

# **PROCESS DOCUMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN, INDIA**

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## List of Abbreviations

ADMA: Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturer's Association  
AIR: All India Radio  
APPA: Appreciative Participatory Planning and Appraisal  
BCIL: Biotech Consortium India Limited  
BCPP: Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Project  
BSAP: Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan  
CEE: Centre for Environment Education  
CFP: Call for Participation  
EA: Executing Agency  
EWG: Ecoregional Working Group  
FNW: Final National Workshop  
GCC: Girijan Cooperative Corporation  
GoI: Government of India  
GPK: Grameena Punarnirmana Kendra  
ICAR: Indian Council of Agricultural Research  
INW: Innagural National Workshop  
ITDA: Integrated Tribal Development Agency  
KHLWC: Khecheopalri Holy Lake Welfare Committee  
KMVS: Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangathan  
LAC: Local Area Committee  
LEDeG: Ladakh Ecological Development Group  
M & E: Monitoring and Evaluation  
MCM: Media Campaign Manager  
MNW: Mid-term National Workshop  
MoEF: Ministry of Environment and Forests  
MoU: Memorandum of Understanding  
NAEB: National Afforestation and Ecodevelopment Board  
NAP: National Action Plan  
NEAC: National Environment Awareness Campaign  
NEERI: National Environmental Engineering Research Institute  
NGO: Non Governmental Organization  
NPD: National Project Director  
PBR: People's Biodiversity Register  
PWD: Public Works Department  
SAP: Strategy and Action Plan  
SBBB: State Biodiversity and Biotechnology Board  
SC: Steering Committee  
SCERT: State Council for Educational Research and Training  
SDNP: Sustainable Development Networking Programme  
SECMOL: Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh  
SSC: State Steering Committee  
SSNI: Spastics Society of Northern India  
TERI: The Energy Research Insitute  
TPCG: Technical and Policy Core Group  
TPM: Tarun Paryavaranwadi Mandals  
TWG: Thematic Working Group  
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme  
VSS: *Vana Samrakshana Samiti*  
VTDA: Village Tribal Development Agency  
WII: Wildlife Institute of India  
YASHADA: Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Administration

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# PROCESS DOCUMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN, INDIA

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The process is as important as the product. This was one of the cornerstones of the formulation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), for India. In the preparation of many national or regional level strategies and plans, the process is generally overlooked. The NBSAP for India has attempted to be innovative and different from the very beginning. The methodology has been to decentralize the plan preparation, as far as possible and proceed from the grassroots level upwards. The participation of thousands of people in workshops, public hearings, festivals, rallies, and other public forums has added up to a process probably never before seen in India.

But however exciting the process, it is lost to all except to those participating in it, unless documented in some form. The documentation of the NBSAP process has thus been an important focus. It has included an analysis of limitations and strengths as well as successes and failures. As this has been an ongoing exercise, it has also helped in assessing the success and replicability of the methodologies used and modifications necessary. It is hoped that the documentation of the Indian NBSAP will reflect creativity of ideas, innovations, participatory methods used at different levels of the process. This way it could also be a useful reference for, future planning exercises in India, and for other countries formulating their respective BSAPs or other national level plans. The intended audience for this document is practioners who are working or will work on a process such as this.

This compilation is a documentation of the process from January 2000 to March 2004. Various sources of information were used. Some of these include:

- ❑ minutes of meetings held at various levels;
- ❑ written material brought out by the Technical and Policy Core Group (TPCG) , primarily the *NBSAP India: Guidelines and Concept Papers*;
- ❑ progress reports; reports written by individual TPCG members; reports written by executing agencies;
- ❑ NBSAP newsletters;
- ❑ discussion with TPCG members;
- ❑ personal visits to some of the sites, participation in public events, and personal communication with the executing agencies;
- ❑ inputs from Executing Agencies;
- ❑ relevant sections and Annexures from the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (BSAPs) received;
- ❑ draft National Action Plan (final and previous versions)

It would not have been possible to put together this document without the energy, creativity and dynamism of the process itself. It is this that has inspired the ongoing update and finalization of the document. We hope that the document is able to provide at least a partial glimpse of what has been a fascinating four and a half years.

## **Structure of the Report**

This report has eleven sections and fourteen annexures.

The *first* section is primarily the background to the NBSAP process in India, including the context within which it was envisaged, and implemented. The section also highlights the institutional arrangements that were established.

The *second* section is the institutional framework within which India's NBSAP process was prepared. These include the Steering Committee, the National Project Director and Team, Technical and Policy Core Group and so on.

The *third* section is a brief conceptual framework of the NBSAP, which is based on two bottom lines: ecological security of the nation and livelihood security of its citizens.

The *fourth* section delves into the details of how the processes at various levels of the BSAP process were initiated and what were problems that were encountered. This section also lists all the BSAPs and sub-thematic reviews that were prepared.

The *fifth* section deals exclusively with the orientation and review workshops that were carried out during the NBSAP process, from the Inaugural National Workshop in June 2000 to the Final National Workshop in December 2002. The section also presents details of special regional workshops which dealt with orienting the NBSAP executing agencies on aspects such as gender, inter-sectoral integration and so on.

The *sixth* section is on the methodologies adopted in the formulation of the BSAPs, including biodiversity festivals, public hearings as well as formal case studies, reviews and workshops. The section also presents instances where NBSAP linked up with other ongoing processes towards both awareness and formulation of BSAPs. It further looks at efforts made to involve sections like the army, or specially-abled children in the NBSAP process.

The *seventh* section deals with the national level outreach efforts, including the *Call for Participation*, NBSAP website and newsletters, formal talks and presentations on the NBSAP, media outreach efforts through print and audio visual media as well as biodiversity festivals.

The *eighth* section describes the monitoring and evaluation mechanism adopted at various stages of the NBSAP process, and by various agencies including the MoEF, UNDP as well as the TPCG.

The *ninth* section is primarily about the mechanisms and processes involved in drafting of the National Action Plan.

The *tenth* section is on the Process Documentation done by the various executing agencies and at the national level during the NBSAP process, as well as how the Process Film was prepared.

The *eleventh* section is glimpses of the implementation of the BSAPs that were taking place at various levels. This is updated upto March 2004.

At the end of each section there are *key lessons* that have emerged with regards to the processes described in the sections.

## **1. BACKGROUND TO THE NBSAP<sup>1</sup>**

### **1.1 Context**

India became a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 1993. The Convention was ratified in February 1994. Between 1994 and 1997, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), held consultations with representatives from ministries, governmental agencies, NGOs, and academicians to discuss the need for a national action plan on biodiversity. A core group was set up to examine the requirements of such an action plan. After a series of consultations and drafts by two expert committees, MoEF brought out a National Policy and Macro-level Action Strategy on Biodiversity in 1997 (henceforth macro-strategy). But this was not articulated as a policy statement pending the necessary clearances from the Government of India (GoI) till 1999. This macro-strategy dealt with the current situation, gaps and necessary action points in the areas of:

- Legal and Policy Framework;
- Survey of Biodiversity and National Data Base;
- *In situ* conservation,
- *Ex situ* conservation;
- Sustainable Utilization;
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems;
- People's Participation;
- Institutional Framework and Capacity Building;
- Education, Training and Extension;
- Research and Development Activities;
- International Cooperation

It is this macro-strategy that has been used with suitable modifications as a framework for the present NBSAP.

A consultation held on June 10, 1997 relating to the action plan, focused on evaluation of on-going strategies and programmes and assessment of current and future needs of conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity. Eleven subject areas (which are covered in the macro-strategy document) were identified. At this discussion, considerable emphasis was laid on the fact that the loci of action should be the State Governments and

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<sup>1</sup> This is based on a paper on India's NBSAP for an IUCN/UNDP publication (Reference: Taneja, B. and A. Kothari.2002. Indian Case Study in eds. Jeremy Carew Reid. Biodiversity Planning in Asia. IUCN, Sri Lanka.

local bodies. The need for education and capacity building of policy-makers, NGOs, industrialists, local communities, was underscored. It was also decided that scientific examples, illustrations and case studies should be marshaled for assessing the intrinsic and extrinsic worth of biodiversity. Linkages between different departments of the Government, dealing with different areas, were emphasized. Documentation of indigenous knowledge in the form of biodiversity registers, after detailed study of the implications of such documentation was suggested. It was emphasized that monitoring and implementation of biodiversity would really have to occur at the local level, and the role of any national authority should only be supervisory.

Concurrent with the process of development of the macro-strategy was UNDP's liaison with the MoEF in early 1996 regarding the availability of funds for developing an action plan. In October 1996 the MoEF formally applied for an enabling activity grant to formulate a project proposal for the NBSAP. The proposal was submitted in March 1998 and the project sanctioned in March 1999. The original structure of the plan preparation process was reviewed in 1999, and it was suggested that a decentralized arrangement with state level consultations be adopted. It was also suggested that issues such as widening participation and discussion, involving central ministries and agencies other than the MoEF and state governments, developing grassroots conservation strategies, and taking into account the socio-economic and fiscal dimensions of biodiversity conservation be considered in detail in this planning exercise.

## **1.2 Institutional Arrangement Established**

With this background, the MoEF evolved a mechanism for preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which would take it beyond a review exercise at the central level. The National Project Directorate of the NBSAP was based at the MoEF Delhi, which has been the overall executing agency. However, it was decided that the actual work of conceptualizing and coordinating the preparation of the NBSAP would be given over to an external agency. Proposals for this exercise were invited by MoEF, and six agencies were short-listed. Out of the six agencies, Kalpavriksh, an NGO based in Delhi and Pune was chosen for technical coordination of the process. In turn Kalpavriksh suggested the formulation of a 15 member Technical and Policy Core Group (TPCG) for the task. The members of the TPCG include specialists from different parts of the country and different sectors of work related to biodiversity and conservation. Administration of the project was entrusted to Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL), a public limited company promoted by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

A Steering Committee comprising senior functionaries in the MoEF, representatives from eight departments of government related to biodiversity, one from the Planning Commission and four NGO experts, advised the entire process. The National Project Director (NPD) at MoEF, along with his team, was in constant touch with the technical and administrative coordinating agencies (Kalpavriksh and BCIL).

For further details of the institutional framework, please see Section 2.



## Box 1

### Design of the Logo



A task taken up by the TPCG early in the process was the design of the NBSAP logo. The logo was designed by a professional designer who subsequently became the Media Campaign Manager for NBSAP. The idea of the logo was to reflect in a simple way, the definition of biodiversity as formulated and accepted by the TPCG. After many alterations, the logo acceptable to all did manage to convey the several levels and processes that the term biodiversity encompasses, including both wild and domesticated species and the human dimension. The logo, used thereafter in every one of NBSAP's products, became synonymous with the process.

### 1.3 Time frame

The time frame for developing the NBSAP was initially envisaged as two years starting January 2000. But by 2001 it was realized that the process required more time and a six-month extension was sought and granted. The reasons were: delay in the selection of nodal agencies; delays in initiating the planning processes at various levels; and formation of 3 new states. The sheer scale of the exercise including the finalization of about 100 documents along with the national plan necessitated several extensions before it formally ended in March 2004.

Kalpavriksh commenced its work by first refining the project document on NBSAP, signed by MoEF and UNDP. The structure, outputs and budgets were altered. Of the changes, the most important were:

- a) To broad base the NBSAP process not only to states, but also to local sites, interstate regions, and thematic levels; and;
- b) To spread the budget over a large number of partners rather than spend a large part of it on consultants.

Continuing their open approach to the process, these changes were accepted by the MoEF as also UNDP. Followed by this the first task of the TPCG was to work on a detailed Process Outline, a first draft of which was prepared by the Coordinator. This document laid out the way the process was to be carried out, the scope of the exercise, the proposed institutional structure, the steps to be followed and so on. After it underwent several changes, the outline was approved by the National Steering Committee.

**Box 2****Key Lessons for Background**

- It is useful to segregate administrative and technical responsibilities. This way both agencies are able to concentrate completely on their aspect of work, which increases efficiency.
- The allocation of funds should ensure a larger portion for processes at various (state, sub-state etc) levels, than for consultancies or honorariums at the national level. This is likely to enable greater autonomy at local/regional levels, and more effective decentralized planning.
- Similarly, there should be greater financial allocation for activities ensuring participatory planning rather than administration, especially at the national level.
- Since there are a number of ongoing initiatives of survey, documentation, research and action, it is advisable to build upon them, rather than spend time and resources in re-doing what has already been done.
- Delays of all kinds (bureaucratic, natural disasters, poor communication in parts of India, financial disbursements etc) need to be kept in mind while envisaging the time frame for the process/project.

**2. THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

See Figure 2.1

**2.1 Steering Committee (SC)**

The National Steering Committee (or SC; See Annexure 1 for composition) was set up at the outset of the project. It comprised of senior officials of the MoEF, representatives from different ministries of the central government related to biodiversity and four NGO experts. The chairperson of the SC was the Secretary or the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Chairperson of the SC changed four times during the process. In the last leg of the process, the Secretary, Environment was designated Chair of the SC. The SC was instituted to play an advisory role and guide the process. It was supposed to meet once every six months to be briefed on the progress of the NBSAP, take key decisions and provide guidance. As of March 2004 six meetings (February 2000, November 2000, September 2001, May 2002, May 2003 and January 2004) have been held.

**2.2 National Project Director (NPD) and Team**

The National Project Director was Joint Secretary of the Conservation and Survey Division of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. During the course of the NBSAP process, the NPD changed once. Initially there were two scientific officers, one Additional Director and one Joint Director who were part of the team. Subsequently, there was only one scientific officer at the level of Director or Joint Director who assisted the NPD in the execution of the project, who changed twice till March 2004.

### 2.3 Technical and Policy Core Group (TPCG)

The TPCG (See Annexure 2 for composition) consisted of experts and activists from various disciplines and backgrounds, and different parts of India. These individuals hold experience in different aspects of biodiversity which include community based conservation, agro-biodiversity, forestry, gender and livelihood issues, community based enterprise, laws related to biodiversity, biotechnology, adivasi rights, medicinal plants and local health traditions, wildlife conservation, and oceanography. The TPCG also included the Coordinator based in Pune, his counterpart based in Delhi (both of whom were members of Kalpavriksh), and a Member Secretary from the administrative agency, BCIL. In 2000, in the initial phases of the process the counterpart to the coordinator changed, as did the Member Secretary. The first counterpart was there for 11 months of the process. Following this there were no more changes in the TPCG composition.

The TPCG's mandate from the outset was to conceptualize and coordinate the preparation of the NBSAP at all its different levels. For this purpose, the TPCG worked on several guidelines and concept papers that were used in the process described below. Most of these have been compiled together in a compendium: *NBSAP India: Guidelines and Concept Papers*, and have been circulated to all executing agencies and interested persons. There were a few more guiding papers that were prepared and circulated subsequently to all the participants of the NBSAP process. (See Annexure 3 for a list of these concept notes/papers)

In the first year of its formulation, the TPCG met every month to set up committees/working groups at all levels, and developed guidelines and concept notes, mentioned above. It began meeting every other month to continue planning and review elements of the process. At a later stage of the project there were special meetings in the form of writing workshops, details of which are described in Section 9.2.

When the process began, most members of the TPCG had not interacted much (or in cases at all!) with each other in the past. They also had varied and divergent ideologies since each worked with different aspects of biodiversity conservation. Though this could have proved to be counterproductive, it actually became a strength because from the outset, all members retained a constructive spirit. A great sense of humour also helped considerably. The different ideologies and backgrounds added to the richness of the process. Group dynamics facilitated mutual learning from each other, leading to a holistic understanding of biodiversity. Since TPCG members had different affiliations (including the government), it sometimes helped in balancing out excessively conservative or radical views such as the concept of strict 'hands off' conservation against people's participation in the conservation and management of biodiversity.

“ All of us in the TPCG were specialists in our field until two and a half years ago. Since then each one of us have managed to develop the capability to look at biodiversity in a more holistic sense...”*MVMW Wafar Member, TPCG*

**Box 3****Food for Thought!**

Food played a very significant role in the working of the TPCG. Members looked forward to every meeting for specialties from different regions of the country. This helped tide over the sometimes uninspiring and cumbersome agenda involving the routine updates from sites, themes etc. BCIL hosted most of the TPCG lunches. Many topical discussions were carried out over dinner hosted by Delhi based TPCG members. At one memorable meeting outside Delhi, a TPCG member provided an important lesson in making authentic Hyderabadi Biryani!

However, what was not encouraging was the consumption of mineral water (in plastic bottles) at every meeting. An estimated 375 bottles were used in 25 meetings. To compensate, some members tried to carry their own water for the meetings, or even carry bottles back to reuse them in their houses.

For coordinating the tasks of the TPCG as well as the executing agencies, Kalpavriksh appointed full time research associates in both Delhi and Pune. BCIL also made special appointments along with the post of an Accountant.

**2.4 Media Campaign Manager and Advisors**

A major thrust of the NBSAP process was to invite people to participate, to give their ideas, inputs and practical assistance in developing the plans and strategies at various levels. At the same time, it was also to enhance the understanding of biodiversity so that people could relate to it in their own context. It was also felt that a wide range of national and international citizens be made aware of the NBSAP process to emphasize the fact that the conservation of biodiversity is important for everyone. . To help achieve this, a professional graphic designer was hired as a Media Campaign Manager (MCM) in September 2000, and subsequently a media campaign strategy worked out. It was proposed that the MCM would regularly interact with the TPCG and the NPD and his team. The MCM was to be guided by two Media Campaign Advisors (one for print and the other for electronic media).

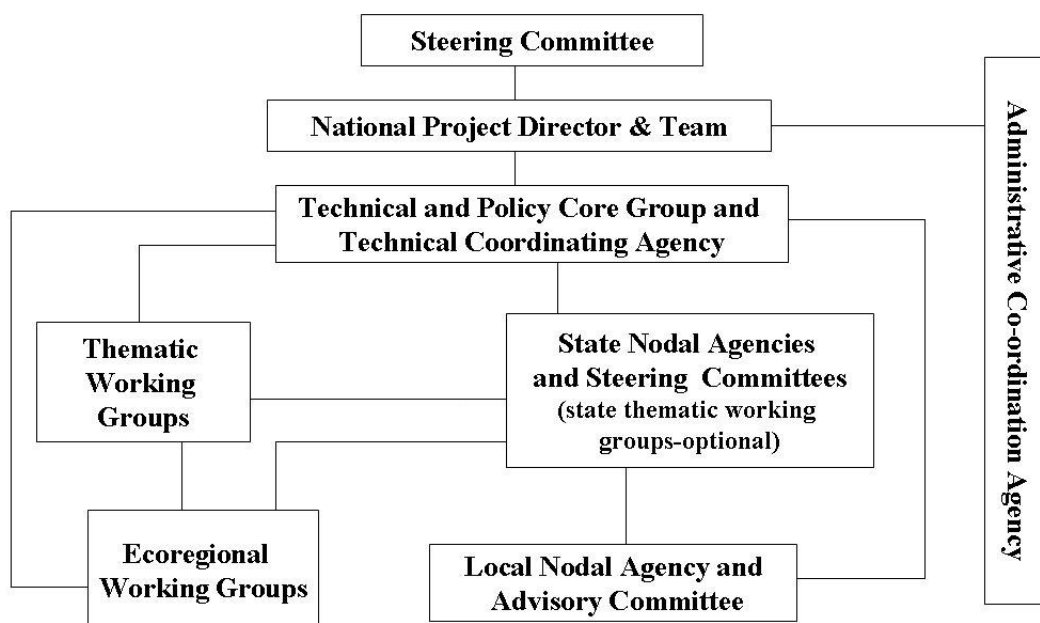
After the first six months of the term of the MCM, there was a review of the activities. The MCM had focused his activities on producing NBSAP related material for wider dissemination. This included a calendar, posters and display panels on biodiversity. He was also instrumental in assuring NBSAP participation in the Dastkar Nature Bazaar 2001 (See Box 28). However, during this phase the outreach to print and audio-visual media was inadequate. To plug this gap, from December 2001, a freelance journalist was appointed to replace the former MCM. Since NBSAP was by this time in a phase where BSAPs had begun emerging (See Section 4 below), it was necessary to change the strategy of media outreach. From the earlier focus on inviting participation in the process, it needed to move towards the dissemination of BSAPs to a larger audience.

**Table 1: NBSAP Process Institutional Structure** (see also flow chart below and for details see Section 2).

<b>Level</b>	<b>Functions</b>	<b>Composition/Profile</b>	<b>Periodicity of work/meetings</b>
<b><i>National</i></b>			
Steering Committee (SC)	Overall guidance and monitoring	Relevant GOI ministries/agencies, independent experts	Meetings once in 6-8 months, inputs to the TPCG and NPD as and when required
National Project Director (NPD) and Team	Overall execution and direction	MoEF Joint Secretary and team (Additional Director, Jt Director, Director)	Day to day functioning
Technical and Policy Core Group (TPCG)	Conceptualisation, execution, monitoring, and finalization of process; integration of all SAPs	Thematic and geographically representative experts	Meetings once a month, and a week's work every month (for all members except Coordinator, Member Secretary and Counterpart to Coordinator who were full time) spread out in day to day interaction and follow up
Technical Coordination Agency	Coordination of Process	Kalpavriksh members	Day to day functioning
Administrative Coordination Agency (ACA)	Administrative and financial execution of process	BCIL	Day to day functioning
<b><i>Thematic</i></b>			
Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)	Preparation of thematic SAPs	Relevant governmental and non-governmental experts, geographically representative as far as possible	As needed
Thematic Working Group Coordinator	Coordination of the TWGs and final compilation of the BSAP	Academicians/NGOs/NGIs	As needed
Sub-thematic Reviewers	Writing of papers on specific biodiversity related topics	Individual experts	As needed
<b><i>Ecoregional</i></b>			
Inter-state, Ecoregional Working Groups (EWGs)	Preparation of ecoregional SAPs	Relevant governmental and non-governmental experts, representative of the region	As needed
Ecoregional Working Group Coordinator	Coordination of the EWGs and final compilation of the BSAP	Academicians/NGOs/NGIs	As needed

<b>State</b>			
State Steering Committee (SSC)	Conceptualization, guidance and monitoring	Relevant state govt. agencies, NGO representatives, academics/scientists, community/grassroots representatives	As needed, inputs to the Nodal Agency and the national teams as and when required
State Nodal Agency/agencies and/or State Level Coordinator	Overall execution, substantive and administrative	State Government Department or Agency/Academic Institutions/NGOs	Day to day
<b>Local/sub-state</b>			
District/Local Advisory Committee (LAC)	Conceptualization, guidance, and monitoring	Relevant governmental and non-governmental experts, in particular local community and grassroot organization members	As needed
District/Local Nodal Agency or Coordinator	Execution, substantive and administrative	Relevant district-level or local agency, in particular people's representative agencies, grassroots organizations	Day to day

**Figure 1: NBSAP Institutional Structure**



**Box 4****Key Lessons for Institutional Structure***Administrative/Financial Coordination*

- It needs to be ensured that the technical coordination is financially independent, so that sanctions are not needed for every small expense incurred. On occasion work suffered due to bureaucratic delays in sanctions, or disbursement of funds by the administrative agencies. Sanctions ought to be needed for larger expenses like workshops etc, but a lot more autonomy is needed for minor ones like travel grants, purchase of equipment etc.
- In a set up like the National Steering Committee, mechanisms need to be in place, in order to ensure that there is a continuity of representation from GOI ministries/departments. A different representative at each meeting results in inadequate understanding of the process, and a lot more time is spent in explanations each time.
- Though difficult to ensure, it is useful if all the representatives on a body like the National Steering Committee attend most of the meetings. Some of the independent experts hardly attended, so the process did not benefit from their expertise.
- Meetings can be made a lot more environmentally conscious, by reducing the use of paper (use of one sided paper, printing on both sides etc), mineral water bottles, packaged food, plastic cups etc.
- A dedicated team to handle the NBSAP at the National Project Directorate would give considerably increased efficiency, rather than expect the team to more than one full time job simultaneously.
- Continuity in the official teams is vital; Changes in officials at the National Project Directorate at times hindered the speed and smooth functioning of the planning process.

*Technical Coordination*

- Like in the NBSAP process, attempts need to be made to bring together a set of people who despite their high qualifications/experience would be committed to the process, rather than financial gains from it.
- Rapid and frequent communication amongst TPCG members was vital, and at times suffered due to technical problems, or the busy schedules of members.
- Interactions through processes like residential meetings, informal discussions and so on, can increase the bonding and enhance teamwork.
- A diversity of backgrounds/experiences of a group like the TPCG can ensure innovations in the methodologies adopted and adds to the richness of the process.
- Both the coordinator's leadership qualities and the respect from the team members, is essential to enable the successful working of the group.
- There might be some arenas where expertise within the TPCG is not available. In some cases, efforts to ensure informal inputs from persons outside the central team can also be unsuccessful. Therefore, prior financial allocations for specific tasks is useful. However, there also might be need to raise additional resources for the same, as gaps emerge during the process.
- For the media outreach, it is useful to assign two separate persons for designing and for handling the networking with print and audio-visual media.

**Box 5****Master Database**

To facilitate smooth communication and interaction amongst the participants, BCIL undertook the task of preparing a comprehensive database in MS-Excel, giving the name, address and other contact details of all those involved with the NBSAP process. More than 1400 entries were included in the database. This database was prepared over a period of four months, a result of rigorous follow up with all executing agencies to provide details of members by both the BCIL team and the TPCG members. The database was updated regularly. This proved to be a useful tool throughout the process and provided easy access to important contact information.

**2.5 The Filing System**

In order to organize and keep a methodical record of the data generated during the NBSAP process, a detailed filing system was developed. The filing system had various levels of organisation; the first level included generic topics (e.g. SSC, TPCG). Subsequent levels of organisation included categories common to all generic levels (e.g. minutes of meetings, correspondence). Versions with author's initials and dates were maintained with each document, which helped refer to the correct document. . As the NBSAP process progressed, this filing system was extremely useful and helped recover relevant information, as it was required. New headings to the filing system were added as new processes began, such as the case with the Process Film and so on.

**3. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

The NBSAP process and content was conceived of with two main bottom-lines. First, the ecological security of the nation, which includes the health and well being of all its environmental and ecological aspects. Second, the livelihood security of India's citizens, and in particular of those who are most dependent on biodiversity for their day-to-day existence. This twin focus was the fulcrum on which the process and content was designed. This meant, for instance, that all sections of society were to be involved in the process, and in particular focus was to be given to participation of local communities. It also meant that both biological/scientific and socio-economic issues needed to be dealt with simultaneously and with equal importance.

The terms "ecological security" and "livelihood security" are defined more precisely in the Final Technical Report of NBSAP.



**Box 6****Some Who Boycotted the NBSAP Process**

The vast majority of people who were requested to participate did so enthusiastically. However, there were a few who refused to take part. A prominent wildlife scientist from south India was amongst these; he stated that he did not believe processes like NBSAP would help in promoting conservation. A journalist from Kerala dropped out of the process in protest against the Government of India giving a prominent responsibility to an agricultural scientist with whom he had problems, though it was not clear what the link of this incident with NBSAP was. It is possible that some others also did not participate for various reasons, but only two or three such cases came to the notice of the national coordinating team. NBSAP may have been unpalatable to certain ideologies since it was a pioneering process and perhaps not one that had been tried before. Some scientists, for example did believe strongly that conservation priorities should be determined by them and not by local communities who depended on the very biodiversity that was to be conserved.

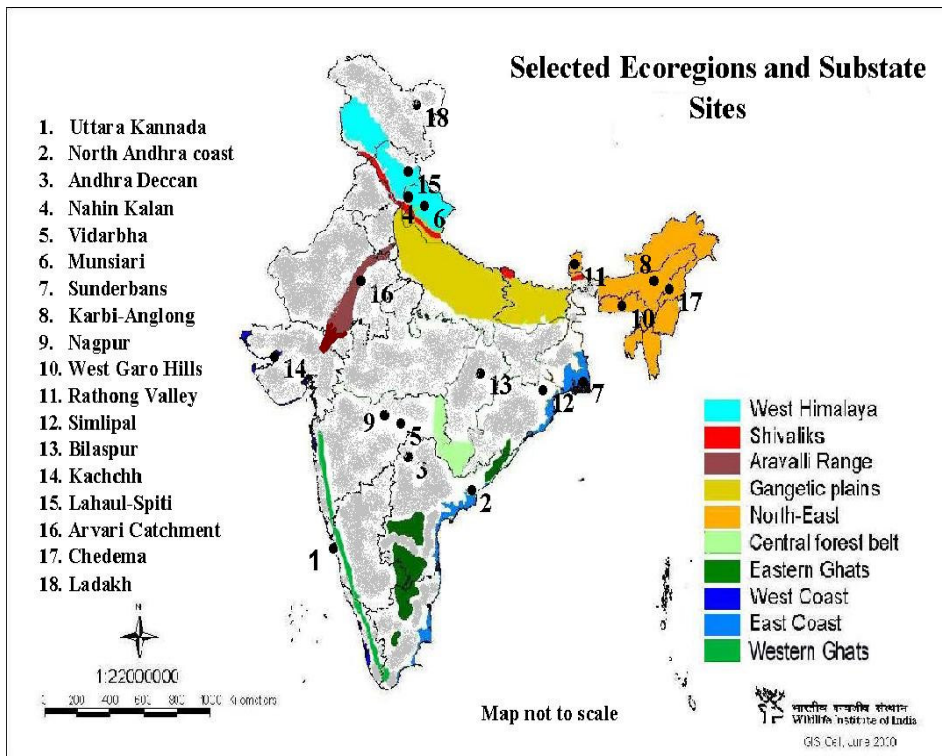
**4. LEVELS OF THE NBSAP PROCESS**

The original project document signed by MoEF and UNDP had envisaged action plans at national and state levels. However, in order to decentralize the process further, Kalpavriksh and the TPCG proposed (and MoEF readily agreed) that independent, ‘stand alone’ BSAPs be prepared. This meant that these BSAPs once prepared, could be implemented at the state level, independent of the national process. These were at the following levels:

- for all the states and union territories of the country<sup>2</sup>, numbering 33 in all. (See Section 4.1)
- for 18 sub-state sites (See Section 4.2)
- for 10 interstate eco-regions (See Section 4.3)
- for 13 themes relating to biodiversity at the national level (See Section 4.4)
- sub-thematic reviews to look at specific aspects of biodiversity (See Section 4.5)

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<sup>2</sup> The TPCG discussed the possibilities of preparing separate BSAPs for union territory of Daman and Diu. It was finally decided that it would be covered by the Gujarat BSAP and was not considered as a sub-state BSAP. However, by the end of the process it was realized that the areas had not been covered. In the case of Dadra Nagar Haveli union territory, it was TPCG’s mistake of having left it out of the process from the very start. These were oversights on the part of the TPCG and could not be rectified even at a later stage.



#### 4.1 State Level: Nodal Agencies and Committees

The NBSAP process began with the TPCG members suggesting names of nodal agencies for each state and Union Territory. This entailed considerable debate on issues like background information of the nodal agency/nodal person, professional ability, range of understanding and capacity to deal with the myriad aspects of biodiversity, availability of time and so on. The list of suggested agencies was then sent to the NPD and team who made some changes, and then sent on to the respective Chief Secretary at the state level. The final decision on the nodal agency lay with the State Government. Out of the 33 States, 20 agencies suggested by the TPCG were approved by the state governments. In most of the other states the nominated agency was mainly the State Department of Environment or the State Forest Department.

The TPCG also put together lists of potential members for the State Steering Committee (SSC). This was done keeping in mind the cross-cutting issues of conservation imperatives, gender sensitivity, empowerment, equity and also the need for inter-departmental and inter-sectoral integration. The final decision on membership of the SSCs, however, lay with the nodal agency and the state government. In some cases where the nodal agency was selected by the State, the membership of the SSC did not entirely follow suggestions made by the TPCG. Some of these agencies also did not follow guidelines of participation issued by the TPCG, and consequently, their SSCs did not have multi-stakeholder representation. The process of selection took between two months to over a year. Delays took place because in some cases the relevant official (Chief Secretary or the nominated official) proceeded on leave or was transferred (Pondicherry, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep). Sometimes the selected state nodal agency declined to coordinate the process (Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal

Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan) for various reasons. In some cases like Bihar and Jharkhand there was little or no response for a considerable part of the process, prompting the TPCG to suggest that an independent NGO be commissioned to prepare the BSAP. This was agreed upon. . For states like Delhi, Goa and Nagaland, the co-ordination of the BSAP was further sub-contracted to an NGO or academic institution (See Box 15). This was after it was realized that the nodal agencies in question were unable to carry out the process for various reasons.

### State and Union Territory BSAPs

- |                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 23. Nagaland      |
| 2. Andhra Pradesh              | 24. Orissa        |
| 3. Arunachal Pradesh           | 25. Pondicherry   |
| 4. Assam                       | 26. Punjab        |
| 5. Bihar <sup>i</sup>          | 27. Rajasthan     |
| 6. Chandigarh                  | 28. Sikkim        |
| 7. Chhattisgarh                | 29. Tamil Nadu    |
| 8. Delhi                       | 30. Tripura       |
| 9. Goa                         | 31. Uttaranchal   |
| 10. Gujarat                    | 32. Uttar Pradesh |
| 11. Haryana                    | 33. West Bengal   |
| 12. Himachal Pradesh           |                   |
| 13. Jammu and Kashmir          |                   |
| 14. Jharkhand <sup>ii</sup>    |                   |
| 15. Karnataka                  |                   |
| 16. Kerala                     |                   |
| 17. Lakshadweep                |                   |
| 18. Madhya Pradesh             |                   |
| 19. Maharashtra <sup>iii</sup> |                   |
| 20. Manipur                    |                   |
| 21. Meghalaya                  |                   |
| 22. Mizoram                    |                   |

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<sup>i</sup> This BSAP was not completed, only a draft was submitted.

<sup>ii</sup> This BSAP was not submitted by the agency in charge.

<sup>iii</sup> This BSAP was not completed, only a draft was submitted.

#### Box 7

#### Formation of New States!

In 2001, three new states were declared in India: Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. There were earlier a part of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh respectively. For the NBSAP process this meant increasing the number of BSAPs to be prepared along with the processes that went with it, including identification of new nodal agencies, financial allocation and follow up for BSAP preparation. It took some time before the process took off in each one of the states, as the priorities there were to essentially set up the new administrative functioning. Therefore the allocation of responsibilities for preparing BSAPs took a back seat for a while. In two cases (Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal) special methodologies needed to be adopted for plan preparation and in one (Jharkhand) the process never took off (See Section 6 on Formulation of Action Plans)

## **4.2 Sub-State Level: Nodal Agencies and Local Area Committees (LACs)**

Sub-state sites were selected on the basis of their biodiversity significance at the regional as well as national context with a view to carry out a much more intensive, in-depth process than would have been possible at state levels. Aspects considered were, their wild biodiversity, agricultural diversity and sometimes even ethnic diversity, and in keeping with the definition of biodiversity used by the TPCG throughout the process. The Deccan area in Andhra Pradesh was selected for its rich agro-biodiversity. The Ladakh site in Jammu and Kashmir was selected since it represents the unique cold desert. The North Coastal Belt site in Andhra Pradesh was significant for its ecological significance as well as its ethnic biodiversity. The Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka represents a unique blend of agro-biodiversity, the coastal region and the forests. A plan was envisaged for Nagpur as an urban biodiversity site and another one for an existing protected area, i.e. the Simlipal Tiger Reserve. And so on.

Another criterion for selection was the availability of a group or agency that could effectively take up the task. As a rule, there was no more than one funded sub-state site chosen from a state and an attempt was made to ensure geographical representation. Lack of resources prevented the selection of a site from each state/Union Territory. Sub-state sites ranged from a single village/town to a number of districts.

