

Guidance note for development of SBSAP

&

Second draft of revised standard SBSAP Template

CONTENTS

1. Introduction _____	3
2. Requirement of Standard Template for State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) _____	3
3. Key Steps in SBSAP Preparation _____	5
4. Important points to be considered (as discussed in the workshops conducted for developing the draft SBSAP template)	
5. Annexure ---Standard SBSAP template (2 nd draft)	

1. Introduction

Biodiversity provides all forms of ecosystem services to human life and balances the natural ecosystem. India is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a comprehensive legally binding international agreement which addresses all aspects related to biodiversity. CBD is one of the key Agreement which emanated from World Earth Summit in 1992. CBD framed 20 global Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs) under 5 Strategic Goals in 2010 for the period of 10 years (2010-2020) and urges each country to customize and formulate the national biodiversity targets in line with CBD ABTs so that to implement the actions to achieve global targets under the Convention. CBD mandates each party to prepare National plans to implement 3 objectives of the CBD related to a. biodiversity conservation, b. Sustainable use and c. Access and Benefit Sharing. India is Party to the CBD. India prepared the National Biodiversity and Action Plan in 2008 and also launched its National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) Addendum in 2014 through inter-ministerial consultation process. India has formulated 12 National Biodiversity Targets in line with

Aichi global Biodiversity Targets which is outlined in the NBAP Addendum 2014 along with the 175 actionable points placed under 11 (13) thematic areas,

2. Requirement of Standard Template for State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP)

Though the national strategy as NBAP is the principal instrument for implementing the convention at national level, it will be difficult to achieve this goal without having such an action plan at the sub-national level for the state. To implement the NBAP, there are two critical requirements at country level, *viz.*, a. Preparation of SBSAPs, b. Preparation of People's Biodiversity Register. While the country developed NBAP 2008 and updated the same as Addendum to NBAP (2014), over the years States too have developed their own SBSAPs or SBAPs. It is important that States may harmonise their SBSAPs with the updated NBAP and align with relevant National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) and relevant Sustainable Development Goals as per the priority of the state in the area of biodiversity.

In this context, all State Governments need to prepare and/or revise their State Biodiversity Action Plan (SBSAPs) in line with the NBAP and 12 National Biodiversity Targets and Develop a Resource Mobilization Strategy for implementation of SBSAP.

Due to absence of any standard template or guideline to prepare the SBSAP, State Governments have been facing difficulties in preparing/updating their SBSAP. Hence there is an urgent need to develop a Standard Template that can be followed by every State Government to update/revise their SBSAPs at the earliest for biodiversity conservation at subnational and local levels.

In response to this and on behalf of the National Biodiversity Authority and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Wildlife Institute of India conducted a one-day 'Consultative workshop on standardization of the process of preparation of State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) and Development of Resource Mobilization Strategy for implementation of SBSAP at State level' on 20th July, 2018 with the financial support from UNDP India, under the Chairmanship of Shri Hem Pande, Former Secretary, Govt. of India and Dr. Amarjeet Ahuja, Former Secretary, Govt. of India. The representatives of key Biodiversity Boards *viz.*, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Maharashtra were also participated in the workshop and shared their valuable inputs for development of standard template of SBSAP.

Further, another two day workshop was conducted on 4 & 5 November 2019 in Chennai with participation from few State Biodiversity Boards who have updated/developed their SBSAPs recently. The objective was to share experiences and learning towards developing the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (SBSAPs), assessment of financial resource gap for implementing the SBSAP and innovative solutions to fill the finance gap. In addition one of the main objective of the workshop was also to get feedback on the first draft template of SBSAP and develop a refined 2nd draft template for SBSAP with a purpose to standardize the SBSAP framework across all states of the country after sharing the second draft template with all other SBBS and incorporating suggested changes.

2.1 SBSAP in the context of upcoming post 2020 CBD framework, Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant national priorities

Development process of India's NBAP dates back to 1999 when the National Policy and Macrolevel Action Strategy on Biodiversity was prepared by India through a consultative process. After approval of National Environment Policy (NEP) in 2006, updation of 1999 document was taken up in consonance with NEP, and using the report of an externally aided project on preparation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. India prepared its second generation National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) in 2008 including 175 action points in India's NBAP, 2008 under 11 broad thematic areas: Under the project on preparation of NBSAP which was implemented from 2000-2008, State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) were also prepared for states. With the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including the twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Parties to the CBD were required to revise and update the NBSAPs by integrating the national targets. Accordingly, 12 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in line with 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets have been developed by India, and the NBAP, 2008 updated in 2014. Associated indicators and monitoring framework has also been developed by India. A roadmap for achieving the NBTs.

