

**NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
PROJECT (NBSAP)**

(Sponsored by UNDP/GOI-Ministry of Environment and Forests)
Western Ghats Eco-region Working Group

Dr. R. J. Ranjit Daniels
Coordinator
NBSAP/6-1/00
September 27, 2000

Dear Prof Joshi,

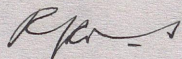
The Government of India/Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have launched a nation-wide programme on developing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). This initiative is being supported by the Global Environment Facility. A brief note on this has been enclosed for your perusal.

As part of this programme, I have been invited to co-ordinate the preparation of an exclusive Eco-regional plan for the Western Ghats. In this regard, a one-day brainstorming/discussion meeting is being held at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on October 12, 2000. Further details on the meeting will be communicated to you shortly.

I shall be glad if you could join the meeting and enrich the discussion. In the event of your inability to do so, kindly nominate a representative. Looking forward to hearing from you in this regard.

With warm regards.

Yours sincerely,



(R J Ranjit Daniels)

encl: as above

Prof N. V. Joshi
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NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

- ◆ India harbours an enormous diversity of plants and animals, both domesticated and wild, and an impressive variety of habitats and ecosystems;
- ◆ This biological diversity sustains the food, medicinal, clothing, shelter, spiritual, recreational and other needs of most of India's population;
- ◆ This diversity also ensures the essential ecological functions on which life depends, including a steady supply of clean water, nutrient cycling and soil maintenance;
- ◆ This diversity is the treasure-house from which future food needs, cures for deadly diseases, and elements for knowledge and technology will be found;
- ◆ This diversity is seriously threatened by human activities leading to severe shortages of water, fodder, fuel; and natural disasters such as floods, landslides and famines;
- ◆ There is need to prepare detailed action plans at state, regional, and sub-state levels to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, to protect the cultural, scientific, spiritual traditions and innovations related to it, and to equitably share the benefits arising from sustainable use;
- ◆ The participation of women and men from all walks of life, both within and outside the government, rural and urban, is essential for preparing an implementable action plan.

In 1999, the Ministry of Environment and Forests prepared a National Policy and Macro-level Action Strategy on Biodiversity through a consultative process. That document was a macro-level statement of policies, gaps and strategies needed for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. There is a need to prepare detailed action plans at sub-state, state, regional and national levels based on this framework document. Towards this end,

the Ministry has accessed funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for preparing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

The NBSAP project envisages the assessment and stocktaking of biodiversity-related information at various levels including distribution of endemic and endangered species and site-specific threats and pressures. Key features of this project include an emphasis on gender sensitive decentralised planning, and the use of interdisciplinary working groups to involve all sectors concerned with biodiversity conservation. These detailed action plans (at sub-state, state and regional levels) will be consolidated and a national level action plan will be developed.

Government agencies, non-governmental groups and village communities are already contributing towards conservation of biodiversity. However, there is a need to consolidate and coordinate these efforts to launch new initiatives to plug the gaps in information and action, to put development processes and planning on a more ecologically sound footing, and to promote people's management of their surrounding natural resources.

Such a process of consolidation and new initiatives through a series of plans and strategies at local, state and national levels cannot be successful without public participation. It is proposed to prepare the NBSAP through a process of widespread consultation and participation across India.

Goals of the NBSAP

- ◆ To prepare, by early 2002, biodiversity action plans at the following levels:
- ◆ Local and regional level (a few selected regions in the country, e.g. Karbi-Anglong district in Assam, Gulf of Kachchh in Gujarat, Vidarba in Maharashtra etc);
- ◆ State level (all of India's States and Union Territories);
- ◆ Inter-state level for biological regions cutting across states (e.g. Eastern Ghats, Western Coast, Trans-Himalaya);