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**ADVOCACY
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Indian Bird Conservation Network



Edited by
Asad R. Rahmani, Director, BNHS

Editorial Board
J. C. Daniel, Hon. Secretary, BNHS
Prashant Mahajan, Asst. Director
(IBA & Education)

Compiled, Layout and Designed by
Gopi Naidu and Abhijit Malekar

Contributions should be sent to
Editors, MISTNET, IBA-IBCN
Bombay Natural History Society
Hornbill House, S. B. Singh Road
Mumbai-400 001, INDIA
Tel: +91 22 22821811
Fax: +91 22 22837615
Email: ibabnhs@vsnl.net



Bombay Natural History Society

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BirdLife International
Wellbrook Court, Girton Road
Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK
Email: birdlife@birdlife.org.uk
Web: www.birdlife.org



www.rspb.org.uk

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White-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx major*
by Clement Francis M

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Advocacy: An Effective Tool of Conservation

Dialogue and debate with your opponent is an integral part of a democracy and a civilized society. The art of advocacy is to win your opponent to your side through discussions, facts and correct information. The political equivalent of advocacy is the term 'lobbying' (particularly used in USA), and the bureaucratic equivalent of advocacy is the term 'diplomacy'. Diplomacy may involve other nuances, but advocacy involves some diplomacy. In India we generally do not use the term lobbying as it has negative connotation, perhaps with its association with the 'great' Uncle Sam. The term lobbying is also associated with cut-throat multinational companies, looking for hefty profits, by hook or crook. It also involves sleaze and corruption, so in the noble and gentle world of conservation, let us not use the term 'lobbying'. Let us stick to the term advocacy.

Conservation basically means maintaining *status quo* of the land and ecosystems, where different species can thrive as naturally as they have been doing for thousands or millions of years. Sometimes it also means bringing back *status quo* (habitat restoration). Whether we accept it or not, it means that we conservationists are all the time fighting against the tide of rapid development. We are, therefore, against a dam coming up in a forest, a canal going through a grassland, an establishment of a army unit in an ecologically sensitive alpine meadow, a factory polluting a river or a government *babu* allowing a drug/chemical without looking at its side effects. Our first job is to convince the government/people that we are *not* against development. Our second job is to convince the dam builder that maintaining the forest is much more useful for people, wildlife and ecological security of the country than building an ill-conceived dam. The hardest part of advocacy is to find alternative solutions to people's needs. Opposing a dam or a road is one thing, finding an alternative to it is a great challenge. Admittedly, conservationists may not have an alternative solution but we can sit with the dam proponents and find a solution which is less damaging to environment.

We conservationists are very passionate people. Perhaps that is the reason why we are conservationists! But, passion alone will not save wildlife. We have to act decisively and correctly, with loads of information and convincing arguments. If we do not speak for wildlife, who will? But, most of the time we talk to each other - convincing the convinced is not going to save environment. We have to talk with those decision makers whose activities are impacting the environment, directly or indirectly, knowingly or unknowingly. Giving lecture on wildlife in a school is very energizing, but did it help in stop poaching or pollution of a river? Sometimes it is much more effective to bring a village *pradhan* to your side – he can help in stop poaching by his community. Similarly, meeting the top administrator of the district could help in stop pollution.

Sending desperate emails to e-groups about an encroachment in a wetland is considered as great conservation achievement by some arm-chair conservationists, but are these email exchanges read by the encroachers or the government *babus* who have allowed destruction of a wetland in the first place? In such cases, meeting the locals and officials and convincing them that the wetland or grassland is useful for people and for biodiversity, informing them

about the environmental laws, showing them the connection between nature and human welfare, and taking help of media, will be much more effective than exchanging inane emails.

Decision making process is very long in government, but sometimes reversal of the decision is much longer and tedious. We conservationists come to the stage when a decision has already being made, lot of money has changed (or likely to change) hands, political shenanigans have taken place, locals have either been bought over or forced into silence. Can something be done at this stage to stop destructive development or make it less destructive? Difficult, but perhaps not impossible if we have the correct information. Here, the role of advocacy comes into play.