The updated NBAP 2014 integrating the NBTs is available at the websites of the CBD and the Ministry at the links <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/in/in-nbsap-v3-en.pdf> and <http://envfor.nic.in/sites/default/files/NBAP%20Addendum%202014.pdf>, respectively.

Thus it can be seen that revision of the NBAP and its alignment with National and global priorities has been a continuous process. Since SBAP is the instrument to implement the NBAP at the state level, hence its alignment with NBAP and updation in the current

context of upcoming post 2020 CBD framework is a great opportunity. This also gives us the opportunity to align priorities with other relevant development targets like poverty reduction, food security, health security, women empowerment etc. as biodiversity is a cross sectoral subject and is not restricted to SDG 14 or 15 only.

Role of financing implementation of NBAP or SBAP is equally important which makes it a more practical and implementable document with a definite state level targets in terms of timeline and action. Since NBAP in all likelihood will go substantive revision in the post 2020 CBD framework hence SBSAPs would need revisions too as it needs to be aligned with the NBAP.

3. Key Steps in SBSAP Preparation

- Following the due process, select an agency to develop the SBSAP.
- Constitution of committee led by State Biodiversity Board. Committee should be facilitated by a technical agency preferably a Scientific Institution/ Credible NGO and other members should include representative members other relevant technical institutions, experts, corporate sector representative, relevant line departments etc.
- Review and Synthesis of existing information and data on floral, faunal and other related components in different ecoregion and landscape level.
- For different ecoregion and priority landscapes undertake a rapid assessment based on Drivers, Pressure, State, Impact and Response model of intervention (DPSIR framework) for each ecoregion and priority landscapes, like wetlands, forests, grasslands, marine, alpine etc., depending upon states priority. It should also include documentation of cultural and traditional practices that support biodiversity conservation (Agrobiodiversity and Forest-biodiversity, cultural diversity, traditional knowledge etc.)
- Identification and mapping of key stakeholders in each eco-region and undertaking stakeholder consultations in each eco-region covering different thematic areas (like agriculture, forest, Tourism, etc. which has an impact or dependency on biodiversity in different ecoregion and priority landscapes
- Based on DPSIR results for each eco-region, identify and map key biodiversity relevant programmes and schemes of the public and private sector, externally aided projects, programmes being implemented by technical and research institution , NGOs etc. in different Ecoregion and landscape level for priority landscapes
- Formulation of draft SBSAP for each eco-region and landscape level (for priority landscapes) and formulate quantitative targets/action points aligning it with relevant NBTs, SDGs and targets of local level plans on agriculture, climate change , tourism and other relevant sectoral plans.
- For the purpose of assessment of financial resource gap, undertake mapping of relevant institutions responsible for implementation of SBSAP, asses their institutional capacities and capacity building needs to implement SBSAP, map biodiversity relevant schemes/programmes of the identified public Departments as well as corporate sector, Externally Aided Projects, NGOs etc. and review of trends in their allocations/ expenditures on biodiversity related schemes to assess the current projected availability of financial resources to achieve quantitative SBSAP

targets/action points and costing of quantitative targets/action points of to assess current and projected levels of finance needs to implement the SBSAP targets/action points in each Ecoregion and landscape level (for priority landscapes).

- Further assess the finance gap based on available financial resources and finance needs for each SBSAP targets/action points in each Ecoregion and landscape level (for priority landscapes).
- Mapping and screening of priority finance solutions (existing and innovative), to bridge the resource gap in short, medium and long term.
- Develop a SBSAP implementation plan for short, medium and long term and a long term vision and a resource mobilization strategy for a short, medium and long term.
- Re-defining the NBT monitoring and evaluation framework in the context of State and identify baseline, SMART indicators, targets to achieve each strategy/action points. Also indicate the organizations/ institutions responsible for implementation of the strategy/action points and for monitoring, evaluation and reporting against the same.
- Formulation of a draft SBSAP Ecoregion and landscape level for priority landscapes
- Circulation of draft SBSAP to relevant stakeholders and for general public on an online platform to comments
- Stakeholder consultation and Validation workshops with relevant stakeholders including public and private departments, expert and institutions including the National Biodiversity Authority and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change etc.
- Submission of final SBSAP addressing all relevant comments, to the state government for final approval.
- Formation for SBSAP implementation committee and roll out of implementation of SBSAP including implementation of identified finance solutions in priority eco-region in a phased manner.

