



**Activities undertaken as part of the
International Year of Biodiversity 2010
with support from UNDP
under the India-UNDP Project on Biodiversity**

7 Jan 2010	Session on Biodiversity and Sustainable Development in the 97 th Indian Science Congress
23 April 2010	National Consultation on International Regime on ABS, Evolving <i>sui generis</i> system for protection of Traditional Knowledge related to Biodiversity & Amendments to Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004
2 May 2010	International Marine Biodiversity Conservation Festival
22 May 2010	National Seminar on Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation in the context of Climate Change
22 May, 2010	International Day for Biological Diversity at the Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
22 May, 2010	International Day for Biodiversity Celebration at Lucknow, U.P
22 May, 2010	International Biodiversity Day, Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board, Dehra Dun
Jan 2010 to June 2010	Programs organised by the State Project Unit, India-UNDP Project, Jharkhand , in collaboration with the SBB, Jharkhand for creation of awareness, capacity building and PBR preparation in the project districts.
Jan 2010 to June 2010	Programs organised by the State Project Unit, India-UNDP Project, Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with the SBB, Madhya Pradesh for creation of awareness, capacity building, livelihood generation and preparation of PBR in the project districts.



7 Jan 2010 :

Session on Biodiversity and Sustainable Development in the 97th Indian Science Congress

A session on Biodiversity and Sustainable Development was organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and National Biodiversity Authority on 7 January, 2010 at Thiruvananthapuram as part of the 97th Indian Science Congress. This Special Session provided a forum for discussion and interaction amongst a galaxy of scientists, with contributions from leading resource persons and speakers in the field of Biodiversity. The speakers for the session included Dr.R.S. Paroda, Director General, ICAR & Secretary – DARE, GoI (Retd.), Dr.G. Madhavan Nair, General President, ISCA, Dr P L Gautam, Chairman, NBA, Emeritus Prof. Jana, Canada, Dr Sujata Arora, Director, MoEF, Dr.A.K.Ghosh, Head, Centre for Environment Development, Kolkata, Dr. Ramakrishna, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Dr. T. Balasubramanian, Director, Centre for Advance Study in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, Dr. S. K. Sharma, Director, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, ICAR and Dr. G.S. Rawat, Scientist, Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun amongst others.

The major recommendations included :

- A national campaign on biodiversity conservation starting from the school-level may be launched
- Implementation of National Biodiversity Action Plan, 2008 for the conservation of Biodiversity in general and the Agro-biodiversity in particular should be given high priority.
- The educational programmes addressing taxonomy, ICT and emerging sciences should be given due focus.
- A National Biodiversity Coordination Council may be established for achieving synergy among various institutions towards conservation of biological resources and promotion of biological resources.
- Development and the knowledge on biological resources need to be assessed and documented. For this purpose the preparation of PBRs should be accelerated. It also requires that BMCs are in place.
- National biodiversity fund of Rs.500 crores may be created as a Corpus fund.
- Study of valuation of benefit sharing to be undertaken.
- Establishing SBBs in remaining 6 States to be taken up.



23 April 2010 :

National Consultation on International Regime on ABS, Evolving *sui generis* system for protection of Traditional Knowledge related to Biodiversity & Amendments to Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004

A National Consultation was conducted by the Ministry of the Environment and Forests, Government of India and National Biodiversity Authority with support from UNDP-India at Chennai. The speakers for the session included Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, MSSRF, Shri M.F. Farooqui, IAS, Addl. Secretary, MoEF, Dr P L Gautam, Chairman, NBA. The chair and co-chairs for the special sessions included Dr.G.S. Rawat, Scientist, WII, IFS; Dr.S. Nagarajan, Chairman, PPV&FRA; Dr.H.P.Singh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR; Dr.Swapan Kumar Dutta, DDG(CS), ICAR; Dr.Mahadevappa, Former VC & Chairman, ASRB; Dr.R.S. Rana, Member, NBA; Dr. Ajay Parida, Executive Director, MSSRF; DG, ICFRE, and Dr.E.A. Siddique, Former DDG(CS), ICAR. The participants / stakeholders included Chairman / Members Secretaries of State Biodiversity Boards, representatives from biodiversity related research, development and legal organizations / institutes, industries, NGO' and lawyers.

