

# Biodiversity matters

NEWSLETTER

**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY, CHENNAI**

## FROM THE CHAIRPERSON'S DESK

With immense pleasure, we are bringing out the Second Issue of Vol II of our E-Newsletter 'Biodiversity Matters'.

Strengthening the implementation of Biological Diversity Act and Rules through conducting various meetings, panel discussions, workshops and trainings were continued during this period by NBA. The Third Global BIOFIN Conference at Chennai, 105<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress at Imphal, Seminar on outcome of Indo-Norwegian Cooperation - CEBPOL at New Delhi, the launch of ABS partnership Project at Chennai,



Panel discussion on Biodiversity and Patent Law: Conflicts and Synergies at Gurgaon, SAFARI-II - International Symposium on Remote Sensing for Ecosystem Analysis and Fisheries at Kochi etc. have been participated by NBA. To make the ABS e-filling process further easier, Form-B and Form-C have been added to the existing facilities. NBA, jointly with MoEFCC and UNDP, is hosting India Biodiversity Awards 2018 to recognize, encourage and honour the individuals and institutions for their exemplary efforts on biodiversity conservation. The awards will be presented on the International Day for Biological Diversity 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 at Hyderabad.

We look forward to your continual collaboration, constructive feedback and participatory action on Biodiversity conservation.

**B. Meenakumari, Chairperson**

## CONTENTS



Update on  
Activities

2



Projects  
underway

5

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Global BIOFIN Conference

Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) seeks to address the biodiversity finance challenge in a comprehensive manner. BIOFIN methodology is currently being implemented in 30 countries including India. MoEFCC and the NBA in association with UNDP hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global BIOFIN conference in India from 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in Mamallapuram, Chennai. The conference was attended by nearly 230 participants and high level delegates including Ministers and Vice Ministers from the Environment, finance, planning and other relevant Government Departments from 30 BIOFIN Partner countries, representatives from UNDP, BIOFIN donor countries, the private sector and other key experts in the area of biodiversity conservation.

The conference focussed on public financing for biodiversity conservation, the role of financial institutions and private sector initiatives for investments in biodiversity conservation, the results, challenges and opportunities in the BIOFIN process in different BIOFIN member countries and developing country specific financial solutions for biodiversity conservation. The conference exhibited a list of 150 finance solutions for biodiversity conservation.

Through a video message, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of

India addressed the participating Ministers and delegates from 30 BIOFIN countries and inaugurated the event. Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA proposed a vote of thanks and mentioned that India is fully engaged in



the BIOFIN process at the highest level and learnings from the conference will be useful in developing a long term and sustained Biodiversity Finance Plan for the country.



# Update on Activities

## Meet of Governing Body

### 44<sup>th</sup> Authority Meeting

The forty-fourth meeting of Authority (Governing Body) was held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Chennai under the chairmanship of Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA. Some of the important items discussed and deliberated in the meeting include Proceedings of the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of Expert Committee on ABS held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2017, Report of the Expert Committee on Medicinal Plants - presentation on ecological niche modelling by NBRI, IHBT & NEIST, the applications for access to Red Sanders wood approved by the Chairperson, NBA for ratification, Form-B applications disposed by the NBA Secretariat and Presentation on Scheme for certification of folk healers by Quality Council of India (QCI).



### 45<sup>th</sup> Authority Meeting

The forty-fifth meeting of Authority (Governing Body) was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA.

Some of the important items discussed and deliberated in the meeting include Proceedings of the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of Expert Committee on ABS held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, closure of application in Form-III (App. No. 298) filed by M/s. Natural Remedies Pvt. Ltd. for seeking approval for obtaining IP rights, guidance on applications of Access to Red Sanders wood, minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meetings of the Selection Committee of the India Biodiversity Awards held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018, report of the measures taken by NBA u/s 18(4) of the BD Act to oppose the grant of IPR outside India, Form B applicants who have taken bioresources outside India for study before approval of NBA against the Regulations 13 of the Guidelines of ABS Regulations, 2014 and Application submitted by M/s. Evonik Industries AG Ltd in Form - 1 for access to fungal strains.

## Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing

The 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Expert Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (EC on ABS) was held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at NBA, Chennai. A total of 93 applications were placed before the EC for examination. The representatives of five (5) applicants appeared before the EC and pleaded/ clarified their position on their outstanding applications. The EC, *inter alia*, made the observation that presently almost all the applications which are pending since 2009 are placed before EC and the EC, which is a source of strength and guidance to the NBA, played a crucial role in achieving this target. The EC also complemented the NBA for hastening the process of



## Generating the Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)

Under the Article 17 of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, Parties are required to issue a permit or its equivalent at the time of access as evidence that access to genetic resources was based on prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms were established. Since India is a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded 86 approvals granted in the ABS-CH platform and generated Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance.

## Interaction with other departments/ ministries towards capacity building

### Comments on the Draft Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2017

The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, GoI, vide Gazette Notification No. G.S.R no. 172(E) dated 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 published the draft Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2017 for the information of the public and also given notice that the said draft rules shall be taken into consideration on or after the expiry of a period of thirty days from the date on which the notification is made available to the public. Consequently, NBA has identified certain actions i.e Constitution of BMC, preparation of PBR, Management of BHS & rehabilitation and restoration of threatened species notified, which are envisaged under the provisions of the BD Act, are well fit within the scope of the National Forest Policy and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016. The comments/ suggestion of NBA on the draft Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2017 has been communicated to the Ministry vide this office D.No.NBA/Tech Gen/ 22/ 50/ 12/ 17-18/ 4018, dt.15.03.2018 with a request to consider the identified action as permissible activities under CAMPA Rules.

### Areas suggested for establishing cooperation with Nepal and Bhutan by the Government of India

As sought for by the MoEFCC, NBA vide letter no NBA/ Tech Gen/ 22/ 50/ 14/ 17-18/ 3462; dated: 05.02.2018 informed the MOEFCC that Nepal and Bhutan, being party to CBD, may be requested to take necessary action to abide by the principles of CBD and take necessary legal steps to transport of biological resources from India. It is also suggested to establish bilateral cooperation with these countries on (1) Conservation of Biodiversity

applications, the Chairman and members appreciated the efforts put forth by the Secretariat in the speedy disposal of the applications thereby bringing down the backlog to a great extent. Besides, the EC provided techno-legal inputs on various generic issues such as exchange of microorganisms with foreign repositories and access by non-Indian scientists and a few members advocated unrestricted exchange/transfer to permit scientific research, the revision of guidelines on upfront payment, visit of foreign researchers to museum/herbaria like BNHS, ZSI and BSI & collections in Universities for observation/ comparison study and need to address the sustainability aspects and initiate steps which will pave way for conservation of species.

## ABS applications

The NBA has received 506 applications which are complete in all respects and taken up for processing since April, 2017. So far, 301 applications have been cleared by the Authority, and draft agreements were also sent to applicants for execution. Till date, NBA has granted approval in the form of agreements to 316 applicants.

## E-filing of Form-B & Form-C applications

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) with the support of National Informatics Centre has developed the online portal for filing applications. The ABS e-filing was added with the existing facility on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 by the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change which allows the applicant to file their ABS applications with NBA for seeking approval for carrying out various activities. This online portal is user-friendly and will provide a step-by-step guidance for choosing and filing a correct application form, providing tool tips, pop up messages for easy filing with mandatory columns. Concurrent with the policy of updating the user-friendliness of obtaining approval of NBA for various purposes, NBA has added the e-filing facility for Form-B (sending/carrying the biological resources outside for research) and Form-C (deposition of microbial cultures in foreign repository for claim of novel species) applications through ABS e-filing system (<http://absefiling.nic.in>).



Hotspots and endangered flora & fauna; (2) Conduct of joint capacity building or awareness programmes on access and benefit sharing mechanism for the stakeholders in India, Bhutan and Nepal; (3) Development of model Standard Operating Procedures for monitoring the National Biodiversity Action Plan of those countries; (4) Development of procedures on preparation and documentation of the Biodiversity Registers in consultation with the local communities of the region; and (5) Illegal /export/transport/access of Red Sanders and native animal breeds of India.