Note: for the purpose of steps followed in DPSIR, mapping of stakeholders, biodiversity relevant programmes and schemes, assessment of resource gap, developing a resource mobilization strategy, mapping and screening of finance solutions etc. BIOFIN workbook available on the following website (<https://www.biodiversityfinance.net/>) could be referred along with national level assessment done in this regard (reference to which is available on the following link <https://www.biodiversityfinance.net/india>). It is also important to keep consulting

and exchanging experience and learnings from other state biodiversity boards who have undertaken this exercise recently in a successful manner.

4. Important points to be considered (as discussed in the workshops conducted for developing the draft SBSAP template)

- All SBBs must embark on a time-bound plan to implement India's National Biodiversity Action Plan 2008, 2014.
- All SBBs need to initiate a time bound process (approximately 9 months) for revising their existing State Biodiversity Planning and Action Plans.
- While all 12 National Biodiversity Targets are important, the SBBs may 'prioritize' them according to the State needs.
- Biodiversity is a cross sectoral subject and hence successful implementation of SBSAP will depend on involvement of all relevant stakeholders including line departments like Agriculture, Tourism, Rural Development and others, corporates, NGOs, technical and research institutions etc. Hence it is important that relevant stakeholders are consulted from the beginning so that to ensure their ownership in implementation of the SBSAP.
- To reach out to various stakeholders and to enhance awareness on their roles and responsibilities in implementation of SBSAP, there is a need to improve the communication strategy regarding biodiversity conservation while preparing SBSAPs.
- Ecoregion and landscape level problems related to biodiversity and other sectors dependent on the same for ex: livelihood, health, food security, water security etc. should be discussed in the SBSAP Process and should be aptly documented and actions should be framed accordingly so that to address issues of biodiversity conservation and the co-benefits generated out of the same.
- In this regard it is also important that the SBSAP template should include convergence and linkages with other international conventions (or ex: conventions related to climate change, land degradation, wetland conservation etc.) and relevant national missions and priorities.
- It is important that to address some of the key conservation concerns it would be important that the SBSAP does not only include the overall issue of biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and management at the state level but it also presents

issues, concerns, challenges, opportunities etc. of related priority issues at the Ecoregion and landscape level for priority landscapes.

- The SBSAP template should also include a section on threatened species, People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and Framework and activities for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). There should be a separate subsection on Access and Benefit Sharing in the SBSAP and activities that have been carried out under it should be mentioned.
- Actions points which are going to be there in the SBSAP should be quantitative in nature to ensure targeted interventions in a timely manner and to facilitate in assessment of financial needs to implement the actions, otherwise it would be difficult to define a costing methodology and to cost actions which would affect implementation of SBSAP in a practical manner. Thus quantitative state wise targets/action points should be prepared in order to facilitate costing of the targets/actions in a short and long term. Thus it is also needed to fix a current and projected financial outlay for plan preparation and implementation of a 3-5 years action plan and a long term (15-20 year vision)
- Assessment of available resources for implementation of SBSAP in short and long term and development of a resource mobilization strategy including identification of feasible and innovative financial solutions and strategy to implement the same with relevant public and private stakeholders would be very important to ensure successful and participatory implementation of the plan at state and landscape/ecosystem level.
- For Every planned action it would also be important to indicate baseline, target and indicators of success and devise a monitoring and evaluation framework, time frame for monitoring and evaluation, responsible actors, voluntary and mandatory reporting framework etc.
- It is also suggested that to develop a state level implementation committee of SBSAP headed by the Chief Secretary and having representative members from relevant line departments, corporates, technical and research institutions, NGOs and experts.
- State should be the owner of the document and should play an important and guiding role even if technical support has been taken from other institutions.

ANNEXURE - I

STANDARD TEMPLATE

[Approximate Pages 80 + Annexures]

- Part A: Introduction and Overview**
- Part B: Biodiversity Profile, Strategies and Action Plan**
- Part C: Policies, Agencies and Resource Mobilization**
- Annexures**

Part A: Introduction and Overview

Chapter 1: Introduction [2pages]

- 1.1 Introduction and Rationale for State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP) (explanation to chapter 1.1)

***Explanatory note for section 1.1** This subsection of chapter 1 should include the need for making/revising the SBSAP, including its linkage with global and national priorities like the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Aichi Biodiversity Targets) National Biodiversity Action Plan (National Biodiversity Targets) & Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and SDG Targets, National Wildlife Action Plan, also showing its relevance and linkage with other relevant state level priorities and plans like tourism plan, state action plan on climate change, state agricultural plan etc.)*

- 1.2 scope

***Explanatory note for section 1.2:** scope should cover the range of Ecoregion and landscapes to be covered, stakeholders to be engaged, brief write up on points to be covered in all sections of SBSAP, including time frame for implementation of action plan in a short, medium and long term*