The background for the meeting

NBA is currently engaged in drafting a national regime on ABS. Draft guidelines for this were prepared and circulated among the stakeholders to solicit comments from all those concerned. The comments received were synthesized and tabled for discussion during the consultation. Though the Act is comprehensive in nature, there is always scope for further improvement. With the passage of time and in the wake of recent advancements in all fronts, it was felt appropriate to re-visit the same and suggest appropriate amendments, if any. The NBA has been receiving requests from various stakeholders to amend some Section(s) of the Act and Rules. The NBA engaged wide ranging consultations to make amendments to the BD Act. The NBA put out a public notice in January 2010 seeking suggestions and recommendations for making appropriate amendments. The responses received were compiled and were deliberated during this consultation. NBA has also initiated the process of evolving *sui generis* system for protection of Traditional Knowledge related to Biodiversity. To strengthen and support the TK knowledge holders and to safeguard their interests through a legally binding framework, rules have been drafted and circulated for inputs from stakeholders.

Major outcomes

Emphasis on conservation, sustainable use of bio-resource, benefit sharing and retaining the traditional knowledge and adding value to it. Clearly set out objectives of what needs to be achieved by this Act and by the new Rules. Enabling and empowering the NBA, the SBB and the local level institution, so that there is commitment that is necessary to protect bio-resources at the ground level. Measures to be taken to enable people at the grassroots level to make them feel involved and realize what their stakes are, including how to make people understand why biodiversity is so important. Benefit sharing can also be explained in terms of giving rights as given by intellectual property rights. It is a matter of interpreting whether the rules can accommodate the additional responsibility to cover biodiversity.

The existing knowledge which has been transformed into the documentation system (TKDL) has been the basis for India defending its inherent rights in many forums. BD authority may also have to similarly document genetic resources in a manner which enable it to defend its cases in the international arena.

The other issue being examined in modifications to the Rules is whether it would be necessary to link up to a validation process or an examination process to validate traditional knowledge, or will

it be like a patent office examining on its physical basis. The need to have an appellate authority was also discussed. In the case of the protection of plant varieties, there is a Registrar with certain quasi-judicial or magisterial powers who is in a position to attend to the requirements of the infringements at the first level. Some of their judgments have been upheld by the Delhi High Court. This would be a good model for framing rules in the traditional knowledge sector of the BD Act. There may be fear or confusion regarding the use of material for research and academic purposes, because information regarding the permission needed from the NBA is vague. Some strength needs to be added and lot of awareness needs to be created on the Article 6 and Article 7.



2 May 2010 : **International Marine Biodiversity Conservation Festival**

The TREE Foundation along with the United States Consulate, Chennai, National Biodiversity Authority of India and the UNDP, organized a one day International Marine Biodiversity Conservation Festival at the Kumararaja Muthiah Hall, Chennai on May 2nd 2010. This was part of the efforts in bringing international conservation techniques to protect the highly endangered marine life (Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Conservation in the east coast of India). The event saw renowned international marine conservationists in attendance. The festival attracted a large number of students and general public around 500 through this festival. The significance of conservation of the fragile marine biodiversity was stressed upon by the participants. With increasing sea turtle and dolphin deaths and the reasons directly attributed to land-ocean connection, it becomes imperative to involve people from all walks of life in this conservation effort.

World renowned scientists and conservationists participated in this event. They shared their experiences, inspired the student community here and helped launch strong conservation projects for the future. The International Marine Biodiversity Conservation Festival empowered those who are already involved in marine conservation by connecting them with these special guests, invigorating their work and opening new avenues. This Festival also explained the vital link between human life and the health of our oceans: the Land-Ocean connection. Conservationist who participated were some of the greatest examples of dedication, passion and innovation in conservation. The students of Chennai and the general public also greatly benefited from exposure to these scientists, helping them grow to become good future guardians of the environment and in turn biodiversity.

