



## Incentives for Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (ISBM)

### India, a Biodiversity Hotspot

With just 2.4% of the world's land area, India's biological richness includes a vast range of habitats and ecosystems supporting 7% of globally recorded species, including over 45,000 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals. Protecting biodiversity is a national priority as it is linked to livelihoods of millions of people. It is in recognition of the relevance of biodiversity and its inter-linkages with the livelihood of people, that the Government of India has been working towards mainstreaming biodiversity into development.

### Incentives for Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (ISBM)

With the objective to improve awareness and appreciation of the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, in partnership with the German Development Cooperation, launched the ISBM project in 2012. This project supports two major national initiatives:

- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity-India Initiative (TII)
- India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI)

The Project is implemented by MoEF&CC and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

### Project Approach

The goal of the ISBM project is to assure that the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services is used to enhance the effectiveness of conservation and management of three priority ecosystems, namely, Forests, Inland Wetlands and Coastal and Marine Ecosystems.

To this end, the Project aims to:

- Enhance awareness and recognition of the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services among stakeholders including national and state government ministries and departments, local government bodies, civil society and businesses.
- Engage state governments, research institutes, communities and businesses in the economic valuation of ecosystem services and biodiversity and its application for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The Project receives guidance by a Scientific and Technical Advisory Group. This committee consists of representatives from government agencies, as well as, eminent ecologists and economists.



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#### Indo-German Biodiversity Programme

#### Responsible

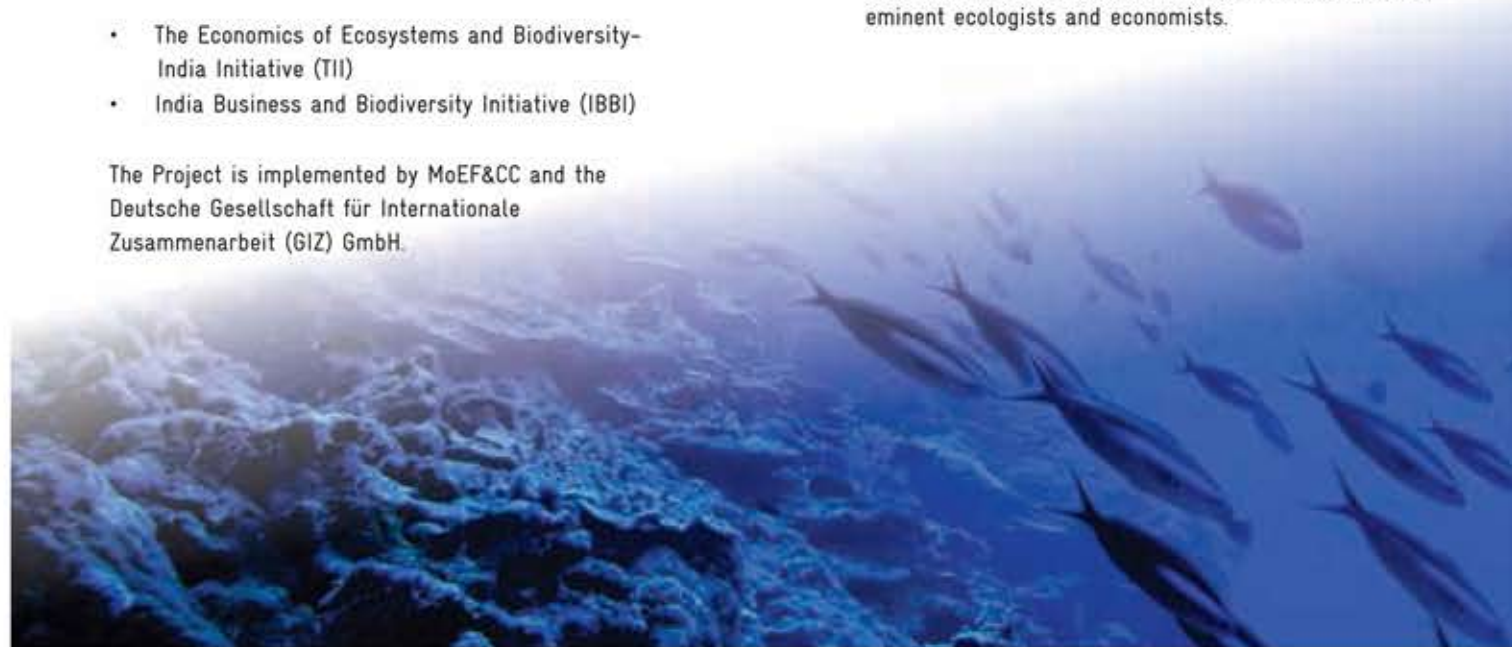
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### Field Studies

Following an open 'Call for Concept Notes', the Project commissioned 12 field studies dealing with the three priority ecosystems, namely, Forests, Inland Wetlands and Coastal and Marine Ecosystems. These studies are to highlight examples of how to mainstream ecosystem services and its values in development planning and decision making processes by addressing some of the key conservation challenges and their solutions.

The studies deal with issues such as hidden ecosystem services of forests, conflicts between humans and wildlife, and the economic consequences of species decline. The economic efficiency of interventions such as eco-labelling, seasonal fishing ban, and mangrove regeneration, will be assessed. Lessons will be drawn on water resources management plans, community stewardship and equity, and economics of hydrological regime changes.

The Project's approach ensures that recommendations emerging from these studies can be integrated into the development of policies for conservation and sustainable use of the selected ecosystems.

### Indo-German Biodiversity Programme

To address the challenges in biodiversity conservation, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, and GIZ India- on behalf of the German Government - are implementing the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme. The Programme consists of two projects: **Incentives for Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (ISBM)** supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and **Conservation and Sustainable Management of Existing and Potential Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPA)** supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

## The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)- India Initiative (TII)

Inspired by the international TEEB study, MoEF&CC has launched the TEEB India Initiative (TII) to make the values of biodiversity and linked ecosystem services explicit for consideration and mainstreaming into developmental planning. TII targets action at the policy making levels, the business decision level and awareness of citizens. TII has prioritised its focus on three ecosystems (forests, inland wetlands, and coastal and marine ecosystems) to ensure that tangible outcomes can be integrated in policy and planning for these ecosystems based on recommendations emerging from the TII.

## India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI)

Supported by the ISBM Project, the India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) was launched in May 2014. IBBI is to serve as a national platform for businesses and stakeholders for dialogue sharing and learning, ultimately leading to mainstreaming sustainable management of biodiversity into businesses. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is hosting IBBI. On the recommendation of MoEF&CC, IBBI has joined the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity. The ISBM Project is supporting capacity development of IBBI member companies and CII for incorporating biodiversity management into business operations.