Advocacy also involves following the right course of action, at the right time, through the right person(s). Talking to the wrong person is not going to make a difference. For example, if decision to do plantation in a natural grassland is taken by the Conservator of Forests (CF), talking to a Division Forest Officer or the Ranger is not going to make a difference. They have been given a target by their boss, which they have to follow. They will not be convinced that a particular grassland is important for Lesser Florican – for them achieving the target is what matters, not the display ground of a male Florican. In such cases, discussion with CF could save florican habitat.

Sometimes we can get involved during the preparation of a Working Plan, so we could prevent plantation in a grassland. Similarly, decisions to establish a sanctuary or expand an existing one, is taken by the State Wildlife Board. First and foremost, we have to convince the local people about the value of establishing a protected area, and/or initiating community-based conservation. In such cases, advocacy starts at a village level. Once the locals are supportive, then through the Board members, we have to bring our issue in the Board meeting agenda, and get a positive resolution passed. Once this is done, things may become easy. If the Forest Minister, who generally chairs State Wildlife Board meetings, is convinced that local people are supportive of a sanctuary or a certain conservation action, he will see that it is done. But what is generally happening at present is that during seminars or conferences, papers are read, resolutions are passed based on scientific research, and then forgotten. Not many scientists/conservationists take research findings to the logical end. Here, the role of advocacy starts.

In this special issue of *Mistnet*, we have given some directions how to do advocacy for effective conservation actions. I hope partners of IBCN, particularly the state coordinators, will find it useful. We also want to learn through your experience so share it with us in the pages of *Mistnet*.

We must always keep in mind that in a democracy and this fast-changing world, we have to work with people and with government, and we have to get our facts right. Good data and innovative alternate solutions can change even skeptics. One of the pillars of good advocacy is science – emotions convince very few people and bore most of them.

Asad R. Rahmani

IBA ADVOCACY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Introduction



Anand C. Sekar
Advocacy officer,
IBA-IBCN
Email: advocacy.officer_iba@yahoo.com

There are 466 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in India. These encompass the best habitats for not just birds, but other wildlife as well. IBAs are also important to people. Many communities depend on these IBAs to meet subsistence needs on a daily basis. Fuel wood, small timber, minor forest produce, grazing, fishing and water requirements of communities are met through these key biodiversity areas. Many IBAs are also commercially valuable. They may contain valuable natural resources like minerals and fossil fuels, or they might have the potential to generate hydroelectric power. With the rapid spread of urbanisation, IBAs (especially those in the vicinity of urban areas) have acquired high commercial worth in terms of land value alone. The tremendous pressure on bird habitats, from rapid economic development and population growth, presents the greatest challenge to bird conservation in India.

India has one of the most comprehensive wildlife legislation and well developed Protected Area Network (PAN). However, there is a need to ensure that wildlife laws are enforced and the enforcement agencies have the necessary capacity. The establishment of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and the active interventions of Central Empowered Committee of the Supreme Court are two welcome developments in this direction. However, there is a disturbing trend towards diluting existing legislation in the face of pressure from development. Weak legislation, compounded by ineffective enforcement, can have disastrous consequences for India's bird diversity. Thus, there is a need to influence policy and to ensure that conservation of wildlife habitats gets the priority it deserves. To influence policy, information based on sound scientific principles through diligent field and desk based research is indispensable. In addition to this, it is equally important to ensure that this information is available to key decision makers at the right time. The IBA Advocacy Strategy aims to bridge the gap between research and policy and facilitate informed decision making.

In order to accomplish this, the IBA Advocacy Strategy aims to follow a four-pronged approach. First, the emphasis will initially be on raising the profile of the IBA programme in India. Targets will be briefed on the IBA concept and distribution of IBAs in the country. The aim is to get IBAs recognised as sites of vital importance for conservation of Indian birds and adopted within the existing management framework. Second, the strategy would attempt to incorporate appropriate 'unprotected' IBAs into the PAN. This would offer a higher level of legal and site level protection where required. Third, responding to threats to IBAs will also form a part of the strategy. This could involve providing timely information, participating in consultations and appealing against unfavourable decisions concerning IBAs. It would involve identification of potential threats, regular monitoring and excellent communication within the Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN). Fourth, the capacity of the IBCN for advocacy work will be strengthened. This is crucial to achieving advocacy objectives, especially at the State and local levels in a country with 466 IBAs. This in turn, would result in IBAs being incorporated into the environment decision making process at all levels.

