

India's submissions on Target Setting, Further Development of Program Priorities, and Resource Mobilization Strategies for Biodiversity Financing, in response to Notifications SCBD/ITS/YX/75582 (2011-070), SCBD/ITS/YX/ 75584 (2011-072) and SCBD/ITS/YX/75583 (2011-071)

Notification SCBD/ITS/YX/75582 (2011-070)

Basis of Target Adoption/Setting at COP 11

The issue of target adoption/setting needs to be set against the background of resource mobilization exercises that are being undertaken to implement the key biodiversity priorities enunciated by the Aichi Targets.

Target setting in the context of the Aichi Goals needs to be rooted in national baselines. All the same it should provide sufficient indication to donor communities and the private sector about the technical and economic feasibility of Aichi targets in national contexts. This calls for target setting that is realistic, effective and strategic to the realization of the 2020 Aichi Targets.

It is therefore important to ensure that the institutional strategies proposed to implement NBSAPs are tuned to the Aichi Targets. This is proposed since institutional mechanisms hold the key to delivering Aichi Targets. Consequently COP 11 can adopt target setting on the basis of institutional strategies implicit in NBSAPs. Where institutional mechanisms for in situ conservation (participative management systems etc) are assessed to be robust, the Aichi Targets corresponding to in situ mechanisms can be deemed to be achievable. Where Institutional mechanisms are nascent and have infirmities, it will be important to have three year targets laid down to improve these institutions.

Similarly in the context of economic instruments, it is important to ensure that existing instruments which have potential to improve biodiversity conservation are targeted for improvement. This will have immediate, salutary impacts. New instruments, if any can be targeted for introduction over the coming 4 to 5 years.

The same holds for ABS mechanisms. The focus of target setting should be on improving existing mechanisms (if existing) for access and benefit sharing than on introducing new systems.

In short, COP 11 should focus on institutional improvements and on streamlining of existing instruments for Target setting.

Notification SCBD/ITS/YX/ 75584 (2011-072)

Further Development of Program Priorities

The term 'programme activities' is with reference to 'outcome oriented activities' that can be financed by the Convention's financial mechanism (the GEF) in the proposed replenishment phase.

India's National Biodiversity Action Plan 2008 already has several elements of the Aichi Targets. This enables synergies between the national planning process and global biodiversity targets.

Such a method of developing program priorities, it is reckoned, will help channelize resources from a variety of sources for fulfillment of Aichi Targets.

Thus India's National Biodiversity Action Plan 2008 provides for the following Action Plan points that envisage further development of Program Priorities:

These points are described below in relation to Aichi Targets.

- Strengthening and integration of in situ, on-farm and ex situ conservation (Aichi Targets 5,6,7,11,12 and 13)
- Augmentation of natural resource base and its sustainable utilization (Aichi Targets 11,12,13,14,15)
- Ensuring inter and intra-generational equity
- Regulation of introduction of invasive alien species and their management (Aichi Target 9)
- Assessment of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and desertification (Aichi Targets 10,12 and 19)
- Integration of biodiversity concerns in economic and social development (Aichi Targets 2, 3 and 18)
- Pollution impacts (Aichi Target 6)
- Development and integration of biodiversity databases (Aichi Targets 2,19)
- Strengthening implementation of policy, legislative and administrative measures for biodiversity conservation and management (Aichi Targets 17,18 and 19)
- Building of national capacities for biodiversity conservation and appropriate use of new technologies (Aichi Target 2,17)
- Valuation of goods and services provided by biodiversity and use of economic instruments in decision making processes (Aichi Targets 2,3,4 ,5 14 and 16).
- International cooperation (Aichi Targets 19 and 20)

These program priorities are articulated in India's NBSAP as well.

Notification SCBD/ITS/YX/75583 (2011-071)

Resource Mobilization

The main problem that has affected biodiversity related projects is availability of adequate financial resources. According to the Draft Report prepared by the Expert Group on Assessment of Financial Resources for GEF 6 during December 2011, estimated funding gaps for biodiversity range upward of \$1.8 billion US per year. At a global level, the financial gap could be as high as \$18-\$30 billion US per year for PAs alone. The total amount that is needed to secure biodiversity and ecosystem resources in non PA habitats would be higher.

The advent of the 'time bound' Aichi Targets renders the challenge of biodiversity financing formidable.

The task is to mobilize resources for funding biodiversity projects and programs on an adequate and predictable basis, so as also to meet opportunity cost for not undertaking development projects in biodiversity rich areas.

The issue of resource mobilization for biodiversity conservation needs to be considered from two angles, viz Sources and Strategies.

India's Experience

India has experimented with a multi mode strategy of resource mobilization for biodiversity conservation. This includes public financing from budget and plan funds for programs, project financing of specific projects based on funds provided by bilateral agencies and multilateral development financial institutions like the World Bank. We have also assessed the potential of using existing fiscal instruments like taxes and charges for the cause of biodiversity conservation. We have also set up a National Biodiversity Fund under the National Biodiversity Act 2002 to enable our ABS mechanism. India's experiments with these instruments are described in the country's National Biodiversity Action Plan 2008.

Lines for Future Action

Sources

The following form the sources of biodiversity financing:

- Local, regional, national and international Public Financing (including ODA and non ODA public funding)
- International and National Private finance for biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization
- Climate financing sources including adaptation financing

Strategies for Mobilizing Resources

- Leveraging adaptation financing for biodiversity conservation by ensuring that adaptation projects incorporate protection of habitat and species biodiversity as objectives. Such an approach will bridge the funding gaps presently experienced for non Protected Areas
- Financial resources that are employed for realizing the goals of access and benefit sharing should not only focus on ensuring revenue flows, but also in ensuring these flows are redistributed amongst local communities.
- An international meet of donors and multilateral financial institutions may be convened to assess possibility of resource mobilization for Aichi Targets on the basis of the ideas and strategies discussed above.
