



जहाँ है छद्माली ।  
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# NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

( 2012 -2020)

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## A Quick Overview of the National Biodiversity Targets (2012-2020)

### TARGET 1

**Target 1** – *By 2020, the national planning process of Government of India considers biodiversity as an integral part of national development that is reflected by biodiversity and ecosystem related issues as a part of implementation strategies across sectors, ministries and programmes with adequate and where possible specific financial allocations.*

According to Article 6 (b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, countries are requested to mainstream biodiversity across all relevant sectors, programmes and plans. A series of national, regional and global programmes were put in place since 1998 to address the issue of mainstreaming with voluminous literature generated on the subject along with a series of options and challenges that were identified. While preparing the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017), the Planning Commission took note of the need to mainstream ecosystem goods and services and biodiversity across a range of programmes, plans and schemes within various ministries. A call was made by the Planning Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India to link economic and environmental indicators to assess performance and for allocation of resources for States in the country through development of Environment Performance Index (EPI) and Ecological Audit respectively.

#### **Explanation of the Target**

The Target is a direct and specific component to direct the attention of relevant ministries, sectors, agencies and stakeholder groups to consider, understand and apply principles of sustainable management, use and sharing of benefits of ecosystem goods and services, including biodiversity for the very performance of each of them.

The Target also identifies the need for implementation options related to biodiversity across sectors besides suggesting specific financial allocations by each sector, where possible. This strengthens the implementation plan of the National Targets as well as realizing the objectives of the revised National Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Target specifically addresses the issue of raising awareness on the link to biodiversity to sectors, though indirectly, coupled with collective implementation requirement.

#### **Possible Indicators**

- ❖ Amount of direct and indirect support and investment into ecosystem and biodiversity related actions by individual ministries, sectors and stakeholders during the twelfth and thirteenth Five Year Plan Periods (2012-2017; 2018-2022)
- ❖ Trends in mainstreaming and using the EPI and Ecological Accounting parameters for allocations of budgets across central and state governments
- ❖ Trends in policy development and investment options for biodiversity related actions by various stakeholders

#### **For Further Information and to Provide Comments, contact:**

National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai. <http://www.nbaindia.org>; E.mail: NBAP@nbaindia.in

## A Quick Overview of the National Biodiversity Targets (2012-2020)

### **TARGET 2**

**Target 2** – *Specific programmes linking economic and social well-being based on conservation and sustainable use action combined with equitable sharing of benefits developed by 2015 and implemented by government agencies as well as all relevant stakeholder groups, including private sector, thereafter.*

The role and relevance of economics to conservation, sustainable use and sharing of benefits has been reiterated by several countries, including India through a series of actions ranging from undertaking national studies on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity to addressing role of markets and trade in conservation action. The experience gained by India in promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships, including those of public-private partnership is also maturing. The relevance of business and private sector in their immense dependence on biodiversity and ecosystem services is, however, poorly understood in India that calls for specific focus on ensuring policy and action measures to link business and biodiversity more visibly and based on principles of fairness and equity.

#### **Explanation of the Target**

This Target focuses on the role of economics of biodiversity considering the macro and micro-economic implications of both inaction and limited action. It also addresses the need to deal with business engagement as private sector, both large and medium scale, as they are dependant on biological resources for their sustainability as well as the impacts progressive partnerships could bring to deal with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the Biological Diversity Act in the country.

By design, this Target combines issues of economics, ecosystems, business with conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit sharing issues. Besides, it calls for action by all relevant sectors including government agencies on linking economics, markets and biodiversity.

#### **Possible Indicators**

- ❖ Trends in national policy and action programmes that use economic and market arguments for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing
- ❖ The nature of private sector engagement in conservation action that moves beyond simple corporate social responsibility actions
- ❖ Trends in business engagement that considers its future is based on ecosystem services and goods, evidenced by appropriate long-term investments
- ❖ Number of public-private partnerships established with an aim to implement the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

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## A Quick Overview of the National Biodiversity Targets (2012-2020)

### TARGET 3

**Target 3** – *Ecosystems and biodiversity goods and services maintained, translated into local livelihood security programmes that results in revival of at least 7-10 per cent of representative ecosystems by 2020.*

Conservation, sustainable use and sharing the goods and services of ecosystems and biodiversity equitably underpin the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). With the increasing pressures, both direct and indirect, on ecosystems and biodiversity there is a need to reduce the pressures as well as revise ecosystems of all representational types based on certain targets and timelines. However, it is important to link the actions to securing food, health and nutritional requirements of communities who are directly dependant on ecosystem goods and services as well as bioresources. Any action to implement the provisions of the Convention as well the national Biological Diversity Act in India need to consider such links and develop programmes and policy based on the same premise.

