Nadu – 625703, Email: sedapattibmc2018@gmail.com

This poster is part of "Know Your BMC" campaign in Tamil Nadu by the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Data source: People's Biodiversity Register of Sedapatti Block, field data collected by the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai and Census of India, 2011 | Compiled by: Ashley Thomas Paul, Ezhilan Nambi, John Britto, Vishvak Kannan.



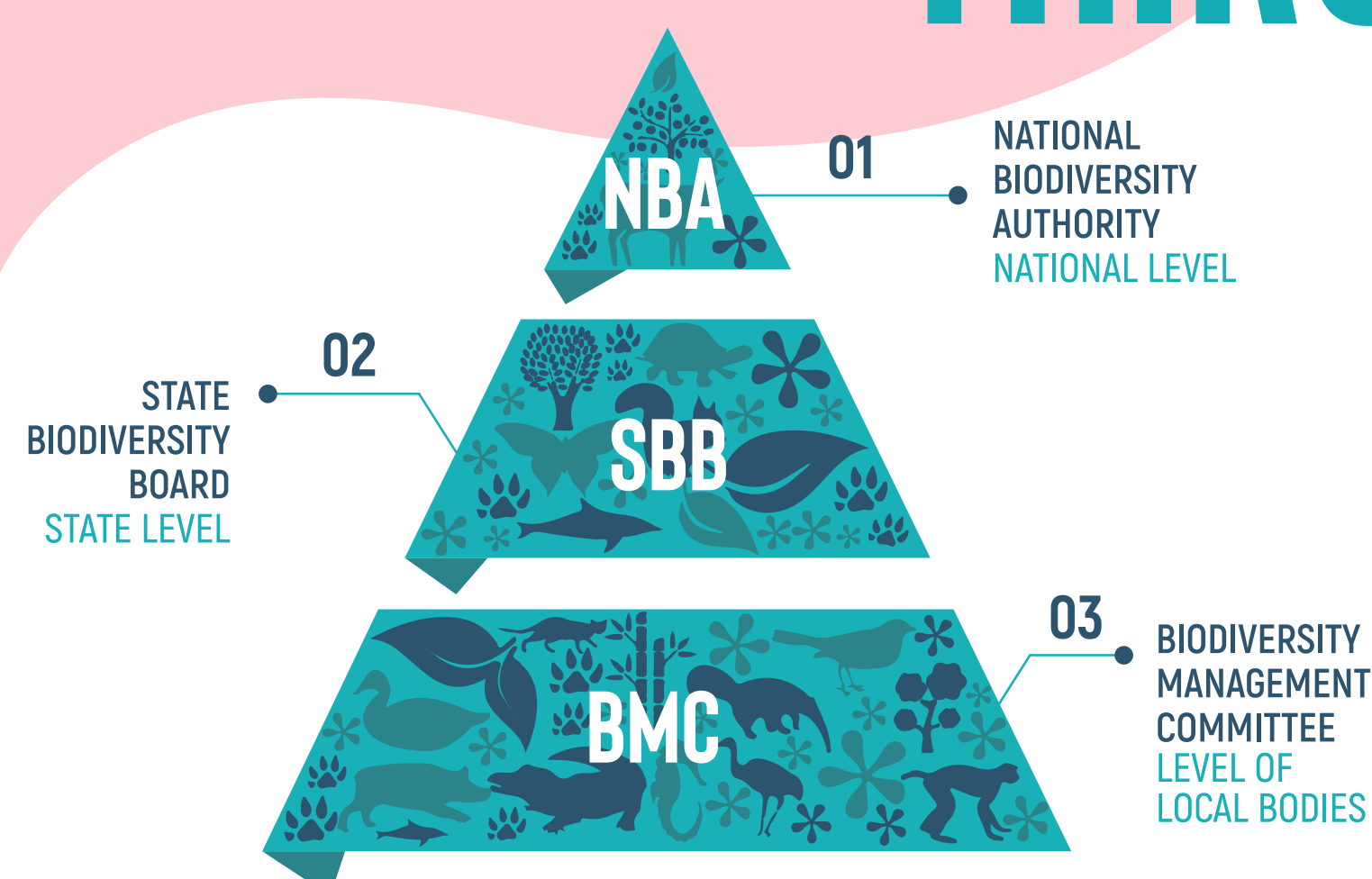






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# OUR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE THIRUPORUR BLOCK



THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A 3-TIER STRUCTURE



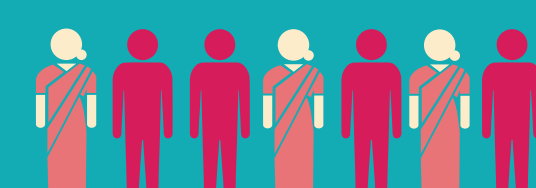
**PBR**

**People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)** is a record that contains information on the availability of biological resources (wild and domestic species of plants and animals) in the local area along with its traditional knowledge, medicinal

value and other uses. PBR is documented in consultation with local people, farmers, fisherfolk, traditional knowledge holders, etc. PBR facilitates in sustainable harvests and knowledge-based management of biological resources.

The Government of India enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated knowledge.

## WHAT IS BMC?



BMC is a seven-member committee at every local body consisting of people enlisted in the local electoral rolls. The BMC is formed under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for the management, conservation, and sustainable utilisation of bio-resources.

Some of the key functions of BMCs are:

- Promoting the sustainable use of bioresources
- Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)
- Conservation of local varieties, breeds and traditional knowledge
- Raising awareness about biodiversity and the need for its sustainable use

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

- The Irula Snake Catchers' Industrial Cooperative Society with members from the Irula tribal community are well-known for their traditional skill of catching snakes without causing any harm to the species. The society is legally permitted for the controlled extraction and sale of venom of 4 snake species: spectacled cobra, common krait, Russell's viper and saw-scaled viper.
- The Irula tribe is also known for their traditional knowledge on medicinal plants and they specialise in treating snake bites, bone fractures and gynaecological issues.
- Thiruporur is also known for its traditional varieties of paddy like Chengalpattu Sirumani and Kullankar.
- Animal Husbandry is an important source of income in Thiruporur and known for the local cattle breed called Malai Maadu.
- The Madras Crocodile Bank is located in Thiruporur and it houses around 5,000 reptiles including 6 crocodile species.



"I am the only one in my family who holds traditional knowledge of using local plants to cure various common ailments. Even to this day, I use my knowledge to help my grandchildren and family when they fall ill. Currently, hardly anyone knows of the medicinal properties of our local plants as the younger generations are not interested in acquiring traditional knowledge. We need to promote our traditional practices before our knowledge gets lost forever."

