

NBSAP: India's experiences

Regional workshop for South, East and Southeast
Asia on updating NBSAPs

X'ian, China, 9-16 May 2011

NBSAP – The journey so far

- NBSAP preparation is one of the two unqualified obligations of CBD on all Parties.
- Preparations of NBSAP by India initiated soon after ratifying CBD in 1994, by setting up a core group of experts.
- Extensive consultations held with experts, NGOs, State Govts. and concerned Ministries, including through a National Workshop in June 1997 chaired by Minister.
- Finalized a document on National Policy and Macro-level Action Strategy on Biodiversity.
- After necessary Govt. approval, document printed in 1999.
- It is a macro-level statement of existing policies and programmes, gaps and further actions needed for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

UNDP/GEF project on NBSAP

- India accessed GEF funds to assist the Govt. in preparing NBSAP and action plans at state and regional levels, based on this framework document of 1999.
- NBSAP project implemented from 2000-2004.
- 73 executing agencies identified for preparing action plans for 10 eco-regions, 18 sub-state sites, 33 States/UTs and 12 thematic areas.
- Process was highly participatory involving various stakeholders.
- NBSAP process hailed as one of the most participatory environmental planning processes, facilitated by MoEF through unique consortium arrangement, in an attempt to move away from general trend of centralized planning.

UNDP/GEF project on NBSAP (contd...)

- Call for participation brought out in 20 languages, use of mass media, folk media, mass participation events organized, about 50,000 people involved in NBSAP project.
- Apart from conventional methods (workshops, seminars), biodiversity festivals, yatras, rallies, (cycle, bullock-cart, boat), cultural programmes organized.
- Unique process applauded even at international level.
- Intermediate products were more than 70 sub-national level action plans prepared by executing agencies.
- Some of the State level action plans were also printed by State Govts.
- States in different stages of implementation. Some like Madhya Pradesh have integrated it in state development policies.

UNDP/GEF project on NBSAP (contd...)

- Posters prepared on 3 State level BSAPs for CBD's WGRI-2 meeting in Paris, depicting state level experiences in developing and implementing BSAPs in Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh states.
- Two NBSAP experts made presentations as resource persons in regional workshop on NBSAP held in Singapore in January 2008.
- On the basis of sub-national level action plans, a final technical report of project accepted in 2005.
- It was decided that NBSAP could be finalized only after National Environment Policy (NEP) (which at that time was under preparation), was finalized and approved, so that it is in conformity with NEP.
- After approval of NEP by Cabinet in May 2006, preparation of NBAP taken up in consonance with NEP, and using final technical report of NBSAP project as one of the inputs.
- Draft NBAP prepared was put on MoEF's website in September 2007, inviting comments of all stakeholders.
- Draft also circulated to concerned Central Govt. Ministries / Departments for comments.

National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP)

- Draft discussed in Committee of Members of Parliament in January 2008.
- After extensive and time-consuming exercise of inter-Ministerial consultations on the draft, NBAP approved by Cabinet in November 2008.
- Document printed and released in February 2009.
- NBAP is based on evaluation of existing legislations, regulatory system, implementation mechanism, strategies, plans and programmes.
- NBAP draws from NEP's cardinal prescription that human beings are at the centre of concern for sustainable development and are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.
- NBAP prepared taking into account CoP guidance and WGRI recommendations, as also the 2010 biodiversity target.

CoP-10 decision X/2

- CoP-10 in October 2010 adopted Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
- SP has 20 headline targets under five strategic goals. Three targets have 2015 deadline, all others have 2020 deadline.
- CoP-10 has urged Parties to develop national and regional targets, using SP and its targets, as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities and taking into account resources provided through SRM, and report to CoP-11.
- Parties also urged to review, and as appropriate update and revise, their NBSAPs in line with the SP, including by integrating their national targets into their NBSAPs, and report thereon to CoP-11 or CoP-12.
- Parties urged to use the revised and updated NBSAPs to integrate biodiversity targets into national development and poverty reduction policies and strategies, national accounting, economic sectors and spatial planning processes.

Post-Nagoya action on revision of NBSAP

- GEF has recently announced expedited access to GEF-5 funding for enabling activities including NBSAPs upto USD 5,00,000 per country and per focal areas outside of STAR allocations.
- India has opted for direct access provision to: update NBSAP and prepare FNR.
- Draft template for the same has been filled-in, and shared with GEF.

