

# Biodiversity matters

## NEWSLETTER

**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY, CHENNAI**

### FROM THE CHAIRPERSON'S DESK

It is our great privilege to come up with the update of NBA's activities with the First Issue Vol II of our E-Newsletter "Biodiversity Matters". During this quarter, a number of national & international workshops, policy dialogue, expert consultations have been organised directly by us or through partnership. International BIOFIN Workshop, India International Science Festival, State Biodiversity Boards Meet are some of the notable discussions fora which had been attended by a good congregate of academia, policy makers, scientists, practitioners and students from different part of our country and abroad. A new joint initiative by NBA-CEBPOL and National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad on



capacity building on biodiversity governance started rolling on. Interim National Report on the implementation on the Nagoya Protocol has been submitted to CBD Secretariat, Montreal, and it has an access in the link <http://absch.cbd.int/database/NR/ABSCH-NR-IN-238716>. Nature Index (NI) Workshop was organized jointly with Norwegian Environment Agency for sharing the draft Pilot Study report with policy makers, pilot study site (Chilika Lake, Odisha & Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh) managers and scientists to get their feedback and to discuss on the suitability of NI in Indian Context. NBA continued its efforts in creating awareness to the different stakeholders by participating in exhibitions at different parts of the country, taking part in interactions and also supporting the State Biodiversity Boards and other relevant agencies.

We look forward to your continued cooperation, constructive feedback and collective action on Biodiversity conservation.

**B. Meenakumari, Chairperson**

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## 12<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of State Biodiversity Boards

NBA organized the 12<sup>th</sup> National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards at the national level on 7 - 8 November 2017 at Chennai. The two-day meeting of the SBBs reviewed various issues relating to implementation of the Biological Diversity Act more particularly on draft guidelines for processing of Access and Benefit Sharing applications by the State Biodiversity Boards, sharing of information on approvals granted by the State Biodiversity Boards, draft operational guidelines for BMCs, Normally Traded Commodities vis-a-vis ABS/ applicability of law, linking activities with Panchayati Raj Institutions with regard to BMCs, etc. The SBBs have been requested to take necessary action on the items adopted in the meet. Ms Leena Nair, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI was the Chief Guest for the meet. Dr. A. K. Goyal,

IFS., (Retd), Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj also participated in the meet as guest of honour. Around 40 officials from the 23 State Biodiversity Boards, few Members of the Authority and representatives from the MoEFCC participated in the meet.







# Update on Activities

## Access and Benefit Sharing

The 45<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the NBA, Chennai. A total of 84 applications were placed before the EC. As per the decision of the Authority, 42 Form-III (IPR) and two Form-I applications which were recommended for approval by the EC on ABS are being cleared i.e., draft agreement sent to applicant for execution by the NBA Secretariat.

The 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EC on ABS was held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 at the NBA, Chennai. A total of 75 applications were placed before the EC for examination of which, 34 Form-III applications and one Form-I were recommended for approval by the EC.

The MoEFCC in consultation with the NBA, augmented the list of 190 species (notified earlier) to 421 species / items exempted from the purview of the Act, when traded as commodities vide notification S.O. 1352(E) dated 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 & 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. The notification provides that products derived from listed items that are traded as a matter of common practice are to be treated as normally traded commodities.

A draft operational guideline for processing ABS applications received under section 7 of the BD Act by the SBBs were discussed in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual meet of the SBBs held on 7 - 8 November 2017 and the house adopted the broad guideline and also decided that the SBBs may adopt the procedure as appropriate in accordance with the provisions of the BD Act. The same was placed before the 43<sup>rd</sup> Authority meeting and is approved.