- Mrs. Nagammal, Madayathur, Thiruporur

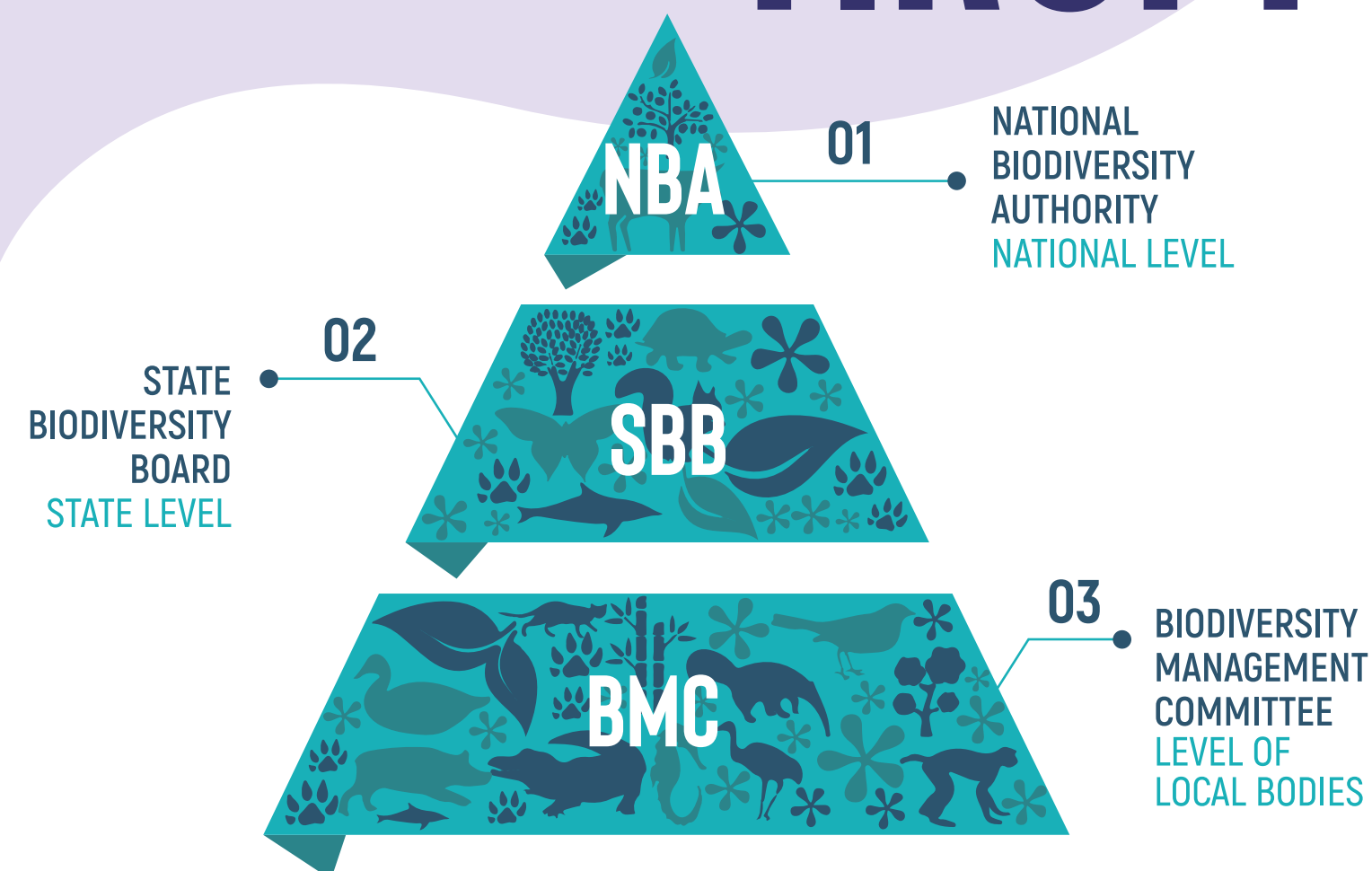
Thiruporur Biodiversity Management Committee, Thiruporur Panchayat Union Office, Thandalam, Thiruporur, Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu - 603105

This poster is part of "Know Your BMC" campaign in Tamil Nadu by the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Data source: People's Biodiversity Register of Thiruporur Block, field data collected by the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai and Census of India, 2011 | Compiled by: Ashley Thomas Paul, Ezhilan Nambi, John Britto, Vishvak Kannan.





# OUR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TIRUPPUVANAM BLOCK



## THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A 3-TIER STRUCTURE



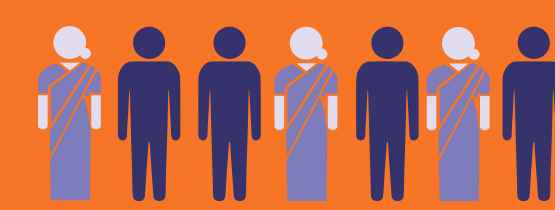
### PBR

**People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)** is a record that contains information on the availability of biological resources (wild and domestic species of plants and animals) in the local area along with its traditional knowledge, medicinal value and other uses. PBR is documented in consultation with local people, farmers, fisherfolk, traditional knowledge holders, etc. PBR facilitates in sustainable harvests and knowledge-based management of biological resources.

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

- Tiruppuvanam is renowned for betel vine cultivation. The local varieties include Venmani, Arikodi, Kalkodi, Karilanchi, Karpuram, Chelanthikarpuram, Koottakkodinandan, Perumkodi, Amaravila, Pramuttan, Kallarkodi, Revesi, Karpuri, Vellaikodi and Pachaikodi.
- The most commonly traded medicinal plants in Tiruppuvanam are Nerunji (*Tribulus terrestris*), Avaram (*Senna auriculata*), Veppai (*Azadirachta indica*) and Koraipul (*Cyperus rotundus*).
- Maranadu Katharikkai is a local variety of brinjal from this region that is popular throughout Tamil Nadu.
- Animal husbandry is an important source of income in Tiruppuvanam, and the Vallarendal Kidai Maadu is a renowned local cattle breed.

## WHAT IS BMC?



BMC is a seven-member committee at every local body consisting of people enlisted in the local electoral rolls. The BMC is formed under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for the management, conservation, and sustainable utilisation of bio-resources.