## India Biodiversity Awards 2018



The Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in association with UNDP India had initiated the India Biodiversity Awards in 2012 during India's Presidency of the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Hyderabad from 8<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2012. The India Biodiversity Awards is an initiative to recognize, encourage and honour the exemplary efforts of individuals and institutions, which contribute to and serve as inspirations for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits. NBA is hosting the Fourth round of India Biodiversity Awards, 2018 with UNDP India as the knowledge partner. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa launched the Fourth India Biodiversity Awards on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, during the celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity. NBA has constituted an Award Selection Committee to decide the winners under different categories. Consequently, the first and second meeting of the Award Selection Committee was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 and 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018 at NBA, Chennai.

## Panel Discussion on "Biodiversity and Patent Law: Conflicts and Synergies"

Shri Narendran. T, Technical Officer-IPR, NBA Technical Officer (IPR) participated in the Panel Discussion on "Biodiversity and Patent Law: Conflicts and Synergies" in the Remfry IP Seminar organized by Remfry & Sagar, to discuss key issues and spread awareness on obligations of the patent filers while dealing with Biodiversity - related issues. The panel discussion took place on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018, at Crowne Plaza, Gurgaon.



Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA inaugurated the training 'Workshop on Patent Drafting' organized by Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) in association with Centre for International Cooperation in Science (CICS) as part of KIRAN-IPR, a Women Scientist Scheme (WOS-C). The workshop was organized at Centre for International Cooperation in Science (CICS), Chennai which is the nodal agency for the southern region on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 to provide hands-on experience in Patent Drafting. Shri T. Narendran, Technical Officer (IPR) gave a lecture on "Biodiversity Law - an interface with patent procedure".



# PROJECTS UNDERWAY



## UNEP - GEF - MoEFCC ABS PROJECT

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

UNEP - GEF - MoEFCC project on ABS is aimed at increasing 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. It is being implemented in ten states namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura and West Bengal



### Seventh Meet of Project Steering Committee

The Seventh Meet of Project Steering Committee was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at the premises of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India under the Chairmanship of the Sh. Arun Kumar Mehta, Additional Secretary and Chair PSC for the UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS Project.





## Educational Exhibits on Biological Diversity Act 2002

- The UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS project team along with Jammu and Kashmir State Biodiversity Board set-up an educational exhibit during 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 on the provisions of Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004 at Nand Palace, Udhampur in Jammu. The exhibit visited by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Prime Minister Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Government of India. The exhibit was also visited by a large number of school children and college youth as well the scientific and technical institutions of the state and development agencies.



- The UNEP-GEF-MoEFCC ABS Project along with NBA team set-up an educational exhibit on Indian Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004 with knowledge products on the subject; at the 105<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress held between 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

March, 2018 at Imphal, on the campus of the Manipur University. The entire exhibit was inaugurated by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the Hon'ble Minister (I/C) Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India & Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. The program was participated by a large number of college going youth and school students; scientific institutions from across the country. The 105<sup>th</sup> Congress was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi.



## State Level Workshops on NBAP and NBTs

- A state level workshop on the National Biodiversity Action Plan and National Biodiversity Targets to develop inputs for the preparatory process of National Report Six to the CBD were organised by the Himachal State Biodiversity Board on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. The program was participated by the line departments of the state. The Project Manager, UNEP-GEF, NBA participated in the event to facilitate filling the worksheets. The program was held at Hotel Holiday Homes at Shimla.
- The Karnataka State Biodiversity Board in partnership with University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK) held a state level workshop with line departments on the National Biodiversity Action Plan and National Biodiversity Targets to develop inputs for the preparatory process of National Report Six to the CBD. The Project Manager, UNEP-GEF, NBA participated in the event to facilitate the filling of worksheets. The program was held at the premises of agricultural university in Bengaluru on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

The focus group meets with various stakeholders such as Ayurvedic drug manufactures, bio-resources based industries, modern drugs, cosmetics, scientific and technical institutes etc. is in progress in project states.





