



INDIA BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE (IBBI) Report on Activities 2015

On invitation by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, CII has launched the India Business & Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) with the support of the German International Cooperation (GIZ). The IBBI has a broad-based multi-stakeholder approach involving business, government, non-government organizations and academia. The purpose of IBBI is to create awareness among businesses on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (B&ES) and mainstream B&ES in their operation and supply chain. IBBI at present has **25 signatories**, who have obliged on working towards a sustainable future by accepting to work on **10 declaration points**

IBBI consists of an Advisory Group, Expert Group on Biodiversity Policy (EGBP) and Working Group(s).

- The Advisory Group consists of representatives from companies signing the IBBI Declaration and other key stakeholders like development organizations, NGOs and academia. The Group is headed by the IBBI Chairman from industry and it meets at least twice a year.
- The EGBP consists of representatives from companies or sectoral initiatives who work together for policy advocacy on critical biodiversity related policy.
- It is envisaged to create Working Group(s) as and when the Advisory Group suggests so. The Group(s) may work on issues which are more aligned to their field of operations or in the fields in which members of IBBI need more technical support.

The CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CII) manages the initiative by providing valuable support in the field of Knowledge, Action and Recognition.

Knowledge 2015

Release of “Bridging Business and Biodiversity: Innovative Approaches” on International Day for Biological Diversity

On the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity and its first year anniversary, IBBI released a publication [Bridging Business and Biodiversity: Innovative Approaches](#) along with the MoEFCC on 22nd May 2015 in Srinagar, J&K. The publication highlights concepts of natural capital and its relation with biodiversity and ecosystem services. Further, it highlights best practices of IBBI signatories that have undertaken the assessment using IBBI tools for quick scan and baseline assessment.



10th Sustainability Summit



In September, the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainability celebrated the 10 years of sustainability in India. The flagship event [10th Sustainability Summit](#) included two sessions on biodiversity, in addition a workshop on biodiversity finance was organised. The Value and Economic Benefits of Biodiversity, followed by a session on the Fair and Equitable Sourcing in Reputation Economy. The workshop by CBD on The Role of Private Sector in Achieving National Biodiversity Finance Targets:

Identification of Policy Initiatives & Further Requirements explored larger issues of resource mobilisation for biodiversity conservation as well as various aspects of biodiversity finance mechanisms.

2016

IBBI Guidebook for Biodiversity Management: Sectorial Outlook and Roadmap for Implementation

The research study, aims to create sectorial understanding of biodiversity management in India and equip business with a roadmap for effectual management of natural capital. The publication will be released on February 2016.

Publications on Interrelation between biodiversity act and other environmental acts

The publication will help business understand the linkages between various acts on forest, water, fishery, land etc. and biodiversity acts. This will help to establish how much work is already being done and how much more needs to be done.

Publication on Best practices of biodiversity management by Indian Industries

This publication will highlight best practices on biodiversity conservation, restoration and management by companies in India.

Action

2015

Capacity Building of IBBI Member Companies



Since mid-2014 a capacity building programme was initiated to support signatory companies on their commitments made on IBBI Declaration. 6 pilot companies – Ambuja Cements, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co., Hindustan Zinc, JSW Steel, Mahindra Lifespace Developers and Tata Chemicals – are supported by IBBI to conceptualise, design and implement capacity development measures over a period of 2 years. The capacity building included various tools, Quick scan, Baseline Assessment, Natural Capital Profile (NCP) and finally a Natural Capital Action Plan (NCAP) to help companies prioritize measures to be carried out each year.

The action plan includes objectives and targets for each year as well as indicators to track progress.

Advisory Group

The Group is headed by the IBBI Chairman from industry, presently Mr. R. Mukundan, Managing Director, Tata Chemicals. The advisory group met three times in 2015 to discuss various topics, including how to take the initiative forward and also formed 3 working group.

Launch of IBBI Western Region Chapter

IBBI launched the first regional chapter in Mumbai on the occasion of the World Environment Day, 5th June 2015. The IBBI Western Region (WR) Chapter is set to promote awareness and knowledge on integrating biodiversity into companies' policies, operations and across value chains among business in the Western region. Mr Anup Mathew, Business Head - Godrej Construction, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. convenes the IBBI Western Region Chapter.



Working Groups

[Working groups](#) were established by the IBBI advisory group at the launch of Western Region Chapter in June 2015 including people from various segment of industries, social groups and NGO, to elaborate, consolidate, and build on the consensus of the industry on few specific topic.

Presently three working groups have been constituted to work on Biodiversity Awards, Biodiversity Valuation and IBBI reporting.

