

Press Note

The Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, with support from the MoEF&CC, conducted a 2-day workshop on Synergies among Biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), for various stakeholders, in New Delhi on 3-4 October 2016.

The Chief Guest was Mr Lars Andreas Lunde Deputy Minister, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway. Mr. Nils Ragnar Kamsvag, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi and Dr Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary MoEF&CC, presided. Chairperson and Secretary of the National Biodiversity Authority, Dr. B. Meenakumari and Shri T. Rabikumar were also present. Representatives of the National Focal Points and representatives of scientific and management authorities associated with the Biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements that India has signed, and of various national and international NGOs, attended. In his address, the Deputy Minister highlighted the importance that countries like Norway accorded to cooperation with India, in sectors like Environment. Dr Amita Prasad spoke of the challenges of growing population, and rising aspirations as well as the need for development to be sustainable and mindful of the resource base on which it rests.

The objective of the Workshop was to raise awareness on Synergies among the MEAs being facilitated by the National Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals, and to encourage stronger coordination among stakeholders in actions that were being implemented, as well as in conservation and sustainable-use of biodiversity related projects planned for the future. Invited speakers shared information on the avenues to strengthen coordination in areas like Data mining, Reporting, Capacity Building and Communication and outreach activities. The seven key Biodiversity-related MEAs working to which India is also party include, besides the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention on Wetlands/Ramsar Convention, World Heritage Convention, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and International Plant Protection Convention.

Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law (CEBPOL) is a bilateral technical cooperation programme between the Government of India and the Norwegian Government. CEBPOL has been set up within the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai to strengthen professional expertise in biodiversity policies and laws and facilitate capacity building related to these within the country. NBA is the designated competent authority for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

CEBPOL workshop on “Synergies among biodiversity related MEAs” held on 3-4 October 2016 at Heritage Village Resort, Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana.