## An Indo-Norwegian Cooperation Initiative

### 5<sup>th</sup> CEBPOL PSC Meeting



The fifth Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of CEBPOL was held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2018 at Paryavaran Bhawan, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Arun Kumar Mehta, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC, Government of India. It was also participated by Ms. Aina Holst, Head, Global Biodiversity Section, Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA) and Ms. Maja Stade Aeronas, Advisor, NEA, along with Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA; Dr. Sujata Arora, Senior Advisor & Scientist G, MoEFCC; Shri T. Rabikumar, Secretary, NBA and CEBPOL Team members. There was a detailed discussion on the progress made in the last year and on the work plan for

coming year. The PSC appreciated the progress and approved the work plan for the year 2018.

### Seminar on Outcome of Indo-Norwegian Bilateral Cooperation (CEBPOL) and Annual Meeting



A seminar on the "Outcome of Indo-Norwegian Bilateral Cooperation (CEBPOL)" was conducted on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018 at Norway Embassy, New Delhi. Mr. Arild Oksnevad, Counsellor, Head of Cooperation, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Mr. Suresh Mathevan, Senior Advisor and other colleagues of the Norwegian Embassy attended the seminar, along with Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA; Shri T. Rabikumar, Secretary, NBA and CEBPOL Team members. Shri T. Rabikumar detailed the progress made in India during last three years while Ms. Maja briefed the house about the progress made in Norway, as an outcome of this collaboration. The seminar was followed by statutory Annual Meeting with small group of representatives where Mr. Arild appreciated the progress made. The house also approved the work plan for 2018.



## Inputs for SBSTTA-22, SBI-2 and IPBES 6

The different documents related to SBSTTA-22, SBI-2 and IPBES-6 were reviewed and comments were provided on those. Country position papers on different themes were also prepared and sent to MoEFCC for its onward submission to CBD.

## Training on Biodiversity Governance in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)



NBA and NIRDPR started collaborative initiative for capacity building on biodiversity governance. As a part of including two technical sessions on biodiversity issues into NIRDPR's pre-scheduled training programme, CEBPOL took part in the training programme held on 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at B R Ambedkar Institute of Panchayats & Rural Development, Kalyani, West Bengal. Dr. Rupam Mandal, Programme Manager, CEBPOL delivered a presentation on Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its convergence with water resource management on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. Around 50 participants attended the programme which included officials from Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayan Yojana (PMKSY) programme from different districts of West Bengal.

## Work Plan Meeting with NEA and Field Visits

Work Plan Meeting was organised on 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March,



2018 with representative of Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA), Norway. Mr. Andreas Benjamin Schei, CEBPOL Program Coordinator, NEA attended this meeting along with Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA; Shri T. Rabikumar, Secretary, NBA and CEBPOL Team members. The work plan 2018 was discussed thoroughly and decided upon on the immediate actions to be taken to accomplish all those. A field trip was organised to Artificial Reef Fishing zone, Chennai on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 which was attended by Mr. Andreas and other CEBPOL Team Members. On 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, the whole CEBPOL team along with Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairperson, NBA and Mr. Andreas, NEA went to field station for organic farming and traditional seed conservation managed by Centre for Indian Knowledge System (CIKS) at Kanch-eepuram, Tamil Nadu.



## World Wetlands Day Celebration



A webcast on "Wetlands for Sustainable Urban Futures" was organized on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018, in partnership with Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Chennai project, in commemoration of World Wetlands Day and International Day of Women and Girls in Science together. The webcast venue was Anna University TAG Auditorium and was attended by about 100 students. The

webcast was organised with the express purpose of bringing contextually relevant learning to students pursuing a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering and architecture/planning and to offer solutions and examples of addressing the challenge of saving urban wetlands while meeting the existing and continually growing need for built environment/infrastructure.

Through this unique partnership, international experts - Doug Watkins a wetlands ecologist with 25+ years' experience in advisory, management and stakeholder engagement in Australia and Asia and David R Rosa who works in Florida and the Caribbean as the Environmental Manager for an engineering firm, offered examples from their work in high density Asian cities of how wetlands were protected through green building design and planning. Fellow, MEAs CEBPOL, introduced the intent of the webcast and its focus as well as facilitated an interactive discussion with the students on the key-messages and take-away's after the screening.