## Consultative Meeting of Stakeholders on Notification of Plants and Animals as Threatened Species u/s 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

A consultative meeting of stakeholders involving representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), and State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Telangana was organized by the NBA on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at NBA, Chennai at the behest of MoEFCC with a view to resolve the pending issues, both technical and administrative, at various levels with stakeholders relating to notification of plants and animals as threatened species for those non-notified states and to prohibit or regulate collection thereof for any purpose and take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve those species, under section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BD Act). The members resolved that all the stakeholders may consult each other to share information and resolve pending issues to expedite the notifications process.

## Meeting with ADMA and AMMOI

A meeting to discuss issues relating to Biological Diversity Act, 2002 raised by Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers' Association (ADMA), Mumbai and Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturers Organisation of India (AMMOI), Kerala was held under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017.

As a follow-up to the decision taken in the discussion meet, the NBA organized an interactive session with ADMA & AMMOI in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual meet of the State Biodiversity Boards on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 on ABS mechanism & its related provisions. The meeting was attended by four representatives from AMMOI and three from ADMA as well as officials / representatives from 23 SBBs.

## Interim National Report on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

The Article 29 (Monitoring and Reporting) of the Nagoya Protocol mandates parties to submit a report to the CBD for monitoring the implementation of its obligation under the protocol. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP) to the Nagoya Protocol had requested Parties to the Protocol to submit an interim national report on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, twelve months prior to the third meeting of the COP-MOP (that is by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017). Parties are requested to submit to the Secretariat their interim national report, through the ABS Clearing-House (in electronic form), in the prescribed format. When preparing the report, countries are required to involve all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure a participatory and transparent approach to its development. The interim national report is a useful tool for both Parties and non-Parties to the Nagoya Protocol to assess the level of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, as well as gaps, and needs in terms of capacity. Information submitted through the interim national report could also serve to share experiences, challenges, solutions and best practices among countries in relation to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. In this regard, the interim national report is a valuable tool for building and developing capacity to implement the Nagoya Protocol and for designing capacity-building activities more effectively.

MoEFCC assigned the task of preparation of interim national report for India to the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA). NBA assigned the work to Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL). With the use of in-house capacity of the NBA, the preliminary draft of the Interim National Report on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol was prepared.

The report was discussed in the First Expert Consultation organized at MoEFCC on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2017. Based on the suggestions of the experts, the revised draft is prepared by including information such as awareness generation/capacity building programs organized at state levels and the details on the ABS Implementation by the State Biodiversity Boards.

The modified draft was discussed on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, in the Second Expert Consultation. Based on the suggestions/feedback from the Second Expert Consultation meeting, the report has been modified further and circulated to all the experts for their final comments. Based on the comments from the experts, further modification on the report has been made and NBA submitted the final draft to the MoEFCC in the end of October. The Final report was submitted to the CBD on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017. The report can be accessed in the link <https://absch.cbd.int/database/NR/ABSCH-NR-IN-238716>.

## Authority Meeting



The Authority held its 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017 at NBA, Chennai and considered items including recommendations of EC on ABS, EC on medicinal plants/ NTC etc.





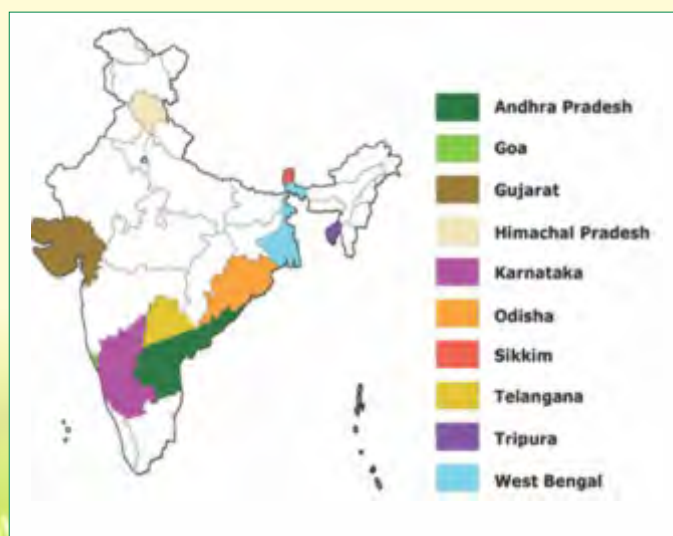
# UNEP - GEF - MoEFCC ABS PROJECT

Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules  
with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions



## Objective

The Objective of the UNEP – GEF – MoEFCC project on ABS is to increase the institutional, individual and systemic capacities of stakeholders to effectively implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Rules 2004 to achieve biodiversity conservation through implementing Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements in India.