Updating of NBSAP: Challenges and opportunities

- Considering the inherently multidisciplinary nature of biodiversity, preparation, revision or updation of NBSAPs requires substantial intersectoral coordination.
- Actors involved include: Central Ministries / Departments and their agencies, federal State Governments, local level elected bodies, research institutions, NGOs and civil society, in addition to the three-tiered institutional structures set up under the Biological Diversity Act, namely NBA, SBBs and BMCs.
- Multiple nature of its stakeholders underline the need for flexibility in timelines for implementation of the activities listed in the NBSAP.

Updating of NBSAP: Challenges and opportunities (contd....)

- Moreover, federal States are at different levels of development in terms of infrastructure, capacity, information, database, manpower etc., in the context of biodiversity.
- Notwithstanding these differentials, there is an urgent need to recognise and factor-in the contribution made by biodiversity services to poverty alleviation efforts specifically, and to national economic growth more generally.
- NBSAP is an important tool for translating these concerns, as well as policies and programmes provided by CBD into actions.
- Development and implementation of NBSAP is central to achieving objectives of CBD at national level.

Updating NBSAP – Next Steps

- India has already prepared two generations of NBSAPs, the second one was released just about two years back.
- Because of the cross-sectoral nature of biodiversity, the number of stakeholders in biodiversity is very large.
- Process of preparation / revision / updation of NBSAP therefore is very long-drawn and time-consuming.
- Since India has revised its NBSAP rather recently, it is not envisaged to completely overhaul or revise the NBSAP, but undertake limited exercise of updating its NBSAP by first developing national targets using Aichi Targets as a framework; and then integrating these into the NBAP.

Developing national targets – Some progress

- Under Green India Mission approved by Govt. recently, targets developed include:
 - to increase forest / tree cover on 5 million ha., and improved quality of forest cover on another 5 million ha.
 - to increase forest-based livelihood incomes for 3 million forest-dependant families.
 - to reach an annual CO₂ sequestration of 50 to 60 million tonnes by 2020, so as to increase share of GHG offset by India's forest and tree cover to 6% as compared to 4.5% that would have been offset in the absence of this Mission.
 - to focus on improvement of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Integration of economic value of biodiversity

- India has recently launched national study on economic valuation of biodiversity on the lines of TEEB.
- It is proposed to have an interim report ready by CoP-11. The final report is expected by December 2013.
- It is proposed to develop framework for green national accounts by 2015, which is expected to be facilitated by India TEEB study. The models of green domestic product is expected to be prepared by CoP-11.

Process of Formulating the 12th Plan

- Commenced a very wide consultative process on the challenges for the 12th Plan
- Over 900 CSOs across the country have participated, as well as many industry associations and 'think tanks'
- Internet used for first time to reach out to broader community including several hundred sectoral experts
- Planning Commission has launched a dedicated website <http://12thplan.gov.in> This site is also linked to Facebook. 32,000 netizens have visited these two sites and have left many insightful comments
- A series of regional consultations with States are planned in May
- Dialogue with other stakeholders continues

Key Messages from Consultations

- Strong demand from all sectors of society to improve Implementation, Accountability and Service Delivery
- Citizens Groups broadly support the stated objectives of existing government programmes. However, the design and institutional arrangements are weak. Greater devolution and empowerment needed
- Government programmes need a new architecture: greater localisation, break-down of silos, feedback from citizens, and mechanisms for learning and sharing of best practices
- A major contribution to economic growth now comes from the private sector. A policy environment that supports this dynamism is therefore important
- Create environment for nurturing enterprise, improving markets, supporting innovation, providing access to finance and inculcating respect for common pool resources

12th FYP Objectives

- Basic objective : Faster, More Inclusive, and Sustainable Growth
- Is 10% growth feasible? Realistically, even 9% will need strong policy action. Could aim at 9.0 to 9.5 percent
- Energy, Water and Environment present major sectoral challenges. Can we address them without sacrificing growth?
- Can we find resources to create a world class infrastructure?
- For growth to be more inclusive we need:
 - ..Better performance in agriculture
 - ..Faster creation of jobs, especially in manufacturing
 - ..Stronger efforts at health, education and skill development
 - ..Improve effectiveness of programmes directly aimed at the poor
 - ..Special programmes for socially vulnerable groups
 - ..Special plans for disadvantaged/backward regions

12th plan Approach 2012-2017

- The concept of environmental services shall be developed through adequate research programs so that a credible environmental service levying is possible by the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan.”.
- In ES schemes, land managers, typically forest owners or farmers, are paid to manage their land in ways that protect or enhance environmental services such as carbon sequestration, watershed protection and biodiversity conservation. In some cases payments can be made by beneficiaries of environmental services, for example water users and hydropower companies; in others national or local government pay on behalf of beneficiaries.