Attempts were also made to cover a range of ecosystems. Kachchh (Gujarat) is a desert; North Coastal Andhra (Andhra Pradesh) is a part of the eastern coast, Muniari (Uttaranchal, in the Himalayan range, Uttara Kannada district (Karnataka) in the Western Ghats, and Rathong Chu (Sikkim) in the Eastern Himalayan range. These are just a few examples of the range that was covered.

Some suggestions made at the Inaugural National Workshop for additional sites were followed up but for various reasons, these sites could not be taken up. The Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu) was one suggestion made, but was dropped because considerable amount of work had already been carried out on that site. The Delhi Ridge could not be included, as the nodal agency suggested by the TPCG expressed its inability to coordinate. The Greater Kochi area (Kerala) suggested by the participants of the Inaugural National workshop also had to be dropped because the identified coordinating agency did not respond. Hemwalghati in Tehri Garhwal, Uttaranchal was considered as an interesting site for agro-biodiversity but here too the suggested coordinating agency declined.

Suggestions for coordinators and supporting team members were made by the TPCG and were then discussed with the MoEF, who accepted all suggested coordinators. Since 'stand-alone' plans were to be prepared for sub-state sites (like all other levels), the selection of these sites and coordinators was done independently of the state process. However, coordinators of the state and sub-state sites were urged to keep in touch and work in consultation with each other. TPCG members also suggested potential members for the Local Advisory Group to be set up by the nodal agency or coordinators. However, the final decision of committee members lay with the nodal agency or coordinator.

**Box 8****Some Voluntary Sub-State Plans**

As the NBSAP process progressed, the TPCG was approached by some organizations that wanted to be part of the process but did not wish to be financially remunerated for the same. The Foundation for Ecological Security volunteered to do a plan for the sub-state site of Mungsiari in Utttaranchal. The Deccan Development Society of Andhra Pradesh volunteered to do a plan for the Deccan region focusing mainly on agricultural biodiversity. These BSAPs also went through a review process for endorsement by MoEF.

**Sub-state site BSAPs**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Arvari (Rajasthan)                      | 12. North Coastal Belt (Andhra Pradesh)   |
| 2. Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)                 | 13. Rathong Chu (Sikkim)                  |
| 3. Chedema (Nagaland) <sup>iv</sup>        | 14. Simlipal (Orissa)                     |
| 4. Deccan Area (Andhra Pradesh)            | 15. Sundarbans (West Bengal) <sup>v</sup> |
| 5. Kachchh (Gujarat)                       | 16. Uttara Kannada (Karnataka)            |
| 6. Karbi Anglong (Assam)                   | 17. Vidarbha (Maharashtra)                |
| 7. Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir)              | 18. West Garo Hills (Meghalaya)           |
| 8. Lahaul-Spiti-Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh) |   |
| 9. Mungsiari (Utttaranchal)                |   |
| 10. Nagpur (Maharashtra)                   |   |
| 11. Nahin Kalan (Utttaranchal)             |   |

<sup>iv</sup> This BSAP was not completed, only a draft was submitted.

<sup>v</sup> This BSAP was not completed, only a draft was submitted.

**4.3 Ecoregions: Nodal Agencies and Working Groups (EWGs)**

Ten inter-state ecoregions were selected on the basis of their biodiversity significance and ecological contiguity. The selection partly followed the biogeographic classification used by the Wildlife Institute of India, but to some extent also used social and administrative criteria e.g. in the case of North-East India, the entire region was selected and in the case of Central Forest Belt ecoregion a part of the biogeographic region was chosen to make it manageable. The purpose was to look at these ecoregions as a whole, to see how an ecologically compact area could be planned for independent of administrative boundaries. Different states often have different policies with regards to the use of resources of the same contiguous biodiversity significant region. The groups were expected to suggest why it is important to take into consideration a holistic, landscape level view of these regions, and recommend how relevant states can work together for ecologically and culturally sensitive planning and management of the areas.

The coordinators were suggested by the TPCG, and discussed with the NPD. All the 10 coordinators suggested by the TPCG were approved by the NPD. Thematic Working Group Members were then suggested to the coordinators who were also free to choose their own members. Emphasis was on the fact that each group had state representation for the relevant region, and came from diverse backgrounds to cover all the cross-cutting issues. Extensive discussions once the process started led to changes in the area of some of the regions. For example in the Central Forest Belt ecoregion, it was suggested that

boundaries be delineated by the coordinator since the area in consideration was too large. For the Gangetic Plains the coordinator and the working group members felt that it would be difficult to cover the Plains in West Bengal and Orissa, and hence restricted themselves to the other states.

Another debate among some NBSAP partners and the TPCG focused on whether the western desert also should be considered an ecoregion. However, it was felt that since Kachchh and Thar were entirely contained within a state each, they would not qualify as inter-state ecoregions. While Kachchh (Gujarat) was chosen to be a sub-state site, the Rajasthan nodal agency was encouraged to give special consideration to the Thar region in the state plan, hence both could figure prominently even if not considered an ecoregion.

### **Ecoregional BSAPs**

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Aravallis           | 6. North-East India |
| 2. Central Forest Belt | 7. Shiwaliks        |
| 3. East Coast          | 8. West Coast       |
| 4. Eastern Ghats       | 9. Western Ghats    |
| 5. Gangetic Plains     | 10. West Himalaya   |

#### **4.4 Themes: Nodal Persons and Working Groups (TWGs)**

The Process Outline that had been worked on early in the project suggested broad themes within the context of biodiversity that needed to be dealt with separately in working groups. It was felt that these themes be considered at the national level, along with guidance on how they could also be reflected in the local, state and ecoregional plans. Although, some of these would be dealt with at the state/sub-state level, it was felt that each theme be developed separately as a 'stand alone' report so that it would be easier to give inputs on policies dealing with these specific themes. Fourteen such themes were selected. Some themes were chosen to focus directly on the conservation aspects of different kinds of diversity e.g. wild animal and plant biodiversity. Others dealt more with the human-biodiversity interface e.g. like Health and Biodiversity or Culture and Biodiversity. One theme, Technology, Industry and Biodiversity had to be dropped from the list due to slow initial progress and subsequent refusal by the suggested coordinator. Instead three sub-thematic reviews (see below, Section 4.5) were commissioned on Conventional Technologies, Agriculture Biotechnology and Globalization, and Environmentally Friendly and Alternative Technologies.

Coordinators for these groups and also potential members for the working group were suggested by the TPCG. The selection was finalized after discussion with the NPD. All the coordinators suggested by the TPCG were accepted by the NPD. Some of the themes, such as micro-organic diversity were highly specialized in nature and hence it was difficult to find coordinators. Some coordinators suggested by TPCG declined to take responsibility for the task, which caused delay in the process. In the case of the Domesticated Biodiversity theme, the coordinator had to be replaced midway through the process.

Coordinators were requested to build on the existing concept notes that the TPCG had written for each of the themes, which covered the substantive issues to be taken up, and specific tasks to be carried out.

**Box 9**

**Bibliographies**

To facilitate the working of the thematic working groups, Kalpavriksh put together bibliographies on all the themes being considered under NBSAP, based on material available at its documentation center. These were sent to the relevant TWG coordinators and were also available on request to other interested people. It was difficult to determine whether they were used extensively by the thematic working group coordinators. Overall, it was not a very useful exercise.

**Thematic BSAPs**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Access, Benefit-Sharing and Intellectual Property Rights | 7. Livelihoods, Lifestyles and Biodiversity   |
| 2. Culture and Biodiversity                                 | 8. Micro-Organic Diversity                    |
| 3. Domesticated Biodiversity                                | 9. Natural Aquatic Ecosystems                 |
| 4. Economics and Valuation of Biodiversity                  | 10. Natural Terrestrial Ecosystems            |
| 5. Education, Awareness and Training                        | 11. Policies, Laws, Institutions and Planning |
| 6. Health and Biodiversity                                  | 12. Wild Animal Biodiversity                  |
|   | 13. Wild Plant Biodiversity                   |

**Box 10**

**Cross Membership**

There were instances where the coordinators/members of a working group/committee, were also members of more than one working group/committee or were invited to the same for inputs e.g. The coordinator of the Aravallis ecoregion was also a member of the working group for Rajasthan and the local area committee of Arvari Basin. There was overlapping membership in the working groups of Wild Plant Diversity theme and the Western Himalaya Ecoregion. The coordinator for the Wild Plant Diversity thematic BSAP and the Uttar Pradesh BSAP was the same. The TPCG had in fact encouraged cross-membership in the case of BSAPs that had a strong common element or geographical focus e.g. between a Steering Committee and the Working Group on the Ecoregion of which the state was a part.

**4.5 Sub-themes: Review Papers**

The Process Outline, when it was developed, highlighted many specific issues and themes that were important and required an in-depth review, but may not have received focused treatment in the Thematic Working Groups. Keeping this in mind, experts were identified to look at each of these issues in depth and do a review including literature search and compilation of ongoing work on the topic, and an analysis. The list of issues

grew as the process went ahead, until, by the end 35 reviews were commissioned or volunteered. Some of the sub-thematic reviews were financially supported by thematic working groups e.g. Wildlife-Human Conflict review was funded by the Wild Animal Diversity TWG, and Customary Law was funded by Policies, Laws, Institutions and Planning TWG.

### *Sub-thematic Reviews*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agricultural Biotechnology and Globalisation</li> <li>2. Biodiversity in EIAs</li> <li>3. Biodiversity in the Media</li> <li>4. Climate Change</li> <li>5. Community Conserved Areas in Gujarat</li> <li>6. Community-Based Monitoring</li> <li>7. Conventional Technologies and Biodiversity</li> <li>8. Customary Laws and Biodiversity in North-east India</li> <li>9. Dams and Biodiversity</li> <li>10. Ecological Impacts of NTFP Collection in West Bengal</li> <li>11. Environmental Education and Persons With Disabilities</li> <li>12. Environmentally Friendly and Alternative Technologies</li> <li>13. Home Gardens and Biodiversity</li> <li>14. Humanized Natural Landscapes in the Eastern Himalaya</li> <li>15. Important Bird Areas</li> <li>16. Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity</li> <li>17. Integrated Biodiversity Information System</li> <li>18. Invasive Alien Species and Biodiversity</li> <li>19. Living Marine Resource Drugs and Biodiversity</li> <li>20. Mining And Biodiversity</li> <li>21. Natural Dyes and Biodiversity</li> <li>22. Nomadic Pastoralism and Biodiversity</li> <li>23. Non-Pastoral Nomads</li> <li>24. Non-Timber Forest Produce<sup>vi</sup></li> <li>25. Non-Timber Forest Produce in the Western Ghats<sup>vii</sup></li> <li>26. Paper Industry and Biodiversity</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27. Pesticides/Toxics and Biodiversity</li> <li>28. Public Distribution System and Biodiversity</li> <li>29. Remote Sensing</li> <li>30. Research on Agricultural Biodiversity</li> <li>31. Thermal Power and Biodiversity</li> <li>32. Tourism and Biodiversity</li> <li>33. Tree Plantations and Biodiversity</li> <li>34. Urban Biodiversity</li> <li>35. Wildlife-Human Conflicts</li> </ol> |
|--|---|

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<sup>vi</sup> This review was not submitted by the person in charge.

<sup>vii</sup> This review was not completed, only a draft was submitted.



**Box 11****Key Lessons for the Levels of the NBSAP Process**

- Any planning process or document needs to incorporate perspectives on various levels and aspects, which have a bearing on the subject being planned for.
- There are several advantages of a decentralized process of planning. For instance:
  - states could decide on their nodal agencies. This was advantageous since the choice of nodal agencies was left to them as opposed to having to work with nodal agencies suggested by the Centre. States also had a better judgement on who was the best for the job in question.
  - nodal agencies have autonomy to decide on their committees/working groups (with some inputs from the TPCG/MoEF).
  - regional planning in local languages is possible.
  - there is scope for village and town level consultations/discussions.
- Autonomy in deciding on the membership of the committees/working group can however be disadvantageous when the nodal agency does not consider multi-stakeholder participation a priority.
- Bureaucratic delays in the formation of committees/working groups can take place due to transfer of officials, officials being on long leave or lack of response from proposed state government or nodal agencies.
- There is a great value in voluntary inputs and contributions. A lot of additional and unanticipated positive impacts of the NBSAP process have been triggered through these voluntary responses. A lot of valuable information could be built into a national planning exercise without it being a financial liability on the project.
- There is a need to give special attention to certain micro issues which otherwise get ignored, as was done through the commissioning of sub-thematic reviews in the NBSAP process.
- A large planning process like the NBSAP is able to create an informal network of individuals working on various aspects of biodiversity, which can interact and carry forward even after the process has formally ended. The process has led to a lot of informal networking. Formally, many of the participants from the various Western States in India have come together to form the Western Region Network to work on region-specific issues.
- There is likely to be a lack of expertise for all relevant topics. Such aspects can be highlighted in the strategies and actions.
- There could be limitations in the availability of an appropriate coordinating agency and/or lack of finances that would restrict the number of potential sub-state site plans or sub-thematic reviews that can be commissioned.

**5. ORIENTATION AND REVIEW WORKSHOPS**

Various national and regional level workshops were held as part of the NBSAP process. The aim for each was different. These are briefly described below in chronological order with the purpose for each clearly stated.

**5.1 Inaugural National Workshop, June 2000**

An inaugural national workshop (INW) of the NBSAP was held on June 23-24, 2000, in New Delhi. The purpose of this workshop was to introduce the participants to the NBSAP process, to invite comment and to help clarify the methodology of formulating the NBSAP. A total of 160 people attended. Out of this about 60 were coordinators in the NBSAP process at the local, state,

regional and thematic levels. Others included government officials, NGO members, community representatives, independent scientists and activists from all over the country, short-listed after consultations with national and respective state government/s, and other relevant people. The main elements of the process were presented to the plenary. The workshop then divided into working groups, relating to four regions of the country, i.e. North, East (including north-east), West and South. These groups also included proposed state/UT nodal agencies (and other state government nominees), ecoregional working group coordinators and sub-state site coordinators. A fifth working group consisted of coordinators and others working within the proposed thematic working groups. Other participants from Delhi-based NGOs, representatives from the Government of India, media experts, and others, spread themselves into various relevant working groups, according to their interests. A number of recommendations from the workshop were subsequently incorporated into the NBSAP process e.g. Sub-thematic reviews on EIA and biodiversity, NTFPs were commissioned; a meeting of all TWG coordinators was organized (See Section 5.2 below); a section highlighting cross-linkages between agricultural and wild biodiversity was added to the National Action Plan format. (Annexure 4, Recommendations of the INW).

### **Box 12**

#### **NBSAP Guidelines and Concept Papers**

A Compendium of papers was brought out for distribution at the workshop. This compendium contained:

- Process outline;
- An ecoregion map;
- Sub-state site map;
- Formats for SAPs;
- Guidelines for process documentation;
- Thematic concept notes;
- A synthesis of review of several national documents relevant to NBSAP;
- Concept notes for some forthcoming events;
- Lists of proposed sites; and
- Lists of proposed coordinators and members for all working groups.

This document was found to be extremely useful and in October 2000, a revised version of the same was reprinted for wider circulation.

The INW proceedings were compiled, printed and circulated to all the participants of the INW and other interested persons

### **5.2 Meeting of Thematic Working Group Coordinators, November 2000**

At the request of the TWG coordinators, a separate meeting took place in New Delhi on November 2, 2000. TWG coordinators had expressed the need for such a meeting at the Inaugural National Workshop. This meeting attempted to address concerns raised by the coordinators and TPCG members in connection with:

- The need to reduce overlaps which are likely to arise in connection with topics/areas covered by various TWGs.
- The enhancement of the ability of each TWG to complement/support the work carried out by other TWGs, including building of linkages on specific issues raised during TWG meetings.

- Understanding aspects of the NBSAP methodology in greater detail than what was possible at the Inaugural National Workshop.
- Planning for greater coordination and cohesion amongst all the TWGs.
- Understanding how the TWG members can interact with state, sub-state, and ecoregional groups, especially to ensure that these themes get covered at various levels and information also gets incorporated from these levels into the TWGs.
- Discussing how the thematic BSAPs could fit into the national level plan.

Representatives from ten TWGs attended the meeting. One of the significant achievements of the meeting was the identification of main areas of overlap. (Annexure 5) Various mechanisms to reduce overlaps were examined. These included: some common membership, sharing of minutes and other reports, joint thematic meetings, the use of the NBSAP website and newsletter, and bilateral communication. The need for greater governmental participation in the TWG work was expressed. Discussions were held regarding the need for a joint approach while contacting industries and other federations. Following this meeting some TWGs attempted to have joint meetings or alternately have had members sit in on other TWG meetings. Members and coordinators also established contact through email and other means of communication and some were regularly in touch. However, in many cases inter-TWG communication and coordination was weak because either the coordinators did not have the time, were not inclined or just did not take the initiative. In several instances, the TPCG had to continue acting as mediator amongst two or more TWGs.

### **5.3 Mid-Term National Workshop, June 2001**

The Mid-term National Workshop (MNW) of the NBSAP was held on 13-15 June 2001 at New Delhi. The purpose of the workshop was to assess the progress of the NBSAP process, at the halfway stage of the project. The total number of participants was 149. The workshop was held with the following objectives:

1. To review the progress of preparation of strategy and action plans at various levels under NBSAP project.
2. To facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences amongst the coordinators of executing agencies involved in the process.
3. To outline the future course of action to meet the objectives of NBSAP.
4. To seek the participation of agencies and sectors not so far involved in the process, including generating interest for subsequent implementation of the action plans.

In particular, three questions were sought to be answered:

1. Is a comprehensive understanding of biodiversity, and a full coverage of the issues involved, taking place?
2. Is the process of the NBSAP participatory enough? If not, what more needs to be done?
3. How effective will an exercise of this nature be, in actually achieving conservation and sustainable use, and in protecting indigenous knowledge and local community rights?

All but 10 executing agencies participated in the workshop. Detailed action plan presentations were made by four agencies that had either finished the first draft of their BSAP or were extremely close to doing so. These were Education, Awareness and Training theme, Goa state, Deccan Andhra (Andhra Pradesh) sub-state and Western Ghats ecoregion. Several other brief presentations were also made. The workshop came up with several conclusions, recommendations as well as action points for the future (Annexure 6, MNW Press Release)

#### **5.4 Regional Workshops, October 2001- January 2002**

Between October 2001 and January 2002, five regional workshops were organized under NBSAP, at Chandigarh (North), Ahmedabad (West), Kolkata (East and Central), Guwahati (North-east), and Pastapur (South). This was a direct fallout of a need expressed by the executing agencies at the MNW.

The aim of these workshops was to bring the NBSAP coordinators and partners together, from the various sub-state sites, states, ecoregions, themes, and sub-themes, to discuss the following aspects:

1. Formulation of concrete, implementable action plans;
2. Orienting the executing agencies on issues of gender, equity, and people's empowerment;
3. Linking the sub-states, states, and ecoregions of a particular region through specific action recommendations;
4. Orienting the executing agencies to the issue of integrating biodiversity across the development sectors.

At all the workshops, participants stated that the exercise was extremely useful. This was especially because it was possible to discuss real and micro-level problems and prospects for each site, and learn from each other in the process. The sessions on gender were conspicuous by the diversity with which they were handled by resource persons in each region. For example, resource persons used different methodologies for gender sensitization. Some used games, others used role-plays etc. The discussion in sessions on inter-sectoral integration, were quite intense as many controversial and current issues such as that of conflict between 'development' and biodiversity came to the fore. At three of the workshops (West, North-east, and Southern), participants even came up with short, strong statements on what needs to be done to further the cause of biodiversity at regional levels. (See Annexure 7 for Press Statements of Northern, Western, North Eastern and Southern Region Workshops)

In some cases such as the Eastern/Central regional workshop, the sessions helped to orient relative latecomers to NBSAP, like Bihar and Chhattisgarh, with an overall orientation to the process and approach of NBSAP.

These workshops allowed the participants to reflect on whether the draft BSAPs addressed gender, equity, inter-sectoral integration, and other such issues. In some cases this exposure led to such concerns being incorporated in the finalization of the BSAPs. At another level the workshops enhanced networking amongst the NBSAP partners. They also provided a chance to better understand regional biodiversity issues, and gave the opportunity to do a number of field visits to natural ecosystems or human settlements where outstanding conservation work is going on.

However, there were some executing agencies that did not attend any of the workshops and some others who did not stay for the full duration of the workshops, thereby missing important elements. In some cases, this non-attendance did have an impact on the quality of the final plan and the process involved. The MoEF could come only for one day of one workshop. The National Project Director did make a valiant attempt, but weather conditions prevented him from attending the workshop.

For many participants, some of the issues were totally new. One of these was the incorporation of gender into the planning process. Time spent at the workshop sessions may not have been adequate to orient them. It was also obvious that had these orientation sessions been held in early rather than

late 2001, they could have been more effective in orienting the process and the product at many sub-states, states, and ecoregions.

Attempts were made to prepare and circulate detailed reports of the regional workshops. While there were detailed reports of the Northern Region, Western Region, Central and Eastern Region Workshops as well as Southern Region workshop. A report could not be prepared for North-Eastern region workshops.

### 5.5 Final National Workshop

A four-day Final National Workshop (FNW) took place from 20 to 23 December 2002. Over 180 participants from a range of sectors; including government officials from central and state governments, local community representatives, scientists and academics, NGOs, media, and others, attended the workshop.

The workshop discussed and endorsed the overall thrust of the draft national action plan that had been released to the public in October 2002. Participants also added a number of new dimensions and suggested changes in the strategies and actions, format and other aspects of the national plan. An implementation and follow up mechanism in the post NBSAP phase was also discussed. The workshop also noted that the national plan draft represented the “voices of the people”, with a range of stakeholders having taken part in its formulation.

**Table 2: Total numbers of Executing Agencies (EAs) attending the INW, MNW and FNW**

(The list for the INW includes proposed EAs for all levels, since in many cases their nomination had not been confirmed. Some of the agencies, for various reasons, did not go on to undertake BSAP coordination)

S. No	BSAP Level	Total EAs	INW	MNW	FNW
1.	Themes	14	13	12	11
2.	State	33	19	24	25
3.	Ecoregions	10	7	10	8
4.	Sub-state	18	14	15	14
	Total	7	53	61	58

#### Box 13

#### Key Lessons for Orientation and Review Workshops

- Regional and national workshops can provide ample opportunity for networking at various levels and thereby learning from each other’s experiences.
- Regular meetings and workshops allow for the orientation of newer agencies and refreshing of the objectives for those who have already been involved.
- More time needs to be given for workshop planning so that it can allow for innovation of formats/schedules of a meeting. The sheer expanse and range of presentations and perspectives that needed to be covered in the national workshops did not allow for much innovation in the workshop proceedings.
- Efforts must be made to change the national workshop venue away from the national capital, New Delhi because people from outside Delhi seem to use any opportunity to come to the capital as one where other agendas could also be achieved. Often participants set up meetings

with personnel at various Ministries and much of their time is spent in pursuing people not related to what they came for.

- There needs to be regular discussion and orientation regarding cross-cutting issues (gender, equity etc), intersectoral issues, inter-state linkages and the need to build them into the BSAPs.
- This needs to happen especially at the initial stages of the process and reinforced later on.
- The regional workshops needs to focus on regional specific issues, which could be later, reflected in the national plan.
- Diversity of food in the regional workshops allows for an opportunity to learn about local agriculture and wild biodiversity. Such efforts must also be made at national workshops. Venues can also be chosen accordingly.
- Responsibility for organizing regional workshops by executing agencies, allows for their greater involvement in the process.
- More than one round of regional workshops enables larger interaction at regional levels, which is good for both networking as well as incorporating issues in the BSAPs.
- Follow up meetings of thematic coordinators and a special meeting of the ecoregional processes needed to be built into the initial process outline and budget allocations.

#### **Box 14**

##### **Linkage to Ongoing Projects and Leveraging Additional Funds**

The widespread NBSAP process did have to function under a somewhat constrained budget in relation to the range of activities envisaged. It was thus thought advisable to identify other sources that might finance certain parts of the NBSAP, as also other projects that the NBSAP process could synergise with.

Some sources of funds and projects were pointed out at the first Steering Committee meeting of the NBSAP, and others came up in the meetings of the TPCG. However, these were sporadic suggestions. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> TPCG meeting, it was felt that there was a need for a systematic search on such sources and projects, both central and to some extent in states.

A study was commissioned to one of the TPCG members and was conducted over the period of March to June 2000 from Delhi. The study listed out possibilities for leveraging funds or linking to other processes and these were sent to the relevant executing agencies. This report was meant for agencies looking for relevant funding during the implementation phase and NBSAP itself did not leverage funds from these suggested sources.

## **6. FORMULATION OF BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (BSAPs)**

[**Note:** The coordinating team would like to gratefully acknowledge the role of email as a tool in the NBSAP process. Considerable amount of correspondence and coordination that the process entailed was carried out using this technology, at the kind of high speed and low cost that would otherwise have been impossible. That is not to say that people who did not have access to email were in any way marginalized. Since this was a multi-layer process, coordinating agencies in most cases who did have access to email shared a lot of information with these people through meetings, workshops etc].

Each TPCG member from the very beginning of the process was assigned the responsibility of one or more states, sub-states, ecoregions and themes. The member was expected to keep in touch with the relevant executing agencies for progress, feedback and any other queries. The member was usually present at the first or subsequent Steering Committee/Working Group meeting, and also gave a presentation of the NBSAP process to the members. Some could not be attended as either the TPCG member was not free, or the executing agency did not intimate the member in time. The presence of TPCG members, particularly for the preliminary meetings was crucial and confusion did arise in a lot of cases where TPCG members could not make it for these meetings. .

**Table 3: Participation of TPCG members in First or Subsequent meetings at various levels**

Site/Theme	First or subsequent meetings attended
States (33)	24 (first meeting attended in 18 states)
Sub-state (18)	12 (first meeting attended in 6 sub-state sites)
Ecoregions (10)	8 (first meeting attended in 4 ecoregions)
Themes (13)	12 (first meeting attended for 11 themes)
<b>TOTAL (74)</b>	<b>56</b>

“...Each one of us, in one way or other, have managed to develop a broad and dependable rapport with many of the members of the EAs, besides among ourselves. These relationships are informal and based on confidence and respect of each other's work....” *MVM Wafar, Member, TPCG*

This was found to be an extremely productive process, and necessary since EA members always had several clarifications to make at the first meeting. Some sites required more inputs because of their inaccessibility, inadequate communication, problems in comprehension of the process, non-cooperation of working members, inability to coordinate and so on. Some TPCG members also spent a lot more time with the coordinating agencies and committees at sites or themes where they had a special interest, such as Bilaspur (Chhatisgarh), North Coastal Belt (Andhra Pradesh), Arvari (Rajasthan), Deccan Area (Andhra Pradesh) and Karbi-Anglong (Assam) sub-state sites. States such as Goa, Assam, Maharashtra, Delhi; ecoregions such as West Coast and themes like Natural Aquatic Ecosystems, Livelihoods, Lifestyles and Biodiversity. Unfortunately, some processes like those in Bihar, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura, and Chedema got weak attention from the respective TPCG members. This happened for various reasons. In some cases, the nodal agencies themselves did not keep in touch with the respective TPCG members and sometimes, TPCG members failed to follow up due to other priorities. .

**Box 15**

**Special Cases!**

In some cases, the process of BSAP formulation took much longer to take off or did not do so at all, due to a variety of reasons. These included bureaucratic delays, confusion of responsibility on who is to prepare the BSAP and sometimes, just lack of response from an agency/individual.

- In the case of Bihar, though the SSC was formed and there was interest by the nodal person, there was a problem of funds being released for the activity. Even though the funds had been sent in the name of the Advisor, Forest Department, Government of Bihar, the funds had to be

transferred to the state treasury from where they needed to be accessed. This did not happen for a very long time, and then the nodal person who had shown interest was transferred. Several follow up letters were sent and telephone conversations held, but the process did not move forward. Finally, the MoEF commissioned a local NGO (who had earlier expressed interest in preparing the BSAP), to prepare a status paper for the state's biodiversity so that it could be included in the national plan. The paper, however, could not be prepared before the national plan was finalized. At the same time, the state government wrote to MoEF that they would be going ahead with the preparation of the BSAP. By the end of the process, both the plan prepared by the NGO and that of the state government were received.

- In Delhi, four Secretaries of Department of Environment, Delhi Government, changed during the process of the preparation of the Delhi BSAP. Each Secretary came with his/her own vision of what the Delhi BSAP as well as the process to prepare it should be. Just as things would progress according to their plan, the Secretary changed and the process would start all over again. Finally, when the process did not take off for an extended period of time, it was suggested that the formulation of the BSAP be handed over to an NGO. Since this was a new approach it took considerable time to be accepted and operationalised. The process of formulating the BSAP was eventually 'sub-contracted' to the NGO in question. The draft plan was completed and was vetted by the TPCG. The state government for a very long time did not submit the BSAP formally, and the NGO-draft was used. However, it was only at the fag end of the process that the state government submitted the draft BSAP formally. However even after this, approval by the Department and the process of forwarding to the MoEF, took over a year. Finally the draft was received only towards the end of the process and after finalization of the national plan.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, a lot of pushing was required by the administrative agency to get the State Steering Committee notified and the process take off. However, at one point when there was very little communication from the state, it was suggested by the TPCG that a separate plan for the Kashmir Valley be prepared by an NGO, as Ladakh was also being looked at as a sub-state process. While the proposal was pending with the MoEF, there was communication from the state that they had begun the process of preparing the BSAP and held meeting with Buddhist monks and other groups. MoEF had to reject the separate proposal for Kashmir valley. The preparation of the BSAP was finally handed over to the State Forest Research Institute and a draft plan was submitted.
- During the initial phase of the NBSAP process, Madhya Pradesh was the only state that had a State Biodiversity and Biotechnology Board (SBBB), which had also prepared a strategy paper. Simultaneously, an official Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with another nodal agency endorsed by the then relevant Secretary. The concerned Secretary was later transferred. Subsequently, the administrative agency received communication from the State Government that the MoU for the preparation of the BSAP should be signed with the SBBB. This resulted in a delay in the execution of the project, as it was not clear whether a new steering committee should be established under the coordination of suggested nodal agency or whether the SBBB should act as the official steering committee. After a lot of discussion and intervention by the TPCG and MoEF, a MoU was signed between Department of Biodiversity and Biotechnology and MoEF. Environmental Planning and Coordination Organization was appointed as the executing arm of the nodal agency for SAP preparation.
- The Maharashtra BSAP process started off well, with a couple of stakeholder meetings organized by the Executing Agency YASHADA to chalk out a state-wide consultative plan. However, it seemed to lose steam very soon after this, and no consultation was held outside the Pune area. The draft plan, which was never finalized, consisted of a series of stand-alone chapters on various aspects of Maharashtra's biodiversity, with little attempt to integrate them



into a state-level strategic direction. Repeated attempts at getting the Executing Agency to revise and finalize the BSAP, including by the NBSAP External evaluator, failed. The available document therefore remains a draft BSAP.

- In Nagaland, after a substantial amount of delay in designating a relevant nodal agency, the State Department of Forest, Environment & Ecology and Wildlife was assigned the task of preparing the state BSAP. After the two meetings of the SSC, the task to prepare the BSAP was handed over to the Centre for Environment Studies, North Eastern Hill University based in Shillong. This led to misunderstanding between the nodal agency, the Forest Department and other state level NGOs. The primary reason being that it was handed over to an agency outside of the state, when it was very much possible to assign the task to academicians and/or NGOs in Nagaland.
- The Chedema village process consisted of a number of local consultations by the Executing Agency. However, the Agency was unable to put the results of these consultations and local research into a document, despite repeated attempts by the TPCG to help and encourage it to come out with a plan. The final available document is therefore only a few pages of ideas and information, and does not emerge as a cohesive BSAP.
- In the case of the Sunderbans, the preparation of the BSAP just did not take off, despite several reminders and meetings with the coordinator at various fora. After a point there was no response from the coordinator and finally MoEF had to communicate that the money released to him be returned.

Subsequent to the first Working Group/ Steering Committee/Advisory Group meetings, agencies at all levels began the process of formulating their strategy and action plans. There has been a diversity of methods used for this. Highlights of a few are listed below:

### **6.1 Methodologies used to prepare the BSAPs<sup>3</sup>**

#### ➤ *Using existing institutional mechanisms*

- The Arvari (Rajasthan) sub-state site BSAP was essentially developed through the existing *Arvari Sansad* (Arvari Parliament), a people's institution comprising of 72 villages in the Arvari River Basin. Members of the *Sansad* actively participated in data collection, organizing public hearings or meetings etc. Discussions at the *Sansad* meetings were incorporated into the BSAP. The earlier minutes were also referred to in detail by the team, which finally drafted the plan for Arvari Basin.
- As part of the Central Forest Belt ecoregion process, an existing network of groups of young environmentalists (*Tarun Paryavaranwadi Mandals-TPM*), organized by Vidarbha Nature Conservation Society played an integral part in the data collection for the BSAP. The network is active in 56 villages in and around Protected Areas. The community based members of TPM collected data on traditional crop varieties, flora & fauna and age-old community practices of biodiversity conservation. Dedicated volunteers arranged meetings with youths, communities and governmental agencies. Camps for youth were also organized.

#### ➤ *Creating Biodiversity Networks*

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<sup>3</sup> The initiatives described under these methodologies are only representative; the attempt here is not to be comprehensive. They are being described to present a flavour of the various means used in the NBSAP formulation.

In Assam, the nodal agency initiated a statewide biodiversity network inviting the participation of various stakeholders. Further, it nominated coordinators/joint coordinators in all the districts of the state, and requested them to form local working groups in their respective areas to collect data and information about biodiversity. A total of 18 local working groups were set up. The Committee also designed a regional Performa to facilitate collection of data/information on biodiversity at the local level.

➤ *Public Hearings / Public Meetings*

In its methodological notes, the TPCG had strongly emphasized the need to organize public hearings to enable an open and transparent process.

**Box 16**

**What is a public hearing, for the NBSAP process?**

“A public hearing is essentially a structured forum where diverse agencies, interest groups and individuals can articulate their views or grievances on a specific matter as inputs for decision-making. By providing space for expression of divergent views and interests, a public hearing can also function as a dispute resolution mechanism.

The participants in a public hearing are heard by a ‘hearing panel’ (or a jury or ‘commissioners’). This panel is responsible for recording the testimony of the participants for submission to the decision-making or planning agency. The objective is to improve the quality and democratic nature of public decision-making.

Public hearings may be organized by government (for example for Environmental Impact Assessment of proposed development projects) or by citizens’ groups or NGOs (e.g. People’s Commission on Environment and Development). They may vary greatly in levels of formality and scale. For example, a public hearing may aim to provide a forum at a village, *Gram Panchayat* (or cluster of these), block, district or state level. In the NBSAP context, a public hearing could also be centered on a particular theme or sub-theme (agriculture, fisheries, wildlife, food security, gender, livelihoods, nomads), local area, eco-region or whatever is particularly relevant in the specific area. *The value of a public hearing depends on the quality of the process that is followed.* The larger the geographical area a public hearing aims to cover, or the more complex and vast the thematic areas to be covered, the more preparatory ground work will be required to make the exercise meaningful.”

*(Adapted from Guidelines for NBSAP Executing Agencies, for Conducting Public Hearings, 2001)*

Some participants took this quite seriously, for instance:

- ❑ The Meghalaya state nodal agency organized 21 public hearings in various parts of the state.
- ❑ In Mizoram, the nodal agency conducted public hearings at every district headquarters. A public hearing on biodiversity conservation with reference to hydel projects was also organized by the nodal agency. The proceedings and responses were incorporated into the state BSAP document.
- ❑ The SSC in Punjab had considerable discussion on how to broaden the participatory process by reaching out to non-technical people as well as the student community. In response to this need, they organized several public hearings in the state, including with farmers.