RAISING THE IBA PROFILE

Targeting decision makers

Any advocacy strategy involves identifying priorities and utilising resources effectively. Although it would be ideal to reach as wide an audience as possible, it is often far more feasible and effective to target key decision makers. These key individuals and groups, in various capacities, have the authority and ability to make decisions that would affect the status of IBAs. These key people can be classified into the following categories;

a) **Ministers holding relevant portfolios at the Central and State levels**

As elected representatives of the people, politicians are authorised to make decisions relating to environment and wildlife. Thus, there is a need to engage with politicians and assist them in making informed and balanced decisions.

Key targets

- Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Mines and Minerals
- Ministry of Power
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs

b) **Officials of the Forest Department**

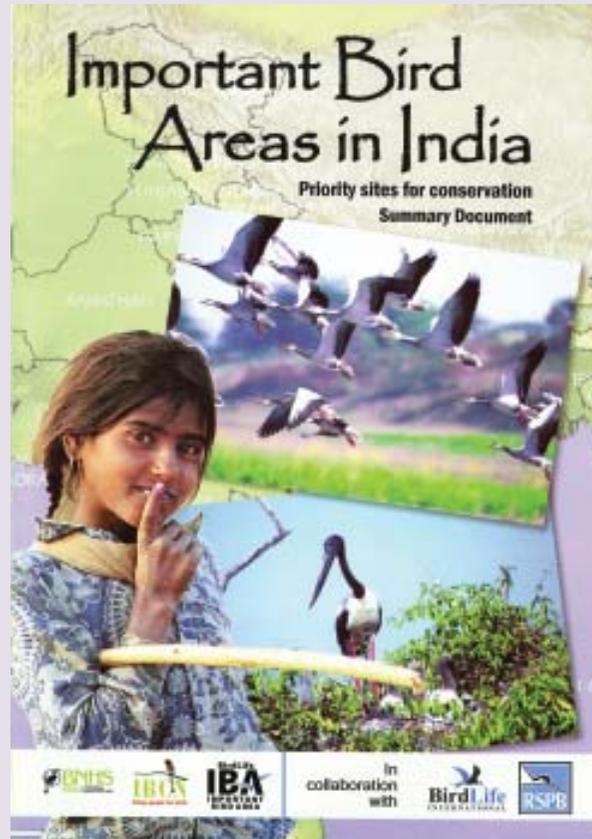
The Forest Department is responsible for the management of the Protected Area Network (PAN) and other forest categories in the country. They also enforce forest and wildlife laws and are consulted on all forest related issues. With the right inputs and support, they can be valuable allies in safeguarding the 267 IBAs within the PAN.

Key targets

- Director of Wildlife Preservation
- Inspector General of Forests
- Forest Secretaries
- Principle Chief Conservators of Forests (All states)
- Chief Wildlife Wardens
- District Forest Officers in relevant IBAs

c) **Bureaucrats on relevant boards and committees**

They are members of the Civil Service, who have experience in areas relevant to forests and wildlife. These areas can range from tourism to hydro-electric projects. They are seldom stakeholders and are thus relatively independent and open to information.



Publications popularise IBAs and encourage a wider ownership of the IBA programme

Key Targets

- Expert Committees for EIA clearances
- Regional Officers of the MoEF (Does actual EIA site visits)
- Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)

d) **Scientists and academics on important boards and committees**

They serve as expert consultants to the Government providing technical inputs when required. As members of various boards and committees, they also influence outcomes on forest related issues.

Key targets

- National Biodiversity Authority
- National and State Wildlife Boards
- Expert Committees for environmental and forest clearances

e) **Judiciary and judicial bodies**

The judiciary has taken an active interest in forest related issues over the past decade. The specially constituted Central Empowered Committee to regulate

MONITORING AND INTERVENTION



Pic: IBCN Photo Library

Participating and contributing to the environment decision making process ensures enduring solutions (pic taken during the IBCN Corbett Workshop)

transfer of forest land is a testimony to this. It is essential that the judiciary takes IBAs into consideration in all rulings related to wildlife and environment.