12th plan Approach 2012-2017

- During the Twelfth Five Year Plan ES & NTFP would be given proper emphasis through Government support so that the forest dwellers can harness better livelihood from NTFPs.
- The following is therefore proposed:-
- Organise markets after a careful market survey of the potential of each NTFPs in the States.
- Build infrastructure, Capacity and upgrade skill for carrying out trade and value addition in NTFP by Gram Sabha.
- Build infrastructure for timely non destructive harvesting, curing, storage, value addition, transportation and market information.

12th plan Approach 2012-2017

- Formulate a comprehensive national policy for non-destructive extraction and marketing of NTFP.
- For providing effective and efficient ecosystem services and ecological goods, a community approach using native plant species should be encouraged in the Afforestation, Reforestation and Greening programmes.
- Market for NTFP remains totally unorganized and most of the benefit does not reach the forest dweller. There is need for efficient research to develop non-destructive harvesting technique for various NTFPs so that it can be managed sustainably to give long term benefit to the forest dwellers. Presently there is great deficiency in this knowledge. It has to be first developed and then implemented.

Biodiversity and wildlife: Key issues

- The key issues for biodiversity and wildlife conservation are :-
- 1) fragmentation and degradation of wildlife habitats which adversely affect the population of many wild animal species resulting in increased man–animal conflicts;
- 2) increase in demand for wildlife and wildlife products globally, resulting in poaching;
- 3) increase in livestock population in and around PAs , one of the reasons for decline in herbivore population and a constant threat for spread of disease in wild animals

Biodiversity - challenges /suggestions

- 1. Preventing poaching of wildlife including flagship species.
- 2. check fragmentation and degradation of wildlife habitats and corridors;
- 3. reduce instances of human–wildlife conflict;
- 4. control illegal trade in wildlife products;
- 5. Consolidation of tiger reserve sites (reserves) by stepping up protection, surveillance and intelligence based enforcement;
- 6. Securing inviolate space for tigers in their use area, through voluntary relocation of people besides fostering co-existence to elicit public support in buffer and corridor areas,
- 7. To secure Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species,
- A National Action Plan on species recovery be initiated.
- Provide sufficient resource for relocation of villages from the critical tiger and wildlife habitat to create inviolate space for tiger and other flagship species
- A national action plan for management of invasive species is to be strengthened.

Marine Environment and Coastal resource management

- The key issues identified for effective coastal resource management include the following:
- capacity building for inventorisation of marine bio-diversity and its bio-prospecting
- Assessment and conservation of Coastal resources and its associated flora and fauna.
- Capacity building for conservation of coastal Critical habitats such as Corals, mangroves , Lagoons etc.,
- Sustainable utilization of sea grass and seaweeds and commercialization of bio- products from such resources,
- development of Institutional mechanism to monitor health of Coral reefs and other Coastal ecosystem and its bio-diversity on a long term basis,
- Species Recovery and sea ranching-identification of species (sensitive, threatened, commercially exploitable) and institution. Identification of sensitive species due to climate change and other anthropogenic impact.
- Creation of a separate cadre of coastal protection force as a part of the forest department to ensure the prevention of ocean dumping, discharge of untreated coastal industrial effluents and traffic in marine resources including corals and fishes.

Monitorable targets proposed for the 12th plan :-15/7-biodiversity

- To increase forest and tree cover by 5 percentage points.
- To reclaim wetlands/inland lakes /ponds of ----- Ha by 2017
- To Improve forest production and maintain biodiversity
- To prepare and implement recovery plan for identified 15 species .
- To relocate at least 48,000 families from tiger reserves .
- Introduce Performance monitoring and development of Environment performance linked mechanism for devolution of financial assistance to the States
- To Assess ,Coastal Biodiversity resource, use and sustainability

Thank you