Delegates who addressed the gathering included Dr P L Gautam, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, Ms Jean Beasley- The United States of America (Founder and Director of the Karen Beasley Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Hospital and elected as Animal Planet's 'Hero of the Year 2007'), Mr Rod Kennett- Australia (Spearheading Land Sea Management engaging the Indigenous People of North Western Australia in Turtle, Dugong Conservation and Water Recourses), Jeanne A.Mortimer- Seychelles (Spearheading Marine Conservation on the Island of Seychelles), M. Zahirul Islam- Bangladesh (Spearheading Community Based Marine Conservation in Bangladesh), Ms Terry Meyer- The United States of America (Sea Turtle Conservation Program, Topsail Island), Ms Jean Srodes-The United States of America (Sea Turtle conservation Program, Palm Island), Mr Zander Srodes- - The United States of America (Under-graduate working with the local community in Trinidad and Costa Rica)



22 May 2010 :

National Seminar on Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation in the context of Climate Change

TERI along with the National Biodiversity Authority of India and UNDP hosted the National Seminar on Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation in the context of Climate Change, a global theme declared by the United Nations, at India Habitat Center, New Delhi

Present on the occasion were the Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, GoI, Dr PL Gautam, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority of India, Dr PJ Dilip Kumar, Director-General Forests & Special Secretary MOEF, Mr. MF Farooqui, Additional Secretary MoEF and Dr Leena Srivastava, Executive Director, Operations TERI, along with distinguished guests from various biodiversity and research institutions.

Given the fact that India has made significant efforts towards biodiversity because of its own domestic needs, the Honourable Minister Shri Jairam Ramesh, stressed on the requirement of an effective and coherent convergence of policies at a global, national and regional level to achieve a significant reduction of the present biodiversity loss. He said, "India has been the initial signatory of the CBD (Convention of Biological Diversity), hence safeguarding biodiversity requires action at all levels with a strong commitment to contribute towards achieving international targets." He further added that "Over the years India has taken several key initiatives to achieve the objectives of the CBD at the national level through creation of an institutional structure, through Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), an important initiative by India to fight against bio-piracy globally and through the People Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) to document the oral knowledge on biodiversity."

The seminar highlighted the importance and conservation of biodiversity for mitigation and adaptation in the context of climate change. It raised several issues about availability of existing knowledge, governance, possible conducive policy environment, role of local communities and traditional knowledge. It was discussed that biodiversity has been a life support system in the crisis created by climate change and biodiversity offers a set of solutions for mitigation as well as for adaptation. Key recommendations of the seminar included strengthening of biodiversity monitoring system, creation of linkages amongst various pertinent institutions, focusing on marine ecosystems along with terrestrial ones, and understanding the economic values of biodiversity. The seminar ended with conclusion that the learnings from Indian experience have a wider benefit in South Asian and the pan-tropical context, in terms of developing the programs for mitigation and adaptation based on the biodiversity resources, hence country leadership and increased support from development cooperation are critical for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, nationally and internationally too.



22 May, 2010 :

International Day for Biological Diversity at the Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir

The commemoration of the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May, 2010 by the Department of Botany, University of Kashmir was initiated with an inaugural function wherein Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment, Jammu and Kashmir State, Shri Mian Altaf Ahmad was the Chief Guest. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, Professor (Dr) Riyaz Punjabi presided over the function and also presented the key note address on **Cultural Diversity: An ignored but important facet of Biological Diversity**. A formal welcome address was presented by Prof. Zafar A. Reshi, Head, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir. Prof. A. R. Yousuf, Dean Academic Affairs and Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Prof. S. Fayaz Ahmad, Registrar, University of Kashmir also addressed on the occasion.

