

# Capacity building for biodiversity and Impact Assessment

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## Needs for capacity building, support, advice, guidance

- ❑ Address the national priority of reducing biodiversity threats for strengthening conservation prospects
- ❑ Advocate EIA for changing 'conservation versus development' paradigm to 'conservation and development'
- ❑ Develop appropriate framework and methodologies for effectively integrating biodiversity concerns in EIA
- ❑ Develop robust indicators for monitoring project performance for successful integration of biodiversity threats in development planning
- ❑ Imbibe global thinking and experience for developing professional excellence in national and regional EIA initiatives



# Existing guidance on biodiversity and impact assessment

- ❑ **Global Conventions**  
*Convention on Biological Diversity*
  
- ❑ **Global Initiatives**  
*Biodiversity Support Programme of UNDP and UNEP*
  
- ❑ **Conceptual Framework for EIA proposed by International agencies**  
*IAIA and The Netherlands EIA Commission*
  
- ❑ **National legislations and policy documents**  
*EIA Legislations*  
*National Biodiversity Act (2002)*  
*National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016)*  
*National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan*
  
- ❑ **EIA Bibliography**



## Key 'players' or stakeholders

- National Planning Commission
- Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India
- Relevant Federal Ministries
- State Governments
- Wildlife Divisions of State Forest Departments
- Scientific organisations
- Project proponents
- Indigenous communities and local people
- EIA professionals
- Biodiversity experts
- International and national conservation agencies
- Environmental and human rights NGOs



# **Important sources of information and advice**



## **EIA training manuals**

- ❑ *UNEP's EIA training resource manual*
- ❑ *EIA training manual produced by British Council, Mumbai  
(compiled by EIA Unit, University of Wales)*
- ❑ *EIA manuals of other countries in the region*  
*Nepal*  
*Bangladesh*
- ❑ *National EIA manual*



## **Toolkits and practice guidelines**

- Biodiversity Assessment and Toolkit- The World Bank*
- Environmental Assessment Sourcebook and Updates - The World Bank*
- EA Guidelines, ADB, DANIDA*
- SEA Guidelines for Environment Assessment, Ministry of Housing, The Netherlands*
- Evaluation of Environmental Information for Planning Projects - a Good Practice Guide, Department of the Environment, HMSO, London, UK.*
- Monographs, books and technical papers*



# National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan

## Relevant sub-themes:

- Mining & biodiversity*
- EIA guidelines and biodiversity*
- Thermal Power & biodiversity*
- Pesticides/toxics and biodiversity*
- Remote sensing*
- Pastoral nomads and biodiversity*
- Tourism and biodiversity*
- Dams & biodiversity*
- Customary laws and biodiversity*
- Urban biodiversity*



# Environmental Information System (ENVIS)

## Objectives

- ❑ *To build up a repository and dissemination center in environmental science and engineering*
- ❑ *To gear up the modern technologies of acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information of environmental nature*
- ❑ *To support and promote research, development and innovation in environmental information technology.*
- ❑ *To promote, support and assist education and personnel training programme to enhance information processing*
- ❑ *To promote exchange of information amongst developing countries.*

**25 ENVIS centres with 85 nodes have been established**



## Key ENVIS centres for biodiversity and EIA related information

ENVIS Centre	Subject area	Url
Centre for Environmental Studies, Chennai	Biodegradation of Wastes and EIA	<a href="http://www.annauniv.edu/envis">http://www.annauniv.edu/envis</a>
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	Flora & Fauna Conservation	<a href="http://www.wii.gov.in/envis/">http://www.wii.gov.in/envis/</a>
Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.	Faunal diversity	<a href="http://www.enviszsi.org">http://www.enviszsi.org</a>
Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata	Faunal biodiversity	<a href="http://www.envisbsi.org">http://www.envisbsi.org</a>
Bombay Natural History Society	Avian ecology	<a href="http://www.envisbnhs.org">http://www.envisbnhs.org</a>
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	Conservation of biological diversity in Western Ghat	<a href="http://www.ces.iisc.ernet.in/hpg/envis/welcome.html">http://www.ces.iisc.ernet.in/hpg/envis/welcome.html</a>
Centre for Advanced Studies in Marine Biology,	Marine diversity	<a href="http://aucasmbenvis.org">http://aucasmbenvis.org</a>

# **Relevant initiatives and level of awareness and involvement**



## Development of learning resource material

- Training manuals
- EIA decision support systems
- Sector specific case studies
- Training modules and curriculum
- EIA guidelines



## **National Forest Commission**

*Set up in response to the recommendation of the Indian Board of Wildlife in 2002*

### ***Terms of Reference***

- Review and assess the existing policy and legal framework and their impact from ecological, economic, social and cultural viewpoint*
  - Make recommendations indicating specific policy options for achieving sustainable forest and wildlife management and ecology security*
  - Establish meaningful partnership and interface between forestry management and local communities*
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# World Bank assisted Environmental Impact Assessment Capacity Building Project

## Project objectives

- Improve process for environmental clearance of projects*
- Improve quality of EIA reports generated as part of the clearance procedure*
- Improve level of environmental compliance with conditions prescribed in the environmental clearance and other regulatory requirements*



## Project components

- A. Review of environmental clearance process in India to identify bottlenecks for a more effective EIA process*
- B. Develop a National Guidance Manual on EIA practice for enhancing the quality of Indian EIAs*
- C. Examine the role and feasibility of establishing national level environmental data centre(s)*
- D. Availability of standard data and information relating to the EC process and dissemination thereof to stakeholders (Web Management).*
- E. Training needs and institutional strengthening for a more effective EC process*



## Project outputs

- The draft final report on review of EIA process is under consideration*
- The draft manual and 6 sector-specific manuals are under review by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India*
- Environmental Information Centre has been established*



# Environmental Information Centre (EIC)

An Initiative of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India

## Objectives

*Provide high quality environmental information in a timely and cost-effective manner to improve the environmental studies and decision-making processes*

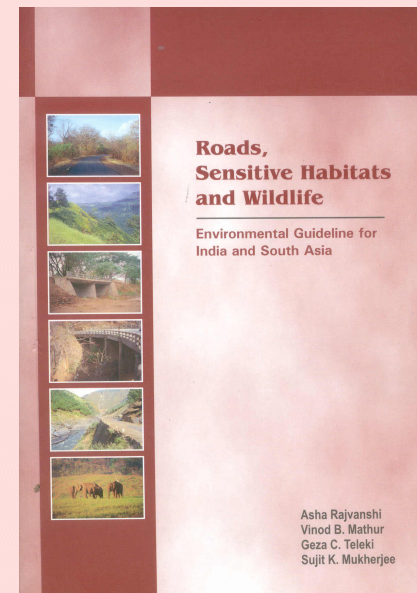
## Activities

- EIC collects data from reliable data providers*
- Checks the validity of the data*
- Adds value to the data*
- Stores the data in GIS format*
- Disseminates the data to users in required format*



# Development of best practice guide for sectoral development projects

Practice guidelines for roads – available



Guidelines for other sectors – to be initiated



# Possibilities and recommended areas of project involvement

## Identification of training needs at a regional level

*Development of training modules and curriculum*

*Creation of a pool of expertise*

## Development of learning resource material

*Training manuals*

*EIA Software*

*Sector specific case studies from South Asia*

*Web based learning modules to promote distance education*

## Collaborate with EIA professionals for newer initiatives of capacity building

*Jointly organize and support regional training programmes*

*Advise, assist and collaborate in regional EIA initiatives*

