

FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT

...the conservation route



**MADHYA PRADESH
STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD**



Situated on the genetic highway connecting the Western Ghats and the North East, two of the biodiversity hotspots in the country, the central Indian State of Madhya Pradesh is one of the richest repositories of biological diversity. The state houses a diversity of ecosystems including plateaus, ravines, ridges, valleys, riparian areas and flat plains. With four major forest types, nine National Parks and 25 Wildlife Sanctuaries, the Tiger state houses one of the richest faunal and floral diversity. With around 5000 plant species, these forests are habitat to as many as 500 bird species and 180 fish species. Thousands of rice cultivars, a rich diversity of minor millets, indigenous cattle and poultry landraces like Kadaknath boasts of the agrobiodiversity. Home to many tribal groups with distinct customs, practices and diverse cultures, the biological diversity sustains livelihoods and ensures food security to a majority of states 60 million population. Indigenous health systems nurtured by rich traditional knowledge woven around over 1000 medicinal plants contribute significantly to health security in rural areas. A host of traditions, rituals, festivals and traditional knowledge have significant bearing on sustainability of the biodiverse resources. Such a richness of biodiversity provides unique opportunities to enrich people's livelihoods and in biotechnological advancement for food and livelihood security.



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Towards a shared vision

"To strive for development which is rooted in conservation of state's rich biodiversity, its sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of its use; and achieved in such a manner that empowers people" is the vision directing conservation action in the state. Though developed through a collaborative process, the vision needs to transcend across millions of people in the state and particularly those who have nurtured the biodiversity for hundreds of years, so that it truly becomes a shared vision. It calls for highest degree of collaborations across, between and amongst Government agencies, communities, NGOs, academia, peoples representatives, media and civil society at large to develop a shared action agenda for conservation. The Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, set up as body corporate under the National Biodiversity Act, sees its role in this context as that of sheath anchor.



The Board

The primary mandate of the Board is to collaborate with a range of partners to ensure biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of bioresources. As a body corporate under the Biodiversity Act, the Board is mandated to:

- Provide for regulated access to bioresources for commercial purpose by Indian Nationals
- Facilitate documentation of biodiversity and associated knowledge (People's Biodiversity Registers) leading to development of Information System on biodiverse resources and ensure adequate protection of such knowledge.
- Facilitate awareness and capacity building of partners including Biodiversity Management Committees, NGOs, Schools/Colleges and other agencies.
- Mainstream biodiversity concerns and biodiversity based livelihoods in sectoral policies and planning
- Strengthen in situ and ex situ conservation of biodiversity including setting-up of biodiversity heritage sites
- Advise the state government on issues of biodiversity conservation, its sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits



The Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC)

The BMCs are the loci to the conservation initiatives of the Board and will anchor the local level actions. The local bodies viz. Zilla Panchayats/Janpad Panchayat/Gram Panchayat & Gramsabhas, Municipal Panchayats, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations shall set up the BMC. Alternatively, the local body can get one of its existing committees or general body to act as BMC. The main roles of the BMCs will be:

- To document biodiversity and associated knowledge (PBR) and ensure its protection
- Levy fee on bioresources accessed for commercial purpose
- Ensure conservation, sustainable harvest and equity in sharing of benefits arising out of use of biodiversity
- Integrate biodiversity concerns in local planning



Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBR)

Mapping biodiversity is one of the key concerns. Development of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) henceforth is an important programme. Facilitated by NGOs, academia and Govt. agencies, the process of developing PBRs would solicit functional participation of the village communities and ensure ownership. The methodology would harmonize local know-how and scientific knowledge. Alongside addressing Intellectual property Rights (IPR) concerns, the PBRs are envisaged as development planning tool for the local communities, to foster a development process based on their rich biodiversity and associated knowledge systems.

State Biodiversity Information System

State Biodiversity Information System (SBIS) is envisaged as one-stop clearinghouse of biodiversity related information on Madhya Pradesh. Designed as a distributed database on biodiversity of the state, the SBIS is envisioned to be a single window information access. The PBRs and collaborations with a range of institutions will augment the system. The system would facilitate bioprospecting as well aid Board in regulating access to bioresources. Adequate protection is envisaged to safeguard the interests of traditional knowledge holders.



Biodiversity, Awareness, Education and Training

Biodiversity awareness to trigger off actions by a range of stakeholders is high on Board's agenda. Taken up collaboratively, these awareness programme use an array of methods ranging from Yatra's, meetings, workshops, nature camps and nature walks, media campaigns etc.

Strengthening biodiversity education in school and college curricula (both formal and non-formal) is an important strategy to inculcate conservation ethics in the younger minds. The Board shall also endeavor mainstreaming biodiversity concerns in training curricula/ programmes of key state-level training institutions and organizations.



Biodiversity based livelihoods

Rich biodiversity of the state has tremendous potential to enrich people's livelihood. The Board shall work in tandem with other key partners to harness this potential. Bio-resource assessment, improved technology for harvesting, processing and value-addition, development of market linkages and strengthening of institutional capabilities are the key focal areas.



A new development paradigm

The diversity and richness of natural endowments and associated traditional knowledge systems are critical for livelihoods of a large proportion of the state's populace. Helping the people translate these unique strengths into answers for sustainable livelihoods through empowering regimes of conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing shall be a constant endeavor of the Board, done collaboratively so as to foster a new paradigm of development, which follows the conservation route.



We solicit your engagement in the process of building a new developmental paradigm - a paradigm that allows us to use our rich bio-diverse resources and associated knowledge system in a manner that secures inter-generational stakes.....



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