



CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (CMPA)

SITUATION

With a coastline of more than 7,500 km, India is endowed with a diversity of coastal and marine ecosystems. These ecosystems provide numerous services and benefits including fisheries, coastal tourism, as well as protection provided by mangroves and sand dunes against natural disasters such as tsunamis and cyclones. Recognising the importance of conserving and sustainably using coastal and marine biodiversity, the Governments of India and Germany have fostered a partnership for the implementation of dedicated programmes aimed at enhanced conservation of India's biodiversity in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Objective

The project on Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPA) strives to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in selected areas along the coast of India. This will ultimately benefit the local population depending on healthy marine and coastal ecosystems.

APPROACH

The CMPA project is being implemented at seven sites in four states – Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

To achieve its results, the project focusses on three major approaches:

- Development and implementation of participatory processes for the conservation and the management of natural resources in designated areas along the Indian coast.
- Facilitating capacity development of key sectors and stakeholders crucial for management of coastal and marine biodiversity and protected areas. To ensure their sustainability the measures are implemented together with partners at national and state level.
- Facilitating a dedicated information, education, and communication programme to sensitise key stakeholders for conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The CMPA project has worked towards the development and demonstration of implementable models for participatory conservation and management of biodiversity:

- Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees at local level to document traditional knowledge in the form of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), eventually to help in the establishment of Biodiversity Heritage Sites.
- Development of curricula for present and future officers, both senior and field staff of the forest departments dealing with the protection of coastal and marine biodiversity. This is achieved in cooperation with Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) and the Department of Forest Education (DFE).
- Development of training handbooks and trainer's manuals for practising journalists, graduate and post-graduate media students, with the aim to integrate issues relevant to coastal and marine biodiversity and protected area management into existing curricula.



- Devising a dedicated information, education and communication programme at all project sites involving local partners, stakeholders and civil society for enhanced knowledge and sensitisation on conservation of biodiversity in coastal and marine areas.
- Setting up of state of the art interpretation-cum-education centres in Maharashtra, Goa and Gujarat with a view to create awareness on coastal biodiversity.
- Supporting research projects and disseminating information on a range of biodiversity issues of national importance: assessment of marine national parks, importance and management of seagrass, conservation of marine mammals in Indian seas and participatory management of diverse estuaries.

The conservation of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems, for the benefit of current and future generations, is a priority area not just for the Government of India, but equally for all the partners involved in CMPA. Protecting the environment and these ecosystems hence takes centre-stage in this project, along with the principle of sustainable development and enhancement of human well-being.

Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPA) is one of the projects under the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme

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Project name	Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPA)
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