Key targets

- Central Empowered Committee (CEC)
- National Environment Appellate Authority (NEAA)

Getting IBCN members into key boards and committees

Several boards and committees have been constituted by the Government to facilitate decision making on forest and wildlife issues. Besides representatives from the Government, these boards also comprise of 'non-official' members. These members are nominated on the basis of their knowledge, interest and experience in relevant areas. The IBA advocacy strategy aims to push for the inclusion of IBCN partners (particularly State coordinators), as 'non-official' members into these bodies at the Central, State and local levels. This would ensure a proactive approach to IBA conservation by incorporating them into the decision making process.

Key targets

- National and State Wildlife Boards
- Advisory Committees of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Conservation reserves
- National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards
- Expert Committees for wildlife taxa
- Honorary Wildlife Wardens

Building a network of allies

Building a network of allies outside the IBCN is an important part of the advocacy strategy. Besides adding credibility to campaigns, they help present a united front on specific issues. Some partner NGOs have greater expertise and experience in conservation advocacy (e.g., Kalpavriksh), and can therefore contribute significantly to the IBCN's own strategic direction. There is a need to look at building alliances beyond the 'green ghetto' of environmental organisations. Strategic partnerships with other diverse groups such as corporates, small businesses, development and social NGOs, armed forces, etc. can be very productive. These 'unusual' partnerships provide a more holistic and consensual front, as they represent a wider range of stakeholders. Working closely with

allies also helps avoid 'reinventing the wheel'. The presence of allies working on a specific issue enables the IBCN to focus its limited resources on other important but overlooked areas. The IBCN can also benefit from radical conservation approaches of partners that it may not subscribe to itself (such as legal action).

Producing IBCN material

The IBA advocacy strategy will involve working closely with the IBA secretariat and IBCN to bring out relevant promotional material to raise the IBA profile in the country. The material would clearly elucidate the IBA concept and be targeted at a wide range of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds. An 'information pack' that would contain a summary of the IBA work in India will be brought out, to help targets make informed decisions. Taking into consideration the size of the country and the decentralized approach of the IBCN, state specific IBA pamphlets will also be published. These pamphlets will explain the IBCN partnership and contain a list of state-specific IBAs and threatened avifauna. The pamphlets will be targeted at NGOs, State Forest Departments, State Administration, IBCN partners and Site Support Groups. Besides providing information on IBAs, the IBA publications will also serve as a tool to increase the IBCN membership.

Attending key meetings in the country and abroad

The advocacy officer will attend key meetings to promote IBA conservation. The aim is to constructively contribute, by providing necessary inputs in areas of expertise. These meetings could also serve to build a network of useful contacts of resources persons to further the goals of the IBA programme in India.

IDENTIFYING THREATS

Prioritising IBAs

While all IBAs are important for maintaining the integrity of bird habitat networks, there is a need to prioritise IBAs for conservation action. This would help address immediate threats and also ensure effective use of limited resources. The process will take into account conservation importance, protection status, threat levels and urgency to prioritise IBAs for advocacy action. The 'Early Threat Detection Protocol' (see Fig 1) shall play a vital role in this.

Some priority categories

- IBAs outside the PAN
- IBAs threatened by development projects
- IBAs hosting critically endangered species

Early Threat Detection Protocol

Timing of interventions is crucial for the success of any advocacy strategy. Access to information and space for participating in environmental decision making is limited and subject to a strict time frame. Failure to intervene at the right stage may result in a petition being rejected on technical grounds, or allow a threat to escalate beyond

recovery. It is therefore imperative to have a protocol in place to identify threats as early as possible, which would then set in motion subsequent advocacy actions. This protocol demands vigilant Site Support Groups and IBCN partners, prompt communication of information and timely intervention by IBCN and/or IBA Secretariat.