## Implementing Agency and Partners

This project is currently being implemented in the ten provincial states of India namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura and West Bengal. NBA executes the project in collaboration with ten State Biodiversity Boards, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme - Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP/DELIC), United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and Global Environment Facility (GEF).

## Project Components

The main components of the project are:

- Identification of biodiversity with potential for ABS and their valuation in selected ecosystems such as forest, agriculture and wetlands.
- Development of tools, methodologies, guidelines, frame-works for implementing ABS provisions of the Biological Diversity Act.
- Piloting agreements on ABS
- Implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks relating to ABS provisions at national level and thereby contribute to international ABS policy issues.
- Capacity building for strengthening implementation of the ABS provisions of the BD Act.
- Increase public awareness and education programmes.

# India International Science Festival (IISF) 2017

## Anna University Campus, Chennai

The UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS Project, NBA and State Project Units team members from Goa, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Odisha Biodiversity Boards as well the teams from Kerala Biodiversity Board organized an interactive exhibit on the biodiversity and Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules during India International Science Festival (IISF) 2017 held at the Anna University Campus, Chennai during 13-16 October, 2017. The mega exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Harsh Vardhan., Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. The Hon'ble Ministers of Science and Technology from India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan passed through the exhibit. As part of this festival, a Science and Technology Minister's Conclave took place at IIT Madras and NBA organized a special program on biodiversity, Biological Diversity Act and concerns, which received a good response from the participating stakeholders during event. The exhibit was composed of an educational slide show on the Biological Diversity Act, screening of animation on the biodiversity and an exhibit on the India's Biodiversity. The State Biodiversity Boards from Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Kerala took part in the program with regional language knowledge products developed in their respective Boards and the Goa Biodiversity Board exhibited the local land races of tubers found in the state along with diversity of honey produced in the state. The mega exhibition was visited by an estimated 5000 people from across India.



## Destination Himachal Pradesh Solan, 2017

The UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS Project, NBA and State Project Unit team members from Himachal State Biodiversity Board organized an educational exhibit on the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004 along with knowledge products both in Hindi and English at Destination Himachal Pradesh 2017 at the Hotel Paragon in Solan, Himachal Pradesh during 24-26 October, 2017. The exhibit involved interactions with officials of the local departments, college and school students and scientific agencies from the state.







## State Level Media Workshop at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

UNEP-GEF ABS team organized a focus groups meet to sensitize the media persons on the provisions relevant to Indian Biological Diversity Act 2002 and State Rules relevant to Andhra Pradesh at Vijayawada on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. The program covered a brief on importance of biodiversity, its relevance to survival of human and role of biodiversity board as per the provisions of the Act were shared among the group. The program was attended by groups including print and electronic media. An interview with Sh. S. B. L. Mishra, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh during the news session of the day. The Project Manager, UNEP-GEF shared role of National Biodiversity Authority as per the provisions of the Act.

## Goa State Biodiversity Board Convenes First Expert Committee on Access Benefit Sharing

As per the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004, and relevant provisions of State Rules, an Expert Committee has been convened by the Member Secretary, Goa State Biodiversity Board on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. The Committee has been tasked with scrutinizing the access applications received by the Board relevant to Indian entities.

