



CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY

SITUATION

India is home to more than 7 percent of the world's species, including over 45,000 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals. It is ranked among the top ten species-rich nations and has four global biodiversity hot spots.

India's rapid economic growth and industrialisation puts increasing pressure on its biodiversity and ecosystem services. While economic growth is imperative for India, preservation of its natural resources - on which millions of its people are dependant - is equally important to ensure that the growth is both inclusive and sustainable. Conservation and management of biodiversity and ecosystem services is of national importance in order to ensure the protection of livelihoods, to preserve the country's natural resources, and to foster sustainable development.

Objective

The objective of the Indo-German Biodiversity programme is to support public and private stakeholders in adopting economic approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as for the balanced and fair sharing of the benefits arising from their use.

APPROACH

The Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity programme works at the national level with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the National Biodiversity Authority, and at state level with the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department. It comprises of Incentives for Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (ISBM), Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services (HP-FES), and the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Partnership. Together, they contribute to all three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

To achieve the desired results the programme focusses on the following approach:

- ISBM:

ISBM offers advisory services to increase awareness and recognition of the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services. It supports two major national initiatives: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity India Initiative (TII), which aims at making the values

of ecosystem services and their associated biodiversity explicit for consideration and main streaming into developmental planning; and the India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI), which provides a national dialogue and learning platform for companies helping to mainstream sustainable management of biodiversity into business operations.

■ **HP-FES:**

Using recommendations from TII HP-FES supports the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department in integrating an ecosystem services approach into the state's forest management. It aims at improving rural living conditions by harmonising the needs of the rural population with the requirements of biodiversity conservation and sustainable forestry. The concept is intended to be replicated in other states in the western Himalayas.

- **ABS:** ABS aims at strengthening the capacities of the National Biodiversity Board, the State Biodiversity Boards, Biodiversity Management Committees, and the user groups of biological resources to implement ABS mechanisms. It works under the Indian Biodiversity Act complying with India's commitments under the Nagoya Protocol.

ACHIEVEMENTS

While ISBM is far advanced, HP-FES and ABS are still in their initial phase. Following are the key achieved and desired results:

ISBM:

- 14 field based and policy relevant studies about the economic assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services have been completed. The results and recommendations are being mainstreamed for the integration of ecosystem services values into developmental planning and decision making.
- Recommendations from the TII case studies were included in the draft Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2016 of the MoEFCC and the draft National Policy on Marine Fisheries 2016 of the

Ministry of Agriculture.

- The Wildlife Institute of India has decided to integrate the training modules on ecosystem services valuation into its regular training programmes for Indian Forest Services officers.
- 26 leading Indian companies have joined IBBI and thus committed themselves to integrating biodiversity management into their operations.

HP-FES:

- A Long Term Ecological Monitoring system for the state's forests will be established to provide data on the development of ecosystem services and their associated biodiversity.
- A Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) approach will be developed and introduced into local forest management plans. Additionally, this approach informs the drafting of FES guidelines for Himachal Pradesh.
- Successfully implemented management systems will be made available in the states neighbouring Himachal Pradesh.

ABS:

- Institutionalised awareness and stakeholder dialogues will facilitate a better understanding of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, ABS Guidelines and the Nagoya Protocol amongst different actors and stakeholder groups.
- Good Practices of Benefit Sharing will be developed together with communities based on utilisation of biological resources for commercial and/or research purposes.
- An IT-based monitoring system will enable effective monitoring and learning throughout the process flow of ABS. The monitoring system will be consistent with the Indian compliance framework under the Nagoya Protocol.

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity is one of the projects under the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme

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