Some of the key functions of BMCs are:

- Promoting the sustainable use of bioresources
- Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)
- Conservation of local varieties, breeds and traditional knowledge
- Raising awareness about biodiversity and the need for its sustainable use

Tiruppuvanam block is located in Sivaganga district on the banks of the Vaigai river. The block is known for its horticultural diversity. The block also has 5 agribusiness centres where agricultural inputs are purchased by farmers.

**10,470.5 ha**  
cultivated area

**70**  
medicinal plant species

**20** varieties of fruit plants

**50** varieties of cultivated crops

**9** breeds of livestock

**85** Traditional knowledge holders



“Since my retirement, I have been planting tree saplings of local species along roadsides and wastelands. Our local species are essential for our well-being, and they are declining at a fast rate. We should come together to help conserve these species and our local biodiversity. I am hoping my actions will inspire more people to take up conservation activities in our village.”

- Mr. K. Bose, Former President  
Ambalathadi Village, Tiruppuvanam

Tiruppuvanam Biodiversity Management Committee, Tiruppuvanam Block Development Office,  
NH-49, Kochi-Dhanushkodi Road, Tiruppuvanam, Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu - 630611

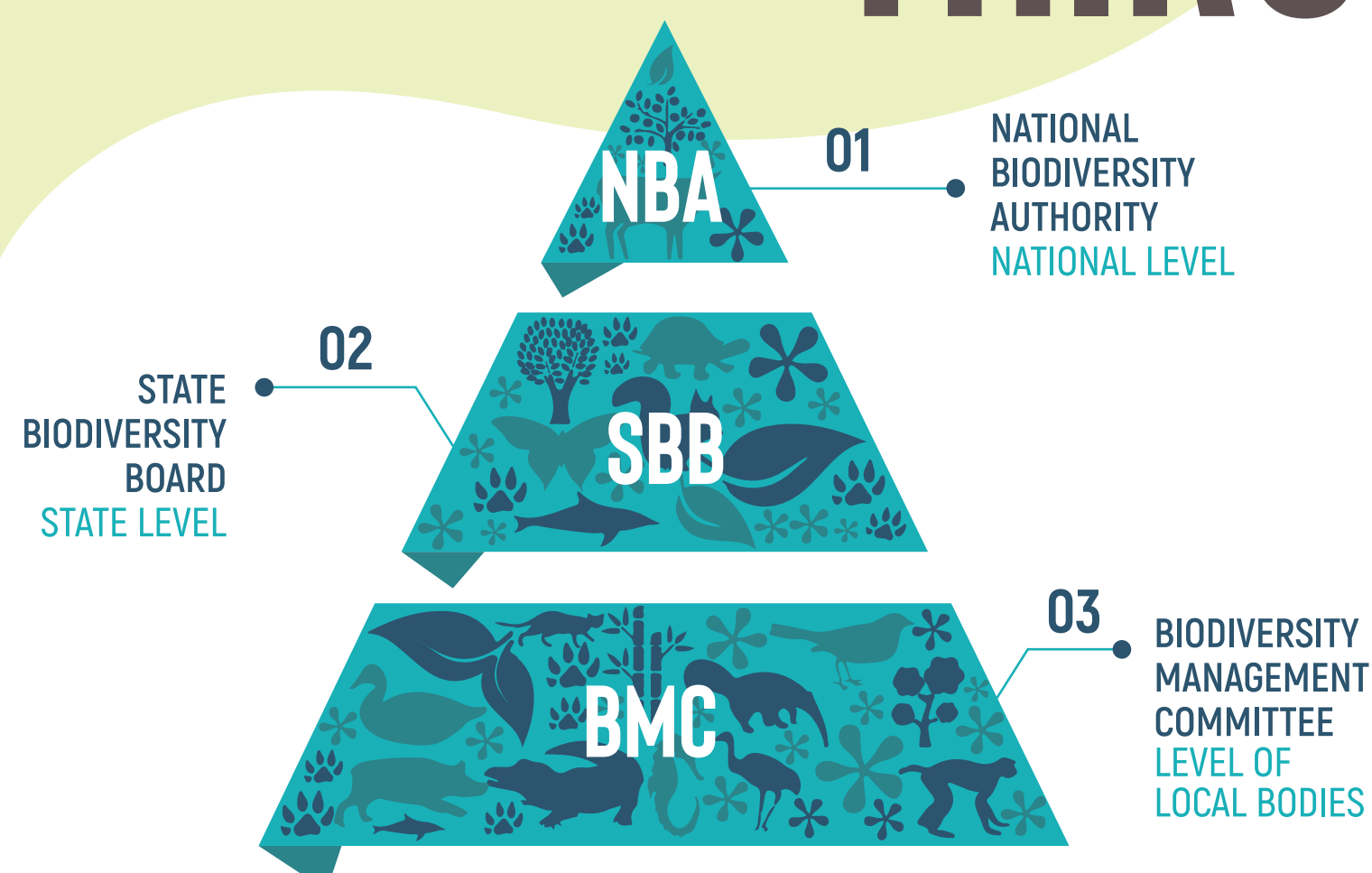
This poster is part of "Know Your BMC" campaign in Tamil Nadu by the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Data source: People's Biodiversity Register of Tiruppuvanam Block, field data collected by the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai and Census of India, 2011 | Compiled by: Ashley Thomas Paul, Ezhilan Nambi, John Britto, Vishvak Kannan.





