



Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions

Component 5: Capacity building for strengthening implementation of ABS provisions of the biological diversity Act

Activities

1. Organize trainings on negotiation skills.
2. Organize national level trainings on linking the potential value of economics with ABS agreements.
3. Organize training programmes for Biodiversity Management Committee's (BMC) on ABS issues.
4. Organize orientation workshops for different ministries viz., Commerce, Agriculture, Trade and Industries, Tribal Affairs, Science & Technology, Patent Office, Customs Office, and Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority.
5. Develop on-line curriculum on ABS issues.
6. Workshops on ABS provisions for private sector, media, IPR professionals and staff of NBA, SBBs and BMCs conducted.

Component 6: Increasing public awareness and educational programmes

Activities

1. To Develop local language material comprising tools, methods, guidelines and frame works.
2. Develop communication outreach material in respective local languages.
3. Organize exchange visits of selected BMCs and SBBs to improve the exchange of information and sharing of experiences among the stakeholders.

For Further Information:

Project Manager

UNEP-GEF-MoEF ABS Project
National Biodiversity Authority
5th Floor, TICEL Biopark, Taramani,
Chennai - 600 113, Tamilnadu, India.
Tel : 044 22542777 Fax: 044 22541200
email : projectmanagergef@nbaindia.in
Website : www.nbaindia.org

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is implementing the first Global Environment Facility (GEF) national project on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) with the support from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India. The project aims to assess and quantify the economic value of biological resources present at local, state and national levels using appropriate methodologies to determine benefit sharing which will help in better implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its Rules 2004 and inform national decision makers on prioritizing conservation action.

The Objective of the project is to increase the institutional, individual and systemic capacities of stakeholders to effectively implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Rules 2004 in order to achieve biodiversity conservation through implementing Access and Benefit Sharing Agreements in India.

This project helps to develop tools, methodologies, guidelines and frameworks *inter alia*, on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) Material Transfer Agreement (MTA), benefit sharing agreements for realizing ABS provisions. It facilitates and enhances efforts in stakeholder decision making on the provisions of access and benefit sharing based on the economic valuation of bio resources.

During the project period of three years, a database on biodiversity with ABS potential at selected States would be developed. This will help in understanding biodiversity potential and facilitate better negotiation skills at all levels. Adequate links to policy and regulatory frameworks on ABS provisions; promotion and strengthening of biodiversity funds at national, state and local levels and innovative financing mechanisms would be developed.

Public awareness and participation in programmes dealing with ABS and establishment of state level platforms for public, NGO and private sector partnerships to strengthen ABS component of the Act will be developed. This will help in better coordination of activities besides ensuring multi-stakeholder involvement in the implementation of ABS provisions of the Act.

Project Implementing States

The project sites have been selected based on the ecological significance of the states. The project implementing states includes : **Andhra Pradesh** (Deccan Plateau & Eastern Ghats); **Gujarat** (Arid and Semi-arid ecosystem); **Himachal Pradesh** (Western Himalayas characterized by tropical, sub-tropical dry broadleaf forests); **Sikkim** (Eastern Himalayas, rich with conifer forest) and **West Bengal** (Mangrove ecosystem).



Executing Organisations

The Project will be executed by NBA in collaboration with five State Biodiversity Boards (SBB's) with partner agencies such as, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme - Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP/DELCO), United Nations University - Institute of Advanced studies (UNU-IAS) and Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Components and activities of the Project

Component 1: Identification of biodiversity with potential for ABS and their valuation in select ecosystems such as forest, agriculture and wetlands.

Activities

1. Develop standardized economic valuation methods for valuing biodiversity in forest, agriculture and wetland ecosystems with potential for ABS.
2. Organize national and state level workshops on understanding the valuation methodology and using the same in decision making.
3. Develop methodology and guidance on using the economic valuation in deciding on ABS permits.
4. Develop a database covering the economic valuation information in finalizing ABS Agreements.

Component 2: Development of tools, methodologies, guidelines, frameworks for implementing ABS provisions of the biological diversity act.

Activities

1. Undertake gap analysis in the existing PIC, MAT, MTA and Benefit Sharing agreements.
2. Develop guidelines on PIC, MAT, MTAs and benefit sharing mechanisms at national, state and local levels.



3. Develop and deliver training on negotiation skills, benefit sharing agreements, Intellectual Property Right (IPR) protection and traditional knowledge documentation.
4. Develop regulatory framework on benefit sharing to implement the Act.
5. Establish technical support team to help implement the provisions of the Act related to ABS.
6. Develop People's Biodiversity Register.

Component 3: Piloting agreements on ABS

Activities

1. Develop guidance manual on Biological Diversity Act and the Rules relevant to ABS.
2. Develop sector specific guidelines on ABS issues.
3. Develop implementation options for benefit sharing at different levels.
4. Negotiate and finalize ABS agreements.
5. Establish biodiversity funds along with options for using the funds.

Component 4: Implementation of policy and regulatory framework(s) relating to ABS provisions at local, state and national level and thereby contribute to international ABS policy issues.

Activities

1. Undertake gap analysis on policy and regulatory issues and awareness for implementation of ABS provisions within the Act.
2. Facilitate dialogues at inter-ministerial level on effective realization of ABS provisions within the Act.
3. Establish an intersectoral task force to provide guidance on sectoral contributions and implications on ABS issues.
4. Develop a process documentation manual on ABS.
5. Sharing of experiences and information with other countries.