Attending court hearings

There are several stakeholders in Indian forests and wildlife and they often have overlapping concerns and interests. Many of these stakeholders utilise litigation as a tool to achieve their objectives. Court hearings can thus serve as a valuable source of information on threats to IBAs. They also help keep up to date with landmark cases pertaining to the environment

Monitoring environment and forest clearances

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) is required to publish all forest and environment clearances granted on its website (www.envfor.nic.in). Monitoring the website will ensure that the IBCN is abreast with latest developments regarding clearances and can take appropriate action.



Pic: Asad R. Rahmani

Illegal and unsustainable projects can irreversibly damage pristine bird habitat

MONITORING AND INTERVENTION

Govt. and industry official notifications

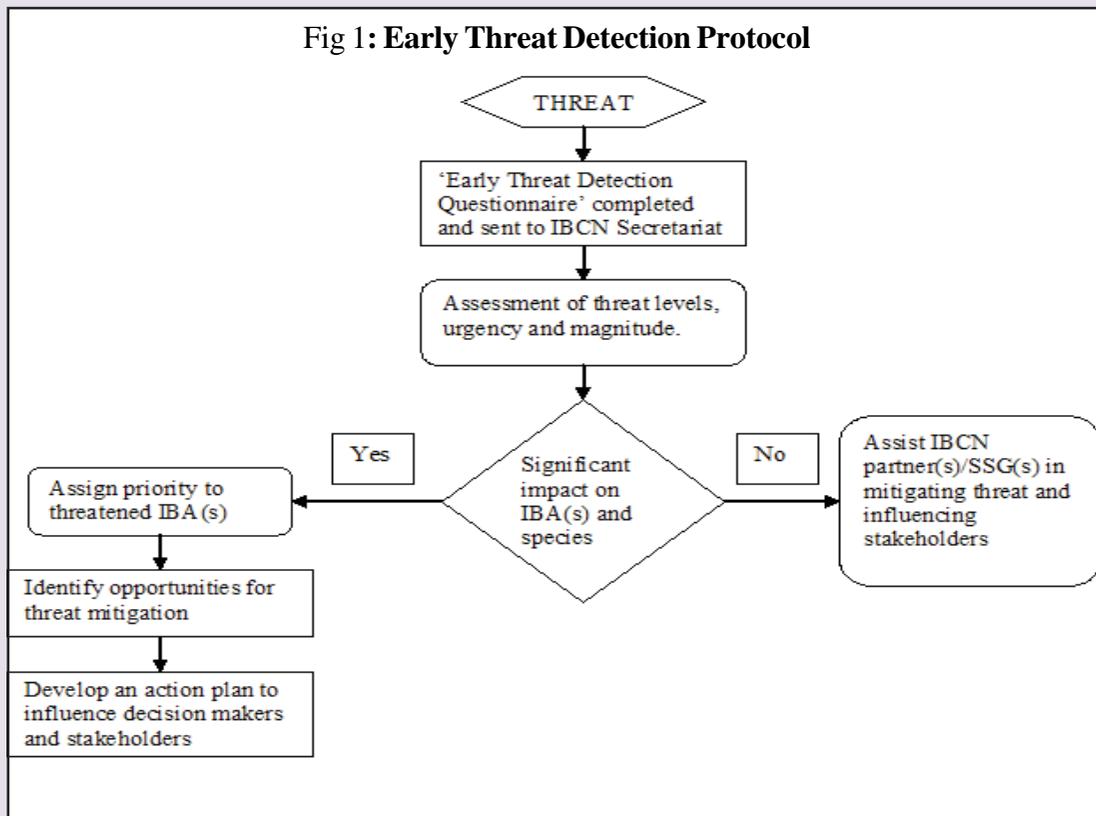
The IBCN must keep track of important notifications from the government and industry, such as notification of Protected Areas, public hearings for developmental projects, EIA reports, etc. This information is vital for timely intervention and failure to follow notification protocol can be used in appeals against clearances.

Media and newsletters

The media, with its wide network and resources, has access to valuable information on environmental issues before they are officially made available to the public domain. This could provide valuable time to plan intervention actions. In addition it is also the medium for official communications such as public hearings and environment clearance notifications.