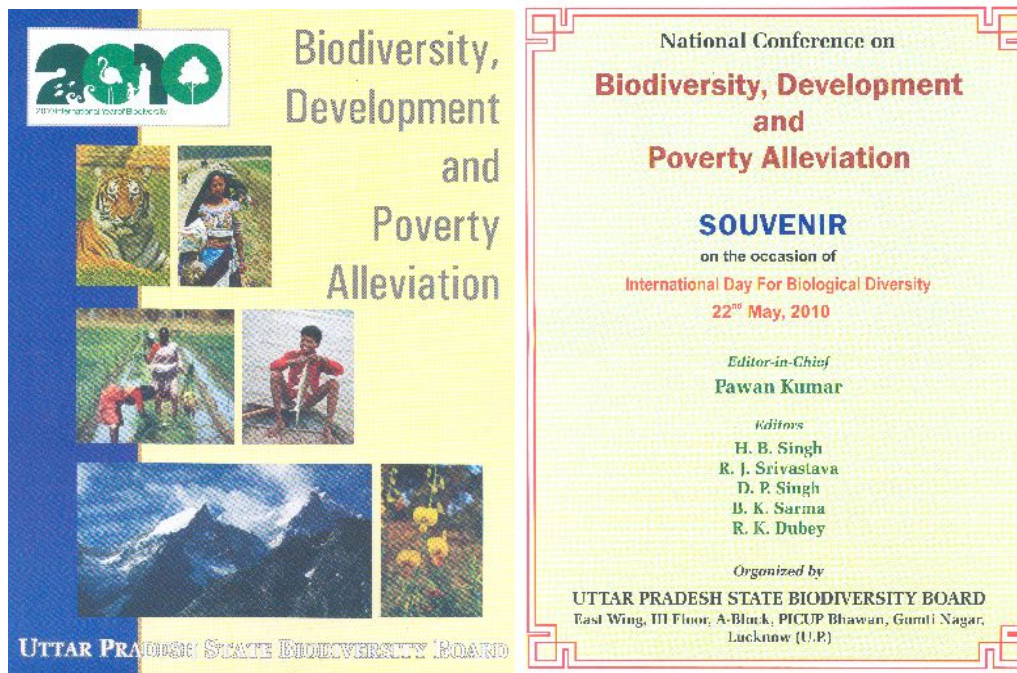
The major recommendations of the deliberations included:

Documentation, assessment and monitoring of Biodiversity and an up-dated biodiversity database for the state of Jammu and Kashmir was urgently needed. Biodiversity surveys to, hitherto, under- and little explored areas in the State are required. Equal emphasis is required on cataloging of diversity in different groups of biota, particularly lower plants, microbes, insects and development of a biodiversity information infrastructure using recent advances in IT, RS and GIS technologies. Conservation of Biodiversity with impact assessment of drivers of threat to biodiversity (e.g. habitat loss, biological invasions, overexploitation, pollution, climate change), assessment of genetic erosion of agro-biodiversity, extent and status of threatened species using regional guidelines of IUCN, management evaluation of protected area network and other ex-situ strategies and preservation of traditional practices of biodiversity uses are priority areas. Sustainable use of biodiversity by developmental push for biodiversity-based industries, by equitable and sustainable utilization of forests which are the repositories of bio-resources and provide precious ecosystem goods and services need to be promoted. Entrepreneurship skills need to be imparted to the potential start-up ventures for optimal utilisation of medicinal and aromatic plants. Biodiversity and Policy-making by Establishment for two-tier biodiversity institutional framework in the State (State Biodiversity Board and Village-level Biodiversity Committees), regulatory regime for biodiversity (administrative and other allied measures), access and benefit sharing mechanism for equitable and genuine claims over biological resources, need to be put in place. Archaic legislations need extensive amendments so as to reflect the changing world scenario and an expert-guided and quick-response biosecurity system must be developed to predict and prevent the threats to biodiversity, in particular invasive alien weeds, pests and pathogens.



22 May, 2010 :
International Day for Biodiversity Celebration at U.P

The UP State Biodiversity Board organised a National Conference on Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation in Lucknow. The presentations made during the conference have been brought out in the form of a publication. The conference was exclusively focused on the discussions on how to explore the means of development and poverty alleviation entwined with the biodiversity. The poor communities in any society are largely dependent on biodiversity for the goods and services in their daily life, developmental strategies that ignore the conservation and protection of diverse life forms undermine poverty alleviation. For this reason, it becomes crucial for the development and poverty alleviation strategies and programs to prioritize biodiversity. Presentations were made by persons working in the field of biodiversity on the many facets of biodiversity conservation, livelihood issues, BD Act, roles of plants, forests, insects, traditional knowledge, information technology, economic development and poverty alleviation. The UP SBB is involved in defining, documenting and protecting biodiversity and has joined hands with the state mission for development and poverty alleviation that can be enrooted through biodiversity.



