

Analysis of Points of Commonality Between the National Plan and Local/State/ Ecoregional Plans¹

From the very beginning of the NBSAP process it had been stressed, that as far as possible the National Action Plan (NAP) will be based on biodiversity strategies and action plans (BSAPs) which emerge from all levels of the process. While drafting various chapters, the TPCG members, tried to extract portions from the BSAPs. At the second writing workshop of the TPCG in July 2002, it was felt that it would be useful if a special exercise to understand the 'points of commonality' between the BSAPs at national and sub-national level were carried out. This would mean reading through the SAP chapters of state, substate and ecoregional BSAPs received as on 13.11.2003 to:

- a. Ensure that the priorities and recommendations, which have emerged after the 2 year consultative process at local, state, and ecoregional levels, are reflected adequately in the national level strategies.
- b. Incorporate new/innovative strategies presented in the BSAPs, which had not yet found a place in national plan.

Before undertaking the exercise, the following points were clarified

- i. Not all state, substate and ecoregional strategies would be applicable and thus reflected in the national plan. For instance, it would not necessarily be possible to incorporate a crop specific strategy for Nahin Kalan substate site, or the conservation of a particular fish species in West Bengal, in the national plan.
- ii. Not all national level strategies would be valid at state, substate and ecoregional levels. This is the case, for instance, with most strategies on International Fora.
- iii. The exercise will only be undertaken for Chapters 7.1 on Wild Biodiversity and 7.2 on Domesticated Biodiversity, as strategies in 7.0 are about the overall national land/water planning and governance process, which are more relevant at the national level.
- iv. The comparison has been carried out only at a *strategy* level, and not at the level of individual *actions* within each strategy. It is therefore not necessary that if a BSAP has the same strategy as is given in the NAP, the actions within it will also be the same. The commonalities and differences are therefore at a broad overview level.

The first time this exercise was carried out was in the month of August 2002. This was the stage where the national level draft was at a preliminary stage of compilation. The analysis was presented in the form of a table with the list of strategies placed vertically and the BSAPs horizontally. It went through a round of updating in November 2002, both in terms of revising the charts based on the final list of strategies in the first draft and referring to new and revised BSAPs. The analysis was also circulated to the executing agencies at local, state, and ecoregional level, for their comments and inputs. The final update happened during September-November 2003. A total of 57 BSAPs (out of the 61 at state, substate and ecoregional levels), received as on 13.11.2003, were referred to.

Some Common Trends (BSAPs AND NAP) are:

7.1 Wild Biodiversity			
Broad Strategy	Ecoregions	State	Substate
7.1.1 Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on consolidation of knowledge, databases • Links between culture and biodiversity weak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong commonalities with all the strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong commonalities with all three strategies.
7.1.2 <i>In situ</i> Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong emphasis on PA and CCA networks, tackling threats and mitigating wildlife human conflicts • Conservation in urban areas finds very little or no mention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong commonalities with almost all strategies. • Fewer links with strategies on human-wildlife conflicts, and trans-boundary cooperation 	<p>All strategies have been mentioned in the BSAPs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More emphasis on conservation outside PAs/ CCAs, human-wildlife conflicts, threats etc. • Lesser emphasis on strategies related to threatened species, urban areas, regeneration of degraded ecosystems, and trans-boundary cooperation.
7.1.3 <i>Ex situ</i> Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater mention of zoological parks than botanical/home gardens. • Hardly any emphasis on micro-organisms. 	<p>Strong commonalities in both the strategies.</p>	<p>Greater focus on Botanical/ Herbal/Home Gardens and less on zoological parks. Even lesser on micro-organisms.</p>
7.1.4 Sustainable Use and Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on ensuring sustainable use resources and strengthening of biodiversity based enterprise. • Ecotourism as an option suggested by half the ecoregions. • Very few, indirect or no suggestions on integration of sustainability principles into resource use policies and programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong commonalities with most strategies • However, lesser focus on integration into resource use policies and programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linkages with all strategies. • Less emphasis on sustainable use of aquatic biodiversity than others
7.1.5 Equitable Access, Use, and Sharing of Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered (two or three each) commonalities with all the strategies. • Most BSAPs mention the need for equity in ongoing ecosystem management practices • Overall weak incorporation of equity and benefit sharing concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very weak linkages with strategies on encroachments, securing tenure, benefits from marketing of resources. • Stronger commonality with incorporating concerns into ongoing ecosystem management, and protection of traditional knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very weak integration, overall. • Little commonality with strategies on integration in ecosystem management practices and protection of traditional knowledge
7.1.6 Building Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on capacity of public functionaries, NGOs, decentralized government institutions, and incorporation into school curriculum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall strong linkages. • Almost all the BSAPs mention inclusion of biodiversity in school curriculum and building capacity of public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong commonalities with strategies on public functionaries and strengthening information dissemination