The media is an important advocacy tool for protecting threatened IBAs



RESPONDING TO THREATS

Influencing policy

Influencing policy is an important part of the IBA advocacy strategy. Though an arduous and protracted process, it is a worthwhile objective in the long-term. It helps provide enduring solutions and minimises 'fire-fighting' on a case by case basis. Policy issues must be chosen carefully as they involve a substantial expenditure of time and effort in order to make an impact. Areas where the IBCN has the necessary expertise and which are overlooked by other organisations, are ideal policy targets. Also of priority are issues that set a precedent or which repeatedly act as a barrier to achieving IBCN's objectives. The IBCN must also utilize relevant conventions (Ramsar, CBD, CMS, etc.) to influence policy at the national, regional and global level. Monitoring the trends within conventions could place the IBCN in a strategic position and help meet its objectives. By providing inputs to policy makers, the IBCN can become a bigger stakeholder in the overall environmental decision making process.

Site visits

The advocacy strategy may involve visiting the affected IBAs to gain first hand knowledge of threats. This could help verify the nature and extent of threat and devise a more effective advocacy action plan. Site visits for advocacy targets could also be used as a 'soft

lobbying' tool for achieving IBCN's objectives. Well managed site visits could help the target gain a first hand understanding of relevant issues and develop a connection with the IBA.

Influencing decision makers

Influencing decision makers forms a key component of the advocacy strategy. This could include providing information, building a rapport with key people and even appealing against decisions. The aim is to ensure that IBAs are incorporated into the decision making process.

Interventions

The advocacy strategy will utilise all available platforms to participate in the environmental decision making process. This could include encouraging IBCN partners to attend public hearings, access relevant information and appeal against forest clearances through official channels.

Threat analysis

An in-depth analysis of threats is necessary to determine intervention strategies. Inconsistencies in proposals, failure to follow protocol, deviation from agreed terms, misinformation, etc. can be used to thwart impending threats.

Threat analysis checklist

- a) Legal status: Is the activity legal? What are the legal measures to prevent it? Who is the responsible authority?
- b) Permits: Does the activity require permission? What are the conditions for giving permission? Does the activity satisfy these conditions?
- c) Funding: Who is funding the activity? Is the activity in line with the sponsor's environment policy?
- d) Sustainability: Is the activity sustainable? If not, how long will it last? What are the long term impacts? Are there provisions for rehabilitation and restoration?
- e) Alternatives: Are there any alternative solutions? Are they as feasible?

Source: *The European IBA Best Practice Guide*

PROTECTING BIRD HABITATS

Of the 466 IBAs in India, 267 (57%) fall within the Protected Area Network (PAN). They encompass 191 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 52 National Parks, 23 Tiger Reserves and two Conservation Reserves. However, the IBAs within the PAN are not immune threats. Ill equipped and understaffed PA management, lack of clear boundary demarcation, resource use conflicts with forest dependent communities, poaching and unsustainable development, affect most of these IBAs. Nevertheless, the Government is formally committed to safeguard these sites. Thus, these IBAs are legally protected and there are official mechanisms in place for responding to threats to such IBAs.

The IBA advocacy strategy aims to lobby for the inclusion of appropriate IBAs lacking formal protection into the PAN. In addition to conventional PA categories such as Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks, the Government has introduced new categories for a more holistic approach to conservation. These include Conservation reserves, Community reserves (both under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972), Biodiversity Heritage Sites (under the



Members of Srushtidnyan, partners of IBCN involving the Mayor of Mumbai in IBA conservation

Pic: IBCN Photo Library



Concerns about IBAs must be disseminated as widely as possible

Pic: IBCN Photo Library

Biodiversity Act 2002) and Ecologically Sensitive Areas (under the Environment Protection Act 1986). These new categories are less rigid, allow space for community participation and are easier to declare than conventional PAs. They address different concerns and offer varying degrees of protection and thus provide location specific options that were not available earlier. However, formal protection will not be sought in sites where community conservation institutions already exist. The alternative is to build the capacity of these local community conservation institutions and promote community stewardship.

EMPOWERING STAKEHOLDERS

Advocacy inputs during IBCN workshops

Advocacy related presentations will be prepared for IBCN workshops. They will aim to impress upon IBCN partners the need for advocacy as a tool to achieve conservation objectives. Essential topics such as access to information, participating in environmental decision making and avenues for appeals will be covered. The 'Early Threat Detection Protocol' will also be explained to all participants.

