



CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY POLICY AND LAW



CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY POLICY AND LAW (CEBPOL)

The Centre for biodiversity policy and law has been established as a joint initiative between Governments of India and Norway and is housed within National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai, India. NBA oversees national actions on biodiversity related issues as a statutory body set up under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

VISION



Establish a Centre focused on biodiversity policy and law that caters to the needs of national and international rule-making and subsequent implementation on issues of biodiversity.



GOALS

☛ To provide professional support, advice and expertise to the Government of India on a sustained basis on matters relating to biodiversity policies and laws at the national level, as well as in international negotiations relating to biodiversity in multilateral forums.

☛ To develop professional expertise in biodiversity related policies and laws, inter alia through encouragement of research, development and training in matters relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as its interface with other multilateral environment agreements and United Nations bodies.

☛ To develop and implement an array of capacity building programmes through multidisciplinary research and customise training programmes for a wide range of stakeholders focusing on human resource development.

☛ To facilitate interactive information sharing through web conferencing, web seminars and virtual meetings involving relevant research centres and environmental law associations within India, Norway and other countries where such expertise is available.

☛ To help develop India as a regional and international resource centre for biodiversity policy and law through provision of training and human resource development.

ACTIVITIES

✿ Collect, collate, analyse, research and disseminate information relating to biodiversity policies and laws at regional, national and international levels.

✿ Execute short and long-term training courses and sensitization programmes on biodiversity policies and laws for various target groups.

✿ Engage consultants, policy analysts, legal experts and interns on both short-term and long-term basis for providing professional inputs in the training, research, education, analysis and awareness activities of the CEBPOL.

✿ Prepare country position papers on various aspects relating to biodiversity policies and laws for international meetings and negotiations.

✿ Establish appropriate linkages with other similar centres / institutions, both nationally and internationally, for developing collaborative programmes and academic exchange in furtherance of the objectives of CEBPOL.



THEMATIC ACTIVITIES


- ✿ Access and Benefit Sharing
- ✿ Mainstreaming of biodiversity
- ✿ Invasive Alien Species
- ✿ Interface with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements/
Organizations
- ✿ Nature Index
- ✿ Training, capacity building and
Human Resource Development


A collection of various beans and lentils displayed in burlap sacks and glass jars. The items include white beans, kidney beans, black beans, red beans, green beans, chickpeas, lentils, and mung beans. A teal banner with white text and a right-pointing arrow is overlaid on the center of the image.


ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING ▶


Access and benefit sharing is one of the three fundamental objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and is a highly prioritised thematic activity in the CEBPOL program.


The ABS mechanism in India, is being implemented through the Biological Diversity Act 2002 much before the signing of the Nagoya protocol to the CBD aimed at securing fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources. Viewing ABS as an incentive to promote the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components, CEBPOL under this theme takes up wide range of activities such as;

 Support implementation of the Nagoya protocol on ABS linking its relevant articles with the national provisions.

 Identify cross-sectoral issues such as ABS & protected areas and ABS & governance on implementing ABS issues using synergistic and multi-sectoral approaches.

 Organise meetings at National level/ regional level on ABS provisions of BD Act for different stakeholders.

 Support implementation of National Biological Diversity Act and the Rules on issues related to ABS.

 Develop capacity and raise awareness including human resources development.



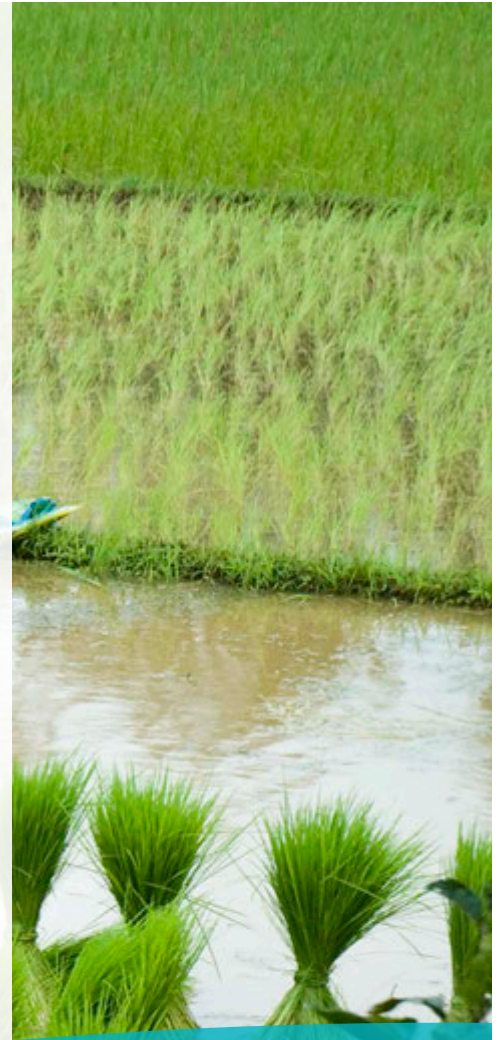
MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY






