



Capacity Building Workshop on Biodiversity Management Committees and People's Biodiversity Registers

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Capacity Building Workshop on Biodiversity Management
Committees and People's Biodiversity Registers

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(Bombay Natural History Society)

November, 2014

CMPA Technical Report Series

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List of Acronyms

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
BDA	Biological Diversity Act
BHS	Biodiversity Heritage Site
BMC	Biodiversity Management Committees
BNHS	Bombay Natural History Society
CCA	Community Conserved Area
CMPA	Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
EPA	Environmental Protection Act
ESA	Ecologically Sensitive Areas
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
MSBB	Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board
PA	Protected Area
PBR	People's Biodiversity Registers
SBD	State Biodiversity Board
SNM	Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra
TOR	Terms of Reference

Chapter 1

Introduction

Setting up of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) and preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) is considered a key approach to the ongoing Project Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas (CMPA) in the Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra, India. A one day workshop on capacity building of project partners for the BMC and PBR process was organized on 8 August, 2014, at Gogate Jogalekar College, Ratnagiri. Twenty-four participants attended the workshop, including the Sarpanch of Ansure, representatives from Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra (SNM), Srushtidnyan, GIZ CMPA Project, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board and the Forest Department Ansure, Ratnagiri. (The detailed programme is available in Annexure 1 and the list of participants in Annexure 2).

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Subhash Deo, Principal, Gogate Jogalekar College, who stressed upon the need to establish community-managed Protected Areas (PAs) in the Konkan region of Maharashtra. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Deepak

Apte, Chief Operating Officer, BNHS, on the conservation work being done along the Konkan coast, including mangroves, coastal plateaus and marine habitat. Dr. Rahul Mungikar from Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB) addressed the audience for the remainder of the workshop, bringing in his extensive knowledge and understanding of the Biodiversity Act, local sustainable traditions and the ways in which all stakeholders can contribute towards conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity. Ms. Supriya Jhunjhunwala concluded the workshop with a short introduction to the CMPA project, a joint project between the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, and GIZ India.

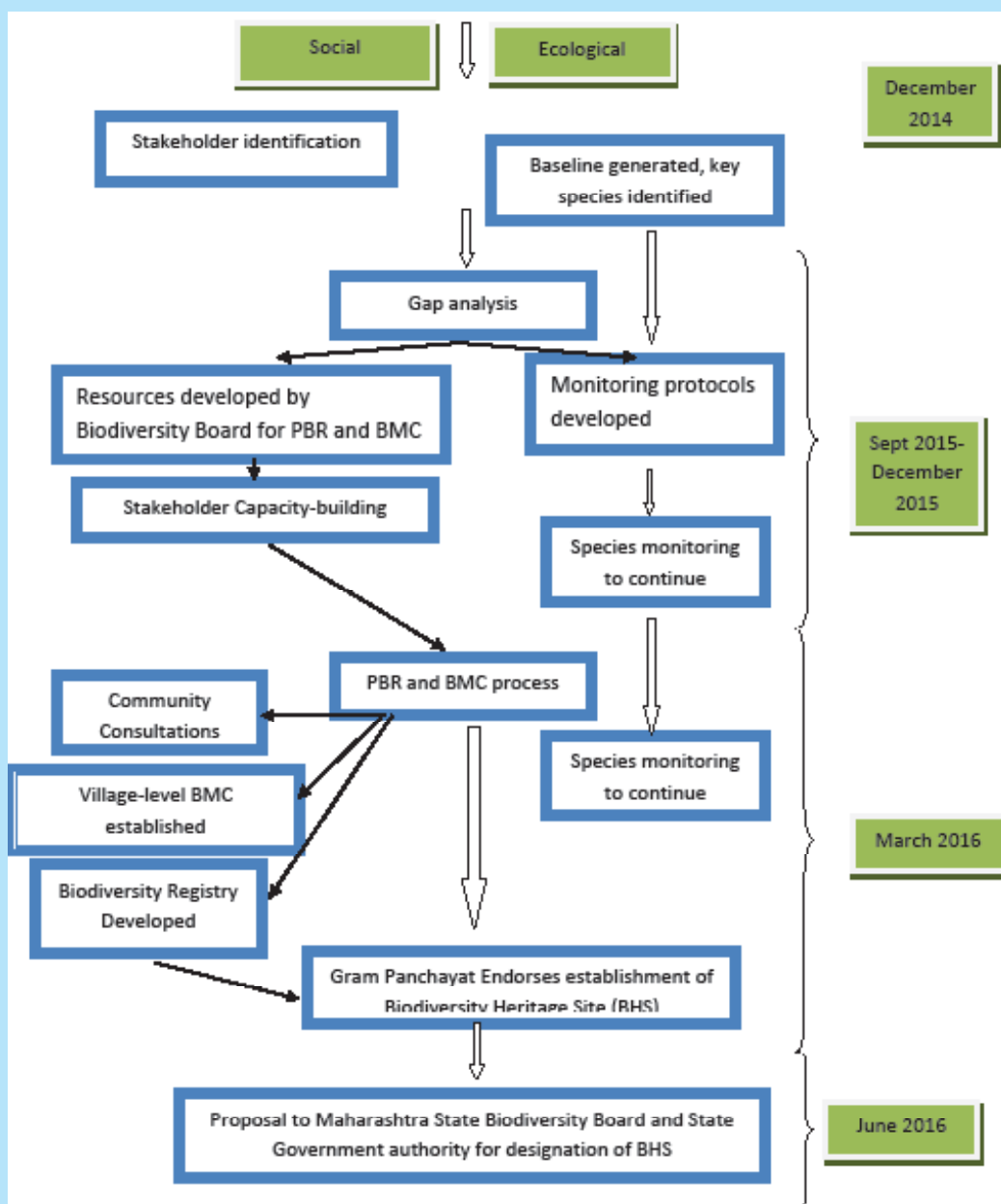
Discussions

The functions and rules as defined in the Maharashtra State Biological Diversity Rules, 2008, mandate that the process of establishing PBRs and BMCs is to be undertaken jointly by the Forest Department, the State Biodiversity Board (SBD) and the Collector's Office in Ratnagiri. Dr. Mungikar from SBD agreed to undertake a similar training, essential to starting the PBR