Advocacy specific workshops for key IBCN partners

These workshops will be aimed at developing specific advocacy strategies for IBAs facing threats. They will deal with specific issues and will be targeted at stakeholders responsible for affected IBAs.



An understanding of environment laws for intervention ensures more effective advocacy action

Pic: IBCN Photo Library

Laws and policies relevant for IBAs
Kalpavriksh, Pune/Delhi

Act	Provision/s	Strengths	Weaknesses	Applicable for/Examples
Conservation Reserves	Conservation Reserves can be declared by the government on government owned lands in consultation with the local people.	For the first time provides a space for consultation with local people before declaration and seeks their inputs in the management of the reserve	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniform management committee 2. Does not recognise existing system. 3. MC only advisory for the CWW 	<p>Applicable for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On any government land 2. CCAs (but may not be suitable) 3. Non-PAs <p>May be best in situation where community action has not yet begun but is needed.</p>
Environmental Protection Act, 1986 (EPA 1986)	Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA). Control or restriction on certain identified commercial, industrial and development activities.	Potentially strong tool to fight against commercial and industrial pressures.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communities know little about this Act and how it can be used 	<p>Applicable for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ecosystem and landscapes, particularly if threatened by industrial and commercial development. 3. Includes CCAs, PAs, and others.
Panchayat Raj (Extention to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 (PESA 1996)	Decentralisation of governance to rural bodies, like panchayats (village councils) and gram sabhas (village assemblies) in predominantly tribal areas. Ownership and decision-making rights over NTFP to local institutions. Consultation with LCs regarding developmental and other issues relevant for a site.	<p>Strong potential to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate and enhance conservation and livelihoods 2. Help communities to resist destructive forces. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In most states where implemented, its provisions have been diluted in the state adaptations of the Central Act. 2. Government forests and PAs have been excluded by many states 	<p>Applicable for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mostly scheduled areas 2. Non PAs (in some states) 3. Does not provide for declaration of a site protected only creates options for generating livelihoods... at least in spirit. (implementation not known)
Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA 2002)	BMC at the village level for management, protection and recording of local biological diversity. Conservation of agricultural and wildlife biodiversity as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local participation in biodiversity conservation and livelihoods enhancement. 2. BHS could be used to provide legal protection to landscapes containing agricultural and wild biodiversity. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The BD Rules 2004 fail to empower BMCs to manage, use and conserve natural ecosystems. 2. BMCs primary function limited to recording local knowledge, and to help the state and national level boards to grant permission for the use of biological resources and knowledge associated with it, in their areas. 	<p>Applicable for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In all ecosystems. 2. Government or private lands. 3. Applicable for Pas, mechanism not known. 4. CCAs may or may not chose this.

**Laws and policies relevant for IBAs
Kalpavriksh, Pune/Delhi**

Act	Provision/s	Strengths	Weaknesses	Applicable for/Examples
Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest-Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Right) Act 2006 (FRA 2006)	<p>The National Biodiversity Authority and the State Biodiversity Boards required to consult the local BMCs while deciding use of biological resources and knowledge associated with such resources.</p> <p>Creation of Local Biodiversity Fund</p>	<p>3. BMCs could be strong local institutions for conservation. Constituted in some states details not known.</p>	<p>(Karnataka and Sikkim have gone beyond the national rules, and provided for greater empowerment and responsibilities to communities for conservation and management of biodiversity).</p> <p>The rules for BHSD have not yet been formulated so remains unimplemented.</p>	<p>Applicable for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All government forest lands, including PAs (mechanism unclear). 2. CCAs 3. Could be explored for unprotected forest areas, if agreed upon by LCs.
Wildlife Protection Amendment Act 2006 (WLPA 2006)	<p>Establishment of local people's rights. Empowers LCs to declare forest that they have been conserving and protecting as Community Forests.</p> <p>Provides for CWHI, in consultation with the LC for species that may require minimal to no human use and presence.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rights to be established, possibly reducing conflicts. 2. Right to protect any forest as community forest resource. 3. Checking processes destructive of forest-dwellers' habitats, and protecting traditional knowledge. 4. Allows for greater livelihood security. 5. Mandates that any displacement and relocation can only happen consent. 6. Provides greater possibility of community involvement in PAs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of clarity on how the CF provision will be operationalised. 2. Possibilities of misuse by vested interests through fresh encroachments. 3. Certain development projects and activities (eg. construction of roads) for the purpose of village development have been excluded from clearances under the FCA. 4. Unclear relationship with existing forest/wildlife laws. 	<p>Applicable for: Tiger habitats only.</p>
State Acts Some state level Acts E.g. the Village Council Act of Nagaland	<p>This sets up a National Tiger Conservation Authority, and provides a process for notifying tiger reserves which could include Critical Tiger Habitats.</p> <p>Mandates Village Councils (the local governance body) to manage wildlife within their jurisdiction.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rights to livelihoods are to be taken care of. 2. Tiger Foundation - a possible space for involving people. 1. Dozens of CCAs are being established and protected in Nagaland. 2. It provides them with a strong legal tool for fighting against commercial and industrial pressures. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential for greater forced relocation in practice creating more conflicts. 	<p>Depending on what the local Acts say.</p>