#### **Explanation of the Target**

This Target combines conservation action with development options in one and relates to the lead role India prefers to play in global biodiversity arena as the Presidency of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) during 2012-2014. The Target relates to the Ministerial discussions during the eleventh meeting of COP (COP 11) being hosted by Government of India in 2012 where a Declaration on the issue is expected with some specific high level actions by Government of India and the other one hundred and ninety two Parties to the CBD as well as UN agencies and others.

The Target also relates to the possible outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, Rio + 20) which is planning to consider biodiversity as a key element for sustainable development and governance systems.

The Target also relates to the ongoing discussions within the Ministry of Environment and Forests to make conservation and related issues as people-centered approach. In addition, it broadly covers a range of ecosystems based actions with measurable restoration and revival action.

#### **Possible Indicators**

- ❖ Number of programmes and policies, across various ministries that focus on restoration and revival of ecosystems and habitats
- ❖ Trends in investments in securing baselines and implementation actions on better ecosystem management that is representative and impactful
- ❖ Number of habitats and ecosystems that are receiving specific attention to link conservation action with local development.

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## A Quick Overview of the National Biodiversity Targets (2012-2020)

### **TARGET 4**

**Target 4** – *By 2015, a coordinated and incrementally tested action programme on implementing the Biological Diversity Act (2002) and the Rules (2004) developed with a target that by 2020, policy, regulatory and enabling actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing are firmly in place.*

The need for administrative, policy and legal frameworks to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity has been long recognized with several legally-binding decisions taken at various levels. India is one of the first few countries in the world to establish a legal regime to implement the Convention at national, sub-national and local levels in the form of Biological Diversity Act (2002) and the Rules (2004) with a decentralized implementation structure. This framework provides for enabling/facilitative, regulatory and advisory components on issues of conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit sharing covering a range of issues from ecosystem based approaches to community empowerment. The Act and the Rules directly respond as well as correspond to the provisions of the Convention.

#### **Explanation of the Target**

The Target focuses on further strengthening the implementation of the provisions of the national legal framework corresponding to the Convention as a whole, focusing on conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit sharing. Considering the implementation options and experiences gained so far, it is clear that greater attention is needed to ensure better awareness about the provisions of the Act and Rules as well as suitable clarity on linking the provisions with the emerging needs of stakeholder groups who depend on biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services.

The Target calls for an incremental approach to implementation using experiences gained thus far and suggest a timeline for concrete actions.

#### **Possible Indicators**

- ❖ The number of ABS agreements in place by 2015 and 2020
- ❖ The networks established at national, sub-national and local levels through the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees for effective implementation of the Act
- ❖ The number of stakeholder groups who are aware of the provisions of the Act and Rules and identify compliance measure to implement the Act and the Rules
- ❖ The number of links the Act and Rules make/ find with relevant programmes of work of ministries, agencies, departments and others by 2015 and 2020.

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## A Quick Overview of the National Biodiversity Targets (2012-2020)

### **TARGET 5**

**Target 5** – *By 2020, achieve atleast 5% increase in agricultural production systems based on enhanced use of agrobiodiversity, participatory actions, public-private partnership and appropriate investments in inclusive development agenda besides developing better approaches for fisheries and livestock management.*

The role of agricultural biodiversity in increasing productivity, adaptation to climate change and drought stress, disease resistance and spreading the risks of local communities living in harsh environment and coastal areas cannot be overstated. With the increase in focus by Ministry of Agriculture on investments into sustainable production systems that combines diversification and intensification, there is a need to re-look at the way agrobiodiversity is managed commensurate with suitable policy, administrative and financial support to enhance the use of such diversity in agricultural production through research and development, education and extension.

#### **Explanation of the Target**

In line with the above, this target not merely suggests better ways to manage agricultural biodiversity but suggests doable actions to achieve mainstreaming agrobiodiversity in agricultural policies and programmes in the country.

The Target suggests specific increase in focus on using agrobiodiversity as a basis for production enhancements that is based on a series of measures ranging from participatory actions along with a range of stakeholders including communities, supporting better public-private partnerships and looks at investments that recognize the above.

The Target also addresses issue of agriculture using a wholistic perspective combining the need to focus on fisheries and livestock management.

#### **Possible Indicators**

- ❖ The number of public-private partnerships in increasing agricultural production systems that is considerate of local needs, focus on using local diversity
- ❖ The amount of investments by government and non-government sector, including private sector in agrobiodiversity based research focusing on conservation, sustainable use and sharing of benefits
- ❖ The number of initiatives established to link food security with nutritional, health and sustainable livelihood securities of local people
- ❖ The amount of finances invested in livestock and animal husbandry based interventions at local and national levels that contributes to conservation, better management of resources and suggests suitable market linkages.