## BIOFIN International Workshop – Sustainable Production and Consumption and Novel Economic Instruments for Biodiversity Conservation at IIM, Bengaluru; 17-18 Nov, 2017

UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS Project partner state biodiversity boards from Goa, Karnataka Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Telangana attended above International Workshop as part of partnered activity of the MoEFCC, GoI, NBA and UNDP Country Office organized at Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru.

During the program partner countries within BIOFIN network presented activities/programs/economic instruments relevant to investments and activities around the theme biodiversity within the government system in each country. The event involved discussions, interactions among the participating members on the issues relevant to investment in the sector - biodiversity.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum at Kochi, Kerala

The UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS project team organised an educational exhibit covering the Indian Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004 and knowledge products developed in the project, at the 11<sup>th</sup> Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (IFAF) with theme Fostering Innovations in Fisheries and Aquaculture with Focus on Sustainability and Safety held at Kochi, Kerala during 21-24 November, 2017.

The program inaugural was participated by the Hon'ble Vice President of India Sh. Venkaiah Naidu; Hon'ble Governor of Kerala Justice (Rtd) Sh. Sathasivam P; Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Harbor Engineering and Cashew Industry, Govt. of Kerala, Smt. J Mercykutty Amma; Minister for Local Administration, Govt of Kerala, Dr. K. T. Jaleel; Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Ernakulam, Sh. K. V. Thomas and Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and DG. ICAR, Govt. of India.

During the second day of the program on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 2017, the Chairperson NBA Dr. B. Meenakumari, addressed the gathering at the technical session titled "Biodiversity, Management and Sustainable use in Fisheries Sector in the light of SDG-14: Life Below Water". The program was attended by around 1000 scientists from across India and some of the Asian countries.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Sundarban Krishi Mela-O-Loko Sanskriti Utsab at 24 Parganas, West Bengal; 20-29 Dec, 2017

The UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS state project unit team members from West Bengal State Biodiversity Board organized an educational exhibit along with biodiversity management committee members from West Bengal during the ten day long local festival held at Kultali PO Narayantala PS & Block Basanti, District 24 Parganas, West Bengal. The exhibit covered the knowledge products in Bengali to disseminate the role of locals in conservation and management of biodiversity, interactions were held with local community members participating in the event.



## An Indo-Norwegian Cooperation Initiative

### Consultation with National Focal Points (NFPs) of Biodiversity-Liaison Group (BLG) Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

A consultation with NFPs of BLG MEAs was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at MoEFCC, as a follow-up meeting of the first national level workshop on BLG-MEA synergies held in October 2016.

This CEBPOL activity is informed by the CBD - Conference of the Parties (COP) emphasising, from the beginning, the importance of Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions (COP II/13, IV/15, VI/20, VII/26, X/20, XII/6 among others), and facilitating through collaborative exercises with UNEP/WCMC conceptual clarity and guidance to parties on the scope for synergy. Creating a collaborative platform for NFPs to facilitate their information sharing and joint proposal development to access GEF funds is one such proposed synergy.

It was decided at the meeting that NFPs priority areas for synergy, including to strengthen existing planning frameworks like SDG-NBTs in their operations, and to meet common capacity building needs, would be identified through development and circulation of a questionnaire.

The seven key Biodiversity-related MEAs working together under the aegis of the CBD, include, besides the CBD and its protocols, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention on Wetlands/Ramsar Convention, World Heritage Convention, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and International Plant Protection Convention.

### Study Report on Cities and Biodiversity

The CBD theme 'Cities and Biodiversity' has been promoted since the 9<sup>th</sup> COP and gained more visibility during the 11<sup>th</sup> COP hosted in Hyderabad, India. However, work to deepen the scope of engagement in this area and how it would support commitment to the SDGs/NBTs has not been undertaken, and an attempt was made to fill the gap through research aimed at policy guidance. As CBD emphasises, Cities and Biodiversity encompasses not only native biodiversity in the city, but also the ecosystem services provided by nature in the city, and governance and management of both these elements. The key output was a Research-based report on 'Using the IPBES Conceptual Framework to examine 'Cities and Biodiversity' in India with special focus on governance, institutional arrangements and drivers of biodiversity loss in Bengaluru and Chennai'. A paper based on the report was presented as the keynote at the Asian Wetlands Symposium, Saga, Japan for the theme 'Urban Wetlands' on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 by Ms. Sandhya Chandrasekharan, Fellow, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, CEBPOL.