## International Symposium on Remote Sensing for Ecosystem Analysis and Fisheries

The CEBPOL team attended the Second International Symposium on Remote Sensing for Ecosystem Analysis and Fisheries from 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at Kochi, organised by CMFRI. Dr. B. Meenakumari, Chairman, NBA delivered the special remarks and chaired the session on Biodiversity. The key note address was delivered by Professor N. R. Menon, Chairman, Nansen Environmental Research Centre, India and the invited lecture was presented by Dr. Marie - Fanny Racault, Earth observation Scientist, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK.



## State level workshop for preparing 6<sup>th</sup> National Report (NR 6)

Dr. C. Thomson Jacob, Consultant (Biodiversity Policy), CEBPOL delivered a presentation on Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Implementation of National Biodiversity Action Plan and National Biodiversity Targets in the State level workshop for preparing 6<sup>th</sup> National Report (NR 6) held on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at GKVK Campus, Bengaluru. Dr. Thomson explained about the Global strategic action plan and the National Biodiversity Targets to the participants. He highlighted the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into the primary sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and industries. He also



facilitated the participants for filling the questionnaire pertaining to the preparation of 6<sup>th</sup> National report (NR6) and on the online reporting tool.

## A glimpse on Biodiversity across the country

**Add on National Biodiversity: New frog species on the list of Goa's amphibians**



In the highland plateaus of the Western Ghats parts of Goa, scientists have identified a new species of frog called *Fejervarya goemchi*. It has been named after the state of Goa where the species is discovered. It was identified using a combination of morphology, geographic distribution range and molecular methods to distinguish from other *Fejervarya* species found in South and South East Asia. *Fejervarya goemchi* are large-sized terrestrial frogs. They sit next to water bodies making calls to attract females for mating and breeding. Though most of these frogs are terrestrial, they need water bodies to survive. The new species was found in high elevation areas of laterite plateaus, temporary water bodies and paddy fields of Goa.

Mr. Nirmal Kulkarni of Mhadei Reserch Centre and Dr. K. P. Dinesh of Zoological Survey of India collected samples of the frog species in the monsoons of 2016 and 2017. Ms. Priyanka Swami of the Indian Institute of Science and Mr. P. Deepak of Mount Carmel College, both in Bengaluru, worked on its genetic analysis. Mr. Nirmal Kulkarni hopes the species will now be more easily identified so that more research can be carried out on its habitat, breeding habits, distribution range and other characteristics. The researchers have proposed that it be treated as "Data Deficient" in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List, which provides conservation status and distribution information on various plant and animal species.



## INDO-GERMAN ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

### First meeting of Project Steering Committee on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Partnership project held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at MoEFCC, New Delhi

The First meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of the 'Capacity Development of Statutory Institutions for Effective Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism in India' was held under the chairmanship of Shri Arun Kumar Mehta, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at Narmada Hall, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.

The National Project Director and Secretary National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), and Shri. Ravindra Singh, GIZ representative briefed the PSC about activities undertaken in 2016-17, overall planned activities during the project period (2017- 2020) and presented the annual plan for the year 2018.

The PSC approved overall plan of operation and annual activity plan of 2018. Project Steering Committee recommended that finite number of training programs and trainers to be trained should be decided. All members of PSC were present in the meeting.



### Inception Workshop and Launch of Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project in Tamil Nadu held on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 in Chennai

The Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project was officially launched in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The workshop was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for Forests, and Chairperson of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, Thiru. Dindigul C. Sreenivasan. The Hon'ble Minister extended support and co-operation from the government and congratulated the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board (TNBB) and GIZ for this initiative to strengthen the implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the ABS provisions in the state of Tamil Nadu.



The Hon'ble Minister for Forests released a book titled Compendium of Biological Diversity Act 2002, Biological Diversity Rules, 2004, Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules 2017 and other notifications. The book is a compilation of the Biodiversity Act and related notifications including recent Gazette notifications on Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017.

The event was attended by officers from various government departments such as forests, industries and commerce, agriculture, horticulture. Representatives from environmental organisations involved in biodiversity conservation as well as Institutional representatives from School of Excellence in Law - Tamil Nadu, Bay of Bengal Programme and Indo German Centre for Sustainability at Indian Institute of Technology - Madras were also present.

