



# INDIA, NATURALLY!

INDIA'S LIVING BIODIVERSITY –  
A PEOPLE'S RESOURCE  
FOURTH EDITION

**INDIA, NATURALLY!**

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A PEOPLE'S RESOURCE**

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**Celebrating Champions of Biodiversity**

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The illustrious jury has offered tireless contributions in reviewing and recognizing the cases. The jury members consisted of experts from a variety of related fields of conservation management and different sectors of life, who brought their specific inputs into the finalisation of the 2020-2021 India Biodiversity Awards process.

Dr. Erach Bharucha, Chair of the Jury contributed substantially to this publication by developing various chapters including the case studies. Valuable contributions in terms of field validation and documentation of the cases have been received from the UNDP, MoEFCC and NBA staff, along with the interns under the MoEFCC-NBA-UNDP Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme (BSIP).

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This has been an invaluable exercise driven by grit and determination of all the people involved for putting immense efforts towards implementation of the India Biodiversity Awards process unhindered by the stormy and highly restrictive COVID-19 pandemic.

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और  
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भूपेन्द्र यादव  
BHUPENDER YADAV



### MESSAGE

Conservation of biodiversity and living in harmony with nature is deeply ingrained in India's culture and ethos, reflected in our traditional lifestyles and knowledge systems. Our ancient wisdom, combined with modern scientific advancements, offer solutions not only for India but for the entire world to live in harmony with nature.

It gives me immense pleasure to say that the fourth edition of India Naturally publication very aptly narrates the stories of winners of the India Biodiversity Awards. These conservation stalwarts are an inspiration for all of us and demonstrate how all sections of the society can play a role in conserving our precious biodiversity. As a way forward, we must consider documenting the impact of the Awards on their further endeavours.

I am confident that this publication will play an important role in inspiring individuals, communities, government agencies and line departments, academic and research institutions and private sector – all the stakeholders who need to come together to work for a sustainable future.

The best practices documented in this publication highlight the value of collective action. I am positive that they will encourage everyone to come forward and contribute towards conserving our natural heritage.

I would like to congratulate the officials of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and National Biodiversity Authority on the continued success of the awards and also appreciate the partnership with UNDP in supporting this process and bringing out this publication.

(Bhupender Yadav)

Date: 16.06.2022

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FOREWORD

India has made concerted, co-ordinated and consistent efforts in the area of biodiversity conservation. One of the key steps has been the creation of a robust institutional mechanism to meet the commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, comprising the National Biodiversity Authority at national level, State Biodiversity Boards at sub-national level and Biodiversity Management Committees at local level.

A number of stakeholders have contributed through innovative measures and efforts to conserve the country's bioresources. According recognition to the initiatives being taken by individuals, communities, development organizations and the private sector, serves as an incentive to continue these exceptional efforts.

The 'India Naturally' publication provides a brief glimpse into impactful stories of the winners of the India Biodiversity Awards from across the country. These stories highlight how participation of a diverse range of stakeholders can ensure protection as well as sustainable use and management of biological resources.

The 'private sector plays a key role as many products depend on bioresources. Corporate Social Responsibility can be utilized towards conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, specifically for training and capacity building of communities and grassroot-level institutions.

I congratulate the National Biodiversity Authority and the United Nations Development Programme for leading this initiative and for bringing out the stories of conservation champions from all across the country.

I am confident that this publication will inspire many more individuals and organizations to come forward and take proactive measures for conserving and preserving India's rich biological heritage.

[ Leena Nandan ]

New Delhi, June 15, 2022



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National Biodiversity Authority  
भारत सरकार  
Government of India



## FOREWORD




Our lives, livelihoods and economy are all dependent upon biological resources and the ecosystem services they provide. Concerted efforts by the communities and organisations towards conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources is extremely important to tackle the immense pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

India has a time immemorial tradition of conservation which is reflected in the exceptional efforts of individuals as well as institutions to protect our biodiversity and ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

I am pleased to say that the India Biodiversity Awards, a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), have been successful in recognizing such efforts.

The India Naturally publication documents select outstanding stories of biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, access and benefit sharing and biodiversity governance, recognized through the India Biodiversity Awards. I am confident that this publication will be found useful by practitioners, policymakers, and environment enthusiasts from all over the world.

I congratulate the team at the MoEFCC, NBA and UNDP in developing this publication. We will continue to identify and recognize such commendable efforts towards conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity from all corners of India.

  
Dr. V. B. Mathur  
Chairperson

May, 2022  
Chennai

## PREFACE



The air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat all come from biodiversity. It is essential for our health and wellbeing. We derive benefits from biodiversity at all levels – as individuals, societies, industries and governments. Therefore, we also need action at all levels to protect it.

India is home to over eight percent of the world's total plant and animal species. It has four of the 36 global biodiversity hotspots – natural ecosystems that host many important species in a relatively small geographical area. Thus, India has a very important role to play in securing global biodiversity.

The India Biodiversity Awards recognize the champions of biodiversity conservation across local communities, governments, civil society organizations and the private sector. The stories of the award winners documented in this publication demonstrate solutions that can ensure sustainable co-existence between humans and nature.

The United Nations Development Programme has been a proud partner to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and the National Biodiversity Authority for the India Biodiversity Awards since its 1st edition in 2012.

We are committed to working with the government and all other stakeholders towards achieving the shared vision of 'living in harmony with nature'.

**Shoko Noda**  
Resident Representative  
United Nations Development Programme

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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ABS</b>	Access and Benefit Sharing	<b>KRAPAVIS</b>	Krishi Avam Paristhitiki Vikas Sansthan
<b>BD</b>	Biological Diversity	<b>MFP</b>	Minor Forest Produce
<b>BMC</b>	Biodiversity Management Committee	<b>MoEFCC</b>	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
<b>CAMPA</b>	Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority	<b>NBA</b>	National Biodiversity Authority
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity	<b>NbS</b>	Nature-based Solutions
<b>CBOs</b>	Community-Based Organisations	<b>NBT</b>	National Biodiversity Target
<b>CCA</b>	Community Conserved Area	<b>NERIST</b>	North-Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology
<b>CEE</b>	Centre for Environment Education	<b>NTFP</b>	Non-Timber Forest Produce
<b>CoP</b>	Conference of Parties	<b>OECMs</b>	Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures
<b>DEST-HP</b>	Department of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Himachal Pradesh	<b>PBR</b>	Peoples' Biodiversity Register
<b>EBA</b>	Endemic Bird Area	<b>RARS</b>	Regional Agricultural Research Station
<b>EDC</b>	Eco-Development Committee	<b>RET</b>	Rare Endangered Threatened
<b>GBF</b>	Global Biodiversity Framework	<b>RFO</b>	Range Forest Officer
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>SHGs</b>	Self Help groups
<b>GOMBRT</b>	Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Trust	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>IBA</b>	India Biodiversity Awards	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature	<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>JFMCs</b>	Joint Forest Management Committees	<b>WASSAN</b>	Watershed Support Services and Activities Network
<b>KAU</b>	Kerala Agriculture University	<b>WEPs</b>	Wild Edible Plants
<b>KNCTS</b>	Khonoma Nature Conservation and Tragopan Sanctuary	<b>WII</b>	Wildlife Institute of India
		<b>WWF</b>	World Wide Fund for Nature

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