- ❑ The SSC members of Arunachal Pradesh organized over 22 public hearings in different parts of the state. Participants included village heads, *Mahila* Welfare Associations, administrative officials, schoolteachers, students, forest officials etc.
- ❑ In Assam a mobile team consisting of a few members from the core committee traveled within the state to coordinate the activities of the local working groups, and to record the outcomes of the public hearings (*raij mel*) organized in different parts of the state on the other.
- ❑ In Chandigarh three public meetings were held in urban areas.
- ❑ Six public meetings on the themes Traditional Conservation Practices, Fresh Water Fishes, Medicinal Plants, Crop Genetic Diversity, Wetlands, and Protected Areas, were held as part of the Karnataka plan formulation.
- ❑ Several public hearings were organized in remote parts of the Rathong Chu (Sikkim) valley in Sikkim as part of the BSAP process. These were facilitated with the help of several NGOs and local bodies like the Khecheopalri Holy Lake Welfare Committee (KHLWC)
- ❑ As part of the West Garo Hills (Meghalaya) process, Public Hearing Cum Awareness Camps were conducted in ten selected *jhum* villages.
- ❑ As part of the West Coast Ecoregion BSAP, a public hearing was organized with fisher women of Malpe, Karnataka.

Though TWG and sub-thematic reviewers were not expected to carry out widespread public participation processes, in some cases this was done. For instance the Nomadic Pastoralists sub-thematic review held public hearings with pastoral groups in the Nilgiris.

#### **Box 17**

#### **Public Hearings Mis-Interpreted!**

- ❑ One of the first public hearings held was the State level public hearing cum seminar for Punjab SBSAP on November 21, 2000. Although about seventy NGOs, farmers, retired *tehsildars*, *patwaris*, forest officials, *Ayurvedic* experts had been invited, only fifteen to eighteen persons attended. Further, not a single government officer was present and only one or two members of the SSC were invited. It was at this stage that the need to develop some guidelines on public hearing s and send to all executing agencies was felt.
- ❑ A local NGO reported on 3-4 public hearings in Himachal Pradesh, all of which were far removed from the actual essence of the concept of public hearings. For instance, in the Sahu public hearing, after preliminary introductions, the scientists introduced a questionnaire they had prepared in a cyclostyled format, listing questions on biodiversity and conservation, and asked the participants to respond in either “yes” or “no”. In Kullu, the local village participants strongly protested against the confusion created by the local administration about the final venue of the hearing, as a result of which many people were unable to reach the venue. Questionnaires were distributed and participants were asked to present their responses before the plenary. At Jwalamukhi, the hearing was more of a public awareness exercise, where lectures by experts were the focus of the programme. Little opportunity was provided for local people to place their views on the subject.

➤ *Capacity Building for Formulation of BSAPs*

- The West Bengal nodal agency organized eight sensitization camps and workshops in different parts of the state and for a range of stakeholders. Over 500 people participated in these camps and workshops.
- As part of the Jashpur component of the Bilaspur (Chhatisgarh) sub-state site BSAP, the Biodiversity Conservation Committee, formed a biodiversity conservation work group comprising of 12 members essentially from the civil society. This group underwent a one-week training in Bilaspur to be able to subsequently collect relevant information on local biodiversity for the BSAP.
- As part of formulation of the Rathong Chu (Sikkim) sub-state site BSAP, community members were invited to make presentations of their respective Community SAPs, to expose other community members to the whole gamut of development initiatives adopted by various villages in the region. As part of the same process, nature games were also organized; particularly to help understand esoteric concepts of conservation as also to liven up the proceedings, act as energizers and to liven up the process.
- As part of the Simlipal BSAP process, orientation training was conducted for community leaders, women, NGO functionaries and intellectuals in order to address specific issues of biodiversity under a standard format for SAP. Orientation was given on the dissemination and sharing procedures, on relevance of local knowledge in the context of biodiversity, on the appropriateness of assessment methods and on how to address the issues systematically.

“Puvvalabalama, a Savara tribal from Durubali village in North Coastal Andhra, after reporting that there were "no wild fruit for birds" in his village in 1999, and that non-tribals were cutting down trees, said that it is the belief of his community, that trees reside with their entire families (fruit, flowers, etc.) in the months of Feb-April/May. It was believed that if trees were cut during these months, they'd disappear.” *NBSAP News 5, June 2001*

➤ *Involvement of Women's Groups*

- Five exclusive meetings were held with women's groups as part of the Kachchh BSAP process. These meetings were organized with the help of *Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangathan* (KMVS), a NGO working on women's issues in the region. Women representatives from about 100 villages participated in these meetings.
- Several meetings with fisherwomen, including with the Malpe Fisherwomen's Co-operative Society where more than 100 members participated, were conducted as part of the West Coast BSAP process. Discussions were aimed at the livelihood dependence on fishing, professional diversity among the fisher women and the traditional knowledge amongst women folk.

➤ *Involvement of Students/Children*

Though not originally envisaged as a major participant group, children emerged as an important group in the NBSAP process at several sites. Examples include the following:

- In Karnataka, high school students and teachers from 50 schools distributed throughout the state undertook projects investigating one or more themes prescribed by the state BSAP process, working hand in hand with local people, to produce “School Biodiversity Registers”. Inputs based on reactions of the public to newspaper articles and radio broadcasts, high school based case studies in 50 localities covering all the ecological regions of the state, NGO case studies and expert discussion papers formed the background material for a final round of workshops. Six such workshops were organized in different locations throughout the state. The conclusions of these six workshops were brought together to formulate a draft of the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.
- In Maharashtra a statewide village-level survey with a focus on children was undertaken to assess knowledge about biodiversity, and to record the status of food diversity.
- In Orissa a number of activities were organized for children in various districts, which ranged from discussions, starting nurseries of seedlings, tree identification, etc.
- Under the Vidarbha (Maharashtra) sub-state plan, a biodiversity exhibition was held at Korchi Block, in district Gadchiroli. Ten teams from ten villages were formed for this exhibition, with each group focusing on one subject to exhibit on. . The teams comprised of children of various age groups.
- In the Nahin Kalan sub-state site (Uttaranchal), 25 students from the primary school of the area came together for a workshop to facilitate the understanding of biodiversity. The idea was to enable them to apply their knowledge and subsequently generate a sense of ownership and responsibility towards biodiversity conservation. Inputs from this workshop were incorporated in the Nahin Kalan Plan

“....then the facilitator asked them to imagine a scenario in which there was only one type of tree in the entire forest. What would be the positive and negative outcomes? A little startled, the children found it very difficult to imagine, yet they thought that their buffaloes and cows would be very unhappy with such a boring diet...” *NBSAP News 5, June 2001*, while highlighting the workshop with children in Nahin Kalan (Uttaranchal)

- As part of the Wild Plants Thematic BSAP process 46 school students and 16 teachers belonging to 17 schools participated in a programme at Dwarahat, Almora (Uttaranchal). Modules were designed for six themes, and training given on each module followed by a group discussion and an on-site training / demonstration.
- In the Micro-organisms SBSAP process the first meeting of the working group was combined with a student workshop. A competition for students to create a logo for the SAP was also organized.
- In the East Coast BSAP process three one day nature camps for primary and high school students were organized with help from the Forest Department at Galathea Bay, a unique hotspot of the Andaman and Nicobar Island’s biodiversity. Two hundred children belonging to 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> standards from two schools in Campbell Bay and Govind Nagar participated in the events. During the camps the children were shown various forms of marine life, with a special focus on reef biodiversity.
- In the Central Forest Belt process, about hundred youth, mostly from rural areas, were involved to collect information on the status of biodiversity of their areas. A format was prepared that was used to document information on the flora, fauna, water resources, medicinal plants, agricultural and horticultural crop varieties, livestock and poultry breeds etc. The students conducted interviews with local knowledgeable persons, including fisherfolk, *vaidus*, agriculturists, teachers, etc. The information collected was used in the

BSAP. Besides, two workshops and eleven nature camps were organized to make students aware about the NBSAP process.

➤ *Thematic approach*

Several sites took their cue from the national level Process Outline which had listed 14 key themes relevant to biodiversity, and organized their BSAP processes around these or related themes.

- In West Bengal State and Himachal Pradesh State, the Committee decided to base their BSAP format on the 14 thematic working groups on the same lines as those working at the national level.
- During the first meeting of the Kerala State BSAP, 12 thematic working groups were constituted, many of them based on the thematic areas specified under the NBSAP.
- The SSC in Chandigarh formed a public participation thematic group and engaged an NGO to ensure that participation was key to the BSAP. The SSC also felt it important to have an action plan separately on urban biodiversity and wetlands for which subgroups were formed.
- The Karnataka State effort identified six themes to focus the discussion while addressing the broad range of issues of concern. These were: medicinal plants, freshwater fishes, wetlands, and traditional practices of nature conservation and crop genetic diversity.
- The Manipur State BSAP also built on seven themes, drawing from the thematic BSAPs proposed at the national level.
- The Gangetic Plains Ecoregional BSAP followed a similar process. Members of the working group prepared strategies and action plans for different elements of biodiversity such as wild plants, mammals, birds, herpetofauna, fishes etc.

➤ *Intersectoral Integration attempts*

**Box 18**

**Intersectoral integration within the NBSAP process  
(Guidance Given to Executing Agencies)**

One of the most important tasks in front of each executing agency of the NBSAP process is to list the measures needed for inter-sectoral integration. Such a listing of actions should be relevant for the geographical area that each agency is covering. For this, the following steps are necessary:

1. Assessment of the current gaps in integrating biodiversity concerns into each economic and social sector of planning (including budgeting), i.e. where the planning process has neglected or under-valued biodiversity (and related livelihoods of people);
2. Identification of the major impacts of such gaps and weaknesses, i.e. how biodiversity (and related livelihoods) are being negatively affected by the policies/programmes in each sector;
3. Identification and assessment of existing measures being taken to plug these gaps and weaknesses, e.g. is the state or district attempting to strengthen environmental impact procedures so that biodiversity conservation can take place, or trying to build in conservation elements into regional planning processes, or encouraging *panchayats* and district planning bodies to consider these aspects?
4. Identification of the specific actions needed to plug the gaps, to strengthen measures already being taken, to achieve integration of biodiversity concerns into the various sectors of planning (including budgets). (*From Integrating Biodiversity Into Sectoral Planning: A Note for Executing Agencies, 2001*)

- The Rajasthan State nodal agency as part of its plan formulation developed a matrix to analyze the need for intersectoral integration. It also organized a workshop on *Integration of Sectoral Issues and Concerns on Biodiversity and Biological Resources*. The workshop came out with preliminary recommendations with respect to each sector on devising a state level strategy for conservation of biodiversity. It also brought the participants on a common wavelength after this workshop and strengthened the preliminary findings and strategies for formulating a detailed action plan later. All such departmental/sectoral strategies and action plans were eventually incorporated into the state BSAP document.

This matrix was subsequently revised by the TPCG and circulated to all Executing Agencies as also deliberated upon at all the regional workshops. Elements of it were also used in relevant parts of the National Action Plan. (See Annexure 8 for Consolidated Intersectoral Integration Matrix, from 5 regional workshops)

- As part of the Bilaspur (Chhatisgarh) sub-state BSAP process attempts were made to actively involve various government departments and other relevant sectors for plan formulation. For instance, for the Jashpur segment, the working group interacted and held meeting with representatives of the revenue, agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, veterinary, public health and tribal development departments as well as academicians, local *vaidyas*, religious leaders etc.
- As part of the Vidarbha substate process, consultative meetings among a variety of line agencies of government at the district and region level were held including the forest, agriculture, animal husbandry, statistical department and social forestry departments as well as the Pollution Control Board.
- As part of the Central Forest Belt ecoregional process, some meetings were organized by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Maharashtra), and the Divisional Commissioners of the two districts in Maharashtra to invite active participation of various stakeholders. These meetings were attended by representatives of various departments including revenue, forests, irrigation, agriculture, fisheries, veterinary, tribal welfare, public health, universities, coal mines, social welfare, as well as *Zilla Parishads* (District Councils) along with NGOs and a range of individuals.

➤ *Use of questionnaires / surveys and other formats*

Some initiatives were:

- The Economics and Valuation of Biodiversity and the Education Awareness and Training TWGs developed questionnaires, which were circulated widely.
- The coordinating agency of the Health and Biodiversity thematic BSAP commissioned surveys for the use of local health traditions and medicinal plants by communities in Gujarat.
- As part of the Haryana State BSAP process, a survey was conducted in 98 villages of three districts in order to get the views of different socio-economic classes.
- As part of the Maharashtra State plan formulation, questionnaires were produced to document village level indigenous knowledge on biodiversity.
- In Punjab State, questionnaires (in English & Punjabi) were circulated through NGOs & schools for collecting information on traditional farming & conservation systems and related religious, ethical, cultural & social aspects.

- The Orissa State nodal agency circulated an Oriya questionnaire to all the respondents for the programme through advertisement, formal and informal communications. This was primarily for collecting information on present practices and knowledge related to agriculture, forests & wildlife, aquatic fauna, domesticated animals, water resources, mining and industries, flora (particularly orchids), conservation systems related to religious, cultural, ethical and social aspects of natural resources etc.
- In the Uttara Kannada (Karnataka) sub-state process, a sample survey on agricultural diversity was conducted by the Department of Agriculture in eleven *talukas*. A questionnaire was prepared for this purpose and distributed to farmers. Data was collected from 200 farmers in the district on varieties of rice, fruits, spices, vegetables, sugarcane and banana in the district.
- In the Bilaspur (Chhatisgarh) sub-state BSAP process, a questionnaire to collect information on the status of biodiversity was distributed among all the primary schools, which are part of *Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission* situated all parts of Jashpur district. The questionnaire was also given to *Anganbadi* training centers in Jashpur.
- The North Coastal Belt (Andhra Pradesh) sub-state BSAP used three kinds of questionnaires: those circulated to *Van Suraksha Samitis* on an evaluation of *Girijan Cooperative Corporation*; for project proposals pertaining to education; and those related to micro-planning. These were discussed at various consultations and meetings.
- In the Simlipal (Orissa) sub-state process, two sets of structured questionnaires were prepared for low literate and for intellectuals in order to collect adequate information to substantiate SAP. The questionnaires were sent to village level resource persons and experts. About 600 questionnaires were distributed to various stakeholders.
- As part of the Aravalli ecoregion BSAP process, questionnaires (8 forms in Hindi) were used to record information about the present status of biodiversity, its uses, perceptions, and aspirations of people. Local NGOs, schoolteachers, college lecturers, local knowledgeable individuals, employees of the forest departments etc., were involved in collection of information from 159 villages.
- As part of the Micro-organisms thematic BSAP process, a questionnaire was used to carry out a survey related to the subject. Responses from nearly 90 researchers were received, which were built into the BSAP.
- The Wild Plant Biodiversity thematic working group developed standardized formats for data entry. For example: all the attributes were organized to accommodate relevant information irrespective of the gaps in available literature, which was built into the BSAP. Biogeographic region or state wise information in each aspect i.e. floristic diversity and special elements were also taken into consideration. The information was recorded on the basis of published/unpublished work.

## Box 19

### Literature Reviews

- As part of the Punjab State BSAP process, literature from the central and departmental libraries of all the four universities of Punjab, relevant research and development bodies and government departments was reviewed. This literature included books, reports, journals & published papers, departmental files, working plans, administrative orders and communications, recommendations of technical committees, etc. Information was also culled out from Ph.D, M.Phil & M.Sc Theses. The data procured was later sent for validation to relevant government departments and research institutions in the State.



- Extensive review of related research reports and publication of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, other Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions, state agricultural universities and other government and non-governmental organizations was undertaken as part of the Domesticated Biodiversity thematic BSAP process.
- The Economics and Valuation of Biodiversity thematic working group carried out extensive literature search and review on the methodologies of valuation. These were reflected in the bibliography annexed to the BSAP.

## Box 20

### Using Models, Charts and Maps

Both the Sikkim State and Rathong Chu (Sikkim) sub-state site BSAP process used models and charts to illustrate issues related to deforestation, garbage, soil erosion and water pollution during village meetings and during biodiversity festivals. The models were made using local material available at the village level. For Sikkim, there were models of trans-Himalayan Sikkim, Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, Tendong Nature Reserve, soil runoff model, water-source pollution model, etc. The charts from Centre for Environment Education, Posters and Photographs of Wildlife etc were also explained in the local language, i.e. Nepali.

Both processes also used interactive, appreciative appraisal, mapping of the current resources of the village and the dream village ten years hence, through the Appreciative Participatory Planning and Appraisal (APPA) and 4D (Discovery, Dream, Design and Delivery Technique for Microplanning) techniques. These were included in the BSAPs and formed the basis of the analysis of the strategies and actions at various levels.

#### ➤ Detailed Case Studies/ Field Visits

Some processes carried out detailed case studies, which formed an important basis for the analysis in the final BSAPs. These case studies focused either on representative ecosystems or were carried out to understand a range of issues in a region. Some examples are:

- The nodal agency in Orissa identified two representative ecologically significant areas in the state, one each representing terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The nodal agency also studied three representative districts to cover a diversity of issues for the state. These were: Angul (with rich biodiversity and industries, mining and irrigation projects), Deogarh (with rich biodiversity region like Pradhanpat with negligible industrial, mining activity), and Sambalpur (with growing industries and urbanization).
- In the Punjab BSAP process, specific field visits were carried out in areas of ecological interest. These included, Harike, Kanjli and Ropar wetlands, Shivalik Forest Ecosystem and Abohar Sanctuary. The visits were specifically to collect relevant data from these areas.
- As part of the Pondicherry state BSAP process, two case studies were carried out on the Conservation of Weeds as well as on Observations in Avifauna at Ousteri lake, Sri Aurobindo Ashram.
- The Arvari (Rajasthan) sub-state site process included case studies of three sample villages. These villages were selected to represent a broad set of issues of the Arvari River Basin. These were: *Bhaonta-Kolyala* where community initiatives were successful in conserving biodiversity and were an integral part of the revival of the Arvari River; the village *Samara* selected because of the recent efforts towards the rejuvenation of forest by the community;

and *Kalsi Kala – Jhiri ka Guwara*, a village surrounded by marble mining which has become a major threat to the lives and livelihoods of the villagers.

- The Economics and Valuation of Biodiversity Thematic Working Group followed a case study approach and several case studies from researchers; both from India and abroad were invited.

➤ *Formation of drafting committees*

- For some sites, including those that took off relatively late, drafting committees were constituted to help prepare the BSAPs. Specific examples of this were Uttaranchal and Chhatisgarh. In the case of Bihar this was repeatedly attempted by the TPCG with no success.
- After a few meetings and one public hearing, four academic experts were identified to compile and draft the BSAP for Lahaul-Spiti-Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh) sub-state site.
- In the Culture and Biodiversity SAP process due to non-availability of some members of the working group and logistic difficulties, a small drafting group was formed to compile all the contributions and prepare the final document.

➤ *Building on existing biodiversity strategies*

Some sites already had or were in the process of drafting biodiversity/environment plan documents, under initiatives other than NBSAP. For example:

- Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI- now The Energy Research Insititute) was formulating a Biodiversity Plan for Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh under a World Bank funded forestry project. Both the Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh BSAP documents based themselves on TERI reports.
- The Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board had put together an overview biodiversity strategy prior to the NBSAP process being initiated in the state, which was used as a base to prepare the state BSAP.
- The Gujarat BSAP process also used information collected and presented in the Gujarat State of Environment Report, which was being compiled by the Gujarat Ecological Commission, at the same time when the state BSAP was being prepared. While these plans did not adopt the same framework as the NBSAP they proved to be good base documents.
- The Nagpur nodal agency proposed the preparation of a sub-state site action plan linking to the ongoing official process of declaring Nagpur as an ecocity. The nodal agency felt that if proper steps are taken for the future planning of the city, then much of the degradation to the ecosystems and the subsequent loss of biodiversity could be prevented.

➤ *Linking with initiatives both within and outside the NBSAP process*

- The Education, Awareness, Training thematic BSAP built on inputs from parallel processes that had a synergy with the NBSAP processes. This included, deliberations and conclusions of the sub group on 'Education, Awareness, Integration of Wildlife Planning with other Primary Sectors and Identification of Priority Areas along with Financial Requirements for the same', which was part of the Working Group on Wildlife set up by the Planning Commission with a view to recommend a policy framework for the activities in the wildlife sector for the 10th Five Year Plan. Online discussions, were also hosted by Centre for Environment Education (CEE) on its website and information from the same was built into the BSAP.

- The Rajasthan State nodal agency collaborated with Oxfam India Trust to organize a consultative meeting with various NGOs, people's organization, government officials and academicians working in the Thar region of Rajasthan. This could be considered as one of the direct fallouts of the Donor's meeting (See Section 11) organized at the national level.
- A two-day workshop held in Coimbatore in February 2001 examined the information needs, conservation problems, and research priorities in rainforest fauna, which represent a major component of India's faunal richness. This workshop, attended by about 100 researchers, forest managers, NGOs and others gave particular importance to invertebrates that have been neglected while setting conservation priorities. The workshop deliberations contributed substantially to the Wild Animal Diversity thematic BSAP.
- The Economic and Valuation TWG invited additional participants to each of its meetings. These included members of other thematic working group and TPCG members. There were also direct links with some specific thematic working groups mainly, the Livelihood and Lifestyles; Access and Benefit Sharing; Education, Awareness and Training; Terrestrial Biodiversity and Domesticated Biodiversity. Constant interaction with these was maintained through inviting them to deliberations of the group, exchanging documents with them and requesting them for specific inputs.

➤ *Meetings with special participant groups*

- In Jammu & Kashmir State, the nodal agency organized a special meeting with Buddhist monks to get their views on the traditional use and conservation of medicinal plants.
- The Gujarat State nodal agency held a meeting of local *vaidyas* representing all the regions of Gujarat and experts on medicinal plants, which was attended by nearly 70 people.
- The Pondicherry State nodal agency organized a one-day workshop for sixty postgraduate teachers from the region, in collaboration with State Training Centre, Department of Education. The purpose of the workshop was to create awareness among the teachers and get their feedback on the issue of integrating biodiversity into the educational curriculum. The nodal agency also organized meetings with farmers and fisherfolk of the region, to get specific inputs for the BSAP.
- At the Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir) sub-state site, a meeting was organized jointly by the nodal agency and the *Ladakh Amchi Sabha*. 40 *Amchis* (local healers) from different parts of Ladakh attended to discuss their views on conservation of medicinal plants of the region, as also conservation of the cultural heritage related to health care.
- The Nagpur (Maharashtra) sub-state site nodal agency organized a meeting of local fisherfolk, which was attended by several fisherfolk along with their families. The discussion took place in Hindi and Marathi. One of the main points discussed was the distribution and occurrence of 30 different fish species. The District Fisheries Officer and many NGOs of the city also attended the meeting.
- The North Coastal Belt (Andhra Pradesh) nodal agency identified key themes such as medicinal plants and livelihoods of fisherfolk as part of a two-day adivasi workshop for Vizianagaram and Srikakulam, districts. In addition to these, aspects of *Vana Samrakshana Samiti* (VSS), *Girijan Cooperative Corporation* (GCC) and Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) projects were also examined. Members of Thodu and Yamnaba self-help groups, Village Tribal Development Agency (VTDA) members, *Mahila Mandali* representatives, VSS members and village elders from 15 villages, Grameena Punarnirmana Kendra (GPK) representatives, and others from Kurupam were present.
- As part of the Bilaspur (Chhatisgarh) sub-state site process, a meeting with snake charmers was organized to seek their inputs in the BSAP.

**Box 21****Involvement of the Armed Forces in the Ladakh BSAP process**

“...we finally succeeded in securing the active participation of key components of the Forces, including its higher echelons, in the crucial final phase of the BSAP process...Important commitments were made...

- The Armed Forces (14 Corps) has provided a list of its “Eco-cells” established in different parts of Ladakh...This contact list will be circulated shortly to concerned Agencies and other stake-holders who participated in the BSAP elaboration.
- The Wildlife & Forest Departments have agreed to list, delineate and map all PAs and areas of bio-diversity...and transmit the information to the Armed Forces by February 2003. Upon receipt of this information, the Forces (14 Corps, HIMANK/GREF) have committed to ban all detrimental activities in these areas including biota and artifact collection, off track driving, shooting, boating, low over flights and any major infrastructure development. They have also agreed to implement protective measures in the vicinity of base camps such as protecting wildlife breeding/feeding ground, combating the stray dog menace, conducting regular garbage clean up etc.
- The 14 Corps has agreed to facilitate access and participate in surveys organized by the Wildlife Department, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), WWF etc. in remote and border areas where the Armed Forces have a regular presence....
- The Public Works Department (PWD), Ladakh Ecological Development Group (LEDeG) and Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL- a local NGO focusing on education, located in entirely solar heated premises), will conduct a joint exercise in January-February 2003 to elaborate guidelines for building construction in Ladakh based on climate, use of solar energy & traditional architectural style. The Armed Forces (14 Corps) is committed to abide by these guidelines in all its new constructions.

These commitments are substantial outputs of the BSAP process...This is still very much a work in progress though.... Better linkages are yet to be established with the Para-military Forces (Indo-Tibetan Border Police /Indo-Tibetan Border Force) and the Air Force....”

*Blaise Humbert-Droz, NBSAP News 14, December 2003*

➤ *Biodiversity Festivals and Rallies*

**Box 22****NBSAP and Biodiversity Festivals  
(Guidance to Executing Agencies)**

“Much of the discourse around biodiversity in the mainstream is related to its *use* in an economic sense with a *sustainability* adjective attached to it. The discourse often hinges on the *economics* of biodiversity and its great use for scientific purposes. This utilitarian view of biodiversity stands at odds with the concept of biodiversity as cherished by sections of society all over the world as a part of their spiritual and cultural heritage. These sections of society depend on biodiversity for sheer survival, but their understanding of the concept is on a very different plane. This understanding, based on a cultural and religious ethos, is marked by celebrations and rituals surrounding biodiversity. It is suggested that a festival celebrating the spiritual and material/economic relationship of society with biodiversity be part of the NBSAP.

**What can be the elements of the Biodiversity Festival?**

The entire organization and design must be celebratory, addressed to senses as well as to the intellect. The thrust of the festival could be on:

- a) celebrating the spiritual conception of biodiversity
- b) raising awareness of the non-utilitarian concept of biodiversity, and displaying how this is reflected in lifestyles and customs of many sections of society.
- c) presenting a message for the conservation of biodiversity, through a display and explanation of the many ways in which human societies interact in a healthy manner with biodiversity.
- d) Material connections are also important to focus on, e.g. the links between diversity and livelihoods, health etc.”

(From the NBSAP-Biodiversity Festival Note, 2000 distributed as guidance to EAs)

Some attempts at organizing biodiversity festivals at various levels were:

- As part of formulating a local strategy and action plan for Uttara Kannada (Karnataka) sub-state site, a *mela* (fair) was organized. The *mela* allowed for the participation amongst people who otherwise do not have the opportunity to tangibly take part in the process of formulating and writing an action plan. The *mela* centered on the themes of agriculture, fisheries, and forests. Government departments (agriculture, horticulture, Spices Board, fisheries, forest, sericulture etc.), individuals, and NGOs put up stalls. Cultural events were organized. One of the main thrusts of the *mela* was to address livelihood issues in a real and creative way through exhibits. . Subsequent *melas* and seed exchange programmes have been held in other parts of the district, by NGOs and community groups
- In April 2001, a visit by some TPCG members to the Rathong Chu (Sikkim) sub-state site, corresponded with a cultural festival to celebrate *Baisakhi* (spring) and the Nepali New Year was being organized by local youth, in Yuksam village. The TPCG members suggested incorporating biodiversity issues into this. As planning progressed the festival became more ambitious and also included an exhibition of indigenous foods, instruments and some crop varieties. A local skit performed as part of the festival managed to successfully incorporate the concept of NBSAP with the help of the TPCG members present.
- The nodal agency for the Deccan Area (Andhra Pradesh) sub-state site organized a mobile biodiversity festival in 62 villages in the Zaheerabad region. Ten decorated bullock carts displaying agricultural biodiversity of the region traveled these villages in 35 days. Two carts displayed traditional foods that have begun to reappear in the people’s daily diets. Discussions were held in each village about the agro-biodiversity in that village and plans to conserve and enhance it for sustainable use and equitable distribution. A draft strategy and action plan for agricultural biodiversity in 70 villages of the area was released at a colourful and lively ceremony in February 2001. The plan was based on the festival and a series of consultations amongst various stakeholders, including farmers, officials, NGOs, and academics. NBSAP has given momentum to these events and mobile festivals have since become annual events and were held during the same months in 2002, 2003 and 2004.
- The Simlipal (Orissa), sub-state site nodal agency organized an event captioned LIFE 2001 in Mayurbhanj district, in March 2001. LIFE indicates Livelihood security, Indigenous knowledge protection, Forest and natural resource conservation and Equity. The main objective of these activities were to create awareness and build institutional strength for biodiversity conservation and management of natural resources. As part of the programme the following were undertaken through 9 villages: i) Cycle rally ii) *Lok Shiksha Sibir* (Education Camp) iii) *Adivasi* (Tribal) drama and iv) Forest festival. The nodal agency

prepared a booklet in Oriya as a call for participation to involve all stakeholders at the sub-state site.

- As part of the Vidarbha (Maharashtra) sub-state site process, a food biodiversity *mela* for women was organized in Korchi and Dhanora block of Gadchiroli districts for participation of women. Women brought about 20 different varieties of vegetables, 22 varieties of fruits, 15 varieties of tubers, and 4 varieties of mushrooms. Another biodiversity *mela*, was organized at Kurkheda for students in which students from eight villages participated.
- The East Coast Ecoregion coordinating agency, along with the fisherfolk of Parangipettai, organized a boat race and cultural festival. The programme started with a boat race, in which 20 country boats driven by 2 fishermen each, rowed up the estuary towards the mouth into the sea. All of them were wearing special NBSAP t-shirts and caps! The event did not in itself have a biodiversity component, but was a strategy to get the community interested. The fisherfolk were provided a forum to voice their opinions and there was an impromptu dialogue with the Assistant Director of Fisheries. There was also a cultural programme put together by students.
- The Madhya Pradesh State BSAP process recognizing the need for field-based action organized a *yatra* in the Satpura eco-region of the State during January-February 2002. Spread over a two-week period the *yatra* team comprised of senior state level and district level government officers drawn from various disciplines, NGOs, scientists and other experts. The *yatra* went through all the districts of the region using various modes of transport including jeeps/cars, boat, by train and also by foot. The Chief Minister and the Minister for Biodiversity and Biotechnology met the *yatris* at two different points along the *yatra*-route and participated in their activities. A mobile exhibition accompanied the *yatra*. Meetings, seminars, discussions, interaction with school children, interactive sessions were organized with villagers including tribals all along the route.
- The Mizoram nodal agency organized a culture and biodiversity festival in January 2002 at Falkwan and filmed the entire event

#### ➤ *Formal meetings and workshops*

Meetings and workshops were the most common methodology, adopted by almost all the executing agencies in the NBSAP process. They were used as forums for brainstorming, clarifications, and discussions, seeking inputs and drafting elements of the BSAP.

- The Orissa State nodal agency organized a state level workshop with representatives of all sectors concerning biodiversity, where 40 participants representing various stakeholders and experts (NGOs, government departments, research and development institutions and individuals) attended.
- The Western Ghats ecoregional coordinator organized a series of meetings in various states involving scientists, community organizations, NGOs, and government officials from all the states that the Ghats span.
- In the Central Forest Belt ecoregion, the coordinator organized separate meetings with various stakeholders, including some at village level in Bastar.
- One of the methodologies used in the Western Himalaya ecoregional process was making relevant presentations in select symposia outside the NBSAP process. Presentations were made at six symposia/seminars in the span of one year relating to the issues of biodiversity.
- The Laws, Policies and Institutions TWG prepared an initial base paper based on secondary literature review, and consultation with environmental, community and tribal rights experts,

activists and the working group members. Using the paper as a starting point, the group organized further consultations with selected local communities and state authorities.

- As part of the Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir) sub-state BSAP process several consultations and focused meetings were organized with local communities along the Indus River Valley and also with Women Sea Buckthorn Societies. This was primarily with the purpose of understanding the value addition potential of Sea Buckthorn processing. This was especially so in the light of the food processing industry's recent interest in its large-scale exploitation.

➤ *Rewriting concept notes and commissioning of papers.*

- The TPCG had attempted to write brief concept notes on each of the thematic plans proposed. These were supposed to be guidelines for the TWGs. Most TWGs did follow and expand on the notes. Some others like the TWG on Livelihoods and Lifestyles, felt more comfortable re-writing the concept note.

Some of the groups commissioned individuals within or outside the group to research and write on a certain aspect of the site or theme. These include:

- As part of the Andaman and Nicobar State BSAP process various studies were commissioned on topics such as feral animals, shark fin industry, agricultural yields etc.
- In Maharashtra State about 19 thematic papers were commissioned and formed the bulk of the BSAP.
- In the Goa State BSAP process some of the sub-reports were prepared either in Konkani, or in Marathi, and were based on active contributions from the communities themselves. Papers were also commissioned on specific subjects such as Ethno- Ichthyology, Ethno-Herpetology, Ethno-Technology etc.
- As part of the Meghalaya State BSAP process several writing assignments were commissioned on themes such as Land Use in Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Jhum and its relevance in Meghalaya, Folklore and folk traditions with relevance to Biodiversity, Traditional Administration etc.
- The Natural Terrestrial Ecosystems thematic BSAP was essentially a compilation of a series of commissioned papers related to the subject. These included both ecological as well as issue-based contributions from a range of experts.
- As part of the Micro-organisms thematic BSAP process, concept notes on the subject from NGO's, farmers, scientist, and students were used to cover various facets from conservation to bioprospecting as inputs for the BSAP.

**Box 23**

**Use of Media (print, audio-visual, web-based) to invite inputs to the BSAPs**

- A programme on the Karnataka State BSAP, *Dhareya Siri*, was prepared by All India Radio, Bangalore along with Centre for Ecological Sciences and broadcast simultaneously in Kannada from all 13 stations in the state. The programme focused on the six themes (mentioned in section 6.1) on Karnataka, in 14 episodes alternating with interaction episodes, involving schoolteachers and students, experts, government officials and NGOs. The AIR team visited several sites in Karnataka to interview people. AIR estimates that about 6,00,000 to 7,00,000 people listened to each of these episodes. 3,674 people registered as participants in the programme. Over 780 people wrote letters providing detailed

comments and suggestions. The interesting thing about this was that it was an interactive radio drama, with the programme producers traveling around the state to interview people on specific themes with a very creative intertwining of drama and reality.

- The nodal agency for Mizoram State celebrated the 2002 Earth Day on April 22 by creating awareness campaigns on biodiversity through Television, All India Radio, Print Media, etc.
- As part of the Tripura State BSAP process the nodal agency approached All India Radio, Doordarshan and the local print media for wider publicity. Messages inviting participation in the process appeared in local dailies on three days in Bengali, Kokborok and English languages. Pamphlets were also printed in three languages for mass circulation. Public announcements were made over mobile audio-system. A Press Conference was also held on the eve of a State Level Workshop.
- The West Bengal State nodal agency placed advertisements in local newspapers in English and Bengali, inviting participation to the process.
- In order to invite participation of various stakeholders in the Kachchh (Gujarat) sub-state site process mass appeals were made through local Gujarati newspapers and local News Channel operated through Cable-TV network in the area.
- Sensitization of public through articles and news items on the BSAP process was carried out as part of the Uttara Kannada (Karnataka) sub-state BSAP process.
- Some executing agencies like that for the Western Ghats ecoregion posted minutes of various meetings on websites other than the main NBSAP site. This was both to invite participation as well as allow the process to be transparent in nature.