May 22, 2010 :
International Day for Biodiversity Celebration at Uttarakhand

The “Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board, Dehra Dun” celebrated the “International Biodiversity Day” with great fanfare and a sense of purpose throughout the State of Uttarakhand covering all the 13 districts of the State. The theme of the program was Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation. The main program was held in Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.

Massive campaigns were launched at various places including workshops, debates, presentations, poster making competitions and rallies to make people aware of the importance of conserving Biodiversity and the significance of its sustainable use in improving the local economy. Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Honourable Chief Minister, Uttarakhand was the chief guest for the program. The function was presided over by Shri Trivendra Singh Ravat, Honourable Minister for Agriculture.



**Programs organised by the State Project Unit, India UNDP Project, Jharkhand,
in collaboration with the SBB, Jharkhand
for creation of awareness, capacity building and PBR preparation
in the project districts in the IYB 2010**

24 Jan 2010 – Jalima Village, Hazaribagh

Objective : Creation of awareness regarding biodiversity and conservation

Participants for the program included Member Secretary, SBB, Ranchi; CF Ranchi / DFO, Wildlife, Hazaribag & other forest staff; local villagers; local experts from University and NGOs; students from 5 local schools; social workers; Press / Media (local channel & Doordarshan) representatives.

Activities included – Rakshabandhan (tie of protection) red ribbon tied by the participants including villagers on the trees; Quiz competition among the students; Display/Banners and film show; Speeches by local experts and villagers; Cultural programme, songs and poetry by locals based on conservation of bio-diversity. The winners of the events were given prizes which were sponsored by an NGO.



13 Feb 2010 - Nature Interpretation Centre, Betla, Latehar

Objective : Creation of awareness regarding biodiversity and conservation

Participants for the program included Forest Department Officials; University Professors & experts (Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary, Fishery); NGOs; Students; EDC Members; women from different organizations.

The sessions included presentation on Biodiversity in general and Biodiversity of the district; Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR); Biodiversity Act. An open forum / question answer session was also organised and queries / suggestions were given by Professors and the Experts of the session.

The major outputs included: In Garu block of Latehar district the first PBR shall be prepared. Training programme for PBR preparation shall be conducted in March'10 with the help of NGO and local resource persons.



20th March, 2010 – Awareness creation and training on PBR in Hazaribagh district

The venue for the program was at Rajderwa, Hazaribagh. Participants for the program included EDC Members of 4 villages namely- Horia, Donaikala, Lotwa, Kayle & Forest officials and villagers. Amongst the topics discussed were general information on Biodiversity, Biodiversity Act and its importance, Sustainable use, conservation and Equitable benefit sharing of biodiversity and PBR.

26th March, 2010 – Awareness creation and training on PBR in Latehar district

The training program was conducted at Forest Nursery, Kechki, Latehar. The participants included EDC Members of Kechki East & Kechki West villages and the villagers. The topics for training included general information on Biodiversity, Biodiversity Act and its importance, Sustainable use, conservation and Equitable benefit sharing of biodiversity and PBR.

16th & 17th April, 2010 – Awareness creation and training on PBR in Hazaribagh district

Venue for the program was at Rajderwa, Hazaribagh. Participants included selected EDC Members of 4 villages namely- Horia, Donaikala, Lotwa, Kayle & Forest officials and villagers. The training included the following : People’s Biodiversity Registers (in detail) - Its importance & benefit, why it is needed with examples?, display of PBR format in Hindi, description of contents of PBR, How to create a PBR, resource map & practice and distribution of PBR format. Activities were conducted by dividing the participants into groups.



