



Development of National Framework for Electronic People's Biodiversity Registers (e-PBR) in India

Situation

Safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems is essential to meet the demands of food, medicine, fuel, water and provide livelihood security. In India, there have been growing efforts to conserve biodiversity and recognise its inextricable links to traditional knowledge for the well-being of people. The legal and regulatory backing to such efforts is provided by the Biological Diversity Act (BDA) 2002, BDA (Amendment) 2023 and related notifications, which align with India's commitment to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), viz. conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use, fair and equitable sharing of benefits from its utilisation.

The BDA 2002 created a decentralised three-tier structure with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Boards (SBB)/Union Territories Biodiversity Councils and the local level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC). The Act mandates BMCs to prepare People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) as a comprehensive documentation of local biological resources and associated knowledge. PBRs support fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of bio-resources (Access and Benefit Sharing). With over 277,000 BMCs, India has the largest network of local institutions for biodiversity conservation.

Till date over 273,000 PBRs have been prepared across India. The preparation of PBRs demand substantial efforts in a large and multilingual country with limited capacities at state and local levels, lack of uniformity and digitalisation in data collection to dissemination.

Project Name	Development of National Framework for Electronic People's Biodiversity Registers (e-PBR) in India
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) as part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI)
Pilot Regions	Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
Lead Executing Agency	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)
Duration	2023-2026

Additionally, the current physical format of PBRs pose immense challenges for further use of data in environmental planning, decision-making process, and to effectively implement Access and Benefit sharing (ABS).

BMCs have a key mandate to prepare **People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)** as a comprehensive **documentation** of **local biological resources** and **associated knowledge**.

Objective

The project aims to support the development and operationalisation of a national electronic People's Biodiversity Register (e-PBR) Framework by the NBA, SSBs and BMCs in two Indian states, to strengthen the implementation of fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of bio-resources at local-level.

Approach

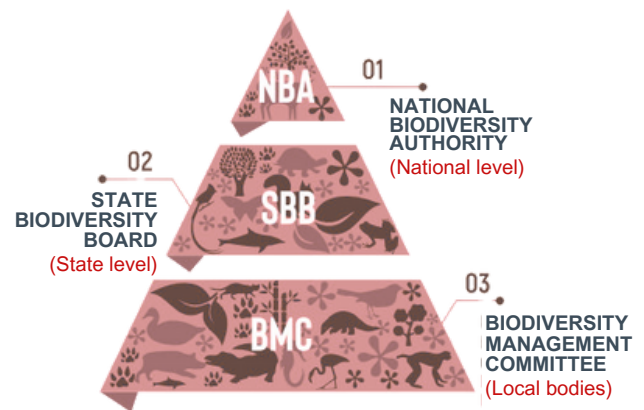
Three main output areas define the implementation approach of the project:

- Developing a national e-PBR framework through a consultative process, comprising of existing and new digital tools and supporting institutional processes to strengthen and simplify the implementation of fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of bio-resources.
- Applying the tools and processes of the e-PBR framework with 40 BMCs in the states of Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Strengthening institutional and technical capacities of NBA, SSBs and BMCs for the preparation and effective use of e-PBRs in Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Expected Outcome

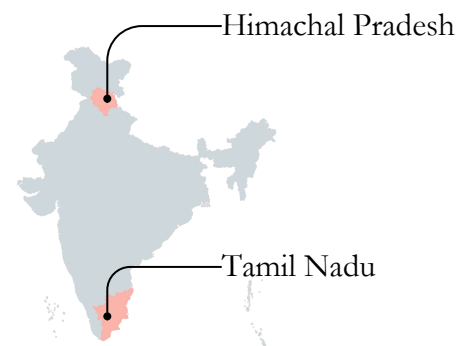
- Digital tool and training modules simplify and enable people's participation in documentation of local biological resources.
- Comprehensive documentation of local biological resources and associated traditional knowledge in electronic form as e-PBRs.
- e-PBRs contribute to effective implementation of fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of bio-resources at local-level.
- Informed decisions about biodiversity conservation and bio-resource utilisation.

Three-tier Institutional Mechanism



Project Implementing States

The project is implemented at the national level with the NBA, MoEF&CC and in two states, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, in collaboration with the State Biodiversity Boards.



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Contribution to the 2030 Agenda



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