#### **Box 24**

#### **Unanticipated Positive Impacts**

One of the strongest points about NBSAP was the range of "unanticipated" positive impacts, not initially envisaged in the NBSAP process.

- Widespread awareness creation on biodiversity issues (especially through folk and mass media);
- Generation of fresh field data on various aspects of biodiversity;
- Capacity enhancement and empowerment of people, especially village communities;
- Widespread networking amongst the various individuals and organizations involved in the process.

Fortunately, at a number of sites and on several themes, implementation was already underway before the national plan was finalized. Many states have started moving towards setting up implementation mechanisms, and putting into place or applying for funds. Many local communities, NGOs, and institutions have initiated a variety of actions. Details of this are mentioned in the next section.

#### **Unanticipated Negative Impacts**

There were negative effects and reactions to the process as well, one of them being the confusion between NBSAP and the Biological Diversity Bill, with allegations that the former is "stalling" the latter or that the latter is a manifestation of the former. This was unfortunate, as critics did not understand the independent existence of the two.

Another possible negative impact especially amongst local communities and NGOs, might have been the generation of high expectations, which may not be met if the biodiversity action plans they have been a part of didn't get implemented, or did not adequately reflect the interests of all



concerned despite the effort to make planning participatory. This already seems to be the case in many states/sites where implementation is stuck because the MoEF has not Okayed the national plan nor sent endorsement letters to the executing agencies regarding their BSAPs for the whole of 2004. The endorsement letters were important at the state level to ensure that there was approval from the Centre for the publication of these plans.

### **Box 25**

#### **Key Lessons for Formulation of Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans**

- It is important to have multistakeholder committees or advisory groups in order to be able to build a variety of perspectives and issues into the BSAPs.
- Though flexibility of approaches should be encouraged, some clear guidelines are necessary and need to be followed to achieve the envisaged degree of participation as well as cover a range of issues in the BSAPs. There were times when some agencies did not follow the guidelines and made little or no effort to achieve the said objectives. These agencies commissioned the writing of the entire plan to a few people, thus bypassing the participatory process envisaged in the NBSAP.
- The allocated budget should keep in mind outreach, particularly for publicity and dissemination of plans and strategies. . In some processes, when additional sources and/or voluntary inputs could not be leveraged and the allocated budgets for BSAP formulation were not enough, the extent of outreach was compromised upon.
- The overall process needs to keep enough margins for delays while looking at the time frame. Some nodal agencies, which began the process of planning much later than the others, had lesser time to finalize their BSAPs.
- It is important that the relevant members of the central coordinating unit (the TPCG) are included in the planning process at all levels. Initiative needs to be taken both at the level of the nodal agency and the concerned TPCG member. In some cases when this did not occur, the quality of BSAPs suffered.
- It is important that more than one nodal agency is kept in mind for a particular site during the planning exercise. Sometimes, planning exercises had to be dropped or abandoned in the light of a complete lack of response from the proposed nodal agency and limited or no alternatives.
- Special inputs in the form of orientation sessions are required at the beginning of such a process to address issues like gender, equity and empowerment. It is likely that in many cases there is a lack of understanding of these concepts. Agencies might find it difficult to address these issues while drafting the BSAPs. Orientation sessions may also be required to share with nodal agencies experiences of how best tool like public hearings can be used to generate more participation.
- In instances where the nodal agency did not follow a truly participatory process, feedback from other groups and individuals who understand the essence of the process can help in improving a planning process. For instance, in the case some states, the TPCG received feedback from local NGOs that the outreach was not adequate or being carried out in the stipulated manner. In such cases TPCG members were able to intervene to mould the process to some extent.
- The process has to take into account delays caused due to factors beyond the control of those involved in the planning process, including delays due to the political unrest, communal riots, natural disasters etc.
- Sufficient time and opportunity need to be given to nodal agencies to understand the process and what is required from them. Some coordinators though highly qualified, needed substantial time to understand the NBSAP process.

- It must be kept in mind that coordinating a plan for any ecoregion is difficult, given its extensive geographical coverage and if the groups themselves have a diverse representation of people with varying strengths. Appropriate coordinators/nodal agencies that have had experience of coordinating such processes need to be selected for these regions.
- In the case of thematic working groups, a different set of issues might need to be kept in mind.
  - For instance, where the coordinators were very often individuals who were independent consultants, the formal procedure of signing the MoU and discussions on financial remuneration could take additional time than when there is an institutional backing.
  - For some highly specialized groups, it might be difficult to find the right person to coordinate. This led to delay in the start of work for some such groups.
  - Since each TWG consisted of highly qualified professionals, based in different parts of the country, it was difficult getting these people together for a meeting. Once a meeting was organized, it could be difficult getting a commitment, and finally getting the written product from them.
- It might be difficult to get representatives from relevant ministries/departments on board with the process. In some thematic and ecoregional processes, efforts were repeatedly made to do so, but were responded to rather late or not at all. A more pro-active push from the nodal ministry (MoEF) to get other ministries involved would have helped.
- It is important for there to be links between state, sub-state and ecoregional processes. This is both for complementarities in what is being recommended in the BSAPs, and coordination of the same when it comes to implementation.

## 7. NATIONAL LEVEL OUTREACH EFFORTS

One of the main thrusts of the NBSAP process was to involve people from various walks of life. Efforts were made to involve citizens, NGOs, *panchayats* and *gram sabhas*, tribal councils, *mahila mandals* and women's organizations, government officials and agencies, students and teachers, farmers, fisherfolk and tribals, experts, industrialists and business persons, the armed forces, politicians, artists and so on.

The TPCG made attempts to link up with the armed forces, politicians and the corporate sector. Concept notes highlighting both the need for their involvement in the NBSAP and the process necessary to achieve the same, were first put together by the TPCG. Followed by this were efforts to meet with Confederation of Indian Industries, National Dairy Development Board, the Army EcoCell Coordinator and a few individual politicians. Letters were also sent to other associations like Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturer's Association (ADMA), biotech companies etc. However, this did not meet with much success. In general participation of the armed forces and the corporate/private sector remained weak at the national level (though it was strong at some of the state/local levels), despite sustained efforts. The Armed Forces expressed definite interest, but priorities changed during that time due to more pressing security issues. The interest of the corporate/private sector was never captured adequately.

The TPCG attempted different methodologies for public outreach. At times existing events were used to build in an NBSAP element

### Box 26

**Union Minister of Environment and Forests Says....!**

At the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Committee of MoEF, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2001, the then Minister T.R Baalu, while speaking about the achievements of the Ministry said  
“...NBSAP is India’s biggest planning and development process, aiming at conservation and sustainable use of Biological Diversity. A decentralized approach has been adopted to developing the NBSAP. Under NBSAP, about 17 local micro-planning processes at village to district levels, 33 state and union territory level processes, 10 planning exercises at ecological regions cutting across states are engaged in collecting a variety of area specific information and perspectives. We hope that this project will help us in developing implementable micro-level plans specifically focused on conservation of biodiversity with reference to the key ecosystems and biogeographic zones of our country. People’s participation is the corner stone of this strategy. We hope that the project will generate a shelf of schemes with the involvement of state government and relevant stakeholders including representatives of village communities”

## **7.1 Specific Outreach Efforts**

### ***Call for Participation Brochure***

Early on in the process, TPCG decided that it was essential to produce a simple brochure, which described the NBSAP process and invited public participation. The text of this document under the name of *Call for Participation (CFP)* was printed in 16 regional languages (Hindi, Manipuri, Bengali, Urdu, Assamese, Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Gujarati, Konkani, Marathi, Telugu, Naga, Nepali, Punjabi and Oriya.). These language versions were printed centrally, while, 4 more (including Khasi in Meghalaya, Bodo in Assam, Kokborok in Tripura) were printed by the respective executing agencies. Approximately 30,000 copies of the brochure were distributed across the country. CFPs were mailed to all the executing agencies for distribution to all relevant sectors. The maximum distribution of CFPs was in Andhra and Assam, as the executing agencies in these states took considerable interest in the process. 1000 copies of the Assamese CFPs were reprinted for distribution in the state. Both English and Hindi CFPs were also reprinted and distributed.

A list of NGOs was selected from the World Wide Fund for Nature-India NGO Directory 2000 and were sent the brochures. Copies of CFPs were carried by TPCG members and distributed at various events. Requests for participation in the NBSAP process came from all over the country and some from outside India. Of all the queries received 34 per cent came in response to the CFP brochures. Each request received was addressed and the response then forwarded to the relevant state nodal agency for action.

CFPs being quite handy in size were also used for some interesting purposes at meetings. At one meeting in Sikkim, CFPs were used as a sunshade. At another meeting in Delhi CFPs were used to chase away the mosquitoes!

### ***Talks relating to NBSAP (other than at NBSAP meetings)***

During the NBSAP process, several TPCG members spoke at different forums focusing on the NBSAP process. Talks ranged from those given to school children, to professionals and the general public. Some of the talks and interviews were specifically for radio and television. Over 60 talks have been recorded. There have been many more at the regional level, for which each nodal agency maintained a record. As a result of these talks many listeners/viewers expressed a desire to participate in the process. Others showed interest in visiting some of the sites and writing about them.

- Some presentations were also made at international forums (e.g. Global Biodiversity Forum, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity) where members linked NBSAP to their other presentations or were invited to make presentations on the NBSAP process in India. These were either overview presentations, or dealt with specific aspects of the process or plan. The purpose of these presentations was essentially to give more exposure to the unique and innovative process India was following for the formulation of its NBSAP. Some examples are:
- The TPCG Coordinator spoke about the role of communication and public outreach in India's NBSAP at the Global Biodiversity Forum at The Hague on April 2002.
- A TPCG member spoke at a one-day meeting on participatory biodiversity assessment in May 2002 organized by the European Tropical Forest Research Network along with Environment Change Institute, University of Oxford. The presentation was institutionalizing Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation within the NBSAP in India.
- A TPCG member also attended the meeting on the 'Implementation of the EU Biodiversity Action Plans', in Brussels in May 2001 where a brief presentation on the Indian NBSAP was made.

#### **Box 27**

#### **Outreach Efforts by MoEF**

The MoEF on its own also took several steps to seek wider participation in the NBSAP process:

- Shri R.H. Khwaja, the first NPD, undertook a *Padyatra* in remote villages in Uttarkashi district, Uttaranchal, in June 2001 along with members of the Uttaranchal BSAP process. The team held *Janghoshtis* (interactive meetings with villagers). The importance of Peoples' Biodiversity Register (PBR), NBSAP, and the Biological Diversity Bill were discussed at length with nearly 300 villagers from seven interior villages characterized by high biodiversity values.
- NBSAP material was distributed to all delegates at the Conference of Parties (COP) 7 to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international/national meetings attended by MoEF officials.
- Letters seeking participation were written to all relevant GoI ministries and departments. At a later stage the National Action Plan was also sent to them for comments and feedback.
- An advertisement along with the *Call for Participation* was carried twice in the MoEF newsletter *Environews*.

#### ***Advertisements and Write-Ups in Newsletters/Journals***

Advertisements and write-ups were to some extent used to invite participation in the process, particularly at the beginning of the process. As the process progressed, these were used as publicity for the process, as also as awareness for the same. Despite the fact that placing advertisements in magazines and national dailies is an expensive process, some attempts were made in this direction. In the initial phases of the process, a total of eleven advertisements appeared in journals. Out of these ten were in English and one in Punjabi. There may have been several others in regional languages placed by executing agencies that were not reported back to the central coordinating team. Newspapers and magazines, both at the national and regional level, also covered the process, in other ways including, articles written by journalists or TPCG members. Approximately 300 articles have appeared on the NBSAP process. Many more appeared in regional dailies and

magazines, of which there is no record of in the central repository. One of the most significant publications has been edition of *The Hindu Folio* (May 2001), a special supplement of the Hindu dedicated to issues relating to biodiversity. The coordinator of the TPCG was invited to be a guest editor for this issue. Several other TPCG members and thematic coordinators and members contributed to the issue. Several responses to participate in the NBSAP process were received soon after its publication.

“...We are not apart from biodiversity, but connected to the strands of life...I have to do something for the earth that brought me into this world as a creation, I hope you will help me....” *Dheepika B, a 16 year old respondent to the Hindu Folio, from Erode district, Tamil Nadu*

Following the *Hindu Folio*, there was an offer from a children’s magazine *Chandamama* (published for the last several decades) for a possible collaboration with NBSAP. This materialized in two ways. First, was a monthly series of biodiversity related stories in English, called *NBSAaanPs Tales* (‘Saap’= Snake). The second was the production of *Vasudha*, a special supplement on biodiversity for children between 8-14 years of age. The issue was brought out on World Environment Day, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2002, in 12 language editions. It was sponsored by the National Foundation for India.

Starting May 2003, Kalpavriksh/NBSAP initiated a monthly series on biodiversity and livelihood issues in *Hindu Young World*. The series was called *Good Earth* went on for 12 months. The stories ranged from need to protect the seabuckthorn in Ladakh to protection of turtles in Goa. The coordination of this entire activity (including compiling and editing of the articles) was a voluntary effort, though Hindu Young World paid the contributors for their articles. In early 2004, Delhi’s State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) requested Kalpavriksh and Hindu Young World whether one of the stories called ‘Leh’s Wonder Berry’ could be used for one of the textbooks that they were preparing for Delhi Government Schools.

### ***Electronic Media***

There was limited effort made to spread the message of the NBSAP process through the electronic media. Despite a broad strategy for outreach in the electronic media, both the Media Campaign Managers were unable to take it forward. This could have been due to the Managers’ background and subsequently their comfort/discomfort with this medium. Often there were also limitations of making the news coverage topical and issue based. However, TPCG members did try and highlight the process and need for greater participation in the programmes they participated in, both on All India Radio (AIR) as well as television channels like Doordarshan and Star News. These programmes might not have been specially designed for NBSAP outreach but the NBSAP was integrated within these. For example, one AIR programme was essentially towards answering queries of listeners on environmental issues, however, the TPCG member ensured that the NBSAP process was highlighted during the programme. On Star News, the coordinator was interviewed on general biodiversity related issues, and concluded the discussion with a mention of the NBSAP process.

### ***Posters***

A set of posters and banners was produced and used at relevant meetings and workshops. They were displayed for the first time at a biodiversity festival in Delhi. TPCG members then carried the posters to various locations in the country. The posters were of three kinds, with English and Hindi text as well as blank ones with only the NBSAP logo. The purpose behind printing blank posters was that they could be filled up by executing agencies and other participants with local language text, and used in different regions. These were used successfully in Sirsi in Karnataka, Rathong Chu in Sikkim and many other places.

### ***NBSAP Newsletter***

An important component of the NBSAP process was regular communication and exchange of information, both amongst its various executing agencies as also with the general public. There was therefore a felt need for a vehicle of such communication. A newsletter was proposed, for the following purposes:

- To keep the executing agencies regularly informed about the events/progress with regard to the NBSAP, and enable exchange of views and news amongst them;
- To reach out to a larger, interested public.

The first issue of the newsletter, simply named, *NBSAP News* came out in October 2000. Fourteen issues of this bi-monthly newsletter were published in total. Initially, the editorial team compiled much of what went into the newsletter but gradually write-ups by coordinators also came in.

### ***NBSAP Website***

The NBSAP website was hosted on the server of the Sustainable Development Networking Programme (SDNP) of the MoEF. The contents of the website were designed keeping in mind the need for transparency. Complete contact details of executing agencies, plan preparation guidelines, information on associated activities, NBSAP events and future meetings, and the *Call for Participation* were uploaded. Gradually as the committee/working groups lists, minutes of meetings and other work plan documents, BSAP drafts, and other documents started coming in, they were uploaded. A few months after the website was operational it was felt important to monitor the number of times the website had been visited. It became clear that the website was hardly visited. Attempts were then made to provide hyperlinks to the NBSAP website from several other related sites as well as highlight it on environment and biodiversity related sites. This helped increase the outreach of the NBSAP site. The website had around 7000 hits upto October 2002. There were some queries on the NBSAP after people had visited the site.

Some EAs extensively used the website to understand and incorporate relevant information for their own SAPs. For instance, the thematic group on Education, Awareness, and Training constantly monitored minutes of other EA meetings to seek inputs for its plan formulation.

The website proved useful to demonstrate the NBSAP process to a foreign audience also. For instance, the NPD, during his visit to Montreal, used the site effectively to describe the process.

Unfortunately, due to technical reasons (including the temporary cessation of the SDNP), the website could not be updated regularly after January 2002, including part of the most crucial time when draft BSAPs should have been available on the site for review. Also with the workload of finalizing the national plan increasing, TPCG members updating the website were not able to regularly feed information to SDNP. However, the first draft of the national plan was uploaded on

the site. Repeated requests to MoEF to activate the site in 2002 and 2003 were unfortunately met with lukewarm response.

## **Box 28**

### **National Level Biodiversity Festival**

A national biodiversity festival was organized at Dilli Haat in New Delhi on 7-11 February 2001. The five-day event was part of the Nature Bazaar, organized annually by Dastkar, an NGO working in the area of crafts and livelihoods over the last few decades. This was an ideal place for NBSAP to be present and be able to reiterate the vital link between cultures, lifestyles and biodiversity. Winrock International India provided funding for NBSAP's participation in the festival. The primary aim of this festival was to inform the public of the ongoing NBSAP process and thus invite wider participation.

Groups of crafts people, NGOs, performers and artists were invited to create a large enough presence under the NBSAP banner. The participation of 21 such organizations was subsidized by NBSAP.

The NBSAP *Call for Participation* brochures, including those of all the regional languages were displayed and distributed at the festival. 10,000 bags made out of recycled paper carrying the NBSAP logo and description, were distributed for use by all customers purchasing products at the Nature Bazaar. Another product, which was ready for distribution in time for the event, was a Calendar with the NBSAP logo on it. Events included street plays on the Yamuna River by a voluntary students group, 'We for Yamuna', and by 'Pravah' established a link between conservation and the NBSAP. A group from the Western Himalayas, including members of the *Beej Bachao Andolan*, staged a thought provoking street play on biodiversity. A concert by the popular fusion music group, Indian Ocean, also provided the opportunity to share with an audience of about 500 a slide presentation on biodiversity conservation.

### ***Meetings for Media Persons***

a) A meeting for senior journalists, primarily from the print media was organized in August 2001. 24 media representatives attended it. The Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP, the National Project Director, and Coordinator TPCG spoke about the NBSAP process. They highlighted that media involvement was critical to public outreach that NBSAP was focusing on. Representatives of the media raised queries on the NBSAP process as well as overall biodiversity issues prevalent in India. This did result to some extent in increased media coverage for NBSAP.

b) In September 2002, NBSAP India collaborated with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication based in Delhi, to organize a meeting for young journalists. Along with a presentation on the NBSAP process, presentations and discussions were also held on Agriculture, Biotechnology and Globalization, World Trade Organization and Convention of Biological Diversity implications for India, Environmental Myths, Toxicity and Biodiversity, People's Rights and Media: Perspective from the grassroots. The presentations were made by activists and researchers working on these aspects of biodiversity. A short 20-minute clip on use of communication in the NBSAP process was also screened. A number of journalists from leading newspapers, TV news agencies and radio participated in this workshop. This again raised their awareness and led to more media coverage.

### ***Media Fellowships***

One of the methodologies adopted for greater outreach was the appointment of four Media Fellows to cover stories on different issues relating to biodiversity. These were aimed to appear in different regional and national newspapers as well as magazines. (Refer Annexure 9 Media Fellows Matrix as on October 2002)

### ***Meetings with Specially Abled Children: Delhi and Chennai***

As part of the sub-thematic review on Environment Education for the Disabled, two workshops were held at Delhi and Chennai. A flavour of what happened in these workshops is given in Box 29 below.

#### **Box 29**

#### **Workshops with Specially Abled Children**

A workshop on environment was held at the Spastics Society of Northern India (SSNI) under the aegis of NBSAP in Delhi in July 2001. Students put forth questions like, 'the government brought out a report on the tiger killings in Corbett. Why were its findings not shared with us?' There was a brief demonstration on how to recycle plastic bags. After this, the students were divided into groups to write/slogans; sing songs etc. on an assigned environmentally relevant word.

At the half-day workshop on Environment and Disability that was organized by Vidyasagar (formerly the Spastics Society of India) in September 2001, an attempt was made to explain the NBSAP and also to elicit the perceptions and responses of the 'special' children. In addition to the children from Vidyasagar, about 6 mainstream schools were invited for the workshop. Approximately 70 children (ages 8 - 16) along with their teachers participated in the workshop. The workshop used a story format to explain the NBSAP process and carry out further discussions on the same.

Prior to these workshops, a questionnaire was circulated to the students, and teachers who attended the workshop. This questionnaire dealt with aspects of conservation, which are particularly relevant to the disability sector. Responses to the questionnaire were used as inputs to a paper on Environment Education for the Disabled, which were also used for the Education, Awareness and Training Thematic BSAP.

### ***Involving the Armed Forces***

The Armed Forces over the years have had a critical impact on the biodiversity of India. The Forces have been active participants in national efforts at reclaiming degraded lands and undertaking ecorestoration. They also manage and control large amounts of land and water that contain significant biodiversity. Defence related operations by the Forces also often have negative consequences, e.g. the clearing of vegetation such as mangroves, disturbance of wildlife, and others.

Given this, it was important that the Armed Forces play a significant role in the NBSAP process. The Forces, by virtue of accessibility to some very remote biodiversity-rich areas and by being highly disciplined, have the potential to be motivated to conserve biodiversity, responsive to



conservation needs and trained to help in conservation. Their active participation in the process could have helped to sensitize their own personnel, along with the general public, on the need for biodiversity conservation. To begin with the TPCG prepared a detailed note, which was printed in the NBSAP Guidelines and Concept Papers and circulated, to the NBSAP executing agencies. The note suggested various ways that the Armed Forces could participate both at national and regional/local levels, including preparing an action plan, organizing workshops etc.

At the central level, a few meetings held with relevant personnel in the Army Ecocell located in the Ministry of Defence. There were plans of holding a National Workshop for all the Forces to orient them about the NBSAP process and to work out how best they could become partners in this process. This discussion went on for over a year with various officials. Unfortunately, this process was stalled due to the sudden pre-occupation of the Forces on the Indo-Pakistan border.

At regional/state levels too efforts were made to integrate these concerns in the BSAPs. For instance, the Coast Guards were active members of meetings of the West Coast ecoregional BSAP, and the Sikkim and Ladakh BSAP process stressed a lot on the role of the army (See Box 21 on Ladakh process in Section 6.1).

### ***Networking with Politicians***

From the very beginning it was felt essential to seek the involvement of politicians (members of parliament, state legislators, members of *panchayat* and municipal bodies and of political parties) in the NBSAP process. A note prepared early on in the process highlighted various ways the process and the final product could benefit from the involvement of politicians. This included access to inputs from a broad spectrum of stakeholders through their elected representatives; creating an all-party ownership/support for the NBSAP report and beyond, interaction with government departments etc. The note also suggested some initial steps to achieve the involvement of politicians which included circulating material to all Members of Parliament (MPs), *panchayat* levels and so on.

In order to operationalize these steps, one member of the TPCG was regularly in touch with politicians by informing them about efforts in or close to their constituencies or simply highlighting the need and urgency of biodiversity conservation. The coordinator and his counterpart had substantial meetings with a MP in an effort to organize meetings of various other MPs at the national level. However, this was not finally achieved due to other priorities of the MP. Also after a point the key contact point in the MPs office also shifted jobs.

Greater success was achieved in involving politicians at the regional/state/local levels. This could have been for various reasons. Perhaps politicians at the national level get caught up with too many issues and their priorities may then be different. Various executing agencies made efforts to reach out to relevant politicians and sometimes even contested elections themselves (See section 11, Towards Implementation)

## **7.2 Response to Outreach**

### ***Response protocol for Participation Requests***

The Kalpavriksh Delhi and Pune offices from the beginning divided the task of responding to participation requests that come in. These were in the form of filled CFP brochures, e-mails or

faxes. The usual response to a request for participation was to forward it to the relevant executing agencies and mark a copy of the reply to the respondent. In most cases, a respondent was linked to more than one executing agency. This is primarily because often the kind of participation offered and the regional/thematic specialization could have been beneficial to more than one level. For instance, a response from a person specializing in non-marine molluscs in the Western Ghats in Karnataka, would be potentially beneficial to Natural Aquatic Ecosystems and Wild Animal Diversity themes, the Western Ghats ecoregion as well as Karnataka state. Thus information about such a response was sent to all these coordinators.

### *Follow up to requests for participation*

On the whole, follow up by executing agencies on the request for participation appeared to be weak (though this may not be a completely reliable judgment given the frequently inadequate information from the executing agencies on how they treated the requests). There were a few positive outcomes, which include.

- There were some instances when respondents volunteered to take on coordinating an action plan process (Aravallis ecoregion, Simlipal sub-state site), writing a sub-thematic review (e.g. Biodiversity Information Systems), or became a part of a working group or committee (Assam State, Manipur State and Vidarbha sub-state site nodal agencies included a few respondents referred to them in their SSC/LAC).
- In some cases, there were innovative efforts by a few executing agencies to include all the CFP respondents. For example, in Andhra Pradesh State, a meeting of the respondents was organized.
- Many of the CFP respondents attended meetings organized by different EAs, some after receiving the invitation and some without invitation.

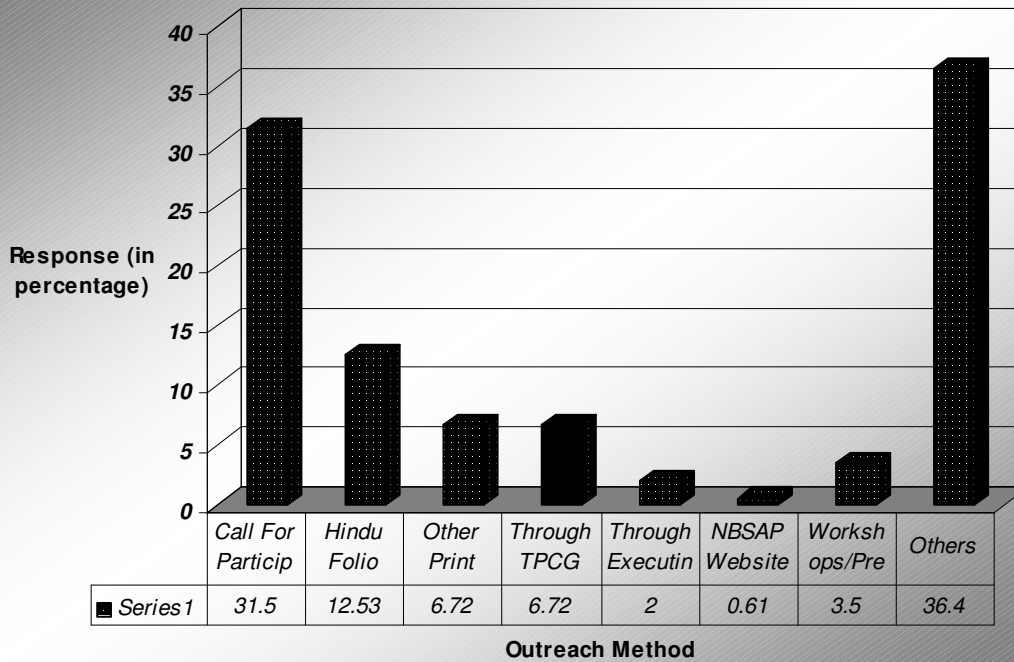
Some of the nodal agency coordinators (Gujarat, Vidarbha, Aravallis and so on) regularly informed the central coordinating team that they were in touch with the CFP respondents for inputs/involvement in their respective BSAPs process. On the other hand a few of the CFP respondents wrote in directly informing that there has been no follow-up from the EAs. In most cases however, there was no information from either the nodal agency or the coordinators as to what has been the level of follow up.

Many of the respondents expressed interested in going through the draft BSAPs. This added weight to the process of peer review of the BSAPs, and expanded the sphere of participation.

On the part of the central coordinating team, the NBSAP Newsletter was sent to all CFP respondents regularly, in order to keep them informed about the progress. At a later stage, the Executive Summary of the first draft of the NBSAP was sent to all the respondents of the public outreach efforts.

### *Analysing the Responses*

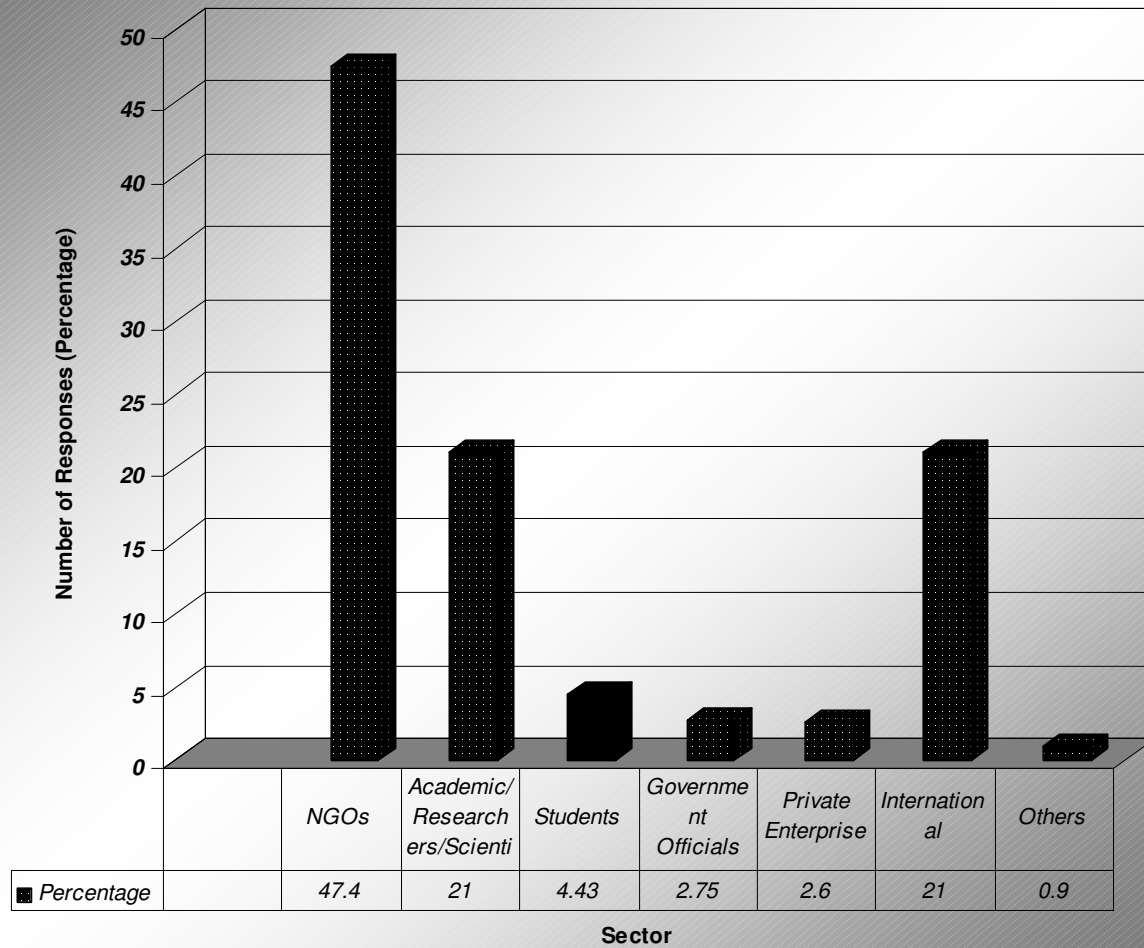
Figure 2: Written Response to Outreach Methods



There were a total of 654 responses<sup>4</sup> seeking participation in the NBSAP process through post, fax or email. While most of these were responses to the CFPs, other outreach methods also received responses. Some of the responses came through after seeing the advertisement that was put out in different magazines/journals/newsletters at regional and national level. Some of them responded after seeing the NBSAP articles and website. Many of the responses also came from personal contacts through TPCG, and EAs. Some of the responses also came in following biodiversity festivals and workshops conducted at different levels. There was a sudden increase in responses requesting participation after the release of the *Hindu Folio (Earthscapes)*. In a short span of few months following the *Hindu Folio* there were 82 responses contributing about 12.53 % of the total CFP responses. There were also several respondents who have not indicated their source of information about NBSAP. In the graph below the categories of ‘Others’ indicates responses through Kalpavriksh members that came in after seeing the NBSAP articles, Chandamama, Hindu Survey of Environment etc.

<sup>4</sup> This analysis is as on December 2002. Following this there were queries regarding the status of the national plan as well as BSAPs, and not about participating in the process. The number given here does not include responses that went directly to Executing Agencies, which may number many more.

**Figure 3: Sectorwise Response to CFPs**



A majority of the NGOs informed that they would like to contribute to NBSAP process by organizing workshops and coordinating the preparation of action plan for their region. Some of them have written to TPCG with the complete project proposal or with request for grants, mistaking the TPCG to be a funding body.

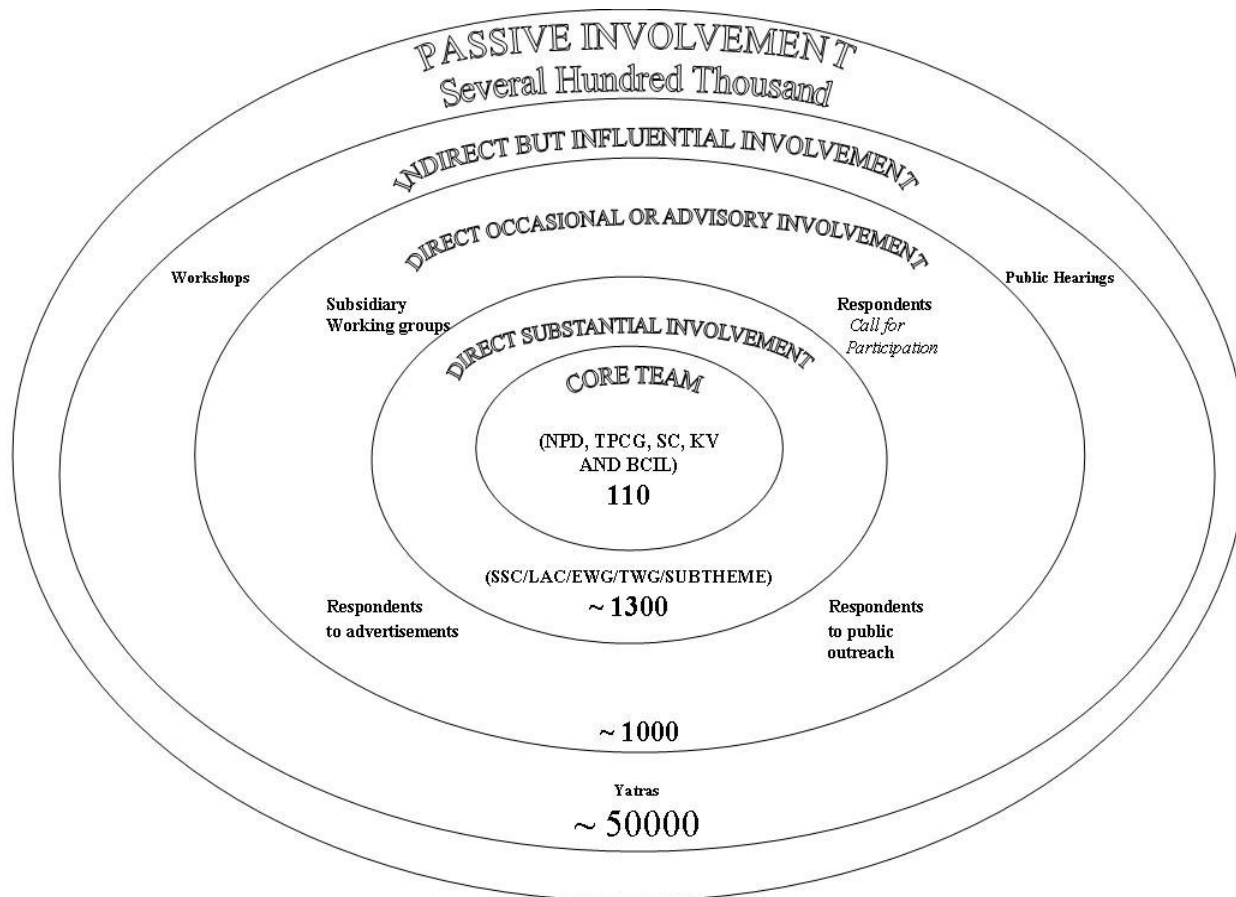
There were also some responses from outside India that were interested in knowing about the NBSAP process including suggestions for possible sub-thematic reviews.