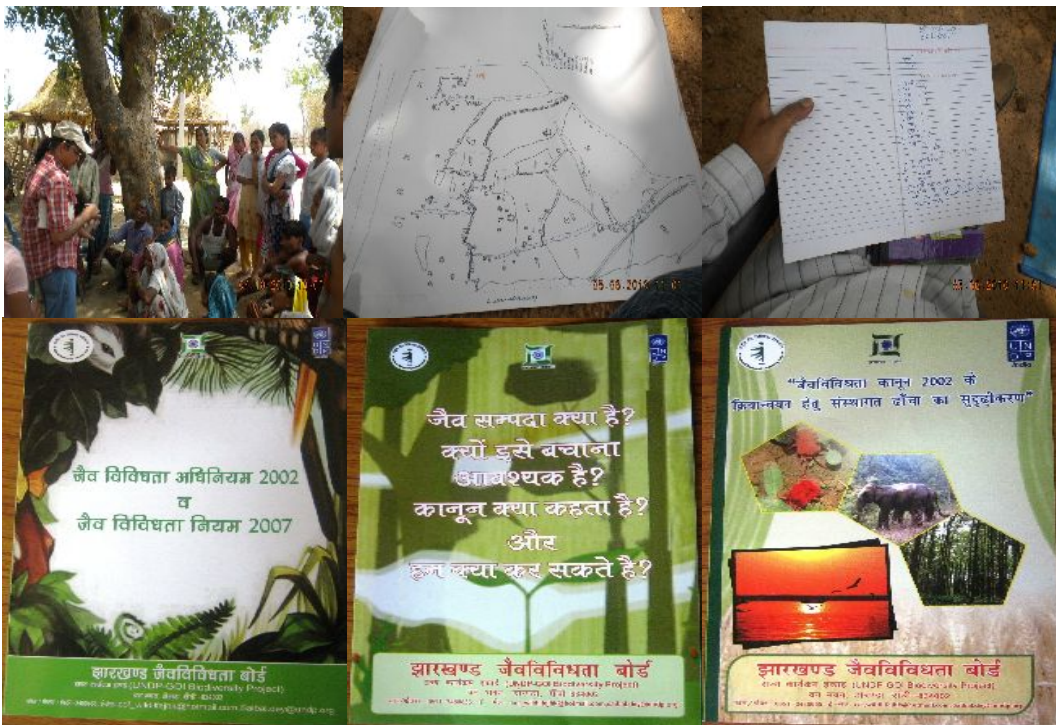
17th April & 8th May, 2010 – Creation of awareness amongst school children on biodiversity in Hazaribagh district

Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary was chosen as the venue for the program. Teachers and children from Sijua High School, Hazaribagh (17th April) and Vivekanand School, D.A.V. Public School, Hazaribagh (8th May) respectively were the participants for the program. The program consisted of Speech on Biodiversity, its importance, sustainable use & conservation, Quiz Competition, Nature Trail and NIC Museum visit



22 – 23 April, 2010 – Training on PBR in Latehar district

The venue for the training was Kechki village school, Latehar. The Participants for the training program included EDC Members & villagers. The training included the following : People’s Biodiversity Registers (in detail) - Its importance & benefit, why it is needed with examples?, display of PBR format in Hindi, description of contents of PBR, How to create an PBR, resource map & practice and distribution of PBR format.



May 22, 2010 :
International Day for Biodiversity Celebration in district Latehar

A function on the International Day of Biodiversity was organised at Betla National Park at Latehar. Participants for the program included villagers from four villages namely Betla, Garu, Chipadohar and Baresadh, EDC members, Forest officials, UNDP Staff, professors from Nilamber Pitamber Univ., and representatives of the press and media. The program commenced with a “Prabhat Pheri (Morning Walk)” at 6.00 A.M from Betla to Akhra-Kutmu and back to Betla, with participation of 150 school children and forest officials. Presentations were made on biodiversity, the BD Act, suggestion to conserve the Biological Diversity and its benefits. Cultural programs were presented by the women from the villages and children from the local schools. All the participants were given literature on Biodiversity along with Publicity material (Cap, T-Shirt, Pen, Note Book). Competitions related to biodiversity were organized for the school children and the winners of this competition were awarded prizes.