# UPDATES FROM THE PROJECT STATES

## Maharashtra



A scoping Workshop was organized on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 with a goal of establishing a market linkage between bio resource based industries from Nagpur and Community organizations from Gadchiroli, supported by Gondwana Herbs Initiative of Forest Department, Gadchiroli. Representatives of around 11 bio-resource based industries and Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association (ADMA) participated in this workshop. Chairperson of Gondwana Herbs Vanaushadi Vaidu Mandal facilitated the interaction with industries.

Dr. Dilip Singh, Member Secretary, MSBB assured all possible support from State Biodiversity Board in facilitating the linkages. This workshop was a stepping stone towards the establishment of a unique "Good Practice" that ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits between users and providers arising from utilization of bio resources.

## Tamil Nadu



The Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board in collaboration with GIZ organized a workshop on the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism at the Tamil Nadu Forest Academy in Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The aim of the workshop was to create awareness on the key provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, which include the establishment of Biodiversity Management Committees and the documentation of People's Biodiversity Registers in Tamil Nadu. The 48 participants in the workshop included district level officers from agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, forests, fisheries and sericulture from the districts of Coimbatore, the Nilgiris and Tiruppur. Representatives of some environmental organizations involved in biodiversity related work and representatives from local farmer producer cooperatives attended the workshop.

## Uttarakhand

**ABS mechanism and Conservation of Traditional Knowledge systems through Patents and IPR regime**



A one-day interactive workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism and Conservation of Traditional Knowledge systems through patents and the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 in Dehradun. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize scientists, researchers and research institutions about their obligation to follow the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 with particular reference to the access and benefit sharing of biological resources, patents and other related Intellectual Property Rights through knowledge and experience sharing, presentations, discussions and expert interactions.





Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change  
Government of India



Empowering People,  
Resilient Nations

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

## Strengthening Natural Resource Management Project

National Biodiversity Authority at the behest of UNDP had organized a meeting of BIOFIN Technical Partners involving representatives from Wildlife Institute of India (WII), National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2018 at NBA, Chennai. The meeting in particular, discussed the design and development of Biodiversity Finance Plan which is the fourth and penultimate step that 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).

National Biodiversity Authority at the behest of UNDP had organized a meeting of BIOFIN Technical Partners

involving representatives from Wildlife Institute of India (WII), National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at NBA, Chennai. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss and finalize common biodiversity financial attribution methodology to be followed for various BIOFIN steps such as biodiversity expenditure review (BER) and biodiversity financial needs assessment (FNA) at both Central and State levels. The Meeting was chaired by Dr Rajagopalan IAS (retd.) & I/C, UNDP. The meeting discussed to arrive at a consensus on attribution percentages to prepare the final BER and FNA figures for country to arrive at a meaningful finance gap for biodiversity conservation so that a comprehensive Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP) to address such a gap could be prepared as the final outcome of the project incorporating the results obtained through the three preceding BIOFIN steps such as PIR, BER and FNA.



BIOFIN Technical Partners meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at NBA, Chennai



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Global BIOFIN Conference held on 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Chennai, India



*Address by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India at 3<sup>rd</sup> Global BIOFIN Conference.*





# Upcoming Events

Event	Organized by	Date
<b>NATIONAL</b>		
Training on concept and protocol in constituting and functioning of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002	National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and GIZ	20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2018 Chennai
Workshop and Dialogue on Access and Benefit Sharing for Business	National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and GIZ	24 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2018, Chennai 26 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2018, New Delhi
Regional Consultation on mainstreaming Biodiversity into Forestry and Forestry Management - I	Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2018 Telangana
Regional Consultation on mainstreaming Biodiversity into Forestry and Forestry Management - II	Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2018 Ahmedabad
National Workshop for Developing Communication Strategy for Access and Benefit Sharing	National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and GIZ	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2018 Chennai
Meeting of Expert Committee on ABS	National Biodiversity Authority	14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> May, 2018
International Day for Biological Diversity Theme - Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity	National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2018 Hyderabad
World Environment Day Theme - Beating Plastic Pollution	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2018 New Delhi
National Biodiversity Authority Meeting (46 <sup>th</sup> )	National Biodiversity Authority	June, 2018



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