

Over view of Bank's work

On Biodiversity In South Asia

Historical perspective

- Direct investment in biodiversity in SAR commenced over a decade ago
- Largely as a part of Bank Forestry Projects
 - West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh in India
 - Approx. 15% of project cost towards biodiversity conservation
 - Bangladesh Forestry Project
- These first generation biodiversity investments were "PA" focused



Elements of first generation biodiversity investments

- Improving PA Management (infra structure development, habitat improvement, boundary survey and protection)
- Improving knowledge and capacity (research, awareness and training)
- Village investments for conservation
- Preparation of State level biodiversity action plans (Kerala, UP, Uttaranchal and AP)



Second generation investments in biodiversity conservation

- Efforts to link conservation of PAs with livelihoods of adjacent communities
 - Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (CEPF recognized wholly irreplaceable site)
 - Great Himalayan National Park as part of Forestry Research, Education and Extension Project (FREEP)
- Dual Objectives :
 - Strengthen PA management
 - Provide viable alternative livelihoods and resources to replace unsustainable dependency



Further developments in biodiversity conservation

- GEF/IDA India Ecodevelopment Project (US\$ 48M)
 - First national project focusing on exclusively biodiversity conservation
 - 7 biodiversity rich PA sites (Periyar, Buxa, Nagarahole, Pench, Gir, Palamau and Ranathambore)
 - greater focus on :
 - * community participation in PA Management
 - * Development of local level sustainable institutions
 - * involvement of diverse stakeholders (political, commercial, professional, resource user groups, poachers, tourism etc.)
 - * Women's participation (Self help groups)
 - * Communication and awareness generation
 - * Participatory monitoring of reciprocal commitments
 - * Long term financial sustainability of community investments
 - * Ensuring enabling Government orders
 - attempt to cover all villages within 2 Km radius around the PAs



Further developments in biodiversity conservation

- Pakistan GEF protected Area Management Project
- Sri Lanka GEF/ADB/World Bank wildlife conservation and PA management project
- Sri Lanka GEF conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants project
- Bhutan GEF Conservation Trust Fund
- Bhutan Sustainable Land Management Project (under preparation)
- Regional Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (under preparation)



Conservation beyond PAs

- India- GEF/IDA Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project- BCRLIP (under preparation)
 - Landscape approach to conservation (one or more PAs nestled within larger landscapes)
 - Moving beyond wildlife sector to involve other sector agencies
 - Building partnerships with private and public entities
 - Covering six biogeographically representative landscapes



Conservation beyond PAs (contd.)

- BCRLIP covers landscapes in two CEPF hotspots (N.E. India and Western Ghats)
- BCRLIP landscape site in Western Ghats covers entire Periyar-Agasthyamalai CEPF-WG corridor
- BCRLIP will support conservation review of Periyar-Agasthyamalai corridor