May 22, 2010 :
International Day for Biodiversity Celebration in district Hazaribagh

The program commemorating the International Day of Biodiversity was organised at Rajderwa (Forest Rest House Premises), National Sanctuary, Hazaribagh. The program commenced with a “Saraswati Vandana” (hymn in honour of the goddess of knowledge) by the students. This was followed by songs on Nature written by students themselves in the local language. Experts from the field of Biodiversity gave speeches and comments, sharing their experiences in wild life, conservation of BD and its importance. They answered the queries raised by students and villagers. Competitions on BD were held and prizes were distributed to the winners by the RCCF Hazaribagh. Participants included 120 students from 6 villages, 100 villagers (EDC members, Van Surakcha Samiti) from 5 villages and 20 forest staff. Guests included College Professors, School teachers, NGOs and Media persons. The event was covered well by the local press in print and media.



**Programs organised by the State Project Unit, India UNDP Project, Madhya Pradesh
in collaboration with the SBB, Madhya Pradesh
for creation of awareness, capacity building, livelihood generation and
preparation of PBR in the project districts for IYB 2010**

5 January 2010

Launching of International Year of Biodiversity (IYB-2010) by Secretary, Biodiversity and Biotechnology Dept. at Ekant Park, Bhopal in association with Capital Project Administration. Participants included School children, BD conservers, Govt. officials, Staff of CPA. The main objective of the program was creation of awareness by orienting the students and the BD conservers.



10 Jan 2010

A radio programme “Chalti Rahe Zindagi” on air by Akashwani. Live phone-in programme on launching of IYB.

11 Jan 2010

Seminar organized at Pt. Khushilal Sharma Government Ayurveda college, Bhopal to commemorate the launching of IYB 2010.

26 Jan 2010

Participation in the Republic Day Parade held at the District Stadium, Hoshangabad, wherein a moving tableau was created depicting Biodiversity of Hoshangabad and need for its conservation. The tableau was awarded the first prize.



April 24 to May 4, 2010

A 10 days **training program** / Workshop on Biodiversity based poverty alleviation and livelihood generation was organised at Matkuli village, Hoshangabad from 24 April 2010 up to 4 May 2010. Participants to the workshop included BMC members, villagers and member of Self Help Groups. The objective of the workshop included training of members of BMC, villagers and SHGs to generate livelihood through biodiversity, entrepreneurship skills development and create awareness in sustainable use of bio resources. Among the participants 90% were women.



May 22, 2010

Celebrations were held at the following locations on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity. Objectives of the programs included creation of awareness and orientation of the villagers and BD conservers.

- i) Matkuli (Distt. Hoshangabad) – participants included BMC members, BD conservers and villagers. One of the activity included mounting of pots for birds on the trees.
- ii) Govt. PG College, Hoshangabad – participants included students, teachers and BD conservers. In addition to creation of awareness, basics related to PBR preparation was also taken up.
- iii) Hoshangabad (Zila Panchayat) – participants included BMC members, villagers, BD conservers. In addition to awareness creation, discussions were also held on traditional practices. The members of newly elected Zila Panchayat were made aware of the need for Biodiversity conservation.
- iv) RCVP Academy of Administration, Bhopal – participants included State govt. officials of different departments, BMC members of Bhopal and other stakeholders. Activities included discussion and a state level symposium on biodiversity.
- v) Balaghat – participants included BMC members, villagers and BD conservers, farmers and villagers. Conservation of biodiversity and biodiversity based livelihood generation was the major theme for the event.

Photographs – May 22, 2010 celebrations



June 5, 2010

Celebrations of World Environment Day were held at the following places. Creation of awareness was the major theme for the program.

- a) Govt. PG College, Hoshangabad - Participants included students & teachers of college and BD conservers.
- b) IIFM, Bhopal - Participants included students of various schools of the country selected for summer camp of IIFM, Bhopal. Film on biodiversity created by the SPU, MP was shown as part of awareness creation.



June 9 - 11, 2010

Participation in Kharif Crop Mela 2010 organised at Hoshangabad. A stall projecting various facets of biodiversity was put up by the India - UNDP Project Staff. The participants at the fair included villagers, farmers, BMC members and members of Self Help Groups. The objective included creation of awareness, distribution of literature on biodiversity and interaction with the farmers. The stall put up received the second prize and the award was given by the Honorable Forest Minister of MP Govt, Shri Sartaj Singh.