Expert Group on Biodiversity Policy (EGBP): Roundtable on Access and Benefit Sharing

IBBI organized a project planning workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing in July 2015. The objective of the new ABS project (partnership of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and GIZ) is to increase awareness and strengthen the capacities of National Government bodies (state and central), and other stakeholders, to implement ABS mechanisms under the Biodiversity Act in keeping with India's commitments under the Nagoya Protocol.



CII-IBBI Certified Training on Managing Natural Capital



2-day CII-IBBI certified training programme on "[Managing Natural Capital](#)" took place in Mumbai and Bengaluru in August 2015. The course was designed to improve understanding of employees across business functions about company's dependencies and direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services that may result in business risks and opportunities. The program involved a site visit (Godrej in Mumbai and Wipro in Bengaluru) to learn about dependencies between business and biodiversity, and the way these are managed. 42 participants from industries were trained in total.

Natural Capital: Let's Rethink Growth with Additional Indicators and Not Only GDP

A session on [Natural Capital: Let's Rethink Growth with Additional Indicators and Not Only GDP](#) was organised by IBBI at the World Forum for A Responsible Economy in October 2015 at Lille, France. The session was moderated by Sachin Joshi from CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and comprised of three more speakers. The speakers included Pavan Sukhdev, GIST Advisory, UPM (member of German business and biodiversity initiative Biodiversity in Good Company), Daniel Bozonnet, and Sandeep Shrivastava, Ambuja Cements (IBBI signatory company).



IBBI at CBD Business & Biodiversity Forum



A member of the Executive Committee of Global Platform for Business and Biodiversity (GPBB), IBBI Secretariat took part in the 2-day Forum in Helsinki, Finland. The Forum offered business and biodiversity initiatives a great platform for sharing and learning from each other.

Business Forum on Responsible Forest Management for Sustainable Growth



CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CII-CESD) in partnership with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) organized a [Business Forum on Responsible Forest Management for Sustainable Growth](#) on 17th November 2015 at New Delhi. The Forum comprised of an inaugural plenary, followed by sessions on market access and business linkages for green forest products, responsible forestry in furniture and construction industry, and sustainability in pulp, paper, printing and packaging.

Planned activities for 2016

Biodiversity Management in Supply Chain

Businesses need a systematic way to identify that there are no adverse impacts on nature and biodiversity throughout their supply chain. IBBI will work on methodology along with knowledge partners to minimize all supply chain risks from potential adverse biodiversity issues among industries.

SME Development Program

SMEs play a key role in transition and developing countries. These firms typically account for more than 90% of all firms outside the agricultural sector, constitute a major source of employment and generate significant domestic and export earnings. As such, SME impacts and dependencies on biodiversity are also very high and often these SMEs fall in the long supply chain of larger companies. Mainstreaming biodiversity in SMEs will yield great results in conserving the country's biodiversity.

Natural Capital Valuation

Economics is about choice and every decision is preceded by a weighing of values among different alternatives. A need has arisen among Indian industries to value natural capital to help business make more informed decision. IBBI therefore constituted a working group on valuation to prepare an approach note on how the valuation methodology should look like and what objectives it should meet.

CII-IBBI Certified Training program (CICT)

Four more open house certified training programs will be organized the coming year, to create awareness and also establish biodiversity champions who will take the role of mainstreaming biodiversity in their respective organisation.

IBBI training on Green Belt Development

As per the National Forest Policy of India, 1988 (NFP), It is necessary to encourage the planting of trees alongside of roads, railway lines, rivers and streams and canals, and on other unutilized lands under State/corporate, institutional or private ownership. NFP gives emphasis to the green belt development. It says – Green belts should be raised in urban/industrial areas as well as in arid tracts. Such a programme will help to check erosion and desertification as well as improve the microclimate. However lack of knowledge exists on how the green belt should be developed.

Biodiversity Indexing (City and Factory premises where green belt development is undertaken)

One good way to measure how industry is working on managing biodiversity in their operations is to index the biodiversity resulting from plantation and various conservation measures. IBBI is working on a tool to help industry understand their biodiversity index and how to improve it. Management plans are provided through the IBBI Natural Capital Action Plan.

Recognition

2015

CII-ITC Sustainability Awards

In mid-December 2015, [CII-ITC Sustainability Awards](#) are celebrating a decade of recognising sustainable businesses in India. Uniquely based on EFQM Excellence Framework, Awards are designed to recognise and celebrate excellence in sustainable business. Currently biodiversity is covered as one of the aspects in the Awards framework.

2016

Biodiversity Award

From 2016 onwards Indian companies will be for the first time recognized for business excellence in biodiversity management. The domain excellence award in biodiversity will be part of CII-ITC Sustainability Awards created using inputs given by the IBBI Working Group on Biodiversity Awards.