**Table 4: State wise responses**

S. NO	STATES/ UNION TERRITORY	TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	0
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	67

3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2
4	ASSAM	10
5	BIHAR	16
6	CHANDIGARH	2
7	CHHATTISGARH	4
8	DELHI	23
9	GOA	4
10	GUJARAT	15
11	HARYANA	10
12	HIMACHAL PRADESH	10
13	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	7
14	JHARKHAND	18
15	KARNATAKA	36
16	KERALA	32
17	LAKSHADWEEP	2
18	MADHYA PRADESH	19
19	MAHARASHTRA	44
20	MANIPUR	14
21	MEGHALAYA	2
22	MIZORAM	2
23	NAGALAND	8
24	ORISSA	49
25	PONDICHERRY	3
26	PUNJAB	5
27	RAJASTHAN	20
28	SIKKIM	2
29	TAMIL NADU	87
30	TRIPURA	3
31	UTTARANCHAL	24
32	UTTAR PRADESH	24
33	WEST BENGAL	29
34	OTHERS (INCLUDING WHERE NOT INDICATED, INTERNATIONAL AND GENERAL QUERIES)	61

**Figure 4: Concentric Circle of Participation**



**Box 30**

**Others Who Funded NBSAP**

Even though the primary funding for NBSAP came from Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Programme, there were various organizations and individuals who contributed with financial and other resources. Some examples are:

- The Biodiversity Festival held at Dilli Haat (See Box 28) in 2001 was funded by Winrock International India. The funding helped in partly supporting some local and grassroots level enterprises to participate in the Dastkar Nature Bazaar. The funding also helped organize events like street plays, puppet shows and even a music concert to spread the message of biodiversity conservation and NBSAP.
- National Foundation of India funded the publication of *Vasudha* (See section 7.1), a special supplement on biodiversity put together through a collaborative effort between Chandamama and Kalpavriksh/NBSAP.

- The NBSAP Process Film was funded by UNDP, routed through the International Cooperation Division of the MoEF through a separate grant. This film was shown at the final workshop and has been used extensively since to illustrate the NBSAP process.
- Some TPCG meetings were organized with the help of NGOs and institutions. For instance part of the writing workshops held at Wildlife Institute of India (WII) or at Corbett National Park, were supported by WII and Uttaranchal Forest Department. Similarly, one TPCG meeting was held around the Southern Regional Workshop held at Deccan Development Society (Pastpur) and the organization hosted the TPCG for the two days.
- YASHADA and Center for Biodiversity Informatics, National Chemical Laboratory in Pune hosted three meetings in total of the Core Drafting Group of the national plan. This included essentially infrastructure facilities like computers, Internet, office space, local telephone usage and in some cases even accommodation and food.

### Box 31

#### Key Lessons for National Level Outreach Methods

- Despite sincere efforts participation of Armed Forces, corporate sector, and politicians etc remained weak at the national level. It is important to adopt a different approach and strategy to achieve the same.
- A process like this needs to have an independent website and funds set aside for someone who would manage it. Problems such as those which cropped up for the NBSAP website can hamper the functioning of the site which is an integral component to ensure transparency.
- Despite the overall funding being limited, it is always possible to leverage additional resources and seek voluntary inputs to ensure greater participation in the process. Therefore, financial allocation for a planning process should not be considered a deterrent to achieving greater outreach.
- There is a need for more than one Media Campaign manager (perhaps dealing separately with print and electronic media) to achieve adequate national level outreach. Further the media campaign manager should be different from a person who is designing awareness material like posters/calendars etc. Both media outreach and designing require dedicated time, and therefore it is important that the tasks of outreach and design get dedicated attention, separately.

### Box 32

#### Biodiversity Bill and NBSAP: *Don't confuse the two!*

In the initial phase of the NBSAP process, there was some confusion about the linkages between the NBSAP process and the proposed Biological Diversity Bill 2000. One of the first examples of this was journalist Latheef Kizhisseri's article in the *Indian Express* ("Shelving of Biological Diversity Bill resented", August 03, 2000), which stated that the Bill was being stalled due to the NBSAP! The next was Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh's article in *Hindustan Times*, which stated that the Bill is the "most significant manifestation" of the NBSAP. Both could not be farther off the mark.

The process to draft the Bill started way back in the mid-1990s, whereas NBSAP started in 1999. The Terms of Reference of the committees or teams set up to frame the two documents have no link with each other. A couple of drafts of the Bill were already in place, before NBSAP started, and when the latter got going, the final draft was being readied to be placed in Parliament for its consideration. The Bill was not enacted till 2002 simply due to the normal parliamentary procedure, as it had to be put up to a Parliamentary Committee, which has been deliberated over it for nearly a year.

While the two obviously overlap in the subject matter, and indeed must complement each other<sup>5</sup>, they are not formally connected as implied in the above statements.

This was despite the fact that the authors of both these articles were formally involved in the NBSAP process as members of BSAP committees. This perhaps does reflect a lapse in the process, earlier on where some members in NBSAP related committees were not fully aware of the NBSAP process.

*Adapted from NBSAP News 5, June 2001*

## **8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)**

### **8.1 Internal M&E by TPCG and MoEF**

The TPCG and MoEF regularly monitored the progress of all components of the NBSAP process. TPCG responsibilities were fed into an **Activity Chart**, which was updated before and after every TPCG meeting. (See Annexure 10 for format of activity chart). Different methods were used to regularly update members of the progress and of each BSAP and sub-thematic review. The first of these was a detailed **Status Chart** with information on financial, administrative and planning details of all the levels of the BSAP process. A substantive part of TPCG meetings focused on discussion relating to these status charts. Strategies to deal with nodal agencies where the progress was slow or unsatisfactory were discussed based on chronological information provided in the status charts. **Monitoring Check Memos** (See Annexure 11 for format) were designed for a monthly feedback from TPCG members regarding their respective responsibilities (follow up with executing agencies). These were compiled and sent on a regular basis to the National Project Directorate. A **Bird's Eye View** table and graph were also prepared to get a quick status overview (See Annexure 12 for format). Most visits to executing agencies and relevant meetings were documented by respective TPCG member and circulated for information.

### **8.2 M&E by National Steering Committee**

The National Steering Committee met six times during the entire process. Initially the role of the SC was to look at the process outline, and methodologies adopted and give critical inputs at various levels. The SC also monitored the progress of committees/working groups being set up as well as the planning processes at different levels. At a later stage some members of the SC gave feedback on the national plan, and at the final meeting in January 2004, discussed its approval.<sup>6</sup>

### **8.3 M&E by UNDP**

UNDP on regular basis conducted tripartite meetings involving MoEF, Kalpavriksh and BCIL to review the status (both financial and technical) of the process. These were half-day meetings with a brief status update and discussions on substantial issues related to the project such as time extension.

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<sup>5</sup> The implementation mechanism specified in the National Action Plan, has largely been built on the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

<sup>6</sup> The chairperson of this final SC meeting, MoEF Secretary, however took the position that the SC did not have the role of approving the final plan. This was contrary to the MoU signed between MoEF and UNDP.



Although, the administrative agency, as part of its mandate undertook the task of carrying out routine audits for the project, once a year UNDP appointed external auditors as well. Such audits were carried out within the duration of the project.

#### **8.4 Evaluation Mission**

The NBSAP National Steering Committee in its third meeting, had suggested that an evaluation of the NBSAP project should be done in order to assess whether the NBSAP process as laid out in the *Process Outline*, has been carried out effectively and to assess the progress towards preparation of the action plans by the nodal agencies.

A team consisting of H. S. Panwar, Former Director, Wildlife Institute of India and M. Satyanarayana, Deputy Inspector General (Forest Policy), Ministry of Environment & Forests was formed. The evaluation mission started in March 2002, and submitted part of its report in October 2002. The team carried out field visits to select sites in different parts of the country, where the NBSAP process was carried out. Team members also interacted and had detailed discussions with the representatives of nodal agencies of Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagpur, Assam, Kachchh, Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Lahual Spiti, Himachal Pradesh and Shiwaliks. A brief presentation on the findings was made by Shri Panwar at the 4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting and at the Final National Workshop of the NBSAP in December 2002. Prior to this a report was compiled which gave feedback on specific sites visited for the evaluation. These included suggestions for both the planning processes as well as the strategies and actions for the state BSAPs, which were taken on board by the EAs.

#### **Box 33**

##### **Key Lessons for Monitoring and Evaluation**

- It is important that project related monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are established at the beginning of the project, and that mutually agreed upon benchmarks to monitor progress are put into place at the start.
- These mechanisms are also crucial to rectify or modify an approach or method, which is proving to be inadequate to achieve what it is meant to.
- Monitoring mechanisms should be flexible enough to reflect changes in the process. For instance, the format of the status chart for EAs had to be changed mid-way through the process to include update columns for the relevant stage of BSAP formulation.
- While internal monitoring is important, external evaluations like the MoEF Evaluation Mission are imperative to get unbiased feedback on the process.
- Financial monitoring is also very necessary to estimate the resources at hand that can be used for various proposed activities.

### **9. DRAFTING OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

In a reversal of most previous national planning processes, the NBSAP process envisaged the writing of the national level plan only towards the end, i.e. after the local, state, ecoregional and thematic plans were prepared. The National Plan built on key elements of the BSAPs.

#### **9.1 Who wrote the National Plan?**

From the very beginning of the process, a central question raised by many executing agencies is how would all the plans and reviews be integrated into the National Action Plan? The TPCG worked out two formats for this, one being a region-wise representation and the other theme-wise (where there would be regional focus as well). These formats were put up for discussions at the TPCG meetings as well the TWG coordinators' meeting. After the discussion the thematic format with regional representation was adopted.

#### Box 34

#### Format of the Final Technical Report of India's NBSAP (See Box 39)

There are **eight main chapters** in the draft National Strategy and Action Plan.

- The **first** chapter deals with the background and objectives, methodology, scope and approach of the NBSAP.
- The **second** chapter contains the statement of principles.
- The **third** chapter deals with the evolutionary, physical and historical context of India's biodiversity. This has subsections dealing with physical and geographical, evolutionary and socio-economic features of India relevant to biodiversity.
- The **fourth** chapter discusses the overall profile of India's biodiversity.
- The **fifth** chapter deals with some of the key causes for the loss of biodiversity including proximate causes like habitat destruction, hunting' exploitation/ collection/ fishing, introduction of exotics - plants and animals, homogenization of ecosystems, etc. This chapter also highlights the root causes of loss like current model of development; erosion of customary rights; social, political, and economic inequities; inappropriate land/water tenure and management systems; changes in ethical and moral values; lack of recognition of the full values of biodiversity; inappropriate, inflexible, and contradictory laws; demographic changes; and inappropriate trade systems.
- The **sixth** chapter discusses the ongoing initiatives and their major actors including history, description of current status, assessment of their efficacy, and identification of strengths, weaknesses and gaps. This chapter is further divided into two subsections: natural ecosystems and wild taxa, and agricultural ecosystems and domesticated taxa. These include understanding and information (including research, monitoring, etc), in both formal and informal sectors; *in situ* conservation; *ex situ* conservation; sustainable used; equitable access, use, and sharing of benefits; capacity of actors in each sector; inter-sectoral coordination; policy and laws; existing financial measures; technology and international fora.
- The **seventh** chapter deals with broad strategies and related specific actions for achieving conservation, sustainable use, and equitable access/sharing of benefits for both natural ecosystems and wild taxa and agricultural ecosystems and domesticated taxa. The subheads within the chapter are the same as those for Chapter 6.
- The **eighth** chapter deals with the overall implementation mechanism that would be needed for the strategies and actions presented in the earlier chapter.
- There are 16 **annexures** in the national plan.
- The National Plan document also include an table highlighting the strategies relevant for lead responsible agencies for each strategy, the, Points of Commonality charts correlating the strategies and actions emerging from all the BSAPs and that at the national level, (See Box 36), summaries of all the BSAPs and sub-thematic reviews received till the end of the process.

The report was finally prepared in two volumes.

An Executive Summary of the National Plan was prepared as a stand-alone document. This was to enable wider circulation of the NBSAP document and to present key highlights of the same to policy planners, politicians and others.

Various chapters of the national plan were drafted by the members of the TPCG, which were reviewed and rewritten over a period of four meetings/workshops. Mid way through the drafting of the national plan, the need for a smaller core drafting or editorial group was felt. A six member Core Drafting Group was formed within the TPCG and central coordinating team of Kalpavriksh members (See details below).

## **9.2. How was the National Plan Drafted?**

### *Extracting from National documents and BSAPs*

In an effort to assess what already existed at a national level, members of the TPCG examined a series of documents to build them into the national plan. The documents were also extensively cross-referenced as assistance to the TWGs. A comprehensive note on this was produced and circulated.

It was envisaged from the very beginning that the national action plan would also draw from information available in already existing national level action plans and documents. After an initial listing of relevant national documents, a month was spent extracting from these documents into the national plan format. The MoEF's own Macro-Action Plan on Biodiversity was a base document for the National Action Plan. Other documents built up on were the National Wildlife Action Plan, National Forestry Action Plan, National Environment Action Programme, National Conservation Strategy, Agenda 21 reports, and reports of the Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Project

In 1996, WWF-India coordinated a Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Project (BCPP) in India. The BCPP was perhaps the most comprehensive exercise undertaken in India to prioritize sites, species and strategies for biodiversity conservation. The entire set of BCPP documents was reviewed and a matrix (Annexure 13) of possible links prepared. Based on this matrix and the full BCPP CD, summary papers were sent out to all NBSAP executing agencies. Some of the thematic papers of BCPP were also used to build on, e.g. for the NBSAP note on prioritization of actions. Several of the agencies used the BCPP material for their BSAPs, as did the core team for the national plan draft.

Subsequently other core group members went through the relevant portions of the BSAPs and extracted portions, which would be useful in the drafting of the chapters. These were circulated to relevant TPCG members. However there were a few limitations to this exercise:

- a) Some BSAPs did not come in time for detailed information to be extracted from them.
- b) At the TPCG level, some members did not adequately use these extracts.

Information was also used from the sub-thematic reviews. .

### **Box 35**

#### **Use of BSAPs in the NAP**

As stated above, the local, state, ecoregional, and thematic Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (BSAPs), and sub-thematic reviews, have been critical sources for the preparation of the National Action Plan (NAP). In particular, Chapters 3-7 of the NAP have drawn information from the BSAPs and sub-thematic reviews. Information has been incorporated in different ways, including:

1. Factual information on evolution and profile of biodiversity
2. Examples of threats, initiatives, implementation
3. Strategies and actions that could be adapted to the national level.

Much of this information from specific BSAPs and sub-thematic reviews have been presented in the form of tables, boxes, and strategies, or referred to in a context within the relevant chapter. An attempt has been made to cover all the BSAPs and sub-thematic reviews submitted as part of the NBSAP process. However, it has not been possible to build every aspect of each BSAP into the national plan.

A special exercise was carried out to understand the ‘points of commonality’ between the Strategies and Action Plans (SAPs) at local, state, regional and national level. This meant reading through the SAP chapters of all the BSAPs received to:

- a) Ensure that the priorities and recommendations, which have emerged after the 2-year consultative process, 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.

This too helped in incorporating information from the documents generated through the NBSAP process.

### *TPCG writing workshops*

a) The first TPCG meeting to plan for the writing of the national plan was held at Corbett National Park (December 2001). It was hosted by the Uttaranchal State Nodal Agency (State Forest Department). The main tasks of this meeting were to further develop the format of the national action plan, indicate TPCG responsibilities, and develop a methodology for the writing of the same. The methodology was necessary to be able to extract from various BSAPs and national documents available at that stage.

b) Writing Workshop 1: On May 9-12, 2002 the TPCG held a writing workshop (labeled WW1!) to start putting together the first draft of the national action plan of the NBSAP, at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The primary objective of WW1 was to get all TPCG members together to review the proposed contents of the national action plan, begin final drafting of the chapters of the plan, and to review the status of the other BSAPs. Prior to this, TPCG members had already started drafting individual sections and chapters.

The TPCG went through the following:

- An initial round of status updates on the drafting of the national plan;
- Distribution of primary responsibilities for drafting, redrafting, and commenting on various chapters;
- Actual drafting and redrafting of chapters;
- Discussion on some key substantive issues on which members may have had differing viewpoints;
- Sharing of information, sources, and opinions amongst each other on a bilateral or group basis.

Prior to the workshop, a full set of relevant documents was put together by BCIL and Kalpavriksh for WW1. Several chapters of the national plan were written during WW1, or in the case of drafts already available before they were re-written based on comments received from members. Secondly, several of the BSAPs and sub-thematic reviews and other documents were looked at, and excerpts from these were given to the relevant members writing the national plan draft chapters. Finally, several sources of information for missing bits of information, or chapters not yet written, were listed.

c) Writing Workshop 2: The second Writing Workshop of the TPCG (WW2) was held in Pune at the Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Administration (YASHADA), which was the Maharashtra State nodal agency. This was a four-day workshop (July 2002), to carry forward the process of formulation of the national plan.

Prior to this workshop, a core drafting group (which was set up for the purpose of putting together the national plan), met in Pune to synthesize individual chapters/contributions that members of the TPCG had written. This was done according to the format that had been developed for the National Action Plan. A very rough draft emerged, which was called the “Zero Draft”, which also highlighted any gaps in information, missing references, clarifications etc. This draft was sent out to members prior to the WW2, and it became the base document for the meeting.

Over the four days, the members discussed in detail the chapter on Strategies and Actions in the National Plan. Some of the strategies and issues evoked a great deal of discussion and debate, e.g.: strategies over issues like the creation of new structures and departments versus strengthening present ones; how to bring in a special focus on the North East; the use of exotic plants in biodiversity based enterprises; positive and perverse incentives; imposition of ecosystem taxes; the use of genetically modified organisms; and reorienting political boundaries according to ecological principles.

d) Writing Workshop 3: A final writing workshop of the TPCG was held in Gual Pahari at the TERI RETREAT March 31 to April 03, 2003. This meeting was essentially for the finalization of the National Plan before it was submitted to the MoEF and the Peer Review Group for formal approval. The main tasks of the meeting were:

- Resolving points of differences particularly related to the two chapters on causes for the loss of biodiversity (Chapter 5) and strategies and actions (Chapter 7).
- Prioritization of all the strategies presented in the NAP. This was also recommended at the Final National Workshop.
- Follow up after the submission of the NAP to the MoEF.

Another important point of discussion was the need for an external edit of the National Plan.

The TPCG had been formally dissolved on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002. However the group got together again with the special purpose of discussing the points mentioned above.

**Box 36**

**Points of Commonality between BSAPs and NAP**

A specific exercise of correlating the strategies/actions from states, sub-state sites and ecoregions, with the strategies/actions emerging at the national level was carried out thrice during the NBSAP process. This exercise has been done for the site-based BSAPs. A total of 57 (out of 61) BSAPs received as on November 13, 2003, were referred to for this. The thematic plans have not been correlated as they have been used by members extensively while formulating their National Plan chapters.

**Some overall trends and conclusions are as follows<sup>7</sup>:**

- a) Domesticated biodiversity has been relatively weakly dealt with in most of the BSAPs, as compared to wild biodiversity.
- b) 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.
- c) Within *in situ* conservation (Wild), emphasis on the conservation of microorganisms remains weak.
- d) 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.
- e) Strategies for sustainable use of natural resources were usually very broad. Specificity emerged while talking about biodiversity-based enterprise, ecotourism etc.
- f) 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.
- g) 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. But, 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 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) Most of the BSAPs point to the need to integrate biodiversity concerns into policies and laws. 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 separately specifying the details for wild or domesticated.
- m) In the case of financing strategies like incentives for conservation, most BSAPs did not specify whether they were for of domesticated or wild biodiversity.
- n) In the case of technology, making existing technologies biodiversity friendly, promoting alternative technologies, as well as need to develop organic farming emerged strongly.
- o) Almost none of the BSAPs reflect strategies to be taken up at international forums.

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<sup>7</sup> This is an indicative list, not exhaustive.

### *Core Drafting Group Meetings*

The core drafting group (6 members from Kalpavriksh and TPCG met five times to accomplish the following tasks:

- a) Fill in the missing information in the chapters received from TPCG members.
- b) Consolidate and reconcile the comments on respective chapters.
- c) Edit the various chapters and put them in a consistent format. This included putting completing the cross referencing within and amongst the chapters.
- d) Compile annexures, and other relevant documents to go with the National Action Plan.

Some of these meetings were held in between TPCG writing workshops, to revise the draft based on internal and external reviews.

The Core Group also liaised with the MoEF on a regular basis for the revision, review and finalization of the National Plan. A smaller group (of 3 core group members) continued to be in touch with MoEF and the administrative agency till the end of the process for the finalization of various BSAPs and to facilitate the finalization of the National Plan draft.

#### **Box 37**

#### **Feedback and Review of the National Plan**

The draft NAP went through an extensive assessment by executing agencies, sub-thematic reviewers, other partners of the NBSAP process, as also a few hundred other institutions, experts, governments officials, NGOs, and activists. It was sent for comments to all relevant central ministries and to state governments. The draft was also reviewed by a peer group of experts set up by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2003. Its Executive Summary was made available in large numbers, in English, Hindi, and Telugu. It was also hosted on the website <http://sdnp.delhi.nic.in/nbsap> and made accessible for anyone to review. Information on its availability was sent out, with a short description, to the mass media, NGO and other networks, and various websites.

Based on the feedback and review received at various stages the draft underwent four extensive revisions before it was sent to an external editor. At every stage the draft plan was also discussed and modified in consultation with the relevant officials at the MoEF.

### *Organising Workshops or Linking to other meetings for Inputs to the National Plan*

From the very beginning of the NBSAP process, attempts were made to formally collaborate with already planned workshops, meetings or seminars, or stimulate/sponsor new ones on specific themes and seek inputs from these for the national plan. TPCG members and representatives from Kalpavriksh traveled to these workshops, the inputs from which fed into the drafting of the national action plan. In some cases NBSAP provided limited financial support for the organizing of these workshops or in the form of travel of members.

- One formal collaboration was with the Workshop on Indigenous Knowledge (IK), organized by the Madras Institute of Development Studies in collaboration with the NBSAP. The discussions focused on legal means of protecting IK, and threats and opportunities vis a vis the intellectual property regimes currently prevalent in India and the world.

- NBSAP was also one of the collaborators in the organizing of *Prajateerpu*, the “citizens’ jury” on food and farming futures in Andhra Pradesh, held in Algole Village, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh, in June-July 2001. Other collaborators were of this event were Andhra Pradesh Coalition in Defence of Diversity, The University of Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, NBSAP, the International Institute for Environment and Development, UK and the Institute for Development Studies, Sussex, United Kingdom.
- A National Workshop on “Biodiversity and *Adivasi*/Indigenous Peoples” was held in New Delhi in January 2001, with a view to explore the links between traditional cultures and biodiversity. It was organized by the All India Coordinating Forum of *Adivasi*/Indigenous Peoples, in association with Kalpavriksh, and sponsorship from NBSAP. About 85 representatives of *adivasi*/indigenous communities, and support organizations, from all the regions of India, participated. As follow-up, the participants offered to organize similar workshops at regional levels, and disseminate literature on various relevant topics in local languages. The NBSAP coordinating team built the main recommendations and conclusions into the action plan process.
- A brainstorming session focusing on mitigating Human-Wildlife conflicts across species, regions, landscapes and administrative structures was organized in September-October 2002 at Bangalore by Center for Ecological Sciences, Asian Elephant Research and Conservation Center, Salim Ali Center for Ornithology and Natural History, and Kalpavriksh. The initiative was in association with NBSAP and recommendations of the meeting were built into the national plan.

### Box 38

#### Prioritization of the National Level Strategies

At the Final National Workshop it was suggested that since there is a range and a large number of strategies and actions in the NBSAP, it would be essential to prioritize them. The TPCG coordinator did a preliminary exercise which was circulated to the other members and MoEF. Prior to the third revision of the NBSAP, the TPCG discussed the prioritization table in detail at its third writing workshop in March 2003. Finally all the strategies in the plan were prioritized and presented in a tabular form. An attempt was made to be as ‘objective’ as possible, keeping in mind various factors. However, the introductory note acknowledged that some biases are inevitable.

The strategies were prioritized on three parameters:

- *Urgency*: the immediacy of the strategy, including strategies that need immediate initiation even if their execution may take long (with 1 denoting very immediate/urgent, and 3 denoting least immediate/urgent).
- *Overall impact*: the level to which the strategy will have a significant, national-level impact, including localized impacts of national significance, such as the conservation of a highly endemic species (with 1 denoting highest overall impact, and 3 denoting lowest overall impact)
- *Current neglect*: the adequacy or inadequacy with which the strategy is currently being addressed (with 1 denoting highest level of neglect, and 3 denoting least level of neglect).

*The lower the total, the higher the priority.*

The feasibility of a strategy was not taken into account as it was felt that the political, financial or social feasibility depends on many factors, and will differ according to the opinions and situation of the suggested responsible agencies. Moreover, it was felt that if a strategy is sufficiently high in



priority as per the above three parameters, it should be society's collective responsibility to make it feasible.

The prioritized list of strategies appears as Chapter 7.4 in the Final Technical Report of the NBSAP.

### *External Edit of the National Plan*

During the drafting of the national plan, the Core Drafting Group felt that it would be essential to carry out an external edit of the document. The editorial tasks included:

- Ensuring language consistency, style, and accuracy.
- Detecting and taking care of contradictions in information, style, and format.
- Detecting and seeking inputs on gaps, e.g. in scientific names.
- Pointing out obvious errors in substance and data.
- Ensuring continuity between and within chapters.
- Ensuring the comprehensiveness of the glossary, abbreviations, and other such pre-ambular sections.

### **Box 39**

#### **The Final Scenario**

Following the Final National Workshop all the comments at that workshop, written comments from over 150 persons and institutions, and comments from various ministries including the MoEF, were taken on board and the core drafting group undertook several revisions. While these revisions brought in several factual and editorial changes, the fundamental structure and emphasis of the document remained as it was presented at the Final National Workshop. A final text was given for an external edit and then on for designing and layout, with the approval of the MoEF, in late 2003.

The final Steering Committee meeting of NBSAP, was held on 29th January 2004, with the explicit mandate of considering and accepting the National Action Plan (NAP). However, the new Secretary, MoEF took the view that the NAP was only a technical document, and could not be accepted as the final action plan till further review by MoEF, and approval by the Union Cabinet. His point was that a national document of the Govt. of India needs cabinet approval, both in terms of process and to get stronger buy-in from all sections of the government. He also said that the cabinet had recently mandated MoEF to come up with a National Environment Policy, and since that was a more over-arching document, the NBSAP would have to be in harmony with it. The NBSAP could therefore not be accepted as final till the Environment Policy was finalized.

The following arguments were presented in response on behalf of the TPCG:

1. The process of getting Cabinet approval was perhaps necessary (especially to make the final document more powerful), but this was unfortunately being communicated at the very final stages of the process, when the TPCG had been earlier told that such an approval was not necessary. It was also pointed out to the MoEF that previous action plans (such as National Forestry Action Plan and National Wildlife Action Plan) did not seem to have gone through Cabinet.
2. Even if it had to go to the Cabinet, the question was why the final document should be put through yet another review process within the MoEF. Such a review had been taking place

within and outside the MoEF since November 2002. If there were issues of feasibility or other concerns, these could have been brought up over this long period.

3. The point regarding waiting for the finalization of the Environment Policy seemed unreasonable. This was considering the fact that the NBSAP process had started four years before this, and it seemed improper to hold it back because a new process had begun in the government.
4. There had also been repeated assurances in the past by the MoEF that what the TPCG was producing was indeed the National Action Plan, and not merely a technical report to NBSAP. This was indeed also the TPCG's brief as written in the original UNDP-MoEF MoU.

It was suggested at the Steering Committee meeting, that the document be printed as a Final Technical Report to MoEF, but not as the final (or even draft) action plan. A mutually acceptable cover was to be decided upon. Following the finalization of the layout of the document, the MOEF withdrew from its commitment to publish the Final Technical Report, and stated that the contents of it should not be made public.

At the time of finalizing this process document, MoEF had reportedly carried out a technical review by a scientific committee/task force, circulating (again!) to various ministries. It had also submitted a 'revised' Technical Report to UNDP. Further, it was in the process of finalizing the National Plan, as a summary version to be submitted to the cabinet.

Kalpavriksh, in consultation with the TPCG, has decided to make the report submitted in December 2003 available to the public in published form, as the Final Technical Report of NBSAP (in the form agreed to by MoEF in writing, in early 2004). This report has already been available on the Kalpavriksh website and electronically for anyone who requests it. The publication is so that the public can have easier access to the information, analysis and recommendations contained therein, without further delay. This move is also aimed at providing public access to the 100 - odd other documents produced in the NBSAP process. Finally, it is aimed at enabling the public to compare the final action plan as and when brought out by MoEF, with this Final Report. The Executive Summary will be a printed document accompanied with a CD containing the complete National Plan and other documents. Money to print the Executive Summary was put together by personal donations by members of the TPCG and Kalpavriksh.

#### **Box 40**

##### **Key Lessons for Drafting of the National Action Plan**

- It is useful to develop a format for the national plan after adequate discussion and to allocate clear responsibilities for writing sections.
- A smaller core group for the compilation of information written by various people is essential.
- Even after the initial sections have been compiled, it is likely that there would be gaps in information or issues, which would need to be worked up. For this reaching out to a range of experts and/or existing material is essential.
- However, there still might be situations wherein material or expertise might just not be available. The document then needs to state so, highlighting the need for the same in future strategies.
- There were several advantages of the writing workshops. Some include:

- substantial time for members to work without distractions;
  - members were able make use of a fuller than usual workday (the group worked on an average twelve hours a day);
  - ability to cross-check information and views with each other immediately
  - to be able to seek immediate clarifications and support from members;
  - to synergise thoughts and texts with other members;
  - to seek information and inputs from BSAPs, sub-thematic reviews and other documents.
  - to be able to resolve issues of substance and differences of through informal discussions.
- There needs to be an adequate budget kept aside for meetings related to the writing of such a plan. The costs for the writing group to meet are high particularly since this includes the costs for a venue as also accommodation, food etc.
  - Sufficient time needs to be budgeted for the writing of the Plan, getting feedback and incorporating feedback into the revised draft.
  - An external editor is also necessary so that someone who has not been involved in the writing or the compilation of the sections can get a fresh look at the document. This is also to ensure consistency of style etc.
  - Once a document is sent out for feedback, very useful and relevant comments help in addressing gaps in the document, updating information etc.
  - Since there are a number of strategies relevant for a variety of aspects related to biodiversity, a prioritization exercise imperative.
  - The executing agency needs to ensure that it is committed to accept/expedite the formal acceptance of the final product submitted by an executing agency. This is provided there are no discrepancies in the process involved in the preparation of the document or in the final document.

## **10. PROCESS DOCUMENTATION**

### **10.1 Process Documentation at EA level**

A note on Guidelines for Process Documentation was included in the *NBSAP India: Guidelines and Concept Papers*, which was distributed to all executing agencies. This note suggested the kind of documentation that needs to be carried out at various levels as also information that needs to be collected. Given the diversity of methodologies used, there was a felt need for detailed process documentation at all these levels. For further orientation of process documentation at the EA level, a presentation of the guidelines was made at the inaugural workshop. The suggested format of the BSAP also included a section on documentation of the process. Each BSAP prepared thus had a separate section on the process. This made it easier for incorporating relevant information in this document. The EAs were encouraged to maintain minutes of all meetings held, as also prepare detailed reports on all major events that took place during the process. These reports were generally sent to the coordinating agency and were most often also reported in the NBSAP newsletter. EAs were also urged to record events on film or video, and through photographs.

### **10.2 Process Documentation at National Level**

Since the inception of the NBSAP, one of the major areas of focus has been the process documentation. This flows out of the difficulty that was faced by the NBSAP central team in culling process lessons from the national processes earlier in India, or NBSAPs in other countries. Most

such processes had simply not been documented in detail. Some material was available from the Egyptian, Argentinean and Brazilian NBSAPs. Given the scope and nature of the India NBSAP process, it was felt important to document the process of preparation of the BSAP, both as a tool for continuous learning from mistakes and strengths for retaining the NBSAP process, and as a record that could help future processes in India and outside.

### *Process Document*

The draft format of the Process Document was circulated at the TPCG meetings for comments and inputs. Drafts of the document itself were also circulated from time to time for more inputs from various TPCG members. The drafts in progress were distributed at the first and mid-term national level workshops. The document relied on minutes of meetings at various levels, base documents, the NBSAP newsletters and finally, the draft BSAPs.

### *Process Film*<sup>8</sup>

Another key means of this documentation was a film of the process of preparing the NBSAP. This film titled, *Securing India's Future: On the trail of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*, was completed in 2003 and made available to the public from 2004.

Since the existing budget could not support such an effort, a proposal to make such a film was submitted to the UNDP and the International Cooperation Division of the MoEF. The budget was approved in February 2001. A filmmaker, from Bars and Tone Television, Pune was hired for the purpose. The crew traveled to several sites to cover the events taking place as part of the BSAP process, as well as interview those involved in the process. In some cases, where the filming crew could not travel, executing agencies sent filmed footage to the filmmaker, which was used in the final product. On some occasions, other professional filmmakers, and members of Kalpavriksh, used the NBSAP digital camera to film events on behalf of the filmmaker.

The NBSAP Process Film was entered in several film festivals (environment related as well as others).

#### **Box 41**

#### **Key Lessons for Process Documentation at National Level**

- There is a need to orient the participants of a process like the NBSAP on the value of documenting the entire process
- Participants need adequate orientation on what kind of information needs to be collected and documented for process documentation, and the methods to be used for this.
- An organized system of filing/storing information needs to be worked out.
- Participants need to be urged to assign adequate funds and personnel for process documentation.
- Process documentation needs to be an ongoing activity. Institutional memory is short and if not done almost simultaneously, then a lot of information is lost.
- There is a need for adequate availability of equipment for filming, especially keeping in mind “remote” areas that may not have such facilities (E.g. much of the North-East India could not be filmed despite a range of activities carried out during the planning process there).