Broad Strategy	Ecoregions	State	Substate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emphasis on strengthening nature interpretation centers, and information dissemination. ● Little or no emphasis on capacity of judiciary, armed forces, corporate sector, financial institutions, spiritual leaders, media, etc. 	<p>functionaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fewer linkages with strategies of nature interpretation centers, and orientation of financial institutions, judiciary, media, armed forces, corporate sector, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Few linkages with strategies of school curricula and that related to urban residents ● Very little or no commonalities with other strategies.
7.1.7 Intersectoral Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong commonalities for integrating biodiversity concerns at all levels of planning. ● Few links for strategy on international relations. ● Very few or no commonalities for integration into water, energy planning etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong linkages on strategies of intersectoral planning at all level and water planning. ● Fewer commonalities with integrating in mining/energy sector and international cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong linkages on strategies of intersectoral planning at all level and water planning. ● Fewer commonalities with integrating in mining/energy sector and international cooperation. ● None for strategy on international relations.
7.1.8 Policy and Legal Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong commonalities for integrating biodiversity into policies, acts as well as formulation of new ones. ● Little or no emphasis on customary laws, public access to government and assessing panchayat legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong commonalities with strategies of policy/legal changes and new policies/laws. ● Most BSAPs recommend the strengthening of the implementation mechanism for policies/laws. ● Very little emphasis on customary laws assessment of Panchayat legislations and public accessibility to information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategies for integrating biodiversity into laws/policies, strengthening mechanisms are in common. ● Very little or no commonality with other strategies.
7.1.9 Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strongest links for strategy on reorientation of budgets and a few for generating innovative resources. ● Little or no links with review of macro-economic policies and financial empowerment of local governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stronger links with strategies for incentives and innovative funding mechanisms. ● Very few or no BSAPs mentioned the review of macro-economic policies, and financial empowerment of local governance institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall weak points of commonality. ● Few common points on generating innovative resources.
7.1.10 Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong linkages for making existing technologies biodiversity-friendly, and introduce new ecosensitive technologies. ● Limited commonalities on introducing new conservation technologies as well as promoting traditional biotechnologies and ensuring that new ones are safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong commonalities for strategies of biodiversity friendly technologies and alternative technologies. ● Few BSAPs speak of promoting traditional biotechnologies and ensuring that new ones are safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commonalities for strategies of biodiversity friendly technologies and alternative technologies. ● Few BSAPs speak of promoting traditional biotechnologies and ensuring that new ones are safe.

Broad Strategy	Ecoregions	State	Substate
7.1.11 International Fora	None in common	Only a few BSAPs mention the need for India to advocate biodiversity integration into environment related agreements. Others strategies not present in the BSAPs.	None in common

7.2 Domesticated Biodiversity

Broad Strategy	Ecoregions	State	Substate
7.2.1 Understanding and information	Strong commonalities. Need for consolidation of knowledge, databases and monitoring expressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall strong commonalities with the strategy on consolidation and increase of information. Lesser on monitoring and maintaining databases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall strong commonalities with the strategy on consolidation and increase of information. Lesser on monitoring and maintaining databases.
7.2.2 <i>In situ</i> Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reintroduction of threatened species in common. Very few mention the need to tackle threats. Very few or no commonalities for conserving landscapes and sites and encouraging home gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common strategies on restoring threatened varieties and regenerating diverse agro-ecosystems. Fewer for conserving landscapes, participatory crop/livestock development and home/kitchen gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stronger commonalities with strategies on restoring threatened varieties, regenerating diverse agro-ecosystems, and tackling threats. Fewer for conserving landscapes, participatory crop/livestock development and home/kitchen gardens.
7.2.3 <i>Ex situ</i> Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating gene banks/ breeding centers recommended in most BSAPs. Little commonalities for integration of domesticated biodiversity into zoos/ botanical gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost all BSAPs point to the need for gene banks/breeding centers. Fewer mention the integration of domesticated biodiversity into zoos/ botanical gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common points with strategies of gene banks/ reeding centers. No BSAPs for integrating domesticated biodiversity into zoos/botanical gardens
7.2.4 Sustainable Use and Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonalities with encouraging supplemental agriculture-based livelihoods Weak reflection of other strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most BSAPs mention the need for sustainability of agriculture, pastoral lands Some commonalities with strategies related to PDS Very few mention promoting agriculture based supplemental livelihoods and integration into food related programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common points with strategies of supplemental livelihoods and sustainability of agriculture, pastoral lands. Little linkages with PDS, and food related programmes (with some notable exceptions).
7.2.5 Equitable Access, Use, and Sharing of Benefits	Very few commonalities. Scattered ones for the livelihood security of nomadic pastoralists and integrating gender equity into agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall weak linkages. Commonalities more on integrating gender and for enhancing livelihood security of nomadic pastoralists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall weak linkages. Commonalities on integrating gender and for enhancing livelihood security of nomadic pastoralists.