## Seminar on Cold-Water Fisheries and Aquaculture

A paper titled "Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Cold Water Fisheries" was presented by Dr. C. Thomson Jacob, Consultant - Biodiversity Policy, in the National Seminar on "Strategies, Innovations and Sustainable Management for Enhancing Cold-Water Fisheries and Aquaculture" held on 22-24 September, 2017 at ICAR - Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research, Bhimtal, Nainital, Uttarakhand. He received a Gold medal for the best paper presentation.



## National Level Consultation on Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the open Water Fisheries and Aquaculture



Two day national consultative meeting on "Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Open Water Fisheries and Aquaculture" was Organised on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at ICAR - National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad, Telangana. More than 50 delegates including reputed experienced scientists from



the sector and practitioners have participated in the deliberation and brought out a policy intervention document for mainstreaming biodiversity into the inland fisheries sector.

## Capacity Building Programme on Biodiversity Governance – A Joint Initiative by NBA-CEBPOL and National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj

Towards capacity building on biodiversity governance in the country, NBA-CEBPOL is in the process of executing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The objective of the proposed collaboration is to build capacity on biodiversity governance for various stakeholders including PRI functionaries and People's Representatives across the country. These *inter alia* may include undertaking capacity building programmes for other stakeholders concerned. Under the MoU, four capacity building programmes on Biodiversity Governance proposed to be conducted and Training manual/Module will also be developed.

As a prelude to the ensuing programmes, a half day specific session on biodiversity has been included in the pre-scheduled training programmes of NIRDPR on Natural Resource Management. Dr. K. Raghuram, Technical Officer – Benefit Sharing, NBA and Dr. Rupam Mandal, Programme Manager, CEBPOL have participated and delivered session on biodiversity in two such training programmes on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at SIRD, Mysuru and on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2017 at NIRDPR, Hyderabad. Around 60 participants including PRI functionaries, government officials responsible for watershed management have been trained on biodiversity governance in these programmes.



## Seminar on Invasive Alien Species

A National conference on "Status of Invasive Alien Species in India", jointly conducted by Zoological Survey of India and Botanical Survey of India, MoEFCC, GOI on 14-15 December 2017 at Kolkata was attended by Dr. S. Sandilyan, Fellow Invasive Alien Species and Dr. Rupam Mandal, Programme Manager, CEBPOL.

Dr. Sandilyan gave a presentation on "Guidelines for prioritization of invasive alien plants for effective management" and was also a part of the Panel discussion. It was a good congregate of the scientists, academia and policy makers from different institutes across the country. The recommendations from the seminar has been shared with the MoEFCC for taking further action.

## Bringing Biodiversity into the Media Space: MSSRF - NBA Media Workshop



"Bringing Biodiversity into the Media Space" was conducted by M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and sponsored by NBA during 29<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 at Community Agrobiodiversity Centre, Puthoorvayal, Waynad, Kerala. It was a workshop for biodiversity on aspects such as national and global targets and on access and benefit sharing that could help a journalist articulate these issues clearly and on a regular basis. Beyond creating awareness among the media, there was also a necessity of developing public awareness on safeguarding the biological resources through media. Hence, such an event was conducted to cater to this need.

Other than presentations from experts in the field of biodiversity there were also field visits to 'Manikavu' - a sacred grove, Kurcha community, a tribal hamlet, bird watching at MSSRF campus, medicinal garden at MSSRF and raising awareness among the journalists through dissemination of outreach materials and showcasing the biodiversity through flexes and posters.