The biodiversity mainstreaming is the process of embedding biodiversity consideration into policies, strategies, cross-sectoral plans, sector specific plans and practices of key public and private actors that impact or rely on biodiversity. The concept of mainstreaming was advocated in the Article 6(b) of the CBD and it was also integrated into the Section 36 of the India's Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

Under this thematic area, CEBPOL is currently developing policy intervention documents for the selected sectors such as agriculture, fisheries (marine and freshwater) and forestry and preparing capacity building materials targeting policy makers.






INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES



An alien species is a species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution, which includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce. Whereas an invasive alien species refers to an alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity of the region/habitat (CBD, 2002). Studies highlighted that Invasive Alien Species have been emerging as the second biggest threat to global biodiversity after habitat destruction and it is expected to soon surpass the damage caused by habit destruction and fragmentation. Recent studies highlighted that one-sixth of the global land surface is highly vulnerable to invasion, including substantial areas in developing economies and biodiversity hotspots. On the other hand most countries have limited capacity to act against invasions.

Under this theme, CEBPOL would work on gathering the existing scientific information about the impact of Invasive Alien Species in different ecosystems (forest, agriculture, aquatic and island ecosystems) of India. CEBPOL would also prepare a comprehensive lists of Invasive Alien species in identified ecosystems and make the list available to policy makers, researchers and public.