<sup>8</sup> A copy of the film is available for the public both with Kalpavriksh ([kvbooks@vsnl.net](mailto:kvbooks@vsnl.net)) as well as Bars and Tones Television Limited ([vpptail@vsnl.com](mailto:vpptail@vsnl.com))

## 11. TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION (as on March 2004)

a) **Integrating Biodiversity into 10<sup>th</sup> 5 Year Plan:** India's planning process has conventionally not integrated concerns relating to biodiversity and ecological security. The critical functions of biodiversity remain somewhat neglected or undervalued, in national and state developmental plans and programmes. This aspect was therefore especially focused on, in NBSAP. The NPD of the NBSAP, stressed to state level agencies executing the process that sectoral integration of biodiversity is important, and that state nodal agencies link up with state planning boards during plan preparation. Understanding the need to integrate biodiversity concerns into the national planning process, members of the TPCG reviewed relevant sections of the 9<sup>th</sup> 5-Year Plan in an attempt to contribute to the official process of reviewing this plan and preparing the 10<sup>th</sup> 5-Year Plan. TPCG also made a formal request to the Planning Commission to set up a Working Group on integrating Biodiversity into the 10<sup>th</sup> 5-Year plan. Members of the TPCG, submitted responses to the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan Approach Paper, with suggestions to incorporate biodiversity into the next 5 years of planning. However, the Working Group proposal was not accepted and a clear integration of biodiversity into the sectoral parts of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan was not evident. Nevertheless, MoEF pointed out that it had received an indication that such integration could take place as part of its Annual Plan of Operations. This could help with the credibility of the plan itself. .

b) **Leveraging Study:** In mid 2002, a follow up study was commissioned to two researchers to update the information in the existing leveraging study (Refer Box 14) as well as add on new information. All relevant Government of India schemes and programmes were described and links were identified between these and relevant strategies/actions in the national action plan. Selected donor agencies too were surveyed to identify such links. It was felt that this would be useful for future implementation at various levels.

c) **Meeting with Donor Agencies:** A half-day orientation session on the NBSAP was organized on August 2001 at UNDP, New Delhi. Representatives of 29 donor agencies attended it. The main purpose of the meeting was to familiarize the donor community with the NBSAP process, as it would generate interest for the future funding of the implementation of the BSAPs.

Some of the participants expressed interest in the BSAPs of particular states and themes. They asked for copies of the final plans when they are ready. Queries were raised on how the participation is being operationalized. The issue of implementation of the NBSAP was also highlighted and discussed.

d) **NBSAP-Small Grants Project (SGP) Links:** There has been an attempt by the GEF Small Grants Project (Coordinated by Centre for Environment Education) to link up with the process and to steer it in such a way that selected strategies from the NBSAP (National Plan) can be formulated as projects under the SGP programme. Some Core group members made presentations at SGP regional workshops to highlight the possible links between the two processes.

e) **Emerging Implementation at various levels:**

“...For many of us in the coordinating team, and perhaps for several other participants, the NBSAP process has been the most intense professional experience of our lives. Exhausting (we are all NBSapped!)...but also exhilarating! Reaching out to a vast number of people, to people of all kinds,

was only a dream when the process began. That this dream was transformed into reality is entirely due to the commitment, resources, and spirit with which thousands of women and men participated...

.... Most of all, the follow up needs one or more hubs or pegs, people or groups that the network can coalesce around. What form this follow up will take, is not yet clear. We can only hope that the above will materialize, and that we will all move towards the implementation of the actions proposed in the various BSAPs and the national plan. We owe this to the thousands of people who have put their faith in this process....and even more so, to the defenseless plant, animal, and micro-organism species that we co-inhabit the earth with." *Ashish Kothari, Coordinator TPCG in NBSAP News 14, December 2003*

From the outset of the process, the core team encouraged the executing agencies to consider their local, state, ecoregional, or thematic plan processes as relatively independent- including for the purpose of implementation. This, along with the open platform that the process provided to different sectors of society, resulted in a large number of implementation measures being initiated even before the national plan process was over.

The NBSAP process yielded some action on the ground and at policy level, at some state and sub-state sites, and at the national level. This is an attempt to compile a list of such initiatives. This list is not exhaustive, but only indicative and is updated as of January 2004:

## STATES

### ▪ *Arunachal Pradesh*

The Government of Arunachal Pradesh constituted a State Biodiversity Cell headed by the Development Commissioner and Secretary Finance and Secretary Planning as members. The first coordination meeting was held in July 2003 at Itanagar to sensitize all the government departments and NGOs and stakeholders on biodiversity concerns and explain State BSAP. All were requested to incorporate the biodiversity components in their annual plans and projects. Following a discussion on the implementation of the SBSAP, it was decided to meet every two months to review the progress.

### ▪ *Assam*

- a) The state nodal agency had a discussion with the State Forest Minister who has taken keen interest in the BSAP process and also assured to facilitate implementation, including with the Chief Minister of Assam. The Chief Minister agreed to convene a meeting with the concerned government departments /NGOs/experts for the same.
- b) In an effort to incorporate various actions in the ongoing schemes and projects in the State the nodal agency organized a few public hearings under the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) of MoEF in the North Cachar Hill Districts of Assam in early 2003.
- c) A series of lectures on biodiversity were organized in schools as part of the Golden Jubilee year of Assam Science Society (state nodal agency). As part of these celebrations a seed exhibition of different indigenous varieties was organized along with the culminating function in February 2003.
- d) The nodal agency has also begun work on a biodiversity photographic gallery in the newly constructed science complex of Assam Science Society at Guwahati supported by MoEF.

- e) Attempts are being made to publish the State BSAP and the nodal agency has already got positive response from some of the publishers.

- **Haryana**

- a) The state nodal agency attempted to build in all the BSAP proposals into an overall forestry project for the Haryana Aravallis for which it is seeking funds.
- b) The nodal agency also plans to use the final installment of preparing the state BSAP to organize a *mela* highlighting the state's indigenous agrobiodiversity so that the collection of the surviving seeds can begin.
- c) The nodal agency indicated that gradual inputs from the BSAP are being used into the making of forest management policy and the state agriculture policy. Further they have clearly stated that the NBSAP process has had an enormous impact in reshaping thinking and perceptions in the state.

- **Madhya Pradesh:** The district administration in Seoni is attempting to formally integrate biodiversity issues into various programmes and plans of relevant departments. A circular was issued by the State government to enable this. Attempts are being made to extend the idea to other districts as well.

- **Mizoram**

The Mizoram state nodal agency while helping in the preparation of the State of Environment Report attempted to integrate the state BSAP priorities into the report, to avoid duplication, overlaps and contradictory information.

- **Karnataka**

- a) The state steering committee headed by the Chief Secretary accepted the action plan and subsequently some funding from donor agencies was routed into implementation.
- b) Representatives from the State Nodal agency have been following up BSAP issues in district level discussion meetings with the District Collectors, other government officials and NGO's (selecting 10 districts representing different regions of the state). A follow up meeting of the state BSAP in Tumkur triggered formation of state NGO forum for implementing BSAP recommendations. Member NGOs would oversee and lobby for the implementation of relevant state BSAP elements in their respective areas.
- c) Following the endorsement of the BSAP (by the MoEF), the State Steering Committee felt it essential to meet once in three months to review the initiation of Karnataka BSAP. Tasks have been assigned to the members to follow up with the recommendations of the BSAP with government officials and the district commissioners of ten districts.
- d) Schools, which had participated in School Biodiversity Register programme of the BSAP process, were asked to go through the BSAP and conduct an essay competition at their respective schools. Two best essays from each school were selected and sent to the state nodal agency for evaluation. The Minister for Primary and Secondary Education was part of this initiative. The Education department, Government of Karnataka, also accepted the SBR concept and has agreed to take this up in the whole state.
- e) The State nodal agency is also putting together information for the biodiversity sector for the Karnataka State of Environment Report. They have taken this as an opportunity to follow up of the state BSAP by building in the strategies and actions into the state of the environment report.

- **Rajasthan**
  - a) The Development Commissioner of Rajasthan, while endorsing the need for a mechanism to ensure implementation, indicated that the BSAP be included in the State's 10<sup>th</sup> plan.
  - b) The coordinating agency for the State level-working group (which is the state agency for the training of government officials) has indicated that it would like to set up an Environment Cell at the HCM Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration. A temporary biodiversity cell had been earlier set up to facilitate the state BSAP preparation.

- **Sikkim**
  - a) The State is in the process of finalizing the State Biodiversity Bill which was initiated alongside the preparation of the state BSAP
  - b) The medicinal plant component of the Sikkim BSAP formed the base for the preparation of the PDF-B document prepared for the UNDP- Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions. Medicinal Plants conservation project in Sikkim
  - c) The Sikkim State BSAP was used as the base document for the preparation of the management plan for the sanctuaries and national parks of Sikkim by March 2003. Some select action points related for Barsey and Maenam Sanctuary have been taken up for implementation.
  - d) In the South and West Wildlife Forest Development Agency Programme of National Afforestation and Ecodevelopment Board (NAEB), MoEF, the afforestation planning including choice of location, species, protection etc as per the detailed action plan of State BSAP.
  - e) The nodal agency is attempting to implement the suggestion of an *Amji* Training Centre, which was an idea that came up at public hearings in north Sikkim, and was subsequently incorporated in the state BSAP.
  - f) The coordinator of the Rathong Chu BSAP, who was also part of the Sikkim BSAP process, has assured that strategies and actions from both the BSAPs could be implemented through The Mountain Institute, an organization that the coordinator joined after the finalization of the BSAP.

- **West Bengal**

A reflection workshop on the State BSAP was organized in July 2003, following the finalization, approval and printing of the BSAP. One of the resolutions of the workshop was that a copy of the report be sent to concerned agencies for comment & consideration for implementation. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment who also participated in the workshop, was requested to issue necessary directives for the same to elicit a more serious response.

## SUB-STATE SITES

- **Simlipal (Orissa)**
  - a) Following the LIFE 2000 cycle rally and other efforts as part of the BSAP process, some funding was procured for the implementation of certain activities listed within the BSAP.
  - b) Attempts are being made integrate biodiversity issues into the functioning and planning of JFM committees etc.
  - c) A *padyatra* with the purpose of initiating a process of institution building and biodiversity conservation in 300 villages of Simlipal periphery was planned to be organized in 2004.



- ***North Coastal Andhra (Andhra Pradesh)***
  - a) One of the recommendations in the BSAP for the sub-state site was to incorporate into traditional tribal festivals and events, discussions and exhibitions pertaining to biodiversity and the control over natural resources. Local communities who had made these recommendations voluntarily arranged for these events to take place in Neradivalasa village of the Angarada Hill region of the Eastern Ghats in Kurupam Mandal in October 2002. The festival, attended by a few hundred people, was a voluntary effort with no external funding. These festivals also provided platforms for seed and information exchange, revival of traditions etc. The forest department distributed free saplings to the participants. Some government departments have indicated that they might be interested in supporting such festivals in the future.
  - b) Following a recommendation of the BSAP, a case study pertaining to environment justice issues related to medicinal plants in Kurupam Mandal, was undertaken.
  - c) The nodal agency also met the Integrated Tribal Development Authority (ITDA) Project Officer, who in turn directed the *Mandal* (Block) Education Officer to take note and implement some of the BSAP recommendations.
  - d) An inter-departmental meeting was also planned, where the BSAP process and recommendations were to be presented and discussed.
  - e) The tribal networks that were involved with the process, as part of the ongoing STEP programme, documented a lot of information regarding resources, infrastructure, and food and cultivation habits etc. of sixty tribal villages. They had planned to disseminate this information. This includes detailed 'micro-plans' for rural development in those villages. They requested the network to recommend sources of support for publishing and translating these mini volumes.
  - f) The draft BSAP is also being shared with local politicians and officials for the implementation of the action points.
  
- ***Deccan Area ((Andhra Pradesh)***
  - a) The District Collector for Medak district agreed to include components of the sub-state site BSAP into the district planning.
  - b) As a result of the Mobile Biodiversity Festivals and other NBSAP related processes, more and more farmers are initiating biodiverse, organic farming. The festivals have become an annual event ever since it was first organized in 2001
  - c) The Deccan Development Society organized a workshop for media persons in April 2003. This was to take forward recommendations of both the Deccan Area sub-state site plan as well as the Media and Biodiversity sub-thematic review.
  
- ***Vidarbha (Maharashtra)***

As part of the BSAP process, a village has decided to protect a heronry in its midst.
  
- ***Rathong Chu (Sikkim)***
  - a) In Rathong Chu Valley, the nodal agency lobbied that the issues raised should be a part of the manifesto of the *Panchayat* elections in September in Sikkim. Two LAC members contested and won the local elections from Yuksom Dubdi *Gram Panchayat* as an attempt to be formally part of the government towards successfully implementing Rathong Chu BSAP.
  - b) Illegal Nepali settlers at Yuksom village (which is at the base of a trekking route through the Kanchendzonga National Park) have been persuaded to move out of the valley. The

Himalayan Mountaineering Institute is becoming more sensitive to biodiversity/cultural issues in its promotion of trekking /mountaineering in the area (both these are outcomes of the BSAP process).

- c) Important portions of the SAP report have been printed through CEE-North East in the booklet "Khangchendzonga - A biodiversity Handbook".
  - d) After successfully lobbying to get the Humana Company evicted from the ancestral land of the villagers, the Rathong Chu LAC has also been institutionalized in the *Panchayat* and the Yuksam Joint Forest Management Committee. They have also prepared the microplan for Yuksam under the South Territorial Forest Development Agency wherein they shall seek to implement the forestry part of the Rathong Chu BSAP. The West Territorial Divisional Forest Officer is also helping in this regard.
  - e) The ecotourism component of the BSAP to be implemented through project supported by the UNDP/Small Grants Programme.
- ***Uttara Kannada (Karnataka)***
    - a) In Uttara Kannada, biodiversity festivals and seed exchange workshops led to an increased emphasis on home gardens for food/nutrition/health security by some people of the district. For the first time, the Agriculture Department carried out surveys of crop diversity still being used in the district. Discussions on starting a Biodiversity Centre for the district have also started.
    - b) The Malenadu home garden and seed exchange network was launched with a seed display at the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Biodiversity Mela in Sirsi town. Subsequently, the network has taken up the several activities including documentation, seed exchanges, networking, awareness etc.

## THEMES

- Some recommendations of the Education/Awareness/Training thematic group including the need for targeted, widespread awareness campaigns are already being implemented. This is in the form of involvement of schools to document local biodiversity and the use of mass media in the form of regular columns in *Chandamama*, *Hindu Young World* and so on.
- The coordinator of the Economics thematic working group is formulating a training course on Biodiversity/Ecological Economics for senior government officials, NGOs, and others.
- Centre for Environment Education is putting together a proposal to produce different kits based on the National Plan, which would help to reach out to various target groups such as politicians etc towards generating awareness and moving towards implementation of the national action plan.

## SUB-THEMATIC REVIEWS

- The Thermal Power and Biodiversity sub-thematic review has been published in the Indian Journal of Air Pollution Control as an attempt to lobby for the recommendations made in the paper.
- In order to share and discuss the findings of the Toxics and Biodiversity sub-thematic review, a workshop is being proposed inviting representatives from MoEF, Central Pollution Control Boards, NGOs, toxicologists and others. Follow up pilot initiatives to be taken up, can also be discussed at such a meeting.

- Environment Justice Initiative, an NGO based in Delhi, recommended the sub-thematic review on EIA and Biodiversity to feed into the NEERI/MoEF exercise to prepare a National Guidance Manual on EIAs.

## **REGIONAL/ECOREGIONAL**

- At the Final National Workshop of the NBSAP process, the coordinators of thematic, state, sub-state and ecoregions from the western zone have decided to establish a strong network of the partners to share their experiences /information and help each other to advocate for the implementation of the BSAPs. The network is called as 'BSAP Partners Network-Western Zone.'
- West Himalaya Ecoregion:
  - The issues of ecosystem services (integral part of the West Himalaya process and BSAP) were actively considered in one of the people's hearings conducted for Uttaranchal.
  - At government level a beginning has been made to consider ecosystem services flowing for Uttaranchal for seeking financial support.
  - Action-oriented project formulation based on ecosystem services has initiated for Uttaranchal
- As a follow up to the Central Forest Belt ecoregion process, the coordinator prepared and sought funding for a proposal for working with communities around the Tadoba National Park, on issues of livelihood and participatory conservation. The project area is located around Nawegaon National Park.
- An Andhra Pradesh level meeting is being planned to bring together various agencies and other interested organizations in order to follow up on the implementation of the 4 (AP, North Coastal Andhra, Deccan Area, Eastern Ghats) relevant BSAPs. Prior to this an exercise of synthesizing the concerns and strategies of the four BSAPs was undertaken to prepare a blueprint for biodiversity conservation in the state.
- The Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats BSAPs are being extensively used to develop proposals to legally declare parts of these ecoregions and/or the entire ecoregions and Ecologically Sensitive Areas under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- A workshop for the Satpura Ecoregion was organized in August 2003. The base paper for the workshop was based on the Madhya Pradesh State BSAP with the linkages with the national and state level processes being spelt out.

## **NATIONAL**

- About a dozen local sites, most of them sub-state NBSAP sites, have been shortlisted for intensive implementation, as part of the UNDP's next 5-year funding cycle for India; at these sites practical activities to generate biodiversity- based livelihoods will be implemented, accompanied by national level policy analysis, community networking and exchanges, documentation, and monitoring, all focused on community based natural resource management.
- The Centre for Environment Education dedicated a page for NBSAP related news in their bimonthly newsletter *News EE*.
- Several case studies and analysis of the NBSAP process are being undertaken by International Institute for Environment and Development and other agencies/individuals.
- Scientists of the ZSI have expressed interest in implementing the SAPs relevant to them in the National Action Plan. The Coordinator of the TPCG made a presentation to some representatives including the Director, Zoological Survey of India in early December 2003.

- The Coordinator of the Economics TWG has begun the process of collating all the major Bibliographical information, which we may have from all the thematic working group reports, and also from various state and regional reports of NBSAP.
- Earthcare Films which is planning to make a series of films on Women and Biodiversity, the proposal for which was discussed and responded to by the TPCG during the NBSAP process. Two of the films in the series are being developed in NBSAP sites and drawing from the processes and recommendations in there.

## Annexure 1

### STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE NBSAP

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name/Address</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Special Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi	Chairman
2.	Representative of Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001	Member
3.	Representative of Department of Biotechnology, CGO Complex, Lodi Road New Delhi – 110 003	Member
4.	Representative of Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road New Delhi	Member
5.	Representative of Department of Ocean Development CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi – 110 003	Member
6.	Representative of Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Health, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi	Member
7.	Representative of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment New Delhi	Member
8.	Representative of Department of Economic Affairs Ministry of External Affairs New Delhi	Member
9.	Representative of Planning Commission New Delhi	Member
10.	Prof. Madhav Gadgil Centre for Ecological Sciences Indian Institute of Science Bangalore – 560 012	Member
11.	Prof. Shekhar Singh Indian Institute of Public Administration I.P. Estate, Ring Road New Delhi – 110 002	Member
12.	Prof. Anil Gupta SRISTI Indian Institute of Management Vastrapur, Ahmedabad – 380 015	Member

13.	Dr. Vandana Shiva Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy, A-60, Hauz Khas, New Delhi – 110 016	Member
14.	Representative of UNDP 55, Lodi Estate, New Delhi – 110 003	Member
15.	Additional IGF (WL) Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi	Member
16.	Additional IGF (FC) Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi	Member
17.	Director, Project Tiger Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi	Member
18.	Director (IC) Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi	Member
19.	Joint Secretary (CS) Ministry of Environment and Forests New Delhi	National Project Director and Member Secretary

## Annexure 2

**PROFILE OF  
TECHNICAL AND POLICY CORE GROUP AND CORE DRAFTING GROUP MEMBERS\***

<b>I. TECHNICAL AND POLICY CORE GROUP</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Expertise</b>
Vibha Ahuja	Biotech Consortium India Ltd, New Delhi (Email: <a href="mailto:vibhaahuja@biotech.co.in">vibhaahuja@biotech.co.in</a> ; biotechdelhi@vsnl.com)	Biotechnology and Bio-safety
Seema Bhatt*	Independent Consultant, New Delhi (Email: <a href="mailto:seemabhatt@vsnl.com">seemabhatt@vsnl.com</a> )	Biodiversity-based Enterprise; Community-based Conservation
P. C. Bhattacharjee	Zoology Dept, Guwahati University, Guwahati (Email: <a href="mailto:bhattapc@sancharnet.in">bhattapc@sancharnet.in</a> )	Wildlife and Community- based Conservation; Biodiversity in North-East India
Ravi Chellam	Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun  (Currently with United Nations Development Programme Email: <a href="mailto:ravi.chellam@undp.org">ravi.chellam@undp.org</a> )	Wildlife Conservation; Conservation Training
Deepa Kapoor	Biotech Consortium India Ltd, New Delhi (Email: <a href="mailto:biotechdelhi@vsnl.com">biotechdelhi@vsnl.com</a> )	Biotechnology
Kanchi Kohli*	Kalpavriksh, New Delhi (Email: <a href="mailto:kanchi@hathway.com">kanchi@hathway.com</a> , <a href="mailto:kvdelhi@vsnl.net">kvdelhi@vsnl.net</a> )	Urban and Rural Community Development; Environment Law Communication and Advocacy
Ashish Kothari*	Kalpavriksh, Pune (Email: <a href="mailto:ashishkothari@vsnl.com">ashishkothari@vsnl.com</a> )	Conservation and People's Livelihoods; Community- based conservation; Impacts of River Valley Projects
B.M. S. Rathore	Conservator of Forests, Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, Seoni (Email: <a href="mailto:bms_r@yahoo.com">bms_r@yahoo.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:cfseoni@sancharnet.in">cfseoni@sancharnet.in</a> )	Joint Forest Management; Integrated Land-use Management
Madhu Sarin	Independent Development Planner, Chandigarh (Email: <a href="mailto:msarin@satyam.net.in">msarin@satyam.net.in</a> )	Gender and Equity; Livelihoods; Community Institutions
P.V. Satheesh	Deccan Development Society, Hyderabad (Email: <a href="mailto:ddshyd@hd1.vsnl.net.in">ddshyd@hd1.vsnl.net.in</a> )	Agro-Biodiversity; Indigenous Knowledge
Darshan Shanker	Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore (Email: <a href="mailto:darshan.shankar@frlht-india.org">darshan.shankar@frlht-india.org</a> )	Medicinal Plants; Indigenous Knowledge
Virinder Sharma	Himachal State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, Shimla  (Currently with Department for International Development, New Delhi; Email: <a href="mailto:v-sharma@dfid.gov.uk">v-sharma@dfid.gov.uk</a> )	Himalayan Biodiversity; Community-based Conservation

\* Indicates member of Core Drafting Group

Gam Shimray	All India Coordinating Forum for Adivasi/Indigenous Peoples, New Delhi (Email: admin@del3.vsnl.net.in)	Adivasi Environmental and Human Rights Issues in North-east India
V. Shruti Devi	Advocate and Legal Consultant, New Delhi (Email: shrutidevi@vsnl.com)	Environmental Laws and Policies
M. V. M. Wafar	National Institute of Oceanography, Goa (Email: <a href="mailto:wafar@darya.nio.org">wafar@darya.nio.org</a> )	Islands/Coastal and Marine Biodiversity
Bansuri Taneja (Former Member)	Kalpavriksh, New Delhi (bansurit@yahoo.com)	Water Harvesting and Biogeography; Community-based Conservation

## II. CORE DRAFTING GROUP

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Seema Bhatt	Independent Consultant, New Delhi	Biodiversity-based Enterprise; Community based Conservation
Kanchi Kohli	Kalpavriksh, New Delhi	Urban and Rural community Development; Environment Law Communication and Advocacy
Ashish Kothari	Kalpavriksh, Pune	Conservation and People's Livelihoods; Community-based Conservation; Impacts of River Valley Projects
Sujatha Padmanabhan	Kalpavriksh, Pune	Special Education
Konthoujam Khelchandra Singh	Kalpavriksh, New Delhi	Environmental Science
Elizabeth Thomas	Kalpavriksh, Pune	Archaeology



## Annexure 3

### LIST OF GUIDELINES AND CONCEPT PAPERS

[Note: Most of these guidelines and concept papers were put together as part of *NBSAP India: Guidelines and Concept Papers, 2000*. These included methodological and cross-cutting notes, and concept notes for 13 proposed thematic BSAPs etc. Few other concept papers subsequently produced and circulated to the executing agencies]

#### *Methodological Notes*

- Process Outline
- Guidelines for Executing Agencies (State, Sub-State, Ecoregional and Thematic Level)
- Suggested Format for Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Suggested Format for Thematic Strategy and Action Plan
- Guidelines for Process Documentation
- Guidelines for Ensuring Widespread Participation in the NBSAP Process
- Media Campaign Strategy
- Biodiversity Festival Proposal
- Guidelines for NBSAP Executing Agencies, for Conducting Public Hearings

#### *Cross Cutting Themes*

- Why Conserve Biodiversity?
- Integrating Biodiversity into Sectoral Planning
- Integrating Gender Sensitivity into Biodiversity Conservation and in the NBSAP Process
- Assessing Data Quality and Reliability
- Assessing Existing National Documents Relevant to NBSAP
- Integrating Monitoring and Evaluation into Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans
- Integrating Issues of Empowerment and Equity in the NBSAP Process
- Prioritisation of Actions withing Biodiversity Strategy and Actions Plans
- Role of Armed Forces in the NBSAP
- Corporate Sector and Biodiversity
- International Issues and Biodiversity
- District Planning and Biodiversity Integration
- Threat Assessment for NBSAP
- Note for Involvement of Politicians

#### *Thematic Concept Notes*

- Access, benefit sharing and Intellectual Property Rights
- Corporate Sector and Biodiversity
- Culture and Biodiversity
- Domesticated Biodiversity
- Economics and Valuation of Biodiversity
- Education, Research and Training
- Health and Biodiversity
- International Issues and Biodiversity
- Livelihoods, Lifestyles and biodiversity
- Micro-organism Biodiversity
- Natural Aquatic Ecosystems
- Natural Terrestrial Ecosystems
- Policies, Laws, Institutions and Planning
- Technology, Industry and Biodiversity
- Wild (Plant and Animal) Biodiversity

## Annexure 4

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL WORKSHOP New Delhi 23-24 June, 2000

#### 1. Introduction

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is a two-year (2000-2001) exercise initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, and funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It aims to formulate local, regional, state, and national strategies and action plans for conserving biodiversity, sustainably using biological resources, and achieving equity and fair benefit-sharing in such use. The NBSAP is being conceived of and implemented by a Technical and Policy Core Group (TPCG) consisting of experts in different fields, headed by the environmental action NGO Kalpavriksh. Its administration is being handled by the Biotech Consortium India Ltd.

The Inaugural National Workshop of the NBSAP was held on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June, 2000, with a view to introducing key participants to the process of the NBSAP as visualised by the TPCG. The participants (totally about 160) consisted of government officials from, NGO members, community representatives, and independent scientists and activists from almost all states of the country. This included about 60 persons who have been identified by the TPCG for coordinating the NBSAP process at local, state, regional, and thematic levels<sup>9</sup>.

The purpose of this workshop was also to invite comment on the planned process, and to help clarify the methodology of preparing the NBSAP. To this end, the main elements of the preparation process were presented to the plenary<sup>10</sup>. The delegates then moved into five working groups. Group I consisted of coordinators and others who will be handling the thematic action plans. Groups 2-5 consisted of delegates from the four regions of India: North, East (including north-east), West and South, including proposed state/UT nodal agencies (and other state government nominees), ecoregional working group co-ordinators and sub-state site coordinators. Some Delhi-based NGOs, representatives from Government of India ministries other than the MoEF, media experts, and others, spread themselves into various working groups.

#### 2. Major Recommendations

**The major conclusion of the workshop was that the process of the NBSAP as envisaged by the TPCG was broadly acceptable and viable. In particular the following aspects were stressed:**

1. Making the process very **broad-based and participatory**, involving all sectors of society, and especially those sectors that are directly dependent on biodiversity;
2. Assessing **all aspects** of biodiversity: biological, social, political, economic, and ethical; and including both wild and agricultural (domesticated) biological diversity;
3. **Integrating biodiversity** into the various sectoral plans, and **reorienting developmental** planning to make it more sensitive to biodiversity concerns.
4. Making strategies and action plans based on **two bottom lines**: maintaining the **ecological security** of the country and of the specific regions for which the plan is being made, and ensuring the **livelihood security** of local communities who are dependent on biodiversity for their survival.

#### 3. Specific Recommendations

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<sup>9</sup> The NBSAP process aims at producing about 20 local (substate), 30 state/UT-level, 9 ecoregional (inter0-state), and 14 thematic action plans, apart from the overview national action plan.

<sup>10</sup> Concept notes on these aspects of methodology (except 5 and 6 below, which were based on oral presentations made at the plenary) have been put together in a compendium that was distributed to the delegates at the workshop. Page numbers are indicated in brackets:

1) Introduction to the NBSAP methodology (Process Outline on p. 1); 2) What is an Action Plan/Suggested Action Plan output format (p. 16); 3) Guidelines to executing agencies (p.19); 4) Process documentation (p. 23); 5) Prioritization for Biodiversity Conservation; 6) Cross-Sectoral Integration in Biodiversity Planning; 7) Media Campaign (p. 60); and 8) Biodiversity Festival.(p. 57).

Detailed discussion on the methods and concept of the NBSAP took place in the working group sessions. Discussion was structured along five main heads:

- i) Making implementable action plans (including integration of biodiversity into development plans of various sectors, and methods of prioritising actions);
- ii) Ensuring participation of all sectors of society in the NBSAP process;
- iii) Linking up to ongoing processes and leveraging additional funds for the NBSAP process;
- iv) Coordination between executing agencies of the NBSAP; and
- v) Deciding next steps in the process.

Working groups presented recommendations on these issues to the plenary, following which the TPCG discussed, and consolidated these recommendations. The TPCG suggested some follow up actions, and discussion on the consolidated recommendations took place in the plenary. The final recommendations from all the working groups, along with some follow up activities, are listed below. *These should be read in conjunction with the NBSAP background documents circulated at the Workshop, in particular the Guidelines for Executing Agencies, Guidelines for Process Documentation, the Process Outline, and various thematic concept notes.*

### 3.1 Making Implementable Action Plans

1. Prioritization of actions<sup>11</sup> in the plans should be based on both hard core ('formal') science and local ('informal') science, knowledge and perceptions. The interface between these two forms of knowledge should be examined.
2. A multi-dimensional model should be adopted for prioritisation of actions, taking into consideration priorities of species, sites, policy-level actions, and so on. [*TPCG will prepare a note on prioritization building on the BCPP experience*].
3. Analysis of threats to biodiversity is an important step in prioritization of actions, and for monitoring of implementation of the plan. [*TPCG to prepare note on threat analysis*]
4. There should be high priority given to areas such as sacred sites and high agro-biodiversity regions.
5. All policies /laws/ programmes should be analysed from the biodiversity point of view, including those related to development and economic sectors.
6. Chief Secretaries of States should be encouraged to issue directions, or set up mechanisms, for involving all departments in the making and implementation of the action plans, so as to facilitate inter-sectoral integration.
7. Cross-linkages between agricultural and wild biodiversity (e.g. wild relatives of agricultural species) should be examined, and positive links encouraged.
8. Different land use and tenurial systems should be studied, and plans should be made keeping their specificities in mind.(e.g. the tenurial systems of the North East)
9. Conflicts between agro-diversity conservation and wildlife (e.g. in some *jhum* or shifting cultivation systems) should be examined, and a resolution of these conflicts should be recommended in the action plans.
10. All rural development schemes should be assessed for their linkages with biodiversity, and the action plans should state how these schemes can be leveraged for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
11. Executing agencies should look into setting up of integrated conservation/development authorities, e.g. an ecoregional authority with statutory powers to manage entire biological regions within or cutting across states.
12. The action plan process should learn from, and link up to, the ongoing widespread programmes of watershed development, water harvesting, and related land use programmes of various state governments and of the central government.
13. The NBSAP process should recommend how biodiversity can be integrated into environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedures.
14. The action plans should help to identify areas important for biodiversity, and all activities in such areas should mandatorily go through EIA procedures. EIA teams should include wildlife/agriculture/forest experts.
15. Village level organisations for conservation and for checking bio-piracy should be strengthened or established as part of the action plan process.
16. Sustainability of harvest of biological resources (such as non-timber forest produce) needs to be more thoroughly studied [*a sub-thematic study on sustainability of NTFP harvest in Central India is already under consideration by the TPCG*]

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<sup>11</sup> Prioritization was considered to be an important part of creating an implementable action plan. While the NBSAP exercise will focus on actions to save biodiversity, it may be necessary to choose ('prioritize') actions for protecting particular sites and/or species, or for institutional/policy/legal measures. Some such prioritization has been carried out by the Biodiversity Conservation Prioritization Programme (BCPP) coordinated by WWF-India. NBSAP agencies may want to build on the BCPP exercise, or undertake some prioritization of their own, based on clear criteria.

17. The action plan should recommend how biodiversity conservation can be integrated into Joint Forest Management guidelines.
18. The action plans should include mechanisms to monitor and evaluate their implementation [*note on monitoring and evaluation to be prepared by TPCG*]
19. The objectives of the action plan should be laid out clearly at the outset.
20. Mechanisms for implementation of the NBSAP should be housed as a cell in MoEF.
21. The NBSAP could include provisions for implementing the draft Biological Diversity Bill
22. The public distribution system (PDS) and macro-economic systems should be examined for their impact on biodiversity, as part of the action plan.
23. Aspects of agro-biodiversity that need to be considered include (i) making links with markets in ways that sustain diversity in farmers' fields, (ii) popularising the concept of eating and sustaining a diversity of agricultural produce, and (iii) encouraging and linking up to the increasing market for unconventional crops.

### 3.2 Enhancing the Participation of All Sectors in the NBSAP Process

**[*TPCG to prepare notes on participation, and on concerns of equity and empowerment*]**

1. All relevant steering committees and advisory committees and working groups of the NBSAP process should have a balanced composition, and must include relevant government departments in the ratio to which they have a role in the respective state or substate area.
2. The Forest and Agriculture departments should be mandatory parts of the State Steering Committees.
3. Creating basic awareness of biodiversity and of the NBSAP in all sectors is a necessary prerequisite to participation in the NBSAP, for which all possible means should be used.
4. A list of all vernacular language newsletters through which NBSAP can reach out should be compiled.
5. Public hearings/meetings at local levels should be used to maximum extent possible.
6. Translation of basic NBSAP documents into substate languages would be necessary, which state or substate nodal agencies could help with. For Nagaland, for instance, participants offered to translate the NBSAP *Call for Participation* into the 16 tribal dialects.
7. Using folk media and other forms of media sensitive to local cultural conditions, to reach out to citizens during the NBSAP process, would be important. Each state can suggest its own culturally specific media campaigns.
8. Links with federations, cooperatives, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and other such relevant groups should form part of the NBSAP process. For instance, such links will be useful for the Livelihoods, Lifestyles and Biodiversity Thematic Working Group.
9. It is critical to tackle issues of local land tenure and resource rights, to get participation in the NBSAP, and to formulate implementable action plans.
10. Awareness of the concept of biodiversity should be spread and understood in various ways. It is of note here that though the term "biodiversity" may not be familiar to most people, there is considerable awareness of the elements of biodiversity in different cultural and linguistic traditions. This awareness needs to be tapped and encouraged while making action plans.
11. Measures to use an integrated approach, combining formal science and informal science /knowledge in the execution of the NBSAP process, should be evolved.
12. Ways and means of involving sectors that normally do not participate, such as the corporate sector, need to be evolved, including through the involvement of corporate house associations (three of which were called for the workshop, but did not come).
13. The tourism sector also needs to be involved and made more sensitive to biodiversity concerns, which could be done through relevant tourism agency forums such as PATA and through state tourism offices.

### 3.3 Linking up to Ongoing Processes, Leveraging Additional Funds for NBSAP

1. All possible sources of information including university departments, should be tapped for information on biodiversity.
2. Panchayati Raj Institutions should be linked up with, for critical inputs in the planning process, bringing them into the fold for implementation, and for leveraging the funds that they have access to.
3. Past or ongoing planning and assessment exercises like the National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP), National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP), Biodiversity Conservation Prioritisation Project (BCPP), and others, should be built on during the NBSAP process, rather than duplicated.
4. Formal processes of coordinating between the NBSAP and the NFAP and NWAP, for implementation and follow up, need to be set up within the MoEF.
5. All available information on ongoing processes to which NBSAP could link up to, or leverage funds from, should be made available to executing agencies. [*The in-process TPCG paper on linking up to ongoing processes and*

*leveraging funds will be circulated*]. In turn, all agencies should look out for such linkages and inform the NBSAP coordinating agencies.