# OUR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## THIRUVATTAR BLOCK



### THE BIODIVERSITY ACT IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A 3-TIER STRUCTURE



**PBR**

**People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)** is a record that contains information on the availability of biological resources (wild and domestic species of plants and animals) in the local area along with its traditional knowledge, medicinal value and other uses. PBR is documented in consultation with local people, farmers, fisherfolk, traditional knowledge holders, etc. PBR facilitates in sustainable harvests and knowledge-based management of biological resources.



### INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY

- Kanniyakumari is renowned for its Kavuus (sacred groves) in which many rare medicinal plants are found.
- In the uplands (hills and foothills), horticultural crops such as rubber, cloves, nutmeg, pepper and pineapple are commonly grown. In the plains, crops such as paddy, tapioca, banana and coconut are commonly grown.
- The most commonly traded medicinal plants are Neeradi Muthu (*Hydnocarpus pentandra*), Nannari (*Hemidesmus indicus*), Koduveli (*Plumbago indica*) and Vallarai (*Centella asiatica*).
- Majority of the Kani tribe in Kanniyakumari are settled in Thiruvattar. They are famous in the region for their secretly held traditional knowledge and expertise in herbal medicines. They rely on collecting medicinal plants and apiculture.
- The traditional healers in Thiruvattar specialise in treating poisonous bites from snakes and scorpions, bone fractures and sprains, and they sell herbal medicines for various ailments in Vettumarundhu Kadai (wild medicinal plant shops).
- The Pechiparai reservoir is home to more than 10 species of inland fish. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's Horticulture Research Station is also located at Pechiparai.

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- Conservation of local varieties, breeds and traditional knowledge
- Raising awareness about biodiversity and the need for its sustainable use

Thiruvattar is located in Kanniyakumari district in the southern part of Tamil Nadu. The block lies between 2 main rivers: Kothai and Pahrli and contains most of Kanniyakumari's forest land compared to the other blocks.

**29,116 ha**  
of forest area



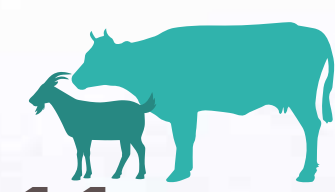
**50**  
medicinal plant species



**25** traditional varieties of rice



**11** breeds of livestock



**101.9 ha**  
land under tree crops



**40** varieties of cultivated crops



“

Medicinally important varieties of banana such as Marunthu Kathali and Kuthiravalli Singan were cultivated on a large scale in our region in the olden times. However, currently, they are disappearing due to the lack of awareness about their medicinal properties and demand. These traditional varieties of bananas should be promoted in our block so that our traditional knowledge is not lost forever.

”

- Mrs. Ponnasam, Thiruvattar Block

Thiruvattar Biodiversity Management Committee, Panchayat Union Office, SH-90, Marthandam Pechiparai Road, Thiruvattur, Kanniyakumari – 629177

This poster is part of "Know Your BMC" campaign in Tamil Nadu by the Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Biodiversity Authority, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Data source: People's Biodiversity Register of Thiruvattar Block, field data collected by the Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Madurai and Census of India, 2011 | Compiled by: Ashley Thomas Paul, Ezhilan Nambi, John Britto, Vishvak Kannan.