



India, a Biodiversity Hotspot

India is one of the 17 mega-diverse countries in the world. With just 2.4% of the world's land area, India's biological richness is spread across a vast range of habitats and ecosystems supporting 7% of globally recorded species, including over 45,000 plants and 91,000 animal species. India's rich biological heritage co-exists with over 1.2 billion people and about one sixth of the world's livestock population. Protecting biodiversity is a national priority as it is linked to livelihoods of millions of people.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources (ABS) is one of the three main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Nagoya Protocol on ABS came into force on 12 October 2014, providing a transparent international legal framework for effective implementation of ABS.

India has been a leading country in establishing national legislation on ABS through the Biological Diversity Act 2002; the Biological Diversity Rules 2004; enacted by the Indian parliament; and the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014.

The project strategically focuses on the following activity areas:

- Awareness raising, communication and stakeholder dialogues for creating better understanding of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, ABS Guidelines and Nagoya Protocol amongst different actors and stakeholder groups.
- Development of good practices of benefit sharing with communities, based on utilisation of biological resources for commercial and/or research purposes.
- Development of an ABS monitoring system for the NBA and SBBs to enable effectively monitoring and learning throughout the process flow of ABS.

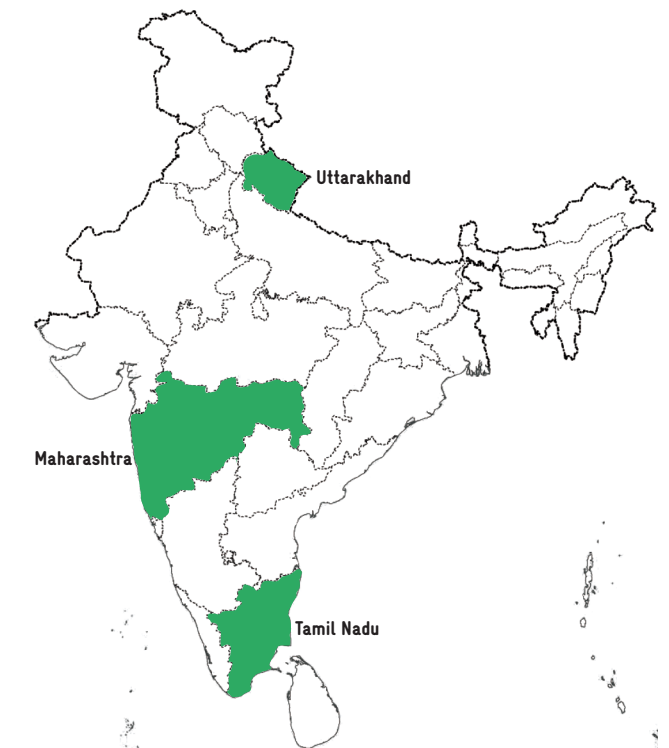
The project is implemented at the national level with the NBA and in partnership with the State Biodiversity Boards in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Partnership Project



ABS Partnership Project

The ABS Partnership Project aims at strengthening the capacities of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), the State Biodiversity Boards (SBB), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC), as well as the capacities of the commercial and research user groups of biological resources and associated knowledge for the effective implementation of ABS mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act 2002, in keeping with India's commitments under the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.



ABS Partnership Project Framework

Global Framework

The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** has three main objectives:

1. Conservation of biological diversity
2. Sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
3. Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources

The **Nagoya Protocol** on ABS provides a global framework for implementing the 3rd objective of the CBD. It enhances legal certainty and transparency for users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

National Framework

The **Biological Diversity Act (2002)** covers conservation, use of biological resources and associated knowledge occurring in India for commercial or research purposes, or for the purposes of bio-survey and bio-utilisation. It provides a framework for access to biological resources and sharing the benefits arising out of such access and use.

BDA mandates implementation of the act through a decentralised system with a National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and local level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).

The **Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014**, details the operational aspects for effective implementation of ABS provisions under the Biological Diversity Act (2002).

Implementation Partners

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India

The MoEFCC is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environmental and forestry policies and programmes. The primary concerns of the Ministry are implementation of policies and programmes relating to conservation of the country's natural resources including its lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, forests and wildlife, ensuring the welfare of animals, and the prevention and abatement of pollution.

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

The Biological Diversity Act (2002) is enacted by the parliament of India. NBA is a statutory and autonomous body established in 2003, to implement the act. The NBA performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions for Government of India on issues of conservation and sustainable use of biological resource, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use.

State Biodiversity Board (SBB) of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand

The SBBs are statutory bodies, established by the state governments for implementation of the Biological Diversity Act (2002). The SBBs advise the State Governments on matters related to conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of biological resources.

GIZ

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is an enterprise owned by the German Government. GIZ implements sustainable development through international cooperation, on behalf of Germany and other partners.

To address India's need for sustainable and inclusive growth, in partnership with stakeholders, GIZ's key focal areas are:

- Energy
- Environment
- Sustainable economic development

ABS Project

Commissioned by

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Indo-German Biodiversity Programme

To address the challenges in biodiversity conservation, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) have fostered a partnership for the implementation of projects dedicated to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in India. The Indo-German Biodiversity Programme is being implemented by MoEFCC and GIZ India since 2012.