and BMC process at the Ansure Panchayat. The establishment of PBR and BMC process can start in the next phase of the work and could take approximately 6-12 months, depending on the local community's response. BNHS could offer a helping hand as a facilitator to the process. Dr. Mungikar distributed to all participants, English and Marathi copies of various documents, namely the Maharashtra State Biological Diversity Rules, 2008 along with PBR note book, field research

guidelines, the BMC administrative structure, formats for documenting biodiversity and for data submission, etc. The process of establishment of PBR is clearly defined in the Biodiversity Act. A summary of the same is produced in Table 1. Extensive consultations with the community along with targeted capacity building is a precondition to reaching a broad consensus (as expressed by local leaders and gram panchayat representatives) to establish BMC and PBR.

Table 1
Process for PBR and BMC under Biodiversity Act



Possible Options for Protection Regimes for Ansure Creek

The establishment of PBR and BMC under the Biodiversity Act appears the most relevant and appropriate for Ansure, given their participatory approach. It is also the most achievable given the project time frame. The table below elaborates the salient features for the appropriate protected area regimes that could be considered for Ansure Creek.

Table 2
Salient features of appropriate regimes to be considered for Ansure Creek

Act	Provision/s	Strengths	Weaknesses	Application for Ansure
Environmental Protection Act, (EPA 1986)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystems and landscapes/seascapes can be notified as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA). Restricts certain identified commercial, industrial and development activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is extremely open in the way it is notified, the committee that would be set-up and the manner in which it would be managed. Anyone can initiate the proposal. The committee, once formed, is completely independent to manage itself, frame its own rules and regulations and monitor its activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities know little about this Act and how it can be used. There are a number of ESA's in the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all probability, one of the options for Ansure. The panchayat members will have to initiate the proposal and send it to the MoEFCC through state forest dept justifying why it is important to declare this an ESA. MoEFCC will only accept it if the local government has no objection to its declaration The guidelines for ESA are clearly stipulated in EPA, 1986
Biological Diversity Act, (BDA 2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a three tier structure Mandates creation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) at the village level. BMCs are expected to manage, protect and record local biological diversity. The National Biodiversity Authority and the State Biodiversity Boards established under the Act are required to consult the local BMCs while taking decisions related to the use of biological resources and knowledge associated with such resources. Provides for the declaration of areas being conserved for agricultural or wildlife biodiversity as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Heritage Sites could be used to provide legal backing to community conserved areas (CCAs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Biodiversity Rules 2004 fail to empower BMC to manage, use and conserve natural ecosystems. Their primary function is limited to recording local knowledge, and to helping the state and national level boards to grant permission for the use of biological resources and knowledge associated with it, in their respective areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Heritage Site could be a good option The process for the BMC, PBR is clearly defined in the BDA, 2002.

ANNEXURES

**Annexure 1
Programme Agenda
Capacity Building of project partners for the BMC and PBR process
8 August 2014
New Conference Hall
Gogate Joglekar College, Ratnagiri**

Welcome and Inauguration	10:00-10:15 am	Dr. Deepak Apte Dr. Deo, Principal GJ College
Mangroves in Konkan Region	10:20-10:40 am	Dr. Deepak Apte
Tea Break	10:50-11:00 am	
Session I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Background to the Biological Diversity Act ● Its importance to the local communities ● Opportunities offered by the Biodiversity Act to the communities. For eg. Biodiversity Heritage Sites, tourism, Access and Benefit Sharing etc. ● Implementation structure of the Act ● Maharashtra Rules and BMC structure ● Process of BMC formations Questions and Answers	11:00-1:00 pm	Dr. Rahul Mungikar, Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board
● Lunch Break	1:00-2:00 pm	
Session II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is biodiversity & the need to record it ● Process for recording Biodiversity ● Concept of Nagoya Protocol - Access & Benefit Sharing mechanism ● Concept of PBR ● How it differs from books on flora & fauna ● Processes for recording PBR; data sourcing; formats to be followed, submission of the completed PBRs ● Questions & Answers 	2:00-4:00 pm	Dr. Rahul Mungikar, Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board
Introduction to MoEFCC-GIZ Programme	4:00-4:20	Ms. Supriya Jhunjhunwala
Vote of Thanks	4:20-4:40pm	

Annexure 2
List of Participants

	Name	Organisation	Email address	Phone
1	Mr. Mohan Upadhye	SNM	mohanupadhye05@gmail.com	8975622778
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20	Dr. Deepak Apte	BNHS	spiderconch@gmail.com	

About the study

This is a report of a one-day workshop on *capacity building of project partners for the biodiversity management committees and peoples biodiversity registers* process for Ansure Creek, Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra.

The CMPA Project

The project 'Conservation and Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas' (CMPA) is a project of the Indo-German technical cooperation. It is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of BMUB.

Established to support the achievement of the Aichi targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Project's overall goal is to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in selected areas along the coast of India. Taking into consideration the economic importance of the coastal zone for large segments of the population, the Project's approach is people-centered, thus ensuring the support for conservation by those depending on coastal ecosystems.

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