6. Regional cooperation frameworks for international issues should be identified, to aid international cooperation on the NBSAP preparation.
7. The relationship of NBSAP activities to existing MoEF schemes should be established, and the possibility of using these schemes (such as the National Environmental Awareness Campaign, the Man and Biosphere Programme, the programmes for coral reef and mangrove conservation, and so on) for the NBSAP process should be considered.
8. Detailed bibliographies of all existing documents should be circulated [*TPCG members will prepare bibliographies for thematic areas and, where possible, for states*]
9. Action plans should consider building in the specific requirement for funds to generate hard quantified data on various biodiversity parameters.
10. The NBSAP process should learn from the ongoing exercises in preparing people's or community biodiversity registers, though caution needs to be exercised in making such registers publicly available without legal protection to their contents.
11. The MoEF should set up an integrated eco-development programme for coastal areas, which the NBSAP agencies could use for follow-up actions.
12. Links to relevant international initiatives, such as those for fair trade, should be created, in particular to link up biologically diverse agriculture and sustainable forest-based livelihoods with sensitive markets.
13. Various links with government ministries and departments other than the MoEF, should be explored. For instance, the Department of Ocean Development has various ongoing activities relevant to marine biodiversity, which the NBSAP process (in particular the Thematic Working Group on Natural Aquatic Ecosystems, and the relevant coastal states and island U.T.s) could benefit from.
14. A meeting of all donor agencies should be called, possibly by UNDP, to aid linking up with NBSAP process
15. Links can be established with the State Science and Technology Councils by the respective state nodal agencies.

#### 3.4 Coordination Between Executing Agencies

1. Close coordination amongst the Thematic Working Groups and the local/state/ecoregional groups is important, especially in the exchange of information.
2. There should be some mutual/cross-representation in sub-state, state and ecoregional working groups. This will aid coordination and help to avoid overlap.
3. The proposed NBSAP website, to be housed in the MoEF's SDNP facility, can be used as a discussion forum. Continuous updates and calendars will also be posted on it, to keep all those involved of the progress on NBSAP activities.
4. Constant flow of information from central agencies to all executing agencies, and vice versa, is necessary.
5. A full list of all TPCG members, Steering Committee members, state/sub-state nodal agencies, and thematic/ecoregional coordinators, should be published and circulated.
6. A close examination is needed of the proposed sub-themes (provided as an appendix in the *Process Outline*), as there may be significant overlap between these and the main thematic areas. Only those that are unlikely to be substantially covered by the thematic working groups should be taken up for commissioning reviews/papers.

#### 3.5 Next Steps

(this builds on the document *Operationalising the NBSAP: Next Steps for Executing Agencies*, which was circulated to the participants).

1. All the SSCs, LACs, TWGs, and EWGs are to be set up. TPCG should be informed of the creation of the committees.
2. While the suggested names for these groups, listed in the Workshop Compendium, should be seriously considered, coordinators and nodal agencies are free to make changes in these lists. However, all such changes should be intimated to the TPCG and NPD, with clear reasons for the changes made.
3. The suggested time-frame was considered somewhat unrealistic by participants, and was extended by 2 weeks to a month.
4. A mid-term review will be conducted, including by bringing in all coordinators and nodal agencies into a meeting sometime in December 2000 or January 2001.
5. One or more TPCG members, assigned to each state and thematic working group, will be present at the first state/substate/TWG/EWG meeting, and will be in regular touch with the various groups to facilitate their work.
6. A letter from the MoEF, explaining the next steps required from executing agencies, and providing an assurance for funding, should be sent to all nodal agencies and coordinators.

7. The TPCG should consider the new ecoregions, and sub-state sites suggested by the workshop working groups.
8. Regional training and orientation sessions for nodal agencies and coordinators may be required in the next few months, to further flesh out and understand the modalities and methodologies of the NBSAP process.

Annexure 5

**MATRIX OF TWG OVERLAPS AND COMPLEMENTARITIES**  
(Note: this was working draft, produced in 2000)

<b>Economics</b>														
<b>Livelihoods and Lifestyles</b>	Livelihood value of biodiversity													
<b>Culture</b>		Lifestyles												
<b>Health</b>			Traditions of health care											
<b>Domesticated Biodiversity</b>	Valuation of agro-diversity	Agro-based livelihoods	Rituals, festivals, etc.	Biodiversity-based veterinary care										
<b>Wild Animal</b>	Value of wild species	Human-animal conflict; Hunting, fishing	Conservation traditions	Medicinally important animals	Wild relatives of domesticated animals									
<b>Wild Plant</b>	Plant use value	Plant-based livelihoods	Conservation traditions	Medicinally important plants	Semi-wild species	Plant-animal interdependence								
<b>Natural Terrestrial Ecosystems</b>	Valuation of ecosystems	Ecosystem-based livelihoods; consumerism as threat	Conservation traditions	Habitats for medicinal plants	Agro-forestry, shifting cultivation	Animal habitats	Plant habitats							
<b>Natural Aquatic ecosystems</b>	Valuation of ecosystems	Ecosystem-based livelihoods; consumerism as threat	Conservation traditions	Habitats for medicinal plants	Cultivated wetlands	Animal habitats	Plant habitats							
<b>Micro-organisms</b>	Valuation of micro-organisms				Culture collections?			In situ conservation	In situ conservation					
<b>Policies, Laws, etc.</b>	Macroeconomic policies	Policies impacting on livelihoods	Customary laws	Health related policies	Food security, agricultural policies	Conservation and exploitation policies	Conservation and exploitation policies	Conservation and exploitation policies	Conservation and exploitation policies					
<b>Access, B-S, IPRs</b>	Valuation & IPRs	Access to livelihood resources	Indigenous knowledge traditions			IPRs and PBRs				IPRs related to microbes	Policies regulating access, IPR policies			
<b>Education, Training, etc.</b>	Education of economists, decision-makers	Education regarding	Traditional methods of education	Education of health workers on biodiv.	Conservation education, training, research <sup>12</sup>	Conservation education, training, research	Conservation education, training, research	Conservation education, training, research	Conservation education, training, research	Conservation education, training, research	Education re. policies; Education policies	Education about IPRs, etc.		
<b>Technology and Industry</b>		Technologies for enhancing livelihoods	Beliefs related to traditional technologies	Pharmaceutical technologies	Ex situ conservation technologies	Industrial (over-exploitation) threats	Industrial (over-exploitation) threats	Industrial threats	Industrial threats	Biotechnology using microbes; culture technologies	Industrial and technology policies		Education, training, research in appropriate technologies	
<b>TWG</b>	<b>Economics</b>	<b>Livelihoods and Lifestyles</b>	<b>Culture</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Domesticated Biodiversity</b>	<b>Wild Animal</b>	<b>Wild Plant</b>	<b>Natural Terrestrial Ecosystems</b>	<b>Natural Aquatic Ecosystems</b>	<b>Micro-organisms</b>	<b>Policies, Laws, etc.</b>	<b>Access, B-S, IPRs</b>	<b>Education, Training, etc.</b>	<b>Technology and Industry</b>

<sup>12</sup> It is not yet clear if the Education TWG will also be dealing with Research.

## Annexure 6

### Press Note

#### NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Mid-term National Workshop

New Delhi, 13-15<sup>th</sup> June, 2001

#### NEED TO RE-ORIENT PLANNING PROCESSES TOWARDS BIODIVERSITY AND PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS

A three-day workshop to review the progress of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was held on 13-15<sup>th</sup> June 2001, at Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi.

The NBSAP aims to produce implementable action plans to achieve conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of biological resources, and gender-sensitive, equitable sharing of decision-making and benefit-sharing related to biodiversity. It is a Ministry of Environment and Forests project, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). One of its unique features is the fact that the technical execution of the process has been given out to an NGO, Kalpavriksh, along with a Technical and Policy Core Group of experts and experienced individuals from across the country. Its administrative coordination is with the Biotech Consortium India Ltd.

The NBSAP was intended to be a two-year process, ending in early 2002. At little more than half-way stage, this national workshop was aimed at assessing, whether the original objectives of the process are being fulfilled or not. In particular, three questions were sought to be answered:

1. Is a comprehensive understanding of biodiversity, and a full coverage of the issues involved, taking place?
2. Is the process of the NBSAP participatory enough? If not, what more needs to be done?
3. How effective will an exercise of this nature be, in actually achieving conservation and sustainable use, and in protecting indigenous knowledge and rights?

Briefly, the workshop came up with the following main conclusions and recommendations.

1. The NBSAP process had for the first time provided an opportunity to cover a **whole range of issues** relevant to biodiversity: wild plants and animals, micro-organisms, crop and livestock diversity, scientific issues, cultural aspects, ethical and economic aspects, intellectual property rights, and others.
2. It has strongly emphasised that the country cannot view environment and livelihoods, or development, as being separated from each other; rather, **all the development initiatives of the country should ensure that biodiversity, environment, and people's livelihood security are adequately protected.**
3. The process was by far the **most participatory exercise in environment/development** that the country had ever seen, involving tens of thousands of people from various sectors of society. However, the **participation of women was weak**, and that of some sectors like armed forces, politicians, and the corporate sector, was inadequate.
4. The process was for the first time **building a national plan from the grassroots**, attempting to make the voices of local farming, fishing, and adivasi communities reach the national level, and to involve scientists, academics, government officials of various line departments, artists, and other sectors in making action plans.
5. The process had already **generated action** (e.g. people's biodiversity gene banks and protection of community lands for wildlife), had created a lot of **awareness** across the country, and had started strong **networking** amongst many people to enhance their work on biodiversity.
6. It was now important to make sure that the concerns and information being generated were integrated into the various levels of planning and decision-making at state and national levels, for which it was necessary to **receive highest level political and bureaucratic authorisation at state and national levels.** This was so far weakly developed.
7. It would also be necessary to ensure that all the plans being generated are incorporated into the **10<sup>th</sup> 5-Year Plan for each state and for the country**, for which the Planning Commission and state planning departments could be requested and sensitised.
8. The plans also need to involve **local level bodies**, panchayat raj institutions, women's groups, and so on, for effective involvement.
9. Links should be built between the NBSAP process and the proposed **Biological Diversity Bill**, to enable legal back-up to the action recommendations coming out of the NBSAP.



10. Appropriate and innovative **mechanisms of communication** should be developed and used, to spread the NBSAP results and biodiversity issues in general, to as large a population as possible, including taking the action plans back to the communities who have helped in developing them.
11. Urgent steps were needed to **protect the indigenous knowledge** that was being reflected and used in the NBSAP process, especially against possible misuse and biopiracy. In this too, the linkage with the Biodiversity Bill would be critical.
12. **Local and state level institutions**, such as State Biodiversity Boards, needed to be set up to ensure implementation of the action plans. Such institutions should have balanced representation of local biodiversity-dependent communities, independent experts, NGOs, and relevant line departments of government.

In terms of the final phase of the NBSAP, the following was needed:

1. Greater coordination between different levels of planning (local, state, ecoregional, thematic) would help to synergise information and actions, to exchange data and build on each others' work, and to remove contradictions.
2. Greater involvement of women at all levels of the process is urgently needed, for which women's groups such as self-help groups and mahila mandals, and social welfare departments, could be involved.
3. Greater involvement of government departments other than
4. More orientation and training of all executing agencies by the Technical and Policy Core Group.
5. Exchange of all draft reports, plans, and other documents amongst all the participants, for comments and synergising.
6. Open availability of all minutes, proceedings, and other documents produced under the NBSAP, to the public.
7. The 75 action plans at local, state, ecoregional, and thematic levels, needed to be integrated in a harmonious manner into the national action plan, with due prioritisation to the sites and themes that needed urgent attention.

It was concluded that the NBSAP process had been one of the most encouraging and participatory ones, and that the next year of its project period should be used to consolidate the information generated, iron out differences, agree on priority actions, and seek means of implementation including the re-orientation of the 10<sup>th</sup> 5-Year plan to being more sensitive to biodiversity and livelihood issues.

## PRESS NOTES FROM REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

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### NORTHERN REGION

**20.10.2001**  
**Chandigarh**

#### PRESS NOTE

The Ministry of Environment & Forests, in association with the UNDP, has initiated a unique participatory project to prepare the National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan. This plan is proposed to be developed by merging a series of State Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans besides strategies for 9 ecoregions, 17 sub-state sites and a number of thematic papers on specific biodiversity related issues. These strategies and action plans are currently under preparation by the participation of Government departments, Non-Government Organisations, research & academic bodies and people at large through a series of meetings & public hearings being organized throughout the country.

The 3-day Northern Region Meeting in this respect was organized by the Punjab State Council for Science and Technology which is the nodal agency for the State of Punjab, at Chandigarh in which participants from 8 states (Punjab, Haryana, UP, HP, Uttaranchal, J&K, Delhi & Chandigarh), 3 ecoregions (Shivaliks, Western Himalayas & Gangetic Plains) and 2 Sub-state sites (Nahin Kalan & Lahaul Spiti) presented the work done by them in this respect up till now. The experts from different states discussed different issues regarding biodiversity and integrating issues of empowerment and equity in the NBSAP process, prioritization of actions within biodiversity strategy and action plan and also integrating gender issues and international issues.

The participants also discussed the integration of biodiversity into sectoral areas, for State/Sub-state biodiversity strategies and action plans especially integration of biodiversity issues in plans & policies of Agriculture Deptt., Fisheries, Soil Conservation & Water shed Deptt., Deptt. Of Energy, Mining & Minerals, Industrial Development and Tourism, Urban/Rural Development, Deptt. Of Forest & Wildlife, etc.

Sh. J.R. Kundal, Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Science & Technology in his the valedictory lecture stressed the need for biodiversity protection for the benefit of the human race. He said that life will not be the same if our rich biodiversity heritage is altered. And the signs indicate that this is precisely what is happening. Biodiversity is threatened not because of catastrophic events such as asteroid crash (that some scientists believe caused the extinction of dinosaurs) but because of the pressures of expanding human population and increased resource consumption.

Sh. D.S. Dhesi, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Deptt. of Environment Govt. of Haryana highlighted the need of equitable distribution of resources to motivate people to participate in the conservation process.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Ashish Kothari, renowned Biodiversity Expert and Technical Coordinator of the National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan stressed that the NBSAP needed to discuss cross-sectoral issues & inter-state issues at its formative state for incorporation in the National Policy document to prevent inter-sectoral conflicts at later stage. These included issues of joint management of water & bioresources, change in agricultural policies to make them more farmer centered and biodiversity oriented, tackling of common conservation problems jointly and issues related to Intellectual Property Rights and patenting of bioresources.

The meeting strongly recommended the importance of sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing action of bioresources through appropriate implementation of action plans.

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### WESTERN REGION

**Press Note, 9 November, 2001**

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY:  
Need to Re-orient Development and Focus on Disprivileged Sections of Society**

The Western Regional Workshop of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) process was held at Ahmedabad on 7-9<sup>th</sup> November 2001. It concluded that greater efforts were needed to sensitise various sectors and agencies of development with regard to the importance of biodiversity in human life. It also strongly stressed the need to provide for the empowerment of communities in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and in particular disadvantaged sections such as women, landless, and other socially or economically downtrodden. Finally, it urged much greater coordination amongst the states of the western region, on issues of common ecological concern.

The NBSAP is a Ministry of Environment and Forests (Government of India) project, funded by the GEF/UNDP. Its technical execution is being done by an NGO, Kalpavriksh, which has set up a 15-member Technical and Policy Core Group for the overall co-ordination of the process. Its administrative coordination is by the Biotech Consortium India Ltd. The process aims to create a series of implementable action plans at local, state, regional, thematic, and national levels, for conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of biological resources, and achievement of equity in such conservation and sustainable use.

The process has been going on since early 2000, and is expected to end in mid-2002. In its 18 months of existence, it has so far involved several tens of thousands of people through workshops, yatras, festivals, meetings, public hearings, media outreach, and other means. Its unique feature is that every relevant section of society (adivasis, fisherfolk, farmers, scientists, government officials, artists, armed forces personnel, mediapersons, academics, and so on) has been involved, and the diverse voices from the grassroots are being given first priority while building a national picture.

The workshop in Ahmedabad was aimed at bringing together the coordinators of the NBSAP process from the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Goa. Participants ranged from government officials to NGOs, scientists, and activists. The workshop was hosted by the Centre for Environment Education, which is coordinating the NBSAP thematic working group on Education, Awareness, and Training.

Sessions at the workshop dealt with:

1. Moving towards concrete, implementable action plans for three states (Gujarat, Rajasthan, Goa), three local sites (Kachchh in Gujarat, Vidarbha in Maharashtra, and Arvari in Rajasthan), and two ecoregions cutting across states (West Coast, and Aravalli Range);
2. Identifying and recommending actions for coordinating the biodiversity-related actions amongst all these sites, and in particular between the four states in the western region;
3. Integrating sensitivity on issues of gender (especially women's rights), equity (especially involvement of disadvantaged sections), and empowerment (especially of communities to deal with natural resource management);
4. Integrating biodiversity sensitivity into all sectors of planning and development, especially those sectors like mining and industry and urbanisation, which most destroy biodiversity;
5. Facing up to threats from international agreements like WTO (including biopiracy and patenting), and using opportunities provided by other international agreements like the Biodiversity Convention.

Key points that came up are given in the attached note.

The NBSAP process will be organising another three regional workshops (southern, eastern, and north-eastern India) in the next month or two. A workshop for the northern region was held between 18-20 October 2001. The workshops will lead to the finalisation of action plans for sites and themes in the states of these regions, and finally into a national action plan for consideration by the Government of India. **Participants were especially hopeful that the vast amount of effort that is going into this process, will result in not only action plans and strategies, but also in concrete implementation by governments, NGOs, and communities, so that the serious ecological destruction and livelihood loss faced by India could be reversed.**

#### WESTERN REGIONAL WORKSHOP OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN Ahmedabad, 7-9 November, 2001

##### Key Issues/Substantive Points

1. **Response from official** developmental sectors to biodiversity issues remains weak; biodiversity continues to be seen by political leaders and decision-makers as a "side" issue, one only to be paid lip-service to.
2. Full **economic and social values of biodiversity** need to be understood, estimated, and projected, to make decision-makers realise its importance. (*Example: water security for the plains of Rajasthan, provided by the Aravalli ecosystem*).

3. **Sensitivity of various development sectors** towards biodiversity will also be enhanced if above valuation, including the importance of biodiversity to **water security**, to the **livelihoods** of people and to **economic welfare**, is highlighted. (*Example: changes in fisheries policy, to protect coastal/marine ecosystems for traditional fisherfolk from destructive trawling*).
4. Biodiversity integration is necessary within various existing **institutional levels**, from gram sabha and panchayats to District Planning Committees and state governments. Mechanisms to enhance their **capacity** to deal with biodiversity issues are needed.
5. **New institutional structures** would also be necessary, such as state biodiversity boards, ecoregional biodiversity planning bodies, federations of village-level committees, and others. (*Example: Maldhari Sangathan idea from Kachchh*)
6. Biodiversity issues will be adequately dealt with only with sensitivity towards the special roles, responsibilities, rights, needs, and attitudes of **disprivileged sections of society**, including women, landless, marginal farmers/fisherfolk, adivasis, and so on. Even these sections need to be disaggregated to focus on those that are most oppressed or disprivileged. (*Example: Fisherwomen in West Coast*)
7. **Protected areas (PAs)** remains a major strategy for *in-situ* biodiversity conservation. However, **involvement of communities** in generating benefits from, and managing PAs, is crucial. For this, collaborative or joint management models need to be evolved; ecodevelopment is a step towards this, but must move towards much more central role for communities in PA management. (*Example: Joint PA Management in Goa*).
8. The conservation of biodiversity in non-PA areas (forests, coasts, marine areas, grasslands, and agricultural areas) is also crucial, for which a range of policy and incentive measures are required to empower communities. (*Example: water and forest conservation by communities in Alwar, Rajasthan*).
9. Coordination is needed **across state boundaries**, to address issues of common lands/waters and ecoregions that cut across states. For such areas, a landscape or ecoregional approach is necessary, which is able to integrate various kinds of land/water uses across a large region. (*Example: seasonal fishing bans across West Coast*)
10. Changes in current laws and policies may be needed to facilitate participatory conservation, e.g. difficulties in the rules concerning PAs or RFs, as governed by the Wild Life (Protection) Act and the Forest Act, can be overcome with certain amendments.
11. **Industry** as a major user and destroyer of biodiversity, needs to be squarely addressed. The NBSAP process has tried, with only partial success, to sensitize the corporate sector; this needs considerable more effort. (*Example: Kachchh; thermal power stations in Vidarbha, Maharashtra*)
12. **Organic, biologically diverse farming** needs a major thrust, but a number of policy, marketing, and certification hurdles need to be overcome for this. There must be greater governmental support for such farming, including through incentives and rewards, and through linkages with the Public Distribution System and other assured markets. (*Example: Zaheerabad area, Andhra Pradesh; Vidarbha, Maharashtra*)
13. **Drought-proofing**, a critical requirement for this region, must involve a series of measures related to biodiversity, including encouragement to diverse traditional crop varieties and livestock breeds, medicinal plant processing, and the use of under-utilised crops. (*Example: Aravalli, Kachchh*)
14. Areas with currently special focus, should also be infused with biodiversity sensitivity. (*Example: post-earthquake attention by donors and NGOs and government agencies to Kachchh*)
15. Exotic plant species are a menace over most of India (though in some situations also beneficial), and need state and national-level programmes for eradication and control. Where they have already proliferated, their creative use (herbicides, handicrafts, furniture, and other products), should be explored to provide local livelihoods. (*Example: Prosopis in Kachchh*)

16. The thrust on biodiversity for **public health**, should focus on improving the health security of communities. Over and above this, there is great potential for benefiting local people, if village-level processing, marketing skills, interface with industry, and other such measures, are encouraged. (*Example: folk knowledge from Aravalli*)
17. **Financial and administrative reforms** are urgently required, to ensure that the money and powers that should be smoothly flowing from Delhi to state to local areas, does indeed quickly get to the ground. Biodiversity programmes and ideas remain on paper due to bottlenecks in the fund flows.

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## **NORTH-EAST REGION**

**Press Note, 21 December, 2001**

### **NEED TO RE-ORIENT DEVELOPMENT TO CONSERVE NORTH-EAST'S BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY:**

#### **Statement of the North-Eastern Regional Workshop Of National Biodiversity Strategy And Action Plan (NBSAP)**

The North-Eastern Regional Workshop of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) process was held at Guwahati on 18-20<sup>th</sup> December, 2001. **It noted that the north-eastern region being one of India's most biologically and culturally diverse areas, special efforts were needed to evolve models of development that would help to conserve this diversity rather than destroy it.** To do this, participants felt that:

- greater efforts were needed to sensitise various agencies of development, and institutions ranging from the district councils to the North-East Council (NEC), with regard to the importance of biodiversity in human life;
- much greater role has to be given to communities in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, in particular involving disprivileged sections such as women, tribals, landless, and other socially or economically downtrodden;
- greater coordination is needed amongst the states of the north-eastern region, on issues of common ecological concern.

The NBSAP is a Ministry of Environment and Forests (Government of India) project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)/United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Its technical execution is being done by an NGO, Kalpavriksh, which has set up a 15-member Technical and Policy Core Group (TPCG) for the overall co-ordination of the process. Its administrative coordination is by the Biotech Consortium India Ltd. The process aims to create about 75 implementable action plans at local, state, regional, thematic, and national levels, for conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of biological resources, and achievement of equity in conservation and sustainable use.

The process has been going on since early 2000, and is expected to end in mid-2002. **In its 18 months of existence, NBSAP has so far involved several tens of thousands of people through workshops, yatras, festivals, meetings, public hearings, media outreach, and other means.** Its unique feature is that every relevant section of society (tribals, fisherfolk, farmers, scientists, government officials, artists, armed forces personnel, mediapersons, academics, corporate sector, and so on) has been involved, and the diverse voices from the grassroots are being given first priority while building a national picture. **In the north-east too, this process is attempting such widespread participation.**

The workshop in Guwahati brought together the coordinators of the NBSAP process from:

- the states of Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur;
- local sites of Rathong-Chu in Sikkim, Karbi-Anlong in Assam, West Garo Hills in Meghalaya, and Chedema in Nagaland;
- the ecoregion of North-East India as a whole;
- resource persons, members of the Technical and Policy Core Group, and members of Kalpavriksh.

Participants ranged from government officials to NGOs, scientists, and activists. The workshop was hosted by the NGO Aaranyak.

Sessions at the workshop dealt with:

6. Moving towards concrete, implementable action plans for all the states, local sites, and the ecoregion;
7. Identifying and recommending actions for coordinating biodiversity-related actions amongst all the states of the region;

8. Integrating sensitivity on issues of gender (especially women's rights), equity (especially involvement of disprivileged sections), and empowerment (especially of communities to deal with natural resource management);
9. Integrating biodiversity sensitivity into all sectors of planning and development, especially sectors like agriculture and mining;
10. Dealing with issues related to international agreements like the WTO and facing up to threats like those of biopiracy and patenting; at the same time positively using opportunities provided by other international agreements like the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The key action points that came up are given in the attached note.

This is the fourth regional workshop of the NBSAP process, and there will be a final fifth one for the southern region. These workshops will lead to the finalisation of action plans for sites and themes in the states of these regions, and finally into a national action plan for consideration by the Government of India.

**Participants were especially hopeful that the vast amount of effort that is going into this process, will result in not only action plans and strategies, but also in concrete implementation by governments, NGOs, and communities, so that the serious ecological destruction and livelihood loss faced by India could be reversed.**

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## NORTH-EASTERN REGIONAL WORKSHOP OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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Guwahati, 18-20 December, 2001

### Major Issues and Recommendations

18. The most significant aspect of the north-east region is its **biological and cultural diversity**, the large range of community beliefs and practices relevant to biodiversity (such as sacred groves and lakes); the **development strategy** for the region must be sensitive to this diversity and should help to conserve rather than destroy it.
19. There are serious **inter-state border issues** across the region, including deforestation, social conflicts, poaching, and others; these can only be resolved by providing much **greater role to local communities** on both sides of each border, in dialogue and mutually acceptable actions, including joint forest and wildlife conservation measures.
20. Several **major dams** are being proposed in the region, which will have significant impacts on biodiversity and local people; there should be a thorough impact assessment of these, as also a search for **ecologically friendly alternatives** such as micro-hydel and run-of-river schemes, before going ahead. Local people should be fully involved in such exercises through public hearings and other means.
21. Considerable damage is being caused by **trade in forest produce** (e.g. bamboo, cane, thatch, and medicinal plants like *Taxus* and *Rauwolfia*), from one state to the other and from the north-east to other parts of India and abroad; there should be a full investigation into this trade, stringent controls on extraction from forests with help from local people, and measures to ensure that the major benefits from the trade go to the local communities.

22. Patterns of **land ownership and rights** across the region are complex, and their relationship with biodiversity needs to be understood. All efforts should be made to encourage and revive **community management systems**, which are otherwise breaking down under the influence of modernisation and privatisation; and in some states to address the issue of alienation of tribal lands by outsiders.
23. **Structures of governance** in the region, such as local and district councils, and state bureaucracies, need to be made sensitive to concerns regarding biodiversity.
24. Biodiversity should be integrated as a central concern in all **development departments and sectors**, including through appropriate education of planners, mandatory portion of each department's funds set aside for biodiversity, and changes in policies/programmes that destroy biodiversity (e.g. monoculture and chemical-intensive agriculture).
25. Considerable damage is being caused by **mining** in many states of the region; this needs to be controlled by subjecting all mining to stringent ecological and social impact assessments, consent from local communities, and public hearings.
26. **Women's role** in all aspects of planning, implementation, and monitoring of environment and development projects, must be strengthened by mandatory inclusion of women in decision-making bodies and building their capacity to participate in such forums.
27. The issue of large-scale **immigration** into India, and the settlement of "refugees" or other foreign nationals, needs to be settled at the highest political levels, especially in areas of great ecological sensitivity.
28. **International trade in wildlife and timber**, especially to Myanmar and Bhutan, needs to be curbed if possible through involving and providing to local communities and with help and sensitisation of the armed forces stationed along the border.
29. The true **economic and social value of biodiversity** in the region, including the ecosystem services being provided within and between states (e.g. Assam's water security provided by Arunachal's forests), should be estimated and built into the planning and budgeting of the state and regional plans.
30. Such valuation can also be the basis of **compensation by the country**, for the north-eastern states having to "forego" options like logging and large dams; such compensation should be used to help devise alternative livelihoods for those who lose jobs for ecological reasons.
31. The impact of the **Armed Forces** on the environment and people needs to be independently assessed, and orientation sessions held to make them more sensitive to biodiversity and cultural/livelihood issues.
32. There is considerable **expertise and innovativeness within the north-eastern region**, which can be exchanged amongst the states to mutual benefit; e.g. ecotourism model in Sikkim, bamboo crafts in Tripura and Arunachal, short-cycle sustainable shifting cultivation in Nagaland, women-led orchid growing societies in Arunachal, and many others. **Exchange visits** of communities, NGOs, and officials should be facilitated.
33. The issue of **elephant degradation and deaths** is serious in many states of the region, and needs to be urgently addressed through habitat protection and restoration, resolution of encroachment issues, prompt and adequate compensation for crop/human losses, and a long-term plan that identifies critical remaining elephant corridors and affords protection to them.

Overall, it was recommended that institutions such as the **North-East Council (NEC)**, should take the above and other biodiversity-related issues much more seriously, and incorporate them as one of their core items for discussion and decision-making.

## **SOUTHERN REGION**

### **SOUTHERN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY AND PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS**

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

January 8, 2002

Setting up of an agrobiodiversity corridor across Telangana, Marathwada and North Karnataka, establishment of a biodiversity board each for East Coast, West Coast, Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats, harmonising of wildlife conservation, fisheries and other laws/policies were the major recommendations from the Southern Region Workshop of the National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan [NBSAP] held from January 5 - 7, 2002.

The three day workshop which organized at the Deccan Development Society's Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Medak District at Didgi Village near Zaheerabad also made a strong recommendation for joint forest conversation and anti-poaching measures in adjoining states in South India.

The workshop attended by NBSAP coordinators and participants from several southern states, ecoregions, and local sites, and thematic experts included environmental scientists, biologists, botanists, bioscientists, environmental activists and groups of high repute from all over India.

In its concluding recommendations, the workshop stressed that biodiversity was not just a technical issue, but a social and economic one, since millions of people depend on it for their livelihoods and cultural sustenance. It also underlined that women being most dependent on biodiversity and its best nurturers, had the greatest knowledge on it, were the worst affected by its destruction and therefore can be the greatest force in conservation if given a chance. This implied that various issues of gender and equity needed to be a central part of any conservation strategy.

The workshop underscored the urgent need to re-orient the development process in all the states in order to make conservation a key concern of all departments and sectors, and to enable local communities to have an effective say in deciding what kind of development they want.

"There is a need to protect biodiversity-based livelihoods against the onslaught of commercialisation and external forces. For instance, all along the coasts, traditional fisherfolk are badly affected by mechanised fishing and intensive aquaculture. It is necessary to strengthen and encourage traditional methods of fishing, aquaculture, farming, and forest use, which would give people a stake in conservation. The example of the biodiverse, organic, and productive farming of Dalit women in the Medak district, is a classic case of the superiority of such systems vs. the chemical-based agriculture of the Green Revolution" the workshop said.

*The District Collector of Medak Mr Pemachandra Reddy who inaugurated the workshop accepted in principle to adopt the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan prepared by the Deccan Development for the Medak District would be adopted by the District as its agrobiodiversity plan. This Action Plan describes how farmers will use a diversity of crops, through organic farming, to enhance livelihoods, generate employment, link to the Public Distribution System, and strengthen people's own knowledge and rights.*

Three specific recommendations suggesting actions for conservation and livelihood security across the region, made by the workshop were :

- ◆ Creation of an agro-biodiversity corridor for the Deccan region, across Marathwada in Maharashtra, Telangana in Andhra Pradesh, and northern Karnataka.
- ◆ Setting up of legally notified biodiversity boards for the entire East Coast, West Coast, Eastern Ghats, and Western Ghats, with decisive participation of local communities, government officials from all relevant states, scientists, NGOs, and activists.
- ◆ Harmonising of wildlife conservation, fisheries, and other laws/policies and strategies across the states of the region.

While analysing the possible strategies and actions needed to plug the gaps, the participants of the workshop stressed on the need to sensitise various government departments towards issues of biodiversity conservation and people's livelihoods. It was highlighted that communities dependent on biodiversity have to be empowered and their role in conservation recognised.

### **THE NBSAP PROCESS**



The NBSAP is a Ministry of Environment and Forests (Government of India) project, funded by the Global Environment Facility through UNDP. Its technical execution is being done by a 22 year old NGO, Kalpavriksh (based in Delhi and Pune), which has set up a 15-member Technical and Policy Core Group for the overall co-ordination of the process. Its administrative coordination is by the Biotech Consortium India Ltd. The process aims to create a series of implementable action plans at local, state, regional, thematic, and national levels, for conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of biological resources, and achievement of equity in such conservation and sustainable use. Each of these is being carried out by a co-ordinating agency/ individual with the help of a working group/ committee comprising of community members, scientists, government officials, NGOs, and others.

The process has been going on since early 2000, and is expected to end in mid-2002. In its 18 months of existence, it has so far involved several tens of thousands of people through workshops, yatras, festivals, meetings, public hearings, media outreach, and other means. Its unique feature is that every relevant section of society (adivasis, fisherfolk, farmers, scientists, government officials, artists, armed forces personnel, mediapersons, academics, and so on) has been involved, and the diverse voices from the grassroots are being given first priority while building a national picture.

The meeting in Didgi was organized to bring together the representatives of the co-ordinating agencies/ individuals of the southern region, which includes the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It also encompasses the ecoregions of West Coast, East Coast, Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats. The NBSAP has also identified certain substate sites for special focus, which includes Deccan Andhra and North Coastal Andhra in Andhra Pradesh, as well as Uttara Kannada in Karnataka.

The workshop was hosted by Deccan Development Society, a prominent NGO in the region, which is also co-ordinating the substate Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Deccan Andhra region. Apart from presentations of the participants, the sessions of the workshop dealt with:

- orientation and discussion on gender & equity issues, people’s participation and empowerment, use of indigenous knowledge and practices;
- the need and mechanisms for intersectoral co-ordination between various departments and sectors, towards addressing biodiversity and livelihood concerns; and
- identification of linkages between various co-ordinating agencies (states, ecoregions, and substate sites).

Participants also went on field visits, including to meet Gangwar Anjamma, a woman farmer who is preserving and propagating several dozen varieties of crops; to Algole village where 60 women have grown and protected a large patch of forest; to Dalit women’s Sangam in Bidakanne growing a diversity of crops; and to the school and media centre of the Deccan Development Society. All the participants were inspired and humbled by these visits, recognising the enormous contributions that ordinary villagers were making towards biodiversity conservation. They were also concerned about the lack of support by government in some cases, for instance in Algole village where women want to convert the predominantly eucalyptus plantation into a more diverse one with fruit and other useful trees, but which is not being supported by the Forest Department.

