

BSAP of Arunachal Pradesh, India: Ecofriendly Approach for Livelihood Security

UNDP/GEF funded NBSAP project was executed in India from January 2000 to March 2004, wherein 73 executing agencies were identified for preparing action plans for 33 states/UTs, 18 sub-state sites, 10 eco-regions and 12 thematic areas. Arunachal Pradesh (AP) in the North-East region of India lies in Eastern Himalayas, which is one of the two "biodiversity hotspots" in India. The state has highest forest cover and is least populated in the country. More than 25 ethnic communities (with 110 sub-tribes) are inhabitant of these hills. A State Level Steering Committee headed by the Chief Secretary was constituted, which in turn nominated the State Forest Research Institute (SFRI), as the nodal agency for preparing BSAP. SFRI constituted working groups and involved large number of village-level organizations, NGOs, academicians, scientists, policy makers and other stakeholders of biodiversity, making the process as significant as the product.

What did we achieve?

"The New Industrial Policy of AP 2001" envisages promotion of agricultural, horticultural and plantation produce, locally available raw materials, handicrafts and NTFPs.

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Forest departments are implementing "people friendly" afforestation programmes like Apna Van, under which funds and technical support are provided. Joint Forest Management programme also ensures people's participation.

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State Govt. is promoting ex-situ conservation through different institutes. It has some of the largest germplasm collection of timber and non-timber resources, orchids, bamboo, cane and medicinal plants

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New ventures in agriculture, irrigation, fisheries, animal husbandry linked with rural development are being promoted throughout the state.

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EcoTask Force of the army has taken up the "greening of barren hills" in Tenga Valley through afforestation programmes.

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A community council (Nishi community) decided that monoculture is harmful practice and forest should be left aside for natural regeneration purpose.

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AP Govt. is supporting different schemes such as pig breeding, poultry, apiculture, sericulture, value addition to indigenous handicrafts which not only help in conservation but also provide livelihood.

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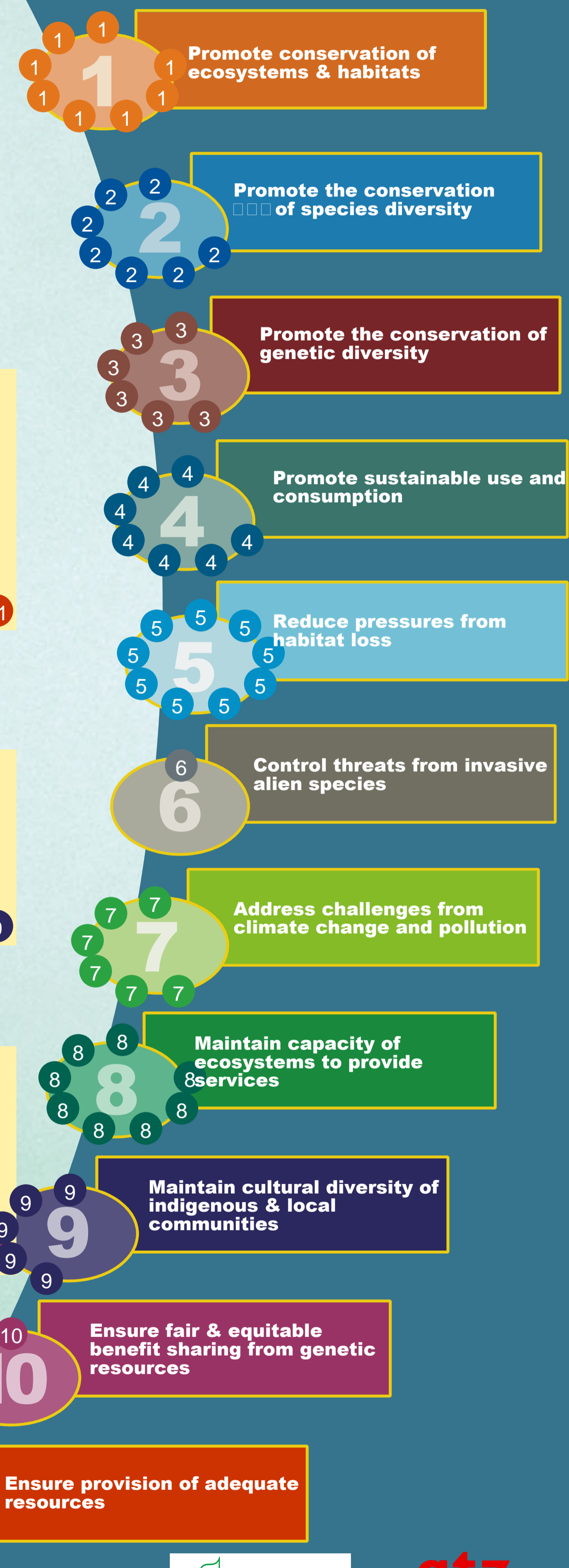
The State Govt. has come up with new agriculture, fertilizer and chemical policy giving an emphasis on the conservation of agro biodiversity and food security.

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Govt. is now encouraging local entrepreneurs in promoting eco-tourism with ecological safeguards, so as to ensure that benefits accrue directly to local people.

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2010 Biodiversity Target



There is a need to strike a balance and evolve a strategy for sustainable utilization-not depleting the resources, nor depriving the native inhabitants. The APBSAP recommends eco-friendly ventures in various sectors.

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