

Hand Print : Positive Action for sustainability

Back Ground Note

The critical need of the hour is to accelerate the momentum and move the society from awareness to concerted action taking advantage of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) processes in facilitating the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets for a sustainable future, as we approach the closure of UN Decade on Biodiversity by 2020. Realising this need, educationists and practitioners across the Globe are attempting to shift from discourses and promises to action linking Biodiversity conservation and its sustainable utilization with the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for achieving a peaceful and just world using Education as a driver of change.

In this context **Handprint** provides one of the powerful tools in the pursuit of actions towards biodiversity conservation. Capturing positive action, the concept / tool links generations, getting well with the young, in particular. While each finger represents the objectives of ESD: Awareness, Knowledge, Values, Skills, Participation by individuals or groups – All together contribute to Action which is represented by the Hand Print. Hand Print action can be by any group or individual, from child to policy makers. Action may be as varied as planting a sapling to educating people. Action may be big or small and so are the impacts. Since the concept is evolving, there is no standardized measure at the moment to assess the impacts. As in foot print, this measure need to indicate how much of earth resources are conserved by human hand print actions in order to evolve as a powerful indicator of positive action. The concept of course is inspired by that of carbon foot print / ecological foot print though, it is positive in nature and answers questions like how much have I contributed to resource conservation, in this case bio-resource conservation and sustainable development. Hand Print actions appear simple though and majority actions quantifiable, the analysis, accounting framework and resource accounting tools could be complex, particularly to derive at standardized measure based on the impacts.

The proposed side event therefore aims to deliberate on the accounting framework for hand print action in relation to biodiversity conservation that can be used across the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The Objectives are

1. To examine the role of Education in strengthening hand print as a powerful tool for promoting positive actions
2. To share experiences on hand print actions from around the Globe
3. To discuss the methods of analyzing hand print actions based on the values and impact
4. To exchange views on the accounting framework of hand print action