Laws and policies relevant for IBAs
Kalpavriksh, Pune/Delhi

Policies and Action Plan	Provisions	Strengths	Weaknesses
National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-2016	<p>Deals with policy imperatives and strategic actions to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conserve wildlife in and outside PAs. 2. To prevent illegal trade on endangered species. 3. To ensure people's participation in the conservation wildlife. 4. To promote ecotourism in PAs, among others. 	<p>The plan envisages the involvement of local communities residing in and around PAs in the management of natural resources.</p> <p>Their participation is recognized as an effective tool for the management of PAs.</p> <p>According to this plan, local communities must participate in and benefit from ecotourism developments in wildlife areas.</p> <p>Community initiatives in conservation are also to be supported.</p>	<p>The NWAP does not go the full distance in establishing tenurial security and a share in decision-making of PAs for local communities.</p> <p>Implementation is seriously lagging, despite having identified specific timelines.</p> <p>The legal environment needed to implement the NWAP is also not in place as the Wildlife Protection Act does not envisage participation. Act does not envisage participation of people in establishment and creation of PAs (as mentioned above).</p>

For more details contact: Neema Pathak Broome at neema.pb@gmail.com or at Kalpavriksh, Apt. No. 5, 908 Deccan Gymkhana, Shri Dutta Krupa, Pune, Maharashtra, India. Ph: 020-25675450.

IBCN ORGANISATIONAL PARTNERS



Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh



Institute of Bird Studies & Natural History, Andhra Pradesh



Nallamalai Foundation, Andhra Pradesh



Sullurupet, Andhra Pradesh



Aaranyak, Assam



BIOMIX BIOMIX Assam



Assam



Green Guard, Assam



Early Birds, Assam



Assam



Assam



Assam



Pole Star Academy Assam



Mandar Nature Club, Bihar



Bastar Society for Conservation of Nature, Chhattisgarh



Chhattisgarh Wildlife Society, Chhattisgarh



Delhi



Delhi, M.P. Chhattisgarh and Assam



Wildlife Protection Society of India, New Delhi



Delhi



Bird Conservation Society of Surat, Gujarat



GEER Foundation Gujarat



International Society of Naturalists, Gujarat



Conserve Nature's Heritage Gujarat



Gujarat



Haryana



Haryana



Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage, Jharkhand



Nature Conservation Society Jharkhand



Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment, Karnataka



Karnataka



Karnataka



Kerala



Kerala



Wild Haven Madhya Pradesh



Madhya Pradesh



People for Animals, Madhya Pradesh



Madhya Pradesh



Maharashtra



Nature Conservation Society Amravati, Maharashtra



Envirosearch, Maharashtra



Green Guards, Maharashtra



Maharashtra



Maharashtra



Nature Conservation Society, Maharashtra



Maharashtra



Nature Science (Club's) Society, Maharashtra



Maharashtra



Maharashtra



Manipur Association for Sciences and Society, Manipur



Orissa



Action for Protection of Wild Animals, Orissa



Green Friends, Orissa



Orissa

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