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## A Quick Overview of the National Biodiversity Targets (2012-2020)

### **TARGET 6**

**Target 6** – *Develop integrated action frameworks, based on policy and regulatory reviews and implementation experiences, on forest conservation, protected areas management that include coastal and marine ecosystems in a manner that enhances local governance systems by 2017, resulting in at least 2 to 5 per cent increase in their cover.*

Forests, protected areas, coastal and marine ecosystems form a significant amount of area to focus on conservation, sustainable management and resource use action. Globally, as well as nationally, these ecosystems and areas have received significant attention and investments resulting in large volumes of experiences on how to manage and how not to manage these ecosystems and areas. No conservation effort will be complete without paying attention to this. In India, forest conservation, resource use and management practices showed varying results in the sustainable management of resources. The areas as well as representativeness of protected areas also have increased significantly during the past two to three decades. Experiences gathered in governance systems that have contributed to successes and failures of the practices and components are critical for designing future programmes. In addition, management of these areas have been under the influence of a series of legal and regulatory frameworks in the country offering both challenges and opportunities.

#### **Explanation of the Target**

The Target combines the focus on forest ecosystems, protected areas, coastal and marine ecosystems and the associated biodiversity into one. The reason for this includes the national policy, regulatory frameworks in place besides the experiences gathered during the past several years in managing these ecosystems and areas.

The Target combines both qualitative and quantitative components besides mainstreaming issues of governance at national and local levels, a critical area that only received peripheral attention at policy making and implementation level in spite of enormous experience gathered within the country.

The Target also focuses on issues of institutional, legal and policy based synergies which is a key pre-requisite for better governance systems.

#### **Possible Indicators**

- ❖ The nature of synergistic action to combine national policy implementation and resource management evidenced by partnerships, institutional adjustments and resource use
- ❖ The number of integrated programmes facilitated to achieve the conservation, governance and development agenda
- ❖ The amount of increase in cover, quality and density of ecosystems and protected areas in discussion using 1980 as the base year (to be decided)

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## A Quick Overview of the National Biodiversity Targets (2012-2020)

### TARGET 7

**Target 7** – *By 2015, develop a comprehensive national programme on management of invasive alien species, rare, endangered, endemic and threatened species of flora and fauna, management of urban biodiversity and by 2020 achieve its effective implementation.*

Species diversity underpins the efficiency of any ecosystem to be resilient to changes and pressures. However, some species such as invasive alien species cause critical damage to ecosystems and is cited as the second largest threat to biodiversity loss after habitat destruction. Sustainable management of rare, endangered, endemic and threatened species (flora, fauna, microbes and the related) is critical for ensuring stemming loss of biodiversity and related ecosystem functions. Such sustainable management of species should not only focus on ecosystems such as forests, wetlands and others but also in managing urban spaces which harbor considerable diversity of species.

#### **Explanation to the Target**

This Target combines species management principles related to both invasive and alien species which focuses on eradication of the species besides management while with respect to rare, endangered, endemic and threatened species the focus is on protection, conservation, sustainable use of these species.

This Target also focuses on urban biodiversity which has received very limited attention so far in our conservation and sustainable use efforts.

The Target thus calls for better species management aspects with a timeline for developing programmes and policies and subsequent implementation .

#### **Possible Indicators**

- ❖ A national policy on sustainable management of invasive alien species, rare, endangered, endemic and threatened species developed and components implemented
- ❖ At least 1 per cent of known species components protected in the country through a range of participatory interventions
- ❖ National guiding framework and outlook on urban biodiversity prepared and components tested for implementation
- ❖ Synergistic actions by line departments, agencies and ministries in place for sustainable conservation and use of species based interventions, including on trade and commerce.

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National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai. <http://www.nbaindia.org>; E.mail: [NBAP@nbaindia.in](mailto:NBAP@nbaindia.in)



## A Quick Overview of the National Biodiversity Targets (2012-2020)

### **TARGET 8**

**Target 8** – *By 2015, establish national coordination mechanism(s) to deal with capacity building, sharing of information and knowledge, traditional knowledge, technology transfer and cooperation and access and benefit sharing (ABS) issues at State and National levels.*

Capacity building, information sharing, knowledge management, technology transfer and cooperation, role and protection of traditional knowledge and access and benefit sharing (ABS) are all cross-cutting themes to effectively implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). These areas are critical for ensuring successful translation of decisions made by Parties to concrete actions on the ground at national and regional levels. However, issues such as technology transfer and cooperation has received limited attention in the implementation process so far. In the event of ensuring decentralized implementation of the CBD, Biological Diversity Act and the Rules and ensuring broader stakeholder participation, these issues need specific focus at different levels supported by a series of policy and legal measures.