The media needed to be engaged in discourses on Biological Diversity Act and National Targets. This workshop for media people was initiated to bring together experts who have worked on a specific aspect of biodiversity conservation and the journalists to discuss how the concepts, as envisaged in the National Biodiversity Targets and the Biological Diversity Act, can be mainstreamed into journalistic reporting.



## Nature Index Workshop

The Nature Index (NI) is one of the identified thematic areas under the CEBPOL program. A pilot study was carried out in two biodiversity rich areas i.e. Chilka Lake, Odisha & Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP), Himachal Pradesh (H.P) with the technical support from Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) under CEBPOL programme. This pilot study is aimed at understanding the suitability of NI in Indian context. The study was based on the secondary data on identified species known as indicators. The time series data was shared with NINA. NINA has analysed the data and a draft report has been compiled by CEBPOL. A workshop was organised on 12-13 October, 2017 to review the draft report with the park authorities and experts. High level government officials like Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC; Dr. Sujata Arora, Senior Advisor, MoEFCC, Mr. T. Rabikumar, Secretary, NBA; Scientists from NINA (Dr. Signe Nybo, Research Director and Dr. Stein Are Saether, Research Scientist), pilot site park managers, some other scientists from different national institutes along with CEBPOL Team members attended the workshop. It was an excellent deliberation with whole hearted participation of all the attendees.

NI in the present form is developed at the country level. In India, the experts felt that it has potential to be used at a protected area level as a monitoring and planning tool. As a way forward, the following recommendations were made:

- Two dissemination workshops need to be organised in first half of 2018 – one for the select park managers from different states and other for the managers of wetlands including Ramsar sites.



- NI is a potential tool to know the health of an ecosystem. Though it has been made for national level in Norway, it may be better used in India at Park level. The consideration of pressure factors will improve its efficacy for this.
- In the present study, plants have not been included as indicators. Plants are important indicators and the experts opined that while taking up full scale NI study, plants may also be included as indicators.
- Capacity building training programme may be conducted for different stakeholders and for that CEBPOL-NINA collaboration may be extended.







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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

## INDO-GERMAN ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The ABS partnership project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) under the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme. The project will be implemented in partnership by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and National Biodiversity Authority with three pilot State Biodiversity Boards namely, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

### Implementation Agreement signed for ABS Partnership Project

The project implementation agreement was signed between Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and National Biodiversity Authority. Ms. Tanja Feldmann for the GIZ Country Director and Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC signed the agreement on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in New Delhi and Dr. Konrad Uebelhör, Director, Indo-German Biodiversity Programme and Dr. Meenakumari, Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority signed the implementation agreement in Chennai on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017.



Dr. Konrad Uebelhör, Director, Indo-German Biodiversity Programme, GIZ and Dr. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA signing the Implementation Agreement. Partners from pilot states are in the picture

### Workshop on Advancing Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol held in Brussels

The ABS Partnership project participated in a workshop held at Brussels on 21-23 November 2017. This was aimed at international exchange on key challenges and practical ways forward in implementation of Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. Dr. Geetha Nayak presented on implementation of access and benefit-sharing in India which highlighted key access provisions in national legislation on biodiversity (the Biological Diversity Act, 2002) and application procedures for accessing biological resources from India.

The workshop focused on a range of aspects related to access regulations in bio-resources provider countries such as Costa Rica, India, South Africa, Mexico, Malaysia, Ethiopia etc. Practical challenges for users from industries, public research institutions and way forward was discussed.

This workshop was organized by Directorate-General of Environment of the European Commission and over 30 countries including EU member states, representatives from bio-tech, health, plant breeders & seeds, cosmetics sectors academia, and culture collections participated in this workshop.

## Updates from the Project States

### Maharashtra

A legal consultation meeting was held in Nagpur on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to discuss course of action and technical support needed for preparation of ABS Guidelines for the state of Maharashtra and development of model ABS agreement. Development of ABS training and communication tools for the state of Maharashtra is underway.