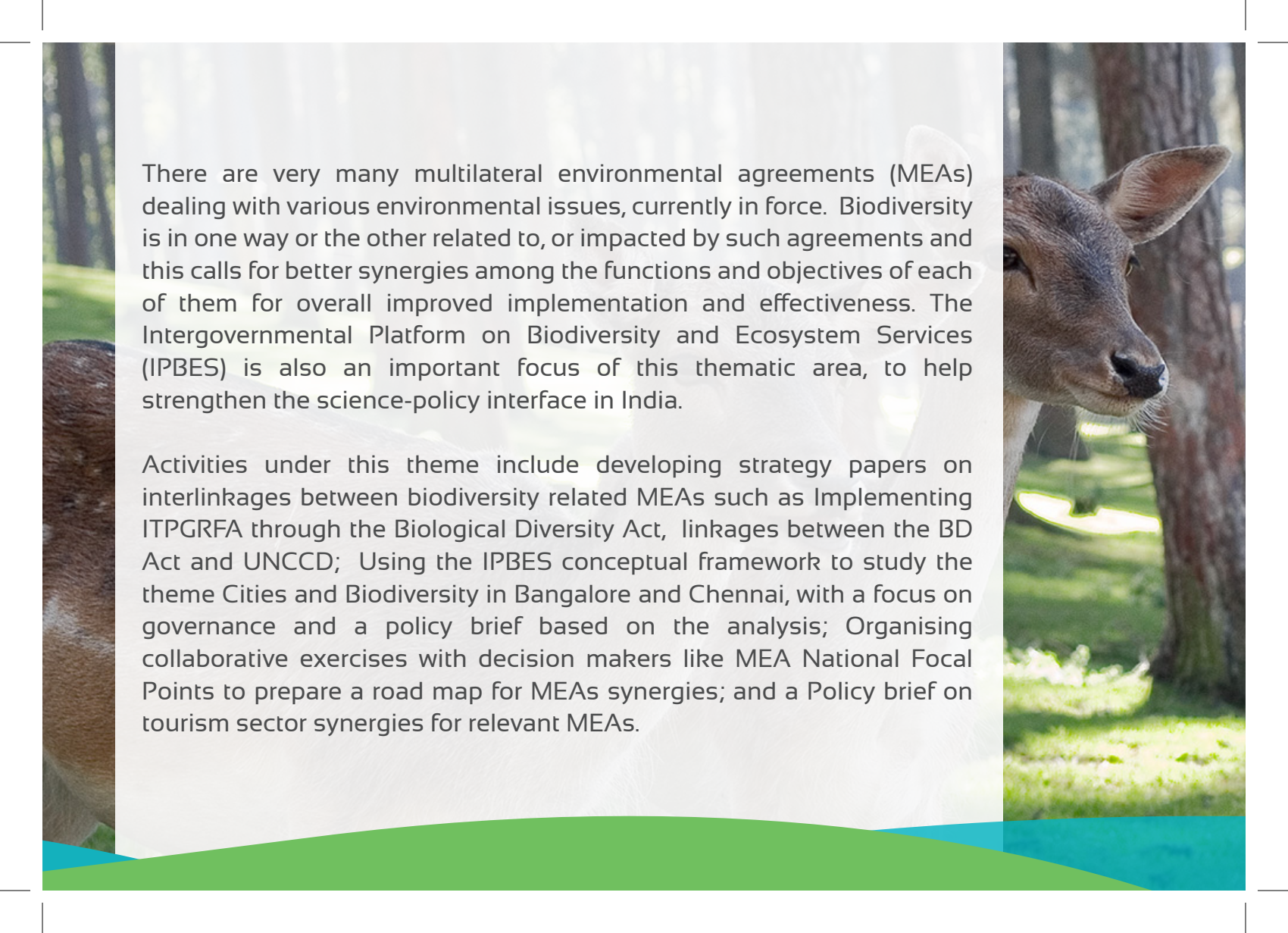




INTERFACE WITH OTHER MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS / ORGANIZATIONS



International Plant Protection Convention
Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

A photograph of a deer in a forest, used as a background for the text. The deer is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The background is a soft-focus forest with trees and green grass. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box in the center of the image.

There are very many multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) dealing with various environmental issues, currently in force. Biodiversity is in one way or the other related to, or impacted by such agreements and this calls for better synergies among the functions and objectives of each of them for overall improved implementation and effectiveness. The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is also an important focus of this thematic area, to help strengthen the science-policy interface in India.

Activities under this theme include developing strategy papers on interlinkages between biodiversity related MEAs such as Implementing ITPGRFA through the Biological Diversity Act, linkages between the BD Act and UNCCD; Using the IPBES conceptual framework to study the theme Cities and Biodiversity in Bangalore and Chennai, with a focus on governance and a policy brief based on the analysis; Organising collaborative exercises with decision makers like MEA National Focal Points to prepare a road map for MEAs synergies; and a Policy brief on tourism sector synergies for relevant MEAs.



NATURE INDEX ▶




**TRAINING, CAPACITY BUILDING AND
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT** ▶

The Nature Index (NI) is a monitoring tool help us to monitor or assess the state/trend of biodiversity in an ecosystem. The NI methodology and database developed by Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), Norway is very well suited to gather data and assess the state of biodiversity in India. The NI tool will be useful for the policy makers to design a targeted action for better management of India's biodiversity.

Under the CEBPOL programme, NBA is preparing a NI for Chilika lake and Great Himalayan National Park in collaboration with NINA.


Building and strengthening of the capacity of institutional structures and human resources is highly essential to successfully implement the BD Act in India. CEBPOL is committed to this through various activities such as training, awareness raising, workshops, seminars, exhibitions, campaigns, conferences, competitions, consultations etc, mainly focussing on researchers, students, scientists, industries, media, general public and such other stakeholders. CEBPOL is organising a number of international and national workshops and consultative meeting for varied stakeholders.



राष्ट्रीय जैव विविधता प्राधिकरण
National Biodiversity Authority, India
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प्राकृतिक संपत्ति रक्षिता
Nature Protects if She is Protected
Ministry of Environment
Forest and Climate Change

Norwegian Embassy



NORWEGIAN
ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY


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