



## ABS Partnership Project

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## ABS Partnership Project Framework

### Global Framework

The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** has three main objectives:

1. The conservation of biological diversity
2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources

The **Nagoya Protocol on ABS** is an international agreement under the CBD that provides a global framework for implementing the 3rd objective of the CBD. It enhances legal certainty and transparency for users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

**Aichi Biodiversity Target 16:** By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

### Sustainable Development Goals - Agenda 2030

**Target 2.5:** By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

**Target 15.6:** Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.



### National Framework

The **Biological Diversity Act (2002)** covers conservation, use of biological resources and associated knowledge occurring in India for commercial or research purposes or for the purposes of bio-survey and bio-utilisation. It provides a framework for access to biological resources and sharing the benefits arising out of such access and use.

The Biological Diversity Act (2002) mandates implementation through a decentralized system with National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and local level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).

The **Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and Associated Knowledge and Benefits Sharing Regulations, 2014** details the operational aspects for effective implementation of ABS provisions under the Biological Diversity Act (2002).

### National Biodiversity Targets:

**Target 7:** By 2020, genetic diversity of cultivated plants, farm livestock, and their wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

**Target 9:** By 2015, Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization as per the Nagoya Protocol are operational, consistent with national legislations.

**Target 11:** By 2020, national initiatives using communities' traditional knowledge relating to biodiversity are strengthened, with the view to protecting this knowledge in accordance with national legislations and international obligations.



## Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Partnership Project



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India, a Biodiversity Hotspot

India is one of the 17 mega-diverse countries in the world. It faces unique circumstances as well as challenges in the conservation of its rich biological heritage. With only 2.4 per cent of the world's geographical area, over 1.2 billion people co-exist with over 47,000 species of plants and 91,000 species of animals. Several among them are keystone and charismatic species. For millions of Indians, biodiversity supports their very livelihoods and ways of life. Therefore, maintaining its rich biodiversity and natural resources is essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Partnership Project

The ABS Partnership Project aims at strengthening the capacities of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), as well as raising awareness and build the capacities of the commercial user groups of biological resources and associated knowledge for the effective implementation of ABS mechanisms under the Biological Diversity Act 2002, in keeping with India's commitments under the Nagoya

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

All living organisms; plants, animals and microbes; and the genetic material they carry could be potentially useful for developing a wide range of products and services for human benefit, such as medicines, cosmetics, food supplements, industrial enzymes, agricultural and environmental practices and techniques. The plants, animals and microbes often make up complex and delicately-balanced ecosystems which can be threatened or endangered by their exploitation for human use. Our current understanding of genetic resources owes a great deal to the traditional knowledge of local communities.

Project Approach

The project is a technical cooperation between India and Germany and is commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) under the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme.

The project will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), National Biodiversity Authority and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH with three pilot State Biodiversity Boards namely, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

Main intervention areas are:

- Awareness raising, communication and stakeholder dialogues for creating better understanding of the Biological Diversity Act 2002, ABS Guidelines and Nagoya Protocol on ABS amongst different actors and stakeholder groups.
- Development of good practices of benefit sharing with communities, based on utilization of biological resources for commercial or research purposes.
- Development of an IT-enabled ABS monitoring system for National Biodiversity Authority for effective monitoring of the use of biological resources in ABS processes.

The way in which genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are accessed, and how the benefits of their use are shared, can provide incentives for their conservation and sustainable use, and can contribute to the creation of a fairer and more equitable economy to support sustainable development. ABS refers to the way in which genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge may be accessed, and how the benefits that result from their use are shared between the people or countries using the resources (users) and the people or countries that provide them (providers).

Project Implementation Partners

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India

The MoEFCC is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environmental and forestry policies and programmes.

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

The NBA is a statutory and autonomous body established for implementing India's Biological Diversity Act (2002).

State Biodiversity Board (SBB) of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand

Established under the Biological Diversity Act (2002), the SBBs regulate access to biological resources and advise the State Governments on matters related to biodiversity.

GIZ

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a public-benefit federal enterprise owned by the German Government that provides services worldwide in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.



Indo-German Biodiversity Programme

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India (MoEFCC) in partnership with GIZ is implementing the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme. Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme comprises the following:

- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity – India Initiative (TII)
- India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI)
- Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
- Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services Project
- Access and Benefit Sharing Partnership Project
- Human-Wildlife Conflict Project