### Tamil Nadu

A field visit was undertaken to identify locations for constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees under the project. Selection of BMCs will be done based on existing ABS potential resources in the region. Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board facilitated visits to Salem, and Kalrayan hills. Workshops for creating awareness on BD Act and ABS for line department will be organized in coming months.

### Uttarakhand

The ABS Partnership project earlier had commissioned a study on value-chain analysis of ABS potential species in Maharashtra and Uttarakhand. Results from the study carried out in Uttarakhand was discussed and validated in a consultation workshop held in Dehradun on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Forest Officers from selected divisions of the state and representatives from line departments, Technical Support Groups and NGOs also participated.

The project is also supporting Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board to engage with users of bio-resources for ABS compliance. A workshop was organised on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in Dehradun aiming at creating awareness on ABS among businesses. Representatives of PHD Chamber of Commerce, trade union groups and industries participated in the workshop.



Workshop held in Dehradun on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board officials along with personnel from ABS Partnership Project.





Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change  
Government of India



सत्यमेव जयते



United Nations  
Development Programme

# Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) Under the GOI-UNDP

## Strengthening Natural Resource Management Project

BIOFIN activities in India have picked up momentum in the fourth quarter of 2017 with first three steps of the BIOFIN Processes such as Nationally Driven Appraisal of Programme and Institutional Review (PIR), Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER) and the Financial Needs Assessment (FNA) for implementing the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP, 2008) and to achieve the National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) (Addendum 2014 to NBAP, 2008) were finalized as initial results obtained through the project and the same were forwarded as current information to National and International BIOFIN Stakeholders. The first phase BIOFIN promises useful results.

The preparation of a comprehensive Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP), which is the fourth and penultimate step represents the culmination of all the work from the national BIOFIN processes, which essentially comprises of three preceding BIOFIN assessments namely: Biodiversity Finance Programme (or Policy) and Institutional Review (PIR), Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER) and Biodiversity Financial Needs Assessment (FNA). An important objective of BIOFIN project is the focus on effective and innovative means and strategies by which resource mobilization can be effected to implement the Aichi Targets.

Being a mega bio-diverse country with millions directly depending on biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides, India has special need for the preparation of comprehensive Biodiversity Finance Plan and a Resource Mobilization Strategy. Hence, there is a need for serious public engagement to explore further avenues of

biodiversity finance and financial mechanisms. Towards this, an International BIOFIN workshop was organized jointly by MoEFCC, GOI, CBD, BIOFIN Global, NBA, UNDP and IIMB on "Sustainable Production and Consumption and Novel Economic Instruments for Biodiversity Conservation" over two days during 17-18 November, 2017. Participants in the workshop included representatives of BIOFIN member countries, international organizations, academics and policy makers dealing with issues relevant to the theme of the workshop. The International Workshop considered the following themes;

- How can biodiversity finance solutions contribute to sustainable consumption and production?
- What are the main biodiversity finance solutions that have demonstrated a positive impact on sustainable consumption and production?

The outcome of the deliberations of the workshop were consolidated in the form of proceedings and are now being disseminated.

UNDP in collaboration with technical agencies under the BIOFIN project such as WII, NIPFP, BVIEER, TERI and Celestial Earth, organized a two day BIOFIN Technical Partners meeting on 20 - 21 November 2017 at National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai with a view to review the progress, opportunities, challenges and way forward (BIOFIN, India). Engaging private sector for mainstreaming biodiversity in business – India Business and Biodiversity Initiative was an important agenda of discussion.



International BIOFIN workshop held at IIM-Bangalore on 17-18 November, 2017







NBA invites articles, photographs with brief write-up on biodiversity and related aspects for publication.  
Please write to: The Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, 5th Floor TICEL Biopark, CSIR Road, Taramani Chennai-600 013 or  
to [ccbcebpol@nbaindia.org](mailto:ccbcebpol@nbaindia.org)