Chapter 2: Overview & Process Documentation [1.5 pages]

- 2.1 Vision (long term may be till 2050)

2.2 Objectives

2.3 Methodology

2.4 Process

(**Explanatory notes for section 2.4:** including process for mapping of priority areas for biodiversity conservation and management, mapping of key stakeholders, mapping of financial resource gap, mapping and screening of long list finance solutions (existing and innovative) and its prioritization, identification of technical capacities of institutions to implement the identified finance solutions, process for developing the M&E and reporting framework, process for formation of a SBSAP implementation committee and enlist list of members of the committee and process for validation of SBSAP and approval of final SBSAP by the State Government) . The process should involve data and analysis for each ecoregion and priority landscapes)

Chapter 3: State Profile, Drivers of Change and Gaps in Biodiversity Conservation (state, district, Ecoregion and landscape level -for priority landscapes)

3.1 State Profile [10 pages] state, district, ecoregion and landscape level for priority landscapes

3.1.1 General Profile

3.1.2 Physiological Features

3.1.3 Natural Resource Governance (this section should map and enlist responsible agencies for governance of natural resources at state, district and ecoregion level)

3.1.4 Biodiversity Profile including threatened species in different ecoregion and priority landscapes

3.2 Drivers of Change: Key factors impacting biodiversity [3 pages] state, district, Eco-regional and landscape level and landscape level for priority landscapes

3.2.1 Introduction

3.3.2 Direct Impact

3.3.3 Indirect Impact

3.3 Gaps in Conservation and Management of Biodiversity [2 pages] state, district, Eco-regional level

Chapter 4: Strategy and Action Plan (state level action plan should be ecoregions level and landscape level) which means there can be different chapters for each eco-region/landscape based on state priorities and within each ecoregion and landscape there may be subsections on –driver, threat, Pressure, priorities etc.. Priority and quantitative actions, resource gap for implementing actions stakeholders, long list of feasible finance solutions to fill the resource gap, technical capacities to implement actions and finance solutions). A table summarizing this can also be annexed for easy reference for each ecoregion/landscape)

4.1 Strategy & Action Plan for key ecoregions and priority landscapes.

Explanatory notes for section 4.1 This chapter should include specific strategies for short, medium and long term, quantitative targets, timeline, quantitative action points for short, medium and long term, responsible agencies, relevant programme and policies, etc, for each ecoregion and priority landscapes etc. A sample pf chapter outline given below based on discussions during the workshop held on 4-5 Nov 2019)

- Introduction on status and trend of ecoregion and priority landscape in the ecoregion.
- Threats/ Gaps: Drivers of Change, Indirect/Direct
- Quantitative action points and strategies to address gaps and threats in a phased manner (short, medium and long term) and also highlighting its alignment with Global (Aichi, SDG) and National Biodiversity Targets (NBT) and other relevant sectoral targets and plans at the eco-region and landscape level
- Institutional Structure along with list of all institutions with their defines roles and responsibilities for implementing action points
- List of all Acts, Policies, Legislations, programmes and schemes relevant to implement the action points at Eco regional and landscape level for priority landscapes

4.2: Resource Mobilization [5 pages]

- Assessment of available current and projected level of biodiversity expenditures in each action points at Eco regional and landscape level for priority landscapes, through biodiversity relevant Programmes/ Schemes and their finance (public/private/EAP etc.)

- Assessment of Finance Needs for biodiversity at Eco regional and landscape level for priority landscapes
- Assessment of resource gap and Resource Mobilization strategies at Eco regional and landscape level for priority landscapes including mapping, screening and prioritization of potential finance solution
- Framework for strengthening technical and institutional capacities of relevant finance actors (current and future)/responsible agencies to implement the finance solutions.
- Implementation of Resource Mobilization strategies at Eco regional and landscape level for priority landscapes

4.3 Strategy for Communication, Awareness and outreach for SBSAP implementation

Chapter 5: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework including development of Indicators (quantifiable, realistic and reportable SMART indicators) M& E framework should also include baseline and targets. Framework should be in a tabular format (ecoregion wise/ landscape wise)

The timeline of the SBSAP should be till 2030 (Aligning with the SDGs)

Constitution of core and sub SBSAP implementation committees is proposed. The CS or the FS to head the state level core committee.

Annexures

List of Flora and their threat status

List of Fauna and their threat status

List of Workshops with proceedings and photos

List of Peoples interacted during the SBSAP process

Global Aichi and National Biodiversity Targets

Sustainable Development Goals, Indicators and Targets

Contact details of the line departments

List of biodiversity relevant schemes/programmes of public and private sector, externally aided projects etc. in each eco-region.

More can be added