Broad Strategy	Ecoregions	State	Substate
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Few mention the need to clarify ownership and seed collection and ensuring equitable benefit sharing from their wider use.
7.2.6 Building Capacity ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are strong commonalities in the building capacities of rural communities. ● Very few BSAPs mention the need to build capacity of the scientific community. 	Overall strong commonalities. However more for rural communities than scientific community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong on building capacity of rural communities. ● Very few strategies for scientific community.
7.2.7 Intersectoral Integration	Very few BSAPs reflect this strategy	Strong commonalities. Many BSAPs speak of this in some form or the other.	Approximately half of the BSAPs have this strategy in common.
7.2.8 Policy and Legal Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Several commonalities. However, it needs to be kept in mind that in many BSAPs, policy changes mentioned were not specific to agriculture. ● No recommendation for the formulation of new acts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong linkages on the policy aspects, weak on the other strategies. ● No recommendation for the formulation of new acts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Points of commonality weak and scattered. ● Few commonalities on integrating biodiversity into existing policies
7.2.9 Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Common strategies for financial incentives. ● No specific recommendation for credit and lending policies and agrobiodiversity funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More commonalities on credit, lending policies, and incentives for biodiverse farming. ● Very few for setting up agrobiodiversity funds. 	Overall weak points of commonality.
7.2.10 Technology	Stronger linkages for promoting organic farming than that for the strategy on ensuring safety of genetic engineering products/processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Several BSAPs with strategies for organic farming. ● Very few commonalities for the strategy on ensuring safety of genetic engineering products/processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Several BSAPs present strategies for organic farming. ● None mention the strategy on ensuring safety of genetic engineering products/processes.
7.2.11 International Fora	None in common	None in common	None in common

This leads us to the some of the following overall trends and conclusions³:

- Domesticated biodiversity has relatively been weakly dealt with in most of the BSAPs, as compared to wild biodiversity
- Amongst the strategies that are emerging as common across most of the BSAPs, are those related to Increasing Understanding and Information, *In situ* conservation, *Ex situ* conservation and Intersectoral Integration.
- Within *in situ* conservation (Wild), emphasis on the conservation of microorganisms remains weak overall.
- Strengthening the protected area and community conserved area networks, and tackling of threats, emerged as strong points of commonality, as did the need to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.
- Strategies for sustainable use of natural resources were usually very broad. Specificity emerged while talking about biodiversity-based enterprise, ecotourism etc.
- Strategies for equity, both in the case of wild and domesticated biodiversity remained very weak. Very few BSAPs touched on the issues of tenurial security or equitable benefit-sharing.
- The issue of encroachments was not dealt with in most BSAPs, Where there were strategies mentioned, there was very little detail on the actions/steps, which can be taken.

- h. Strategies for capacity building were very strong in the ecoregional and state BSAPs. Here too there was very little emphasis on capacity building of sectors other than government, NGOs and communities. Sensitization of media, judiciary, financial institutions etc was very weak.
- i. Very few BSAPs differentiated between wild and domesticated biodiversity when it came to capacity building.
- j. Many of the BSAPs have recommended the need to include biodiversity in school curricula.
- k. The need for intersectoral integration in planning and various other aspects emerged very strongly in the case of most BSAPs. This was in the case of both wild and domesticated biodiversity
- l. When it comes to integrating biodiversity concerns into policies and laws, most BSAPs point to it. In many cases there is a mention of the formulation of a legal framework. Also there are strategies for overall policy or legal changes without specifying the details for wild or domesticated.
- m. Overall, the section on financing and technology had relatively little mention in most BSAPs.
- n. In the case of financing strategies like incentives for conservation, most BSAPs did not specify whether they were for of domesticated or wild biodiversity.
- o. In the case of technology, making existing technologies biodiversity friendly, promoting alternative technologies, as well as need to develop organic farming emerged strongly.
- p. Almost none of the BSAPs reflect strategies to be taken up at International Fora.

Notes

1. This analysis has been compiled by Kanchi Kohli, with inputs from Ashish Kothari
2. Several strategies from 7.1.6 would apply to this too.
3. This is an indicative list, not exhaustive.