About This Book

The continuing destruction of biological diversity and natural resources in India, and its impact on several hundred million people, require an urgent and bold response. An attempt to provide a direction to such a response is presented in this, the final report of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) process for India. The process began in late 1999, when the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) of the Government of India, obtained funding from Global Environmental Facility (GEF), through UNDP. It then constituted a 15 member Technical and Policy Core Group (TPCG) to carry out the technical execution of the project coordinated by Kalpavriksh, a 25 year old NGO based in Delhi and Pune. This process was formally launched in January 2000. The administrative aspect of the project was handed to Biotech Consortium India Ltd. (BCIL), New Delhi. A NBSAP Steering Committee (consisting of representatives from eight central government ministries, one representative from the Planning Commission, and four non-governmental experts) was also set up to guide the process.

This process has looked at biodiversity in all its forms: natural and agricultural ecosystems, species of wild plants and animals, micro-organisms, crops and livestock, and the genetic diversity within these. Aspects of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources, and issues of economic and social equity, have also been covered. Two bottom lines have underlined the process: the ecological security of the country and of specific regions within it, and the livelihood security of communities dependent on biodiversity.

The NBSAP process has involved the preparation of 71 Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (BSAPs) at local, state, ecoregional, and thematic levels, as also 32 sub-thematic review papers.

The process has attempted to be highly participatory in nature, reaching out to village-level organisations and movements, NGOs, academicians and scientists, government officers from various line agencies, the private sector, the armed forces, politicians, artists, mediapersons, and others. Over 50,000 people have been involved in various capacities, through workshops, public hearings, festivals, rallies, and other such activities. The entire process has also been documented in visual and written form, to enable effective learning.

This document is based on many of the existing national level documents, BSAPs and sub-thematic review papers submitted as part of the NBSAP process, and also the experience of the MoEF and TPCG members in various aspects of biodiversity conservation.

There are three volumes to the document. **Volume I** contains eight chapters and three annexures covering the following aspects:

(i) Profile of biodiversity in India, including historical evolution, current status, and socio-cultural, economic, and other aspects;
(ii) Proximate and root causes of biodiversity loss in India;
(iii) Ongoing initiatives and gaps in conservation, sustainable use, and equity;
(iv) Strategies and actions to strengthen ongoing initiatives and plug the key gaps, including national planning and natural resource governance structures;
(v) A mechanism to implement the NBSAP;
(vi) Lists of participating people and organisations, and of contributers to this document.

Volume II contains:

- Annexures with detailed information relevant to the NAP;
- Summaries of the local, state, ecoregional, and thematic BSAPs, and of the sub-thematic review papers;
- A set of charts showing the points of commonality between the strategies of the NAP and those recommended in the local, state, and ecoregional BSAPs.

Volume III is a Summary Version of the report.

This report has gone through an intensive assessment by several hundred people, including NBSAP participants, other institutions, experts, government officials, NGOs, and activists. The draft was also reviewed by a core group of experts set up by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and by other ministries.

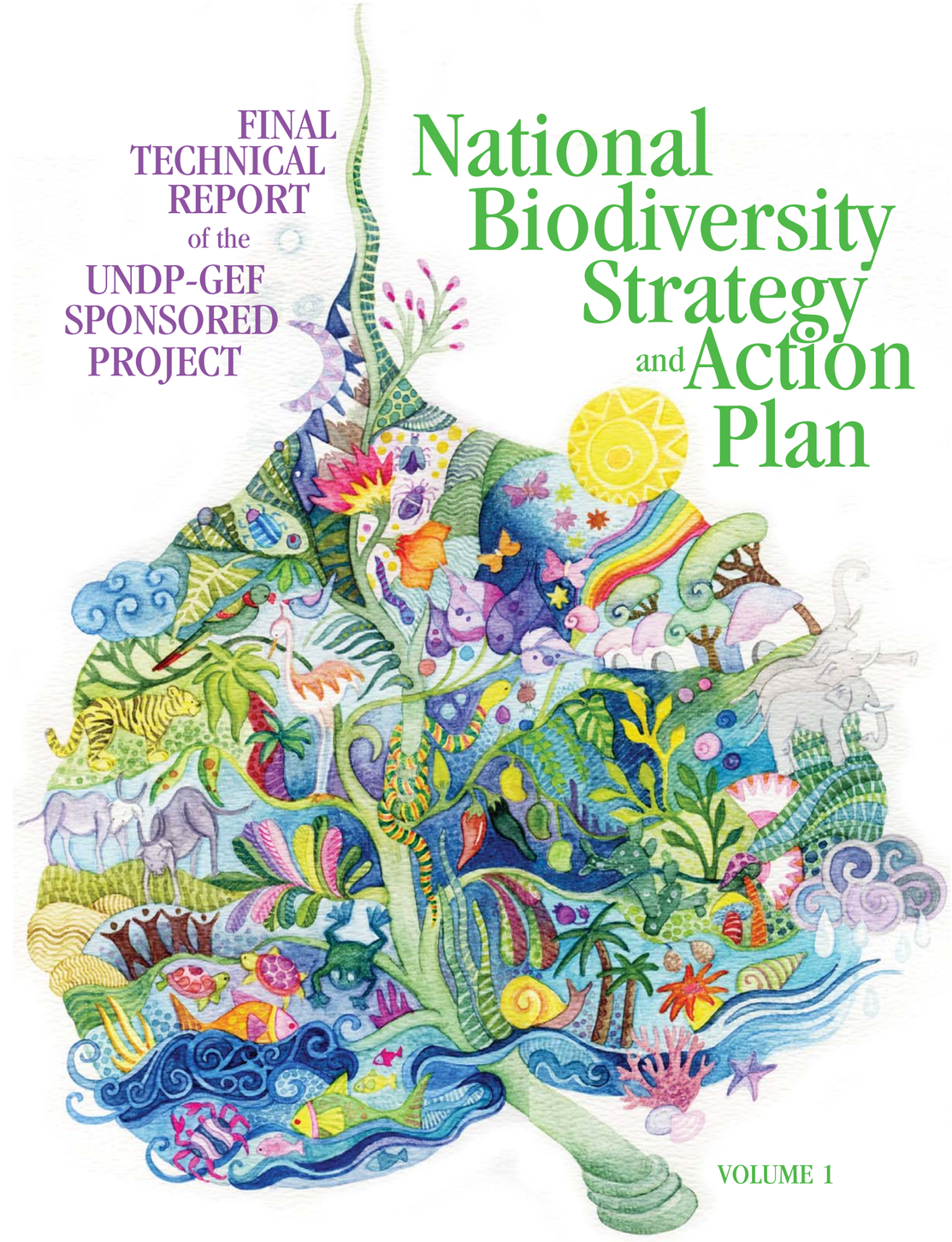
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

FINAL REPORT

UNDP-GEF PROJECT

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT of the UNDP-GEF SPONSORED PROJECT

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan



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