#### **Explanation of the Target**

Issues such as capacity building, information sharing, knowledge management, technology transfer and cooperation, role and protection of traditional knowledge and access and benefit sharing (ABS) are critical to ensure successful achievement of the National Biodiversity Targets being finalized by Government of India. This Target provides for a time-bound action at national and state levels considering the issues need to be addressed at various levels.

This Target suggests a well-planned national coordination mechanism and/or a process to ensure successful implementation of actions.

#### **Possible Indicators**

- ❖ National coordination mechanism on technology transfer and cooperation that deals with capacity building, traditional and local knowledge and ABS in place by 2015
- ❖ Capacity building actions and policy making on linking information and knowledge related to biodiversity across sectors and ecosystems focus on overall conservation, value-addition and sharing of benefits options

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## A Quick Overview of the National Biodiversity Targets (2012-2020)

### TARGET 9

**Target 9** – *Develop cooperative approaches for conservation that involves wider stakeholder groups based on commitments and awareness by 2015.*

The need to focus on communication, education and public awareness about biodiversity has been well recognized at global, regional and national levels. The first global target agreed to at the CBD COP 10 meeting focuses on the issue of raising awareness on biodiversity issues as a pre-requisite for achieving effective implementation of the Convention. The need for national level approaches to awareness raising that targets a wide range of stakeholder groups is also recognized in the current National Biodiversity Action Plan (2008). Additionally, the responsibility to implement the provisions of the Convention at various levels need innovative and cooperative approaches that combine intellectual, financial and traditional knowledge based capacities.

#### **Explanation of the Target**

This Target combines two components to achieve successful national implementation of the Convention and the Biological Diversity Act and the Rules in India. India is bestowed with enormous skills on various issues related to conservation, sustainable use and sharing of benefits that is scattered occurring in a range of institutions spanning government agencies, academic institutions, private sector, non-governmental and community based organizations, UN agencies and others. There is a need to bring together the experiences and expertise of these agencies to plan collective action that is both impactful and meaningful.

This Target focuses on raising the awareness of a range of stakeholder groups on issues of biodiversity and ecosystems with an aim to develop inclusive, decentralized approaches to achieving end results of realizing the national and global biodiversity targets.

#### **Possible Indicators**

- ❖ The number of stakeholder groups that are brought together through a national grid of expertise and experience sharing platform
- ❖ Establishment of an information sharing portal at national level using the above grid that contributes to implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the Biological Diversity Act and the Rules, as evidenced by usage of such collated information
- ❖ The number of awareness programmes organized by ministries, agencies, departments, institutions and other stakeholder groups to support implementation of the overall national biodiversity targets

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## A Quick Overview of the National Biodiversity Targets (2012-2020)

### **TARGET 10**

**Target 10** – *Achieve, by 2015, institutional and programmatic synergies, including on issues of implementation of biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).*

It has been repeatedly stated that one of the key challenges to deal with effective implementation of a Convention like the Convention on Biological Diversity and an Act such as the Biological Diversity Act at national level is the need to have institutional and programmatic synergies. With at least six major international environmental agreements such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the World Heritage Convention (WHC) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, focusing directly on conservation, sustainable management and sharing of benefits of such use at global level and a range of legal and regulatory provisions at national level on such issues, synergies need to receive attention during the coming years to ensure maximizing resource use, expertise and ensuring coordinated on-th-ground action.

#### **Explanation to the Target**

The issues of synergies underpin maximizing effectiveness of implementing coordinated action by a range of stakeholders led by Government agencies and departments. Experience of implementing a range of programmes on conservation, use and sharing of benefits both by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and other ministries indicate that it is appropriate time to find both vertical and horizontal synergies across programmes and institutions to achieve synergies.

This Target provides a significant opportunity to Government of India to show its leadership as the incoming Presidency of CBD COP (2012-2014) that synergies that are being spoken about on various platforms ranging from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) to decisions taken at CBD COP 10 can be translated into actions at national level.

In addition, this Target will provide opportunities to effectively realize Targets 1, 2 and 9. This Target can also support actions related to strengthening institutional cooperation within the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

#### **Possible Indicators**

- ❖ The number of implementation programmes at national and local levels that call for synergies
- ❖ The number of national reporting and action plan development processes that considers synergies between programmes and institutions, evidenced by joint reporting and implementation programmes
- ❖ Inclusion of synergies as a key component in the next five year planning period (2017-2021) based on experiences gained during the current five year planning period (2012-2016).

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