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Ashish Kothari  
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8 January, 2002

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**Annexure 8**

**INTER-SECTORAL INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY:**  
**A Consolidation of the Matrix Exercise Carried out in NBSAP Regional Workshops<sup>13</sup>**

**Introduction:** One of the key aspects of the NBSAP process is to attempt the integration of biodiversity into each sector of development and welfare planning. Guideline notes on this have been issued to all executing agencies, including "Integration Biodiversity into Sectoral Planning" which is printed in the compendium *Guidelines and Concept Papers*, and the matrix exercise derived from Rajasthan. . In addition, an interactive exercise was carried out in all the regional workshops, to fill up a matrix for one or more sectors, in the format given below. The matrices below are a consolidation of this exercise.

**SECTOR: Agriculture** (discussed in Western and North-east Regional Workshops)

<p><b>How Its Activities May Degrade Biodiversity</b> (with specific examples at local, regional, state levels, providing appropriate data)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monoculture, homogenisation, introduction of hybrids...leading to erosion of diversity</li> <li>• Decrease in nutrient values of the agricultural product</li> <li>• Destruction of micro-organisms in soil</li> <li>• Decline of perennial herbs</li> <li>• Exotics weeds taking over, displacing indigenous species</li> <li>• Pesticide poisoning, especially of raptors and predators</li> <li>• Water degradation or pollution, and eutrophication, impacting on aquatic biodiversity</li> <li>• Dependence on unreliable markets/government, leading to loss of indigenous knowledge and varieties</li> <li>• Expansion of agriculture into forests and wetlands</li> <li>• Over-exploitation of ground water, with potential impacts on natural ecosystems</li> </ul>
<p><b>Historical / Root Causes for Nature of Activity</b> (note: this would include aspects such as policies, attitudes, physical/demographic factors, centralisation of powers, lack of participation, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market (national and international) demand for a few crops</li> <li>• Changing food habits/status, e.g. predominant demand for wheat and rice</li> <li>• Standardised, convenient response to greater food need of growing population</li> <li>• Agricultural policies, including support for green revolution and wasteful subsidies to chemicals</li> <li>• Industrialization in agricultural subsidies/seedsI</li> <li>• International vested interests</li> <li>• Public distribution system focusing only on wheat and rice</li> <li>• Insensitive price fixing, and cheap/easy availability of mass produced varieties</li> <li>• Kind of R&amp;D practices, non transfer of agriculture technology (organic) to field</li> <li>• Lack of full information, lack of decision-making powers with small farmers including women</li> <li>• Switch from food to non-food cash cropping</li> <li>• Privatisation of land- from community management</li> <li>• Home garden conversion to tea plantations or other monocultural practices</li> <li>• Monolithic management visions and guidelines</li> <li>• Population dynamics related to resources including localised increases in population and forced migration</li> <li>• Intolerance towards nomadic communities and shifting cultivation</li> </ul>

<sup>13</sup> A total of five regional workshops were held (Northern, Western, Central and Eastern, Northeast, Southern). Not all sectors were discussed in the every regional workshop. This consolidation has been done by Kanchi Kohli and Ashish Kothari of the NBSAP TPCG, and has involved some elaboration and interpretation of the discussions at the workshops. It may be noted that not all the above points will be relevant for each site or theme, and that executing agencies should develop their own matrices based on site-specific conditions.

<p><b>Policy/Strategies and Actions That May Help Conserve Biodiversity</b></p> <p>(note: these should be separated into broad, policy-level objectives or thrusts, and the specific actions needed to achieve these broad objectives)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater awareness of long term impacts of agrobiodiversity erosion</li> <li>• Change in orientation of agriculture education/R&amp;D system across sectors and education levels</li> <li>• Incentives for agriculture/rural works, respect for agriculture as occupation</li> <li>• Compensation for short term losses switching to organic farming, Marketing policy: link organic farming to markets (local, national, international)</li> <li>• Value overall productivity of organic farming including food, health, fodder, fuel, and other products/services</li> <li>• Certification of organic produce/indigenous seeds</li> <li>• Integrating local agrobiodiversity into PDS/ CDS/ BalwadiI</li> <li>• Incentives for food vs. non-food cash crops</li> <li>• Innovative management of Jhum zonation, technologies, agroforestry</li> <li>• Mixed or composite farming, with crops, fish, livestock, and trees</li> <li>• Emphasis on local food and nutrition security</li> <li>• Balance between HYV and indigenous varieties</li> <li>• EIA process to include analysis of impacts of projects on agricultural biodiversity</li> <li>• Legal measures for controlling agricultural pollution</li> <li>• Creation of organic consumer movement/markets, popularising organic and diverse food and agricultural produce through scientific studies, R&amp;D, publicity, and incentives</li> <li>• Pricing support/financial subsidies for organic/biodiverse agricultural products</li> <li>• Rewards/social recognition for innovative farming practices related to biodiversity,</li> <li>• Support for fallow lands to enable soil recovery and regeneration of vegetation</li> <li>• National programme to promote organic farming, including specific schemes and support for storage of organic produce</li> <li>• Consumer information on seed packets</li> <li>• Training of extension workers/Krishi Vigyan Kendra orientation towards biodiverse agriculture</li> <li>• Small-scale enterprise support</li> <li>• Warning on hazardous products – pesticides, fertilizers</li> <li>• Cultivation of cane, orchids, bamboo, medicinal plants including domestication (subsistence, local needs should be priority)</li> <li>• Reviving, encouraging traditional food system, recipes, habits (through ecotourism, consciousness raising, links to nutrition and educational system)</li> <li>• Different approaches for different ecoregions/ethnic cultures</li> <li>• Food/biodiversity festivals and seed exchange fairs</li> <li>• Production calculations to take <u>all</u> biomass that is used.</li> <li>• Encouraging the use of biofertilizers, traditional composting, use of aquatic plants including weeds</li> <li>• Community based monitoring of projects and processes with an impact on agrobiodiversity</li> <li>• Documentation and publication of success stories</li> <li>• Possible demonstration sites to be identified in each state</li> <li>• Community based tourism linking to food diversity</li> <li>• Increased understanding of the loss of agrobiodiversity, and wild biodiversity on agricultural land</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicators of Progress Towards Goal</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Greater consumer demand for organic, biodiverse food and agroproduce</li> <li>◆ Greater uptake of local, diverse produce</li> <li>◆ Greater stocking of local, diverse produce in PDS and other outlets</li> <li>◆ Drop in demand for chemical pesticides and fertilisers</li> <li>◆ Increase in demand for biofertilisers, biopesticides, and other organic farming inputs</li> <li>◆ Greater outflow of varieties from gene banks to farmers</li> <li>◆ Greater documentation of success stories</li> <li>◆ Fiscal, banking and other policy changes towards biodiverse farming</li> <li>◆ Increased demand for certification of organic produce</li> </ul>

**SECTOR: Planning** (discussed in North-east and Western Regional Workshops)

<p><b>How Its Activities May Degrade Biodiversity</b> (with specific examples at local, regional, state levels, providing appropriate data)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion of local planning and decision making institutions (politicisation, erosion of values, government take over), in turn leading to erosion of biodiversity</li> <li>• Erosion of biodiversity by ill-planned development projects or welfare schemes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Historical / Root Causes for Nature of Activity</b> (note: this would include aspects such as policies, attitudes, physical/demographic factors, centralisation of powers, lack of participation, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inflexible, centralised, monolithic policies</li> <li>• Ignorance of, and inadequate valuation of the benefits of biodiversity</li> <li>• Lack of understanding and sensitivity towards biodiversity</li> <li>• Natural resource limits not respected, lack of ecological framework for planning</li> <li>• Predominant focus on material growth</li> <li>• Sectoral tunnel vision approach, and lack of coordination amongst sectors and departments of development</li> <li>• Lack of gender sensitivity</li> <li>• Individualistic approach, policies, with serious lack of community focus in schemes and subsidies</li> <li>• Top-down planning: little involvement of local communities and other citizens</li> <li>• Little integration of biodiversity priorities</li> <li>• Excessive thrust on development sectors other than land/natural resource base</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy/Strategies and Actions That May Help Conserve Biodiversity</b> (note: these should be separated into broad, policy-level objectives or thrusts, and the specific actions needed to achieve these broad objectives)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building full value of biodiversity (economic, ecological, socio-cultural) into planning process</li> <li>• Guidelines to be issued for biodiversity integration into all development and welfare sectors</li> <li>• Guidelines for expenditure, planning to integrate biodiversity</li> <li>• All sectoral activities to do environmental auditing/ impact assessment</li> <li>• All development sectors to have a percentage of funds for biodiversity- to be spent on issues related to their sector</li> <li>• Awareness, education amongst planners; periodic refresher courses on biodiversity and related issues</li> <li>• Databank on biodiversity to be continuously updated, with planning board or commission</li> <li>• Biodiversity advisors in each department and in the planning board</li> <li>• Co-ordination between sectors/departments through statutory, institutionalised and participatory process</li> <li>• Economics/Statistical/Census department should update and show data on natural resources</li> <li>• Ecologically sensitive areas to be identified and made off limits to destructive developmental activities</li> <li>• Enforcement of laws relevant to biodiversity, through effective people's participation</li> <li>• Genuine community participation, with full information, in decision making</li> <li>• Mandatory public Hearings for all development projects</li> <li>• Institutional mechanism for biodiversity/environment at each district level- Environment committee as part of DPC</li> <li>• Full and legal right to information, total openness and accountability in governmental functioning</li> <li>• Periodic evaluation and monitoring of policies, schemes, programmes</li> <li>• Natural resource accounting</li> <li>• Planning over realistic time periods to enable full valuation of biodiversity and full public participation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R&amp;D into, and promotion of, alternative models of development and conservation</li> <li>• Usage of various tools for planning- folk tools to space technology</li> <li>• Recognition of women's decision making powers and gender sensitivity</li> <li>• Recognition of common property- coastal, marine, pastures, forests</li> <li>• Legal and policy flexibility to enable the above steps and to facilitate site-specific measures</li> </ul>
<b>Indicators of Progress Towards Goal</b>	

**SECTOR: Mining** (discussed in Western and Eastern/Central Regional Workshops)

<p><b>How Its Activities May Degrade Biodiversity</b> (with specific examples at local, regional, state levels, providing appropriate data)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil erosion</li> <li>• Deforestation</li> <li>• Disasters due to mine dam bursts or other accidents, causing flora-fauna loss</li> <li>• Loss of flora, fauna in natural ecosystems and on agricultural land</li> <li>• Wetland diversion/drainage</li> <li>• Pollution of air, water, soil, with impacts on resident or downstream species</li> <li>• Habitat loss and fragmentation, Disruption of migratory routes, corridors</li> <li>• Human settlements in mining areas, putting pressure on surrounding natural resources</li> <li>• Displacement/cultural loss, leading to loss of biodiversity-related knowledge</li> <li>• Loss of traditional knowledge/livelihoods due to other activities</li> <li>• Noise related disturbance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Historical / Root Causes for Nature of Activity</b> (note: this would include aspects such as policies, attitudes, physical/demographic factors, centralisation of powers, lack of participation, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market forces/ Industrial and urban demand including consumer choices</li> <li>• Patterns of housing/ urbanisation the model of development. Energy intensive construction</li> <li>• Pressure of the mining lobby- national and international</li> <li>• Economic/ Logistic ease for mining at particular sites that are ecologically fragile</li> <li>• Contradictory development policies, schemes, laws, and departmental priorities</li> <li>• Corruption/greed leading to excessive mining and flouting of laws/norms</li> <li>• Lack of strong EIA related to biodiversity, in decision-making</li> <li>• Inappropriate mining technology</li> <li>• Insensitivity towards biodiversity/environmental issues in decision-making and implementation</li> <li>• Regeneration/Restoration/Reclamation using ecologically inappropriate species</li> <li>• No holistic land use plan with fragile limits being off-limits to mining or to certain kinds of mining</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy/Strategies and Actions That May Help Conserve Biodiversity</b> (note: these should be separated into broad, policy-level objectives or thrusts, and the specific actions needed to achieve these broad objectives)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strict compliance to mining laws/EIAs/ Environmental clearance conditions</li> <li>• Cost- internalisation of environmental and biodiversity damage, holistic cost benefit analysis</li> <li>• Education, awareness among decision makers and consumers of mineral products</li> <li>• Community permission before mining; mandatory public hearings</li> <li>• Stringent compensatory and mitigation measures, planned and implemented with local communities</li> <li>• Influencing local leaders and decision-makers through public movements, education, lobbying</li> <li>• Remove exemptions from EIAs/public hearings- all mining projects should be screened</li> <li>• Ecologically sensitive areas to be identified at state and national levels, and declared off-limits to mining</li> <li>• Legal status to remain forest/sanctuary even in mining areas</li> <li>• Alternatives to be provided to community for common lands that are brought under mining</li> <li>• Regional landscape planning and assessment, within which mining areas to be placed, through s</li> <li>• Continuous monitoring, cost-benefit assessment and mitigation measures</li> <li>• Benefit sharing with communities and ecosystems that lose out to mining</li> <li>• Safety/hazard education by mining company to be mandatory</li> <li>• Prioritisation of local livelihood and ecological security needs over 'national' and 'international' minerals</li> <li>• R&amp;D into alternative construction material and alternatives to minerals that involve destructive</li> <li>• R&amp;D into alternative, safer mining technologies</li> <li>• Organising and building capacity of communities to respond</li> <li>• Plantation of local species during restoration, with biodiversity enhancement and local community</li> </ul>

	<p>priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consumer awareness to reduce demand for minerals not essential for basic needs, e.g. marble and</li> </ul>
<b>Indicators of Progress Towards Goal</b>	

**SECTOR: Tourism** (discussed in Eastern/Central and Southern Regional Workshops)

<p><b>How Its Activities May Degrade Biodiversity</b> (with specific examples at local, regional, state levels, providing appropriate data)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecosystem degradation by tourism infrastructure and ancillary activities</li> <li>• Habitat destruction/fragmentation/pollution</li> <li>• Disturbance caused by tourists, including noise pollution</li> <li>• Diversion of forest staff to cater to tourists, especially VIP tourists</li> <li>• Commodification and erosion of local cultures, including of indigenous knowledge on biodiversity</li> <li>• Illegal hunting by or under the guise of tourists</li> <li>• Oil spills</li> <li>• Wildlife disturbance, leading to impacts such as changes in animal behaviour</li> <li>• Over-exploitation of species (corals, ornamental plants)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Historical / Root Causes for Nature of Activity</b> (note: this would include aspects such as policies, attitudes, physical/demographic factors, centralisation of powers, lack of participation, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing preferences of tourists, including greater demand for roads, vehicles, and infrastructure</li> <li>• Economic policies and subsidies favouring tourism over other land/water uses that lead to conservation</li> <li>• Lack of community control, local community participation and benefit sharing</li> <li>• Lack of awareness/ concern in tourists and tourist operators</li> <li>• VIP tourism as a special problem</li> <li>• Concentration on a few areas</li> <li>• Promotion of areas without any ecological safeguards being in place</li> <li>• Pilgrimage changes towards intensive, infrastructure-dominated visitation, excessive numbers at</li> <li>• Lack of enforcement of environmental safeguards</li> <li>• Lack of monitoring of impacts</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy/Strategies and Actions That May Help Conserve Biodiversity</b> (note: these should be separated into broad, policy-level objectives or thrusts, and the specific actions needed to achieve these broad objectives)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fixing of carrying capacity of each area for tourism</li> <li>• Tourism policy to incorporate biodiversity consideration as a central prerequisite</li> <li>• Tourism Policy changes, including mandatory EIA for tourism infrastructure and projects, community involvement, no tourism sites/ zones including some ecologically fragile and sacred sites, and ecologically and culturally sensitive siting policy</li> <li>• Impact assessment of ongoing tourism</li> <li>• Attitude survey amongst tourists and tour operators</li> <li>• Comprehensive tourism planning with ecological/cultural sensitivity</li> <li>• Publicising negative impacts with case studies</li> <li>• Capacity building of local communities to manage tourists, act as guides, and set up interpretation</li> <li>• Interpretation/ education / sensitization of tourists, pre-tour, during visit, and post-tour</li> <li>• Promoting tourism for agrodiversity, and for conservation</li> <li>• Charging ecological tax/fees, repatriating back to ecosystem and to local people</li> <li>• Community controlled and managed tourism which is ecologically balanced and locally equitable, focus on locally disprivileged groups</li> <li>• Mandatory Code of conduct for tourists/ industry</li> <li>• Conservation and local livelihoods to always have a higher priority than tourism</li> <li>• Developing a monitoring protocol for tourism activities</li> <li>• Sensitisation of forest officials to genuine ecotourism potential for conservation, as a support for employment, local livelihoods, monitoring, and revenue</li> <li>• Promoting low-impact tourism, including trekking</li> <li>• Integration biodiversity and local community rights into tourism curricula</li> <li>• Special tourism codes for sacred and culturally sensitive sites</li> </ul>
<b>Indicators of Progress Towards Goal</b>	

**SECTOR: Urban Development** (discussed in Western Regional Workshop)

<b>How Its Activities May Degrade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of flora/fauna ecosystems (agricultural land, wetlands, forests, grassland) by construction</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Biodiversity</b> (with specific examples at local, regional, state levels, providing appropriate data)</p>	<p>dumping, pollution etc. leading to water shortages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversion of natural/mixed ecosystems to manicured systems</li> <li>• Over exploitation of bioresources due to urban consumer demands</li> <li>• Loss of biodiversity related cultures/ knowledge of villagers engulfed or displaced by urbanisation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Historical / Root Causes for Nature of Activity</b> (note: this would include aspects such as policies, attitudes, physical/demographic factors, centralisation of powers, lack of participation, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unplanned economic growth/ urbanisation into ecologically and socially sensitive areas</li> <li>• Faulty implementation of plans, laws, policies</li> <li>• Bias towards urban/ industrial sector (creation of jobs, infrastructure, amenities) in national and budgets</li> <li>• Decline in rural resource/employment/facilities base</li> <li>• Consumerist lifestyles- resource use, waste generation</li> <li>• Attitudes towards “wild” ecosystems Vs “manicured” ecosystems</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy/Strategy That May Help Conserve Biodiversity</b> (note: these are broad, policy-level objectives or thrusts)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education/awareness regarding urban biodiversity, impacts of urban lifestyles</li> <li>• Greater resource to rural areas</li> <li>• Prescribed minimum forest cover for every city/town</li> <li>• Protection of urban wetlands- tanks, rivers; recreate rivers as lifelines</li> <li>• Mandatory afforestation for loss of trees</li> </ul>
<p><b>Specific Actions/Interventions That May Help Achieve Policy/Strategy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural heritage protection notification for cities/ towns</li> <li>• Town and country planning acts/ bodies to incorporate biodiversity concerns</li> <li>• Planned development of new towns into “Eco-towns”</li> <li>• Development of ‘mini-forests’ and wetlands by NGOs/ resident associations</li> <li>• Under 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment (municipal/ward committees), incorporate biodiversity in a decentralised manner</li> <li>• Integration of biodiversity/environment into housing colony rules/ implementation</li> <li>• EIAs to be mandatory for urban growth/housing colonies</li> <li>• Roof top/local water harvesting</li> <li>• Urban gardens and roof top kitchens, with indigenous biodiversity (rare species)</li> <li>• Consumer groups/ movements for organic food</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicators of Progress Towards Goal</b></p>	

**SECTOR: Watershed Programmes** (discussed in Eastern/Central Regional Workshop)

<p><b>How Its Activities May Degrade Biodiversity</b> (with specific examples at local, regional, state levels, providing appropriate data)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inequities in benefit-sharing/access to resources</li> <li>• Impact on agricultural diversity due to irrigation-induced homogenisation</li> <li>• Impact on downstream diversity due to inappropriate watershed programmes</li> <li>• Change in land use and its impact on agricultural diversity</li> </ul>
<p><b>Historical / Root Causes for Nature of Activity</b> (note: this would include aspects such as policies, attitudes, physical/demographic factors, centralisation of powers, lack of participation, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of wetlands and water sources which lead to watershed programmes</li> <li>• Uniform centralised, monolithic guidelines and model of watershed development</li> <li>• Loss of traditional management systems</li> <li>• Target oriented approach, with unrealistic time constraints and little site-specific planning and in</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy/Strategies and Actions That May Help Conserve Biodiversity</b> (note: these should be separated into broad, policy-level objectives or thrusts, and the specific actions needed to achieve these broad objectives)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local community control over the land where watershed programmes are undertaken</li> <li>• Afforestation with local species and appropriate to the habitat</li> <li>• Cropping patterns and land use to protect and encourage diversity</li> <li>• Manuals for watershed development to integrate biodiversity concerns</li> <li>• Revitalisation of traditional water management systems</li> <li>• Emphasise the conservation of natural watersheds</li> <li>• Modern detection technologies and traditional methods to identify water sources</li> <li>• Inter-departmental co-ordination through statutory institutional mechanism involving local community and mandatory public disclosure of decisions, budgets, and records</li> </ul>

<b>Indicators of Progress Towards Goal</b>	
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**SECTOR: Commercial Energy, Industry, Infrastructure** (discussed in Southern Regional Workshop)

<b>How Its Activities May Degrade Biodiversity</b> (with specific examples at local, regional, state levels, providing appropriate data)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat destruction/alteration, fragmentation, pollution</li> <li>• Global warming leading to potential species loss</li> <li>• Excessive raw material extraction</li> <li>• Social disruption/ displacement/ loss of livelihoods/loss of knowledge/cultural erosion</li> <li>• Industrial unrest leading to natural resource destruction around industrial complexes</li> <li>• Accidental/deliberate killing of wildlife (including poaching )</li> </ul>
<b>Historical / Root Causes for Nature of Activity</b> (note: this would include aspects such as policies, attitudes, physical/demographic factors, centralisation of powers, lack of participation, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non- compliance of environmental laws</li> <li>• Lack of political will to implement environmental laws</li> <li>• Increasing consumerism/consumption, driven by the mass media and other forces</li> <li>• Lifestyle changes including greater demand for ecologically destructive products and services</li> <li>• Global economic forces such as trade, and MNCs</li> <li>• National economic forces, including vested interests in the corporate sector</li> <li>• Government policies/ developmental model that is insensitive to biodiversity and local rights, in “national interest”</li> <li>• Lack of public participation in planning and decision-making</li> <li>• Socio- economic inequities at local and larger levels</li> <li>• Lack of sensitisation towards full value of biodiversity in decision making and in judiciary</li> <li>• Lack of public concern towards ecological issues</li> </ul>
<b>Policy/Strategy That May Help Conserve Biodiversity</b> (note: these are broad, policy-level objectives or thrusts) <b>Specific Actions/Interventions That May Help Achieve Policy/Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitisation of decision makers/judiciary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>simplifying the law,</i></li> <li>– <i>training/awareness of sectors: law colleges, judges, training institutions/ syllabus, courses (LBS, ASCI, state administration institutes, etc)</i></li> <li>– <i>involving coast guard, armed forces, police</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Litigation (as last resort) by civil society, and use of other existing legal spaces</li> <li>• Filling gaps in law/ policies, making all development-related laws and policies biodiversity-sensitive</li> <li>• Integration of biodiversity concerns into EIAs, at the stage of the project proposals, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– EIA to determine feasibility of projects, not only mitigatory measures</li> <li>– EIAs to cover all industries and development projects</li> <li>– No rapid EIAs as substitute for full EIAs</li> <li>– Mandatory public hearings, results to be integrated into decision-making</li> <li>– Inclusion of agrobiodiversity assessment into EIAs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community empowerment – property rights, right to information, right to participate in the poll board and other public institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Involving and building capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions and other relevant local institutions</li> <li>– Creating and empowering coastal panchayats,</li> <li>– Rights to overrule panchayats to be evaluated,</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ecologically Sensitive Areas- criteria for identification to include biodiversity</li> <li>• Critical habitats for threatened species to be off-limits to such projects</li> <li>• Creation/aggregation and continuous updating of database on biodiversity, for decision-making</li> <li>• Environment cell within each development sector and department, with and independent, statutory</li> <li>• R&amp;D and promotion of alternatives to destructive energy and industrial processes: technologies.</li> </ul>
<b>Indicators of Progress Towards Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of environmental cells created within development sectors and departments, meetings taken</li> <li>• Environmental quality evaluation including biodiversity, at various sites</li> <li>• Greater emergence and use of viable alternatives</li> <li>• Greater levels of community participation</li> <li>• EIA guideline changes towards biodiversity integration</li> <li>• Percentage of financial allocation for environment and how it is used</li> <li>• Media coverage: quantum and quality</li> <li>• Increase in environmental auditing of such projects</li> </ul>



**Annexure 9**

**Possible Sites and Themes to be covered by Media Fellows**  
(as on 25.10.02)

S.No	Media Fellow	State	Substate	Ecoregion	Theme	Subtheme	Cross-cutting issue	Remarks	Articles Already Published
1.	Meena Menon Flat No. 203, Madhyam Society MG Road, Goregaon (West) Mumbai 400062 Tel: 022-8728169, 8766562 Email: <a href="mailto:cats@bol.net.in">cats@bol.net.in</a>	Sikkim	- Vidarbha . (Forests, adivasis, health, etc- already covered)  - Women and biodiversity, agriculture: Deccan Andhra LAC (already covered- article sent to frontline and Women Feature service for coverage)  - Rathong Chu and Sikkim (for culture and biodiversity, Already covered)  - Urban biodiversity Nagpur (Already covered- Indian Express)	-Central Forest Belt (Gondwana )	- Livelihood & Biodiversity	- Toxics: Vidarbha alternatives, Bharati's paper	Gender	Sikkim, Khanchendzonga Biosphere reserve, (Yet to be published, but submitted to The Statesman)	1) "Sowing Crops of Truth" (Women's Feature Service, Nov, 2001), published in <i>Newstime</i> , December 6, 2001  2) "Sowing Crops of Truth" <i>The Indian Nation</i> , December 2, 2001  3) "Sowing Crops of Truth" <i>Herald</i> , December, 2001  4) "Education for a lifetime" Green School, <i>The Hindu</i> , January 13, 2002  5) "Lake Sutra in Nagpur," (urban biodiversity), <i>Indian Express</i> , September 23, 2001  6) "A new leaf, a new beginning," (Women and Forest produce in Bastar), <i>Indian Express</i> , November 4, 2001.  7) "The healing Touch" (Medicinal Plants) <i>Deccan Herald</i> , November 18, 2001
2.	Pankaj Sekhsaria C/O Kalpavriksh Apt. 5, Shri Dutta	Andaman	Uttara Kannada			Natural dyes covered			1) Logging off, for now. <i>Frontline</i> , January 18, 2002  2) V Venkataswamy U/s, <i>Hindu Business</i>

	Krupa, 908 Deccan Gymkhana Pune 411004 Tel / Fax: 91 20 5654239 Email: <a href="mailto:kvriksh@vsnl.com">kvriksh@vsnl.com</a>								<i>Line</i> , February 15, 2002  3) Minor ports, major trouble. <i>Hindu Business Line</i> , July 29, 2002
3.	Keya Acharya B 122, Century Park, 48 Richmond Road, Bangalore 560 025. Ph: 080 559 4597 TELEFAX : 080 559 9745  Email: <a href="mailto:keyaa@bgl.vsnl.net.in">keyaa@bgl.vsnl.net.in</a> , <a href="mailto:keyaa@vsnl.com">keyaa@vsnl.com</a>	Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka.	North coastal Andhra in Andhra Pradesh, already covered uttara kannada in karnataka			Pastoral Nomads- already covered			1) India gives biodiversity a local touch: (North coastal Andhra) <i>Asia Times</i>  2) Pastoral Nomads: When Nature cries: <i>The Hindu</i>  3) Roadblocks to biodiversity, <i>Indian Express</i> , Sunday Magazine  4) Seeds of Biodiversity. <i>Frontline</i> magazine. And a separate box in the same issue titled: Seeds alien and India
4.	Bharat Dogra News from Fields and Slums C-27, Raksha Kunj, Paschim Vihar New Delhi - 110 063 Tel: 5255303	Rajasthan  (Covered in The Hindustan Times, New Delhi.)	Nahin Kalan (already covered)	Aravalli (Already covered)	Domes ticated Biodiv ersity (Rice diversi ty of India- already done one writeu p)			Booklet on NBSAP both in Hindi and English published. Some copies of this booklet were distributed during the Eastern and Northeast Regional Workshops.  - Sent us a writeup that he had done for NBSAP entitled" protecting Rice Bio- diversity while also increasing yields with people's	1) Protecting Biodiversity in Rajasthan (Published in three parts- in The <i>Hindustan Times</i> on November 11 & 12, 2001)  2) Biodiversity Conservation- <i>National Herald</i> , November 26, 2001  3) Involving People in Biodiversity Conservation- <i>Garhwal Post</i> , October 4-10, 2001)  4) Vinash Ki Jagah Nirman, <i>Jansatta</i> , November 27, 2001  5) Vividhara ki hifazat, <i>Jansatta</i> , November 4, 2001  6) Vinash se ladkar

								involvement ".	<p>haryali aur badte gaon, <i>Sarvoday Press Service</i>, October 23, 2001.</p> <p>7) Jaiv Sampada Samidhdhi ka Aadhaan bane- <i>Dainik Jagran</i>, 21.12.01</p> <p>8) Kheton Aur vanon Mein Bikhri jaiv Sampada- jan Sahyok se ban rahi samakshan ki karyojana, <i>Kuruksheetra</i>, Feb, 2002 issue</p> <p>9) log hi Bachayenge jaiv vivichta- <i>Young India</i>- Jan 12-18, 2002 issue</p>
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Annexure 10

TPCG ACTIVITY & FOLLOW UP CHART FORMAT

S. No.	Activity / Decision	Follow Up Action	Responsibility	Status
1.	Public involvement through teleconferencing			
2.	Media campaign			
3.	Brochure/public announcement			
4.	Process Documentation guidelines			
5.	Moving towards the Action Plan drafts: steps, orientation sessions, substantive inputs from TPCG, etc			
6.	Sub-Thematic reviews			
7.	State level steering committees			
8.	Study of ongoing processes			
9.	NBSAP website			
10.	Notes on International issue			
11.	Participation of armed forces			
12.	Participation of the Corporate Sector			
13.	Reviews of 10 <sup>th</sup> Sectoral Plans			
14.	Project Extension			
15.	MoEF Evaluation Mission			
16.	Final National Workshop			

## Annexure 11

## MONITORING CHECK MEMO

**Name of the Substate Site or LAC** : Uttara Kannada, Karnataka  
**Name of the Coordinator** : Subhash Chandran  
**Date of signing of MoU** : August 19, 2000

SPECIFIC MILESTONES FOR QUARTER ENDING	STATUS	REMARKS
<b>A. Three months from date of signing of MoU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Formation of LAC</li> <li>◆ 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of LAC</li> <li>◆ Initiation of compilation of information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ LAC formed in August 2000.</li> <li>◆ First meeting held on October 21, 2000; minutes of the meeting received.</li> </ul> <p>Coordinators and members for major themes appointed and responsibilities allocated. Detailed data obtained on birds of Uttara Kannada based on which call for participation in preparing an action plan for conservation of birds of Uttara Kannada has been prepared.</p>	
<b>B. Six months from date of signing of MoU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Collation of existing information</li> <li>◆ Identification of gaps in existing information</li> <li>◆ Initiation of preparation of action plan</li> </ul>		
<b>C. Eight months from date of signing of MoU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Preparation of first draft and its submission to MoEF</li> <li>◆ Finalization of action plan</li> </ul>		
<b>D. Ten months from date of signing of MoU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Finalization of action plan</li> </ul>		

**Annexure 12**

**NBSAP STATUS: A BIRDS-EYE VIEW AS ON 2.1.2003**

<b>BSAPs</b>	<b>Substate BSAPs (18)</b>	<b>State BSAPs (33)</b>	<b>Ecoregional BSAPs (10)</b>	<b>Thematic BSAPs (13)</b>	<b>Total BSAPs (74)</b>
Not initiated or no information	1 (Sundarbans)	2 (Bihar, Jharkhand)			<b>3</b>
Initiating drafting of action plan	1 (Ladakh)	1 (J&K)			<b>2</b>
Partial BSAP ready	3 <sup>14</sup>				<b>3</b>
Draft BSAP Ready	3 <sup>15</sup>	6 <sup>16</sup>	1(West Himalaya)	5 <sup>17</sup>	<b>15</b>
Revised BSAP ready	5 <sup>18</sup>	9 <sup>19</sup>	5 <sup>20</sup>	4 <sup>21</sup>	<b>23</b>
Sent for MoEF endorsement	2 <sup>22</sup>	5 <sup>23</sup>	3 <sup>24</sup>	3 <sup>25</sup>	<b>13</b>
Endorsed by MoEF	3 (Deccan, Kachchh, Nagpur)	10 <sup>26</sup>	2 (Aravallis, Western Ghats)	1 (Health)	<b>16</b>

<sup>14</sup> Uttara Kannada, Chedema, Nahin Kalan

<sup>15</sup> West Garo, Vidarbha, N.Coastal Andhra

<sup>16</sup> Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Maharashtra, Lakshwadeep

<sup>17</sup> ABS & IPR, Wild Plants, Wild Animals, Culture, Livelihoods

<sup>18</sup> Arvari, Rathong Chu, Karbi Anglong, Lahaul Spiti, Bilaspur

<sup>19</sup> Andhra Pradesh, A& N, Chhatisgarh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura

<sup>20</sup> North East India, Shiwaliks, Central Forest Belt, Eastern Ghats

<sup>21</sup> Education, Domesticated, Natural Aquatic, Policies/Laws

<sup>22</sup> Simlipal, Munsiri

<sup>23</sup> Chandigarh, Punjab, Uttaranchal, Mizoram, Gujarat

<sup>24</sup> West Coast, East Coast, Gangetic Plains

<sup>25</sup> Economics, Microorganisms, Natural Terrestrial,

<sup>26</sup> Karnataka, Meghalaya, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Goa

## Annexure 13

## BCPP AND NBSAP: POTENTIAL LINKS

	State BSAP	Sub-state BSAP	Ecoregion BSAP	Thematic BSAP
<b>Paper no. (by author)</b>				
4 Sankaran		All?		
5 Rodgers				i. Natural Terrestrial ii. Natural Aquatic
6 Ellis	A&N			
7 Gandhi	A&N			
8 Mathew	Lakshadweep			
9 Untawale			i. West Coast ii. East Coast	Natural Aquatic
10 Kanvinde		Kachchh	i. West Coast ii. East Coast	Natural Aquatic
11 Sinha				Natural Aquatic
12 Bhagabati	Assam			
13 Samant				Natural Aquatic
14 Rahmani				Natural Terrestrial
15 Choudhury	Assam	Karbi-Anglong		
16 Mohnot	Rajasthan			
17 Dhar	Uttar Pradesh		Western Himalaya	
18 Johnsingh	i. Himachal Pradesh ii. J&K iii. Uttar Pradesh	i. Lahaul-Spiti ii. Ladakh	Western Himalaya	
19 Mehta	i. Assam ii. Bihar iii. Gujarat iv. J&K v. Karnataka vi. Tamil Nadu vii. West Bengal			Natural Terrestrial
20 Mehta	All			i. Natural Terrestrial ii. Natural Aquatic
21 Gupta	Tripura			
22 Roy	Meghalaya	West Garo ?		
23 Haridasan	Arunachal			
24 IIPA	All			
25 IIPA	All ?			
26 Kumar				i. Wild Plants ii. Wild Animals
27 Padmanabhan				
28 Ahmedullah				Wild Plants
29 Sahai				Wild Plants
30 Sastry				i. Wild Plants ii. Health
31 Rana				i. Wild Plants ii. Domesticated Biodiversity
32 Kapoor	All (being sent in modified version to all NBSAP agencies)			
33 Pandey		All		
34 Bharucha				Education
35 Rao				Laws/Policies
36 Chopra				Economics

37 Srishti	i. A&N ii. Assam iii. Bihar iv. Himachal v. Karnataka vi. Orissa vii. Rajasthan	? (see longer paper)		
39 Mahajan	Uttar Pradesh	Nahin Kalan		